

## Hillwood Volunteer Program

### JULY 2025 SCHEDULE

The July 2025 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](mailto:volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org) or 202.686.8528. Thank you.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

### CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS AT THE ANNUAL APPRECIATION RECEPTION

On Monday, May 19, Hillwood volunteers and staff came together for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception—a joyful evening dedicated to honoring the remarkable generosity, dedication, and spirit of our volunteer community.

The celebration featured engaging staff presentations in the mansion and exhibition spaces, an exclusive look at rarely seen treasures with the Archives and Special Collections team, live plant favors from the Horticulture department, and delicious bites provided by Well Dunn catering. Guests also enjoyed a stroll through the gardens in beautiful weather, taking in the early signs of summer's bloom. With 232 volunteers and guests in attendance, the event was a heartfelt reflection of our gratitude.

Volunteers were recognized with remarks from Ellen Charles, board president emerita; Mary Slimp, board president; and Kate Markert, executive director. We proudly celebrated those who recently joined the emeritus program, as well as more than 30 volunteers marking milestone anniversaries—5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service in 2025.

This year also marked the debut of our newly designed certificate holder—an elegant forest green cardstock, foil-stamped with Hillwood's logo in gold. Paired with upgraded milestone certificates featuring decorative borders and a gold seal of achievement, this new design honors the significance of each volunteer's commitment.

[Click here to view photos from the event, read an excerpt from Kate Markert's remarks, and see the full list of milestone honorees.](#)



*Floral arrangement created by Ami Wilber, Floral and Event Decor Designer*



*New, custom-designed certificate holder for volunteers celebrating a service milestone*

### NOW OPEN: FROM EXILE TO AVANT-GARDE: THE LIFE OF PRINCESS NATALIE PALEY

Discover one of the twentieth century's most glamorous icons in this [new exhibition](#) on display in the Adirondack building now through January 4, 2026. A muse, model, actor, and socialite, Natalie Paley (1905-1981) was a twentieth-century icon. Though often forgotten today, she rose from her family's fabled and tragic history, and left a stylish and indelible mark on the century's culture and design. This special exhibition is the first to explore the exceptional glamour and enigmatic life of this legendary figure.



*The new exhibition on Princess Natalie Paley is on view in the Adirondack building now through January 4, 2026.*

#### Volunteer Resources

To help you get acquainted with the exhibition content, please use the links below to access these valuable volunteer resources. We hope these materials continue to inspire and deepen your enthusiasm for this remarkable new exhibition.

- [Exhibition Label Text](#)
- [Mansion Rotation Displays: Jun 2025-Jan 2026](#)
- [June 9 Virtual Volunteer Lecture](#)

### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING A HISTORIC MOTHER'S DAY

Thanks to the incredible support of our volunteers—and the use of new real-time tracking technology—Hillwood welcomed a record-breaking 1,939 visitors on Sunday, May 11, making it our highest single-day attendance ever. This milestone Mother's Day celebration was a true campus-wide effort, and we couldn't have done it without you. [For more insights from the historic day, including volunteer feedback, read the full recap from Lisa Leyh, head of volunteer and employee engagement.](#)

### SUMMER AT HILLWOOD: DANCE AND JAZZ ON THE LUNAR LAWN

Join us this summer for an exciting variety of performing arts programming! Hillwood audiences can enjoy historically informed performances by the New York Baroque Dance Company and Opera Lafayette, celebrating Marquis de Lafayette's 1824-1825 tour of America as the "Guest of the Nation." The Dance Institute of Washington will showcase their pre-professional dancers in a performance in August. And finally, September will bring the fifth year of Jazz in the Gardens. [In this article by Katie McCarthy, head of adult audiences, learn more about upcoming music performances and how you can experience these programs all in the beauty of Hillwood's gardens!](#)

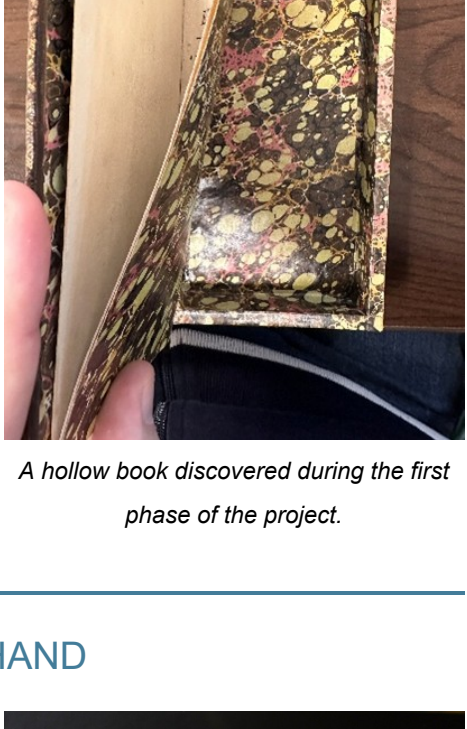


*Music on the Lunar Lawn performance from May 2024, featuring the Hot Club of Baltimore.*

### ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: MANSION LIBRARY UPDATES

In January 2025, the archives and special collections team reached a major milestone in their ongoing effort to map the exact locations of every book in the mansion. Previously, staff could only determine which library a book belonged to—but now, thanks to this project, they can identify the specific shelf where each volume resides.

Curious about what they've discovered so far? Follow along with the team on this fascinating journey as they continue to refine the mansion's bibliographic map and uncover hidden gems along the way. [Read the latest project update from Jason Speck, head of archives and special collections.](#)



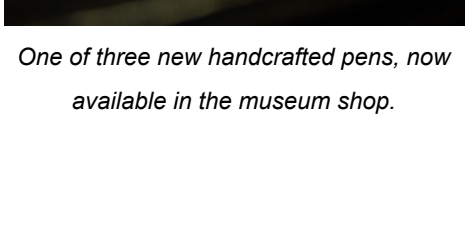
*A hollow book discovered during the first phase of the project.*

### MUSEUM SHOP: WRITE WITH HISTORY IN YOUR HAND

Elevate everyday writing with three new handcrafted pens that blends artistry, function, and Hillwood's legacy. Created by [Roots & Jones](#) using wood from a fallen Hillwood elm tree, each pen is one of a kind—carefully shaped, polished, and finished to feel luxurious in your hand.

Whether you're signing a note or journaling your thoughts, these pens glide effortlessly across the page, offering a smooth, elegant writing experience. It's a meaningful keepsake, a distinctive desk accessory, and a perfect gift for someone who appreciates craftsmanship and story.

Stop by the museum shop to pick one up and carry a piece of Hillwood with you—wherever your words take you.



*One of three new handcrafted pens, now available in the museum shop.*

### STAFFING UPDATES

We are excited to congratulate Diana Brazil on her recent promotion and to welcome two new staff members to the horticulture team! Read on to learn more about staffing updates at Hillwood.

#### Collections and Curatorial

##### Diana Brazil, Exhibitions and Collections Project Manager

The collections and curatorial department is excited to share that Diana Brazil has been promoted to the role of exhibitions and collections project manager. Diana has been a fantastic administrator, successfully coordinating projects across campus. We're excited to see her continue to grow in her career!



*Diana Brazil, exhibitions and collections project manager*

#### Horticulture

##### Cicily Arnsworth, Garden Section Manager and Coordinator

Cicily Arnsworth started at Hillwood on May 12 as the team's garden section manager and coordinator. This is a new position for the department where Cicily works with all the garden section managers to organize garden tasks and projects while leading the garden support volunteers. She also manages an area of the grounds that includes the Collections and Resource Center native garden. Cicily moved to DC from Utah where she spent the last five years working at Thanksgiving Point, a large complex with a variety of attractions including fifty-five acres of gardens. As horticulture manager, she led her team in caretaking the grounds of the upper campus and managed the butterfly biosphere. She also established and managed a hydroponic farm there. Before her time at Thanksgiving Point, Cicily designed and maintained residential landscapes in the Salt Lake City area. She also managed a community garden. Cicily has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and Sustainability from the University of Utah.



*Cicily Arnsworth, garden section manager and coordinator*

##### Jack Ruff, Gardener

Jack Ruff joined the horticulture department as a gardener on May 5. Jack found his passion for gardening working at Heartmoor Farm Education Centre in Kents Store, Virginia. While there, he gained valuable experience maintaining the gardens on the property by raising plants from seed to augment the beds and caring for the diverse plantings using sustainable horticultural practices. Jack has a Bachelor of Science in Architecture with a minor in Global Sustainability from the University of Virginia.



*Jack Ruff, gardener*

### LAST MONTH OF GARDEN TOURS FOR SPRING SEASON

As summer quickly approaches and temperatures begin to climb, June will be our last month of garden tours until they restart in the fall, running from September 2-November 16. We greatly appreciate our garden docents for their support and commitment to highlighting the beauty and history of Hillwood's gardens throughout our busy spring season!

### UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

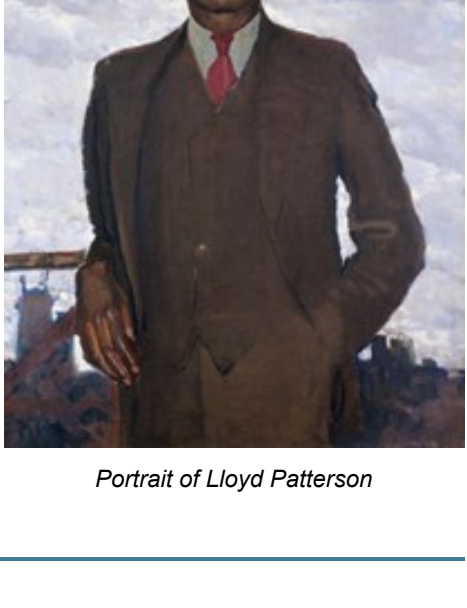
#### Volunteer Japanese-Style Garden Tour July 22-25 (Tuesday-Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

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

- [July 22 Japanese-Style Garden Tour](#)
- [July 23 Japanese-Style Garden Tour](#)
- [July 24 Japanese-Style Garden Tour](#)
- [July 25 Japanese-Style Garden Tour](#)

### REMEMBERING JAMES LLOYDOVICH PATTERSON

We are deeply saddened to hear of the recent passing of James Lloydovich Patterson (1933-2025), a Russian-American writer, naval officer, and child actor best known for his performance in the 1936 Soviet film *Circus*. We were grateful to host Patterson at Hillwood in 2022 for [a program](#) about the portrait of his father, Lloyd Walton Patterson (1910-1942), which remains [on display in the mansion pavilion](#).



*Portrait of Lloyd Patterson*

### STAFF HELP AND 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](mailto:volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org).

-The Volunteer Support Team  
Erin Allen, Matt Boyle, and Lisa Leyh

#### Explore Hillwood Online

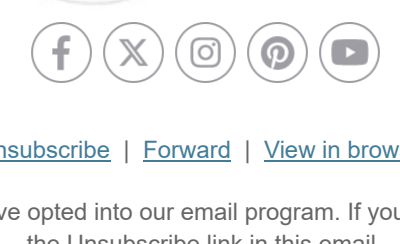
Stay connected with Hillwood anytime through our website! Discover treasures in the collection database, see what's blooming in the gardens, and sign up for upcoming programs. Planning a visit? Head to our [Plan Your Visit](#) page for the latest offerings and to book your next visit.

[Explore >](#)

#### Visit the Volunteer Website

Stay informed and inspired by visiting Hillwood's volunteer website. Revisit past newsletters and updates, watch recordings of volunteer programs, and review the latest guidelines. Dive deeper into your Hillwood journey with a wide array of educational resources designed just for volunteers.

[Learn >](#)



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