



Volunteer Strides

CHANGE. It's been said that if you're not going through change, you're not growing. If that be the case, the Arboretum is on trend. The new Pollinator and Bird Garden is officially open. Dr. Kim Steiner, the Arboretum's founding director, retired in July, the Arboretum joined Penn State Outreach, and construction on the new Palmer Museum of Art has begun. And although COVID continues to present challenges, there are glimmers of hope all around campus. The Blue Band is practicing, the fields are painted for football parking, and we are planning for Pumpkin Festival. Robert Frost said: "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." Here's to embracing change, growing, and moving forward.



Sandy Smith

A Message from the Interim Director

Hello volunteers! In July, I assumed the role of interim director for The Arboretum at Penn State. It's been fascinating and fun while at the same time overwhelming and rewarding. During this brief time, I've had the pleasure to meet many of you. Having volunteered for the planting of the Esplanade during the final push to open the Pollinator and Bird Garden, and meeting others working on site during the week, I have witnessed first-hand how integral you are to our success.

As volunteers, you play key roles in the activities and programs of the Arboretum. You are active as gardeners, greeters, photographers, docents, guides, event assistants, educators, and speakers. Working together, we accomplish so much more than we could have ever done without you, and we are in your debt. However, letting you know how much we appreciate your contributions, talents, and service has been hard to do properly. The last year and a half has been challenging. Please know that the staff of the Arboretum and the entire University appreciates all that you do to make the Arboretum a cherished place and "must-repeat" experience for so many. It would not be what it is without your generous contributions of time and effort. We are honored by your volunteerism, and so very thankful for you all.

Volunteer

Spotlight: Judi Minor

With the soothing sounds of a babbling fountain in the background, I sat down with volunteer Judi Minor to talk about her volunteer service and her recent gift to the Pollinator and Bird Garden. In tribute



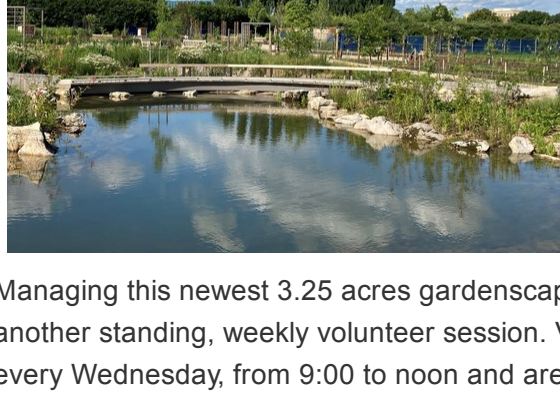
Judi Minor

and recognition of her fellow volunteers, Judi has sponsored the heated bird bath feature designed by Phil Hawk, which is beautifully placed amidst lush ferns right alongside the bird blind.

Judi began her volunteer service in 2012, having retired from a long career with CATA. During a trip to NYC, she and her sister visited a garden in Central Park where she encountered a young man deadheading in the garden. They struck up a short conversation in which he revealed, "I'm a volunteer and I love it!" It occurred to her at that moment that volunteering would be the perfect activity in retirement. Upon her return, and under the advice of a good friend who told her to "do nothing you're not happy with," she researched opportunities in the Arboretum. Judi now splits her volunteering time between her two loves, Schlow Library and the Arboretum.

As a location of learning and friendship, volunteering in the Arboretum provides just rewards. Judi enjoys applying what she has learned to her home garden, adapting her garden skills to meet the challenges presented by her densely shaded yard. Chipping away small plots, she experiments to see what will thrive under the tree canopy. The blossoming friendships among her fellow volunteers have inspired social occasions to admire one another's gardens. She enviously describes the gardens of Rich DiMarcello, Lee Gouty, and Dick Repsher as "pristine" and "belonging on a garden magazine cover." An avid baker, she enjoys sharing her delectable creations and swapping garden stories with her fellow volunteers and the garden staff. She looks out reflectively and says, "I just love the people here." Throughout our chat, she refers to the Arboretum as a "magical place." She finds gardening to be meditative and relaxing and says she can lose herself pruning roses for the entire three-hour volunteer session.

A long-time donor to the Arboretum, Judi seized the opportunity to make an impact in the Pollinator and Bird Garden by supporting the bird bath water feature. More importantly, she wanted to pay tribute to the many volunteers (her friends) who work tirelessly, year round, preserving the Arboretum as a place of beauty and renewal. "Volunteers do a lot. . . . I want people to know that." This gift is Judi's way of putting those who make a difference in the spotlight. When the plaque is installed, she hopes that her words will motivate people to appreciate the Arboretum's volunteers and consider volunteering service themselves. Cheers, Judi!



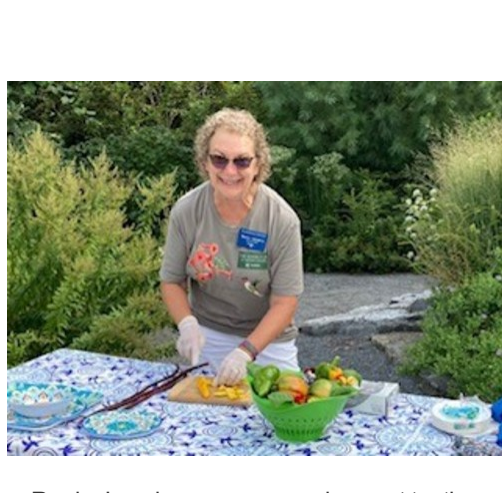
Creating a Buzz . . .

Flash forward! 24 planting sessions, 621 volunteers, 1,863 service hours and 143,000 plants later, the Pollinator and Bird Garden is thriving with growth! The birds love it, the bees love it, the people love it, and the weeds REALLY love it!

Managing this newest 3.25 acres gardenscape justifies the addition of another standing, weekly volunteer session. Volunteer sessions are held every Wednesday, from 9:00 to noon and are led by Rychele Stipcak. To accommodate the outgoing dog days of summer, Rychele is also welcoming volunteers from 7:00 a.m. to 9 a.m. in effort to beat the heat. Come one! Come all!

Children's Garden Volunteers and Guided Tours are Back!

Beginning in August, we were delighted to welcome back our children's garden guides to support our educational drop-in programs. Just as happily, we also resumed booking and scheduling guided tours. These small steps shed optimistic light that people—volunteers and visitors alike—want to be in the gardens. If you're unsure about your clearance status to serve in the children's garden or want to shadow a tour to work out the kinks, contact Kelly Oleynik: keo5114@psu.edu.



Rocky Landers prepares a harvest tasting

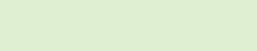
Thank you to all of our summer interns!

Horticulture interns: Jennifer Davison, Breanna Kisner,

Zack Kline and Lucas Rizzo.

Pictured below are children's garden interns,

Paige Fenstermacher and Grace Stewart.



Pumpkin Festival is Coming!



Save these dates:

October 10 —

Pumpkin Giveaway

October 15, 16 —

Contest and Festival

October 17 —

Festival Breakdown

Say hello to these
not-so-new-any-more
volunteer faces!



Roana Fuller



Jerry Gross



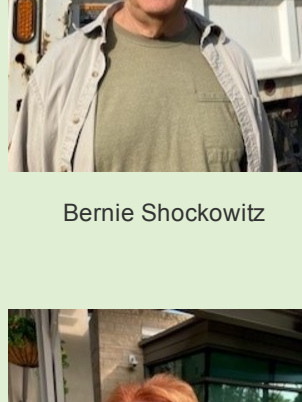
Ryan Middlemore



Ann Mitra



Dale Roth



Bernie Shockowitz



Jill Smeltzer

Volunteer Resources:

Suggested reading for all volunteers

[Volunteer Handbook](#)

Suggested reading for children's garden guides

[Children's Garden Handbook](#)

Learn more about the Arboretum and add to your tour repertoire.

[Docent Manual](#)

Stay informed regarding campus weather and emergencies

[PSUAlert](#)



FreshSTART students completed their first week of classes and got rooted in volunteer service. They planted 5,200 more plants in the Pollinator and Bird Garden.

Thank you!

"Act as if what you do makes a difference . . . it does."

—William James

Parking and Access Update

- Visitor Parking is available in the Lewis Katz Building lot, just across Bigler Road from the old Arboretum lot.
- To park in the Katz lot, Arboretum visitors who do not hold a Penn State parking permit must pay a fee of \$1/hour. Payment may be made via the pay station in the Katz lot or by using the ParkMobile app <https://parkmobile.io/> Parking fees apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Katz lot ParkMobile zone is: 95106
- Visitors can purchase parking for a maximum of two hours during weekdays when PSU classes are in session during fall and spring semesters. On weekdays during the summer and winter breaks, visitors will be able to extend their length of stay past two hours. All day parking is available at the rate of \$8 on Saturdays and Sundays (football weekends excluded).
- Visitors with PSU parking permits may use the Katz lot at any time if their permit is valid in Orange campus lots. For those whose permit is not valid in Orange lots, the Katz lot may be used after 4:00 p.m. on weekdays and all day Saturday and Sunday (football weekends excluded).
- Two ADA-accessible parking spots remain available around the blue construction fencing near the main pathway to the Overlook Pavilion.

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