

NewsLeaf Friends of the Arboretum Newsletter

Building positive relationships between people and the land through support of the UW–Madison Arboretum

Fall 2021

Volume XXXVI No. 4

- 2 FOA WATER Subaward Grant Update: WATER Through the Seasons
- 3 2021–2022 Luncheon–Lectures Series
- 4 Meet Mary Chandler—The New Native Plant Sale Coordinator, FOA Donations Help Support the Student Ranger Program



Of Life and Oak Trees

The oak tree
does not stop scattering acorns
just because some of them land on
barren ground
and some are eaten by squirrels
and others sprout for a few short seasons
only to fall to prairie fires
or hungry deer. She merely stands tall
and makes many more.

The message to me is this: Take heart,
and do your best work,
and one day, somewhere,
though perhaps not in your lifetime
or your line of sight,
a tree will grow,
sturdy
and strong
and green.

*Have faith, says the oak, holding out
her arms, and drop lots of acorns.*

—Kathy Dodd Miner

Meet Your New FOA Board Members

Sixty years ago this month, the wheels were set in motion to establish a board that would govern the new Friends of the Arboretum organization. Less than a year later the formation of Friends of the Arboretum was formally announced in the spring issue of the *Arboretum News*. On a sunny afternoon in October 1962, Friends of the Arboretum (FOA) held its first official meeting outdoors near the entrance to the 60-acre Arboretum Prairie. At that first meeting, Arboretum Prairie was renamed and formally dedicated to John Curtis, who had initially proposed the formation of Friends.

This fall our Friends Board began another exciting year—outdoors! This time the pandemic dictated the rules. Five new members began their 3-year term and each brings unique and valuable skills to the 15-member board.



From left to right: Alli Wenman, Donna Halleran, Jane Albert, Donald Tipple, Kate Martin, Laurel Sukup, Jennifer Sereno, Anita Boor, Laurie Elwell, Paul Kent, Pat Henrikson, Don Miner, Leslie Ladd, Carl Sinderbrand, and Ellie Feitlinger.

Meet the newest Friends' board members. You can read more detail about all of the board members at arboretum.wisc.edu. Click on "Get Involved" then "Friends of the Arboretum".

Jane Albert

A lifelong Wisconsin resident, Jane enjoyed a long career in education and has been an active volunteer in the community. She was an enthusiastic member of the Luncheon-Lecture committee before joining the FOA Board.

Anita Boor

As a biology major at UW-Madison, Anita spent time studying goldenrod galls on Curtis Prairie. Now, she's become a shade garden expert at her own home. She is an attorney with Quarles & Brady, specializing in intellectual property.

Ellie Feitlinger

Ellie has an extensive background in event coordination and TV production.

She currently works at Zendesk, a global customer service software company.

Donna Halleran

Donna had a long career at UW-Madison and served as Director of Auxiliary Operations Analysis. She lives in Middleton and is looking forward to the birth of her first grandchild.

Jennifer Sereno

Jennifer has an extensive background in communications and currently serves as public affairs program manager for the WI Housing and Economic Development Authority.

FOA WATER Subaward Grant Update: WATER Through the Seasons

As the gardening season winds down, so does our work with the WATER grant subaward (Water Action To Encourage Responsibility). The subaward is one of five awarded by the Arboretum to address stormwater issues within the Lake Wingra watershed. We planted three successful rain gardens this summer—one at the nonprofit Neighborhood House and two at residential sites within the Lake Wingra watershed. Our consultant is now working with all three sites to ensure they have the proper tools and know-how to maintain their new rain gardens through the upcoming seasons. This approach will help us understand how to best ensure long-term success for rain gardens. With the remaining grant funds, we expect to be able to plant two more rain gardens next spring!

One of our project team members, Alli Wenman, also completed a training organized by the Arboretum in June as part of their larger WATER initiative. This training, titled EmpowerU, aims to teach participants how to effectively communicate with audiences about



Emma Wenman

Volunteers work to plant the specialized mix of water-loving rain garden plants at one of the residential sites.

stormwater management. She will be using this training as she moves into a new position with the Arboretum, replacing the former WATER Outreach Specialist, and organizing next year's EmpowerU training for the general public. If you are interested in learning more about how to be a good watershed steward and community leader, feel free to contact her at awenman@wisc.edu.

Finally, we want to give a big thanks to all the volunteers who have helped us plant the rain gardens and helped us bring the ethic of stormwater stewardship to the Lake Wingra community and beyond. Thank you!

The Friends subaward is part of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) environmental education grant awarded to the UW-Madison Arboretum.



Friends of the Arboretum Contribution

Yearly contributions for individuals and families are available at several levels

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Friend, \$70 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Friend, \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy Friend, \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Friend, \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Friend, \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, \$_____ |

Become a Friend online – arboretum.wisc.edu (Click on “Get Involved”)

My check is enclosed. Please make check payable to **UW-Madison Arboretum.**

Mail to: Friends of the Arboretum
1207 Seminole Highway
Madison, WI 53711

Please charge my credit card.

Credit Card # _____

Expiration _____ 3-digit code _____

Name as it appears on card:

Please print.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

*We respect your privacy. Information will not be sold or shared.
Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

Welcome to our 2021 – 2022 Luncheon-Lectures Series



Given the uncertainty of pandemic restrictions, we are hoping to return to in-person luncheon-lectures beginning in January 2022. There are two remaining virtual lectures scheduled for this fall which

you may register for online at foamadison.org. The fee is \$10 per program.

Thursday, October 21, 2021: 12–1:30 P.M.

Nature Photography – Glenn Chambliss (virtual)

People are endlessly fascinated by the natural world that surrounds us. Capturing on film the beauty, sense of freedom, and a bit of the essence of inhabitants of that world are primary goals of Glenn Chambliss' photography. The talk explores various aspects of nature photography, from the equipment involved and its use, to finding and photographing subjects. Along the way, we delve into the importance of composition, lighting, exposure, and focus. The brief survey of technical requirements will provide context for viewing photographs that Chambliss has taken locally and far afield of birds ranging from tundra swans to hummingbirds, insects, and flowers. Glenn Chambliss is a birdwatcher and professor emeritus of bacteriology, UW–Madison.

Thursday, November 16, 2021: 12–1:30 P.M. 'What's up' Up North: An Overview of Current Research at Trout Lake Station – Gretchen Gerrish (virtual)

UW–Trout Lake Station is in the Northwoods near Boulder Junction, Wisconsin. The station has hosted research on Wisconsin lakes and adjacent landscapes since 1925, with continuous monitoring of seven regional lakes since 1981. The talk will provide an overview of current and upcoming research framed within the long-term data and perspectives provided at the almost-100-year-old station. Gretchen Gerrish is the director of the Trout Lake Station, Center for Limnology, UW–Madison.

Save the dates below for these exciting lectures, which we hope to be held in person at the Visitor Center beginning in January. As soon as details about registration are available, you will be notified via our electronic newsletter, The LEAF, or the FOA link at arboretum.wisc.edu. The in-person luncheon-lectures will begin with lunch at 11:30 followed by the lecture and questions.

Monday, January 10, 2022: The Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor Rebuilding and Restoration Saga – Mark Wegner, City of Middleton Assistant Director of Public Lands-Forestry and Conservancy Lands, and The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Growing a Prairie – Hans Hilbert, Co-President, Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy

Mark: This talk will shed light on the cleanup, planning, rebuilding, and restoration of the Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor including insights on FEMA, community planning, politics, and the dollars needed to repair the devastating damages of the 2018 flood event.

Hans: While the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy is not a landowner, we have played a critical role in the acquisition of

property to expand the conservancy. A history of land acquisition by the Friends will be presented including our most recent work assisting Dane County in restoring 160 acres of farmland to prairie.

Wednesday, February 9, 2022: Cranes of Wisconsin – Hillary Thompson, Biologist at the International Crane Foundation

Wisconsin is home to both the most abundant and the rarest crane species in the world, the Sandhill Crane and the Whooping Crane! The International Crane Foundation works to ensure both species have what they need to thrive in our home state. We work to reintroduce the endangered Whooping Crane into the Eastern Flyway, building on lessons we have learned from Sandhill Cranes and their conservation success story. Come hear me talk about Sandhill and Whooping Cranes in Wisconsin, and the work being done at the International Crane Foundation to help both species thrive!

Tuesday, March 15, 2022: Grassland 2.0: Restoring Prairie and People to Livestock Agriculture – Randy Jackson, Campbell-Bascom Professor of Grassland Ecology, Department of Agronomy, UW–Madison

Grassland 2.0 is agriculture designed in the image of the original grasslands of the Midwest, the tallgrass prairie. Thoughtful management of perennial grasslands can restore the lost functionality of these ecosystems, create viable business opportunities that diversify production systems, buffer farms from volatile markets and fragile supply chains, and improve the health and well-being of communities.

Monday, April 11, 2022: Invasive Plant Identification and Management: From Hand-Pulling to Biocontrol – Anne Pearce, Wisconsin First Detector Network Coordinator

Invasive plants continue to impact Wisconsin's natural resources, economy, and even our own health! We'll highlight some up-and-coming invasive plants. Then we'll delve into management methods from hand-pulling to chemical control to biocontrol and discuss how to decide which methods to use in different situations.

Wednesday, May 11, 2022: May T. Watts, the Morton Arboretum, and the Origins of the Illinois Prairie Path – William Barnett, Professor of History at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois

May Theilgaard Watts was a beloved naturalist at Chicago's Morton Arboretum and her grassroots campaign established the Illinois Prairie Path in three years. She represented a distinctly Midwestern set of ideas, linking earlier conservationists and 1960s environmentalism with a strong focus on nature study and a deep concern about suburban sprawl and the loss of farms and prairies.



NewsLeaf is published by Friends of the Arboretum, University of Wisconsin–Madison Arboretum

Friends of the Arboretum
1207 Seminole Highway
Madison, WI 53711-3726
608-571-5362
arboretum.wisc.edu

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1360

Leslie Ladd and Kathy Poi Co-Editors
B.C. Brown Designer

Friends of the Arboretum Board of Directors

Laurie Elwell, President
Kate Martin, Vice-President
Don Miner, Treasurer
Laurel Sukup, Secretary
Jane Albert, Anita Boor, Ellie Feitlinger, Donna Halleran, Pat Henrikson, Paul Kent, Leslie Ladd, Jenny Sereno, Carl Sinderbrand, Don Tipple, Alli Wenman

Meet Mary Chandler— The New Native Plant Sale Coordinator

Mary is a lifelong Madison resident with a long history with the Arboretum. When she was a child, she spent countless hours exploring the areas around what are now Wingra Oak Savannah and the Duck Pond. Her Girl Scout troop leaders were her mom and Virginia Kline whom she met while taking Jim Zimmerman’s class “Reading the Landscape!” Gina and her mom were part of Mary’s inspiration to get a BA in botany from UW–Madison in 1974.

After college, Mary ran her own company, Great Big Pictures, for 40 years, growing it from a mom and pop retail outlet to a 150+ employee business in an 80,000 square foot factory. In the early 90’s, she returned to the UW and got a MS in Water Resources Management with an emphasis on wetland ecology. In 2016, she followed a long postponed dream to volunteer, live and work in another country, so she joined the Peace Corps. She completed 2 years overseas working as an individual and organizational development volunteer in the beautiful city of Batumi in the Republic of Georgia. Georgia is a country packed with interesting and diverse ecosystems—from coastal wetland to alpine tundra.

Mary is thrilled to head up the Friends’ much-loved Native Plant Sale. She says, “I’m humbled by the dedication and hard work that those who’ve gone before me have contributed to this amazing annual event. I hope I can continue to guide it successfully through these unprecedented times. Feel free to reach out to me at

npscoordinator@foamadison.org should you have any questions or comments about the Native Plant Sale!” Mary also serves Friends by working on office-related tasks—a job that is always changing and challenging!

— Mary Chandler, Native Plant Sale Coordinator



Stone steps near Nakoma Road — before and after clean up

Your FOA Donations Help Support the Student Ranger Program

The Arboretum has been busier than ever this past year with visitors looking for safe outdoor activities. As a result, our Ranger unit, led by Stephanie Petersen and largely funded by FOA donations, has been hard at work. From removing downed trees and maintaining heavily trafficked trails to engaging with our visitors, the rangers impact every area of the Arboretum. In addition to all of the day-to-day activities, the rangers work on a variety of special projects. One highlight was the much-needed maintenance to stonework near Monroe Street. Focusing on steps near Nakoma Road and the Wheeler Council Ring, the unit removed thick chunks of sod and plant material, scrubbed each stone by hand and secured any loose stones. Work continues in this area, so be sure to check it out!

— Erica Lee, Development Specialist
UW–Madison Arboretum