

SEASONS

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UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

SEASONS

Morris Arboretum of the
University of Pennsylvania

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www.morrisarboretum.org
http://www.upenn.edu/paflora

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Photo: Paul W. Meyer



A Note from the Executive Director

PAUL W. MEYER, *The F. Otto Haas Executive Director*

My career at the Morris Arboretum during the past 43 years has been a wonderful ride. I started in 1976, right out of graduate school as Curator of the Living Collection, and served for 15 years in that capacity. In those early years, I was especially fortunate to work under the mentorship of Director Bill Klein and Board Chair Otto Haas. Together, they led the master planning effort and laid the foundation for the transformation of the Morris Arboretum from a run-down old estate to a vibrant, internationally significant public garden.

In 1991, I took the helm as Director. I was charged first with the continued implementation of the master plan, while also rebuilding the financial foundations of the Arboretum and addressing years of deferred maintenance of the buildings and infrastructure.

Throughout all these years, I have been fortunate to do work that I have truly loved, with an amazing team of supportive board members, colleagues, hundreds of volunteers, and more than 6,000 member households. Together we have restored the Arboretum's gardens and architecture, grown educational programs for youth, adults, and professionals, and developed research programs centered on the Living Collections and the Flora of Pennsylvania.

Every year represented progress. Some years we took small steps, in others we made giant leaps. But even in lean years, we kept to the plan and moved the Arboretum forward incrementally, in a financially sustainable way. Many have asked what I am most proud of. My overarching answer is that we stuck with the plan, with diligence and flexibility.

Since I announced my plans to retire last September, I have been touched by the many kind comments I have received from the Arboretum's friends and supporters. I appreciate these compliments, but I am mindful that none of these accomplishments would have been possible without a big team of star supporters. I am reminded of the words of John of Salisbury, the 12th century theologian and author: "We are like dwarfs sitting on the shoulders of giants. We see more, and things that are more distant than they did, not because our sight is superior or because we are taller than they, but because they raise us up, and by their great stature add to ours." I have been blessed with many giants who have lifted me up. Indeed, all of you are my giants. Your dedication and support have made my work possible.

Garden lovers tend to be a positive and optimistic lot. It is the optimism and dedication of the whole Arboretum team that has kept my batteries charged over so many years, even when the going was tough. I thank you all, those who helped in both big ways and small, for your support over the years. I know you will welcome and support my successor as you have me over so many years. My wife, Debbie, and I will soon leave Bloomfield Farm to live in the Chestnut Hill community. We will continue to be part of the Arboretum family.

With deep appreciation,

Paul



Photos: Eileen Ryan and Nick Kelsch



Curator Meyer with
Bill Klein and Otto Haas – 1986



Appointed Director – 1991

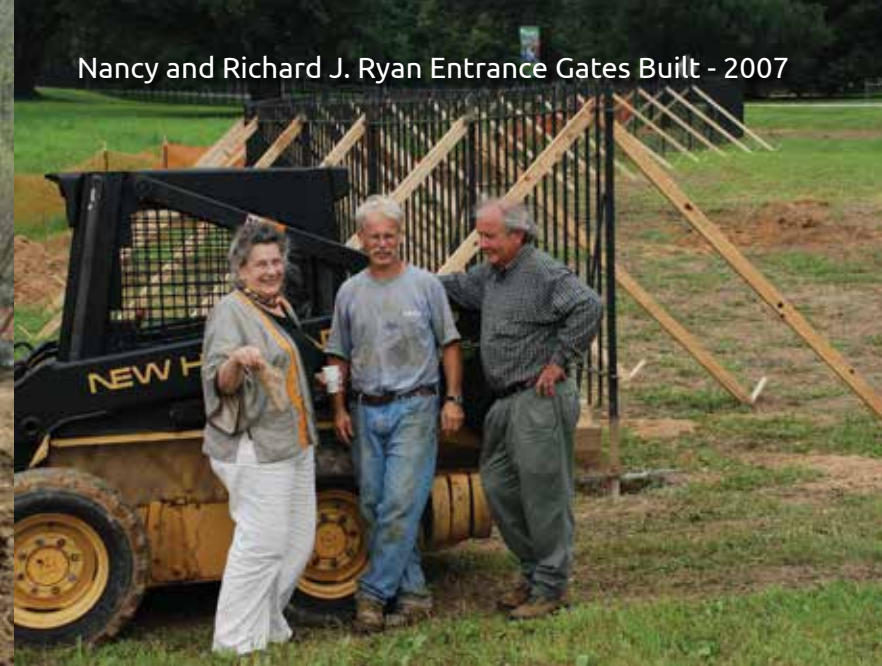
First Plant Collecting Trip to China - 1981



Oak Allée Reconstruction - 1992



Nancy and Richard J. Ryan Entrance Gates Built - 2007



Out on a Limb Completed - 2009



Dorrance H. Hamilton Fernery Dedication - 1994

Paul W. Meyer A 43-Year Legacy



Platinum LEED® Horticulture Center Dedication - 2010

Garden Railway Installation - 1998



Long Fountain Restoration - 2004



Plant Collecting in China - 2011



Arthur Hoyt-Scott Medal - 2017



everGREEN Campaign Update

Stewarding the Arboretum's Natural Lands: Martha J. Wallace and Edward W. Kane, C'71

The Arboretum is pleased to announce a major commitment to the *Ever Green* campaign made by Advisory Board member Martha "Marty" J. Wallace and her husband, Edward "Ed" W. Kane, C'71. Marty and Ed have established the Martha J. Wallace and Edward W. Kane Endowment for the Natural Lands. The purpose of this newly endowed fund is to provide a perpetual source of financial support for the maintenance and care of the Arboretum's Natural Lands.

Longtime generous supporters of the Arboretum, Marty and Ed are passionate fans of the Natural Lands and its meadows, woodlands, wetlands, and stream edge habitat. The new endowment enables the Arboretum to continue to advance a philosophy of natural landscaping which encourages the use of native plants that are essential to a healthy, diverse landscape.

Marty has long maintained that she prefers to landscape with native plants, and it is an approach she practices in her own gardens. Marty notes that, "Natural habitats that have co-evolved with and sustain our wildlife are critical to a healthy environment. These landscapes are not only beautiful, but provide an important sense of place. They reflect thousands of years of adaptation to specific sites where they provide food and shelter for insects and wildlife. These plants create the world we know, and I am glad that the Arboretum values this aspect of its mission."

The Arboretum is deeply grateful to Marty and Ed for their generous investment in the Arboretum and for their leadership, advice, and counsel. Their landmark support will greatly help to ensure that the Arboretum has the resources needed to preserve the unique beauty and ecological health of the more than 40 acres comprising the Natural Lands.

Planned Giving

Like any capital campaign, *Ever Green* maintains an ambitious fundraising goal, but this campaign includes other, non-financial goals as well. Chief among these non-financial goals is the growth of the Lydia Morris Legacy Society (LMLS), which is composed of individuals who have made planned gifts of any kind to the Arboretum. A "planned gift" refers to any significant gift, made as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning. In many instances, these planned gifts offer financial benefits to the donor as well as to the Morris Arboretum.

For many years, the Arboretum has undertaken efforts to encourage donors to consider making planned gifts, and as a result, the Arboretum maintains a very robust planned giving program. Our goal for *Ever Green* is to welcome at least 35 new members to the Lydia Morris Legacy Society by the close of the campaign in 2021. Since the start of the campaign, we are thrilled to count 34 new members among LMLS ranks, including six new members in the current year alone!

If you would like more information about your planned giving options at the Arboretum, please contact Mira Zergani, Director of Development, at (215) 247-5777, ext. 102, or via email at mzergani@upenn.edu.



Photos: Paul W. Meyer



Remembering H.F. Gerry Lenfest

MIRA ZERGANI, Director of Development



Photo: Paul W. Meyer

In August 2018, with the passing of H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest, Philadelphia lost one of its greatest philanthropic champions. A man of unparalleled principles and courageous convictions, Mr. Lenfest left an indelible mark upon countless institutions across the region. The Morris Arboretum is fortunate to count itself among those institutions.

In the fall of 2005, Arboretum friends, the late William (Bill) Hollis, Jr. and Andrea Baldeck, invited Mr. and Mrs. Lenfest to their home for a garden party for Arboretum friends and supporters. Even amid the festivities, Mr. Lenfest became deeply engaged in conversation with the Arboretum's Director of Development about the Arboretum's greatest fundraising challenges. When he learned that growing the rate of annual giving to the Arboretum was a perennial challenge, especially at the higher levels, he pledged—on the spot—\$50,000 per year for five years—an amount that ultimately inspired much greater annual giving among many of the Arboretum's donors. In 2010, Mr. Lenfest renewed his generous support of the Annual Fund for an additional five years and created the Lenfest Matching Challenge to encourage new and increased donations to the Annual Fund.

Mr. Lenfest knew that the Arboretum's future growth was predicated to a great degree upon its ability to strengthen the Annual Fund. His investment nearly 15 years ago undeniably enabled the Arboretum to grow the ranks of the Annual Fund to new levels, a trend that continues to this day.

The Arboretum, in concert with our colleagues all over the city of Philadelphia, continues to mourn Mr. Lenfest's passing, and remains ever-grateful for his and Marguerite's generosity, kindness, and genuine interest in the Arboretum's future.

New Rose Garden Urns

VINCENT MARROCCO, Chief Horticulturist and Rosarian

A new set of Tuscan urns has taken up residence in the corners of the Rose Garden. These new pieces were crafted by hand in Florence, Italy using the same methods, skills, and artistry as the original urns. The antique urns that graced the garden in John and Lydia's day were too fragile to return to their location. Instead they have been moved inside the entryway of the Bloomfield Farm Horticulture Center. The original urns were produced by Manifattura Di Signa, a Florentine ceramics factory started in 1889 by Angelo Bondi and dedicated to the manufacture of terracotta in the traditional style and the "faithful reproduction of classical and Renaissance models." The factory operated for more than 50 years and employed as many as 150 artisans creating replicas of ancient works of art. Their catalog from 1900 lists more than 1,200 hand-crafted reproductions for sale, including item #455, "Orcio (etrusco)," the urn John and Lydia purchased.

More information is available on our blog including pictures of the original urns, the potter's mark, and the catalog from 1900. Visit the blog at morrisarboretum.org.



Photo: Vincent Marrocco



Freuerzauber witchazel



Himalayan sarcococca



Mahonia



Wintersweet



Bodnant viburnum

Winter-Flowering Shrubs

ANTHONY AIELLO, *The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator*

In the mid-Atlantic we are fortunate to have distinct seasons that allow us to take advantage of a wide range of plants. And while our winters have their severe moments, there are enough warm spells that we are able to grow plants that bring color and interest to the garden from November through March.

The best-known winter flowering plants are the witchhazels, which provide flowers and interest for nearly half of the year. Starting as early as Christmas, vernal witchhazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) and its hybrids are the first to bloom, followed by Chinese witchhazel (*H. mollis*) and its hybrids (*H. x intermedia*). The Arboretum has an extensive collection of witchhazels and you can consult our online catalogue (see links: Collection Connection and Plant Catalogue) to further explore our holdings, which includes selections with flowers that range in color from yellow through orange, to shades of red.

Along with witchhazels, there are a number of other lesser-known plants that provide interest through the winter months. One of my favorites is the small Himalayan sarcococca (*Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis*), a low-growing evergreen groundcover that grows to 18 inches tall. Best grown in light shade and with good drainage, dwarf-box not only provides year-round foliar interest, its small flowers are sweetly fragrant in late winter. Recently other sarcococcas have become more popular, including *Sarcococca orientalis*, which grows to two to three feet and also provides evergreen leaves and fragrant flowers.

On a different scale are the mahonias, a group of compound-leaved evergreen plants with bright yellow flowers in late winter. Mahonias provide coarse texture to the landscape, providing a foil to many finer-leaved plants—something that might be an acquired taste. Those that are traditionally hardy in our area include Japanese and leatherleaf mahonia (*Mahonia japonica* and *M. bealei*), both of them reaching six to eight feet tall and performing best when given afternoon shade, usually on the north or east side of a building, or screened by evergreens. In recent years we have been trying less hardy cultivars such as ‘Charity,’ ‘Lionel Fortescue,’ and ‘Winter Sun’ (all cultivars of *M. x media*) with good success.

As its common name suggests, wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*) is a large deciduous shrub with highly fragrant pale yellow flowers. As its scientific name suggest, in most years it is among the earliest, or most precocious, plants to flower. It flowers earlier when a winter warm spell follows a cold snap, sometimes even blooming in late December. Wintersweet is a large shrub, growing to more than 15 feet, so it is best suited for large gardens.

Another precocious shrub is Bodnant viburnum (*Viburnum x bodnantense*) whose small pale pink and fragrant flowers occur throughout the winter, often being ‘tricked’ into flowering like wintersweet. Otherwise, Bodnant viburnum normally flowers in March, providing a hint of color to the landscape. This viburnum takes full sun and grows to about eight feet, but with its very narrow habit is best used towards the back of a border or with other plants fronting it.

Korean abelialeaf (*Abeliophyllum distichum*) is a plant of quiet late winter interest that serves as a harbinger of more exciting things to come. Korean abelialeaf is essentially a miniature version of forsythia, but with small white to pale-pink flowers that have a subtle but sweet fragrance. A low-growing shrub that reaches only three to four feet, it is listed as endangered in Korea, with only nine known wild populations.

All of these plants may not be in flower throughout the depth of winter but come into bloom during the transition from winter to spring or during winter thaws, providing a break from the cold months. So, this winter, if you are feeling housebound, a walk through the Arboretum will let you discover some of these winter treasures.



Photo: Chlesea Melvin

An Invaluable Partnership

PRINNIE EBERLE, *Teacher, The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf*

Ten years ago, members of the education teams at Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (PSD) and Morris Arboretum met to discuss the possibility of a collaboration. One of the results of this meeting was the creation of a work experience segment that PSD students would participate in during their summer work program. Since that time, members of the Arboretum’s staff have welcomed and mentored many PSD students and have provided their first introduction to the beauty of the natural world.

Coming to the Arboretum once or twice a week during the Extended School Year Program, students have met and worked with team leaders and interns, as well as other volunteers. They have been made to feel that their work contribution has made a difference and that their presence is valued at the Arboretum. Additionally, true to the Arboretum’s mission as an educational institution, the students have received tours and lessons on the flora and fauna all around them and the history of the Arboretum and the Morris family. Students have become teachers, too, and have taught interested Arboretum staff some American Sign Language. We also found a connection between the Arboretum and PSD in that one of the Morris ancestors, Samuel Buckley Morris, attended PSD’s organizational meetings in April 1820, and was a financial supporter of the school. The original vocational building on the Germantown Avenue Campus was named Morris Hall.

The majority of PSD’s students are from the city and do not often have the chance to work in gardens or around trees. The opportunity that Morris Arboretum has provided our young adults has opened up interests and talents that the students would not have known existed had they not had the chance to be part of the Arboretum family. Through these life-changing experiences, students have felt pride in their work and in themselves. They have also gained knowledge and skills firsthand, and learned about their own abilities. Our students have greatly benefitted from this partnership and PSD is very grateful.

EITC Program

Did you know that the Morris Arboretum, which serves more than 142,000 people per year from across the five-county region, is an approved Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) through Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program?

The EITC program offers your company a powerful way to help strengthen the communities you serve while earning valuable tax credits. Through this program, contributions to the Morris Arboretum support guided educational tours for Title I school children from Southeastern Pennsylvania.

For more information please contact Leslie Crane, Development Communications Associate, at lcrane@upenn.edu.

Special thanks to Bryn Mawr Trust for their first-time gift through the EITC program in 2018.



Photo: Bob Gutowski



Photo: Paul W. Meyer

Maria Thompson – A Portrait of Generosity

LESLIE WEISSER, Associate Director, Corporate, Foundation & Donor Relations

Maria Thompson has been a treasured member of the Morris Arboretum for almost three decades. An active member of the Directors’ Guild, student of the Arboretum’s Continuing Education program, benefactor of the annual *Moonlight & Roses* gala, and—with her husband, Mike—enthusiastic participant in the Morris Arboretum travel program, Maria has enriched the Arboretum community through her passion for plants and her commitment to this institution.

It is surprising to learn that Maria was not raised in a home with a strong connection to gardening. “Far from it,” she admits with a smile. “I grew up in New York City and lived in an apartment with my parents. Our ‘garden’ consisted of sprigs of philodendron trailing from vases along the window sills!”

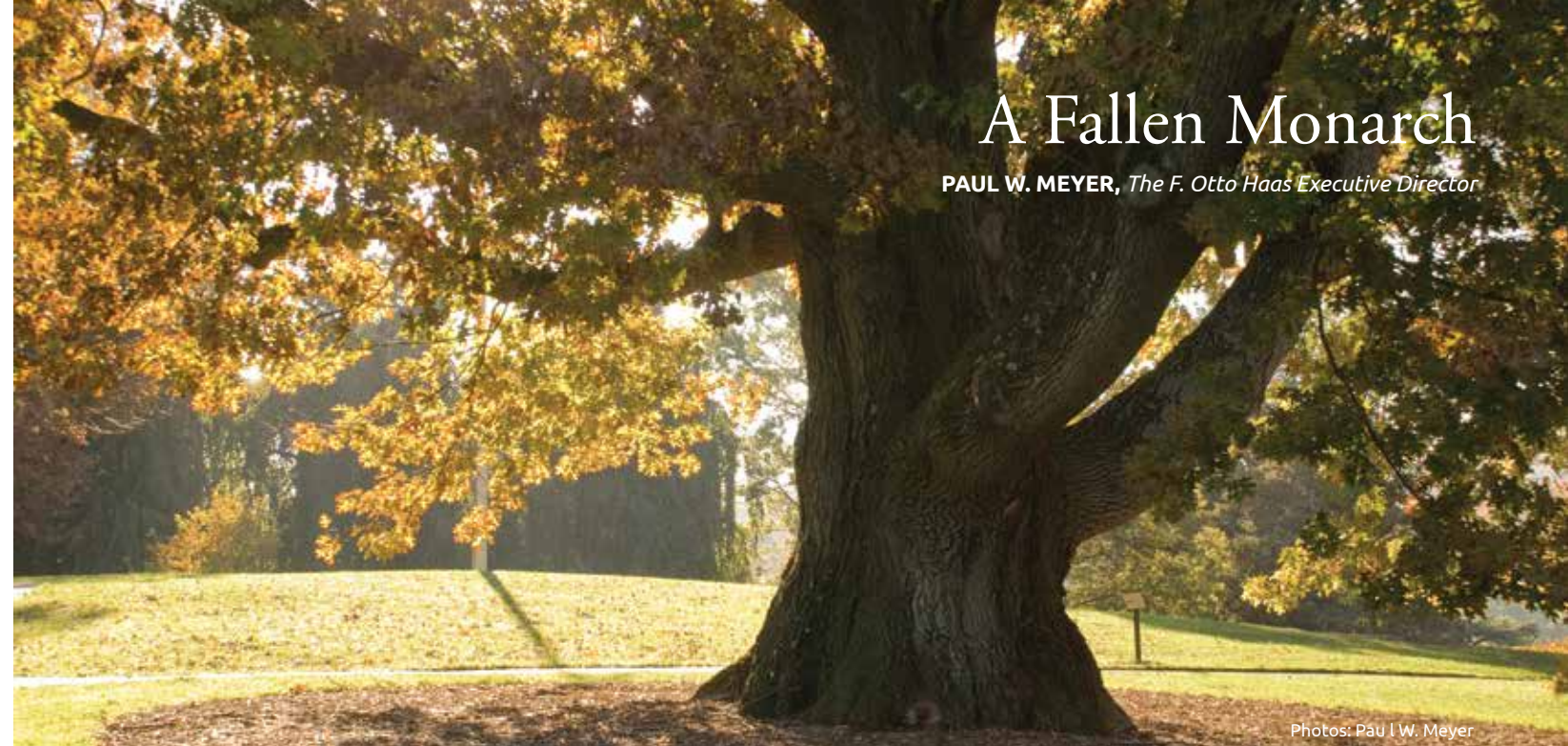
Maria does acknowledge, however, that growing up in the city did instill in her an early love for trees. “When you live in an urban setting, you walk everywhere. Some of my fondest memories are of walking with my grandmother to Central Park or to one of the many neighborhood ‘pocket parks’ that can be found in Manhattan. I do remember, from a young age, looking up and being captivated by trees—by the changing colors and different shapes of the leaves, the vision of sunlight rippling through the tree canopy.”

Maria’s childhood fascination with trees evolved over the years, particularly when she moved to the Philadelphia region. Having received an undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Maria accepted a teaching position at Penncrest High School in Media, Pennsylvania, where she taught social studies for three years. Although she enjoyed teaching, Maria was interested in further challenges and enrolled in a doctoral program at the University of Pennsylvania, with a particular interest in American transcendentalism.

It was during this period that she met and married Penn graduate Radclyffe (“Mike”) Thompson, and she became an active member of Philadelphia’s horticultural community. Maria joined the Weeders Garden Club, became a member of the Herb Society of America, volunteered at the Philadelphia Flower Show, and signed on as a student of Dr. Fogg in the Barnes Foundation Horticulture program.

Maria attributes her personal and professional achievements—as a teacher, archivist and historian, writer, and gardener—to the nurturing of friends and colleagues who have challenged and encouraged her innate curiosity, her interest in history and storytelling, and her creativity. It is the generosity of those who have played such significant roles in her life—beginning with her father and including mentors such as the late Joanna McQuail Reed and the late Judy Zuk—that inspired Maria to give back to the community around her, especially to places like the Morris Arboretum.

The Arboretum gratefully acknowledges Maria Thompson’s extraordinary generosity in including the Arboretum in her planning for the future through a planned gift designated for historic preservation, and we are delighted to welcome Maria as the newest member of the Lydia Morris Legacy Society!



Photos: Paul W. Meyer

A Fallen Monarch

PAUL W. MEYER, The F. Otto Haas Executive Director

Among the great trees of the Morris Arboretum was the massive Bender oak (*Quercus x benderi*). This magnificent, naturally occurring hybrid of red oak and scarlet oak has enthralled thousands of visitors walking from the parking lot towards the Visitor Center for many, many years.

For the past few years, we were concerned about the structural stability of the tree. Clear signs of decay were present and major branches had dropped unexpectedly, in spite of rigorous pruning to reduce the weight and sail of the branches. Late this summer when another significant branch dropped, the consensus of a team of experts was that the tree was too unstable to preserve, and that it had to be removed.

Arboretum visitors would often ask about the age of the tree. We never took a core from the tree to count the growth rings, as this is an invasive procedure that can impact the long term health of a tree. When asked about the age of the tree, I and others had speculated that it could be more than 200 years old, predating the Morrises on the property. Once the tree was cut to a stump, Associate Director of Urban Forestry Jason Lubar carefully counted the annual growth rings. To our surprise, the tree was about 130 years old. Its great size for such a “young tree” might be due to hybrid vigor, or the fact that it stood alone in the open, away from the competition of other trees. It also demonstrates that red oaks are not as slow growing as commonly believed.

It was sad day when the tree was removed, but gardeners are always thinking to the future. What might we replant on this prominent site? No decision has yet been made, and it will be a point of discussion at future Horticulture Committee meetings.

Wood from the Bender oak is being saved and will be milled for new benches in the outdoor classroom near *Out on a Limb*. Also, some wood will be carved into bowls by wood-turning artists. Chips from the branches will be partially composted and used for mulch throughout the garden. And, most fittingly, some of the Bender oak’s heavy limbs will be used as props to help protect and preserve other old trees throughout the Arboretum.



winter/spring events

FEBRUARY

Winter Wellness Walks

November through March

Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Sundays, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Meet in front of the Widener Visitor Center. Led by an experienced Volunteer Guide, these brisk walks will stick to the paved paths and get your heart rate up.

Lecture – The Past Preserved: An Exploration of Plants and Archaeology

Wednesday, February 13

2:00 p.m.

Please see page 15 for more information.

“Witchhazel” is your Favorite?

Saturday, February 16

1:00–3:00 p.m.

Pick up a map at the Visitor Center that showcases these captivating winter bloomers. Stop by the Upper

Gallery where children can create a witchhazel-related craft, and an Arboretum expert will be available to answer questions on the varieties and cultivation of witchhazels. The 2:00 p.m. guided tour will focus on the Arboretum’s witchhazel collection.

Winter Witchhazel Walk

Saturday, February 23

2:00 p.m.

Discover more than 70 varieties of colorful and fragrant witchhazels. These delightful winter beauties are some of the first harbingers of spring and boast beautiful flowers in a range of colors.

MARCH

Storytime at the Arboretum

Friday, March 1

10:30–11:00 a.m.

These fun and engaging reading sessions are tailored to the changing seasons and complement the natural setting of the Arboretum. Storytime

is held outdoors at the Outdoor Children’s Classroom, next to the Widener Visitor Center, or in the case of inclement weather, in the side tent or classroom at the Visitor Center.

Winter Wellness Walks

November through March

Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Sundays, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

See February for details.

Winter Witchhazel Walk

Saturdays, March 2 & 9

2:00 p.m.

See February 23 for details.

Lecture – Bringing Great Plants to the West: E. H. Wilson and the Heyday of Plant Exploration

Tuesday, March 5

2:00 p.m.

Please see page 15 for more information.

Patrick Dougherty Installation

Weekdays, Tuesday, March 12

through Friday, March 29.

Opens Saturday, March 30

See back cover for more information.

APRIL

Storytime at the Arboretum

Friday, April 5, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

See March 1 for details.

Arbor Day – How Does Your Garden Grow?

Saturday, April 27

11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Expand your gardening knowledge with an inspiring visit to the Morris Arboretum. Explore three gardens that will surprise you, and sketch your own special garden. Learn how to choose plants, experiment with seeds, and create your garden. Junior Girl Scouts can earn the Gardener badge. Girl Scouts must pre-register at www.gsep.org.

More Hidden Gems Tour

Saturday, April 27

11:00 a.m.

Join knowledgeable guides for an all new walking tour highlighting garden features not often discovered on an average visit. The tour is a combination of structures, sculptures, spaces, trees, and vistas. Tours begin at Widener Visitor Center.

The Spotted Lanternfly Concert

Sunday, April 28, 10:30 and

11:30 a.m.

The Relâche Ensemble, in partnership with Almanac Dance Circus Theatre, presents a multimedia program of music and dance celebrating our natural world and raising awareness about environmental issues impacting southeastern Pennsylvania. This new piece by Philadelphia composer Erica Ball, will also feature audience participatory work Rock Piece by Pauline Oliveros. The performances will take place at the Baxter Circle adjacent to the Garden Railway.



MAY

Storytime at the Arboretum

Friday, May 3, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

See March 1 for details.

Saturday Morning Live Tour:

Dogs & Barks

Saturday, May 4, 11:00 a.m.

This month’s tour highlights the dogwood species in its many shapes and forms, as well as the artistry of other tree barks. Tours begin at Widener Visitor Center.

Irish Day

Sunday, May 5

10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Enjoy performances of traditional Irish music at various locations throughout the garden. Meet brothers and historians William E. and J. Francis Watson and learn about the infamous Duffy’s Cut tragedy.

Plant Sale Members Events

Thursday & Friday, May 9 & 10

Please see page 17 for more information.

Public Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11

10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Please see page 17 for more information.

Mother’s Day Brunch

Sunday, May 12, 9:30 a.m. and

12:00 noon (two seatings)

Enjoy a delicious brunch at the Compton Café prepared by Chef Josh Hunter. Afterward, walk it off as you enjoy all spring has to offer at the Arboretum. Tickets will be available to purchase beginning April 1. See website for pricing and menu.

More Hidden Gems Tour

Saturdays, May 11 & 25

11:00 a.m.

See April 27 for more information.

Springfield Mills Opening Day at Bloomfield Farm

Sunday, May 19, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Celebrate Springfield Mills’ first open demonstration day of the season. Come and explore revolutionary technology, local history, and a beautiful setting along the Wissahickon Creek. Bring a picnic and relax on the lawn while enjoying live music.

Garden Railway Opening

Saturday, May 25, 10:00 a.m.

Time flies! The perennially popular trains have been chugging along the tracks for more than 20 years now. The trains will be on exhibit daily through Labor Day, Monday, September 2, and then on weekends only through Monday, October 14.

Cherry Blossom Days

Two Saturdays, April 13 & 20



Cherry Walk

Both Saturdays at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Visitors are invited to discover and appreciate the variety of beautiful cherry species planted throughout the Arboretum. This 45-minute walk will be led by an Arboretum expert. Space is limited.

KyoDaiko Drumming Crew

Both Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon

Taiko drumming, a combination of choreography and drumming, has been practiced in Japan for hundreds of years. KyoDaiko, under the sponsorship of the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia, is a community-based taiko drumming group offering classes in the Wynnefield section of Philadelphia. Visit kyodaiko.com to learn more.

Traditional Japanese Tea Demonstration

Saturday, April 13, 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, one of the most ancient and revered arts in Japan. Ryurei is a table-style tea ceremony developed in the late 19th century to accommodate foreign visitors to Japan who were thought to be more comfortable when seated in a chair. The misonodana, or imperial garden table, is featured in this presentation. Weather permitting, the demonstration will be held outside.

Japanese Garden Elements Tours

Saturday, April 13, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Led by an Arboretum docent, this tour will highlight the Arboretum’s Japanese-style gardens, influences, and features.

Botany for Beginners – Part II (Conifers)

PAMELA MORRIS OLSHEFSKI, Curatorial Assistant

As autumn moved into winter and the leaves changed color, I began to appreciate how the evergreen trees create a majestic backdrop for fall's color display. In winter, conifers grab the spotlight, making it the perfect time to learn how to tell them apart and appreciate their beauty on a botanical level.

Conifers are considered gymnosperms, which are non-flowering plants. Gymnosperm actually means 'naked seed.' Conifers are members of the pine family and are trees that bear cones (both male and female) and have evergreen needle or scale-like leaves. Fir (*Abies*), pine (*Pinus*), and spruce (*Picea*) are three of the most common types of conifers in our area, so learning to tell them apart is a great place to begin.

Pines (*Pinus*): Pine needles are unique in that they are in bundles, called fascicles, of 2, 3, or 5 needles. Needles are soft, flexible, and usually longer than spruce or fir. Female cones tend to hang down toward the ground.

Spruce (*Picea*): Spruce needles are attached to the branch as individual needles. They tend to be short, stiff, and with a squared-off shape. You can test this by rolling a needle between your fingers. It should roll easily. Female cones tend to hang down toward the ground.

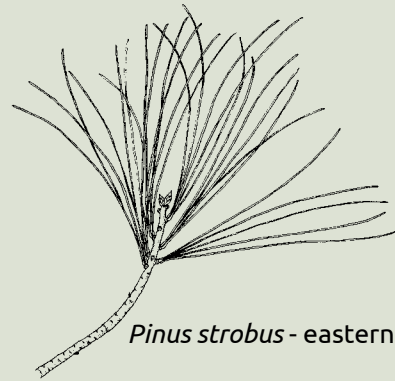
Fir (*Abies*): Fir needles are attached to the branch as individual needles similar to spruce. Fir needles however, tend to be short and flat. This makes them difficult to roll between your fingers like spruce needles. Female cones are held upright on the branch.

Below are some conifer botanical terms to learn. See if you can identify them on your next visit to the Arboretum:

Fascicle – needle bundles that are attached to the branch.

Megastrobili – female cones, often at the top of the tree.

Microstrobili – male cones, located on the lower branches of the tree.



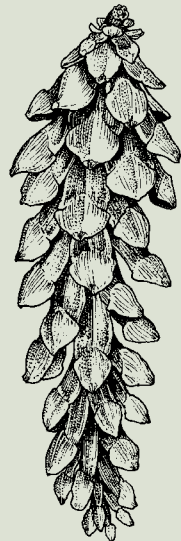
Pinus strobus - eastern white pine



Abies balsamea - balsam fir



Abies balsamea - needles attached individually to the branch



Pinus strobus - female cone



Pinus strobus - five needles per fascicle



Picea abies - Norway spruce

Botanical Illustrations by Anna Aniśko

The Architect of the Swan Pond Love Temple Revealed

JOYCE H. MUNRO, Volunteer Archivist

Nestled beside the Swan Pond at Morris Arboretum, a diminutive temple of white marble beckons visitors. Crowned by a traditional finial, with six columns supporting the circular roof and stairway to the pond, the temple is the quintessential garden folly.

The architecture of Love Temple pays homage to the circular temples of antiquity, with features that conform to classical "orders" or proportional elements. According to Vitruvius, author of ten books on architecture during the reign of the Emperor Augustus, the parts of the temple include tetto (eaves), cornice, fregio (panels between columns), and architrave (lintel or beam).

These five terms are written on a rough drawing of the temple commissioned by John T. Morris. The drawing shows that he prefers non-fluted Doric columns with egg and dart capitals—the simplest of Vitruvius' three Greek styles. Instead of a dome, the roof is stepped. And the floor is large enough for two or three people to stand within the shelter of the temple.



Photos: Courtesy Morris Arboretum Archives

Unfortunately, this drawing is not signed or dated. But knowing John Morris's hands-on involvement with his estate, he may have drawn the preliminary plan just as he did for the Compton mansion before turning things over to the architect to execute.

Fortunately, another, more precise plan exists and it is both signed and dated—but the signer comes as a surprise. His name is Ernesto Ermete Gazzeri, a sculptor with a large studio on a prominent piazza in Rome. As was common practice, Gazzeri often replicated ancient Greek and Roman works and that suited the Morrises' taste just fine. It's not hard to imagine the Morrises visiting his studio and picking up a souvenir postcard featuring his sculptures, plaques, and monuments.

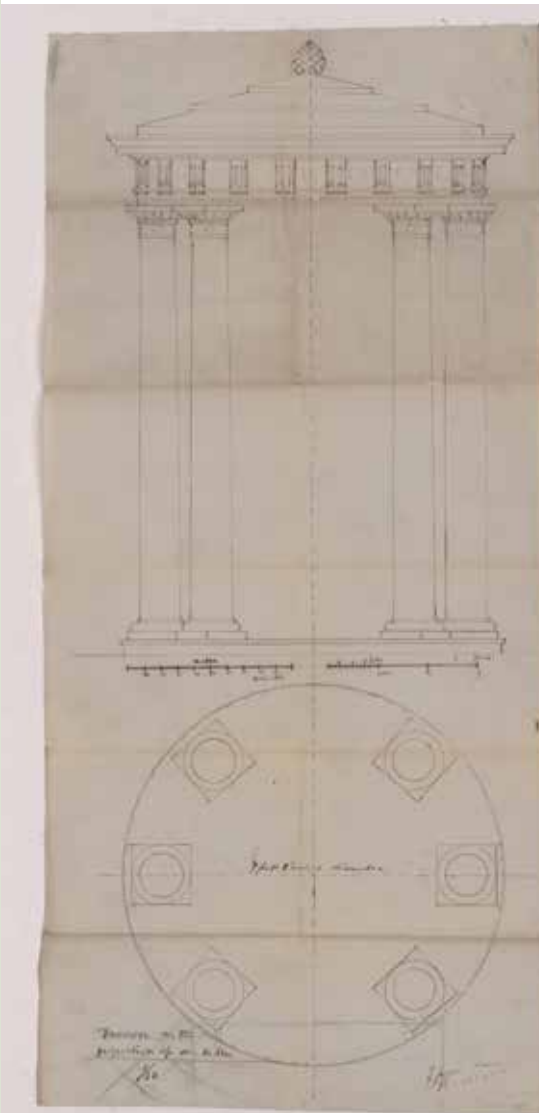
Gazzeri was born in 1866 in Modena, Italy, and attended the Istituto di Belle Arti di Modena, where he earned first place in his sculpture courses. By the turn of the century, his work was gaining attention beyond Rome at exhibitions in Paris and London.

There is evidence of only two circular temples carved at Gazzeri's studio. The first was destined for Compton in 1906. Entries in John Morris's ledger provide details, including payments to Gazzeri and a whopping 50% duty.

Gazzeri's second circular temple was installed in 1919 at Château Chavat in Podensac, France. It held a life-size sculpture of Venus and is known as "Temple de l'Amour."

By far, Gazzeri's most ambitious work was an eighteen-figure sculpture "Le mystère de la vie," in 1919 for Château Chavat. Then in 1928, he carved "Mystery of Life" once again for Forest Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles. He called it his masterpiece, never to be excelled. Other work by Gazzeri can be found in the U.S., Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Chile, Peru, the Netherlands—and nestled by the pond at Morris Arboretum.

Sources include the Morris Arboretum Archives, the University of Pennsylvania Architectural Archives, Hathitrust Digital Library, Project Gutenberg, and Internet Archive.



A Royal Exchange

JESSICA SLADE, *The McCausland Natural Areas Horticulturist*

Last September, I traded places with Conor Langley of Windsor Great Park in England for a few weeks so that we could experience working in each other's landscapes. This exchange program began in 2012 when Bloomfield Farm Horticulturist Louise Clarke traveled to Windsor Great Park and, after a lapse of a few years, the program restarted in 2018.

I was selected to represent the Morris Arboretum and Conor Langley, Horticulturist at Frogmore, a 35-acre Georgian landscape garden on Windsor Castle's grounds, was selected by Windsor Great Park. The garden curators (John Anderson of Windsor Great Park and Tony Aiello of the Morris Arboretum) organized schedules for us and housing was provided by each institution.

The vastness and diversity of landscapes within Windsor Great Park, a 5000-acre park managed by the Crown Estate, provided for a rich learning environment in addition to the outstanding cultural experience of my first visit to the UK. If you aren't familiar with this park, it features a 35-acre public garden called the Savill Garden, a 220-acre woody plant collection with a focus on ericaceous species, and thousands more acres of natural areas and a deer park.

During my rotation through the gardens, I worked alongside different horticulturists while learning about their backgrounds, challenges, horticultural practices, and prized plants. I shared many tea breaks with the gardeners and indulged in cakes, shortbread, and laughter. One of the highlights of my time in Windsor was visiting veteran trees with the park's arboriculture team, including a 1,300-year old *Quercus robur* (pictured above), and learning about the fungi growing on them and how to read these as signs for management.

Conor, who takes care of the winter garden at Frogmore, was interested in visiting the Morris Arboretum to see how public gardens are managed in the US and how we care for our native trees. Our team enjoyed working with him in the field doing our everyday tasks, and we took him to visit a few of our favorite gardens in the Philadelphia area, including Chanticleer and Stoneleigh. Conor says that he especially enjoyed helping to install our scarecrow exhibit along the Oak Allée.

Much of the work (and the weeds!) was the same in England as in Philadelphia, but meeting other professionals with a shared passion for the plant world and ecology was an unforgettable experience that will shape my practices moving forward.



Photos: Lucy Dinsmore, Jess Slade, Graham Stone



Meet our Staff – Nicholas Turco

LESLIE CRANE, *Development Communications Associate*

Nick Turco has been part of the Visitor Services team at Morris Arboretum for close to 10 years, working a few days each week. His warm smile is the first thing many visitors see as they approach the entrance kiosk, but it's his genuine love of the Arboretum and engaging with people that make him so endearing to visitors and staff alike.

What brought you to the Arboretum?

"After working 20 years for a dairy, followed by 25 years as a salesman for Ellis Coffee Co., and 24 years on the Abington Township Board of Commissioners, I felt it was time to retire. I wasn't ready to sit around, so when I saw an ad for the Arboretum I applied, and the rest is history. Working in sales all my life gave me the opportunity to meet and greet people from all walks of life. My saying is, 'If you like what you do you'll never work a day in your life.'"

What do you love about working here?

"The favorite part of my job is that it gives me the opportunity to work with all age groups. I enjoy chitchatting with the younger co-workers—they keep me on my toes and you can learn a lot from them."

Is there a particular place in the garden you always recommend to visitors and what are your favorite Arboretum events?

"I often suggest to patrons that they not miss the wetlands. I feel there are so many things to see there, you don't want to miss out on anything. Speaking of events, I can't decide if the Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival or the Fall Festival is my favorite. Both are always beautiful events. There's enjoyment for all. I also can't skip over the Plant Sale. It's a chance for me personally to buy some plants for my garden and to expand on my 500 or so tulips I have planted around my house."



Photo: Christopher Dorman

Arboretum Lectures

The Past Preserved: An Exploration of Plants and Archaeology Wednesday, February 13, 2:00 p.m., \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members

Through the microscopic study of seeds and wood, archaeologists are often able to reconstruct the lives and health of ancient populations. Chantel White, archaeobotanist at the Penn Museum, currently conducts research at Lechaion, the Roman port of Corinth in Greece, and at Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia. Learn how botanical remains have been preserved at these sites and how plants are helping us understand daily life more than 1,500 years ago.

Bringing Great Plants to the West: E. H. Wilson and the Heyday of Plant Exploration

Tuesday, March 5, 2:00 p.m., \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members
Renowned plant collector E. H. Wilson (1876-1930) was responsible for introducing over a thousand plant species, mainly from China, to the west. In this lecture, Tony Kirkham, Head of the Arboretum and Horticultural Services, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, will highlight his recent book *Wilson's China: A Century On*. With co-author Mark Flanagan, Tony retraced several of Wilson's journeys to create a fascinating series of breathtaking 'then and now' images of the remote Sichuan landscape, providing unique insight into the changes that have taken place in China over the past 100 years. *This lecture will be held at the Learning Center Auditorium at Temple University's Ambler Campus, 580 Meetinghouse Rd., Ambler, PA.*



Spring Class Preview



Photo: Bob Gutowski

Each spring and fall the Morris Arboretum offers more than 90 classes for adults and children. These fun and engaging courses cover topics ranging from horticulture and landscape design to cooking, creative expressions, and birding. Trips to a variety of regional historic and cultural sites are also available.

Look for your course brochure to arrive in the mail mid-January. A list of complete class offerings is also available at bit.ly/MAClasses. Online registration opens on January 15.

Here are just a few classes coming this spring:

Culinary Adventures

- Culture, History, and Food of Northern Madagascar
- Craft Chocolate Overload: Workshop and Tasting

Behind the Scenes

- Compton: A House Worth Naming
- Evening Wine and Cheese Wander

Sustainable Practices

- Sustainability in your Garden
- Water Management Solutions for your Landscape

Trips

- Mill Fleurs Garden and the Nakashima Furniture Studio
- Chanticleer and Stoneleigh: Two Great Main Line Gardens

Health & Wellness

- Walking Mindfulness Meditation
- Herbal Skincare Workshop

Horticulture & Design

- Beneficial Bugs in your Garden
- Bonsai: A Living Art Form

Botany

- Winter Tree Identification
- The Plants of French Creek State Park – A Trip

Creative Expressions

- Nature-Inspired Papercutting
- Painting with Watercolor and Colored Pencil

Calling All Birders

- Birding at the Arboretum: A Local Hotspot
- Birding in the Forests and Beaches of New Jersey



Plant Sale 2019

Photo: Paul W. Meyer

Join us Mother's Day weekend for the Annual Plant Sale at the Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm. Upper level member events begin on Thursday, May 9.

Members Events at the Plant Sale – Save the Date!

Members receive special benefits and access to member events during the Plant Sale. All members receive 10% off their entire purchase and can shop before the public. Premier members are invited to special shopping events on Thursday, May 9. Not a premier member and interested in the events and shopping first? Call the Membership Office at (215) 247-5777 ext. 205 to upgrade your membership. Membership Office hours are Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Be sure to pick up your free dividend plant/s

Collectors Circle members – Receive 2 dividend plants, plus a plant of curatorial significance.

Holly, Oak, Laurel members – Receive 2 dividend plants

All other members – Receive 1 dividend plant

Plant Sale Luncheon

Thursday, May 9, 12:30–2:30 p.m.

Oak, Laurel, and Collectors Circle members are invited to a picnic lunch and to shop first at the Plant Sale. Following lunch, guests shop with our experts. Invitations will be mailed and emailed to eligible members.

Plant Sale Preview Night

Thursday, May 9, 4:30–7:30 p.m.

Chestnut, Holly, Oak, Laurel, and Collectors Circle members are invited to shop for the best selection while enjoying refreshments. The Arboretum's experts will be available to assist guests as they shop. Invitations will be mailed and emailed to eligible members.

Plant Sale Members Day

Friday, May 10, 10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Bring your membership card, your wallet, and a wagon to shop on Members Day. Visit early for the best selection.

Public Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Growing Minds



Photo: Jenn Woodring-Shea

What better way to connect kids with nature than to sign them up for a class at Morris Arboretum? The Growing Minds program offers children and their caregivers the opportunity to connect meaningfully with nature through a wide variety of creative and educational offerings. Visit <http://online.morrisarboretum.org/GrowingMinds> to see the complete list of classes and to register, or call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125 for more information.

Join us for one of these fun, engaging classes, all held in the beautiful surroundings of the Morris Arboretum:

- **Seeds to Sprouts: Spring Adventures (Ages 2–4)**
- **Kids Teach Kids: Honeybees & Hives (Ages 3–6)**
- **Make Your Own Slug Slime (Ages 6–10)**
- **BioEYES: Your Watershed, Your Backyard (Ages 7–12)**
- **Kids Mother's Day Container Garden**

Plant Societies at the Sale

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold its annual Plant Sale at Morris Arboretum again this year. Outstanding varieties of large-leaf (elepidotes) and small-leaf (lepidotes) rhododendrons will be offered, as will azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous, and mountain laurels (*kalmias*). Native rhododendrons will also be available for sale. The rhododendron sale will follow the schedule and hours of the Arboretum's Plant Sale. For information, contact Karel Bernady, at (610) 827-0113.

The Delaware Valley Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will return to the Morris Arboretum Plant Sale offering 80 different rock garden plants. In addition to plants, other items will also be available, including hypertufa troughs, which are durable, completely weather-proof containers suitable for displaying rock garden or other small plants.



Nature Play

LIZA HAWLEY, Assistant Director, Visitor Education & Youth Programs

Photo: Julia Lehman

Nature Play gives children the space to discover the wonders of the natural world in an intuitive and unstructured way. After a successful pilot this past year, Morris Arboretum will have a designated space in the Sculpture Garden between the *St. Francis* and *American Bull* sculptures for Nature Play every day from May 1 through October 31.

This new space will be Morris Arboretum's "yes" area. Yes to going off the path. Yes to touching. And best of all, YES to climbing. As one parent expressed, "Love it! It was a nice break for my three kiddos from the gardens where they could look but not touch." Nature Play helps children learn self-reliance, explore their interests, make independent observations and decisions, and solve problems. Such experiences encourage a lifetime of environmental stewardship and connections with the natural world.

Featuring large cut trees and stumps for climbing, various nature objects for building and creating, and tools for exploring, this space will also serve as an outdoor classroom for many of our Growing Minds classes and schools visiting on field trips. We hope families will take advantage of this new area for play and appreciate the beauty of the rest of the Arboretum in a more contemplative way.

Summer Adventure Camp Returns!

TIFFANY STAHL, Education Program Specialist

For ten years, Morris Arboretum has been offering summer programming uniquely designed within the beautiful confines of the Arboretum's landscape. Our goal is to inspire new generations of citizen scientists by tapping into their natural curiosity about our environment. We offer fun, immersive experiences that encourage scientific inquiry, inclusivity, and discovery about the natural world around them.

Awaken and energize your child's mind, body, and spirit—register today for Morris Arboretum's Summer Adventure Camp. Spots fill up quickly! For more information about summer camp, visit <http://www.morrisarboretum.org>. Register early and register with friends!



Photo: Tiffany Stahl

Summer Adventure Camp runs June 24th-August 2nd

Here is a preview of some of our awesome themes this year:

Little Lightning Bugs (Ages 4–6)

Animal Tales and Summer Songs

Splish, Splash, Nature Bash

Fossil Fanatics

Mini Masterpiece Makers

Bloomfield Buddies (Ages 7–11)

Citizen Science Training Camp

Destination Arboretum Exploration

Nature Mythology & Forest Fairytales

Nature Ninja Eco Warriors



Great American Lighthouses at the Garden Railway

This year's Garden Railway theme, Great American Lighthouses, features iconic landmarks from east to west, and as far north as the Great Lakes. Capture the spirit of our nation's seafaring communities and enjoy the beauty of these unique American structures.

The Garden Railway display is a miniature world set in the splendor of a summer garden. It features a quarter-mile track with loops and tunnels, bridges and trestles and all of the miniature buildings are created entirely of natural materials, each meticulously detailed with leaves, bark, vines, and twigs. The Garden Railway will be open daily beginning May 25 weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., until 5:00 p.m. on weekends, and Wednesday evenings in June, July and August until 8:00 p.m. From Labor Day through Columbus Day the Garden Railway will be open weekends only 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Visit www.morrisarboretum.org for special events all summer long.

The Garden Railway is made possible through the generosity of Gwen and Ed Asplundh and by gifts given in memory of Joe Shuttleworth.

Photo: Paul W. Meyer



Photo: Amanda DeLeo

The Shop

The Shop at Morris Arboretum has some fun, practical, and trendy logo-wear and accessories. Our passionate, friendly staff will be happy to show you their favorites or help you find what you're looking for when you stop in for a visit. A new staff favorite: we recently added custom marble coasters depicting each of the four seasons at the Arboretum to our collection.

Our collection of logo items includes not only hats, t-shirts, and vests, but also mugs, magnets, keychains, and wine totes. Looking for gear for the little ones? We have you covered. In fact, we recently created long-sleeved Garden Railway t-shirts just for toddlers. Sorry to all you adult train enthusiasts!

Want to buy a gift but don't want to wade into the fraught territory of picking sizes? No worries! You can purchase a gift card, which is not only good for amazing Shop items but can also be used for educational classes, memberships, and even admissions.

And, as always, you can feel good knowing that your purchases at the Arboretum support our mission of connecting people, place, and plants.

Moonlight & Roses 2019

Be sure to save the date for our *Moonlight & Roses* gala which will be held on Friday, June 7, 2019. This annual fundraising event, which includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the Rose Garden followed by dinner and dancing under the stars, is a not-to-be-missed experience.

We are delighted to honor Mary and Richard Graham at the 2019 *Moonlight & Roses* gala. Mary and Richard grew up in the Philadelphia area, but it was on trips back to visit their family while living in St. Louis that they became acquainted with the Arboretum. In 1999, the Grahams moved back to the Main Line and began to enjoy the Arboretum on a more regular basis. In 2005, Mary and Richard became founding members of the Arboretum's Directors' Guild. Mary and Richard are also longtime members of the Collectors Circle, and are members of the Lydia Morris Legacy Society. In 2015, they established the Mary P. and Richard W. Graham Endowment Fund, in honor of their children, which supports conservation and care of the natural areas at the Arboretum.



Photo: Paul W. Meyer



The Morris Arboretum is pleased to pay tribute to its first-ever corporate honoree at this year's gala. Criteria for selection of corporate honoree include a demonstrated commitment to conserving the natural environment through philanthropy, education, preservation, and/or sustainability in business practices. There is no one better suited for this inaugural role than The Haverford Trust Company. As an independent, privately-owned

wealth management firm founded in 1979, Haverford Trust has deep roots in our community. They have spent forty years building relationships with nonprofit organizations that transcend investment management. Nearly three decades ago, Haverford partnered with the Arboretum in support of *Moonlight & Roses*, ultimately rising to the level of Presenting Sponsor. George Connell, founder of The Haverford Trust Company, was instrumental in creating this longtime partnership.

Co-chairing the 2019 *Moonlight & Roses* Planning Committee are Sarah Salmon and Sally Gendler. Sarah grew up next to the Arboretum, and still lives close by with her husband and three young kids. Sarah loves being able to share her favorite Arboretum hideouts with her family. Sally Gendler and her husband, Steven, along with their daughters, recently moved to Meadowbrook Avenue where they can walk right to the Arboretum. Sally is taking advantage of her proximity—as an education guide, horticulture volunteer, and archive volunteer. She is also an active Penn State Extension Master Gardener, through which she volunteers at The Mt. Airy Playground.

Reservations are required for *Moonlight & Roses* and space is limited. Invitations will be mailed in April to all Holly-level members and above, as well as previous to *Moonlight & Roses* attendees.

VIP registration is now open online at www.morrisarboretumgala.org. Opportunities are also available to sponsor a table, 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 email ksasal@upenn.edu.



Tributes & Memorial Gifts

Photo: Judy Miller

The Morris Arboretum is grateful to the following donors who made tribute and memorial gifts between July 1, 2018 and October 31, 2018.

In memory of Henry Berger
Jay Lappin

In memory of Burton Froom
Deborah E. Hoellein
Karen & Richard Soisson
Mt. Airy Pediatrics

In memory of Dorie Harper
Charles H. Pletcher

In honor of Ellen Nalle Hass
Perry Benson, Jr.

In memory of Sandy Hill
Marilyn J. Steeg

In memory of Jim Lundeer
Marilyn J. Steeg

In memory of Helen Gaylord Meyer
Julie Ungerer

In memory of David Rakr
Marilyn J. Steeg

In memory of Joan S. Root
Joan R. Momjian

In memory of Susie Sargent
David Van Ness Taylor

In memory of Frankie Sicoli
Gail & Bill Wittman

In memory of Susan Wexler
Rick Hock

Annual Report Correction

The following Collectors Circle members were not correctly acknowledged in the Annual Report for fiscal year 2018. We regret the error and are grateful for their generous support with gifts ranging from \$5,000 to \$9,999:

Jessie R. Deming & Robert A. Boyer
J. Kenneth Nimblett

Seasons newsletter is printed on FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council™) certified paper, which supports the growth of responsible forest management worldwide through its international standards.

Photos: Rob Cardillo, Paul W. Meyer



Artist Patrick Dougherty Returns this Spring!

Do you remember the *The Summer Palace*? Or *A Waltz in the Woods* with its seven meandering towers? An Arboretum favorite, artist Patrick Dougherty returns to the Morris Arboretum this spring for a three-week residency when he will bring to life another (and one of his last) stickwork sculptures. What will he create this time? Come find out for yourself! Visit morrisarboretum.org this spring for updates and more information.