

# VOLUNTEER

August 2023



Morris Arboretum  
& Gardens

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



# Volunteer

A newsletter published monthly for  
Arboretum volunteers.

## Mission of Morris Arboretum & Gardens

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 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 & Gardens 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!

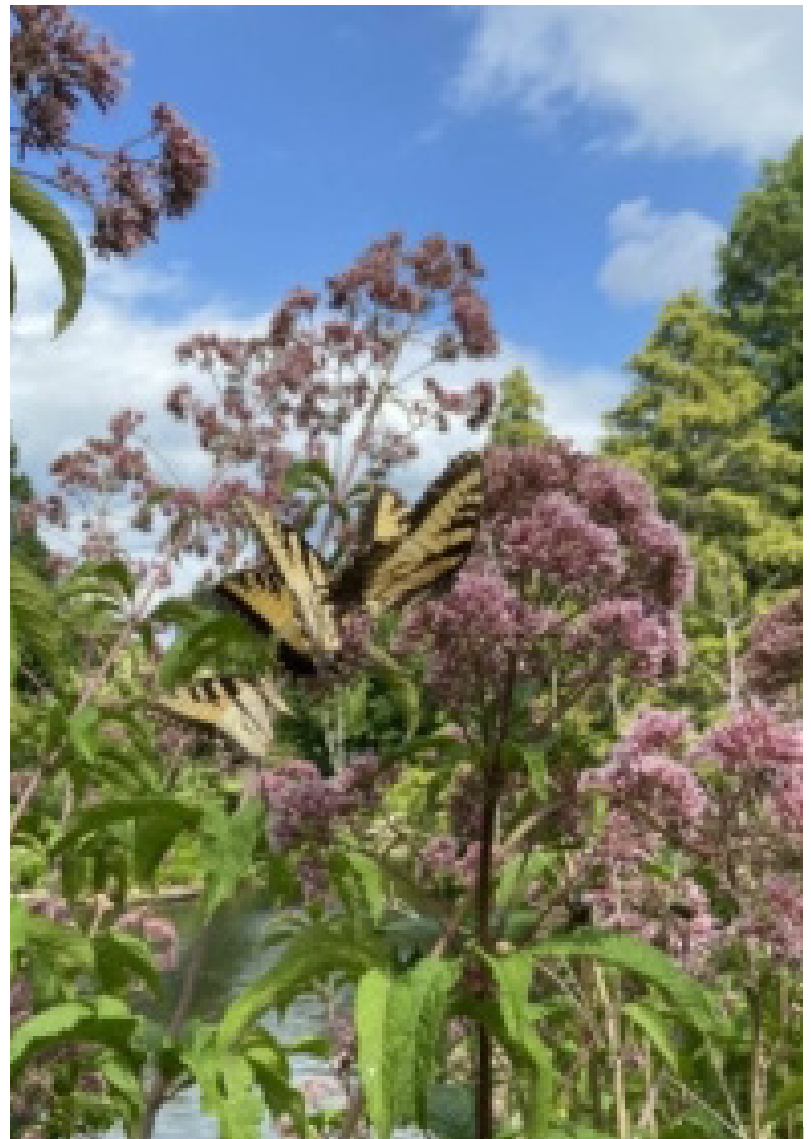
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*Eutrochium fistulosum*

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# Letter from the Editor

Dear Volunteers,

One of my roles here at the Arboretum & Gardens is to help coordinate our Intern and Fellowship programs, which vary in scope and duration across Education, Horticulture, and Marketing. In total we have 13 individuals in our 2023 cohort, and I do hope you have been able to meet some of them in the past several months.

These folks are the future. I am honored and delighted to be working with staff to provide opportunities to teach, inspire, and connect our interns and fellows during the 9 - 12 months they are here. The program entails daily, hands-on work, focusing on on-the-job experience supplemented with monthly Education Days and other learning opportunities. Since March, we've visited new born lambs and goats at Erdenheim Farm; attended the Philadelphia Flower Show; had a botany walk at Fulshaw-Craeg Preserve; visited the Hay, Honey Farm; toured the Franklin Parker Preserve in the Pine Barrens; attended the Woody Plant Conference at Scott Arboretum; and gathered with over 50 other interns to work at Haverford Arboretum and tour Stoneleigh.

Each of these experiences exposed our interns to many different career paths and connected them with experts on the Morris staff as well as at each of these institutions. Reflecting back on the list of experiences thus far, I realize how much I have benefited from learning not only from my colleagues, but from learning with and around this engaged group of interns! And of course, I see them learn from each other most every day as well, sharing knowledge, asking questions, and generally inspiring me to continue my own constant journey of exploration.

I want to encourage all of our volunteers to continue to get to know our interns and fellows, most of whom will be with us through most of November. As volunteers here at the Morris, I know you are truly invested in our mission and hope you share some of your knowledge and experience with the future horticulturists, educators, administrators, and enthusiasts with us today!

With gratitude,

Jenny Rajotte

*Program Coordinator,  
Internships & Volunteers*





# Fall Courses: New, Favorites, and 50% Off!

by Colin Battis, The McLean Contributionship Adult Education Intern

While the heat is a reminder that we're still in the middle of summer, Autumn will be here before we know it - and the fall catalog of continuing education courses at the Morris will soon be arriving in mailboxes. We're excited to be offering this latest, diverse selection of learning opportunities starting in September.

We've curated 95 classes in total, including unique new series like Treetop Yoga, as well as returning favorites like birding or cooking at Erdenheim Farm. We're especially excited for Less Lawns, a series of lectures that will guide attendees through the practical details of converting lawns into diverse landscapes that meet the needs of both people and nature.



There are many ways that all of us support our shared mission to foster understanding for the relationships between plants, people, and place. As dedicated garden volunteers and educators, you're already ambassadors for the green wonders that surround us, and I hope that our continuing education programming can be an opportunity for shared growth and deepening your own connection to this incredible space.

**As a way of showing our gratitude for your work, we're offering nine courses at a 50% discounted rate for volunteers only. By entering the code 'ELM' when registering, you can take advantage of this discount on the following:**

- 9/16 - Composting for a Sustainable Future - Heather Guidice
- 9/20 - Understanding Scientific Nomenclature - Bill Geiger
- 10/21 - Art & Architecture: The Built Environment at the Morris - Barry Jefferies
- 10/25 - Mysteries of Compton - Joyce Munro
- 10/28 - Pumpkin Carving Party - Amanda Cobb
- 11/17 - Aquaponics at Riverbend Environmental Center - Mike Barcus
- 11/14 - Less Lawns: Lawns into Meadows (ONLINE) - Owen Wormser
- 11/21 - Less Lawns: Referencing Wild Plant Communities - Ryan Drake
- 12/11 - Less Lawns: Design Centered Conservation - Andrew Kirkpatrick

I hope you're able to take advantage of some of these opportunities, and that you join us in the fall for some of our other learning opportunities as well! I'll keep seeing you out there, helping connect others with the natural beauty of the Morris Arboretum & Gardens. [Learn more and register online!](#)





# SUNSHINE & ROSES

WED, SEPT 13, 2023

4 PM - 6 PM

Join us for an evening celebrating the many  
amazing volunteers of Morris Arboretum!

*Check your email this month for an invitation and  
more information!*

# From the Archives

by Joyce H. Munro

## Every Object Has a Story

“Is your butter melting? Are your vegetables wilted? Has your milk gone sour? If so, you need a Jewett charcoal-filled refrigerator that will keep everything cool and fresh. For goodness sake, don’t deny yourself the comfort of one of our refrigerators when you can get it so cheap and on the installment plan.”

Ads like this appeared in newspapers all over the country in the 1880s. [Jewett](#), a refrigerator maker in Buffalo, boasted that charcoal interlining and zinc-walled boxes kept food colder than other brands lined with cork and walled in wood. Plus, Jewett made a variety of sizes, including a six-door model with an ice chamber that held 3 to 4 huge blocks of ice, similar to the refrigerator pictured above.

The six-door model appealed to John and Lydia Morris and sometime after building Compton, they purchased one, probably from [Strawbridge & Clothier](#) on Market Street.

Why, you may be asking, would John and Lydia need a six-door refrigerator? After all, a refrigerator that large was a waste of money unless it was kept full of food—a lot of food. In fact, the Morris’s refrigerator was certainly jam-packed during the summer season with a riot of produce from their vegetable and fruit gardens, quarts of milk and pounds of butter from their Jersey cows, dozens of eggs from the chickens and maybe bacon or pork chops from their pigs.



[The Cosmopolitan](#), Archive.org.  
Accessed July 24, 2023

Not all of this food was for the two of them—there were live-in staff in the Compton mansion, gardeners in the carriage house, a gardener’s family in the farmhouse on Germantown Pike and the head gardener’s family in the cottage. After 1914, more gardeners and their families lived across the road at Bloomfield farm. Perishable produce was likely stored in the Jewett refrigerator, available at token amounts to staff members and their families.

# August

# Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Bloomin' Bubbles 11 AM	9	10	11	12 Made in the Shade Tour 11 AM
13	14	15 Bloomin' Bubbles 11 AM	16 August Story Time 10:30 AM	17	18	19
20	21	22 Bloomin' Bubbles 11 AM	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Bloomin' Bubbles 11 AM	30	31		

# September

# Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2  Harvest Trains Open
3	4  Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9  Great Trees Tour 11 AM
10	11	12	13  SUNSHINE & ROSES 4 PM	14	15	16  Magic Railway Weekend
17  Magic Railway Weekend	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30