



**PennState**

# THE ARBORETUM AT PENN STATE *Volunteer Update*

**Spring 2022** [arboretum@psu.edu](mailto:arboretum@psu.edu)

## Volunteer Strides

A volunteer joked recently that we should have tee-shirts that read, "It could be worse." Truth be told, despite the seeming ebb and flow of the virus, things are better compared to this time last year. So, here's to accentuating the positive! In October, Pumpkin Festival made a resilient comeback as we welcomed thousands of guests for the two-day event with music, fun activities, and the showpiece: the jack-o'-lantern display. Construction of the new Palmer Museum of Art and Arboretum headquarters is moving along and on schedule! A national search has begun for the Arboretum's new director, and our volunteer corps is healthy and growing! Looking forward, we have our sights on National Volunteer Week (April 17-23), orientation opportunities for our tour and children's garden guides, and of course, spring! As we continue to ride the COVID wave during these winter months, plans are being made and calendars are filling. Stay warm, stay connected, and maybe learn something new. Surf's up!



## Save these dates!

**Wednesday, April 13**

Children's Garden Guides

Online Orientation (via Zoom)

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
Watch your email!

## "Crafting" Seasonal Themes in the Children's Garden

The Arboretum's education team has been busy making plans to connect the garden's fun drop-in crafts to educational offerings. Volunteers and children alike delight in co-creating small mementos to remind them of their time spent exploring in the gardens. This coming summer, we'll be



pairing each creative craft with a connected educational activity. For example, tree leaves from each of the ten trees on the Tree Walk scavenger hunt will be used for a leaf printing activity, and children who drop by to learn about bats will be invited to craft a bat bracelet using paper and markers. With the guidance of our volunteers, children of all ages will be creating a tangible keepsake as well as making a new friend in the garden.



**Tuesday, April 18, and  
Thursday, April 21**

In observance

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any clearance renewal needs. Interested in volunteering in the children's garden?  
Contact Kelly Oleynik: [keo5114@psu.edu](mailto:keo5114@psu.edu).

## Volunteer Spotlight: Andy Stephenson

We had the pleasure of interviewing current volunteer and Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Biology, Dr. Andy Stephenson. He graciously took time out of his snowbird adventures down south with family to talk about his volunteer service, dedication to the Arboretum and the University, and his recent gift to the Pollinator and Bird Garden.

Andy sustained an engaging career as a plant scientist and professor of biology spanning four decades, and later served as the Associate Dean for Research and Innovation in the Eberly College of Science. He is no stranger to the Arboretum and has been involved since its conception in the mid-1990s when colleague and Arboretum founding director Dr. Kim Steiner asked him to serve on the Arboretum Advisory Committee. Andy continued to serve on other Arboretum committees including the Phase I Design Team, Collections Committee, Pollinators' Garden Committee, and Fountain Garden Committee.

Since his retirement, Andy has remained connected to the Arboretum and the campus community, volunteering his time photographing the Arboretum's plants, landscapes, and events. While not a professional photographer, he has long taken pictures of flowers and habitats for use in teaching. He certainly knows what is interesting about plants, flowers, and pollinators, and we think he does an amazing job at capturing that in his photos! His photography efforts have greatly contributed to and improved the Arboretum's plant records and collections database, and have been featured on our website and social media accounts.

Frequent visitors to the Arboretum, Andy and his wife Susan enjoy all seasons and plants in the gardens. However, some memorable ones include the parade of daffodil cultivars lining the Kathryn Bower Smith Strolling Garden, the wisteria trellis in the Rose and Fragrance Garden, the bountiful hydrangeas peppering the gardens, as well as the busy drone of pollinators swarming the tall mountain mint in the Pollinator and Bird Garden. When asked about his favorite plant in the Arboretum's collections, though, he describes a champagne-colored shrub rose variety *Rosa 'Ausquest'* Crocus Rose™ with its light



Andy Stephenson (Nice hat, Andy!)

Week, we will host appreciation events in the garden. Stay tuned!



Young visitors observe activity in the bird outlook in the children's garden

**Wednesday, May 4**

Children's Garden Guides  
Orientation in the children's garden

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.



**May 10, 11, 12**

Adopt-a-Seedling

11:00 to 1:00 p.m.



Shari shares her tips on how to give a great tour to prospective and seasoned tour guides

**Wednesday, May 11\***

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"Volunteering in the Arboretum has allowed me to stay connected to this place of beauty that promotes scientific and artistic education, and serves as a living laboratory for research into some of the most pressing issues in society, such as sustainable development at urban/rural/wild interface, and preservation of pollinators and other components of biodiversity."

Andy and Susan generously sponsored the shade structure and seating area by the fruit orchard and pond in the Pollinator and Bird Garden. Andy fondly remembers the former Gourd Arch (for which he supplied the gourds) in the Esplanade as a shady spot to sit. After it was removed in the design of the new garden, he and Susan wanted to create a new shady space for visitors to enjoy the landscape. He thinks of it as a memorable way to commemorate his retirement and dedication to the University, and hopes it will continue to serve the Arboretum well into the future.



2019 Adopt-a-Seedling volunteers: Beth Jeziorski and Latha Bhushan

## Kick Off the Volunteer Season in the Children's Garden

It's hard to imagine that in just a few short months new seedlings will be pushing up through the earth and unfurling their first leaves. Regardless, spring is on its way, and the Arboretum is already preparing! In early May, we will host an Adopt-a-Seedling program in conjunction with the American Public

Gardens Association's Go Public Gardens Days. This nationwide event highlights the important role that public gardens like the Arboretum play in their local communities. We'll invite visitors to "adopt" a seedling from one of two species, tomato or zinnia. As they select and pot up their plant, folks will have an opportunity to learn about the basics of plant biology and care, and they'll be able to take a piece of the Arboretum home with them.

In addition to marking the arrival of spring, this will also be our first children's garden volunteer opportunity of 2022! We're seeking volunteers to help us run the Adopt-a-Seedling activity on Tuesday, May 10, Wednesday, May 11, and Thursday, May 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Two volunteers will staff the Glass House each day by welcoming visitors and coaching people as they pot up their seedlings. If you are interested in supporting this activity, please email Kelly at [keo5114@psu.edu](mailto:keo5114@psu.edu). We hope you'll join us!

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Tour Guide Orientation with Director of Operations, Shari Edelson

\*Rain date: Thursday, May 12

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



Construction of the new Palmer Museum of Art and Arboretum headquarters is moving along despite the snowy weather! Building foundations have all been poured, and the museum gallery building is taking shape with the installation of structural steel girders.

Image: Holder Construction



Judi Minor and Dick Repsher prove that humor can ease winter's doldrums. Check out their take on Grant Wood's masterpiece, *American Gothic*.

Click here to set up PSUAlert to receive notifications regarding emergencies, campus closings, and other urgent information.

**"Volunteer! Start where you are. Use what you have. Do**

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Image: Steve Tressler

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