

Hillwood Volunteer Program

OCTOBER 2025 SCHEDULE

The October 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 or 202.686.8528. Thank you.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

WE'D LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK – 2025 VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Thank you for your incredible support throughout 2025. As we transition into a vibrant and bustling fall season, we want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for the energy, time, and passion you bring to your volunteer service. Your contributions not only delight our visitors but also play a vital role in advancing Hillwood's mission.

This is also a great opportunity for us to check in and hear from you directly. Last year, we launched an annual volunteer survey to better learn how we can support you and enhance your overall volunteer experience. This year, we're especially interested in your thoughts on how Hillwood's communication channels are working for you.

[Click here to complete the 2025 volunteer survey.](#)

The survey is confidential and will remain open until October 6. We encourage you to share your honest feedback—your insights are instrumental in helping us build a more engaging, inclusive, and fulfilling volunteer program.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. Together, we can continue to make Hillwood a place where both visitors and volunteers thrive.



Japanese-style garden, photographed by Erik Kvalsvik.

PORTRAIT OF GRAND DUKE ALEXANDER (FUTURE EMPEROR ALEXANDER II) AT AGE 2

The exhibition *From Exile to Avant-Garde: The Life of Princess Natalie Paley* presents several works of art which were part of Hillwood's 2022 acquisition of the Paley/Romanoff collection. The intriguing portrait of the young Grand Duke Alexander by George Dawe was among the treasures that came with it.

[Click here to learn more about this exceptional artwork in this article](#) by Wilfried Zeisler, deputy director and chief curator.



Portrait of Grand Duke Alexander at age 2, George Dawe (British, 1781–1829), Saint Petersburg, 1820, oil on canvas, Museum purchase, 2022 (2022.2.2)

HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM RECAP

This summer, Hillwood hosted three high school students as part of the Bloomberg Arts Internship program. Interns had the opportunity to explore the work of a variety of departments across campus and gain hands-on experience in the museum field.

[Click here to take a deeper dive into all that the interns accomplished throughout the summer in this article](#) by Connor Beaty, people and culture coordinator.



Summer interns in the Icon Room after completing their five-minute object lessons for visitors and staff in the mansion.

VISITOR SURVEY COMMENTS

Each month, Hillwood sends out a visitor survey to better understand how we can best serve our guests. Time and time again, visitors highlight the amazing contributions of our volunteers. Whether it be in the visitor center, the mansion, the gardens, or beyond, volunteers are vital to creating a positive visitor experience for everyone who comes through Hillwood's gates. Read on to hear some of the wonderful feedback volunteers received in July's visitor survey.

Many visitors mentioned the joy that docent-led tours brought to their visit. One guest shared, *"I love the docents, and I really enjoy how they all focus on different facets of the house/items in the house, the history of the items, and Marjorie Post's own life. I can come every month with different friends, and the tours never get stale or boring."*

The welcoming atmosphere that VSVs foster was highlighted as well, with one comment appreciating the important roving work that volunteers do in the mansion, *"Although I did not take a guided tour, I appreciated that there were individuals within the house who could answer questions that I had about certain artifacts and rooms."*

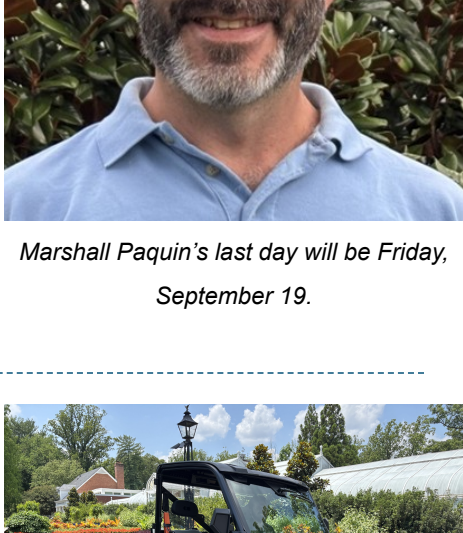
As always, the gardens were a major highlight in the survey, which we owe to the wonderful work of all our horticulture volunteers and staff. *"The gardens and landscaping were magnificent!"*

Thank you to all our volunteers for the wonderful work you do! Your impact is felt by every visitor who comes to Hillwood, and we greatly appreciate your continued dedication and support.

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

A Fond Farewell to Marshall Paquin

It is bittersweet to announce that Marshall Paquin, senior garden section manager, has accepted a new opportunity with Loudoun County Parks, Recreation & Community Services and will be leaving Hillwood. Marshall dedicated the last nineteen years to the care of the gardens while mentoring and supporting the horticulture staff. During his time here, Marshall set the example for focusing on individual plant health care as the key to successful gardening and for his willingness to lend a hand on any project. We cannot thank Marshall enough and we wish him the best on his new adventure. His last day will be Friday, September 19.



Marshall Paquin's last day will be Friday, September 19.

Equipment Upgrade

The horticulture department received an equipment upgrade this summer. Visitors will now see a Polaris Pro XD Kinetic UTV aiding the staff in the maintenance of the gardens. It is electric, getting 45 miles to the charge, and can tow 2,500 lbs, which is important for bringing compost up from the access road. The new vehicle will help to replace the dwindling fleet of 20+ year old diesel tractors that have seen a lot of hard use over their lifespan.



Check out the horticulture department's new UTV!

ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING INFORMATION

Hillwood is pleased to provide two electric vehicle charging stations for visitors, volunteers, and staff. For more information on how to access EV charging at Hillwood, please see the [EV Charging Stations Information](#) document and the [EV ChargePoint Instructions](#).



Holly Scanlon, volunteer programs coordinator, shows off the EV chargers in front of the visitor center.

MANSION UPDATES

There have been a number of temporary changes in the mansion this month as the Collections and Curatorial team prepare for conservation work and next year's special exhibition. Read on to see what's new.

Paintings Undergoing Conservation

On September 1, several paintings were removed from the entry hall and second floor hallway to undergo conservation. One painting was returned to view in the Adam bedroom suite following conservation work earlier this year. [Click here to see the paintings that have been removed or returned to the mansion.](#)

Objects Removed for 2026 Special Exhibition

Several objects have been removed from the mansion in preparation for next year's special exhibition *On Time: Giving Form to the Fleeting*, which will be on view in the dacha from February 14-June 14, 2026. These objects will return to the mansion after the exhibition closes in the summer of 2026. [Click here to view the list of objects that have been removed.](#)

Stickers in the Mansion

Have you ever seen a sticker, or label, on an object in the mansion and wondered why it was there? Wilfried Zeisler, deputy director and chief curator, shared that there are currently a number of objects on loan and in Hillwood's collection where labels are visible and can tell a lot about the objects themselves.

Labels, old or new, are very important parts of an object's history. They often bring significant information like the provenance, or previous ownership, of an artwork. On the image to the right, an auction sticker from the sale the piece came from can be seen on the interior of a salt dish in the Russian porcelain room. The curatorial team aims to keep labels intact, especially if they are not too visible and when the adhesive is not an issue for the piece or the material.



Dish (Salt) from the Peterhof Banquet Service Imperial Porcelain Factory, Russian, founded 1744, St. Petersburg, 1800s, Porcelain, gilt, IL2022.3.36

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

Volunteer Garden Tour and Plant ID Walk

September 16-19 (Tuesday-Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Join Kevin Beamer, section gardener, on a garden tour and plant ID walk as he highlights plants that beautify the early-fall garden. Tours will depart from the cold frames near the greenhouse. Group size limited to 15 volunteers per tour. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [September 16 Plant ID Walk](#)
- [September 17 Plant ID Walk](#)
- [September 18 Plant ID Walk](#)
- [September 19 Plant ID Walk](#)

Virtual Volunteer Lecture: Staff Dining Room Refresh

September 29 (Monday), 10 a.m.

Join us for a special virtual lecture on the refreshed staffing dining room. Led by Head of Archives and Special Collections Jason Speck with contributions from Deputy Director and Chief Curator Dr. Wilfried Zeisler and Director of Interpretation Audra Kelly, the program will introduce the room's new design and interpretation. The updated space offers a deeper look into the behind-the-scenes story of the staff who worked for Marjorie Post at her three homes.

A Zoom link will be emailed closer to the program date. The virtual lecture will be recorded, and the video will be shared via email and posted on the volunteer website.

Volunteer Tour: Specialty Chrysanthemums

October 23-31 (Tuesday-Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Join Jarett Currin, greenhouse grower, on a greenhouse tour and marvel at the fascinating diversity of chrysanthemums. Tours will depart from the horticulture breakroom at 10:15 a.m. Group size limited to 15 volunteers. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [October 28 Specialty Chrysanthemums Tour](#)
- [October 29 Specialty Chrysanthemums Tour](#)
- [October 30 Specialty Chrysanthemums Tour](#)
- [October 31 Specialty Chrysanthemums Tour](#)

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.

-The Volunteer Support Team

Erin Allen, Holly Scanlon, 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 >](#)



[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.