



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

JULY 2024 SCHEDULE

The July 2024 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](#)

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION 2024 | THANK YOU!

Last month, Hillwood volunteers and staff gathered for our annual appreciation reception to celebrate the hard work and contributions of our volunteers. The event, which was on Monday, May 20, welcomed 255 volunteers and guests to experience special offerings such as staff presentations in the mansion and special exhibition, a used book sale hosted by Archives and Special Collections, live plant favors provided by the Horticulture department, and delicious bites from Well Dunn catering.



Volunteers mingle while enjoying drinks, savory foods, and delightful desserts in the C.W. Post courtyard.

Volunteers were honored with remarks by Ellen Charles, board president emerita, and Kate Markert, executive director. Hillwood also recognized those who recently joined the emeritus program and over 20 volunteers who celebrated major milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and even 30 years of service.

[Click here to view images from the reception, an excerpt from Kate Markert's remarks, and the list of volunteers celebrating a major service milestone.](#)

FRAGILE BEAUTY: ART OF THE OCEAN NOW OPEN

Explore the wonders of the sea from its role as inspiration to the need for its preservation in this [new exhibition](#) on display in the Adirondack building until Sunday, January 5, 2025. The oceans are essential to life. Covering over 70% of Earth, they have remained an object of fascination, both treasured and feared, throughout history. Humanity has benefited from the rich and diverse fauna, flora, and resources the oceans provide, continually taking from these bodies of water for our gain. *Fragile Beauty* explores the art of the ocean throughout Hillwood's collection, from representations of the ocean to pieces created with its precious materials, while contrasting such works with contemporary art. This special exhibition demonstrates the beauty of and admiration for these magnificent waters while raising the question of how to balance its preservation for future generations.



Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean will be on display in the Adirondack building until Sunday, January 5, 2025

Volunteer Resources | *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean*

Thank you to those who were able to join us Monday, June 10 for the morning lecture *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean* presented by Deputy Director and Chief Curator Wilfried Zeisler. For your reference, the following lecture recording and resources related to the new exhibition are now available on the volunteer website on the [Fragile Beauty: The Art of the Ocean Exhibition Information page](#). We hope these materials enhance your understanding of this special exhibition, as you share information with our visitors:

- [June 10 Volunteer Lecture | *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean*](#)
- [Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean and Mansion Displays: Label and Display Information](#)

BEHIND THE SCENES: DRESSING FOR EXHIBITIONS

For each exhibition, the Collections and Curatorial team prepares mannequins for the display of our costume collection. Each mannequin must be carefully padded out to support the garments which will be on view for a period of 4-6 months. Additionally, collections carefully refreshes garments that have been in storage using steamers so textiles can be optimally enjoyed by Hillwood's visitors.

This Oldric Royce evening dress is fittingly on view in *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean's* mermaid section!



Before steaming

After steaming

POST'S PAQUINS

Since joining the curatorial staff at Hillwood in January 2018, Megan Martinelli has delighted in studying Marjorie Merriweather Post's garment collection and made new attributions, often to twentieth century French couturier firms. In this article, Megan shares her research process for the recent identification of two gowns in the collection and contextualizes these with other known examples of garments from the House of Paquin. Two of these were on view in the special exhibition, *Marjorie Merriweather Post's Paris*, and a third can now be admired in Post's large bedroom suite closet in tandem with *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean*.



Evening dress (48.85) Retailed at Bonwit Teller (American, 1895–2000s) from the House of Paquin, Paris, Fall 1936, as seen in the June 2024 Mansion Rotation installation.

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS: NEW MOSQUITO TRAPS

The Horticulture staff is trying something new when it comes to mosquito control. Matt Boyle, garden section manager, has developed traps that are scattered throughout the grounds. Small buckets are tucked away providing perfect habitat for mosquitos looking to lay their eggs. Little do they know that the buckets also contain a bacteria that kill off their larvae. The bacteria is toxic to a very select group of insects and considered safe for organic production and even in fish habitats.

If you happen to come across these black buckets, please leave them where they are. Staff are monitoring them closely. If you see other areas of standing water on the estate, please notify staff at volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org.



New mosquito traps developed by Matt Boyle, garden section manager.

REMINDER: PICK UP ACCESS CARD FOR ENTRY TO VOLUNTEER LOUNGE

If you have not yet done so, please remember to collect your access card from the staff in the visitor center during your next shift. This access card will grant you access to the [new volunteer lounge](#), conveniently located in the Butler's House near the cutting garden. Please be patient and budget a few extra minutes when picking up your access card as the front desk will also be checking in visitors. The visitor center is open from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday.

The new volunteer lounge is easily accessible from various parts of campus, including the mansion, visitor center, and Merriweather café. It serves as a central hub for all volunteers to connect with one another, recharge during breaks, and access essential resources. We hope you enjoy this new addition to Hillwood and find it a helpful resource throughout your time here. Please note that the break room in the horticulture building remains open for volunteer use. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Enjoy being nestled in the gardens in the new volunteer lounge!

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

Volunteer Cutting Garden Tour

June 11, 12, 13 (Tuesday-Thursday), 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Join Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager, for a tour of the cutting garden and a chat about what is in bloom in early June. Group size limited to 15 volunteers per tour. The tour will depart from the cold frames near the greenhouse. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [June 11 Volunteer Cutting Garden Tour](#)
- [June 12 Volunteer Cutting Garden Tour](#)
- [June 13 Volunteer Cutting Garden Tour](#)

Volunteer Japanese-Style Garden Tour

July 23, 24, 25, 26 (Tuesday- Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Join section gardener Michael Rollinson for a tour of 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:

- [July 23 Volunteer Japanese-style Garden Tour](#)
 - [July 24 Volunteer Japanese-style Garden Tour](#)
 - [July 25 Volunteer Japanese-style Garden Tour](#)
 - [July 26 Volunteer Japanese-style Garden Tour](#)
-

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM RECORDINGS

Don't miss out on our robust lineup of volunteer lectures and programs of 2024! If you were unable to attend a virtual volunteer program, check out our [2024 Lecture Videos Page](#) to catch up with the recordings. Please note that the 2024 Lecture Videos page on the volunteer website now has a link to [Hillwood's YouTube Library](#). In lieu of adding duplicate videos to the volunteer website, we hope you enjoy watching public programs, such as lectures and workshops, on Hillwood's YouTube channel.

CONGRATULATIONS MICHELLE SPENCER!

We are happy to share that mansion docent Michelle Spencer and her husband recently welcomed their daughter to the world. Charlotte Elaine Spencer was born on April 30 at 9:19 p.m. Both Michelle and Charlotte are healthy and doing well. We very much look forward to Charlotte's first visit to Hillwood. Congratulations Michelle!



*Michelle Spencer's newborn daughter
Charlotte*

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

Jordan Hansen, 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 >](#)



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward](#) | [View in browser](#)

You are receiving this email because you have opted into our email program. If you no longer wish to receive our emails click on the Unsubscribe link in this email.

Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens 4155 Linnean Ave NW Washington, DC 20008 www.hillwoodmuseum.org