

SEASONS

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Morris Arboretum
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

SEASONS

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

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Hold your special event in one of Philadelphia's most beautiful settings. The Widener Center and surrounding grounds are available for weddings, parties, and private and corporate meetings. For details contact the Rentals Team at (215) 247-5777, ext. 158.

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A Note from the Executive Director

BILL CULLINA, *The F. Otto Haas Executive Director*

When our society endures terrible wars and cataclysms, we may find it difficult, while still in the arc of the tragedy, to have perspective on what has changed. When I wrote last summer, we were in the throes of pandemic lockdowns and social and political unrest. A year later, we are hopefully past the worst of the pandemic, and life here at the Morris Arboretum is returning to a semblance of its former self. We are buoyed by the record visitation we have seen since reopening. There is no better validation for the work we do than seeing the joy that a simple walk through our trees has brought to so many thousands. It is wonderful to see couples and families returning to celebrate weddings, birthdays, graduations – the fundamental mileposts of life’s journey that were so disrupted this past year. We were thrilled to host 75 children for summer camps again – both the Nature Explorers and ACLAMO programs. The Arboretum was gratified to provide a safe, enriching and fun outdoor experience for them after all they have been through. I am also very grateful to see the staff again after 18 months of virtual meetings!

Although it is impossible to know what long-term changes this pandemic has wrought, its sudden and severe disruptions to life’s routines have made all of us stop and take stock of our lives and what is truly important. For several of our long-time staff members, taking stock has meant deciding to retire or explore a new career direction. Although they will be missed, we congratulate Susan Crane, Shelley Dillard, Louise Clarke, Kevin Schrecengost, Tony Aiello, Christine Pape, Kate Deregibus, and Lucy Dinsmore and thank them for their years of service to the Arboretum and Penn. We are working to refill their positions and are also adding a few new ones and will introduce you via these pages as they join our team. In March we will be launching our expanded intern program, adding three new nine-month positions in horticulture and one additional in Education so that every section leader -- and both adult and youth education staff -- have interns on staff. We are expanding our visitor experience staff as well as research and curation staff and launching a major new site master planning effort, and I will have more to say about on those in the next issue.

Perhaps in another year I will have greater perspective on post-pandemic life. Even now I feel excitement for what lies ahead and want to extend tremendous gratitude to our staff and especially to you for your steadfast support during a very difficult year.

Thank you!



Photo: Eloise Gayer

New Gardens, New Blooms

VINCE MARROCCO, *The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture*

After the long winter, we were excited to add several new gardens that added seasonal interest and an opportunity to invigorate to existing Arboretum features.

The restoration of the Step Fountain brought with it a re-imagining of the gardens that once surrounded this feature. The pathway and colorful beds that lead up to and encircle this fountain are a nod to the original plantings John and Lydia Morris made here. The new plantings serve to give this fountain a stronger sense of place in the landscape. Almost immediately after it was completed, visitors and members alike were drawn to the magical allure of cascading waters and complementary flower beds.

This spring also saw the installation of the Ellipse Garden in the space between the Herb Garden and the Wisteria Walk. These gardens continue along the central axis laid out by the Rose Garden. They now form a continuous thread of plantings that lead to the Sculpture Garden. The Ellipse Garden serves to connect the aesthetic of the Rose and Herb Gardens to the Wisteria Walk. As part of this project, we re-purposed several defunct pillars from the Rose Garden. They serve as supports for roses, clematis, and other vines and as a vertical element to further frame the view from the main Rose Garden axis.

Plants for this garden were chosen to showcase new or little-known varieties of annual and perennial plants, with an emphasis on strong, bright, primary-colored flowers. Heat and drought tolerance were also prerequisites for the plants in the Ellipse Garden.

The following are some noteworthy new additions:

Firecracker stonecrop (*Sedum* 'Firecracker') with its strong showing of burgundy red foliage is a plant that thrives in hot sunny locations. This introduction from the SunSparkler® series forms a spreading mat of foliage topped with delicate pink flowers in late summer.

Ascot Rainbow spurge (*Euphorbia x martinii* 'Ascot Rainbow') is a variegated form noted for its heat and drought tolerance. This spurge doesn't mind poor soils, and deer leave it alone, making it a great choice for an open location.

Saucy Seduction yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* 'Saucy Seduction') is prized for its butterfly-attracting pink

flowers produced throughout the season. This more compact form of yarrow tolerates heat, drought, and poor soils.

Red Ombre coneflower (*Echinacea x hybrida* Artisan™ Red Ombre) is a new coneflower bred to produce a compact dense plant. Intense red flower buds fade to a soft rosy-orange as they age. This butterfly magnet is heat and drought tolerant.

Lemon Fizz® rose (*Rosa x* 'KORfizzlem') is a new introduction from Kordes Roses in Germany. This exceptionally disease-resistant rose is a carefree choice for the garden.





Fruits of the Season

BILL CULLINA, *The F. Otto Haas Executive Director*

Fall is for fruit. Although there are some fruits that ripen in summer and even a few that ripen in spring, fall ushers in a veritable bonanza of “berries.” Technically, a berry is a fleshy fruit derived from a single ovary that contains multiple seeds. A drupe is similar, but typically only contains one larger seed. Strawberries and raspberries are not berries, per se, because they are composed of multiple ovaries in an aggregate mass. On the other hand, bananas, tomatoes and pumpkins are berries, while avocados, mangos and peaches are drupes.

The pulp that surrounds the seed or seeds varies in nutritional content from species to species. Just as peaches are mostly carbohydrate and avocados mostly fats, wild shrubs and trees produce fruits with differing macronutrient profiles. The aim is the same: to tempt birds and mammals to eat the fruit and either defecate or regurgitate the seeds where then can find purchase. Fall fruits are especially important to migrating birds fortifying for their long journeys, as well as for resident wildlife fattening up before the cold and scarcity of winter.



The fields and forests of eastern Pennsylvania are home to both indigenous and introduced berry-producing trees, shrubs, and vines. Sadly, the most abundant are increasingly introduced species considered to be invasive: honeysuckles, porcelain berry, multiflora rose, buckthorn, mile-a-minute, oriental bittersweet, and others. A little studied but important difference between native and invasive species is their differing nutritional value to wildlife. The fat content by dry weight of oriental bittersweet, for example is only about 4%, but in contrast, the fat content of native arrowwood viburnum is nearly 50%.



Cornus racemosa (gray dogwood) is a shrubby, spreading dogwood of damp meadows and fields, and is suffering from heavy competition with invasive shrubs like honeysuckle. Its lovely white berries have a fat content of 35% and are quickly devoured by songbirds in early autumn.

Myrica pensylvanica (bayberry) is the most fat-rich berry, so it is not surprising that they were a source of candle wax for early colonists. Female plants set large crops of the waxy, gray fruits that are indigestible to most birds but an essential winter food for yellow-rumped warblers and tree swallows.

Research in this area is really in its infancy, but it does appear that as a rule, the fat content of our indigenous shrubs and trees is significantly higher than the invasive species they are being displaced by. What effect is this shift in nutritional value is having on wildlife? It remains to be seen, but ask yourself – if I had to survive the winter in the wild, would I rather eat avocados or peaches?



Lindera benzoin

Lindera benzoin (spicebush) is a dioicous native wetland shrub. Females produce red berries with fat content of a whopping 35-50%.



Magnolia grandiflora

Magnolias, such as southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) have very oily berries (technically arils) that burst from their follicles and dangle on thin threads to tempt passing birds.



Viburnum dentatum

Among the **viburnums** there is great variation in fat content in the berry. **European cranberrybush** (*Viburnum opulus*) tested at less than 1% total lipids, while as I mentioned, our **native arrowwood** (*Viburnum dentatum*, seen here along Paper Mill Run) is nearly half fats by dry weight. **Witherod** (*Viburnum nudum var. cassinoides*) runs about 34% total fats. The fruits progress through a beautiful transformation from green to bright pink to blue black in the fall as they ripen.



Cornus florida

Cornus florida (flowering dogwood) In addition to its ornamental value, flowering dogwood produces drupes that are the most calorically and nutritionally dense of any measured (including 24% fat and 10% protein), In one study in New Jersey they were the most preferred fall fruit by 40 species of birds.

New Beginnings as *ever* GREEN Ends

On June 30, 2021, the Arboretum successfully concluded its \$36 million Ever Green campaign. From seven figure endowment commitments to \$5 annual fund contributions, the Arboretum received more than 48,000 gifts since the campaign's quiet phase began in 2013. Coming on the heels of Always Growing, a decade-long campaign that transformed the Arboretum into a world-class botanical destination, Ever Green helped to propel continued philanthropic investment in the Arboretum.

Ever Green's overarching goal was to fortify the Arboretum's financial base in order to move the institution forward into a new era of transformation, and fortify it has. Upon the close of the campaign, the Arboretum has never looked more beautiful. The restored Rose Garden is in full bloom, and the new Ellipse garden and plantings surrounding the refurbished Step Fountain add new color and vitality in contrast to the deep green expanse of English Park. Our most beloved garden experiences – including Out on A Limb, the Garden Railway, and the Natural Lands – have been generously endowed to ensure the perpetual care and enhancement of these visitor favorites. Another new endowment supports the Arboretum's striking water features, which so wonderfully enhance the visitor experience across the Arboretum.

New gifts for historic preservation and for endowments that support facilities maintenance significantly bolstered available resources for projects across the Arboretum. Both the exterior and interior of the Widener Visitor Center were expertly refurbished. A new roof was installed on our historic barn while a section of that barn was reconfigured and refurbished to serve





as classroom space. New endowments have also been established to support key positions, including the Director of Facilities and the Chief Arborist. Our professional internship program has grown with the addition of a new endowment in support of a Marketing Intern. The Ever Green campaign also focused on the future evolution of its research program, and donors gave generously to set aside funds for a plant science laboratory that will be established in the Arboretum's newest era of growth.

Ever Green donors contributed to outreach and education, helped grow our existing education endowments, and helped establish a new endowment specifically for meeting the needs of underserved school children. A new outreach and education coordinator position is being piloted with donor funding to help the Arboretum identify strategies for engaging these under-represented audiences.

Finally, in the last year of the campaign -- at the height of the pandemic closures when our Garden gates were shut and so much was unknown -- many donors rallied to safeguard the Arboretum's future as we established a Resilience Fund that provides a financial cushion to protect ongoing operations in times of market uncertainty.

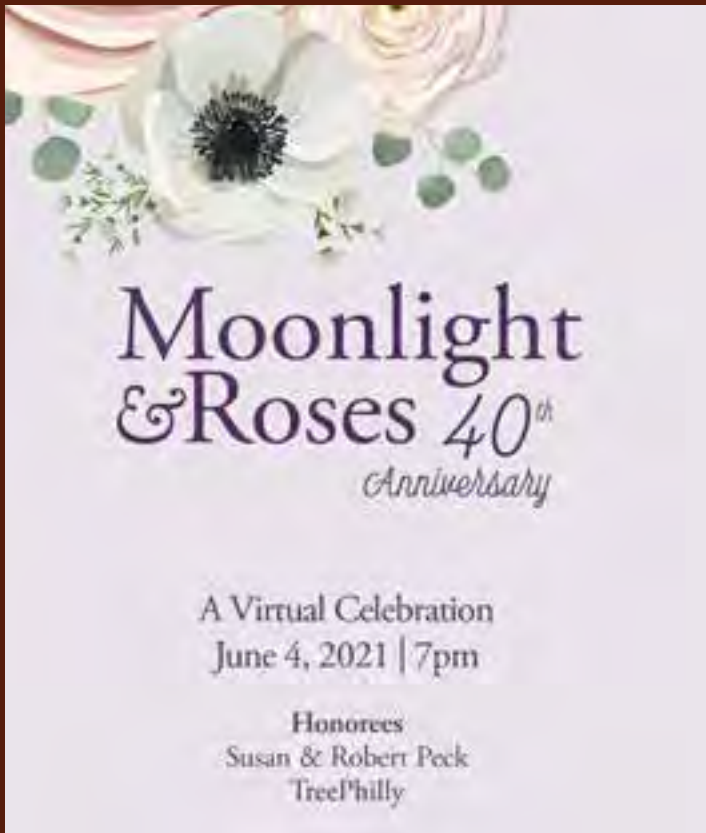
Donors to the Ever Green campaign gave generously to nearly every area of the Arboretum's operations. We are grateful for every response to a request for support, every membership purchased, every ticket to Moonlight & Roses, and every promise to include the Arboretum in estate planning. The Arboretum remains evergreen because our community remains ever supportive. We are excited to embark on a new chapter in the Arboretum's history, and we are grateful to have you with us.

Moonlight & ROSES

KRISTEN CASALENUOVO, *Moonlight & Roses Event Manager*

Moonlight & Roses through the years

This year we celebrated 40 years of our annual fundraising gala, Moonlight & Roses. The event was held virtually on June 4, 2021, and raised more than \$124,000. We were thrilled to honor Susan & Robert Peck for their long-term support of the Arboretum, along with TreePhilly, an urban forestry program of Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and Fairmount Park Conservancy, for their commitment to the environment and our community.



The virtual event showcased the history of Moonlight & Roses with interviews from past committee chairs. It also went behind the scenes with the Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture, Vincent Marrocco, and our Rosarian, Erin Conley, as they delved into what it takes to get the Rose Garden looking beautiful each season.

We are so grateful to everyone who joined us that evening, who donated in support of Morris Arboretum and our longstanding mission, and viewed the special 40th Anniversary Moonlight & Roses film. If you are still interested in viewing the video, you can donate at <https://morrisarb.org/mr> to receive a unique link.





Internship Spotlight: Sarah Evantash



Growing up, Sarah Evantash spent summers working at an organic farm near her home outside Cambridge, MA. It was there that she discovered her love of gardening and her desire to pursue a career related to horticulture. Sarah then attended Smith College and decided to major in environmental science & policy and minor in landscape studies. Her summer internship as a landscape design intern at the Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters historical gardens in Cambridge helped affirm the career path she would follow.

After graduation, Sarah discovered Morris Arboretum’s year-long internship program, a hands-on horticulture position at a public garden and a great opportunity for an up and coming landscape architect. Beginning her internship during the pandemic wasn’t ideal, she admits, but luckily the program started just as the garden re-opened to the public in June 2020 and COVID restrictions were eased. “Seeing the visitors was such a relief after the worst of the pandemic. Watching them enjoying the gardens and all the plants makes our hard work worth it,” she said. Working closely with Arboretum staff as The Charles S. Rose and Flower Garden Intern was particularly rewarding, she said. “I loved the creativity the position afforded, and I was especially excited for the opportunity to design the “sunset quadrant”—the western most area of the rose garden—as part of my intern project.”

Sarah was also able to take landscape design classes at Penn during her internship. These classes further solidified her decision to pursue a graduate degree in landscape architecture. Sarah applied to the program which is part of the University’s Weitzman School of Design and was accepted for admission for Fall 2021.

Sarah is thrilled to be able to stay in Philadelphia, a place where she has family and has grown to love. Everyone at the Arboretum is proud of what Sarah accomplished during her tenure and congratulates her on her acceptance to this prestigious program. We can’t wait to see what opportunities Sarah’s creativity presents and know she will flourish in the field of landscape architecture.

If you or someone you know may be interested in an internship at Morris Arboretum, please contact Jan McFarlan, Assistant Director of Education at jlm@upenn.edu.

Morris Arboretum Internships: New Positions Added

BRYAN THOMPSON-NOWAK, *Director of Education*



The Morris Arboretum intern program, of which I am a proud alumnus, is once again growing and expanding to meet the needs of the Arboretum, our community, and budding public horticulture professionals. Starting in March of 2022, the Morris Arboretum will welcome a total of 14 new paid positions in Horticulture, Plant Science, Urban Forestry, Propagation, Education and Marketing. Three of these positions will be 12-months long and will be newly designated as Morris Arboretum Fellows. They are the Martha S. and Rusty Miller Urban Forestry Fellow, the Martha J. Wallace Plant Propagation Fellow, and the Eli Kirk Price Flora of PA Fellow. The intern positions will be 9-months long and have expanded to now include two Charles S. Holman Rose Garden Interns, two Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Horticulture Interns, two Walter W. Root Arborist Interns, one Hay Honey Farm Natural Lands Intern, two McLean Contributionship Education Interns, one John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Plant Curation Intern, and the brand-new Lee & Steven Laden Marketing Internship.

We are excited that the transition to 9-month positions will give interns more time to focus on areas of interest and study and will widen the pool of those able to take advantage of our intern opportunities. All Horticulture and Arborist positions are now open to those who have completed high school, and we're excited to welcome individuals in the surrounding community who have a passion for plants and have previously not been eligible to apply to our intern program.

Interns and Fellows will have the opportunity to work alongside professionals in their area of interest, take part in full-day, monthly trainings, and gain experience in a premier horticultural institution in America's Garden Capital.*

Each year we look forward to onboarding a new cohort of interns, and this year we are more excited than ever to expand and grow the program. Take a look at our website for details of each position and get ready to see lots of new faces in the Arboretum next spring.

*There are more than 30 gardens within 30 miles of Philadelphia. So much of the nation's horticultural history is rooted in this region that it has been dubbed "the cradle of horticulture." Today, Philadelphia has earned its place as 'America's Garden Capital' with a surplus of public gardens offering a wide variety of horticultural display, and events, all year long.



Documenting Fungal Diversity on the Grounds of Morris Arboretum

JULIA HART, *The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*

Mushrooms are a fascinating group of organisms with an important role in the ecosystem. They are important for many cultures as prized food products. They are also increasingly being turned to as a sustainable alternative for meat, plastic products, and packaging. Fungi have a knack for creating unique compounds, a number of which have been put to work as antibiotics, cholesterol medication, anticancer drugs, and immunosuppressants.

Despite being so important, many people walk around the world never looking down at these little creatures. Similarly, academia has also largely ignored mushroom diversity and potential. There are estimated to be 120,000 to 148,000 named fungi; however, there could be as many as 2.2 million to 3.8 million species. In the best case scenario, just 6% of total fungi diversity has been officially documented. In a place that explicitly values and cultivates botanical knowledge, I set out to start documenting the fungi on the grounds of Morris Arboretum.

To date, I have collected and identified 52 specimens of fungi from around the gardens. Most of the collections were focused on the mulch beds, natural/forested areas, and non-mowed portions of the arboretum. The collection was solely conducted on the public side of the arboretum. Sixteen of the fifty-two fungi collected were mushrooms traditionally used for medicinal or culinary purposes. Bluets, chanterelles, puffballs, and wine caps popped up in abundance.

Whereas edible mushrooms are commonly found on forays, I also discovered a number of more intriguing non-native mushrooms. Invasive plants are relatively well documented and communicated, but this is not the case with fungi. The prevalence of invasive fungi and their impacts on the landscape are still relatively unknown. The most interesting example I found on our grounds was the poisonous *Amanita phalloides*, also known as the “death cap” Amanita. While it is likely underreported, the death cap is one of just a handful of these invasive mushrooms in Pennsylvania, according to crowdsourced identification websites.

We have a lot to gain by taking the time to notice and understand these ecological powerhouses. Not just because of all the potential they have as future food, medicine, or products, but because we have a lot to learn from them. Creating a baseline of fungal diversity at Morris Arboretum is the first step to getting to know the mushrooms present here, and growing the knowledge we have here and outside our gates about fungi in Pennsylvania and beyond.

The Morris Arboretum Community Garden: A Garden Refuge

LIZ PRICE, *Community Garden Member*

If you've recently driven by the Arboretum, you may have noticed the community gardens across Northwestern Avenue and wondered who is gardening there! Many of the gardeners were raised here in the region—some by generations of farming families and others come from the city. Some immigrated here from countries such as Germany, the UK, and Korea and grow crops and use practices unique to their homelands. For others, the community garden is their first gardening experience. While we represent a wide range of gardening and cultural backgrounds, we share this in common: a love of gardening and growing our own food.

The garden, with more than 100 allotments, was founded by an enterprise jointly sponsored by the Chestnut Hill Community Association and the Morris Arboretum. Gardeners must be a member of at least one of these organizations.

The community garden has been providing local gardeners with a place to dig and plant for more than 25 years. Our gardeners find a place of community and friendship, refuge in the natural environment, and joy in growing food from seeds and seedlings. Finding solace in the company of gardening friends in a safe, socially distanced environment could not have been more important than during the pandemic. We gardeners are grateful for the opportunity to grow vegetables in this beautiful place that provides full sun and a reliable water supply. We usually grow all the typical vegetables—tomatoes, beans, lettuce among the favorites. However, part of the fun is to share information and experiment with new seeds. You'll find new varieties of peppers, potatoes, and eggplant as well as Asian crops such as edamame, Japanese turnips, lemongrass, and shiso.

Last June, our gardeners began donating surplus vegetables to local food banks to help combat local food insecurity. It was the brainchild of one gardener, Graham Robb, who built the relationships and now collects produce weekly from our community gardeners and other area gardeners. Last summer, this community garden donated more than 700 pounds of produce, and we are on track to donate even more this season.

Notes from the Morris Arboretum community gardeners:

"Along with the camaraderie, the serenity of the garden always makes me happy."

— Nancy and Eleanor

"I like being part of a community where people are interested to help those in need."

— Graham

"I enjoy the place itself. We are surrounded by beautiful trees, wildlife, pollinators and kind people that are always willing to share their knowledge." — Lisa

"This became our pandemic getaway."

— Stephanie and Jack

"It's wonderful to walk through the garden and see all the different and often unusual vegetables people grow that reflect their home of origin and cultural background." — David



Photos: David Huntley

Advisory Board of Managers

New Board Members:



Janet Albaum

Jan Albaum is an avid Arboretum volunteer and strong proponent of native gardening who has a long history of leadership activity at regional nature-based environmental organizations.

She holds degrees from Stanford University and the University of Pennsylvania with experience in architecture and urban planning. Jan and her husband, Harry Cerrino, live in Northwest Philadelphia and are members of the Arboretum's Directors' Guild and Collectors Circle.



Tasha Taylor-Igbanol

Tasha Taylor-Igbanol, Senior Manager of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Community Impact at Comcast, holds an MS in Marketing from Johns Hopkins Carey Business School and a BS in Electronic

Media and Film from Towson University. She is a former co-lead of the Women's Network at Comcast, the company's women-focused employee resource group. Tasha lives in Philadelphia with her husband and son.



Wendy T. Foulke

Wendy Foulke is a seasoned Arboretum member and volunteer, with involvement in the Horticulture Committee and Directors Guild, and participated in one of the Arboretum's travel programs

to New Zealand. Wendy holds a degree in the history of art from Wheaton College and has worked with numerous art institutions in Philadelphia, notably Sotheby's Mid-Atlantic region. Wendy lives with her husband, Walter, at their home neighboring the Arboretum.

Renewing Board Members:

(new three-year term)



Joseph Townsend

Joseph "Jay" Townsend is a returning Advisory Board Member, also serving as a member of the Education Committee. Jay earned his Ph.D. from the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at

the University of Delaware; an MS from the Longwood Program, University of Delaware; and a BA from Kenyon College. Jay and his wife, JoAnn, live in Media, PA, where they enjoy spending time with their grandchildren and raising farm animals.



Sarah Jencks Lodge

Sarah Lodge is a returning Advisory Board Member and leadership supporter of the Arboretum. Sarah holds a degree in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania and also serves on the Board of

the Woodmere Art Museum. She is an avid gardener and is a member of the Philadelphia Garden Club and The Garden Club of America. Sarah and her husband, Ted, live in Lafayette Hill.

Global Advisors to the Board



Chunsheng "Tony" Lu

Chunsheng "Tony" Lu is a Philadelphia-based artist and international business professional. He has studied neoclassical realism painting at the Florence Academy of Fine Arts and the St.

Petersburg Fine Arts, Sculpture, and Architecture Institute. Chunsheng resides in Philadelphia as a neighbor to the Arboretum. He travels frequently abroad and pursues his painting and other arts across the globe.



Robert Willoughby

Robert Willoughby is a Chicago native who spent years in Florida and New York prior to settling in Knoxville, Tennessee, as his current residence. Robert is an Investment Banking and

Capital Markets Senior Advisor and holds a BA from Bucknell University and an MBA from the University of Michigan. He lives with his wife, Candice Wang-Willoughby, and daughters, Penny, Kirby, and Quinn.



Bethany Wiggin

Bethany Wiggin is an Associate Professor of German and member of the graduate groups in Comparative Literature and English at the University of Pennsylvania. She

founded the Penn Program

in Environmental Humanities in 2016 and serves as the Faculty Director. She currently holds a Weiler Research Fellowship from Penn and previously held the Deans' Distinguished Visiting Fellowship at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine. She is committed to the right to research as a human right and writes and speaks regularly to both academic and broader public audiences.



Nicholas Pevzner

Nicholas Pevzner is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania's Stuart Weitzman School of Design

and a Faculty Fellow at the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy. His research focuses on the socio-spatial impact of energy infrastructure, including spatial planning for the renewable energy transition, and on integration of urban ecological systems and their metrics into design. He is a co-editor of Scenario Journal, a digital open-access publication focused on interdisciplinary conversations between design and ecology.

Ex- Officio Members of the Board



Amanda & Andrew Cobb

Amanda and Andy Cobb are members, committed volunteers, and friends of the Arboretum. Amanda is a real estate agent with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services in

Chestnut Hill. She received her BA in English Language and Literature from Trinity College and is a graduate of the Springside School. Andy is the Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships at Impinj, an information and technology services firm in Seattle, WA, and he received a BA in economics from Middlebury College. The Cobbs reside in Gwynedd Valley, Pennsylvania, with their sons, Charlie and Winn.

A Pandemic Boom: Arboretum Sees Record- Breaking Numbers This Year

With an abundance of sunshine, fresh air, lush foliage, colorful flowers, and towering trees, the Morris Arboretum captured the interest of our community in record-breaking numbers this past fiscal year, July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. More than 154,000 visitors, class-takers, tour participants, and special event attendees were welcomed through the garden gates – more people were served by the Morris Arboretum in a single year than ever before in the institution’s history! In the spring months of April, May, and June alone, the Arboretum saw a 43% increase in overall monthly visitation against the previous year, with nearly 50,000 people enjoying our inspiring and peaceful grounds.

The Arboretum’s recent visitation data tells the story of a return to nature during challenging times. The value of green, outdoor spaces and their restorative powers cannot be overstated, and the turmoil of the past year fully revealed how essential public access to arboreta, gardens, parks, and other outdoor spaces has become. Indeed, a record number of members and visitors arrived in droves to quietly walk alone among our beautiful gardens or to spend time in nature with family, friends, and neighbors during one of the most difficult years in our nation’s recent history.

The Morris Arboretum is proud to offer a lush, green, open gathering space for the community at a time when so many need a safe environment in which to interact with one another again. Together, we look forward to a future in which we all share a stronger connection to the environment, helping us to heal, grow, and genuinely thrive.

Notice: Advance Tickets No Longer Required

As of August 16, 2021, advance tickets are no longer required to visit the Morris Arboretum. While we will continue to offer advance tickets for those who like to plan ahead, they are no longer required.

The last admission to the garden will be granted one hour before gates close (4pm April-October, 3pm November-March).

To make the most of your visits, be sure to check our website, follow us on social media, and sign up for our monthly eNewsletter at info@morrisarboretum.org.





Fall Classes and Conferences

Fall is for learning, and the Arboretum is excited to offer a variety of in-person and on-line opportunities. Take a horticulture or landscape design class and learn how to pick the best plants for your landscape, get creative and experiment with floral design, or focus on your health with a soothing forest bathing or yoga class. To see the complete class line-up, check out our website at morrisarb.org/classes. Here are some highlights:

On-location Classes:

Growing Beautiful Roses: Selection, Care, and History with staff horticulturist, Erin Conley

Saturday, September 18, 10 am – 12 noon

Yoga in the Garden

4 Tuesdays, September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 4 – 5 pm

Drawing the Majesty of Trees at the Arboretum

4 Tuesdays, September 21, 28,
October 5, 12, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Great Trees at the Morris Arboretum with Paul Meyer

Thursday, October 21, 4 – 6 pm

Shirin Yoku: Forest Bathing

Sunday, October 10, 9:30 am – 12 noon

Fall Flower Creations: Pumpulents, Succulents, and Dried Flower Craft Day with Cheryl Wilks

Friday, October 15, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm, or
Saturday, October 16, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

On-line Classes:

Deer Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast

Wednesday, September 29, 7 – 8 pm

Create a Naturally Beautiful Water Garden

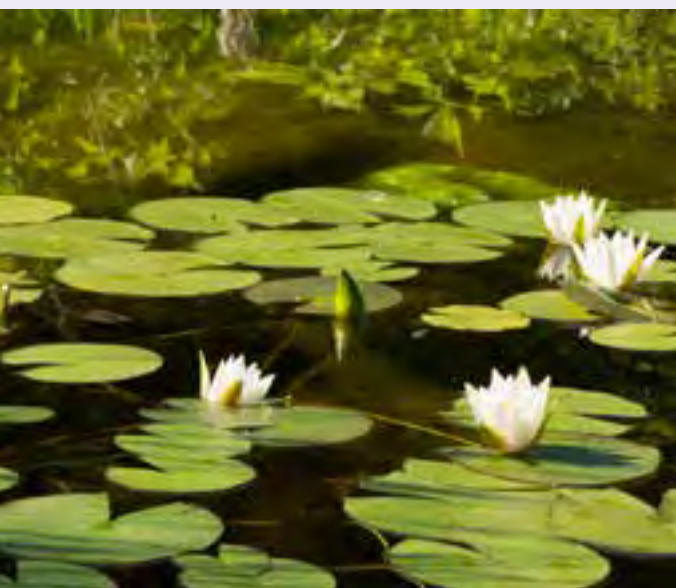
Friday, October 1, 2 – 3 pm,

Get outside! Tips for Fall Hiking in the Delaware Valley

Sunday, September 26, 1 – 2 pm

Hidden Philadelphia: Exploring the Hidden Gems of our City

October 27, 7 – 8 pm



Conferences:

For more information visit: morrisarb.org/conferences

ON-LINE

Tree Canopy Conference: Working with the Web of Life

To be offered on Zoom

Tuesday, October 12 and Wednesday, October 13, 9 am–12 noon

Description: Urban forests are more than a collection of individual trees, a fact increasingly recognized by city-wide planning efforts like Philadelphia's Urban Forestry Strategic Plan. From the availability of soil and water to regional climate effects, and from grassroots planting efforts to municipal policies and environmental ethics, the conference looks at urban forests as part of larger, interconnected systems.

Who should attend: People responsible for planting and caring for trees on college campuses, in municipalities, in parks or along streets, as well as arborists, landscape architects, and street tree advocates.

ON-LINE

New Life for Old Cemeteries: Connecting Communities and Open Space

To be offered on Zoom

Thursday and Friday, November 4 and 5, 9 am–12:15 pm

Description: Learn how cemeteries are an integral part of our urban infrastructure and ecosystem and how preserving and caring for these important open spaces are vital to the ecological, economic, and social sustainability of communities today.

Who should attend: Staff and volunteers of primarily older/historic cemeteries, open space preservationists, historians, urban planners, and monument proponents who see the cultural value in commemorating people buried in cemeteries.



Scarecrow Heroes Haunt the Garden this October

This last year has been full of heroes. In honor of those who rose up with courage and determination – be they next door neighbors or caped crusaders – the theme of this year’s Annual Scarecrow Contest will be ‘Hero Crows’. From everyday heroes, to comic book heroines, to fairy tale legends, all heroes are welcome! Check out our heroic scarecrows throughout the garden October 2 – 31.

The favorite entry, as voted on by our visitors, will win a top prize of \$250. Last year, Ursula, created by a group of Jarrettown Elementary School Students, took top honors. Join in the fun and watch for more information on our website this fall!





Holiday Garden Railway

Bundle up the kids (or just yourself) and come bask in the warm, happy glow of twinkling lights. Our Garden Railway will once again be transformed into a festive wonderland for the holiday season. The Holiday Garden Railway is a magical experience for visitors of all ages. The Holiday Garden Railway experience will be open daily beginning November 26. There is no surcharge for this experience during the Arboretum's regular business hours.

Want something even more spectacular? Come visit the Holiday Garden Railway at night, when the lights really sparkle. With laser lights in the trees and twinkly lights along the railway, the Holiday Garden Railway comes alive amidst an evening backdrop. Holiday Garden Railway Nights return on weekends starting Thanksgiving weekend through December. Tickets go on sale in November and often sell out quickly. Keep an eye on the website for details!

Rediscover the Shop at Morris Arboretum

After being closed, quiet, and dark for many months, this summer the Shop at Morris Arboretum burst back to life. Come rediscover your favorite little shopping spot. The Shop is the perfect place to find a nature-themed gift, engage young minds in science, or treat yourself to a little something special. Who needs a crowded behemoth box store when you can shop at our little gem in the heart of 92 acres of nature?

Don't forget to check out our growing selection of snacks to keep you going while adventuring around the Arboretum.

Stop in soon because smiling faces are waiting to greet you. Please note that, until further notice, visitors and staff are required to wear masks in all indoor spaces at the Arboretum.



Plan a Gift. Plan Your Legacy.

You can make an impact on the future of the Morris Arboretum with a gift in your will or trust. Bequests, both large and small, have been crucial to the success of the Arboretum since its founding--providing for endowments and internships, new or renovated landscapes and gardens, and programs critical to the Arboretum's mission of education, research, and horticultural display.

Benefits of a charitable gift from your estate plan:

- You make a significant and meaningful contribution that might not have been possible during your lifetime.
- The value of your charitable gift is not subject to income or estate tax.
- When set up as a percentage, your estate intention allows for changes in the value of your assets.

Please contact us for suggested language to help with your planning.

Mira Zergani, Director of Development

mzergani@upenn.edu

Already included the Arboretum in your plans? Let us know. A bequest or other estate gift to the Morris Arboretum entitles you to membership in the Lydia Morris Legacy Circle and the University of Pennsylvania's Harrison Society; it's our small way of thanking you for your generosity!



Morris Arboretum Membership: Feel Good About Giving!

Giving the gift of a Morris Arboretum membership this holiday season is an easy choice, and it's a gift that will keep giving all year long. Your recipients receive an entire year of unlimited garden admission, and this is one gift that is zero-waste and will enhance wellness by getting your loved ones outdoors in a beautiful, natural setting.

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

ONLINE – Visit our website Morrisarb.org/membership to purchase anytime. Customizable gift certificates are available to download and present to your gift recipient while their membership is being processed.

PHONE – Reach the membership office directly at 215-247-5777 ext. 205, Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm.

To ensure your gift membership materials are in hand by your desired date, make sure you allow two weeks between placing your order and receiving materials. For December 24 delivery, place orders no later than December 13!

Tributes & Memorial Gifts

The Morris Arboretum is grateful to the following donors who made tribute and memorial gifts between February 1, 2021 and July 31, 2021.

In memory of Louis J. Appell, Jr.
Anonymous

In memory of Edward K. Asplundh
Jane Vogan Flax
John R. Vogan

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

In memory of Jolan Benner
Mary & Ralph Benner

In memory of Mike Burke
Patrick Hardy & Stephen Dahlan

In memory of Terry Clark
Eve Prensky & Fred Roe

In memory of Thomas G. Corley
Angella Bock
Connie Brady
Kristen Cacciatore
Alison Cerkvenik
Shu-Kang Chen
Kathryn Corley
Kristen Drury
Roseann & David Fry
Ann Gerhart & Mike Sokolove
Renee Greidinger
Dana Harrison
Angie Holler
Mary & Bruce Immordino
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Nancy Romancheck
Shelley Rosen
Brenda Sanabria
Anita Sands & Matt Bulger
Peter Sheridan
Susan Smith-Cunnien
Steven Socol
Celeste Sullivan
Rosemarie & Tim Sullivan
The Turcotte Family
Matthew Welsher
Eric Wimmers
David Wolcott

In honor of Shelley Dillard
Donna Hecker

*In honor of Diana and Stuart Donaldson's
anniversary and birthdays*
Mary Jane Raymond

In memory of Elizabeth B. Farley
Farley Family Fund

In memory of George Comly Foust Jr.
The Estate of Doreen L. Foust

In memory of Sabina B. Gatti
Jan & Bill Lutz

In memory of Sally Gendler
Gretchen Carey
Carol J. Gendler Revocable Trust
Amy Gendler
Shannon McCullough
Erin Monaghan
Anne & Baird Standish

In honor of Ellen & Jay Hass
John & Diane Kim Foundation

In memory of Barbara Hartman
The Staff & Management of Harleysville Bank

In memory of Frank Hollingsworth
Carol & Merrill Thim

In memory of Andrew Learner
George Newcombe

In memory of Nancy Maialetti-Owen
Eileen Marolla & Charles Sterne

In memory of Raymond S. Markowitz
Natalie Markowitz

In honor of Paul W. Meyer
Carole Haas Gravagno
Elizabeth Ray McLean

In honor of Susan & Bob Peck
Bambie Putnam
Debbie Rodgers & Paul Meyer

In memory of Mary Ellen Post
Nancy King & Koren Christensen

In memory of Nicholas Roman
Mary Ann & Anthony Catanzaro

In memory of Barbara Ann Ruth
Patricia Pugliese
Janice M. Rowan

In memory of Thomas H. Sauerman
Sue Sauerman

In memory of Jim Shea
Gayle & Stu Samuels

*In honor of Mary Ann & Jerry Smith's
50th anniversary*
Joan M. Schaffling

In memory of Jerome Snyder
Bernice & Bruce Abaluck
Ellen & Bob Davis
Joanne & Chris Schell & Family
Karen & Howard Schwartz
Marilyn Snyder Getz

In memory of Thomas R. Speranza
Sandra Kuritzky
Miriam S. Moskowitz
Mary Jane & Sam Przydzial

In memory of Marilyn Steeg
The Garfinkels
Ellen & Jay Hass
Robbi Holdreith

In honor of Helen D. Stephan
Sandra Stephan

In memory of Richard Stover
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Jane & George Kaufmann
Joan & Alan Kober
Madelyn Ladner & Robert Gutowski
Barbara & Lindsay Pirie
The Rado Family
Barb & Vince Sly
Mary Ann Smith
Joan Worgan
Joanne Yutzler

In memory of Raymond Charles Tennyson Sr.
Maggie McGinn

In honor of Leslie Weisser
Madelyn Ladner & Robert Gutowski
Keith Lyons

In honor of Lee Wilson
Katherine Wilson



Morris Arboretum
UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

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Philadelphia, PA 19118

