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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Questions, comments, and submissions can be directed to the editor at edintern@morrisarboretum.org or mailed to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.

Photos: Emily Clark, unless otherwise stated

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Cover Photo: Frosty crabapples on Crabapple Slope.

Photo by Pat Moir
Happy New Years!

Firstly, a big “thanks” to all of you, it’s been a pleasure to get to spend the second half of 2018 at the Arboretum. Part of what I love about my job is getting to talk with guides after they return from tours – I find the insights and conclusions kids make both fascinating and endearing. One of my favorite student remarks from the year was from a little boy who had been to the Arboretum before, and was insistent on showing his friends “the tree that looks like a leopard on top and a cheetah on the bottom.” Turns out this student wanted to see the grafted Tabletop Scotch elm.

Without further ado, here are some of your favorite “insights” of the year:

- In the height of summer’s heat and humidity, a student walked into the Fernery and said “the air feels soft!”

- On a tour with a group of young boys, Anne Ciaralli asked “what do you think the Springhouse is for?” One of the boys asked “is that where they keep the bodies?!”

- From Pat Moir – “I asked a group of children what they thought was in the Fernery. One little girl guessed “furniture.”

- An old favorite - one of the children on Joan Hanby’s tour “wanted to know why we had credit cards on the trees.”

- From Brian Stenger – “After presenting John and Lydia’s vision for a place where generations of people can come to appreciate trees, one little visitor asked me ‘did Mr. Arboretum plant this tree?’”

Here’s to a 2019 filled with many more memorable moments.

Warm wishes,

Emily Clark
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern
I first read about art teacher Julia Mooney’s “One Outfit, 100 Days” campaign in a Philadelphia Inquirer article appearing on October 21st of this year. I think her message is well worth passing on.

Mrs. Mooney, who teaches at William Allen Middle School in Moorestown, NJ, decided to teach her students a lesson about eco-sustainability, image and social acceptance. To do this she will be wearing until February the same gray button-down dress that she has been wearing since the school year begun. She hopes this helps her students become more aware of how much they consume — often due to peer pressure — and encourage them to find ways to reduce their environmental impact.

Mrs. Mooney does not use class time to talk about her project, but she does use an Instagram account “oneoutfit100days” to document the project so that students and others can learn about her sustainability message. Mrs. Mooney’s first post in September stated, “A challenge to be mindful of what, why and how we consume. Let’s use our energy to do good instead of looking good.” She posts almost daily counting down to February and frequently shares alarming statistics about clothing consumption.

Mrs. Mooney wears an apron to protect her dress from stains and sometimes adds a scarf or cardigan to slightly modify her look. She does, however, wear other clothes on weekends. She also does wash the dress, usually by hand, and has an identical spare purchased from Thought Clothes for about $50. She chose the durable hemp dress partly because the London based company encourages customers to wear clothing more than once before washing, repair rather than replace items and give away unneeded clothing.

Mooney and her husband Patrick also practice sustainability at home by raising chickens in their backyard, composting and growing vegetables. In addition, she makes her kids’ clothing or buys gently used items at consignment stores. Patrick Mooney added, “The project became an eye-opener when you realize you have 50 shirts you haven’t worn”.

Mrs. Mooney’s project has inspired other teachers to follow in her footsteps. Kelly Gartland, who teaches advanced placement ceramics and sculpture at Moorestown High School, is wearing the same blue denim dress each day. She plans to use the project to demonstrate to her students how artists help shape public dialogue and how students can identify priorities in their personal lives. Gartland points out that she has no plans to resume her old shopping habits when the project ends, and if the dress lasts, she may wear it until the end of the school year!

Source: “What to wear? Oh, that old thing, for 100 days” by Melanie Burney. Philadelphia Inquirer, October 21, 2018.

Keep warm and use this break from guiding to make your own sustainable practices plan for the new year. Have a wonderful 2019!

Joan Kober
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

**Arboretum Finance**

*Presentation to Volunteers*

**Wednesday, January 16th | 12:00 p.m. | Upper Gallery**

Two of the “Seven Arches” of the Arboretum’s Strategic Plan are: “Sustain and Build Fiscal Stability” and “Enhance, Restore and Preserve Historic Features, Facilities and Equipment.” Join us as Kevin D. Schrecengost, Director of Finance & Administration, discusses the Arboretum’s success in meeting these objectives, as well as explaining the Arboretum’s relationship to the University of Pennsylvania.

**Volunteer Q and A with Paul Meyer**

**Thursday, February 21st | 12:30 pm | Upper Gallery**

Please join us for a discussion with the F. Otto Haas Executive Director Paul W. Meyer. Paul has offered to answer your Top 10 Questions for the Director. Consider plant and garden topics; Arboretum history during Paul’s tenure; business and financial aspects; and more. Please submit questions by Jan. 25th to baileyL@upenn.edu, or feel free to add them to the event listing on the volunteer TeamUp calendar.

**Tu B’Shevat - The New Year of Trees**

Tu B’Shevat will be here in just a few weeks, with many groups signed up to learn about trees! We are in need of volunteers for a variety of activities throughout the week and there are still plenty of spots open. Feel free to volunteer for multiple slots! Sign up via Team Up.

- **Sunday, January 13:** 10-11:15 am, 11:30 am-12:45 pm
- **Monday, January 14:** 10-11:15 am
- **Tuesday, January 15:** 10-11:15 am
- **Wednesday, January 16:** 10-11:15 am
- **Thursday, January 17:** 10-11:15 am
- **Sunday, January 20:** 10-11:15 am, 11:30 am-12:45 pm
Volunteer Opportunities

Arboretum Book Club

The Book Club is open to all Arboretum volunteers and staff and meets the first Friday of each month. All are welcome to attend any session and you do not have to attend every month.

The Humane Gardener: Cultivating Compassion for All Creatures by Nancy Lawson
January 4 | 1:00 PM | Gates Hall Conference Room

In this eloquent plea for compassion and respect for all species, journalist and gardener Nancy Lawson describes why and how to welcome wildlife to our backyards. Through engaging anecdotes and inspired advice, Lawson applies the broader lessons of ecology to our own outdoor spaces. The Humane Gardener fills a unique niche in describing simple principles for both attracting wildlife and peacefully resolving conflicts with all the creatures that share our world.

The Food Explorer: True Adventures of Globe-Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats by Daniel Stone
February 1 | 1:00 PM | Gates Hall Conference Room

Daniel Stone tracks the journeys of botanist David Fairchild (1869–1954), who changed American eating habits and agricultural practices. Fairchild traveled the globe and introduced diverse crops to the American plate. In the 19th century, American meals were about subsistence, not enjoyment. But as a new century approached, appetites broadened, and David Fairchild, a botanist with an insatiable lust to explore, set out in search of foods that would enchant the American eater. Stone builds suspense while describing the trials and tribulations associated with global travel of that period.

Specialty Tours

Saturdays, January 12 & 26 | 2:00 pm | Widener Terrace

Holly Highlights and Winter Greenery Tour

Join this new tour highlighting the arboretum’s collection of hollies and other broad-leaved evergreens that enliven the winter landscape with their lush greenery and provide year-round appeal and an everlasting framework for seasonal plantings.
A small gift from us to you -

Accession labels - for the casual visitor they may look like a credit card (see page 1), but for anyone familiar with the Morris Arboretum, we know just how much information is stored on each card.

For all volunteers, now you too can add an accession label to your holiday tree or decorations. Simply cut out and add a wire!
R.I.P. Two Pines at Gates Hall

by Tony Aiello

Last month it was sad to watch as two venerable pines were removed from near Gates Hall – our native white pine (Pinus strobus #1936-7382*A) and an Austrian pine (Pinus nigra var. nigra #1948-8556*A). I am always sorry to see mature trees removed and miss their presence in the landscape. In the case of these two pines, not only were they handsome specimens that I enjoyed when walking to and from my office every day, but they both have interesting links to the Arboretum’s history.

White pine is one of our native pine species, and reaches majestic proportions in the wild and in landscapes. Strongly pyramidal when young, with age they become more open and their branching takes on a great deal of character. This particular white pine was received by the Arboretum as an eight-to-nine foot tall tree on 8 November 1936 from Maurice Bower Saul, Lydia Morris’s attorney who helped establish the arrangement between Lydia and the University of Pennsylvania. At the time it was planted close to what was the Arboretum’s property line, with the neighboring estate Overlea (what we now call Gates Hall). This was long before the current entrance drive and parking lots, and this area would become one of the main conifer collections at the Arboretum, the remnants of which still surround our parking lots.

Among his many accomplishments, Maurice Saul was a Trustee at Penn, founding member of the law firm Ewing, Remick & Saul, Lydia Morris’s attorney, and long-time counsel of the Arboretum (for more information click here). It was with his assistance that Lydia navigated a path to have the Arboretum become part of the University of Pennsylvania.
R.I.P. Two Pines at Gates Hall cont.

by Tony Aiello

This pine was paired with a large specimen of bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa* #1932-1169*A*) planted in September 1926 by the National Association of Gardeners, “in commemoration of their visit to Compton, in appreciation of John and Lydia Morris’s role in advancing the art of horticulture and gardening in America”. So, for the past 80-plus years, these two trees, marked an enduring representation of the relationship between Lydia Morris and Maurice Saul.

Austrian pine has a picturesque wide-spreading crown and striking white bark. Austrian pines are very susceptible to needle cast diseases; due to our hot and humid summers, this tree had been increasingly affected the past few years, and there was very little life left in it. This particular tree was part of the Overlea (Gates Hall) landscape and was here in 1948 when Penn purchased this property. At that time, the Arboretum and University administration intended to renovate the Morrices’ mansion, Compton, and purchased the neighboring property to relocate the research, educational, and administrative functions of the Arboretum (click here for more). In addition to the Austrian pine, there are a number of trees that were part of that property, including the large plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*), copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica* ‘Atropunicea’), red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and Golden English oak (*Quercus robur* ‘Concordia’). Because 1948 was the year that this property became part of the Arboretum, most of these trees have 1948 accession numbers, marking the year that they were officially recorded. It is likely that these were planted at or around the time that Overlea was built in 1893.

All of the plants at the Arboretum have stories to tell. Some of these stories are more involved than others, and in the case of these two pines, link to characters and places in our history.

*Photos by Wikimedia Commons.*
Volunteers who have worked over 30 hours during the past year may take Morris Arboretum classes at a discounted price. Please refer to the Volunteer Price Spreadsheet in the Education Office for a volunteer discount code and courses eligible for Education Volunteer hours. To sign up for a class please visit us at http://www.morrisarboretum.org/ed_classes.shtml or call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125.

Course Brochure Sneak-Peak

Garden Design for Homeowners 101 | Valerie Solitrin
February 7

The Past Preserved: An Exploration in Plants and Archaeology | Dr. Chantel White
February 13

Water Management Solutions for your Landscape | Valerie Solitrin
March 9

The Birds, Wildlife, and History of the Wissahickon Valley Park | Ruth Pfeffer
March 16

Growing Mushrooms at Home | Vinnie Galatolo
March 23

Growing Houseplants: A Popular Trend | Julie Bare
March 24

Be on the lookout for your Spring 2019 Brochure!
From the Archives - Five Things You May Not Know About...

by Joyce H. Munro

The Mercury Loggia

1. In 1913, John and Lydia Morris celebrated the 25th anniversary of Compton, their country estate, by constructing a new garden folly—the Mercury Loggia.

2. As centerpiece of the loggia, the Morrises selected a facsimile of “Sitting Mercury,” a sculpture buried in lava from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. They likely saw the original on one of their tours of Italy.

3. The sculptor they chose to create their “Sitting Mercury” was Umberto Marcellini of Naples, whose facsimile of “Winged Victory” is at Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California. The final cost of “Sitting Mercury” was $330.00.

4. The contractor who built the loggia for “Sitting Mercury” was Pringle Borthwick of Chestnut Hill. The cost of the 15’ x 20’ stone structure and grotto beneath was $2200.00.

5. Louise Kellner, the Morrises traveling companion and diarist, gives us a clue about why they chose a contemplative figure instead of one of the triumphal, imposing, or lively sculptures salvaged from the buried villa. After touring Pompeii in 1894, Louise wrote:

“It is almost impossible for anyone to attempt to give a description of these ruins, or to convey an idea of the reality of the desolation, and at the same time of the wonderful preservation of these ruins. A feeling of infinite sadness and melancholy steals over one, a solemn stillness fills the air, and as one passes through those silent streets and goes from house to house, from door to door of the dwellings once thronged, but now empty and voiceless, one really feels as if it was indeed the city of the dead. Nineteen hundred years ago, and these streets were crowded with a people whose hopes and joys and sorrows were perhaps not far different from our own. How fearful, how terrible must have been the death-stroke that in a moment swept them all away! No one left to tell the sad story!”

The Mercury Loggia, a perfect place for quiet reflection.

See more photos of the Mercury Loggia here.
Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers of 2018!
Garden Highlights

Nandina domestica
heavenly bamboo
Sculpture Garden

Pieris ‘Brouwer’s Beauty’
Brouwer’s Beauty pieris
Gates Hall

Viburnum × pragense
Prague viburnum
Garden Railway

Magnolia denudata
Yulan Magnolia
Azalea Meadow

Corylus fargesii
Farges filbert
Hillcrest Pavilion
# Upcoming Events

## January 2019

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## Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 am - 12 noon  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 pm  
**Saturdays:** Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 - 11:30 am  
**Sundays:** Winter Wellness Walks 1:00 pm
Upcoming Events

February 2019

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