



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

AUGUST 2023 SCHEDULE

The August 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](#)

GARDEN DOCENT TRAINING 2024

With five years since the last training, we are pleased to announce Hillwood will be offering a new Garden Docent training course starting in January 2024. We are thrilled to offer this opportunity to our current volunteers, Hillwood members, and others who might be exploring avenues for service at Hillwood. We also hope you will help us spread the word about this opportunity to your friends and colleagues.

Garden Docents are integral members of Hillwood's volunteer cohort who provide the best possible visitor experience by weaving together stories of the estate, gardens, and founder Marjorie Merriweather Post through 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. The training will occur January-May 2024.

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**.

Thank you for helping get the word out about this exciting volunteer opportunity.



Photo of Hillwood's French parterre by Erik Kvalsvik

GLASS: ART. BEAUTY. DESIGN. EXHIBITION REVIEWED IN *THE WASHINGTON POST*

Hillwood's new exhibition, *Glass: Art. Beauty. Design.*, which opened on June 10 to the public in the Adirondack building, received a glowing review in *The Washington Post*. The exhibition, including the numerous contemporary pieces in the mansion, was reviewed by freelance arts and entertainment journalist Mark Jenkins.

[Click here to read the review of *Glass: Art. Beauty. Design.* in *The Washington Post*.](#)

Friendly Reminder: *Determined Women: Collectors, Artists, and Designers at Hillwood*, which was previously on view in the dacha, closed to the public on June 18, 2023.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Hillwood saw our best June yet and welcomed 10,640 visitors last month. This represents a 2% increase from the previous record of 10,415 visitors in June 2022. To date, Hillwood's attendance for the year has reached 54,221 visitors and is tracking 22% ahead of this same period last year. A big thank you to the volunteers for helping create a stellar visitor experience and environment for our guests!

MUSEUM SHOP ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY DISCOUNT

The museum shop is now offering a 10% discount to active-duty military, veterans, and their families. Hillwood is delighted to support the military, veterans, and their families in this way!

GARDEN TOURING SEASON

The spring garden touring season concluded on Sunday, June 25. Our dedicated garden docents have led 3,512 visitors on 313 docent-led tours of the gardens so far this year. We're 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.

HILLWOOD'S ONLINE COLLECTION DATABASE

The search feature of Hillwood's online collection database is currently undergoing maintenance. We hope the repairs will be completed soon and will notify volunteers once the site has returned to full operations. In the interim, please feel free to email Digital Services Archivist Kendall Aughenbaugh at kaughenbaugh@hillwoodmuseum.org or schedule a visit to the [Collections and Research Center](#) for any pressing research inquiries/needs. Thank you for your patience.

HILLWOOD PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY REMINDER

With wedding season officially underway, we have noticed an uptick in visitor inquiries and requests to schedule a photoshoot in Hillwood's gorgeous gardens. Shared below as a friendly reminder is Hillwood's photography policy, which is also detailed on Hillwood's main website. Please review the policy and let volunteer management staff know if you have any questions.

Per Hillwood's photography policy, visitors are permitted to take "vacation style" photos for personal use without a permit, but formal photography requires prior arrangement with Hillwood. Photography is considered formal if there is a designated photographer, if photography is the primary purpose of the visit, if there are costumes or formal dress specifically for the photos, or if photography impacts other visitors. For more details, please review [our policy photography permits linked here](#). This resource outlines our guidelines in detail and lists who to contact if a visitor is interested in arranging for a photography session at Hillwood.

Please note that while there is no fee for couples inquiring about scheduling a proposal on-site at Hillwood, if they do plan to be accompanied by a photographer to capture the happy moment, that visit falls under the above photography policy.

Thank you for helping us create the best possible experience for our visitors.

STAFFING UPDATE



New full-time gardener Matthew Leach

Horticulture

Horticulture is happy to announce that Matthew Leach has joined the horticulture department as a full-time gardener. Matthew brings with him a strong plant background rooted in six years' experience working at a local plant nursery. During that time, he not only learned about plants and plant maintenance but also developed a strong sense of good customer service. Matthew was a seasonal gardener here at Hillwood in 2014 and attended horticulture classes at Montgomery College. We are very happy to have him here and excited to see his impact on the department.



*New People & Culture Administrator,
Connor Beaty*

People & Culture

Please join Hillwood in congratulating Connor Beaty on his well-deserved promotion to the position of People & Culture Administrator, effective July 10, 2023.

Many of you may already be familiar with Connor, as he has been an invaluable member of Hillwood's exceptional security team. His dedication and commitment to providing outstanding customer service have truly set him apart. We are thrilled to have Connor bring his expertise and passion to the People & Culture department, where he will play a vital role in supporting our staff. We are confident that he will excel in his new role and continue to contribute greatly to the success of Hillwood.

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

In the Gardens

The gardens are enjoying the return of long days and warm temperatures. The summer seasonal displays in particular are filling in quickly and looking good as we head into mid-summer. Please enjoy a few recent photos of the gardens and greenhouses captured by Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager.

[Click here to see more photos of the garden and to learn the names of the various plants featured.](#)



Pollinator on coneflower.

Hillwood Honors Local Public Garden Volunteers

On Monday, June 12, Hillwood hosted the 28th annual volunteer appreciation event organized by the Horticultural Consortium of the Greater Washington Area. This event recognizes the vast contributions and efforts volunteers provide to the many local public gardens in our region.

[Click here to learn more about the volunteer appreciation event organized by the Horticultural Consortium of the Greater Washington Area.](#)



Gardener Sarah Bass speaking to public garden volunteers in the formal rose garden.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

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

Volunteer Summer Garden Tour

July 18, 19, 20, 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Join Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, for a summer tour of the gardens. Take a deeper look at the summer seasonal display and other plants of interest throughout the grounds. Tours will depart from the cold frames near the greenhouse at 10:30 a.m. Group size limited to 20 volunteers. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [July 18 Volunteer Summer Garden Tour](#)
 - [July 19 Volunteer Summer Garden Tour](#)
 - [July 20 Volunteer Summer Garden Tour](#)
 - [July 21 Volunteer Summer Garden Tour](#)
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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, for a new feature "Ask an Archivist." 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.

To submit a question for a future newsletter, [click here](#). To learn more about the new Collections and Research Center, [visit Hillwood's website](#).

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, Sabrina Utz, Drew Asbury, 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.

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