

SEASONS

SPRING.SUMMER 2023 | VOLUME 52 NUMBER 1



Morris Arboretum
& Gardens

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



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SEASONS

Morris Arboretum & Gardens
of the UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Published two times a year as a benefit of membership. Inquiries concerning back issues, missing issues, or subscriptions should be addressed to the editor.

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VISITOR ENTRANCE

100 E. Northwestern Avenue between Germantown and Stenton avenues in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia

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COVER PHOTO: Bill Cullina

INSIDE COVER PHOTO: Mark Stehle

A Note from the Executive Director

BILL CULLINA

*The F. Otto Haas
Executive Director*



In June 1933, then-University of Pennsylvania President Dr. Thomas Gates officially opened the Morris Arboretum to the public. In this span of one human lifetime, change has come at a faster pace than any other time in recorded history. Between the age of radio and the age of the iPhone, the Arboretum has grown to be a center for research on the plants of Pennsylvania, developed a renowned collection of trees, and is now one of the largest public gardens in North America. As we celebrate our 90th anniversary, I have been wondering how our trees have grown and changed since that day in 1933.

The oldest trees at the Arboretum were already wizened veterans during the 1930s. When John and Lydia Morris purchased the lands for their estate in 1887, most of the land was cleared for agriculture, although the hillside below the Widener Welcome Center and Out on a Limb was far too steep for cultivation and thus heavily forested. One suspect for the title of oldest living tree goes to a black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) growing on the right just as you exit the Widener Woods on the way down to the Rose Garden. Black gum can live over 700 years, but they grow very slowly. The result of a recent tree ring count puts this tree's age at at least 230 years old, or just about the age of the U.S. Constitution. It is interesting to think about this tree as a young sprout when the Continental Congress was hammering out our nation's charter just down the road. Like many other forest trees, black gum regularly sends up new root sprouts to replace old trunks and expand the colony. Therefore, it is likely that the true age of this entire individual is much, much greater.

The award for our oldest living cultivated tree goes to the ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), which stands next to where the Morris mansion once was. The tree was likely planted about 1890 just outside the door of the glass porch. Photographs from the 1960s show the tree had grown so large that it seemed to consume the side of the house. At 140, our tree is still a teenager by ginkgo standards. Ginkgoes are among the oldest living trees on the planet. We have another ginkgo growing on the farm that is a seedling from the thousand-year-old tree at Yongmunsa Temple, South Korea.

Among the first still-living trees planted at our fledgling public Arboretum is a cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*) growing on the edge of the woods below the Widener Welcome Center. It was once one of three, but the vagaries of time and weather have taken down its siblings. Although it feels to us that trees live forever, the reality is that, whether in a forest or a park, trees come and go. Only 4 percent of our current tree collection was alive in 1933, and only 50 percent date back to the year 2000. Although we lovingly care for our veteran trees, we must always plan for their eventual replacements. To commemorate our 90th anniversary, we thought it fitting this year to plant seedlings of three trees from the class of 1933—the magnolia, a longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), and a butternut (*Juglans cinerea*). There is nothing more life-affirming and hopeful than planting a tree.

Thank you and Happy Spring!

Bill Cullina

photo by Amanda DeLeo



Morris Arboretum
& Gardens

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

A New Look, a New Name, and a New Website!

It has been 90 years since we opened as public garden, and the Morris is celebrating this important milestone in its history by unveiling a new name, a refreshed brand, and a new website.

The new name—Morris Arboretum & Gardens—harkens back to the original Compton owners, John and Lydia Morris, and their shared vision of a public garden where spectacular trees live in harmony with beautiful, flower-filled gardens. To accompany this new name, we have also created refreshed branding that includes new fonts and a logo that is brighter and more colorful. And, if that isn't enough, we also launched [a new website!](#)

Over the past year, we have worked closely with well-known local website design firm [Eastern Standard](#) to build a more visitor-centric website that presents users with a more intuitive way to access information while also being more responsive for mobile devices. We think you will love it as much as we do!

FROM PRIVATE ESTATE TO PUBLIC GARDEN

Celebrating

90 Years of the Morris Arboretum & Gardens

BY MELLANY ARMSTRONG, Communications Coordinator

As a kid, Minturn Wright sneaked into the Morris Arboretum, which was across the street from where he grew up.

“We used to play in the stream and look at the water wheel,” the 97-year-old recalled recently. At that time, he said there weren’t many visitors walking around in the gardens. “It really was just kind of a park that nobody went to.”

During his long life, Wright has seen the transformation of the public garden from essentially a research institution at its very beginning to the educational and horticultural gem it is today.

BEGINNINGS

Wright met Lydia Morris at her estate named Compton when he was very young. “She was my grandmother’s cousin,” he said. “She died soon afterward, and the Arboretum was (entrusted) to Penn.”

The Compton property was a significant addition for the University of Pennsylvania when it took charge in 1932. A notable field of study at Penn was botany, and Lydia’s bequest provided needed space for research and plant collections.

But Lydia’s will specified that Compton and the Bloomfield farm was to be called the Morris Arboretum. Thousands of people attended when the gates of the Morris Arboretum opened to the public for the first time on Sunday, June 4, 1933.

Over the years, the Morris offered memberships, as well as lecture series and educational classes. By the early 1970s, however, the buildings being used for research

FLOWER WALK THEN



FLOWER WALK NOW



Above: A historic view from the Orange Balustrade down the Flower Walk toward Wyndcliff at Germantown and Hillcrest avenues. The marble fountain and sundial are along the center path. Below: A contemporary view of what is now known as the Pennock Flower Walk, looking toward the Orange Balustrade.

and classrooms were deteriorating or had been torn down. The Compton mansion, which had housed labs, was demolished in 1968. The Rose Garden became overgrown and had lost its recognition by the American Rose Society.

“It was a pretty decrepit situation,” said Paul W. Meyer, former F. Otto Haas executive director. “And I’m not exaggerating when I say that we were literally collapsing.”

TRANSFORMATION

Meyer, who became curator of the Arboretum’s Living Collection in 1976, said the garden needed new leadership to help it transition from a private garden built for John and Lydia Morris to a public garden that could receive more than 100,000 visitors a year.

Notable changes began once F. Otto Haas assumed the position of chair of the Advisory Board of Managers of the Morris in 1972. In 1975, Haas helped move the Morris Arboretum from under the guidance of Penn’s Botany department to the Provost’s office. William Klein was hired as the first full-time director in 1977.

Leaders redoubled fundraising efforts after the Arboretum was included on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The staff undertook long-range planning to restore the garden and clean out overgrowth and weeds, as well as build new facilities.

Meyer was appointed director in 1991 and held that position until he retired in 2019. He led efforts to bring back the beauty of the garden, stabilize finances, and strengthen the Morris’s education and research programs.

“I think the important thing is that this space also houses an institution, and that the institution has a very important role in terms of education, in terms of research, in terms of collections,” Meyer said. “We’re known nationally and internationally. And I couldn’t have said that 60 years ago.”

GENERATIONS OF BEAUTY

This year, the Arboretum celebrates 90 years of being a public garden with a new name—Morris Arboretum & Gardens. Adding the “& Gardens” reflects John and Lydia Morris’s intent to engage students, children, and adults through research, education, and beautiful horticultural display.

A new leadership era began with the hiring of Bill Cullina as the F. Otto Haas executive director in 2019. Cullina came to Morris Arboretum from the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden where he served as its president and CEO.



“As we stand on the cusp of our second century, I am aware that our role as a research institution and a place for joy and healing has never been more critical,” said Cullina. “I believe that regular contact with the natural world is an essential part of our humanity. These 165 acres of meadows, trees and gardens in such a heavily urbanized region are a true gift of health, peace and well-being to our community.”

Cullina said the Morris is important ecologically and has a role in the sustainability of our planet.

“We speak for the trees, and our trees are in trouble: Climate change, introduced insects and diseases, invasive species are destroying our forests,” he said. “We are focusing on the taxonomy and conservation of rare species and restoration of imperiled trees such as American ash, Canada hemlock and American beech.”

LOOKING AHEAD

New projects that Cullina is excited about include completion of bluestone walkways in the Rose Garden that will enhance the appearance and accessibility of the beloved space, and progress on a new molecular lab that he says will be transformational for the research staff.

The whimsical and colorful pop-up garden Exuberant Blooms that is being installed near the Oak Allee will be a cheery way to celebrate 90 years, he added.

“Lydia gifted the Arboretum to the University of Pennsylvania so it could become a place for botanical research, horticultural education and public engagement,” Cullina said. “With the expansion of our research program, educational opportunities for children, students and adults, and a focus on responsive and engaging visitor experience, I believe we are celebrating Lydia’s gift in all we do.”

Minturn Wright, a longtime dedicated and enthusiastic supporter, no longer sneaks into the Arboretum. But he still visits.

“It looks absolutely wonderful,” he said. “The Arboretum, to me, is the crown jewel of that whole area. It’s very high class and when you combine meaningful research with visual horticulture, I think that’s just terrific.”

Images, top to bottom: Penn researchers using Compton’s kitchen as a laboratory, 1933; Penn botany professor Dr. Harlan H. York in the lab in Compton’s basement kitchen, 1933; Compton, 1964; Rose Garden, 1933; Rose Garden fountain, 1974; Cover of *Horticulture* magazine featuring Rose Garden steps, 1933.



90TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENTS

April

New 90th anniversary-themed tours throughout the year, with an emphasis on historic garden elements, trees, and structures that span the 90 years of the Arboretum's history.

Special tree tour—"What These Trees Have Seen," **April 29-30**.

May

The Garden Railway, celebrating 25 years, opens for the season **Friday, May 26**, with the theme "Public Gardens."

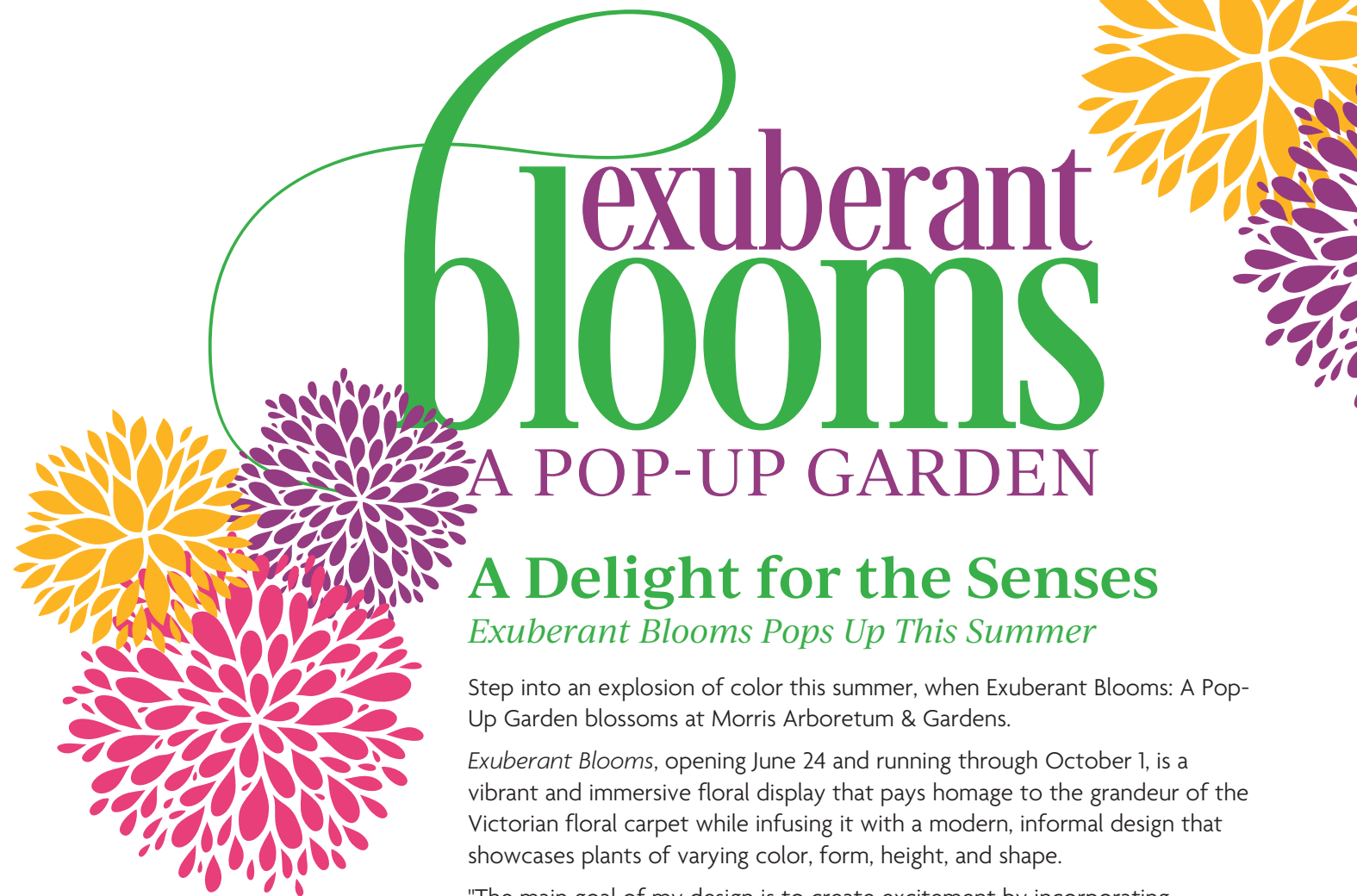
The Rose Garden reopens with new accessible bluestone pavers.

June

Moonlight & Roses gala, **Friday, June 2**.

Exuberant Blooms—A Pop-Up Garden opens **Saturday, June 24**.

Check out our [90th Anniversary web page](#) for details and more events!



A Delight for the Senses

Exuberant Blooms Pops Up This Summer

Step into an explosion of color this summer, when *Exuberant Blooms: A Pop-Up Garden* blossoms at Morris Arboretum & Gardens.

Exuberant Blooms, opening June 24 and running through October 1, is a vibrant and immersive floral display that pays homage to the grandeur of the Victorian floral carpet while infusing it with a modern, informal design that showcases plants of varying color, form, height, and shape.

"The main goal of my design is to create excitement by incorporating aspects of the Victorian formal style with unique plant combinations," said Azalea Meadow horticulturist Trevor Schulte. "The color palette will sweep lengthwise from cool to warm colors."

Spread over more than a quarter acre of open garden, the seven large paisley-shaped "islands" contain more than 10,000 plants with heights ranging from 8 inches to 8 feet. Each bed contains a wide variety of annual and tropical plants known for their bold, saturated colors and their appeal to butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators.

"We're trying something new and starting from a blank slate of turf," said Schulte.

The "cool color" beds will contain shades of blue, purple, black, and burgundy, with highlights of pink, white, and yellow. The "warm color" beds will feature shades of red, orange, yellow, and pink, with contrasts of bold green foliage. Plants within the beds will be arranged in ascending height toward the center. Large plants, some reaching 6 to 8 feet, give the beds a dramatic flair and a sense of space while attracting visitors from a distance.

Schulte said *Exuberant Blooms* is a delightful and exciting way to celebrate the Arboretum's addition to "& Gardens" to its name as well as its 90th anniversary of being a public garden.

"We invite guests to wander between the beds, spend time in the space, explore the plant combinations, take photographs, and share their experience with others," Schulte said.

The exhibition is free with Arboretum admission.

"The main goal of my design is to create excitement by incorporating aspects of the Victorian formal style with unique plant combinations."

Trevor Schulte
Azalea Meadow horticulturist



CHUGGING ALONG AT 25

Garden Railway Marks a Milestone

One of the most enchanting attractions of Morris Arboretum & Gardens is getting a little tweak, or, should we say, track.

The Garden Railway is celebrating 25 years with a new addition—300 feet of track! The new looping section of track, which extends the total model rail line to a third of a mile, will serve as a visual cue for visitors.

“The idea is to make it so folks will follow the train on the new track all the way down into the Garden Railway,” said Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture Vince Marrocco.

Completing the extension wasn’t as easy as just laying down some extra rails.

“The first thing we had to do was find a route that would allow the trains to run relatively level,” Marrocco said. Then, some grading



of the ground was done so that the trestle for the new track wasn’t too high. The new landscaping connects the plant bed on the upper side of the railway to the rest of the railway planting bed. “This new expansion also gives us more room to grow in the future.”

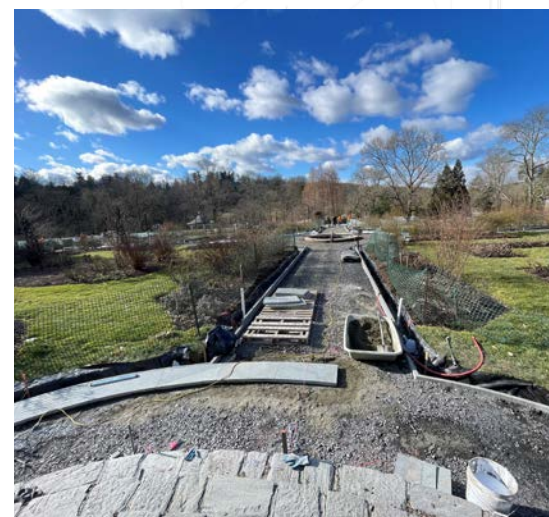


The track addition is the largest expansion of the Garden Railway since it was installed in 1998. The display was built by Arboretum staff in collaboration with Applied Imagination, a company that uses

plant material to make “botanical architecture.” The Garden Railway’s buildings and bridges are made of natural materials such as bark, leaves, twigs, mosses, and acorns, creating a magical miniature world. The trains are G scale, or 1/29th the size of full-scale trains, and run on electricity that is fed through the track by 18-volt DC electric motors.

Visitors can enjoy many types of model trains on the 15 different rail lines that feature seven loops and tunnels. There are two cable cars, nine bridges—including a trestle bridge you can walk under—and local landmarks and iconic figures displayed in a horticultural landscape scaled to fit the scenes on display. Train masters Bruce Morrell and his grandson Josh Faia, as well as a crew of staff and volunteers, maintain the track and trains.

Be sure to see the Holiday Garden Railway: Nighttime Express this fall when it is dressed up with thousands of twinkling lights!



An Easier Walk Among the Roses

New bluestone pavers provide full access

BY ERIN CONLEY, *Rosarian*

The blooms of spring are heralding a beautiful new look for the Rose Garden that also brings more accessibility.

Ground was broken in October 2022 to install permeable hardscaping that will make it easier for visitors of all ages and abilities to walk among the flowers.

This garden and its notable grass walkways were originally designed to be used only by John and Lydia Morris. The Morris’s growing number of visitors means more foot traffic on the main grass walkways, making it progressively harder to grow high-quality turf here. To alleviate this problem, bluestone pavers are being installed on the central walkway and cross walkway. These pavers will make the Rose Garden accessible to all guests.

The pavers begin with a new semi-circular plaza at the bottom of the main staircase and will connect to the plaza at the bottom near the Herb Garden. For the cross walk, the pavers will start at the side entrance and connect to the shady walk on the opposite side. As part of this project, the aging infrastructure of the Rose Garden is being replaced. The plumbing and pipes of the iconic center fountain have been repaired and the fountain is ready to continue exciting children and adults alike for the coming decades.

Additionally, the irrigation system is being converted from an overhead spray to drip irrigation. This will help decrease the spread of fungal and bacterial diseases that can infect rose foliage. Finally, a new landscape lighting design will be installed as part of this project. These lights will greatly expand the Rose Garden’s use for evening events.

In the east quadrant, the beds along the cross walkway will be re-graded as part of the new path. As a result, the roses here have been removed, potted up, and hauled to their temporary home at the greenhouse until they can be planted back into the garden. Otherwise, very few Rose Garden plantings have been disturbed, an aspect that this rosarian is very thankful for! The garden will be open again to visitors in spring 2023.



IN SEARCH OF A Methuselah TREE

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

BLACK TUPELO TREE

“What is the oldest tree at the Arboretum?”

That’s a frequently asked question here at the Arboretum, and it is not easy to answer.

The best way to tell the age of a tree is to count growth rings. One ring equals one year of growth. The problem is you can only see growth rings on trees that have been cut down. Felling a tree to count growth rings is generally a counterproductive endeavor. The next best way to determine age is to drill into the trunk and pull out a core of wood to count rings.

John Morris was a fastidious recordkeeper. So much so that in 1909 he contracted with Pugh & Hubbard, a Philadelphia civil engineering firm, to survey every element of his estate garden, including all trees, shrubs, curb edges, and individual stones in the Japanese gardens. This information was recorded on a series of grid maps. They were then bound into a compendium titled *The Atlas of Compton*. We use this original survey as the basis for our entire plant records system. Unfortunately, the Atlas does not indicate planting dates. The Atlas is a snapshot of what was in the garden in 1909. Determining when some of the earliest specimens at the Arboretum were planted requires a bit of sleuthing. We can use John’s financial ledgers and other notes to determine when some specimens were purchased and that gets us closer to knowing the age of some of the trees planted by the Morris.

GOOD CANDIDATE

A number of trees pre-date the Morris estate. One notable tree is the large chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*) that stands in the middle of the Out on a Limb boardwalk. We cored this tree prior to the construction of *Out on a Limb* to determine its suitability for building a walkway around it. Using this coring, we estimate this tree first sprang to life in 1755, making it about 268 years old.

Downslope, closer to the Rose Garden, sits a ragtag collection of black tupelo trees (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Black

tupelo trees have a unique niche in the local ecology. They are not pioneer trees, nor are they late succession trees. Instead, they relish their role as subordinate, middle canopy trees. They are generally deeply rooted, thus making them somewhat of a challenge to move. Black gums have a slow growth rate but tolerate an amazingly wide ecological range from wet to dry, sun to shade. As the longest-lived hardwood species in the eastern U.S., there are reported examples of these Methuselahs reaching over 600 years old.

Our trees are among the largest in the state, with one specimen reaching 125 feet with a 10-foot circumference. Several of these trees show up on the 1909 Atlas as large trees, making them good candidates for the oldest tree designation.

NOTORIOUS ROOT SUCKERS

Most hardwood trees are ring-porous growers. They produce relatively large cells at the beginning of the season, and successively smaller cells as the season wears on, creating growth rings. Black tupelo trees, however, are diffuse porous growers, producing cells in the trunk that are relatively the same diameter all season long. Counting growth rings on these trees requires a core that is sanded smooth and studied under a microscope. Using this method, we determined that several of our oldest black tupelos are at least 230 years old. However, this still doesn’t give us the age of this organism.

Black tupelo trees are notorious for producing root suckers as they age. An old tree dying off will send up a new shoot several feet away from the truck. These new sprouts grow and fill the void left by the parent plant. In this sense, a trunk may only live for several hundred years, but the organism may live for eons.

We can’t say for certain if the black tupelo trees on the hillside beside the Rose Garden are ancient organisms or not, but this research indicates that they are likely the Morris’s oldest plants.

ICONIC BUR OAK REMOVED FROM ARBORETUM'S GARDENS

BY ANDREW CONBOY, 2022-2023 Martha S. Miller and Rusty Miller Urban Forestry Fellow

The pale green color of the tree's thinning crown contrasted against the tan circles of fresh deadwood pruning cuts. A sort of foul, fermented smell permeated the air around the trunk as the tree continued to ooze sap, attracting an interesting variety of insects. The signs of decline were, unfortunately, abundant.

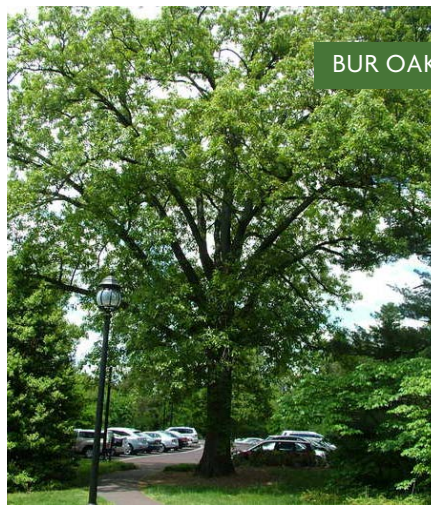
The iconic Morris Arboretum bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) that stood atop the Holly Slope for 100 years had to be removed this past summer as it declined from a nasty fungus. The tree was planted September 9, 1926, by the National Association of Gardeners in commemoration of their visit to Compton, the estate owned by siblings John and Lydia Morris. It was part of the original accession when the estate became Morris Arboretum in 1933.

On the back of the tree, a large necrotic area exposed the tree's heartwood. Upon closer inspection, a harmful wood-decay fungus called *Armillaria* had spread its rhizomorphs throughout. *Armillaria* is a native plant pathogen that typically infects woody plants and causes basal rot or root rot. A very healthy and vigorous plant can usually resist infection, but stressed or damaged plants are more susceptible. There is no known cure once a tree becomes infected.

Because of the tree's location near a walking path and parking lot, fallen branches or full tree failure

could spell catastrophe. The Morris Arboretum & Gardens arborist and urban forestry teams investigated the tree's health further.

First, a rubber mallet was used to strike the trunk of the tree repeatedly, while listening for hollow points around its circumference. The decayed



BUR OAK

sections of wood reverberated with sounds reminiscent of a bass drum—a concerning sign of lost structural integrity.

A resistance drill was then applied to investigate the extent of internal decay around those areas. The instrument measures resistive forces by drilling a small needle through the trunk and toward the center of the tree. Strong, healthy wood resists the needle with a lot of force, while decayed wood provides minimal resistance. The results were interpreted and showed only a few inches of solid wood remaining in



COMPTON OAK

many areas—ultimately not enough to leave the tree standing, and a decision was made to remove it.

Removing the tree required a 100-foot crane, a skilled crew, and a full day of work. The tree's largest limbs were carefully tied and cut by Chief Arborist Peter Fixler and lifted to the parking lot by crane, where the remaining crew cut and chipped them up.

A Compton oak (*Quercus × comptoniae*), which is a natural hybrid between a live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and an overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*), was planted in the bur oak's spot in February. While the Compton oak is not related to the Morris's old estate (also called Compton), there is perhaps no better choice for a replacement tree!

You can see video of the tree removal [here](#).

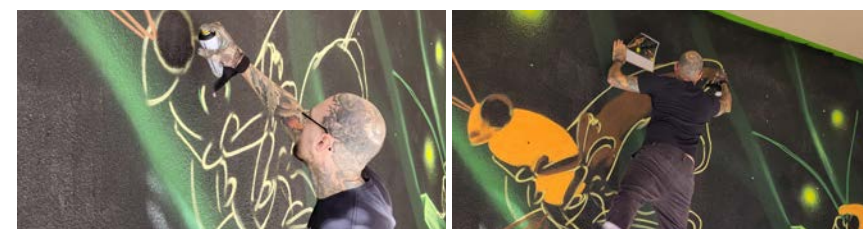


Hillcrest Wall Gets Lit

Some HUGE fireflies are lighting up a new mural at Morris Arboretum & Gardens. Last fall, Evan Lovett of Philadelphia art studio [VURT Creative](#) spent an afternoon spray painting two large lightning bugs on the 10-foot-by-20-foot wall of the Hillcrest Pavilion.

"VURT Creative took a drab, dreary space and brought it to life," said Christopher Dorman, director of Visitor Experience. "Now, our larger-than-life lightning bug mural brings light and excitement to everyone who passes by—from daily visitors to the Little Lightning Bug summer campers who use the space. We're all about nature here and now we have a big mural to make it pop at the Hillcrest building." It's a perfect place for a selfie or photo with friends and family on your next visit.

Lovett used a glow-in-the-dark spray to make the bugs stand out. ▲▼



Wawa Grant Continues Free Admission for Military Members

In November, Morris Arboretum & Gardens received a first-time gift from Wawa in support of the Arboretum's active-duty military free admission program. This program offers free general admission to Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard active duty and reservists, National Guard members (regardless of status), U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members.

"Morris Arboretum has long been a place for people to replenish themselves physically and mentally," said William Cullina, the F. Otto Haas executive director of the Morris. "Our active-duty free admission program is our way of saying thank you and to provide comfort in a beautiful setting to those who give so much for our country. The Arboretum is proud of this program, and grateful for Wawa's support."

For free admission, present a valid military ID, a Geneva Convention Common Access Card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card at the entrance kiosk. This program does not include ticketed and promotional events at the Arboretum. ▼





Moonlight & Roses

JUNE 2, 2023

KRISTEN CASALENUOVO, Manager, Moonlight & Roses

Be sure to save the date for our annual fundraising gala, Moonlight & Roses, which will be held on Friday, June 2, 2023. The event begins with cocktails and abundant hors d'oeuvres in the fragrant and colorful Rose Garden followed by dessert and dancing under the stars in our signature clear-top tent. This not-to-be-missed party generates support for the Morris's renowned collections and beautiful garden features, as well as its research and education programs.

This year we are pleased to pay tribute to institutional honoree Make The World Better. Founded in 2013 by Connor Barwin during his first season playing for the Philadelphia Eagles, Make The World Better (MTWB) believes that communities prosper when all people have access to high-quality public spaces that provide safe outlets for recreation, sports, and arts-based activities. To this end, MTWB works with communities to connect people and inspire stewardship through the revitalization of public spaces. Led by Executive Director Jesse Rendell, MTWB uses a participatory design process that engages residents in all phases of a project, creating a sense of ownership over public spaces and fostering local leadership that endures after construction is completed. The organization has completed three park revitalization projects in Philadelphia including Ralph Brooks Park (Point Breeze), Smith Playground (West Passyunk), and Waterloo Playground (Kensington), with a fourth project under construction at Vare Recreation Center (Grays Ferry).

We are also delighted to honor Nelly Jimenez-Arevalo, executive director and CEO of ACLAMO. ACLAMO is a nonprofit community service organization that

provides educational programs, social services, and access to health and wellness programs to Latinos and other community members. Nelly's vibrant leadership, dedication to the ACLAMO community, and her passion for the natural world made her an ideal partner in establishing one of the Arboretum's signature youth outreach programs Explorar: A Summer Bridge Program. First established in 2016 and based at the Arboretum, Explorar integrates science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math (STEAM) to motivate and inspire young learners from ACLAMO.

Chairing the 2023 *Moonlight & Roses* Planning Committee is Allison DeCaro, who has been a member of the committee since 2018. She and her husband, Roy, along with their two sons, Alex and Teddy, have spent many hours exploring the beautiful gardens and secret fountains of the Morris, and, of course, pretending to be squirrels in Out on a Limb. Allison has lived in Chestnut Hill since 2012 and is vice president of Johnson, Kendall and Johnson's Private Client Group.

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 previous *Moonlight & Roses* attendees.

VIP registration is open now online at 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.

SAVE THE DATE

Member Plant Giveaway

FRIDAY, MAY 19 – SUNDAY, MAY 21

AT BLOOMFIELD FARM

Registration is Required.

The Member Plant Giveaway is back! This year will be a true botanical bonanza celebrating the love of plants and gardening. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or are planning to dig in for the first time, our experienced staff will be on-site with suggestions for everyone.

Premier Members see it first on Friday, May 19, from 4 – 7 pm! Not a Premier Member? Consider upgrading today and strengthen the Morris Arboretum with a Beech, Chestnut, Holly, Oak, Laurel or Collectors Circle [membership](#).

All members are welcome on Saturday, May 20, and Sunday, May 21, from 9 am – 1 pm. Registration is required. Register at morrisarb.org/plantgiveaway.



A MESSAGE FROM THE GREENHOUSE

In the spirit of celebrating natural lands and the role we play in stewarding native ecosystems, the Arboretum is excited to offer several Pennsylvania native perennials and shrubs this year. These plants will be a phenomenal addition to your garden while also serving local ecosystem functions. To continue the fundamental tradition of plant exploration and discovery at the Morris, we will also offer several beloved stunning exotic shrubs from the collection. There will be many new-to-you plants that would be ideal picks for the adventurous gardener wanting to try something unusual or push a hardiness limit. And of course, we will have beautiful flowers, some deer-resistant with lower water needs, that will be great choices for anyone.



Did you know

that the legacy of Morris Arboretum & Gardens' plant distribution tradition started nearly 100 years ago in the will of Lydia Morris?

In addition to distributing plants to other public gardens, the Arboretum has maintained Lydia's wish of sharing plants with members, which continues again this May with you!





MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY PLACE

The Morris Arboretum & the Future of American Landscapes

BY STEPHANIE BRUNEAU, Assistant Director of Adult Education

BEYOND BEING A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO VISIT AND ENJOY, THE MORRIS'S MISSION INCLUDES A FIRM COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH THAT LINKS OUR WORK TO THE WORLDWIDE EFFORT TO NURTURE THE EARTH'S FORESTS, FIELDS, AND LANDSCAPES.

Toward that end, each year the Morris partners with a variety of organizations to convene conferences and symposia for professionals in plant-related fields. One of these, the *Ecological Landscape Design Symposium*, is held every January in partnership with New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) and Connecticut College. Founded in 1990, this annual two-day symposium has a long tradition of exploring landscape design at the intersections of ecology, culture, and art. Each year, the symposium deliberately pushes the envelope, offering in-depth explorations of overlooked and forward-looking topics not presented elsewhere and providing practical, concrete information in lieu of trendy jargon.

This year's symposium was held on January 5 and 6 at Bryn Mawr College, and January 12 and 13 at Connecticut College, where the conference sessions were also live-streamed to a virtual audience. Engaging almost 500 attendees, the event included landscape architects, ecologists, horticulturists and anthropologists. The symposium presentations reflected the diverse factors that shape our landscapes and included leading-edge information and provocative conversation about the future of ecological landscape design. This year's topics included phytoremediation (using plants to remove pollutants from the landscape), new research in the field of mycology, equity in urban forests across America, and much more.

Since our inception as a public garden, the Morris Arboretum & Gardens has always served as a center for both horticultural research and education. If you'd like to learn more about the Morris's annual conferences and symposia and the way we engage thought leaders and professionals in conversations that shape our landscapes, visit morrisarb.org/conference.



▲ TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL

Dragons, princesses, and popular movie characters skipped along the first-ever Trick or Treat Trail, held on two beautiful fall afternoons in October. Kids and adults were in costume for this very successful Halloween event and walked among our Spooky Scarecrows, collecting candy and great memories.

◀ SCARECROW WALK

More than 40 Spooky Scarecrows haunted the ArBOOretum walkways during October for our 15th annual design contest. The scarecrows were designed by visitors. The fan favorite in online voting was "Evil Minions," followed by "Medusa." Third prize went to "Zombie Bride Zelda."



▲ LENAPEHOKING LECTURE ▶

An overflow crowd in November listened to Adam DePaul, storykeeper of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, speak about the Lenape and their relationship to the land in the lecture "This is Lenapehoking: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," presented in partnership with our neighbor, Woodmere Art Museum. A tribal drum performance was led by Chuck GentleMoon DeMund and the Itchy Dog Singers, a group within the Lenape Nation.



▶ TWINKLING TRAINS

More than 13,000 visitors were enchanted by the model trains and glittering lights of Holiday Garden Railway: Nighttime Express in November and December. Be sure to see the Garden Railway beginning May 26 as we celebrate the theme "Public Gardens."





MORRIS INTERNS & FELLOWS

Now, More than Ever!

BY JENNY RAJOTTE
Program Coordinator for
Internships & Volunteers

▲ The Morris Arboretum interns took a field trip to Gwynedd Preserve in North Wales, PA. Top row, left to right: Rebecca Dill, Morris Arboretum Plant Collections Manager Pam Morris Olshefski, Isabel Mooney, Wylie Lapp, Nora Wildberg, Caroline Mertz, Mark McKendry, Andrew Conboy, Gwynedd Preserve Manager Tom Kershner. Bottom row, left to right: Rebecca Roth, Joanne Gumaer, Melissa Lisboa-Underwood, Priscilla Parshall, Darle Riordan. Absent from photo: Karmin Faiz and Emily Humphreys.

Plants aren't the only thing at Morris Arboretum & Gardens that's been growing. The Intern and Fellow Program at the Morris is, too! In 2022 the program experienced some significant changes. First, and most evident, is the addition of positions. The 2022 cohort numbered 14, and this year we will have 13 across departments.

Hailing from as near as "next door" to many, many miles away, this eclectic group works with Arboretum staff for 6 to 12 months, gaining experience under the guidance and mentorship of experts across departments while observing firsthand the ins and outs of running a renowned public garden.

The new program structure also includes monthly education days: We bring the cohort together for seminars, tours, hands-on experiences, and group learning that takes advantage of the wealth of regional expertise as well as that of our staff. The 2022 interns and fellows hunted flowers with a botanist, met rare goats at Erdenheim Farm, toured the Natural Lands conservation organization in Media, went behind the scenes at the Philadelphia Flower Show, participated in the Woody Plant Conference at Scott Arboretum in Swarthmore, toured nurseries, and climbed trees with our chief arborist.

The 2023 cohort is gearing up to start this spring and the Arboretum staff is already hard at work planning for the months of learning and adventuring ahead!

And then there's me: I am the program coordinator for interns and volunteers, a newly created position. I oversee the program, coordinate logistics, and create opportunities for valuable learning experiences and professional development for our future workforce in all areas of plants, people, and place.

It's been exciting to work with this exceptional group. Be sure to look for them in future green spaces near you!

Fellows Complete Year at Arboretum

Studying rare plants, examining the relationship between trees and people, and propagating plants are some of the important work done by our fellows. Our 2022-2023 fellows—Andrew Conboy, Emily Humphreys, and Isabel Mooney—are finishing up their year with Morris Arboretum & Gardens. These positions in plant science, urban forestry, and plant propagation allow fellows to be immersed in their fields of interest. Read more below about what this year's fellows have experienced!



Andrew Conboy

Martha S. Miller and Rusty Miller Urban Forestry Fellow

I've spent the last year learning how trees intersect with the needs of people and society. In addition to a deepened knowledge and sense of appreciation for plants, I've learned to effectively communicate with people about trees and their needs. I've worked closely with landscape architects, construction teams, religious institutions, municipalities, homeowners, and more, each offering a different perspective on trees and nature. The services that trees provide are increasingly important in our urban and suburban areas, and I've thoroughly enjoyed preserving, advocating for, and educating others about them.



Emily Humphreys

Eli Kirk Price Plant Science Fellow

My position represents a partnership between Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. At Morris, I've been working on understanding the floral development of a rare mallow plant. During the summer, I took daily floral observations of more than 500 flowers, and I've spent the months since analyzing some of the unique traits we found. Right now, I'm working on writing my findings up for publication. At the Academy of Natural Sciences, I work in a massive collection of more than a million dried plant specimens. I assist with everything from preparing specimens to organizing the collection to shipping out loans to scientists across the country.



Isabel Mooney

Martha J. Wallace Plant Propagation Fellow

I have spent this past year growing my knowledge of herbaceous plants, plant reproduction, and nursery management. Time in our Fernery has helped me develop skills in fern propagation and pest management. I have assisted the head propagator in maintaining our collections, producing plants as needed by the garden, and I've helped the plant science team. We have worked on many projects, such as installing mist irrigation in hoop houses, growing plants for the member plant giveaway, fern mounting, and so much more. I was also lucky enough to attend the International Plant Propagator's Society conference and the Perennial Plant Conference. This past year has been filled with great learning opportunities and exciting new plants!

“It’s a Joy to Share”

Morris Arboretum & Gardens has dozens of volunteers who serve as tour guides, work in horticulture, help preserve historic documents and photos, and keep the historic Springfields Mills running. The total number of volunteer hours for Fiscal Year 2022 was an impressive 7,858! All of our volunteers give generously of their time, and in many ways the work they do is critical to the arboretum delivering on its mission to engage and connect people with plants.



JODY SPRAGUE, 24 YEARS

FAVORITE PART OF THE ARBORETUM: “Wherever I am!”

“I’ve always been a gardener and I wanted to expand my plant knowledge, and I also like people. When I read that they were covering botany in the training period, I went ‘Oooo, I’m interested in that!’ That’s what got me started, and that’s still part of what makes me stay. I have learned a wealth of information. It’s been a good experience all around. I guess that’s why I’ve done it for 24 years, and I’ve made wonderful friends. It’s a joy to share. It’s just a joy.”



JANET CAPUTO, 24 YEARS

FAVORITE PART OF THE ARBORETUM: the peacefulness of the Japanese Overlook

“I love gardening and nature, so the Arboretum was a perfect fit. I have also found that people who love the earth and work with it tend to be ‘earthy’ and filled with good humor and joy of life. Many of the people I meet while doing tours are curious and want to learn, so I love to teach them about the Arboretum and its plants as well as telling some of the history and immersing them in nature. The Arboretum is my happy place. I love to see what is in bloom, the fall colors, the silhouettes of trees in the winter, and the new buds in the early spring. I am happy to see so many families visit in all seasons and I hope the Arboretum continues to foster a love of botany, trees, and nature.”



IRV LEVENTHAL, 27 YEARS

FAVORITE PART OF THE ARBORETUM: Orange Balustrade

“I was always interested in horticulture and the Arboretum is a short distance away from my house in Plymouth Meeting. I could lead tours during the week with children, because as a former educator I was comfortable in the classroom and it was a perfect match. I think the Arboretum has come a long way and become really a very, very important site in cultural Philadelphia. I’m very pleased with the fact that I’m part of it. I love the Arboretum and I’m thinking of coming back as a guide, even though I’ll be 92 in July!”



BETTE PERLMAN, 26 YEARS

FAVORITE PART OF THE ARBORETUM: the Blue Atlas cedar

“I volunteer because it’s really important to give back. I love sharing information about the environment and the Arboretum to make people more aware of the beauty we live in and to try to protect it. I work with Philadelphia schoolchildren and I tell them the Blue Atlas cedar is the only tree we have from Africa and I talk about why we can have an African tree here. We need to celebrate the Arboretum every day. It is such a special place.”

NATURE AND SCIENCE MAKING AN IMPACT

BY JUDE THACHET, School Outreach Coordinator

Morris Arboretum & Gardens’ third-grade Environmental Sciences Program is off to a great start. Three Northwest Philadelphia schools—Emlen Elementary, Green Woods Charter, and Jenks Elementary—completed the Tree Adventure unit last fall with astonishing results.

The Environmental Sciences Program, started in fall 2022, is designed to engage young students using the Arboretum’s plentiful natural areas, as well as foster better connections between the local community and the education resources available at the Arboretum.

More than 200 participating students prepared for their visit to the Morris with activities that included extracting chlorophyll, xanthophylls and carotenoids from leaves to see where the beautiful fall colors come from.

At the Arboretum, the kids went on a one-hour interactive tour with a garden educator, had lunch in the children’s eating area, and spent an hour exploring. In their free time, they rolled down hills, played in the stickwork sculpture, went to Lydia’s Log Cabin and visited Out on a Limb. The tours were marked by excitement, curiosity, and learning, and the follow-up activities tapped into their new knowledge and creativity.

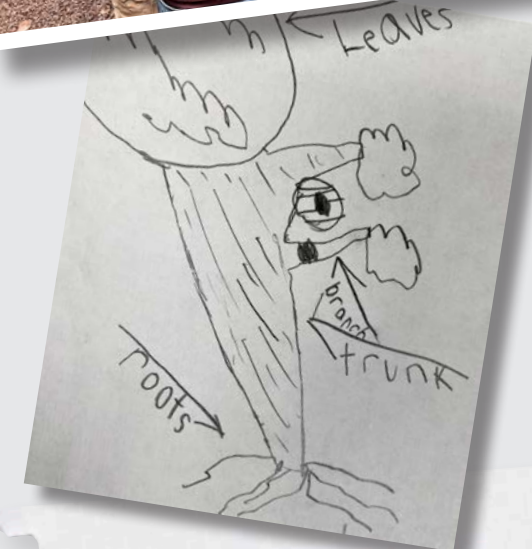
The schools assessed students before the Tree Adventure unit and after they returned to school and completed reinforcement activities. Every school showed improvement in student scores, ranging from a 19 percent increase in one school to a whopping 160 percent increase in another.

Staff at all three schools rated the program very highly. From preparation to student engagement and overall impact of the Environmental Sciences Program, we received an average of over 4.75 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being “excellent.”



When surveyed on what was best about their visit, one teacher responded, “Application of content that our students have been learning in an environment that makes a great learning connection! Our students were all engaged!”

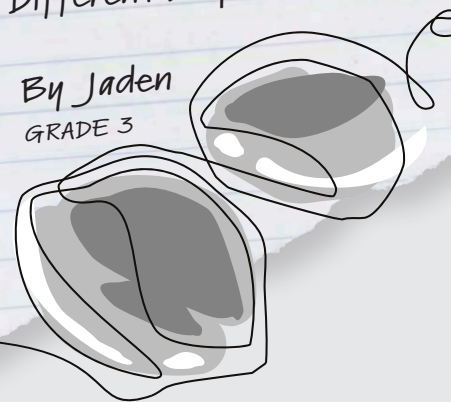
Thanks to the Morris’s Education Department, Education Committee, and our garden educators, who all contributed to improved student outcomes.



ROCK

Quiet
Stays still
Different colors
All around the world
Hard
Giant
Small
Different shapes

By Jaden
GRADE 3



ENRICH YOUR LIFE WITH OUR SPRING classes

**TUESDAY
NIGHT NATURE**
A Virtual
Speaker Series

Tuesday Night Nature, occurring on five consecutive evenings this spring, brings expert voices from afar to the comfort of your own home. Take a virtual tour of England's gardens; learn from garden experts in Denmark, Quebec, and coastal Maine; and take a dive into the wild world of fungi and explore scientific and theoretical lessons from mycology.

Sign up for each class separately or join for the five-part series at a discounted price.

The Morris Arboretum Lecture Series is supported in part by the William Klein Lectureship Endowment, the Laura L. Barnes Horticultural Lecture Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation, and the Byron & Elizabeth Lukens Lecture Endowment.



**Scientific and Theoretical
Lessons from Mycology**

DR. PATRICIA KAISHIAN
Mycologist, Visiting Professor of Biology at Bard College, NY
Tuesday, April 4 | 7:00–8:30 pm



**Reading the Land: *Stories from Glen Villa
Art Garden in Quebec, Canada***

PATTERSON WEBSTER
Writer, Artist, Photographer, and Gardener, Glen Villa Art Garden, Quebec, CA
Tuesday, April 11 | 7:00–8:30 pm



**Beyond the Traditional Butterfly Garden:
*Supporting Lepidoptera with Native Plants***

ANDREW BRAND
Director of Horticulture, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens
Tuesday, April 18 | 7:00–8:30 pm



Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder

DR. TOBY MUSGRAVE
Garden Historian, Designer, Author
Tuesday, April 25 | 7:00–8:30 pm



Virtual Tours of English Gardens

ERIN CONLEY
Rosarian, Morris Arboretum & Gardens
Tuesday, May 2 | 7:00–8:30 pm



**Create a Mounted
Staghorn Fern**

KYRA MATIN
Propagator, Morris Arboretum & Gardens

EMILIA ZABEGAY
*Greenhouse Assistant,
Morris Arboretum & Gardens*

Turn your home into paradise by adding a staghorn fern mounted on natural wood to enjoy the wonders of nature all year round! With the use of staghorn ferns, moss, and reclaimed wood, we will guide you through the process of creating a botanical work of art. All participants will craft and go home with their very own mounted staghorn ferns, along with a guide on caring for their creations. All supplies and materials will be provided.

Friday, April 14
10:30 am–12:00 pm

**Members: \$65
Non-members: \$70**



**Container
Gardening**

EVA MONHEIM
*Principal, Verdant Earth Educators;
Author*

Container gardening is an easy, versatile way to exercise your green thumb even if you don't have a lot of space. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or just getting started, award-winning horticulturist Eva Monheim will let you in on the secrets to ensure your containers flourish while providing visual beauty.

Wednesday, April 19
1:00–2:30 pm

**Members: \$30
Non-members: \$35**



**Tai Chi in
the Garden**

AIMÉE ALEGRÍA BARRY
Owner, Centaur Tai Chi

Join us for a six-week outdoor tai chi series with the beauty of the Arboretum as a peaceful backdrop for your practice. Tai chi, a series of postures done slowly, promotes balance, flexibility, and strength. While teaching the tai chi form, Aimée Alegría Barry introduces the yin and yang principles that underlie this martial art, emphasizing a calm mind and relaxed body. All levels welcome.

SIX TUESDAYS:
May 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20
10:30 am–11:30 am

**Members: \$85
Non-members: \$100**

See our complete offering of
classes at morrisarb.org/classes!

Gardens, Wine, and Wilderness

A Tour of New Zealand

JANUARY 6-28, 2024

Morris Arboretum & Gardens is proud to partner for a ninth time with Garden Adventures Ltd. to offer a travel opportunity in January 2024 to experience the mystery, beauty, and hospitality of New Zealand. With New Zealand native and local landscape architect Richard Lyon and Bill Cullina, F. Otto Haas executive director of the Morris, you are invited to escape winter while you explore, learn, and relax in the gardens and natural wonders of this extraordinary destination. This trip is offered exclusively to Morris members and Penn alumni. For further information, [click here](#) or contact Alison Thornton, Senior Associate Director of Development at (215) 247-5777 x105 or alisonth@upenn.edu.





Moms, Dads, & Grads
Give Them the Gift
of an Arboretum
Membership



A MORRIS
ARBORETUM
& GARDENS
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.

**PURCHASE A GIFT OF
MEMBERSHIP TODAY:**

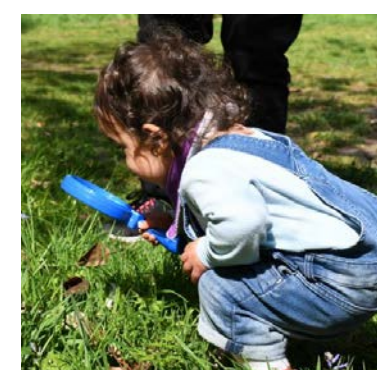
-  [Click here](#) to make your purchase anytime.
-  Reach the Membership Office directly at 215-247-5777 ext. 205 Monday through Friday 9 am-5 pm.

A Green and Leafy Tradition Continues

Morris Arboretum & Gardens once again connected with Penn students in their annual class tree planting during Homecoming weekend last October. Since 2011, first-year classes have voted for and planted a class tree. The winner for the Class of 2026 is a beetre linden (*Tilia heterophylla*), which was planted on a grassy triangle between the Van Pelt and Fisher Fine Arts libraries on College Green. It's the 16th tree of the program.

Inspired by Bill Hohns (W'74) (pictured at far left), this initiative helps to beautify campus and instill a deeper sense of belonging for first-year students as they put down their own roots at Penn.

Hohns and his wife Kathie (pictured at far right), longtime supporters of the Morris, have financially sustained the tree-planting tradition from its inception. In 2018, Hohns endowed the program so it would become a permanent fixture at Penn. During Homecoming 2022, Bill Hohns received the Alumni Award of Merit, Penn's highest alumni honor, for his inspired philanthropy and decades of engagement.



TRIBUTE & MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Morris Arboretum & Gardens is grateful to the following donors who made tribute and memorial gifts between August 1, 2022, and February 28, 2023.

In memory of Joan Asprakis
Joan & Alan Kober

In honor of Jill & Ted Bell
Linda & Tom Bacher
Betty & Jim DeStefano
Philomena Fishbourne
Carol & Ned MacNabb
Linda Maletta
Melanie & Bill McVeagh
Margaret Shupper

In memory of Jolan Benner
Ralph Benner

In memory of Elizabeth Bast Gagné Brennan
Pamela Gagné

In honor of Sandra Clapham
June & Rob Clapham

In memory of Rosemarie Mansell Donahue
Madeleine Keehn
Margaret Otte

In honor of Diana & Stuart Donaldson
Mary Jane Raymond

In memory of Sherry Foster
Elizabeth Flynn
Joanne Gilmore
Dorris & Bob Hunter
& Rose Seekamp

In honor of Mary & Dick Graham
Susan Campbell

In memory of Eleanor & Harold Greenwald
Philip Greenwald

In memory of Matthew Harmon
Margo Kelly, Kathleen Stroup, & Nancy Owen

In honor of Ellen Nalle Hass
Perry Benson

In honor of Liza Hawley
Madelyn Ladner & Robert Gutowski

In memory of Timothy D. Jackson
Barbara & Aaron Mitchell

In memory of Sharon Johnson
Marcia & Michael Kurland

In memory of Ilsa Katz
Judy Muhlberg

In memory of Bill Koons
Madelyn Ladner & Robert Gutowski

In memory of Lee Laden
Susan Hamberg
Lawrence Tenner

In memory of A. Bruce Mainwaring
Rosanne & Jeffrey MacNair

In memory of Francis Martei
Alison Loren

In memory of Joan F. McCracken
James C. McCracken

In memory of Sharon Church McNabb
Louise Briggs
Mary Eno & Dan Wagner
Lewis Knauss
Jacquelyn & Tod Pardon
W.G. Smith
Linda Stanley & Theresa Snyder

In memory of Jim Nielson
Charles, Elizabeth, Aislinn, & Edel McGhee Hassrick

In memory of Ruth Pfeffer
Madelyn Ladner & Robert Gutowski

In memory of Joan Regan
Alice & Greg Mokrynski

In honor of Debbie Rodgers & Paul Meyer
Anonymous
Deborah E. Glass

In memory of Lucille Roland
J. Christopher Miller

In honor of Joan & Stanley Walter Root
Louise Root Melby

In honor of Arthur H. Rubenstein, MB BCH
Alison Loren

In memory of Craig SanPietro
Madelyn Ladner & Robert Gutowski

In memory of Rosemary Sheridan
Janice & Patrick Carroll
Laurie, Scott, Alayne, & Evan Cornell
Siobhan Duffy
Cynthia Miceli
Kathy & Michael Shucosky

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

New Eats *at the Morris!*

THERE ARE NEW, TASTY FOOD
OPTIONS FOR VISITORS AT
MORRIS ARBORETUM & GARDENS.

Fresh ready-made sandwiches and salads along with a variety of snacks and drinks are now available inside the Widener Welcome Center. This new format will offer more variety and expanded hours as well as easy access. You can enjoy these new takeaway offerings in our picnic areas or in our children's eating area near the Welcome Center.

After years of serving the Morris's visitors through the café, Company's Coming is closing their doors. While we will miss having them and their delicious food on-site, we are excited to pilot this new program. Stop in to check out these new offerings that will keep you energized as you enjoy the garden.



**Morris Arboretum
& Gardens**
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA