

ArborNotes

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES

The Leonard Halland Kiosk

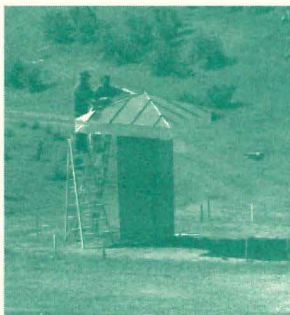
A copper-roofed information kiosk with four display cases and racks where visitors can obtain brochure and arboretum maps has been constructed near the northern end of the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden. The kiosk, underwritten by a generous 1995 gift from Leonard Halland, was completed November 4, 1997.



A&R Construction personnel prepare the forms (8/14/97) and pour the cement (8/18/97) for the kiosk core.

Designed by Larry Chinn, Principal Architect for UI Architectural and Engineering Services, the kiosk was constructed by various UI Facilities Management shops after the concrete core was completed by A&R Construction of Lewiston, ID. Each of the four display cases is backed with a panel of sanded strips of naturally variegated red and white redwood. Lighting fixtures and conduit were installed for eventual illumination.

Surrounding the kiosk is a Keystone and brick-paved overlook deck and plantings including a small raised bed. 'Crimson Pygmy' barberries (*Berberis thunbergii* 'Crimson Pygmy') and 'Mint Julep' Chinese junipers (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Mint Julep') border the kiosk's south side. In the raised, walled mini-garden, 'Blue Star' junipers (*Juniperus squamata* 'Blue Star'), 'Tom Thumb' cotoneasters (*Cotoneaster apiculatus* 'Tom Thumb') and hundreds of small-flowered spring bulbs were planted. There will be a colorful display of double-flowered snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis* 'Flore Pleno'), Grecian windflowers (*Anemone blanda*), glory of the snow (*Chinodoxa luciliae*), 'Thalia' narcissus (*Narcissus triandrus* 'Thalia') and 'Giant Blue' crocus in the springtime.



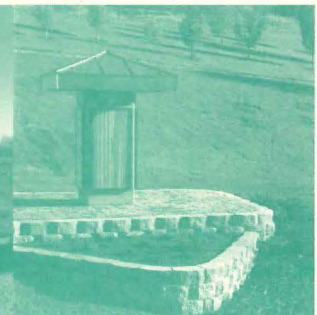
Larry Anderson and "BJ" Schenck, UI FM Machine Shop, install copper roofing (9/24/97)



"BJ" Schenck and Larry Anderson add the display cases.



A Keystone and brick overlook deck nears completion.



The kiosk and its adjacent landscaping are complete. (11/4/97)

DECEMBER 1997

ArborNotes

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

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ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES
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December 1997

The 1997 Year in Review: News from the Arboretum Director

1997 was a landmark year of positive change at the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden. The planting of hundreds of documented plants, installing 57 commemorative plaques, correcting drainage problems, extending the effluent irrigation system, building of an elegant kiosk, installing nine granite benches, and continuing philanthropic funding by hundreds of benefactors have all headed the University of Idaho toward having a real arboretum! This summer was a good and long growing season which culminated in a spectacular show of fall leaf coloration. Although the maple and ash tree leaf coloration peaked about October 22, our first two hard frosts October 23 & 25 resulted in a leaf-fall shower. As late as November 6, 1997, there was still a glorious leaf color show of oaks, ornamental cherries, and ornamental pears to name a few.

Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, townspeople, and visitors from afar have used the arboreta this year. Many UI classes have used our facilities. Vandalism has declined greatly; dogs (seemingly) are less common in the "new" Arboretum. Researchers from UI and WSU are asking for assistance for plant materials, etc. Eastern North American vines are becoming established on the gabion wall which was constructed adjacent to the Frontier I Addition during the 1996 summer. Teresa Helsley and Kenneth Kubo, UI students, were married in the Arboretum June 21, 1997. Construction of a fine new private home on the last vacant lot at the end of Borah Avenue has closed the site where entrants bypassed official Arboretum entries for snowplay or worse. Some music students have discovered that the new granite benches sited at view points in the Arboretum, are fine places to practice flute or guitar. Granite bench sites have become portrait photo destinations.

Except for some work projects contracted with private builders and employees from the UI Facilities Management specialty shops, all other work has been completed by a team of UI students. For most of the 1997 summer, student employees were Daniel Harrington; Jeffrey Young; Kurt Rosenau; and Chad Lammers. With the resumption of UI classes August 25, student work hours declined drastically. Since then, Daniel and Jeffrey have continued part-time; fall work has also been assisted by Jacob Leppert, Davon Sjostrom, and Jason Ricks. One senior student in Landscape Architecture, Richard Prescott, will assist with some computer-based graphics and design projects for the Arboretum during his final 1 + semesters at UI. During the growing season, students collectively worked 3021+ hours; of that 487+ hours were used to mow the grass with the 60" Kubota mowers! These dedicated, hard-working, and loyal student employees are the lifeblood of routine to wide-ranging daily chores at the Arboretum!

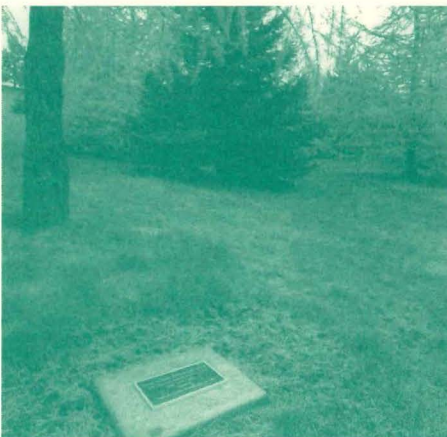


Student employees Dan Harrington (l), Davon Sjostrom, and Jake Leppert (r) take a photo break from bark-mulching Arboretum trees. 10/97

Although much reclamation and management must still be accomplished in UI's Charles Houston Shattuck Arboretum, the balance of this report highlights our progress at the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

Highlights of the 1997 season, in brief synopses, follow.

Bronze Plaque Installation. Most Arboretum groves and commemorative trees now have their donor-funded bronze plaques in place; 57 were installed in cement bases by UI Facilities Management personnel during the summer. Bronze plaques will be installed in 1998 for the 13 constituent parts of the UI Centennial Oak Grove and at five other committed sites for dedicated groves and trees. Prior to their installation, UI Photo Services made photographic negatives of the 57 plaques so that 8" x 10" prints can be made for donors and Arboretum files during coming months. Thanks for your extended patience and understanding over months to years before these plaques were completed with proper punctuation, spelling, type-styles, texts, and an occasional logo!



Bronze plaque marking the UI College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences 75th anniversary grove of Idaho native conifers. 11/1/97

Arboretum Barn Re-roofing. The Arboretum barn (UI's oldest at 90 years of age) is a highly valued structure which, hopefully, will become the Arboretum's visitor, educational, and administrative "nerve center" (when sufficient gifts permit its remodeling and conversion). The barn is about to be re-roofed—with completion scheduled prior to January 25, 1998. By special appropriation to the Idaho Division of Public Works, a contract was issued to have the roof deck and surface replaced. In addition to removing the aged and leaking shake roof, the slatted roof deck will be covered with a plywood deck before a gray-colored, enameled, standing seam steel roof is installed. The historic cupola/ventilator will be preserved; screening will be installed to terminate pigeon entry. The joists at the eaves and rake and the fascia boards will be replaced as necessary. I greatly appreciate the documentation and support given by the UI Administration, the Legislature, and the Governor's offices in order to have this important preservation work realized. The barn was part of a farm purchased in 1929 by Amil and May Fleiger from John and Rowena Luedke. In turn, the Fleigers, in retirement, gave their farm to the University of Idaho in 1960. Today, that farm legacy constitutes the entire southern end of the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden and its parking area on Palouse Drive West.



The Arboretum barn prior to the sale and removal of the Fleiger house. Leonard Kawula photograph, September 1994

Effluent Pipeline Extension. Several hundred feet of 4" irrigation mainline piping were installed. This extension facilitates irrigation to most sites without having hoses over the gravel road and with 150' (maximum) hose lengths. We started a program of installing protective valve box covers over the "quick couple" heads so that they would be protected.

Pond Slope Stabilization. The steep north slope of the upper pond at the Arboretum was covered with rocks during July 1997. Basalt rock was received, gratis, from the Moscow High School as its retaining wall was replaced with a Keystone retaining wall.

Stream Channel Cleanup. The stream channel between the major Arboretum ponds and south of the lower pond was excavated deeper and wider during last summer. This work enhanced drainage and made land available for planting specimen trees and shrubs. Channel work also reduced the lush vole habitat that was impossible to mow by machine. Additional excavations between the two major ponds initiated a series of four small ponds to be completed in 1998. In coming months, USDA Soil Conservation Service engineers will assist with the design of 3-4 concrete dams or weirs so that a chain of four small ponds can be developed for the display of appropriate ornamental aquatic plants. UI Landscape Architecture students will help design the new water garden feature.

Culvert Headwall Construction. During August 1997, seven concrete headwalls were constructed to facilitate the outflow of water from the Arboretum and City of Moscow storm drainage system of University Heights and the Frontier I addition. Prior to this work, the culverts of the Arboretum were regularly eroded by water from snowmelt and summer showers. The previous culvert headwalls, constructed of broken concrete, were a prime habitat for burrowing voles. The new headwalls were constructed at the Fleiger house site driveway, the long culvert under the south parking area, and at the two southern-most foot pathways of the Arboretum valley.

Road Repair. The primary service roadway which serves as the main footpath, was recently recoated with 120 tons of gravel—meaning that our pedestrian visitors to the Arboretum will have less probability of getting their shoes muddy!

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) in the Arboretum and Botanical Garden. National interest has been generated as we faced our first cases of DED in the Arboretum and Botanical Garden. In July, one each of our two specimens of 'Homestead' and 'Pioneer' elms were tested and confirmed to have DED. Professor Stipes, a leading DED pathologist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, cultured and confirmed the DED in our trees (which were received as test plants in 1990). Denny Townsend (U.S. National Arboretum), the originator of the two highly acclaimed "new" elm cultivars, has communicated his interest in our problem. The two diseased trees were removed and properly destroyed; adjacent elms were isolated from the diseased tree's roots by soil trenching.

Planting Summer 1997. Hundreds of new documented specimen plants were added to our collections during the 1997 growing season. In addition to new commemorative trees and adding to dedicated groves, scores of new trees and shrubs were planted. Our greatest planting effort was in the Asian section where we added specimens from the North America-China Plant Exploration Consortium (NACPEC). These specimens were propagated from seeds collected in 1993 and 1994 by teams of personnel of the U.S. National Arboretum, the Morris Arboretum (University of Pennsylvania), and the Arnold Arboretum (Harvard University). Through your generous annual contributions to the Arboretum Associates, we obtained 125 packets of woody plant seeds collected in Heilungkiang and Beijing Provinces, China. NACPEC seeds were planted April 1995; now we have a fine collection of wild-collected specimens of lilac, viburnum, crabapples, mountain-ash, pines, spruces, firs, lindens, roses, mock-orange, buck-thorns, a vine collection, and many others—adding greatly to the diversity in our Asian section. Some NACPEC specimens flowered in the Arboretum in their third year. These included *Philadelphus chinensis*, the Chinese counterpart of our Idaho State Flower, *Philadelphus lewisii*, Lewis's Mock-orange/"Syringa". Elsewhere, European water iris (*Iris pseudacoris*) border much of the upper pond where rampant cattails formerly grew.

Winterization. Preparations for winter are complete. Irrigation lines are drained and well pumps have been turned off; sprinklers and hoses have been stored. Anti-rodent collars and sunscald shields have been installed on hundreds of vulnerable trees and shrubs. Protective staking and fencing should alleviate damage to the vulnerable and valuable smaller specimen plants. Construction sites were seeded to establish the creeping red fescue turf that prevails in the Arboretum; sod was installed around the seven sites where a second wave of granite benches will be installed in 1998.

Arboretum Office Moves. After residing in the Continuing Education Building 205 (formerly Forney Hall) for a decade and three months, the Arboretum office moved to the Alumni Center (formerly known as Hays Hall) building, rooms 109-110. The move, essential as a part of the general moving of many UI offices and programs in order to accommodate the construction of the University Center/Commons, coincidentally has provided a space to house a growing reference library, Arboretum files and increasing complex resources. My "new" office can be reached via the limestone arched, red collegiate-Gothic doorway between the Continuing Education Building and the UI Alumni Office.



A Volunteer Program

The Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens at Humble, Texas recently surveyed member institutions of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) and developed a volunteer directory from the results. The good news is that the number of volunteer programs continues to grow. Volunteers are participating in docent

programs, education programs for adults and children, clerical tasks, grounds maintenance, plant propagation, organizing special events, and many more projects. While the ages of the volunteers vary, loyalty remains high. Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of these programs around the country is that the directors sense that they do not have enough time to commit to the recruitment and training of the volunteers.

The UI Arboretum Associates would like to develop a volunteer program. In order to do so, a volunteer coordinator and volunteers are needed. Volunteers could help the UI Arboretum by leading tours, being docents, partaking in spring cleanup and winter preparations, and various other chores. The hope is to have our program "up and running" by the spring of 1998.

If you have some spare time and would like something rewarding to do that would benefit the Arboretum, please send a note of your interest to Beverly Rhoades, Arboretum Associates President, [Address: Arboretum Associates, Room 207, Ad Annex Bldg., University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-3147]. Or you could e-mail her at <bevr@uidaho.edu>.

Scheduling Events in UI's Arboreta

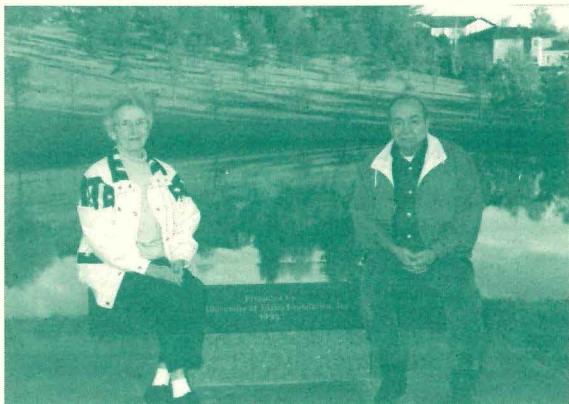
As the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden approaches its 17th anniversary since planting began in 1982, plant establishment and maturation make the Arboretum an ever more popular destination for uses that are compatible with its master plan and mission statement. For group events and uses (e.g., class use, research, field trips, weddings, controlled collecting, etc.) it is essential that group users make arrangements in advance. For such group events, please complete a UI Facility Use form which is obtainable from the Arboretum

Director (Alumni Center, room 109) or the UI Events office (North Campus Center at Line Street and the Pullman Highway). Making these arrangements ensures that conflicts of maintenance, construction, and public use do not happen. It also provides documentation statistics, assurance checks that uses are consistent with Arboretum goals, and helps ensure longevity of the facility and protection of its valued plantings and amenities.

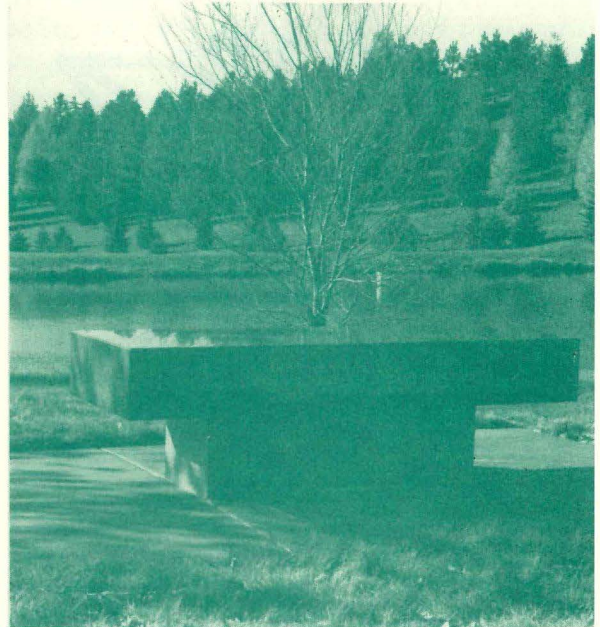
Granite Bench Installation.

Having permanent seating at conveniently spaced viewpoints and meeting places in the Arboretum, first suggested by Harry and Lucille Fenwick several years ago, came to fruition in 1997. Carnelian granite, quarried at Millbank, SD and prepared to our design specifications by the Cold Spring Granite Company, Cold Spring, MN, is a fine grained, reddish brown earthtone granite that blends well in our Arboretum. The highly polished top slab provides a fine surface for approved inscriptions which are appropriate to the university's public garden.

The first nine Arboretum benches were installed August 26, 1997, by the Tresco monument personnel, Spokane, WA. Those nine included the Thomas Cooper, Jacqueline Larson, H. Ray & LaVerne Evans, Harry & Lucille Fenwick, Richard Naskali, Roland Portman, Hallie



Gene and Norma Slade pose at the bench which honors his distinguished service to the University of Idaho Foundation, Inc.



Seaman, UI Foundation-H. Eugene Slade, and Elisabeth Zinser granite benches. During September 1997 foundations and slabs for seven additional dedicated benches were constructed by a private contractor. Five additional benches (William and Florence Oberg Anderson family; Bonnie McKay Johnson; Paul & Elsie Mann; Merl & Erna Stubbs; and the 40th Anniversary of UI FarmHouse-Duane & Phyllis LeTourneau), will be delivered during December for installation in April 1998. The Robert & Connie Shreve and the Eugene & Dale Golis benches are planned for a 1998 fabrication. There are many other selected sites available for additional benches in our 63-acre Arboretum. Call or write to the Arboretum Director for details.

The Flower of Christmas Eve – Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*)

Holiday decorating would not be complete without a beautiful, brilliantly colored poinsettia adorning your home. This striking flower with velvety blossoms has become such a tradition during the holidays that many experts rank it as the best selling flowering potted plant in the United States.

Known by its Spanish name of *la flor de La Noche Buena* “flower of Christmas Eve” the flower is indigenous to Central America and tropical Mexico. The story goes that a poor Mexican child grieved because she had no flowers to take to the manger of the Nativity. Through her tears, an angel suddenly appeared and said, “Lovely child, weep no more. Go pluck a weed from the roadside, bring it to the altar and wait.” The little girl arose, did as the angel commanded and when she placed her weed before the altar starry crimson “blossoms” burst forth from every stem.

The credit for introducing the poinsettia to this country goes to Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. While there, Poinsett saw these spectacular red flowers growing as a roadside weed. He brought them back to his home in South Carolina. Soon, the plant became commonly known as the poinsettia in honor of the ambassador.

These once “roadside weeds” come in a variety of shapes and sizes—everything from the standard three to six stem plants to trees, bushes, hanging baskets, topiaries, and miniatures. Actually what we admire as a flower is a colorful whorl of modified leaves (or bracts) surrounding a cluster of greenish flowers too small to be noticeable. The true flowers are like little vases no larger than a pea, found in the center of the bracts. Many new cultivated varieties exist with high variable bract colors and shapes.

When the holidays arrive there are a few things you should keep in mind when choosing your plants. A healthy plant will have dense, rich green foliage with no signs of wilt, breakage, discoloration or droopiness. The bracts should be completely colored. Be sure to avoid plants that are tinged with too much green around the bract edges as they will never achieve full color. The smaller bracts that surround the small yellow flowers in the center, should also be fully colored.

You’ll also want to look for a plant that is evenly proportioned and balanced, full, and attractive from all angles. The plant should be about two and one-half to three times bigger than the pot size. Beware of plants that are packaged in paper, plastic, or mesh sleeves. These are intended

only for shipping and should be removed before being sold to the public.

Once you’ve chosen the perfect plant be careful when transporting. Be sure to protect your purchase from chilling winds or temperatures below 50 degrees F. You may want to wrap the plant in a large shopping bag for protection, since leaf drop may occur if there are rapid fluctuations in temperatures. So take it home as soon as possible and don’t leave it sitting in the car!

Once home, you’ll want to place your poinsettia in the sunniest portion of the room. It will require at least six hours of bright sunlight, but don’t let the hotter afternoon sun shine directly on the bracts or they might discolor and dry. Also, avoid drafts from doorways or excess heat from television sets, radiators or heating ducts. You’ll want to water the plant when the soil feels dry to a light touch. If your poinsettia came wrapped with decorative foil, be sure to punch a hole in the foil beneath the pot to allow excess water to escape. You’ll also want to place the plant on a saucer to prevent water damage to furniture. If kept in temperatures between 60 to 70 degrees F, the poinsettia should retain its bright color throughout the holidays.

Soon after the holidays your poinsettia will begin to lose its colored flower/leaf head and drop all its leaves. Now if you’ve fallen in love with your poinsettias and would like a repeat act next season, here’s how to do it. First, keep the plant in a sunny window until the bracts fade, usually in late March or early April. Then cut the branches back 6 to 8 inches and return to the window. Around June 1, transplant your plant to a pot an inch or two larger than the original and place it outside. When the weather turns cool in the fall, bring it indoors. About October 1, put the plant in total darkness each night for 14 continuous hours, then in a window during the day for 6 to 8 hours of bright sunlight. You might want to wrap it in a black polythene bag for this stage to ensure total darkness. Do this for 8 to 10 weeks and your poinsettia will be in full bloom the next Christmas, but don’t forget it will be a lot bigger!

Finally, here is some good news. Contrary to frequent reports, the bracts and foliage of poinsettias are not poisonous. It is still a good idea to place the plants out of reach of children and curious pets since the sap may irritate the skin.

So, enjoy your poinsettia and have a wonderfully colorful holiday season.

Anna Fehrenbacher

Don't Forget the Arboretum!

As the giving season draws near, don't forget the Arboretum when you are making your list of gifts to be given. Perhaps you would like to suggest to your friends and family that they give the Arboretum a gift in your name.

Most of us think of benches, trees, or groves (which are always welcome) as Arboretum gifts—but there are plenty of other items which would benefit our growing, 17-year-old UI resource. Cash contributions can underwrite a variety of items and projects that will enrich our Arboretum.

The current wish list includes:

- new or used horticultural reference works for the growing Arboretum library (e.g., Michael Dirr's new CD-Rom of trees and shrubs and its accompanying book).
- tools, including pruning shears, loppers, rechargeable grass shears.
- a transit-level to be used for Arboretum construction projects.

- an interpretive brochure.
- the development of an audio tour guide and the purchase of accompanying tape players.
- a bar code reader for plant inventory purposes.
- the BG-Base computer software program that will be used to develop the plant database and plant record-keeping system.
- an Arboretum information kiosk at the southern end to match the recently completed Leonard Halland kiosk near the northern entry.
- an elegant, Asian-style pergola to replace the temporary trellises that support our young Asian vine collection.
- an exquisite rock garden along our northern boundary at Nez Perce Drive.

If you want more information about these or any other Arboretum needs, please call Richard Naskali at (208) 885-6250 or e-mail him at <naskali@uidaho.edu>. Remember that your tax deductible contributions are acknowledged by the University of Idaho Foundation, Inc.

Mission Statement, University of Idaho Arboreta

[University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden & C.H. Shattuck Arboretum]

The University of Idaho Arboreta are outdoor museums maintained for the acquisition and proper curation of a living collection of native and introduced plants hardy in the Inland Pacific Northwest. As a primary reference collection, the arboreta will emphasize plant variation and genetic diversity. Highest priority of the arboreta is to develop, curate, and maintain a diverse collection of cultivars and species of known origin.

As educational facilities, goals of the University of Idaho Arboreta are to:

- provide a site for instruction in botany, horticulture, forestry, landscape architecture, environmental sciences, and other fields related to the living collection;
- encourage authorized research in fields such as plant hardiness, systematics, and hybridization;
- educate the public through field trips, lectures, and tours; and
- provide to the public a restful, beautiful environment for the purpose of gaining knowledge and appreciation of the importance of plants.

ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES

BALANCE SHEET and SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES For the Year Ending June 30, 1997

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	
Cash and Temporary Investments	\$17,190.65
Endowment	<u>52,986.41</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$70,177.06</u>
FUND BALANCES	
General Fund	\$12,772.81
Projects	4,417.84
Endowment	<u>52,986.41</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u>\$70,177.06</u>

SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

REVENUE	
Membership Gifts	\$4,231.71
Endowment Gifts	525.00
Investment Income	3,241.41
Endowment Income	<u>5,174.33</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,172.45
EXPENDITURES	
Operation & Projects	<u>7,910.54</u>
TRANSFERS	
Transfers to (from)	
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$5,261.91</u>

There are other funds (non-Arboretum Associates) from endowments, groves, benches and trees which also support the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Those funds totaled \$149,217 at June 30, 1997.

ARBORETUM ANNUAL CONTRIBUTORS

July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997

LIFE ASSOCIATES:

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Moscow Rotary Club
Carol & Malcolm Renfrew
Mary & Francis Seaman
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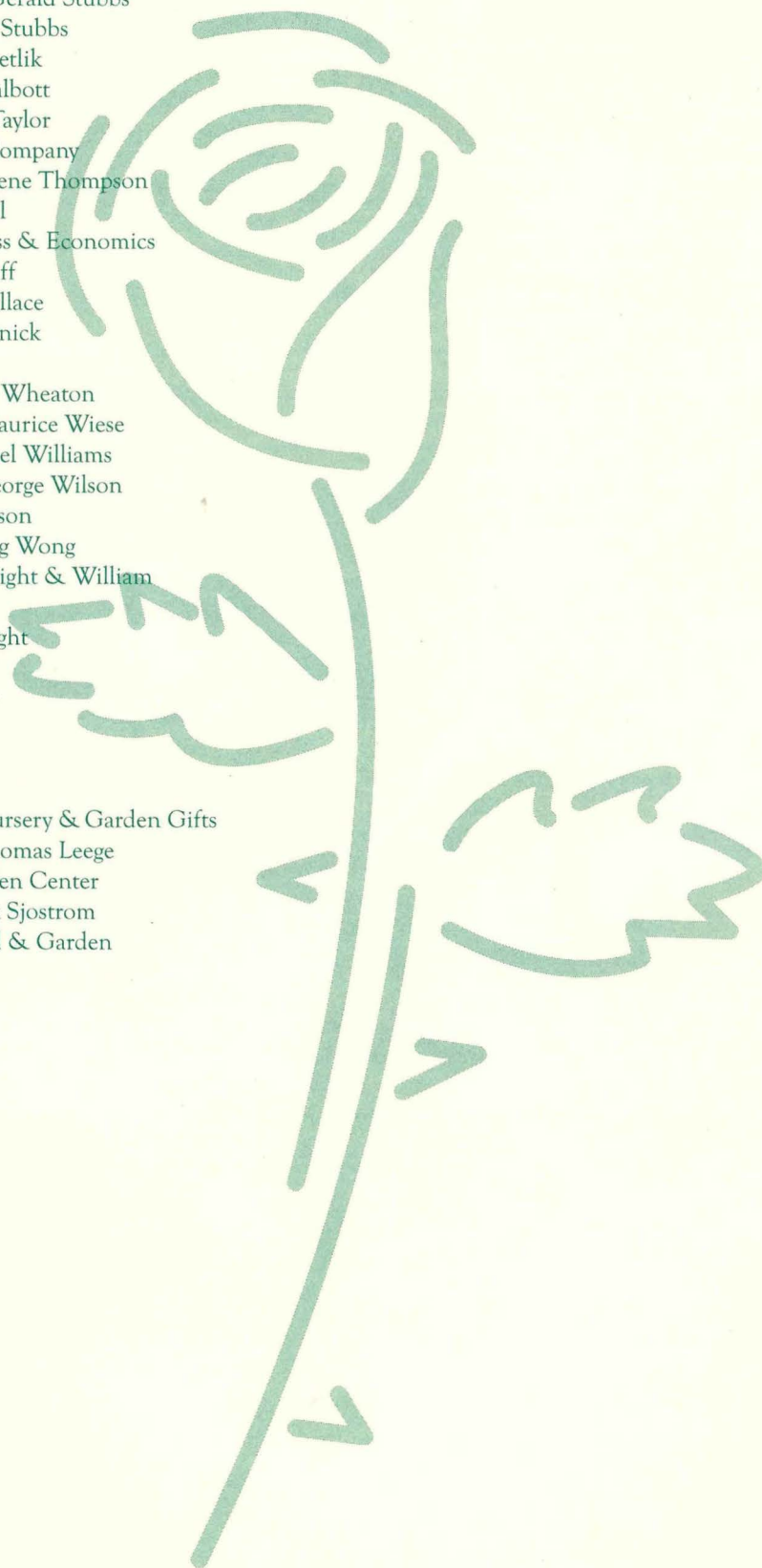
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