

## Looking Ahead

September and October will be busy months for the WVHS.

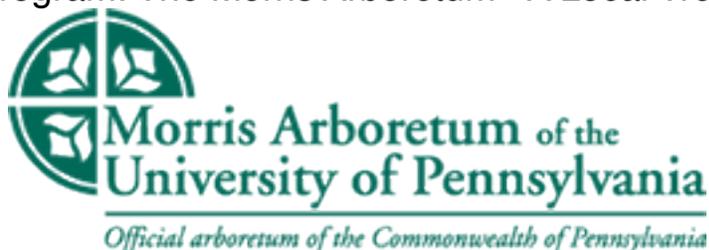


**Monday, September 10** - get together and set up for flea market - 6 p.m. at the Schoolhouse (We'll be putting up tables, etc. and organizing signs, etc.)

**Thursday, September 14** - fall cleaning of collection - 10 a.m. at the Schoolhouse (We'll be vacuuming, dusting, etc. the museum upstairs.)

**Saturday, September 22** - Montgomery Co. History Fair - Augustus Lutheran Church, 717 West Main Street Trappe

**Tuesday, September 25** - Joint Monthly Meeting of Wissahickon Valley Historical Society and the Historical Society of Whitpain - at the **Wissahickon Valley Public Library - Blue Bell at 7:15**  
Program: The Morris Arboretum - A Local Treasure



**Monday, October 8** - Monthly meeting - 7:30 p.m. - at Mitners - details in September newsletter

**Saturday, October 13** - Flea Market at the Schoolhouse - details in President's Letter

## From the President's Desk - by Russ Bellavance

2012-2013 year is about to get underway. We are still working on the program schedule. Look for it soon on our website - <http://www.wvalleyhs.org>. It will be another good year.

One extraordinary event will be the Montgomery County History Fair which will take place on Saturday, September 22 at the historic Augustus Lutheran Church, 717 West Main Street in Trappe. The Society will participate along with over 30 other historical societies from throughout Montgomery County. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend to a fun-filled event, and possibly help that friend become interested in becoming a member of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society.

Our participation on that day will center around education in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We could also use some help on that day - manning our table for at least a little while. We will have sign up sheets at the September meetings.

This year Market Day will be on Saturday, October 13. We will need items for our White Elephant tables. If you have some treasures you no longer need, you can bring them to the Schoolhouse on Thursday mornings from 10 to 12 or contact one of the officers to schedule a drop-off. We also need items for the Bake Sale table. We usually do quite well with your delicious baked goods - so keep them coming! That's usually the one time of the year that I bake, and, if I can successfully bake, anyone can! We will, of course, need volunteers on Market Day itself.

We also need docents for our monthly open houses - the third Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. It's fun and easy, and we normally have several visitors - even in bad weather. Please consider signing up for one of the Sundays this coming year.

I hope that the rest of this summer goes well for you and that I will see you soon.

## Arthur R. Driedger Commemorative Scholarship - 2012

Wissahickon High School graduate Daniel Center was presented with the Arthur R. Driedger Commemorative Scholarship at this year's graduation program. Long time Historical Society member, Arthur Driedger was a much loved and respected history teacher for many years at the Wissahickon High School.

This year's scholarship for \$1000 was awarded to Daniel Center who came through Shady Grove, Wissahickon Middle School, and Wissahickon High School. The past few summers, Dan worked at Valley Forge National Park as an interpreter, and this summer, he is an intern at Fort Ticonderoga in New York. At this year's art show, Dan shared dioramas of Revolutionary War battles he had designed and painted and several Revolutionary War uniforms he had designed and tailored.



## Taking Care of Our Treasures

The collections at the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society contain many documents, maps, art work, and other items on paper. Taking care of them is both interesting and challenging. There are many sources of information to help with this work.

Starting with this newsletter and continuing in subsequent issues we will share some of what we have learned.

The following reminders/suggestions come from an article in the bulletin for the 2012 Chester County Antiques Show. The complete article can be accessed through the website of the American Institute for Conservation of Art and Historic Works -

[www.conservation-us.org](http://www.conservation-us.org).

### **Proper Care and Handling of Items on Paper**

- Handle paper items as little and as gently as possible. Transport them in folders and remove individual items with both hands - which have been freshly washed.
- When working with documents, place them on a clean piece of paper on a flat table. For protection, items can be stored in polyester sleeves which can be obtained at local office supply stores.
- Do not try to repair items and never use self-adhering tapes. Avoid using paper clips, staples, or rubber bands. Store items in polyester sleeves and place in folders.

### **Limiting Light Exposure**

- Exposure to light can fade, yellow, darken, and weaken paper. Damage is cumulative and irreversible.
- Keep light levels low and eliminate daylight whenever possible. Block windows with shades, blinds, or curtains. UV rays are found in sunlight, fluorescent, and metal halogen lamps. Incandescent or tungsten lights are don't give off UV but do give off harmful heat. UV filters are available for fluorescent tubes, windows, and cases.

**Many thanks to the SpringHouse Questers for supporting our purchase of shades for the windows at the 1895 Schoolhouse. They will help us protect our collection.**

In future issues, learn about the affects of temperature and humidity and proper storage of collections.

## Ask Smithsonian -

The following question was answered in the July/August issue of Smithsonian Magazine: "My family is preparing a time capsule in which each of us will place a document. How can we ensure these documents will remain legible for 100 years?"

Suggestions from Donald Williams, Conservator, Museum Conservation Institute:

"Choose a stable paper - one made of 100 percent **unrecycled cotton or linen rag**.

Use a **laser printer**, or if you're writing, a **graphite pencil or an archival pen**. Store each document in a Mylar sleeve, flat, unfolded and protected from light. Finally, seal the whole package in a benign container with a silica gel pack (to absorb moisture) and an activated charcoal pack (to absorb pollutants).

## Market Day - 2012

On October 13, WVHS will hold its annual Market Day at the Schoolhouse. This is our major fund raiser of the year, and it is always a busy, fun day for all. If you are interested in renting a space, please contact Bob Notoris at 215-699-1288.

The Society sponsors the flea market and cafeteria. As you are cleaning and tidying your house and garage, please keep the flea market in mind. Items can be left at the Schoolhouse on Thursday mornings, or contact Josephine Sawicki (610-277-8968) to arrange a drop off time.

Baked goods are welcome for the cafeteria and bake sale table.

Volunteers are needed for the day of the sale and for set up on September 10 at 6 p.m. and on Thursdays at 10 a.m. in September.

## Fire Escape Being Scraped and Painted

Robert Battice, a rising senior at Methacton High School, is scraping and painting the fire escape at the 1895 Schoolhouse as his graduation project. Robert received advice about techniques and materials from Tim Deck at Deck's Hardware in Ambler. This project should prolong the life of the fire escape as well as complete the refurbishing the outside of the building.

## Gift Memberships Available

In September you will be receiving your membership renewal form as well as the program list for 2012-2013. Please consider giving a gift membership to a friend or neighbor for an additional \$10. New members are always welcome.



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