

# ArborNotes

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ARBORETUM ASSOCIATES

Come Grow With Us

## Lasting UI Legacies: Plant Treasures of the University Campus

### Special Trees of the Charles Houston Shattuck Arboretum

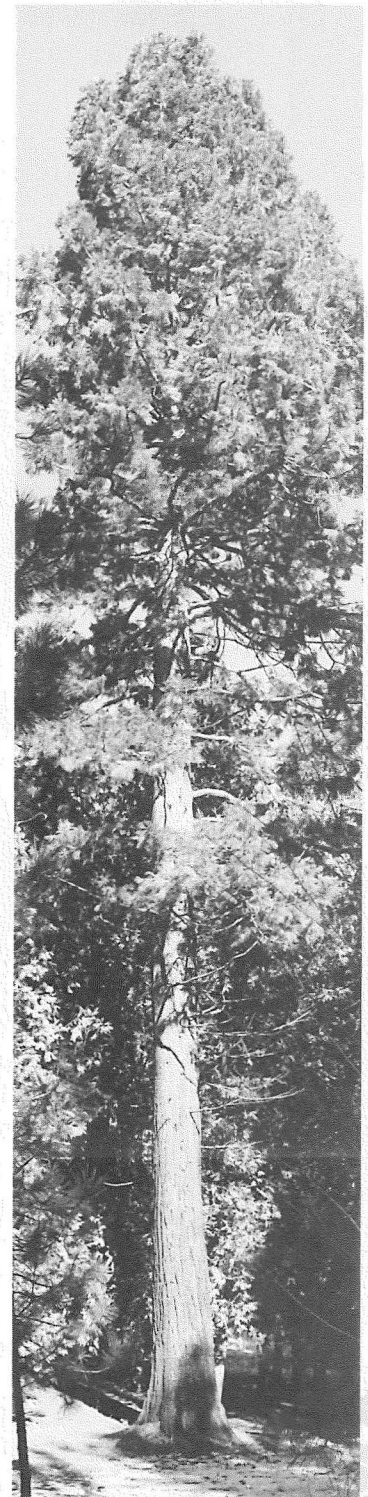
When Charles Houston Shattuck joined the UI faculty in September 1909 to initiate a forestry program, the campus was essentially a treeless eastern limit of the Palouse prairie. The following spring, he and forestry technician C. L. Price started the plantings which became "Arboretum Hill" and which were dedicated in Shattuck's honor in 1933, two years after his death. In the 92 years since Shattuck came to Moscow, his Arboretum includes some of the finest specimens of their species anywhere between Minneapolis, MN and Seattle, WA. Perhaps most notable of all of the trees in the 14-acre Shattuck Arboretum are the dozen Eastern North American beech trees (*Fagus grandifolia*) and the single giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*).

Idaho's giant Sequoia near the western end of the Shattuck Arboretum may well be the largest specimen of its species anywhere in the Northern Rocky Mountains. Our sole surviving giant Sequoia now measures 147 inches in circumference at 40" above ground level or three feet and nine inches in diameter. In the absence of Shattuck's notes and records, it is not inconceivable that Idaho's specimen could be a direct descendent derived from a seed of the General Sherman Tree of the California Sierra Nevada mountains-the largest living thing on earth.

Annually, our giant Sequoia produces scores of cones and many seeds. Frequently, the introduced squirrels cut and graze the cones prior to natural ripening. Attempts to propagate the tree from its seeds have generated very few seedlings; few of its seeds are viable. It is intriguing to contemplate whether viability of the Idaho giant Sequoia would have been higher had the smaller of the two Shattuck Arboretum specimens not died after the harsh Moscow winter of 1968-69. In any event, volunteer seedlings have not been evident there during the 35 years that I have monitored the tree.

Elsewhere at the western portion of the Shattuck Arboretum are several magnificent specimens of *Fagus grandifolia*, the American or Eastern North American Beech, the largest of which is 72" in circumference or 22" in diameter. There are several other smaller and younger specimens which have regenerated there without irrigation. Because specimens of this species are far less tolerant of soil compaction than the European beeches (*Fagus sylvatica*) it is fortunate that the Idaho specimens are "off the beaten trails." Each year, many of the UI beeches produce mature fruits which are quickly consumed by the squirrels and other animals.

—R. J. Naskali



A composite photograph of the giant sequoia in UI's Charles Houston Shattuck Arboretum. March 3, 2002.

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the Arboretum Associates  
University of Idaho  
Arboretum and Botanical  
Garden

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Richard J. Naskali  
109 Alumni Center  
University of Idaho  
P.O. Box 443226  
Moscow, ID 83844-3226  
Phone: (208) 885-6250  
FAX (208) 885-4040  
naskali@uidaho.edu

### **Arboretum Horticulturist**

Paul Warnick  
pwarnick@uidaho.edu

### **Photos By**

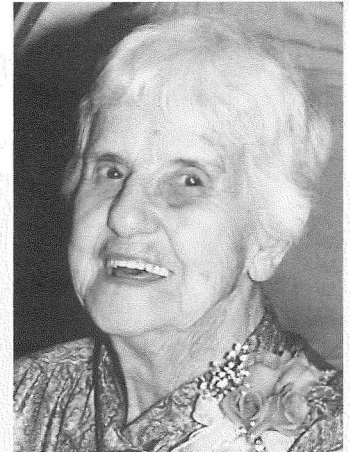
Richard J. Naskali

NOVEMBER 2002

## News from the Arboretum Director

### UI Arboretum Associates Celebrate 25 Years

UI's Arboretum Associates organization passed a quarter century of fundraising, volunteer work, and publicizing the development of the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden this summer. On July 28, 1978, the original group approved a constitution and elected its first officers. Lillian Pethtel, state representative of the Idaho Federation of Garden Clubs and a major advocate for development of a new arboretum, was elected as the first president. Other officers elected were Art Boe, professor of plant science and chairman of the UI campus Arboretum Committee, vice president; Lois Kirkland, representative of the Moscow Garden Club, secretary; and Darlene Pelofske, treasurer.



Lillian Pethtel celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday March 23, 2002, one day prior to her birth anniversary.

Prior to creation of the Arboretum director position in 1987-88, the Arboretum Associates and members of the Campus Arboretum Committee, together with Moscow service clubs (especially the Moscow Rotary Club and the Moscow Central Lions Club) completed many planting and maintenance projects. Today, the Associates efforts are concentrated on activities which bring people to the arboretum and fundraising for the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Policy-making decisions are reviewed by 10+ members of the Arboreta Advisory Board (founded in 1994) prior to being submitted to the UI Administration for approval.

Since 1978, the original Arboretum Associate membership of 46 persons has grown; the Arboretum Associates have sponsored plant sales, public lectures, Arboretum tours, and gardening workshops, and continued to publish a periodic newsletter, *ArborNotes*. The organization has been instrumental in purchasing plants for the general collections and equipment which the UI budget could not underwrite. Funds granted by the Arboretum Associates, together with earnings from its Centennial Arboretum Endowment and six other Arboretum endowments invested with the UI Foundation, Inc.'s Consolidated Investment Trust, have underwritten a John Deere 'Gator, a Yamaha shuttle golf cart, a New Holland tractor, a plant label embossing machine, and the B-G BASE™ plant record software.

During the last 25 years, over \$500,000 have been donated to the Arboretum by 1,200+ persons and organizations. In the 21 growing seasons since we made the initial plantings in 1982, all plants have been purchased at no expense to State of Idaho or University of

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Idaho budgets. As of August 2002, there are 27 granite benches, 80 commemorative trees, 60 dedicated groves, the Leonard Halland information kiosk, and seven growing endowment funds contributed for the perpetuity

of the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Thank You. Please keep up the great work!

—R. J. Naskali

## Arboretum Associates Purchases

The Arboretum Associates Board was able to help make four major purchases for the arboretum this spring. The new items are: a tractor with a front end loader, a four person 'golf car', a poly-covered hoop house for protecting new plants, and a new bed of annual flowers at the south end of the arboretum.

The tractor is a bright blue, New Holland, 20 horsepower tractor, equipped with a front end loader and a box scraper. The tractor gets a lot of use, loading bark, grading new beds and trails, moving equipment, and pulling stumps. The crew of student helpers are extremely grateful not to be loading bark and soil by hand.

The 'golf car' is a four person, gas-powered, Yamaha Concierge. It was needed for two purposes, moving crew members from job to job, and also to provide access for small groups to tour the arboretum. Again, it has proved to be very useful for both purposes. Like most new technology or equipment, now we wonder how we ever got along without both the tractor and the golf car.

The hoop house is a simple poly-covered structure, 15' x 25', designed for protecting tender new plants from frost and other harsh weather. It paid for itself this spring, when we had a hard freeze, and we had more than 1400 tender annual flowers, and numerous new perennials for



The four passenger Yamaha golf cart, used by student employees for irrigation duties, and used to transport visitors around the Arboretum. In the background is our polyethylene hoop house. Oct. 1, 2002.



Josh Drown, a UI undergraduate major in Horticulture/Plant Science, operates our new, New Holland tractor. Oct. 1, 2002.

the xeriscape garden, waiting to be planted. Automatic sprinklers and shade cloth allowed us to keep small plants protected and growing all summer.

The final major purchase in the arboretum was for the Arboretum Associates to provide funding for a bed of annual flowers at the south end of the arboretum. The 1400+ plants were grown as a fund raiser by the Plant Science Club at the University. The bed was roughly 100 feet long and six to eight feet wide. It was planted with mostly 'old favorite' annuals including 'Inca' marigolds, 'Crystal Palace' lobelia, white petunias and a mixture of cosmos. A few newer varieties were also included: 'Salsa Mix' salvia and 'Pink Gypsy' annual baby's breath were especially nice. In spite of the plants suffering fairly severe frost damage on June 7th and August 4th, the flowers provided a splash of color to the south end of the arboretum.

These four purchases were all made possible by your generous donations to Arboretum Associates. The new equipment and plants have really helped us to improve the arboretum for everyone.

—Paul F. Warnick

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## Xeriscape Demonstration Garden

Most of the city of Moscow's water comes from a deep underground aquifer which has been declining for years. Water usage climbs dramatically during the summer in Moscow as people use water to irrigate lawns and gardens. Because of concerns about future water supplies, the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee and the City of Moscow were looking for a site to demonstrate the principles of xeriscaping, or low water use landscaping. The City of Moscow provided start-up funding for the garden and arboretum staff provided planning and development. Through some of the very generous donations we were able to match the city's funding for plants and materials. The garden is located at the south end of the arboretum, just east of the red barn.



Perennials are thriving in the xeriscape garden.  
Sept. 20, 2002.

Development began last fall, with herbicide treatments on the site, grading, and installation of rocks and boulders. After another herbicide application this spring, planting began in May. The garden is on a fairly steep slope and is divided into four levels. The highest level, which is across the gravel road from the main garden site, is devoted to plants native to Idaho. That level is further divided into two sections: plants from northern Idaho and plants from southern Idaho, divided by a clump of Quaking Aspens (*Populus tremuloides*) which are native to the entire state. This part of the garden will have a more natural, less manicured look than the rest of the garden. Once established, this level should need little or no irrigation. The next level, which is

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## Plant Sale a Growing Success

The Arboretum Associates' June 1st plant sale was well attended by area gardeners in the search of something special; we hope we didn't disappoint them. We offered plants from local and national growers as well as many donated by local plant enthusiasts. Available were annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees. The White Pine Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society had plants and seedlings available as well. To encourage gardeners to join Arboretum Associates this year we added a drawing for two special plants. A 'Samobar' hardy geranium went to a new member who joined the Arboretum Associates that day and a Fernleaf Peony was won by an active member.

The big winner was the arboretum itself. This year's sale generated \$3,350 after expenses to further the development of the arboretum.

We are grateful for the fine team of volunteers helping your board members in all aspects of the sale, from potting

plants to setting up the sale and helping with the sale itself. Volunteers included Karen Adams, Laila Carson, Peri Kochman, Joyce Parr, Delores & Dick Sanchez, Ellen Thiem, Judy Van Vleet Mills, and Nancy Zabriskie, all of Moscow; Donna Hanson of Pullman; Barbara Hepler and Darlene Nordeen of Clarkston; and Gene Rasmussen, from Syringa, Idaho. A very special thank you to all of the volunteers.

The Arboretum Associates board is already planning the 2003 plant sale for May 31, 2003. If you have suggestions for plants to offer next year, you are encouraged to e-mail the arboretum horticulturist, Paul Warnick, at [pwarnick@uidaho.edu](mailto:pwarnick@uidaho.edu) or call him at (208) 885-6250 soon.

To all who supported our 2002 sale, thank you. We look forward to seeing you next year.

—Marlene Johnston

## Summer Concert Draws Appreciative Crowd

Over 250 people gathered the evening of July 15, 2002, under shade trees near the Watts Grove at the northern edge of the European section of the arboretum to enjoy the third annual summer concert. Summer concerts are 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.

The program offered the audience a variety of music from Mozart to an original composition by Daniel Bukvich. The musicians were community members, faculty, and students from the Lionel Hampton School of Music. Solo pieces included an energetic rendition of *Truckin' Through the South* by Aaron Minsky played by Linda Wharton on cello; *Intrada* by Otto Ketting, performed by Robert Dickow on horn; *Prelude No. 1* by Johann Sebastian Bach performed by Ben Morrow on marimba. Wendy Tangen-Foster played *Sonata in G Minor for Solo Violin, BWV 1001*, by J. S. Bach; Windy Hovey on guitar played *An Malvina* by Johann K. Mertz; and cellist William Wharton played *Adagio* by Zoltán Kodály.



A portion of the 250+ summer concert-goers, July 15, 2002.

The program began with the lively *Agitation Rag* by M. Hampton played by the Cello Quartet of Nathan Harsh, Emily Nelson, Linda Wharton and William Wharton. A beautiful piece entitled *Duo* by Klaus George Roy was performed by Emily Davis, flute, and Michael Locke, clarinet. *Softly, as in a Morning Sunrise* by Hammerstein/Romberg was played by Robert McCurdy on flugelhorn and accompanied by Al Gemberling on bass and Daniel Bukvich on the marimba. *The Hunt Quartet* by W. A. Mozart was performed by Becky Miller and Jennifer Hammond, violins, Linda Wharton, cello, and William Wharton, viola. *Berceuse in B-flat* by Bryan Johanson was performed by Emily Howell, clarinet, and Patrick Peringer, guitar.

The final piece of the evening was a composition by Daniel Bukvich entitled, *Percussion Symphony*, vigorously performed by the Percussion Ensemble of Tony Bonuccelli, Van Davis, Bill Denton, Michael Locke, Ben Morrow, and Dan Bukvich. The crowd was most appreciative of the extraordinary performances and the beauty of the arboretum on a perfect summer evening.

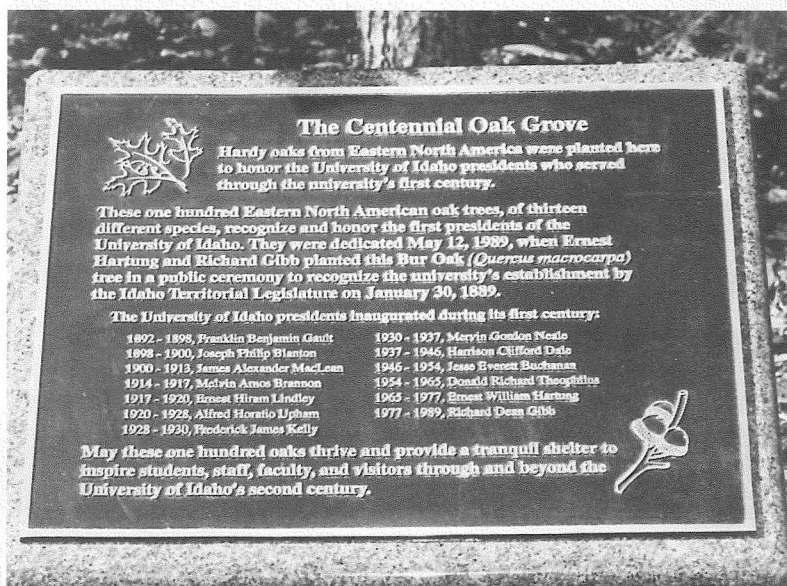


Cellist Linda Wharton takes a bow after performing for our summer evening Arboretum Concert, July 15, 2002.

—Kris Roby

## Other Arboretum News

During 2002 we installed a granite bench to honor the late Shannon Roberts and another given by Jean and Elwood Bizeau. A bronze and granite monument, recognizing UI's 13 presidents of our first century, was installed beside the ceremonial oak tree which was planted May 12, 1989 by Presidents Hartung and Gibb at the culmination of UI's centennial celebrations.



A granite and bronze monument commemorates the ceremonial planting of the 100<sup>th</sup> oak tree in the Centennial Oak Grove May 12, 1989 by UI Presidents Ernest W. Hartung and Richard D. Gibb.

Trees with bronze plaques dedicated to Susan Rutledge Hill (Snowfountains® cherry), Sidney Miller (Scarlet Curles® willow), Judson & Miriam Smith (Ponderosa pine), Edward C. Stohs, Jr. (Chinese lacebark elm), and the 2002 Borah conference ('Iseli <sup>Fastigiate</sup> Colorado spruce), were added this year. In the last year, new groves were dedicated to Theodore "Ted" Bjornn (Junipers of Western North America), Loring March Jones (Shrubs of Northern Idaho), and Vincent "Bill" Schultz (Trees and shrubs of Northern Ohio). The Ron and Pat Jordan family of North Carolina sponsored a grove of ornamental willows of the world. For our display garden area at the south end of the Arboretum, friends of Donna Hanson underwrote a planting of ornamental xeriscape plants in honor of her retirement as UI's science librarian for 20 years.

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## Mark Your Calendars: Some Botanical Events

### Andy Goldsworthy<sup>S</sup> Show

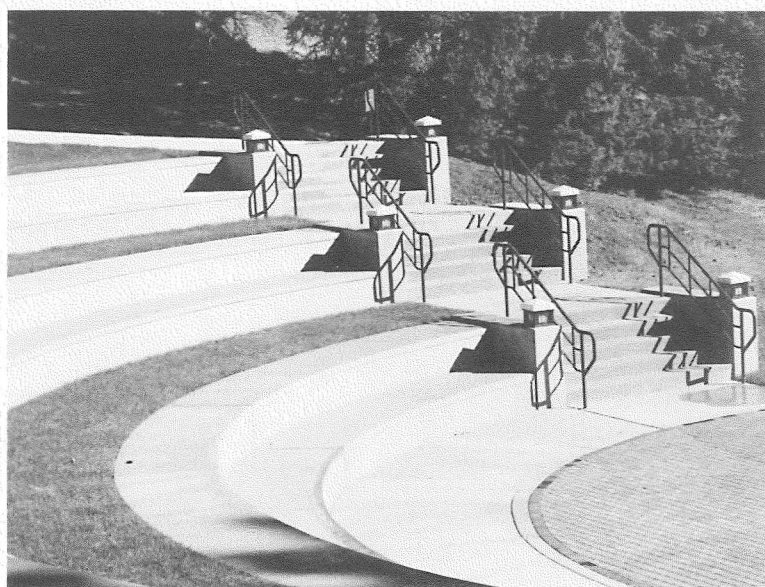
Andy Goldsworthy<sup>S</sup> Japan Portfolio **Mountain and Coast Autumn into Winter**, a first and major traveling show, will be on view at UI's Prichard Gallery at Fifth and Main Streets in Moscow from **November 8, 2002** through **January 11, 2003**. Although Andy Goldsworthy will not be present, this show will enable the Moscow community to study the spectacular artistry of one of the world's foremost environmental artists. The UI Arboretum Associates has helped sponsor this presentation. Of the scores of Internet pages about Andy Goldsworthy, one of the more interesting is:

<http://www.eyestorm.com/events/goldsworthy/?efluxnewsletter>

### Annual Meeting

For the 26th annual meeting of the UI Arboretum Associates, Jim Knopf will present an illustrated keynote program on xeriscaping and water-wise gardening, Thursday, **April 17, 2003** in the UI College of Law Courtroom. Mr. Knopf is one of the founding proponents of reducing water consumption for land-

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The Shattuck Arboretum's completed amphitheater, ready for lectures, concerts, weddings, barbecues. Aug. 13, 2002. In spring 2003, woody ornamentals will be planted at the periphery of the seating areas.

scapes while still having highly attractive gardens for homeowners and commercial sites. Knopf's widely available books (*The Xeriscape Flower Gardener* and *WaterWise Landscaping with Trees, Shrubs, and Vines*) will likely be available for purchase and signing at his program. On the Internet, see: <http://www.bookmasters.com/marktplc/rr00458.htm>

### Hunt Institute Show

An **International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration**, consisting of ca. 90 stunning original art pieces in many media will fill UT's Prichard Gallery from Wednesday **August 20** through Wednesday, **September 30, 2003**-courtesy of major sponsorship by the University of Idaho Arboretum Associates. This collection of contemporary botanical art will be on loan from the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, located at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA. The Hunt Institute is one of the world's premier holders of botanical art and antiquariat botanical books dating from the 16th century onward. The Hunt collection was founded by Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt (1882 - 1963) who strove to acquire at least one original item by every artist whose work was notable in the books of her prestigious botanical library. We are planning a special evening reception and lecture for members of the Arboretum Associates; details will follow as the show date approaches. An overview of the Hunt Institute is visible at: <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/>

—R. J. Naskali



Three splayed, brilliant red-orange stigmas in one Saffron Crocus flower. October 26, 2001

## Some Animal Resistant Garden Flowers

If you are one of the many new home owners at the edge of cropped agricultural lands and plagued with rodents (especially pocket gophers and voles) you may still have some attractive flowering bulbs-if you take lessons from abandoned farmsteads in the West. Have you ever noticed that you don't find tulips and lilies at the old farm sites which are surrounded by wheat fields and other cropped lands? Lily and tulip bulbs are like caviar to voles and pocket gophers.

Around abandoned farmsteads, or in abandoned fields in Idaho, you frequently see naturalized, thriving colonies of *Narcissus* (daffodils, jonquils), *Galanthus* (snowdrops), and *Fritillaria imperialis* (crown imperials), and *Colchicum* (colchicum)-all of which are repulsive and/or toxic to rodents. In the case of narcissus, snowdrops, and colchicum the bulbs are highly toxic if eaten by rodents or humans. In the case of the crown imperials, the skunk-like odor of the bulbs and foliage may repel rodents. Sometimes you will also find spindly flowering hyacinths-which also have toxic bulbs-at abandoned farm sites, but hyacinths do not thrive in crowded places that don't seem to hinder jonquils and snowdrops.

In some places, colchicums are erroneously called "fall crocus." Crocuses belong to the Iris Family (Iridaceae) and colchicums belong to the Lily Family (Liliaceae). Corms of the true crocus are regularly eaten by many rodents. Even though many crocus species and cultivars flower in the springtime, several true crocuses are fall flowering.

Indeed, the most expensive item that you can purchase in a grocery store for human consumption is a collection of stigmas from the flowers of the autumn-flowering saffron crocus (*Crocus sativus*). By my observations and calculations, saffron stigmas are selling in 0.01oz. (avoirdupois) lots for \$8.49 in one Moscow supermarket-which calculates to \$849.00 per ounce and \$13,584.00 per pound, avoirdupois weights. It takes about 75,000 saffron crocus flowers to yield one avoirdupois pound and one acre yields only about 2.5 avoirdupois pounds of usable, hand picked, Spanish saffron stigmas.

By contrast, on October 16, 2002, gold sold for \$314.05 and platinum sold for \$558.59-per troy ounce. Thus, gold was \$4,589 per avoirdupois pound and platinum was \$8,181 per avoirdupois pound. In other words, if you depend upon farming of saffron in Spain, Greece, Iran, or Turkey, you better control the rodents.

For gardeners who are plagued by deer, I noted with interest that the 2002 catalog of the Netherland Bulb Company, Inc. coded hyacinths, snowdrops, narcissus, grape hyacinths, scilla, and some alliums as "not eaten by deer or rodents." None of the tulips, lilies, crocus, or anemones was similarly coded.

—R.J. Naskali

## Donor Roll

During fiscal year 2002 (July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002) \$45,230 was contributed to Arboretum Associates, endowments which support the arboretum, or specific trees, groves, and benches. We acknowledge all the people who have made this such an outstanding year. Thank you for supporting the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

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 Nancy Mitchell  
 Christine Moffitt  
 Kathleen & Victor Montgomery  
 Moscow Garden Club  
 Richard Naskali  
 Sandra Navarro

continued on next page...

Xeriscape continued ...

the highest level in the main garden, is planted primarily with woody trees and shrubs, with ornamental grasses mixed in for textural contrast. Again, once established, this level should require little or no irrigation. The third level, the showiest part of the garden, is devoted to flowering perennials, annuals, and grasses. It will require supplemental irrigation during the driest part of the summer, but significantly less than an equivalent area of traditional turf and landscaping. The lowest level of the garden is a demonstration of drought-tolerant turf grasses. It includes an area of buffalo grass and an area of dwarf turf-type fescues. We planted the buffalo grass from plugs in June and, after it was established in late July, it did not get any irrigation. It was mowed one time to keep it tidy. Buffalo grass grows mostly by surface runners that stay quite low to the ground. It has an



Trails and planting areas are delimited in the Arboretum's xeriscape garden. April 27, 2002.

interesting blue-gray color that contrasts nicely with the flowers behind it, but it does look very different from traditional turf.

We seeded the fescues in early June and, when established, it was watered and mowed every two weeks. It is somewhat coarser than traditional turf, but it has a bright green color, even with the limited irrigation, and it grows very well.

So far, we have planted more than 750 plants in the garden. These include 24 species of woody trees and shrubs, 74 types of annual and perennial flowers, and 13 different ornamental grasses. Many plants are traditional favorites like California poppies, purple cone-flowers, artemesias, thymes, and sedums. A number of new hybrids and less well-known plants were included in the garden. Although these need to survive at least one winter to prove themselves, so far several have been very impressive. There are four types of *Agastache*, sometimes called hummingbird mint, three cultivars of *Delosperma* (hardy ice plant), two purple flowering salvia, and two ever-blooming hybrid penstemons that have all been particularly impressive. Perhaps the showiest plant of all has been *Calyolophus serrulatus* 'Prairie Lode', sometimes known as shrubby evening primrose. It grows as a low spreading plant which is covered with bright yellow, papery flowers all summer. It reportedly does not thrive with too much water or in heavy clay soil, so it may not survive a cold, wet Palouse winter.

The next step in the development of the garden is to install permanent labels and signs so the public can easily identify plants for their own landscapes. There are still some areas to plant and, as with any garden, plants will need to be moved and replaced as they mature. The garden has filled in nicely, and it demonstrates plants and techniques that can reduce water usage and still provide a showy, colorful landscape.

—Paul F. Warnick

Donors continued...

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Other News continued ...

At the end of August, the new Amphitheater was completed in the Charles Houston Shattuck Arboretum. Construction costs were underwritten by student recreation fees. The amphitheater, which will seat over 350 guests, will be used for prescheduled classes, lectures, selected concerts, weddings, and other appropriate events.

Its grand opening occurred July 30 when hundreds of people enjoyed a salmon barbecue to close the popular UI summer event originally started by Eric Kirkland. On August 10, 2002 the first wedding was held in the new amphitheater.

There were four weddings in the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden this past summer. As of November 1, 2002, seven weddings are tentatively scheduled in the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden for summer, 2003.

—Richard J. Naskali

Tony Avent, our keynote speaker for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the UI Arboretum Associates, collects a prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia polyacantha*) on the Lewiston hill for propagation at his Plant Delights Nursery, Raleigh, NC. April 11, 2002.



## Message from the President

It is amazing to look at pictures of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden just 10 years ago and marvel at the many beautiful improvements. The dramatic change is due to the vision of that small group of volunteers who started with a barren ravine and the dedication and hard work of our Director Richard Naskali and the newest addition, our Horticulturist Paul Warnick. But the Arboretum wouldn't be what it is today without you, our loyal donors who have made so much possible.

At the annual meeting last April we were pleased to celebrate 25 years since the first meeting of a group to be known as the Arboretum Associates. This is certainly a milestone for any organization and one which we hope will just be the start of many more good things to come.

While Arboretum Associates is a large group, the Executive Board is small and has many responsibilities. One of those responsibilities is the publication of this newsletter. Our goal is to publish a newsletter at least twice per year. Many of you have noticed that we did not have a spring publication this past year. Instead, your board has been working on a new website that we believe will allow us to share the many treasures of the arboretum with a larger audience. It will also provide a way for us to communicate upcoming events in a more timely manner. The website is still under construction but you will be able to find it at [www.uidaho.edu/arboretum](http://www.uidaho.edu/arboretum).

We also hope to involve more of you in our activities. In the coming year we plan to start a program of volunteers to help with the annual beds. We also will be looking for volunteers to help with the plant sale in May. To aid communication with potential volunteers or members who have questions we have established an e-mail address dedicated to the Arboretum Associates. Requests for information, inquires about volunteer opportunities, and suggestions for Arboretum events or possible articles in the newsletter can now be sent to [arbassoc@uidaho.edu](mailto:arbassoc@uidaho.edu).

—Joy Fisher



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