

# ArborNotes

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES

## Holiday Greetings

THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN: THE 1998 YEAR IN REVIEW

### News Notes from the Director

1998 has been one productive and glorious year at the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden! The growing season was so long that we did not have a hard frost until late October. As a consequence, many of our specimens had spectacular fall leaf colors for the first time since we began planting in April 1982. Specimens in the general collection and in dedicated groves are sufficiently established that they are beginning to flower well.

During this planting season, we have added over 500 new trees and shrubs. Specimens planted this year ranged from seedlings to large specimens for commemorative trees. The greatest number of specimens was added in the central valley, Asian section, for two new groves—one honoring Donald Weeks and one honoring Paul Mann. These two groves are primarily of Asian-derived flowering shrubs (*Weigela*, *Deutzia*, *Spiraea*, *Chaenomeles*) with a wide array of flowering times, flower colors, growth forms, and leaf colors.

As 1998 ends, we have one elegant information kiosk, 43 dedicated trees, 43 commemorative groves, and 20 inscribed granite benches committed for the Arboretum. These are courtesy of approximately 1000 benefactors who have contributed \$328,182 towards projects and endowments between 1970 and September 30, 1998. As of July 1, 1998, the collective market value of the endowments which benefit the Arboretum was \$205,434—a good start for the ultimate needs of this extensive project.

Extension of the effluent irrigation system by adding 1300 to 1500 feet of waterline by the UI Facilities Management irrigation crew this summer now enables us to irrigate the main valley all the way down the valley to West Palouse River Drive. In turn, this makes possible our first display gardens and some initial screen plantings at the south entry as early as 1999. Perhaps we can initiate some special plantings for the year 2000.

In April we purchased a John Deere 6 x 4 Gator® for almost \$9,500 with interest earnings from several Arboretum endowments, together with some funds rebated by the UI Facilities Management Grounds Department. This diesel-fueled vehicle, which has safe hill-climbing capability, can haul up to 1,000 pounds—as for pesticide sprayers, a water tank, soil, trees, etc..

Jake Leppert has spent considerable time treating weeds in shrub beds and around specimen trees with herbicides to begin our first major effort at weed eradication. We are systematically installing a weed barrier fabric under the bark mulch of newly planted commemorative trees and groves to reduce our weed problems.

Duane Priest, who previously completed many surveying projects at the Arboretum is on a continuing retainer to document our infrastructure and continue plant surveying.

There were three weddings in the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden (the “new” Arboretum) this summer: July 11, August 1, and August 8.

(continued on page 2)



## ArborNotes

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

Published by  
ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES  
University of Idaho  
Room 207  
Administration Annex Building  
Moscow, Idaho 83844-3147

### **President**

Beverly Rhoades

### **Past President**

Duane LeTourneau

### **Vice President**

Dean Vettrus

### **Secretary**

Anna Fehrenbacher

### **Treasurer**

Robert Steele

### **Arboretum Director**

Richard J. Naskali  
109-110 Alumni Center  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, ID 83844-3226  
Phone: (208) 885-6250  
FAX (208) 885-4040  
E-mail: naskali@uidaho.edu

DECEMBER 1998

(Director continued from page 1)

Fourteen granite benches are now in place. In May five benches were installed (Bill Anderson Family, FarmHouse/LeTourneau, Bonnie McKay Johnson, Paul & Elsie Mann, Merl & Erna Stubbs). Foundations and slabs were contracted and completed a few weeks ago for the spring 1999 installation of benches to honor Norma and Clifford Dobler, Dale and Gene Golis, Ruth and Charles Horgan, the Lois and Everett Samuelson family, and Connie and Robert Shreve. Plans and negotiations are nearly complete for the installation of an additional four granite benches at major view points and trail junctions in the Arboretum—making the bench total at 23.

The UI Arboretum program has a plant records system database! With a \$6,000 appropriation of your unrestricted contributions to the UI Arboretum Associates, we have received and installed B-G BASE™, version 5.0, in November. This software package, initially developed by Kerry Walter for Harvard University's prestigious Arnold Arboretum, facilitates keeping our exhaustive plant records according to high standards expected of legitimate arboreta. The University of Idaho plant records system is number 98 in the world—joining such earlier holders as the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scotland, the Royal Horticultural Society, the Arnold Arboretum, and 94 other gardens. Accompanying the data base, the Arnold Arboretum graciously permitted us to use its botanically correct plant names list of over 13,000 taxa. B-G BASE™ software permits us to keep our detailed plant records (e.g., accession numbers, plant names, sources, arboretum locations, taxonomic data, prices, dates of plantings, donors, grafted plant details, etc.) according to international transfer format. As these complex records are built, we will have our first detailed inventory of plants in one system; we can start preparing formal, public-education plant labels with accession numbers. **Thank You, Arboretum Associates and Arnold Arboretum!**

## **G**ot the Picture?

Over many decades Moscow students, residents, and visitors visited the valley that became the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden and used it in many ways for play—and frequently made photographs. Now that the Arboretum is nearing 20 years of age, we would greatly appreciate obtaining photographs of the site prior to its becoming an Arboretum. If you have photographs which show the valley (south of the UI President's Residence and between the UI Golf Course and the University Heights) and you want to help us build an archive of the "early days", **please contact the Arboretum Director**. We have very few photographs of the site from 1980 or earlier. If your photographs (prints and/or slides) show clear portions of the valley, even as background, we would greatly appreciate your gifts or loans even if the photos are not dated.



## Plantings in Need of Sponsors

During the 17 planting seasons that have passed since we started this project, we have had 43 commemorative trees, 43 commemorative groves, and 20 inscribed granite benches underwritten by philanthropic giving. For the plantings, we have restricted charitable giving plant choices to meritorious specimens which are rated USDA hardiness zone five or hardier—so that our collections illustrate good, hardy plants and some diversity within species. Now, with a few exceptions, we are nearing the end of possible combinations of plants which are safely hardy here in Moscow and which are needed for our diverse collections. Now our greatest need for sponsored groves (at \$1,500 minimum per grove) are collections of (1) Asian junipers, (2) Asian barberries, and (3) western North American junipers. If you would like to sponsor any one of these, please contact the Arboretum Director for details.

## Get a Jump on Spring, 1999

"Spring in February" is the theme of Seattle's Northwest Flower & Garden Show for February 17 - 21, 1999. Once again, the UI Enrichment Program office plans to offer a special charter bus trip for this spectacular flower show and its 100 related seminars. UI Arboretum Director Naskali will accompany the tour group for answering your gardening and plant questions. Our travel coach/bus will have a VCR for showing gardening video tapes. The 1999 show will have 28 display gardens, a newly expanded orchid show, and a "shake-up" of the show's layout—all in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. Lodging will be at the Seattle Hilton which is connected by an underground concourse to the flower show site. There will be opportunities for participants to go shopping in downtown Seattle, visit the Pike Street Market, and go to the flower show. The charter details are still being developed. You can get your name on the list for information by contacting Peggy Waterman, Enrichment Program, (208) 885-6486.

## Charles Houston Shattuck Arboretum

At the end of the growing season we had a major cleanup of the Charles Houston Shattuck Arboretum—especially near the KUID building and at the western end. At the KUID building area, the PBS vehicle parking space was refined, debris eliminated, and a handrail was installed for pedestrians who use the trail for access to Nez Perce Drive. A small building was added in the parking area so that UI grounds crew staff could safely store mowers, snow blowers, and other maintenance equipment.

Because some woody plants had grown into pathways of microwaves and TV signals, dead trees and impeding branches have been removed from the "I" tank hill. In a general revision of the landscape plan around the KUID signal receiving antenna, we will consider the probable installation of additional equipment which will be essential to future sending and receiving of digital TV signals.

In the next few weeks we will install two interpretive signs (one near the KUID station and one near the amphitheater area) to recognize C. H. Shattuck's major legacies to UI (founding the UI forestry program, serving as the first appointed dean of the College of Letters and Science, and initiating major tree plantings on an essentially treeless campus)—all during his 1909 - 1917 tenure in Moscow.

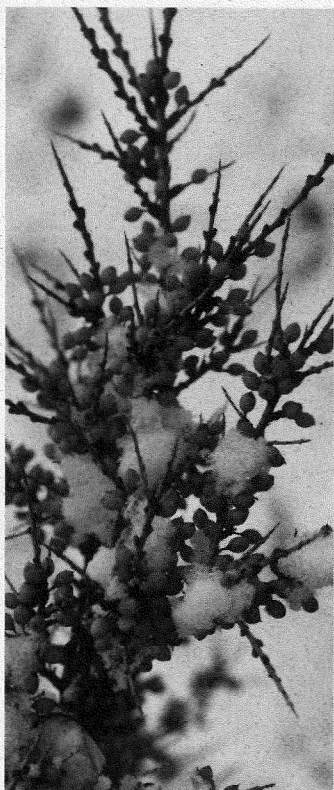
At the amphitheater area where summer barbecues and many other events occur, several improvements are being designed to increase safety and usefulness of the area without compromising the valued specimen plants. Hundreds of spindly, crowded, and contorted "volunteer" cherries, Norway maples, and miscellaneous conifers have been removed. Illicit human campsites have been eradicated. A few years ago the individual fire pits were removed. The traditional UI Homecoming bonfire, held for a number of years in the Shattuck Arboretum amphitheater area, has been moved to the Guy Wicks Field. Over this coming winter, trees which were killed by insects and/or pathogens will be removed. Significant portions of the crumbling amphitheater steps have been removed.

In the coming months improvements will be designed by students and the UI Architecture and Engineering Services for public review. In addition to retaining many UI traditions for the area, we will consider incorporating facilities for some summer theater presentations "under the stars."

## Open Houses

Scores of local students, permanent residents, and visitors to the Palouse enjoyed two special 1998 Arboretum open houses sponsored by the Arboretum Associates. At the spring open house, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 - 4 p.m., more than 75 people came for the walking and auto tour. The major attractions were displays of tree peonies and lilacs. For the fall tour, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2 - 4 p.m., the spectacular fall leaf colors were featured. Refreshments were served and Arboretum brochures and maps were given. Although the Arboretum is open to visitors to walk every day, driving tours are permitted for open houses and by special arrangement.





## Thank You, Donors to the University of Idaho Arboretum Without you the Arboretum Project Could Not Not

### **Contributors to Arboretum Associates Included:**

Barbara & David L. Adams  
Beverly Ann Anderson  
Nancy I. Atkinson  
Louise & Jasper R. Avery  
David S. Baker  
Charles J. Barinaga  
Stuart E. Bedwell  
E. Roberta & Richard T. Bingham  
Jean M. & Elwood G. Bizeau  
Helen M. & Larry E. Bobisud  
Carolyn H. & Gregory A. Bohach  
Victoria G. & Marc Boone  
Mary Ellen & Robert H. Bottjer  
Erma F. & Raymond J. Boyd  
Shirley R. Caldwell  
Joanne B. Carr & J. Michael Mann  
Linda F. & Duane E. Char  
Mildred & Ross E. Christian  
Anna & Paul C. Condit  
Betty & Gilbert L. Corey  
Michael A. Costa  
Jayne & Frank Cronk  
Sally N. & Stephen J. Davidson  
Sidonia DeWitt  
Norma & Clifford Dobler  
Velma Dunn  
Hazel M. Erickson  
Robin L. & Douglas W. Finch  
Joy S. & Douglas J. Fisher  
Lucinda K. & James F. Fisher  
Elizabeth J. Fox & Scot Oliver  
Eleanor A. & Martin L. Fry  
Katherine A. Grinde  
Carol & Larry Grupp  
Irene J. Gustafson  
Margo M. Haines  
June & Orval Hansen  
Margaret J. Harvey & Earl P. Druker  
Hash Tree Company  
Barbara A. & Jack Hawley  
Ella P. Hayes  
John C. Hecht  
Hill and Valley Garden Club  
Donna J. Hime  
Melva Hoffman  
Jeanne M. & Robert A. Hoover

Donald G. Howse  
Mary P. & James R. Hoyt  
Harriet L. Hughes & John K. Fellman  
Rosemary J. & Donald R. Huskey  
Lynda Jensen & Tim Brown  
Mary Ann & John C. Judge  
Mary D. & Leonard E. Kawula  
Janet C. & Malcolm D. King  
Joanne & Larry A. Kirkland  
Lois J. & Eric B. Kirkland  
Rebecca B. & David L. Knapp  
Diane J. & William J. Knox  
Betty L. & Walter J. Kochan  
Jean A. & Roger A. Korus  
Phyllis & Duane J. LeTourneau  
Dorothy LeVeque  
Norma & Glenn C. Lewis  
Dorothy R. & William C. Lindsey  
Agnes E. & LeRoy D. Luft  
Colleen & Harry F. Magnuson  
L. Elsie Mann  
Evangeline B. & Edgar L. Michalson  
Elizabeth A. & Ciro Molina  
Lorraine S. Morris  
Moscow Garden Club  
Esther L. Murphy  
Shirley C. Newcomb  
Roger R. Oettli  
Patricia & James M. Peek  
Gertrude L. & Charlie F. Petersen  
Nancy L. & Richard A. Porter  
Eleanor & Gene M. Probasco  
Elaine & Gerry Queener  
Beverly Rhoades  
Victoria J. & Kenneth C. Roberge  
Jean A. & Thomas R. Sawyer  
Julie A. & Eric R. Schulz  
Rose Sharp & Robert L. Strub  
Elisabeth K. Shepard  
Willemina & Peter L. Siems  
Virginia J. & William H. Snyder  
Sylvia & Robert L. Staab  
Diana M. Stone & Jerry B. Swensen  
Donna J. & Charles L. Sutton  
Katherine Swenson  
Lynn & Stanton D. Tate  
Maureen M. Taylor

JoAnn C. & Eugene Thompson  
Helen V. Wagner  
M. Arlene Wallace  
Winifred L. Warner  
Kathleen Warnick  
Agnes K. Weeks  
Marie H. Whitesel  
Doris K. Williams  
Carol L. & Michael P. Wilson  
Jacqueline K. Wright & William B. Bowler  
Shirley A. & J. Michael Young

### **Contributors to Trees, Groves and Benches Include:**

Lillie L. Adamczyk  
Connie J. & C. Eugene Allen  
Marti & George P. Ambrose  
Sherry & Dick L. Auld  
Louise & Jasper R. Avery  
Audrey K. & William F. Barr  
Elna M. & Elbert M. Barton  
Richard J. Beier  
Leigh A. & Scott C. Bledsoe  
Mary Ellen & Robert H. Bottjer  
Eugenia & James J. Casey  
Valerie Chamberlain  
Clint's Auction Service  
Linda S. & P. Michael Davidson  
Alice B. & James A. DeShazer  
Winifred P. & John E. Dixon  
Norma & Clifford Dobler  
Ardith C. & Lloyd V. Eakin  
Doris A. & Philip O. Edwards  
Hazel M. Erickson  
LaVerne W. & H. Ray Evans  
Financial Security Corporation  
Elizabeth & Robert L. Forster  
Fae H. Gagon  
Joyce D. & J. Jay Garrett  
Norma M. & Don R. Gradwohl  
Kenneth E. Harrison  
Nadyne A. Heglund  
Frances W. & Melvin E. Hirschi  
Margaret C. & Jerry A. Howard  
James R. Howland  
Maurice E. Johnson  
Sally J. & Norman L. Johnson  
Monte Philip Johnson

### **Acknowledgment of Gifts**

#### **Life Associates:**

Roberta & Charles Graham  
Moscow Rotary Club  
Carol & Malcolm Renfrew  
Norma & Gene Slade  
Marguerite Smiley  
Ruth L. & H. Myrl Stearns  
Robert Steele  
JoAnn & Gene Thompson  
Doris K. Williams

#### **Contributors to**

#### **Endowments Included:**

Patricia & Terry Armstrong  
Adam E. Bertram  
Fae Gagon  
Gardeners of Spokane  
Melva Hoffman  
Teresa & Kenneth Kubo  
Richard J. Naskali  
Carol & Malcolm Renfrew  
Beverly Rhoades  
Mary & Francis Seaman  
Norma & Gene Slade  
Robert Steele  
Don Mackin & Elisabeth Zinser



## m during Fiscal Year 1998! Have Happened.

Arlene S. & Robert Jonas  
 Patricia D. & Ronald R. Jordan  
 Mary E. & Robert B. Jorstad  
 Virginia W. & William Junk  
 Noreen E. & Darrel K. Kalbfleisch  
 Janet C. & Malcolm D. King  
 Elwood W. Kintner  
 Dorothy Koller  
 Ruth L. & Edward J. Konka  
 Linda C. & Steven E. Kossman  
 Barbara & James E. Kraus  
 Elsie E. & Cliff Lathen  
 Helga J. & Thomas E. Lawrence  
 Agnes E. & LeRoy D. Luft  
 Robert L. Mahler  
 L. Elsie Mann  
 Margaret S. Mann &  
 James M. Maurer  
 Mary Ruth Mann  
 Michael M. Mann  
 Diane M. & P. Patrick Mann  
 Judith L. & A. J. Marineau  
 Vena L. McProud  
 Evangeline B. & Edgar L.  
 Michalson  
 Elinor L. Michel  
 Peter John Mundt  
 Iris F. & Glen A. Murray  
 Richard J. Naskali  
 Koreen & Denny V. Naylor  
 Shirley A. Newcomb  
 Marcia A. & Jerome J. Ney  
 Norwest Foundation  
 Diana L. & Douglas A. Pals  
 Janice E. Pitkin  
 Pleiades Club  
 Elizabeth L. Popiel  
 Margaret R. & Elmer K. Raunio  
 Donald L. Read  
 Carol C. & Malcolm M. Renfrew  
 Dolores J. & J. Richard Rogers  
 Dorothy S. & Richard H. Ross  
 Liz & Wayne L. Rush  
 Lois E. & Everett V. Samuelson  
 Nancy S. & R. Garth Sasser  
 Sonja N. & Lyle B. Sasser  
 James H. Sasser  
 June Schloerb  
 Mary & Francis Seaman

Shell Oil Company Foundation  
 Jack M. Silzel  
 Janice C. & Kenneth E. Solt  
 Jeanne J. & Raphael J. Steinhoff  
 Jeanne & Elmer A. Stout  
 Ruby & Tom Stroschein  
 Katherine Swenson  
 M. Jeanette Talbott  
 Virginia & Laurent Taylor  
 Alverna M. & Charles M. Thomas  
 Sharon D. & Byron R. Thomas  
 JoAnn C. & Eugene Thompson  
 Patricia A. Turner  
 Agnes K. Weeks  
 Dwayne G. Westfall  
 Linda L. & Varnel Williams  
 Esther H. Wilson  
 Dawn M. & Richard L. Wittman  
 Lorilynn K. & Wayne L. Wohler  
 Jane & Po-Ping Wong  
 Jeanette R. Zwink

### **Contributors to the Pergola Project Include:**

Warren B. Bowler  
 Jayne & Frank Cronk  
 Sally N. & Stephen J. Davidson  
 Katherine A. Grinde  
 Pamela A. & Wayne M. Peterson  
 Elisabeth K. Shepard

### **Gifts in Kind Included:**

Crossroads Nursery and  
 Garden Gifts  
 Sally & Stephen Davidson  
 J. Frank Schmidt & Son, Co.  
 Carolyn & Thomas Leege  
 Patt's Garden Center  
 Pullman Garden Center  
 Renovate  
 S.Y.G. Nursery & Landscaping  
 Smith's Garden Square, Inc.  
 Stookeys' Feed and Garden



## **WITH YOUR SUPPORT IT WILL ONLY GET BETTER**

In 1975, the University of Idaho announced its determination to further develop its Arboreta as outdoor educational facilities which:

- 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.

This prompted the designation of 63 acres bordering the eastern edge of the University Golf Course as the site for the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden. To help guide the long term development of this site, private donations were sought by the University of Idaho Foundation, Inc., and Arboretum Associates was formed. By 1979, sufficient donations had been received to retain the firm of Carothers Associates for the purpose of preparing a Master Plan. That Master Plan is now being faithfully followed by the University to develop this unique site.

Today, thanks to private donations — (1) thousands of trees, shrubs and flowers have been planted in appropriate geographic zones; (2) almost two miles of roads and trails have been created, (3) bronze plaques identifying groves and commemorative trees have been permanently placed, (4) a kiosk has been constructed, (5) rare and exotic plants from China have been obtained, (6) fourteen, dedicated and inscribed granite benches have been installed at appropriate locations (with seven more committed for 1999 installation), (7) a system of ponds and a connecting stream has been created, and (8) thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni, area residents and other visitors have enjoyed and been inspired by the beauty, tranquillity and educational opportunities provided within the 63 acres.

The University of Idaho's annual operating budget pays for salaries—the Director and seasonal student grounds keepers—and for equipment and supplies required to maintain the land and irrigation system. However, all plantings, plaques, plant tags, granite benches and special structures like the Leonard Halland Kiosk are the result of private donations.

Private support is essential to the long-term development of the 63 acres. Without such support, the site runs the danger of becoming in the future just another addition to the campus landscape.

As you plan and prioritize your philanthropic support options for calendar 1998 and beyond, I encourage you to include the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden. If you have questions about membership in Arboretum Associates, outright gifts, creation of endowments, charitable remainder gifts, or language for a will or trust, please give me a call at (208) 885-4000.

Bob Steele  
 Treasurer, Arboretum Associates



## Annual Meeting

The highlight of the annual meeting of the Arboretum Associates, April 30, 1998, was guest speaker Panayoti Kelaidis, internationally renowned curator of the rock garden at the Denver Botanic Gardens. His illustrated lecture featured his rock garden designs, plants, and plant introduction programs at Denver and his anticipated participation in building a rock garden above timberline on Mt. Evans. Panayoti's enthusiasm, humor, and encyclopedic knowledge of alpine plants were enjoyed by some 100 guests.

For the abbreviated business meeting, President Bev Rhoades and Arboretum Director Naskali gave brief reports. Bill Bowler, UI Professor of Architecture and accomplished local home gardener, was unanimously elected to fill the one-year executive board position vacated by the resignation of Kate Grinde.

The Arboretum Associates and the recipients greatly appreciated door prizes contributed by the following local merchants:

- A centerpiece floral arrangement from Moscow Florists & Gifts (The Turk Family)
- Gift certificates from the following regional garden stores:
  - Crossroads Nursery & Garden Gifts (Jon & Claudia Decker)
  - Patt's Garden Center (Donald & Sharon Patterson)
  - Pullman Garden Center (Suzanne St. Pierre)
  - Smith's Garden Square, Inc. (Bill & Monica Smith)
  - Stookeys' Feed & Garden (Bill & Janie Stookey)
  - SYG Nursery & Landscaping (Stephen Holstad)

## Employee Changes

Three loyal, hard-working employees are "moving on" with their careers. **Jeff Young**, a micro-

biology major with aspirations for medical school, left in early August to undertake a research internship at the University of Kuopio, Finland for the academic year.

**Dan Harrington**, who started his Arboretum work at age 17, moved to Lincoln, NE to be with his parents and siblings and to complete his senior college year at Union College. Subsequently, Dan plans to become an ophthalmologist after medical school. Over his five years at the Arboretum, Dan worked on our first gabion retaining wall, planting, watering, weeding, pipeline building, and served as my computer guru. **Jake Leppert**, who graduated from UI in plant science/horticulture in December 1996, returned to resume Arboretum work in September 1997 so that his wife could complete her degree in English. Jake will pursue a career in ornamental horticulture. Jake, Jeff and Dan, have toiled at a wide array of Arboretum tasks over the years. I am grateful for their energy, self motivation, efficiency, honesty, and loyalty.

The freshmen student apprentices who started Arboretum employment this fall are **Josh Drown**, a Moscow resident majoring in general studies; **Kamren Koompin**, American Falls resident majoring in environmental science; and **Garrett Pence**, Burley resident who is majoring in engineering.

—Richard J. Naskali



*Jake Leppert (right) and Jeff Young going to work in our new John Deere Gator®, purchased in April 1998 with Arboretum maintenance endowment earnings.*



*Dan Harrington relaxes at the Leonard Halland kiosk prior to moving to Lincoln, NE.*



### What is a Botanical Garden?

Since childhood, I have gardened, collected plants, and enjoyed the gardens of others, both public and private. My father managed the collections of Bernheim Forest Arboretum in Clermont, Kentucky, most of my life, and for over a dozen years I have worked in various capacities with plant collections at Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami, Florida. In the past several years, I have had the pleasure of visiting gardens of many descriptions around the world.

Several years ago, I was asked the question, "What is a botanical garden?" The question came from a person who was overseeing the development of a new botanical garden. First, in my naiveté, I was startled by the fact that anyone had to ask the question. Secondly, and just as naively, I could not believe that someone had accepted responsibility for something they did not understand. Since that time, I have come to realize that few people have a full understanding of the nature of a botanical garden and still fewer have a clear definition. Most people simply accept the term "botanical garden" without question.

In my opinion, the term is thrown around much too casually. While I would not recommend the bureaucracy of an accrediting board, I feel that a model should be set forth for those who are contemplating the development of a botanical garden and for existing institutions that are reviewing their missions. My intent is not to exclude, but to provide clearer guidelines.

My old college Webster's defines a botanical garden as "a public recreational area or park." I agree with just one word: public. Just as the most outstanding private art collection is not a museum, and the biggest pet shop is not a zoological garden, a private plant collection is not a botanical garden. My first criterion for a botanical garden is that it should be accessible to the public. After that, the dictionary and I disagree. Webster's does not define a screwdriver as a hole punch, a can opener, or a weed digger, although people have used screwdrivers in these ways. The fact that the grounds may be used as a recreational area or park does not define a botanical garden. A botanical garden is much more than any single use made of it.

A private collection is inherently temporary. It may be bulldozed, sold, or otherwise treated with disrespect when its creator dies, sells the property, or loses interest. A botanical garden is a museum specializing in long-term collections of living plants. It is a stable institution whose commitments will last beyond the interest or career of an individual. Like other professional organizations, it should have a mission statement, clear goals, and a plan for development. An institution that does not formalize its intent is at risk of upheaval whenever staff or board changes occur. I like change, but a botanical garden must be able to honor its commitments.

A botanical garden is centered around a living collection governed by a formal collection policy, which provides needed stability during times of change. The collection is developed, labeled, and managed by trained staff, preferably specialists in their fields. Collection records are maintained in a manner that reflects and supports the latest scientific trends, thereby supporting the work of botanists and other scientific researchers. Modern gardens are becoming more and more important in plant conservation, both for their collections and their knowledgeable staff. Here again, comprehensive collection records are critical.

I define a botanical garden by its many audiences. The range of audiences can be broad. It may include gardeners, botanists, conservationists, educa-

tors, students, and artists who actively use the plant collections. The garden also may attract casual strollers, tourists, and curious passers-by. Special events, such as plant shows and sales, art exhibits, and concerts, may bring in additional audiences. I summarize the uses by these varied audiences as recreational, educational, and scientific.

Recreation is a relatively easy role to play in the community. It can be as simple as providing a peaceful, safe place to relax in an attractive landscape. Recreation can take the form of concerts, art exhibits, plant sales, a book shop, lunch under the trees, walking tours, bird watching, lectures, and much more. For people who work in a sterile office cubicle, a gardening class can provide an introduction to a lifetime of recreation. But to contradict my Webster's, recreation by itself defines a community park-not a botanical garden.

Education is an important role of a botanical garden. It may be nothing more than a collection of plants with name labels. Gardeners and local educators can make good use of accurate labels, their experience, and their powers of observation. Better yet, education can be the sharing of knowledge of garden staff and colleagues through interpretative signage, brochures, walking tours, lectures, a volunteer program, and gardening classes. Active education may blend with recreation or it may be quite formal. It may involve community outreach programs, the development of science lesson plans, and activities for local schools, summer camps, collaboration with local universities, professional training, and publications at every level of understanding. But education defines many kinds of institutions. A botanical garden is much more.

Science puts the botany into botanical gardens. It may range from the taxonomy that verifies a name label to an active research program ranging from molecular laboratories to scientists in the field. It may be a primary source of information for the educational programs. If a botanical garden cannot fund research, it can make its collections available to researchers. Conservation is an increasingly important aspect of science in botanical gardens. Our plant collections and our staff's knowledge can be very important to plant conservation programs around the world. Some plant taxa are so rare in the wild that plants and horticultural knowledge in botanical gardens around the world may be critical in their long term survival. The Center for Plant Conservation and Botanical Gardens Conservation International guide plant conservation work of botanical gardens in the U.S. and around the world (respectively).

My model combines all of the above criteria. A botanical garden is a stable, public institution with a professionally managed plant collection that supports recreation, education, and science programs. It should be governed by a mission statement, a plan for development, and a collection policy to guide future staff.

I know that the AABGA's membership represents a wide range of institutions. I welcome comments and encourage critics to use *The Public Garden* as a forum for further discussion of this subject. I would be very pleased if the AABGA membership could come to a consensus for an answer to the question, "What is a botanical garden?"

- Reprinted, with permission, from *The Public Garden*, The Journal of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, January 1998, Vol. 13, No. 1.



**Renew your annual contribution to the Arboretum Associates for Fiscal Year '99 or contribution to your favorite project fund.** Please help the Arboretum grow by renewing your annual gifts for the fiscal year which began July 1, 1998. *Thank You!*

This form is provided for the convenience of all who have not already acted in FY99 (July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Fund Contribution**

Arboretum Associates Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Centennial Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pergola Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Categories**

Student Associate \$5

Individual Associate \$15

Club & Organization Associate \$25

Family Associate \$30

Business Associate \$50

Contributing Associate \$75

Sustaining Associate \$100

Life Associate \$1,000

Contributors receive our periodic ArborNotes. Please mail your tax deductible contributions to: Arboretum Associates, Room 207, Ad Annex Building, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-3147. Thank you.

PBN450



**University of Idaho**

Arboretum Associates

Room 207

Ad Annex Building

University of Idaho

Moscow, ID 83844-3147

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Moscow, Idaho

83843

Permit No. 120

*Address Service Requested*