



PennState

THE ARBORETUM AT PENN STATE

Volunteer Update

August 2018

arboretum.psu.edu

Note from the Volunteer Program

Ripe tomatoes. Yellowing leaves. Cicadas droning in the trees. The first signs of fall may be in the air but volunteer activities in the Arboretum are still going strong! Programming in the children's garden will continue into the fall, as will garden maintenance needs.

Wildflower Trail Days in the Hartley Wood will resume. Home football weekends will create demand for greeters. And of course, Pumpkin Festival and Winter Celebration will offer a cornucopia of opportunities to get involved!



This spooky pumpkin seems to ask, "Got any fall volunteer plans?"

Volunteer Resources

[Online Logbook](#) - Record your hours and help the Arboretum keep track of what volunteers are doing.

[Volunteer Application](#)

[Volunteer Handbook](#) - Suggested reading for all volunteers.

[Docent Manual](#) - Suggested reading for docents and those who want to know more about the Arboretum.

[Children's Garden Handbook](#) - Suggested reading for children's garden volunteers.

[Building a Safe Penn State](#) - Complete your "Building a Safe Penn State" training through the Learning Resource Network. This training is a one-time requirement for volunteers who will spend 7 or more hours volunteering at the Arboretum. Children's garden volunteers must complete it annually.

[PSUAlert](#) - Sign up to receive information about campus weather and emergencies via social media.

[Events Calendar](#) - Keep up with what's going on at the Arboretum.

[Arboretum T-shirts](#) - Get a jump on holiday shopping!

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Volunteer Experiences & Participation Guidelines

Horticulture

Help maintain the botanic gardens. Weekly sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Requirements: All experience levels welcome! Wear clothes that can get dirty and close-toed shoes. No advance notice of participation required unless you are attending for the first time. First-time gardeners should email Kelly Oleynik at keo5114@psu.edu, so that we know to look for you.

Greeters

Welcome visitors to the botanic gardens and direct them to amenities. Call-outs for greeters are sent by email.

Requirements: All experience levels welcome!

Docents

Guide tours through the botanic gardens. Call-outs for docents are sent out by email.

Requirements: Familiarize yourself with the [docent manual](#). Thinking about becoming a docent? Start by attending docent spring training or shadowing a tour!

Children's Garden

Provide guidance to children of all ages as they explore the Childhood's Gate Children's Garden. More support is always welcome!

Requirements: Children's garden volunteers must obtain the clearances required by Penn State. We will walk you through the clearance process.

Events

Support public events including art openings, Pumpkin Festival, and Winter Celebration. Call-outs for volunteers are sent by email.

Requirements: All experience levels welcome!

For any of the above opportunities, please contact Kelly Oleynik. Recruit a friend!

keo5114@psu.edu
(814) 867-2591

Gerhold Wildflower Trail

Remove invasive species, plant native ones, and maintain the Gerhold Wildflower Trail in the Hartley Wood.

Requirements: All experience levels welcome! Clothes that can get dirty and close-toed shoes are a must. Contact natural areas program assistant Michael Toolan at mjt5194@psu.edu to arrange participation.

Avian Education Program

Participate in bird banding and other avian events.

Requirements: All experience levels welcome! Contact Nick Kerlin at 814-238-3487 or bluebird6771@verizon.net to arrange participation.

Follow [pennstatearboretum](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
- Winston Churchill



Tomatoes and squash create a tower of greenery in the Harvest Gardens

Volunteers Help Stock the Food Bank

The [State College Area Food Bank](#) provides an unusual abundance of fresh produce, thanks to a network of community gardeners. Our very own Harvest Gardens also provide a rich source of donated produce.

Starting in late June, the Harvest Gardens produce about 50 lbs. of food per week, including leafy greens, herbs, and the occasional unusual vegetable like kohlrabi. The produce is collected by Penn State gardener Ted Zeljak and the garden crew, who prepare and sort the produce at the Tower Road facility.

Every Wednesday, children's garden volunteer Karen Hazel loads her van with the produce and delivers it to the food bank for distribution to those in need. Later in the season, when heavy melons and squash ripen, Karen may deliver nearly 200 lbs. of fresh produce per week! We estimate that the Harvest Gardens contribute 1,500 to 2,000 lbs. of fruits and vegetables per year to the food bank, and it wouldn't happen without volunteer effort!



Volunteer Cathy Kennedy helps a young Pumpkin Festival visitor create a cornhusk doll

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

More information about events is always available on the online [events calendar](#).

Gardening

-Weekly sessions: Every Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

-Fall Bulb Planting: Tuesday and Thursday sessions during the week of October 29 or November 5, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., depending on weather. Check your email for notification of the

final dates.

Greeters

Greeters are always welcome! Watch your email for greeter call-outs. There will be an increased need for greeters during the following busy weekends:

-Home Football Weekends: September 1, 15, 29, October 13 (Homecoming), 27, November 10, 24

Wildflower Trail Days

Work on the Gerhold Wildflower Trail resumes on Saturdays this fall. Contact Mike Toolan at mjt5194@psu.edu to participate.

-Wildflower Trail Days: September 8, 15, 22, 29, October 20, 27, November 3, 10, 17, December 1

Pumpkin Festival, Friday, October 19, and Saturday, October 20

We need your help throughout the entire week of October 14 to present the Arboretum's largest annual event! Last year we welcomed an estimated 10,000 Pumpkin Festival visitors. It is our biggest community outreach event and we can only manage this gem of a pumpkin party with the support of our amazing volunteers. From sprucing up the gardens to harvesting pumpkins and registering masterpiece jack-o'-lanterns, it's an "all hands on deck" event. Volunteer support will be needed leading up to and throughout the festival weekend. Opportunities will be available for both individuals and groups. Watch your email for volunteer call-outs and save the following dates:

-Pumpkin Giveaway: Sunday, October 14, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

-Festival Weekend: Friday, October 19, and Saturday, October 20

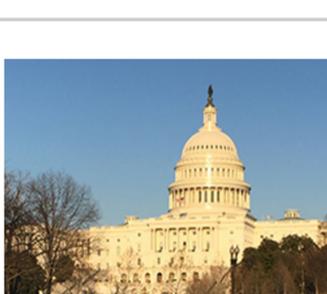
-Festival breakdown: Sunday, October 21

Winter Celebration: Friday, December 7

Sure, we're just getting to the end of summer but winter IS coming! Preparations for Winter Celebration will take place a week or so leading up to the event. Do you see yourself stringing lights in the gardens or decking the tree in the Glass House? Maybe hot chocolate barista is more your thing? Don't miss out on the holiday season kickoff! Details will be forthcoming in November. . . . Stay tuned!

Upcoming Events

Field Trip to the Smithsonian Gardens and United States Botanic Garden, Washington, D.C., Friday, September 21, 6:00 a.m. to ~6:30 p.m. Join us for our second annual Arboretum field trip! We will travel in comfort by air-conditioned bus to Washington, D.C., for tours of the gardens of the National Mall and historic United States Botanic Garden, courtesy of Smithsonian gardens and USBG staff.



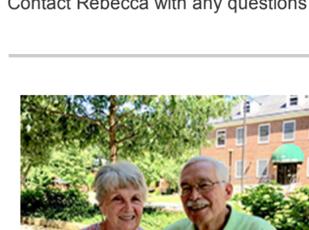
Cost:
Arboretum volunteers: \$30
Guest: \$60

RSVP to ruh212@psu.edu. Reservations and non-refundable cash or check payment are due by Friday, September 7. If you are bringing a guest, please provide his/her name and email address. Make checks payable to Penn State University and include *bus trip* in the subject line. Send payment to:

Rebecca Horwitt
The Arboretum at Penn State
209 Forest Resources Building
University Park, 16802

If you would like to drop off your payment in person, call 814-867-2591 to make sure that someone will be in the office (209) to meet you.

Contact Rebecca with any questions or concerns!



Ralphine and Gary Gentzler

"You Can Find Gardening Chores Anywhere You Look"

Stop by the botanic gardens on a Tuesday or Thursday morning and there is a good chance you will see Ralphine and Gary Gentzler doing "garden yoga"—carefully placing their feet on small patches of mulch, stretching out to trim a branch or pull a weed.

Ralphine started volunteering at the Arboretum three years ago, hooked by a notice for wildflower planting in the Hartley Wood. She soon joined the Tuesday/Thursday gardeners and felt immediately welcome, despite being the only woman in an (at the time) all-male crew. Gary was drawn in by the annual pumpkin harvest. "We started with little ones, the kind you can hold in two hands," Gary says, "But as we went across the field they got bigger and bigger and soon you needed two strong men to lift them."

The husband-and-wife team are lifelong gardeners. Ralphine grew up in York County, PA, where her summer job was to help with the harvest on her grandparents' farm. Gary grew up in the city of York, where opportunities to garden were scarce until World War II, when victory gardens sprung up in vacant lots and children pitched in to weed and water. As a teenager, he spent a summer harvesting peaches, and learned the hard way that no matter how hot it is in the orchard, you had better wear long sleeves, because exposure to large quantities of peach fuzz can cause an unstoppage itch!

Ralphine says, "You can find gardening chores wherever you look." Over time, the Gentzlers have helped to create a butterfly garden and beautified the streets of Montgomery, OH, with hanging flower baskets. Now that they have settled permanently in State College, they not only volunteer at the Arboretum but also tend new saplings in their neighborhood, replacements for ash trees killed by the [Emerald Ash Borer](#). Ralphine gardens for five different neighbors, selecting plants and tending landscapes for those who lack a green thumb or who can no longer manage the work.

For Ralphine, gardening at the Arboretum provides a chance to "get your hands in the dirt and make something beautiful come out of the ground." Gary says he's simply happy to help, to see things grow, and to get good feedback from visitors. After seeing the Gentzlers following a cold and muddy late autumn mulching session, it's clear that for this hardy pair, what Ralphine says is true: "Anything outside is better than anything inside."

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

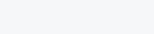
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The Arboretum at Penn State | The Pennsylvania State University
336 Forest Resources Building | University Park PA 16802-3604
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