New Director Casey Sclar Arrives in August

We are pleased to announce that Casey Sclar, currently the executive director of the American Public Gardens Association, will become the H.O. Smith Endowed Director of The Arboretum at Penn State on August 1, 2022. He will succeed Sanford "Sandy" Smith, who has served as interim director of the Arboretum since the retirement of founding director Kim Steiner in 2021.

According to Tracey Huston, vice president for Outreach, “Casey will bring his broad expertise to Penn State, along with a solid understanding of teaching, research and engagement, and a deep appreciation and strong track record of fostering inclusion and access in public garden settings.”

Casey is enthusiastic about the Arboretum’s conservation mission and foresees building interdisciplinary collaborations with partners across the University. At the center of his vision is ensuring that the Arboretum continues to be relevant, approachable and welcoming, and to expand its role as a true community resource. In his words, “I want to bring people, plants, partnerships and pollinators together with my passion for the art, science and business of horticulture, and lead The Arboretum at Penn State to its brightest future. . . . I believe that right now it’s the perfect intersection of all those things, and a great chance to build on a fabulous University vision.”

While serving the American Public Gardens Association for more than a decade, Casey engaged with over 600 public gardens throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and more than 20 other countries. Prior to that appointment, he spent 15 years leading plant health care efforts at Longwood Gardens. He has a master of science degree and a doctorate in entomology from Colorado State University and a bachelor of science degree in ornamental horticulture from California Polytechnic State University.

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You can read more about Casey in the Penn State News story at https://www.psu.edu/news/outreach/story/casey-sclar-named-director-arboretum-penn-state/.

Pollination Celebration!

The Center for Pollinator Research will hold a Pollination Celebration in the Arboretum from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, to kick off National Pollinator Week. This week is designed to raise awareness of pollinators and spread the word about how people can best protect them.

A variety of table activities and lawn games for all ages will be bookended by performances of a half-hour puppet show—POLLINATORS! The Musical. This show is being presented by the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of the Snetsinger Butterfly Garden. In story and song, the pollinator puppet pals will teach about their unique lifestyles and habits—and how we can support them. You'll leave with a smile on your face, a song in your heart, and a better understanding of how to help pollinators. Performances of POLLINATORS! The Musical will be presented at the Overlook Pavilion at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Complimentary parking will be available in the Lewis Katz lot for the duration of the event.

Meet Josh Gershey, Natural Lands Program Assistant

Joshua Gershey grew up on a small, family farm in the woods of northeast Pennsylvania. He was a curious child with passions for the natural world, science, music, and food. As an adult, Josh served in the U.S. Navy as an engineering technician prior to coming to study at Penn State.

Josh graduated from Penn State in 2021 with a bachelor of science degree in Forest Ecosystem Management and a minor in Arboriculture. While at Penn State, Josh spent the majority of his time working as an undergraduate research assistant on ecology projects, with a focus on trees. When not doing schoolwork or research, Josh can be found biking, drinking large amounts of tea, enjoying online video games, or exploring new dishes and unique flavors in the kitchen. Josh is excited to contribute to the Arboretum and engage with community members.

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It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's the Volunteer Program!

The volunteer program is poised for a busy season ahead. With the gardens primped for summer, there is a wide range of activities and events that present a multitude of volunteer opportunities! Group visits and requests for docent-led tours are filling the calendar. Our children's garden informal drop-in programs began the week of June 6, and We Are Weekend, Penn State’s take on Alumni Weekend, makes a comeback with guided tours set for Friday, June 17. Whether your interest is gardening, supporting the many activities throughout the botanic gardens, or hosting a tour, we just may have a volunteer role that’s perfect for you! Complete our application or contact Kelly Oleynik at keo5114@psu.edu for more information!

Introducing Our 2022 Interns

This summer we are fortunate to have nine interns: one in avian education, three in children's garden education, and five in horticulture.

Education Interns

Rachel Duke, Avian Education

Rachel Duke is a graduate student enrolled in the Education, Development, and Community Engagement program. Her academic focus is programming for non-formal and informal education and her thesis concerns social inclusion in the museum industry. Rachel is excited to be the avian education intern this summer and looks forward to meeting all the birds in the garden!

Logan Clancy

Logan Clancy grew up with a reverence of nature through exploring the woods of his hometown, Ramey, Pennsylvania. They began college in the Film Studies program, but switched to Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Management after realizing that their passion was teaching, following in the family...
tradition of their mother and grandmother. Logan’s favorite parts of nature are wildflowers and birds, and they are definitely birding everywhere they go. Logan also leads hikes with Clearwater Conservancy’s Centred Outdoors program, but they really are living the dream working in a place like the children’s garden.

**Andrea Martin**

Andrea Martin, a Floridian who originally hails from Colombia, graduated from Penn State with an Environmental Studies degree. Andrea’s favorite nature experience is swimming in the ocean while pelicans dive for food. She is fascinated by environmental justice issues and plans to translate that passion into a career. In addition to her work as an educator in the children’s garden, she enjoys taking care of her 80-lb. dog Bella and hiking in new areas with her. She likes to explore and goes geocaching with her friends.

**Emily Olsen**

Emily is a Ph.D. student at Penn State, studying Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Science Education. Emily is an adventurous, friendly, and outgoing person who grew up in the Pacific Northwest, spending her childhood around Puget Sound in Washington and her young adulthood in the suburbs of Portland, Oregon. She loves to help foster connections between people and the world around them.

**Horticulture Interns**

**Tyler Brown**

Tyler Brown from Douglassville, Pennsylvania, is a senior at Penn State with a major in Agricultural Sciences and a minor in Horticulture. He has always been a fan of the outdoors and nature, but his love for plants and horticulture really began five years ago when he started working at Mutschler’s Florist and Rare Plants. At Mutschler’s, he learned about all types of plants, but really developed a passion for bonsai and orchids.

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*Photo Contest*

**Jenny Latchford**

3rd Place (tie) Winter 2022

**Sam Seidel**

Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Photo by Martha Moss

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Jason Cardone

A senior Plant Science student here at Penn State, Jason Cardone has always loved biology and the science of living things. He started his studies as an engineering student but quickly fell in love with the College of Agricultural Sciences and switched majors! While his time at Penn State will come to an end, his exploration of the field of plant science has only just begun. He is excited and honored by this opportunity to work with the Arboretum and looks forward to new experiences and learning opportunities.

Teddy Johnson

Teddy Johnson has just finished her first year at Penn State in Plant Science/Horticulture. She is passionate about working with plants in any capacity, and hopes to incorporate that dedication in a career involving environmental studies and sustainability. When she is not in school, she enjoys playing piano and video games, and spending time with her cats.

Andrew Kuka

Andrew hails from Olympia, Washington, and is currently working toward a master's in Landscape Architecture at Penn State. Over the past few years, he has studied sociological aspects of public space, biophilia in urban settings, and earthen construction. During his time with the Arboretum, Andrew hopes to grow his understanding of planting theory and garden maintenance while soaking up the summer sun.

Carrie Spangler

Carrie Spangler is a junior from Allentown, Pennsylvania, studying Agricultural Science with minors in Horticulture and Agronomy. On campus, she is active in the Penn State Horticulture Club, where she serves as Flower Chair, as well as the Delta Theta
serves as Philanthropy Chair and historian. Carrie is also active in the Agronomy Club and works in the Berkey Creamery Commissary. She has always had a passion for horticulture and gardening and can't wait to spend her summer at the Arboretum!

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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