



Hillwood Volunteer Program

APRIL 2026 SCHEDULE

The April 2026 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](#)

ONCE UPON A TIME, 2026 VALENTINE'S EVENT

This year's *Once Upon a Time* was a night to remember, with record breaking sponsorship for the Valentine's event. [Click here](#) to view beautiful photographs of the evening and to learn more about the event's offerings and successes from Toresha King, special events manager. We hope you all have a chance to enjoy Hillwood's special exhibition, *On Time: Giving Form to the Fleeting*, on view in the dacha until June 14.



Harpist Sarah Ramson. Photographed by Thom Goertel.

CELEBRATE ORCHID MONTH AT HILLWOOD

Marjorie Merriweather Post had a lifelong love affair with orchids, her favorite flower, investing significant resources into fueling this passion. Today, Hillwood's collection contains over 2,000 orchids of approximately 1,200 different species, hybrids, and clones.

Enjoy beautiful displays around the estate celebrating these plants, and join Andrew Bedenbaugh, orchid and tropical specialist, and Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, for several on-site and virtual public programs this month celebrating all things orchid! Check out the upcoming Orchid Month offerings below or visit [Hillwood's website](#) for more information.



Orchids blooming in the greenhouse.

Upcoming Orchid Month Programs

- **Gardener's Focus Tour | An Orchid-Filled Greenhouse:** Every Wednesday in March, 10:30-10:50 a.m. & 12:30-12:50 p.m.
- **Onsite Orchid Repotting Workshops:** Saturday, March 7 & Friday, March 20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. & 2-4 p.m. *(please note tickets are now sold out)*
- **Onsite Floral Design | Orchids: Post's Favorite Blooms:** Saturday, March 14, 10-11 a.m. & 1-2 p.m. *(please note tickets are now sold out)*

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES: ON TIME

Hillwood will be hosting a **lecture series** focused on *On Time: Giving Form to the Fleeting* throughout March. Click the links below to learn more about each public program and how to purchase tickets to attend. Help us spread the word and share these opportunities with others who may be interested in learning more about a variety of time-related topics connected to the exhibition.

- Wednesday, March 11 (5:30-7:30 p.m.) | **The Process of Time: A Conversation with Redeat Wondemu and Adrian Ferguson**
- Tuesday, March 24 (5:30-7:30 p.m.) | **The Development of Wristwatches in the 20th Century And How To Collect Them**
- Tuesday, March 31 (5:30-7:30 p.m.) | **Brittany Cox: An Antiquarian Horologist on Mechanism, Risk, & Wonder**

SPRING GARDEN TOURING SEASON BEGINS LATER THIS MONTH

We're excited to welcome back our garden docents for spring tours beginning at the end of March! The **2026 Spring Garden Touring season** will run from **Tuesday, March 31 through Sunday, June 14**. Garden tours will be offered at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

Hillwood will continue to offer a third garden tour on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in 2026 at 2:30 p.m. in April, and 1:30 p.m. in May and June, adjusted earlier to avoid the high temperatures that peak in the late afternoon during those months.



Spring blooms on the Lunar Lawn. Photo courtesy of Erik Kvalsvik.

VOLUNTEER LECTURE RECORDINGS NOW AVAILABLE

We've had a number of exciting volunteer education programs presented by our horticulture and curatorial staff so far this year. If you were unable to attend these lectures, please enjoy watching the recordings below. These videos and other volunteer education recordings can also be found on the [2026 Lecture Videos page](#) of the volunteer website.

Day of Horticulture

Enjoy four lectures by members of Hillwood's horticulture team from **Day of Horticulture**, an engaging program centered on the history and continued care of Hillwood's gardens.



Virtual Volunteer Lecture | *On Time: Giving Form to the Fleeting*

Dr. Wilfried Zeisler, deputy director and chief curator, presented an overview of Hillwood's special exhibition *On Time: Giving Form to the Fleeting*, which opened to the public in the dacha on Saturday, February 14. **The lecture** explored the exhibition's design and highlighted select objects on display.



Green Day of Horticulture

Hillwood's horticulture team delivered **four short lectures** exploring the history and evolution of ecological horticulture; best practices in weed and invasive species management; the intersection of historic and sustainable garden design; and the past, present, and future of composting at Hillwood.



As a reminder, volunteers can earn training hours by watching information education content on their own time. Please refer to page 15 of the [Volgistics User Guide](#) for information on how to post your training hours, or email us at volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org and we'll be happy to input your hours for you.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

Volunteer Tour: New Compost Site

March 17, 18, 19, 20 (Tuesday-Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Join Matt Boyle, cutting garden and volunteer manager, on a tour and discussion of the recently upgraded composting site. He and volunteers will walk down to the composting site via the southern access road to see and discuss the new drainage, aeration, and processing techniques of the garden and pre-consumer food waste from the Merriweather café. Attendees will learn how the new site will help Hillwood create a better soil building product for the gardens and be better stewards of the local watershed. Group size is limited to 15 volunteers per tour. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [March 17 Compost Tour](#)
- [March 18 Compost Tour](#)
- [March 19 Compost Tour](#)
- [March 20 Compost Tour](#)

Children-Friendly Interactions at Hillwood

March 30 (Monday), 10 a.m. and repeated April 13 (Monday), 1 p.m.

Inspired by insights from our recent volunteer survey, Hillwood is excited to introduce a new one-hour training session, *Children-Friendly Interactions at Hillwood*, for volunteers. This session will be held in the visitor center theater on Monday, March 30 at 10 a.m., with a repeat offering on Monday, April 13 at 1 p.m.

As we continue to welcome a growing number of families and youth visitors—including children visiting with parents, schools, and community groups—this training is designed to help volunteers and staff feel more confident and prepared when engaging with our youngest guests. Led by Audra Kelly, director of interpretation, Rebecca Singer, head of youth audiences, the session will explore how children and families fit into Hillwood's visitation experience, share practical tips for creating a welcoming environment, and provide guidance on managing challenging situations when intervention may be needed. The wonderful work our volunteers do to support today's children plays an essential role in shaping tomorrow's museum visitors, donors, and patrons, helping to ensure Hillwood's vibrant future.

Light refreshments will be provided. The session will also be recorded and shared with volunteers via the volunteer website and email.

Volunteer Orchid Month Tour

March 31 & April 1, 2, 3 (Tuesday-Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Join Andrew Bedenbaugh, orchid and tropical specialist, for an entertaining and informative tour of Hillwood's orchid collection. Group size limited to 15 volunteers. Tour will depart from the horticulture breakroom. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [March 31 Volunteer Orchid Tour](#)
- [April 1 Volunteer Orchid Tour](#)
- [April 2 Volunteer Orchid Tour](#)
- [April 3 Volunteer Orchid Tour](#)

Volunteer Orchid Repotting Workshop

April 1 (Wednesday), 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

In this hands-on workshop, volunteers may bring up to 3 orchids from home and repot them under the guidance of Andrew Bedenbaugh, Hillwood's orchid and tropical specialist. Green plastic pots and fresh soil media will be provided, or you can bring decorative pots from home. Workshop will take place in the greenhouse potting room. Group size limited to 8 volunteers. Please use the link below to reserve a spot:

- [April 1 Orchid Repotting Workshop](#)

Mansion Docent Training Resources

Resources from the 2026 Mansion Docent Training Program are now available to all volunteers and staff as part of our continuing education offerings. These pre-recorded lectures and accompanying readings are excellent refreshers and also provide new insights into the collection and visitor engagement methods.

We encourage all volunteers to take advantage of this opportunity by exploring the lecture recordings and readings on the **2026 Mansion Docent Training** page of the volunteer website. The training is organized by topic, beginning with the first class in the training program. Simply click on a topic to expand the page and view the full list of pre-recorded lectures and related reading materials.



Pre-recorded lecture on Fabergé at Hillwood, as part of the 2026 Mansion Docent Training Resources available on the volunteer website.

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 >](#)

HILLWOOD

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