

THE POST SERIAL

Festive Fabergé

Ami Wilber, Floral and Event Décor Designer

As the holiday season approaches, we will be busy sorting through boxes (and boxes) filled with all the ornaments of Christmases past. It takes the entire horticulture staff and all of the floral volunteers to get everything prepped and organized. After everything is sorted through and designated for the specific trees, the creative process of decorating is mostly left to the different tree teams. Each tree has its own team that consists of one to two horticulture staff and two to three floral volunteers. Everyone brings their unique creativity and enthusiasm to the day to create fabulous trees. I cannot thank the horticulture staff and my volunteers enough for all the hard work and dedication they provide me during the holiday season.

Festive Fabergé takes inspiration from [Fabergé Rediscovered](#), the current exhibition on view in the Adirondack building. The five trees will reflect the theme of Fabergé through opulent jewelled ornaments, live flowers, permanent botanicals, and other treasures from holidays past. Here is a sneak peak of the Christmas trees you will see in the mansion and visitor center starting Tuesday, November 20.



Entry Hall | Catherine the Great Tree

This opulent tree is inspired by Fabergé's *Catherine the Great Egg*, which the Russian tsar Nicholas II presented to his mother, Maria Fedorovna, as an Easter gift in 1914. Fresh flowers will accent this tree, whose adornments draw on the egg's delicate pinks, gold, and shimmering diamonds.

Inspired by the [Catherine the Great Egg](#) (11.81.1-2)

Pavilion | Table Clock Tree

This tree is inspired by the Fabergé table clock Russian tsar Alexander III gave to his wife, Maria Fedorovna, to commemorate the engagement and forthcoming wedding of their son Nicholas to Alix of Hesse. The silk, silver-leafed branches adorning the tree suggest the clock's ornate curves.

Inspired by the [Table Clock](#) (12.155)





French Drawing Room | Golden Octagonal Box Tree

This brilliant tree is inspired by a gold octagonal Fabergé box topped by the Russian double-headed eagle. The tree will be ornamented with gold and diamond garlands, harkening to the box's elegant design.

Inspired by the [Golden Octagonal Box](#) (11.91)

Dining Room | Leaf-Shaped Box Tree

This luxurious tree is inspired by a leaf-shaped Fabergé box carved from bloodstone, so-called for the flecks of red in the dark-green stone. The tree's garlands evoke the box's gold foliage while the deep, saturated tones of the overall decoration reflect the object's colors.

Inspired by the [Leaf-Shaped Box](#) (11.219.1-2)



Visitor Center | Twelve Monogram Tree

This sparkling tree is inspired by Fabergé's *Twelve Monogram Egg*, which the Russian tsar Nicholas II presented to his mother, Maria Fedorovna, for Easter in 1896. The tree's embellishments incorporate the deep blue and rich gold of the exquisitely crafted imperial egg.

Inspired by the [Twelve Monogram Egg](#) (11.63)

Hillwood Happenings for Volunteers

All Hillwood volunteers are invited to take advantage of the educational offerings listed below. While advance registration is not necessary for all continuing education events, **please register in advance when stated**, as space is limited for some opportunities. Advanced registration can be completed on the clipboard at the horticulture sign-in station or by contacting Drew Asbury at 202.243.3907 or DAsbury@HillwoodMuseum.org.

Plant ID Walk – Fall Color and Interest | Tuesday, November 6 – Friday, November 9, 11:30 a.m.

Join Frances Vandenbroucke, gardener II, for a tour of the gardens as she highlights plants that beautify the fall season. Please sign up on the clipboard in the horticulture office area. Space is limited to fifteen volunteers. Meet in the horticulture break room.

Holiday Wreath Workshop | Wednesday, December 5 – Friday, December 7, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Create your own unique holiday wreath of wintery greens under the guidance of Matt Boyle, gardener. Please sign up on the clipboard in the horticulture office area by Friday, November 30. Space is limited to eight volunteers per workshop. Meet in the horticulture break room. Cost is \$35 for materials.

Hillwood Holiday Tour | Tuesday, December 11, Wednesday, December 12, & Friday, December 14, 10:30 a.m.

Get an intimate look at Hillwood's holiday décor with Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, as she highlights this year's decorations inspired by [Fabergé Rediscovered](#). Please sign up on the clipboard in the horticulture office area. Space is limited to twelve volunteers. Meet in the horticulture break room.

Holiday Floral Workshop | Thursday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Create a loose and whimsical holiday arrangement with Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, using wintery greens, beautiful flowers, and natural elements. Please sign up on the clipboard in the horticulture break room by Friday, December 7. Space is limited to twelve volunteers. Meet in the horticulture break room. Cost is \$35 for materials.

Museum Shop Updates

Lauren Salazar, Head of Merchandising

The museum shop has been preparing for the busy fall and holiday season, and we are stocked up with exciting new items for you to gift or keep! Fashion and accessories are always good sellers, so shop early to get the best selection.

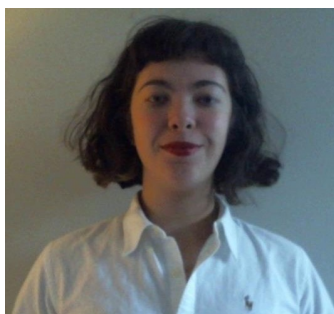
Some new items include:

- Plaid handbags and scarves from Ireland
- Pearl bedazzled ponchos and scarves
- Grace Chuang jackets – five new styles!
- A huge assortment of gloves, hats and scarves



Welcome New Sales Associates

We are excited to welcome Francesca Azzolini and Junko Komai Hurd as our new sales associates.



Francesca Azzolini comes to us with experience in boutique retail, most recently at the Conservatory Ballet. She speaks several languages fluently (Spanish, Italian and French) and is proficient in American Sign Language, Chinese, and Arabic.

Junko Komai Hurd has extensive experience in retail in a variety of roles, such as sales, merchandising and buying. Her store experience covers gifts, fashion, books, and table top items at stores such as The Container Store, Now and Then Inc, Tabletop DC, and Amano. Junko is fluent in Japanese.



We are thrilled to have such accomplished people joining our team! Please stop by and introduce yourself to Francesca and Junko.

Upcoming Shop Events:

- **Museum Shop Around**

November 8 - 11, Hours Vary | Strathmore Mansion, North Bethesda, MD

[Strathmore's Annual Museum Shop Around](#) turns holiday gift giving into an art form. With wares from Hillwood's museum shop and seventeen other area museums and cultural shops, you are sure to find perfect expressions of friendship, love, and gratitude for everyone on your list. The link above includes the hours for each day.

- **Museum Store Sunday**

November 25, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Hillwood Museum Shop

Hillwood museum shop is participating in Museum Store Sunday, along with more than 700 other museum stores, representing all fifty states, ten countries, and three continents. Visit the Hillwood museum shop on Sunday, November 25 and receive a 25% discount* on all merchandise and free giveaways for sales totaling more than \$20 and \$50 while supplies last. Shop knowing you are supporting the mission and programs here at Hillwood.

*Not to be combined with other discounts.

- **Holiday Discount**

December 1 - 31, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Hillwood Museum Shop

Our annual holiday discount is open to staff and volunteers during regular business hours for the month of December. Shop and receive an additional 10% off regularly-priced items. Come early for the best selection.

Save the Date: Hillwood's 2019 Valentine's Day Event

Mary Slimp, Hillwood Volunteer and Co-Chair of *The Art of Seduction*

I was so excited to learn about the special exhibition [Perfume & Seduction](#) opening next year. This exhibition represents many of the things I love best about Hillwood – exquisite objects, beautiful details, and intriguing stories.

So, I was delighted when asked to serve as a co-chair for the exhibition's opening night benefit on Thursday, February 14, 2019. Our committee is already hard at work to planning this fabulous event. We have named the 2019 event [The Art of Seduction](#). Our aim is to engage all of our guests' senses and to create a beautiful, intimate evening at Hillwood. In keeping with our theme, masks and festive attire will be highly encouraged.

In addition to being a lovely celebration and a fantastic party, the February 14 event is vital in supporting Hillwood's distinctive programming and special projects. Through sponsorships, ticket sales, and the always popular silent auction, this event will contribute to efforts to continue engaging visitors with Hillwood. This aspect is very important to me as a Hillwood volunteer.

I hope I will see many of you at *The Art of Seduction* as sponsors, guests, and volunteers. Please consider joining me in supporting what I know will be a truly special evening. Together, we can make this Hillwood's most successful Valentine's Day celebration yet.

Individual tickets are \$125 for Hillwood members and \$150 for the public with sponsorships beginning at \$250. You can make your commitment [online](#) or by phone at 202.243.3974. Please contact Allison Kingery, special events manager at AKingery@HillwoodMuseum.org for more information.

THE ART of SEDUCTION

Celebrate the opening of the exhibition



*Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens on Valentine's Day,
Thursday, February 14, 2019,
from 7 to 10 p.m.*

*Also join us for an exclusive exhibition preview and a fantastic silent auction while enjoying delicious delights and a lavish open bar.
Masks and festive attire encouraged.*

Updates from the Membership Department

Lizzie Axelson, Membership Operations and Marketing Manager

Spread the word

Spread the word about Hillwood [membership](#)! As some of the best ambassadors for Hillwood, you all help to make the visitor experience so special. Whether at the tour desk in the visitor center, after a garden or mansion tour, or when you encounter visitors on the grounds, remind them that they can return to Hillwood for free, bring guests, receive exclusive discounts, and more, all for an annual contribution. Help us to grow our wonderful membership community and share the magic of Hillwood.

Celebrate the holidays

Hillwood members are cordially invited to celebrate [Festive Fabergé](#)! Kick off the holiday season at the annual [Members Holiday Open House](#) on Tuesday, December 4, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Spend the day partaking in delicious treats while mingling with fellow members, attending specialty tours, and enjoying additional discounts in the museum shop. Not a member? Join today! We hope to see you there, full of merry and cheer.

Give the gift of membership

What do you get for the person who has everything? A Hillwood membership, of course! Perfect for the holidays, a birthday, a thank you or hostess gift, and more, gift memberships can be given at any level of membership, from individual to President's Circle.

September Circles Event Recap

Jan Jensen, Head of Development, and Martha Ball, Development Assistant

A Homecoming for Hillwood: Board of Trustees and Circles Reception

On Wednesday, September 5, Circles members and members of the Board of Trustees celebrated the return of Nicolas de Largillière's *Portrait of Pierre Hercule de Chastenet, Comte de Puysegur* (2018.1) at a reception on the south portico of the mansion. The 18th-century French portrait, which was part of Marjorie Merriweather Post's collection at Hillwood until 1964, was recently acquired at auction in Paris by Marjorie Post's granddaughter, Ellen Charles.



Ellen Charles giving remarks at the Largillière reception

Marcia DeWitt, president of the Board of Trustees, and Kate Markert, Hillwood's executive director, led attendees in a toast to thank Mrs. Charles for this generous gift. Following the reception, attendees learned more about the provenance of the portrait during a lecture by Rebecca Tilles, associate curator of 18th-century French and Western European fine and decorative arts.

Paris & Nice: In the Footsteps of the Russian Aristocracy

President's Circle and Director's Circle members joined Wilfried Zeisler, chief curator, and Kate Markert, executive director, on a grand tour of Russian influence through Paris and the south of France, exploring the palaces, jewelers, and cathedrals enjoyed by the Russian elite.

On the first day of the trip, travelers enjoyed the exquisite showroom at Feau et Cie, followed by a caviar lunch at Café Prunier, a Parisian staple for Russian grand dukes and aristocrats since 1872. In Nice, the group explored the intersection of Russian and French artistic influences, spanning from Russian Orthodox cathedrals to the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, where Jacqueline Manciet, biographer of Béatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild, illustrated the artistic taste of Béatrice, who commissioned the famous Fabergé Rothschild egg in 1902. The travelers completed their trip with a once-in-a-lifetime visit to the Palais Princier de Monaco, where they were invited into the private apartments of the sovereign Prince of Monaco and viewed a sword set with diamonds that belonged to Russian Emperor Alexander II, who ruled from 1855 to 1881.



President's and Director's Circles members in Nice, France

Meet the Collections Team

MJ Hagan, Head of Collections Management/Registrar

The collections team is responsible for the care and preservation of Hillwood's collection, which includes maintaining the historic mansion interior, preserving collection objects, and installing exhibitions. With a collection numbering approximately 20,000 objects and two exhibitions each year, this is no small task! Thankfully, Hillwood has an exceptional team of experienced staff.

The daily cleaning and maintenance of the mansion and exhibitions falls to Manuel Diaz and Manuel Rouco, conservation technicians, and Peter Tsouras, preparator. When a display in the mansion seems to have magically changed overnight, like the installation of the new Largillière painting, it is the work of this team. During a typical mansion rotation, the team moves approximately 1,000 objects in a single day.



From left to right, Manuel Diaz, MJ Hagan, Peter Tsouras, Ariel Caruso, and Manuel Rouco

Keeping track of these objects' movements falls to Ariel Caruso, assistant collections manager, who joined Hillwood in May. Ariel and MJ Hagan, head of collections management/registrar, are responsible for the overall care and management of the collection. A few highlights of their responsibilities include managing incoming and outgoing loans, acquisitions and de-accessions, object photography and documentation, and conservation.



Installing the new Largillière painting in the entry hall

Thank you for being stewards in helping us preserve Hillwood's collection by relaying your acute observations to staff and helping guests understand our no touching policy. While conservation work can often improve damage to objects, in the case of oils from curious hands, the damage is permanent and irreversible. Friendly reminders, such as "look with your eyes", ensure the safety of our objects and makes for a pleasant Hillwood experience for all.

In future *Post Serial* editions, we will highlight some of the collections department's behind-the-scenes work. Is there something you have always wondered about? Let Lisa Horvath, volunteer services supervisor, know and it might be answered in a future article. Lisa can be reached at LHorvath@HillwoodMuseum.org.

A New Attribution of Eighteenth-Century French Portraiture

Rebecca Tilles, Associate Curator of 18th-Century French and Western European Fine and Decorative Arts

[*Portrait of a Lady*](#) (51.2) embodies Marjorie Post's taste for eighteenth-century French portraiture and traveled with her to many different residences during her lifetime. The nearly full-length portrait depicts a seated lady wearing a white and gold brocade dress with pearl buttons, edged with lace at the neckline and sleeves, topped by a blue velvet cape lined with a red, gold, and blue brocade. She holds a closed fan in her right hand while her left arm holds a small Italian greyhound sitting on her lap.

Following Marjorie Post's acquisition of the portrait in 1925, it was initially installed above the mantel piece in the dining room of her Manhattan apartment, located at 2 East 92nd Street. In 1941, it was transferred to Washington, D.C. and installed above the mantel piece in the drawing room at her Tregaron Estate, where it remained until 1955. It was finally installed in the entry hall at Hillwood in 1957 where it has remained ever since.



Portrait of a Seated Lady
Hyacinthe Rigaud (French, 1659-1743)
Paris, about 1710
Oil on canvas
Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post,
1973 (51.2)

From the time of its acquisition, the painting had been attributed to two French court painters, Nicolas de Largillière (1656-1746) and François de Troy (1645-1730). In addition, the unknown subject of the painting had been associated with the Marquise de Lafayette, grandmother of the renowned General Lafayette (1759-1834).¹ These previous attributions are now refuted.



Archival photo showing "*Portrait of a Lady*" in Marjorie Post's Manhattan apartment dining room at 2 East 92nd Street, photographed between 1929-1935, Hillwood Estate Museum & Gardens Archives



Archival photo showing "*Portrait of a Lady*" in Marjorie Post's Tregaron Estate drawing room, photographed during the 1940s, Hillwood Estate Museum & Gardens Archives

Thanks to the recent scholarship of Ariane James-Sarazin, Adjunct Director of the Musée de l'Armée Invalides in Paris, Hillwood's *Portrait of a Lady* has been definitively attributed to the French Baroque painter, Hyacinthe Rigaud (1659-1743), official court painter to Louis XIV, and was completed about 1710. Rigaud established a style of formal court portraiture in France that served

as a model for future ceremonial portraits. While the exact identity of the female subject remains unknown, it is likely that she was a well-known actress or theatrical personality of the period, demonstrated by her accessories, including the fan, feathers in her hair, and open corsage.

The recent attribution of Hillwood's painting to Rigaud is due to comparable examples that depict a nearly identical pose, dress, dog, and backdrop, including the portrait of *Suzanne Henriette of Lorraine, Duchess of Mantua*, completed in 1709, presently conserved at Marble House in Newport, Rhode Island.² Additionally, the rare survival of Rigaud's drawing of the *Duchess of Mantua*, conserved in the Albertina Museum, Vienna, Austria, and executed after the completed painting in 1709, confirms the date of Hillwood's portrait to about 1710.³



At left,
*Suzanne Henriette of Lorraine,
Duchess of Mantua*
Hyacinthe Rigaud (French,
1659-1743)
Paris, 1709
Oil on canvas
Marble House, Newport,
Rhode Island (inv. PSCN.871)



At right,
Duchess of Mantua
Hyacinthe Rigaud (French,
1659-1743)
Paris, about 1709
Black ink, chalk, and white
gouache on blue paper
Albertina Museum, Vienna,
Austria (inv. 11924)

Rigaud's *Portrait of a Lady* has recently been re-installed in the entry hall opposite Hillwood's latest acquisition, *Portrait of Pierre Hercule de Chastenay, Comte de Puysegur (1694-1759)* painted by Nicolas de Largillière (2018.1), which has returned home after nearly fifty years. For more information on this acquisition, see [The Post Serial Spring 2018, Volume 24, Issue 1](#) and view Rebecca Tilles' [A Homecoming for Hillwood lecture](#) to learn more.

¹Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens Curatorial Archives (51.2).

²Portraits of the Duke and Duchess of Mantua were commissioned in 1705 and completed by Rigaud in 1709 following the Duke's death in 1708. This precise chronology establishes the chronology of Hillwood's painting, reinforcing the date to about 1710.

³For additional portraits by Rigaud depicting similar subjects from the same period, see Ariane James-Sarazin, *Hyacinthe Rigaud (1659-1743), Catalogue raisonné*, vol. 2 (Dijon: Éditions Faton, 2016), pp. 306; 331; 376.

Coming January 2019: New Look to the Volunteer Website

Lisa Horvath, Volunteer Services Supervisor

January will not only ring in a new year but also a new look to the [volunteer website](#). The resources and content housed on the current volunteer website will continue to be available to all Hillwood volunteers but on a sleeker and more user-friendly website. Stay tuned for more information.

A New, Living Database for Hillwood

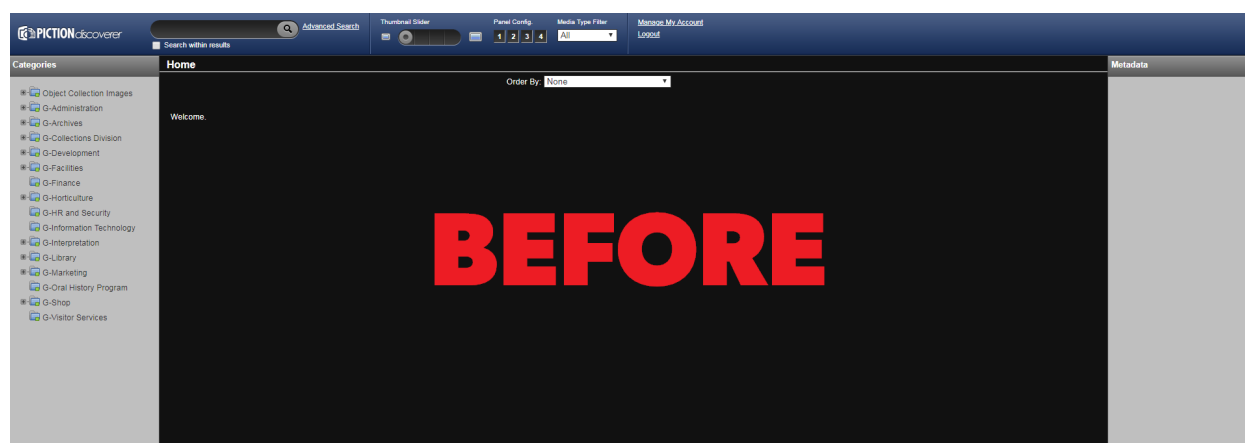
Beth Blackwood, Digital Assets Librarian

A database is a living thing—it needs constant maintenance, changes, and updates. Hillwood’s digital asset management database—the warehouse for all digital media—was due for an upgrade.

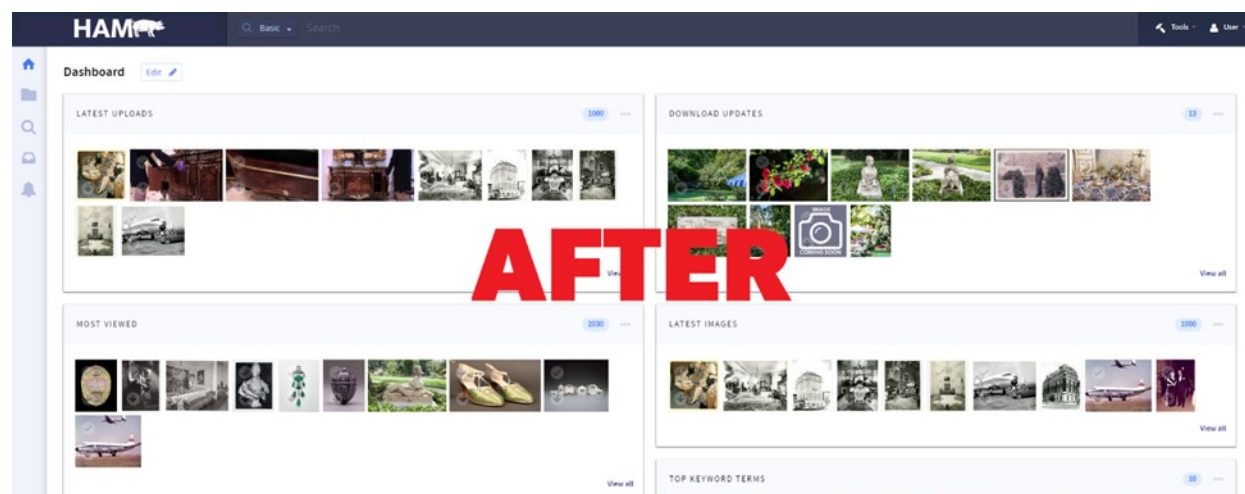
Overtime, software degrades and creates noticeable problems, like slow performance and reliability issues.

User needs change, too, and older software is typically not flexible enough to adapt to those changes. All of

these issues inspired Hillwood’s recent acquisition and implementation of a new digital assets management software—known affectionately as Hillwood Asset Manager, or HAM.



Above, the homepage of Piction, Hillwood’s former digital asset management database



Above, the homepage of HAM, Hillwood’s new digital asset management database

The project took a year of planning and more than eight months to implement. In order to make HAM happen, information technology staff members moved all 90,000 assets and their corresponding data from one server to another and then matched them all up again. In addition to the IT staff hours, representatives from every department at Hillwood worked to make the system

useful for all users' needs. The new interface offers many bells and whistles to help staff members find what they are looking for, including a filter-style browsing system, new sharing capabilities, and an improved aesthetic look.

More features are coming as we explore the capabilities of this robust piece of software. We soon hope to have an extension of this system available for volunteers to research Hillwood's collections and archives. Stay tuned as we continue to tend to this new, living database.

Fall Seasonal Offerings from the Hillwood Café

Meaghan White, Marketing and Communications Manager

Stop by the Hillwood café to sample the new seasonal fall menu. Highlights include:

- Butternut Squash and Burrata - roasted butternut squash, burrata cheese, caramelized onions, sage, and maple vinaigrette
- Arugula and Apple Salad - arugula, frisée, granny smith apples, goat cheese, hazelnuts, and apple cider vinaigrette

To view the full menu, visit our [website!](#)



Butternut Squash and Burrata



Arugula and Apple Salad

What's Coming Up in the Gardens

Jessica Bonilla, Head Gardener

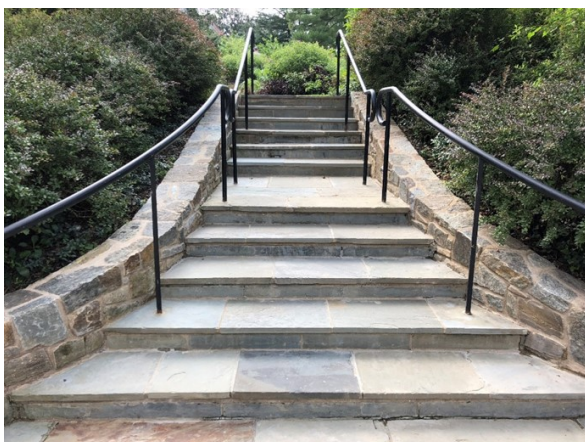
Well, what an interesting summer! With seventeen inches of rain recorded at Hillwood for July and August and over seven more for September, we never really had that summer lull. Some plants have just loved it. Azaleas have been growing by leaps and bounds. Others, not so much. Yews and hollies in particular have suffered from too much water with some specimens turning off color or just looking especially thin. The humid weather has also led to early leaf drop on cherry trees and serviceberry. And how about the weeds? The soil's seed bank seems to be endless! Oh well, that is what makes gardening interesting!

The tropicals in the summer display certainly enjoyed the rainforest weather, but then the end of September rolled around, and autumn was here. Staff and volunteers planted 2,136 mums and 3,673 pansies and violas. We also installed another 1,500 miscellaneous plants that included cape daisies (*osteospermum*), snapdragons, grasses, and sedges, among others.

We took advantage of the time to work around the grounds, adding plants and renovating the turf. Various shrubs and perennials were added to the woodland path/trail, Lunar Lawn beds, and cutting garden. A big development was the underplanting of perennials in the rose garden. Marjorie Post had her gardeners add spring interest to the roses by planting violas and tulips. The new perennials will expand on this idea and have interest throughout the year. Another project was the turf rejuvenation led by Marshall Paquin, senior gardener. Lawn areas were aerated, fertilized, limed, and overseeded.



*Historical photo of the rose garden from Marjorie Post's tenure.
Hillwood Estate Museum & Gardens Archives*



*Freshly repaired walls and stairs near the
Administration building*

The cutting garden wall project came to a close, and the results are beautiful. John Pond and his crew meticulously repaired lost and broken stones along the top of the wall from the mansion to the café. It was the administration building stairs that posed the most problems, with large sections of the wall needing to be rebuilt. John has now moved on to repairing the walks around the Armillary spheres, and we are excited to see the end results.

Looking forward, we are on the edge of the specialty mums season. Drew Asbury, horticulturist, and Enrique Mendez, gardener, along with volunteers, do a great job of managing and manipulating

chrysanthemums into show pieces. Make sure to walk around the grounds to see their work.

After the mums have passed, we will turn our attention to the holidays and 2019. In November, look forward to joining the staff as we plant more than 27,000 bulbs for the spring display. Pinks and purples with a little salmon thrown in will dominate next year's color scheme. The week of Thanksgiving, the mansion and visitor center will be turned into winter wonderlands with trees and decorations inspired by *Fabergé Rediscovered*.

Thank you again for all you do and keep growing!

Hillwood's Autumn Show

Jane Berger, Newsletter Volunteer

A stroll around the gardens in autumn will persuade almost any visitor that Hillwood is just as spectacular in fall as it is in spring, and you will notice many different plants in bloom. Listed below are some of our autumn treasures.

Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)

The ginkgo tree at the top of the cutting garden is believed to be around 100 years old, but for an old guy, it has not lost any of its fall splendor. It is said to be the oldest living plant grown from seed – a plant that can live for more than 2,000 years. So, there is a good chance this tree will outlast all of us. In fall, the fan-shaped leaves turn a brilliant golden yellow that cannot be missed. If you plant one, make sure you install a male tree – the females bear fruits that drop to the ground and decompose with a rank, foul odor.



*The golden leaves of a maidenhair tree
(Ginkgo biloba)*

Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Do not miss the dogwoods that are scattered throughout the motor court. They put on a beautiful fall show with leaves in shades of orange, red, and yellow, along with noticeable red fruits.

Witchhazel (*Hamamelis mollis* 'Pallida')

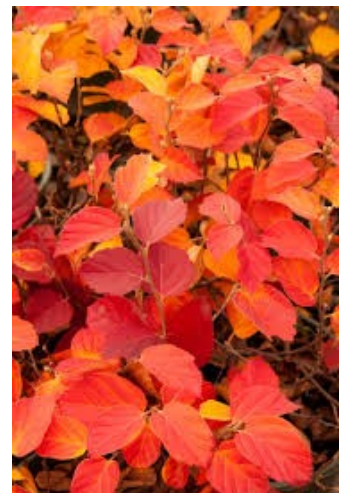
Watch for the red, purple, and orange leaves of this witch hazel on the motor court. 'Pallida' has profuse light yellow spring blooms, but the fall color is equally striking. This cultivar is sometimes listed as *Hamamelis x intermedia*, a cross between Chinese witchhazel (*H. mollis*) and Japanese witchhazel (*H. japonica*).

Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*)

Of course you see this all over New England – there is nothing like the brilliant red fall color covering the façade of entire buildings. Here at Hillwood, Boston Ivy covers the brick walls surrounding the motor court, and it is a glorious sight in fall. If you are into something different, you might think of planting *P. tricuspidata* 'Fenway Park', which has bright yellow new growth that fades to lime green and then turns orange and red in autumn.

Dwarf Fothergilla (*Fothergilla gardenii*)

Wander over to the ellipse lawn throughout the fall; the standout shrub is fothergilla, whose leaves glow in shades of yellow, orange, and red. There are several different cultivars of this native plant that merit attention, among them 'Appalachia', 'Mount Airy', and the straight species *F. major*.



*Dwarf Fothergilla (Fothergilla gardenii)'s
brilliant hue*

Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)

The fall color of Japanese maples is hard to beat. We are not sure which cultivars we have in the Japanese-style garden, but some of them date back to the 1950s or earlier. Look for brilliant leaves of orange, red, purple, and gold. There are hundreds of cultivars, so consult your horticultural reference guide or visit a nursery with a good selection to choose the right one for your home garden.

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

You will find the best red maples at Hillwood between the dacha and Adirondack building and near the administration building. Red maples are one of the joys of fall. Our cultivar, 'October Glory', is one of the showiest in the D.C. area and holds onto its red-orange foliage longer than some other cultivars. 'Red Sunset' is also popular for its brilliant leaves.

Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica* 'Henry's Garnet')

A fall competitor to fothergilla, Virginia sweetspire is another small native shrub that catches your eye in autumn because of its burgundy, orange, yellow, and crimson leaves. 'Henry's Garnet', known for its deep red fall color, can be found here at Hillwood near the administration building.

Azaleas

Known of course for the spring show of blooms, few would think of planting azaleas for fall color. But just take a stroll around the Friendship Walk and past the Lunar Lawn; you are in for a treat of autumn leaves of almost every imaginable color.

Volunteer Field Trip to Dumbarton Oaks

Drew Asbury, Horticulturist and Volunteer Manager

On a sunny day in mid-September, a large group of horticulture volunteers gathered at Dumbarton Oaks. Our guides, Jonathan Kavalier and Mellisa Brizer, graciously provided an informative tour of the gardens. Pictured is Dumbarton's recently renovated fountain terrace, just one of the many garden rooms the group traversed during our visit.



Hillwood horticulture volunteers enjoy the gardens at Dumbarton Oaks

Thank You Volunteers!

The horticulture staff would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with the planting of nearly 10,000 plants during the annual fall display installation. Persistent rain early in the week made for less than desirable gardening conditions, but the planting continued! Thank you for all your help in the gardens this past season.



From left to right, Elena Furman, Dia Sherman, Michael Seith, Susan Burke, and Jessica Bonilla



From left to right, Mary Reyner, Linda Greensfelder, Karen Leighty, and Sharon Natanblut

Conference Presentations in 2018

Audra Kelly, Head of Interpretation

Lisa Leyh, head of visitor services and volunteer management, and Audra Kelly, head of interpretation, represented Hillwood as presenters at two conferences this year: May's American Association of Museums' annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona, and October's annual conference of Volunteer Committees of Art Museums in Detroit, Michigan. Hillwood's fabulous volunteers were front and center in our presentation as we shared techniques and strategies for making good matches between volunteers and a museum's culture. We were able to share information about how Hillwood recruits and interviews volunteers, looking for those whose visitor-centeredness shines through. We came away from both conferences with new contacts to add to our network of volunteer managers and trainers, which means we have more sources of new ideas and information.



Audra Kelly presents at the annual conference of Volunteer Committees of Art Museums

Volunteer Spotlight

Lisa Horvath, Volunteer Services Supervisor

Hillwood's volunteer corps is the largest it has ever been at over 340 volunteers, and it continues to grow! While some volunteers see each other on a regular basis, the Volunteer Spotlight is an opportunity to get to know some of your fellow volunteers a little better.



Ann McClellan, Interpretation

Ann first experienced Hillwood as a visitor in the early years it opened to the public after Marjorie Post's death. She continued to return to Hillwood and became a volunteer in 2003 when looking to expand her community involvement. Ann first started as a visitor services volunteer before adding garden docent to her Hillwood repertoire as a member of the 2015 garden docent training class. Volunteering at Hillwood, Ann says, "brings out my best self, and I enjoy connecting with the visitors, my volunteer colleagues, and Hillwood's staff".

One such memorable connection was with a visitor who shared with Ann about her time as a student at Long Island University and a member of Marjorie Post's same sorority. Marjorie Post flew the whole sorority to Washington, D.C. for a tea party on the Lunar Lawn and a dinner and dance party. To Ann, this visitor's experience beautifully captured Marjorie Post's "deep and heart felt generosity and its far-reaching impact" from which visitors, volunteers, and staff today continue to benefit. In addition to her volunteer roles at Hillwood, Ann is an avid reader and the author of three books, and in the spring, you can find her around the Tidal Basin, sharing with visitors the beauty of Washington, D.C.'s Japanese cherry blossoms.

James "Jim" Peterson, Horticulture

James "Jim" Peterson joined Hillwood in 1999 upon his retirement after learning about Hillwood volunteer opportunities from Bill Johnson during a landscape design course. Over his nineteen plus years with Hillwood, Jim has helped maintain every garden on the estate through weeding, tilling, planting, mulching, and more. Jim also assists in the greenhouses during the colder months. His time at Hillwood has furthered Jim's lifelong love and appreciation of nature and provided lasting friendships with fellow staff and volunteers in addition to numerous learning experiences.



Jim's favorite memory of Hillwood was a day he was planting flowers in the porte cochere. A woman approached and chatted briefly with him, and before entering the mansion, she remarked, "I am so happy you are planting yellow flowers; it was one of mother's favorite colors." It was Dina Merrill! Hearing comments like this, from those close to Hillwood and from daily visitors, has been one of Jim's favorite benefits of volunteering at Hillwood.

Hillwood is thrilled to have Ann and Jim as members of our wonderful volunteer corps, and we look forward to continuing to highlight our volunteers in future editions of *The Post Serial*.

In Memoriam

Drew Asbury, Horticulturist and Volunteer Manager, and Lisa Horvath, Volunteer Services Supervisor

It is with a heavy heart that we write to inform you that we have lost beloved Hillwood volunteers in recent months.

Carol Bessette

Carol Bessette passed away at home on May 29, 2018. After a multi-decade career with the Air Force, Carol became a mansion docent at Hillwood in the 1980s. She enjoyed sharing with visitors Hillwood's beauty and collection, especially the Russian imperial art. Her involvement at Hillwood sparked her next career as a Washington, D.C. - area tour guide, where she developed and lead classes and tours on a broad range of topics. She will be missed by her family and loved ones.



Rose Mary Flint

Horticulture volunteer Rose Mary Flint passed away on September 23, 2018. Known by her friends at Hillwood as Rusty, she was an active volunteer for twenty two years and worked in all areas of the garden, most recently in the production greenhouse. She was known for her smile and chuckle, particularly when the task of the day involved transplanting tiny seedlings. She is survived by her four children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A celebration of her life will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 11, at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Kensington, MD.

Marian Hawkins

On July 4, 2018, Marian Hawkins passed away peacefully. At Hillwood, Marian served as one of the first mansion docents. In this role, she further developed her love for Russian art. Marian was also active in her church, serving in a variety of roles and showed incredible generosity to those in need. Marian is survived by her husband, her sister, three children, and five grandchildren.



Jerome "Jerry" Shapiro

Dr. Jerome "Jerry" Shapiro passed away on August 9, 2018. Jerry joined Hillwood's volunteer program in 2000 and was an active garden docent and orchid collection volunteer for nine years. He shared his love of nature and Hillwood's beauty with every visitor he met, and he is missed by his family and friends. Jerry is survived by his wife, sister, two sons, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Welcome to Hillwood's Newest Staff Member

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff member to Hillwood.



Dominika Gawryolek joined Hillwood as the administrative assistant on October 22. Previously, Dominika worked in visitor services and membership at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and served as an AmeriCorps member for two years. She also interned at the Galicia Museum while studying abroad in Krakow, Poland. Dominika holds a bachelor's degree in international studies from Salisbury University. Please join us in welcoming Dominika!

Welcome New Volunteers

We are delighted to add two new horticulture volunteers, four new family art volunteers, and thirty seven new visitor services volunteers to Hillwood's volunteer program this summer and fall. Please join us in welcoming:

Horticulture

Miah Daughtery

Monica Cloud

Interpretation

Jan Abraham
Susan Benninghoff
Donna Burke
Karen Conlin
Jennifer Hardy
Nancy Kay
Erika Liliedahl
Suzanne Morgan
Kathleen Reilly
Terry Scanlin
Theresa Werner

Louisa Baghdasarian
Patricia Berl
Ginny Campbell
Heather Frank
Kathy Herr
Karen Kenney
Margaret McCaleb
Jeanine Navarette
Aura Reisner
Leigh Sours

Kimberly Bailey
Karen Breslin
Stephanie Celem
Ann Garriott
Tomoko Hirata
Marci Lash
Maria McDonald
Breana Oliver
Elisabetta Rojo
Kathy Vavoso

Rob Ballou
Marisa Broka
Vanessa Cieslak
Kathy Gest
Shohreh Homayoun
Amelie Lavanent-Wink
Michelle Minnich
JoAnn Padell
Abby Ruiz-Sietta
Fran Vogel



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