

ARBORNOTES

A Newsletter of the University of Idaho Arboretum Associates

December 2022



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OUR WEBSITE AT
uidaho.edu/arboretum

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Message from the President

The UI Arboretum Associates Board and I thank all of you for another successful year for the *University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden* (Arboretum). We finally were able to hold our annual meeting again, and have a plant sale and the summer concert. We are all learning to live with Covid and we appreciate you coming to our events and supporting what we do.

As this issue includes articles about the plant sale, annual meeting, and summer concert I'll just say all were well attended and we were so happy to be able to have them. I do want to thank Kenton Bird for always helping us with publicity for the concert and Lucy Falcy for creating two wonderful posters for the concert. Both are suitable for framing.

We elected some new board members and officers at the annual meeting. Deb Bell was elected and is our new Treasurer. And we welcomed Nancy Zabriskie to the board. If you are interested in serving on the board, please let one of us know.



Xeriscape garden | P. Warnick | 7/7/2022

Come Grow With Us

ArborNotes

A Newsletter of
the Arboretum Associates
University of Idaho
Arboretum and Botanical Garden

Published by
ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES
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Moscow, Idaho 83844-3143

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DECEMBER 2022

The UI Arboretum continues to host many human visitors as well as lots of geese and the occasional moose. It was used by the City of Moscow *Plein Air Painting* competition for the juror to hold his lecture. A few of the paintings submitted to the competition noted in their titles they had been painted in the Arboretum. The *Palouse Women Artists* group also meets there when the weather is nice for their *Drawing Circle*. We are so fortunate to have this beautiful center for flora and fauna in Moscow.

Not only was it one of the hottest summers on record but there were water restrictions for watering the Arboretum. Kudos to Paul Warnick and his crew for figuring out how to keep the Arboretum green and lovely with less water. Paul, his assistant Lucy Falcyn, and the crew do such an amazing job of not only maintaining the Arboretum but also add new things every year. Two of the new things are the planting of a Golden Chain tree tunnel (can't wait for that to grow) and the addition of a new Port-A-Potty - not exactly a new plant or tree, but a much needed addition to the Arboretum.

Our 2023 events will include papermaking classes as well as the annual meeting, plant sale and summer concert. Dates for all the events are in the *Calendar of Upcoming Events*. We hope you will join us for some of these events and come and enjoy the Arboretum year-round.

*Katherine Clancy, President
UI Arboretum Associates Board*



Annual poppies at the red barn | P. Warnick | 7/18/22

Lego® Build of the University of Idaho Arboretum Wins Second Place at the Latah County Fair

Nathan Palmer built a Lego® model of the *University of Idaho Arboretum and Garden*, which won 2nd place at the Latah County Fair. When asked, he said it was his wife's idea to build a model of the UI Arboretum and while he was excited about building the water tower. She got busy with other things, so he went ahead and completed the entire build.

Lego® building is a family event. Nathan has been building all his life and his son has now become a master builder, who won a first-place ribbon for his entry at this year's fair. Nathan now feels like he is following in his son's footsteps instead of the other way around. When asked what the most difficult part of the project was, he said it was finding the right pieces to use from among all the thousands of Legos® they have. The UI Arboretum is honored to have been chosen as the subject of this fun build.

*Kat Clancy, President,
UI Arboretum Associates Board*



Nathan Palmer with Lego model | K. Clancy | 2022

Where are They Now?

Two former UI Arboretum employees are working at the *Idaho Botanic Garden* in Boise. Katie Peterson served as the coordinator for the *Science Saturdays* program in the Arboretum for two years. While she was here she also created the barn quilt square displayed on the east end of the barn. Daniel Murphy was part of the summer crew for two years. I stopped by recently to visit with them and shared an 'Idaho Endurance' Giant Sequoia and a Monkey Puzzle tree which was grown from seed I collected in Chile in 2019. Hopefully they will both become interesting additions to the Botanic Garden collections.

Daniel graduated from the UI in 2009, then earned a Master's Degree from Southern Illinois University with a thesis on water retention in residential green roofs. He returned to Idaho as a horticulturist at the *Idaho Botanical Garden* and has since been promoted to Collections Curator, managing their plant database.

Katie left Moscow in August 2019 when she accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position at her alma mater, Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. She successfully defended her dissertation November 2021 and has had two chapters published. Katie has always had the goal of supporting education and outreach for a collection, and ultimately accepted a position at the *Idaho Botanic Garden* as their new Education Director and moved to Boise in June 2022.

One of the best parts of my job has been working with a wide variety of students and following their successes, and it is especially gratifying when that success comes in the world of public horticulture.

*Paul Warnick, Horticulturist,
UI Arboretum and Botanic Garden*



Katie Peterson, holding a Monkey Puzzle Tree, and Daniel Murphy holding an 'Idaho Endurance' Giant Sequoia | P. Warnick | 2022

UI Arboretum Associates Donor Roll

A special thanks to the many donors who support the *University of Idaho Arboreta and Botanical Garden*. Fiscal 2022 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) saw a total of \$45,498.60. Donations were received from a combination of membership gifts, gifts for endowments that support the UI Arboretum, and gifts that support specific projects.

Your support makes a difference.

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Gifts to Arboretum Endowments

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

APRIL 11, 2023

44th UI Arboretum Associates Annual Meeting

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Join us for appetizers and no host bar followed by a brief business meeting and presentation by a guest speaker.

1912 Center Great Room, 412 E. 3rd Street, Moscow

MAY 20, 2023

UI Arboretum Associates Annual Plant Sale

Time: 9 am to 12 pm

Location to be determined.

JUNE 3, 2023

Papermaking Class

Learn how to make paper from materials gleaned from the UI Arboretum. Class minimum four, class maximum eight.

Time: 12:30 to 5:30pm.

Price \$80; sign up for all three classes for a total cost of \$200.00. A deposit of \$25 will be required and all but \$5 will be refundable if you cancel at least seven days prior to the day of the class. \$5 from your class fee will go to the UI Arboretum.

Interested? Email rachael.eastman@gmail.com to sign up for a class. Once you have signed up, you will receive additional information.

JULY 10, 2023

22nd Annual “Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds” Concert

Time: 7:00 pm. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs.

Free concert in the Arboretum.

JULY 22, 2023

Papermaking Class

Learn how to make paper from materials gleaned from the UI Arboretum.

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Bring a sack lunch.

Price \$80; sign up for all three classes for a total cost of \$200.00. A deposit of \$25 will be required and all but \$5 will be refundable if you cancel at least seven days prior to the day of the class. \$5 from your class fee will go to the UI Arboretum.

Interested? Email rachael.eastman@gmail.com to sign up for a class. Once you have signed up, you will receive additional information.

OCTOBER 14, 2023

Papermaking Class

Learn how to make paper from materials gleaned from the UI Arboretum.

Time: 12:30 – 5:30pm.

Price \$80; sign up for all three classes for a total cost of \$200.00. A deposit of \$25 will be required and all but \$5 will be refundable if you cancel at least seven days prior to the day of the class. \$5 from your class fee will go to the UI Arboretum.

Interested? Email rachael.eastman@gmail.com to sign up for a class. Once you have signed up, you will receive additional information.

Then and Now



UI Arboretum | Dr. R.J. Naskali | 10/9/1999



UI Arboretum | P. Warnick | 10/19/2022

Arboretum Plant Sale

The *University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden* plant sale returned May 21, 2022, after a Covid hiatus. The line of Arboretum supporters formed a longer line than in past years, in anticipation of the Moscow Ice Rink doors to open.

Arboretum staff and volunteers were excited to have this annual event back on the calendar, offering annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, and xeriscape items for sale. Plants disappeared far earlier in the morning than ever before and proved to be another excellent plant sale. Gross sales totaled \$11,421 and \$1,078 in membership gifts. The *Moscow Friends of the Library* set up a space for people to purchase gardening books of all types. Everyone is looking forward to next year's sale on May 20, 2023. The location is yet to be determined.

Many thanks to Paul Warnick, UI Arboretum Horticulturist, the Arboretum Staff, and the many volunteers who assisted in so many ways to make 2022 such a success. And many thank you to everyone who purchased plants and memberships to support the Arboretum.

*Julie Miller, Member-at-Large,
UI Arboretum Associates Board*

Papermaking at The Arboretum

Well, not exactly *at* the Arboretum, we don't have a building to have a class in. But we will be using materials from the Arboretum to make paper. These classes are offered as a series or individually. There is a deal if you signed up for all three. We will meet at the Arboretum for each class and spend about an hour collecting materials. Then go to *Raven Hammer Studio* for the paper making. All the classes are on Saturdays and the times and dates selected for the seasons. If rain is forecast for the day of the class you're encouraged to go on your own to collect materials before it rains. The instructors will have collected some plant materials as well. All other supplies for papermaking will be supplied.

Spring Class	6/3/2023	12:30–5:30 pm	\$80
Summer Class *	7/22/2023	10:00am–3:00 pm	\$80
Fall Class	10/14/2023	12:30–5:30 pm	\$80

* Bring a sack lunch

Sign up for all three classes for a total cost of \$200.00; \$5 from your class fee will go to the Arboretum. Class minimum four, class maximum eight. A deposit of \$25 will be required and all but \$5 will be refundable if you cancel at least seven days prior to the day of the class.

The instructors will be Rachael Eastman and Belinda Rhodes. Rachael has a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Idaho and teaches art at Sacajawea Middle School in Lewiston. Belinda is a local artist who has been making paper for more than two decades.



Handmade paper | R. Eastman | 2022

Interested? Email rachael.eastman@gmail.com to sign up for a class. Once you have signed up, you will receive additional information.

*Kat Clancy, President,
UI Arboretum Associates Board*

UI Arboretum Associates Gather After Two-Year Hiatus

The UI Arboretum Associates were happy to gather in person for the 43rd annual meeting on April 12, 2022. The 2020 and 2021 annual meetings were canceled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Members gathered in the Great Room of the 1912 Center.

President Katherine Clancy called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Katherine introduced the current board members: Bill Bowler, Vice President; Kris Roby, Past President; Nancy Sprague, Secretary; Joy Fisher, Treasurer; Jan Leander; and Julie Miller. Three new members were introduced: Erik Anderson, Yvonne Barkley, and Harriet Hughes. The board appointed the new members to fill seats vacated since the 2019 annual meeting.

In the President's Report, Katherine noted that Covid-19 had disrupted two annual meetings and the Arboretum plant sale. The *Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds* concert coordinated by Dan Bukvich and the *University of Idaho Lionel Hampton School of Music* was held in July 2021 and was enjoyed by more than 500 attendees. Katherine expressed thanks to all Arboretum's donors and supporters. She also acknowledged the excellent work by Paul Warnick, Arboretum Horticulturalist, his assistant, Lucy Falcy, and his seasonal staff.

UI Arboretum Employees

The Arboretum seems to be completely unique in the post-COVID world in that we are fully staffed and, in fact, have more help than there has been since 2003 when Dr. Naskali retired. Last fall I was given permission to hire the first year-round employee since I was hired in 2000. Lucy Falcy started volunteering in the Arboretum in the summer of '22. Her background is in community planning but working with plants is her passion. She owned a small farm in Oregon and worked for a nursery for several years. I really appreciate her energy, ideas, and knowledge every day.

I was also able to hire another great crew of students for the summer. Robert Castelo, a Master's degree student in Landscape Architecture from New Jersey, Zachariah Green, a Horticulture student from California, and Aineka Carlson, an English major from Washington working for

Katherine announced that three long-time members, Joy Fisher, Bill Bowler, and Jan Leander, were retiring from the board this year. Katherine shared summaries of their numerous diverse contributions to the board. Together, the three members have given nearly 70 years of service to the Arboretum Associates. Each has assumed multiple leadership roles, including terms as President. Joy Fisher was elected to the board in 1999 and has served as Treasurer for the past 23 years. Bill Bowler also began on the board in 1999. He is best known for contributing countless Hosta plants to annual plant sales and to the Arboretum's *Beth Bowler Hosta Collection*. Jan Leander has served on the board 21 years and has overseen the annual plant sale since 2008.

Joy Fisher gave the Treasurer's Report. The report provided an overview of the balance sheet for the past three years. Expected revenues were down from cancellation of plant sales during Covid-19. There was an increase in membership gifts due in part to higher use of the Arboretum during the pandemic. Replacement of the barn siding was completed at a cost of \$50,307. Total expenditures for the past year were \$10,521, resulting in an ending balance of \$217,965. Joy also introduced Deb Bell, Director of Finance for the University of Idaho Foundation, who volunteered to serve as the incoming Treasurer.

Eric Andersen, Member-at-Large, and Nancy Sprague, Treasurer, UI Arboretum Associates Board



Aineka Carlson, Lucy Falcy, Zachariah Green, and Robert Castelo, Arboretum crew | P. Warnick | 2022

her second year in the Arboretum. All have performed above and beyond any expectations. Their willingness to step in and do whatever needs done, from removing dead fish from the pond to pulling thistles and mowing for hours, is what allows us to maintain the Arboretum with a very limited budget.

Paul Warnick, Horticulturist, UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden

“*Silence is an illusion...*” and other musical wonders

Another Bukvich masterpiece highlights 2022 concert

The element of surprise always sets the annual UI Arboreta and Botanical Garden concert apart from other musical events. In our 20-year history as attendees, we never know what to expect. This year’s performance, however, was in a class of and in itself.

Magic and mystery comingled to leave audiences breathless by the haunting finale “Silence Is an Illusion.” Thomas Edison’s phonograph, early radio broadcasts, the phenomena of noisy trains, and a mysterious concert at Crystal Palace in London blended in a brilliant composition by Dan Bukvich, the creative genius behind this musical extravaganza.

Narrator David Billingsley wove a rich, rippling tapestry of science, history, and myth with his resonant baritone voice. Singers and percussionists took the audience on a nonstop magic carpet ride, traversing the history of time to the beginnings of sound recording while pondering the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

This year’s event delighted us with an enchanted and moving collage of musical styles. Performers matched the evening’s mood, nimbly moving from the subtle strains of Bach’s *Arioso* (Bill and Linda Wharton) to the ecstatic ethnicity of Klezmer tunes (*Gefilte Trout*).

The concert spotlighted talents of students and faculty from the University of Idaho, Washington State University, Lewis-Clark State College, and North Idaho College. It was a special treat to hear Kevin Woelfel, former director of the UI Lionel Hampton School of Music, play trumpet on the Chuck Mangione song, *Land of Make Believe*.

Nearly all the musicians came together for the magical finale. As the last notes of Bukvich’s masterpiece rippled across the pond, silence enveloped the audience. Then, after a long pause, the hundreds of rapt listeners burst into clamorous applause just as dusk settled across the valley.

The next concert will be Monday, July 10, 2023.

Gerri Saylor, a former broadcast journalist, is an artist and poet. Kenton Bird is a professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Media and a fair-weather French hornist.



Report from the Horticulturist

The UI Arboretum has been remarkably lucky as we emerge from all the changes caused by the pandemic. Somehow, we were able to hire more help than we have ever had in my career and, as has pretty much always been the case, that help has been outstanding. With that help, and the generous support of private donors, we have been able to accomplish some significant projects this year, from several unique plantings to permanent rock walls, more practical improvements like an additional restroom, and new interpretive signs.

I think the planting project with the most potential to make a lasting impact is a new Golden Chain tree tunnel. We planted two rows of ten Golden Chain trees (*Laburnum vossii*) in April. Assuming the trees make it through the winter, we will install steel greenhouse hoops to form a tunnel this spring and, as the trees begin to grow, tie and train them to the hoops. The tunnel will be dedicated to Marlene Johnston, a very active Arboretum volunteer from the beginning. Marlene and her daughter, Nancy Zabriskie walked through a Golden Chain tunnel at *Wisely Gardens*, the *Royal Horticultural Society's* display garden outside London when they were visiting the Chelsea Garden show.



Golden Chain tunnel, Rosarium Nursery, Spokane | P. Warnick | 6/15/22



Beginnings of a Golden Chain tunnel, UI Arboretum | P. Warnick | 4/1/22



Rock steps into the lilacs | P. Warnick | 10/28/22

Other planting projects include a collection of hardy hibiscus, potentially hardy crepe myrtles, a gourd/pumpkin tunnel, and several new perennials and groundcovers.

The most visible projects are two new rock wall installations, one along the edge of the field north of the barn and one along the gravel road above the European lilacs. The one along the field (the Field Wall) is intended to keep the slope from sluffing down onto the road and the one above the lilacs (the Lilac Wall) will keep the road from sluffing down onto the lilacs. To complete the Field Wall, we will be planting a row of trees above it that will serve as a shade tree demonstration. There will be 15 varieties of shade trees planted, the same age and from the same source, and watered by drip-irrigation. Visitors will be able to compare the differences between tree species as they grow. A diverse blend of Palouse Prairie native wildflowers and grasses have already been sown and will not be irrigated.

The Lilac Wall includes a set of rock steps providing safer access into the lilac collection from the road and a basalt column bench. The wall will be enhanced with new plantings including several hundred daffodils planted this fall.

The more mundane improvements include a new portapotty restroom installed in the middle of the Arboretum along the west-side gravel road and the first in a series of interpretive signs. Nine new signs were installed in the 'new' Arboretum and one in the Shattuck Arboretum and provide a wide-range of information from the first plantings in the Arboretum to the 100+ year old giant sequoia. Another new infrastructure improvement was the installation of three picnic tables in the Shattuck Arboretum as part of a project to recognize the site known as *Price's Green*, a flat section constructed in the 1930's to recognize C.L. Price. Price was the campus groundskeeper who



New porta potti | P. Warnick | 6/14/22



New interpretive sign | P. Warnick | 2022



Picnic tables, Price's Green, Shattuck Arboretum | P. Warnick | 10/7/22

helped Charles Shattuck develop the site and then assumed responsibility for maintaining it after Shattuck left in 1919. Another new bench was also installed along the west edge of the Shattuck Arboretum.

Maintaining the existing collections in the Arboretum is still the number one priority and trying to do that with dwindling resources combined with increasing costs is always a challenge. This spring I decided that we needed to reduce our biggest expenditure, which is mowing the grass. In the past we have mowed about 2/3 of the 45-acre site, once a week at three-inches tall. One of our challenges has always been scheduling the mowing to fit within the irrigation schedule. I debated about how to accomplish a significant reduction with the least amount of visible impact - whether to expand the areas we do not mow, mow some areas less often, or the option I ended up using, mowing essentially the same area but only every two weeks at three and a half inches. I was pleasantly surprised how well that has worked. Although I can see the difference, I am guessing that most casual visitors do not notice, and the savings have been profound.

Unfortunately, we probably spent all the time we saved (plus some) trying to maintain the ponds. We had some success early in the season, as we were able to control the submerged parrot's feather in the upper pond, the yellow flag iris around the pond, and the algae. However, after a couple of weeks of a clean pond, duckweed exploded in the upper pond and, despite spending hours and hours skimming duckweed off the surface of the pond, it was totally covered for the remainder of the summer. The other unfortunate pond story was that for the third time in my career we had a large fish kill in the lower pond. There was no obvious cause beyond normal summer heat; the aeration system was working, we had not applied any

chemicals in the upper pond for several weeks, and hadn't applied any at all in the lower pond. We had to remove six garbage cans full of dead fish, which we buried with a backhoe. Surprisingly the aquatic weeds did not explode in the lower pond after removing the fish.

As we move forward into the new year, I look forward to developing a new labeling system that will allow us to make our own labels. That will make it much easier to replace missing labels and get new plants labeled more quickly. We also plan another round of interpretive sign installations and continuing new plantings, especially to replace the iris around the upper pond. All these improvements are only possible through the generous support of private donors. No tax dollars or student funds have ever been used to develop and support the Arboretum and it continues to be an amazing gift from donors to the University.

*Paul Warnick, Horticulturist,
UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden*



Skimming algae, upper pond | P. Warnick | 5/24/22



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