



Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer email, featuring Hillwood's newest exhibition, our success in reducing our carbon footprint, perfect picks from the museum shop for Mother's Day, upcoming volunteer programming, and much more!

HILLWOOD OPERATIONS UPDATE

With another busy spring season underway, we thought it would be helpful to review our current operations, how to visit Hillwood, and what metrics we are monitoring for a safe return to on-site volunteer service:

No New Changes | Using the Mayor's capacity changes, Hillwood is evaluating our current capacity and will balance those changes with the safety needs of our staff and visitors. At this time, there are no new changes to Hillwood's operational status or volunteer program. All social distancing guidelines will continue to remain in place.

How to Visit | Advance reservations are required for an in-person visit, with limited capacity in the mansion. Tickets are available for purchase on [Hillwood's website](#) along with a review of the temporary visitor guidelines. In accordance with D.C.'s mayoral order, face masks are required at all times in both indoor and outdoor spaces. Masks are required for visitors over the age of two, including guests who have been vaccinated.

Looking Ahead | A few key measures for reducing social distancing and increasing capacity at Hillwood will be a reduction in community spread and an increase in staff vaccinations. As eligibility for vaccinations opens at various dates this month across the DMV, we anticipate the vaccination of staff may be completed by summer or early fall.

As we monitor the situation closely, we will continue to keep you abreast of any changes to our operational status. In the interim, Hillwood will also continue to offer our beloved volunteers safe engagement through [online educational offerings](#) and [enhanced communications](#).

THE PORCELAIN FLOWERS OF VLADIMIR KANEVSKY

On View: April 6-September 5, 2021

Contemporary artist Vladimir Kanevsky's exquisite flower sculptures have sprung to life throughout Hillwood's mansion for the special exhibition, *The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky*.

Kanevsky has said, "there is everything in flowers—history, drama, structure, beauty, and fragrance," a sentiment Hillwood founder Marjorie Post knew well. Post surrounded herself with flowers, creating impressive gardens at her homes and filling the houses with luscious arrangements. Drawing inspiration from botanical prints, backyard plants, and antique porcelain, Kanevsky has a particular passion for 18th-century models that elevated porcelain flowers to an art form. His pieces are perfectly at home amid Hillwood's treasures from this period, including vases, figurines, flowers, and more. Post's collection of porcelain is renowned, particularly for its diversity. Featuring nearly 35 works, the exhibition is next in a series of collaborations with contemporary artists, such as Bouke de Vries in 2019, Philip Haas in 2016, and Isabel de Borchgrave in 2013.



Floral sculpture from the new exhibition

The exhibition label text and display information is now available on the [volunteer website](#). Join us on Monday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m. for a virtual volunteer lecture with Dr. Wilfried Zeisler for an overview of the exhibition. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed to all volunteers closer to the event date.

MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN

Join Hillwood for a virtual celebration on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 7 p.m. View the special exhibition *The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky*, explore the magic of Hillwood, and bid on choice items in the [online auction](#). *Midnight in the Garden* promises to be a memorable evening. Vladimir Kanevsky will provide an exclusive look at his exhibition during the virtual event. Sponsorships and tickets may be [purchased online](#) or by calling 202.243.3974.



Hillwood's virtual event celebrating the new exhibition

"The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky"

Special note: Hillwood's own Bill Johnson, former horticulturist and volunteer manager, has graciously donated one of his paintings to the online auction. [Click here to learn more about his paintings and upcoming art show.](#)

STAFF UPDATE

It has been over a year since COVID changed the ways we work at Hillwood. For the museum shop and human resources, closing the museum last year presented an opportunity to reassess department goals and launch innovative new projects and services.

The museum shop converted our loyal in-person shoppers to online shoppers. With an "all hands on deck" approach, the museum analyzed inventory, the team took photos, wrote product description, and

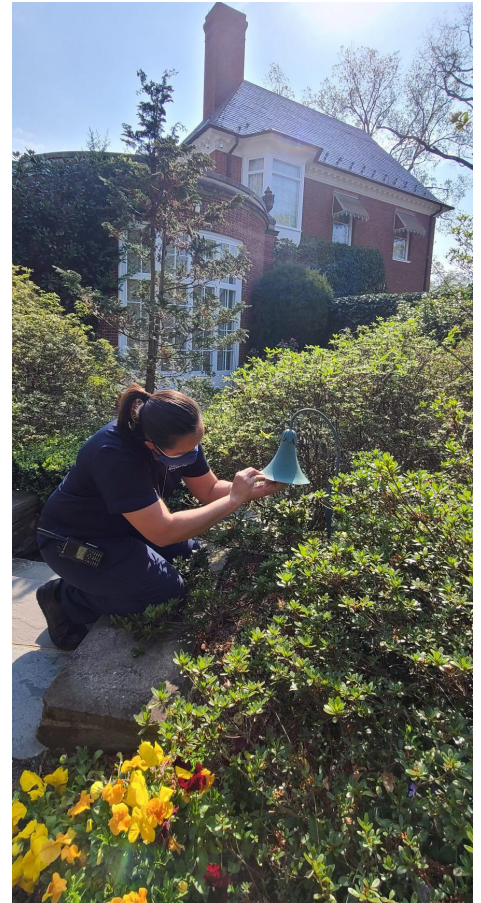
worked closely with marketing and IT to launch an [online shopping experience](#) that rivals the in-person experience. The result of this effort was 488% increase over online sales in 2019! In the midst of rolling out new programs last year that provided extended employee benefits due to COVID, our HR manager also received a certification for Retirement Plan Management, becoming an even more valuable resource to staff.

The details of these accomplishments and corresponding promotions are detailed here along with the new staff Hillwood welcomed in March.

APRIL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Hillwood's sustainability program started simply, as most often do. Small steps designed to reduce the consumption of finite resources; success simply measured in smaller utility bills. LED lighting technology and investments in upgraded equipment have been major contributors to cutting campus electrical use by an amazing 24% since 2017. New, efficient boilers along with optimizing equipment performance has helped to reduce our natural gas use by more than half in that same period! These simple, though important, measures have laid the foundation of what our program is today.

[Learn more about Hillwood's recent successes in reducing our carbon footprint and what projects are in store for 2021.](#)



Emelsi Fuentes, facilities special services supervisor, upgrading exterior path lighting to LED

MUSEUM SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Spring is here and Mother's Day is almost upon us! If you are looking for that perfect gift, we have you covered. [Click here to read the items we are currently coveting this spring](#): such as the Mom's Little Vase, perfect for those impromptu flower clippings, the latest collection of hand soap and lotion from Michel toiletries, and the newly launched Hillwood Fabergé Collage collection.

Remember to shop online at store.hillwoodmuseum.org and use your discount code of Volunteer21. To shop in person, please remember to [book your reservation](#) in advance by selecting a date and time to visit the estate. The museum shop is open Tuesday through Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thank you for supporting the museum shop!



Hillwood Fabergé Collage collection

HORTICULTURE NEWS

Greenhouse Bed Update

Last month, Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager, gave you a taste of what is happening in front of the [greenhouse](#). This bed has been on the horticulture department's "to do" list for quite some time. With ongoing water main breaks underneath the bed and the removal of a declining hedge of boxwood in 2019, it was time to tackle this long-awaited project and redesign the greenhouse bed. Our goal is to create a garden space showcasing four-season interest with a new connected and expanded bed line. Featuring new, colorful plants and flowers in addition to right-sized trees and shrubs, these plantings will bring layered interest to the front of the greenhouse without blocking light to the specimens growing inside.

[Read the full article here for a deeper dive into this exciting project currently underway at Hillwood.](#)

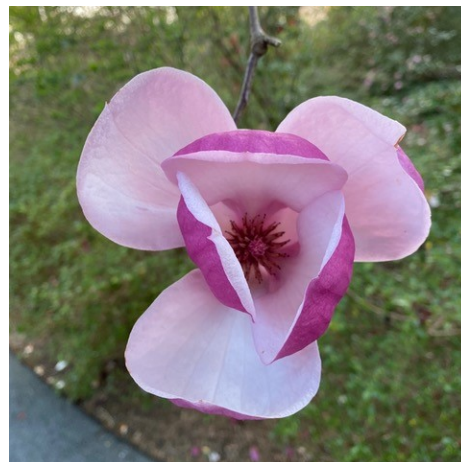


Water main repair in front of the greenhouse entrance

In the Gardens

Spring has officially sprung! Magnolias, cherries, and camellias join early season bulbs, perennials, and annuals to create a delightful array of color along every path in the gardens.

Please enjoy a few recent photos from the gardens and greenhouses captured by Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager.



Saucer magnolia blooming at the Lunar Lawn

NEW POST: THE DIPLOMATIC LEGACY OF MARJORIE MERRIWEATHER POST

In honor of Women's History Month, the National Museum of American Diplomacy has posted a story on Marjorie Merriweather Post on the State Department website. [Click here to read the post.](#)

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMING

Mark your calendars and join us online for these upcoming virtual volunteer sessions in April.

Virtual Volunteer Lecture: *The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky*

Monday, April 12 (10:30 a.m.)

Join Dr. Wilfried Zeisler, chief curator, for an overview of Hillwood's new exhibition *The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky*, on view in the mansion April 6 through September 5, 2021. Inspired by flowers grown throughout Marjorie Post's gardens at Hillwood, including camellias, tulips, and dahlias, artist Vladimir Kanevsky's sculptures will take the place of these live arrangements, bursting with color in the entry hall, dining room, breakfast room, pavilion, French drawing room, and Post's bedroom suite. All volunteers are invited to attend. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed to all volunteers closer to the event date.

Hillwood Huddle

Tuesday, April 20 & Thursday, May 20 (3 p.m.)

During these 30-minute informal sessions, volunteers and staff will have the opportunity to reconnect virtually with one another over Zoom and share their passion for all things Hillwood. Participants will be divided into smaller breakout rooms. Halfway through the 30-minute program, the breakout rooms will be "reshuffled," allowing volunteers to mix and mingle with a larger number of volunteers.

Click on the links below to register for a Hillwood Huddle. Once your registration is confirmed, you will receive via email the Zoom link and meeting instructions.

Virtual Volunteer Workshop: *Celebrating Nature, A Floral Design Inspired by Constance Spry* Thursday, May 6 (1:30 p.m.)

“Open your mind to every form of beauty” - Constance Spry

Ever considered foraging for natural materials? If yes, you are already in the mind frame of Constance Spry. Join Ami Wilber, Hillwood’s floral and event décor designer, and learn how Constance Spry has inspired her to use an aesthetic where nature is the guiding principle. In this workshop, we will create a wild and non-traditional floral design. We will gather ingredients from our backyards and local flower farms and use mostly native plants. Ami will share a step-by-step guide to create your own arrangement with plenty of time to ask questions. The program is free for all volunteers to watch via Zoom, but for an additional fee, participants can pick up all necessary materials, including flowers, greenery and hardware to create their own arrangement at home. More details about this program, including reserving the optional materials and supplies, will be available soon.

NEW ONLINE CONTENT

Missed a lecture? Be sure to visit the [volunteer website](#) and catch up on the newest online content, including new videos now available on the “Lecture Video Archives” page.

- March 10: *Black Skin in the Red Land: African American Experiences in Stalin’s Soviet Union* by Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon
- March 11: *Virtual Tour: Orchid-Filled Greenhouse* Tour by Drew Asbury
- March 18: *Horticulture How-To: Orchid 101* by Drew Asbury
- March 19: *Floral Design How-To: Tropical Paradise* by Ami Wilber
- March 23: *Horticulture Happenings: A Virtual Garden Update* by Jessica Bonilla
- March 25: *Horticulture How-To: Orchid Repotting* by Drew Asbury
- March 26: *Unconscious Bias Webinar*
- March 29: *French Art and Culture at Hillwood* by Dr. Wilfried Zeisler
- April 6: *Reminiscences and Reflections: Twenty Years of Gardening at Hillwood* with Frances Vandenbroucke

STAFF HELP & RESOURCES

Thank you for being a part of the Hillwood community. Our "virtual doors" are always open. Feel free to reach us at volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org.

-The Volunteer Support Team

Lisa Leyh, Drew Asbury, and Samantha Hernandez

HILLWOOD FROM HOME

Enjoy the museum and gardens through our comprehensive digital offerings, including the extensive online collections, educational video library, immersive mobile app, and virtual programming.

[Explore >](#)

PLAN YOUR VISIT

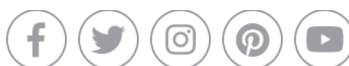
To visit Hillwood, be sure to book advance reservations and review the temporary visitor guidelines. Don't forget to stay up-to-date on Hillwood's virtual programming through the Events and Programs page.

[Visit >](#)

STAY CONNECTED

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