

ARBORNOTES

A Newsletter of the University of Idaho Arboretum Associates

December 2023



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uidaho.edu/arboretum

Inside this Issue

Message from the President	1
Arboretum Associates 44th Annual Meeting	2
UI Arboretum Fall Crawl	3
UI Arboretum Associates Donor Roll	4-5
Papermaking Class Report	6
Familiar tunes, new compositions ... and a surprise twist.	6-7
Report from the Horticulturist	8-9
2023 Arboretum Plant Sale	9
Sustainability at the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden	10-13
Then and Now	12-13
Want more?	13
Calendar of Upcoming Events	13
Gifts for Gardeners	14-15

Message from the President

I've appreciated the *University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden* (Arboretum) for decades. Like so many others, I've used the Arboretum in a variety of ways: as a source for learning about plants and trees, as a place to recreate, and as an oasis for reflection. The Arboretum truly is a gem in our community, and I'm pleased to be able to support it by serving as President of the *UI Arboretum Associates* board.

The holiday season is a time for giving thanks. The Arboretum exists and flourishes through the vision and efforts of many people. First and foremost, we THANK YOU – our donors – for your gifts and financial support. Your contributions directly enhance the Arboretum. You can read about the impact of your donations in *Report from the Horticulturalist* in this newsletter.

Heartfelt thanks go to Paul Warnick, Horticulturalist and Arboretum Supervisor, and his assistant Lucy Falcy. Kudos also to the 2023 seasonal crew: Zach Green, Aaron Tyler, and Josie Walterscutchen. These dedicated personnel do yeoman's work. They go above and beyond to keep the Arboretum in great shape.

I'm also thankful for the Arboretum Associates board members who are listed on page two. I'm particularly thankful to Kat Clancy, our Past President, who led the board for two terms during the challenging period of Covid. This summer, we were sad to say goodbye to our Treasurer Deborah Bell, as she moved on to a new job opportunity. Fortunately, Frank Clarke volunteered to serve as our new Treasurer.

Many other volunteers assisted the UI Arboretum Associates this year. Jan Leander coordinated our annual plant sale. Jan is a former board member and has led the sale since 2008. Nearly 20 additional volunteers helped us during the day of the sale. Our free July concert was organized and directed by Distinguished Professor Dan Buckvich of the *UI Lionel Hampton School of Music* (LHSOM). Numerous talented musicians gave their time to perform in the concert. Kelly O'Neill from the LHSOM assisted with concert marketing and promotion. Thanks also to Kenton Bird and Gerri Saylor for writing the concert review for this newsletter.

I'm aware that many dedicated leaders preceded me in this role as President of UI Arboretum Associates. I have some big shoes to fill. Fortunately, I have large feet! Happy holidays and best wishes to you for a wonderful new year. I'll look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events or during one of my walks through the Arboretum.

*Erik Anderson, President,
UI Arboretum Associates Board*

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Come Grow With Us

ArborNotes

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

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DECEMBER 2023

Arboretum Associates 44th Annual Meeting

Members of the *UI Arboretum Associates* and guests gathered on April 11, 2023, in the Great Room at the *1912 Center* in Moscow. President Katherine Clancy called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Katherine introduced the current board members. Continuing members were Julie Miller, Vice President; Kris Roby, Past President; Nancy Sprague, Secretary; Deborah Bell, Treasurer; Erik Anderson, Yvonne Barkley, Harriet Hughes, and Nancy Zabriskie, Members-at-Large.

In the President's Report, Katherine described how UI Arboretum events had returned to normal during the past year following the Covid emergency. The May 2022 plant sale and the July 2022 concert in the Arboretum were both very successful. Katherine also reported on enhancements to the *Arbor Notes* newsletter and previewed a paper making workshop series to be held later in 2023.

Katherine acknowledged the outstanding work by Paul Warnick, UI Horticulturist and Arboretum Supervisor, and his assistant, Lucy Falcy. She also recognized the numerous volunteers who supported UI Arboretum events, with special thanks to Dan Buckvich and the musicians and artists who performed in the July concert.

Deborah Bell presented the Treasurer's report. Revenues increased over the prior year thanks to the 2022 plant sale and generous gifts in support of two rock wall construction projects. Expenditures also increased significantly due to the new rock walls. Net income for the year increased by \$33,754.13 resulting in an ending balance of \$259,857.66.

Elections were held for board officer positions. Officers elected were: Erik Anderson, President; Julie Miller, Vice President; Kat Clancy, Past President; Nancy Sprague, Secretary; and Deborah Bell, Treasurer. Kris Roby was nominated for a three-year term as Member-at-Large. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Paul Warnick presented a slide show with planting statistics and highlights of projects from the past year, as well as proposed new projects. Following Paul's presentation, a design charette was led by Robert Castelo, master's student in Landscape Architecture.

Please plan to join us at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at the 1912 Center for our forty-fifth annual meeting.

*Erik Anderson, President, and Nancy Zabriskie, Member-at-Large,
UI Arboretum Associates*

UI Arboretum Fall Crawl

We had a brand-new event in the *UI Arboretum* this fall. Zachariah G. Green and his lovely wife, Lillyanna, had an inspiration for an event to bring students and families together for an afternoon of outdoor fun. Zach has worked in the Arboretum the past two summers. He is an undergraduate student studying horticulture, graduating May 2024.

There were four stations set up along the gravel path loop from the lower barn to the information kiosk. One station had cocoa, apple cider, and pumpkin chip cookies provided by *Idaho Eats*. There was an information station with maps of the Arboretum, copies of *Arbor Notes*, membership applications, and Arboretum brochures. Of course, since it was close to Halloween there was a treat station, and finally a station where there was a free raffle for a pail of treats.

Paul and his assistant, Lucy Falcy, had grown over 400 mini pumpkins in the annual garden. These were picked and “hidden” in plain sight for kids and adults to find as they walked along the gravel path. It was the most beautiful fall day one could imagine - the sun was shining in a magnificent deep blue sky, and the temperature reached a high of 79 degrees. At least 400 people attended, many of whom had never visited the Arboretum, and others that brought guests from near and far. All in all, the *1st Annual UI Arboretum Fall Crawl* was a rousing success.

*Katherine Clancy,
Past President, UI Arboretum Associates*



The first, but hopefully not last, *UI Arboretum Fall Crawl* was a great success with treats enjoyed by all. | H. Hughes | October 7, 2023



Some of the 400+ people who attend the crawl this fall enjoying the perfect fall weather. | H. Hughes | October 7, 2023

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UI Arboretum Associates Donor Roll

A special thanks to the many donors who support the *University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden*. Fiscal 2023 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023) saw a total of \$75,644.39. 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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 Martin & Julie Trail
 Valley Garden Club
 Gary Williams &
 Joy Passanante

Papermaking Class Report

On a lovely, late spring day this past June, a small group met in the *UI Arboretum* parking lot. We ventured out to gather leaves and flower petals from the ground, dead heading a few flowers to add to our collections, and looking for interesting small plant detritus. After about 45 minutes we adjourned back to our cars and met again at *Raven Hammer Studio* in Moscow. There we learned the process of making paper.

Scrap paper was blended with water to make a basic pulp. Colored scrap paper and some of the dead headed flowers was added to the pulp to provide some color. Small leaves and flower petals were also added to the pulp mix to become imbedded into the paper. The next stage of the process, where the pulp is pulled through a screen, offered another opportunity for papermakers to add flower petals, leaves, and other gleaned materials such as seeds, to the nascent paper. By the end of the day each participant had a collection of interesting, colorful, and unique handmade pieces of paper they had made. Most of the group were from Moscow, but one person traveled from Boise to participate. The class fee also included a small donation to the Arboretum.

*Katherine Clancy,
Past-President, UI Arboretum Associates*



Class participants hard at work. | K. Clancy | Spring 2023

Familiar tunes, new compositions ... and a surprise twist.

22nd Arboretum concert delights and intrigues summer audience

Nothing marks midsummer in Moscow more than the annual *Sweet Sounds and Summer Breezes* concert in the *University of Idaho's Arboretum and Botanical Garden*. The 2023 edition presented a potpourri of performers, a mix of musical styles, and a surprise ending reminiscent of a short story by O. Henry.

The proximity of performers to concert goers is one of the distinctive characteristics of this concert, says Dan Bukvich, the musical genius behind this event. Unlike venues such as the *UI Administration Building Auditorium*, where the stage is separated from the audience, the performers are almost in the laps of the sipping and snacking spectators.

Nothing else on the Palouse compares with chamber music in this exquisite outdoor setting, with the trees, pond, and blue sky providing the backdrop. As the concert began, nearly 60 musicians waited "off stage," steps away from the performance space.



This year's concert moved seamlessly between styles and era, presenting such favorites as a Bach cello concerto, along with jazz standards *Stella by Starlight* and *St. James Infirmary*. But the program also included works by lesser-known composers, including Stanslava Gajic, Isaac Albeniz, and Bavery Reneau. A quartet played with three traditional Klezmer tunes, sung in Hebrew, Roma, and Ukrainian.

Midway through the program, the audience heard a composition by the late William "Bill" Billingsley, a longtime faculty member in the *UI Lionel Hampton School of Music*. *A Brief Encounter for Trumpet and Wood Block* was performed by Vern Sielert on trumpet and Bukvich on wood block. Their delicate dialogue of brass and wood reflected the natural surroundings.

The piece de resistance was a Bukvich musical setting of Gahan Wilson's 1990 short story, *Mister Ice Cold*, narrated by UI theatre graduate David Billingsley, Bill Billingsley's son. Billingsley and Bukvich have collaborated in the past on these marvelous mélanges of spoken word, chorus, and instruments – several times using Edgar Allan Poe short stories as the text.

Billingsley suggested adapting the story by Wilson, a longtime cartoonist and essayist for the *The New Yorker* magazine who died in 2019. The tale starts innocently

enough. What could be more suited to a pleasant summer evening than the cheerful tune of an ice cream truck making its way through the neighborhood? In the tradition of Poe, the story takes a macabre turn. Bukvich said he needed to modify the text to make it suitable for an all-ages audience. The ending is an eerie reminder that all is not what it seems.

Whatever unease the audience felt melted away during the celebratory finale. As the shadows grew longer over the performance space, the musicians and singers joined in an exuberant toe-tapping melody. The audience responded to the outdoor curtain call with a standing ovation.

Please join us for the next concert on Monday, July 8, 2024.

By Gerri Sayler and Kenton Bird

Kenton Bird is a professor in the UI School of Journalism and Mass Media. Gerri Sayler is an installation artist with a background in journalism, marketing, and arts management. Both are avid concert goers. They've only missed two arboretum concerts in their 22-year marriage.



Our Annual *Sweet Sounds and Summer Breezes* concert in the *University of Idaho's Arboretum and Botanical Garden* is always a great success.

| E. Anderson | July 10, 2023

Report from the Horticulturist

In all my 23 years at the *UI Arboretum* I have always been lucky enough to hire great crews of seasonal student employees. That is perhaps even more true than usual this year. I also have had the luxury of a part time, year 'round non-student, Lucy Falcy, for more than two years now. All three of the student crew this year happen to be Horticulture majors, the first time that has happened. Zachariah Green returned for a second year, and Aaron Tyler and Josie Walterskirchen started this spring. Their energy, motivation, and great ideas were appreciated every day.

Our biggest focus this year has been adding new plants to the collection. That has ranged all the way from the new shade tree demonstration at the south end and water lilies in both ponds, to Palouse Prairie wildflowers in the pollinator planting under the new shade tree demonstration. The *Shade Tree Demonstration Garden* has 16 different species of shade trees adapted to Moscow. All the trees are the same age from the same nursery, so the idea is that 10 years from now visitors can easily see the differences in growth rate and shape between the 16 species.

One of our most successful plantings was actually accidental. Two years ago, Lucy sowed annual poppies along the edge of the field north of the barn. Then that strip was excavated to build the new rock wall and the strip behind the wall was torn up and regraded. We had collected seed from the poppies and removed the plants

after the flowers faded, so I had assumed that there would not be new seedlings this year. Surprisingly, an amazing stand of poppies emerged. I decided that although they did not qualify as native to the Palouse, since they are annual plants that won't live through another year, I could get away with leaving them. Then we tried to do a very conscientious job of dead heading the flowers as they faded, in hopes of preventing more seedlings next year. Meanwhile, we had sowed more of the poppies along the chip path north of the field and those also came in and made a great show. We let those plants go to seed and collected the seed to plant more next year.

By the end of September, we have planted over 900 perennial plants. We have quite a few fall bulbs ordered to be planted in October, so the grand total for the year will end up well over 1,000 new plants.

Another fun plant story has been the flowering of the *Yucca elata* in the *Xeriscape Garden*. This is only the second time it has flowered since being planted in 2003, with its first flowering in 2020. The flowering spike grew to over 10 feet tall in less than a month! I had hoped to collect seeds from it when it flowered in 2020 but none formed. So, this year we tried to hand pollinate the flowers and even bagged some of the flowers in hopes of preserving some seed, but once again no seeds formed.

The ponds in the Arboretum continue to be our greatest challenge. Over the years the ponds have been plagued



Shade tree demonstration planting | P. Warnick | Summer 2023



Annual poppies combined with native *Clarkia* in the new Palouse Prairie pollinator strip. | P. Warnick | Summer 2023

with various aquatic weeds and algae. We have tried numerous solutions with some success on specific weeds but that is quickly followed by a new problem. This year after testing the water and finding it high in dissolved phosphorous we hired a company to treat the ponds with a chemical to tie up the phosphorous and did not see a visible difference from the year before. I also made the decision to give up on trying to physically remove the duck weed from the upper pond this year, and the duck weed doesn't look any worse than it did before.

However, the much more unfortunate news is that both ponds, but especially the upper pond, are far lower than I have ever seen. Both ponds rely completely on natural run off and we cannot add water to the ponds. In the past, the level in the upper pond has dropped below the outlet in midsummer so water didn't recirculate through the system, but this year the water level has dropped significantly further than ever. It has been an unusually dry year, but I don't know if that is the reason or if there is a new leak. There have been no visible new wet spots below the pond, and I really have no idea how to try to find or fix a leak.

I feel that it has been another successful year in the Arboretum. The whole Arboretum has been completely created with private donations, and that support combined with a great crew of employees allows us to continue to work towards improving the site and adding to the collections.

Paul Warnick, Horticulturist, UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden



Zachariah Green attempting to hand pollinate the *Yucca elata*. | P. Warnick | Summer 2023

2023 Arboretum Plant Sale

The 2023 *Arboretum Associates Plant Sale* was held Saturday, May 20th, at the new *Parks Activity Recreation Center* located at 2009 South Main. It was our first year in the new venue, and while we had some growing pains, the sale was once again a great success. Gross sales exceeded last year's figure by \$307.00 coming in at \$11,728.00. There were also numerous donations and memberships making it a very productive day.

Many thanks go to Paul Warnick and Lucy Falcy as well as the rest of the crew who collected and cared for the plants for months, making them beautiful specimens for shopper's gardens. Thanks also go to numerous volunteers who help with plant hauling, table set up, and simply running the show. Finally, much appreciation goes out to the loyal shoppers who continue to support the Arboretum by shopping at this event – we really could not do this without you.

The 2024 Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the J. Parks Activity Recreation Center (home of the new Palouse Ice Rink), 2009 S. Main Str., Moscow, ID. Mark your calendar and we look forward to seeing you then!

*Jan Leander,
Volunteer & UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden
Plant Sale Coordinator*



Plant sale guests found a large selection of healthy plants for their gardens. | J. Leander | May 20, 2023

Sustainability at the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden

Often when working in the *UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden* and the *Shattuck Arboretum* (UI Arboreta) visitors will stop by and tell us, “It looks great!” My usual reply is, “Thanks, we try.” We do try. Hard. We try not just to make it look great and be educational and inviting all the time, but also do so while using as few inputs as possible. Part of the reasoning is economic - we just do not have the funds to hire all the staff we need or to purchase every tool that would make our jobs easier. Environmental considerations are a major driver for many of our landscaping choices. Paul Warnick, UI Arboretum Horticulturist, constantly makes decisions that protect resources and provide habitat. In addition, the founding goals of the UI Arboreta were based on social principles: to provide a place to learn, educate, and promote research while also providing a restful and beautiful environment. *Economic. Environmental. Social.* These are commonly referred to as the three pillars of sustainability and here we will look briefly at what the UI Arboreta is doing to further these important goals.

Economic

The University of Idaho (UI) presents the public with a world class arboretum experience on a shoestring budget. The hard work and dedication of the staff, the efficiency of its practices, and the guidance of its committed volunteer board has allowed this facility to survive and even thrive through a wide variety of economic downturns.

The UI Arboreta are in better financial shape than it has even been in its history, and it continues to grow and develop in line with its original guiding principles. Guidance is provided by a community volunteer board, the *UI Arboretum Associates*, that manages donated funds as well as hosts fund raising and educational and social events. All UI Arboreta development is funded by a relatively small amount of private donations. No tax dollars or student funds are used to develop either site - only staff salary and limited maintenance are paid for by general education funds (tax and tuition money). The UI Arboreta hires students for summer work who are often horticultural students gaining experience in their field. If they choose, they may count their employment at the arboretum as an internship and are eligible for scholarships.

Environmental

The staff at the UI Arboreta work hard to maintain the environmental integrity of the two sites, the UI Shattuck Arboretum and the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden. The University of Idaho’s two Arboreta total 78 acres, only 30 of which are irrigated. There are no plans to expand the irrigated area even as the sites continue to develop. Water is conserved by only irrigating a little over one-third of the total area and great emphasis is placed on drought-tolerant plants. Per the sites’ official irrigation permit, “... irrigation water shall not runoff into natural waterways.” The UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden can only apply as much as the site can absorb and usually much less than that. The 30 irrigated acres are watered with reclaimed water from the municipal wastewater treatment plant. The provision of portable toilets in lieu of flushing toilets saves potable water.

All parking and walking surfaces at both sites are permeable and sourced from local materials. These include locally quarried gravel and wood chips sourced as a byproduct of a local lumber operation. Runoff from the barn and kiosk buildings percolates on-site into the water table. In Shattuck Arboretum, trail mulch is often provided by chipping woody debris in-place. Landscaping accents (wood and stone) are sourced on-site or within 30 miles. Herbaceous plant debris is composted on-site and used on site as fertilizer. Grass clippings and fallen leaves are mulched back onto the soil instead of being hauled off-site. Additional fertilization needs are supplied from nearby recycled compost facilities. Excess woody plant debris is taken to a local facility as a critical ingredient in composting biosolids from the municipal sewage treatment plant.



The UI Arboreta provide a place for visitors to learn and recreate in a restful and beautiful environment. | P. Warnick | Fall 2023

Inorganic fertilizers are very infrequently used. The UI Arboreta tightly controls the application of pesticides. No chemicals are used for insect control except in cases where wasp nests are in dangerous locations and are unable to be removed manually. Herbicide use is limited to spot spraying of noxious weeds where manual removal is impractical.

The UI Arboreta is constantly looking for ways to reduce energy use and in the last year has reduced mowing by more than half and converted to more efficient and staff (and neighbor)-friendly electric power tools. In 2022, the UI Arboreta decided to reduce grass mowing by more than half to conserve fuel. In a typical year there is something blooming from February through October. During the growing season, 15 of the UI Arboreta's 45 acres of grass are left unmowed, which provides a meadowlike understory that offers a variety of habitats for the tiniest pollinators to wandering moose. There is a significant pollinator population at both sites, and the Shattuck Arboretum site is kept in a more naturalized woodland state with snags left interspersed throughout as habitat trees.

Both UI Arboreta sites are known as 'hot spots' for birdwatchers on the international database for recording bird sightings, ebird.org, sponsored by the *Cornell Lab of Ornithology* and *National Audubon Society*. The ever-changing habitats among the maturing ornamental plants provide food, nesting sites, and stopping points for common and uncommon songbirds and raptors throughout the year.

There is no lighting at either UI Arboreta sites. This not only conserves energy and decreases the amount spent on installing and maintaining lighting fixtures, but also makes for more robust nocturnal habitats. Pets are not allowed in either UI Arboreta to maintain the integrity of the wide variety of available wildlife habitats, and to provide all visitors an enjoyable visit free of curious, unleashed animals and their attendant pet manure.

Social

The two UI Arboreta sites provide free access to the public, professionals, and educators to diverse landscapes that are unavailable elsewhere in the region and serve as a close, accessible community resource that allows citizens to engage with nature. Educational materials, interpretative signage, and tours are available to inform visitors about the sites and their collections. Specific areas educate visitors about low-water-use plant materials, as well as introduce them to a wide variety

of plant materials they would not usually see in a usual urban environment. The nearly four miles of walking trails provide arboretum users a space where they can enjoy recreational activities such as walking, jogging, and bike riding, as well as bird and other wildlife watching.

The UI Shattuck Arboretum is located a few steps from academic buildings and the main campus pedestrian corridor and provides a refuge for students, faculty, and staff needing a place to reset and relax in nature and take advantage of the approximately one mile of trails for recreation. The UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden are a 10-minute walk further to the south, accessed via roads, pedestrian walkways, or wooded trails. The gravel loop trail around the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden is approximately 1.4 miles of gradual declines and inclines. Short distances from the paths are benches where visitors can relax and enjoy the scenery. The main trail is a gravel road with a few significant slopes which can be challenging for anyone with disabilities. An additional 1.3 miles of chipped wood trails are available and provides additional access to plant materials through 30 acres of mowed grassy areas.



The arboretum ponds provide important habitats for local and migratory birds and other wildlife. | P. Warnick | Fall 2023

Above all, the UI Arboreta are living classrooms where anyone can go and learn about an exciting variety of plants from around the globe. The University uses this classroom extensively, in a wide variety of departments. The arboreta often hire students with an interest in the field for summer work and all parties benefit from each other. Both arboretums serve as living classrooms and laboratories for various departments on campus. This includes agriculture, horticulture, natural resource management, forestry, art, entomology, biology, and theater.

Most of the trees and shrubs in the Arboretum and Botanical Garden are located according to the geographical origin of the plants. The Arboretum provides a living inventory of the entire collection with a mapped index



Interpretative signage is one way the UI Arboreta educates visitors.
| P. Warnick | Summer 2023

where anyone can go and locate a specimen of interest. Undeveloped portions of the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden are currently used as research plots for forestry and agricultural grain studies. In addition, specific areas highlight and educate visitors regarding low water use and native landscaping options and displays, including:

- A one-quarter acre of unirrigated demonstration bed of endangered Palouse Prairie pollinators.
- A one-fifth acre unirrigated xeriscape demonstration bed.
- One-fifth acre of unirrigated demonstration beds of Native Idaho trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Five+ acres of unirrigated Idaho native timber trees and native understory plantings.

The UI Arboreta are free and open to the public and hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including a free annual concert each summer, an annual plant sale which highlights native and drought tolerant plants each spring, and the newly added Fall Crawl each autumn. In addition, approximately 20 tours/year are given to local and visiting groups, ranging from grade school classes to Master Gardeners and various college classes. These tours cover a wide range of educationally opportunities and materials appropriate to the audience. Personal tours are also provided to individuals unable to negotiate the arboretum's challenging terrain.

When spending time at the UI Arboreta you are spending time seeing, doing, and learning about an important part of the University of Idaho's Land Grant Mission – the three pillars of sustainability. Economically responsible,

Then and Now



Newly planted Butterfly Garden. | P. Warnick | 6-14-2010



Butterfly Garden now. | P. Warnick | 9-27-2023

environmentally aware, and socially conscious, the UI Arboreta provide a place to learn, educate, and promote research in a restful, beautiful, and sustaining natural environment.

Lucy Falcy,

Assistant Manager, UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden

Want more?

Want to know more about the *UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden*?

Sign-up, like, and/or follow one or all the below:

NEW

The *UI Arboretum* is now on Instagram! Enjoy the beautifully curated site at:

www.instagram.com/uiarboretum

The *UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden* website at: www.uidaho.edu/dfa/facilities/arboretum

The *UI Arboretum Associates* Facebook page: go there by scanning the QR code on the front of this issue of *Arbor Notes*.

And last, but not least, sign up to have the *UI Arboretum Monthly Update* sent directly to your email at: pwarnick@uidaho.edu

Calendar of Upcoming Events

APRIL 16, 2024

45th UI Arboretum Associates Annual Meeting

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Join us for light snacks followed by a brief business meeting and presentation.

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

MAY 18, 2024

UI Arboretum Associates Annual Plant Sale

Time: 9 am to 12 pm

It may be cold outside, but gardeners are always looking forward to the coming spring. Start planning now for your spring plant needs - mark your calendars and come early, plants go fast.

Parks Activity Recreation Center (home of the new Palouse Ice Rink), 2009 S. Main Str., Moscow, ID.

JULY 8, 2024

23rd Annual "Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds" Concert

Time: 7:00 pm.

A free concert - bring your blankets and lawn chairs.

UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

OCTOBER 2024 (TBA)

2nd Annual Arboretum Fall Crawl

Time: 1 to 3 pm.

Bring the family and all your friends to enjoy a few hours in the spectacular fall colors of arboretum.

UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden.



Newly planted slope above the pergola. | P. Warnick | 6-16-11



Now - grasses on the pergola slope. | P. Warnick | 10-16-2018

Gifts for Gardeners*

If you are a gardener, or know one, you know that there are always a few things we cannot live without – it might be a tool, or a book, or even an article of clothing. But gardening without said favorites would make our chosen obsession harder to do and so, less enjoyable. I casually polled some friends and received a whole bunch of “must haves” and “can’t live with outs”. You may likely discover something new you didn’t even know you needed – I did.

To save some repetition a few caveats.

Buy. Good. Tools. The little matched set that comes in pretty colors? Don’t bother - they won’t last the season.

Start by shopping local. Don’t ignore the farm supply stores or the clothing, sporting goods, and hunting accessories aisles – there is some good stuff there; sturdy well-made clothing and kneeling pads come to mind.

Take good care of your tools and they will take good care of you. Keep them sharp and give them a good cleaning before storing them away for the winter.

Use what you have and donate anything you don’t to a local community garden or thrift store. Plastic pots can be taken to the reused to the *UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden* (drop them by the barn) or to the *Moscow Recycling Center*.



A selection of the authors well-used tools - (from the bottom) good gloves, Fiskars Utility scissors, Felco #8 pruning shears, and a Hori hori knife with a great case to protect the blade. | Y.C. Barkley | October 2023

Clothing

A hat. Many friends do not step outdoors without their favorite gardening hat. Some prefer a ball cap, others a hat with a wide brim or drape that covers your neck. Newer products often come with SPF built right into the fabric. And don’t forget the sunscreen!!

Gloves. Try them on. You will be wearing them a lot and they need to be comfortable. I usually go through a few pairs a season, more if I lose them or the dog eats one.

Tools

Hori hori knife. Make sure the blade is securely embedded in the handle and both are stout and well-made. Use this versatile tool to cut and dig. Mine has a thick metal cap on the end of the handle which is great for pounding in yard staples. The more you use this tool, the more uses you will find for it.

Gorilla Cart. I cannot function without this wagon. It hauls compost, carts plants, serves as a potting area, and is my moving work station, corralling gloves, tools, and containers all in one moveable spot. It’s sturdy, easily maneuverable, and the whole bed dumps, so it’s easy to empty and clean.

Heavy duty utility scissors. I have a model made by Fiskars and the blades come apart, making them easy to clean and sharpen. Heavy duty kitchen shears can be used outside and make great gardening tools.

Pruning shears. This one has a lot to do with preferences. Some people like theirs to have padded handles, others go for ergonomic styles, and some of us are even left-handed. Personally, I cannot garden without my Felco #8 shears.

Tiny snips/pruners. My sister-in-law loves her pair made by Hydro Farm. This is a wicked sharp, curved blade, precision pruning tool made with surgical steel. Ultra-light and perfect for getting into the tight spaces among delicate flowers and stems. I put this one on my wish list (hint).

2.5 lb. pickaxe. One particular friend cannot work his Palouse silt/loam/clay gardens without his handy 2.5 lb. pickaxe. If you have tight or tough soil, a lot of bulbs to plant, or lots of digging to do (who doesn’t?) this might be just the tool for you.

Kneeling pad. Not a skimpy little skinny one – a good thick one. Look in the sporting goods and hunting accessories aisles at your local store. I have found some great kneeling pads that are made for sitting in the woods or on a hard bench at a football game.

Trugs. These seem to have replaced the old bushel basket in many gardens of today. Choose products that are sturdy, but lightweight. They hold soil, garden waste, compost, and water, making them very useful for all your outdoor chores.

Big garden pot mover. There are many ways to move a big, heavy garden pot, but this model of mover from *Gardeners Supply* has served me well. I can move pots up to 165 lbs. by myself. It is easy to use and adjustable to any pot size. I have had mine for years.

The Garden Weasel. Know all those fallen apples and nuts you have to pick up all the time? Here is a gadget that speeds up the chore and saves your back. Available in two sizes, the larger one is great for picking up items such as walnuts, apples, sweet gum balls, and magnolia seed/flower heads. The smaller one is great for picking up acorns and smaller fruits such as firm plums.

The Skidger XtremeWeeder – also called the TitanWeeder Scuffle Hoe. I have not tried this one yet, but others swear by it. This hoe has a heavy, open, leaf-shaped blade with a sharp edge inside and out, and long handle. Great for cutting off the tops of the sturdiest weeds (thistles) and will cut well even under bark or below the soil surface. Also on my wish list.

And what is life without a few good books?

The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World
By Michael Pollan

Michael Pollan explores ways that people and domesticated plants have formed reciprocal relationships. He links four human desires—sweetness, beauty, intoxication, and control—with the plants that satisfy them: the apple, tulip, marijuana, and potato. We have benefited from these plants and done well by them, which brings up the question of who is really domesticating whom?

Arboretum America: A Philosophy of the Forest
By Diana Beresford-Kroeger

Diana Beresford-Kroeger has given us a lyrically written book that combines garden philosophy and medicinal knowledge with hands-on practicality. Her deep dive into the scientific literature brings to light the many ways the featured plants can, and do, benefit mankind and provides suggestions for their use via her Bioplans. Read and learn about some well-known favorites such as the mighty oak and elegant birch as well as about some of her lesser-known picks like the delicately delicious pawpaw and fragrant sassafras.

The Story of Flowers: And How They Changed the Way We Live
Noel Kingsbury, Charlotte Day (Illustrator)

This beautifully illustrated book brings together 100 of the world's flowers and tells their remarkable stories. Appearing in approximate historical order, and arranged alphabetically by scientific name within each period, the author tells us about each species and what role they have played in our culture and history. Starting in the BC Era and moving through BC-Early Medieval, Late Medieval - 17th Century, 18th Century, 19th Century, and finishing with the 20th Century, Noel Kingsbury has written a deeply interesting and well research book that will be a delight to read for any plant enthusiast.

Yvonne Barkley, Member-at-Large, UI Arboretum Associates

**The University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden does not endorse any products or books mentioned in this article and does not collect any promotional fees.*



Gorilla Cart packed full for a day in the garden. | Y.C. Barkley | October 2023



The Big Garden Pot mover. | Y.C. Barkley | October 2023



My friend Larry using his 2.5 lb. pickaxe to removing grass from his raspberry bed. | C. Lass | October 2023



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