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
Pilar Rivera, Editor

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Photos: Pilar Rivera, unless otherwise stated

Cover photo: On Memorial Day weekend, we celebrated the Garden Railway’s 19th year by adding new Philadelphia monuments to the exhibit.

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Letter from the Editor

This is my last issue as editor of Volunteer! This publication has been a fun way to introduce myself to you all, and I have enjoyed the many conversations we have had relating to my Letters from the Editor.

My Education internship this year has been a whirlwind, and the time has passed too quickly. I am sad to leave this beautiful place, but excited for what my future holds. In a few days I will be heading to the Academy of Natural Sciences as a Museum Galleries Educator. I can’t wait to use the skills I have learned during my internship to help educate visitors about the natural sciences. I will miss the Arboretum, mostly because of the kind, interesting people I have met here. You all have been an inspiration- thank you for your wisdom and friendship!

Sincerely,

Pilar Rivera
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern
Note from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

Last month I wrote about the definition of ‘native’. I also mentioned that I feel it is important to put native plants in our gardens. Recently in Horticulture magazine, an article pointed out the benefit of planting native, especially for insects and birds. Professor Douglas Tallamy, chairman of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, did a simple experiment in his own garden. He counted the number of caterpillars on a native white oak in his yard and compared it to the number of caterpillars on a nearby ornamental Bradford pear, an Asian native. He found 410 caterpillars on the white oak comprising 19 different species, and only one—an inchworm— on the Bradford Pear.

Why such a huge difference? Professor Tallamy states that native insects have co-evolved with native plants. To avoid predators, plants load their tissues with nasty insect-repellant chemicals, but the native insects have developed ways to defang those chemicals usually with enzymes. The Bradford pear is a relative newcomer, and there are no insects that have yet evolved the ability.

But there is a cost to “pretty” foreign ornamentals. He pointed out, a pair of nesting chickadees, need an incredible 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to raise one clutch of chickadees. What we plant in our landscapes determines what can live in our landscapes. An Asian ornamental doesn’t produce nearly the quantity or diversity of insects needed for birds to reproduce. According to Professor Tallamy, we have 50 percent fewer birds than 40 years ago. Also, some 230 species of North American birds are at risk of extinction, citing the 2014 State of the Birds Report.

He adds that since all native insects have specialized relationships with native plants, planting non-natives reduces biodiversity. For example, the only host for the great fritillary butterfly is the native violet. When violets are mowed down, we lose the fritillaries. And if we lose the insects, including spiders and moths, we lose amphibians, bats and rodents. Even the fox eats insects – 25 percent of his diet is insects.

Professor Tallamy tells the story of the Atala butterfly, a native of South Florida that once thrived on its sole host plant, Zamia pumila, a native cycad. The butterfly disappeared as the cycad was harvested to near extinction to make starch from its roots. In the mid-1970s, landscape designers rediscovered it as a valuable evergreen that could take drought and heat. As the cycad started showing up in more and more South Florida yards, the Atala butterfly returned.

I feel it is rather humbling to know that what I plant in my garden could have such long lasting importance.

Happy Gardening,
Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides
Volunteer Opportunities

Small Trees for Small Spaces Tour

Join fellow guides for a tour of the Arboretum’s smaller specimen trees ranging in height from 15 to 30 feet. These trees, literally and figuratively, have been overshadowed by the Arboretum’s big trees, but are now getting a much-deserved moment in the spotlight. Don’t miss this opportunity to see trees that will ‘pop’ in your own home garden.

**Saturdays: June 11th & 25th | 11:00 AM**

Visitor Center

*Cornus kousa ‘Elizabeth Lustgarten’*

In the Quiet

Experience the Squirrel Scramble like never before. Come see the new site-specific piece local dancer and choreographer Jenny Roe Sawyer has created for Out on a Limb. *Free with admission.*

**Saturday, June 25th & Sunday, June 26th**

11am and 1pm both days

Visit to Mt. Cuba Center

You will not want to miss our visit to Mt Cuba Center in Hockessin, DE. From 10 am to noon, an experienced docent will lead us on a garden tour that will include Mt Cuba history, an introduction to ecological gardening, plant information and seasonal highlights. After enjoying our walk through shady wooded paths and sunny meadows with native plants and tranquil ponds, we will eat a catered box lunch ($15) in Mt Cuba’s picnic area. RSVP by June 29 via the [Team Up calendar](#) or call Lisa Bailey to reserve space in a van. We should arrive back at the arboretum by 2:30pm.

**Thursday, July 14th | 9:00 am Departure | Meadow Parking**
Volunteer Workshops

Hort Volunteer 1st Wednesday Schedule 2016
Join us the first Wednesday of every month for exciting workshops, talks, and tours.
Meet at 12:30pm at the Widener Terrace, unless otherwise noted.

June 15th       Nina Schneider – Hydrangea Walk & Talk
July 6th        TBA
August 3rd      Louise Clarke – Social Media
September 7th   Paul Meyer

Notes from ‘Understanding and Managing Trees’ Tour
by Carol Benner

On Thursday, May 12th guides were given an informative tour by Joshua Best, The Walter W. Root Endowed Arboriculture Intern, and Andrew Hawkes, Arborist. Care and management of several of the Arboretum’s beloved trees were discussed. Topics included maintenance and repair of trees that have sustained damage from storm and heart rot. We were shown examples of tree pruning techniques, end weight reduction, and cabling. Also explained were sound technology and drilling, which are used to determine age and viability. We visited the Nyssa Slope and talked about the shagbark hickory and black tupelo. We were also shown areas near the Garden Railway where the ground became compacted around the cherry trees. Air spading and radial trenching were used to aerate the soil. The tour provided a wealth of information and an appreciation of the skilled staff who maintain our beautiful Arboretum trees.
Continuing Education

Volunteers who have given over 30 hours during the past year may take classes at a discounted price. Please refer to the Volunteer Price Spreadsheet in the Education Office for a complete list of volunteer class pricing. To sign up for a class please call 215-247-5777 ext. 125.

Digital Garden Photography: Seeing, Composing, and Creating the Image
  Saturday, June 11, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
This interactive workshop helps you capture extended or fleeting moments in your landscape. Topics discussed will include light, composition, and a personalized photography style. Bring a camera that you are familiar with.

Butterfly Walk
  Tuesday, June 21, 10:00 a.m.-noon
  Rain Date: Thursday, June 23
Welcome summer by searching for butterflies in the Arboretum's wildflower meadows and wetland. Learn facts about butterfly behaviors and how to raise them at home.

Pollinator Plants that Thrive in the Delaware Valley
  Saturday, June 25, 10:30 a.m.-noon
Learn about perennials and shrubs that are great pollinator plants for this area. Pollinator plants require little watering, and flower from early spring through November.

- Education Volunteer Workshop Hours -
We offer a variety of classes that are eligible for Education volunteer workshop hours.
Below is an upcoming approved course. To register online, visit https://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes, or call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125.

Morris Moth Night:
Celebrating National Moth Week
  Tuesday, July 26, 8:00 p.m.
**Quiz from the Archives**

**Morris Arboretum Sculpture Quiz**

The trees and gardens that are the Arboretum’s hallmarks are punctuated with water features and sculptures with intriguing names and characteristics. How well do you know the sculptures?

1. It’s a bird, it’s a clock, it’s a windmill – no, it’s ___.
2. She emerges from the clay that fashioned her, evokes Greek architectural columns, and is called ___.
3. See gravity defied – or maybe not. See ___.
4. With a gentle push this sculpture moves in any direction and its two-part name, ___, tells what it resembles.
5. How can it be that from one side there’s a dominant circle and from another a distinct square? That’s the magic of ___.
6. Serpentine stone in both rough and polished states create the headdress and features of ___.
7. It’s been speculated that its name is a typo. Did the sculpture mean to depict beginning growth or a constellation– or both? Ponder ___.
8. Walk into ___ and experience the two faces of these Pennsylvania limestone quarters.
9. Larger than life and looking like something out of Alice in Wonderland, you’d expect to hear a loud “ribbit” when you pass ___.
10. This architectural study of tetrahedrons makes one wonder why it’s called ___.

**Next time: Water Features**
Garden Highlights

**Viburnum plicatum**
Japanese snowball viburnum
Pennock Garden

**Cornus kousa**
Kousa dogwood
near Swan Pond

**Rhododendron fortunei**
Fortunes rhododendron
near Hilcrest

**Acer palmatum ‘Dissectum’**
threadleaf Japanese maple
near Heart Pod sculpture

**Lewisia cotyledon**
Lewisia
Pennock Garden

**Pinus strobus**
eastern white pine
near Mercury Loggia
## Upcoming Events

### June 2016

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<td>1 Twilight &amp; Peonies 6-8pm</td>
<td>2 Guides Council 1:30pm</td>
<td>3 Moonlight &amp; Roses</td>
<td>4 Discovery Series 11am-3pm</td>
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<td>In the Quiet 11am &amp; 1pm</td>
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### Weekly Volunteer Events

- **Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 am - 12 pm
- **Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2 pm - 3 pm
- **Saturdays and Sundays:** Welcome Cart 11 am - 3 pm
- **2nd Saturday of the Month:** Mill Volunteer Workday 9am - 3pm
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**July 2016**

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<td>12 Retention Committee 12-1:30pm</td>
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<td>14 Volunteer Trip to Mt. Cuba 9:00 am</td>
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