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Inside this Issue

• Dr. Charles Houston Shattuck’s Legacy to Idaho and the World (Part 1 of 2) •

Dr. Shattuck, who joined the University of Idaho faculty in September 1909, brought to Moscow an impressive vita of training, research, teaching and administration—well qualified to initiate the university’s first forestry programs. He was born November 21, 1867, in Vandalia, Missouri. He was the first child of Warren Charles and Matilda Catherine (Houston) Shattuck. He had three siblings: Edith Estella Shattuck, Warren Leland Shattuck, and E.L. Shattuck.

He is reported to have attended the Watson Seminary in Ashley, Missouri and the Zanerian Art College in Columbus, Ohio—the latter of which taught penmanship. Dr. Shattuck’s penmanship was perfect and beautiful as his signature demonstrated.

Charles Houston Shattuck married Maud Elizabeth Stackhouse August 15, 1895, at Netawaka, Kansas, her birthplace (October 2, 1873). She was educated in Kansas at Campbell College, Holton, Kansas where they met. At Campbell, she taught penmanship and art.

Charles earned B.S. and M.S. degrees at Campbell College in 1894 and 1898, respectively. Campbell College, opened in 1880 on eleven acres of privately funded land operated under the auspices of The United Brethren Church. At Charles Houston Shattuck formal portrait, undated. [FS 118A, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow].

From 1895 to 1898, he was professor of physical sciences (1895-1898), professor of biology and geology (1898 – 1903), and Vice President (1897 – 1903). He sold his part interest in Campbell College when he joined the Washburn College (now Washburn University) faculty. From 1904 to 1907 he was professor of natural history at Washburn College in Topeka, Kansas. In summer 1908 he was professor of botany at Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

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Continued
Under the direction of two world-famous botany professors, Charles J. Chamberlain and John M. Coulter, at the University of Chicago, C.H. Shattuck earned his Ph.D. with high honors in botany in 1908. His dissertation research, "The Origin of Heterospory in Marsilea" is still a classic study which was published in the Botanical Gazette 49: 19-40, Jan. 10, 1910. Earlier, and with credit to the same University of Chicago botany professors, Shattuck published another classical paper in botanical morphology, "A Morphological Study of Ullmus americana" in the Botanical Gazette 40(3):209 – 222, Sept. 1905. This work is likely Shattuck's 1905 Master of Science thesis research at University of Chicago, completed while he was on the faculty of Washburn College.

From 1908 until his 1909 appointment at the University of Idaho, Shattuck was professor of botany and forestry at Clemson College in South Carolina (now Clemson University). Many of his 3 1/4 x 4 1/4 inch glass lantern slides persist in the Latah County Historical Society and the University of Idaho Library Special Collections from his teaching at Clemson College. In his April 27, 1909, letter of application for employment at University of Idaho, C.H. Shattuck stated "...I have had excellent courses in Morphology, Taxonomy, Plant Physiology, Ecology and Histology and have very full lines of slides, both lantern and microscopic, as well as other illustrative material necessary for giving such courses..." At Clemson College Shattuck was paid $2,000 annually. In response, on June 14, 1909, Dean E.E. Elliott, University of Idaho's hiring officer, offered Shattuck a salary of $1,800 for his first year, $2,000 for his second year, a full professorship, and "...tenure permanent on mutual satisfaction." Except for the usual vacation month, Shattuck's summers would be "...devoted to reconnaissance work and the fitting up of the Forestry station on Lake Coeur d'Alene." Earlier (May 28, 1909), Dean Elliott wrote to Shattuck, "We are quite impressed with your credentials and you are doubtless our leading candidate." On June 14, 1909, Shattuck wrote to Dean Elliott..."The terms and rank are entirely satisfactory to me and I shall plan to be in Moscow by September first."

After completing his Clemson teaching duties for spring 1909, Dr. Shattuck spent his summer at the famous Biltmore, North Carolina School of Forestry studying practical methods in forestry and lumbering. On July 14, 2009, while he was studying at the Pisgah Forest, North Carolina, Shattuck wrote to UI Dean E.E. Elliott, "My people [his brothers' families at Idaho Falls] are all much pleased to know that I am coming to Idaho, and it seems like coming home to me, even though I have never been in the state before. We are looking forward with keen anticipations for the future at Moscow."

The Shattucks sold their Clemson furniture because of the expense of transporting it across the country from South Carolina. On July 27, 1909, the Shattucks shipped their remaining goods to Moscow and departed Clemson on July 28 for a two week stay in Vandalia, Missouri, his birthplace. Subsequently the Shattucks planned to visit his sister in Manhattan, Kansas for a week, visit his brothers' families in Idaho Falls for two days then head to Moscow where they would arrive on September first.

Housing was undecided when they arrived in Moscow. On July 26, 1909, Dr. Shattuck wrote that they "...will want a seven or eight room house, modern as far as possible, and possibly a place to keep a horse and buggy." During his negotiations for Moscow employment, University of Idaho Dean E. E. Elliott on July 15, 1909, advised Shattuck "...As a rule desirable residences are rather scarce at the opening of the school year and we may have difficulty in securing one for you. Rents range from $15 to 250 per month...".

When Shattuck and his wife arrived at the Moscow train station September 1, 1909, the University of Idaho was facing austere times. The first Administration Building had burned to the ground March 30, 1906, destroying the library, herbarium, many classrooms, and much equipment (microscopes, microscope slides, etc.). Phase one of a new Administration Building had been built (1907 – 1909) for $140,000. The first three of the eventual four floors of Morrill Hall were constructed (1906 -1907) using insurance money from the first Administration building fire. Ridenbaugh Hall was the southern edge of the UI campus.

Thus far, I have found no documentation of where Dr. and Mrs. Shattuck lived during their 1909 to 1917 residency in Moscow, Idaho. Ultimately the Shattucks purchased one or more properties in Moscow. One documented property of more than one acre that they purchased August 31, 1916, for $1,025 was immediately southwest of Ridenbaugh Hall (Lot 4, Block 1, of Dean's Fourth Addition to Moscow, originally surveyed April 21, 1891). Today that original Shattuck lot is occupied by the eastern part of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house, the University of Idaho Office of Development, and part of Nez Perce Drive on the north side, and part of the extensive playing fields on the south side.

During Shattuck's employment at Idaho, the University Gardens were north of the Shattuck lot—presumably land of Ridenbaugh Hall and including land of today's parking lot #42 and Nicolls Hall. Prior to the hiring of Dr. Shattuck, James A. McLean (UI President 1900 – 1913) engaged John C. Olmstead of the prestigious Olmstead landscape firm to visit the struggling campus for design and master plan...
Fifteen years ago, in April, 1995, the seeds of an idea were planted. Arboretum Associates had donated money to co-sponsor a group of Arboretum professionals to travel to China to collect seeds from the wild in three different national parks. In return for that donation, the Arboretum received samples of seeds from over 100 different plants. Among those plants were several woody vines, including an Asian Grape, *Vitis amurensis*; Hardy Kiwi, *Actinidia arguta*; Magnolia Vine, *Schisandra chinensis*; and Manchurian Clematis, *Clematis mandshurica*. Those seeds were planted in a greenhouse in April 1995, and the successful propagations were planted out in the Arboretum in the spring of 1996 and 1997. The vines were planted in two rows on the terraced slope just south of the forsythias. Temporary trellises were constructed from 4x4 inch posts and chain link fencing, with the idea that a permanent pergola would be constructed to support the vines as they grew.

Now, fifteen years later, the pergola is a reality. In 2001, a Landscape Construction class, taught by Gary Austin, in the Landscape Architecture Department, was asked to design a pergola for the Arboretum. The project was conducted as a design contest with cash prizes funded by the Arboretum Associates awarded to the top three designs. The winning team, Earl Christian and Blake Taylor, provided a design which best met the criteria the Board had requested: (1) a modular design which could be constructed in phases, (2) a structure that would support the existing vines, and (3) a subtle Asian influence.

A gift fund was established in 1998 and by the time the master plan update was completed in 2007 there was enough funding to complete design work. Guy Esser, a project architect with University Facilities, was able to take the students’ design and turn it into a buildable project. The project was designed so it could be built in three sections. Fortunately all three sections were able to be completed thanks to generous leadership gifts from the estates of Richard Henry Ross and Dorothy Scholl Ross, a gift from Dorothy Baldridge Lindsey in honor of her father H. Fred Baldridge, and support from Beverly Rhoades, Melva Hoffman, and the Arboretum Associates.

The design and construction was complicated by the fact that we did not want to disturb the existing vines any more than absolutely necessary. Although the site was relatively level, and the vines had been spaced almost evenly, there was enough slope in all directions that each support post had to be individually set and anchored.

The project was bid in the fall of 2009 and RMR Construction submitted the winning bid. The company completed fabrication of the materials and construction last fall and early winter. Unfortunately, scheduling conspired to force them to pour concrete on one of the nastiest days all winter. That made conditions difficult resulting in extra work from damage to the road; nevertheless construction was completed.

The final steps in the process will be removing the existing trellises and training the vines to the new structure. We will also install donor recognition in the form of a basalt column engraved with the leadership donors’ names. There will be two columns laid horizontally between the sections of the pergola that will serve as informal benches. The final step will be to replace the existing turf above and below the pergola with plantings to complement the structure. Since the existing vines are well established, I anticipate that the vines will quickly cover a good deal of the structure by the end of this summer. Thanks to all of the donors who have supported this project.

~ Paul Warnick / Joy Fisher
The Shattuck Giant Sequoia Has a Name

The Arboretum Associates Board has met and selected a winner in the contest to name the Giant Sequoia in the Shattuck Arboretum. The winning entry is 'Idaho Endurance' submitted by Camille Hattrup, a groundskeeper on campus.

The contest was a great success. There were 113 entries submitted from all over the state and region, including one from a horticulturist with Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum in Boston, Massachusetts and one from Hawaii. Several schools in the area used the contest as a class project and submitted names. Surprisingly, there was only one duplicate out of the 113 entries. I sent the list of entries to the Associates Board members (without the entrant's names) and asked them to pick their three top choices. I naively assumed there would be enough overlap to make the selection easy, but once again, there was only one duplicate. After some discussion the Board agreed that 'Idaho Endurance' best met the criteria of having a local connection, the scion source for 'Idaho Endurance' outside the region and having a reference to the trees' hardiness. It is still a little early to learn what has survived. Hopefully, there will be enough to get a tree to the winner; and some planted out in the Arboretum. We will try again this next winter to graft more.

The next step in the process is submitting the name and the description to the Royal Horticultural Society in Great Britain which is the official international registrar for conifer names. That paperwork involves identifying the introducer (University of Idaho Arboretum) and the nominator (Camille Hattrup) and describing the unique attributes of the particular clone. When the name is accepted, it becomes an officially named cultivar, naming the clone derived from the tree in the Shattuck Arboretum. The original tree was planted in the Arboretum in 1916, and it is likely the oldest and perhaps the largest specimen surviving this far north (46° North Latitude), east of the Cascade Mountains in North America.

—Paul Warnick

Idaho Wildflowers: State Laws and Personal Ethics

In order to protect Idaho wildflowers and enhance our highways, Idaho legislatures have periodically enacted laws in this domain. In current Idaho Code sections 18-3911 through 18-3914 specifically cite plants for protection, and prosecution for wildflower offenses. In Idaho, it is unlawful to "...willfully and negligently cut, dig up, trim, pick, or remove, any plant, flower, shrub, bush, fruit or other vegetation growing upon the right of way of any public highway within this state." Furthermore the law states "It is the duty of all citizens of this state to protect the wildflowers of this state..."

In Idaho, for specifically listed species, "...it shall be unlawful for any person to export from this state, or sell or offer for transport bulbs, corms, rhizomes, roots or plants of native wildflowers or shrubs of the state..." In Idaho, it is unlawful to "...willfully and negligently cut, dig up, trim, pick, or remove, any plant, flower, shrub, bush, fruit or other vegetation growing upon the right of way of any public highway within this state." Furthermore the law states "It is the duty of all citizens of this state to protect the wildflowers of this state..."

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Lady's Slipper (Cypripedium montanum), and Giant Helleborine (Epipactis gigantea).

In the case of our eighteen to twenty native species of terrestrial Idaho orchids, there are special reasons not to try transplanting them to home gardens. All the world's orchids, tropical and temperate, propagate in the wild from very tiny, almost microscopic seeds.

The seeds of our native Idaho orchids, which have no food supply, sift down into forest litter. Most of them die. A very few of the hundreds of thousands are invaded by very specific mycorrhizal fungi. The orchid embryos by the very few then parasitize the invading saprophytic fungi which, in turn, get their foods from decaying litter. Some of our native orchids (especially the large-flowered mountain lady's slipper) parasitize the fungus for years before the first green (photosynthetic) leaf or leaves emerge above ground. Transplanting native orchids into a home garden is hopeless, even reprehensible, because the orchids are sentenced to die. Some of our native orchids are non-green (e.g. the Coral-root orchids) and remain parasitic all their lives—even though they may reach over 12 inches high when they flower annually. Do NOT pick and dig our orchids.

—Richard J. Naskali

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 5, 2010 Arboretum Associates Annual Plant Sale
9 a.m. to Noon - Rotary Ice Rink at Latah County Fairgrounds, Moscow

July 12, 2010 Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds Concert
7 p.m. in the Arboretum. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and picnics.

In conjunction with the Lionel Hampton School of Music
An Album of Spring Wildflowers of Northern Idaho: Where and When to Find Them. Photos by Richard J. Naskali

Skunk Cabbage (Lysichiton americanus), Fernsinger Creek, Idaho, April 30, 2007.

Prairiestar (Lithophragma parviflorum), on grasslands and lower montane forest. Skyline Drive/ Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park, ID, May 25, 2009.

Mountains Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium montanum), Idaho's largest flowered orchid. An especially spectacular, decades-old colony on private land east of Moscow, ID, June 7, 2009.

Shooting Star (Dodecatheon vietkii), one of several Dodecatheon species in Idaho. Grasslands and forest foothills. Skyline Drive/ Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park, ID, April 28, 2006.

Western Waterleaf (Hydrophyllum occidentale), open forests and grasslands. April 28, 2006, Skyline Drive/ Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park, ID.

Glacier Lily (Dogtooth violet, Erythronium grandiflorum), perhaps northern Idaho's most common Glacier Lily, with white and yellow-petaled forms. May 25, 2009, Skyline Drive/ Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park.

Fairly Slipper (Calypso bulbosa), Giant Whitepine Campground along M 6, north of Harvard, ID, May 11, 2006. This beautiful orchid, very common in Idaho's open forest, may be one of the most common orchids in northern Idaho. With little variation, this same species grows naturally around the world in Europe, Alberta and Asia.
Report from the Horticulturist

The mild winter in Moscow has reduced the number of hours I have spent inside at my desk, but I still managed to get the most important paperwork accomplished. The highest priority is updating the Arboretum database to reflect all the new plantings and removals from the collection. We added 1081 new ‘permanent’ plants in 2009 and removed 97. Both of those numbers are about average for the ten years I have been working in the Arboretum. The Arboretum’s database, RB-BASE, tracks information for each of those plants, including the source, the correct nomenclature, and the information on when and where it was planted in the Arboretum.

Correctly labeled plants are one of the characteristics that distinguish an arboretum from a park. We use three different labels: credit card sized aluminum accession labels are wired to each woody plant; 3x5 inch display labels identify many of the higher profile trees and shrubs; and smaller, engraved plastic labels identify herbaceous (non-woody) perennials and grasses. Researching the correct, current name for each plant and ensuring that spelling and format are correct takes a significant amount of time.

Planning for future plantings is another winter time activity. We are planning several plantings in 2010, as well as looking forward to future years. In 2010 the major additions will be finishing the two newest collections, European Clematis and Groundcover Roses that were started in 2009. We will also be adding some new introductions, like the new re-blooming lilac, Boomerang® and a dozen of the newest hostas. We will continue to add new plants to the Xeriscape demonstration garden as well as to collections of local native plants. In addition, we will work toward one of the goals of the updated Master Plan by adding understory plantings to existing areas to help tie the individual trees and shrubs together. Another benefit of planting areas to ground cover is that it reduces our reliance on bark mulch which continues to become more and more expensive.

Another facet of planning is working on plans for the future, both short-term as well as further into the future. For relatively short-term planting plans, we have developed a list of potential projects that can be funded with donor support. We updated the existing list which had become obsolete by adding three new projects in the Shattuck Arboretum and a new collection of Eastern North American ferns and groundcovers in the new Arboretum. The projects in the Shattuck Arboretum include two new plantings, one to replace three large spruce trees next to the Amphitheater and one to add a collection of plants native to the west side of the Cascades. We’ll continue to add new benches throughout the Shattuck. The full list of projects can be viewed at the arboretum website http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/arboretum/pdf/MemorialDonationsPolicyNewAddendum1-25-10.pdf

The Arboretum Executive Committee has been working with some faculty members on two other, longer-term projects. The larger project is the concept of using the undeveloped portion of the Arboretum as a site for a Palouse Prairie Restoration. The approximately 18 acre site, north and west of the Arboretum barn is currently farmed in a typical Palouse crop rotation of spring and winter wheat with peas or lentils. A prairie restoration would offer many exciting research opportunities in fields as diverse as restoration ecology, to entomology, to carbon sequestration.

The other longer-term project is the possibility of a Butterfly or Pollinator Garden. The proposed site for this would be immediately north of the Xeriscape Garden between the east side of the stream and the gravel road. This site would provide running water, mud flats along the stream, as well as shelter from the existing willows and poplars on the other side of the stream. The garden would combine both perennial and annual flowers to provide sources of pollen and nectar throughout the growing season. Unlike the Xeriscape Garden, the design would utilize large sweeps of individual plants rather than trying to demonstrate as many plants as possible.

Along with the mild weather, I have had the luxury of an experienced helper this spring. Most of our efforts have gone into repairing the Arboretum road that got badly torn up during the construction of the Asian Pergola, and into pruning. In a perfect world our pruning efforts would be directed toward two priorities—the health of the plant and the aesthetics of the plant. Unfortunately, with our limited time, the priorities are usually something such as repairing storm damage, maintaining access on roads and trails, or maintaining visibility on signs and plaques. This spring, we have been able to get to some neglected pruning, particularly on some of the weeping or ‘umbrella’ trees.

Other early season activities include weeding control using pre-emergent herbicide application on some of the perennial and groundcover beds, limited fertilizer applications on some perennials, and planting some frost-hardy plants. In these times of budget cuts and furloughs, we’re still trying to add improvements to the Arboretum, and at the same time, trying to increase the level of maintenance on the existing collections. All new additions are only possible through the generous support of donors. Those donations as well as your written and verbal support are critical now to the future of the Arboretum. Help us as we continue to share our amazing Arboretum with friends and visitors.

—Paul Warnick
large lot on Baxter Street from Eastern Idaho Loan & Trust Company for $1,000. Baxter Street was vacated and the University ultimately acquired all of the land between Taylor Avenue and the future Nez Perce Drive. The "new" T"ank was constructed in 1952. In 1955, French House was built by the University of Idaho in honor of Permeal French, Dean of Women from 1908 – 1936; French House became FarmHouse Fraternity ca. 1971 when the resident women students took the name to one floor of Theophilus Temple, constructed 1967 – 1969. Nez Perce Drive, built in two phases (1959 & 1960), became the "new Greek Row." Today’s privately owned fraternity houses are on land per-

potentially leased by the UI. The President’s Residence (1966-1967) and the Golf Club House (1969) joined the Nez Perce Drive addresses.

Dr. Shattuck’s work at the University of Idaho was exemplary in teaching, serving on numerous campus committees, research, and outreach. He was extensively involved on and off campus. In summers, he was very involved in surveying, forest clearing, methods of wood extractive chemistry, propagating trees and shrubs for sale and use at homesteads in Idaho. In 1909, he gained permission to reclaim the weedy hillside that became University of Idaho’s "Arboretum Hill" which became the "Charles Houston Shattuck Arboretum" dedicated in 1933. When he came to an essentially treeless campus at the eastern edge of the Palouse Prairie to teach forestry in a forest-rich state, Shattuck also became heavily involved planting the trees which beautify our lush campus in 2010, 101 years after his arrival.

On April 28, 1914, President Melvin A. Brannon notified Dr. Shattuck that he was appointed the first Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences at a salary of $2,000. Brannon wrote, "You were unanimously elected, because of your wide experience in administration, your extensive scientific training, and your large contributions to scientific production pointed to you definitely as the proper man to head this College." For the 1916 – 1917 academic year, Shattuck’s salary was raised to $2,000 in ten payments starting September 1, 1916.

Acknowledgements: I gratefully thank Donna Hanson (Library Professor Emeritus), Julie Monroe (Library Assistant, Special Collections), Gerard Billington, the late Professor Charles Christenson (Mathematics), Professor Emeritus D. Nels Reese (Architecture), Larry Chin, Clerks at the Latah County Courthouse, Daniel Crandall (Director) and Ann Catt of the Latah County Historical Society for their valuable assistance in recovering archival materials for this essay. For any mistakes or misinterpretations, I am solely responsible.

~Richard J. Naskali

Dr. Charles Houston Shattuck’s Legacy to Idaho and the World, Part 2 of 2 in the next issue of ArborNotes
Thirty-third Annual Meeting of The Arboretum Associates

The thirty-third annual meeting of the Arboretum Associates was held April 21, 2010, in the University of Idaho College of Law Courtroom. Keith Bromley, substituting for President Jan Leander, reported a terrific turnout for the annual Mother’s Day Event on April 17.

Upcoming events include the June 5 Plant Sale at the Latah County Fairgrounds; the July 12 Concert in the Arboretum; and a presentation to be given by Richard Naskali at a later date.

Treasurer Joy Fisher reported that last year’s plant sale earned $11,704, the largest amount the sale has ever netted. In other business, the following board members were approved by voice vote: bev Rhoailes, a three-year term; Howard Peavy, a three-year term; and Pam Brunsfeld, a two-year term. A lottery drawing enabled lucky audience members to take home plant prizes and $25 gift certificates to be used at the annual plant sale.

In his slide presentation, “The State of the Arboretum,” Arboretum Horticulturist Paul Warnick reported that this year’s biggest accomplishment was completion of the pergola, a structure that eventually will support the growth of Asian grapes, Asian clematis, magnolia vines, honeysuckle, porcelain berry vines, and hardy kiwi.

He showed slides of C.H. Shattuck, founder of the University of Idaho’s C.H. Shattuck Arboretum and Nursery, and said more work was done last year in the Shattuck Arboretum than in the previous fifty years. These projects included planting trees donated by a U of I drama class taught by David Lee Painter; hydroseeding and establishing new trails; installing the Vernon Burlison bench and the Ray and Jeannie Steinhoff bench; and cloning the Shattuck Giant Sequoia with help from UI of I Arboretist Ken Dola and Porterhouse Farms in Sandy, Oregon. The cloning resulted in a naming contest that drew 135 entries. The winning entry, chosen by Board members, was “Idaho Endurance,” submitted by UI of I groundskeeper, Camille Hatroup.

Warnick said the 2009 planting records show a total of 1,081 new permanent plants, 174 different taxa, and 191 woody trees added to the Arboretum. These included 28 clematis planted on the rock wall south of the pergola. In the Xeriscape Garden, the southern Idaho native plant section was increased with plants donated by Steve Love, an Aberdeen Agricultural Extension Agent. Bill Stellmon, in memory of his wife, Barbara, donated the groundcover roses planted on the east side of the gravel road. These should bloom all summer. Bill Bowler funded the hosta walk, and 108 new plants were added in honor of his mother, Beth.

Future projects include planting more groundcover roses; restoring native Palouse prairie grass to a southern part of the Arboretum; and establishing a groundcover of ferns and wildflowers beneath maples found in the East Northern American section. In addition, a Butterfly Garden will be established near the Xeriscape Garden in honor of John Dixon who recently passed away, and his wife, Winifred Dixon. They visited the Arboretum every day where they collected golf balls which they sorted, washed, and sold. After all that work, they donated the proceeds to the Arboretum. Two years ago, they donated over $1,000. The Butterfly Garden will include a decorative bridge over the stream, butterfly bushes, and assorted perennials and annuals. Arboretum Associates will continue the Dixon project by selling collected golf balls at the Annual Plant Sale. Contributions to the Dixon Butterfly Garden can be sent to the Gift Administration Office, PO Box 443147, Moscow, Idaho 83844-3147.

~ Karen Trujillo Burnett

Annual Plant sale - June 5, 2010

Remember to mark your calendar as a reminder of the upcoming Arboretum Associates Annual Plant Sale. The sale will take place Saturday, June 5, with doors opening at 9:00 a.m. in the Palouse Ice Rink located in the Rotary Veterans Memorial Pavilion at the Latah County Fairgrounds. Gardeners look forward to the annual event as a way to find new and unusual plants and access plants propagated from the Arboretum.

As always, there will be an excellent selection of Hosta available. Hosta lovers will find many of the old standard favorites as well as some exciting new cultivars including ‘Blue Mouse Ears’, ‘Dance With Me’, ‘Dick Ward’, ‘Fragrant Bouquet’, ‘Liberty’, and ‘Stained Glass’.

Also available will be an assortment of interesting perennials including Delphinium ‘Pink Punch’, Monarda ‘Pardon My Purple’, Echinacea ‘Lucky Star’, and countless others sure to please even the most discerning gardener. A variety of trees, shrubs, clematis, and Asian lilies ensure that there will be something for everyone.

Volunteers have painstakingly created beautiful hanging baskets that should be at their peak by sale day, ready to beautify a porch or deck. Gardeners looking for healthy plants to fill the pots on the patio will find a wonderful collection of coleus, African daisies, geraniums, and more.

Expert gardeners including Arboretum Horticulturist Paul Warnick will be on hand to answer all your gardening and landscaping questions and volunteers will be available to help carry all your purchases to the car.

The annual plant sale is the primary fundraising event sponsored by Arboretum Associates. The proceeds from the sale have been used for many projects including the painting of the red barn located on the south end of the Arboretum and the third section of the recently completed Asian pergola. The community’s support of the Arboretum Associates Annual Plant Sale guarantees the continued growth and improvements to the Arboretum.

~ Jan Leander