



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

SEPTEMBER 2023 SCHEDULE

The September 2023 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](#)

COMING SOON: VOLGISTICS UPGRADE

We're thrilled to announce Volgistics, Hillwood's online volunteer database, will implement several improvements to the system starting in late September. All the features you know and love will remain the same, but the site will include a more modern appearance, increased options for viewing the online schedule, and launch a new mobile app available for iOS and Android devices. The mobile app functions the same as accessing Volgistics through your web browser but will offer volunteers a more convenient way to access the site.

Once the upgrades are available this fall, we'll notify the volunteers of the new features and provide a revised Volgistics user guide. These exciting improvements will enhance your volunteer experience and provide ease in managing your volunteer account with Hillwood.

HILLWOOD'S ENGAGEMENT WITH DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hillwood continues our strong engagement with the DC Public Schools audience, reaching over 3,000 students and teachers in the 2022-23 school year, which ended in June 2023.

[Read the full article here](#) to learn more about Hillwood's innovative approach to virtual school programming, as well as the return of onsite school field trips, and what is in store for the upcoming school year.



A student shares a self-portrait drawn during the "Powerful Portraits" virtual field trip.

MANSION DISPLAY UPDATE

Over the summer, display cases in the French porcelain room, dining room, and Russian porcelain room have been updated with new installations. These new displays feature long-term loans, recent acquisitions, and treasures from Hillwood's storage.

[Click here](#) for the object information and locations on the new displays in the mansion.



Updated display case in the mansion dining room.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES: NEW PROGRAMMING STORAGE

Over the last few summers, we have increased our outdoor programming with more concerts and dance performances than in years prior. Since the Lunar Lawn doesn't have a permanent stage, we looked for creative locations to store the large interlocking stage panels that must be set up and broken down for each run of performances that wouldn't affect the serenity of the gardens around Hillwood. Tucked in near the side entrance of the mansion near the Security control room, we found just the spot. Close to the Lunar Lawn but out of sight, this shed is just large enough to fit the 16 stage panels each weighing about 150 lbs., the cart to move them, and the outdoor chairs that all go into each show. The facilities team got their first real world test of the new location for the Coyaba dance performances a few weeks ago in late July and it cut the set up and breakdown time in half compared to the original storage location in the C.W. Post Garages.



Exterior view of the new programming storage.

FALL GARDEN TOURS START IN SEPTEMBER

Hillwood is eagerly looking forward to the return of the garden tours for the upcoming fall season. The fall docent-led garden tours will be available from September 1-November 12 with tours offered at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday.

NOW RECRUITING: 2024 GARDEN DOCENT TRAINING

Recruitment is well underway for Hillwood's Garden Docent training course, which will be offered from January-May 2024. Garden Docents are integral members of Hillwood's volunteer cohort who lead regularly scheduled public tours, specially arranged private tours, and on-station assistance with evening events and public programs. This forward-facing role is a perfect opportunity for those who have a friendly and engaging communication style, an interest in teaching and/or curriculum delivery, and a passion for sharing their love of horticulture and art with others. Weekday and weekend positions are available.

To apply, interested candidates should review the detailed [position description](#) and complete the [online application](#) on Hillwood's website. Completed applications must be received by **Sunday, September 3.**



Photo of Hillwood's French parterre by Erik Kvalsvik

HILLWOOD ON THREADS

Hillwood is now on [Threads](#), a new app built by the Instagram team, for sharing text updates and joining public conversations. [Download the app](#) today (using your Instagram account to log in) and come join us! Check out a few Barbie-related posts [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)!

STAFFING UPDATE



New Collections & Curatorial Administrator

Diana Brazil

Collections & Curatorial

Hillwood is happy to share Diana Brazil has joined the Collections & Curatorial Division as the new Collections & Curatorial Administrator. In this new role, Diana will build upon the skills she's developed as the Sales Floor Supervisor in the museum shop. As Collections & Curatorial Administrator, she will put to work her excellent organizational skills, positive attitude, and existing administrative experience to assist with the many projects led by the Division.

Diana's office is on the second floor of the mansion. Please join Hillwood in welcoming her to this new position!

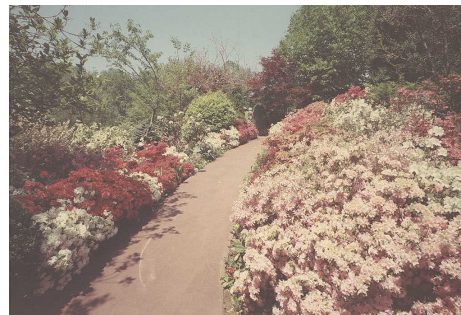
HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

Garden Path Renovation

In line with Hillwood's continuing commitment to sustainability, the black asphalt paths in the gardens will be replaced with a porous paving material called Porous Pave. This exciting project will take about four weeks to complete, with the work being completed in two phases from August 21 through September 18. This will affect all the western paths of the garden and the top of the lower drive between the motor court and cut-through. Garden docents will be provided with a revised tour route to accommodate this temporary closure. [Click here to view the map denoting which garden paths will be renovated.](#)

Porous Pave is made of recycled rubber chips and stone which leave spaces in the material for water to pass through. This reduces storm water runoff which is a serious concern in the DMV and lessens erosion in the gardens, especially when we have large rain events. This is also a safe and efficient way to bring back the historical red coloring of those paths. With the Porous Pave, the dye is right in the product and doesn't have to be repainted.

This project was made possible through the generous donations of Hillwood supporters now known as the Twenty-first Century Friends of Marjorie Merriweather Post. A plaque installed near the path recognizing their contributions.



Red path in Hillwood's garden, 1969

Summer Color in the Collections & Research Center Native Garden

The Collections & Research Center native garden is maturing and coming into its own. Summer blooming perennials of all colors are like exclamation points in the space. Signs of autumn are already visible though and signaling the change to come.

[Click here to learn more about the summer flowers in Hillwood's native garden.](#)



Collections & Research Center native garden from the overlook.

In the Gardens

The gardens are approaching maximum lushness as we head into late summer creating a tapestry of color, texture, and form at nearly every twist and turn along the garden path.

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



Daylily 'Cedar Waxwing' at the visitor center.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

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

Volunteer Native Garden Tour

August 22-25 (Tuesday-Friday), 10:15 a.m.

Join gardener Matt Boyle for a tour of Hillwood's native garden that lies just outside the Collections & Research Center. Tours will depart from the cold frames near the greenhouse at 10:15 a.m. Group size limited to 15 volunteers. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [Tuesday, August 22 Tour](#)
- [Wednesday, August 23 Tour](#)
- [Thursday, August 24 Tour](#)
- [Friday, August 25 Tour](#)

Volunteer Japanese-Style Garden Tour

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

Join section gardener Michael Rollinson for a tour of the Japanese-style garden. Tours will depart from the cold frames near the greenhouse at 10:15 a.m. Group size limited to 15 volunteers. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [Tuesday, September 12 Tour](#)
- [Wednesday, September 13 Tour](#)
- [Thursday, September 14 Tour](#)
- [Friday, September 15 Tour](#)

STAFF HELP & RESOURCES

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

-The Volunteer Support Team

Lisa Leyh, Drew Asbury, and Samantha Hernandez

PLAN YOUR VISIT

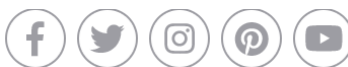
Learn more about Hillwood's current visitor offerings, book an upcoming visit, and stay up-to-date on Hillwood's events and programs.

[Visit >](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Visit the volunteer website for an archive of past monthly volunteer newsletters and catch up on any reading you may have missed.

[Connect >](#)



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