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Richard Naskali – Arboretum Director Retires

Anyone who meets Richard Naskali soon realizes that he has a passion for plants. He has: a greenhouse connected to his home, traveled extensively (about a dozen countries on three continents) to study plants first hand, taken thousands of beautiful photographs of plants, a collection of botanical art and books, given invited lectures about plants to numerous groups and professional organizations, and consulted for a variety of arboreta and botanical gardens. Richard is a phytophile – he loves plants!

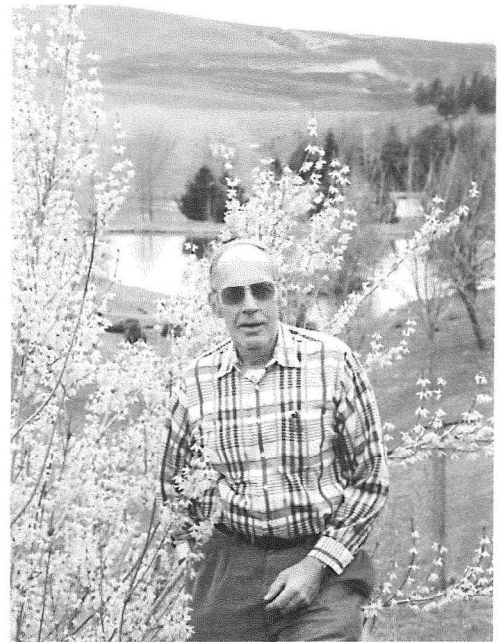
Richard's love affair with plants began as a young boy, the second in a family of five siblings, growing up on a 60-acre farm in northeastern Ohio. As a child one of his favorite books was *The Modern Family Garden*, a book he still owns. He added to his knowledge of plants by poring over garden catalogs and working in greenhouses as a teenager. His plans for the future were solidified when a school counselor told him that he could major in floriculture at The Ohio State University (OSU).

Within a few months after graduating from high school in 1953, Richard enrolled at OSU where several professors further nurtured his interest in plants. After completing a B. S. degree in 1957, Richard was employed by Neill Orchids before he returned to OSU to complete a M. S. degree in 1961. He then began a Ph. D. program under the tutelage of Prof. Richard Popham, a developmental plant anatomist; Richard's research was concerned with the effect of gamma rays on floral initiation.

Richard joined the UI Department of Biological Sciences as an assistant professor of botany in August 1967, two years before he completed the Ph. D. degree. For the next 20 years he taught courses in general botany, developmental plant anatomy, plant morphology, aquatic macrophytes, and systematic botany; advised undergraduate students; and was responsible for maintaining the plants used in the departmental teaching program.

In 1975, at President Hartung's invitation, Richard joined the Arboretum Committee that was charged with selecting the site for a new facility. As a member of the committee, he was later involved with establishing Arboretum Associates, developing the master plan for the new arboretum, selecting and planting the first plants in 1982, and establishing the initial irrigation system.

Richard was appointed as the first Arboretum Director in 1987. His responsibilities included all facets of developing the new 63-acre parcel, some reclamation of the historic Shattuck Arboretum, and periodic teaching of plant propagation and greenhouse management in the Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences.



Richard Naskali among the Arboretum forsythias, April 9, 2001.

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ARBORNOTES

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

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APRIL 2003

Under Richard's direction the new arboretum has undergone a marvelous transformation. Over 5,000 trees and shrubs, including 80 dedicated trees and 60 dedicated groves, have been planted. In addition a xeriscape garden, 27 dedicated granite benches, and the Leonard Halland information kiosk were added as amenities. Most of these and other improvements were made possible by private donations of over \$500,000, much of which resulted from Richard's fundraising efforts. Today the arboretum is recognized as an integral part of the campus and community and is used by people from near and far for a variety of purposes.

The transformation that has taken place is all the more remarkable because Richard, as the Arboretum Director, for many years was the only full-time employee assigned to the arboretum. Those people whose homes overlook the arboretum will attest that he spent countless hours moving sprinklers, riding the lawnmower on the treacherous slopes, pulling weeds, pruning trees and similar tasks. Richard often put in 50-60+ hour work weeks during the growing season. The remainder of the work was accomplished with students who worked in the summer and volunteers.

While Richard will retire in June, he will maintain an office on campus and serve as an advisor to the UI administration. It is reassuring to know that he will still be "scrambling" and "dithering" (two of his favorite words) about how to achieve his long-term goal of having the arboretum accredited by the American Association of Museums.

Thank you, Richard, for the wonderful legacy you have helped create for the University of Idaho, the community, and the state. Best wishes to you for a long, relaxing retirement enjoying your beloved plants!

Duane LeTourneau

Presidential Medallion

At the Dec. 14, 2002, Commencement, Bob Hoover presented the President's Medallion to Richard J. Naskali, director and developer of UI's Arboretum and Botanical Garden. This award began in 1998 and is given by President Hoover to those who have made significant contributions to the cultural, economic, scientific or social advancement of Idaho and its people.

One of the university's showpieces is its 63-acre Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Its evolution has been an intensive labor of love by Dr. Naskali.

His creative and physical efforts for 15 years have transformed undeveloped land into a specimen-rich landscape now popular for weddings, literary readings, outdoor concerts, nature walks, picnics and meditation for the campus and community.



President Hoover presents the Presidential Medallion to Richard Naskali at the December 2002 commencement ceremony.

Retirement Celebration

A retirement celebration for Richard Naskali will be held on June 5, 2003 in the Shattuck Arboretum Amphitheater. The reception will be from 3:00 to 5:00 with remarks beginning at 3:30. If you wish to speak or make a contribution to an endowment honoring Dr. Naskali please contact Bev Rhoades at 885-6977 or bevr@uidaho.edu.

Report from the Horticulturist

Although winter is definitely the 'off-season' in the arboretum, we have been busy these past months. The weather has been unbelievably mild which has allowed us to get a few things done outside. Early in December we made a fairly dramatic change in the south end of the arboretum. We lined the stream bank with river cobble rocks from Lewiston, Idaho. We spread over 60 tons of rock on about 600 feet of the stream. The rock is rounded cobble, mostly about 4-6" in diameter with some larger rocks. Before spreading the rock we put down a layer of 'weed mat' fabric to help control weeds and also to prevent the rocks from sinking out of sight. After spreading the rock we raked and re-seeded the spot where the rock had been dumped, and amazingly, new grass was already beginning to sprout in late January. The rocks should make the stream much more attractive and hopefully will make maintenance significantly easier. The new tractor, purchased with Arboretum Associates funding, was the perfect size to help with the rock spreading. Unfortunately, once the rock was dumped, virtually every piece had to be hand placed in the stream bed to get the coverage we desired. Besides the rock project, the mild weather has also allowed us to work on pruning, clean up, and bed preparation.



Arboretum Horticulturist Paul Warnick (l) and Philip Thonning Skou (r) work at the UI installation of B-G BASE™ version 6.0, February 8, 2003. B-G BASE™ in a Microsoft Windows version is our plant records system database. Philip Skou, U.S. Project Manager for B-G BASE, Inc., is based at the Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH. R. J. Naskali photograph.

The other tasks for the winter months have been to finish updating the plants records in the B-G-BASE™ computer software program, labeling as many plants as possible with the aluminum accession labels, mapping plant locations within the arboretum, and planning new plantings for spring 2003. There are now over 4,500 individual plants recorded in the database, which includes all of the woody trees and shrubs in the 'new' arboretum.

Nearly all of the woody plants in the 'new' arboretum now have permanent, aluminum accession labels. The only exceptions are 42 plants which do not have sufficient records to enter and the large numbers of Western North American conifers on the west slope of the arboretum. Those trees will have signs identifying each type of tree, but each individual tree will not be labeled.

The accession labels can be found on the north side of each plant, as close to eye level as practical.

As we plan for new additions to the collections, we want to thank all of the generous donors and members who make the developments possible. All of the plants in the arboretum have been provided through donations. Thank you very much for your support!

Paul Warwick

George Dwelle – Daylily Demonstration Garden

Professor Robert Dwelle and his wife, Anne from Moscow, along with Robert's brother Richard and his wife, Kathi, from Madison, Wisconsin, have generously donated the funding for the first collection of herbaceous perennial plants to be developed in the arboretum. The garden will honor Dwelle's father, George. George grew up with daylilies in his mother's garden and was always fond of the flowers. His interest has now passed down to another generation who are hoping to share their interest in their favorite flower.

Daylilies are an incredibly diverse group of perennials. The common old-fashioned daylily is a very hardy perennial that blooms with intense orange flowers in mid-summer. Each flower on the common cultivar opens during the day then closes and fades that night, with new flowers opening each day for a period

of a few weeks. However, there are actually a number of species of daylilies (*Hemerocalis*) and it has become one of the most hybridized ornamental plants. Currently more than 40,000 different cultivars are registered with the American Hemerocalis Society. The daylily is now available in nearly any color (except true blue and pure white), as single or double flowers; and virtually any size from minis that grow only 10-12" tall to giants that stretch over 6' in height. There are daylily flowers that are fragrant, that open at night, that re-bloom for a second time, and that stay open more than one day. The size of the flower can range from less than two inches to the huge 'spider' type flowers that can be 10" or more in diameter. The foliage of daylilies can either be evergreen, semi-evergreen, or dormant, meaning that it will die back to the ground every year. With this huge range of

continued on next page...

categories to choose from it seemed like an impossible task to decide which plants to choose for the new display bed.

Fortunately, we were able to enlist some expert assistance. Kathi Dwelle, a member of the Wisconsin Daylily Society and an avid daylily grower, was a great help in getting a list together. She suggested that we start by trying to obtain the Lennington Award Winners, a group of plants selected by the membership of the American Hemerocalis Society, which are chosen based on their ability to thrive anywhere in the United States. So, we decided to use the award winners back to 1985, then try to fill out the display with plants displaying as many varied characteristics as possible. Bob Dwelle contacted Claude Hanson, a U of I alum living in Boise, who has the only daylily display garden in Idaho certified by the American Hemerocalis Society.



Photo by Karin Ravet

Claude generously reviewed our list, then offered to supply some of the plants and made suggestions for additional plants.

We have ordered 92 different cultivars and species of daylilies, which should provide an excellent show from mid-summer into September. The beds are being constructed at the south end of the arboretum, on the west bank of the stream, just north of the barn. There will be five beds of different sizes with each plant labeled with a permanent display label. We hope to have all of the plants installed and labeled by mid-June. The ultimate goal of the garden is to become the second daylily display garden in Idaho certified by the American Hemerocalis Society.

Paul Warnick

Xeriscape Plant Profile – *Artemisia*

The genus *Artemisia* is named for Artemis, the Greek goddess of the moon. Many of the plants in the genus have soft, silvery foliage which glistens in moonlight.

There are currently seven different types of *Artemisia* growing in the xeriscape demonstration garden. Probably the best known *Artemisia* is Sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata*. Most people don't think of Sagebrush as an ornamental, partly because it is so common and partly because if it is left to grow without any pruning, it quickly tends to get open and 'scraggly'. However, it can be a very useful plant if it is treated correctly. Its first requirement is that it needs full sun and does not thrive on excessive water. That can be a particular problem in the heavy soils around Moscow. It grows best on a south facing slope, with little or no irrigation once it is established. Another requirement is that it looks best if it is pruned rather severely at least once a year, especially if it is getting any additional irrigation. Its silvery gray, aromatic foliage is mostly evergreen, and anyone who loves the wide open spaces of the West has to love the smell of the foliage. It can easily be maintained as a three to four foot tall shrub, which looks especially effective against a darker background.

The rest of the *Artemisias* growing in the xeriscape garden are all more or less herbaceous, that is they will die back to the ground each winter and start afresh each spring. They thrive in the same conditions as sagebrush, full sun and not much water. If they are given too much water they tend to get leggy and flop over. If that happens a quick cutting back will solve the problem, and they will quickly grow back.

In order of their eventual size, the other types of *Artemisias* currently growing in the xeriscape garden are:

Artemisia 'Powis Castle' - a hybrid of two European species of *Artemisia*. This one is almost a woody shrub, growing 2-3' tall

and 3-4' wide. Soft, silvery foliage makes a great contrast with any darker colors. It will tolerate virtually any pruning, but should definitely be cut back hard in early spring. This is the least cold-hardy of all of the *Artemisias* in the garden, with some sources listing it as only hardy to zone 7 (0-+10 degrees), but so far it has wintered fine for us.

Artemisia 'Oriental Limelight' - a variegated form, with striking bright yellow and green foliage. It grows 2-3' tall and wide but can spread by underground stems. It grows fast enough to be useful in containers or annual plantings.

Artemisia frigida is another native species of sage, but this one is completely herbaceous, dying back to the ground each winter. Like all of the types we have in the xeriscape garden, this *Artemisia*'s flowers are unimpressive, it is the foliage that makes the show, so when flowers appear it is best to remove them.

Artemisia schmidtiana 'Silver Mound' is an old perennial cultivar which deserves to be planted in every garden. It grows in a soft mound, 6" tall by 2' wide, with incredibly soft, silvery foliage which just begs to be touched. As an added bonus, it is almost as fragrant as sagebrush.

Artemisia versicolor 'Sea Foam' is a new cultivar introduced from England, is similar to 'Silver Mound' but much more textural. The branches grow out in twisted curls, instead of the uniform mound of 'Silver Mound' Like all these *Artemisias*, avoid extra water and fertilizer once the plant is established.

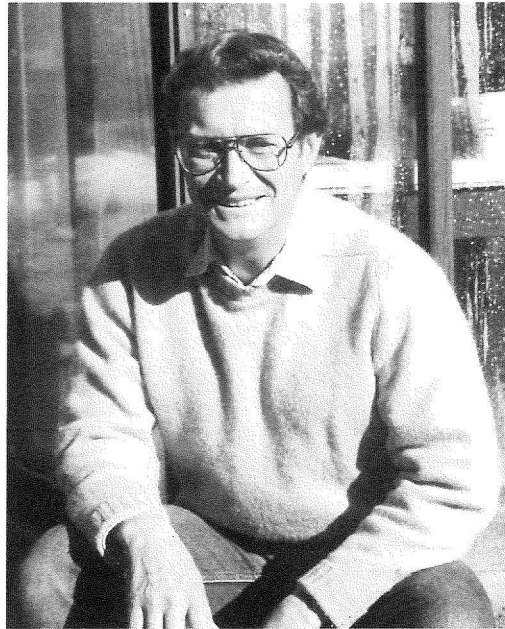
Artemisia viridis (Tiny Green) is a mat-forming groundcover of fine textured foliage, but, unlike the other *Artemisias* we grow, this one has green foliage.

Paul Warnick

Annual Meeting – April 17th 7:30

The Arboretum Associates Annual meetings have become known for the outstanding and interesting guest speakers who follow our business meeting. This year should be no exception. Mr. Jim Knopf of Boulder, Colorado, has accepted our invitation to present a program of interest not only to our members but also to our region. Mr. Knopf will be speaking on 'xeriscaping', landscaping with plants and other materials which require significantly less water than traditional landscapes.

Mr. Knopf comes to us with a wide variety of experiences and accomplishments: he spent time in the U.S. Peace Corps in Kenya and East Africa; designed publications and visual aids for agricultural programs; established the Master of Landscape Architecture program at the University of Colorado; and maintained design offices in both Minnesota and Colorado. Currently, Mr. Knopf's focus has been water conservation and native landscape



Jim Knopf, guest speaker for the 26th annual meeting of the Arboretum Associates, April 17, 2003.

planning, primarily in the Denver area, where water restrictions have become common in the last few years.

Mr. Knopf has designed many sample xeriscape and native plant gardens which include the Boulder Creek Peace Garden, the Boulder Creek Xeriscape Garden (featuring dry shrubs, flowers, and drought-tolerant lawn grasses); the Castle Pines Xeriscape Garden (featuring drought-tolerant plants, grouped by their water needs), native roadside plantings in Louisville, Colorado, and the American Xeriscape Garden in Madrid, Spain.

Mr. Knopf's literary efforts include *Waterwise Landscaping with Trees, Shrubs and Vines: A Xeriscape Guide for the Rocky Mountain Regions plus California and the Desert Southwest* and *The Xeriscape Flower Gardener: A Waterwise Guide for the Rocky Mountain Region*.

Gina Taruscio

Arboretum Associates Plant Sale 2003

Having a spectacular floral display is every gardeners dream and this year our plant sale can help you make that dream become a reality. You may want to beautify your landscape with color, texture or plants with variegated foliage. Or you can go further and buy plants that will also attract (or deter) wildlife. We will have many plants that do just that at this year's plant sale.

Along with great selections of hostas and other garden favorites, we will have a limited number of trees and shrubs (roses, mock oranges, forsythias, azaleas, hydrangeas, and lilacs). To attract hummingbirds, we will offer nectar-rich plants (agastache, asters, columbine, coral bells, dianthus, foxgloves, hostas, monarda, penstemons, and salvias). To attract butterflies, plant a Joe Pye weed or any of the nectar-rich plants listed above. Plants such as daisies and turtlehead are excellent butterfly host plants. Xeriscape enthusiasts will find plants suited to drier conditions – achillea, artemisia, centranthus, ladybells, nepeta, and a nice selection of succulents. The Palouse Prairie Foundation will have many unusual native plants available for gardeners who want a touch of the wild in their gardens.

If you're bothered by deer and don't want to provide a salad bar for them, try plants that deer are reportedly not overly fond of: agastaches, alchemillas, ferns, foxgloves, hellebores, globe

thistles, peonies, pulmonarias, salvias, verbascums, and many other herbs.

The plant sale will be held in the Ice Rink located at the Latah County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 31, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and lasting until noon. We will have most of the plants listed above plus many more. In addition to plants donated by members and friends, we will offer plants, in limited numbers, from one national and two local growers. As in the past, we will have some harder-to-find cultivars which are not often available locally and must be purchased through catalogs (along with hefty shipping and handling charges).

For a sneak preview of the sale, pick up a list at the Arboretum's annual meeting April 17. If you want volunteer for any of the activities necessary to put on the plant sale please send a message to arbassoc@uidaho.edu and indicate how you wish to volunteer. Volunteers are needed to help divide and pot plants for the sale, set up the sale on the day prior (May 30), or assist at the sale itself. We truly appreciate all help.

So...if you want some pizzazz in your garden this summer, if you want YOUR garden to be the envy of your neighborhood, plan to attend the sale for some very special plants. Bring a friend...bring many friends. See you on May 31, 9 a.m. sharp! Mark your calendars now.

Marlene Johnston

Arboretum Events: Mark your calendars for these events:

26th Annual Meeting of UI Arboretum Associates, Thursday, April 17

- Jim Knopf, an early expert and proponent of “water-wise” gardening, will outline many principles of xeriscape gardening. Jim, based at Boulder, CO, will illustrate how you can make a beautiful and exciting home landscape and greatly reduce water usage. His illustrated lecture is open to the public, Thursday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the UI College of Law courtroom. Refreshments will be served and memberships taken at the conclusion of this 26th annual meeting of the UI Arboretum Associates. Two of Knopf’s widely available books (*The Xeriscape Flower Gardener* and *Water Wise Landscaping with Trees, Shrubs, and Vines*) will be available for purchase and signing at his program. On the Internet, see:

<http://www.bookmasters.com/marktplc/rr00458.htm>

Watch Resident and Migratory Birds in the Arboretum, Sunday, April 27

- Join amateur ornithologist Terry Gray and arboretum director Richard Naskali at any one of four, one-hour morning walks in the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden to see and identify songbirds and waterfowl that are migrating through the Moscow area. The four walks will start at the north entry to the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden, opposite the UI President’s Residence, 1260 Nez Perce Drive, Moscow, ID, commencing at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11 a.m. Bring your binoculars—and rain gear if the weather is inclement.

Enjoy Fragrance at the Arboretum, Sunday, May 25, 2 - 5 p.m.

- You may enjoy the large and varied collection of some 150 lilac species, hybrids, and cultivars Sunday, May 25, from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. when Arboretum Associates Board Members guide you through the heart of the collections. You also will see the beautiful “tree” peonies in the Asian section of the arboretum. Limited transport will be available for those needing assistance. Wear your walking shoes for this easy, one-mile loop walk to the collections where Paul Warnick and Richard Naskali will assist you with identification and methods of culture, pruning, and lilac selection. In a typical Palouse year, lilacs and Asian shrub peonies are in their spectacular, peak flowering time during the third week of May. Refreshments will be served. Initiate your Arboretum visit and tour at the Nez Perce Drive north entry to the Arboretum, opposite the UI President’s Residence. Rain cancels.

Arboretum Associates Annual Plant Sale, Saturday, May 31, 9:00 - noon

- Hundreds of special and colorful perennials, trees, and shrubs will again be sold Saturday, May 31, to enhance your garden and financially support UI Arboretum projects. The plant sale, from 9 a.m. to noon, will be held at the Ice Rink, Latah County Fairgrounds, White Avenue in Moscow—just north of the Eastside Market Place Mall. Hostas, other unusual perennials, xeriscape plants, ornamental perennial grasses, and several kinds of trees and shrubs will be featured. Sale plants are from various quality commercial nurseries, private gardeners, and the Arboretum.

Botanical Art at its Best:

- An **International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration**, consisting of ca. 90 stunning original art pieces in many media will fill UI’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 antiquarian 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/>



‘Krasavitsa Moskvyy’
[“Beauty of Moscow”]
lilac, one of the best
introductions from the
Russian lilac hybridizer,
Kolesnikov. May 23,
2002, photograph by R.J.
Naskali.

Lasting UI Legacies: Plant Treasures of the University Campus

Vaulted Ceiling Paintings at the Life Science Building Entries

In the Great Depression, and with the permission of President Mervin G. Neale, Carl Matthias Wise came from Minnesota and painted the vaulted ceilings of UI's Life Science Building's two south entryways. Science Hall, as it was then called, was completed in 1925 for approximately \$216,000. According to the UI Argonaut (page one, May 22, 1934) the original vaulted entryway ceilings were "plain and drab." In just three weeks, Wise, employed under Franklin Roosevelt's Public Works Administration, transformed the entries into pieces of art during May 1934.

Professor Theodore "Ted" Prichard, head of the Art and Architecture department, directed the project in which UI art students Francis Newton and Herbert Steiniger assisted, according to the UI Argonaut. Regrettably, Prichard's notes of the day appear to have been destroyed or lost. Today, 69 years later, the vault paintings persist; Wise's signatures and "Designed & Executed May 1934" are fading but legible at the western edge of each of the entryway ceiling vaults. Most of the sky-blue background and details of the stylized plant paintings remain undamaged. The vault paintings have "...a motif of Idaho's symbols."

At the eastern entry of Life Science South, is a geometric mosaic of stylized heads of wheat alternating with groupings of three pea flowers and single flowers of *Philadelphus lewisii* ("Syringa"), Lewis's Mock Orange, the Idaho State flower. The May 22, 1934, Argonaut reported the symbols to be "iris, syringa, and wheat". At the ends of each quadrant of wheat heads, there are dark blue and tan flourishes and unidentifiable single white flowers. In each grouping of three pea flowers with one mock-orange flower, and opposite the four-petaled mock orange flower, the stylized pea flower seems to be



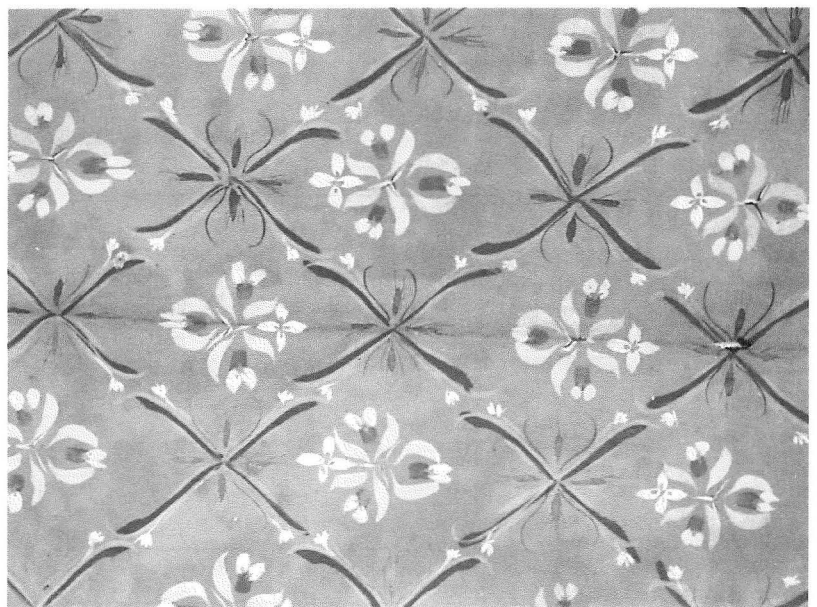
A roof vault mural of stylized cones and twigs of Western White Pine (*Pinus monticola*), the Idaho State tree; flowers of Lewis' Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), the Idaho State flower; spikes of wheat, and some unknown small white flowers grace the ceiling of the southwestern entry of Life Science South. March 22, 2002, photograph by R.J. Naskali.

surrounded or engulfed by a stylized iris flower form—not unlike some of the "fleur-de-lis" designs of conventionalized iris in art and heraldry.

At the western entry to Life Science South, Wise painted stylized wheat heads, western white pine twigs and cones, and "syringa" flowers in a grid of diamonds over a sky-blue background. In the case of the western white pine (*Pinus monticola*—Idaho's State Tree), many of the outlines of individual cone scales were not completed. Triads of pine cones and pine branches surround a single central flower of *Philadelphus lewisii* and two of its leaves. Tetrads of stylized wheat heads alternate with the pine-"syringa" groupings. Again the west entry vault paintings, similar to the paintings of the eastern entry, have dark blue and blackish-purple flourishes and an unknown, small white flower radiating from each of the wheat head tetrads.

If you have not seen these masterpieces of the Life Science South entries, it is well worth a visit to gaze on Idaho's legacy from the Great Depression and the Public Works Administration. May they be preserved and cherished for at least another 69 years!

Richard J. Naskali



Clusters of stylized flowers of Lewis' Mock Orange ("Syringa") and pea flowers alternate with crosses of wheat spikes and unknown, small white flowers in the entry vault paintings at the southeastern entry of Life Science South. March 22, 2002, photograph by R.J. Naskali.



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