Art in the Garden

Art is an important component of any fine garden, especially for the Morris Arboretum. Since the earliest days, John and Lydia Morris collected and integrated art into their gardens. In 1987, the Arboretum received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to plan for an appropriate contemporary sculpture for the site of the original Morris hilltop mansion, and to identify a location that could be used for changing outdoor sculpture exhibits. *Two Lines*, a magnificent piece by George Rickey, was chosen and eventually acquired for the mansion site, and the glade near the metasequoia grove was selected as the site for changing sculpture exhibits. At that same time, a fine arts endowment was created by the W.W. Keen Butcher family in honor of Madeleine K. Butcher, who served on our advisory board and as a dedicated volunteer for decades. Income from this endowment funds periodic changing sculpture exhibits.

This spring, the Madeleine K. Butcher Fine Arts Endowment will help support a number of fine art activities, including an installation by Patrick Dougherty, an internationally acclaimed “stick sculptor.” Patrick was previously here in 2009, when he created the very popular *Summer Palace*. Patrick will be on site for three weeks in March, leading a team of volunteers and staff to create his latest architectural sculpture. No doubt, his new work will engage and delight visitors of all ages when it opens on April 4th. Just as plants in the garden emerge in the spring, evolve through the seasons, and eventually senesce, this new piece will be a changing, organic part of the garden. We anticipate that this sculpture will grace the Arboretum for about two years.

Not only is the garden a setting for art, it is an inspiration for artists. Many art instructors use the Arboretum as a plein-air studio. It always gives me special satisfaction when I come across a group of students painting in the garden with their easels. This spring we will be working in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA) to create an Arboretum exhibit *Artists in the Garden*, which will feature paintings by PAFA students and faculty in the upper gallery of the Widener Education Center. This exhibit will be presented in conjunction with a new major exhibit at PAFA: *The Artist’s Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887-1920*. A series of programs for both PAFA and Arboretum members will be associated with both exhibits.

Art is central to our mission. Whether it is creating gardens or fostering artists, it impacts all that we do as an institution. These exhibits and activities help us all to see gardens and indeed, the whole natural world in new and inspirational ways. When we learn to see the beauty of nature in its myriad of detail, we are more likely to cherish and preserve it.

Paul
Patrick Dougherty: Artist in Residence, March 9-27, 2015

*Moonlight & Roses* 2015

A Legacy Retires

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*Arboretum Voices*: Morris Arboretum’s Oral History Project

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Events

Paperbark Maple Conservation Project

Whispers In Winter – Marcescent Leaves

A Royal Exchange

Become a Volunteer!

Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival

Plant Sale 2015

The Shop

Focus on Art

Summer Camp 2015

Growing Minds, Join us this Spring!

Make the Most of Spring—Take a Class!
Patrick Dougherty: Artist in Residence, March 9-27, 2015

Patrick Dougherty marks the spot where he will construct his next original sculpture in the Madeleine K. Butcher Sculpture Garden.

Patrick Dougherty will return to the Morris Arboretum on March 9th for three weeks to construct one of his original, site-specific stick sculptures in the Butcher Sculpture Garden. As he does in other locations around the world, Patrick will gain his inspiration from the garden, from images it conjures for him, or maybe from something unrelated that tickles him.

Patrick designs 10 works of art per year, each completed within a three-week time period. He works with volunteers and staff from the institution where he is creating. Last year, Patrick created *Fit for a Queen*, a sculpture outside the moat of the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany in Ville de Nantes, France (pictured below). Like all Patrick’s sculptures, it is made entirely of sticks, and invites visitors to amble within a labyrinth of sixteen rooms, twenty-seven doors, and many windows. For that piece, learning about Anne of Brittany, who was a child when she went to Nantes Castle, inspired Patrick to create a sculpture that would appeal to adults, but would also suggest a royal garden where a young princess might frolic.

Many Arboretum visitors may remember the 26-foot high Byzantine-like sculpture, the *Summer Palace* that Patrick created at the Arboretum in April of 2009. The *Summer Palace* featured windows to look out of, and corridors inside to wander through to the center of the structure. The sight lines from the Wisteria Walk prompted children to race down the slope to get inside and explore Patrick’s intriguing structure. Once again, the new piece will be built in the Arboretum’s sculpture garden bordered by the East Brook and metasequoia grove.

*Fit for a Queen*, 2014.
Ville de Nantes, France.
Photo: Nathalie Bourreau
Save the date for the Moonlight & Roses gala to be held on Friday, June 5. Join us and co-chairs, Natalie and Ralph Hirshorn, and Elizabeth and Kyle Salata, for an evening of cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the Rose Garden followed by dinner and dancing under the stars.

Natalie and Ralph are longtime friends and neighbors of the Arboretum, having served as past members of the Directors’ Guild. Natalie has been involved with Moonlight & Roses for more than a decade, serving on the planning committee.

Elizabeth and Kyle Salata are dedicated supporters of the Morris Arboretum. As a lifelong local resident, Elizabeth has many happy memories of trips to the Arboretum. They now live next door to the Arboretum, and the appreciation she gained for nature and ecology through her visits to the Arboretum can be seen today in her involvement managing Erdenheim Farm.

This year we honor Moses “Moe” Feldman and his extraordinary volunteerism and unwavering commitment to the Morris Arboretum. Moe and his wife, Susan, became members in the 1990s. Since then, Moe has increased his involvement by joining the Arboretum’s Directors’ Guild in 2005 and becoming a member of the Campaign Cabinet during the Always Growing campaign, which concluded in 2012. Currently, Moe is Chair of the Arboretum’s Finance Committee and Vice Chair of the Advisory Board of Managers. He is the founder and retired Chairman of Aeromed, Inc. and is currently the President and Partner of Osteofixator, LLC. We are excited to celebrate Moe’s many contributions to the Morris Arboretum throughout the years.

Reservations are required for Moonlight & Roses and space is limited. Invitations will be mailed to all Holly-level members and above, as well as previous Moonlight & Roses attendees. Opportunities are also available to sponsor a table, become a corporate sponsor or to place an ad in the event program book. For more information or to request an invitation, please contact Kristen Casalenuovo at (215) 247-5777, ext. 418 or kcasal@upenn.edu.

ANNUAL REPORT  The following donors were inadvertently omitted from the fiscal year 2014 Annual Report. We apologize for the error and thank them for their generous support.

Aetna
Land Concepts
A Legacy Retires

SUSAN CRANE, Director of Marketing

Iana Turner retired in January 2015 after 25 years at Morris Arboretum. Iana began her career at the Arboretum in 1989 as an assistant gardener and mower operator. Working in the garden, she quickly yearned to know more about horticulture, and enrolled at Temple Ambler’s School of Environmental Design as part of Penn’s tuition benefit program. Five years later, Iana earned her Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees in Horticulture. In 1994, she was promoted to Horticulture Section Leader of the Azalea Meadow.

Iana embraced her new position with enthusiasm and has been involved in several major projects at the Arboretum. She oversaw the replanting of the F. Otto Haas Oak Allée after extensive storm damage in 1991. Iana also managed the installation of more than 25 scarecrows that are mounted along the Scarecrow Walk at the Oak Allée each fall.

In 1997, after a trip to Brooklyn Botanical Gardens where Paul Meyer became enamored of its Garden Railway display, he asked Iana if she’d like to have a Garden Railway display in her area. In 1998, the Garden Railway, designed by Paul Busse and his company Applied Imagination (the same designers as Brooklyn Botanical’s display) was installed at the Morris Arboretum. In the year it opened, visitor attendance and memberships soared, and the rest is history.

Iana also oversees the Swan Pond, and helped with the new fencing and plantings that were installed a number of years ago. She works closely with the Horticulture volunteers, some of whom have been volunteering at the Arboretum for as long as Iana has been here.

Iana may be retiring, but she is not saying goodbye just yet. “I hope to stay active and involved as a volunteer, and ready to help with the transition, especially at the Garden Railway. I’ve been involved since the beginning, and I’m particularly attached to it.” said Iana. Clearly, she didn’t get her nickname as Queen of the Garden Railway for nothing!

Travel with Morris Arboretum


Imagine the trip of a lifetime. Under balmy skies you will visit some of nature’s most spectacular scenery, interspersed with wonderful examples of New Zealand culture showcasing its gardens, architecture, artistic creations, fine cuisine and wine. Learn the history and culture of the land from those who love and care for it.

Garden Adventures, Ltd. has been designing and leading tours to New Zealand for nearly 20 years. In January 2016, the Morris Arboretum is proud to join forces for the seventh time to offer this opportunity to experience the mystery, beauty and hospitality of New Zealand. With Richard Lyon, R.L.A., and Paul Meyer, who is returning for his third visit to New Zealand, you are invited to escape winter while you explore, learn and relax in the gardens and natural wonders of this extraordinary destination. This trip is offered exclusively to Morris Arboretum members and Penn alumni.
Members and researchers have enjoyed exploring the historic gardens of the Morris Arboretum through archival images that can be viewed on our website. The historic image collection continues to grow, and it is now possible to listen to a series of stories in our archives that were collected as part of a new oral history program.

*Arboretum Voices* is an oral history project of the Archive & History program of the Morris Arboretum begun in June 2013.

For the last year, important personal Arboretum narratives — some dating to the 1930s, have been collected and archived, providing a valuable perspective on the Arboretum’s development since the 1970s and 1980s and earlier. This research is supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, and by individual gifts.

The first goal of the project was to research, adapt and test archival best practices that would make oral histories a long-term possibility. National archival standards and oral history best practices were used to develop the protocols and operating procedures for interviewing, archiving and accessing the data using the Past Perfect Archival database. The interviews are transcribed in formats that ensure their long-term availability for research in the Morris Arboretum archives. Barbara Dundon, an audio-arts professional, was retained to produce a three-minute story for each interview that would be adaptable for use on our website. The second objective of the project is to integrate oral history into Arboretum interpretation and education programs. Programmatic use of oral history resources will be implemented during the next two years with funding provided by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage.

Our goal is to develop oral history as an ongoing project, collecting a few each year with endowment support, and expanding the number and scope as additional resources become available. The Arboretum is grateful to those who so generously shared their stories, and invite you to enjoy them by visiting http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/arboretum/about_history.shtml.
A Year in the Rose Garden

LUCY DINSMORE, Rose Garden Horticulturist

Last year, I thought the snow would never melt. When it finally did, I doubted the roses would ever recover from the hard spring pruning. But nevertheless they did, and they put on a wonderful spring display just in time for Moonlight & Roses. Once their June petals faded, annuals and perennials took the stage. Brugmansias caught everyone’s attention with their huge, pendulous flowers. So did the flowering tobacco (Nicotiana sylvestris) and purpletop vervain (Verbena bonariensis), which freely seeds around the garden. Gomphrena ‘Fireworks’ burst from beds in a celebration of pink pom-poms, while the silvery-spiky cardoons erupted against dark and statuesque smokebush. Then fall brought first frosts and rosehips that clung to rosebushes – including those of Winner’s Circle and John Cabot roses on the balustrade, always a delight with their orange-red fruits. And just outside the Rose Garden, near the Fernery, the chestnut rose showed off its hefty hips resembling fruits of its namesake, the chestnut.

After the first flush of blooms, the Rose Garden was not bursting with as many blooms this year, and you may be wondering why.
There was, however, a very contented group of deer who found their way into the garden. The deer exclosure fence hasn’t been able to keep out these creatures of habit and their fine taste for rosebuds. While we are planning for a more permanent deer fence in the future, in the meantime, we’re trying to minimize their entry by closing some gates and using only major gates.

Another predator in the garden this year was the rose midge, which we chose to chemically treat. While we do try to minimize the use of chemicals in the garden, certain pests and diseases necessitate treatment. Fortunately, the Rose & Flower Garden intern, Jenny Lauer, is busy developing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program by examining the practices of several public rose gardens in the region.

We’ve also added some temporary signage to better inform visitors of changes in the garden. You may have noticed the renovations over the past year in the east quadrant of the Rose Garden. It’s now well on its way to spring blooms and summer color after five cultivars of roses were planted this fall, along with shrubs, bulbs and perennials, which are marked by colorful flags. The remaining roses and companion plants will be planted early next spring. We chose a selection of disease-resistant cultivars including Home Run, Bonica, and Snow Pavement rugosa rose, as well as William Baffin and New Dawn climbers.

The Camellia Walk is a new footpath that now directs you from Lydia’s seat down through the Chinese plum-yews (*Cephalotaxus fortunei*) to a side entrance of the Rose Garden, where we added young camellias for winter color. The path was originally created to divert foot traffic during seasonal turf renovation. It can be a struggle to keep the turf paths in the Rose Garden healthy and attractive year after year, which is why we occasionally close paths to let them rest after the process of aerating, seeding, and fertilizing. We thank you for minding the garden signage and staying on the paths.

Elsewhere in the garden we are controlling noxious perennial weeds that have been problematic for many years. Some areas required the clearing of entire beds to completely eradicate weeds such as Canada thistle, pinellia, and bindweed using repeated applications of targeted herbicides.

Lastly, if you love roses, consider volunteering in 2015 in the Rose Garden! We are seeking extra hands for the ongoing and much needed task of deadheading roses from May through September. If you would like to help, please contact Pam Olsheski, Curatorial Assistant, at pamela@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777, ext. 188.
The Morris Arboretum demonstration parking lot is being renewed and rededicated after 25 years of service, including filtering into the earth nearly 32,000,000 gallons of precipitation within the Wissahickon watershed. This equates to a lifetime of drinking water for more than 1,000 of our neighbors downstream, or the annual tap water used by about 4,000 households.

The parking lot, which was installed in 1989, was our first public parking lot. The ecological engineering enables storm water to filter down through the parking lot and recharge the water table below, while maintaining the historical estate character of the Morris Arboretum and providing a high-quality visitor experience. It was designed with neighborhood input to accommodate our growing visitation, to respect the historic 19th century landscape, to provide a permanent exhibit of foremost urban planting design, and to demonstrate the best and most innovative ecological practices in storm water management. It has won awards for engineering and design, been featured in national publications and regional educational videos, and is frequently visited by school students, university classes, engineers, architects and landscape architects.

In March 2015, we will be lifting up the porous pavement to examine the performance of the system after more than 200,000 hours of continuous operation. The surface has eroded significantly, and has outlived its expected performance by a decade. With several partners, we are taking the opportunity to study the subsurface system and look for sediment accumulation and other issues related to materials and design function. Since this lot is one of the earliest and longest-operating permeable pavement parking lots, it offers a unique advantage to add to our knowledge of best management practices. The permeable parking bays and cobble edgings will be reset, and the driveways will be milled and resurfaced.

The garden will remain open during the parking lot renewal. Alternative parking will be available with shuttle service. Look for an announcement later this spring of the parking lot rededication event.

Parking Lot – Sustainable Design Renewed

BOB GUTOWSKI, Director of Public Programs
Dr. Ann Rhoads Receives Prestigious Award

Last September at the inaugural University of Nature conference, the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE) presented its highest honor, the Henry Meigs Environmental Leadership Award, to retired Morris Arboretum botanist, Dr. Ann Rhoads.

One of the region’s most distinguished scientists, Dr. Rhoads recently retired after a 36-year career at the Morris Arboretum. A botany professor at Penn, she also co-authored several important books with Dr. Timothy Block, including The Plants of Pennsylvania, the most comprehensive guide to the state’s plant life, which was published in 2007. During the last 40 years, Ann has inventoried the plant communities of Pennsylvania’s counties, state parks, and innumerable lakes and streams. She has also conducted research on Pennsylvania plants to determine the status of rare and endangered species, to track invasive non-natives, and to document changes in the state’s plant community.

The award is named in memory of Henry Meigs, one of the Schuylkill Center’s founders, and Rhoads is the ninth recipient. Past awardees include Governor Ed Rendell (2007), SCEE luminaries John and Cindy Affleck (2008) and Bill Walkup (2010), Clean Air Council’s Joe Minott (2012), and pioneering aquatic ecologist Thomas Dolan IV (2013).

Art & Architecture at the Garden Railway

With the arrival of Patrick Dougherty’s new sculpture, a scavenger hunt focused on the Arboretum’s sculptures, and a plein air exhibit of paintings in the Upper Gallery, the Arboretum’s summer theme for 2015 is Art in the Garden. Garden railway will feature a display of Art & Architecture. From miniatures of iconic Philadelphia sculptures and famous lighthouses, to buildings from the last World’s Fair in 1964 and more, visitors will once again thrill to the outdoor train exhibit.

The Morris Arboretum is deeply grateful for a generous gift from longtime friends, Gwen and Ed Asplundh, in support of the Garden Railway. The Asplundh family has made many extraordinary contributions to the Arboretum through the years, but for Gwen and Ed, the Garden Railway holds a special place in their hearts. It is through their help that this treasure continues to enchant visitors year after year.

“Gwen and I are very pleased to support the wonderful Garden Railway. Ever since I was a kid, I have loved trains large and small. For years, I had a large train layout in my basement. There is something very special about an outdoor railway, especially the very unusual and beautifully done railway at the Arboretum. I enjoy watching the trains myself, but most of all, I enjoy watching the looks of delight on the faces of the other ‘kids’ – young and old.”
FEBRUARY

Winter Wellness Walks
Saturdays, November through March, 10:30-11:30am
Meet in front of the Widener Visitor Center. Led by an experienced volunteer guide, these brisk walks will stick to the paved paths and get your heart rate up.

Tu B’Shevat Family Program
Sunday, February 8, 1-3 pm
Pot up a native tree seedling to take home in honor of the Jewish New Year of trees. Join us at 1:30pm in the Upper Gallery for a performance by Andi Joseph, The Musical Mommy. Andi serves as a Jewish music specialist and leads musical and educational Shabbat programs. Her concerts involve audience participation, fun props, and an engaging, captivating blend of traditional, original and contemporary music where children join in the fun. Learn more about Andi Joseph at http://www.musicalmommy.com/ Free with admission.

Storytime
Tuesday, February 10, 10:30-11am
Join us for an interactive and engaging reading session. Storytime will be held in the Upper Gallery at the Visitor Center. Storytime runs from 10:30-11am and is free for members or with regular admission. Advance registration is required and registration is open for one month in advance of upcoming Storytime events. Register online at morrisarboretum.org. Look under Events for Kids and Families.

“Witchhazel” is your Favorite?
Saturday, February 14, 1-3pm
A wonderful collection of these captivating winter bloomers can be found throughout the Arboretum. Pick up a map at the The Shop that showcases specially selected specimens. Children can create a Valentine’s Day related witchhazel craft in the Upper Gallery of the Visitor Center. Free with admission.

MARCH

1 Artists in the Garden Exhibit Opening Reception
Sunday, March 1, 1–3pm
Join us in the Upper Gallery of the Widener Visitor Center for the opening of Artists in the Garden: PAFA at Morris Arboretum, which will run through June 27, 2015. This exhibition features artwork by students, alumni and faculty of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), held in conjunction with the PAFA exhibition, The Artist’s Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887-1920 (February 13-May 24, 2015). For more information, visit www.pafa.org. Free with admission, Morris Arboretum and PAFA members free.

24 Storytime
Tuesday, February 24, 10:30-11am
Please see February 10 for more information.

APRIL

4 Patrick Dougherty
Grand Opening
Saturday, April 4, 10am
Be among the first to view the newest sculpture created by internationally renowned artist Patrick Dougherty. Designed and built on-site, this artwork is composed entirely of locally gathered natural materials. For more information, visit www.pafa.org. Free with admission, Morris Arboretum and PAFA members free.

Winter Wellness Walks
Saturdays, November through March, 10:30-11:30am
Please see February for details.
7 **Storytime**  
*Tuesday, April 7, 10:30-11am*  
Please see February 10 for more information.

11 **Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival**  
*TWO SATURDAYS, APRIL 11 & 18*  
Experience the beauty of Morris Arboretum’s cherry tree collection in bloom. Both Saturdays will feature traditional Japanese cultural activities such as tea demonstrations, drumming performances and origami workshops. Please see page 18 for more information. Events are free with admission.

25 **Arbor Day Family Day**  
*Saturday, April 25, 11am-3pm*  
Branch out as a naturalist and dig into learning about trees. Design a tree house, make a “tree map” with five different types of trees, create a street landscape with trees, learn how to “read” the life of a tree, and shadow an arborist to learn what’s involved in caring for trees. Events will be held throughout the garden and are free with admission.

28 **Storytime**  
*Tuesday, April 28, 10:30-11am*  
Please see February 10 for more information.

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**May**

2 **Garden Discovery Series:**  
*Saturday, May 2, 11am-3pm*  
Discover dendrochronology! Come *Out on a Limb* where we will guess the age of a tree “cookie” by counting the rings. Afterward, decorate a tree cookie of your own!

5 **Storytime**  
*Tuesday, May 5, 10:30-11am*  
Please see February 10 for more information.

7 **Plant Sale Members Events**  
*Thursday & Friday, May 7 & 8*  
Please see page 19 for more information.

9 **Public Plant Sale**  
*Saturday, May 9*  
Please see page 19 for more information.

10 **Mother’s Day Brunch**  
*Sunday, May 10, 9:30am & Noon (two seatings)*  
Start your Mother’s Day with a delicious brunch at the Compton Café prepared by Chef Josh Hunter. Afterward, walk it off as you enjoy all spring has to offer at the Arboretum. Advance ticket purchase required. See website for pricing and menu.

17 **Grist Mill Demonstration Day at Bloomfield Farm**  
*Sunday, May 17, 1-4pm*  
Springfield Mills at Morris Arboretum has been carefully restored and made operational once again thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers. Come visit this 19th century mill and see how corn was milled for meal and flour. Free for members, $5 for non-members or free with regular garden admission.

23 **Garden Railway Grand Opening**  
*Saturday, May 23, 1-3pm*  
Grand opening activities will include a fun kids craft and free ice cream (while supplies last) beginning at 1pm. The Garden Railway is open from 10am to 4pm during the week and 10am to 5pm on weekends through Labor Day. Wednesday evenings in June, July and August, the Arboretum is open until 8pm. See page 10 for more information.

26 **Storytime**  
*Tuesday, May 26, 10:30-11am*  
Please see February 10 for more information.
Paperbark Maple Conservation Project

ANTHONY AIELLO, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture & Curator

While most visitors to the Arboretum come to enjoy the beauty of the garden, an important component of the Arboretum’s mission is research and plant exploration. In pursuit of this goal, I travelled to the United Kingdom this past July with colleague Kris Bachtell of the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. As part of a conservation project involving paperbark maple (Acer griseum; see sidebar), we visited a number of public and private gardens to collect leaf and herbarium samples.

Despite being a well-known and beloved garden plant, paperbark maple is endangered in its native habitat in central China. As far as I can tell, it has only been introduced from the wild into the United States four times, and into the United Kingdom once. Most of the trees that are currently available commercially are derived from collections by plantsman Ernest H. Wilson in the early 1900s. As a result of this genetic bottleneck, there is probably little diversity among the plants within the US and UK. The aim of this conservation project is to determine whether or not the diversity of cultivated plants accurately reflects that of plants in the wild, or whether further efforts are needed to help conserve this species.

Thus far, this project has sampled cultivated plants of known wild origin in the U.S. and U.K. Samples in the U.S. have come from the Morris Arboretum’s collection, which includes a plant thought to have been purchased in 1912 by John Morris from Veitch Nurseries in England. These plants were derived from a 1901 Wilson collection in China, making our tree more than 110 years old. We also collected leaves from four of our trees that were wild-collected by Paul Meyer and his colleagues on the 1994 expedition to Hubei Province. Additional leaf samples have come from the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Highland Park Arboretum (Rochester, New York), the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC, and from plant collector Dan Hinkley of Seattle. Each of these leaf samples have been sent to Dr. Andrew Hipp, also of the Morton Arboretum, where he has extracted DNA for an initial genetic analysis.
To the above named samples, we have added those collected this past summer from locations as widespread as the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (Scotland), Westonbirt Arboretum (Gloucestershire, England), Dyffryn Garden (Vale of Glamorgan, Wales), and Highdown Gardens (West Sussex, England). This excursion was a wonderful opportunity to visit plant collections that were assembled during the “golden age of plant collecting.” Many of these collections included original introductions from China, and collectively provide a fascinating insight into a world of collecting 100 years ago.

The next step in this project is to sample wild populations of *Acer griseum* across its native range in central China, where we have identified populations in seven provinces. We will be working with Dr. Kang Wang of the Beijing Botanic Garden to help organize this trip and will also work with Chinese colleagues at other institutions throughout the area to collect new samples.

The genetic diversity of the leaf samples from wild populations will be compared to those in cultivation. If there is not sufficient representation of wild material in cultivation, we will then collaborate with our Chinese colleagues to expand ex-situ conservation efforts. By providing an understanding of the number of ex-situ collections needed to sufficiently conserve this species, this project will serve as a model, and benefit anyone interested in maple conservation.

### *Acer griseum* – a Plant for all Seasons

Paperbark maple provides great interest in the garden. Its value can be traced back to E.H. Wilson, who dubbed it “Hupei’s (sic) finest maple.” Noted woody plant expert Michael Dirr writes that, “…with age, *Acer griseum* offers a dignity unmatched by other trees.” We always like to talk about plants that provide multiple seasons of interest, and this tree is certainly one of the best. As its name suggests, one of the main reasons that this maple is grown is for its deep, copper-colored, exfoliating bark. Even as a young tree, this feature is outstanding, and it only improves with age. In spring, the leaves emerge with a soft grey color and are trouble free throughout the year. Then in autumn, the leaves turn to create a range of colors with bright red, mixed with oranges and yellows. Rarely are problems seen with *Acer griseum*, as it is about as maintenance-free as any plant in the garden.

Paperbark maple prefers full sun but will withstand some shade. It is best grown with a good rich soil, but once established, it can withstand fairly dry conditions. These trees are moderately growing, reaching approximately 15 feet in 10 years, and maturing at 30-40 feet. As such, it makes a great addition to the garden, working well as a focal point, mixed into a border, or as a small shade tree.

Cultivated varieties of a related hybrid between *Acer griseum* and *Acer nikoense* (Nikko maple, a closely related Asian maple) have become increasingly available commercially. These show finely exfoliating bark with the same cinnamon brown color and excellent fall color. These two selections are:

- **‘Cinnamon Flake,’** introduced by Dr. Sid Waxman at the University of Connecticut.
- **Gingerbread** (‘Ginzam’), introduced by Lake County Nursery, OH.
Whispers In Winter – Marcescent Leaves

JASON LUBAR, Associate Director of Urban Forestry

Walking in the Wissahickon during the windy winter months last year, I was enjoying the solitude when I heard a steady rustling that had been going on for a while. Focusing on the sound, I could see American beech (Fagus grandifolia) leaves vibrating in the wind. These faded, thin, ghostly leaves created wonderful sounds in the otherwise quiet winter landscape.

I wondered why beech and other tree species, like the Arboretum’s large Bender oak (Quercus x benderi) sometimes hold on so tenaciously to their leaves all through the winter months, many to drop only when new growth forcefully pushes them off in the spring.

It turns out that these leaves that don’t want to ‘leave’ are called marcescent [mahr-ses-uh nt] leaves. Marcescence is when plant parts, in this case leaves, remain attached to the plant when withered. If you walk through the woods in our area in mid-winter, you will find marcescent leaves on a handful of trees, especially young or juvenile specimens of species such as oaks (Quercus), American beech, eastern hop hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana), musclewood (Carpinus caroliniana), and perhaps maple (Acer). Each species’ leaves vary, and produce a different sound in the breeze. So if you listen closely, sometimes you can even identify the species of tree in the winter, simply by sound.

But what functional or evolutionary adaptation caused this clasping characteristic? There have been many explanations suggested since the word first appeared in the early 18th century:

• **Protection:** Some speculate that marcescent leaves protect new buds, and deter browsing by animals such as deer or the large animals of the Pleistocene era that existed millions of years ago. The leaves may also absorb and radiate heat from the winter sun, which may provide frost protection or allow limited photosynthesis (energy production) in the chlorophyll under the twig’s thin bark.

• **Nutrient Boost:** Another hypothesis is that letting go of leaves in the early spring facilitates the release of nutrients to help the tree during the early growing season, where those nutrients may have washed away or leached too far into the soil if the leaves fell and decomposed during the normal leaf drop.

Regardless of the reason that marcescent leaves exist, they are a wonderful feature of our winter landscape. Next time you are out in the winter snow, close your eyes and listen. It is remarkable what you will hear.

The leaves are all dead on the ground, Save those that the oak is keeping To ravel them one by one And let them go scraping and creeping Out over the crusted snow, When others are sleeping.

– Robert Frost, *Reluctance*
This past summer, I spent a month gardening and traveling in England on a trip made possible through the Royal Landscape Exchange. The program is a reciprocal staff exchange between the Morris Arboretum and the Royal Landscape in Windsor, England. Now in its third year, the exchange allows horticulturists and staff from both institutions to travel and work alongside each other and share information, study plant collections, histories, learn different tools and techniques, and be completely immersed in another culture, climate, and landscape. It was the brainchild of Arboretum Director of Horticulture Tony Aiello and Mark Flanagan, Keeper of the Gardens of Windsor Great Park. It’s a rare and wonderful program that I hope will continue into the future.

The Royal Landscape encompasses an area of 1,000 acres of gardens and parkland, and includes Windsor Great Park, Virginia Water Lake, and the internationally renowned Savill Garden and Valley Gardens. The Royal Landscape is a vast and varied one that’s been modified, cultivated, and planted for 400 years. While there, I split my first three weeks between the Savill Garden and Valley Gardens, shadowing gardeners in the various sections. Then I spent the last week of my stay visiting eight famous English gardens. During the course of my stay, I wrote almost daily, snapped more than 2,000 photos, and explored the expansive park I called home for a month.

The Valley Gardens span 250 acres of windy paths, and miles of trails, shrouded slopes and steep ravines. The native sandy soils support an incredible diversity of maples, magnolias, hydrangeas, heathers, and hybrid and species rhododendrons, among other choice plants. England was unusually hot and dry during my stay, so we spent a lot of time moving sprinklers around and keeping the living collections watered. We sought shade and pruned deadwood, cleared bracken fern, and pruned trees to maintain views along the lakeshore. We edged beds, then edged them again – and again.

In the Savill Garden, the teams of gardeners were undergoing some major projects, including a large expansion of the Summer Wood area and a complete renovation of the Jubilee Garden. Hundreds of hydrangeas were going into the Summer Wood as part of a Royal Horticultural Society trial of *Hydrangea macrophylla* (bigleaf hydrangea), and I helped plant some of those cultivars. Elsewhere, the herbaceous borders were full and at their peak, and I spent a lot of time tiptoeing around deadheading dahlias, cannas, *Alstroemeria*, *Tithonia*, *Kniphofia*, and salvia.

My last week was spent touring the gardens and grounds of many well-known English gardens, including Sissinghurst, Mottisfont, Arundel Castle, the royal estate Frogmore, the great gardens of Kew, Wisley, Great Dixter, Gravetye Manor, Nymans, and West Dean. I met with several head gardeners, who graciously gave me in-depth tours and some delicious meals. To read more about these gardens, my blog can be found at http://lwd.tumblr.com.
The Morris Arboretum relies heavily on the support received each year from a devoted group of volunteers. Did you know more than 400 people volunteer at the Arboretum each year? Not only do these individuals love the Arboretum, they enjoy sharing their passion for the gardens with visitors and with each other. By becoming a volunteer, not only will you share your love of the Arboretum with others, you will be making a much needed contribution in a beautiful public garden. And who knows, you will probably make some new friends!

**Education**

Do you feel relaxed and inspired as you stroll about the Arboretum? Do you feel the urge to share your pleasure and enjoyment with others? Are you interested in helping the next generation connect with nature, preserve and enjoy open space, blue sky and green earth? Then consider becoming an education volunteer. If you can walk, talk, and smile, you’re a good candidate! Classes begin in March, and will help you discover the “nuts and bolts” of the Arboretum, including history, horticulture and techniques for how to give tours to children and adults. Upon completion of training, you will work with a mentor so that you are comfortable giving tours. You’ll also be able to participate in monthly volunteer get-togethers (workshops, lectures, field trips) that encourage camaraderie with like-minded Arboretum enthusiasts. For more information contact Liza Hawley at efhawley@upenn.edu or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 128.

**Horticulture**

Is getting your hands dirty more your thing? Then becoming a horticulture volunteer might just be the task for you! Each week through the growing season, our dedicated volunteers rotate throughout the entire Arboretum, working in a variety of terrains. Together as a group, they tackle a number of physical garden tasks such as weeding, mulching, pruning or invasive plant removal under the supervision of the Arboretum horticulture staff. Our current program runs one weekday morning a week, but we are hoping to expand to include other weekdays as well. Previous gardening experience is helpful, but not required. If you are enthusiastic about the Arboretum and like working outside, join the Horticulture volunteers! For more information please contact Pam Morris Olshefski, Curatorial Assistant, at pamela@upenn.edu or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 188.
The history of the Morris Arboretum is rich with Japanese influences. Join us in April as we celebrate this history and experience the beauty of Morris Arboretum’s cherry tree collection in bloom. Both Saturdays will feature traditional Japanese cultural activities. All events are free with admission.

**Cherry Walk**  
*Saturday, April 11 & 18, 10:15am and 12:15pm, meet at Garden Railway entrance*  
Visitors are invited to discover and appreciate the variety of cherry species planted throughout the Arboretum. This 45-minute walk will be led by an Arboretum expert.

**Kyo Daiko Drumming Crew**  
*Saturday, April 11, 10:30am and 12pm*  
Taiko drumming has been practiced in Japan for hundreds of years at festivals, battles, and as a means of communication over long distances. A combination of choreography and drumming, taiko drumming is physically demanding and visually compelling. Kyo Daiko, Philadelphia’s only Japanese-style drumming crew, is a community-based group, formed by a collaboration between the Settlement Music School and the Shofuso Japanese House and Garden in Fairmount Park.

**Origami Workshops for Kids**  
*Saturday, April 11, 1 and 2pm*  
Faye Goldman of the Greater Philadelphia Paper Pholders will teach children origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. This event is free with admission, but seating is limited.

**Japanese Garden Elements Tours**  
*Saturday, April 11 & 18, 2pm*  
Led by an Arboretum guide, this tour will highlight the Arboretum’s Japanese style gardens, including the Hill and Water Garden, the Japanese Overlook Garden and the Rock Garden in the Fernery.

**Kimono Dressing Demonstration**  
*Saturday, April 18, 11am*  
Visitors of all ages will delight in the beautiful kimonos exhibited by Fumiyo Batta. As a “cultural ambassador” for the Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival, Mrs. Batta has led numerous classes and demonstrations, including seminars on the art of kimono (traditional Japanese attire), since the festival’s inception in 1998. As an extensive collector of kimonos, she will talk about the history of the kimono and demonstrate how to wear them. Participation from the audience will be welcomed.

**Traditional Japanese Tea Demonstration**  
*Saturday, April 18, 1pm, Azalea Meadow (rain location: Upper Gallery)*  
The picnic tea or Chabako is a beautiful and unique form of the Japanese tea ceremony. Featuring traditional costumes and designed to be performed outdoors, there are four distinct presentations, one for each of the seasons. Weather permitting this demonstration will be held outside.
Save the Date for Members

Plant Sale Events

Morris Arboretum membership offers a variety of special benefits during the Plant Sale. All members receive 10% off their entire purchase and can shop before the public during Members Day on Friday, May 8. Special events during the Plant Sale are offered to premier members. Not a premier member and interested in the events? Call the membership office at (215) 247-5777, ext. 151 or ext. 155 or email members@morrisarboretum.org to upgrade your membership today.

Plant Sale Luncheon
Thursday, May 7, 12:30-2:30pm
Oak level members and above are invited to a lunch with Paul Meyer, The F. Otto Haas Executive Director. Following lunch, these members will have the first opportunity to make purchases from a wide variety of plants at this year’s sale.

Plant Sale Preview Night
Thursday, May 7, 5:30-7:30pm
Chestnut level members and above will enjoy a casual evening of shopping and fun. Morris Arboretum experts will be on hand to help you choose the perfect plants for your garden. Refreshments will be served.

Plant Sale Members Day
Friday, May 8, 10am-7pm
Bring your membership card, your wallet and a wagon. Shop early for the best selection. All members save 10% on their entire Plant Sale purchase and choose a free dividend plant. Premier members receive additional dividend plants.

Public Plant Sale
Saturday, May 9, 10am-3pm

2015 Rhododendron Plant Sale

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its annual Plant Sale at Morris Arboretum this year. Outstanding varieties of large-leaf (elepidotes) and small-leaf (lepidotes) rhododendrons will be offered, as will azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous, and kalmias (mountain laurels). The plants were selected for their colorful floral display and interesting plant forms and foliage. Native rhododendrons will be available for sale. All are hardy in the Delaware Valley. The rhododendron sale will follow the schedule and hours of the Arboretum’s Plant Sale. For information, contact: Karel Bernady, (610) 827-0113.

Would you like to take home a free rhododendron? Join the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society during the Plant Sale and you will receive a choice plant. The society features an outstanding quarterly journal, annual and regional conferences, and an exciting seed exchange. The chapter meets at Morris Arboretum with informative speakers, exhibits plants in formal displays at the Philadelphia Flower Show, and maintains a Plants for Members program to make rarely offered rhododendrons available to members. Visit the chapter’s website at gpchapterars.org.
The Shop

From time to time, you pass through the Shop at Morris Arboretum. You’ve perused the amazing assortment of goods – from local arts and crafts to nature-themed books and children’s activities. Have you also noticed though, the variety of recycled and repurposed items?

In addition to considering shipping distances and promoting locally crafted goods, The Shop strives to be environmentally conscious by choosing recycled and repurposed items to sell. That wallet you are admiring is no ordinary wallet – it’s made from recycled bike tires! Looking for a bowl? How about one made from chopsticks, or out of wood from fallen Morris Arboretum trees? Similarly, The Shop has jewelry made from recycled rubber and placemats of recycled paper.

In late 2014, the Arboretum partnered with Goodwill Industries to create tote bags made from retired promotional banners. Goodwill leveraged this opportunity to provide paid skills training as part of their reentry program, and the Arboretum was able to put those old banners to good use.

So whether you are looking for a special gift or to treat yourself to something great, consider the exceptional repurposed and recycled goods carried in The Shop at Morris Arboretum. The trees will thank you!

Focus on Art

Join us Sunday, March 1st from 1-3pm in the Upper Gallery of the George D. Widener Education & Visitor Center for the opening of Artists in the Garden: PAFA at Morris Arboretum. This exhibition, which will run from March 1 through June 27, features artwork by students, alumni and faculty of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA). The show is being held in conjunction with the PAFA exhibition, The Artist’s Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887-1920, February 13 – May 24, 2015. For more information, visit www.pafa.org. The exhibit is free with garden admission, and Morris Arboretum and PAFA members are free.

Excitement is building to see what Patrick Dougherty will be creating in the garden this year, but the Arboretum is already home to a number of intriguing sculptures. Try your hand at the new Sculpture Scavenger Hunt this spring and discover these Arboretum treasures. Pick up your clue sheet in The Shop at the Visitor Center beginning Saturday, April 4.

COMING ATTRACTION

The STEAMpunk Expo – Sunday, June 21, 2015

Save the date for a fun day of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Explore the “what if?” around every bend as you stroll the dynamic Victorian garden. Discover the alternative aesthetic of steampunk, where a reimagined past creates a fantastic future. Visit www.morrisarboretum.org for upcoming information.
Summer Camp 2015

Give your child the gift of a fantastically fun summer by enrolling him/her in the Morris Arboretum’s Summer Adventure Camp. Our increasingly popular camp is back with even more exciting adventures, experiments, and crafts to engage thrill-seeking nature lovers ages 6 to 10. We are looking forward to celebrating summer with many of our veteran campers, while meeting new faces as well! Take advantage of our early registration discount by signing your child up by March 1st.

Morris Arboretum’s Summer Adventure Camp is facilitated by an experienced staff of enthusiastic educators who teach in area school districts throughout the year, and ensure that campers have fun and stay safe.

Camp weeks are June 22-August 3 (Week of June 29 is a three-day week). Pricing per week is Members: $265.00/Non-members: $285. On-line registration opens on January 21st. Register by March 1st to take advantage of an early bird registration discount of 15% off camp tuition and to guarantee a spot for your young adventurer.

Here’s a sampling of this year’s weekly themes:

**Scientific Minds in Motion:** Discover your inner Einstein during a week of scientific discovery and experimentation guided by our expert science teachers. (Week of July 6)

**Mythical Creature Week:** Curious about cryptozoology? Create a bigfoot sculpture, make a fairy garden, paint dragon art, and compose stories about your very own mythical creatures. (Week of July 13th)

**Go with the Flow:** Learn about aquatic animals, discover the properties of water through hands-on experiments, and play fun summer games, and cool off in Arboretum sprinklers. (Week of July 20th)

**Art Extravaganza:** Back by popular demand! Create self-portraits, botanical drawings, sculpture, and seed mosaics which will be celebrated in an end-of-the-week art show. (Week of August 3rd)

*All camp weeks feature water play, crafts, and nature hikes to the Arboretum’s Springfield Mills.*

Growing Minds, Join us this Spring!

MIRIAM P. VON ESSEN, Education and Penn Outreach Coordinator

What do photography, bird watching, and world music have in common? They are all part of Morris Arboretum’s Growing Minds program! Growing Minds features a variety of fun and enriching classes—for children ages 2-15—that transform our gardens into outdoor classrooms. If your child is a budding naturalist with a creative spirit, check out our spring class offerings. Some highlights include:

**Seeds to Sprouts, Spring Adventures:** Geared toward ages 2-4, this six-week series of morning outdoor adventures introduces toddlers and their caregivers to the wonders of the natural world. Each class includes guided exploration through the Arboretum and a take-home craft. (Session I–Six Mondays: March 23-April 27; Session II–Six Mondays: May 4-June 8, 10:30-11:30am)

**All Around This World Music Series:** Children ages 2-4 will love this interactive music program that explores the world through global melodies, rhythms, and movement. In every class, kids and their caregivers will sing, dance, and explore countries and cultures, “traveling” around the globe region by region.

**Kids Click! Kids Photography Workshop:** For older kids, ages 8-11 and 12-15, this workshop provides a unique opportunity to experience and capture the beauty of spring through the camera lens. On the last workshop day, kids and parents gather to critique and celebrate their classmate’s work (Session I (Ages 8-11)–Four Thursdays: April 9-30; Session II (Ages 12-15)–Four Wednesdays: April 8-29, 4-5:30pm).

**Nature Sleuths:** In this nature exploration program for ages 5-7, children will explore the great outdoors and develop their intellectual curiosity while having fun in nature! Each class focuses on a particular topic of the natural world, delving into how it fits into the Arboretum’s web of life. (Four Sundays: April 12-May 3, 2-3pm)

To learn more and register your child for these classes, visit online.morrisarboretum.org/GrowingMinds, or call 215-247-5777, ext. 125.
Make the Most of Spring—Take a Class!

The Arboretum offers classes on a wide range of topics from wellness and culinary adventures to horticulture, botany, and landscape design. Our behind-the-scenes classes give you exclusive looks at the Arboretum and other local institutions. We offer trips to birding hotspots, local gardens, and natural areas. Take a class, expand your horizons and meet new people! To register online, visit https://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes or call 215-245-5777, ext. 125.

Here are some highlights:

**An Inside Look at the Witchhazel Collection**  
**Saturday, February 21, 10am-12 noon**  
Join us as we tour the Arboretum’s outstanding collection of witchhazels with Anthony Aiello - The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture & Curator at the Morris Arboretum.

**Handmade Paper Bowls**  
**Saturday, March 28, 12:30-3:30pm**  
Papermaker, artist, and educator Winnie Radolan will help you create personal and unique “paper vessels” by using hand cast paper pulp and your own mementos.

**Gardening for Planet Earth: 10 Ways That You Can Make a Difference**  
**Tuesday, April 7, 7-9pm**  
Learn 10 gardening practices you can implement to make a difference in protecting the environment and many other “bonus” tips from Penn State Master Gardener, Marc Radell.

**Daylilies: The Perfect Perennial**  
**Saturday, April 18, 1-2:30pm**  
Dave Guleke, President, Delaware Valley Daylily Society will show you why daylilies are sometimes referred to as the perfect perennial. Come learn more about why these plants are so popular and how to best use them in your landscape.

**Full Moon Garden Stroll**  
**Monday, May 4, 7-9pm**  
Take this rare opportunity to visit the Arboretum after hours with Director of Public Programs Bob Gutowski. As twilight comes and passes into night, stroll the Arboretum, go out on the tree canopy and enjoy the garden in the glow of the full moon.

**Beer Tasting**  
**Wednesday, May 20, 6:30-8:30pm**  
Bob Fauteux, National Sales Manager at Weyerbacher Brewing Company will join us for a delicious night of merrymaking. Bring your friends and explore a world of unique and exciting beers!

**Tai Chi in the Garden**  
**Four Thursdays: May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 10-11am**  
Do you want to reduce stress, quiet down, move in a slow, balanced way, and cultivate energy? Al Smith, Practitioner Member, National Qigong Association, will share in the practice of the healing art of Tai Chi in the beautiful outdoor setting of the Morris Arboretum.

**The Artist’s Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887-1920 (The Klein Endowed Lecture)**  
**Sunday, March 15, 2pm**  
Anna O. Marley, a nationally recognized authority on American art and material culture from the colonial era to 1945, will discuss the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Art’s 2015 exhibition and catalogue The Artist’s Garden, which intertwines stories of American artists, Impressionism, and the growing popularity of gardening as a middle-class leisure pursuit at the turn of the 20th century. By employing the interdisciplinary perspectives of horticultural history and art history, The Artist’s Garden will reveal the far-reaching effects of the ideas of Impressionism not just on painting, but on American culture at large. Reservations are required and space is limited. Sign up online at https://online.morrisarboretum.org/endowed lectures or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125. The Klein Endowed Lecture is presented annually in memory of Dr. William M. Klein who served as the Arboretum’s first full-time director from 1977-1990.
Romance blooms at Morris Arboretum

Whether it’s Date Night Wednesdays, an engagement proposal, or the perfect wedding backdrop, come share your passion at Morris Arboretum! Open 362 days a year.

Photo: Rebecca Barger Photography