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 a 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
Stephanie Kuniholm, Editor
Contributors: Jody Sprague, Michelle Conners, Bob Gutowski

Questions, comments, and submissions can be directed to the editor at mabxeduc@exchange.upenn.edu or mailed to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.

Photos: Stephanie Kuniholm, unless otherwise stated
Letter from the Editor
February 2014

Throughout this particularly wintry winter I have had the words of Thoreau repeating in my head,

“One must maintain a little bit of summer even in the middle of winter.”

Despite the extreme cold, excessive ice, piling snow, and biting wind, I regularly walk through the Arboretum noticing witchhazels in bloom, buds waiting to swell, and birds singing of warmer weather to come. But when the change of seasons seems too far away, I (and you, too) have the pleasure of slipping into the Fernery to instantly “maintain a little bit of summer.” Let’s enjoy the last of winter while waiting expectantly for warmer days ahead.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kuniholm

*The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern*
Hello Everyone,

Here we are in the middle of winter, hardly the time where we worry about our gardening chores today. However, if you were gardening in the Antarctic you would have entirely different kinds of garden chores to consider, winter or not. I recently read an interview in Fine Gardening which described the experience of one Antarctic garden volunteer, Darryl Seidel.

Darryl was an amateur backyard gardener when he had the opportunity to volunteer as a gardener at the Davis Station in the Antarctic. While there are many volunteer positions at the Station, the hydroponic greenhouse seems to be a volunteer favorite. Out of 21 volunteers, 14 are on the hydroponics crew. While it is -20 degrees C (-4 degrees F) outside, it is 26 degrees C (78 degrees F) in the greenhouse. It is the one spot you can take off your winter clothing, read a book or do some pruning.

To grow plants hydroponically they have a number of tubs on stands containing a couple of inches of clay balls topped with vermiculite. When traditionally propagated seedlings are roughly 2 inches high, they are transferred into larger tubs. They have a 200 liter water tank used to irrigate all the individual tubs. There is a special nutrient solution in the water tank that serves as a multivitamin for the plants. They also have a lot of UV-emitting lights above the plants. It’s all artificial in the greenhouse.

The water comes from a small lake, which thaws in the summer. They draw out water and run it through a reverse-osmosis machine (because it is slightly salty and they wouldn’t be able to drink it). The reverse-osmosis machine spits out clean water. They store approximately 1.6 to 1.7 million liters of it for the station. This is the only water they will have for an entire year. I read one time that the people at the station were allowed one 3 minute shower per week, you can understand why.

The entire station runs on massive generators. If the power goes out then the lights go out, the pumps stop, the water stops and eventually the building freezes. But there are no diseases and no bugs.

Would you trade your garden for a chance to garden at the Antarctic? I am afraid I am going to be happy to contend with the diseases and the bugs in my own backyard. What do you think?

Happy Winter – Happy Gardening

Jody Sprague
Guides Chair
Guiding Visitors with Special Needs

*Stephanie Borton, Associate Director, ArtReach*

NOTE- New date! February 27, 10 am in Widener Classroom

Stephanie Borton, Associate Director of ArtReach, will be presenting a workshop to help guides become more comfortable and familiar with techniques for leading special needs groups – visitors that are blind, or deaf, or have cognitive delays. ArtReach offers discounted admissions to arts/cultural institutions in and around Philadelphia for various special needs groups as well as for economically disadvantaged groups. Morris Arboretum has been collaborating with ArtReach as an Arts Partner for the past ten years.
Call for Grist Mill Interpreters

The stones are turning, the oven is ready for baking corn muffins and we have a bicycle-powered corn meal grinder. Now we need a few Mill Demonstration Interpreters. Mark your calendars for the first season of Grist Mill Demonstration Days and spread the word. The mill will be open to the public and in operation for Grist Mill Demonstrations scheduled on April 13th and then every third Sunday of the month, May through November, 2014. This schedule includes events at Bloomfield Farm on June 15th and October 16th.

Bob Gutowski is offering three interpretation workshops/training at 1 pm: Monday, March 3rd; Wednesday, March 12th; and Friday April 11th. These events differ from our guided school group tours.

Typical Mill Demonstration Volunteer Positions to be scheduled [may change as we learn what works best]

- **Outside Interpreter** – interprets mill history and function, external features
- **First Floor Group Manager/Interpreter** – manages group size and entry, prepares and entertains group at doorway
- **First Floor Mill Interpreter** – manages time and interprets first floor
- **Second Floor Interpreter/Baker** – manages time and interprets outside fence, bakes cornbread

For more information, contact Bob Gutowski, Director of Public Programs, at 215-247-5777 ext. 132 or gutowski@upenn.edu

Photo courtesy of Bob Gutowski
New -- Spring Classes!

An Inside Look at the Witchhazel Collection
*Anthony Aiello, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator, Morris Arboretum*
**Saturday, February 22, 1 – 3 p.m.**
**Volunteer price: $15**
Join us as we tour the Arboretum’s outstanding collection of witchhazels with Curator Tony Aiello.

Klein Endowed Lecture
*Victoria, the Seductress: Meet Her Aquatic Majesty*
*Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Curator of Plants, Longwood Gardens*
**Sunday, February 23, 2 p.m.**
**Volunteer price: Free**
Join the author, Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Longwood Gardens’ curator of plants to hear about the many exquisite qualities of this giant water lily which has been hailed around the world as the Queen of the Floral Kingdom.

Needle Felting: From Fleece to Fantastic
*Julia Grace, Multi-media Artist*
**Sunday, March 2, 1 – 4 p.m.**
**Volunteer price: $42.50**
Learn a variety of needle felting techniques and make your very own felted ornament, brooch, sculpture, or embellishment to take home along with all the materials you need to continue felting!

Downsizing Strategies and Shortcuts for Time-Pressed Gardeners
*Kerry Ann Mendez, Garden Designer, Author, and Owner of Perennially Yours*
**Monday, March 3, 1 – 4 p.m.**
**Volunteer price: $25**
This inspiring lecture provides easy-to-follow downsizing strategies, outstanding plants for smaller landscapes, design tips and maintenance shortcuts for stunning year-round gardens that will be as close to ‘autopilot’ as you can get.
Horticulture Volunteer Workshops
Registration required! Please contact Pam Morris Olshefski at pamela@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 ext. 188

February 12

8:30-9 am Arrive at Horticulture Center
9 am Welcome & Volunteer update Pam Olshefski
9:15-10 am Horticulture Department Update of New Projects Tony Aiello
10-10:30 am BREAK
10:30-11 am Tracy’s Visit to Windsor Gardens Tracy Beerley
11 am-12 pm Great & Ancient Trees Paul Meyer
12 -1 pm LUNCH BREAK- BROWN BAG LUNCH
1 -1:30 pm Public Programs Event Update Michelle Conners
1:30-2:30 Les Quatre Vents/Atlanta Botanical Garden Louise Clarke

February 26

8:30-9 am Arrive at Horticulture Center
9 -10 am Starting Annuals and Vegetables from Seed Shelley Dillard
10 -10:30 am BREAK
10:30-11am The status & life history of timber rattlesnakes Emma Erler
11-11:30 am Serre de la Madone: Lawrence Johnston’s secret garden Steve Pyne
11:30-12 pm Arborist Tree assessment team opportunity Andrew Hawkes
12 -1 pm LUNCH BREAK –LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
1 -1:30 pm Hiking the Appalachian Trail Andrew Kirkpatrick
1:30- 2 pm Rose Pruning presentation Lucy Dinsmore
2:15-3 pm Hands-on rose pruning in the garden Lucy Dinsmore
**Calling All Birders!**

Two new opportunities to help our feathered friends:

Volunteer for Early Bird Saturdays

The Arboretum is trying something new in 2014 with Early Bird Saturdays. The first Saturday of each month, April through October, the Arboretum will open at 8 am. Many of you already appreciate what a great location the Arboretum is for birding and we are trying to get others to appreciate it too by inviting them to come early and see who they can spot. We are in need of volunteers to help get visitors excited about birding by acting as greeters and facilitators on these early Saturday mornings. One or two volunteers needed each first Saturday from 8:15 am to 10:15 am to greet and sign in those interested in taking a bird walk, hand out bird lists and binoculars, and walk around with visitors in a quest to spot birds. If you can help or have questions, please contact Michelle Conners at 215-247-5777 ext. 109 or mconners@upenn.edu

Recycle

In late March, the Girl Scouts visit the Arboretum to earn their habitat badge. During their visit they will build nesting bags – small pouches of materials birds can pull from to line their nests. If you have any plastic net bags that produce like lemons, onions, etc. come in, save them! We would love to have them for our activity!

Drop off bags with Michelle Conners or Stephanie Kuniholm, Education Intern, through March 28, 2014.
## Intern Project Presentations

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 6</td>
<td><em>Three Year Strategic Plan for the Urban Forestry Consultants and School of Arboriculture</em></td>
<td>Andrew Kirkpatrick, Martha S. Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 13</td>
<td><em>Weed Identification and Management at the Morris Arboretum</em></td>
<td>Emma Erler, Alice &amp; Liddon J. Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern</td>
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<td>Tuesday, March 18</td>
<td><em>Membership Retention through Continuing Education</em></td>
<td>Stephanie Kuniholm, McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 20</td>
<td><em>Review and Propagation of the Holly Slope</em></td>
<td>Laura Sweeney, Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern</td>
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<td>Tuesday, March 25</td>
<td><em>Trialing of New Green Roof Plants</em></td>
<td>Ryan Plante, Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 27</td>
<td><em>Resource Recovery Plan: Bidens bidentoides, a Rare Pennsylvania Plant</em></td>
<td>Chelsea Smith, Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of PA Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 1</td>
<td><em>Resource Recovery Plan for Parker’s Pipewort (Eriocaulon parkeri) in Pennsylvania</em></td>
<td>Alex Seglias, John J. Willaman &amp; Martha Haas Valentine Plant Protection Intern</td>
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All presentations will begin at 12:30 pm in the Upper Gallery.
Garden highlights:

- *Chimonanthus praecox* wintersweet
- *Corylus fargesii* Farges filbert
- *Hamamelis vernalis* witchhazel
- *Hamamelis mollis* Chinese witchhazel
- *Comptonia peregrina* sweet fern
- *Matteuccia struthiopteris* ostrich fern
## Upcoming Events

### February

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### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:00 am-12 pm  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 pm-3:00 pm  
**Saturdays:** Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 am  
*REGISTRATION REQUIRED. We will meet in the Magnolia Room in the Horticulture Center; space is limited*
## March

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