



### Volunteer Resources

[Volunteer Application](#) - For that friend who would make a great volunteer

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

[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

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

[PSU Alert](#) - 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](#) - Got Arboretum swag?

### Volunteer Opportunities & How To Get Involved

To participate in any of the opportunities below, please contact Kelly Oleynik.

[keo5114@psu.edu](mailto:keo5114@psu.edu)

(814) 867-2591

Recruit a friend!

#### Horticulture

Help maintain the botanic gardens. Weekly sessions Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Requirements: All experience levels welcome! Wear clothes that can get dirty and closed-toe shoes. No advance notice of participation is necessary unless you are attending for the first time.

#### Greeters

Welcome visitors to the garden and direct them to amenities.

Requirements: All experience levels welcome!

#### Entrance Greeters

Provide direction, a friendly welcome, and parking passes on weekday mornings during the busy season. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Requirements: All experience levels welcome!

#### Docents

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

Requirements: Familiarize yourself with the docent manual and consider 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 in this garden hotspot!

Requirements: Children's garden volunteers must obtain the clearances required by Penn State.

#### Events

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

Requirements: All experience levels welcome!

#### Marilyn Quigley Gerhold Wildflower Trail Days

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

#### Spring 2020 Volunteer Days

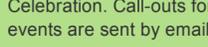
Requirements: All experience levels welcome! Clothes that can get dirty and closed-toe shoes are a must. To participate in Wildflower Trail Days, contact Mike Toolan, [mjt5194@psu.edu](mailto:mjt5194@psu.edu)

#### Avian Education Program

Participate in bird banding and other avian events.

#### Bird Banding Schedule

Requirements: All experience levels welcome! To participate in bird banding, contact Nick Kerlin at [bluebird6771@verizon.net](mailto:bluebird6771@verizon.net), 814-238-3487



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

### Note from the Volunteer Program

It's hard to believe that it has been ten years since the groundbreaking of the H.O. Smith Botanic Gardens and the planting of the "witness tree," the Hosler Oak. The year 2020 looks to be a momentous one at the Arboretum, with construction in full swing on the Pollinator and Bird Garden. We expect many exciting developments over the next few months, and volunteer talent will be critical to keeping the Arboretum humming!



Hummingbirds won't be the only ones keeping busy this season! Photo by Jason Travers.



Installing the storm drain system on a cold but bright January day.

### The Gardens are Growing! What to Expect During Construction

Curious about what's happening behind the fence surrounding the future Pollinator and Bird Garden? Construction is well underway, and here are some of the developments we expect over the course of the coming months.

Right now, site utilities and foundations are being installed. As soon as February and March, features such as trellises and arbors will begin taking shape. By April and May, the site will begin looking much more like a garden, as

sidewalks, water features, and the Bird House pavilion are installed. Final soil work will take place in June and July, and will be followed by tree and shrub planting. By August, we'll be ready for herbaceous perennials – and we'll be asking YOU to help us with the planting!

### Master Gardeners Share Their Expertise

Penn State Extension Master Gardeners have been members of the Arboretum's volunteer community since the beginning. In 2019, master gardeners stepped up their involvement with the development of a pollinator tour and numerous educational programs in the children's garden. Thanks to the master gardeners, children's garden visitors planted a "Garden in a Glove," learned about brown bats, and participated in Monarch butterfly tagging. We look forward to having the master gardeners and their terrific programs back in 2020!



Master Gardener Pam Ford helps young garden visitors feel the tickle of butterfly feet during the Monarch tagging program.

### Trip to the Frost Entomological Museum



In November, Arboretum volunteers and staff took a tour of the newly renovated Frost Entomological Museum. Assistant Curator Laura Porturas introduced visitors to the interesting public exhibit and provided a behind-the-scenes look at the museum's scientific heart: a teaching and research collection of over one million arthropod specimens.

Missing the Arboretum's old Pollinators' Garden? You can find a wall-sized photograph of it in the museum's public space, serving as the backdrop for the museum's future exhibit on pollination. It is a perfect example of the "axis of nature" that Director Dr. Andy Deans envisions as running between the Frost Museum and the Arboretum!

The Frost Museum is located at 160 Curtin Road, directly across from the Berkey Creamery. It is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays.

### An Exclusive Interview with Santa and Mrs. Claus

The Arboretum is lucky to have Santa and Mrs. Claus (who bear a striking resemblance to volunteers Rich and Karen Hirsch) as the perfect postcard backdrop to our annual Winter Celebration.



The honest-to-goodness Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the Winter Celebration

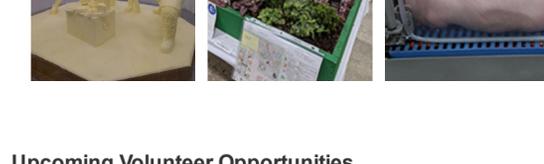
The original plan was for Santa and Mrs. Claus to simply stroll the gardens during Winter Celebration. But when they paused to admire the tree display at the Overlook Pavilion, visitors started lining up behind them, cameras at the ready. Ever since, the Clauses have stationed themselves in front of one of the seasonal displays with a team of assistants ready to capture that perfect photo! Visitors treasure the opportunity to get their whole family into the picture, and hope to capture the essence of the season for their holiday card.

While the Overlook Pavilion provides some shelter from the elements, the Clauses have learned that long underwear, winter boots, and hand warmers are key to spending a December evening out of doors.

The Clauses welcome the community, including local families and Penn State students. The students often request "good grades" for Christmas and appreciate Santa wishing them luck on their finals. The younger set may be eager for their visit or may hang back shyly until they are offered a chance to touch the soft trim on Santa's velvet sleeve. Older children sometimes ask penetrating questions like "Where's your sled? Where are the reindeer? You look too big to fit down the chimney, so how do you get into my house?" to which Santa and Mrs. Claus have ready answers: the sled is getting a tune-up in the garage, the reindeer are out in the pasture, and magic makes small chimneys large enough for Santa to fit. When asked if the magic of the season is "real," the Clauses take a philosophical approach. "Ultimately," Mrs. Claus says, "the whole thing is a feeling in your heart."

### Trip to the Farm Show

In early January, volunteers and Arboretum staff braved a winter drive and some significant snow squalls to visit the 2020 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Whether old Farm Show hands or new to the experience, all returned with an appreciation for the skill that Pennsylvania's farmers bring to their work. Here are some of the highlights!



### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- **Children's Garden Orientation:** Monday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Forest Resources Building 105.
- **Greeting opportunities:** Friday, April 17 and Sunday, April 19. Welcome visitors to the gardens on Blue-White Weekend. Shifts to be announced.
- **Docent Tour Training:** Wednesday, April 29, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Overlook Pavilion. Learn how to give a great tour or up your tour map with Director of Horticulture and Curator, Shari Edelson.
- **National Public Gardens Week:** May 11 to 15. Volunteer opportunities to be announced!
- **Planting in the Pollinator and Bird Garden:** Dates to be announced. Stay tuned for volunteer call-outs!

### Upcoming Events

- **Spotted Lanternfly Talk:** Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., Forest Resources Building 102. Master Gardener Lucy Auger introduces Pennsylvania's new invasive pest.
- **Avian Education Seminar:** Tuesday, April 14, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Forest Resources Building 112. Chris Parish, director of global conservation at The Peregrine Fund, will speak about the California Condor Recovery Program.
- **Shakespeare in the Gardens:** Sunday, April 19, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Overlook Pavilion.
- **National Volunteers Week:** Tuesday, April 21, and Thursday, April 23, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Glass House. Coffee, refreshments, and appreciation!
- **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon:** Friday, April 24, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., RE Farm Café at Windswept Farm (Expect your official invitation in March.)

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