The Annual Fund - A Cornerstone of Arboretum Support

It’s not uncommon to hear a non-profit organization refer to its Annual Fund as its “life blood,” and indeed, so much of the Arboretum’s most basic functions every year are made possible through contributions to our annual giving program.

The late Bill Wurster, who chaired the Arboretum’s Finance Committee for many years, was known for telling the Advisory Board of Managers, “Paul needs money to pay the electric bill!” This blunt appeal was Bill’s way of getting to the heart of the matter—annual giving is a critical source of support that enables the Arboretum to pay for the most basic of operational necessities.

Last year, the Arboretum’s annual giving programs—primarily the Annual Fund and membership—generated more than $1.5 million, comprising approximately 20% of the Arboretum’s operating budget. These funds help us to maintain not only our exquisite gardens and plant collections, but also support the preservation and maintenance of the Arboretum’s 21 buildings, 10 fountains and water features, 16 outdoor sculptures, and 3.1 miles of roads and paths. Annual giving also ensures that the Arboretum’s education and outreach programs can continue to offer quality experiences led by expert staff throughout the year.

So many of our members are passionate supporters of the Arboretum’s mission and ask if they are doing their share by purchasing family memberships. The short answer is that every membership helps! We intentionally maintain affordable memberships at various levels so that individuals and families of all means can afford to become part of the Arboretum’s extended family. But, if you are able, consider purchasing a premier membership, or even making a contribution to the Annual Fund, above and beyond your membership purchase. These “above and beyond” contributions ensure that we have the resources that we need every day to support operations, and to, well, “weather the weather!”

Beyond the funding that revenue from the Annual Fund affords us, your support is a validation of who we are and what we do in the community each year. Every contribution to the Annual Fund represents a voice—a voice that advocates for and supports the work that we do. From our plant collection expeditions and plant sciences research to our outreach and education efforts for families and schools, our Winter/Spring events, registration, online and mail-in sales, events and cancellations, we need the resources that contributions provide to continue offering quality experiences year-round. And these gifts allow us to not only maintain our gardens and buildings, but also to ensure that the Arboretum is one of the top destinations for families and adults, and that there is something for everyone at the Arboretum this spring and summer!

All gifts, big and small, help to move the Arboretum forward in positive ways. So when asked to participate in the Annual Fund, please give to the best of your ability. Each gift counts in significant ways. In addition to helping “pay the electric bill,” you are helping to improve the garden experience for our 142,000 visitors, to preserve the historic buildings and landscapes, while advancing plant science and education. The Morris Arboretum could not begin to do all it does without the help and support of our generous members. We are most grateful for your loyal support.

Paul W. Meyer, The K. Claus Helliesen Executive Director
Adventures in Azerbaijan

VINCENT MARROCCO, Chief Horticulturist/Rosarian

Last fall, I had the unique opportunity to represent the Morris Arboretum in a seed-collecting expedition to the Republic of Azerbaijan, a country with a wonderfully diverse flora. Located squarely at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Azerbaijan lies between the Greater Caucasus Mountains to the north, the Lesser Caucasus Mountains to the south, and the Caspian Sea to the east. These geographic boundaries make Azerbaijan home to an unusual array of rare and endemic species. Roughly the size of Maine, Azerbaijan contains a wide variety of climates, from high alpine meadows in the northwest, to subtropical forests in the southeast.

The rich flora of Azerbaijan is largely underrepresented in the Arboretum’s collection. This expedition afforded us the opportunity to correct this shortfall. The trip was sponsored by the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. The Arboretum participated as a member of the Plant Collecting Collaborative (PCC), a group of US Botanical Gardens. My traveling companions included Phil Douglas (Chicago Botanic Garden), Matt Loddell (Morton Arboretum), Henrik Sjoman (Gothenburg Botanical Garden), and Peter Zale (Longwood Gardens). Because of the complex logistics associated with traveling to some of the more remote regions of Azerbaijan, we further collaborated with botanists from the Institute of Botany at the Central Botanic Garden in the capital city of Baku. We crisscrossed Azerbaijan on our two-week trip, visiting Ganja and Goygol in the west, Zaqatala and Qakh in the northwest, and Lankaran in the southeast.

The ever-gracious Azeris were impeccable hosts. They showed us beautiful alpine lakes and vast desert plains on our journey through this vast expanse of land. These geographic boundaries make Azerbaijan home to an unusual array of rare and endemic species. Roughly the size of Maine, Azerbaijan contains a wide variety of climates, from high alpine meadows in the northwest, to subtropical forests in the southeast.

The unique quality of the Azerbaijani flora is nowhere more evident than in the Hyrcanian Forest. Tentatively classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this relic forest from the Tertiary Period once covered most of Europe. It is believed the last great glaciation period pushed the forest to a small band ringing the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. When global temperatures moderated, the towering Caucasus Mountains barred the plants from reclaiming their original range. As a result, this distinctive region is home to an assortment of endemic species that exist elsewhere only as fossils. One of the more intriguing of these species is Persian ironwood (Parrotia persica). Prized for its beautiful bark and brilliant red fall color, this extremely tough, cold-hardy plant represents great potential as a street tree. In the Talysh Mountains near Lankaran, we were able to collect seeds of several different populations of Persian ironwood. Some of these seeds were taken from populations at the northernmost end of their existing range, allowing us to further increase the genetic diversity of this plant in cultivation.

Despite our best efforts, we only collected a fraction of the rich flora of Azerbaijan. There remains a huge potential for further collaborative efforts. Azerbaijan has much to offer both in terms of its tremendously varied flora and as one of the last vestiges of wild populations of Eurasian plants. With seeds from this trip, the Arboretum looks to add to the breadth of our collection, while at the same time aiding efforts to conserve these rare plants by ensuring their continued survival in ex-situ gardens.

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Dendrology—the study of trees—is the foundation of all that we do at the Arboretum. And as with any other pursuit, there is a society dedicated to the study and appreciation of trees around the world, the International Dendrology Society (IDS). Each year, this group publishes a yearbook that calls special attention to a tree species. The most recently published Yearbook (2016) highlighted Corylus fargesii (Farges filbert), a tree whose introduction into horticulture is closely tied to the Arboretum.

One of the goals of plant exploration is to introduce new species into cultivation, and it is a rare and exciting opportunity for any plant collector to do so. Farges filbert was first described in China by Western botanists in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Although herbarium specimens were collected during this “golden age” of plant exploration, there is no evidence that living specimens were grown in arboreta and botanical gardens during the 20th century. The first collection of C. fargesii occurred on the 1996 North America—China Plant Exploration Consortium (NACPEC) expedition to Shaanxi and Gansu, and it was collected again on the 2005 and 2015 expeditions to China. Until the 1996 introduction, little was known or written about this species.

In addition to providing a detailed botanical description, the Yearbook article provides information on trees in cultivation where Corylus fargesii is now well established at several other North American public gardens along with a few European locations. Trees from the 1996 and 2005 collections are doing well at the Morris Arboretum, where they are planted in several locations all with evenly moist, well-drained soils, but with slight differences in soil type. You can find plants near the Swan Pond, in English Park, and also at Bloomfield Farm. These trees have grown quickly, reaching 25 to 30 feet after 15 years, with strong central leaders and very uniform, broadly ovate

For several years, we have been working with multiple nurseries to promote the plant, and Farges filbert is slowly becoming more available, with a few select nurseries offering it. The diversity of conditions under which it is successfully growing indicates broad adaptability from the central Midwest to New England, and south to the mid-Atlantic states. The species appears to be fully hardy in USDA hardiness Zones 5 through 7 (average annual minimum temperatures -20 to 0°F). This tree’s attractive exfoliating bark and rapid growth rate indicate great potential as an ornamental tree for a range of situations, and it promises to be an excellent addition to landscapes in the future.

Link to the article on our website.

(Pictured at left: large Corylus Fargesii in southern Shaanxi Province, China)
Sportspted Lanternfly

AMANDA QUADREL, The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern

The spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) is an invasive pest native to China, India, Vietnam, and Korea that was first discovered in Berks County, PA, and has since spread to other Pennsylvania counties, including Chester, Bucks, Lehigh, Northampton, and Montgomery counties. This pest is a serious threat to many different plants, such as fruit crops like apples, grapes, and stone fruits, and various hardwood species. Spotted lanternflies damage trees by sucking sap out of the stem and leaves, which can cause the tree to develop weeping wounds. During fall, adults move to other trees such as tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima), willow (Salix spp.), and other species, where they will aggregate in large groups and begin laying egg masses on the trunks and branches of trees.

The spotted lanternfly is very distinctive in appearance. Adults are usually about one-inch long with the wings folded tent-like over the body. The wings are grayish with black spots that become more reticulate and striped toward the wing margin. The hind wings are black, white, and red. The body is yellow with black bands, and the legs and head are black. Nymphs are usually black with white spots, developing red patches as they age.

If you suspect you see a spotted lanternfly, you can take a picture and send it to Badbug@agriculture.pa.gov or send a dead specimen in ethanol to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Entomology lab for confirmation. If you think you spot egg masses, scrape them off, double bag them and toss them out, or place them in ethanol or hand sanitizer to kill them. Make sure to report any egg mass scraping to the PA Department of Agriculture. Also, be cautious when traveling or transporting materials to areas where spotted lanternfly has not yet been found. They can lay their egg masses on most any smooth surface, so be sure to inspect vehicles and materials before moving, and try to avoid parking under trees when possible. For more information on spotted lanternfly or to report a sighting, you can visit the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture website at agriculture.pa.gov.

Horticulture Volunteer Opportunities

Do you like gardening? Getting your hands dirty? Would you like to learn more about the gardens of the Morris Arboretum that you love? If so, then being a horticulture volunteer just might be the task for you! Each week during the growing season, our dedicated volunteers rotate throughout the entire Arboretum working in a variety of terrains. Together, they tackle a number of physical garden tasks such as weeding, mulching, pruning, or invasive plant removal under the supervision of the Arboretum horticulture staff. Our current program runs one weekday morning a week.

Previous gardening experience is helpful, but not required. To register for an orientation and to submit your application and waiver, visit the volunteer page of our website: www.morrisarboretum.org/volunteer.shtml

Volunteering at the Arboretum also has amazing benefits. They include meeting wonderful people, frequent volunteer workshops, lectures and field trips, discounts on Arboretum-sponsored classes and trips, plus annual holiday celebrations, potluck dinners, and Sunshine and Roses, our annual volunteer recognition event.

Better than Buddleia – Alternatives to Butterfly Bush

SAMANTHA NESTORY, The Hay Honey Farm Natural Areas Intern

If you’re a gardener, you’re most likely familiar with butterfly bush (Buddleia davidii). It is a low-maintenance, fast-growing shrub that is advertised as a wonderful plant for butterflies due to its abundant, nectar-producing flowers. However, butterfly bush may not be the best choice if supporting butterflies is your goal.

Butterflies are very particular when searching for a place to lay their eggs, and with good reason. Butterflies begin their lives as plant-eating larvae or caterpillars, and many of these caterpillars have evolved to eat only certain plants, called “host plants.” Some caterpillars focus on certain plant families, so they can choose from hundreds of host plants, while other caterpillars focus on just one or two plant species. If a caterpillar can’t find its host plant, it will not survive to adulthood because it cannot digest the unfamiliar chemicals that other plants produce to defend themselves. However, some plants are more popular host plants than others. Using the Natural History Museum’s HOSTS database we can determine which caterpillar species a plant can host based on reports from citizen scientists. According to the database, butterfly bush can only support one caterpillar species, the non-native buddleia budworm moth, which has been reported exclusively in urban settings in California. No other butterfly species can successfully reproduce on butterfly bush. So the question is: even if butterfly bush provides nectar, does it truly support butterflies?

Another important consideration is that butterfly bush is listed on the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Invasive Species Watch List. In other parts of the country, including Washington, Oregon, and the northeast, butterfly bush has escaped from gardens and invaded disturbed sites, such as railroad tracks and river banks, where it outcompetes native species and causes ecological damage.

Luckily, there are alternatives! For example, sweet pepperbush (Clethra alnifolia) is a native, shade-tolerant shrub that produces long racemes of fragrant, white flowers in midsummer that are very attractive to butterflies and other pollinators (a cultivar called ‘Ruby Spice’ produces pink flowers). New Jersey tea (Ceanothus americanus) is an easy-to-grow native shrub that tolerates dry, rocky soils and produces clusters of white flowers in late spring. Each of these plants supports at least a few caterpillar species. However, if you truly want to support butterflies, it is key to pair plants that attract adult butterflies with plants that support a lot of caterpillars. For example, you could plant a native oak, which can support upwards of 500 caterpillar species, and pair it with blazing star (Liatris spicata) and garden phlox (Phlox paniculata), which will attract numerous types of butterflies. Or plant a native cherry tree, which can support more than 400 caterpillar species, with purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) and mountain mint (Pycnanthemum muticum). Additional suggestions to attract butterflies include: Bottlebrush buckeye (Aesculus parviflora), buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), Joe-Pye weed (Eutrochium labiata), butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa), ironweed (Vernonia), coneflower (Rudbeckia and Helianthus), bee balm (Monarda), and asters (Symphyotrichum).

There are many options, but the goal is the same: to create a habitat that supports both caterpillars and butterflies so that your garden will always be home to these beautiful creatures we love so much.
Wonders Down Under
LOUISE CLARKE, Bloomfield Farm Horticulturist

Through my garden communicators network, my Australian colleague and garden designer Andrea Whitely invited me to visit Perth, Western Australia last fall. Through Andrea’s introductions, I was afforded an insider’s view of Western Australia’s garden scene and Perth’s enviable, laid back lifestyle.

On my first day, Andrea escorted me to the Australian Broadcast Corporation (ABC) radio studio in downtown Perth. I was interviewed by ABC’s gardening expert Sabrina Hahn, on Roots and Shoots, a Saturday morning call-in program. I received a warm welcome for my first radio interview, as we chatted about the importance of trees, climates, and the Morris Arboretum.

Visits to retail and wholesale nurseries highlighted similarities and differences between our countries. I saw many Australian native plants being grown in nurseries, as Aussies too, are realizing the value of native plants for insects and other fauna. Domus Wholesale Nurseries expertly uses colored pots to compliment or contrast with the plants they cultivate. They also grow a range of “Tucker Bush” plants, those used by Aboriginals as food or medicine. Zanthorrea Nursery had superb displays of native plants to give gardeners ideas about how to best use them. I could only buy seeds to bring home—oh, the plant lust I suffered.

Roses adore Perth’s low humidity, sunny days, and mild climate; the roses there were flushed with vibrant blooms. In Patcy Durack’s organic rose garden, her critter problem isn’t deer or groundhogs, but rather bush possums, who enjoy snacking on tender rose buds. Patcy doesn’t need deer fencing, but kangaroo fencing is a must to keep out hoppers.

At garden celebrity Deryn Thorpe’s house and garden in suburban Perth, I participated in a recording of All the Dirt, Australia’s most popular gardening podcast. Co-presenter Steve Wood moderated our conversation about green roofs, differing garden climates, my work at Morris Arboretum, and gardens to visit in the eastern U.S.

At Caversham Wildlife Park I had the opportunity to get to know kangaroos, koalas, and wombats up close. In Perth and environs, black cockatoos, white cockatoos, galahs (pink and white cockatoos), warlebirds, laughing kookaburras, and birds unseen, intrigued my ear with their foreign songs.

As my trip came to an end, I realized there was so much more to see, but I’d run out of time. Those I met during my stay made me enchanted by the unique form and flowers of woody banksias, grevilleas, and eucalyptus species, most flowering spectacularly. I was an in-depth, three-hour tour. I visited the nursery, tissue culture lab, seed bank, and the garden beds, laid out by geographic region and taxonomic groups. As it was spring, the wildflowers were at their riotous peak of flowering, reminiscent of Millefiori glass. I was captivated by my images of autumn color, which they don’t experience.

The horticultural highlight of my trip was visiting Kings Park Botanic Garden, a 42-acre section of 1,000-acre Kings Park (pictured above). Perched on the Mt. Eliza scarp, it offers sweeping views of modern downtown Perth and the Swan River. What swept me away was the Western Australian Botanic Garden, home to 3,000 of the state’s native flora. Grady Brand, senior curator of KPBG, gave me an in-depth, three-hour tour. I visited the nursery, tissue culture lab, seed bank, and the garden beds, laid out by geographic region and taxonomic groups. As it was spring, the wildflowers were at their riotous peak of flowering, reminiscent of Millefiori glass. I was enchanted by the unique form and flowers of woody banksias, grevilleas, and eucalyptus species, most flowering spectacularly.

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As my trip came to an end, I realized there was so much more to see, but I’d run out of time. Those I met during my stay made me promise not to tell you how wonderful Perth is. So please, don’t go—they’re keeping it to themselves.

The Susie Walker Plant Sciences Endowment: A Tribute to a Hero of the Morris Arboretum
LESLIE WEISSER, Associate Director, Corporate, Foundation and Donor Relations

The Morris Arboretum recently received an extraordinary gift of $1 million from an anonymous donor, designated to establish The Susie Walker Plant Sciences Endowment. In making this gift, the donor expressed a desire to pay tribute to Elizabeth “Susie” Walker, who was “among the most important individuals to keep the Arboretum going in the ‘dark days’ before the arrival of former Executive Director Bill Klein.” By the terms of this gift, the endowment may, if needed, be liquidated to help fund the Botany Laboratory in the future Education & Research Center at the Morris Arboretum.

Prior to her death in 2000, Susie was involved with the Morris Arboretum for more than 60 years. She first became a volunteer in the 1940s, less than a decade after the Morris Arboretum was officially opened as a public garden and educational center of the University of Pennsylvania. Susie was one of a small group of individuals who guided the Morris Arboretum at a critical time, and she profoundly influenced the Arboretum’s culture of stewardship and dedication to education.

She was a founder of the Arboretum’s membership program, served on the Arboretum’s Advisory Board of Managers and chaired the Public Programs committee, and was a driving force behind the establishment of the Arboretum’s volunteer guide program and the Youth Education program. A Barnes Arboretum alumna and a founding member of the Wissahickon Garden Club, Susie was an avid floriculturist who exhibited plants at the Philadelphia Flower Show and the Chestnut Hill Flower Show.

Although quiet and modest, Susie Walker was known for inspiring others through her enthusiasm and optimism for the Morris Arboretum. She cared deeply about the Arboretum and its future, and was committed to building programs that would sustain the institution for the benefit of visitors for generations to come.

The Morris Arboretum is deeply honored to be the recipient of this gift that recognizes the life and legacy of the beloved Susie Walker.

Save the Date for New Zealand
January 11 – February 2, 2019

Paul Meyer and Richard Lyon RLA, will lead the eighth New Zealand tour sponsored by the Morris Arboretum. Gardens, Wine, and Wilderness is a three-week long opportunity to experience the best that both the North and South Islands have to offer.

Tour the exquisite private and public gardens of New Zealand. The country’s legendary natural beauty is complemented by fine dining and enjoyment of its internationally respected wines. The mystical beauty of Doubtful Sound, the drama of wild New Zealand coastlines and mountain peaks, and the history of the Maori people are all intertwined with culinary experiences. The tour is limited to 22 participants, so sign up early.

For more information or to reserve your space now, please contact Mira Zergani at (215) 247-5777, extension 102 or at mzergani@upenn.edu.
For more than a year, Morris Arboretum archivist Leslie Morris-Smith and the archive and history volunteers have been reviewing and transcribing Lydia Morris’ personal cookbook to create and share a better understanding of life at Compton, the Morrises’ estate. Lydia Morris gave the cookbook to her cousin, Maria Louise Thompson Albert, whose daughter, Phoebe Albert Driscoll, then gifted it to the Arboretum. The fascinating book reveals much about Lydia and her social interactions.

Lydia created her cookbook in 1883 with eleven categories: Sweet Cakes; Puddings & Desserts; Tea Cakes; Desserts of a different kind; Jellies & Preserves; Soup; Fish; Pickles; Stews; For the Sick; and Miscellaneous (which includes recipes for soap and rice paste or glue). She left several pages blank after each section title to include recipes as she collected them, which totaled more than 125 recipes at the time of her death in 1932.

The majority of these recipes are desserts; almost 100 are spread among the first four categories. This number may be larger than today’s family’s sweet recipes, but it was perfect for a lady’s social life in the early 1900s when much of her time was spent hosting and attending teas. Based on initials and names listed below entries, such as Mrs. Dale and Cousin Betsy, it is believed that many recipes were exchanged at these Log Cabin socials, where Lydia entertained guests with her silver tea service.

Lydia collected from other sources as well. There are recipes named after her local travels, such as “White Mountain Cake,” for the White Mountains of New Hampshire where Lydia summered, and “Long Branch Gingerbread,” named after a beach visit to Long Branch, New Jersey. The cookbook also contains recipes copied verbatim from articles in the Christian Work: Illustrated Family Newspaper and the Philadelphia Inquirer, which printed many food articles from Sarah Rorer, who was principal of the Philadelphia School of Cookery and a cookbook author.

Deciphering Lydia’s handwriting has been a challenge, since much of the text is small and faded, abbreviations and ingredients are not recognizable, and directions for measurement and cooking methods are different or not mentioned. To tackle the problem, the book has been scanned into the computer, and the text enlarged and darkened for easier reading. Research in historical baking websites, such as King Arthur’s Flour, is ongoing to confirm and determine ingredients. For instance, one recipe calls for pearlash, which is a pre-cursor to baking soda. Units of measure in some recipes are pints and pounds, while others use teacups and wine glasses to portion ingredients. Still another recipe calls for as “much wheat flour as will allow a spoon to stand upright in it.” Oven temperatures and cooking times are not listed since kitchen staff at this time would be expected to know this without being told.

These recipes give the reader a real taste of life at Compton. Try making one yourself to share with your family and friends. It could be the start of your own cookbook collection. Below are a few sample recipes. For more of Lydia’s recipes, go to www.morrisarboretum.org and search archives/estate era/recipe book.

**Tea Cake**
1 tea cup of butter, 2 tea cups of sugar, 3 tea cups of flour, 1 tea cup of milk, 1 tea cup of raisins or currants (dust a little flour over them to prevent them from settling to the bottom), 3 eggs, 1 nutmeg & a little pearlash.

**White Mountain Cake**
1 cup of butter, 1 cup of sweet milk, 2 cups of sugar, 3 cups of flour, whites of 6 eggs, 3 teaspoonsful of baking powder. Bake in 3 cakes. 2 coconuts (sic), grated, whites of 3 eggs, powdered sugar – this is the filling for the cakes.

A.M.K.
APRIL

Storytime at the Arboretum
Friday, April 6, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
See March 2 for details.

Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival
Two Saturdays, April 7 & 14
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Experience the beauty of Morris Arboretum’s cherry tree collection in bloom. Both Saturdays will feature traditional Japanese cultural activities. See page 16 for more event information.

The Lukens Endowed Lecture: Brewing and Malting in Early Philadelphia
Thursday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.
See page 18 for more information.

Arbor Day Family Day/ Tree-mendous Trees
Saturday, April 28
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Branch out as a naturalist and dig into learning about trees. Design a tree house, make a “tree map” with five different types of trees, create a tree house, make a “tree map” with five different types of trees, create a “tree house,” and “read” the life of a tree, and plant a tree. Each session is tailored to the changing seasons.

Saturday Morning Live Tour
Saturday, May 5
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Experience the beauty of Morris Arboretum’s cherry tree collection in bloom. Both Saturdays will feature traditional Japanese cultural activities. See page 16 for more event information.

MAY

Storytime at the Arboretum
Friday, May 4, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
See March 2 for details.

Time in the Garden Exhibit Opening
Saturday, May 5
See back cover for more information.

Nature Play with Wood
Saturday, May 5
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Turn over stumps to see what’s wriggling. Discover the textures of spring. Dance on tree trunks. Nature play is unstructured fun using what’s available; learning to love nature and loving to learn naturally. This session will take place above the entrance to the Oak Alle.

Saturday Morning Live Tour
1st Saturday of the month - May 5, 11:00 a.m.
Join an experienced guide on the first Saturday of each month for a featured tour. This month, discover some of the Arboretum’s smaller specimen trees. Though smaller, these trees have a big impact, with features such as spectacular bark, interesting form, and great flower and leaf color.

Plant Sale Members Events
Thursday & Friday, May 10 & 11
Please see page 19 for more information.

Public Plant Sale
Saturday, May 12
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Please see page 19 for more information.

Dogs and Barks Tour
Saturdays, May 12 & 26
11:00 a.m.
See April 28 for more information.

Mother’s Day Brunch
Sunday, May 13, 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon (two seatings)
Start your mother’s day right with a delicious brunch at the Compton Café prepared by Chef Josh Hunter. Afterward, walk it off as you enjoy all spring has to offer at the Arboretum. Tickets will be available to purchase beginning April 1. See website for pricing and menu.

Springfield Mills Opening Day at Bloomfield Farm
Sunday, May 20, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Join the celebration at the Springfield Mills’ first open demonstration day of the season. This historic mill 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. Bring a picnic and relax on the lawn while enjoying live music.
Nature Play

MARISSA SOBEL, Youth Education Assistant

I grew up in suburban Maryland and spent a lot of time in structured after-school activities like girl scouts, t-ball, softball, dance classes, and piano lessons, and always went off to summer camp, whether it was sleep away or day camp. On my days off, I would meet my best friends at the tree. It was a large tree in our neighborhood mid-way between our three houses. Even though there was a playground nearby with a swing set, slide, see-saw, and merry-go-round, we had much more fun at the tree. We knew which were the best branches for resting, which to avoid that were the least sturdy, and we made a game out of who had the best dismount.

Our play area also included overgrown woods with a series of low brick walls that probably had been the foundation for a home. My one friend made up a ghost story about the brick walls and how it used to be the home of an old witch that died in a fire. She read a lot of the Goosebumps stories. Pretty soon, we introduced other kids in the neighborhood to the woods.

In their article “Nature Play,” the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association says, “This type of unstructured, make-it-up-as-you-go play [has] existed since the dawn of humanity, with changes in its details but not in its essence. It [has] long served human children well: firing their imaginations, building their physical endurance and coordination, testing their initiative and courage, nurturing their people skills, and fostering life-long friendships with other kids and with nature.” (“Nature Play,” conservationtools.org)

In April 2017, Liza Hawley, associate director, visitor education and youth programs at the Arboretum, visited five gardens in the UK with the particular wish to see how they invited children to explore nature. “Nature Play: Nature Conservation,” a study made by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh [RBGE] in 2015, built on research investigating opportunities for and barriers to nature play by young children and their caregivers by looking “in more depth at the content of nature play and the balance between impact and nature conservation in the context of a botanical garden.” RBGE developed guidelines to help comparable sites manage nature play areas. These include providing a specific, designated area for nature play that gives users space where such behaviors were previously ‘not allowed.’ Providing seating for adults allowed for long, leisurely exploration by the children.

Armed with these guidelines and advice from other renowned botanic gardens and arboretums, Morris Arboretum is exploring how we might best incorporate nature play into the public garden. This area will serve to introduce all of the wonders of the natural world to children who do not have a safe outdoor place to play near their home, and hopefully teach valuable social skills, including using teamwork and communication to solve problems, sharing resources, and group-fueled imagination.

We’d like to hear your thoughts or experiences regarding nature play at Morris Arboretum. Send them by email to Liza Hawley at efhawley@upenn.edu with “Nature Play” as the subject.

Partners in Education

Every year, the Morris Arboretum welcomes thousands of schoolchildren from across the greater Philadelphia region for guided, themed explorations of the Arboretum’s formal gardens, natural lands, historic structures and outdoor sculptures, and soothing water features. Through its Partners in Education (PiE) program, the Arboretum is able to offer free admission to Title 1 schools, as well as bus transportation, if needed. PiE schools may visit once per year or multiple times! This issue’s featured school, The Samuel Gompers Elementary School, visits the Arboretum several times per year, and has participated in guided tours including 4 Seasons through 5 Senses, Tree Adventure, and the Wetlands Tour. If you are interested in helping to support free visits for children from underserved schools, please contact Mira Zergani, Director of Development, at (215) 247-5777, extension 102 or mzergani@upenn.edu.
What’s in Bloom at the Arboretum?

February

Look (and sniff!) for the very first signs of spring! The Arboretum is home to many beautiful and fragrant witchhazel varieties. Many can be found in the English Park, but also in the Widener Woods and around the Rose Garden. Their sweet and spicy scent and colorful flowers are truly a winter delight. In addition to witchhazels, there are many other lovely early winter plants to discover, such as mahonias that will enchant you with their lovely fragrance and delicate yellow blooms.

March

Spring is in the air! Not far from the Visitor Center look for early-blooming hellebores. Also known as Lenten rose, these bravest of winter flowers can sometimes even be found poking through a snow-covered landscape. Another early spring beauty is the handsome adonis plant. It’s fern-like foliage and chery yellow flowers are a welcome sight in the very early spring. During warm days, the flowers open wide, only to close again during cold nights.

April

Cherries and magnolias take center stage this month at the Arboretum. With their abundant flowers and attractive scent, they are the epitome of springtime loveliness. Adding to the landscape are colorful perennials emerging in every corner. Look for the delicate, puffy flowers of the bleeding heart found in the Japanese Overlook Garden or near the Mercury Loggia. Other favorites include Virginia bluebells found by Out on a Limb, and the intriguing black pussy willow near the Swan Pond.

May

The magical month of May is a favorite of many. The grass is green and lush, the trees have fully unfurled their leaves, and sweet fragrances fill the air. Enjoy the lovely aroma of lilacs, viburnums, and peonies. Look for more perennial favorites, such as cranesbill geranium, which will begin to bloom this month with some varieties continuing to flower throughout the summer.

Artist Spotlight at The Shop - Sadie Francis

Sadie Francis has long been passionate about nature, horticulture, and conservation. As a way of augmenting her horticultural knowledge, she often goes out on “foraging adventures” around the Wissahickon, and with each adventure, her plant collection grows.

Then, one day in early 2016, Sadie took a resin class at the Morris Arboretum. Sadie has taken many classes at the Arboretum, but this was a bit different. The resin class not only taught her the techniques of combining her passions for nature and art. She found a means of combining her passions for nature and art.

Sadie credits the resin class for helping teach her the tools and techniques she utilizes in her successful jewelry business. Sadie is one of only a few jewelers who works with foraged botanicals. Check out Sadie’s work at The Shop at Morris Arboretum.

JAPANESE cherry blossom festival

Two Saturdays, April 7 & 14

Celebrate the Arboretum’s Japanese heritage and the beauty of the cherry trees in bloom. All events are free with garden admission. Check the board at the Visitor Center for event locations.

Japanese Garden Elements Tours
Both Saturdays at 2:00p.m.
This tour will highlight the Arboretum’s Japanese-style gardens.

Kimono Dressing Demonstration
Saturday, April 14, 11:00a.m.
Discover the beautiful history of the kimono and try one on.

Samurai Arts Group
Saturday, April 14, 11:30a.m. and 1:30p.m. (sun only)
This sophisticated method of personal combat and strategy is adapted and applied today to find harmony in one’s life.

Origami Workshops
Saturday, April 14, 1:00p.m. and 2:00p.m.
Learn to make an origami crane using this fun art form of paper folding.
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.

Designing, Planning, and Planting Your Vegetable Garden, Organically! Saturday, March 3 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

Do you love the idea of growing your own fresh organic produce? Join staff horticulturist Paul D. Orpello CPH as he discusses the triumphs and woes of growing your own vegetables organically. Whether you are a gardener looking to expand your seasonal offerings, switch to an organic program, or just be better prepared for growing your own vegetables organically.

Honey Tasting and Workshop Sunday, March 4 1:00 – 3:00p.m.

will also make and taste a medicinal honey syrup. Workshop will include a tasting of local and varietal honeys. You and its amazing medicinal and nutritional properties. This and why honey is produced by bees, its uses throughout history, and the technology of the late seventeenth century.

Spring into Natural Health with Essential Oils Saturday, April 21 12:30 – 2:00p.m.

Join us as we explore how to use therapeutic grade essential oils for health and home this spring. Learn how they can be used to combat seasonal ailments, head and neck tension, promote healthy skin and so much more! In our DIY workshop, you will make a blend that is perfectly suited to your family’s needs and take it home to begin using right away!

Painting: A Close-up Focus on Flowers Saturday, May 5 10:30a.m. – 12:30p.m.

In this class, students will be encouraged to develop their own painting style while focusing in on the world of flowers. Students will take a close-up look at flowers and paint their beauty with quick-drying acrylic paint on canvas. All supplies will be provided.

Springtime Sunset Stroll Wednesday, May 16 6:30 – 8:30p.m.

Take time to wind down and enjoy a day’s-end, garden stroll. Arboretum educator, gardener, naturalist, and historian Bob Gutowski will be your guide as you celebrate the Arboretum’s sunset sights, scents, and sensations. Make sure to wear your walking shoes and dress for the weather!

Collections Breed Success at the National Arboretum Member Lecture Series – The Klein Endowed Lecture Wednesday, March 21 at 2:00p.m.

Join Dr. Richard Olsen (pictured at right), Director of the U.S. National Arboretum for this engaging talk. The National Arboretum’s plant breeding and exploration programs have contributed to diverse and sustainable American landscapes. Learn about its collections, its collaborations with peers such as Morris Arboretum, and how exciting new ventures will continue to expand the relevance and impact of the National Arboretum. The Klein Endowed Lecture is presented annually in memory of Dr. William M. Klein who served as the Arboretum’s first full-time director from 1977-1990.

Brewing and Malting in Early Philadelphia Thursday, April 19, 7:00p.m.

Pennsylvania Brewery Historian Rich Wagner will give us a view of the city’s earliest breweries. Anthony Morris, ancestor of Arboretum founders John and Lydia Morris, became Philadelphia’s second brewer in 1687. The Morris family founded several breweries to supply ship captains with necessary sustenance for their voyages and serve the city’s thriving tavern culture. William Penn and later founding fathers promoted the development of the brewing industry as a solid foundation for a temperate society and as an engine for promoting industry and technological innovation. Rich Wagner began interpreting the brewing process in 1990 at William Penn’s home, Pennsbury Manor. Since that time, he has constructed his own brewing system to demonstrate the technology of the late seventeenth century.

Reservations and payment are required for lectures as space is limited. The cost is $15 for members and $20 for non-members. To register, visit online.morrisarboretum.org/classes or call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125.
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 10. Not a premier member and interested in the events and shopping first? Call the Membership Office at (215) 247-5777 ext. 205 to upgrade your membership. Membership Office hours are Monday–Friday, 9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Be sure to to pick up your free dividend plant/s
Collectors Circle members – Receive 2 dividend plants, plus a plant of curatorial significance.
Holly, Oak, Laurel members – Receive 2 dividend plants
All other members – Receive 1 dividend plant.

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 (climopside) and small-leaf (lipiodote) rhododendrons will be offered, as will azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous, and mountain laurel (kalhnie). 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.

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.

Plant Sale 2018

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 10 – Saturday, May 12.

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Summer Adventure Camp Returns!

TIFFANY STAHL, Education Program Specialist

For almost a decade, Morris Arboretum has been engaging children in science, nature, and outdoor exploration through the Summer Adventure Camp program. Our experienced educators encourage campers to use their senses to interact with the organic world around them. It is what we do best! Sensory experiences such as these are proven to soothe the mind, body and spirit.

When a child steps inside the Arboretum, their eyes are opened to a world where they can become junior scientists, nature artists, budding botanists, or all of the above. Campers begin camp wide-eyed and leave with sharper observation skills, fun memories, and new friendships that we hope will thrive and grow throughout the year. Register early and register with friends!

Register by March 1 to receive an Early Bird Discount!

Little Lightning Bugs (Ages 4 & 5)
Drop off/pick up location: Widener Visitor Center
Drop off: 9:00a.m. Pick-up: 3:00p.m.

Sample Themes Include:
Critter Camp
Super STEAM Science
Reptiles, Raptors, and Rainbows
Art, Clay, Nature Play!

Bloomfield Buddies (Ages 6-10)
Drop off/pick up location: Bloomfield Farm Car Line
Drop off: 9:00a.m. Pick-up: 3:00p.m.

Sample Themes Include:
Chemistry, Spells, and Potions
Blooming Bug Fest
Painting, Poe-tree, Plant Party
Nature Ninja Water Warriors

Register by March 1 to receive an Early Bird Discount!

Early Bird Rate:
Members: $250/Non-members: $270 (per week)
After March 1:
Members: $290/ Non-members: $310 (per week)

Registration opens February 6, 2018 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.

Weeks are filled on a first come, first served basis.

Tributes & Memorial Gifts

The Morris Arboretum is grateful to the following donors who made tribute and memorial gifts between July 1, 2017 and October 31, 2017.

In memory of Dorothy Albert
Robert Good
Debra Kaufman

In memory of Dr. Henry Berger
Jay Lappin
In memory of Leon & Phyllis Berger
Nicole Marks

In memory of Norman Boyd
Jane Johnston

In memory of George Brantz
Ellen Cohen

In memory of Enimie “Kayo” Briggs’s Birthday
Sue & Tom Sauerman

In memory of Irene Harneitbok
Joan & Alan Kober

In memory of Suzette B. "Bunkie" Hopkins
Jane Johnston

In memory of Layna Kilpatrick
Beth & Dana Cheyne
Bohdanna & Roman Kowalchuck
The Lauff Family
Frances & James Pollock
Sandra N. Schmidt

In memory of Margaret (Peg) Krauss
Nicole Marks

In memory of Erwin Lodge
Sarah & Ted Lodge

In honor of Paul W. Meyer
Sandra L. Cadwalader
Mark Delestarius
John A. Faggotti & Charles W. Head
Mary & Richard Graham

In memory of Agnes-themed Ryan
Nicole Marks

In memory of Donald Schuerr
Charlotte C. Berancourt
Lizanne J. Hagedorn
Kathryn P. and Nicholas B. Hill

In memory of Christopher Sergeant
Marilyn Steeg

In memory of Virginia Siegel
Nicole Marks

In memory of Mary Ann Sontag
Thomas Sontag

In memory of Susan Wexler
Ricki Cooperman
James Rijka
Coming this Spring: *Time in the Garden*

Time is the very essence of gardening and the natural world. Whether counting tree rings to determine age, or planting seeds to sprout in the right season, the passage of time marks the life of a garden. This spring, the Morris Arboretum will be staging both indoor and outdoor *Time in the Garden* exhibits. Artists will be interpreting the theme with pieces installed throughout the garden and displayed in the Upper Gallery of the Visitor Center. Make plans to join us this spring and summer and experience *Time in the Garden*. 