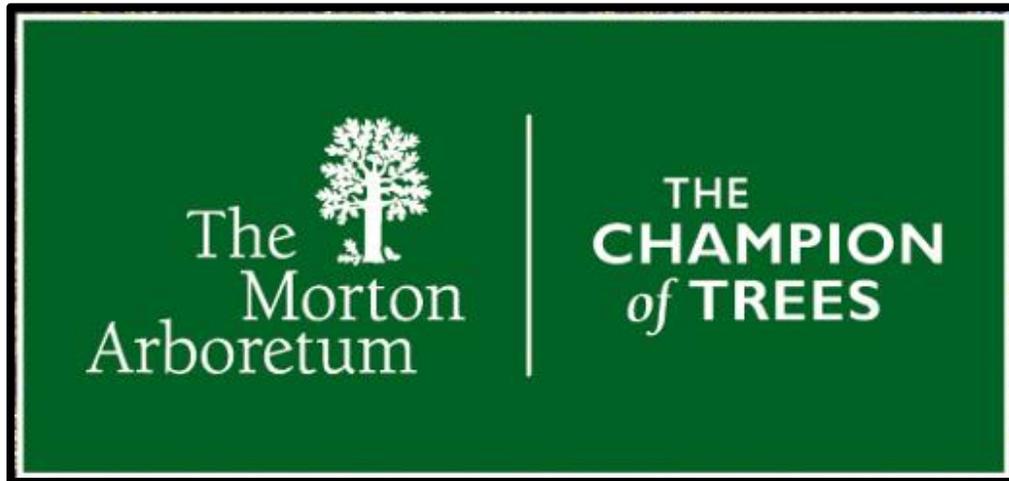


Habitat Hike



HOW TO USE THIS BACKPACK:

This packet serves as a guide, taking you to 13 different trail markers as shown on the included map. At each trail marker there is a lesson, activity, and/or discussion which are outlined on these pages.

For a brief lesson at each station, use the “Quick Overview” box on each page or refer to the “In-Depth Outline” for deeper understanding. Vocabulary words are in **bold** and accompanied by a definition.

Use the tools in this backpack (as outlined in the following pages) to help students learn about habitats and ecosystems by following the directions and aligning them with the lessons at the appropriate trail markers. Students are welcomed and encouraged to take photos for a “Photo Journal,” or bring a notebook to journal about their experiences at each station.

When you're finished with the self-guided hike, be sure to return all the materials to the backpack in an organized fashion.

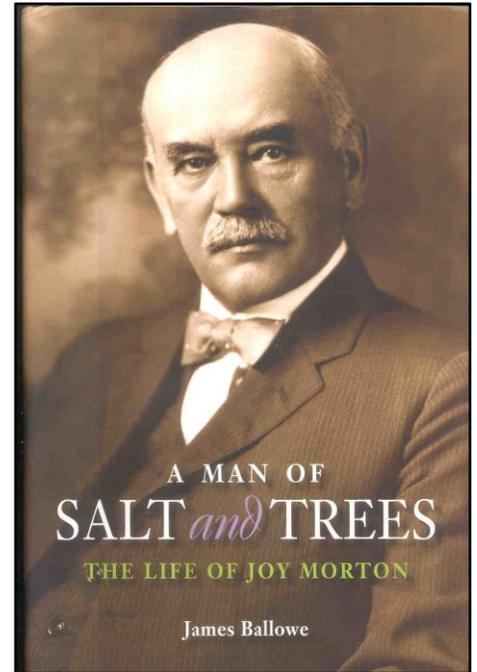
In case of emergency, please call the Ranger On-Duty at (630) 878-1566

History

The Morton Arboretum

Joy Morton, founder and president of the Morton Salt Company, founded The Morton Arboretum in 1922. In 1910, he built a house (presently the site of the Thornhill Education Center) which became his residence at "Thornhill Farm." He chose this site because it overlooked the East Branch of the DuPage River Valley and had many hawthorn trees that he enjoyed watching change with the seasons.

Since 1910, changes have been made to the residence, but the beautiful sloping landscape and some of the original hawthorns still remain. The present Thornhill Education Center was built in 1942, in place of the Morton home. Remaining from the original house is the library, now known as the Founder's Room. It is in this room that Mr. Morton kept his botanical book collection. The Founder's Room is now used for displaying photographs, articles, and papers relevant to the history of the Morton family.



Thornhill Trail to Sunfish Pond

The Thornhill Trail leads from the Thornhill Education Center, down through a critical part of the East Branch of the Du Page Riverbed. Sunfish Pond is an original water feature of the Arboretum and, prior to the channeling of the river, it was an oxbow pond of this section of the river. The entire hike is exactly one mile and takes about 90 minutes to complete, including time for the planned activities.

Where to Start

This self-guided walk starts just across the road from the Education Support Building, towards the Thornhill Trail. The map for the self-guided walking path can be found included in this backpack.

The goals of this program are to immerse students in different Illinois ecosystems in order to understand the factors of a healthy habitat and the players (energy, plants, animals) involved.

The Next Generation Science Standards aligned to this backpack are:

- 2-LS2-2: Animals assist with pollination and seed dispersal
- 2-LS4-1: Diversity of life in different habitats
- 3-LS4-4: When the environment changes, plants and animals change
- 3-LS4-3: Organisms in a habitat can survive, others cannot
- 5-LS2-1: Energy flow—food webs

****Brown signposts with the white nest decals are located at each numbered station. A number on the post corresponds to the activity/discussion page described in this Habitat Hike Backpack Program booklet.**



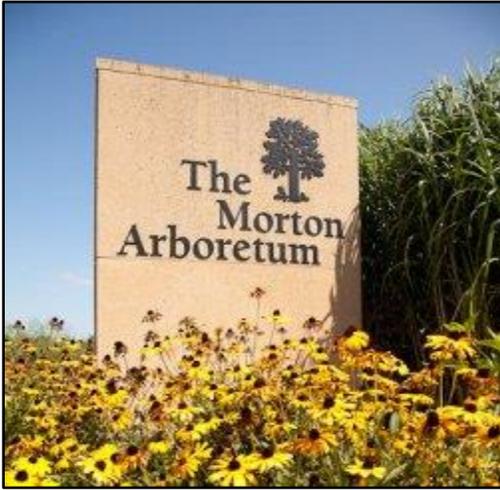
Backpack Materials

- Habitat Hike Map of the Self-Guided trail (5)
- Photosynthesis diagram
- Magnifiers (20)
- Laminated leaves (6)
 - Red oak, white oak, sugar maple, catalpa, bur oak, black walnut
- “Know Your Oaks” activity
 - 1 teacher sheet
 - 4 student copies
- “Energy Transfer” activity
 - 1 teacher sheet
 - 23 student cards
- First Aid Kit (1)
- Seed Pack (8)
 - Walnut, white oak acorn, red oak acorn, bur oak acorn, pin oak acorn, catalpa seed pod, maple seed, larch cone
- “Where Do I Live?” activity
 - Direction card
 - 5 habitat Cards
 - 24 animal cards
- Photograph of Yellow-bellied sap sucker (1)
- “Identifying Prairie Plants” handout (20)
- Hike & Hunt sheets (20)
- Decomposer Dichotomous Key (20)

Mission of The Morton Arboretum

The Morton Arboretum was formally established on December 14, 1922 by Mr. Joy Morton (1855-1934), owner of the Morton Salt Company. Its mission is to *collect and study trees, shrubs and other plants from around the world, to display them across naturally beautiful landscapes, and to learn how to grow them in ways that enhance our environment. Our goal is to encourage the planting and conservation of trees and other plants for a greener, healthier, and more beautiful world.*





Plants from Around the World

The plants of the Arboretum come from countries all around the world. Once planted here in the Collections, the plants can be evaluated for their ability to survive the challenging climate of northern Illinois (zone 5) and ultimately for their use in landscapes. Each accessioned plant in the Collections has a label bearing its name, location, and date of inclusion into the Collection.

The plants of the Arboretum are maintained and cared for by a staff of horticulturists. Daily maintenance is necessary to keep the collections healthy and in good condition. In order for us to keep our collections intact and their users happy, we ask that all of our visitors follow a few simple rules:

1. Please **only pick up leaves, cones, or fruits that are on the ground**, not from plants themselves.
 - Pulling items off a tree or shrub can injure the plant, making it more prone to insect and disease problems.
2. Please **respect the wildlife that you encounter** at the Arboretum.
 - Remember that the Arboretum habitats are an insect's or animal's home.
 - Release all insects after you catch, study, and share them with your group.
3. Please **take care of and keep track of the materials that the Arboretum provides** for your use.
 - Return all materials to their proper bags and leave your backpack at the backpack rack at the Thornhill Shelter when your tour is complete.
4. Please **have fun and enjoy being outdoors** at The Morton Arboretum.
 - Study, explore, respect, and enjoy your surroundings
 - Use your senses while on your tour (look, listen, smell, touch and ask questions)
 - Refrain from tree climbing, ball playing, Frisbee, kite flying, rollerblading, riding scooters, and skateboarding
5. Please **be prepared for the outdoors** at the Morton Arboretum.
 - If it is raining or has recently rained, wear water-repellent shoes or boots with a rain jacket.
 - If it is cold, layer your clothing.
 - If it is sunny, wear a hat and sunscreen.
 - Wear long sleeves, pants, and closed toes shoes for protection from mosquitoes, poison ivy, and ticks.
 - Apply insect repellent to clothing.