

VOLUNTEER

February 2023



Morris Arboretum
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Hamamelis vernalis (vernal witchhazel)

Volunteer

Morris Arboretum of the University of
Pennsylvania
Volunteer is a newsletter published monthly for
Arboretum volunteers.

Mission of Morris Arboretum

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania inspires an understanding of the relationship between plants, people and place through education, research and horticultural display.

Vision for the Future

As an irreplaceable public garden, the Morris Arboretum provides a place of respite, beauty and learning where the joy and wonder of the natural world inspire all who visit to be enthusiastic ambassadors for plants and our fundamental dependence on them.

A vital part of one of the great research universities in the world, the Morris Arboretum is renowned for its science aimed at understanding and conserving plants and ecosystems.

CALL FOR CONTENT!

Do you have an idea for a column or article for our beloved Volunteer Newsletter? Let us know!

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Photos: Jenny Rajotte unless otherwise stated



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Livia' (Livia witchhazel)

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Letter from the Interim Editor

Dear Volunteers,

I have a secret to share: we were all wrong about January.

“I’ll get a chance to slow down!” and, “it will be a welcome change from the busy season!” have been bandied about here for months at the Arboretum in anticipation of the post-holiday “lull.” I’m here to confess that, as many things we anticipate in life and in nature... abundance did not come in the form that we expected.

There are, simply put, too many exciting things happening for dormancy!

If you’re interested to know more about what’s been keeping us busy, have I got a pitch for you: in this edition of the Volunteer Newsletter, you’ll find information about the Digital Volunteer Winter Warmer series taking place each Tuesday in February at 1pm. You’ll hear from staff across the Arboretum, connect with one another, and receive updates on some things to expect this Spring, and beyond—all from the comfort of your own device. Zoom links to join us can be found on page 3.

I certainly don’t wish to spoil the surprises and sneak peaks my colleagues are going to share, so I’ll end my note to you this month by saying, simply, thank you for all you do and have done to create this unique and dynamic community of volunteers who make visiting this place full of special moments for visitors (and staff! And each other!).

I’m looking forward to connecting with many of you this month as we build toward Spring!

Jenny Rajotte
Program Coordinator, Internships & Volunteers

Notes from the Garden Educator's Chair

BEING MINDFUL OF BEES

During a walk through the Arboretum in January, my attention was drawn to the honeyed fragrance emanating from a wintersweet shrub along the Oak Allee and the sound of several bees buzzing around its delicate flowers. I was not expecting to see a lot of bee activity in frigid temperatures, so I was moved to learn more about these special pollinators.

Worldwide, there are more than 20,000 different species of bees. Pennsylvania is home to over 400 different species. Some of the most common species found in Pennsylvania include the honey bee, bumble bee, and various types of wild bees like mining bees, mason bees, leafcutter bees and sweat bees.

While some bees, such as bumblebees, hibernate and emerge from hibernation between March and May when temperatures begin to rise and flowers start to bloom, honeybees are active all year round. During the winter, honeybees will cluster together to stay warm, and their activity level is lower than in summer. Bee emergence is also affected by other factors such as the availability of food, the severity of the winter weather, and the presence of disease or pests.

In recent years, a decline of the bee population has been well documented and has been linked to a variety of environmental factors, including habitat loss, widespread pesticide use, climate change, the emergence of several diseases and parasites, such as Varroa mite and Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), and invasive species, such as the Asian hornet or small hive beetle.



By learning more about the importance of bees and the threats they face, we can help raise awareness and encourage others to take action to protect them. Organizations such as The Xerces Society, The Pollinator Partnership, and Penn Environment are working to protect bees and other pollinators through conservation, research, and education. Supporting these organizations can help to protect bees and other pollinators.

See you in the Arboretum.

Jim Kohler, Chair of Garden Educators

NEW: Winter Warmer Digital Volunteer Series

We are thrilled to announce this year's February Volunteer series of Winter Warmers: a chance to get together (over Zoom) and hear from some of the staff about what's been happening at the Arboretum and some things to look forward to this Spring!

Join in from the comfort of your computer or other device each Tuesday in February at 1 PM (links provided below*). Each session will last approximately one hour, and include a chance to ask questions, catch up with one another in the meeting chat, and get excited for the upcoming season of growing warmth and blooms at the Arboretum.

**Note: the Winter Warmer Digital Series is intended for volunteers and staff of Morris Arboretum. Please do not share our links with any outside parties.
Thank you for your consideration!*

Tue, Feb 7, 2023 | 1 PM

Hear from Horticulture: Join Vince Marrocco, Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture, and the Horticulture team for some sneak previews and project updates for the coming season.

ZOOM LINK: <https://upenn.zoom.us/j/99848372879?pwd=Rmx0aUhZaXg2MGJqQ3hKenB3eTJ1dz09>

Tue, Feb 14, 2023 | 1 PM

Labels and Labors: Hear from Plant Collections Manager Pam Morris-Olshefski for updates on our quest to label the collection. We'll also do a Fellows round-up to find out what they've been up to at the Arboretum and beyond!

ZOOM LINK: <https://upenn.zoom.us/j/99935305861?pwd=elppdzZLQzdzVk81YmpVTG9HQ1B6dz09>

Tue, Feb 21, 2023 | 1 PM

Learning for a Lifetime: We'll check in with Rosarian Erin Conley about her work and garden travels in England and some impactful findings and inspirations. And for your own inspiration, Stephanie Bruneau, Assistant Director, Adult Education will take you through a Spring Class overview.

ZOOM LINK: <https://upenn.zoom.us/j/96413990968?pwd=VWREUIBURUVndmp3eW9UTEdWZmh3Zz09>

Tue, Feb 28, 2023 | 1 PM

Exciting Updates! The Winter Warmer series ends with a Director's Update with F. Otto Haas Executive Director Bill Cullina, and a thrilling sneak preview of some visual changes coming this Spring with Teri Scott, Director of Marketing.

ZOOM LINK: <https://upenn.zoom.us/j/97719774919?pwd=VzRpYTV3SmFvRXFQSVhtQStMcm16dz09>

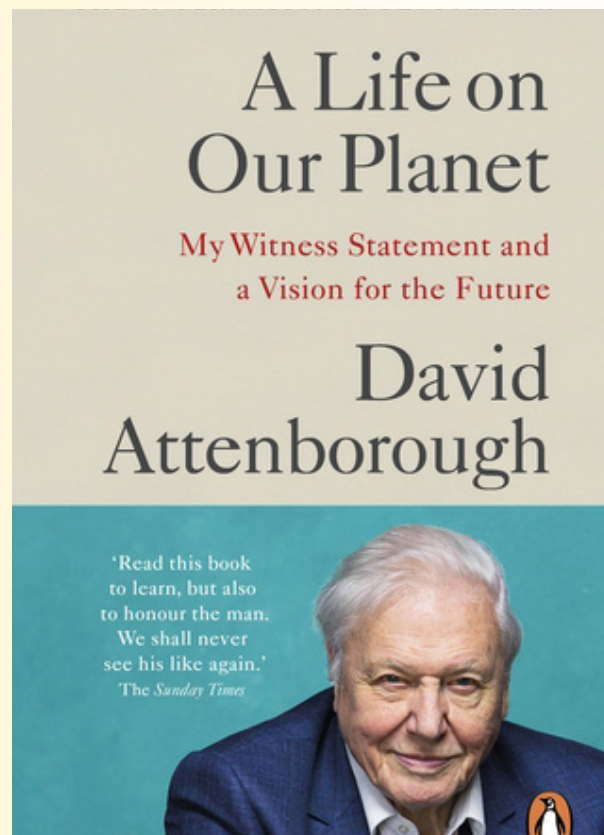
The Book Nook: Book Club

Feb 3 | 1:00 PM | [Zoom Meeting](#)

A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future by David Attenborough

In this scientifically informed account of the changes in nature over the last century, award-winning natural historian David Attenborough shares a lifetime of wisdom and a hopeful vision for the future. See the world. Then make it better. It is the story of how we came to make this, our greatest mistake -- and how, if we act now, we can yet put it right. We have one final chance to create the perfect home for ourselves and restore the wonderful world we inherited.

This meeting is open to anyone interested!

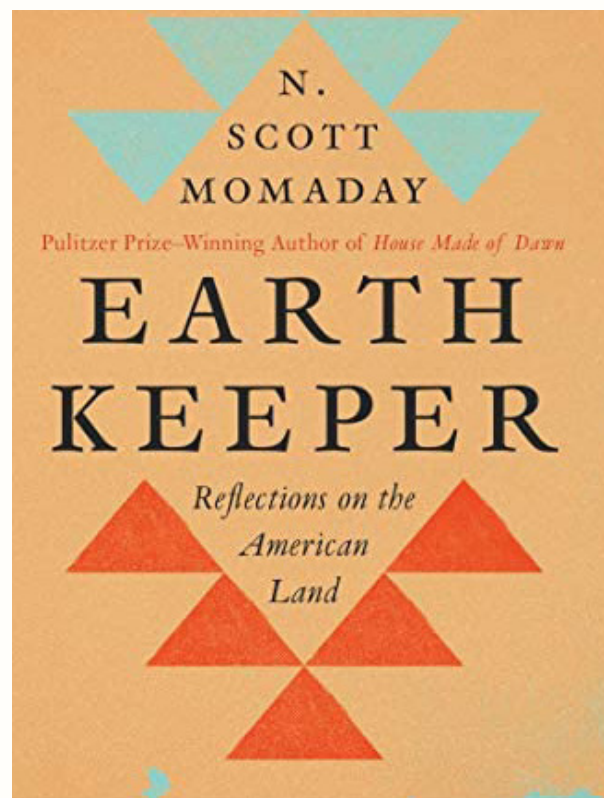


Mar 3 | 1:00 PM | [Zoom Meeting](#)

Earth Keeper: Reflections on the American Land by Scott Momaday

A magnificent testament to the earth, from Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and poet N. Scott Momaday.

One of the most distinguished voices in American letters, N. Scott Momaday has devoted much of his life to celebrating and preserving Native American culture. In this wise and wondrous work, Momaday shares stories and memories throughout his life, stories that have been passed down through generations, stories that reveal a profound spiritual connection to the American landscape and reverence for the natural world. He shows us that the earth is a sacred place of wonder and beauty, a source of strength and healing that must be honored and protected before it's too late. As he so eloquently and simply reminds us, we must all be keepers of the earth.



Arboretum History Chat & Chew Series

Do you wonder how John and Lydia Morris obtained their money? Are you curious about how they spent it? The answers may surprise you! Join us as we “follow the money.”

Joyce Munro, an Archives volunteer and author of *Untold Stories of Compton*, leads our sessions. Whether you're a volunteer or employee, paid or unpaid, newcomer or long-timer, you're welcome to join us.

Wednesday, February 15 | 12 PM
Widener Upper Gallery
Bring your lunch and chew on something.

Kindly let Jenny Rajotte know if you plan to attend
jrajotte@upenn.edu



Third session: Wednesday, March 15
at 12 PM in Widener Upper Gallery

Final session: Tuesday, April 11
at 12 PM in Widener Upper Gallery



Scenes from the January History Chat & Chew

From the Archives

by Joyce H. Munro

A Date Worth Noting: February 1933

February 1933 marked the beginning of active research at the newly-organized Morris Arboretum. Director [Rodney H. True](#) submitted his first budget to UPenn's VP Brakeley and it was an ambitious one. After all, scientific research did not come cheap. Brakeley called it a "first rate" budget, but he was obligated to inform True that expenditures had to be kept at a minimum since the Arboretum did not have a steady source of income yet. Only certain items necessary for conducting research would be approved, like a microscope, centrifuge, autoclave, pH scale and a bus.

And why a bus? Before specimens could be analyzed, they had to be gathered and that meant getting in a vehicle and going someplace to collect interesting vegetation, preferably something rare or novel. True and his colleagues in the Department of Botany called it botanizing.

[John Bartram](#), a Colonial-era Philadelphian, was quite familiar with botanizing—he went up and down the East Coast for thirty years, charting the terrain and exploring the flora. In 1765, Bartram headed south on his [final trip](#). Despite a bout with malaria, he trudged through swamps and climbed sand hills, gathering specimens of palmetto, magnolia, sweet bay, pine and live oak, and stitching them to paper. This trip lasted nine months—Arboretum trips lasted just a week, with nights spent in tourist cabins along the way.

Sorry to tell you this, but True did not get a new bus right away. The rickety old UPenn bus, in use since the 1920s, had to be pressed into service once again. True had no choice but to climb aboard and hope it didn't break down en route because the Arboretum faculty and their students had a mammoth task ahead: "to assemble at Compton the most complete herbarium of woody plants that it is possible to collect," as the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that February.



Laboratory in basement kitchen of Compton
(Morris Archives 2004.1.945ls)

Galanthus peaking out near Gates Hall

Branches & Blooms

AROUND THE GARDENS

Looking up beneath
the *Metasequoia* grove

Winter view from the Paul W. Meyer Drive

*Hamamelis vernalis* (vernal witchhazel)

You're Invited: Tax Tips for the Generations Webinar

12:00 PM EST on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

Join the Morris Arboretum for a special virtual program, "Tax Tips for the Generations: Silent, Boomer, Gen X, and the Sandwich Generation" with Lynn Malzone Ierardi, JD, Director of Gift Planning, University of Pennsylvania. With more than 30 years in the field, Lynn is an accomplished author and leader in the charitable planning community.

In this fast-paced, one-hour program, Lynn will provide some key strategies that may help reduce the possible tax bite in the upcoming years while also giving you an opportunity to ask questions about how you can make the most educated tax decisions that will benefit you and your family. There will be specific pointers for those supporting parents and children. For those interested in maximizing their taxable assets, this program is simply one not to be missed!

Advance registration is required: [Register Here!](#)

February

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Book Club (Zoom) 1pm	4 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm
5 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm	6	7 Winter Warmer on Zoom: 1pm	8	9 Education Committee Meeting 1:00pm	10	11 Wellness Walk: 10:30am Bare Naked Tree Tour: 11am Regular Tour: 1-2pm
12 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm	13	14 Winter Warmer on Zoom: 1pm	15 Arboretum History Talk #2 12pm	16	17	18 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm
19 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm	20	21 Winter Warmer on Zoom: 1pm	22	23	24	25 Wellness Walk: 10:30am Bare Naked Tree Tour: 11am Regular Tour: 1-2pm
26 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm	27	28 Winter Warmer on Zoom: 1pm				

March

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Book Club (Zoom) 1pm	4 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm
5 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm	6	7	8	9 Education Committee Meeting 1:00pm	10	11 Wellness Walk 10:30am Witchhazels Tour: 11am Regular Tour: 1-2pm
12 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm	13	14	15 Arboretum History Talk 12pm	16	17	18 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm
19 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm	20	21	22 *Hort Volunteer Season Begins*	23	24	25 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm
26 Wellness Walk 10:30am Regular Tour: 1-2pm	27	28	29	30	31	