



Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer email, and learn more about Hillwood's sustainability efforts, a D.C.-based hat designer of Marjorie Post's, the refreshed look to the greenhouse garden, and much more!

ON-SITE SERVICE UPDATE

Thank you for participating in Hillwood's recent volunteer survey regarding on-site service. Staff has been working on a timeline to bring volunteers back to their on-site roles at Hillwood now that restrictions are lifting. With just shy of 200 responses, your feedback regarding availability and concerns for on-site duties will help us plan a safe return to campus.

Here is what we anticipate moving forward:

- We are currently reviewing the survey responses and will be in touch with the results.
- I will be working closely with Drew Asbury, Audra Kelly, and other staff who support the volunteer program to finalize the timeline.
- Similar to reopening the museum last summer, Hillwood will use a phased approach in resuming the volunteer program with different start dates for each volunteer role.
- The phased timing will allow staff to provide a refresher training for each role, giving volunteers the opportunity to become reacquainted with their positions, learn what current safety precautions are in place, and share feedback and ask questions regarding their volunteer duties.
- Staff will be in touch with each volunteer role via email in the coming weeks regarding your return date, refresher training, and next steps for scheduling shifts.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing patience as we reactivate 300+ volunteers in 13 unique positions across campus. Our volunteer pilot teams currently on-site have been crucial in helping us better understand the new demands regarding on-site service. While we are eager for you to return to campus, we are also dedicated to ensuring each volunteer role feels supported and prepared for their on-site return. Stay tuned for more details.

MANY HATS: SPOTLIGHT ON D.C.-BASED MILLINER ESTHER KIRWAN STECK

Like most consumers of fashion, Marjorie Merriweather Post was a repeat customer of those designers and dressmakers whose work pleased her. Those who earned her trust are represented in Hillwood's collection today; from Madame Frances to Oldric Royce. Post's accessory collection reveals a preference for independent, D.C.-based milliner Esther Kirwan Steck (1895-1977). Ten hats by the designer are included in Hillwood's collection. These examples represent Post's patronage of small luxury goods designers during mid-century in D.C. Steck's creations appear atop Post's neat up do for travel, daytime philanthropic events, garden parties on the lunar lawn, and more.

[Discover more about D.C.-based milliner Esther Kirwan Steck and her hats in Hillwood's collection.](#)



Hat by Esther Kirwan Steck (American, 1895-1977), Washington, DC, about 1960, Plastic flowers, flocked flowers, horsehair (2012.9.43)

SUSTAINABILITY TEAM REPORT

Recycling at Hillwood is more diverse than ever before. Over the past few years, Hillwood's goal of recycling, reusing, and reducing materials across campus has led to innovative initiatives to reduce our consumption and protect the environment. Most recent efforts include transitioning from a single stream, self-sorted recycling to a co-mingled system, introducing a specialty recycling program to manage bulbs, pens, batteries, disposable gloves, etc., and even repurposing coffee grounds to help support Horticulture's compost efforts.

[Read more about Hillwood's recycling program and how you can share your ideas to help support our sustainable business model.](#)



Quarterly battery collection

MUSEUM SHOP SPOTLIGHT

The gardens are in full splendor and the museum shop is full of lovely gifts for enjoying the gardens and the outdoors. [Click here to discover the latest finds currently available in the museum shop.](#)

How to Shop

The museum shop expanded their store hours, and are now open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. To shop online, visit <https://store.hillwoodmuseum.org/discount/Volunteer21> and use your discount code of Volunteer21.



New Garden Stones made exclusively for Hillwood

VISITOR SERVICES STAFF UPDATE

The visitor services department has several staffing updates shared below:

Kristra Forney-Wright, group sales, special events, and tourism manager, is no longer with Hillwood. We wish Kristra all the best with her future endeavors.

Claire Fuller has been promoted to group sales, special events, and tourism manager. In Claire's three years in visitor services, she has developed a deep knowledge of Hillwood and a great working relationship with colleagues, volunteers and visitors. Over the past year and a half, Claire has also been assisting interpretation with school and scout groups, so the move to the group sales role is a natural fit for Claire's skills. We are thrilled to work with her in this new capacity.

Maria Matlock has accepted a promotion to visitor services coordinator & volunteer program associate. Since joining us in October 2020, Maria has become a vital member of the visitor services team. Her commitment to excellent customer service and her skill in operations will ensure that we continue to offer a strong visitor experience operation. Maria also brings a deep interest in our beloved volunteers and we are eager for her to continue developing her knowledge and support of the volunteer program in this expanded role.

We are currently hiring for one full-time and one part-time visitor services associate and hope to be sharing an update on those roles soon.

HORTICULTURE NEWS

Greenhouse Garden

The new greenhouse garden has finally come to fruition. From soil restoration, irrigation installation, and planting all the trees, flowers and sod, a lot of work has gone into this new oasis. The horticulture department is pleased too that it is now highlighted by the *Rich Soils* exhibition.

To see photos and learn more about how this garden physically came to be, [click here](#).

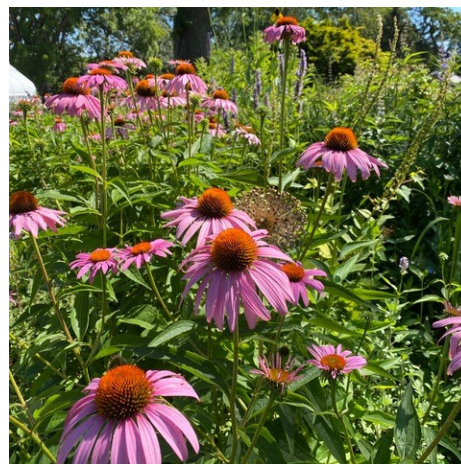


A stately new entrance to the greenhouse

In the Gardens

The gardens have sprung to life with the installation of *Kristine Mays: Rich Soil* and sculpture and flowers have united to surprise and delight visitors throughout the grounds.

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



Our native purple coneflower, Echinacea purpurea, is taking its moment to shine in the cutting garden.

HILLWOOD HUDDLE

Tuesday, July 13 (3 p.m.)

During this 30-minute informal session, 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 here to register for the July 13 Hillwood Huddle](#). Once your registration is confirmed, you will receive via email the Zoom link and meeting instructions.

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.

- June 8: *Fostering Inclusion in the Workplace*
- June 14: *Roaring Twenties: The Life and Style of Marjorie Merriweather Post*
- June 28: *Rich Soil: Kristine Mays*

- June 30: *Conversation with Kristine Mays*

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, Maria Matlock, 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

Learn more about Hillwood's current visitor offerings or book an upcoming visit. 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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