

ARBORNOTES

A Newsletter of the University of Idaho Arboretum Associates

December 2024



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OUR WEBSITE AT

uidaho.edu/arboretum

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UI Arboretum
Associates
Facebook Page



Message from the President

It is my pleasure to report on some highlights of the past year at the *University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden* (Arboretum). It has been another very active year.

The *University of Idaho Arboretum Associates Board of Directors* (Arboretum Associates) works in partnership with Paul Warnick, Arboretum Horticulturalist and Superintendent, to help prioritize needs and determine the best ways to utilize donated funds.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, several new projects and installations were completed including expansion of the south parking lot which added 10 new parking spaces. The aging and weathered Arboretum maps at our information kiosks have been replaced with new updated versions, plus a new map was placed at the UI Golf Course entryway. As I'm writing this, new front entry signage is being installed at the north end of the Arboretum along Nez Perce Drive.

We also were able to fund important equipment upgrades this year. A battery-powered utility vehicle has replaced a 15-year-old gas powered cart. We also purchased a mini-truck with a dump bed to replace a 23-year-old pickup. These new vehicles have enabled the staff to work more efficiently while reducing our carbon footprint.

The enhancements I've listed above would not have happened without Paul Warnick's leadership. Paul has provided outstanding service to the Arboretum for the past 25 years. We are extremely grateful for his dedication and professionalism. An article highlighting Paul's many contributions to the Arboretum appears in this newsletter.

Paul is supported by a small crew including Lucy Falcy, Horticultural Associate, and three seasonal student employees: Zach Green, Rachel Becker, and Jonah Cousins. We appreciate all the work these employees do to maintain and improve the Arboretum.

Each year, the Arboretum Associates sponsors a series of events including our spring Plant Sale fundraiser. The free Summer Concert, produced in collaboration with the *UI Lionel Hampton School of Music*, is another very popular event that helps promote the Arboretum to the local community. You can find articles about these and other events in this issue of Arbor Notes. We hope you will join us for our future events scheduled in 2025.

Most importantly, the UI Arboretum Associates wishes to thank all our donors. Your support is essential to helping the Arboretum grow and thrive.

Erik Anderson, President,

UI Arboretum Associates Board

Come Grow With Us

ArborNotes

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

Published by
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DECEMBER 2024

Calendar of Events 2025

APRIL 9, 2025

46th UI Arboretum Associates Annual Meeting

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Join us for a light snack followed by a brief business meeting and presentation.

1912 Center Great Room, 412 E. 3rd. Street, Moscow, ID

MAY 17, 2025

UI Arboretum Associates Annual Plant Sale

Time: 10:00 am to noon

We will have nearly 200 varieties of annuals, hardy perennials, grasses, and woody plants available, many for the first time. All proceeds go to the further development of the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

UI Facilities Greenhouse - 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID

JULY 14, 2025

24th Annual “Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds” Concert

Time: 7:00 pm

A free concert – bring your blankets and lawn chairs.

UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden



2024 UI Arboretum Associates Annual Meeting

Current UI Arboretum Associates President Erik Anderson called the *University of Idaho Arboretum Associates 45th Annual Meeting* to order on April 16, 2024. Approximately 55 members of the UI Arboretum Associates and guests gathered in the Great Room at the 1912 Center in Moscow.

Erik introduced current board members: Julie Miller - Vice President, Nancy Sprague - Secretary, Frank Clarke - Treasurer, Katherine Clancy - Past President, Yvonne Barkley, Harriet Hughes, Kris Roby, and Nancy Zabriskie - Members-at-Large. He also acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the wonderful work done by Paul Warnick, UI Arboretum Horticulturist and Superintendent, and his assistant, Lucy Falcy.

Erik reported on our 2023 successes, which included:

- The annual plant sale that was held at the new Palouse Ice Rink.
- Our wonderful summer concert thanks to UI Professor and Composer, Dan Bukvich, who coordinated a well-attended concert in the Arboretum last July with musicians from the *UI Lionel Hampton School of Music* and the community.
- A Fall Crawl and Pumpkin Hunt on October 7th, organized by one of Paul's student workers, Zach Green and his wife, Lillyanna. This family-friendly event drew hundreds of visitors to the Arboretum on a beautiful fall day.
- Updated the *UI Arboretum Associates Constitution and Bylaws*.

Frank Clarke presented the Treasurer's report with a brief recap of major expenditures and revenue sources. He noted that significant investments were made buying much needed equipment, such as a mini truck, Kubota tractor, and Toro Workman. He reported that membership gifts were down for the current fiscal year and that the plant sale will be coming up to help boost revenues. He thanked UI Arboretum Associate members for their generous support.

Erik presented the following slate of nominees for Officers and Directors:

- Yvonne Barkley, Vice President
- Nancy Sprague, Secretary
- Harriet Hughes, Member-at-Large
- Julie Miller, Member-at-Large

The Slate of Officers and Directors was presented to the membership and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Julie Miller described the proposed revisions to the *UI Arboretum Associates Constitution*, which was last amended in 2001, and the *Bylaws*, last revised in 2008. An ad hoc committee proposed several changes and revisions to better reflect current practices and terminology and provided rationales for the proposed revisions. Minor changes included updating terminology to provide consistent language between the two documents. Other revisions included allowing the use of electronic methods of communication, reducing the length of Board member terms, and adjusting term limit requirements. The number of At-Large Board Members also was increased. The revisions were approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

After the business meeting adjourned, Paul Warnick, UI Arboretum Horticulturist and Superintendent, presented a slide show with highlights of projects from the past year, as well as proposed new projects. Philip Shinn, Volunteer with the *Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Watch*, gave a presentation on "Gardening for Pollinators."

*Julie Miller, Member-at-Large, Nancy Sprague, Secretary,
and Erik Anderson, President*



Kubota tractor next to the newly expanded parking lot and this year's sunflower bed. | P. Warnick | April 4, 2024



Lucy and the new Dai Hatsu Electric mini-truck (fondly nicknamed "Marshmallow") both hard at work. | P. Warnick | Spring 2024



Zach Green planting some of the newly acquired hardy cactus. | P. Warnick | Spring 2024

Your Donor Dollars at Work

As mentioned in the *Annual Meeting* and *President's Reports*, the UI Arboretum Associates were able to supply the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden with not only new plant materials this past year, but also with three, much needed new pieces of equipment.

- Dai Hatsu Electric Mini-Truck: \$25,550
- Kubota Tractor: \$22,889
- Toro Workman Electric Utility Vehicle: \$17,318

We were also able to support:

- Parking lot expansion: \$6,852
- Purchasing woody plants and perennials: \$4,348
- Printing and delivery of Arbor Notes: \$3,200
- Replacement display maps of Arboretum; new location at the UI Golf Course: \$1,300

And for a cost of \$5,000, supported miscellaneous items, including:

- Purchasing annual flowers and seeds
- Purchasing and installing accession tags, interpretative signs, and display labels
- Travel to the *Garden Conservancy Northwest Network* workshop
- Plant sale table rental, nursery license, potting soil
- Buying and mailing thank-you cards
- *AHS Reciprocal Garden Network* Membership cards
- Paper maps of Arboretum handouts
- National organization membership dues

A huge thank-you to all our Donors. We literally could not do this without you!

*Paul Warnick, Horticulturist and Superintendent,
UI Arboretum*

University of Idaho Arboreta Honored with 2024 AHS Garden Stewardship Award

In March, the *American Horticultural Society* (AHS) announced that the University of Idaho was the recipient of its *2024 Garden Stewardship Award*. The award acknowledges practices used at our two UI Arboreta: the *UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden* and the *C. H. Shattuck Arboretum*. The award is given to a public garden that embraces and exemplifies sustainable horticultural practices in design, maintenance, and/or programs.

Sustainability practices cited in the award include: maintaining site integrity, such as mulching with site-sourced materials, creating their own compost, and minimizing herbicide and pesticide use; conserving water through plant choices, recirculation systems, and permeable surfaces; reusing local materials for hardscape and paths; cultivating habitat for birds; and reducing carbon footprint by reducing mowing and switching to electric tools.

The award also acknowledged efforts to educate the region's professionals about sustainable horticultural practices, as well as encouraging and disseminating research in fields such as plant hardiness, systematics, and hybridization. The UI Arboreta function as sites for instruction in botany, horticulture, forestry, landscape architecture, and environmental sciences, as well as for public field trips, lectures, and tours. They also serve as restful, beautiful environments where visitors can cultivate an appreciation of the importance of plants.

"The University of Idaho's sustainable horticultural practices exemplify the spirit of this prestigious award," remarked Suzanne Laporte, AHS President and CEO. *"We are grateful for their outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment to being stewards of the earth and advancing the field of horticulture."*

Erik Anderson, President, UI Arboretum Associates

The American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Garden Network

In the fall of 2023, there was a mention in a public gardens email list about applying for an *American Horticultural Society* national award. It seemed that we might qualify, so I had Lucy Falcy, our amazing Arboretum Assistant, write up the extensive application and we sent it off.

In March, the *American Horticultural Society* (AHS) announced that the University of Idaho was the recipient of its *2024 Garden Stewardship Award*. The award acknowledges practices used at the two UI Arboreta: the *UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden* and the *C. H. Shattuck Arboretum*. The award is given to a public garden that embraces and exemplifies sustainable horticultural practices in design, maintenance, and/or programs. (See article about the *2024 Garden Stewardship Award* in this issue.)

Since they had been generous enough to give us this award, I thought we should give them the courtesy of becoming a member garden. Upon investigation, I discovered that it comes with an amazing membership benefit. The AHS has a program known as the *Reciprocal Garden Network*, which gives anyone with a membership at a member garden free admission to more than 360 other member public gardens all over the U.S.

The *UI Arboretum Associates Board* agreed that this would be a valuable benefit to donors and agreed to pay for our membership in the AHS. We designed a membership card and now send that to anyone who becomes an active member of UI Arboretum Associates. We have been doing that for about six months now and I have heard some great stories of people visiting gardens, some big famous places and others I had never heard of before. This is a link to the page that shows all the member gardens: <https://ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap/>

If you are a current UI Arboretum Associates member and have not received your card, please contact Paul Warnick at pwarnick@uidaho.edu. And, as always, many thanks to our donors – we could not do any of this without your generous help.

Paul Warnick, Horticulturist and Superintendent, UI Arboretum, and Erik Anderson, President, UI Arboretum Associates



The UI Arboretum Associates Plant Sale was once again a huge success. | J. Leander | May 18, 2024

2024 UI Arboretum Associates Plant Sale

The 2024 UI Arboretum Associates Plant Sale was held Saturday, May 18, at the UI Facilities Greenhouse located at 875 Perimeter Drive. Tables were set up in the parking lot south of the greenhouse early in the morning of sale day and the volunteer staff efficiently moved and organized the plants from the greenhouse. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather and a long line of shoppers eagerly waiting for the gates to open at 10:00 AM. It truly was a festive day, and all agreed the outdoor venue was a welcome change. The final tally amounted to \$9399.00. While this is less than last year's sales it is still impressive due to the fact that we had far fewer plants for sale and at the end of the day there was virtually no waste.

There are many people to thank for making this fundraiser happen. Paul Warnick, Lucy Falcy, Zach Green, and the rest of the crew collected and nurtured the plants in the greenhouse through the long winter months. In preparation for sale day the UI Arboretum Associates board spent many hours potting, labeling, and pricing plants and ensuring that the community was aware of the event through significant advertising. On sale day an experienced volunteer staff ensured that plants looked their best before being moved from the greenhouse and organized on the tables. Finally, a big thank you goes out to the loyal supporters who continue to support the Arboretum by shopping at this event.

Jan Leander, Volunteer and UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden Plant Sale Coordinator

2024 Fall Pumpkin Hunt

The second annual UI Arboretum pumpkin hunt was on Saturday, October 12. Visitors were invited to find a pumpkin and give it a good home and to not be greedy and take no more than one per person. There were lots of little pumpkins and a variety of larger ones this year. There was a large turn-out of pumpkin hunters with the parking lot and the overflow lot both full. There was no charge, but donations to support the Arboretum were accepted and are always appreciated.

The weekend saw the Arboretum at peak color, with the early coloring leaves beginning to drop, and the later color starting to show well. "Our" moose and her calf are back in the Arboretum for the winter and a turkey has been in residence since the summer, as well as the usual gaggle of geese and paddling of ducks in the ponds. To add a little spice to the adventure, there was a report to the Idaho Fish and Game that a mountain lion was seen in the UI Arboretum the day before the event. As always, visitors to the Arboretum should stay well away from any wildlife they encounter for the safety of all.

Paul Warnick, Arboretum Horticulturist and Superintendent



Many pumpkins of all shapes and sizes were hidden for all to find. | Lucy Falcy | October 4, 2024



Successful pumpkin hunters (the little pumpkin was being held for the photographer). | L. Green | October 12, 2024

Visitors from sky, land and water enliven concert - Humans weren't the only creatures to enjoy 2024 performances

What do a great blue heron, a wild turkey and a murder of crows have in common?

All made appearances before or during the 2024 edition of "Sweet Sounds and Summer Breezes." The heron surveyed the arriving audience from a perch near the pond and flew away before the concert started. The turkey wandered among the chairs and music stands as the performers set up. And a dozen crows (known collectively as a "murder") punctuated the midpoint of the concert with a westbound overflight.

Concert attendees have come to appreciate the cooler evening temperatures, the mid-summer greenery, and the chance to see friends and acquaintances. The variety of avian activity was a reminder of how many species of birds frequent the Arboretum, drawn by the ponds, marshes, and thickets.

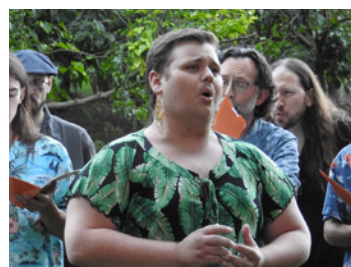
This year's concert was the first without cellist Bill Wharton, who died just 10 days before the event. Bill, a longtime professor of cello at the University of Idaho, had played at every Arboretum concert since its founding. His virtuosity and gentle presence will be missed.

The concert opened with perhaps the largest ensemble to perform in the event's 23-year history, a 40-piece concert band directed by Mark Thiele from the *UI Lionel Hampton School of Music*. Consisting of University of Idaho students and community members, the band set a brisk pace with John Philip Sousa's "Hands Across the Sea" march, followed by a medley of George Gershwin tunes.

Student performers and composers followed. Percussionists Nicholas Day and Mason Oyler showed the versatility of vibraphone and marimba. Avery Reneau and Eric Thorsteinson performed a violin-viola duo, "How Can a Man Go Eight Days Without Chocolate?" written by Renau.



This year's concert featured a 40-piece concert band directed by Mark Thiele from the Lionel Hampton School of Music. | Y. Barkley | July 8, 2024



Derek Carson captivated the crowd with a vocal solo, "Lonely House" from Kurt Weill's 1946 opera "Street Scene." | Y. Barkley | July 8, 2024

Perhaps next year's concert could include an encore of this piece, accompanied by a selection of souvenir chocolate bars.

Klezmer music is a regular feature at this concert. The quartet of Elena Panchenko, Bill Voxman, Bill Thompson, and Ava Lehosit, also known as *Gefilte Trout*, did not disappoint. The call-and-response sequences between Panchenko's voice and Voxman's clarinet melodies were a delight to see and hear. Their set was followed by a charming violin duet of Mark O'Connor's "Appalachia Waltz" played by UI Instructor Giselle Hillyer and her son, Kieran.

World music is always popular with audiences, with two sets led by accordionist Adrian Crookston and percussionist Navin Chettri. Bonus points for anyone who can describe three instruments that were used in "Feira de Mangaio," a zambomba, a caxixi, and an agogo.

Graduating Senior Derek Carson captivated the crowd with a vocal solo, "Lonely House" from Kurt Weill's 1946 opera "Street Scene." (Not mentioned in the program was the opera's librettist, author Langston Hughes.) Carson was backed by the UI Arboretum Chamber Choir and a string trio.

No Arboretum concert would be complete without a version of "Arboretum Samba," arranged by the concert's founder and director, Dan Bukvich. The toe-tapping rhythms sent everyone into the warmer reaches of the upper Arboretum with a reminder of the remarkable combination of setting, music and community.

Gerri Saylor and Kenton Bird

Kenton Bird retired last year from the School of Journalism and Mass Media faculty. Gerri Saylor is an installation artist with a background in journalism, marketing and arts management. Both are avid concert goers. They've missed only two arboretum concerts in their 23-year marriage.



The 23rd Annual Concert at the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden was well attended by almost 400 people and a variety of wildlife this year. | Y. Barkley | July 8, 2024

American International Group, Inc.
Auverson Family Mineral Trust
Elna Barton
Judi Beck & Tom Alberg
Yvonne & Robert Barkley
Bert Bowler
Ben Bowler
Warren Bowler
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Robert & Margaret Stovicek
Ellen Thiem
Donna Vincenti
Lauren Wenny
Doris Williams
Gerald Wright
Jaki Wright & Bill Bowler

UI Arboretum Associates Donor Roll

A special thanks to the many donors who support the *University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden*. Fiscal 2024 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) saw a total of \$48,358.63. Donations were received from a combination of membership gifts, gifts for endowments that support the UI Arboretum, and gifts that support specific projects.

Your support makes a difference.

Fiscal Year 2024 Membership Gifts

Life Associate

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Mary Clancy
Raymond and Jill Dacey
Joy Fisher
Kristine Roby and Rodney Frey
C. Scott and Gabriella Green
Alma Hanson
Loyal Hower and Elisabeth Ridgway
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 Dianna Olson
 David and Jan Rauk

Report from the Horticulturist

Despite the usual array of challenges, we have had another successful year in the *UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden* (Arboretum). Our biggest challenge this year has been an unusual amount of winter damage. Although it didn't seem like we had much winter, there were three nights in early January when it was down to -20°F . That was after another unusually mild fall and, apparently, many plants were not hardened off enough to survive. We lost lots of plants, most surprisingly several things like 30-year-old *Spiraeas* and *Viburnums* that I had always considered 'bullet-proof' winter hardy. Perhaps the most visible loss was all the *Forsythia* flower buds that froze, along with most of the flowering cherries, leaving us with very little of our typical early spring flowering show. Quite a few things, like some *Spiraeas* and *Weigelas*, look better now after we cut back all the branches to the ground; this rejuvenating pruning has resulted in a lot of vigorous new growth.

The most painful losses to me are in the collection of Giant Sequoias where we lost six trees (with one more probably to go), one of which was one of the first trees I planted in the Arboretum in the spring of 2001. However, some exciting news is that the two grafted 'Idaho Endurance' Giant Sequoias that were propagated from the 100+ year old tree in the *UI Shattuck Arboretum* came through the winter looking significantly better than all the others. This demonstrates that they do indeed seem to possess extra winter hardiness as did their parent tree that survived the winter of 1968, when it reached -45°F in the Arboretum.

All these losses strengthen my belief that it is essential that we continue to add new plants to the collection every year. That has only been possible with the support of private donors.

Besides replacing the inevitable losses, adding new things and trialing new plants is a large part of our mission and keeps visitors coming back to see what has changed.

I think our most exciting addition this year has been a collection of winter hardy cacti. The idea and design for the collection came from Zachariah Green, a third year returning student crew member. He had found a nursery in Colorado that grows an amazing array of plants, but after contacting them, found that they only sold plants as small starts in two and a quarter-inch pots. I didn't think that would make a very good initial display nor have great chances of survival. So, I contacted LaMar Orton, the owner of the *Orton Botanical Garden* in Twin Falls, Idaho. This amazing collection of cacti, agave, and yucca (including some huge Joshua trees) have been growing well in Twin Falls for 20+ years. LaMar generously offered to share some plants, so over Spring Break, Zachariah, Aaron Tyler (another student crewmember), and I made a road trip to Twin Falls. In return for a donation, LaMar shared some incredible plants including some nearly two-foot tall cholla cactus, two baby Joshua trees, and numerous other treasures. In addition to plant collecting, we also made visits to the *Idaho Botanical Garden*, the *Sawtooth Botanical Garden*, a large commercial greenhouse operation, and a 100+ year-old 'Century Farm' family-owned orchard. A very productive three days, all of which was done for less money than we would have spent with the original nursery source.

In talking with LaMar Orton, it seems that the biggest challenge in growing the cold hardy cacti is not so much the temperatures involved as the drainage in the soil. So, I decided to make an exception to my general policy of not amending the local soil when we establish plants in the Arboretum.



Big, broken willow. | P. Warnick | April 8, 2024



Parking lot expansion. | P. Warnick | Spring 2024

That policy was made because of part of our mission to demonstrate what will grow here in Moscow without taking any extreme measures, but the cacti seemed worth the exception.

Without being very scientific about it, we purchased three truckloads of what was called #8 fines from a local gravel company. It is essentially a very coarse sand. We mixed a small amount (maybe 10%) of topsoil with that gravel and built three beds about a foot deep in the middle of our *Xeriscape Garden*. We added a few other purchased plants and almost everything seems to be thriving. Several of the cacti actually flowered this first year.

As the spring progressed, I was somewhat surprised to see certain things do well despite less than great conditions. Even with a frost in the middle of their flowering, the magnolias were the best I remember, and some herbaceous plants, like the giant coltsfoot in the *Hosta Walk*, also performed better than ever.

Another constant in the Arboretum is losses due to wind damage. Because we tend to get infrequent, severe winds instead of frequent, sustained winds, we see more traumatic tree damage than other places I have lived that are much windier. This spring we lost one of the six big willow trees that are the only trees that were on the site before the Arboretum started. There was a late snowstorm on April 4th that was reported as up to four inches. I didn't think I saw that much, and it was before the tree's leafed out, so I was not concerned about tree damage. I had finished my interviews for my summer crew and it was still cold and messy outside, I called it a day and went home. Shortly thereafter, I got a text from one of our regular Arboretum visitors with a picture of a damaged tree. When I got there, I saw that an entire willow had split open and laid down (someone compared it to a

blooming onion). It took several of us a couple of days to clean it up and fill in the hole. All the while, I was trying to figure out how we were going to get rid of the huge stumps, as I was not sure any University-owned equipment could lift and haul them, nor any chainsaws we have were big enough for the job.

Meanwhile, the downed tree had turned into an attraction of its own, with pretty much any visitor under the age of 30 crawling all over it. So, I decided to cut it back to a safe height and leave it as yard art or a kid magnet. Since then, as willows do, it has resprouted vigorously and we have worked to channel that growth to a limited number of shoots.

Another important part of the Arboretum experience is the chance to see wildlife ranging from turtles in the pond to moose wandering around. For the past several years a cow moose and calf have spent a good deal of the winter months in the Arboretum. We have no way to be sure, but we think it is the same cow as she is remarkably tolerant of all the human attention they draw. I worry about that, and we post signs asking people not to interact with them. This year for the first time I have seen a red fox and a wild turkey, both of whom seem to like the Arboretum and have decided to hang around. The wildlife in the Arboretum is the primary reason that we continue to enforce the 'No Pets' rule. I believe that if dogs were allowed most of the wildlife would disappear.

I am incredibly lucky to have a job working with plants to create a space that benefits the public. I get to work with a group of people who passionately believe in the Arboretum and all of that is only possible because there have been, and continue to be, generous private donors supporting us.

Paul Warnick, UI Arboretum Horticulturist and Superintendent



Planting new cacti from Twin Falls plant buy. | P. Warnick | Spring 2024



New Cholla cactus flowering in *Hardy Cacti Bed*. | P. Warnick | July 16, 2024

Ode to Paul

After 24 years of serving the *UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden* (Arboretum), Paul Warnick is retiring. The exact date is not set, but Paul is firm that he does “not want to be in charge next year.” We (those who work with him and those who value the Arboretum) hope that Paul will continue to be involved with the Arboretum in some capacity. For now, please join me in reviewing the challenges and accomplishments of his impactful career.

Paul joined the Arboretum staff in 2000 after receiving a degree in Horticulture from *Utah State University* and working for 20 years in private sector nurseries. Until 2003, he worked under Dr. Richard Naskali, Arboretum Director, and upon Dr. Naskali’s retirement, became the Arboretum Horticulturalist and Superintendent for both UI Arboreta. While *Shattuck Arboretum* has remained its semi-wild woodland self during this time, the *UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden* has steadily developed and matured into the peaceful educational oasis that it is today.

When Paul started in 2000, the only plantings in the Arboretum were trees and some shrubs. The gravel roads, chip trails, and benches were in place, as were the main irrigation lines that run north to south and the secondary irrigation lines that fed spigots throughout the Arboretum. All irrigation was done by hand with hoses and sprinklers that were moved throughout the day. The grass was largely unirrigated and hosted a generous population of thistle, dandelion, and plantain. Many plants did not have labels and were not fully recorded in the planting record. The collection included no herbaceous plants.

Paul’s first priority upon taking over management was to automate the irrigation system. 150 valves and approximately 2,250 sprinkler heads later, the Arboretum is mostly self-watering. This process took place over 15 years using plant sale proceeds for the materials and Arboretum crew labor for the installation. Weed management also featured strongly on Paul’s early to-do list and remains an ongoing battle to this day.

Early Arboretum plantings had two flushes of color: spring bloom and fall leaves. Paul has worked extensively to make the Arboretum more interesting and inviting throughout the growing season. Over the years, Paul planted an understory of herbaceous perennials throughout the Arboretum as well as developed certain focused beds. Think: *Hosta Walk, Annual Beds, Iris and Daylily Gardens, sunflowers, and the Xeriscape Garden*, among others. As a

response to changes in climate, Paul also tests plants that might be on the edge of their hardiness zone in Moscow. Some recent successful tests include crape myrtle, desert willow, and some members of the new cactus beds.

As education is a major objective of the Arboretum, Paul installed signage on nearly every installation. This includes a mixture of metal accession tags, small identification signs, as well as larger informational signs at areas of particular botanical interest. As these signs routinely need replacing, and Paul is consistently planting new things out, sign maintenance is a continuous endeavor.

The Arboretum is fortunate to receive donations that contribute to its further development. Paul is grateful for the opportunity to work with donors to make their project visions a reality and enhance the Arboretum. Such projects include rock walls, display gardens, and focused plantings throughout. A personal favorite is the columnar basalt at the top of the Arboretum along Nez Perce Drive, which were funded by Paul’s mother, Kathleen Warnick. The donation, made in 2013, was for any project and Paul chose the basalt columns which make a stately and picturesque first impression.

Paul also works closely with the *UI Arboretum Associates*, the board charged with managing many of the donations made to the Arboretum as well as income from the spring plant sale. The University only funds maintenance and the Arboretum would not be what it is without these private donations for plantings, infrastructure, and tools.

Another professional highlight for Paul is the opportunity to discover, propagate, and grow unique plants. Usually these have unique aesthetic attributes, but the one that Paul is most proud of is the ‘Idaho Endurance’ Giant Sequoia. The parent tree in Shattuck was the sole survivor following an especially cold snap in 1968. Seeing the potential cold-hardiness, Paul sent cuttings off for propagation. These clones are now growing across Moscow as well as in various sites nationwide. The last two winters had especially hard freezes which killed a number of the Giant Sequoias in the Arboretum. Of the ones that remain, the ‘Idaho Endurance’ clones overwintered the best. Good intuition Paul!

Every workday for Paul is different. In the summer, most of the day is spent outside wrangling student workers from planting to pruning to mowing to irrigation projects.

Every day is full, and the workload is monumental. Spring and fall bring more of the same but with less predictable weather and fewer helpers. Winter often sees Paul catching up on paperwork, picking up branches felled by storms, and preparing for the spring plant sale. There is never a dull moment.

After decades of cruising the Arboretum and only seeing the work to be done, Paul will finally be able to visit and enjoy it for what it is: the best place in Moscow. He will join Barbara, his wife of 41 years, in retirement. Perhaps we will see them both strolling through the Arboretum, enjoying the wildlife and seasonal shows.

Paul recently noted, *“It has been the perfect job for me. I get to get dirty and spend other people’s money on fun plants and watch things grow, and I’ve been incredibly lucky to have the job I’ve had.”* We are glad that this has been the perfect job for Paul; he has certainly been the perfect man for the job.

*Lucy Falcly, Horticultural Assistant
UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden*



Paul Warnick with Dan Bukvich at the 2008 Arboretum Annual Concert.
| B. Bowler | July 2008



Paul standing in giant coltsfoot. | L. Falcly | June 14, 2024

A Year in the UI Arboretum and Botanical Garden

Winter



Winter heathers. | P. Warnick | January 9, 2024



A cold and sunny winter day. | P. Warnick | January 26, 2024



Plant sale plants tucked in the greenhouse waiting for spring.
| P. Warnick | February 26, 2024

Spring



Anemones and daffodils. | P. Warnick | April 12, 2024



Crabapples putting on a fabulous spring show. | P. Warnick | May 11, 2024



Iris Garden. | P. Warnick | June 10, 2024

Summer



Peonies blooming on the first day of summer. | P. Warnick | June 20, 2024



Annual bed in rainbow technicolor. | P. Warnick | July 20, 2024



A wild turkey has taken up residence in the Arboretum. | P. Warnick | September 3, 2024

Fall



“Our” moose cow and her calf back for their winter sojourn in the Arboretum. | P. Warnick | September 23, 2024



Fall is spectacular in the Arboretum. | P. Warnick | October 9, 2024



A bright and beautiful fall day, great for admiring the perennial ornamental grasses. | P. Warnick | October 12, 2024



Arboretum Associates
 875 Perimeter Drive MS 3143
 Moscow, ID 83844-3143



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