



# The Post Serial

Volunteer Newsletter of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens

Volume 20, Issue 1

Winter 2014

## Will Extreme Cold Kill or Thrill?

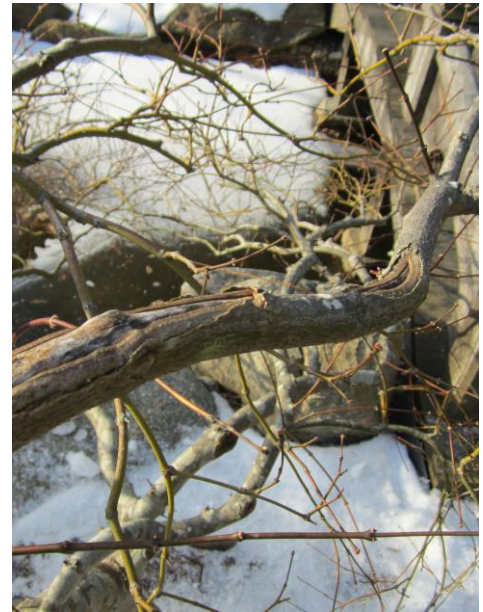
*Jody Fetzer, Garden Supervisor/Plant Health Specialist*

What can we expect in our gardens after record-breaking low temperatures this winter? The good news may be the timing of the cold. [Insects](#) know when winter is coming and have mechanisms to tolerate or avoid the effects of freezing. Insects and mites may supercool, rest in diapause, transition to a life stage less susceptible to the effects of freezing or simply avoid cold by finding shelter under warm, decaying leaves.

Damage is more likely to occur during extreme swings between high and low temperatures especially if plants and insects are transitioning out of their resting state. Remember last year? January ended with temperature spikes to 72 degrees Fahrenheit, and then February began by plummeting to 18 degrees. These unseasonable temperature highs and lows are devastating! Honeybees thought it was warm enough for flowers to bloom and left their hives in search of nectar. Lisa Bittner, a beekeeper in Silver Spring, reported 100% hive loss in 2013 because bees were literally "caught out in the cold" on warm January days that rapidly turned into freezing February nights!



*Variegated English holly leaf damage*



*Frost crack on Japanese maple*

You may be thrilled to see healthier plants this summer because many insect pests will succumb to the cold. Hemlock woolly adelgids die at minus 4 or 5 degrees Fahrenheit. We hope that cold will reduce the population of emerald ash borers that recently moved into our area after these beetles killed millions of ash trees in Michigan. Studies suggest that minus 30 degrees may be needed for widespread kill of emerald ash borer. In either case, we know that some insects of even cold sensitive species will survive because the effect of cold-kill depends on life stage, insect species, location, and whether or not they are feeding.

Plants may have fewer insect pests, but the direct damage of cold is likely to be extensive after our brutal winter! Look for leaf scorch on broadleaf evergreen shrubs, frost cracks in trunks and twigs of thin-barked woody plants, and trunk scorch on the south side of thin barked trees due to sunlight reflecting off snow. Scorch on leaf tips and edges may not appear until late winter or early spring on Mahonia, Japanese and English Holly, Southern magnolia and camellia. If you notice azalea, camellia, cherry, flowering plum or Japanese maple branches turning brown and dying in spring, it may be due to frost cracks in branches caused by fluctuating winter temperatures.

Flower buds on spring blooming trees and shrubs may be killed in winter even though they are dormant. The critical damage temperature ( $T_c$ ) is different in winter vs. spring but flower bud kill will occur if temperature swings drastically at either time. Buds are especially sensitive if [temperatures](#) plunge in the spring when they are swelling, causing both flower and fruit formation to stop.

Cold can kill but it is also a thrill for some of our favorite blooming shrubs and perennials. Imagine how you feel after the restorative effects of a nice long night's sleep. Plants benefit too and often display more prolific flowering after a long cold-induced dormancy. In our mild climate, we don't always have a long enough winter to adequately vernalize cold-requiring perennials. [Vernalization](#) refers to the process of exposure to cold for a period of time before plants can initiate flowering. For some plants vernalization is required, but for others it is optional--the plant benefits from a period of resting cold.

At Hillwood, we purchase [pre-chilled](#) tulip bulbs because they require 16 to 18 weeks of chilling (temperature under 45 degrees Fahrenheit) or the flowers may not fully form.

“Everything can collapse...  
when their rhythm becomes deranged”  
Miyamoto Musashi (宮本 武蔵)  
c. 1584 – 13 June 1645

The thrill and kill of winter will be revealed as spring and summer progress. Prune out dead and dying branches and be patient with scorched leaves--let damaged leaves fall naturally as new growth unfolds. Watch for the potential thrill of more and better blooms especially on roses, lilacs and tulips.

What can we expect in our gardens? The answer is that we don't know exactly what to expect after such a brutal winter. Wait, watch and hope that spring brings more thrills than kills!

*Jody Fetzer has resigned her position as Garden Supervisor/ Plant Health Manager effective Friday, February 7. She has accepted a position as Green Management Coordinator for the M-NCPPC (Montgomery County Parks). We all wish her the very best in her new position!*

## HILLWOOD HAPPENINGS

All Hillwood volunteers are invited to take advantage of these tours, workshops and other activities. Please register in advance on the sign-up sheets on the clipboard in the Horticulture Building hallway or contact Bill Johnson at (202) 243-3927 or [bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org). Advance registration is not necessary for continuing education events in the Visitor Center Theater unless otherwise noted.

### How to Watch Videos Online

To view the videos of past lectures, visit <http://volunteer.HillwoodMuseum.org> and click on the Education tab at the top of the website. Select "Lecture Video Archive" followed by the year (for example, "2014 Lectures"). To access a video, select a link and enter "volunteer" for the password.

### Exhibition Preview for Volunteers

**February 18 (Tuesday),  
10:30-11 a.m. and 1-1:30 p.m.**

Join us for an exhibition preview of *Passion of the Empress* on Tuesday, February 18. Dr. Scott Ruby, Associate Curator of Russian and Eastern European Art, will be on-station in the Dacha from 10:30-11 a.m. and 1-1:30 p.m. to talk about the exhibition content and answer any questions. Additional forthcoming information including the exhibition text and text for the exhibition audio tour will be available to volunteers.

### A Day of Horticulture

**February 24 (Monday), 10 a.m.**

Join us for a series of garden related presentations. We will begin at 10 a.m. and finish about 2:00 p.m. This is the list of topics and presenters:

- Proper Tree Planting and Care | Marshall Paquin
- Winter Weeds | Jessica Bonilla
- Hillwood's Garden Ornamentation | Bill Johnson
- Garden Ornamentation in the Japanese-style Garden | Frances Vandenbroucke

- Floral Design at Hillwood – Jason Gedeik

### Plant ID Walk

**March 5 (Wednesday), 10:30 a.m.**

We will have a long list of conifers to cover. The walk will be longer than usual and we will not get through the entire list. Meet in the Horticulture building break room.

### A Day of Horticulture

**March 17 (Monday), 10 a.m.**

Join us for a series of garden related presentations. We will begin at 10 a.m. and finish about 2:00 p.m. This is the list of topics and presenters:

- Welcome Home George Washington | Dean Norton  
For over 150 years people have studied, researched and dug the earth for clues helping make the home of George Washington one of the most accurately restored 18th century estates in America. The beauty, use and importance of Mount Vernon's gardens and landscape will be discussed as well as preservation over the years with a focus on the most recently restored pleasure garden.
- Boxwood pruning and the French Parterre | Jessica Bonilla
- Bonsai Repotting | Frances Vandenbroucke
- Harvesting and Conditioning Cut Flowers | Drew Asbury
- Spring Seasonal Display Preview | Jason Gedeik

### Plant ID Walk

**April 3, (Tuesday), 9:00 a.m.**

The focus for the walk will be on flowering shrubs and small flowering trees. Meet in the horticulture break room.

### Mansion Docent Training

Last year Hillwood announced a new Mansion docent training course to start in January 2014. Staff will be brought in from curatorial and horticulture to lead sessions about their areas of expertise. This is a wonderful opportunity for

volunteers, as well as staff members, to take advantage of this training as continuing education and enrichment.

For newer volunteers and staff members, these lectures and their attendant readings will be good introductions to Hillwood's interpretive messages and collections. For seasoned volunteers and staff members, the lectures and readings will be good refreshers that may also reveal interesting new angles and bits of research as well.

Listed below you will find the education sessions open to all active volunteers and staff members. Most sessions will be held on Monday evenings (unless otherwise noted in bold) in the Visitor Center Theater from 6 – 7 pm, January through late spring. These sessions will be recorded and available through the volunteer website. Readings will also be available on the volunteer website. We hope you can take advantage of this learning opportunity and we look forward to spending our Monday evenings with you!

#### **Lectures Open to Active Volunteers and Staff**

**When:** Mondays (except where otherwise noted), 6 – 7 p.m.

**Where:** Visitor Center Theater

- **February 18 (Tuesday) | Jewelry and Costume Collections**  
Presented by Liana Paredes, Director of Collections and Chief Curator, and Senior Curator of Western European Art, and Howard Kurtz, Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles
- **February 24 (Monday) | French Furniture and Textiles**  
Presented by Liana Paredes, Director of Collections and Chief Curator, and Senior Curator of Western European Art
- **March 3 (Monday) | French Porcelain**  
Presented by Liana Paredes, Director of Collections and Chief Curator, and Senior Curator of Western European Art

- **March 24 (Monday) | Russian Porcelain and Glass** Presented by Dr. Scott Ruby, Associate Curator of Russian and Eastern European Art
- **March 31 (Monday) | Fabergé and Russian Metalwork**  
Presented by Dr. Scott Ruby, Associate Curator of Russian and Eastern European Art
- **April 14 (Monday) | Liturgical Arts, Icons, and Russian Paintings**  
Presented by Dr. Scott Ruby, Associate Curator of Russian and Eastern European Art
- **April 28 (Monday) | Interpreting the Gardens and Estate on Mansion Tours**  
Presented by Horticulture Staff

#### **Volunteer Business Meeting & Revised Handbooks**

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the Volunteer Business Meeting on Thursday, January 16. This year's presenters focused on the strategic plan for 2014, exhibition and Mansion updates, and a revised volunteer handbook. We hope you found the meeting informative and helpful for your work with Hillwood. A [video](#) of the meeting is now available on the volunteer website. The video runs about 63 minutes.

The revised volunteer handbooks are also available on the volunteer [website](#) located under "Handbooks." The drop down box will show four options: the primary handbook for all volunteers, two supplements and the acknowledgement form. After reading the material, please print, sign, and submit the acknowledgement form to Lisa Leyh or Bill Johnson by April 15.



## Museum Shop

*Lauren Salazar, Head of Merchandising*

January was busy as usual - being open for the final weeks of *Living Artfully*, attending gift shows, completing the physical inventory and merchandising the shop to reopen. Attending January gift shows led us to the discovery of several new lines for spring. Look for the influx of new merchandise in early February and through the next several months.

A few of the new items that I'm most excited about .....

Enamels and resins were everywhere at the gifts shows! These trends continue to expand and evolve into new and colorful styles of necklaces and bracelets in a rainbow of colors.

Spring is a time to break out of the winter rut and welcome some new items into your closet. Put aside the wools and make room for pieces you won't want to do without - Ladylike purses featuring punchwork details, Metallic straw totes and new spring fashions in jackets and tunics.



*Preppy punchwork Darthmonth brown & Smith blackcream*

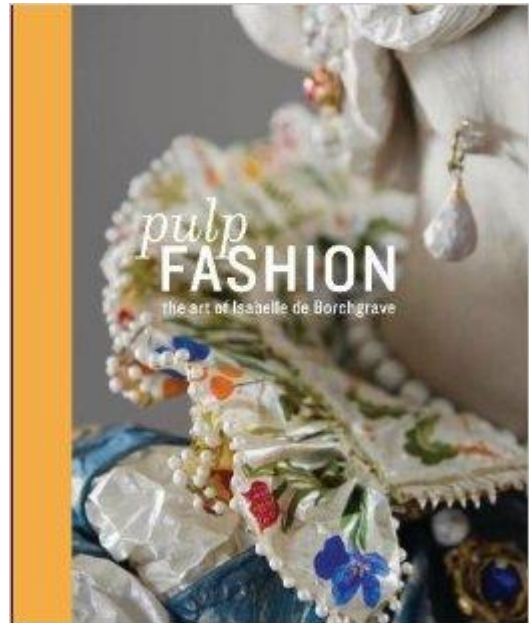
In keeping with our spring tradition, we've stocked up on real eggs hand-painted in Austria, in lovely floral and Easter designs, for spring décor or to tuck into an Easter basket.

Looking ahead to the Cartier exhibit, the Museum Shop is featuring reproduction Cartier jewelry,

elegant pieces copied from the collection of Jaqueline Kennedy Onassis.

### Back by Popular Demand!

The hugely popular book *Pulp Fashion: the Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave* is returning to the Museum Shop! The Bellevue Art Museum in Washington State is the site of an Isabelle de Borchgrave exhibition and, happily for us, the publisher has reprinted the book. If you missed getting a copy of the book when it sold out, now is your chance!



The book *Pulp Fashion* will be available in the Museum Shop.

### Upcoming Events:

- Stay tuned for Fresh, a pop-up store of items chosen to refresh your life!

## Public Programs Update

*Erin Lourie, Adult Audiences Manager*

2014 is shaping up to be another busy year for public programs at Hillwood. More information about upcoming programs can be found on Hillwood's website at

[hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/calendar](http://hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/calendar)

### Youth & Family Events

Saturday, April 5 | Girl Scout Garden Party

### Preschooler Series

3 Thursdays a month in February, March, April, May, and June

### Great Homes and Gardens Lecture Series

- Thursday, February 13 | The Golden Age of American Gardens, by Eleanor Weller Reade
- Wednesday, February 19 | Winterthur: An American House and Garden, by Christopher Strand
- Thursday, February 27 | Doris Duke's Shangri La, by Thomas Mellins

### Films & Concerts

- Wednesday, February 12 | The Best Short French Films of 2012
- Saturday, March 1 | Lecture & Performance: Opera in the Court of Catherine the Great Presented with the Levine School of Music
- Saturday, April 5 | Concert by the Friday Morning Music Club featuring Russian Composers

### Exhibition Lectures

- Tuesday, March 11 | The Art Collections of Two Powerful Women: Empress Catherine the Great of Russia and Marjorie Merriweather Post, by Dr. Asen Kirin

### Orchid Month

- Thursday, March 6 | Lecture on Orchids, by Arthur Chadwick (Stay tuned for details!)
- Saturdays, March 1, 8, 15, and 22 | Workshop: How To Get Your Orchid To Rebloom
- Saturdays, March 1, 15, 22, 29 | Workshop: To Repot or Not?
- Saturday, March 8 | Workshop: Three Unique & Easy-To-Grow Orchids For Your Home
- Saturday, March 29 | Workshop: Three Easy & Exotic Tropicals For Your Home
- Tuesday, Fridays and Saturdays, all month Greenhouse Tours

### Festivals

- April 12 & 13 | Fabergé Egg Family Festival

### Mansion Rotation Information

The first Mansion Rotation Information is available. Information detailing the changes will be emailed and available in the Volunteer Lounge and Visitor Center Kitchen and posted on the Volunteer [Website](#).

### Special Exhibition:

#### *Passion of the Empress*

*Lisa Leyb, Interpretation Volunteer Manager*

Hillwood's new exhibition, *Passion of the Empress: Catherine the Great's Art Patronage*, will open to the public in the Dacha on Saturday, February 15 and be on view through Sunday, June 8, 2014. With the stunning *Buch Chalice* as the centerpiece, twenty-seven works from Hillwood's Russian imperial art collection form the foundation of the exhibition. Other lenders to the exhibition include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Walters Art Museum, Dumbarton Oaks, The Birmingham Museum of Art, and private collections.



*Buch Chalice*

For more information on the exhibition, visit Hillwood's website for the exhibition [press release](#). Help us spread the word: exhibition rack cards are available in the Mansion volunteer lounge, Visitor Center kitchen, and Horticulture hallway for volunteers to distribute to friends and family.

### **Queen of Hearts: A Valentine's Day Opening Benefit on February 14**

Celebrate the opening of *Passion of the Empress* with a sweet and savory hors d'oeuvres reception, open bar and festive music and dancing. Individual tickets are available at \$90 public; \$75 members. Sponsorships and ticket packages are available at \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250. Visit the Queen of Hearts event [page](#) on Hillwood's website or call (202) 686-5807 for more information. Individual tickets are NOT available any longer.



*Hillwood's Motor Court*

### **Calls for Volunteers**

*Lisa Leyh, Interpretation Volunteer Manager*

#### **Fabergé Egg Family Festival**

Celebrate spring's arrival in Russian style with the Fabergé Egg Family Festival on Saturday, April 12 (10 am – 7 pm) and Sunday, April 13 (1 – 5 pm). Volunteer assistance will be needed in the Visitor Center, Mansion, and with special programming and activities. If you are available to help, please contact Lisa Leyh at (202) 243-3938 or [LLeyh@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:LLeyh@hillwoodmuseum.org).

### **New Volunteers**

We are delighted to welcome four new volunteers to Hillwood. Joining Horticulture are Cheryl Alston, Bethany Karn and Jon Scott. Joining Interpretation is Gail Weigl.

### **In Memoriam: Arthur C. Levan**

Arthur Levan, a talented volunteer and friend of Hillwood, recently passed away from cancer. Art worked for seven years with the Horticulture staff to create the weekly floral arrangements enjoyed by visitors. He truly loved everything about Hillwood and took great pride in his work helping to bring beauty to the campus. Art will always be remembered for his humor, his love of "L" shaped arrangements, his passion for opera and his overall appetite for life. While he will be missed, his spirit lives on.



*Art arranging flowers at Hillwood*

The *Post Serial* is published quarterly for Hillwood volunteers by Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. It is edited under the direction of the volunteer management team of Bill Johnson, Lisa Leyh, and other Hillwood staff members. Copyright 2014 by Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens.

