

ArborNotes

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES

VOLE CONTROL

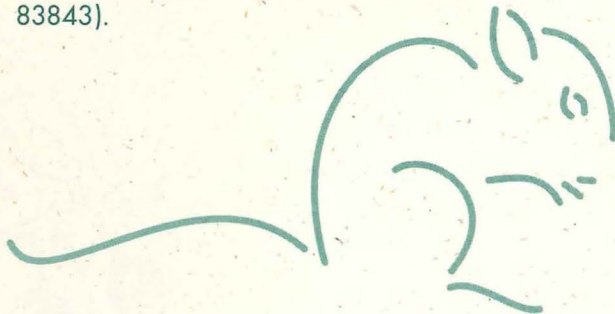
Earlier this year, a crop threatening infestation of voles in the Magic Valley was reported in Idaho newspapers. A declining number of natural predators (owls, hawks, coyotes, etc.) could not control the population explosion that had been favored by a long, wet spring. Requests for a campaign by poisoning won governmental approval.

Locally, some gardeners observed more than normal activity by voles this year with damage to emerging plants. Also, occasional dead voles were found. Questions were raised about the possibility here of a dramatic rise in the vole population. Even a small number of voles may do substantial damage to costly plantings.

The meadow voles that inhabit our area sometimes are called "meadow mice." They are compact animals with stocky bodies, short legs, and a short tail. They are active day and night year-around. Although not commonly seen feeding, their attacks on small trees and ornamental plants are evident. Their burrows begin to multiply in the affected areas, since they may have five litters per year with as many as 10 or 11 in a litter.

Large population fluctuations are characteristic of voles, but no seasons of epidemic proportions here are recalled by natives. Eliminating ground cover reduces vole populations and soil cultivation destroys burrows. For the control of serious damage, poisoning may be necessary. Zinc phosphide is the toxicant favored, but anti-coagulants are easier to obtain in garden stores (zinc phosphide is restricted to licensed applicators). Both require caution in use to avoid the poisoning of birds and pets. Placement in the burrows is the prudent practice.

Readers who desire more information will benefit from calling Ken Wise of the UI Cooperative Agricultural Extension Office at 882-8580 (mailing address: P.O. Box 8068, Court House Room 209, Moscow, ID 83843).



Where in the World is the Biggest Tree?

It's not in the Amazon rain forest, nor is it in the Pacific Northwest. The big surprise is that it's in an urban setting! The largest living tree, in terms of total weight, is thought by some experts to be a 3500 year old Montezuma cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*) in the village of Tule, near Oaxaca, Mexico. The tree of Santa Maria Del Tule is 38 feet in diameter, stands 141 feet high, and measures about 150 feet across its crown. It appears healthy and has its own full-time caretaker.

Source: "World's Largest Tree?" *Arbor Day*, March/April 1993, 6. (The National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.)

DECEMBER 1996

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the Arboretum Associates
University of Idaho
Arboretum and Botanical
Garden

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December 1996

Illustrations by Anna
Fehrenbacher, Arboretum
Associates board member

UI Arboreta Advisory Board

Established in the fall of 1994, the UI Arboreta Advisory Board is composed of ten members with different areas of expertise who provide advice and counsel for the management of the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden and the Shattuck Arboretum. Objectives of the advisory board are to promote the arboreta as a (1) botanical garden and living museum, (2) research and education center, (3) cultural center, (4) passive recreational center for walking and observation of plant life, and (5) a public resource for university departments, industry, and the public.

The board works closely with the UI administration to develop policies and procedures to maximize the cultural, educational, and service functions of the two properties. Within the last year, the group reviewed and approved the design and installation of granite benches. Other ongoing activities include developing policies for (1) determining what plantings should be included in the collection, and (2) displays and interpretive signage.

Appointed by Jerry Wallace, Vice President for Finance and Administration, members of the Arboreta Advisory Board are: David Adams, Professor of Forest Resources; Edward Bechinski, Professor of Entomology; Linda Davidson, Executive Director of the UI Foundation; Stephen Drown, Professor of Landscape Architecture; Eldonna Gossett, Executive Director of Moscow Chamber of Commerce; Patricia Heglund, Affiliate Assistant Professor of Zoology; Duane LeTourneau, Professor of Biochemistry Emeritus and past president Arboretum Associates; Robert Mahler, Professor of Soil Fertility; and Robert Tripepi, Associate Professor of Horticulture. One open position will be filled shortly. Richard Naskali, Arboretum Director, and Michael Sylvester, Director of Facilities Management, are ex-officio members and Jill Eglund serves as the student liaison with ASUI.

The Arboreta Advisory Board works closely with the Executive Committee of Arboretum Associates. Recently Beverly Rhoades and Bob Steele, President and Treasurer of Arboretum Associates, met with the board to discuss topics of mutual interest. As a result of the meeting, Arboretum Associates provided funds to assist with pest control at the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden.



A THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Arboretum Associates,

At your spring meeting I was fortunate to be drawn the winner of a lilac tree offered by the Associates. What a surprise!

Now, I must report the tree is planted at Good Samaritan Village adjacent to the home I'll be living in. It is doing very well.

Thanks for the addition to the garden. The lilac's beauty will be shared with other near-by retirees.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Hole

P.S. A special thanks to Dick Naskali for the tree delivery.

A Great Christmas Gift Idea: See the 1997 Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Get a preview of spring by attending Seattle's spectacular annual flower show, February 5-9, 1997! The UI Enrichment Program office has planned another bus trip that will permit you to visit the general flower show, Market Place & Garden Center, Orchid Show, and see miniature gardens. You will have an opportunity to buy and bring home some new plants for your gardens on the Palouse. During the show hours (9a.m. - 9:30p.m), you also can attend many of the *Sunset* magazine seminars covering scores of garden and home topics.

An 8a.m. bus departure from Moscow, Friday, February 7 and a noon departure from Seattle, Sunday, February 9 will permit you to choose how you use your two flower show tickets. Housing will be at the Vance Hotel, an easy walk to the show site at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center. UI Arboretum Director Richard Naskali will lead the trip, provide advice, and interpretation for application to Palouse gardens and gardeners.

Call the UI Enrichment office (885-6486) for enrollment costs and details.

Photographing Your Landscape

The International Society of Arboriculture staffers advise you to photograph your home landscape regularly. Up-to-date photographic documentation of your trees and shrubs can help you receive fair compensation from insurance companies or the Internal Revenue Service in case of storm or accident damage. They also suggest that you file all receipts for plant purchases and landscape maintenance expenses.

The fact is, landscape plants are valuable—much more valuable than many homeowners believe. It isn't unusual for high quality landscaping to account for as much as 25% of the value of a private residence.

Reference: "Insuring Your Landscape," *Quill & Trowel*, December 1995, 7. (Garden Writers Association of America, 10210 Leatherleaf Ct., Manassas, VA 22111.)



Justin Bowen, Lone Pine Tree Service, Rexburg, ID, guides a 90" "Big John" tree spade in moving a specimen 'Urbanite' ash for the Public Utilities Executives' Course grove in the Arboretum after our first snowfall. R.J. Naskali photo, October 19, 1996.

News From the Arboretum Director

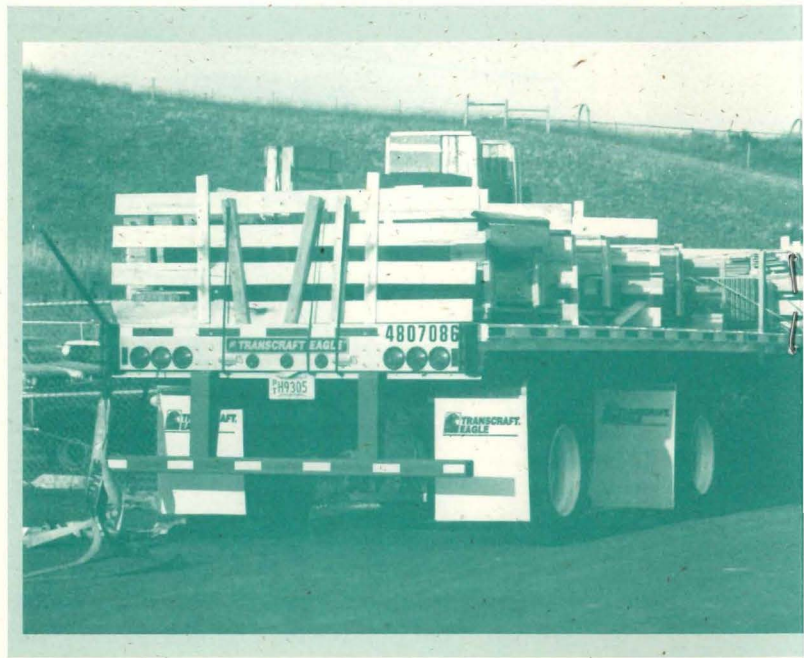
As 1996 comes to an end and the UI Arboretum & Botanical Garden is almost "put to bed" for the winter, our most ambitious year for development of the infrastructure also closes. In addition to the planting, watering, weeding, and mowing an ever larger part of the 63-acre garden by student employees who helped me, we undertook several projects to implement the 1980 Master Plan.

The effluent irrigation system was greatly expanded to permit more efficient watering of the southeastern part of the Arboretum. Although we still have 1,300-1,400 feet of waterline to install when temperatures permit in 1997, we completed 3,500 feet of waterline this year. Now, we will rarely have hoses over the roads and will seldom use 300-400' long hoses to water specimens.

In addition to adding hundreds of plants to various groves and commemorative plantings, 33 specimens were moved in order to provide them sufficient space for unhampered development or to place them in more appropriate areas. On the first snowy day this fall, October 19, a 90" "Big John" tree spade from Rexburg moved four large ash trees into the Idaho Public Utilities Executives' Course grove, one large Norway spruce into the Watts grove, and two western red cedars into the Slade grove. During October and early November, we also moved many established western North American shrubs into new areas with a wider spacing. Some cleanup of turf damage will have to be delayed until 1997.

The first nine elegant granite benches arrived for the Arboretum on August 26, 1996. The named benches (Thomas Cooper, LaVerne & Ray Evans, Harry & Lucille Fenwick, Jacqueline Larson, Richard Naskali, Roland Portman, Hallie Seaman, Eugene Slade, and Elisabeth Zinser) will be located at widely spaced view points and resting places in the Arboretum. Although installation will not be completed until 1997, we were able to have the contracted bench foundations poured prior to freezing weather. The scarcity of available contractors in Moscow, the early onset of rainy and snowy conditions, and necessary foundation curing time all mandated that we cover the foundations and wait until 1997 to complete the bench installation.

In 1994-95, the Arboretum Associates designated \$1,000 to obtain seeds from the North America-China Plant Exploration Consortium ("NACPEC") led by the U.S. National Arboretum. We obtained an outstanding collection of 125 wild-collected taxa of woody plants from



northern China and the mountains outside Beijing. Those seeds, planted in April 1995, have generated hundreds of specimens of hardy ornamentals. Many of the two-year-old specimens were planted in the Arboretum this year. Acquisitions include rare conifers, maples, crabapples, lilacs, mockoranges, roses, viburnums, clematis, and many other meritorious wild-collected Chinese plants to add to our living plant palette for study, learning, display, and enjoyment.

An array of 26 temporary trellises was constructed and placed on one of the terraces in the Asian section of the Arboretum this last summer. We planted our first NACPEC vine specimens at some of the trellises during July. As contributed philanthropic funding permits, we will construct a permanent, Oriental style, walk-through, long pergola to replace the temporary trellises so that we can properly culture and display our Asian-vining plants.

In order to correct a difficult, steep, weed infested slope along the Arboretum SE boundary adjacent to the Frontier I Addition, we constructed a 465' long gabion retaining wall system. The majority of the labor force was a team of UI students who earned fees and living expenses from the Arboretum project. Although the gabions (rock-filled wire baskets) were completed, the onset of rainy and snowy conditions prevented us from the final backfilling with topsoil and the grooming-seeding of the adjacent Arboretum. This gabion system provides a substrate for culturing and displaying native Eastern North American vining plants (e.g., Virginia creeper, trumpet vine, clematis, greenbriar, honeysuckle, grape, etc.).

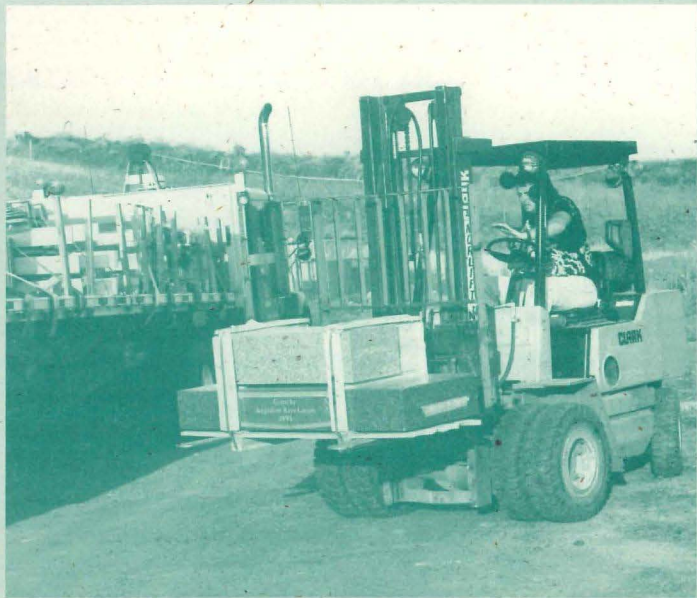
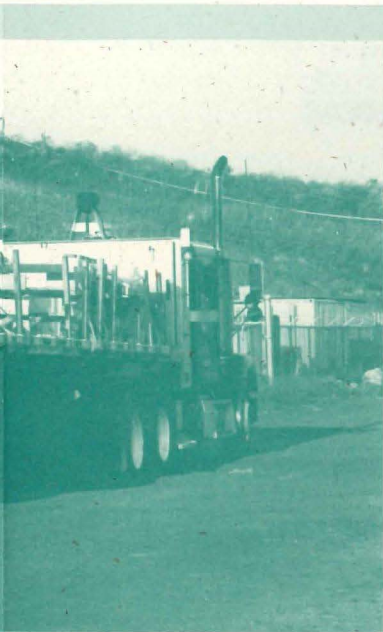


Photo left: A truckload of the first nine granite benches for the Arboretum arrives at sunrise from Cold Spring Granite Company, Cold Spring, MN, August 26, 1996. R.J. Naskali photo.

Photo right: Ernie Chandler, UI Facilities Management moving crew, carefully unloads the crated Jacqueline Larson bench for the Arboretum. In the crate, the bench base is packed atop the polished and engraved seat. R.J. Naskali photo, August 26, 1996.

Now that many of our plant collections are expanding, flowering, fruiting, and reproducing, academic usage of the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden has greatly expanded. This year, General Botany students surveyed plankton in the ponds, and Wildlife students trapped and marked rodents for sampling and removal of voles. In addition, students in Upward Bound, environmental science, soils, and plant materials identification began using the facility. Research programs for monitoring Palouse amphibian populations and air quality included stations at the Arboretum. Two of the three full-time summer student employees received internship credit toward their Bachelor's degree programs in plant science-horticulture.

At the Fleiger house site at the southern end of the Arboretum, we refurbished the original well by installing new electrical service, plumbing, and a new pump in order to measure the well's potential for irrigating planned plantings at the south entry along West Palouse River Drive.

Re-roofing the Arboretum barn remains a high priority for the summer of 1997. The 1908 timber frame barn, given to UI with the farmstead in 1960 by Amil and May Fleiger, was slated for re-roofing this year by appropriations to the Idaho Department of Public Works—but spring flooding disasters in Idaho mandated that Governor Batt's budget priorities be revised. The roofing project has been presented again to the Idaho DPW for consideration.

Since I last wrote this column, additional plantings have been committed and underwritten: European derived roses by the Hill & Valley Garden Club, Kendrick, ID, the Merl

W. & Erna A. Stubbs Grove of Eastern North American hardwoods, and the Bonnie McKay Johnson Arboretum bench.

Philanthropic giving to the University of Idaho Foundation, Inc. and to the Arboretum Associates continues to be essential to drive Arboretum development. To date, all Arboretum plantings, endowments, and benches are funded by your tax-deductible dollars. I am grateful for your ongoing contributions which propel Arboretum progress. Although our first plantings are flowering, fruiting, and expressing their variations in growth forms, we have many needs for plants, benches, pergolas, etc. As you know, we must invest before we reap the benefits.

For teaching and display, we still have major gaps in our collections of hardy ornamental plants. Notable needs are funds for the Asian collections of meritorious species and cultivars of barberry, deutzia, juniper, spiraea, weigela, and yew.

Thank you for your continued support.

If you have questions, comments, or want information about our special needs for Arboretum giving, please write or call me. Richard J. Naskali, Arboretum Director/Associate Professor, 205 C.E.B., University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-3226. Telephone (208) 885-6250 (office) or 882-2633 (home). FAX: (208) 885-4040. Electronic mail: naskali@uidaho.edu



P RIVATE SUPPORT IS CRITICAL TO THE ARBORETUM'S SUCCESS

During a recent visit to the University of Idaho Boise Center, I observed a large aerial photograph of the University's Moscow campus hanging on a conference room wall. It was a view of the campus from the south looking north. What really caught my eye was a valley in the bottom center of the photograph which at one time had been considered one of the prime sites for rerouting U.S. Highway 95 to by-pass Moscow. This valley has the UI golf course on its western edge, the University Heights residential district on its eastern edge, and Nez Perce Drive and the UI President's residence on its northern edge. The photograph (circa late 1970's-early 1980's) was taken during the summer. The golf course, residential areas, and grounds around the UI President's residence were green, but the valley was an unattractive brown and had been closely mowed. This was done for two reasons – (1) to allow the golf course grounds crew to find and retrieve golf balls, since the upper (north) portion of the valley was used by the golf course as a driving range, and (2) to keep the weeds down. A primitive vehicle trail ran from Nez Perce Drive straight down to the center of the valley and there was evidence of terracing work along the side of the valley which bordered the golf course. The terrace work appeared to be an attempt to stabilize a very steep bank.

Today, when you visit the valley I have just described, you will not find a brown field or a by-pass section of U.S. Highway 95. Instead, you will find the new University of Idaho Arboretum & Botanical Garden. This arboretum, thanks to the foresight, physical labor and financial support of hundreds of volunteers since the mid-1980's, now offers 63 acres of well-cared for grounds. On those grounds you will find four geographical sections – Asian, Eastern North American, Western North American, and European. Within these sections are approximately 60 dedicated groves and commemorative trees, and within the groves are hundreds of trees, shrubs and other plantings. About 1,000 linear feet of gabion walls have been constructed to help stabilize the sloping banks on both the western and eastern sides of the valley.

In 1985, Gene Thompson and others volunteered their time and equipment to build a road system that now provides (1) controlled ingress/egress at both the north (Nez Perce Drive) and south (Palouse River Drive) entrances, and (2) access along the west and east sides of the valley. The road made it possible for Howard Schoepflin, Jim Givan, Dean Vettrus, and others to volunteer their time and equipment to construct the two largest ponds on the floor of the valley. Also in the 1980's, volunteers installed the first phase of an underground irrigation system and began planting trees in the Asian, European, and Western North American sections.

The University of Idaho Arboretum & Botanical Garden is evolving from an unattractive and unproductive field into a wonderful and beautiful laboratory, classroom, and nature preserve. The University of Idaho owns the 63 acres which comprise the Arboretum and provides the funding necessary to mow, water, and otherwise maintain the grounds.

However, all of the trees, granite benches, shrubs, and other plantings are funded entirely by private contributions. The days when volunteers were needed to provide muscle, strong backs, and hours of physical labor in the evenings and on weekends to perform the majority of the work are past. But private contributions and occasional planned work parties will continue to be a critical factor for developing, maintaining, and continually improving the University of Idaho Arboretum & Botanical Garden.

As the 1996 tax year rapidly comes to an end and you put the finishing touches to your charitable giving plan, I invite you to make an investment in the Arboretum and become a member of Arboretum Associates. Make your check payable to the University of Idaho Foundation, Inc., and send it to Arboretum Associates, Room 207 Ad. Annex Bldg, Moscow, ID 83844-3147. Remember contributions which are mailed and postmarked December 31, 1996, or earlier qualify as 1996 charitable tax deductions even though they may not be received by Arboretum Associates until January 1997. If you have questions about how you can benefit the Arboretum (i.e., Arboretum Associates membership, funding a commemorative tree, funding a dedicated grove or garden, funding a bench, funding a perpetual endowment, etc.), call me at (208) 885-4000.

Bob Steele, Treasurer

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Marguerite Smiley

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Pam & Bob Steele

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Keep the Momentum: Renew your annual contribution to the Arboretum Associates for Fiscal Year '97. Please help the Arboretum grow by renewing your annual gifts for the fiscal year which began July 1, 1996. **Thank You!**

We invite support for the UI ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN project. This form is provided for the convenience of all who have not already acted in FY97 (July 1, 1996, through June 30, 1997).

Name _____

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Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

Please charge my _____ MasterCard _____ VISA

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