Visit and Explore the Arnold Arboretum

Collections Up Close
Celebrate amazing, ephemeral plant phenomena

Collections Up Close offer great ways to explore plants at the Arboretum. Drop-in for a guided tour, pick up a paintbrush, look under a microscope, and chat with knowledgeable staff and volunteers. Check our website for the full schedule of activities for each event in the series, and look for more in the fall. Free.

Lilac Sunday
Sunday, May 10, 10:00am–3:00pm

Of the thousands of flowering plants in the Arboretum, only one, the lilac (Syringa spp.), is singled out each year for a daylong celebration. With more than 380 lilac plants of 172 kinds, the Arboretum holds one of the premier lilac collections in North America. Tours of the lilacs and other special collections, family activities, picnicking (on this day only) and food vendors make for a memorable day. Be a part of this beloved Boston tradition!

Lindens in the Landscape
Sunday, June 21, 1:00–3:00pm

The Tilia (linden) collection is the largest genus of summer-flowering trees in the Arnold Arboretum—nearly 150 trees are in the collection, most along Meadow Road. In late June and early July they are at the height of their bloom, providing an exceptional opportunity for study, comparison, and enjoyment. Linden flowers attract pollinating bees and appreciative visitors with their wonderful, enticing fragrance. Join us on Meadow Road for a tour of the Tilia collection with our curatorial staff. There will also be family activities focusing on the lindens.

Visit and Explore the Arnold Arboretum

The Hunnewell Building near the Arborway Gate is open for restroom access and business guests:

April through October: weekdays, 9:00am to 5:00pm; weekends, 10:00am to 5:00pm
November through March: weekdays, 9:00am to 4:00pm; weekends, Noon to 4:00pm

The Visitor Center in the Hunnewell Building is open:

April through October, 10:00am to 5:00pm
November through March, Noon to 4:00pm
Closed Wednesdays and holidays

Services available in the Visitor Center include:
- Personal assistance to enrich your visit
- Membership information
- Maps and postcards
- Changing exhibits from the Arboretum archives
- Seasonal art exhibitions
- Activities for children and families
- Lost and found

Telephone: 617.384.5209

The Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10:00am to 3:45pm. For library information, visit our website, call 617.522.1086, or email hortlib@arnarb.harvard.edu.

Visitor Parking & Driving Permits

Visitor parking is available around the Arboretum’s perimeter. No parking is allowed inside the Arboretum gates. Individuals with special needs may request a driving permit at the Hunnewell Visitor Center on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday between noon and 3:00pm, except holidays. For more information please call 617.384.5209.

Jen Herman

Jen Herman

Jen Herman
Arboretum Inspiration: Image and Word
An Exhibition of Photographs and Poetry by Philip McAlary and Holly Guran

June 5–September 3, 2015

Reception: Saturday, June 6, 1:00–3:00pm
Reading: Sunday, August 2, 1:00–3:00pm

“…Remember, whatever comes next, we have walked here.”
Excerpt “On Peter’s Hill” Guran, River Tracks, 2007

The Invented Landscape
Paintings by Nancy Sableski

February 21–May 29, 2015
Reception: Saturday, February 21, 1:00–3:00pm

Just as the Arnold Arboretum is an invented landscape, so are the paintings in this exhibition. While every work of art is an invention, Nancy Sableski takes this concept a step further by painting imagined landscapes that are constructed by blending multiple images taken with her cellphone. In this way she invents places that don’t exist but which clearly refer to the Arboretum. This technique allows her to examine aspects of landscape that continually capture her imagination: the interplay of powerful verticals, unpredictable diagonals, and receding horizontals.

Artists in the Arboretum
Jamaica Plain Open Studios

September 17–October 18, 2015

Reception: Thursday, September 17, 5:00–7:00pm
JPOS weekend: Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20, 10:00am–5:00pm

Local artists exhibit juried works inspired by the Arboretum in conjunction with the annual Jamaica Plain Open Studios, the premiere annual arts event in one of Boston’s most vibrant and diverse neighborhoods. For more event information, visit jpopenstudios.com.

Together, poet Holly Guran and photographer Philip McAlary have witnessed the continuous inspiration of the Arboretum. Their nature-focused images and words complement each other, melding sight, sound, and mind. Frequent walks in the landscape were the influence and force behind this collaboration that unites McAlary’s vibrant images with Guran’s thoughtful words.

Holly Guran, author of the chapbooks River Tracks (Poets Corner Press), Mothers’ Trails (Noctiluca Press), and the forthcoming River Full of Bones (Iris Press), earned a Massachusetts Cultural Council finalist award in 2012. Philip L. McAlary studied at Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles. He participates in the Boston Camera Club and has exhibited in several galleries.
Free Guided Tours & Explorations

This season we will be offering many free landscape tours. Tours are available each Saturday at 10:30am and Sunday at 1:00pm beginning April 18 and continuing through October. Weekday tours on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30am will be available during April, May, June, September, and October. Please check our website for days, times, and additional details on each tour. All tours last approximately 90 minutes, are geared toward adults, and are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Our tours are for individuals, not organized groups. However, private group tours are available upon request. For more information or to register, visit my.arboretum.harvard.edu or call 617.384.5209.

Landscape Explorations for Adults: Theme Tour Highlights

Winter Trees—Beautiful Bark, Stunning Stems
David Donovan, Arboretum Volunteer
Saturday, Mar 28, 12:30–2:00pm

Winter Trees—Celebrating Conifers
David Donovan, Arboretum Volunteer
Saturday, February 28, 12:30–2:00pm [Bussey Street Gate]

Winter Wellness Walk
Arboretum Docents
Sunday, March 8, 1:00–1:45pm

Spring into Health
Rhoda Kubrick, Arboretum Docent
Two Saturdays: March 14 and April 11, 10:30am–noon

Calling All Birders!
Bob Mayer, Arboretum Docent
Three Saturdays: April 18 [Arborway Gate], May 2 [Peters Hill Gate], and May 30 [Arborway Gate], 8:00–9:30am

Birds of Bussey Brook Meadow
Bob Mayer, Arboretum Docent
Sunday, May 3, 8:00–9:30am [South Street Gate]

From Seed to Tree
Staff of the Dana Greenhouses
First Tuesday of the month, May–October, 1:00–1:45pm [Bonsai House]

Behind the Scenes at the Dana Greenhouses and Larz Anderson Bonsai Collection
Tiffany Enzenbacher, Supervisor of Plant Production
Sunday, June 28, 10:00-11:30am [Bonsai House]

Explorer’s Club
Be a part of our Explorer’s Club! Borrow a Discovery Pack from the Visitor Center with tools and fun activities for hands-on exploration of our landscape and trees with kids. A perfect way to enhance the visits of families, homeschoolers, and after-school groups.