SEASONS

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

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In this Issue

2 A Message from the Executive Director
3 The Wallace-Kane Wetlands
4 Master Planning Update
6 Inspiring Impact: Focusing On Our Future FY22- FY23
8 Moonlight & Roses
9 A Buttercup By Any Other Name...
10 Plant Propagation at the Arboretum
11 Weed Management in the Azalea Meadow Border
   Plant Labeling at the Arboretum: We Heard You!
12 A Renewed Focus on Audience
   Arts and Culture Take Center Stage at Penn
13 New In Education
14 Spring Classes
16 Investing In Education
   A Summer of Swings
17 Save the Date: Member Plant Giveaway
   Urban Forestry Consultants
18 Moms, Dads, & Grads: Membership
19 Tribute & Memorial Gifts
A Note from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WILLIAM CULLINA, F. Otto Haas Executive Director

As I write this note for our Spring/Summer issue of Seasons, we are still firmly in the grip of Old Man Winter. However, I noticed the other day that the first winter aconites and early snowdrops are emerging through the frost-crusted ground, so my spring fever has officially taken hold!

In addition to my usual list of anticipations – tulips, magnolias, spring peepers and the like – this spring I am also looking forward to many new faces at the Arboretum. I am thrilled to have our new Director of Marketing Teri Scott, Director of Finance Chris Gehman, Propagator Kyra Matin, Rentals Manager Sarah-Ruth Peterson, Digital Media Coordinator Cynthia Schemmer, and several others on board.

Our new and expanded class of 14 interns have just arrived, along with a new intern and volunteer coordinator. Add to that new horticulturists, visitor experience staff, facilities staff, etc. and I think we can call it the “Great Recruitment.” If you know of anyone interested in a position at the Arboretum, please refer them to our website for a list of current openings. Another new arrival we are anxiously awaiting is our mobile plant sciences laboratory. It will provide desperately needed lab space for our plant science team to explore the genetic questions about rare species using the same sorts of PCR DNA sequencing technology used by COVID testing labs. Before we can conserve, we need to understand.

If you were kind enough to participate in one of the audience surveys we have sent out recently, thank you! Your opinions are very important to us, and we will be implementing some immediate and many longer-term changes in response. One thing we heard loud and clear is that you want more labels on our trees and flowers. We are receiving a new laser engraver (p.11) thanks to a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust that will allow us to produce all the signs and labels we need. Larger improvements such as easier ticketing and parking, better food service, accessibility, lighting, and garden experiences will be coming as part of our new master plan, now in development (p.4-5). One finding in these surveys is probably not a surprise: the most common way that new visitors hear about the Arboretum is by word of mouth. So, for every time you have recommended us to a friend or shared a photo from the Arboretum on social media, thank you! Our membership is growing thanks to you.

As I write this note for our Spring/Summer issue of Seasons, we are still firmly in the grip of Old Man Winter. However, I noticed the other day that the first winter aconites and early snowdrops are emerging through the frost-crusted ground, so my spring fever has officially taken hold!
This function, along with trees and wetland vegetation, help to slow down the flood waters and distribute them more slowly to reduce erosion.

While they comprise only 7% of the earth's surface, wetlands sustain more life than almost any other ecosystem. More than one-third of our country's threatened and endangered animal species live only in wetlands, and nearly half use wetlands at some point in their lives. Many other animals and plants depend on wetlands for survival.

With those kinds of statistics one can understand why, in 2001, the Arboretum worked with federal and state agencies and organizations to reestablish the wetlands area within the floodplain. This project to restore “natural lands” enabled the Arboretum to establish the wetlands area, following the natural contour of the floodplain to fit seamlessly into the landscape. Native plants were selected based on the unique geological combination of a limestone floodplain and the Wissahickon's rock gorge. Many plants were wild collected and others locally sourced. By spring of 2002, the natural area’s wetlands was established with large masses of native plants and a walking path for our members’ aesthetic appreciation.

One of the most vital parts of the wetland construction was the installation of the water outflow structure. Since the Arboretum wetlands are spring fed, there is a constant flow of water into the system requiring an outflow structure. This structure allows us to manage the water levels seasonally for the breeding bird population as well as an extensive number of migratory waterfowl.

When the water level is reduced, the wetlands structure provides mudflats, gradual edges, and more exposed plants and logs. This allows for resting, feeding, breeding, and nesting safely on the ground. In addition to the birds, turtles enjoy the shallow muddy water and sunning themselves on the exposed logs.

In the later part of spring and into summer, the wetlands comes alive with birds, reptiles, insects, and spiders. The area is visited by large predatory birds such as bald eagles, hawks, and great blue herons to smaller king fishers, blue birds, and oriel. Smaller flying insects including dragonflies, honey bees, and a wide variety of butterflies can always be seen fluttering about helping to keep a balanced ecosystem. Our wetlands also provides an area for larger mammals such as muskrats, raccoons, fox, weasels, and even coyotes to find refuse and food sources.

The work to restore natural lands started with the intention to reduce flooding and help retain water for ground water recharge but has evolved, as we had hoped, into a thriving system that is enjoyed by wildlife and becoming a favorite location for members who appreciate the work being done to restore natural environments.

The Arboretum’s Wallace-Kane Wetlands is a functional, dynamic ecosystem that provides crucial habitat for so many types of flora and fauna. Plan a visit this season to enjoy the beauty and solitude that this area provides while observing nature's most life-sustaining ecosystem.
Master Planning Update

WILLIAM CULLINA, F. Otto Haas Executive Director

This past October, the Arboretum embarked on a very exciting new project to chart the course of the institution into mid-century and beyond. We have teamed up with Cambridge-based landscape architects Reed Hilderbrand and Philadelphia architects Kieran-Timberlake to craft a 20-year site master plan for the Arboretum.

Our original master plan was created in 1978 to bring the Arboretum from a private estate with no public facilities to a full-fledged public garden with parking, a proper entrance road, a horticulture center and garages, the beginnings of an accessible trail system, along with a historic preservation plan to conserve our buildings, fountains, gardens, and of course, our trees. The plan was completed in the 1980s, and without question it was the catalyst for the extraordinary growth of the Arboretum – now among the largest 3% of botanical gardens and arborea in the United States.

Our new plan will build on the success of the first plan while responding to the changing needs of the Arboretum's members, visitors, and benefactors.

Key goals for the plan include the following:

- Develop a plan to integrate historic elements from the private estate era with new joyful, engaging visitor experiences
- Site a new research/lab, herbarium, and archives building with associated greenhouses and nursery
- Design and adapt education facilities for current and future needs
- Site an event pavilion with associated catering facilities as well as a café for garden guests
- Connect the wilder areas of the Arboretum with a trail network
- Plan for 100% renewable power, expanded composting, and climate resilience

This spring and summer, we will be working on refining and developing designs and look forward to sharing those with you in the fall. I am thrilled that we have embarked on this journey, and I am confident our 2022-2042 Master Plan will have the same transformative impact on the Arboretum as the 1978 plan.

The design team held two days of kick-off meetings with University of Pennsylvania and Morris Arboretum staff, members of our Advisory Board of Managers and Master Plan Working Group to tour the site, discuss vision, challenges, and opportunities. Here the Board of Managers is participating virtually and in person during an evening workshop led by Eric Kramer of Reed Hilderbrand
Using topographic data, as well as a “heat map” diagramming in yellow and pink the average time spent by visitors in various parts of the property, the team is exploring ways to expand circulation to less busy parts of the Arboretum.

Using historic plans from the Morris estate era in our archives, the designers are comparing our current distribution and density of trees with the original John Morris designs. What is clear from the comparison is that tree density around the former mansion site, the Rose Garden, as well as the property boundaries has increased significantly since 1915.

Addressing issues around ticketing, parking, and circulation is a key part of the plan. Here, the experience has been abstracted to simplify the conversation around possible alternatives. Note that currently about half of the property is typically experienced only by car as guests arrive.
Inspiring Impact
Focusing on Our Future

MIRA ZERGANI, Director of Development

As the Arboretum works toward the completion of its newest Master Plan, we are focusing on several pressing capital and endowment needs in the short term (Fiscal year 2022-23). Your gifts to the Arboretum can help us address these priorities over the next 16-24 months while enabling us to focus on the other discrete capital, programmatic, and endowment projects beyond this view.

EDUCATION
Over the past several years, the Arboretum has grown its education and outreach programs to better reach an eager audience of learners. This includes new programming meant for both children and adults. Increasingly, the Arboretum has centered a great deal of effort on growing its outreach efforts to underserved school children and other at-need audiences. In order for education programs to fully flourish, securing endowments for key positions in the Education department – including the Director of Education - are among the highest institutional priorities.

MOBILE PLANT SCIENCES LABORATORY
A priority in the Master Plan is to design and build a permanent plant sciences research laboratory. While this effort will take several years to realize, the Arboretum must maintain a forward focus on its plant research agenda. In the interim, the Arboretum plans to secure a fully outfitted, modern laboratory space through the multi-year lease of a mobile botanical lab. The mobile lab will be located on Bloomfield Farm and will remain onsite for a minimum of five years as it is anticipated that the master planning process, fundraising, and construction will require an extended timeline.

MARKETING / REBRANDING
It has been more than two decades since the Arboretum comprehensively considered its branding and marketing efforts. Recent visitor surveys and studies have revealed what attracts our visitors and potential visitors, and these findings will help to inform a branding and marketing strategy targeted at a broad and diverse audience. This effort will require the expertise of a professional branding and marketing firm who will work in tandem with the Arboretum to ensure that any branding/marketing effort resonates across our diverse stakeholders.

RESILIENCE FUND
Following the economic fallout from COVID-19, arts and culture organizations recognized that market forces can change quickly, and resilience is the watchword for survival. In anticipation of future uncertainty, the Arboretum established a new Resilience Fund, which will provide flexible resources that can be drawn upon in the event of a sudden and sustained downturn that threatens the Arboretum’s operations. These resources would be available to cover vital costs for public programs, garden maintenance, and staff compensation, among other essential items. The Fund would only be tapped if external forces were expected to cause a loss of 10 percent or more of the Arboretum’s operating revenue in a given year.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & ACCESS EFFORTS (DEIA)
In summer 2021, the Arboretum contracted with expert DEIA consultant The ROZ Group for the first part of a two-phase effort to build an infrastructure to support meaningful and lasting DEIA measures in place at the Arboretum (p.11-12). Private funds were raised for the first phase. The Arboretum will move into the second phase of the study in 2022.
ORNAMENTAL PLANT ENDOWMENT
In 2021, with the support of several donors, the Arboretum established an Ornamental Plant Endowment to provide annual funding for the purchase of herbaceous and woody plants for use across the Arboretum’s 92 public acres. The Arboretum intends to continue to grow this endowment to ensure plant diversity, color, and vitality across the garden during all seasons.

As we move through the year, every season reminds us of our priorities and needs as an organization and of our commitment to derive the most value from our donor gifts so that we continue to have wide impact on the communities we serve. We appreciate the institutional and grant-based support we receive, and we are equally grateful for the generosity of individual donors who make our work possible.

ROSE GARDEN PERMEABLE BLUESTONE PAVERS PROJECT
Located at the heart of the Arboretum, the Rose Garden has been a beloved respite for our visitors for close to a century. However, true access to this magnificent garden has been limited because the exhibit walkways are turf, which is uneven and unsuitable for visitors who use canes, crutches, or wheelchairs. To address accessibility limitations in the Rose Garden, the Arboretum will be installing permeable bluestone pavers along the main two axes of the Rose Garden to allow full access to and enjoyment of this treasured garden exhibit by visitors of all ages and abilities. The Arboretum has raised more than 90% of the funds needed for this project and expects to break ground in fall 2022.
Be sure to save the date for our Moonlight & Roses gala, which will be held on Friday, June 3, 2022. This annual fundraising event begins with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the Rose Garden during peak bloom followed by various dinner stations and dancing under the stars in our signature clear-top tent.

It is a not-to-be-missed party that also generates crucial support for the preservation of the Arboretum’s internationally recognized gardens and its research and education programs.

This year we are privileged to honor the memory of Sally Gendler (1960-2020). A neighbor of the Arboretum, Sally took full advantage of her proximity and served as an active education guide, horticulture volunteer, and archive volunteer. She was a member of the Arboretum’s Directors’ Guild and the Moonlight & Roses planning committee, serving as the chair in 2019. She was also an active Penn State Extension Master Gardener and volunteered at the Mt. Airy Playground, where she created an innovative garden-to-table program through which she taught planting, sowing, and cooking to children and parents in the local community.

We are also pleased to pay tribute this year to institutional honoree Urban Health Lab (UHL). The UHL is a research-action group at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania dedicated to partnering with communities to design and test individual and community level interventions to build healthy and safe neighborhoods. The UHL has a unique focus on place-based interventions, including vacant lot greening, tree planting, micro-parks, abandoned house remediation, structural repairs to occupied homes, trash clean-up, and more.

The UHL partners with community leaders, non-profit organizations, and policymakers to advance the science of urban health, particularly in Black and Brown communities.

Chairing the 2022 Moonlight & Roses Planning Committee is Melissa Greiner. Melissa has been a member of the Moonlight & Roses planning committee since 2017. She is the Director of Marketing at CampusESP and lives in Ambler with her husband and two children.

Advance ticket purchase is required, and space is limited. Invitations will be mailed in April to all Holly-level members and above, as well as to previous Moonlight & Roses attendees.

VIP registration is now open online at www.MorrisArboretumGala.org. Opportunities are also available to become a corporate sponsor or to place an ad in the event program book. For more information or to request an invitation, please contact Kristen Casalenuovo at (215) 247-5777, ext. 418 or kcasal@upenn.edu.

KRISTEN CASALENUOVO,
Manager, Moonlight & Roses
A Buttercup by Any Other Name...
A Tale of Two Early-flowering Plants and How They Sometimes are Confused

TIM BLOCK, John J. Willaman Director of Plant Science

Each year, early spring in Southeastern Pennsylvania sees the reemergence of a number of our favorite wild flowering plants. Many people — even those who don’t count themselves as plant enthusiasts — are familiar with common spring ephemerals such as spring beauties (*Claytonia virginica*), trout-lilies (*Erythronium americanum*), and bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*).

Another group of common, and familiar, early spring-flowering plants are members of the buttercup family (*Ranunculaceae*). Among these is our strikingly beautiful, native marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*).

Unfortunately, one of our most widespread spring ephemerals, and a plant often mistakenly called “marsh marigold,” is a species native to Europe that has made itself quite at home in our area. Lesser celandine, or fig buttercup (*Ficaria verna*, formerly known as *Ranunculus ficaria*) arrived in North America sometime in the late 18th or early 19th centuries, probably as an ornamental addition to the home medicinal gardens of the time. By the 1830s, lesser celandine had escaped cultivation. Some of the earliest herbarium collections of this species were made near Indian Rock, along the Wissahickon Creek by Philadelphia botanist Isaac Burk in the 1860s.

There are several easy ways to distinguish our native marsh marigold from the non-native, invasive lesser celandine as summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>marsh marigold</th>
<th>lesser celandine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant habit</td>
<td>usually upright, 8 inches or more tall</td>
<td>usually reclining, not more than 6 inches tall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf blades</td>
<td>2 inches or more wide</td>
<td>1½ inches or less wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower petals (actually sepals!)</td>
<td>more than ½ inch long; rather dull</td>
<td>less than ½ inch long; very glossy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubers and bulblets</td>
<td>absent</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth habit</td>
<td>clumped</td>
<td>spreading across the ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>very wet; often in flowing water</td>
<td>wet to dry; never in flowing water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lesser celandine is an amazingly efficient competitor! Studies have shown that, while relatively small in stature, lesser celandine can outcompete most of our native spring wildflowers by thoroughly absorbing nutrients from the soil. Once well established, a population of lesser celandine can quickly replace spring beauties, violets, and even Virginia bluebells in the floodplain forests of our region. And, while lesser celandine is rarely observed to produce viable seed, the abundance of below-ground tubers and above-ground bulblets produced by this species allow for very rapid dispersal and establishment of new populations. Both tubers and bulblets are often carried along in flowing water, or unintentionally moved from place to place with soil. When they land in a new spot, they immediately begin growing.

The next time you hear someone extoll the beauty of those vast expanses of shining yellow flowers that appear along our streambanks in late February or early March, you’ll want to explain that, while certainly attractive, the display signals an ecosystem out of whack!
The last few months have been an exciting time of transition and new beginnings at the Greenhouse and Dorrance Hamilton Fernery!

I moved to Philadelphia from Seattle, WA to take on the role of Propagator in October of 2021. While I grew up on the East Coast, I had been living and gardening in the Pacific Northwest for the last 10 years. In addition to working at specialty nurseries and botanic gardens, I earned a Master of Environmental Horticulture at the University of Washington and studied at the Dunedin Botanic Garden in New Zealand. I also serve on the board of the Hardy Fern Foundation and manage their social media. I am so excited to now be part of the stellar team here at the Morris Arboretum.

I joined the Morris Arboretum following the retirement of propagator-extraordinaire Shelley Dillard, who served in her role for more than 30 years. I hope to carry on her legacy of mentoring young propagators with the continuation of the year-long Martha J. Wallace Fellowship in Plant Propagation. We welcomed our 2022 fellow, Isabel Mooney, in early March, and she has already proved to be a huge asset in achieving our propagation goals.

We have many exciting propagation projects in the works, but one I am thrilled to share is a collaborative effort with Dr. Cindy Skema, resident botanist at the Arboretum. Cindy studies a rare and endangered Pennsylvania native plant called *Ripariosida hermaphrodita*, colloquially known as Virginia mallow. It typically grows near water in regularly flooded or disturbed streambanks and has faced huge population decline in recent years. We are currently performing various treatments to Virginia mallow seed to discover how to most successfully grow this plant. Propagating from seed is critical for restoring degraded wild populations as genetic diversity is needed to sustain reproduction.

Lastly, the Member Plant Giveaway is just around the corner! (p. 17) As a public garden we are uniquely positioned to distribute new, interesting, and climate-adapted plants to our members. Last year we gave away over 1,400 plants, and we are prepared to do at least as many this year! We are already propagating and growing for 2023, and plan to offer some true must-have plants, so stay tuned!
In the fight against weeds, chemicals are often seen as important tools in the gardener’s arsenal, but reaching for chemicals shouldn’t be the first option. Sometimes an integrated plan that involves a whole series of control measures is the best way to proceed—something we know all too well here at the Arboretum.

Recently, several beds in the Azalea Meadow section of the garden had become rife with pernicious weeds, and mechanical removal of weeds (mainly pulling them by hand) had become an ineffective way of managing this area. To combat the problem, the Arboretum subscribes to an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) philosophy to combat pests and weeds on the grounds and greenhouses. The first tenet of this philosophy is to monitor pest populations to determine the best time to apply control strategies and then which option will be the least toxic.

By following the IPM philosophy, we have found that one way weeds in beds can be managed is by simply applying a generous 2–3-inch mulch covering. Many annual weeds require sunlight to germinate, and a thick layer of mulch will inhibit weed seed germination; it’s much easier to keep weeds at bay if they never sprout! Hoeing and hand pulling of small weeds are also very effective ways to control young weeds. Because of their small root systems and lack of stored carbohydrates, young weeds are very susceptible to soil disturbances and can often be controlled in this way.

As many experienced gardeners know, however, well-established and pernicious weeds like Canada thistle, pinellia, and lesser celandine require a much more concentrated approach to control, which brings us back to the beds in the Azalea Meadow. Over time these beds became thick with both desirable perennials…and obnoxious weeds. Pulling these weeds was no longer an effective way to control them, nor was mulching.

In calculating the best IPM approach to managing this area, we decided to remove the beds temporarily and turn the entire area to turf. Regular mowing of some weeds is also a very effective control strategy as Canada thistle and pinellia are two weeds that do not abide mowing. We have successfully employed this “turf-it-to-control-it” strategy elsewhere in the garden as well. It won’t happen overnight, but with a season or two of mowing, we can effectively eliminate weeds without chemicals – and isn’t that the best way to do it?

This year, the Arboretum will embark on an extensive plant labeling project throughout the gardens. While most of our accessions plants have our traditional aluminum embossed tag, we realize that these are sometimes hard to find and may be difficult to read.

In addition to new accession tags, the Arboretum will be adding more staked and fixed signage that will range in size depending on placement and will contain information such as plant name, ethno-botanical information, rarity status, pertinent care instructions, and planting date when significant. Larger signage will expand on details of plant groupings and give more information or interesting facts.

The plan is for the Arboretum staff to begin labeling plants this spring, and the project will continue over the next several years. As always, please don’t hesitate to say hello or ask a question if you see us in the gardens!
A Renewed Focus on AUDIENCE
TERI SCOTT, Director of Marketing

Like many cultural organizations, the Morris Arboretum recognizes the benefits of engaging a wider and more diverse audience.

To that end, the Arboretum has undertaken two initiatives to better understand the visitor experience, what interests them, and what keeps them coming back. By conducting this robust audience research, the Arboretum is working toward becoming an even more visitor-centric organization in the future.

Growing Our Audience
In June 2021, audience research firm RK&A conducted surveys of Morris Arboretum visitors and hosted several focus groups composed of current and potential audiences. The overall purpose of this research was to gauge, among other things, participants’ awareness and perceptions of the Arboretum, their perceptions of arboretums in general, and what might make their experience at the Arboretum more enjoyable and meaningful, prompting a return visit. This information will be used to inform current Arboretum programs and marketing as well as future branding and master planning initiatives.

Embracing Diversity
Aligned with the desire to continue diversifying visitors, board, staff, and volunteers, we engaged The ROZ Group, a local strategic planning and marketing communications firm, in March 2021 to better understand the Arboretum’s diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) challenges and opportunities. As experts in diversity and inclusion assessment, The ROZ Group is using a two-part phased approach beginning with an organizational analysis and assessment of current DEIA initiatives at the Arboretum. Throughout 2022, they will work with the entire Arboretum staff to develop impactful training that looks at addressing barriers to DEIA both internally and externally.

ARTS AND CULTURE
Take Center Stage at Penn
CHELSEA MELVIN, Assistant Director of Donor Engagement

Morris Arboretum, along with the Penn Museum, Penn Live Arts, Penn Libraries, the Institute for Contemporary Art, and Kelly Writers House, make up the vibrant arts and culture community of the University of Pennsylvania.

The University has announced that promoting arts and culture will be a key priority of the school’s new Inspiring Impact giving initiative. Inspiring Impact plans to further integrate these vital arts and culture organizations into daily life at Penn by incorporating the creativity, self-expression, and compassion found in the arts in its approaches to teaching, learning, and patient care. As the University’s largest green space and a top garden destination, the Morris Arboretum will play a critical role in Penn’s renewed focus on arts and culture.

An urban oasis within the city limits, the Arboretum is a living laboratory for research and learning about the interrelation of plants, people, and place. With this initiative, we are looking ahead to a period of growth, enhanced visitor experiences, new garden features, a robust research program, as well as expanded outreach to engage and inspire our growing audience. Among our ambitious goals are to create a comprehensive 20-year master plan to guide our growth and development in the coming decades, so the Arboretum will continue to serve as a source of research and renewal for our community and beyond.

Learn More about Inspiring Impact and how to make a gift to support our work: https://giving.upenn.edu/priorities/
New in Education
BRYAN THOMPSON-NOWAK, Director of Education

NEW SCHOOL OUTREACH POSITION
One of the best ways to make positive impacts on youth in our surrounding area is by deepening relationships and becoming partners with local schools and community organizations. With that in mind, we are excited to announce a new school outreach position designed to foster better connections between the local Northwest Philadelphia community and the education resources available at the Arboretum. We have recently hired Jude Thachet as our new School Outreach Coordinator to lead these efforts. We hope to see schools and students coming multiple times a year and engaging in new ways. We’re excited to have Jude onboard and about the new partnerships to come!

OUT OF SCHOOL DAYS
Last fall the Arboretum’s youth education team had a simple idea to combine the model of our day-long Summer Adventure Camps with school year programs for local Northwest Philadelphia families and students. Philadelphia schools have days off for staff development and other days that are not major holidays, and often parents and caregivers need full-day options for their children to fill this gap. Our team hoped we would generate enough interest to run three pilot days in the fall of 2021. We were overwhelmed with the number of families excited about these pilot days and expanded our capacity to meet as much of the need as possible. We’re looking forward to offering more “Out of School Days” this spring and ultimately growing the program in years to come.
Spring Classes

MAGNOLIAS: The Essentials

JEN MONICO
Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum
On-location Class

Magnolias are one of the core collections at the Morris Arboretum, and when they are in bloom, they magnificently light up the Arboretum’s entrance drive. In this class, we will take a walking tour to explore the magnolia collection that should be in full bloom. Jen will also discuss magnolia care and how to best use these beautiful plants in the landscape. She will highlight basic botanical characteristics, best cultivation practices, good species for your home landscape, and interesting insights into the history and management of the Arboretum’s magnolia collection.

This class meets at the Arboretum. Park in the grass lot to the left of the entrance kiosk and meet Jen there. Dress for the weather and bring your questions.
Saturday, April 2, 2:30–4:00 p.m.
Members: $30  Non-members: $35

GOING NATIVE
Gardening with Native Plants and Wildflowers

PAM MORRIS OLSHEFSKI
Natural Areas Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum
On-location Class

Because native plants are adapted to our region’s growing conditions, they are great low-maintenance alternatives to non-native plants. Natives are also important because wildlife and pollinators depend on them for survival. Learn how these ecologically friendly choices can beautify your landscape, save you time and money, attract birds and pollinators to your garden, and provide visual interest all year long.

The class is outdoors and meets at the Arboretum. Park in the grass lot to the left of the entrance kiosk and meet Pam there. Walking is required, so wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather.
Saturday, April 23, 10:30 am–12:00 p.m.
Members: $30  Non-members: $35

GREAT TREES at the Morris Arboretum

PAUL MEYER
Retired F. Otto Haas Executive Director, Morris Arboretum
On-location Class

Join us for an early evening walking tour with Paul Meyer as he focuses on outstanding plants in the Arboretum’s living museum. May is the perfect time for a stroll in the garden, especially with someone as knowledgeable as Paul! Learn about trees and shrubs in the collection that are particularly beautiful in springtime, and get tips on which ones will do well in your home landscape. Some of these plants have genetic significance and tell an important conservation story.

Meet at the Arboretum’s Visitors Center.
Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather.
Wednesday, May 4, 4:00–6:30 p.m.
Members: $30  Non-members: $35
YOGA IN THE GARDEN
Nine Enchanted Evenings

JENNIFER SCHELTER
Leader, Educator, Artist, and Founder of The Radiant Retreat

The incredible beauty of summer nights at the Morris Arboretum provides the backdrop for this unique opportunity to study inspirational Vinyasa (flow-style) yoga led by Jennifer Schelter, one of Philadelphia’s premier yoga teachers. Participants will learn the basics of yoga: breathing, mindfulness meditation, balance, strength, flexibility, core awareness, and deep relaxation surrounded by the Arboretum’s peaceful ambiance. Close your eyes and take a deep breath. Inhale the sweet smell of flowers and feel your skin aglow with the setting sun. Benefits include physical ease, balance and flexibility, reduced stress and anxiety, increased energy, calm rejuvenation, inspiration, gratitude, laughter, fun, and community. All are welcome, including beginners. Learn more about the instructor at www.jenniferschelter.com.

Meet at the Arboretum’s Visitor Center. Please bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothes. Refunds will only be given five business days before the first session of the course. No class or attendee substitutions are permitted.

Nine Tuesdays, 5:00–6:00 p.m.:
June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2
Register for a full month for best pricing!
June (4 weeks)
Members: $72  Non-members: $80
July (4 weeks)
Members: $72  Non-members: $80
August (1 week)
Members: $18  Non-members: $20

Single Session online registration
Members: $20  Non-members: $22

Single Session walk-in
$25 (no member discount)

DRAWING the Majesty of Trees
HENRY MARTIN
Artist and Art Teacher

Drawing outdoors is a wonderful way to relax in the natural world, and this class in the beautiful gardens of the Morris Arboretum provides a fun and nurturing environment in which to draw some of the most beautiful trees in Philadelphia. We will explore several simple concepts designed to facilitate drawing for beginners and accomplished artists alike, concentrating on the movement and growth of trees. Henry Martin is a Philadelphia-based plein-air painter who uses the open air as his studio. He describes his style of painting as “atmospheric naturalism.”

Meet in front of the Arboretum’s Visitors Center. Please be ready to draw on the first day by purchasing in advance a sketch or drawing pad no smaller than 11x14 inches. Please bring sharpened 2b and 4b pencils and a small pencil sharpener. The approximate cost for these materials is $20.

Four Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.:
May 12, 19, 26, June 2
Members: $145  Non-members: $160

BIRDING at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

SHARON MEEKER
Experienced Birder and Trip Leader

We will spend the day exploring the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum at the peak of spring migration. Despite its urban location, over 300 species have been recorded in and around the Refuge. We will see a variety of migrating birds as well as ducks, raptors, and resident birds. We may even see a bald eagle that has been nesting at the Refuge.

We will drive separately and meet at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge parking lot (8601 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19153). Walking is required.

Bring binoculars, a snack, and water.
Thursday, May 5, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Members: $45  Non-members: $50
The value of endowing a key position at a nonprofit cannot be overstated. The endowment provides a key source of financial stability and ensures that resources can be shared more flexibly among the institution’s other efforts.

The Arboretum has been fortunate to name and endow several key positions among its leadership, including The F. Otto Haas Executive Director, Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture, Paul W. Meyer Chief Arborist, McCausland Natural Lands Manager, Moses Feldman Family Director of Physical Facilities, and the John J. Willaman Director of Plant Sciences. Now, the Arboretum aims to add Director of Education to this esteemed list of endowed positions.

Investment in an endowed Directorship will secure the leadership of this key department while simultaneously enabling the Arboretum to broaden its efforts across a diverse and fast-growing audience of learners. For more information about supporting this key investment, please contact Mira Zergani, Director of Development, at mzergani@upenn.edu.

Come for A SUMMER OF SWINGS—beginning June 2022

BRYAN THOMPSON-NOWAK, Director of Education

We’re getting in the swing of things for the summer, and when we say swinging, we literally mean swings here at the Arboretum!

This summer we will be installing 10 tree swings located around the garden for visitors of all ages to enjoy. The “Summer of Swings” will be a simple way for visitors to explore and interact with the garden and have a little fun while doing so. Something as simple as gliding back and forth on a tree swing in a beautiful place has a magical effect on the body and mind. While visitors are getting their swing on, we will also invite them to learn about the trees that hold the swings and the unique history of swings from around the world. We’ll even invite them to be a “Galileo in the Garden” and recreate some of the experiments the famed scientist did with pendulums in the 16th century.

Don’t worry, no trees will be injured for this exhibit! When looking at installing swings in trees at the Arboretum, our horticulture and arborist teams worked closely together to identify good tree candidates that could safely handle a swing for this temporary installation. We will be using non-permanent, non-invasive methods to ensure no harm will come to the limbs and trees in use.

Join us as we kick off the Summer of Swings on Friday, June 24 to celebrate the first days of summer!
The tradition continues! Did you know that in her will, Lydia Morris directed the Morris Arboretum to share plants? In addition to distributing plants to other public gardens, the Arboretum has maintained a decades-long tradition of sharing plants with members. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or are planning to put your hands into the soil for the first time, you are invited to take a plant in appreciation for your membership. A selection of hardy woody and herbaceous plants will be available. Staff, interns, and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and say hello.

NEW THIS YEAR! Premier Members will receive first access to the plants on Friday, May 20, from 4-7pm. Not a premier member? Consider upgrading today. Get first dibs on the plant selection and strengthen the Morris Arboretum with a Beech, Chestnut, Holly, Oak, Laurel, or Collectors Circle membership. All members are welcome on Saturday, May 21, and Sunday, May 22, from 10am-4pm. Registration is required. Register at https://morrisarb.org/plantgiveaway

Morris Arboretum’s URBAN FORESTRY CONSULTANTS Elected as Professional Society Officers

Principal consultants of our Urban Forestry team have been elected to serve as officers of two professional arborist societies. The Arboretum is proud to have representation on these two visible posts.

Jason Lubar, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Board Certified Master Arborist (BCMA), is the Associate Director of Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum and was recently elected President of ISA’s Penn-Del Chapter. The Chapter’s mission is to promote the science, technology, and safe practice of professional arboriculture through education and outreach to foster a greater appreciation of trees within the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware. Jason has been with the Penn-Del Chapter since 2008 and has served as Treasurer, ISA Council of Representatives, and Chair of the Education Committee. He will serve as the Chapter’s President until 2023.

Michael LaMana, BCMA, Registered Consulting Arborist (RCA) is Morris Arboretum’s Associate Director of Arboriculture Outreach. Mike has recently been voted onto the Board of Directors of the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA.) A national society, ASCA elevates the practice and professionalism of consulting arborists through education, training, and outreach. Michael was Director for a previous term and has also served for a number of years at the annual Society’s Consulting Academy, teaching forensic investigation. Michael is slated to serve on the Board of Directors until late 2023.
Moms, Dads, and Grads
Give Them the Gift of an Arboretum Membership

ALISON THORNTON, Senior Associate Director of Development

A MORRIS ARBORETUM MEMBERSHIP IS A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

Treat your loved ones to a full year of access to our spectacular garden as well as invites to events, discounts on educational courses taught by Arboretum experts, AND reciprocal admission privileges to more than 300 gardens nationwide.

There are three easy ways to purchase a gift of membership:

IN PERSON: Stop by the Visitor Center to purchase a gift card. You can pick up membership materials to give to your recipient, and they can sign up for membership online and apply the gift card.

ONLINE: Click here to make your purchase anytime.

PHONE: Reach the Membership Office directly at 215-247-5777 ext. 205 Monday through Friday 9am-5pm.

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A Promise for the Future

The start of a new year can be a good time to look back at the past. It can also be a time to commit to making a positive impact on the future.

As you think about your resolutions for 2022, consider including the Morris Arboretum as part of your will, or as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance. These gifts provide the resources needed to grow the Arboretum's mission of education, outreach, research, and horticultural display.

Bring the future to life with a plan for support today!

To learn more, or to request specific language for your own plan for the future, contact:

Mira Zergani
Director of Development
Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania
100 East Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118
215.247.5777, ext. 102 | mzergani@upenn.edu
www.giving.upenn.edu/gift-planning

Your gift entitles you to membership in the Lydia Morris Legacy Society and the University’s Harrison Society.
Tribute & Memorial Gifts

Morris Arboretum is grateful to the following donors who made tribute and memorial gifts between August 1, 2021, and January 31, 2022.

In memory of Philip Albright
Deborah Johnson

In memory of Margot Weinstein Baron
ABIM/F senior executive and leadership friends and colleagues

In honor of Pamina Blum & Reto Giere
Leslie Delauter

In honor of Robert Clapham, Sr.
June & Rob Clapham

In honor of Louise Clark
Hiram Munger

In memory of Thomas G. Corley
Lenore & Lew Acampora
Dawn & Joe Clabbers
Marsha Kalman
Suzanne Maley
Shelley Rosen
Janet Stephens
Elizabeth Weiss Kuziel

In honor of Lucy Dinsmore
Hiram Munger

In honor of Diana & Stuart Donaldson
Sarah, Matthew, & Dylan Lewis
Mary Jane Raymond

In memory of Colin Franklin
Debra L. Rodgers & Paul W. Meyer

In memory of Sally Gendler
Leslie Morris-Smith
Alison & Alexander Nalle

In honor of Will Gillespie & Jeff Korn
Deborah Brady

In memory of Eleanore & Harold Greenwald
Philip Greenwald

In honor of Ellen Nalle Hass
Perry Benson

In memory of Ila R. Katz
Judy Muhlberg

In memory of Joshua Marlowe
Nicole Armour

In memory of Joan F. McCracken
James C. McCracken

In honor of Jan McFarlan
Madelyn Ladner & Robert Gutowski

In honor of Nancy L. Miller
Elisabeth T. Ervin

In memory of Mary Ellen Post
Koren Christensen & Nancy King

In memory of Joan Regan
Lawrence Arrigale
Gail Beidler
Cindy Bowman
Ruthanne Coonahan
Bridget Everman
Stephanie Graves
Charles Head & John Faggotti
Pam Lambert
Christine L. Murphy
Evelyn P. Olivieri
Judy & Brad Phillips
Debra L. Rodgers & Paul W. Meyer
Gray Silver
Alison Thornton

In memory of Kathleen Robinson
Beth Anthony
Virginia & Howard Anthony
John Banionis
Deborah Barrett
Dolores Breen
Rose & Joe Campbell
Byoung Hwa Chun
William Conners
Robert Donohue
Pamela Firely
Kate & Len McCoy
Madelyn Ladner & Robert Gutowski
Diane & Sam Matusiak
Athena, Amy, Danielle, & Ryan McCarthy
Dot & Jack McGuigan
Robert McQuillan
Charlene Miller
Patricia & Jeff Okun
Penelope Paton
Noah Robkin
Debra L. Rodgers & Paul W. Meyer
Liz & Duncan Wright

In honor of Debra L. Rodgers & Paul W. Meyer
Anonymous
Deborah E. Glass
Mark Delestatis

In memory of Lucille Roland
J. Christopher Miller

In honor of Joan Root & Stanley Walter Root
Louise Root Melby

In memory of Betty & Lew S. Somers III
Elizabeth Somers Stutzman

In honor of Helen Stephan
Sandy Stephan

In memory of Richard Stover
Richard H. & Julie M. Chandler
Gail Fleming Johnson
Jane & Robert Scarborough

In memory of Marianna Sullivan
Dollinger/Hirsch family (Jamie, Rob, Rivka, Avraham, & Devora)

In memory of Jon Caldwell Ziegler
Debra Sizemore Boyd
From informative botanical books, to locally crafted goods, to toys for curious young minds, the MORRIS ARBORETUM SHOP strives to offer an assortment of items that will inform, engage, and inspire love and appreciation for the natural world around us.