Volunteer
Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Volunteer is a newsletter published monthly for Arboretum volunteers.

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is an historic public garden and educational institution. It promotes an understanding of the relationship between plants, people, and place through programs that integrate science, art, and the humanities. The Arboretum conducts four major activities: education, research, outreach, and horticultural display. As the official Arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania provides research and outreach services to state agencies, community institutions and to citizens of Pennsylvania and beyond.

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Volunteer
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Photos: Alex Correia, unless otherwise stated

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Cover photo: Morris Arboretum is a haven for pollinators. In the summer, you will find plenty of bees and butterflies feeding on nectar and pollen from our flowering plants, like this honeybee on Little Spire Russian-sage at the Step Fountain.
Letter from the Editor

Despite the intense heat of this July, I always find myself trying to enjoy the ephemeral beauties of summer while they last. To me, summer always seems to fly by compared to the long months of winter. Fire flies, beach days, and summer tomatoes are just a few of these small pleasures I can’t seem to get enough of. This past weekend, I found myself at Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware for the first time since last season. If you have ever been, you know that the park has a great beach adjacent to a network of biking and walking trails through beautiful scrubby pine lands and grassy sand dunes. As I wandered through a particularly wet part of the trails, I stumbled upon a botanical gem: a patch of carnivorous *Drosera*, or sundews. Perhaps some of you can relate to me when I had to be that plant nerd who stopped my group of friends, yet again, to gawk at another plant.

I hope you are all finding ways to enjoy summer to its fullest as well.

Happy Summer,

Alex Correia

*The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*
Hello Everyone,

All of us have heard that vinegar was a great homemade weed killer, but even Mike McGrath has said on air that it only works on the plant showing above ground. It does not kill the roots. I have often wondered if there really are any homemade remedies that work. *Fine Gardening*, in its December 2015 issue, had an article titled “Do homemade remedies actually work?” The article mentioned the do-it-yourself garden cures that just might be in your kitchen. Jeff Gillman, who wrote the article, is the director of Charlotte Botanical Gardens at the University of North Carolina. Gillman stated that rarely are the cures as effective as commercial products and, in some cases, can be even more dangerous.

Still, he admits that he loves testing and reading about homemade garden remedies. While he wouldn’t recommend experimenting on your prized begonias, there is a place in the garden for experimentation, and homemade remedies can be fun to try, as long as you are careful and don’t expect too much. There are a number of cures that have a reasonable chance of working, even if they’re not as effective as something off the garden shelf. Following is a list of cures that may – or may not – be worth a try. Always remember to test on a few leaves before spraying the entire plant. Whenever you spray, wear gloves when applying and use a handheld spray bottle.

1. **Dish Soap** – The most reliable of several insect sprays. It will kill most mites, aphids, mealybugs and other soft-bodied pests in your garden. It also has the potential to damage your plants, so be extra careful to test the spray on a few leaves. A dish soap spray probably will not kill insect eggs or insect pupa.

2. **Tobacco** – This is one rare remedy that actually works, but Gillman does not recommend it. Tobacco may contain a number of diseases that are harmful to your plants, but it contains a toxin, nicotine, which can be toxic to people as well as insects.

3. **Baking soda** – It is possible to take an ounce of prevention against powdery mildew by using baking soda, but be prepared to be disappointed if you want complete control. It just doesn’t work that well.

4. **Bags** – These can be used to control fruit pests. You can place the bags around fruits or vegetables to protect them from insect pests. In the North, re-sealable bags work fine but in the South, tight mesh bags do not work because of the heat. Bags should be placed on the fruits when they are about the size of a quarter.

5. **Milk** – Milk can be used as a fungicide. Milk has been shown to limit a number of diseases on various plants. It is no cure-all, as Gillman has seen it succeed and fail. However, if you want a homemade remedy for black spot, this offers the best chance of success. We don’t know why it works, but the theory is that it contains lactoferrin, which may inhibit harmful microbes. Mix one part milk (he prefers whole because of the fat content) with two parts water. Spray on foliage you want to protect from disease. Sprays should be made every week during the spring. Do not use this spray on edibles.

These are just a few of the homemade remedies out there or in your kitchen cupboard. Who knows, maybe you have something that would kill those pesky Japanese beetles?

*Jody Sprague*

*Chair of the Guides*
Continuing Education

Look For Your Fall 2016 Class Brochure in the mail!

We offer a variety of classes that are eligible for Education Volunteer workshop hours. Below is a list of upcoming approved courses. Registration is open August 8th on our website.

Birding at the Arboretum: The Wetlands and Bloomfield Farm
Ruth Pfeffer, Expert Birder and Trip Leader
September 20

Native Ferns in the Landscape and Garden
Dr. Keith Bowman, Botanist
September 30

Introducing the Gardeners of Compton
Joyce Munro, Author and former Dean of the Graduate School, Chestnut Hill College
October 18

Making Sense of Latin Names
Josh Darfler, Greenhouse and Garden Manager, UPenn
John Kaszan, Plant Propagator, Meadowbrook Farm
October 19

Greenhouse and Propagation Tour
Shelley Dillard, Propagator, Morris Arboretum
November 5

Volunteers who have given a minimum of 30 hours over the past year may take these and any other courses at a discounted price. Please refer to the Volunteer Price Spreadsheet for a list of the discounted course prices available to Arboretum volunteers.
Volunteer Photos

Below are some photos of our wonderful volunteers in July! Our Horticulture volunteers had a meet and greet with the new interns on July 13th, followed by a cloudy morning of mulching at Bloomfield Farm until it started to downpour. The next day, a group took a trip to Mt. Cuba Center for a garden tour focusing on Mt. Cuba history, ecological gardening, plant information and seasonal highlights.
Volunteer Opportunities

- Save the Date! -

Sunshine & Roses
Annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening

Wednesday, September 14th | 5-7 p.m.
Invitation to follow later this month

- Fall Guiding Sign-Ups -

Your fall guiding sign-up sheet will arrive in the mail shortly. Please select your primary and alternate guiding days for the upcoming season, and please hold this day two weeks out before setting other appointments (vacations and illness excluded, of course). Once selected, return the sheet by mail or email BaileyL@upenn.edu.
Volunteer Opportunities

Hidden Gems at the Morris Arboretum

Calling all Volunteers: The Great Plants Committee is developing a new specialty tour of “Hidden Gems at the Morris Arboretum”, highlighting trees, plants, and garden features that most visitors don’t usually see.

Please help us out by sending a list of your favorite “hidden gems” to Deitra Arena at deitraarena@gmail.com. Please include a brief description of the gem, its location, and why it is special. Thank you in advance for your help.

- Save the Date! -

Friday, September 16th | 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Join us for a tour and brown bag lunch at Charlotte Betancourt’s serene Chestnut Hill garden. Details to follow in September.
Volunteer Workshops

Fall Refresher Training Workshops

Attention All Guides! Save these dates for Fall ‘Refresher’ Training Workshops

Tuesday, September 27th
Thursday, September 29th
1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Refresher workshops are great opportunities to sharpen your skills, brush up on techniques and share touring tips with fellow guides. Be sure to check the September edition of the Volunteer newsletter for more details.

Meet our new Education Intern!

What actually goes in to growing the vegetables you buy? Join our new Education Intern, Alex Correia, as she draws on past farming experience to talk about concepts of sustainable agriculture, local food systems, and a day in the life of a small farmer.

Wednesday, August 3rd | 10:00 am | Widener Upper Gallery
Morris Arboretum in the News

Last month, you may have seen that Morris Arboretum was featured in the Home and Garden section of a popular national newspaper: The Washington Post. Our own Tony Aiello, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator, was interviewed about conservation efforts for Acer griseum, the paperbark maple. Below is an excerpt from the article, written by gardening columnist, Adrian Higgins.

“When I tell people it’s endangered in China, they’re very surprised,” said Aiello... The paperbark maple was introduced to the West more than a century ago by the intrepid plant collector E.H. Wilson, but it has remained a fairly uncommon garden plant, in part because Wilson started with only about 100 seedlings. Part of its rarity — in commerce and in nature — is due to the fact that it sets very few fertile seeds. Another major problem is that cuttings don’t root, so the nursery keeper has to make new plants from a limited number of seeds...

Aiello and colleagues at other botanical gardens are seeking to increase the diversity of paperbark maple, and last year they visited five Chinese provinces to collect DNA samples and some seed from wild specimens. Populations have become isolated from one another as forest land has been lost to agriculture and other human pressure. ‘It was a very interesting way to see what it means to be an endangered species, because it took us a day to drive between different stands,’ Aiello said. The tree’s distinctive bark — at times a coppery orange — made it easy to find the survivors. ‘The Chinese call it the blood-bark maple, and people could generally direct us to it,’ he said...

As with pandas, the aim is to have enough diversity to ensure the survival of the species even if it becomes extinct in the wild. ‘The ultimate goal is to preserve it in its native habitat but as a backup preserve it in cultivation,’ he said.”

View the full Article here.
Garden Highlights

Rosa ‘Chrysler Imperial’
Chrysler Imperial rose
Rose Garden

Cynara cardunculus
cardoon
Rose Garden

Rosa
‘Chrysler Imperial’
Chrysler Imperial rose
Rose Garden

Magnolia tripetala
umbrella magnolia
Log Cabin

Echinacea purpurea
purple coneflower
Rose Garden

Brugmansia cv.
Angel’s Trumpet cultivar
Fernery Plaza

Hibiscus ‘Lohengrin’
Lohengrin hibiscus
Garden Railway
### Upcoming Events

**August 2016**

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**Weekly Volunteer Events**

- **Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30am-12pm
- **Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00pm-3:00pm
- **Saturdays and Sundays:** Welcome Cart 11am-3pm
Upcoming Events

September 2016

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