Arboretum

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ArborNotes

A Newsletter of the Arboretum Associates

December 2003

Unusual Evergreen Tree Donation

he local hospital, Gritman Medical Center, is doing a large expansion project. In order to accommodate the new project they moved and demolished some

existing houses. The hospital contacted the arboretum early this summer to ask if we would be interested in any of the plants in the area slated for demolition. Although most plants were not worth the cost of moving them, there was one very unusual evergreen tree in the yard of one house. We asked if we could have that tree, and the hospital agreed to pay half the cost of moving it, with donations to Arboretum Associates paying the other half.

The tree is a Spanish Pin Fir, (*Abies pinsapo*). There are now only three remaining remnant forests of this tree in Southern Spain, in the Sierra Bermaja Mountains. The tree is a true fir (*Abies*), but it is very distinctive from any other fir. From a distance this tree looks like a Colorado

Blue Spruce, but if you look closer it is quite different. The needles are fat and round, almost looking succulent, and unlike most other firs, they are stiff and come out all the way around the branch. The tree from the hospital is large, (possibly the largest in Idaho) about 20' tall, with a trunk more than 12" in diameter. Because of construction schedules, the hospital had to have it moved on one of the hottest days of the year in late July. It was moved with a tree spade which digs a 90" diameter root ball. After the tree was set in place it was sprayed with an anti-transpirant, which is a somewhat waxy



An unusual Arboretum visitor. Charles Zillinger photo August 18, 2003

coating used to reduce moisture loss, and then we watered it heavily for several days. Other than a few burnt tips the tree looks great and has set buds for new growth next year.

The tree is planted on the east side of the gravel road going down the west side of the arboretum, just south of the European Lilacs. It is the largest evergreen tree in that area.

Paul Warnick

Come Grow With Us



Big Trees R' Us using their 90" tree spade to move the Spanish Pin Fir to the Arboretum. Charles Zillinger photo July 15, 2003

ArborNotes

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

Published by ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES University of Idaho P.O. Box 443143 Moscow, Idaho 83844-3143

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DECEMBER 2003

Annual Meeting

he 26th Annual meeting of Arboretum Associates was held on April 17, 2003, at the University of Idaho College of Law courtroom. President Joy Fisher announced the completion of the new web site for the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden (<u>http://www.uidaho.edu/arboretum</u>). The calendar of events for the coming year was presented.

Treasurer Beverly Rhoades distributed the Treasurer's report showing a March 31, 2003 general fund balance of \$27,174 and a balance in The Arboretum Associates Centennial Endowment of \$135,881. The nominating committee presented a slate of officers and directors to the membership. The nominees were elected by unanimous voice vote:

Officers – 2 year terms	Directors
President – Joy Fisher	Robb Parish – one year term
Vice President – Gina Taruscio	Mark Johnson – two year term
Secretary – Jan Leander	Kris Roby – three year term
Treasurer – Beverly Rhoades	

Xeriscape expert Jim Knopf of Boulder, Colorado, presented the keynote program. His timely and interesting slide-lecture program demonstrated the beauty of xeriscaping, landscaping with plants and other materials which require significantly less water than traditional landscapes. Many of these ideas and plants are highlighted in the xeriscape garden located near the southern end of our arboretum.

Retirement Party

n June 5, 2003, Arboretum Associates hosted a retirement celebration to honor our beloved director, Richard J. Naskali. Dr. Naskali had been a faculty member at the University of Idaho for 36 years and the Director and driving force behind the Arboretum the past 16 years. Many longtime friends, associates, and former students



Rhonda and Marshal Comstock present Richard J. Naskali with the proclamation.

gathered at the Shattuck Arboretum Amphitheater to thank Richard for his valuable contributions. Master of Ceremonies Duane LeTourneau set the tone for funny, touching and heartfelt tributes. Speakers included Moscow Mayor Marshall Comstock who presented Richard with a proclamation naming June 5, 2003, Richard J. Naskali Day in the City of Moscow. Local columnist Vera White gave a humerous tribute, and Joy Fisher & Bill Bowler of Arboretum Associates presented Richard with a ceremonial check for \$2,000 to add to the Richard J. Naskali Endowment.

4th Summer Concert — Another Crowd Pleaser!

he fourth annual summer concert in the Arboretum was held July 14, 2003, near Norway Spruces in the Watts Grove at the north end of the UI Arboretum. The summer concert was sponsored by Arboretum Associates and the Lionel Hampton School of Music. The program for the concert was arranged and directed by Daniel Bukvich, well-known composer and professor at the Lionel Hampton School of Music. Members of the audience

arrived early with blankets and enjoyed their picnic dinner before the 7:00 p.m. concert.

A beautiful summer night and the fragrance of Lindens combined to provide the setting for great music. The program began with Five Bagatelles by Philip Parker, played by Roger Cole on clarinet and Quentin DeWitt on marimba. Ed Wharton, viola, and Linda Wharton, cello, played Duet "with two obligato Eyeglasses" by Ludwig von Beethoven. Bill Denton, vibraphone, played Serenade by Schubert. Wendy Hovey performed a lovely piece on the classical guitar entitled Vases Venezolanos by Antonio Lauro. Bill Wharton gave a dynamic performance of *Chaconne* by Tomaso Antonio Vitali. Another marimba piece, Ghanaia by Matthias Schmitt was played by Quentin DeWitt and was a favorite of the children.

Solace: A Mexican Serenade by Scott Joplin was performed by Becky Miller and Gladys Patten, violin, and Linda and Bill Wharton, cello. *Duos for Flute and Clarinet* by Robert Muczynski was played by Michael Locke, clarinet, and Dawn Sanchez, flute. A special treat for the audience was the appearance of the Cello and Bass Choir playing Saraband



Appreciative Arboretum concert audience. Charles Zillinger photo July 14, 2003

by John Sebastian Bach, Cello Concerto in C Major by Franz Joseph Haydn, and Toccata Larocca by Alfred Reed. Members of the Cello and Bass Choir included Bill and Linda Wharton, Helen Boisen, Jonathon Cheskin, Isaac Pastor-Chermak, Ephram Harsh, Nathan Harsh, Courtney Kinzer, Alisha Laros, Emily Nelson, and Marshall Taylor. The final piece of the evening was Permutatión by Benevadés Ruiz performed by Daniel Bukvich and the Percussion



Cello and Bass choir perform in the Arboretum. Charles Zillinger photo July 14, 2003

Ensemble including Bill Denton, Quentin DeWitt, Matt Holman, and Spencer Martin.

The crowd was most appreciative of the extraordinary performances and the beauty of the Arboretum on a perfect summer evening.

Kris Roby

Report from the Horticulturist

t has been another interesting and challenging year at the arboretum. As always, routine maintenance takes most of our time; changing sprinklers takes 3-4 hours every day during the summer, mowing takes 30-40 hours each week, and we sprayed weeds on more than 60 days this year. All of those tasks don't leave much time to work on other projects, but with the help of an excellent crew of student employees we completed many projects. We planted more than 1100 new plants this year, including more than 200 woody trees and shrubs, 800 herbaceous perennials and nearly 100 ornamental grasses.

The most dramatic additions are the two new display gardens at the south end of the arboretum, displaying Daylilies and Irises. The

daylily garden was planted this spring with more than 90 different cultivars and species. More than half of the plants bloomed this first year, and they should all make quite a show next summer. We are planning to add one more bed of daylilies next spring to bring the total number of cultivars over 100, a requirement to be certified as a display garden with the American Hemerocallis Society. The other display garden is for Iris. More than 150 individual plants of several types, including Bearded, Siberian, Japanese, Louisiana, Rock Garden and others, were planted this fall and should flower next spring and summer. Beds for another garden were constructed this fall for a Heather display garden to be planted next spring. With careful selection of plants, the heather garden will have some plants flowering nearly year round.

Construction projects this summer included lining the stream bank with more than 100 tons of rounded river cobble. A layer of weed barrier fabric was laid on the stream bottom then covered with the rock. That should cut down on the erosion of the bank and gives it a much cleaner look than before. We also extended the cedar chip trail along the wheat field and down across the valley to the gravel road. It is always nice to see the increased use that



New rock was added to the beds of the stream that runs through the Arboretum. The rock was added to help with erosion. Charles Zillinger photo August 15, 2003

happens after a trail is constructed. An endless job is cutting new beds for existing shrubs and trees to reduce the amount of hand mowing and trimming. We spread more than 100 cubic yards of bark mulch on new beds this year.

The xeriscape garden that was started last year has filled in very nicely and actually has taken less time than anticipated to maintain. The garden has two turf areas, one of Buffalo grass and the other a blend of Turf Type Tall Fescue. We did not water the Buffalo grass at all this summer and only mowed it twice. It filled in nicely, but I don't think most people will accept it as a substitute for a traditional lawn, due to its bluish gray color and relatively short growing season. It is a warm season grass which didn't really

show growth here until early June and it stopped growing and turned golden in mid-September. However, so far the Fescue looks like an excellent alternative to traditional blue grass lawns in our area. It has been a beautiful, rich green color virtually all year. We only mowed it every two weeks and only watered it three times all summer, starting in mid July. An important consideration is to mow this grass at a high setting, at least three inches tall. The increased size of the grass allows it to shade the soil somewhat and gives it more strength to recover from mowing. Virtually any of the traditional cool season turf grasses benefit from an increased mowing height, especially in the heat of the summer. One major potential disadvantage of the Fescue grass is that it is not rhizomatous (that is, it does not spread by roots). So, if patches die out they won't fill in readily by themselves, they will need to be reseeded. Fortunately that has not been an issue for us yet, but it probably would be in most home situations. We added quite a few new plants to the garden this year, and those were hand watered regularly, but the areas that were established last year were only watered twice all summer. So, I think the xeriscape idea shows real potential for reducing water use over more traditional landscape designs. The garden has filled in nicely and has a display of flowers all season long.

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Water usage in Moscow is becoming a big issue. All of the water used in the city comes from groundwater, those aquifers have been declining now for several years and research shows that if there is any recharge to the system it is extremely slow. Water use goes up dramatically here in the summer due to irrigation, so the City of Moscow imposed voluntary water restrictions this summer, asking people not to water between 9 am and 6 pm. Fortunately, the arboretum uses treated effluent water from the Moscow sewage treatment plant. We are actually encouraged to use as much water as possible, since whatever water is not used for irrigating on campus has to be released into Paradise Creek. So, please do not be offended when you see sprinklers running during the day in the arboretum. With our current system of quick couple valves connected to hoses and sprinklers, watering all day, every day is the only way we can cover the arboretum.

All of the plants and other amenities in the arboretum are provided through private donations and outside funding. I am hoping that over the next several months we are able create a plan for future acquisitions and development that will enable us to continue to add to the collections and improve the arboretum. Thank you very much for your continued support!

Paul Warnick

Plant Sale Continues to Grow

he verdict is in. All the work and effort put forth by volunteers for this past June's plant sale made this the best one yet. The change of venue to the Rotary Ice Rink was very well received by both the people setting up the sale and the people attending. The ice rink provided much more room for plants and displays and also for shoppers to navigate the sale. While the sale was "outdoors", no one minded the fact that we had periodic rain. The plant sale netted \$4,676 for Arboretum Associates projects.

Thanks to Paul Warnick, the Arboretum Horticulturist, we had a larger selection of shrubs and trees than in the past including a number of Pat Wells's recently released Emerald Twister[®] Douglas Firs, (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* 'Torquis'). A wide array of new or unusual plants from several wholesale sources and many donated plants from local gardeners provided unparalled selection for gardening enthusists. In addition to being very generous with the many shade plants and hostas from his garden, Bill Bowler is to be applauded for the fine posters he made for the sale (as well as all other arboretum events). Others also contributed many favorites from their gardens.

The UI Plant Science Club joined our sale with tables and tables of wonderful geraniums in peak flower. Bill French of the Native Plant Society had nice native plants for sale, including many grasses great for Xeriscape gardens.

Our treasurer, Bev Rhoades, suggested a new method of pricing which sped up the checkout, something everyone

appreciated. Richard Naskali lent his expertise to people who had plant-related questions as did a number of experienced gardeners who helped at the sale. Providing invaluable help in setting up and at the sale were Diane Armpriest, Donna Hanson, Laila Carson, Nancy Zabriskie, Joyce Parr, Ellen Theim, Joanne Sutton, Gene Rasmusson, and Teigh Hoyt. Pizza Perfection provided sustenance for the workers at the Friday setup.

Not to rest on our laurels, the Arboretum Associates board is already planning next year's sale. We have been browsing catalogs for exciting new offerings and a number of plants have already been dug, potted and put to bed for the winter. The board is also considering doing something most other arboreta do to benefit members at their plant sales...allow paid members to shop for a time (1/2 hour) before the general public is admitted.

Thanks go to all who helped make this year's sale a success...the volunteers who donated, dug, divided, potted, distributed posters, helped set up, answered shoppers questions. We are grateful to Fran Maki and her crew at the Latah County Fairgrounds for providing the muscle power getting the tables from the storage area to the wonderful new venue. Thanks Fran and all the volunteers, board members and shoppers who made this sale a success. See you next year.

Marlene Johnston

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Arboretum Associates Donor Roll

uring fiscal year 2003 (July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003) \$73,414 was contributed to Arboretum Associates, endow ments which support the arboretum, or specific trees, gardens, benches, and other projects. We would like to thank all the people who have made this such an outstanding year. The arboretum grows and develops because of the generous donors who provide financial support. Thank you for supporting the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

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DECEMBER 2003

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Parking Available

Three parking spaces in the UI Golf Course parking lot have been designated for parking while visiting the Arboretum. Special thanks to Charles Zillinger and parking services for their help in making access to the Arboretum a little easier. Look for some additional metered parking along Nez Perce drive this summer. Remember there is also parking available at the South end of the Arboretum 1200 W. Palouse River Drive.

A Year at the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden:

by R.J. Naskali



'Royal Star' Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata* 'Royal Star') flower, Asian section, April 20, 2003.



Golden Chain Tree (*Laburnum* x *watereri*) inflorescences, European section, May 26, 2003.



'Yachiyo-tsubaki' Shrub Peony (*Paeonia* 'Yachiyo-tsubaki') flower, Asian section, May 26, 2003.



Pine-leaved Penstemon (Penstemon pinifolius) flowers, xeriscape garden, August 5, 2003.



Honeybee on Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), xeriscape garden, August 5, 2003.



Apple Rose (*Rosa pomifera*) hip, European section, September 7, 2003.



'Perry's Fire Opal' Waterlily flower, August 3, 2003.



Frost on Manchurian Clematis (*Clematis mandshurica*) fruits, Asian vine trellises, December 1, 2002.

Message from the President

his Fall I had the pleasure of taking some former residents of Moscow on a tour of the Arboretum. It had been just five years since they lived next to the Arboretum and watched it being planted. Much like observing a tree grow from day to day, you don't see all the changes and developments until you see them through someone else's eyes. Just as the arboretum is growing and maturing so is the support from all facets of the community. But it hasn't been without some growing pains as we move from the strong vision of one individual to the shared responsibility of many. As we figure out how to develop a strong organizational structure that will last into the next several decades we appreciate the continued support of all our friends.

The day to day operations are in the very capable hands of Paul Warnick. He is supported by Charles Zillinger, Assistant Director FMO Landscape & Exterior Services. We are working to develop clear roles and responsibilities for both Arboretum Associates and the Arboretum Advisory Board. We are thankful to have Dr. Naskali's continued support to carry out the work of the Associates and continue with general fundraising support for Arboretum Associates. We hope that in retirement Richard will be able to carve out some time from his busy volunteer schedule to help us put together some workshops and educational programs that will be of interest to our members. During the coming year the board has agreed to undertake two large projects. The first project is to develop and produce a new brochure and map of the Arboretum. We are particularly grateful to Bill Bowler for his creative and technical skills. We hope to have the brochure ready by Spring 2004. It is our goal to have it available in the kiosk and at other locations in the region.

The second project under discussion is the development of an update to the master plan for the Arboretum and Botanical Garden. This project would be funded by the Associates and involve bringing together the needs and vision of all the constituencies. We want to make sure that we understand the wants and desires of the academic community as we continue to develop this resource with the ultimate goal of accreditation by the American Association of Museums, and become a regional resource, and a tourist destination.

In addition we plan to continue to develop the Arboretum website. We would love to hear from our members and supporters. Let us know what you would like to see in the future of the Arboretum or in future issues of Arbornotes. You can contact us at arbassoc@uidaho.edu.

Thanks again to all our members. Your membership contributions make these projects possible. Together we are nurturing something truly outstanding.

Joy Fisher

illiam "Bill" Stookey, owner of *Stookeys' Feed and Garden*, friend of gardeners and arboretum benefactor, passed away in June 2003. Bill is remembered for his good-natured advice and upbeat humor. Arboretum Associates and many other local organizations will also miss his civic-minded generosity.

In remembrance and appreciation of Bill, a grove of three "Alaskan Yellow Cedar", *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*, has been planted in the University of Idaho's Arboretum north of the wheat field near the top of the hill.



International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration

🖣 ifty-six stunning original botanical illustrations from around the world constituted the major show at UI's Prichard Gallery during September, 2003. The botanical art, featuring plants, flowers, and/or fruits and cones of common to exotic plants were loaned to UI by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation of Pittsburgh, PA under the sponsorship of the UI Arboretum Associates.



A 'line-up' of some Hunt Botanical Institute's paintings for the Hunt Botanical Institute's 11th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration at the Prichard Gallery. R.J. Naskali photo, August 8, 2003.

Although the majority of the contemporary art pieces were watercolors, others were executed by drypoint, colored pencil, acrylics, or graphite with details surpassing the best photographic techniques. Artists from England, Italy, Japan, Australia, Wales, Brazil, New Zealand, Korea, Belgium, and the United States were featured in this 11th International Exhibition of the Hunt Institute's permanent collection. The Arboretum Associates also sponsored a special reception and illustrated lecture for Arboretum donors and members, Friday evening, August 22, 2003. The lecture-reception, An **Overview** of Botanical Illustration by Richard Naskali, was attended by 75 guests. During the Hunt show in Moscow, at least 2,297 viewers visited the Prichard Gallery. A few catalogs from the show are still available from the

Prichard Gallery in downtown Moscow, ID.

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation is the ongoing culmination of Rachel Miller McMaster Hunt's lifetime of passionate collecting rare botanical books, published illustrations, and the best of the world's contemporary original botanical art. You can see many facets of the Hunt Institute's holdings at http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu.

R.J. Naskali

Mark your Calendar - Upcoming Events

27th Annual Meeting UI Arboretum Associates Tuesday, April 20, 2004

The meeting is tenatively scheduled for the UI College of Law Courtroom. In addition to our annual business meeting the program will feature Dan Heims, President of Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc., a company noted for its new introductions to horticulture. Dan has spent the last 27 years deeply involved in horticulture. Dan's articles and photography have appeared in a number of magazines. Dan's garden has been featured in Sunset Magazine, Organic Gardening, and Better Homes and Gardens. His job description dictates that he must "travel the world and seek the newest perennials". He has spoken around the United States, and in Japan, England, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Tasmania, Australia, and Canada.

South End Garden Tour, Sunday, May 16, 2004

Join us for a tour that will highlight the additions that have

been made to the south end of the Arboretum. The tour will include the Xeriscape garden - highlighting the many drought resistant plants that flourish in our area - along with the daylily and iris gardens and other features of interest.

Arboretum Associates Plant Sale, Saturday, June 5, 2004

If the winter blues start to get you down, just remember it isn't too early to start dreaming about the great additions to your garden that will be available at our plant sale in just six months. We have been busy working to secure some unusual and spectacular "plants to lust for". The sale will be in the skating rink at the Latah County Fairgrounds. This is our largest fund raising project of the year. Look for further details in the Spring issue of Arbornotes.

In addition we are hoping to sponsor several workshops with gardeners in mind in 2004. Workshops will be announced in the Daily News and on the Arboretum website.

Grace Yenni Iris Garden

display garden featuring various types of Iris has been planted near the south end of the arboretum next to the xeriscape garden. Funding for the garden was provided by various donors in memory of Grace Haag Yenni, a local Iris fancier and long-time University of Idaho supporter.

The garden was planted between the stream and the xeriscape garden to take advantage of the wetter area by the stream for several types of Iris that thrive with additional moisture; and to have a drier site, close to the xeriscape garden, for the traditional Bearded Iris. In the wettest area of the stream bank we planted Louisiana Iris and European Water Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), both of which are often considered aquatic plants, that can grow even in standing water. Further up the bank, in a drier site there are 10 cultivars of Japanese Iris, which flower with large open, flat blooms, much later than the Bearded Iris. Then there is a group of Siberian Iris which thrive with some moisture, but not constantly wet soil.

Higher up the bank we planted three types of rock garden Iris that grow from bulbs, rather than rhizomes. These include Dutch Iris, Reticulata Iris and Orchid Iris. These are all very early bloomers, with flowers as early as March and April. They are all small, growing only 6-8" tall. Along the upper edge of the stream bank bed there are three categories of dwarf Bearded Iris, ranging from the miniatures that will grow only 5"-15" tall, to the Intermediate and Border Bearded Iris, which grow to 16"-27" tall. At the north end of the stream bank bed there is a group of 15 tall Bearded Iris which can re-bloom in late summer if conditions are right. I am hoping that the somewhat moister conditions in this spot will encourage these plants to continue growing during the summer and produce a second season of flowering in August and September.

Above the stream bank bed there are two beds of the traditional tall Bearded Iris. One bed has more than 30 cultivars in a range of colors, heights, and blooming times that were obtained from Corriehill Iris Gardens, a local Iris grower, who generously donated some plants. The other bed consists primarily of 14 cultivars from Grace Yenni's personal garden, some of which date back to the 1940's. There is also one large clump of the 'Vandal Spirit' Iris which was introduced and named by Schreiner's Gardens in 1988 to honor the U of I Centennial.

We have tried to display as wide a range of Iris as possible, to provide flowering from April into July, and then if conditions are right, a second flush of flowers on the reblooming Bearded Iris from August into September. They were planted in late August and early September, and with the beautiful, mild fall weather they all seem to be growing. They should make for a great display next spring and early summer.

Paul Warnick

Treasurer's Report

uring fiscal year 2003 Arboretum Associated received \$19,009 in income. The sources included mem bership gifts, endowment earnings, and plant sale proceeds. During the year the Arboretum Associates Board authorized \$6,540 for recurring operating expenses. This covered printing and mailing Arbornotes, hosting the annual meeting and speaker, the summer concert, and putting on the plant sale. Another \$2,486 was allocated to purchasing plants and plant labels for the Arboretum. Special projects included sponsoring the Hunt Botanical Print Exhibit \$2,000, web page and logo design and development \$3,200 and a \$2,000 contribution to the R. J. Naskali Endowment. We started the year with a fund balance of \$30,280 and this year's activities netted \$2,783 for an ending fund balance of \$33,063.

Beverly Rhoades



PO Box 443147 Moscow, ID 83844-3147

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Renew your annual contribution to the Arboretum Associates for Fiscal Year 2004 and contribute to your favorite project fund. Please help the Arboretum grow by renewing your annual gift for the fiscal year which began July 1, 2003. *Thank You!*

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City Sta	ate Zip
Fund Contribution	
Arboretum Associates	\$
Centennial Endowment Fur	
Pergola Fund	\$
Total Contribution	\$
Please charge my Master	Card VISA
Card#	
Expiration Date	
Signature	
0001Z	

Membership Categories

Active	\$20 - \$49
Sustaining	\$50 - \$99
Donor	\$100 - \$249
Patron	\$250 - \$499
Sponsor	\$500 - \$999
Benefactor	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Life Associate	\$2,500 and above

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