Looking to the Future

How do you imagine the future of the Arboretum? The University of Idaho, with financial support from Arboretum Associates, recently explored that question. What started out as a quest to define an entrance at the north end of the Arboretum became an exercise to envision how that entire section of campus could be defined and developed.

Moscow native Bob Zimmer and Harry Ray of zimmerray studios of Seattle, Washington, provided guidance and structure in the form of a customized process aimed at answering that question. Ray Pankopf, Director of Architectural & Engineering Services, coordinated the project for the University.

Bob and Harry made an initial presentation showing many development concepts and ideas from around the world. They challenged the stakeholders to think bigger, broader, with a longer-term viewpoint beyond just the north entry. An interesting example shared was the University of Washington’s vista to Mount Rainier; that vista proved to be a strong ‘anchor,’ guiding development of the campus for well over 100 years. With that as a backdrop, the team conducted personal interviews with the...
many stakeholders. The interviews were intended to gather individual input regarding the project, including major accomplishments, ideas, and concerns. Issues voiced ranged from environmental questions to the place the Arboretum plays in recruiting students.

A second session with all the interested parties was held to share the issues identified in the interviews. Bob and Harry grouped findings into major themes, including function, connection, identity, education, and vision.

The connection theme included the ideas of strengthening the connections between the old and new areas of the Arboretum, and also in making a connection to the Administration Lawn. In the final review, a connection from the Arboretum to the academic mall also emerged. This desire to connect the new Arboretum to the original Shattuck Arboretum has been strong since the original master plan was commissioned by the University of Idaho Foundation in 1980.

Through further discussion, the group looked at spaces not historically considered part of the Arboretum, and considered how providing better connections between those areas could strengthen the impact of the Arboretum to the entire campus.

“I think one of the most important outcomes of this project was to help us envision how creating stronger connections to this area of campus can anchor and influence the future development of campus,” said Brian Johnson, Assistant Vice President, Facilities. “This 100-year viewpoint better links the Arboretum to the original Olmsted-designed core of campus and the more modern academic mall.”

We would like to thank President Staben and Dr. Mary Beth Staben for taking a leadership role in working on this project. Their positive contributions led to an open and enthusiastic discussion.

What began as a desire to identify the next phase in the Arboretum development has helped to focus on some longer-term views. So perhaps instead of only looking at North and South entrances, we should be looking at the merging and expansion of the Arboretum to create multiple entrance experiences for both people traveling on Nez Perce and pedestrians visiting the Arboretum. The final project will be developed over the coming months. These relatively small steps now will help us provide a clear framework of connections that can be incrementally enhanced for generations to come. This exciting first step of a 100-year development approach will strengthen the awareness of the significance of the Arboretum as an asset to the University of Idaho and the community of Moscow.

— Joy Fisher
KEY PARTICIPANTS
Chuck Staben, University of Idaho President
Mary Beth Staben
Kathy Aiken, Provost and Executive Vice President
Ron Smith, Vice President of Finance and Administration
Brian Johnson, Assistant Vice President, Facilities
Ray Pankopf, Director of Architectural & Engineering Services
Charles Zillinger, Director of Landscape and Exterior Services
Paul Warnick, Arboretum Horticulturist
Don Burnett, Former University of Idaho President
Richard Naskali, Arboretum Director Emeritus
Tyrone Brooks, Assistant Vice President, Auxiliary Services

ARBORETUM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Mark Hoversten, Dean College of Art & Architecture
Gary Austin, Professor Landscape Architecture
George Newcombe, Professor, College of Natural Resources
Bob Tripepi, Chair, Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences

ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES
Jan Leander, President
Maureen Taylor-Regan, Vice President
Joy Fisher, Treasurer

Bob Zimmer presents smart design concepts. Bill Bowler photo
The University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden was abuzz this summer with curious children from around the Palouse. This was the inaugural season of Science Saturdays in the Arboretum, a series sponsored by the Arboretum Associates, designed to engage school-aged children in nature-based programs planned and delivered entirely by local scientists, educators, and other natural resource professionals.

The first program was held on June 23 and featured the Washington State University Raptor Club, a non-profit volunteer organization motivated to educate the public about the conservation of raptors. Through an interactive presentation with a great horned owl, a red-tailed hawk, and a barn owl, participants learned interesting facts about different species and how to help conserve and protect wild raptors. Children made decals to place in a window at home to help prevent bird collisions and also had the opportunity to have their picture taken with a raptor.

The second session on July 26 was led by University of Idaho Fish and Wildlife Sciences Professors Janet Rachlow and Frank Wilhelm and their team of enthusiastic undergraduate interns from across the country. The interns spent the summer at the University of Idaho as part of the Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program. Participants explored the diversity of plants and animals and learned about some of the effects of invasive species. At five interactive demonstration stations, children examined museum and live specimens of native and exotic species found around our region.

The final program of the season was held on August 23 and led by Will Boyd, President of the Homeschool Institute of Science, and local artists Tyler and Meghan Antkoviak. They helped participants develop their skills of observation as they made sketches of nature. Supplied with a drawing pad and pencil, each child learned techniques for capturing the details of a black-eyed Susan flower, an elderberry bush, and a landscape on paper.

All three programs were very well-attended, and we are pleased to announce another season of Science Saturdays in the Arboretum for 2015. We are seeking groups or individuals who are interested in designing and delivering a one-hour program in their area of expertise geared toward school-aged children to be presented on one of the following Saturdays: June 20, July 18, and August 15. A $250 stipend and cost of materials up to $150 will be awarded to three successful applicants. This is an exciting
opportunity to engage the community in nature-based activities to explore and learn about the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Below is the process to submit a proposal.

Please submit completed proposals by March 15 to sciencesaturday@uidaho.edu. Successful applicants will be notified April 15 and may be subject to a background check.

We look forward to seeing you during the Science Saturdays in the Arboretum 2015 season!

Please provide details of the proposed program, addressing each of the following:

- Candidate information, including name, department/organization, email address, phone number, and area of expertise.
- What are the learning objectives of the program?
- What activities do you propose?
- How much time do you anticipate each activity will require?
- Where in the Arboretum will each activity take place?
- What materials are needed for each activity?
- How many people will be hosting the activity?
- Is there a maximum number of participants?
- Is there a specific age range for which the program is designed?

Please indicate your availability on June 20, July 18, and August 15, 2015.

— Amy Ross-Davis
Eugene Thompson - Early Day Arboretum Volunteer

Our beautiful University of Idaho Arboretum has its roots - literally - in the efforts of the people who volunteered their time and talents in the beginning. Attributes of a valuable volunteer include interest in the project, a certain level of expertise and talent, and some spare time. That’s an apt descript of Eugene (Gene) Thompson and his involvement in the early days of the Arboretum.

The original Shattuck Arboretum was established in the early 1900s, during the tenure of Idaho’s third president, James MacLean, and was created in large part due to the interest and dedication of College of Forestry Professor Charles Houston Shattuck. The site was a “weed-cluttered hillside” behind the president’s house, and in that space Shattuck planted more than 300 different varieties of trees, from all over the United States, creating the first university Arboretum west of the Mississippi River.

Some seventy years later, during his tenure as the twelfth UI president, Ernest Hartung envisioned an expanded Arboretum and Botanical Garden, which would become the “front yard” of the president’s house (see Arbor Notes July 2014). The project began with the donation of the Flieger Farm acreage, including the old red barn. This land was adjacent to about twenty acres the university already owned just east of the golf course and together these two parcels made up the 63 acres that would become the “new” Arboretum. The description of the land was “an empty, weed filled field” - quite similar to the description of the original Shattuck site!

About 1980, Gene Thompson was discussing the UI project with his neighbor, Dean Vettrus, and offered his services to begin shaping the overgrown field into the “new” Arboretum. At the time, Gene was turning over the day-to-day management of his family farm east of Moscow to son Ted, and he had some free time to volunteer. He also had an available plow and a logging dozer which were put to good use in building a road down through the property. The road was a large commitment, and one that would have been very expensive to hire done. Dean recalls it took about two weeks to complete the road. The original vision was to allow access for all visitors to the Arboretum - whether walking, pushing a stroller, or in a wheelchair - and the project worked out very well.

Once the road work was completed, planting trees became Gene’s focus. Gene came by this interest in native trees at an early age. He was born in Gooding, Idaho, in 1922, the youngest of four children. His father, a civic leader and mayor in the community, is credited with planting many of the trees that live on in Gooding to this day. Gene noted his father gave him a great deal of responsibility as a young boy in helping to plant and care for the new trees along the canals. It was during these years that Gene began his love for growing things, which turned out to be his livelihood as a farmer, and also one of his most satisfying hobbies. When he was quite young, Gene started a small nursery business. He grew trees - elms, maples and ash - which he later sold to many people in Gooding. Years later he was able to point out these mature trees in the community.

In the fall of 1940, Gene came to Moscow to attend the University of Idaho. He joined the Delta Chi fraternity and met his future wife, JoAnn Crites, who was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta house - located right next door. The couple was married in 1942. Gene left school to join the Army during WWII, and then completed his degree in Agriculture in 1946. The couple bought their first farmland east of Moscow in 1947, and later purchased land and a cabin on Moscow Mountain. Throughout the years, Gene frequently “disappeared” to the mountain to trim, thin and transplant young trees. His children remember he was always digging up seedlings or small trees from their property on Moscow Mountain and planting them on the steep hillsides around their home, or in town for the enjoyment of the public.
With the creation of the Arboretum Associates in 1978 and recruitment of many, tireless community volunteers, the Arboretum began taking shape, as locations were identified and prepared for trees, shrubs and flowers - all organized by continent of origin. The first master plan was developed in 1980. The first trees were planted on Easter Sunday, 1982, and Gene was responsible for planting hundreds of trees over the next few years. Many of the seedling trees were container grown in the forest nursery greenhouses located on the Plant Science Farm, just east of Moscow; others came from the Plants of the Wild nursery; and some came from Moscow Mountain.

Gene had great interest in developing a grove of native conifers in the Arboretum. This area became the “Thompson Grove” in the Western North American Section and is located near the central part of the western slope of the main valley. The grove is about three acres in size. Gene planted the first trees, Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine, in May of 1983; the Western White Pine and Grand Fir were planted in 1984; the Western Red Cedar and Engleman Spruce were planted in 1985, and the Western Larch were planted in 1986. His son Ted recalls many times when his father headed over to the Arboretum and planted trees, on his hands and knees, caring for them as he had learned from his father as a young boy.

It is estimated that about 100 of each species was planted originally, and today about half that number remain, comprising the Thompson Grove. Gene noted the soil type of the grove is of grassland origin and is much more fertile than the average forest type soils, but the native trees are able to adapt and it is evident some thirty years later they have done so and are thriving.

It has been three decades since Gene joined the other volunteers to help transform an empty field into the “new” Arboretum by donating his equipment, time, and labor to build the original road access, and sharing his belief that planting trees is an important gift to the university community. During a tour through the Arboretum last fall with Horticulturalist Paul Warnick, along with his daughter and son-in-law, Gene enjoyed seeing the results of his efforts. The planting of the trees at his alma mater many years ago was definitely a labor of love by Gene and has become a native forest legacy for generations to enjoy.

— Carol Yenni Wilson
**Arboretum Associates Donor Roll**

Thank you to the many generous donors who supported the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. At total of $86,609.17 was received from membership gifts, gifts for endowments that support the Arboretum, and gifts to support specific Arboretum projects. Your support makes a difference.

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Robert N. Steele
Karín & Craig Steenberg
Jeanette Tàlbott
Carmen & James Todd
Georgia Toppe & Ron McFarland
Julia & Martin Trail
Susan Van Leuven
Deborah Wallin
Judy & Roger Wallins
Nancy Wanamaker
Hong Wang
Kathleen Warnick†
Elsie Watson
Cathryn Willmes
Jane & Po-Ping† Wong
Jaki Wright & Bill Bowler
Lewis Wright
Joan & William Wykoff

FY 2014 Gifts to Arboretum Endowments
Clearwater District Garden Clubs
Bonnie & Alfred Janssen
Elisabeth Shepard
Robert N. Steele
Karen & Matt Telin

† Indicates deceased
Report from the Horticulturist

Another year seems to have come and gone in the Arboretum. In some ways it seems like nothing has changed (thistles and bindweed continue to grow in spite of my best efforts, the algae and fairy moss gets worse in the lower pond, labels disappear or girdle branches, etc.), but upon a little deeper reflection, there are dramatic changes happening all the time.

The most obvious changes this year would be the new Renfrew shelter built at the south end of the Arboretum and the Harley Wright memorial planting just north of the Xeriscape Garden. The Renfrew shelter was constructed with the goal of providing a site for people to gather and see a map of the site along with current information down by the Arboretum barn. Malcolm Renfrew toured the Arboretum on his 102nd birthday and indicated an interest in providing a structure, and Architectural and Engineering Services provided a design for a structure that would match new information kiosks scheduled for construction on campus. The project also involved updating the Arboretum map, which was done as a donated service by Bill Bowler, retired architecture professor and Arboretum Associates board member. There was a successful dedication ceremony held on May 21, well-attended by family members and friends. President Staben, Mark Hoversten, Dean of the College of Art and Architecture and I all spoke about Malcolm’s long time support of the University and the Arboretum. Perhaps the highlight was when I quoted Malcolm’s comment from our tour on his 102nd birthday when he leaned over to me and said, “I bet Boise State doesn’t have anything this nice!”

The Harley Wright planting seems to be remarkably successful so far. Harley’s daughter, Saundra, had indicated that one of Harley’s favorite plants was Russian sage, \( \textit{Perovskia atriplicifolia} \). Coincidentally, five different growers released new cultivars of Russian sage this year. So, we used those as the start of the planting, then added thirteen cultivars of Japanese barberry \( \textit{Berberis thunbergii} \) to provide color contrast against the silvery foliage of the Russian sage and finally, to add some evergreen foliage and another experiment to the planting, we planted five different cultivars of the culinary herb, Rosemary, that claim to be cold hardy enough to survive here in Moscow.

We also began two other plantings, neither one of which is very obvious yet. The first is a collection of herbaceous Peonies \( \textit{Paeonia} \) honoring the career of retired English faculty member, Joy Passante. The collection is going on the slope in the north east corner of the Arboretum, facing west. The goal is to provide a walkway between two existing bench sites and to make a colorful splash for vehicles coming up Nez Perce Drive from the west. So far we have planted 67 peonies of 22 different cultivars. The plants were planted as bareroot divisions in October. Realistically, it will be at least two years, and more likely three, before most of the plants produce enough flowers to make a show.
The second new planting is a memorial to Mary Voxman, retired Math faculty member. This collection will be of North American native hydrangeas. There are two species of American hydrangeas that are popular ornamentals, Oakleaf hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia) and Smooth hydrangea (Hydrangea arborescens). Both of these species are known for being hardier than the more common Bigleaf hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla). Fortunately, plant breeders have been working with both species and there are more than ten different cultivars available exhibiting more compact growth, new flower colors and colorful foliage. This collection is going between the east side of the stream and the gravel road north of the trail coming down from the edge of the wheat field.

In addition to these new plantings, we continue to add to existing collections like the Xeriscape Garden and the Hosta Walk. We also installed the bronze plaque recognizing our status as a National Display Garden with the American Hosta Society. Bicycle racks were purchased and installed at the three main entry points using some of the proceeds from this year’s annual plant sale.

We also continued our efforts to automate the irrigation system in the Arboretum. We installed another phase of underground sprinklers in the lower east side of the Arboretum this summer. Somewhere in the area of 80% of the Arboretum that is irrigated is now automated, reducing the amount of time spent dragging hoses and sprinklers to a minor chore. The automated systems have clearly improved the delivery of the irrigation; now the irrigated parts of the Arboretum are a consistent green. There is no way to know if we are actually using less water, but the entire University re-claimed irrigation system is using significantly less water than when I started 14 years ago. Since the changes on the rest of campus tend to be adding new areas to the system, I have to believe that the Arboretum is using less water. The somewhat unfortunate unforeseen consequence from this increased efficiency is that there is much less water running off into the ponds. The past two summers the stream has not had enough water to keep the recirculating pump running, and no water has been flowing through the Arboretum during the summer months. The lack of water volume moving through the ponds contributes to the excess algae and fairy moss growth.

All of these changes, the more than 1,000 new plants this year, the materials for the irrigation system and the new shelter are only possible with the support of private donors. Essentially everything you see in the Arboretum has been a private gift to the University provided by individual donors. I think that makes the Arboretum an especially unique and amazing place, and I know that a lot of people enjoy and appreciate that gift every day.

– Paul Warnick

Hosta Display Garden plaque 9-30-14. Paul Warnick photo

Planting peonies 10-16-14. Paul Warnick photo

Bike rake and Renfrew Shelter 7-24-14. Paul Warnick photo
14th Year of ‘Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds’ in the Arboretum

July 14th marked the 14th year of the Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds free concert held in the Arboretum. This annual event is co-sponsored by the UI Lionel Hampton School of Music and the Arboretum Associates. Approximately 300 people attended, most with lawn chairs in tow or blankets to sit on the grass.

This year’s concert featured the largest cast of performers ever. They included faculty members from the University of Idaho and Washington State University, emeriti faculty from both schools, students, and community members. Over 50 musicians and dancers, all volunteers, provided a lively and well-performed program that left folks energized and amazed at the variety and abundance of talent they witnessed that evening. The concert was once again organized and coordinated by the talented, yet humble, Dan Bukvich, long-time UI professor at the Lionel Hampton School of Music, as well as Director of the Jazz Choir, and a talented composer and conductor. The sounds throughout the evening were definitely sweet, and the weather provided a little drama on the very last number with some wind whipping up and a few raindrops, but nothing to dampen anyone’s enthusiasm; it just made the grand finale more exhilarating.

A special thanks goes out to Paul Warnick and his crew for the beautiful venue and for providing golf cart transportation to those who needed assistance getting back and forth to the concert site. Thanks also to Ron and Susan Mahoney for handing out programs to the concert-goers. Next summer’s concert date will be available soon in an upcoming ArborNotes Calendar of Events.

— Maureen Taylor Regan

A lively time for performers and audience members at the Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds Concert 7-14-14. Bill Bowler photos
UIRA 2nd Annual Fall Arboretum Tour

The second annual fall Arboretum tour sponsored by the University of Idaho Retirees’ Association (UIRA) was held on October 16th with approximately 30 people attending. The weather was a bit chilly, but with the tour being led by Arboretum horticulturist Paul Warnick, no one seemed to mind the cloudy day. The event was part of the week’s Homecoming activities as alumni, parents, students, friends and community members were all welcome to attend. About half of the attendees had never been in the Arboretum before, but they left as enthusiastic fans of this beautiful campus jewel, and many are looking forward to becoming regular Arboretum visitors.

Besides the awesome fall color display of the many different varieties of trees and shrubs, the tour group learned from Paul such amazing things as:

- The beginnings and history of the Arboretum and its unique layout by trees and plants from geographic regions.
- How the Arboretum looks so beautiful, thanks to sewer (effluent) water.
- Why the big pond is pink
- The hidden truth about teenage gingko trees.
- The highest and lowest spots in Moscow and the freeze zone in the Arboretum.

Paul cheerfully and patiently answered many questions and had many stories to share, so folks got a tour extraordinaire. Get your walking shoes out this spring and join UIRA for the 3rd annual spring Arboretum tour with Paul on May 14th (a Thursday) at 2:00 p.m. The crabapple trees and the lilacs are spectacular to behold!

The tour includes the complete loop of the road (1.5 miles); golf cart assistance is available to anyone who has mobility issues. It starts and ends at the Red Barn on the south end. Mark your calendars and come out to the Arboretum this spring!

—Maureen Taylor Regan
The Arboretum Project

Reprint from 1978 Foundation Annual Report

The Arboretum Project is progressing well towards meeting its goals and has had a good year. In order to facilitate planning and assure realization of the desires of all those involved in and concerned with the project, several workshops were held during the latter part of 1977 and the beginning of 1978 under the aegis of Carothers Associates, project architects and planners. These workshops contributed much to the development of a schematic plan. A presentation of completed schematics was made by Carothers Associates in Moscow in mid-April and it was then estimated that approximately 50 percent of the Master Plan had been completed. In conjunction with Carother’s presentation a symbolic tree planting was held on the site.

The new Arboretum will be the state’s first public Arboretum and botanical garden and will be a natural progression from the existing Shattuck Arboretum and the beautiful “Administration Lawn,” preserved as a park by the Board of Regents. The main complex will center around existing buildings on the site which will be renovated and added to as necessary. In order to aid in the development of the new area and eliminate possible safety hazards, arrangements were made with the ASUI to move the University golf course driving range which bordered the Arboretum site. Land released by moving the driving range will be incorporated into the Arboretum.

The main objectives of the Arboretum are to develop an active teaching and research program, to serve as a regional information, display and dissemination center for plant life in general, to serve as an outdoor study area for use by academicians and the general public and to provide passive recreational areas, and a natural environment for respite from the academic and business life of the community. Plantings will include European and Asian groupings and ornamental gardens, plants native to the area, and a conservatory which will house species of a more exotic nature.

In May 1978 the Arboretum became a member of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta. Several national and state organizations have voted their support of the project while donations from private sources are ever increasing. The Arboretum Associates is growing in membership with a full scale membership drive planned for the Fall of 1978. In this past year we have received approximately $1000 in membership fees which will primarily be used for plant additions. Future membership funds will contribute to general upkeep of the Arboretum and the support of an Arboretum bulletin. Solicitation for a general Arboretum fund to cover construction costs and architect’s fees continue as the central aspect of the Foundation’s involvement in the project. The Alfred J. Eiguren Memorial Endowment Fund to be used for long range maintenance now stands at $5067.64.
Message from the President

Throughout its long history, the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden has been a labor of love fostered by the hard work of a number of individuals who had a vision of what an Arboretum could mean to the University and community of Moscow.

The original Arboretum was the result of the efforts of Charles Houston Shattuck and, thusly, bears his name. The development of the “new” Arboretum began in the late 1970’s and continues to evolve to this day. From the earliest volunteers, as noted in the Eugene Thompson piece in this issue, to the current staff – most notably Paul Warnick, Arboretum Superintendent and Horticulturist, and his small band of seasonal assistants – the Arboretum has become a place that inspires awe in its many visitors.

As we look to the future, it is our goal to carefully move forward and facilitate the development of a plan that cements the Arboretum as an integral part of campus. It is an outdoor museum that showcases an incredible variety of flora and fauna. It is an outdoor classroom that provides opportunity for academic discovery and research. Finally, it is a place of tremendous beauty, one of quiet respite in the otherwise hectic and stressful environment of a college campus.

As always, we wish to thank Paul and his staff for their efforts as well as the many donors and supporters who provide the funding for everything that is in the Arboretum.

Best wishes for a very happy new year!

Jan Leander

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JANUARY 28, 2015
Arboretum Speaker Series
“Landscape” – A discussion of the history and current usage of the word Landscape.
With emphasis on its use as a term in photography and some implications of how we view our world today.
Speaker – Roger Rowley
7 p.m. Fiske Room, 1912 Center, 412 E. Third Street, Moscow

APRIL 8, 2015
Arboretum Associates Annual Meeting
6:30 p.m. Social, 7 p.m. Program
Great Room, 1912 Center, 412 E. Third Street, Moscow

MAY 14, 2015
Spring UIIRA Tour
2 p.m. Arboretum and Botanical Garden

MAY 30, 2015
Arboretum Associates Annual Plant Sale
9 a.m. to noon, Palouse Ice Rink, Latah County Fairgrounds

SCIENCE SATURDAYS
June 20, 2015
July 18, 2015
August 15, 2015
Programs and times TBD
Renew your annual contribution to the Arboretum Associates for Fiscal Year 2015 and contribute to your favorite project fund. Please help the Arboretum grow by renewing your annual gift for the fiscal year which began July 1, 2014. Thank You!

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Contributors receive our periodic ArborNotes. Please mail your tax deductible contributions to: Arboretum Associates, University of Idaho, 875 Perimeter Drive MS 3147, Moscow, ID 83844-3147. Thank you.