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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Photos: Alex Correia, unless otherwise stated

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Cover photo: The wetlands and meadows near the entrance of the Arboretum are a great place to observe wildlife and stunning wildflower displays, including the purple ironweed, Vernonia noveboracensis, pictured above.

Verbesina alternifolia, wingstem
I am learning that one of the many great things about working at an arboretum is having your place of work be a place that people want to visit, and a place that you are eager to show to others. I am fortunate to have had several wonderful mentors in college, and was excited to welcome some of them here this summer from across the globe. Since I studied abroad in Thailand in 2013, I have kept in regular contact with my “Ajahns,” a respectful title in Thai for any kind of teacher. Last month, a few of my Ajahns and friends from Chiang Mai stopped by Morris Arboretum during their time in the U.S. to catch up, enjoy the gardens, and see what some of their alumni had done since graduation. It had been over three years since I had seen Ajahn Chuleeparn (pictured using binoculars to observe a kingfisher), who was our professor for Thai Culture & History, and took us on trips throughout northern Thailand and into Myanmar. Visiting Philadelphia doesn’t seem as exciting to me, but they seemed to have a good time.

Alex Correia  
*The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*
Hello Everyone,

I have often wondered why the Philadelphia area is so well regarded in Horticultural circles, then a friend gave me a book she had found. The title is *Pioneer American Gardening* by Elvenia Slosson, copyrighted 1951. Original price $3.75 – those were the days!

There is a chapter titled ‘Early Botanists’. The book states it is easy to distinguish between horticulture and botany today, but when Pennsylvania was founded, horticulture was an unknown word. Botany was a general term, meaning the study and growing of plants, therefore it is to the early “botanists” that we owe the beginnings of our present state of horticulture. Fortunately for us today, our area was greatly influenced by three factors: the physical characteristics of the land, the date of the founding of the colony, and the personality and taste of William Penn.

The region around Philadelphia when the colonists arrived was exceedingly fertile, rich in water, and with a favorable growing climate. When the colony was founded in 1682, gardening was of major interest in England. In the 17th century, pleasure gardens came into fashion.

William Penn was interested in trees, plants, gardening, and agriculture in general. Many of the colonists came from country districts. Penn instructed three commissioners who were to lay out Philadelphia as follows: “Let every house be placed, if the person pleases, in ye middle of its platt as to the breadth way of it, that so there may be ground on each side for Gardens, or Orchard or Fields, yt it may be a greene Country Towne, which will never be burnt and will allwayes be wholesome.” Thus the standard had been set.

Penn brought seeds from England and sent others back from this area. He always was ready to encourage his neighbors to do likewise. James Logan (1674-1751), who came in 1699 as Penn’s secretary, was an influential man in the affairs of the colony, but at his house, Stenton, he was an interested gardener. He was always ready to help others interested in plants. One of those he helped was John Bartram (1699-1776). Although Bartram was an uneducated farmer, he had a great interest in plants. He was introduced to Logan who said of Bartram, “He had a genius perfectly well termed for botany.” Thus began Bartram’s career. In 1765, he was appointed “botanist to the King.” Joining his father on collecting trips was son William Bartram (1739-1833), a noted collector as well. William Bartram collected the famous *Franklinia* tree in 1778, bringing it into cultivation and saving it from extinction in the wild.
Notes from the Guides Chair

Humphrey Marshall was a cousin of the Bartrams, with a keen interest in plants. He built one of the earliest greenhouses, in 1785 also publishing the first book on American plants.

A piece of land to the south of Philadelphia was granted by William Penn to George Pierce in 1702. By about 1800 his descendants began planting trees, many of which are still standing. This property eventually became Longwood Gardens. Two remarkable brothers, Minshall (1801-1873) and Jacob Painter (1814-1876) had a property of some 500 acres near Media. They developed an arboretum that became the John T. Tyler Arboretum.

About 1875, new horticultural influences appeared. Nurseries and seed houses flourished, landscape gardening became popular and flowers were increasingly used. At this time the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 took place thus spreading the desire for more landscape gardening. By 1947, an article in Chronica Botanica published a list of the arboreta or botanic gardens on the continent of North America. There were ninety in all, and of these fourteen are in Pennsylvania! What Penn started continues to even today. I feel so fortunate to be able to take advantage of our wonderful, horticultural heritage and the beautiful gardens in our area.

Happy Gardening,

Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides
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.

Walking Mindful Meditation  
*September 22, 29, October 6, 13, 10:30-11:30am*
Amidst the beautiful setting of the Arboretum, this class will guide us to use mindfulness mediation practices to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of nature and be fully present with ourselves as we stroll through the Arboretum.

Delhaas Woods: A Botanical Gem (trip)  
*September 24, 9:00am*
Delhaas Woods is a surprising botanical gem, located in southern Bucks County. This site is probably Pennsylvania’s most intact area of coastal plain.

Illustrated Nature Journaling  
*September 28, 1:00pm*
Working within the beautiful setting of Morris Arboretum, discover the rewarding art of illustrated journaling.

- *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.

Native Ferns in the Landscape and Garden  
*September 30, 10:00am*
Join us for a walk through the Arboretum and learn to recognize some of the common native ferns. You will learn about the unique biology and ecology of ferns and their allies.
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 & The Environment
October 5, 2:00pm
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.

The Invention of Nature:
Alexander von Humboldt’s New World
November 9, 2:00pm
Andrea Wulf vividly brings the story of the visionary naturalist and explorer Alexander von Humboldt back to life, taking us on a fantastic voyage in his footsteps—and of his ideas—as they go on to revolutionize science, conservation and preservation, nature writing, politics, art, and the theory of evolution.

Will We Find Trees on Other Planets?
December 7, 2:00pm
Compelling, stimulating, sometimes humorous, but always accessible, Derrick Pitts tackles what we really know about the universe, what we think we know, and what questions astronomers most want to answer.
Volunteer Opportunities

**Fall Festival: Saturday & Sunday, October 1st & 2nd**

Many hands are needed to help this popular family event run smoothly! Please consider helping out at our annual Fall Festival.

**To volunteer during the event:**
please contact Michelle Conners, mconners@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 x109

Available shifts for pumpkin painting or scarecrow supply table:
- **Saturday, October 1st:** 10am-12:30pm or 12:30pm-3pm
- **Sunday, October 2nd:** 10am-12:30pm or 12:30pm-3pm

**Donations for Scarecrows**

If you’re doing some cleaning out this fall, please put aside the following items for the scarecrow building activity at Fall Festival:
- Jeans and other casual pants
- Long sleeve button down shirts
- Bits and pieces of old costumes
- Accessories – belts, hats, ties and scarves
- Craft supplies – yarn, pipe cleaners, fabric

(Please leave your donations in the blue trash bins on the Widener porch).

**Design a Scarecrow!**

This year, participants may create a scarecrow for the theme: Sense of Adventure. All entries will be on display on the Scarecrow Walk at Morris Arboretum from Saturday, October 1 through Sunday, October 23rd. Frame, straw, burlap and twine are provided, the rest is up to you! Space is limited to 30 Scarecrows. This popular contest fills quickly, get your entry in early!

Click [here](#) for more information.
Volunteer Opportunities

Sunshine & Roses
Annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening

Wednesday, September 14th
5-7:00 p.m.

Tour of Charlotte’s Garden

Friday, September 16th
11am-1:30pm
Join us for a tour, brown bag lunch, and swim at Charlotte Betancourt’s serene Chestnut Hill garden. Since parking will be very limited near Charlotte's home, we will depart from the Arboretum and travel by van and carpool over to Charlotte's. Sign up here.

Fall Guiding Sign-Ups

Lisa Bailey has e-mailed guides to sign up for Fall guiding. Please select your primary and alternate guiding days for the upcoming season, and please hold this day two weeks out before setting other appointments (vacations and illness excluded, of course).
Lisa can be reached at BaileyL@upenn.edu.

Trip to Univ. of Penn’s James G. Kaskey Memorial Park and Bio-Pond

Thursday, October 20th
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. We will have a brown bag lunch.
The Training Committee will host two refresher workshops this September. For the first portion of each session, guides will rotate through separate stations for demonstrations of various tour activities. For the second portion, guides will participate in one of two curriculum tours scheduled for that session.

**Tuesday, September 27th: 1:00-4:00pm**
Meet in front of Widener Visitor Center

1:00 pm: **Tour Activities** (5 stations)
- Cube Toss and Thermometer activity
- Web of Life
- Water testing
- Migration game
- Clear Cutting activity

2:30 pm: **Curriculum tours** (choose one)
- Sustainable Practices tour
- Interdependence tour

**Thursday, September 29th: 1:00-4:00pm**
Meet at Kiosk

1:00 pm: **Tour Activities** (5 stations)
- Cube Toss and Thermometer activity
- Web of Life
- Water testing
- Migration game
- Clear Cutting activity

2:30 pm: **Curriculum tours** (choose one)
- Wetlands tour
- Mill tour for children

If you don't know which tours these activities are from, please come to the training! Don’t miss out on these opportunities to sharpen your skills and enhance your guiding repertoire.
Volunteer Workshops

Basics of Tree Identification

Join fellow guides 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
From the Archives

In Louise Kellner’s meticulous diary of the Morrices’ 1895 trip to Egypt and the Nile, sometimes there are sentences that beg for the details, but none follow:

**Constantinople, June 1st – Saturday** “Today we have spent in Mosques, Palaces, and in a Harem – Miss Morris and I in a Harem with gentlemen!”

Often enough, the requirements of 19th century travel give us a less-than-dignified picture of what John and Lydia had to do to get from one place to another:

**March 28th [1895] – Thursday** “…we begin to think that by the time we get through this tour, we shall have become such expert travellers that we shall be able to perform some astonishing feats of any kind of gymnastics. We reached Jaffa [near today’s Tel-Aviv] – that means as far as the steamer could take us – at 2 P.M. – and all morning had been kept in doubt about our being able to land, because there was a pretty strong sea on, and rough and heavy from the severe storms of a few days before. After a little time however, one of Cook’s boats began to come towards us from Jaffa, and as it came near our steamer there was the usual excitement and confusion, which always accompany arrivals by land or by water in the East, and looking ahead at the big waves which we would be obliged to ride over in a comparatively small boat, I venture to say that many of our fellow travelers wished they had not come. All the big trunks, and every bit of hand luggage was put into the small boat first, I looked on, but had to give it up on account of my own trembling heart, caused by the fear that every bit of our immediate possessions would surely go into the tossing waves upon which the boat danced around like an egg-shell. …How we ourselves shall ever get into that dancing boat was indeed a mistery [sic], which however was soon solved. We were simply told to get in, Miss Morris being the first one, going down a few steps of the steamer’s ladder, which was not let down at all; then she was let down by a couple of sailors, suspended in the air over the rolling boat at the bottom, into which she was kindly pitched, and gleefully received by some more sailors. We all followed suit, and there were only two or three of the women, who screamed with fear while they were hanging in the air between the steamer and the boat [but not Miss Morris] …Mr. Morris, when he was handed down, looked about a mile long!”
Garden Highlights

- **Hibiscus moscheutos**
  - common rosemallow
  - wetland

- **Rosa roxburghii**
  - chestnut rose
  - near Fernery

- **Rosa ‘Ballerina’**
  - hybrid musk rose
  - Rose Garden

- **Rhododendron prunifolium**
  - plumleaf azalea
  - near Key Fountain

- **Dendrochilum glumaceum**
  - hay-scented orchid
  - Fernery Plaza
## Upcoming Events
### September 2016

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<td>16 Tour of Charlotte’s Garden 11:00-1:30pm</td>
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### 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

October

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