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ArborNotes

A Newsletter of the Arboretum Associates

May 2005

Art in the Shattuck Arboretum

A strong wind storm in the fall of 2003 blew over two large spruce trees in the east end of the Shattuck Arboretum. Bruce Sykes a graduate student and Sculpture instructor in the Art Department asked if he could use the stumps as bases for two sculpture projects. After getting the appropriate approvals he installed the first piece in the fall of 2003. The piece is called "Second Growth" and is made from plywood. Bruce says "Second Growth" was in response to the destruction of our forests by human beings. Mother Nature has given us many beautiful things, but humans happen to see only progress."



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"Musical Tree"

Bruce Sykes photos, March 30, 2004



"Second Growth"

The second piece was installed early in 2005. Bruce comments, "My second tree created in metal is called "Musical Tree." I've always enjoyed walking through the woods and on a windy day,

you can hear the trees playing their music. By taking some sticks, you can run them over the piece and create your own music."

Both of the pieces are unique, creative sculptures, well worth a walk into the east end of the Shattuck Arboretum.

Paul Warnick

Come Grow With Us

Master Plan

The Master planning process that began in the Fall has continued to develop. In February after some weeks of preliminary planning the first workshop was held. With the guidance of the firm of Walker Macy 15 individuals representing different constituent groups meet for a four hour workshop. During this workshop the group explored many different areas of interest. The Walker Macy team confirmed the vision and programming of the original master plan developed in 1980 by Richard Carothers Associates of Seattle. They confirmed the value of the geographical designations and the use

of the master plan to guide the past twenty-five years of development. It was generally acknowledged that now the trees were starting to mature and fill in the canopy that it was time to concentrate on establishing under story plantings.



Doug Macy presents conceptual drawings at April 12th open house. Bill Bowler photo

Brainstorming sessions created a significant list of potential projects or considerations for the new master plan. Some of the discussion items included creating more dramatic entrance points at the top and bottom of the arboretum, restoring the south end barn, developing options for the remaining 17 acres



The Walker Macy team interacts with the core project team in February. Bill Bowler photo

of the arboretum, part of which may be a Palouse prairie restoration, developing a stronger tie between the Shattuck arboretum and the new arboretum, more ADA access to the arboretum, possible event sites, and educational/interpretive opportunities. In addition

there was discussion about types of paving materials, selection of plant materials, signage, and educational and research ties.

The next phase of the project was an afternoon of interviews and meetings with constituent groups and key individuals on April 12th. That evening an open house was held to present preliminary ideas and gather public input. Nearly

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seventy community members gathered to listen to a presentation followed by a question and answer session.

The Walker Macy team was back in Moscow on May 4th to meet again with the core team and then make a presentation about the master planning process and present some preliminary designs and plant information at the 28th Annual Arboretum Associates meeting.

The next phase will be for Walker Macy to compile all the information and present a preliminary master plan. The plan will be reviewed and then finalized hopefully by the end of June. The preliminary information from Walker Macy is available on the Arboretum Web site.



Community members participate in the master planning open house. Bill Bowler photo

Barred Owl graces Arboretum

his past winter, a Barred Owl (Strix varia), was discovered roosting in conifers in the UI arboretum. It was found on December 17th during the Moscow-Pullman Christmas Bird Count by Deb Stenkamp. Deb and I were checking conifers for roosting owls when she came face to face with it after noticing "whitewash" on the ground below its roost tree. Owls use favored day-time roost sites during the winter and over time these sites get well marked with pellets and chalky white excrement ("whitewash"). The owl was quite unconcerned by our presence and allowed us to quietly observe it for some time. It was subse-

quently seen by a number of area birders at least through early February and may have spent much of the winter the area. Care must be taken when observing roosting owls as they can become disturbed and abandon roost-sites.

The Barred Owl has become a fairly common resident of northern Idaho forests over the past 30 years. It has been expanding its range west through Canada since early in the last century and was not known in the northwest prior to about 1970. [It is now commonly found across Washington in appropriate habitat and has expanded south into northern California. The Barred Owl is known to hybridize with the it's close relative, the Spotted Owl, and may be displacing



Barred Owl in Arboretum. Terry Gray photo

them in areas where their ranges overlap.] In our area, they are commonly found in conifer forests in locations such as Moscow Mountain and McCroskey Park. If you find one in its breeding area you may hear its distinctive call, often described as "who cooks for you, who cooks for you all". Some individuals appear to move down to lower elevations in the winter as was likely the case here. In recent years Barred Owls have also been found in winter in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley.

The arboreta have continued to host an impressive number and variety of bird species at various times of the year. Several active local birders have been

doing regular surveys and recorded close to 100 species, 80% of which probably occur annually. Several years ago in April, a Great Egret graced the arboretum ponds providing a first record for Latah County. If you would like to learn more about birds in the arboretum, please join the Palouse Audubon Society for a series of spring bird walks. Walks will be every Wednesday through the end of May. We meet at 12 noon at the east Perimeter Drive entrance to the arboretum. The walks are free and open to the public.

Charles Swift

Report from the Horticulturist

The most significant activity of the past winter has been finishing the accessioning of all the plants in the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden. That means that all of the plants that have sufficient records have now been inventoried and entered into the Arboretum database.

In 1998 the Arboretum Associates funded the purchase of the database software known as BG-Base. BG-Base was developed in 1985 at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University as a tool to keep track of and manage their collections. Since that time it has been purchased and used by 160 different institutions, including gardens, zoos, arboreta, and university campuses. The database is constantly being updated and refined, and we have installed all of the possible updates. One of the goals of the database is to have a uniform system of reporting plant collection information about the gardens to the public. A number of the larger users have banded together to allow people to search all of their collections at one time. This feature is available at the following website: http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/forms/multisite2. html. Although it may be awhile before we are capable of joining this group and providing search capabilities, we do have the basic information from our collection alphabetically in PDF format on our website at http://www.uidaho. edu/arboretum/collections.html including a listing of the plants in the xeriscape garden, and also the plants that were added in 2004 is also available on line.

One of the features of the database is the ability to do a census of the collection at any given time. This chart tells us how many different living plants there are in the collection.

The number shown as Total Plants is a little misleading because for all of the herbaceous plants I only entered one record for each group of plants, so if we planted 15 pots of Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*Pseudoregneria spicata*) in one location that only shows up as one plant in the records. However, there is another field in the database that tracks how many individual plants were planted, so it is fairly simple to form a query to find out that there are currently 7,588 individual living plants in the collection.

The database is fairly complex and has fields for virtually an infinite amount of information; so it should be able to provide for our needs for the foreseeable future.

Besides working on the database the winter has been spent catching up on labeling, (all of the accessioned plants in the arboretum should now have a bronze, credit card sized, label hanging somewhere on the north side of the plant near eye level), working with the master planning firm, and surprisingly often, working outside, pruning and cleaning up in the arboretum.

Paul Warnick

Major Taxon	Family	Genera	Species	Taxa	Accessions	Total Plants
fern	2	2	2	2	3	3
gnetophyte	1	1	4	4	4	23
conifer	4	17	98	233	319	1295
ginkgophyte	1	1	1	8	12	23
dicot	72	217	644	1210	1483	3097
monocot	11	42	80	342	369	398
TOTAL	91	280	829	1799	2190	4839

MAY 2005

New Access into the Shattuck Arboretum

ne of the ideas that has been mentioned during the current Master Planning process is the concept of connecting the "new" Arboretum with the Shattuck Arboretum. Unfortunately, because of the steep slopes and Nez Perce Drive that separate the two it is not an easy thing to do. However, after looking at the situation it was decided that a walking trail down into the Shattuck could be constructed that does connect to the "new" Arboretum.



A new path from the top of Shattuck arboretum. Paul Warnick photo

A new trail has been constructed that starts out just west of the driveway to the President's house (in line with the existing crosswalk across Nez Perce Drive). For now the trail is steep and quite narrow, but if usage and time allow it can be widened. The entrance is as



New entrance to Shattuck arboretum. Paul Warnick photo

unobtrusive as possible, but hopefully interested people will find their way to it. Later this spring we will construct a permanent pathway from the sidewalk over to the opening in the fence. The trail has been cleared and graded to where it connects with an existing pathway that goes east into the Shattuck and also to the west where it connects with another trail that circles the Arboretum to the west.

The eventual goal is to have a network of clearly defined trails in the Shattuck, along with a map that will highlight the most impressive specimens in the Arboretum.

Paul Warnick

Annual Meeting

The 28th Annual Meeting of Arboretum Associates was held May 4, 2005 at the University of Idaho College of Law Courtroom. President, Joy Fisher presided over the business meeting which included the election of officers. Selected to serve as officers for the next two years are:

Bill Bowler, President Gina Taruscio, Vice President Jan Leander, Secretary Beverly Rhoades, Treasurer

Also elected as Members at Large were Donna Hanson – 3 year term Joanne Sutton – 2 year term Dave Wenny – 2 year term The Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by Bev Rhoades. The report showed a general fund balance as of December 31, 2004 of \$36,711 and a balance in the Arboretum Associates Centennial Endowment of \$152,838. Membership gifts totaled \$10,952 and the plant sale generated \$7,006. The largest expense was for partial funding of the master plan at \$15,000.

The business meeting was followed by a master plan presentation by Bryan Cole of Walker Macy Landscape Architecture Urban Design Planning and Sean Hogan of Cistus Designs.

Plant Sale

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Serious and even not so serious gardeners should mark June 4th on their calendars. That is the date for the Arboretum Associates plant sale. This year promises to be the biggest and best yet with a great assortment of trees, shrubs, and flowers for beds, containers, and cutting. Thanks to the generosity of Jamie Stookey, we will have a large selection of perennials and a grand selection of hosta's. We will once again feature perennials from Bluestone Gardens and at last count a treasure trove of over 400 hostas of all shapes, sizes and colors, plus a nice selection of hellebores, Siberian irises and heathers. The sale will be held at the Ice



Lila Carson helps customers at the 2004 Arboretum plant sale. Bill Bowler photo

Rink located at the Latah County Fairgrounds near the Eastside Marketplace. The sale will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at noon. Once again will we feature an opportunity to win an unbelievable



Small sample of hostas for the 2005 Arboretum plant sale. Bill Bowler photo

specimen plant, with patrons receiving one chance for every \$10 dollars in plant purchases. This is a fun event and an opportunity to acquire fabulous plants unavailable anywhere else on the Palouse. Proceeds from the sale directly benefit the University of Idaho Arboretum. A more comprehensive list of offerings is available online at the arboretum's website http://www.uidaho.edu/arboretum.

Campus Tree Research - a Cooperative Effort

ne of the suggested outcomes of the new master plan is to build upon new and continuing relationships in the academic community. Some of those potential relationships would strengthen research activity that is currently happening on campus.

Although it may go unseen, researchers from the Horticulture Division of the Department of Plant, Soil, and Entomological Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Idaho and professional staff in UI Facilities Management are actively involved in on campus research projects addressing landscape and tree health. Graduate students from the Urban Landscape Ecology Program are examining everything from the impacts of earthworms on nutrient cycling in the arboretum and administration lawn, to the impacts of injectable botanical insecticides and gibberellin inhibitors on the growth, pest, and drought stress resistance of pears, maples, ash, and honeylocust trees located throughout campus. Two of the more visible research projects involve studies funded by the USDA, Idaho Department of Agriculture examining the impacts of holding treatments (how trees are held between digging in the nursery and before planting in the landscape) on the transplant success, and pest resistance of 60 Colorado Blue Spruce that were planted adjacent to the Kibbie Dome last spring. The second project was initiated this spring by Campus Arborist, Steven Nittolo for his M.S. degree research examining the impact of subordination pruning on the branch collar development of co-dominant stems. Steve's project is funded by the International Society of Arboriculture. The research coordination continues even beyond campus with the City Tree Research Nursery co-sponsored by the City of Moscow and the Crabapple Research Evaluation Park co-sponsored by the International Ornamental Crapapple Society and the City of Lewiston.

With a renewed academic focus the future of arboretum research partnerships will continue to build and strengthen both on campus and throughout the state.



ACROSS

- 1 A "spade" that's not a spade
- 9 Thickened underground stem; ex. potato
- 10 Potatoes have more than one, hurricanes have only one
- 11 Oddly shaped fruit
- 12 The king of shade plants
- 14 Soil type for many shade loving plants
- 16 Soil amendment to loosen clay soil
- 19 Most mammals have these on their face ;)
- 21 Found on an ear, not in one
- 22 Future tulip
- 25 Gardening can help one avoid this medical professional
- 28 Homecoming corsage flower
- 29 Kookaburra's tree or Wrigley's chewable
- 30 Indicating a "blackish" feature
- 33 Leaves may have chevron markings
- 35 Burnt wood or type of tree
- 37 "Comeback" plants
- 40 Popular Easter plant
- 42 Very fragrant spring-flowering shrub
- 43 Popular bedding plant
- 44 City where UI Arboretum is located
- 46 Maple genus

J.

- 47 Planter of original UI arboretum, Charles
- 50 To multiply some plants you can _____ them.
- 51 Seed source of "licorice" flavor for candy
- 53 Most common garden pests
- 54 Former tadpole
- 55 Something to mow on Saturdays
- 56 Students may do this before exams
- 57 Most popular thorny flowering shrubs

DOWN

- 2 Ingredient needed to make beer
- 3 One of the largest moths
- 4 Future plants
- 5 Every garden has them
- 6 Long handled cultivator
- 7 Plant lover's hobby
- 8 Vegetable found in a pod
- 12 Indoor plants are called _
- 13 One season plant
- 15 Decayed plant material
- 16 Annual or perennial cranesbill
- 17 Plant protection
- 18 Shrub with HUGE, showy pink, blue
- 20 The study of plants
- 22 Landscape mound
- 23 Flowers sleep in a _
- 24 A type of soil amendment; aged mo
- 26 Where the sun don't shine
- 27 Growth rings will approximate a tre
- 31 Spring flower with a "face"
- 32 Stately background plant
- 34 Underground part of an iris
- 36 A type of plant support
- 38 Arboretum's first director, Richard_
- 39 Give plants enough _____ to grow
- 41 A type of eclipse
- 42 Green citrus fruit or soil sweetener
- 45 Arboretum horticulturist, Paul____
- 48 Fir genus
- 49 Lacy woodland plant
- 50 Unwelcome 4-legged arboretum vis
- 52 Popular street tree

Palouse Prairie Native Plants in the Xeriscape Garden

eriscaping is the practice of landscaping using plants and materials that use significantly less supplemental irrigation than traditional landscaping. One of the guiding principals of xeriscaping is the idea of using locally native plants, since they are well adapted to the local area and shouldn't need much supplemental irrigation. As I designed the garden I tried to utilize some natives through-

out the garden; and I set aside one entire section for plants native to the state of Idaho.

One idea presented in the original Master Plan of the Arboretum (currently being revised and updated, by Walker-Macy, a Landscape Architecture firm in Portland, Oregon) was to plant a section of restored Palouse Prairie. This is still well supported by various Arboretum groups; but it is a difficult goal to achieve. One of the problems is that there are very few sources



Paul Warnick photo

of seed or plants, and another problem is there is not much knowledge about how to grow the plants.

I decided that the xeriscape garden would be an excellent place to work with Palouse Prairie natives to see how they grow in local conditions and it could be used as a source for seeds as the plants become established. An area was set aside within the Idaho Native section of the xeriscape garden to plant only locally native plants. The section is on the east side of the gravel road, across from the main body of the xeriscape garden. It is immediately north of the group of Populus tremuloides (Quaking Aspen). The area is fairly small, only about 30 feet by 10 feet, but it includes nearly forty different Palouse Prairie natives. All of the forbs (broad leafed, herbaceous plants) in that plot are from locally collected seed. All of the forbs and grasses were grown from seed in containers (either tubes or small pots) then planted out as established plants. The first forbs and grasses were planted in the fall of 2002, with more plants added in '03 and '04. The plants were watered occasionally by hand during their first growing season, and then left to only natural rainfall after that.

So far the plantings consist of 7 different grasses, 5 woody species of woody plants, and 34 species of forbs or wildflowers. The attached list shows the Palouse Prairie natives currently growing in the xeriscape garden. The wildflowers include two species of local endemic plants, or plants that only occur in very small, local areas, *Aster jessicae* (Jessica's Aster), and *Pyrrocoma liatriformis* (Palouse Goldenweed).

> Surprisingly, the Jessica's Aster has proven to be very vigorous and showy when it has some space to grow. Other flowers that have been especially showy include Ipomopsis aggregata ssp. aggregata (Scarlet Gilia), Gaillardia aristata (Blanket Flower), and Collomia grandiflora (Largeflowered Collomia). The Collomia is an annual plant, but it has very successfully re-seeded for the last two years. Another surprise has been that the local species of Yarrow, Achillea millefo-

lium, does not seem to be as aggressive as some other Yarrow that are often sold as ornamentals. So far, the local native has stayed in fairly contained clumps.

In the fall of 2003 I tried starting some Palouse Prairie grasses from seed in a raised berm in a section of the Arboretum all ready devoted to Idaho native plants. I planted two cultivars of Pseudoroegneria spicata (Bluebunch Wheatgrass) and three selections of Festuca idahoensis, (Idaho Fescue). I sowed the seeds in late August, then I watered the site often enough to keep the soil surface moist. The seed came up very well and made a good stand before going dormant for the winter. The site is surrounded by turf grass and the biggest problem with the site has been competition from other weedy grasses. There have been some broadleaf weeds as well, but they have been easy to control with an application of 2,4-D a broad leaf weed killer. The grasses are much harder to control chemically since it is impossible to selectively kill the weedy grasses without killing the desirable species. We did manage to keep the weedy grasses more or less under control with hand weeding, but that is only practical on a very small site. I think this illustrates

Palouse Prairie Native Plants in the Arboretum

ACC. NUM.	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	# PLTS.	LOCATION
	Grasses			
2003398	Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted Hair Grass	14	XENI
2003400	Elymus cinereus	Great Basin Wild Rye	9	XESI, XEWS
2002150	Elymus glaucus	Blue Wildrye	34	XEPE, XEWN
2004262	Festuca idahoensis 'Joseph'	'Joseph' Idaho Fescue	19	XENI
2003404	Koeleria macrantha	Prairie June Grass	12	XENI
2003409	Poa sandbergii	Sandberg's Blue Grass	5	XENI
2002177	Pseudoroegneria spicata	Bluebunch Wheatgrass	41	XENI, XEPE, XEWN
	Woody Plants			
2002083	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Kinnickinnick	10	XENI
2002108	Crataegus douglasii	Black Hawthorn	3	XENI
2002089	Mahonia repens	Creeping Oregon Grape	44	XESI, XEWN, XEWS
2002072	Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa Pine	2	XENI
2002060	Symphoricarpos albus	Common Snowberry	5	XENI
	Forbs			
2003087	Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	6	XENI
2003091	Agastache urticifolia	Nettle Leaf Horse Mint	3	XENI
2003239	Allium acuminatum	Wild Onion	5	XENI
2002214	Anaphalis margaritacea	Pearly Everlasting	8	XENI
2004175	Apocvnum androsaemifolium	Creeping Dogbane	3	XENI
2003199	Artemisia Iudoviciana	White Sage	3	XESO
2003164	Aster jessicae	Jessica's Aster	3	XENI
2002243	Aster occidentalis	Western Aster	8	XENI, XEPE
2002178	Balsamorhiza saaittata	Arrowleaf Balsam Root	10	XEPE
2003143	Besseva rubra	Red Besseva	3	XENI
2003424	Collomia arandiflora	Large-flowered Collomia	9	XENI
2002244	Gaillardia aristata	Blanket Flower	7	XENI
2002262	Galium boreale	Northern Bedstraw	7	XENI
2002245	Geranium viscosissimum	Sticky Geranium	i i	XENI
2003092	Geum macrophyllum	Largeleaf Avens	3	XENI
2002238	Geum triflorum	Prairie Smoke	4	XEPE
2003423	Pyroccoma liatriformis	Palouse Goldenweed	1	XENI
2003123	Helianthella uniflora	Little Sunflower	2	XENI
2004213	Heuchera cylindrica	Boudleaf Alumroot	24	XENI
2003093	Hieracium albertinum	Western Hawkweed		XENI
2003033	Inomonsis agaregata ssp. gagregata	Scarlet Gilia	6	XENI
2003240	Iris missouriensis	Western Blue Iris	6	YENI
2003210	Linum lawisii	Lewis Blue Flax	0	VENI
2003101	Lomatium macrocarpum	Big Seed Bisguitroot	12	YENI
2004238	Lomatium macrocarpum	Nineleaf Bisquitroot	1	VENI
2004238	Luminus argentaus	Silvery Lupine	2	XERC
2002155		Silley Luping	19	VENI VEDE
2002134	Olumium davidarii nan inflatum	Inflated Crass Widow	19	AEINI, AEFE
2007232	Beneternen son fonten	Valley, Denstemen	. б	VENI
2003034	Potentilla ar site	Tall Cinquefeil	с С	VENI
2003144	Potentilla arguta	Fine for going of Circuit for it	3	AEINI
2003145	s li la gracilis	Caldernad	3	AEINI
2002182	Sonaago canaaensis		3 10	AEFE VENU VEDE
2002226	Soliaago missouriensis	Milssouri Goldenrod	13	AENI, AEPE
2003163	wyethia amplexicaulis	Mule s Ears	4	AENI

Palouse Praire continued...

the idea that it is very important that weeds need to be controlled as completely as possible before any planting is considered.

In the original planting that has now been established for two full growing seasons the weed problem has not been significant. I think that is one of the advantages of xeriscaping or low water usage landscaping that is not mentioned very often. By using less water, there are far fewer weeds than would be found in an equivalent irrigated landscape.

Up until this spring we have not done any cutting back to speak of on the Palouse Prairie plantings. I think this third spring there is enough dead material left above ground that it will start to inhibit the growth of the desirable plants. The sites are small enough to easily be cut back by hand, but I think it could be done mechanically with either a string trimmer or a mower. I have left most of the seeds to ripen and fall naturally to see which plants will spread by seed. I think that the plantings have demonstrated that there are a number of local native plants that can do well when transplanted as plants, with relatively little maintenance. The problems (as was expected) are availability of plants and competition from weeds. The planting is very attractive in late spring into early summer, then as natural rainfall diminishes most of the plants go dormant. Most people probably find the dead foliage and seed heads less attractive than traditional lush green landscaping, so I don't foresee Palouse Prairie gardens ever being very popular. However, in areas where low maintenance, little irrigation, and improved wildlife habitat are important I think there is a definite need for more availability of Palouse Prairie plants and more knowledge about techniques for growing and maintaining a Prairie planting.

Paul Warnick

Upcoming Events

June 4, 2005 Annual Plant Sale 9:00 A.M. to noon. Ice Rink at Latah County Fair Grounds. Stop by the Humane Society Pancake feed in the Fairgrounds building from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

July 2005 Summer concert in the Arboretum. See website for date and location

Fall 2005 Extreme Horticulture, a photo exhibit by John Pfahl, Prichard Gallery

John Pfahl is one of the preeminent landscape photographers of the past decades. He has consistently played with the conventions of photography. His deep understanding of camera vision informs his entire image making. Extreme Horticulture is a series that took 4 years to complete. Pfahl crisscrossed the United States photographing in public and private gardens. His knowledge and use of picture conventions heighten his exploration into what people grow. The level of human expressiveness through the control of the plant kingdom has never been more evident.



John Pfahl photos



ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES PLANT SALE

Saturday, June 4, 2005 Latah County Fairgrounds 9 am – 12 pm

The emphasis this year is on a wide selection of large, established Hostas, but there will be the traditional assortment of woody plants and hardy perennials, including some new dark purple lilacs and a variety of hardy heathers. The proceeds from the sale will allow us to continue the beautiful plantings that are happening in the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Check the arboetum website http://www.uidaho.edu/arboretum/ for an updated plant list. 

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Renew your annual contribution to the Arboretum Associates for Fiscal Year 2005 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, 2004. *Thank You!*

Name			
Address			
City	State		Zip
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