

# ARBORNOTES

A Newsletter of the Arboretum Associates

March 2019

## *ART in the ARboreTum*

A year has passed since I have written about the myriad of activities that happen at the Arboretum, serving a varied inter-generational audience. Last year those activities included botany, dendrology, geography and remote sensing, art (photography, painting, sculpture) limnology (aquatic ecology), recreation, engineering, yoga, forestry, music and the performing arts, ornithology and animal science. During summer, the Arboretum is also the perfect site for a series of hands-on “Science Saturdays” for children, designed to encourage their curious exploration and enjoyment of nature, and the coveted annual outdoor music and spoken word performance, a favorite local community event organized by the Arboretum Associates and the UI’s Lionel Hampton School of Music. More recently, it served as a gallery for a series of creative outdoor art installations that I stumbled upon one sunny melancholy September afternoon while strolling through the Arboretum. Enter: Gerri Saylor.

Gerri is a Moscow-based sculptor who has created more than two dozen site-specific installations across the Northwest during the past decade, including her recent exhibit for the UI Prichard Gallery entitled, “Dark Matter.” Her work is inspired by the contoured hills of the Palouse, a landscape she has known and loved since 1991. She is also a longtime fan of the Arboretum. As she says, “The Arboretum is a pitch-perfect interface between the urban and the natural. Enjoying a walk here is easily accessible, always changing, and right on the edge of campus.”

After accepting a UI teaching stint this fall, she designated the Arboretum as the “gallery” for her students’ first site-specific, non-invasive installation, incorporating only natural materials found in the Arboretum. Public art opportunities, both indoor and outdoor, are increasing as more and more art galleries are closing their doors.



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Terry Gray photo



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## ArborNotes

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

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**MARCH 2019**

Sayler believes making land art is a great way to enhance the students' versatility and options as artists.

Gerri saw the Arboretum as the perfect laboratory for students to explore the natural relationship of art and nature. The ephemerality of their artworks reminds us that we as humans are part of nature's cycles of birth, death, growth and decay, which are so colorfully illustrated by the changing seasons. "I wanted to connect them as artists with the living world and the transformative power of working with natural materials and the open-ended discovery process the Arboretum offers."

Using the Arboretum was also a logical and convenient way for her to combine art-making with art history, specifically a form of art popular in the 17th century: *Memento Mori*. This Latin phrase means "remember you must die." It was a religious age, when many people believed that life on earth was merely a preparation for the afterlife. Paintings during that time often featured portraits of skulls, for instance, and other symbols such as hour glasses or clocks, extinguished or sputtering candles, fruit, and flowers, to suggest the ephemerality of life. Modern artists have continued to explore this genre.

So, it was not coincidental that the evocative installations I discovered that melancholy sunny afternoon were created by Gerri's students to commemorate September 11. "It was the date I had scheduled for their Arboretum artwork, and I was hoping beyond hope the weather would cooperate," she said. "As it happened, we were lucky and the students' artworks served *memento mori* to mark the anniversary of that tragic day in American history."

Sayler added, "It was clear to me these artworks represented a convergence of the universal emotional and spiritual aspects of humanity, which have evolved with the land itself. For example, one student chose to draw attention to the human atrocity of lynching and the persistent need for social justice with a provocative work sited in a dark glade of trees."

Another student expressed concern for global climate change. She threaded Mountain Ash Berries onto long strings that she tucked into the furrows of a



Art and Photo by Allyse Bell



*Art and Photo by DongMing Zhao*

tree trunk to symbolize the escalating threat of forest fires in the West.

Sayler reflected on her gratefulness for the easily accessible Arboretum. She mentioned how as just one of many opportunities and events, the art installations there provided a meaningful opportunity for artists to share, relate to, and grow from these recent experiences. “Without the Arboretum” Sayler added, “the required outdoor natural settings that provided inspiration and refuge, and the necessary setting effects for developing these installations simply would have not been available. Without the Arboretum, these transformative experiences for the students would not have happened to the same degree”.

*Paul Anders*

## *Message from the President*

I am grateful to all of you who supported the UI Arboretum and the events sponsored by the Arboretum Associates Board in 2018. The annual meeting in April was well-attended; the plant sale in May was an early sell-out; the summer concert in July drew record numbers and the three Science Saturdays held throughout the summer were popular for children and their parents. Your backing means a great deal as we continue to grow the Arboretum and start the work to reach the goals of the plan to link the University of Idaho Arboreta to the UI Campus. I especially want to acknowledge Paul Warnick, Arboretum Horticulturist, and his small crew for doing an outstanding job this past year with a number of big projects achieved. (See Report from the Horticulturist). Many thanks to the Arboretum Associate Board members who are a dedicated group involved in the success of the Arboretum. A special note of appreciation to Terry Gray for managing our Facebook page and taking and posting beautiful pictures of the Arboretum and its wildlife. Like us on Facebook at Arboretum Associates.

Although Dr. Richard Naskali, Emeritus Arboretum Director, had been ill for some time, his passing in September was a shock for the Arboretum and University communities and he will be missed by many. (See Naskali Legacy Tribute and Obituary)

The last time I walked in the Arboretum there was a skiff of snow blanketing the ground and the sun was shining. The bark on the trunks of the trees and bare limbs gleamed in the sunshine. Especially striking were the reddish-orange branches of the Scarlet Curly Willows, the silvery-gray bark of the Maples and the wavy, white bark of the Chinese Birch. I was reminded that every season in the Arboretum holds a special beauty. Our winter now seems like a “true” winter with lots of fluffy snow and a fair amount of shoveling to do. We look forward to spring and the promise of sunshine, warmer days and blooming bulbs bringing color again to the Arboretum. On behalf of the Board, thank you again for your continued support through your donations, membership in Arboretum Associates, and your volunteer work on behalf of the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

*Kris Roby, President  
Arboretum Associates Board*

## ***Arboretum Associates Annual Plant Sale***

The 2018 Arboretum Associates Plant Sale was held Saturday morning, May 19, at the Palouse Ice Rink. As usual, shoppers arrived early and created an impressive line as they eagerly waited for the doors to open at 9:00 AM. Upon entry shoppers found a vast array of beautiful plants and hanging baskets and, as usual, the first hour or so of the sale was shopping mayhem. Largely sold out by 11:00 AM, the sale proceeds totaled over \$11,000, which is over \$1,500 more than last year. All funds generated by this sale are used to further enhance the Arboretum, including plantings, equipment, and other needs as determined by the Associates Board of Directors.

It takes a lot of people to make a sale of this size happen. Paul Warnick's efforts must be noted as he gathers and propagates many of the plants that are sold and tends to them in the greenhouse through the winter and early

spring. Numerous volunteers gather the day before the sale to haul plants from the greenhouse to the ice rink where a crew has organized and set up tables. Sale day volunteers enthusiastically provide customer service by offering plant advice, assisting shoppers with plant transport to checkout, and carry out service after checkout. The Associates are extremely grateful to Paul and all of the volunteers for their efforts in making the sale an extremely successful fundraiser for the Arboretum.

Finally, the Associates wish to thank the many loyal customers, many of whom come every year to show their support of the Arboretum and participate in this fun and festive event.

Now is the time to mark your calendars for the 2019 sale which will be held  
Saturday, May 18, 9:00 - 12:00 Noon  
at the Palouse Ice Rink.

See you then!  
*Jan Leander*



Enthusiastic shoppers line up early for plant sale.

*Bill Bowler photo*

### ***Calendar of Upcoming Events***

**APRIL 18, 2019**

#### **Arboretum Associates Annual Meeting**

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Join us for appetizers and a no-host bar at 6:30 p.m. followed by a brief business meeting, a presentation by Paul Warnick, Arboretum Horticulturist, and Keynote Speaker Linda Chalker-Scott

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

**MAY 18, 2019**

#### **Arboretum Associates Annual Plant Sale**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

*Palouse Ice Rink, Latah County Fairgrounds*

**JULY 8, 2019**

#### **19th Annual “Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds” Concert**

7:00 p.m. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs

*Free Concert in the Arboretum*

## 18th Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds Concert



Arboretum Associates President Kris Roby presents Dan Bukvich with a framed poster in thanks for organizing summer concerts. *Bill Bowler photo*

A record crowd of over 400 people covered the hillsides and grassy areas near the upper pond at the north end of the UI Arboretum to enjoy the 18th annual “Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds Concert” on July 9. This ever-growing event is sponsored by the Arboretum Associates and the UI Lionel Hampton School of Music and conducted by University of Idaho Distinguished Professor, Daniel Bukvich. Bukvich is an internationally known composer and conductor and Director of the UI Jazz Choir. Every summer on the second Monday in July, Bukvich produces an eclectic chamber program performed by local and visiting musicians who include UI and WSU faculty, emeriti, students and community members. The concert is free and open to the public.

This year a film crew from Northwest Public Broadcasting KJEM 89.9 attended to film for their YouTube Channel. Several pieces from the concert can still be seen at: [youtube.com/results?search\\_query=KJEM+Jazz+Arboretum](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=KJEM+Jazz+Arboretum)

The videos include two traditional northern Brazilian songs, “Feira de Mangaio” and “Pedra de Resposta” by the group Buffi Baffi: Adrian Crookston, accordion; Carolina Encalada, voice/guitar; Paul Anders, cajon/mandolin; and Richard Crookston, bass guitar. Also available via the KJEM YouTube link are “Morning Joy,” composed by Navin Chettri with

Vanessa Sielert, alto saxophone, and Navin Chettri, tabla; and “Brushin Lifestyle” composed by Navin Chettri and featuring Neil Paterson, Spencer Martin, Navin Chettri and Brantley Bacon on snare drums. In the videos, you can also see the setting for the concert with the beautiful trees of the Watts Grove as a backdrop.

The Arboretum Chamber Choir and Percussion Ensemble were featured in *Missa de Montunos* (2004) by Daniel Bukvich, a beautiful, ethereal piece, perfect in the setting of the Arboretum. Bill and Linda Wharton played “Allegro” by J. Offenbach and Three Traditional Klezmer songs were played by the talented group, Gefilte Trout. The grand



*Bill Bowler photo*

finale, “Bopera”, was a fun fairy-tale written by Bukvich to highlight Al and Gary Gemberling, well-known music faculty and jazz musicians in the community.

Many thanks to Paul Warnick, Arboretum Horticulturist, and his staff for transporting people to and from the concert site. We look forward to another captivating concert on Monday, July 8, 2019 and we hope you will join us.

*Kris Roby*

## *Arboretum Associates Annual Meeting*

On April 12, 2018, more than sixty-five members attended the forty-first annual meeting of the Arboretum Associates in the Great Room of the 1912 Center. The business meeting was called to order by President Kris Roby. She introduced the current Board members and thanked Dave Tank for his service on the Board the past three years. After giving an overview of events during the past year, she acknowledged Will Boyd for coordinating the Science Saturday programs and introduced Katie Peterson who will take over for Will Boyd as coordinator of the Science Saturdays in 2018. Thanks were given to Arboretum donors and volunteers.

Joy Fisher gave the Treasurer's Report. Joy reviewed revenues and expenditures for Calendar Year 2017 and gave budget highlights for 2018.

The slate of Directors was presented and two Directors were elected by voice vote. Nancy Sprague and Katherine Clancy were elected to three-year terms to expire in April, 2021.

Paul Warnick, Arboretum Horticulturist, presented a power point on the "State of the Arboretum," outlining new plantings in the Arboretum, progress on the irrigation



Keynote speakers Raffaella Sini and Roberto Capecci.

*Terry Gray photo*

system, and student projects that took place in the Arboretum during the past year. The keynote presentation was delivered by Raffaella Sini and Roberto Capecci, faculty in the UI Department of Landscape Architecture. The topic was on their fascinating work with temporary garden installations at festivals around the world. See images at [www.archiculture.com](http://www.archiculture.com)

Please join us on Thursday, April 18, 2019, at the 1912 Center at 6:30 p.m. for the forty-second annual meeting of Arboretum Associates.

*Kris Roby*



President Kris Roby addresses the Annual meeting.

*Terry Gray photo*

## *From Moscow with Love: A Journey from Moscow, Russia to Moscow, Idaho to Donate a Tree*

One of the newest additions to the UI Arboretum, an Amur chokecherry, was planted with the help of Andrey, a resident of Moscow, Russia. Andrey traveled to Idaho in October 2018 with the specific goal of donating a tree to the UI Arboretum, as part of his quest to plant trees in memory of his wife at significant locations throughout the world. Moscow, Idaho was Andrey's 15th tree planting location; previous plantings were made at far-flung locations including the Ukok Plateau, Altai Mountains, Russia; Isparta Province, Turkey; Easter Island, Chile; Pukon, Chile; Cartagena, Colombia; Morondava, Madagascar; Kaliningrad, Russia; Pingvillar, Iceland; Entebbe, Uganda; Furnas, Azorian Islands; Santiago Island, Cape Verde; Anchorage, Alaska; Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka; and Meilleha, Malta. Approximately a third of the trees were planted in botanical gardens.

The Amur chokecherry (*Prunus maackii*) was named after Russian naturalist and explorer, Richard Karlovich Maack, who discovered it along the banks of the Amur River in southeastern Russia in 1855. This cold-hardy tree has distinctive copper-colored bark that curls as it peels off. It was planted east of the chip trail near the top of the new rock steps, above the kiosk at the north end of the Arboretum.

*Nancy Sprague*



Andrey, David Gutierrez, and Paul Warnick planting Amur chokecherry on October 22, 2018.  
*Nancy Sprague photo*

## *Instructor for Science Saturdays lesson receives award from Entomological Society of America*



Science Saturday participants.

*Katie Peterson photo*

For the last three summers Katie Peterson has been involved with the UI Arboretum's Science Saturdays program and recently served as the Science Saturdays Coordinator. When teaching, Katie loves to incorporate plants and insects and has greatly enjoyed her involvement with the Science Saturdays programs. Over the summer Katie applied for and was awarded the President's Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Primary Education through the Entomological Society of America. This award recognizes educators who have gone beyond the traditional teaching methods by using insects as educational tools.

As a part of her application packet Katie submitted her Science Saturdays lesson plan that she implemented during her "Plants & Bugs: Up Close!" lesson from July 2017. She recently attended the Entomological Society of America conference in Vancouver, BC where she accepted her award. A part of the prize package Katie received includes a donation to be made in her name to an organization/school to purchase teaching materials to expand the use of insects in the teaching curriculum. Katie has chosen to donate this to the Arboretum Associates to be used in future Science Saturdays programming. Katie wishes to sincerely thank the Arboretum Associates board members for the opportunity to teach, and Nancy Sprague and the entire Snyder Family for their support and letters of recommendation.

*Kayla Casey*

## Arboretum Associates Donor Roll

Thank you to the many generous donors who supported the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. A total of \$49,608 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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## *R. J. Naskali Leaves a Living Legacy*

We were saddened by the passing of Dr. Richard Naskali, Emeritus Arboretum Director, on September 13, 2018. Dr. Naskali was involved in the development of the Arboretum first as a faculty committee member that supported President Hartung's vision for a new Arboretum, and later as an Arboretum Associates Board member and active volunteer. He was appointed Arboretum Director in 1987 and served in that role until his retirement in 2003. He wrote many informational and educational pieces for *ArborNotes* over the years and articles that recorded the development and history of the Arboretum. Through his passion and hard work, he helped create framework for the Arboretum as we know it today and leaves the University of Idaho and Moscow community a living, growing legacy. A special event to remember "R.J." took place at the Best Western University Inn and was attended by family, many friends, and former students. It was truly a "celebration of his life."

In October, the University of Idaho President's Office and the State Board of Education approved the naming of the Asian Grove in the Arboretum in his honor. We think this is especially fitting because in 1982, Dr. Naskali, along with President Ernest Hartung and members of the Moscow Rotary Club, planted many specimens of plants which established the first major documented planting in the Arboretum. The trees were cared for by volunteers, including Dr. Naskali, hauling buckets of water from the golf course until irrigation was installed several years later. Most of those trees survive today, shading the Hosta Walk in the northwest corner of the Asian section. The Asian section was an area of the Arboretum of which he was exceptionally proud.

Books from Dr. Naskali's private library will be available for purchase during the month of April at Bookpeople in Downtown Moscow. Proceeds will support the Naskali Endowment.



## ***Richard J. Naskali, Ph.D.***

*December 11, 1935 – September 13, 2018*

Dr. Richard J. Naskali, 82, passed away on Thursday, September 13, at Gritman Medical Center in Moscow, Idaho.

Raised on a farm in Ashtabula, Ohio, Dr. Naskali began working with plants at an early age. He earned a B.S. in Floriculture/Ornamental Horticulture and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Botany from The Ohio State University. As an undergraduate, he was a member of the 1956 Flower Judging Team, which won first place in intercollegiate competition in Denver, Colorado.

From 1967 to 1987, Professor Emeritus Naskali taught botany, plant anatomy and advised students in the University of Idaho Department of Biological Sciences. In 1987, President Gibb appointed Dr. Naskali the first Director of the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden, a position he held until his retirement in 2003.

Dr. Naskali was integral in the early development of the 63 acre arboretum. Under his leadership the initial groves and plantings, a collection of over 3,000 plants, were established. He was also responsible for the design of the beautiful benches that grace the development, personally choosing the plant related quotes that provide inspiration as visitors enjoy the area. He was a fervent supporter of the arboretum as a living-classroom, to be treated as a museum not a park. Today the arboretum has grown to house over 17,250 collection plantings, display gardens, ponds, and pathways. Dr. Naskali helped raise most of the early funding from private donations.

In 2002, Dr. Naskali was recognized with the President's Medallion from UI. Among other awards, he twice received the Daryl E. Snyder Alumni Award for Outstanding Service from the Farm House Fraternity. He has authored many papers, holds a plant patent, and has lectured extensively about his international travels.

The University of Idaho Retirees Association and University of Idaho Alumni Association presented Dr. Naskali with the "Idaho Treasure Award" in 2009, in honor of his significant achievements in service and leadership to UI during retirement.

R.J., as his friends call him, was also a passionate student and collector of botanical art. He traveled around the world to view, study, and collect botanical artwork. In the fall of 2003, R.J. was responsible for bringing over 100 selected works from the Hunt Institute's 10th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration to the Prichard Art Gallery. He included among his prized personal collections an 1837 folio album of watercolors from Singapore.

His retirement years were filled with extensive travel to all corners of the globe to photograph the dazzling variety of life that exists in the natural world. Highlights include 15 trips to western European countries, two expeditions to Antarctica, one visit to Madagascar, and multiple stops throughout Asia.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Arnold and Elizabeth Agnes (Olsen) Naskali, and his brothers, William Arnold, Jr. and David Brian Naskali. He is survived by his sister, Janice Wilma (Naskali) Meade Coon of Andover, Ohio; and his sisters-in-law Jean Naskali and Barbara Naskali, both of Ashtabula, Ohio.

Dr. Naskali has been recognized for his guest lecturers, exquisite botanical photography, expert consulting on ornamental horticulture and garden tours throughout the world. But, his legacy for generations to come is the aesthetic mark he made on a corner of the UI campus.

*"If you seek his monument, look around you."*

*(Sir Christopher Wren)*

To support his arboretum related collection in the University of Idaho library, donations may be made to the Richard J. Naskali Endowment for the Academic Advancement of the Arboretum in care of the University of Idaho Foundation, 875 Perimeter Drive MS 3143, Moscow, ID 83844-3143 ([www.uidaho.edu/giving](http://www.uidaho.edu/giving)).

## Report from the Horticulturist

As usual, it is hard to believe that another year has come and gone, and although it sometimes seems like we are not getting anything done, there have been some major accomplishments this year. All of these accomplishments have happened with the support of private donors—like the entire Arboretum, they are gifts to the University from individual donors.



New Vettrus Gathering Area.

*Paul Warnick photo*

The most visible new addition is the Vettrus Gathering Place, a rock retaining wall and set of steps installed across the road from the upper kiosk. The project has been in the works for nearly three years with Dean and Phyllis Vettrus. Dean is the retired Director of the Student Union Building and he was a dedicated volunteer in the early development of the Arboretum. The Vettruses wanted to provide a permanent fixture in the Arboretum that would provide an informal gathering place for people to meet and enjoy the space (and as an additional bonus from my personal point of view, it eliminated a really difficult place to mow grass). Rock Placing Company from Spokane provided the fractured granite for the wall and the terraces from a granite quarry north of Newport, Washington. They hauled the rock and constructed the entire project in two days with two men and their placing truck. Other than a broken irrigation line outside the project boundaries before they even started, the project went amazingly smoothly and within budget (how often do you hear that these days?).

A much less visible, but perhaps even more important, milestone was achieved this summer. After fifteen years we installed the last phase of automatic, underground irrigation in the mowed turf areas of the Arboretum. When I started

working at the Arboretum eighteen years ago, we tried to water the entire site with hoses and sprinklers. That required huge amounts of time and effort, dragging hoses up and down the steep slopes in the Arboretum, and it was essentially impossible to keep everything evenly wet. When I took over in 2003, I began installing relatively small phases of underground irrigation that we could accomplish using my crew and annual donations to the Arboretum for the materials. About that time, irrigation companies had developed battery operated, remote controlled valves that allowed us to automate the system without having electric power available to run the clocks. Over the years, we have installed 37 phases of irrigation with 79 wireless controllers. It is still a somewhat daunting operation to maintain, but the ability to go to an area, push a few buttons on a remote controller, and water a section that previously required moving a hose three or four times is a luxury I appreciate nearly every day during irrigation season.



*Terry Gray photo*

I hope that a planting project done in memory of Dave Wenny, retired professor of Forest Resources and the Director of the Pitkin Forest Research Nursery, will become an important feature of the south entrance to the Arboretum. When the Renfrew Shelter was constructed in 2013 I thought one thing it needed was a windbreak on the west side, as the wind can howl across that open space. Dave Wenny worked with conifers throughout his career so planting conifers in his honor made sense, but I wanted something different than those that already existed in the

Arboretum. Most of the Arboretum is geographically based and I thought it would be a good idea to introduce that concept at the south entrance. We planted four different species of Spruce (*Picea*) that come from each of the four geographic regions: Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) from Eastern North America; Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) from Western North America; Serbian Spruce (*Picea omorika*) from Europe; and Oriental Spruce (*Picea orientalis*) from Asia. In addition to demonstrating the geographic origins of plants in the Arboretum, another goal is to show the genetic variability within a species. Thus, for three of the species we also planted a dwarf cultivar to show how different plants from the same species can be. We still have labeling and an interpretive sign to install to help educate visitors about the geographic basis of the Arboretum.

I feel strongly that it is vitally important that we continue to do new things and add new plants to the Arboretum. If we stop adding new things and developing, I fear that we will slide backwards. And, sometimes we just do something because it sounds like fun! A couple of years ago I saw a blend of sunflower seeds sold in a seed catalog as a Sunflower Forest. I thought that sounded like a fun idea and decided to expand it and try it out. I would call it a qualified success—we planted too many plants and in an effort to make it ‘child-friendly’ we made the pathways too narrow. As the sunflowers reached their full height they tended to flop into the pathways and made it hard to walk through it. We planted some of the plants using potted starts from the greenhouse and some using seeds. If we do it again I will not start the seeds quite as early or plant as many. We planted over 200 plants of 12 different varieties. Perhaps fortunately, the project got off to a rocky start. Just as the seeds started to emerge from the soil, a mouse invaded the greenhouse and nipped nearly every one of the plants off at the base. I guess he ate what was left of the

seed, as all the new tops were still laying on the soil! After three culprits were removed from the greenhouse, I started over with good results. The week or so delay actually helped as the plants still ended up overgrown by the time we planted them outside.



Dave Wenny planting.

*Paul Warnick photo*

Fall marked another major milestone that probably will not be visible to most visitors for another year or two. The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) took over management of the field behind the barn. The Eugene Thompson family has farmed the field for nearly thirty years, but CALs needed more space for research plots than they have at Parker Farm and asked to take over the field. It is still designated as Arboretum property and if developed into part of the Arboretum CALs will return to the Arboretum. For this year, the field will probably not look much different than it has in the past. Parts of it are trial plots; but all of it has been planted to winter wheat and there are not visible boundaries. The future plan is to plant a mowed grass buffer strip around the perimeter of the field with grass roadways dividing the field into separate plots.



Sunflower Forest.

*Paul Warnick photo*

The final project of the year may not be noticed by the casual visitor, but we are hoping it will be the beginning of a much larger project that will impact many visitors, especially those starting at the bottom of the Arboretum. The current project was primarily to replace the wood chip pathway at the top of the Arboretum with a compacted gravel surface that will be a much better all-weather surface. The secondary goal of the project is to see if the compacted gravel will make a stable enough surface to support wheelchairs, if it is not driven on by larger vehicles. The eventual goal is to construct a new disabled accessible pathway, starting at the lower parking lot and following the stream up the valley to at least the gravel cross road, and eventually to the lower pond. There are numerous reasons that paving the pathway is prohibitive so we are hoping to find an alternative surface that will serve all of our visitors.



*Terry Gray photo*

I appreciate all the support we receive that allows us to continue to improve and maintain the collections in the Arboretum. None of it would be possible without the luxury of having great crews and that was certainly true this year. Darby Turnbull, a master's degree student in Landscape Architecture, came back for her third year, David Gutierrez, a senior Landscape Architecture student, returned for a second year (and is hopefully planning on one more!), and Nickolas Kissler, a senior Environmental Science student from W.S.U., came in as a valued rookie. Steven Carter, a master's degree student in History, replaced Nickolas when school started this fall and Nikolas' schedule did not allow time for working in Moscow. I know they all believe the Arboretum is a valuable part of the University campus and the local community, and they worked hard to keep it that way.

*Paul Warnick*

## *Science Saturdays: 2018 Recap*

The Science Saturdays series completed its fifth successful season of educational activities in the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden and the programs were enjoyed by all who attended. The topics covered this summer included botany, chemistry, and entomology; all incorporating the beautiful plants around us in one way or another! Two of the Saturday programs were featured as articles in the Moscow-Pullman Daily News (*A talk of 'Seeds, Sticks, & Stems', July 9, 2018, and A buzz over beneficial bugs at UI Arboretum, August 13, 2018*). The Arboretum Associates would like to express their appreciation to Tri-State Outfitters for graciously advertising our event flyers on their reader board.

We look forward to offering next year's educational programs for the sixth season of Science Saturdays, so be on the look-out in March 2019 for a request for proposals.

### **Seeds, Sticks, & Stems**

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Katie Peterson, PhD Candidate in the Biology Department at UI, implemented this program that focused on learning what plants need to grow.

To begin, Katie read the book "Plants Can't Sit Still" to introduce some of the important things seeds need, such as water, sun, and space to grow. Afterwards, she asked for a volunteer from the audience, who was then dressed up as a plant. As items from the plant "costume" were being added, everyone learned vocabulary terms and their important functions. The song "head, shoulders, knees, and toes" was adapted and sung by all as a way to remember (and probably never forget) some of the important parts of a plant, such as flower, stem, leaves, and roots.

An "adjective" scavenger hunt sent pairs of enthusiastic children scurrying about the south end of the Arboretum working together as they looked for things that could be described by the words on their note cards. Examples included "rough," "yellow," and "pointy." Some partners were able to combine their note cards to find things that could be described by an even more challenging combination of adjectives.

As a part of the program, children decorated plastic pots (donated by the Arboretum) and planted their own seeds. The hope was that after learning what plants need, the children would be able to enjoy seeing their kale grow at home! The Walking Sticks insects, on loan from the William

F. Barr Entomological Collection at UI, made another Science Saturday appearance and many curious children held them with excitement.



*Katie Peterson photo*

## Printing with Chemistry

This hands-on activity, led by Peter Allen, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at UI, included mesmerizing photographic printing demonstrations where children (and adults!) were able to see photochemistry in action.

Participants got a brief lesson on a historical form of photography called cyanotype printing and were then sent off to find treasures to create their print with. Some children focused on leaves and petals, while others were on harder missions- such as feathers!

Once the items were gathered each person received a small white piece of paper that was coated with iron-based chemistry to create an emulsion. The object to be used was placed on the paper and sandwiched between two small panes of glass held together with binder clips. The “emulsion sandwich” was then placed in the sunlight for about two minutes to allow for the photochemical reaction to occur. The area shaded by the found object did not react and remained white, whereas the areas exposed to sun turned blue, creating a permanent negative image of the natural object.

Many cyanotype prints were made using a variety of found natural objects in the Arboretum. Children were seen running from activity to activity, searching for additional treasures, to the chemistry table to set up their next emulsion, to the “sun zone” to create their prints, and back again to the table for the final wash of their paper to see their photochemistry creation!

## Beneficial Insects of the Palouse

The UI Aldrich Entomology Club rounded out the Science Saturday season with hands-on explorations to determine which insects call the Arboretum their home. Members included graduate and undergraduate students in the UI Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Nematology, including Club President Stacey Rice and Vice President Jessica Fung.

As the program began, there were educational items on display which included mounted bee specimens found on the Palouse, posters of insect diversity, and microscopes (on loan from the William F. Barr Entomological Collection at UI). Proper handling of live animals and collection techniques were discussed.

Children were given plastic collecting containers of various sizes and nets as they went on a mission to find different insects in the south end of the Arboretum. Excitedly, the



*Katie Peterson photo*

children explored in bushes, observed flowers, and used sweep nets to dislodge any insects hiding in the long grass. Grasshoppers, bees, butterflies, and ants were just a few of the finds of the program. Once a critter was caught and transferred to a plastic container, the children brought it back to the microscope table and were then able to look at the anatomical details of their critter, such as legs, antenna, and wings.

Many children were enthusiastic entomologists and wanted to keep exploring after the program ended. Live lady beetles were given to attendees to release back at their homes!

# University of Idaho

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