University of Idaho

Arboretum Associates
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ARBORETUM
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Please visit

our web site at

www.uidaho.edu/arboretum

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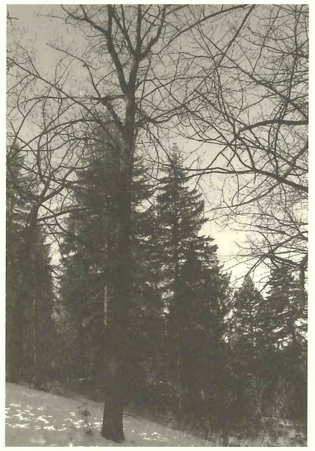
ArborNotes

A Newsletter of the Arboretum Associates **May 2013**

World War I Memorial Grove

In the spring of 1919, a grove of ten Red Oaks and 22 Spruce trees was planted to honor the 32 University of Idaho students who were killed in World War I. The scope of that sacrifice becomes even more profound when you consider that there were only 502 students enrolled in the University when World War I was declared, which means that more than 5% of the student body was lost in just over 18 months.



World War I memorial red oak 4-23-12 Paul Warnick photo

In Memorial Gym, a bronze plaque hangs with the names of the 32 students, but there is no recognition anywhere in the memorial grove. To address this gap, the board of the Arboretum Associates approved using the proceeds from this year's plant sale to fund a project to improve the site and install an engraved rock recognizing the site. The project will consist of building a new trail into the east end of the Shattuck Arboretum starting at the top of the 'Old Admin Steps' south of the Administration Building, installing three benches to provide seating, planting a screen of Yews and hardy Rhododendrons to screen an ugly concrete generator base, and installing an engraved rock and sign to formally recognize the site. Some irrigation will be installed to cover the new plantings as well.

One step in the recognition process has all ready been done. Jeffrey Hicke, a professor in CNR, contacted me in March and said his daughter, Laurel, a 4th grader, wanted to do a Science Fair project mapping and measuring trees. He wondered if there was anything in the Arboretum that they could use for their project. I thought of the grove, and Laurel mapped the trees with GPS and measured the height and diameter of all of the trees. Then they gave me that data, and I passed it along to Benjamin Camp, the campus landscape architect. He took that data and added it to the campus memorial tree web site. So now it is possible to click on the location of the grove and see the information on the trees.

http://sitecore.uidaho.edu/facilities/les/memorial

This project should make a nice space in an under-utilized part of campus, while at the same time giving some important trees the protection and recognition that they deserve.

– Paul Warnick

Laurel Hicke Science Fair Project WWI tree mapping 3-28-13 Jeffrey Hicke photo

Come Grow With Us

ArborNotes

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

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MAY 2013

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Arboretum Associates Plant Sale

Saturday, June 1, 2013 9:00 am to Noon

Palouse Ice Rink Latah County Fairgrounds

Come choose from hundreds of annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, hanging baskets, and patio pots. There is something for every type of garden, including xeriscape gardens. This year's sale will feature a selection of perennials that attract butterflies, new hostas and other shade perennials, lavenders, and other herbs. Proceeds from the sale support the recognition of the World War 1 Memorial Grove.

http://www.uidaho.edu/arboretum/pdf/12/12Plant Sale List.pdf

New Vandal Daylily

Paul Owen, a daylily hybidizer and nursery owner in North Carolina, offers a unique program to 'name your own daylily'. There are an unbelievable number of named daylilies (over 70,000), and there are a lot of daylily hybridizers out there releasing new daylilies every year. Paul Owen releases around 20 new ones every year; but, he also had several other selections that he hadn't released that were probably worthy, but didn't quite fit with his other introductions. So he decided to offer them to the general public, with the understanding that the purchaser would name the daylily; then they would get all of the plants of that particular cultivar.

This is similar to what happened with the 'Vandal Spirit' Bearded Iris years ago. It seemed like it could be a fun thing to do with the Arboretum Daylily Garden if we could find something with a little bit of 'Vandal' connection.

Vandal Fire

I wrote to Paul Owen and told him that although many of the plants he was offering were attractive, I didn't see anything that made much of a Vandal connection. I asked him if he had any other plants available that might fit the Vandal color scheme a little more.

After some amusing correspondence, (this is a quote from Paul's first reply,

""Silver, gold, and black"??? Have to tell ya (and no offense)... if I ever had a seedling in such a god-awful garden color scheme, it's definitely in the compost pile."

Paul was able to come up with a suggestion of a very striking daylily. The background color is gold with a newly developed ruffled edge which he had described as 'platinum'. Then with bright red streaks down the middle of the petals.

I wrote to the Dwelles, who have generously funded and supported the Daylily garden in the Arboretum, to tell them about the idea, and asked if they had any suggestions for a name. Kathi Dwelle came back with the suggestion 'Vandal Fire', which the Associates Board unanimously approved.

Now Paul will register the name with the American Hemerocallis Society. The official name will be registered as Hemerocallis 'Vandal Fire' (Owen-Dwelle), recognizing both the breeder and the person who named the plant. A division of the plant will be sent to the Dwelles, and the rest of the plants will be planted out in the Arboretum in three different spots, partly to see how they do in Moscow, and partly to increase the number of plants. In a few years once the plants have grown, we will dig some of the plants and divide them to sell them to the public.

– Paul Warnick

Students in the Arboretum

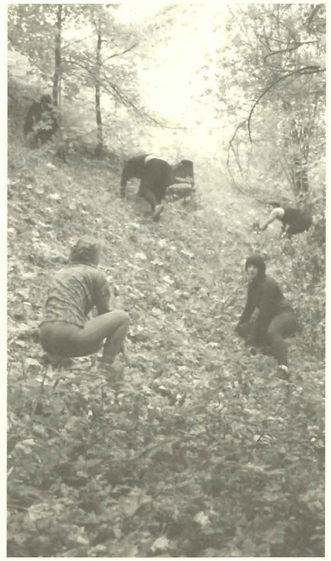
Animals Class

The Animals class is a unique take on actor training and, for many, a cornerstone of our work here at the University of Idaho. Through the close observation and embodiment of a student's chosen mammalian predator, we work on getting in touch with core instincts that exist in human beings but that are often covered by the conventions of society. While these conventions are required to function in our everyday lives, it is also essential for an actor to be able to release into our basic needs and get out of our heads to ensure that a play or scene is dramatically interesting.

The natural setting of the Shattuck Arboretum is an amazing place for us to do this work. The steep hill and various types of underbrush that we maneuver through on all fours provides a variety of natural obstacles to overcome. As painful as getting stickers in one's hands or falling over and getting a tree root in the back may be, once the weather turns cold and we are forced back indoors, it feels unnatural to be on a wood or concrete surface, and one's animal persona can't help but react as though we were suddenly forced into captivity. Having the freedom to work in an open environment and get real dirt under our fingernails is one of the things that distinguishes the UI Animal training from similar types of movement work in other programs.

- Jeremy Thompson

Overall, I am still sorting through what I have learned in animals class. I adore it and I hate it. It's beautiful and ugly. It's natural and the most difficult thing I've ever done in my life. I hope to keep her close and use her as often as I need, but I need to keep refining the 'animal as acting' work. I discovered a genuine fear I didn't realize was so deeply engrained, I discovered my presence and my size are not the same thing, I discovered how to make myself useful to the group, I discovered how to kill and be killed. I'm so glad I picked the ocelot. She really was a perfect fit for me. I began to allow myself to stop worrying about rules and focusing on survival—something I wasn't sure I would accomplish. I'm so glad that this was not an easy journey for me. Everything was difficult and I learned so much more from that. I'm grateful for all of the tears and the blood, the aches, the physical, mental and emotional strain, and the adventure of the class. Everyone stepped outside of their comfort zone. The commitment level brought by all is what made this journey worth every step.



- Kristin Glaeser

Team Building

The Old Arboretum in its natural setting provides UI Recreation students with opportunities to participate and lead "team building" activities that foster group development and growth. Pictured are youth summer campers attending UI Volleyball team camp, which allowed for teams to integrate team building experiences with their volleyball instruction. Kara Kiefer (recent graduate) developed and led the sessions for visiting campers. The natural elements within the arboretum have been a valuable resource for team building exercises and instruction. Experiential Education is one of many Recreation courses that utilize the arboretum as an outdoor classroom.

—Tami Goetz

Ray Boyd Memorial Quaking Aspen Grove

Ray Boyd's Aspen Grove 4-26-13 Paul Warnick photo

Ray Boyd was a research scientist with the US Forest Service Research Station in Moscow, Idaho, for many years. He was also a charter member and former President of the White Pine Chapter of the INPS. He was particularly interested in Quaking Aspen and the genetic variability that could be found in different clones. He often talked about creating a grove in the U of I Arboretum.

Ray recently passed away; but, before he died, his family approached me to find out if there was a way to plant an appropriate grove. I agreed that it could make an interesting collection, with some restrictions. In many areas Aspen are extremely popular landscaping trees; but, unfortunately not a lot of work has been done toward identifying cultivars with desirable traits that might overcome some of their less desirable characteristics. I believe one of the reasons for this lack is that although Aspen sucker readily and suckers can be transplanted successfully, they do not propagate easily in large quantities using typical horticultural practices like rooting cuttings, budding or grafting.

The goal of the grove will be two fold—one would be to demonstrate the few cultivars of Aspen that are available commercially at this time, the other would be to try to find some clones native to Idaho with desirable characteristics and see if those characteristics either held true after transplanting to a new site or were more site specific and changed with a new location. Possible characteristics could include things like unusual fall colors, striking bark color, increased disease or drought resistance, and perhaps reduced suckering. A disease free, non-suckering Aspen with long lasting, brilliant scarlet fall color would be a very popular tree!

I have identified four commercially available cultivars, one of which we already have growing in the Arboretum. I plan to purchase three trees of each of the cultivars and plant them in the same area as the existing cultivars in the Arboretum. Then we will try to identify clones with desirable traits to collect and plant. Steve Love, Extension Agent at Aberdeen, Idaho, has volunteered to work on a clone in the Franklin Basin that he found with consistent red fall color. Some co-workers of Ray's have identified two sites with trees that Ray had worked with during his career and have also volunteered to work on collecting some of them. Although it may take several years, I hope to find 6-8 different clones to evaluate.

The primary goal of this planting will be to demonstrate selections of Quaking Aspen that might perform better as domesticated landscape trees than the typical random seedlings usually found at retail nurseries. Project success will be judged by how the newly planted aspen compare with established trees in the Arboretum, most of which were purchased from commercial nurseries with no information about their original provenance. There is a small grove of aspen in the Arboretum of trees collected from the wild on Moscow Mountain to use as comparison as well.

– Paul Warnick

Annual meeting

The 36th annual meeting of the Arboretum Associates was held April 16, 2013, in the University of Idaho College of Law Courtroom. Jan Leander, substituting for President Howard Peavy, convened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and introducing Bev Rhoades who presented the Associates budget for the upcoming year. Two new significant projects the Associates plan to fund include a World War I Memorial Grove in the Shattuck Arboretum and start up funding to help in the development of a proper entrance garden at the north end of the Arboretum. In other business, the following officers were approved for two year terms by voice vote: Jennifer O'Laughlin – President, Maureen Taylor-Regan – Vice-President, Bev Rhoades – Secretary, Joy Fisher – Treasurer. In addition, Amy Davis was approved for a three year Member at Large position.

Jan then introduced Arboretum Horticulturist Paul Warnick who presented the Arboretum Annual Report. In his slide show presentation, Paul gave an update of new and ongoing projects in the Arboretum and also discussed some that are involving other parts of the state and nation. Eight of the 'Idaho Endurance' Giant Sequoia have been sent to various parts of the country including Arnold Arboretum (Harvard University), Morton Arboretum in Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. A number of Idaho native plants from Steve Love's research at the Aberdeen, Idaho Extension Station are currently being trialed in the Xeriscape Garden and two north Idaho nurseries are trialing grafts from the Arboretum's Weeping Pussywillow.

At the conclusion of Paul's report three door prizes were awarded by lottery drawing and the business meeting was adjourned.

Richard Naskali introduced Professor Stephen Drown who was the keynote presenter for the evening. In his presentation, "Ancient Gardens and Contemporary Public Spaces of China and South Korea", Stephen provided fascinating commentary and pictures of design elements and themes, both common and unique in both countries.

– Jan Leander

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Arboretum Associates Plant Sale
June 1, 2013 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Palouse Ice Rink, Latah County Fairgrounds

Summer Concert in the Arboretum
Monday, July 8, 2013 7:00 p.m.
University of Idaho Arboretum
Sponsored by the Lionel Hampton School of Music and Arboretum Associates

New planting site below the pergola 4-23-13 Paul Warnick photo