A Note from the Executive Director

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

Education at Morris Arboretum

Advancing education is at the heart of all that the Morris Arboretum does. Education ranges from garden interpretation and informal outdoor activities, to high level training for professionals, interns, and many students in between.

Over the past five years, the Arboretum’s youth education programs have grown dramatically. These include specialized, curriculum-related tours for school groups, storytelling activities for pre-kindergarten children, and fee-based short courses for kids and their families. Summer camp programs have also been implemented and continue to grow each year. This past summer, an additional camp program was instituted in partnership with ACLAMO, a Norristown-based family service organization.

For more than thirty years, the Morris Arboretum has presented seminars and symposia that provide training opportunities for landscape and arboriculture professionals. These practicing professionals can earn continuing education credits, allowing them to build their knowledge of recent thinking and research in their field, while keeping their professional certifications up to date. Last year alone, the School of Arboriculture offered 24 classes, reaching more than 300 professionals.

Many of our programs must be offered off-site due to the lack of adequate classroom space at the Arboretum. This past autumn, the Arboretum presented a lecture by acclaimed natural history author Andrea Wulf at the Ambler Theater. The theater seats 260, and the lecture was a complete sell-out.

Every year, the Arboretum offers more than 140 continuing education classes for adults and professionals. These include field trips and courses on a variety of botanic and horticulture topics. Last year, 2,102 students participated in a total of 143 programs.

I am especially proud of our internship program. Each year since 1986, we welcome nine interns from around the country and the world. Each intern is in a specific area: education, horticulture, botany, arboriculture, plant propagation, and plant protection. In addition to working alongside seasoned professionals, the interns share a core curriculum for which they earn University of Pennsylvania credit. Each intern also completes a special project that addresses an Arboretum need. We regularly get visits from past interns, who speak of the key role this program played in their education and training.

While education may be at the heart of the Arboretum’s mission, most programs are fee-based to make ends meet and to support the staff who plan and implement them. This past year (fiscal year 2016), educational programming generated more than $230,000 in tuition and fees, up from $153,000 in 2011—a 50% increase.

As participants in the Arboretum programs, we welcome your feedback. We want to hear about both our successes and shortcomings. We also welcome your ideas for courses and programs not yet offered.

Paul W. Meyer
Feet on the Ground, Head in the Trees, Eyes on the Future: Arboretum Director Celebrates 40 Years

SUZAN CRANE, Director of Marketing

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his year, Paul W. Meyer, the F. Otto Haas Executive Director, celebrates 40 years at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. During his tenure, with the help of dedicated staff, board, and volunteers, Paul has transformed a sleepy local garden into a world-class public institution. With an aspiration for excellence, the Morris Arboretum now serves as a model for its peers. From some 30,000 visitors 40 years ago, the Morris Arboretum now welcomes more than 130,000 visitors each year.

Paul began his career at the Morris Arboretum as its curator in 1976 where he developed a keener understanding of the Arboretum’s mission and day-to-day activities, while deepening his appreciation of horticulture. During that time, he led the clearing of overgrown sections of the garden and the renewal of the living collections through expeditions to China and Korea. He was a founding member of NACPC (North American China Plant Collection Consortium).

After a national search for a new director in 1991, Paul was chosen for having the “necessary vision, talent, leadership, and charisma to inspire staff and donors to raise the Morris Arboretum to the level of beauty and service that was its destiny,” said Richard Lighty, former director of the Longwood Gardens.

As its new director in 1991, Paul embraced the challenging task of turning the Arboretum around, while maintaining fiscal responsibility. His mantra, according to Morris Arboretum supporter and board member John Shober was to “think big and take small steps.” Under Paul’s guidance, the Fernery was restored in 1993, the first of many projects including restoration of the log cabin, the springhouse, enhanced attractions, and carefully thought-out education and scientific programs for professionals and the general public. As Executive Director, Paul has transformed the Arboretum to the level of beauty and service that was its destiny.

Paul is also a leader in the field of plant exploration and evaluation. He has completed twelve expeditions to countries including China, Korea, Taiwan, Armenia and the Republic of Georgia, where he has collected plants from various sources to introduce greater genetic diversity. He also searches for plants that will grow specifically in stressful urban conditions. Colleague R. William Thomas, Executive Director of Chanticleer Garden, admires Paul’s fascination with not just the plants, but also the culture and the people of the countries he visits.

In 2014, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is lucky to have such a dedicated and capable leader. We celebrate his remarkable 40 year legacy. If you would like to honor Paul’s legacy with a contribution to the newly established Paul Meyer and Debbie Rodgers Historic Preservation Endowment Fund, please contact Jessica Lynch, Associate Director of Individual Giving, at (215) 247-5777 ext. 131, or via email at jlynch@upenn.edu.

Paul has received many awards over the years, among them, The American Horticultural Society’s Great American Gardeners Professional Award in 2002; the Wyck-Strickland Award in 2010, the Award of Merit from the American Public Gardens Association in 2013, and the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award from the American Horticultural Society in 2014.

For more than 35 years, Paul has been an exceptional advocate for the planning, preservation, and stewardship of Montgomery County’s valuable green spaces, and has served as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission and the Montgomery County Open Space Board.

Paul’s knowledge of horticulture is prolific and his passion for imparting that knowledge is equally strong. Paul’s wife of 26 years, Debbie Rodgers, says, “There is little separation between Paul as a person and Paul as the Director of the Arboretum. His love for the Arboretum is in his bones.” This connection is further evidenced through his camera lens, where the Morris Arboretum has been a favorite subject for many years. Paul’s photographic images record the last 35 years of progress at the Arboretum.

Footnotes:

1. William Thomas, Executive Director of Chanticleer Garden, admires Paul’s fascination with not just the plants, but also the culture and the people of the countries he visits.

2. John Shober, board member of the Morris Arboretum.

3. Debbie Rodgers, wife of Paul Meyer.

Photos: Courtesy Paul Meyer and Morris Arboretum Archives.
Free Wi-Fi for its medicinal purposes. Although this plant is widely cultivated in this part of China, it is not commonly grown in the US. Despite the number of plants that will be well worth trying in our gardens. Among these is a magnolia (Magnolia officinalis) that is grown in China with the goal that this area would yield a diversity of plants suitably cold-hardy for Boston and Philadelphia.

Prior to the trip, two members of the team (Michael Dosmann of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University), Kang Wang (Beijing Botanical Garden), Yundong Gao (Chengdu Institute of Biology, Sichuan), and Chang-Bao Tian (Huanglong Nature Preserve). Unlike previous trips to China, we stayed in one location for the entire 12 days, radiating from our base for day trips to explore a number of valleys that make up the nature preserve. In the early 1900s, famed plant explorer Ernest H. Wilson visited and collected in the area, but it has not been thoroughly examined by Western botanists since that time.

Our objective was to investigate the park and its surroundings for a diversity of plants that would fulfill our collection development goals. Prior to the trip, two members of the team (Michael and Kang) had made short visits to the area to get a better sense of the flora, with the goal that this area would yield a diversity of plants suitable for cold-hardy for Boston and Philadelphia.

What we discovered were a number of interesting plants, but a flora that was perhaps not as diverse as expected. There were still a number of plants that will be well worth trying in our gardens. Among these is a magnolia (Magnolia officinalis) that is grown in China for its medicinal purposes. Although this plant is widely cultivated in this part of China, it is not commonly grown in the US, despite being a beautiful garden plant with its large leaves and flowers. Another of my favorite collections on this trip was the unusual Farges' hornbeam, perhaps giving it a better chance of survival. Our hope is that it will be successful and that we might begin to see greater plant diversity and a different palette of plants. In the adjacent county, we came to a much different elevation and plant community. Here we saw several different broad-leaved evergreens, including a viburnum (Viburnum cylindricum), Chinese helwingia (Helwingia chinensis), openshed plants that will make beautiful additions to the Arboretum. Most exciting of all was our discovery of Fang's hornbeam (Carpinus fangiana - pictured above), a small tree renowned among horticulturists for its beautiful leaves and long pendulous flower clusters. Previously I had only seen photos and one of these plants in cultivation, so it was a thrill to come across this tree in the wild. Ours represents the northernmost collection of this hornbeam, perhaps giving it a better chance of growing in our hardiness zone. With all the expeditions to China, one of the most important outcomes was the relationships that were developed and strengthened as a result of the partnerships between the three Chinese and two American participants. It is important to view these expeditions as not only a chance to understand and document Chinese flora, but as a way to exchange knowledge and build ties among all of our organizations.

Awakening the Senses:

Connecting with New Content

For the past two years, thanks to the support of The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, the Arboretum has enjoyed a special opportunity to explore new ways of connecting with visitors, largely through technology. We began the project by speaking with visitors to learn what kinds of topics were of greatest interest and we researched where they travel in the gardens. Then we set about developing strategies that would satisfy their interests and would be easy (and fun!) to use.

Many of the interpretive resources can be found on the Arboretum’s website—click on the “Explore” tab to get started. You can connect from a personal computer at home, or on a mobile phone or tablet during a visit to the Arboretum.

Wi-Fi

Hotspots are available in Widener Visitor Center and the Café, Out on a Limb, the Rose Garden, Garden Railway, Log Cabin, Swan Pond, and Fernery plaza. Once you arrive, make sure that Wi-Fi is turned on, look for the Morris-Arboretum network, and select it to connect.
Kids Connection - Arboretum Adventure

Arboretum Adventure

Also part of Awakening the Senses and supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, this engaging program was developed for families with kids ages 6–8, with beautiful illustrations that will delight all. This plant and science-themed story encourages exploration of the Arboretum with charming animal guides. Click on each page to navigate through, and follow the prompts on the screen for interactive fun.

Arboretum Adventure Coloring Page

This illustration is just one of the wonderful images created by artist Todd Miyashiro for Arboretum Adventure, a new online and mobile experience. Get out your colored pencils or markers and have fun coloring this page, and then visit Family Activities under the Explore tab at www.morrisarboretum.org to color the picture there too on your computer or tablet!
We are pleased to announce that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded the Botany Department at the Morris Arboretum an Advancing Digitization of Biological Collections (ADBC) grant, under the direction of Lead Principal Investigator and Morris Arboretum Botanical Scientist Dr. Cindy Skema. The $1.5 million award for the Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis Project (MAM) supports the Arboretum and 10 other cooperating partner institutions in a three-year effort to image, transcribe label data from, and georeference about 700,000 herbarium specimens collected in the Mid-Atlantic region. Our digitizing partners on this grant include The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Delaware State University, Howard University, New York Botanical Garden, Rutgers University, Towson University, and the University of Maryland. Additionally, Mid-Atlantic specimens at the following institutions will be digitized by one of the partners: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Muhlenberg College, and Staten Island Museum.

The data mobilized in this effort will help us achieve a better scientific understanding of living urban systems, reinforcing a critical need for urban planners, restoration ecologists, environmental engineers, landscape architects, and conservationists engaged in creating more sustainable and better-designed cities, including the constructed and restored natural environments of our urban areas. The data collected in this project will be freely available online to scientists, researchers, and teachers, as well as to the general public.

The MAM Project represents the first National Science Foundation support for the Morris Arboretum in nearly 50 years, since the Pennsylvania Flora Project, and Senior Botanist. She retired in 2013, but remains an integral part of the Arboretum’s team focused on identifying and documenting the plant communities of counties, state parks, and innumerable lakes and streams in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

For those of us not lucky enough to travel south for the winter, visiting the Arboretum’s Holly Slope on a sunny winter’s day is a great way to spend a few hours outside. Although a few hollies (Ilex) remain from the Morris’s time, most of the collection was planted on the four acres of land the Arboretum acquired with Gates Hall in 1948. This slope was selected from its southern exposure and well-drained soils. Henry Skinner, the curator at the time, planted the hollies in the early 1950s with American hollies (I. verticillata) at the top of the slope, and more tender species such as English and Allsopp hollies (I. aquifolium and I. × altaclarensis) in the shaded lower areas. As a result of this significant collection, we are recognized as an official Holly Society of America arboretum.

Currently, we have about 177 types of holly—one of the largest collections in the Delaware Valley, with many plants remaining from 50 years ago. For the past several years, we have been renovating the holly collection by removing unknown or unhealthy plants, pruning overgrown beds and adding new varieties. We have focused on the Oak Allée as a place for adding new varieties of deciduous hollies. In the early 2000s, we propagated plants from the Rutgers University Gardens and Scott Arboretum, focusing on less common varieties of Allsopp, Koehne s. (I. × koehneanae), and other hollies. More recently, we have focused our efforts re-propagating plants in our collection that are not held by other botanic gardens. Hollies have separate male and female plants (dioecious), so unless male plants are known to be in your neighborhood, you will have to plant both sexes to get good fruit-set. With so many beautiful varieties of holly it is difficult to recommend just a few. However, here are some suggestions to get you started:

- American holly: a large plant, it can grow up to 50 feet tall. Numerous varieties include ‘Jersey Princess’, ‘Old Heavy Berry’, ‘Hedgeholl’, and ‘Jersey Knight’ (male).
- Koehne holly: medium-sized, reaching 25 to 40 feet with beautiful chestnut-like leaves. Several varieties include ‘Lassie’, YULE BRITE, and ‘Chieftoin’ (male).
- Meserve hollies (Blue and China hybrids; I. × meserveae): include some of the most popular hollies available; most are relatively small, only reaching 5-6 feet in 5 years and 12 feet at maturity. Look for BLUE MAID, ‘Blue Princess’, GOLDEN GIRL, pollinated by ‘Blue Prince’; CHINA GIRL and CHINA BOY.

So if you are looking for a little touch of green this winter, come to the Arboretum and enjoy our Holly Slope. Hopefully you will be inspired to grow some of these wonderful plants in your own garden.
**FEBRUARY**

1. **Connections Beyond the Garden Lecture Series: “The Critical Role of Plants in the Urban Landscape”**

   **Wednesday, February 1, 2pm**

   See page 16 for more information.

2. **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.

3. **Winter Witch Hazel Walk**

   **Saturdays, February 18 & 25, 2pm**

   Knowledgeable guides will lead visitors on tours throughout the garden, searching for witchhazels.

4. **“Witchhazel” is your Favorite?**

   **Saturday, February 25, 1-3pm**

   Pick up a map at the Visitor Center to find many of these captivating winter bloomers throughout the Arboretum. In the Upper Gallery of the Visitor Center, children can create a witchhazel-related craft and an Arboretum expert will be available to answer questions about witchhazels.

**MARCH**

5. **Connections Beyond the Garden Lecture Series: “Approaching Sustainability”**

   **Sunday, March 5, 2 pm**

   See page 16 for more information.

6. **Free Storytime at the Arboretum**

   **Fridays, March 3, 17, & 31, 10:30-11:15am**

   Join us for fun and engaging reading sessions with local librarians. Each session is tailored to the changing seasons and complements the natural setting of the Arboretum. Storytime is held outdoors in nice weather, at the Outdoor Children’s Classroom, next to the Widener Visitor Center. In the case of inclement weather, Storytime is held in the Upper Gallery at the Visitor Center.

7. **Winter Wellness Walks**

   **Saturdays, November through March, 10:30-11:30am**

   See February 4 for more information.

8. **Winter Witch Hazel Walk**

   **Saturdays, March 4 & 11, 2pm**

   See February 18 for more information.

9. **Free Storytime at the Arboretum**

   **Fridays, March 3, 17, & 31, 10:30-11:15am**

   See February 4 for more information.

10. **Garden Discovery Series: Pinwheel Power**

    **Saturday, April 1, 11am to 3pm**

    Venture Out on a Limb and create your very own personal pinwheel and discover how and why they whirl, spin, and dance in the wind.

11. **Morris Arboretum in Motion: The Kinetic Wind Sculptures of Lyman Whitaker**

    **Exhibit Opens Saturday, April 1**

    Come out for the new exhibit and meet and observe mental artist Lyman Whitaker between 1-3pm as he demonstrates how he creates and assembles his dynamic and beautiful sculptures. See back cover for more information.

12. **Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival**

    **Two Saturdays, April 8 & 15, 10am-3pm**

    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 garden admission. See page 17 for more information.

13. **Free Storytime at the Arboretum**

    **Friday, April 14 and 28, 10:30-11:15am**

    See March 3 for more information.

14. **Storytime Book Trail**

    **Saturday, April 22, 10am-3pm**

    Take a family walk and read a book at the same time as the Wissahickon and Springfield libraries present Storytime Book Trail at Morris Arboretum. Step by step and page by page your family can experience the joy of discovering a new book together.

15. **Hidden Gems Tour**

    **Saturdays, April 22, 24, 27, May 13, 27, 11:00am**

    This tour is a combination of structures, sculptures, trees, and vistas. Many are off the beaten path or hidden to most visitors. The tour lasts approximately an hour and a half. We will be walking over some uneven ground and cover quite a bit of territory!

16. **Plant Sale Members Events**

    **Thursday & Friday, May 11 & 12**

    Please see page 18 for more information.

17. **Free Storytime at the Arboretum**

    **Fridays, May 12 & 26, 10:30-11:15am**

    See March 3 for more information.

18. **Public Plant Sale**

    **Saturday, May 27, 10am-3pm**

    Please see page 18 for more information.

19. **Garden Railway Grand Opening**

    **Saturday, May 27, 10:30am-12:30pm**

    Kick off summer at the Grand Opening of the Garden Railway display on Memorial Day weekend—now in its 20th year! This year’s theme is “Arboretum in Motion.” The display is open from 10am-4pm during the week, and 10am-5pm on weekends through Labor Day, and on Wednesday evenings in June, July, and August until 8pm. Please see page 19 for more information.

20. **Grist Mill Demonstration Day**

    **Historic Springfield Mills at Morris Arboretum is restored and stone-grinding corn for meal and flour. Come and explore revolutionary technology, local history and a beautiful setting along the Wissahickon Creek. Guided tours.**

21. **“Free” Book Sale**

    **Thursday, May 11, 11am to 3pm**

    Explore the science of aerodynamics as we design sleek paper airplanes at the Seven Arches Bridge and watch them soar.

22. **Garden Discovery Series: Science of Flight at Seven Arches**

    **Saturday, May 6, 11am to 3pm**

    Please see page 18 for more information.

23. **Garden Discovery Series: “Approaching Sustainability”**

    **Sunday, May 7, 10am daily, throughout the peak bloom time.**

    This 10-week program covers the abundance of flowering cherries beginning March 20th for dates when the abundance of flowering cherries will be in bloom. Pop-up tours at 1pm daily, throughout the peak bloom time.

24. **Garden Railway Demonstration**

    **Saturday, May 27, 10am-3pm**

    Please see page 18 for more information.

25. **Arbor Day Family - Unearth the Science of Flowers!**

    **Saturday, April 29, 11am-3pm**

    Dig into the science of flowers with Morris Arboretum scientists who will show you the four wheels of a flower, introduce you to some plant families, and consider how humans use flowers and fruits. Craft your own artfully designed bandana using flowers. Explore the secret meaning of flowers and create a personal card using this age-old language.

26. **Mother’s Day Brunch**

    **Sunday, May 14, 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.

27. **Garden Railway Grand Opening**

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    Kick off summer at the Grand Opening of the Garden Railway display on Memorial Day weekend—now in its 20th year! This year’s theme is “Arboretum in Motion.” The display is open from 10am-4pm during the week, and 10am-5pm on weekends through Labor Day, and on Wednesday evenings in June, July, and August until 8pm. Please see page 19 for more information.

28. **Garden Railway Demonstration**

    **Saturday, May 27, 10am-3pm**

    Please see page 18 for more information.

29. **Garden Railway Demonstration**

    **Saturday, May 27, 10am-3pm**

    Please see page 18 for more information.
Monitoring the Eastern Bluebird

Jessica Slade, The McCausland Natural Areas Horticulturist

While visiting the Arboretum, you may have spotted one of several birdhouses installed on 6’ posts around the garden. These simple wooden structures with small circular openings are designed to attract bluebirds and other native songbirds to nest at the Arboretum. The boxes have just the right size opening for these small birds and they are designed to keep the nests dry during rain. My predecessor Tracy Hanson worked closely with volunteers and a troop of boy scouts to build and install the bird boxes in carefully chosen locations throughout the Arboretum and Bloomfield Farm.

Today the bluebird boxes are cared for by a group of dedicated volunteers and bird lovers who help maintain the boxes and monitor the bird activity in them throughout the nesting season. This is no small task—the 25 bluebird boxes are scattered across the Arboretum’s gardens and Bloomfield Farm, and each box must be checked every 3-4 days between April and August, until the last nesters move out.

Monitoring each box involves opening the box quickly to see if there is a nest and determining to what species each nest belongs based on its size, materials, and the depth of its nesting cup. Nest monitoring is important in order to prevent invasive bullies such as house sparrows from taking over the boxes and to encourage native birds, especially the eastern bluebird, to move in.

Volunteers collect data about the number of eggs laid and the success of each nest. At the end of the season they compile this data into Nest Watch’s online database to be used in scientific research. In 2016, we observed 35 nesting attempts with a total of 82 fledglings, all from native species including the eastern bluebird, tree swallow (pictured below right), and Carolina chickadee. Next time you visit the Arboretum this spring, I encourage you to listen for the bluebird’s soft repetitive warble and to keep your eyes peeled for these lovely blue-feathered creatures.

Deborah Glass Finds Connection as Arboretum Volunteer

Leslie Crane, Development Communications Associate

Deborah Glass has always found herself drawn to the outdoors for relaxation, and made a decision early on that when she decided to retire, she would spend time “digging in the dirt.” As a city dweller with no yard, Deborah resolved to attach herself to a public garden to fulfill this dream.

Several years ago, even though Deborah had visited the Morris Arboretum, it had fallen off her radar until a friendship with her colleague, Debbie Rodgers, put the Arboretum front and center in her mind once again.

In 2005, Deborah renewed her Arboretum membership and began volunteering in the Horticulture department. Then, during a volunteer workshop about six years ago, she met the Arboretum’s archivist, Leslie Morris-Smith, and realized that archiving held an interest for her too. Since then, she has been volunteering her talents in both areas. Her knowledge of Limoges porcelain helped identify and value Lydia Morris’ collection, and her organizational skills have become an invaluable asset to preserving the Morris Arboretum’s historical documents.

During her time at the Arboretum, Deborah shared that she has learned an immense amount—this is one of the things she enjoys most about volunteering. It is especially rewarding to be involved with an organization about which she feels so passionate. She truly relishes being able to spend time at the Arboretum. “Just to be in the presence of this place—it’s an extraordinarily beautiful place. It’s a phenomenal resource for city people. Cities need citification, but also roots—real roots.”

The Morris Arboretum is EITC-Approved!

Your company can make a difference—and earn valuable tax credit! The Morris Arboretum is pleased to once again be recognized as an approved Educational Improvement Organization through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

By donating to the EITC-approved School Tour & Field Trip Program at the Morris Arboretum, your company is giving school children in the greater Philadelphia region the opportunity to get outside and learn! Every $1,000 donated to the program provides up to 40 Title I school children with admission, transportation costs, Arboretum staff support, and an educational book to take home. Your company can also gain a significant state tax credit (up to 90% of your contribution).

Visit the Pennsylvania EITC Program website to learn more.

For more information about supporting the Morris Arboretum with a corporate contribution through the EITC program, please contact Leslie Weiser, Associate Director of Corporate, Foundation, & Donor Relations, at (215) 247-5777, ext. 147 or lesliew@upenn.edu.
Spring Class Preview

Take a class or trip this spring. The Arboretum offers a wide variety of classes from botany and birding, to horticulture and design. For more information and prices please visit https://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes or call (215)247-5777, ext. 125.

Grow Your Own Vegetables and Annuals from Seed Saturday, February 18
10 a.m.–12 noon
Vegetable gardening is booming! This class will teach students how to grow seeds so that they can get a jump start on spring. Simple strategies that will increase success will be demonstrated, as well as how to time sowing dates, and sources for seed. It is SOW easy! This class takes place in the Arboretum Greenhouse.

Floral Design in Vases: Techniques for Arranging Loose Flowers Saturday, March 4
10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
This class will show you the many tricks of the trade to arrange flowers so that they will look their very best. The elements of design will be covered in depth. Students will learn practices such as gridding and stuffing, as well as how to use floral gel. You will learn how to grow seeds so that they can get a jump start on spring.

Birding at Chincoteague and Other Great Refuges Depart Sunday, March 12 at 7:45 a.m.
Return Tuesday, March 14 at 5 p.m.
On this three-day trip, we will visit several great birding sites beginning with a stop at Bombay Hook, a 16,000-acre National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware to see a wide variety of geese, ducks, and other migrating birds. We will then head to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, a prime spot on the Atlantic flyway, where we hope to see migrating water fowl, raptors, and early spring migrants.

Winter Tree Identification Thursday, March 30
10 a.m.–12 noon
And you thought that all trees look alike in winter! Learn to see both the obvious as well as the more subtle characteristics that make winter identification interesting. The class will begin indoors with a lecture introducing essential identification techniques and a review of important winter characteristics such as bud morphology, habit, leaf and bundle scars, bark, and fruit. The group will then move outside for a small through the Arboretum to put your knowledge to work.

Rose Pruning Basics Saturday, March 11
9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Enjoy a fun morning getting your roses ready for the season. Learn the best techniques for pruning, planting, transplanting, fertilizing, and disease prevention. A pruning demonstration will follow, and then you will have the opportunity to test your skills on our roses.

Connections Beyond the Garden Lecture Series: Talks on People, Plants and Place

Join us for the Morris Arboretum’s Connections Lecture Series that explores a wide variety of fascinating topics. A reception follows each presentation. Reservations and payment are required in advance as space is limited. The cost is $15 for members and $20 for non-members. To register, visit https://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125. Lectures are held at the Widener Visitors Center at Morris Arboretum unless otherwise noted.

The Critical Role of Plants in the Urban Landscape Wednesday, February 1, 2 p.m.
Engaging urban populations in important environmental issues is critical for creating beautiful, healthy cities. In this lecture, Dr. Ari Nory, Executive Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., will explore how to use ecology and agriculture to teach people about the importance of plants. Our success and survival as a society relies on our ability to effectively steward the open spaces in our cities as well as those that are often far away from our urban centers. Learn what Dr. Nory and his staff have done to teach the public about the aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic, and ecological importance of plants to the well-being of humankind.

Approaching Sustainability Sunday, March 5, 2 p.m.
Beginning with his journey on foot across the Americas, National Geographic Explorer and Environmental Educator Dr. John Francis will speak about his transformation from an environmental activist to environmental practitioner, and how his and our own journeys can lead us closer to sustainability. Dr. Francis began his work in 1971, when after witnessing an oil spill in San Francisco Bay, he stopped using motorized vehicles and took a vow of silence lasting 17 years. He is the founder of Planetwalk, an environmental awareness organization, and has served as project manager for the United States Coast Guard Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and is the author of Breaking Silence. Due to strong interest, this program may be moved to a larger nearby venue. Visit www.morrisarboretum.org for updates.

Growing Minds

The Growing Minds program offers children and their caregivers the opportunity to connect meaningfully with nature through a wide variety of creative and educational offerings. Visit http://online.morrisarboretum.org/GrowingMinds to see the complete list of classes and to register, or call (215) 247-5777 x125 for more information.

Nature Sleuths (Ages 5-7)
Four Sundays: Session I: February 5, 12, 19, & 26
Session 2: May 21, 28, June 4, & 11, 2-3 p.m.
Join us for a close look at trees, birds, and other wildlife that will be found in the Arboretum home.

Seeds to Sprouts, Spring Adventures! (Ages 2-4)
Six Mondays: Session I: March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17 & Session II: April 24, May 8, 15, 22, & 29, June 5 (No class May 15), 10:30-11:30 a.m.
A series of outdoor adventures designed to introduce children and their caregivers to the wonders of the natural world, each session will include guided exploration through the Arboretum and a craft to take home.

Storytime Nature Yoga (Ages 2-4)
Four Wednesdays: Session I: March 15, 22, 29, & April 5.
Session II: May 3, 10, 17, & 24
10:30-11:15 a.m.
This four-week series offers kid-friendly yoga that explores movement through nature-focused stories and songs.

Science Discovery for Homeschoolers (Ages 6-10)
Thursday afternoons: March 23, April 20, May 25, & June 22, 2-3:30 p.m.
This once-a-month series provides inquiry and exploratory-based science lessons designed for homeschooled children ages 6 to 10.

Family Overnight at Bloomfield Farm Friday, June 9 to Saturday, June 10
Enjoy an overnight getaway with family and friends at the Bloomfield Farm at the Morris Arboretum.
JAPANESE

cherry blossom
festival

Two Saturdays, April 8 & 15

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 garden admission.

Cherry Walk
Saturdays, April 8 & 15, 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 8 & 15, 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. KyoDaiko, under the sponsorship of the Japan America Society, will be led by an arboretum expert.

Traditional Japanese Tea Demonstration
Saturday, April 8, 1pm, at the Oak Allée (rain location: Widener Visitor Center)
Ryurei is a table-style tea ceremony developed in the late 19th century to accommodate foreign visitors to Japan. The misonodana, or imperial garden table, is featured in this presentation. Weather permitting the demonstration will be outside.

Japanese Garden Elements Tours
Saturdays, April 8 & 15, 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 15, 11am, Widener Visitor Center
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 given numerous classes and demonstrations, including seminars on the art of kimono (traditional Japanese attire) since the festival’s inception in 1998, and has been considered a significant Japanese cultural asset to the Delaware county area for the past 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 15, 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.

Plant Sale 2017
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 11–Saturday, May 13.

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 11. 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 11, 12:30–2:30pm
Oak, Laurel, and Collectors Circle members are invited to a picnic lunch at the Plant Sale with Paul W. Meyer, The F. Otto Haas Executive Director. Following lunch, guests may shop with our experts. Invitations to eligible members will be mailed in April.

Plant Sale Preview Night
Thursday, May 11, 5:30–7:30pm
Chesnut, Holly, Oak, Laurel, and Collectors Circle members are invited to shop while enjoying refreshments. The Arboretum’s experts will be available to assist guests as they shop. Invitations will be mailed and emailed to eligible members.

Plant Sale Members Day
Friday, May 12, 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 13, 10am–3pm

Plant Societies at the 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 (elpidotrons) and small-leaf (lipidotrons) rhododendrons will be offered, as will azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous, and mountain laurels (kalmbias). Native rhododendrons will also be available for sale. The rhododendron sale will follow the schedules and hours of the Arboretum’s Plant Sale. For information, contact Carel Bernady, at (610) 827-0113.

This year, the Delaware Valley Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will return to the Morris Arboretum Plant Sale offering 80 different rock garden plants. In addition to plants, other items will also be available, including hypertufa troughs, which are durable, completely weather-proof containers suitable for displaying rock garden or other small plants.

Save the Date!
Members Events at the Plant Sale –

Be sure to stop at the Dividend Tent to pick up your free dividend plant:
Collectors Circle members – Receive 3 dividend plants
Holly, Oak, Laurel members – Receive 2 dividend plants
All other members – Receive 1 dividend plant

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Friday, May 12, 10am–7pm

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Photos: Ashley Angell and Maggie Magargee

Photo: Paul Meyer

Photo: Arnold Winikar

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Photo: Paul Meyer

Photo: Arnold Winikar
Garden Railway Celebrates 20 Years

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

In 1998, the Morris Arboretum was ready for a coming out party. Though it had been a public garden since 1933, it was not until the mid 1990s that the Arboretum really completed the transition from a private estate to a public garden. By that time, the new entrance, parking and an accessible path system were complete, and great progress had been made in restoring decaying architectural features and display gardens to their former glory. We had been operating with the premise of “if you build it they will come.” Though attendance was steadily growing, the goal was to leap forward from roughly 35,000 visitors to ultimately, 100,000.

In December of 1996, I met Paul Busse while leading an intern field trip to the New York Botanical Garden. Busse was installing a holiday garden railway in the conservatory. I was impressed with the creativity and artistic integrity of his installations. But most important, he quickly convinced me of the marketing muscle of his exhibits. A few weeks later, I met Paul again at the Cincinnati Krohn Conservatory, this time with my 9-year-old nephew in tow as my test audience. Both of us were mesmerized, and the conservatory staff attested to the draw of the exhibit.

Now convinced, I began the process of introducing the idea to the staff and board, with a goal of mounting an exhibit for the summer of 1998. Initial reactions varied. It was difficult to communicate exactly what a garden railway was. Some felt that it was an abandonment of the Arboretum’s mission and the first step down the slippery slope to becoming an amusement park. But, in doing this kind of exhibit, we made a commitment to maintaining a high level of horticultural presentation and architectural detailing. The exhibit would feature replicas of historic Philadelphia buildings, including Independence Hall and the Betsy Ross House. These buildings, created by Paul Busse, were finely crafted using natural materials gathered at the Arboretum.

The first Garden Railway exhibit opened at the Morris Arboretum in the summer of 1998. When the exhibit opened, it created a buzz throughout the Philadelphia region. It caught the attention of the local news media who made several visits that summer. The exhibit propelled the Arboretum into the consciousness of Philadelphians in ways that none of our previous events or restoration efforts had ever done. By the end of that fiscal year, our attendance had nearly doubled to more than 70,000, and membership grew by 65%. It soon became clear that this would be an annual exhibit, and that each year we would refresh the garden railway with a new theme. In 2001, we added the Holiday Garden Railway between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This transformed December from one of our lowest visitation months to one of our highest.

But most important, we were introducing the Morris Arboretum to a whole new audience. We cannot teach visitors if they are home watching television. Once attracted, these new audiences enjoy not just the Garden Railway, but all that the Arboretum has to offer. It is especially exciting to see so many children bonding with the Arboretum. I knew we had arrived when parents told me that their children were insisting on visits to the Arboretum, or that they had to avoid passing by the Arboretum gates so the kids wouldn’t have a fit if they did not go in.

We are now planning the 20th annual Garden Railway exhibit for 2017 with the theme Morris Arboretum in Motion. The popularity of the exhibit only continues to grow. The Garden Railway has helped to make the Morris Arboretum a family destination and has brought untold numbers of children in touch with their natural environment and the world of plants. I often talk with young adults who have fond memories of the Garden Railway and their walks throughout the Arboretum with parents and grandparents. No doubt they will soon be bringing children of their own to the Arboretum.

The Garden Railway is supported, in part, through the generosity of Gwen and Ed Aaplund and by a gift given in memory of Joe Shuttleworth.

Moonlight & Roses 2017

Kristen Casalenuovo, Development & Special Events Coordinator

Save the date for our Moonlight & Roses gala which will be held on Friday, June 2, 2017. This annual fundraising event, which includes cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the Rose Garden followed by dinner and dancing under the stars, is a not-to-be-missed experience.

This year we are delighted to pay tribute to Patricia W. and Clarence Z. Wurts (Party and Binky—pictured at right) as the 2017 Moonlight & Roses honorees. The Wurts family—including Binky, Patty, their sons Ben and Charlie, and now their grandchildren—have been treasured members of the Morris Arboretum community for more than four decades. Their active involvement and deep commitment to this institution have inspired more than a generation of Arboretum friends and visitors. Party and Binky share a strong sense of civic responsibility and, despite busy lives with a demanding career and a growing family, the Wurtses have long been known across the region for their volunteerism, their hospitality, and their philanthropy. Patty is an Emeritus Garden Club of American Horticulture judge. She is also an avid gardener and an enthusiastic photographer. Binky, an experienced fundraiser and knowledgeable plantsman, was a valued member of the Morris Arboretum’s Always Growing campaign cabinet and Vice Chair of the Arboretum’s Development Committee. He currently serves as Chair of the Plant Science Committee, is a member of the Physical Facilities Committee, and joined the Morris Arboretum’s Advisory Board of Managers as a Corporate Trustee in 2012.

The Morris Arboretum is deeply honored to have this opportunity to pay special tribute to Party and Binky Wurts during the Moonlight & Roses gala—for their extraordinary commitment to enhancing the quality of life for the greater Philadelphia region, for their tireless advocacy on behalf of the Morris Arboretum, and for their generous spirits which have left a lasting impact on our community.

Chairing the 2017 Moonlight & Roses Planning Committee is Amanda Cobh who joined the committee in 2015 when she and her family returned to the Philadelphia area after 10 years in New York. Amanda grew up in nearby Wynnewood Valley and often visited the Arboretum as a child, a tradition that she now enjoys sharing with her husband, Andy, and two young sons, Charlie & Win. Amanda is passionate about the Arboretum’s mission to be a center for education and outreach in the community, and is grateful for the opportunity to chair this year’s event. She is currently a realtor with Berkshire Hathaway Fox & Roach in Chestnut Hill.

Reservations are required for Moonlight & Roses and space is limited. Invitations will be mailed in April to all Holly-level members and above, as well as previous Moonlight & Roses attendees.

VIP registration is now open online at www.morrisarboretum.org. 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 kcasalu@upenn.edu.
Summer Adventure Camp Expands
Tiffany Stahl, Education Program Specialist

The Morris Arboretum has exciting camp news! This summer, we are adding a new camp designed for 4 and 5-year-old adventurers. Located on the garden campus of the Arboretum, Little Lightning Bugs will offer a fun hands-on science program that will immerse children in nature.

We have big changes for our 6 to 10-year-old campers, too! Bloomfield Buddies, our same great camp, will now be held in the Arboretum’s historic barn located just across the street. This new location offers direct access to historic Springfield Mills, honey bee hives, limitless hiking trails, and plenty of wildlife! Campers will be divided into two age groups: Junior Naturalists: Ages 6 and 7, and Senior Naturalists: Ages 8 to 10.

Summer Adventure Camp runs from June 26-August 4. Both of our Summer Adventure Camp programs are taught by experienced teachers who develop STEM-based lessons that encourage inquisitive minds to explore the world around them.

Little Lightning Bugs (Ages 4 & 5)
Drop off and pick up will be at the Widener Visitor Center
Drop off: 9:00am
Pick-up: 3:00pm
Sample Themes Include:
Backyard Bug Adventure
Silly Science Fun
Paint, Sculpt, Play
Animal “Tales”: Storytime and Art Explorations

Bloomfield Buddies (Ages 6-10)
Drop off and pick up will be at the Bloomfield Barn
Drop off: 9:00am
Pick-up: 3:00pm
Sample Themes Include:
Grossology Grandeur
Where the Wild Things Are
Art & Nature Poetry Jam
Nature Ninja Warriors

Register by March 15 to receive an Early Bird Discount!
Early Bird Rate:
Members: $235/Non-members: $255 (per week)
After March 15:
Members: $280/Non-members: $300 (per week)
Registration opens January 31, 2017 at online.morrisarboretum.org/summercamp. For more information or to request a brochure, visit www.morrisarboretum.org or contact Tiffany Stahl at (215) 247-5777 ext. 127.

The outdoors on your mind? There is no reason you can’t start stocking up now for warmer weather. We have tools for the garden and houses for birds. The bees will certainly be happy when you are ready to put out a new solitary beehive the moment the snow thaws.

Stay Green (Thumbed) Through the Winter
Christopher Dorman, Assistant Director, Visitor Services & Hospitality

Shorter days and snow in the forecast tend to keep us indoors during the winter months. However, that chill in the air doesn’t need to keep you from enjoying a little green.

The Shop at Morris Arboretum has a variety of items to keep your thumb green and your plant love growing when it’s cold outside.

Our seed selection allows you to sprout everything from daisies to sunflowers. Watch them grow by the window, then have them ready for planting outside come spring. You’ll find seeds that grow in biodegradable pots, terrariums for air plants, and even kits to grow your own herbs in mason jars. Sure it’s February, but that doesn’t mean you can’t enjoy some mint that you grew yourself.

No space on the windowsill for another plant? Cuddle up near the fire (or the heater) with a good plant book. Peruse our shelves to fill yours with books about edible wild plants, wicked bugs, and keeping bees.

So stop by the Shop at Morris Arboretum, where you can find anything you need to combat the grays of winter with the greens and dreams of nature.
A new 2017 exhibit, *The Kinetic Wind Sculptures of Lyman Whitaker*, will open at the Morris Arboretum on April 1st.

Visitors will have the chance to experience 35+ sculptures—ranging in height from 5-20 feet—throughout the garden. Fabricated from copper and stainless steel, the sculptures will be available not only for viewing, but also for purchase, with 25% of all sales benefiting the Morris Arboretum. All of Whitaker’s kinetic designs can be viewed at www.leopoldgallery.com.