Visitor Information

The Hunnewell Building is open for restroom access and business guests on weekdays 9:00am to 5:00pm and on weekends 10:00am to 5:00pm. The Visitor Center in the Hunnewell Building is open 10:00am to 5:00pm; closed Wednesdays and holidays.

Services in the Visitor Center include:

- Personal assistance and recommendations to enrich your visit
- Membership information
- Maps and postcards
- Changing exhibits including materials from our archives
- Curated art exhibitions
- Activities for children and families
- Lost and found: 617.384.5209. Unclaimed items are donated to charity after two weeks.

Plant Information Hotline
Run by knowledgeable volunteers, the hotline is available for questions about woody plants hardy in the Boston area. Leave a message any time. Email plantinfo@arnarb.harvard.edu or call 617.384.5235.

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

Visitor Parking and Driving Permits
Street parking is available along the Arboretum’s perimeter. Individuals with special needs may request a driving permit at the Visitor Center, weekdays only (closed Wednesday), from 10:30am to 3:00pm. Please call 617.384.5209.

Art Exhibitions

Impressions of Woody Plants: Disjunction, Two Artists and the Arnold Arboretum
Copper Etchings by Bobbi Angell and Watercolor Paintings by Beverly Duncan

On view May 11–July 22, 2018
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 19, 1:00–3:00pm
Artists’ workshop: Saturday, June 9, 1:00–3:00pm

Defined as the relationship between two distinct alternatives, the word ‘disjunction’ describes related species that are widely separated from one another geographically. It can also be applied to botanical artists Bobbi Angell and Beverly Duncan to describe their media (copper and watercolor), their plant focuses (exotic and native), and their backgrounds (botany and art). Angell’s interest in unusual, cultivated specimens comes to life in etchings of Asian plants, representing the remarkable history of plant collecting by the Arboretum and other botanical institutions. Drawn to the familiarity of native plants, Duncan translates the common and recognizable into intimate and detailed watercolors. The ‘disjunct’ approaches of the artists in this combined exhibition unite through the wonder of woody plants.
The Spirit Books
Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord

On view May 4–July 22, 2018 in the Hunnewell Building Visitor Center
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 19, 1:00–3:00pm

Accompanying the Angell and Duncan exhibition, is a show of artist’s books by Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord in the Hunnewell Visitor Center. Gaylord’s books look like sculptures from a distance, but upon close observation their essential “bookness” becomes apparent. Inspired by the spirit and beauty of nature, Gaylord works with handmade papers, branches, vines and beads. Her work has been exhibited throughout the US and Canada.

A Decade of Seasons
Photographs of the Arnold Arboretum by Jim Harrison

On view July 27–October 2, 2018
Opening Reception: Saturday, July 28, 4:00-6:00pm

Jim Harrison has photographed the Arboretum landscape through four seasons, first on assignment for the Arboretum in 2008, and at his own pace ever since. For him, the Arboretum is a living, ever changing laboratory for exploring the simple but fundamental act of observation. The photographs in this exhibition will encourage viewers to think in new ways about plants and their surroundings, the Arboretum as a place, and the process of creating images.

Exhibitions are displayed in the Hunnewell Building Lecture Hall, which is occasionally reserved for meetings and classes. Call 617.384.5209 for exhibition availability; see page 14 for Visitor Center hours.

Special Events

A tradition in New England since 1908

Lilac Sunday
Sunday, May 13, 10:00–3:00pm

Of the thousands of flowering plants in the Arboretum, only 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. Join us to explore the beauty and diversity of these fragrant shrubs and the coming of spring on Mother’s Day at the Arnold Arboretum.

Enjoy guided and self-guided tours of the lilacs and other special collections, fun family activities, and picnicking (on this day only) make for a memorable day in our landscape. Be a part of this beloved Boston tradition.

Collections Up Close:
The Cherry Collection
Sunday, April 29, 1:00–3:00pm

Collections Up Close events offer a great way to explore one of the many plant collections and learn more about their breadth and unique qualities with Arboretum staff. On Sunday, April 29, drop by from 1:00–3:00pm for tours, family activities and festivities in the Cherry Collection (Prunus spp.) near Forest Hills Road in the Bradley Rosaceous Collection. Explore our diverse and growing collection of flowering cherries from around the world, including plants collected early in plant explorer Ernest Henry Wilson’s career, rare native species, cultivars developed and introduced by the Arboretum, and species not typically found in the nursery trade.
Landscape Explorations

Guided Tours

Free landscape tours are available on Saturdays at 10:30am and Sundays at 1:00pm from April 14 into November. Weekday tours will be available on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30am during May, June, September, and October. For additional details on Arboretum tours and full schedule, visit my.arboretum.harvard.edu or call 617.384.5209.

Theme Tours

Look into a special focus or area of the Arboretum. Geared toward adults, free, and registration requested.

Spring into Health
Rhoda Kabrick, Arboretum Docent
Two Sundays: March 25 and April 8, 11:00am–12:30pm

A Hidden Treasure: Herbarium of Cultivated Plants
Irina Kadis, Curatorial Assistant
Wednesday, April 4, 2:30–4:00pm

Birding 101!
Bob Mayer, Arboretum Docent
Two Saturdays: April 28 [Arborway Gate], May 5 [Peters Hill Gate]; two Sundays: May 6 [South Street Gate], May 20 [Arborway Gate] 8:00–9:30am

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

Lilacs, Lilacs, and Lilacs, oh my!
Chris McArdle, Arboretum Docent
Sunday, May 6, 2:15–3:15pm; Saturday, May 12, 9:00–10:00am
[map table at ponds]

Science and the Arboretum in the 1800s
Esther Müller, Arboretum Docent
Saturday, May 26, 1:00–2:30pm

Propagation at the Arboretum: Collections to Planting
Sean Halloran, Plant Propagator
Sunday, May 27, 10:00–11:00am [Bonsai & Penjing Pavilion]

Weld Hill Research Building
Faye Rosin, Director of Research Facilitation
Saturday, June 10, 2:00–3:30pm

Native Pollinator Habitats
Brendan Keegan, Arboretum Gardener I
Saturday, June 9, 11:00am–12:30pm

Health & Wellness in the Arboretum

Morning Yoga
Sunday, July 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 10:00am

Improve your health and well-being with yoga in the Arboretum. Cosponsored with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the NPS Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. Free, registration is limited and required.

Walks for Families with Children

Free, registration is requested; see info and guidelines at my.arboretum.harvard.edu

Nests Aren’t Just for the Birds!
Saturday, April 14, 10:00–11:00am

Pond Dipping at the Arboretum
Saturday, May 12, 10:00–11:00am

The Bees Have It: Pollination
Saturday, June 9, 10:00–11:00am

Energize Your Inner Engineer
Saturday, July 14, 10:00–11:00am

Let’s Take a Journey, Let’s Make It “Stick”
Saturday, August 11, 10:00–11:00am

Rose Garden in Bloom
Marty Amdur, Arboretum Docent
Sunday, June 10, 10:30am–12:00pm
[map table at ponds]

Peters Hill: Discover the Other End of the Arboretum
Kevin Schofield, Arboretum Docent
Thursday, June 14, 5:00-6:30pm
[Peters Hill Gate]

Forest Bathing

First Saturday and Thursday of each month, 8:00–11:00am [HB]

Time in nature reduces stress and improves health. Relax and unplug on a guided forest bathing walk in the Arboretum. Join Tam Willey, Certified Forest Therapy Guide, for a slow-paced, facilitated combination of wandering, sitting, and resting. Fee $40 member, $50 nonmember