Cover Photo: The planters in front of the Widener Visitor Center showcase a gorgeous display of fall foliage and members of Cucurbitaceae.

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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
Jennie Ciborowski, Editor
Contributors: Joan Kober, Elizabeth Gavula, Erin Conley and Michelle Conners

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

Photos: Jennie Ciborowski, unless otherwise stated

Zelkova serrata
Japanese Zelkova

Cornus florida
flowering dogwood
Letter from the Editor

I have always been fascinated by the sky. From star gazing on a clear summer night to watching the first snowfall gently drift from the clouds; looking up provides me with a sense of wonder. As the seasons change autumn brings a new delight as the sunsets turn vivid hues of red, orange, yellow, and pink. The sunset brings a nice distraction to branches turning bare and a chill whipping in the air, but have you ever wondered why they are so spectacular this time of year?

It turns out it all has to do with the weather. As the seasons turn so do the weather patterns and with that a drier, clean air mass from Canada covers the northeastern region of the United States. This dry air mass allows more colors of the spectrum to make it to our eyes because there are less particles in the air scattering the light waves. If you have ever been told that only polluted air creates a miraculous sunset, you have been fooled. Pollution actually subdues a sunset, but clean air allows a vivid range of colors to be seen overhead. As a result in the fall we get to see the beauty of the season reflected up above. I encourage you to turn your attention to the skies and take some time to appreciate the marvelous backdrop that is the autumn sunset.

Sincerely,
Jennie Ciborowski
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern

Photograph Locations: 1) Altoona, PA 2) Delta, PA 3) Southampton, PA
Holy Honey - What Could be Sweeter?

I came across an interesting product while celebrating Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) back in September – I’d like to tell you about it. It is called Holy Honey as it is produced from beehives on the roof of Congregation Rodeph Shalom located in the 600 block of N. Broad Street in Philadelphia (and I only learned about it because my son is a member there).

This year’s harvest is the second one for the raw wildflower honey. Arthur LeBan (son of Inquirer food critic Craig LeBan) thought of the idea as a good one to use for his “mitzvah” project. In addition to fulfilling all other educational requirements, Bar and Bat Mitzvah students are typically expected to complete a social action or “mitzvah” (literally translated as “good deed”) project. This activity fits in very nicely with a major tenet of Judaism called “tikkun olam” or repairing the world.

Professional beekeeper Don Shump of the Philadelphia Bee Company was an adviser for the project and he tended the hives with help from members of the congregation. Congregational Rabbi Eli C. Friedman explained that the honey is infused with floral flavors that come from the wildflowers in the yards and urban farms that the bees visit in North Philadelphia. He continued by saying that the bees have a flying radius of a few miles.

The honey sells for $15 for an 8-ounce jar and my cousin who bought a jar gave it rave reviews. All proceeds from the honey sales go toward supporting the project. Congratulations to young Arthur for repairing his little corner of the world from the airspace above Congregation Rodeph Shalom!

And while researching Holy Honey, I came across a fascinating article about honey production in Israel. It seems that the international disaster of colony collapse disorder (or CCD) has affected Israel’s bees much less than in other countries. In fact, Israel’s honeybee population is holding steady due to their use of many innovative strategies. Check out next month’s article to learn more about these varied strategies.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving,
Joan Kober
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

First Wednesday Workshop

Wednesday, November 8th | 12:30 pm | Widener Terrace

Join us the first Wednesday of every month for exciting workshops, talks, and tours. This month Shelley Dillard (Morris Arboretum Propagator) will lead the tour.

Discover One Bird, Save a Thousand

Friday, November 3rd | 10:30 am | Upper Gallery

In 1997 an odd bird was discovered in the cloud forest of the Andes Mountains of Ecuador. Scientists rushing to learn more about the bird found themselves in a race to save it. Cascading events lead to the establishment of a chain of bird reserves and conservation actions across the globe. Debbi Carr and Doug Wechsler volunteer in these reserves and will recount this fascinating history of conservation in Ecuador. Doug’s beautiful images will focus on the biodiversity of the Ecuador reserves of the Jocotoco Conservation Foundation.

Photo Credit: Doug Wechsler
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Curious About Conifers?

Saturdays, November 11 & 25, December 9 & 23, January 13 & 27 | 2:00 pm | Widener Terrace

The Conifer Tour is returning for another season! Bundle up for a special tour highlighting a selection of impressive conifers at Morris Arboretum. These notable specimens provide multi-seasonal interest with an array of forms, foliage, bark, and of course, cones! Don't miss this opportunity to satisfy your curiosity about conifers and enhance your guiding repertoire.

Holiday Garden Railway Evening

Thursday, November 30th | 4:00 - 7:00 pm | Garden Railway

Bundle up and come enjoy the twinkling lights of the Holiday Garden Railway after dark. Complimentary cookies and hot cocoa will be available. Bring a flashlight!

Volunteer Writers Wanted!

Are you an avid gardener, nature enthusiast, or traveler looking to share your expertise and adventures? We are currently seeking guest writers for future editions of Volunteer. Please email Jennie Ciborowski at jmc5832@upenn.edu if you are interested in contributing!
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Guides Roundtable Discussion

Tuesday, December 5th | 10:00 - 11:30 am | Upper Gallery

Join fellow guides for an informative round table discussion! It promises to be a great networking opportunity for everyone interested in sharing tips and best practices that will surely enhance your guiding strategies and techniques. BYO and stay for lunch; desserts and beverages will be provided!

Please sign up to attend on the Team Up calendar by November 28th, 2017.

Topics to be discussed include:
- How to best address inattentive, distracted or wandering children
- “Tricks of the trade” pointers for smoothly dealing with difficult parts of children tours
- How to encourage the teacher/chaperone to become and remain actively involved in the tour

Horticulture Volunteer Holiday Potluck

Wednesday, December 13th | 12:30 pm
Upper Gallery

Treat your fellow horticulture volunteers to your favorite dish or dessert and enjoy the celebration!
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Education Volunteer Winter Potluck

Thursday, December 14th | Noon - 2:00 pm
Upper Gallery

Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a winter celebration with fellow education volunteers and staff! RSVP to Jennie at jmc5832@upenn.edu or via Team Up. Please write the name of your dish in the RSVP.

Tu B'Shevat - The New Year of Trees

Help children celebrate Tu B'Shevat! It’s the Jewish New Year of Trees. In Israel, Tu B'Shevat is a national holiday and children don’t go to school. Instead, they go with their families or classmates to plant young trees in the countryside and learn about the importance of trees. We are in need of volunteers for a variety of activities throughout the week at the following times. Feel free to volunteer for multiple slots! Sign up via Team Up.

- Sunday, January 28: 10-11:15 am, 11:30 am-12:45 pm
- Monday, January 29: 10-11:15 am
- Tuesday, January 30: 10-11:15 am
- Wednesday, January 31: 10-11:15 am
- Thursday, February 1: 10-11:15 am
- Sunday, February 4: 10-11:15 am, 11:30 am-12:45 pm
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 complete list of volunteer class pricing. To sign up for a class please call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125.

### Moss: How to Best Use it in Your Landscape

**Al Benner, President, Moss Acres**

*Saturday, November 4 | 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.*

Al Benner will share his lifelong knowledge of moss and explain why moss can be such a great choice for your garden. This presentation will focus on the culture and care of moss, where to grow it, what makes it so different from other plants, and will conclude with a moss garden planting demonstration in the Arboretum.

**Volunteer price: $12.50**

### Gardening with Ornamental Grasses

**Lucy Dinsmore, Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum**

*Saturday, November 11 | 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.*

Grasses add texture, movement, color, screening, seasonal interest, environmental benefits, and so much more to the garden. They are also beautiful and under utilized. This class will start with a presentation indoors on how and where to use ornamental grasses, followed by a walking tour of the ornamental grasses planted throughout the Arboretum.

**Volunteer price: $12.50**

### Thanksgiving Harvest Centerpiece

**Cheryl Wilks, Floral Educator, Florist, and Owner of Flowers on Location**

*Sunday, November 19 | 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.*

During the Thanksgiving holiday season, mixing flowers and dried materials along with fruits and vegetables creates stunning arrangements. Learn some tricks when working with these natural materials and create a fabulous centerpiece for your table.

**Volunteer price: $55.00**

### Holiday Wreath Making Workshops

**Cheryl Wilks, Floral Educator, Florist, and Owner of Flowers on Location**

*Friday, December 1 | 11:00 - 1:30 p.m.*

*Saturday, December 2 | 11:00 - 1:30 p.m.*

In this workshop you will work with a wire ring and spool wire to construct a holiday wreath from fresh, loose boughs of greens, ribbons, and decorations. Please bring a pair of pruners and a box to take home the wreath, all other supplies provided.

**Volunteer price: $50.00**
Join us for the Morris Arboretum Lecture Series and explore a wide variety of fascinating topics. A reception will follow each lecture. Reservations and payment ($7.50) are required in advance as space is limited. To register please call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125.

**The Remarkable Nature of Edward Lear**

Wednesday, November 15th | 2:00 pm
Robert McCracken Peck - Senior Fellow, Academy of Natural Sciences

Edward Lear (1812-1888) is best known and much loved for “The Owl and the Pussycat” and other nonsense poetry, but Lear was also a fine painter of birds, mammals, reptiles, and landscapes, and an adventurous traveler. This lecture will discuss the remarkable life and natural history paintings of this beloved children's writer, who abruptly and mysteriously abandoned his scientific work soon after he achieved preeminence in the field.

*This lecture will be held at the Ambler Theater*

**The Living Forest: New Knowledge about the Forest and New Ideas about how to Save It.**

Thursday, December 7th | 2:00 pm
Joan Maloof - Professor Emeritus, Salisbury University

Scientists are hard at work uncovering fascinating new information about how forests function and the lives of the organisms that live within them. During this talk for tree lovers, ecologist and author Joan Maloof will share some of the latest findings from the forest. If you've ever felt the call to help save forests, but didn't know where to begin, Maloof will help inspire and guide you.
From the Archives
by Elizabeth Gavula

Archives Quiz

How well do you remember Morris history from the Arboretum's estate era? See for yourself what facts have faded since your orientation.

1. The Morris Arboretum was formerly the private estate of John T. and Lydia T. Morris. They called it ________.

2. The T in their names stands for _____, their mother’s maiden name.

3. The years from _______ to _______ are considered the estate era.

4. The estate era began with the  
   a. Construction of John and Lydia’s summer home
   b. Purchase of the first parcel of arboretum land
   c. Death of John and Lydia’s father

5. The end of the estate era was marked by the  
   a. Demolition of the Morris home
   b. Purchase of their estate by the University of Pennsylvania
   c. Death of Lydia Morris

6. During the winter months John and Lydia lived  
   a. In the historic Morris family home in Chestnut Hill
   b. On Pine Street in Philadelphia
   c. Near the I.P. Morris & Co. ironworks

7. In addition to John and Lydia, their household consisted of  
   a. Several Morris cousins
   b. Their cook, maid, waitress and driver
   c. A large contingent of staff and servants

8. Until their estate home was winterized in 1924, the Morrises lived there only from March until  
   a. Lydia’s annual Christmas party
   b. The first threat of snow
   c. The seasonal closing of unpaved access roads

9. John Morris commuted from his estate into the city  
   a. To manage the ironworks
   b. For business or charity board meetings
   c. To hire experienced gardeners

10. In addition to flowers, seasonal workers on the estate produced  
    a. Fruits, vegetables, butter, eggs, chicken and meats
    b. Vast amounts of hay to feed cattle on local farms
    c. Lumber for the development of northwestern Philadelphia
Garden Highlights

Aesculus parviflora
bottlebrush buckeye
Log Cabin

Nyssa sylvatica
black tupelo
Nyssa Slope

Callicarpa japonica
Japanese beautyberry
Near the Parking Lot

Rosa ‘Sweet Pea’
Sweet Pea rose
Rose Garden

Acer pseudosieboldianum
Purplebloom Maple
Fernery Plaza

Symphyotrichum oblongifolium ‘Raydon’s Favorite’
Raydon’s Favorite Aster
The Fernery
### Upcoming Events

#### November 2017

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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

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