



# The Holden Leaf Press

Winter 2012



After much ado, Holden's VicNet Online Volunteer Portal will be launched this spring. Here's what you may want to know now.

*What is VicNet?* VicNet is part of Volgistics, a volunteer management software program. This module allows volunteers with a valid e-mail address to log-on to a web page where they may:

- Submit volunteer hours online
- Check their service history
- Sign-up for trainings, opportunities and events
- Update their contact information
- Receive messages from staff
- Access volunteer documents and training materials

*Why is Holden using VicNet?* VicNet will save paper and trees, help to decrease the number of hours that need to be entered manually each month, and provide volunteers and staff with helpful information they may access anytime from any internet-enabled computer.

*How do I log-on and when? How hard is it to use?* Beginning in late February, we will send active volunteers with a valid e-mail account information on how to log-in to VicNet and how to use the various features, as well as their temporary password. The system is pretty user-friendly and very similar to logging into your e-mail. Once this information is sent to you, we ask that you begin to use this system to submit your hours instead of using the paper forms or e-mail as we have been doing.

*What if I am not sure how it works or need some extra help?* The volunteer office will offer a Helpdesk where you can come in and receive a one-on-one training on how to use the new system and you can always contact the volunteer office at 440.602.8003 or e-mail [rott@holdenarb.org](mailto:rott@holdenarb.org).

*I don't have an e-mail address or a computer at home, do I still have to use VicNet? How?* We know that not everyone has access to, or is comfortable using, the internet. Volunteers will be able to use the computer in the library to enter their hours if they have an e-mail but limited access to a computer or choose to continue using paper forms if they don't have either.

*New systems always take some time to get used to so I thank you in advance for your patience and willingness to give our new program a try!*

Yours,

*robin m. ott*

Robin Ott  
Volunteer Coordinator  
440.602.8003  
[rott@holdenarb.org](mailto:rott@holdenarb.org)

## Save the Date

**Gifts from the Heart of Nature**  
Saturday, Nov. 12 -Sunday, Dec. 30  
Volunteer Discount Day: Thursday, Dec. 1

**Cookies with Clem**  
Thursday, Dec. 1, 5:30-7:30pm

**Snowshoe Guide Training**  
Saturday, Jan. 7, 10am-12:30pm

**Holden Green Team Training**  
Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2pm or 6pm

**Potluck Brunch & Snowshoe Hike**  
Saturday, Feb. 25, 10:30am-2pm

**Lantern Ct. Garden Guide Training**  
Saturdays, March 3, April 14, May 12, June 20 and Sept. 20, 9-11am

**Lantern Ct. Private Event Support Kick-off Meeting**  
Saturdays, March 10, 9am-12pm

**Pancake Supper/Breakfast**  
Friday-Sunday, March 16-18

**Highlights VIP Guide Training**  
Saturdays, April 21 and May 12, 9am-4pm and June 2, 9am-1pm

**Arbor Day Celebration**  
Friday-Sunday, April 27-29

**Plant Sale**  
Friday-Sunday, May 18-20

**Bouquets Wine Tasting**  
Saturday, June 2

**Woodland 5K Race and Walk**  
Sunday, June 24

**Woodland Twilight**  
Saturday, July 7

**Annual Volunteer Recognition Program and Clambake**  
Saturday, Sept. 15, 5-9pm

## Clem's Corner

I hope you have had the chance this summer or fall to see our progress on the new Rhododendron Exploration Garden, the new 4.5 acre garden now under construction at the north end of the Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden. As you will read in the next issue of *Leaves*, the new garden is timed for opening in Spring 2013, but already the site preparation enables everyone to see its basic geometry of paths and topography. This will be a very significant new garden, in that its design is based on the key stories the garden will tell: the natural diversity of *Rhododendron*, the diversity of the heath family, how Northeast Ohio (including Holden) breeds and selects exemplary new cultivars, and how to use rhodies and azaleas successfully in home gardens. Hopefully, I'll see many of you at our volunteer holiday reception, *Cookies with Clem*, on Dec. 1 (see pg. 4) where I'll share a little more about this and other coming attractions.

As the arboretum winds down into another winter, thank you all for a terrific year at Holden, capped by a wonderfully successful "Goblins in the Garden" weekend. With the gnomes just a memory (and no more excuse for gnome puns, like "phe-gnome-enal"), now we can get geared up for next year's exhibit "Vanishing Acts," concerning the conservation of trees and forests.



Clement W. Hamilton, PhD,  
President and CEO

## Holden Happenings



**Almost 88,000 People Visited This Summer**  
Attendance for FY2011 was 87,946, our highest since 2008. Thanks for all your hard work helping us

maintain the gardens, paths, natural areas and deliver interesting educational and entertaining programs. There is no way Holden could reach so many people and deliver such high quality experiences without the dedication of our volunteers and we really appreciate your contribution.

### Bluebird Season Ends on a High Note

Despite the cold and very wet weather this year, our bluebirds had a pretty good season. The final fledgling count is 305, which ranks as 11th in the 47-year history of the program. Compared to 2010, our fledgling count is down by about 100, but overall nest

success is up slightly. Bluebird nesting was delayed by about a week due to cold, wet weather. This late start meant that we had fewer bluebird nests in April, more in May, and fewer in June and July than what we normally see.

The tree swallows were a real shock. We saw a lot of nestling mortality in June and July due to weather, so staff expected our final numbers to be low this year. Surprisingly, our final fledgling count was 300, which makes 2011 the third best year on record! Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped build and install the new nest boxes, monitor the trails, and enter data.

### Record Attendance at Goblins in the Garden

Beautiful weather contributed to the record attendance on Oct. 8 and 9 as we hosted the eighth Goblins in the Garden event. This event, started in 2004 with nearly 500 attendees, has steadily grown. We enjoyed record attendance last year with just over 5,000 guests. Who would have guessed that we'd host over 7,800 guests for this year? Check out photos online. Look for the 'photo gallery' button on the upper right of the Holden homepage.

Thank you to all volunteers who helped with the various activities, whether in preparation for or during the event!



### Tasting Series at Lantern Court

Sat. Nov. 19 - Dessert Wines

Sat. Dec. 3 - Holiday Cordials

\$20-members/\$25-nonmember

Bring your friends out to toast the season! These events, presented by Heidelberg Distributors along with complementing appetizers by local caterers, will take place from 7-9pm. Prior to tasting, enjoy an informal house tour. Deadline for reservations is one week prior to the event. Seating is limited so don't wait. Must be 21 or older to attend. Online reservations at [holdenarb.org](http://holdenarb.org) or call 440.946.4400 ext. 224.

### Gifts from the Heart of Nature Show & Sale

Friday, Nov. 11, 3pm-8pm - Preview Party

Nov. 12-Dec. 30 - Show

The beauty of Northeast Ohio provides the inspiration for handcrafted gifts, available during the Gifts from the Heart of Nature event. Celebrate nature's splendor and the gift of each artisan's creativity during the opening evening or come in and browse throughout the show for original gifts. Gifts from the Heart of Nature promotes regional artists with nature inspired works, and crafts made from environmentally responsible materials. The show will be closed Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

## Welcome New Staff:

### Luke Williamson

New education intern Luke Williamson hails from the Twin Cities. He recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a degree in environmental education/interpretation. Luke comes to Holden with experience as an educator for the past few summers in Alaska and Nevada. He keeps himself busy by biking, canoeing, camping, cross-country skiing, drawing, and eating baked goods. Welcome Luke!



may sign up for events of their choice.

## Lantern Court Garden Guides

2012 training dates: Saturdays, March 3, April 14, May 12, June 20 and Sept. 29

9-11am, Lantern Court

Experienced gardeners who enjoy sharing their knowledge with others are invited to become Lantern Court Garden Guides. These volunteers lead one-hour garden and grounds tours of the Lantern Court estate. Volunteer benefits include continuing education and the opportunity to connect with people who share a love of gardening and nature. Teaching experience is not required. Training will be provided by Holden staff horticulturists and veteran guides.

## Volunteer Opportunities & Trainings

To sign-up or for more info about any of the following opportunities and trainings: contact the volunteer office at 440.602.8003 or e-mail [rott@holdenarb.org](mailto:rott@holdenarb.org).

### Writers Wanted for *Leaves* Magazine

Volunteers with a talent for the written word are wanted to write articles for Holden's *Leaves* magazine. Volunteer writers may submit their own story ideas or be given assignments from the editor. Length of articles will vary from 600-1500 words, depending on type of story and writer's area of interest. *Interested volunteers should submit a writing sample to Cait Anastis, editor, at [editor@holdenarb.org](mailto:editor@holdenarb.org).*

### Snowshoe Guides

Saturday, Jan. 7, 10am-12:30pm  
Warren H. Corning Visitor Center  
Join instructor Luke Williamson to learn the basics of leading a snowshoe tour for visitors. Learn about snowshoes and what to talk about while leading a short winter ecology hike. Open to new guides and as a refresher for veteran snowshoe guides.



### Holden Green Team

2012 Kick-off/Training: Wed., Jan 11, 2pm or 6pm, Corning Visitor Center.

If you enjoy sharing how much you love Holden, we need you! Development and guest relations staff are looking for more volunteers to join the Holden "Green Team" that we started last year. Green Team members staff info booths at community and Holden events to recruit members and distribute marketing materials. They may also assist the guest relations staff by delivering/posting flyers and brochures to community sites. Attendance at one of the one-hour kick-off/training sessions is required, after which volunteers

### Bluebird Program

Kick-off: March 3, 9:30am-noon

Hear about last year's great bluebird numbers, and predictions for 2012, review policies and get a trail assignment! Current bluebirders watch your e-mail or regular mail for an invite and RSVP form. New volunteers who are interested in becoming a bluebird monitor or helping out the program in other ways, should contact Mike Watson, conservation biologist at 440.946.4400, ext. 132, or [mwatson@holdenarb.org](mailto:mwatson@holdenarb.org).



### Trail Monitors

Kick-off Meeting/Training: April, Date TBD

Trail monitors assist the Holden Police by patrolling the gardens in two-hour shifts on weekends from May through September to help visitors with directions or answer questions they might have about the property. Another group of monitors walks the longer trails twice a month to help with removal of tree branches that have fallen across the trail or report items that will require more extensive work by Holden staff. Get great exercise and volunteer when most convenient for you! *If you are a current trail monitor and plan to return or are interested in signing-up to do so this year, please contact Chief Frank at 440.602.3846 or by e-mail at [dfrank@holdenarb.org](mailto:dfrank@holdenarb.org).*

### Lantern Court Private Event Support

Season Kick-off Meeting: Saturday, March 10, 9am-noon, Lantern Court

Private event volunteers lend a hand to staff, answer guest questions and keep an eye on the estate when private events, such as weddings, are held at Lantern Court. This is a fun position for volunteers that are available on nights and weekends who enjoy working with people and are interested in local history.

New and returning volunteers interested in helping this

year are required to attend the kick-off meeting where staff will review the house history, highlights, volunteer policies and plans for the 2012 season.

### Tree Tale Tellers

Love books, goofy songs and interacting with young children? Join the Tree Tale Teller team! Tree Tale Tellers present tree-themed story times and information about Holden's Arbor Day Celebration at area libraries during the months of March and April. Story hours last about 30 minutes and are offered in Geauga, Lake and Cuyahoga counties. Weekday availability and reliable transportation required. A spring training and kick-off meeting will be scheduled for late February or early March.

**Sign-up for Spring Events Beginning Feb. 1.** Beginning Feb. 1, contact the volunteer office to sign-up for any of the following events:



### *Pancake Supper/Breakfasts ~ March 16-18*

Volunteers needed to check-in guests, serve food, pour coffee or help bus tables, answer phones and more.

### *Arbor Day Celebration ~ April 27-29*

Volunteers may assist with family activities, pass out tree seedlings, shuttle guests, help park cars and more.

### *Plant Sale ~ May 18-20*

Assist vendors/staff, park cars, bring plants from vendors to holding tent, sell raffle tickets, answer phones and more.

**The Holden Arboretum  
Volunteer Office  
9500 Sperry Rd.  
Kirtland, OH 44094**

## **You're Invited:**

*Please RSVP for the volunteer events below by calling the volunteer office at 440.602.8003 or e-mail [rott@holdenarb.org](mailto:rott@holdenarb.org).*

### **Cookies with Clem**

Thursday, Dec. 1, 5:30-7:30pm

Corning Visitor Center

*Please RSVP by Monday, Nov. 28*

Bring a friend and join us for a festive evening for Holden volunteers with Clem Hamilton, Holden's president and CEO. Enjoy holiday goodies, mingle with friends, hear about upcoming New Leaf projects and ask questions or share your thoughts on these and other Holden happenings. Before or after, stop by and shop at Gifts from the Heart of Nature sale Volunteer Discount Day! Discount Day Coupon will be sent with Cookies with Clem invite.

### **Potluck Brunch and Snowshoe Hike**

Sat., Feb. 25

10:30-12:30am - Brunch at Lantern Court

12:30pm-2pm - Hike at Corning Visitor Center

*Please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 20*

Bring a friend, a favorite dish or bakery and join us for a casual gathering at Lantern Court with other nature-lovers. Beverages and paper products will be provided by Holden. Afterward, head over or meet at the Corning Visitor Center for a guided snowshoe hike (weather permitting). Bring your own snowshoes or use ours. No experience necessary; demonstration will be given.