A Note from the Executive Director

Paul W. Meyer, The F. Otto Haas Executive Director

Enhancing and Protecting the Rose Garden

Since the days of Lydia Morris, the Rose Garden has been a focal point of floral display at the Morris Arboretum, and today it continues to be one of the most highly visited parts of the Arboretum. With the rise of the deer population in the late 1980s, getting roses to flower at the Arboretum became a bigger challenge. Deer love to eat roses just as they are beginning to open. By 1990, the deer were leaving almost no rose flowers for our guests to enjoy.

After a brief experiment with “Beanbag” the guard dog, a “temporary” net fence was installed around the Rose Garden to prevent the entry of deer. Over the years, this fencing has become disheveled, and it is clear that the deer population is here to stay. A more lasting and attractive solution to the problem of keeping the deer out of the Rose Garden was needed.

With a planning grant from Bill Hollis and Andrea Baldeck, Arboretum staff worked with Rodney Robinson Landscape Architects, Inc. to develop a plan for an effective and attractive exclusion for the Rose Garden. Plans include folding gates at the major entrances of the garden, Wissahickon schist retaining walls, and new steps and a small terrace at the Rose Garden Summer House. In key areas, “invisinet” will be utilized for the exclusion fencing. This is the same low-visibility material which has been used successfully in key sections of Out on a Limb.

I am delighted to announce that the first phase of implementation for this project, including gates at the north and east side of the Rose Garden will be installed this winter, along with new fencing among the yew and boxwood screening. Additional fencing is required to complete the gates, walls, and exclusion on the lower south side of the garden. We hope that funding will be in place for implementation of this phase by the fall of 2016.

In addition to damage from deer, roses continue to be plagued by rose rosette disease, a deadly and relatively new virus disease. Many of our roses have been lost to the virus in recent years, despite instituting a rigorous sanitation program. Further, abortion, as well as rose rosette disease, a deadly and relatively new virus disease. Many of our roses have been lost to the virus in recent years, despite instituting a rigorous sanitation program. Further, abortion, as well as other problems, as well as others that affect roses, are encouraging Rosarian Vince Marrocco to build the diversity of these plantings in the Rose Garden so we are not “putting all our eggs in one basket.” Monocultures of any plant species are dangerous, and there is increased safety in diversity. We have been using companion plantings in the Rose Garden for many years now, and this is likely to keep increasing until new roses that are resistant to these maladies are developed. These companion plantings include summer-flowering bulbs, cut-back shrubs, and perennials with a long season of bloom, particularly in late summer and autumn. These plantings serve to both increase the environmental sustainability of the garden and add to the visual richness of its palette.

Watch for these developments as staff and volunteers work to restore the Rose Garden to its former grandeur.

Paul
2016 - The Year of the Allium

LOUISE CLARKE, Bloomfield Farm Horticulturist

The year 2016 has been designated "The Year of the Allium" by the National Garden Bureau. Beyond the edible kitchen staples of chives, leeks, and garlic, ornamental onions deserve a place in the flower garden where their vertical form, range of colors, long bloom period, deer resistance, and easy care make them valuable.

*Allium victorialis* (Alpine leek), was the bulb of choice for repelling vampires in the Middle Ages. While vampires don’t stalk our gardens, deer do, and they are similarly repelled by the smelly, sulfurous compounds found in these amaryllis family members. Voles, moles, squires and other rodents also steer clear of alliums, whose foliage, if sampled, is repugnant. Ornamental alliums provide rich nectar sources for insects, including native bees and honeybees, so including them boosts the pollinator-friendliness of gardens.


Adding bright yellow color in mid-summer, *Allium moly*, the lily leek or golden onion, sports shorter, grey-green, tulip-like foliage making it suitable for the fronts of borders. ‘Jeannine’ is a readily available cultivar often producing two flowering stems per bulb. All of these bulbs have strappy, basal leaves (except *A. moly*) that start to yellow during flowering, so it is best to surround them with perennials to hide their shriveling, but necessary, foliage. The umbels remain decorative after flowers fade, adding continued interest.

Clump-forming alliums with shorter, smaller flower umbels and downsized, tidy foliage extend flowering from early summer through autumn. *Allium schoenoprasum* (culinary chives) as well as northeastern native *Allium cernuum* (nodding onion, pictured lower right), grow happily on the Arboretum’s intensive green roof where they enjoy full sun, sharp drainage, and droughty summers. Both benefit from deadheading to prevent excessive seeding. Japanese *Allium thunbergii* ‘Ozawa’ with golf ball-sized, September through October blooms, provides rose-purple color amid foliage that reaches 9-12”. Frost turns the hollow, grass-like leaves tawny orange, contrasting with the florets.

For garden whimsy, try *Allium ‘Hair’* which looks like it’s suffered electric shock treatment. Frizzled green, tentacle-like flowers emerge from a purple base, rising about 18” above the foliage. This onion is certainly an attention grabber. From the steppes of Russia, *Allium caeruleum* provides the only blue-flowered display with azure florets atop 3’ stems in June and July.

Clumping alliums should be available in early spring, but you’ll have to wait until fall for bulbs to appear at your local garden centers or bulb catalogs for fall planting. Alliums aren’t as widely available as daffodils, so you may have to hunt a bit to find them. In the meantime, stroll the Arboretum’s Rose Garden for inspiration.

Spent umbels have great decorative potential, indoors and out. Adventurous gardeners can spraypaint the dried globes to add colorful punctuation points. Dried umbel tied together make a globe, or can be cut for arrangements. Need a fairy wand for your midsummer’s night? Check Pinterest for more creative ideas.

As their virtues have become more widely recognized, alliums have finally transitioned from the vegetable to the flower garden. Their tolerance of hot, dry conditions makes them adaptable to thirsty, water-wise growing. If you hunger for deer-resistant plants with season-long color that are adapted to reduced water, then please don’t eat the onions! Plant them instead!
The Step Fountain: Notes on the First 100 Years

Bob Gutowski, Director of Education and Visitor Experience

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Step Fountain in the English Park. The Step Fountain has had many names: Water Stairs, Italian Water Stairs, Water Staircase, Lion Fountain, Fountain in the Park and English Park Fountain. However you may know it, the Step Fountain has experienced a century of summer waterfalls, winter freezes and treading feet. Now due for restoration, it has a story of its own.

John and Lydia Morris created the English Park on their estate property in 1910 and set about planting it with new acquisitions from the Arnold Arboretum’s plant expeditions to China, and expanding their collection of water features. The garden hillsides lent themselves to falling water, and the garden. in what may have been her first intervention, she assumed the role of planning for the estate and completing the garden. These might be addressed if it is to continue as part of the historic and aesthetic fabric of the Arboretum. As outlined in the Arboretum’s Strategic Plan 2012-2016, the historic Step Fountain needs extensive masonry repairs proposed for the Step Fountain included cleaning and restoring stonework, grouting and sealing basins, and installing recirculating pumps. Additional grouting and sealing has occurred since that time. Generous gifts from Arboretum friend Charles Holman in 1988 made it possible to bring a new water supply and the necessary electricity to all the water features in the Park. The Water Stairs were subsequently restored to working order for the first time in several decades with a gift of services from N.V. Holmes and Son, Inc. in memory of their founder Norman V. Holmes. September 8, 1988 was a momentous day for the Step Fountain with the dedication of the sculpture After B. K. S. Iyengar, which stands above it.

As the Step Fountain reaches its second century, it is one of the most popular and frequently photographed features in the garden. The pictures may not reveal the issues that must be addressed if it is to continue as part of the historic and aesthetic fabric of the Arboretum.

Bender Oak

Robert Wells, Asst. Director Arboriculture Outreach

The signature tree of the Morris Arboretum has been wounded. Last summer, after a significant rainstorm, three major limbs of the Bender oak collapsed, falling to the ground. The largest of these limbs was 83 feet in length and over four feet in diameter. This limb, and the two above it which also fell, weighed several tons and comprised approximately 40% of the crown of the tree.

The Bender oak (Quercus × benderi) is located at the top of the hill near the former location of Compton, the historic Morris home that was demolished in 1968. This iconic tree was already a mature specimen in the 1890s when it appears in some of the Morris’s photographs, and is thought to be 250–300 years old. The trunk of the Bender oak is almost seven feet in diameter. Standing alone at the top of the hill like a sentinel, it has developed a distinctive form and structure that has awed and inspired Arboretum visitors for years.

The failure of these limbs was a major blow to the structural integrity of the tree. The question was then whether to remove the tree entirely, or to take measures in an attempt to extend its life. Of paramount concern was making the area safe for visitors. The installation of props, support poles and cables is being considered as an alternative. In the meantime, most of the smaller limbs on the ground have been cleaned up and moved to Bloomfield Farm where they are being stored and will hopefully be used to create bowls and furniture as a way to honor and remember this fallen giant.

Barn Renovations Underway

Bloomfield Barn is a contributing structure in the Morris Arboretum’s listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Its design is typical of Pennsylvania bank barns of the 18th and 19th centuries. The Morris dairy herd was kept there providing milk, butter and cheese for the estate and the community. Wheat, hay and oats harvested on the property were stored at the barn to feed the dairy, horses and other livestock.

Preservation efforts are now underway at the historic barn. The first step of this multi-phase project is the replacement of the roof, work that is supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and a gift from the CFHG Trust. Additional renovations are planned to preserve the building’s historic integrity, and to repurpose the barn for programming and educational purposes.
A Walk Among the Conifers

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

As you walk through the Arboretum from the Swan Pond toward the Overlook Garden, you might view this area as a monochromatic wall of evergreen plants. But as with many other aspects of the Arboretum, upon closer inspection, the trees in this area provide insight into the history of plant collecting and curation at the Arboretum. We tend to see an area such as this as static, when what we are really seeing is a snapshot of more than 100 years of development. Among these conifers are plants that date to the Morris era, many from the early days of the Arboretum, as well as recent additions from plant explorations. Across from the Swan Pond, near the Gardener’s Cottage, are several large conifers, some of which are remnants from a group of dwarf plants that were added during John and Lydia Morris’ time. One of these is an example of a large, yellow-needled Oriental-arborvitae (Pseudolarix orientalis cv.), a plant normally seen at convenience stores or gas stations. In this case, our tree is more than 100 years old—a remarkable size and age for something normally used for foundation planting.

Nearby, across the cobblestones from the Swan Pond, is a row of dwarf plants that were added during John and Lydia Morris’ time. One of these is an example of a large, yellow-needled Oriental-arborvitae (Pseudolarix orientalis cv.), a plant normally seen at convenience stores or gas stations. In this case, our tree is more than 100 years old—a remarkable size and age for something normally used for foundation planting.

In the late 1940s, many of them were moved to Hillcrest Avenue in an area that had been previously crowded with Norway maples (Acer platanoides). For several subsequent decades the area was quiescent, with relatively few additions or changes. When I started at the Arboretum 16 years ago, a large number of these plants remained, but in many cases their background information had been lost, and they had become overgrown and crowded. So over the years, we have been slowly removing plants, and have often been helped by snowstorms that have damaged some beyond salvage. One of my favorite remaining plants from Colonel Montgomery is a handsome old specimen of the common dwarf Alberta spruce (Picea glauca ‘Conica’) growing just above the main path.

These removals have allowed us to renew this area, adding plants from various collecting trips, such as Chinese hemlock (Tsuga chinensis var. oblonga ‘variegata’), Veitch fir (Abies veitchii) and lacebark pine (Pinus bungeana) along with a few select Japanese maples (Acer palmatum - pictured below) for contrasting form and fall color. Because of the heavy traffic on Hillcrest Avenue, we have tried to balance removals and re-plantings to keep the mature plants as a visual and acoustic barrier, while making new additions to continue the history and function of this collection.

This winter, as you stroll through the Arboretum admiring the color that these trees provide, stop to appreciate the evolution of this collection, and the efforts that have gone into making it what it is today.

What is a Dwarf Conifer?

Many of the plants along Hillcrest Avenue are considered “dwarf” conifers, a relative term, especially when plants are 75 or more years old. The subject of dwarf conifers is a voluminous one, and there are many excellent books and websites on the subject. The term is more horticultural-based and not a botanical classification. In the broadest sense, dwarf conifers are plants that vary in shape, size, or color from the typical, or “wild” version of the species.

Dwarf conifers are generally slow-growing, but this is highly variable, with some adding only an inch annually, while others may grow up to 12” each year. Regardless of your time horizon, you should plan for the size of these plants in five to ten years so that they will not outgrow their planting locations.

The American Conifer Society is an excellent resource to learn more about this fascinating and diverse group of plants. There are far too many different types of plants to even begin to list them here. There is usually a good selection at the Arboretum’s Plant Sale.

Interested in learning more about conifers?

Join Director of Horticulture and Curator Tony Aiello on Thursday, March 10 from 1–3pm for 100 Years of Collecting—Conifers at the Morris Arboretum.

This class will take you on a trip through time, exploring the many periods of collecting that have contributed to the Arboretum’s current landscape, and providing insight into this interesting and diverse group of plants.

The cost of the class is $25 for members and $30 for non-members. To register, visit: https://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125.

Garden Railway 2016 - Awakening the Senses

This summer, delight in the sights and sounds at the Garden Railway Display! This year’s theme, Awakening the Senses, will have you listening for chugging trains and cascading waterfalls. Imagine the sweet smells drifting from the miniature bakery or fudge shop made of leaves, bark, and twigs. And be sure to watch for colorful favorites too, including Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, as they careen around the tracks. Just don’t touch—especially that little house made of thorns!

The Garden Railway Display at Morris Arboretum is supported by a generous gift from Gwen and Ed Aaspund.
Continuing a Passion for Curiosity and Learning

SUSAN CRANE, Director of Marketing

What makes the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania a place that cultivates talent and breeds loyalty among its interns and other professionals who study here? It could be that the value of the educational, hands-on training at the Morris Arboretum engenders a sense of belonging to the organization.

In the early 1900s, John and Lydia Morris had the prescience to envision that one day their estate would become a world-class botanical institution. John wrote of his vision for the Arboretum as “a school where young men, and possibly young women, may be taught practical gardening and horticulture.”

In keeping with the Morrises’ vision for the past 36 years, the Arboretum employs nine interns in specialized areas during a year-long program of training and learning on-the-job. The intern program began in 1977, and was permanently established in 1979. Open to recent college graduates and students, as well as to individuals who have recently changed careers, interns have come to the Arboretum from all over the world. During the last 36 years, more than 250 interns have completed the program. The focus is to provide practical, hands-on management training within the setting of a world-class botanical institution.

Many current staff members are former interns at the Arboretum. They hold the following positions:

- Tony Aiello, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture & Curator (pictured bottom right)
- Tracy Beerley, The McCausland Natural Areas Horticulturist
- Louise Clarke, Bloomfield Farm Horticulturist
- Michelle Conners, Events Coordinator
- Liza Hawley, Assistant Director, Visitor Education and Youth Programs (pictured top)
- Vince Marrocco, Chief Horticulturist/Rosarian (Pictured bottom left)
- Stephen Pyne, Seasonal Greenhouse employee
- Bryan Thompson-Nowak, Assistant Director of Continuing Education & Penn Outreach

The careers of Arboretum interns are tracked after they graduate from the program. Many now hold prominent positions at institutions throughout the U.S. and the world. Some have returned to join the staff of the Arboretum as professionals (see below).

Clearly, the vision that John and Lydia Morris had for stewardship and conservation is being realized, and is even more critical than it was in the early 1900s. Today, the number of individuals pursuing careers in horticulture and related fields is declining. The opportunity to work within a world-class garden allows many of these students to discover their passion and the rewards offered in these fields. Additionally, by hiring graduates of our internship program, the Arboretum gains a trained and seasoned employee. According to Arboretum Executive Director Paul Meyer, “The internship program and other training programs advance the Arboretum’s commitment to education, research, and garden exhibits in many diverse ways. Interns and trainees bring fresh ideas, challenge entrenched thinking, and contribute as much to the institution as they take away.”

Former Intern Making A Difference

Former intern Louis Randall (right, with Executive Director Paul Meyer) has been teaching Horticulture, Floral Design, Ag Earth Science, and Ag Biology at Livingston High School in California for more than 27 years. On a recent visit to the Arboretum, Louis recounted, “My experience as a Morris Arboretum Education Intern made me realize I wanted to become a high school Horticulture teacher. It gave me the freedom to try new things, and the opportunity to work with people of different ages. My year there was a life-changing one. I credit my time at the Arboretum for helping to make me a successful educator. To date, I have worked with more than 4,000 young people, and helped them get the most from their high school educational experience.”

Interns Then, Staff Today

Many current staff members are former interns at the Arboretum. Today, they hold the following positions:

- Tony Aiello, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture & Curator (pictured bottom right)
- Tracy Beerley, The McCausland Natural Areas Horticulturist
- Louise Clarke, Bloomfield Farm Horticulturist
- Michelle Conners, Events Coordinator
- Liza Hawley, Assistant Director, Visitor Education and Youth Programs (pictured top)
- Vince Marrocco, Chief Horticulturist/Rosarian (Pictured bottom left)
- Stephen Pyne, Seasonal Greenhouse employee
- Bryan Thompson-Nowak, Assistant Director of Continuing Education & Penn Outreach

Photo: Courtesy Morris Arboretum Archives

Love the Morris Arboretum? Become a Volunteer!

Does the Morris Arboretum relax and inspire you? Would you like to share your pleasure and enjoyment with others? Do you recognize the importance of helping the next generation appreciate, preserve and enjoy open space, blue sky, and a green earth? If you answered “yes” to these questions, please consider becoming an Education Volunteer. If you enjoy working with people (both children and adults), and you can walk, talk and smile, you are the ideal candidate.

New guide training classes will be held each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in March 2016. These classes will help you learn the “nuts and bolts” of the Arboretum including history, horticulture, tour content and techniques for leading tours. The classes are followed by an apprenticeship period in April and May. During these months you will put your training to good use by co-leading tours with experienced guides, working up to leading tours on your own. Throughout the process, a mentor will work closely with you as you hone your guiding skills.

Becoming an Education Volunteer is way more than the most rewarding job you will ever have. The benefits are amazing! They include meeting wonderful people, the opportunity to attend interesting volunteer workshops, lectures, and field trips, discounts on Arboretum classes, and fun social activities including an annual holiday celebration and end-of-year potluck recognition dinner. Dare to enjoy yourself and inspire others at this great place we call the Morris Arboretum. For more information contact Liza Hawley at (215) 247-5777 ext. 128.

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winter/spring events

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

Winter Wellness Walks
Saturdays through March 10:30-11:30am
Please see February for details.

Yarn Along
Saturday, March 5, 1-4pm
Bring your needles and creative spirit! All crocheters and knitters are invited to join in and whip up an original piece of needlework artistry to be incorporated into the upcoming yarnbombing installation Wrapped Up. Artist Melissa Haims will be on hand to facilitate the session. Free with admission.

Wrapped Up – Yarnbombing at the Morris Arboretum Opening Reception
Saturday, March 26, 1-3pm
Meet fiber artist Melissa Haims, the creator of Wrapped Up, a new exhibit featuring the Arboretum’s buildings, bridges and trees. Working primarily with recycled textiles, Melissa will strategically adorn beloved Arboretum features and plants in the living collection. Free with admission.

APRIL

Storytime
Friday, April 1, 10:30-11am
Join us for an interactive and engaging reading session. Storytime will be held in the Upper Gallery of the Widener Visitor Center. Storytime is free with regular admission, however advance registration is required. Registration begins one month prior to Storytime events. Register online at morrisarboretum.org. Look under Events for Kids and Families.

Garden Discovery Series: What’s in the Box?
Saturday, April 2, 11am-3pm
Use your sense of touch to examine and identify a variety of objects found in nature in this fun and mysterious exploration. No peeking! The Barnes Endowed Lecture: Medicinal Plants: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
Sunday, April 3, 2pm
Please see page 17 for more information.

Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival
Two Saturdays, April 9 & 16
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. Events are free with admission. Please see page 16 for more information.

Arbor Day Family Day
Saturday, April 23, 11am-3pm
Open to all visitors, this program also gives 4th and 5th grade Gard Scouts the opportunity to earn their "Gardener" badge. At different stations throughout the Arboretum, visitors will learn about surrounding gardens, hardy plants for our area, and will create a seed experiment to take home. Free with admission.

MAY

Plant Sale Members Events
Thursday & Friday, May 5 & 6
Please see page 18 for more information.

Public Plant Sale
Saturday, May 7
Please see page 18 for more information.

Garden Discovery Series: What Do You See?
Saturday, May 7, 11am-3pm
What do you see when you examine a leaf, an acorn, or the inside of a flower? Visit the discovery table at Out on a Limb and learn about the importance of careful observation in science, while creating some scientific illustrations of your very own.

Mother’s Day Brunch
Sunday, May 8, 9:30am & Noon (two seatings)
Start your Mother’s Day with a delicious brunch at the Compton Café prepared by Chef Josh Hunter. Afterwards, walk it off as you enjoy all-spring has to offer at the Arboretum. Advance ticket purchase required. Tickets will be available for purchase on TicketLeap beginning April 1. See website for pricing and menu.

JUNE

Garden Railway Grand Opening
Saturday, May 28, 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 3pm during the week, and 10am to 5pm on weekends through Labor Day, and on Wednesday evenings in June, July and August. The Arboretum is open until 8pm. See page 8 for more information.

ADMISSION

Members (18-64yrs.) $16
Senior (65+yrs.) $4
Children (3-17yrs.) $4
Members FREE

* Please note, Arboretum events are subject to change without notice.

In the event of inclement weather, please check the website at www.morrisarboretum.org for information or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 0.

Photo: Marie Ingegneri
Penn Students Learning from Botany Experts

A n important, but often overlooked aspect of the Morris Arboretum’s relationship with Penn lies in its teaching efforts. Since the founding of the Morris Arboretum in 1932, members of the staff have taught university courses at Penn. In fact, many of the earliest professional staff at the Arboretum were standing faculty in Penn’s Botany Department. Today, two university courses are currently taught by Arboretum staff, and both members of the Botany Department staff, Dr. Tim Block and Dr. Cindy Skema, hold adjunct appointments in the Biology Department at Penn.

Field Botany (Biology 400) has been taught by Arboretum staff for more than 25 years, and is currently co-taught by Drs. Block and Skema. The course focuses on the diversity of plant species and communities in the Pennsylvanica Bora, and the ecological and historical forces that influence them, with an emphasis on plant identification and collecting skills. Greater interest in the natural world, and increased efforts in land preservation and ecological restoration, have increased demand for plant identification skills. While traditionally, Field Botany was taught every academic year, the course is now taught every other year to meet increased demand. Most students in Field Botany are either undergraduate Biology majors or graduate students in the Masters of Environmental Studies program.

Botany Lab Challenge Met

We are delighted to report that over 40 donors—including individuals, foundations, and corporate entities—stepped forward with contributions totaling $125,445 designated for the modernization of the John J. Willaman Plant Science Laboratories, thus exceeding the 1:1, $100,000 matching challenge met. The project will bring together scientists and practitioners with expertise in managing natural areas from governmental and conservation organizations to ensure that the property would be preserved as open space in perpetuity. We are thrilled to celebrate Mrs. Dixon and the extraordinary ways she nurtures and supports our community.

Delaware River Watershed and beyond. The panel’s mission is twofold: to provide practitioners a comparative review of land stewardship practices in terms of their impacts on water resources, and to provide grant-making programs that will ultimately improve the water quality, and increase outcomes of funded projects.
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
Saturdays, April 9 & 16, 10:15am and 12:15pm
Meet at the 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
Saturdays, April 9 & 16, 10:30am and 12pm at the Azalea Meadow
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 collaboration between the Settlement Music School and the Shofuso Japanese House and Garden in Fairmount Park.

Traditional Japanese Tea Demonstration
Saturday, April 9, 1pm, at the Azalea Meadow (rain location: Widener Visitor Center)
The picnic tea or Chabako, is a beautiful and unique form of the Japanese tea ceremony. Featuring traditional costumes and designed to be done outdoors, there are four distinct presentations, one for each of the seasons. Weather permitting this demonstration will be outside.

Japanese Garden Elements Tours
Saturdays, April 9 & 16, 2pm
Meet at the Garden Railway entrance
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 16, 11am, Widener Visitor Center
Young and old alike will delight in the beautiful kimonos exhibited by Fumiko Batta. As a “Cultural Ambassador” for the Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival, Mrs. Batta has been considered a significant Japanese cultural asset to the Philadelphia area for two decades. 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.

Origami Workshops
Saturday, April 16, 1 and 2pm, Widener Visitor Center
Learn how to make an origami crane under the tutelage of local resident and Japanese native Yuki Flores. This art form of paper folding has been practiced for centuries, and has become a lasting symbol of traditional Japanese culture.
Spring has Sprung—Take a Class!

Think Spring! The Arboretum offers classes on a wide variety of topics. Learn something new, add to your horticultural knowledge, experience the garden and meet new people. For a complete course brochure visit https://online.morrisarboretum.org or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125.

Vegetables and Annuals from Seed
Saturday, February 27, 10am-12noon
Members: $25, Non-members: $30
Vegetable gardening is booming! Buying vegetables and annuals as small plants can not only be expensive, but can also be hard to find exactly the varieties you want. Join Arboretum propagator Shelley Dillard in the Arboretum greenhouse and learn how to grow plants from seed and get a jump on spring. Class size is limited so sign up early.

Walking Mindfulness Meditation
Four Wednesdays: April 20, 27, May 4, 11
(Raindate 5/18), 1-2pm
Members: $75, Non-members: $80
Mindfulness meditation helps promote the skills of deep listening to our inner and outer experiences with acceptance, patience, and compassion. It guides us to become more aware of our thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst the thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment. Amidst of thoughts and the sensory world: what we are hearing, feeling, smelling, and experiencing in the present moment.

Another chance to learn from Jim Gardiner:
Tuesday, April 12, 7 pm
Jim Gardiner, Executive Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society, will introduce you to this much-loved tree. Gardiner will discuss the impact magnolias have had on landscapes both within the UK and abroad. He is the author of several books including Magnolias: A Gardener’s Guide and Magnolias in Art and Culture.

Magnolia in art and Cultivation—A Lecture with Jim Gardiner: The Klein Endowed Lecture
Tuesday, April 12, 7 pm
Jim Gardiner, Executive Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society, will introduce you to this much-loved tree. Gardiner will discuss the impact magnolias have had on landscapes both within the UK and abroad. He is the author of several books including Magnolias: A Gardener’s Guide and Magnolias in Art and Culture.

Plant Sale 2016
Join us on Mother’s Day weekend for our Annual Plant Sale at the Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm. The sale will take place from Thursday, May 5–Saturday, May 7. Be sure to stop at the Dividend tent to pick up your free plants!

- Members receive special benefits and access to member events during the Plant Sale. All members receive 10% off their entire purchase and can shop before the public. Premier members are invited to special shopping events on Thursday, May 5. Not a premier member and interested in the events and shopping first? Call the Membership Office at (215) 247-5777 ext. 155 to upgrade your membership.
- Members Events at the Plant Sale - Save the Date! Members receive special benefits and access to member events during the Plant Sale. All members receive 10% off their entire purchase and can shop before the public. Premier members are invited to special shopping events on Thursday, May 5. Not a premier member and interested in the events and shopping first? Call the Membership Office at (215) 247-5777 ext. 155 to upgrade your membership. Membership Office hours are Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm.

Plant Sale Luncheon
Thursday, May 5, 12:30–2:30pm
Oak, Laurel, and Collectors Circle members are invited to a picnic lunch with Paul Meyer, The F. Otto Haas Executive Director. Following lunch, guests will shop with our experts. Invitations to eligible members will be mailed in April.

Plant Sale Preview Night
Thursday, May 5, 5:30–7:30pm
Chestnut, Holly, Oak, Laurel, and Collectors Circle members are invited to shop while enjoying refreshments. Arboretum experts will be on hand to assist guests as they shop. Invitations to eligible members will be mailed in April.

Plant Sale Members Day
Friday, May 6, 10am–7pm
Bring your membership card, your wallet, and a wagon to shop on Members Day. Visit early for the best selection.

Public Plant Sale
Saturday, May 7, 10am–3pm

2016 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 (elpidotes) and small-leaf (lepidotes) rhododendrons will be offered, as well as azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous, and mountain laurels (kalmia). Native rhododendrons will also be available for sale. The rhododendron sale will follow the schedule and hours of the Arboretum’s Plant Sale. For information, contact Karel Bernady, at (610) 827-0113.

Join the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) during the Plant Sale and receive a free rhododendron. The chapter meets at Morris Arboretum. Visit gpcar.org to see the many benefits available to ARS members.
Summer Adventure Camp 2016

Morris Arboretum’s Summer Adventure Camp is perfect for young nature lovers. Designed for children ages 6-10, and facilitated by highly experienced teachers who work in local school districts, camp days are filled with hiking, expeditions, wildlife explorations, science experiments, outdoor games, scavenger hunts, arts & crafts, and making new friends.

Camp runs Monday–Friday, from 9am–3:30pm, June 20- August 5, 2016. The cost is $280 per week for members, and $300 per week for non-members. Online registration opens January 25. Register by March 1st to receive a 15% Early bird discount. Weeks are filled on a first come, first served basis. Visit online.morrisarboretum.org/summercamp for more information, or email Tiffany Stahl at tstahl@upenn.edu.

Here are a few of this year’s exciting weekly themes:

Habitat Heroes (June 20th to June 24th): Campers will observe and learn how to protect many of the furry, feathered, and scaly animals that call the Arboretum home.

Mad Science Mayhem! (June 27th to July 1st): As they dive into the exciting world of science, campers will discover their inner Curie, Newton, and Darwin. Fun experiments will leave your child hypothesizing for more!

Eco Expedition (*4 day week: Tuesday, July 5th to July 8th): This week will feature acres of fun hiking up and down the Arboretum’s wooded trails on a mission for discovery and adventure. There will also be crafts and games galore!

Art Week: Animal Safari (July 25th to 29th): In this first of two art-focused camp sessions campers will draw, paint, and sculpt, using the Arboretum’s colorful habitats as their muse.

Nature’s Classroom: Serving the Region’s Schools

In his groundbreaking book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Richard Louv remarks that “An environment-based education movement—at all levels of education—will help students realize that school isn’t supposed to be a polite form of incarceration, but a portal to the wider world.”

For decades, the Morris Arboretum has positioned itself as that very portal for thousands of visiting schoolchildren, many of whom attend schools in neighborhoods that lack their own green spaces. Indeed, it is common for children in urban settings to have never walked through meadows or wetlands. Fewer still have seen cultivated floral gardens, smelled freshly mown grass, or know the names of native trees and shrubs. Through our education outreach efforts, the Arboretum seeks to connect these schoolchildren—through visits, standards-based curricular materials, and special programming—with the natural world in a way that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

Overall in FY15, nearly 5,000 schoolchildren, many from Title 1 schools, visited for outdoor, curriculum-related experiences. During these visits, school groups are divided into cohorts of not more than 10 students for guided explorations led by a trained volunteer guide. A number of our guides are retired educators. These volunteers not only lead the visiting groups, but they also help build the curriculum. Through volunteerism, the Morris Arboretum is able to leverage philanthropic support and reach far more students than would otherwise be possible.

In 2016, the Morris Arboretum aims to continue building on its school visitation program, and hopes to welcome an increasing number of schoolchildren to the garden. The Arboretum welcomes the support of individuals, foundations, and corporations who are interested in underwriting the cost of school group visitation and buses. Of special interest to area businesses, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program incentivizes philanthropic investments in our school visitation programs by offering valuable tax credits to participating businesses.

For more information about the ways in which you or your company can support school visitation programs at the Morris Arboretum, please contact Leslie Weisser, Associate Director of Corporate Foundation, and Donor relations at (215) 247-5777 ext. 147 or via email at lesliecw@upenn.edu.

Join us this Spring!

The spring and summer of 2016 will be an exciting time for you and your family. Pam Newitt will be back with the ever-popular Seeds to Sprouts and Nature Sleuths series, and new this summer will be master educator Keith Bowman teaching a series of classes—Botany for Kids. Here are a just a few classes that are coming up! Sign up at http://online.morrisarboretum.org/ GrowingMinds or call (215) 247-5777 x125.

Fairy and Gnome Gardening – Ages 5-7
Create your own mini garden for your little gnome or fairy. This is a fun, hands-on class, with your very own garden to take home! Wednesday, March 23 10:30–11:30am

Seeds to Sprouts – Ages 2-4
Explore the natural areas of the Arboretum with a craft at the end of each class.
Session I – Six Mondays: March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, and 25
Session II – Six Mondays: May 2, 9, 16, 23, June 6, and 13 10:30–11:30am

Nature Sleuths – Ages 5-7
Join us for a close look at trees, birds, and other wildlife that call the Morris Arboretum home.
Four Sundays: April 10, 17, 24, May 1 2–3pm

Kids Click! Nature Photography Workshop (Ages 8-12)
This photography workshop offers kids the opportunity to get out in nature, be creative, and have fun while capturing the beautiful landscape of Morris Arboretum during springtime! Six Wednesdays: April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25 4–5:30pm

GrownMinds: Growing with the Arboretum's Early Bird Discount

Photo: Tiffany Stahl

Photo: Bryan Thompson-Nowak

Photo: Paul W. Meyer
Awakening the Senses at the Morris Arboretum!

Use the clues to unscramble the words next to each picture. Then bring this page on your next visit to the Arboretum and “awaken your senses” as you search the garden for each answer:

See the swimming sisters—Flora and Fauna, here, as they sweetly drift by the Love Temple.

WNAS P NO D

Listen for the cheery songs of birds while you’re high up in the treetops, fifty feet off the ground!

T O U N O A B M I L

Feel the smooth weave of sticks that have been intertwined to create these seven towering sculptures.

A L W A Z T N I E H T D O O W S

Smell the spicy-sweet fragrance of these colorful shrubs on a sunny winter day.

Z E W C L H I T A H

The Shop

When you receive this issue of Seasons, we will be in the midst of winter, typically not a time when one thinks of a stroll in the garden. But the winter months at Morris Arboretum can be a majestic time. Walk through a wonderland, marveling at the fir trees and stark branches of the deciduous trees popping against the winter sky. The brisk air invigorates your search for blooming snowdrops, witchhazels, and the exfoliating bark of the filbert tree. Sometimes though, you need a respite from the cold with some compelling indoor activities. The Shop at Morris Arboretum has you covered.

Embrace your child’s inquisitive side by dissecting an owl pellet or playing with lifelike toy insects and frogs. You’ll also find a variety of puzzles, coloring books, crafts, and sketchbooks (all nature-related, of course) to keep your little ones entertained while the snow comes down outside. They can then keep you entertained by putting on a show with woodland creature hand puppets big (moles) and small (grasshoppers).

Peruse the selection of books and find the perfect one to read while cozying up by the fire. You can emerge from winter ready for spring, knowing about edible plants, how to tend bees, or how to cook with flowers. Your friends and neighbors will marvel at your newfound knowledge.

Annual Report Correction

The following donors were inadvertently omitted from the Annual Report for fiscal year 2015. We apologize for the error and thank them for their generous gift.

In memory of John P. A. Todd - Pamela & James Hill
Coming this March: Wrapped Up – Yarnbombing at Morris Arboretum

This spring, fiber artist Melissa Maddonni Haims will weave her magic at the Morris Arboretum on some of its iconic trees and sculptures. The Grand Opening of Wrapped Up – Yarnbombing at Morris Arboretum will take place on March 26, 2016. Awaken your senses with the explosion of colors and textures throughout the garden!