

Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer newsletter featuring news and updates from the Hillwood staff.

MAY 2022 SCHEDULE

The May 2022 schedule is now open to all interpretation volunteers in Volgistics, complete with private tours and special events. Please log in to your [Volgistics account](#) to schedule your shifts. If you have any changes or questions regarding the volunteer schedule, please continue to contact volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org. Thank you.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

Please Note: Microsoft will end support for its Internet Explorer web browser on June 15, 2022. Volgistics will no longer support Internet Explorer after Microsoft ends support. If you are a windows user using Internet Explorer, please switch your internet browser to Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Chrome, or Safari before June 15.

SAVE THE DATE: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Hillwood is pleased to announce the return of the Volunteer Appreciation Reception. Join your fellow volunteers and Hillwood staff for a spring reception in your honor on **Monday, May 16** from **5-7 p.m.** The event will take place in-person under the C.W. Post center tent. An online invitation via Paperless Post will be emailed in the coming weeks. We eagerly look forward to gathering together and celebrating your collective contributions to Hillwood.

Please note: Based on the status of COVID cases in the area, Hillwood reserves the right to require all volunteers and guests in attendance to provide proof of vaccination. More information will be forthcoming as we approach May 16.

NEW FILM IN VISITOR CENTER

A new film produced by Park Triangle Productions, featuring interviews with Rebecca Tilles, Chris Antemann, Roberto Lugo, and Bouke de Vries, highlights select contemporary porcelain works of art in the exhibition *The Luxury of Clay: Porcelain Past and Present*. This spotlight on the contemporary artists is available for viewing on the second floor landing of the visitor center, as well as on [Hillwood's website](#) and [Hillwood's YouTube page](#).

THROUGH THE FIRE DAZZLES GUESTS ON MARCH 16

On Wednesday, March 16, Hillwood welcomed 250 guests to *Through the Fire* for an evening of art, delicious food, music, and community. It was a truly special night. Originally scheduled for Valentine's Day, the event was pushed back a month due to Covid. The delay proved to be a blessing in disguise as guests were treated to perfect weather and a cocktail reception that extended from the visitor center into the motor court.

[Learn more about how Hillwood celebrated the special exhibition *The Luxury of Clay: Porcelain Past and Present* and view images from the evening.](#)



Event co-chair Hilary West and guests strike a pose

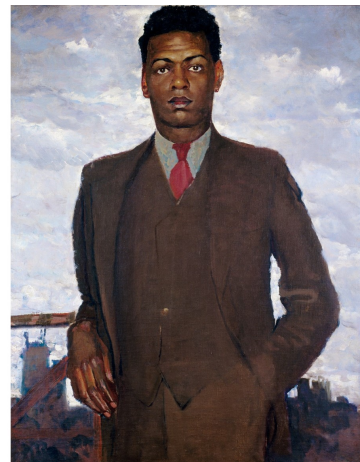
NEW FEATURE: "ASK AN ARCHIVIST"

Though National Library Week concluded on April 9, Hillwood is continuing to shine a spotlight on our library with the announcement of our new feature "Ask an Archivist." Each month via the volunteer newsletter, volunteers are invited to submit questions about Hillwood and Marjorie Post to Jason Speck, head of archives and special collections. Marshalling the impressive resources of rare and unique materials housed in Hillwood's Collections and Research Center, Jason will select one question to answer and share in the volunteer newsletter each month.

[Click here to submit your question.](#) To learn more about the new Collection and Research Center, visit [Hillwood's website](#).

REVEALING PORTRAIT: DISCOVERING LLOYD PATTERSON

In 2022, Hillwood secured the long-term loan of a beautiful portrait of Lloyd Patterson (1910–42), an artist who settled in the Soviet Union in the early 1930s. In 1932, during the Great Depression and the height of the Harlem Renaissance, a twenty-two-year-old Patterson traveled to Soviet Russia to participate in *Black and White*, a Soviet-German film to highlight racism in the United States. The project attracted a number of Black American actors, students, activists, and cultural figures of the Harlem Renaissance, including Langston Hughes (1901–67), Louise Thompson (1901–99), and Dorothy West (1907–98).



Portrait of Lloyd Patterson (1910-1942), Soviet Russia, 1960s, Oil on canvas, on loan from Andrew Leddy

[Discover more about Lloyd Patterson’s fascinating story and this stunning portrait on view in the pavilion starting April 19.](#)

A PORTRAIT AND ITS FRAME: TWO FASCINATING STORIES

Purchased at auction in 1948, the ornate wooden rectangular frame on view in the first floor library of the mansion pulls your gaze to the portrait of Marjorie Post’s mother, Ella Post, painted in 1913 by the American artist Alphaeus Philemon Cole (acc. no. 51.150). The frame is a visitor favorite and draws questions around the designer, once believed to be celebrated woodcarver Grinling Gibbons (1648-1721). Thanks to prints conserved in the Rijksmuseum, we Hillwood’s frame, long associated with Grinling Gibbons, can therefore firmly be attributed to the work of Laurens Vandermeulen and was likely made in Belgium.

[Learn more about this recent discovery and the dress Ella M. Post is depicted wearing in the portrait.](#)



Frame with portrait of Ella Letitia Merriweather Post, attributed to Laurens van der Meulen (Flemish, active in England, 1679-1687), probably Belgium, about 1700, limewood. Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post, 1973 (34.2)

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

Earth Day Celebration

Friday, April 22 (11 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Looking to round out your Earth Day itinerary? Think about bringing family and friends to Hillwood. Visitors are invited to meet members of Hillwood's Environmental Action Team as well as outside organizations like Rock Creek Conservancy, Capital Nature, DOEE, and the DCSEU for great conversations on the Lunar Lawn. There will also be a children's activity, an arts and crafts supply exchange, a native plant give-away, and tours of Hillwood's new native garden. [Click here to learn more Hillwood's Earth Day Celebration.](#)



Biodegradable pots in the greenhouse

Art & Crafts Supply Drive for Earth Day

Have art or craft supplies you no longer need? Hillwood is collecting any unwanted, non-toxic craft and art materials for our Earth Day program. To donate, drop off art/craft supplies at the collection bin located in the mansion volunteer lounge now through Thursday, April 21.

The 2022 Spring Garden

Spring has come to the gardens though it has not been without its ups and downs. Cold temperatures made for a rough start for delicate blooms throughout the grounds including the spring seasonal display. Fortunately, plants are resilient and there is still plenty to see and a lot of blooms on the horizon.

[Click here to learn more about the 2022 spring garden.](#)



Osteospermum '4D Pink'

City Nature Challenge Reminder

Calling all citizen scientists! The City Nature Challenge is coming soon. Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, will be hosting an observation session at Hillwood on Monday, May 2 from 12-2 p.m.

Like to learn more? Check out [last month's article](#) or join one of these upcoming training sessions:

[You Can Be a Citizen Scientist: An Intro to the 2022 City Nature Challenge](#) on Tuesday, April 12 from 12-1 p.m. with Ana Ka'ahanui, Capital Nature

[You Can Be a Citizen Scientist: An Intro to the 2022 City Nature Challenge](#) on Wednesday, April 20 from 7-8 p.m. with Carrie Seltzer, iNaturalist



In the Gardens

It's official. Spring has arrived! Magnolias, cherries, and viburnums join cool-season bulbs, annuals, and perennials to create bursts of color along nearly every path in the garden.

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



Flowering stock and pansies add to the spring excitement at the vista overlook.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Please mark your calendars and join us in person for these upcoming volunteer programs.

Volunteer Spring Garden Tour

April 12-15 (Tuesday-Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Join Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, for a delightful and entertaining early spring tour of the gardens. Tours will depart from the cold frames near the greenhouse. Group size limited to 20 volunteers. To sign up for a tour, please use the links below:

- [April 12 \(Tuesday\) Tour](#)
 - [April 13 \(Wednesday\) Tour](#)
 - [April 14 \(Thursday\) Tour](#)
 - [April 15 \(Friday\) Tour](#)
-

Volunteer Woodland Path Tour

May 17-20 (Tuesday-Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Enjoy the beauty of Hillwood and join senior gardener Marshall Paquin for a garden stroll and discussion of plants found along the woodland path. Tours will depart promptly from the cold frames at 10:15 a.m. Group size limited to 12 volunteers per tour. To sign up for a tour, please use the links below:

- [May 17 \(Tuesday\) Tour](#)
 - [May 18 \(Wednesday\) Tour](#)
 - [May 19 \(Thursday\) Tour](#)
 - [May 20 \(Friday\) Tour](#)
-

SPREAD THE WORD: RECRUITING VISITOR SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

After a two-year hiatus from recruiting new volunteers due to the pandemic, Hillwood is delighted to announce we have once again opened recruitment for new, incoming volunteers starting with a new Visitor Services Volunteer class in early 2022.

Visitor Services Volunteers are integral members of Hillwood's volunteer cohort who provide customer service and interpretation to museum visitors in the visitor center and mansion. This is the perfect opportunity for those who have a passion for sharing their love of history, art, and/or gardens with others in a forward-facing role. Weekday and weekend positions are available. Help us spread the word about this exciting volunteer opportunity to your friends and colleagues.

To apply, interested candidates should review the [detailed position description](#) and complete the [online application](#) on Hillwood's website.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This spring, the Driehaus Museum is featuring "Inventing the Gilded Age," a series of conversations that dive into the era when the Nickerson Mansion was built. Rebecca Tilles, curator of 18th-century western European art at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, is one of the featured presenters for the upcoming virtual lecture *Inventing the Gilded Age: Decorating a Modern World* on Wednesday, April 13. [Click here to learn more about the program or purchase tickets.](#)

NEW ONLINE CONTENT

Be sure to visit the [volunteer website](#) and catch up on the newest online content, including the below recent recordings from public programs now available on the "Lecture Video Archives" page.

- [Artist Roberto Lugo](#) spoke with Rebecca Tilles
- Great Homes and Gardens series: [Hilton Carter](#), [Carolyn Mullet](#), [Jane S. Day](#), [Corey Damen Jenkins](#)
- Drew Asbury's Orchid Month programs: [Orchid 101](#), [Greenhouse Tour](#), [Orchid Repotting](#)
- Ami Wilber's floral design workshops: [February](#), [March](#)

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, Bree Ferraro, Drew Asbury, Maria Matlock, and Samantha Hernandez

HILLWOOD AT HOME

Enjoy Hillwood through our comprehensive digital offerings, including the online collections, educational video library, mobile app, and virtual programs.

[Explore >](#)

PLAN YOUR VISIT

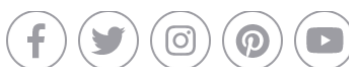
Learn more about Hillwood's current visitor offerings, book an upcoming visit, and stay up-to-date on Hillwood's events and programs.

[Visit >](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Visit the volunteer website for an archive of articles, images, and videos shared in the volunteer email and catch up on any reading you may have missed.

[Connect >](#)



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