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: Alex Correia-Sareyka, unless otherwise stated

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*Salvia guaranitica* ‘Black and Blue’

*Heliotropium arborescens* ‘Fragrant Delight’
If you didn’t see me for a while at the end of August, it was because I was enjoying a trip to the beautiful and ecologically-rich nation of Belize. With ecotourism being a huge segment of the economy, the small Central American country has the incentive to invest in conservation efforts, resulting in 26% of its land and sea being protected in nature preserves, and over 20% of its primary forest still standing.

This makes for wonderfully biodiverse communities of flora and fauna. During our time there, notable plants we encountered were Heliconia flowers (a favorite of hummingbirds), cohune palm (used for oil), and the sapodilla tree, the sap of which was used to make the original chewing gum. Belize is also home to hundreds of orchid species, but Encyclia cochleatum, their national flower, was the only one we saw in bloom during that time of year.

Though I expected to be more interested in the native plants, the diversity of birds definitely stole my excitement. We were seemingly constantly birding, and kept a running list of species seen, which included keel-billed toucans, gartered trogons, collared aracari, and a black hawk-eagle. Belize is also a winter home to many of our local birds here.

My own enthusiasm for learning about nature while abroad reminds me how many species of plants and animals there are to appreciate in Pennsylvania as well, especially at the Morris Arboretum.

Alex Correia-Sareyka
The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern

Top to bottom: The black orchid (*Encyclia cochleatum*), a keel-billed toucan perching in a tree, and a hummingbird feeding on *Heliconia* nectar.
Hello Everyone,

Recently a dear friend asked me to gather seeds from my garden for her. She is moving from Annapolis to a new home in Virginia. The new home comes with a large garden area, yet to be developed. Since my friend is a keen gardener, she plans to design and install her own horticultural creation. Since the area is so large, she will be starting the majority of her plantings from seed.

Now I must admit I am a bit of a neat freak in my own garden. I tend to deadhead with great regularity, not paying much attention to possible new plants I am putting in the yard waste bin. Before anyone says, “What about the birds in the winter time?” I do leave seed heads I know the birds will eat. Otherwise, I try to do a thorough fall clean-up. My friend’s request has sent me on my own private scavenger hunt. I have had such fun for the last few weeks scouring my plants looking for ripe seed heads. I am happy to say I managed to find quite a few. Below are my latest gatherings:

- Portulaca – Moss Rose (mixed colors)
- Baptisia australis – False Indigo (Purple)
- Penstemon – ‘Husker Red’ (1995 Perennial of the Year)
- Antirrhinum – Snapdragon (my favorite)
- Canna Lillies (Red)
- Antirrhinum – Snapdragon (Pink)
- Antirrhinum – Snapdragon (Orange/yellow)
- Lilly
- Magnolia grandiflora – ‘Edith Bogue’
- Lychnis coronaria - Campion
- Balsam
- Veronica – Speedwell (Purple)
- Astilbe – Pin
- Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe Pye Weed

There is still time to gather more seeds. I do hope the viability of the ones gathered will have a good percentage for germination. I also hope my friend has as much fun growing new plants, as I have had collecting the seeds. If you would enjoy sharing seeds from your garden, please put them in an envelope, marking the information on the outside. You may leave the seeds with Lisa Bailey in the Education Office. I will pick them up and send them on to my friend in Virginia. Thanks so much.

Happy Gardening,
Jody Sprague
Continuing Education

Volunteers who have volunteered for 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.

The Intersection of Art & Environment
October 5, 2:00 p.m.
For 40 years, Diane Burko has been painting and photographing dramatic landscapes from the ground and from the air. She uses her art to help us understand that our resources are not unlimited, and our planet requires as much nurturing from us as we do from it.

Backyard Birds: How to Successfully Attract Birds to your Home
October 8, 1-3:00 p.m.
Invite nature into your backyard by learning the basics of bird feeders, habitats, and bird preferences. We will also discuss ways to tell the differences between various species.

Last Chance Cafe: The Secret Life of a Goldenrod Field
October 9, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Join us for a walk through the Arboretum’s stunning goldenrod field to learn about the critical importance of this ecosystem for millions of insects and birds as a last chance for pollen and nectar before winter sets in.

- 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, call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125.

Making Sense of Latin Names, October 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Using scientific Latin names to categorize plants is preferred to common names among gardeners and horticulturalists. Learn more about Latin plant names, how proper nomenclature works, and why it changes. The instructor is former Propagation Intern, Josh Darfler, who is now greenhouse manager at Penn’s Kaskey Memorial Park and Bio Pond (see trip below).
Anticipation
by Emma Brown, Martha S. Miller Urban Forestry Intern

I’ve recently noticed the scent of autumn in the air. The aroma of falling leaves as the air becomes crisp is an indication that our region is cycling into the next season. This year’s drought has made the transition faster, and now it is clear that summer is drawing to a close. As I walk outside, glimpses of new hues tickle the corners of my eyes and I am terribly excited.

Throughout the fall semester, the Morris Arboretum Interns and several University of Pennsylvania students take a course named “Understanding Plants.” This hands-on, masters-level course in botany is taught by Cindy Skema, Tim Block, and Tony Aiello. Each of the students is charged with gathering information about a plant on display in the Arboretum and presenting it to our peers. One of these specimens is *Nyssa sylvatica*, commonly known as black tupelo, tupelo, black gum, sour gum, and pepperidge. Many of us shared a common sentiment about this tree—tuleos at this time of year are absolutely spectacular.

At the University of Delaware, where I studied as an undergraduate, there is an astounding specimen. In the summer it is green as can be, with beautiful structure comparable to a manicured bonsai. Soon, however, it will add a new level of beauty, forming pendulous, hazy blue, drupes, hidden behind magnificently colored leaves.

This tree is an explosion of a painter’s palette, dappled with the shades of sunlight they have captured. *Nyssa* leaves separate the pigments they have stored, breaking down bright carotenoids to reveal yellow and orange pigments, and deep anthocyanins displaying purples and reds.

The vibrancy of *Nyssa sylvatica* is not limited to one specialty or season. Throughout the year, *Nyssa sylvatica* is a habitat for birds, squirrels, and other animals. Early spring pollinators visit the flowers—serving as the delicious origin of tupelo honey. In autumn, birds and mammals enjoy the azure fruit. Knowing this, I am especially excited for the continued growth of the *Nyssa* on the slope here at The Morris Arboretum. I know exactly what they have the potential to become.

photos courtesy of Emma Brown
Volunteer Trips

University of Pennsylvania’s James G. Kaskey Memorial Park and Bio-Pond

Thursday, October 20, 9am-1:45pm
Join us for a tour of the James G. Kaskey Memorial Park and Bio-Pond, given by past Morris Arboretum intern Joshua Darfler – who now manages the Kaskey gardens and greenhouse. We will take a walk through the historic core of the park, look at the new gardens just installed around the Levin Building, and look in the greenhouse. Bring your lunch.
Sign up here.
Volunteer Workshops

**Basics of Tree Identification**

Join fellow volunteers for an introductory workshop on the basics of tree identification. Learn how to use leaves as a visual ‘key’ to aid in identifying trees at the Arboretum and at home. The indoor lecture will be followed by an outdoor practice session.

**Wednesday, October 5th | 1:00-2:30 pm**

Meet in Lower Classroom

**Hidden Gems at Morris Arboretum**

Join the Great Plants Committee to preview the new specialty tour, ‘Hidden Gems at the Morris Arboretum’, as it is being developed for launching in Spring, 2017. A combination of structures, sculptures, walkways, trees, and vistas, this tour includes features that are off the beaten path or hidden to most visitors.

**Wednesday, October 19th | 1:00-3:00 pm**

Meet outside Widener
Other Announcements

The Mysterious Ooze

You may have noticed a conspicuous streak of black ooze on the Japanese raisin tree above the Orange Balustrade. No, it’s not just a new trend in Halloween decorating! This sticky liquid is “bacterial slime flux,” a mixture of bacteria, decaying heartwood, and water that built up pressure inside the trunk. A recent woodpecker hole released this pressure, and the ooze flowed out. Many trees develop the interior condition of bacterial wetwood, but slime flux only occurs in some of those cases. Thankfully, the bacteria’s bark is worse than its bite! It rarely affects the health of a tree, and serves only to puzzle and spook Arboretum visitors.

-Anna Giesmann, John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Plant Protection Intern

Vote for Morris Arboretum!

Morris Arboretum has been nominated for induction into the Chestnut Hill Historical Society’s Architectural Hall of Fame, created in 2015 to honor Chestnut Hill’s extraordinary architecture and green spaces. Inductees are determined by public vote on an annual basis. The public voting deadline is October 25th, so cast your vote today! Click here to vote.

photo courtesy of Bob Gutowski

photo courtesy of Paul Meyer
Sunshine & Roses

Thank you to everyone who came out for our annual volunteer appreciation event. It was a great evening to celebrate the dedicated work of our volunteers.
In the journals so fastidiously kept by the Morrises’ travel companion Louise Kellner, we read about experiences that might have influenced how John envisioned Compton.

June 13, 1895 – Budapest
…we went down the mountain in the railway again, took a carriage and drove to one of the many steamboat landings on either shore of the Danube, took a steamer and visited the lovely Margit-Island, a perfect jewel of magnificent trees, lawns and flowers – one of the finest parks that can be found. This lovely island lies in the middle of the Danube above the Margit bridge…and in about the centre of the island…a highly cultivated garden of roses.

We read accounts that can only make us chuckle…
May 21, 1895 - Athens
…and after a three quarters of an hour drive we reached the Hotel D’Angleterre, a “civilized” abode with electric lights & bells, and even a bathroom – so Miss Morris had a treat right away.

June 3, 1895 - Constantinople
At the dinner table Miss Morris was convulsed with laughter over a gentleman, at the table next to ours, who “pretended” that he had been in Jerusalem, and tried to give his two companions a minute description of the Old Damascus and the Jaffa-Gate, after the most ridiculous fashion.

June 13, 1895 – Budapest
We walked all over the island – one [sic] one side of it that means – and at the upper end of it went through the beautiful “Sulphur-bath” which also has “electrical baths”, into which Mr. & Miss Morris put their hands, and got all the sensation they wanted from it.

And we read a diary entry that sends the Archives on a mission to determine whether a photo in our possession (pictured right) might indeed be the one mentioned here...
June 17, 1895 - Vienna
Right after breakfast to-day I went to market and bought cherries and strawberries, and at half past ten we started out to Mr. J. Lorry’s attelier [sic], where Miss Morris had her photograph taken, and after the photographer had finished he persuaded Mr. Morris to a sitting too. We had a good deal of fun about it, and I do hope the pictures will be good – they ought to be, for the photographer took lots of trouble about the dresses, the position, and all sorts of trifles, which he thought would bring about a good result.
**Garden Highlights**

- **Rosa ‘White Cockade’**
  - White Cockade rose
  - Rose Garden

- **Clematis serratifolia**
  - hermitgold clematis
  - Pennock Garden

- **Taxodium distichum**
  - Baldcypress
  - near Swan Pond

- **Koelreuteria bipinnata**
  - bougainvillea golden-rain-tree
  - parking lot

- **Cedrus atlantica ‘Glauc’**
  - Blue Atlas Cedar
  - near Pennock Garden

- **Dahlia ‘Claudette’**
  - Pennock Garden
## Upcoming Events

### October

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Fall Festival | 3 | 4 | 5  
Basics of Tree ID 1-2:30pm | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9  
Great Plants Committee Meeting 10:30-11:30am | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16  
Grist Mill Demonstration Day | 17 | 18 | 19  
Hidden Gems Workshop 1-3pm | 20  
Trip to Kaskey Memorial Park & Bio-Pond 10am-1:30pm | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25  
Guide Training Committee Meeting 1-2pm | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

### 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

## November

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**Weekly Volunteer Events**

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