

# NewsLeaf Friends of the Arboretum Newsletter

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

## Summer 2021

Volume XXXVI No. 3

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## 2021 Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale by the Numbers

**750** customers

**450** orders picked up during 3 curbside pickup events at the Arboretum

**90** volunteers who unloaded trucks, organized plants, checked customers in, and loaded orders into customer vehicles at the Arboretum

**325** volunteer hours

**19,000** plants (a new record!) from 5 regional growers

**50** Wisconsin-native species

**120** Woody plant orders picked up at McKay Garden Center in Oregon

**250** Prairie plant orders shipped directly to customers from Agrecol Native Nurseries

**1** new webstore (foamadison.org) for online orders

**\$99,000** Income

– **\$80,000** Expenses

= **\$19,000** Net income



Bob Jaeger

## Another Successful Native Plant Sale

As you probably know, this year's sale was limited to on-line ordering with curbside pickup or doorstep delivery of native plants due to the pandemic. The Native Plant Sale (NPS) team worked hard in the fall of 2020 and in early January successfully launched a website for plant ordering. The site was only open for two and a half months, but during that time 750 customers ordered 19,000 native plants—a new NPS record!

Five vendors supplied native species from prairie and woodland ecosystems, including two wonderful citizen science kits specifically formulated to support hummingbirds and monarch butterflies. The kits were a partnership between FOA and Journey North. Our customers' exploration of citizen science continues by registering their pollinator patches in a world-wide network on the Journey North website.

None of this would have been possible without the cheerful and inspiring support from volunteers at the pickup day events! 75 people were plant movers, escorts, traffic directors, loaders and greeters, making the day run smoothly and efficiently. Our customers appreciated the process. We sent out a survey to the customers afterward; some comments include: *So well coordinated! Felt very organized and very COVID-safe for volunteers and customers. Much appreciated!* and *Yay! Do it again that way next year.*

If you bought plants at the FOA Native Plant Sale, **thank you!** If you helped us by volunteering at the Native Plant Sale, **thank you!** Most importantly, your participation supports the UW Arboretum, helps us put native species out in our community and invests in natural areas conservation. **Thank you!**

— Mary Chandler, 2022 Native Plant Sale Coordinator

# FOA Installs Rain Gardens In the Watershed

Friends of the Arboretum (FOA) announced in the last *NewsLeaf* that we have received a grant subaward to address stormwater within the Lake Wingra watershed. Well, a lot has happened since then! Board members Alli Wenman, Laurel Sukup, and Mary Chandler have designed a project that will use the funds to hire a consultant, provide rain garden plants, help with site identification and preparation, develop planting schematics/maintenance schedules, and more for our partner sites! By forging new partnerships with neighboring community organizations, we are working to heighten awareness of the benefits of rain gardens and empower non-profits and residents to be leaders in improving stormwater run-off. So far, we are partnering with Neighborhood House Community Center, a community leader from Centro Hispano to develop a residential demonstration garden, and are in the process of securing a third site.

At the helm of these projects is our talented consultant, Emma Wenman. As a bilingual student in Landscape Architecture at the UW–Madison, she has been able to coordinate with each partner on where to site the garden, what tools they will need, designing



Emma Wenman

*A freshly planted FOA rain garden at Neighborhood House on Mills Street in Madison*

a site specific maintenance plan, and creating educational materials in both English and Spanish as needed.

These grant funds are allowing FOA to take stewardship beyond the borders of the Arboretum. The EPA funding is allowing FOA to not only provide an expert consultant but also provide the tools and training to help our partners literally get their hands dirty and develop meaningful green

infrastructure to make their properties more resilient and help the region prepare for ever-increasing rainfall events. If you see any rain gardens around Madison with signs like the one above, please stop and say hi to our watershed partners!

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

## Your FOA Donations at Work

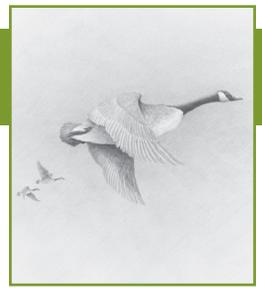
Thanks to all of you, Friends of the Arboretum has ended the 20/21 fiscal year with great success. The year, which wrapped up on June 30<sup>th</sup>, saw over \$150,000 in donations and a record number of orders for the Native Plant Sale. The Arboretum proved to be a popular spot during the lockdown months, and we are happy to report that we added over 200 new ‘friends’. With all that has happened in the last year it feels wonderful to celebrate this news with you. Thank you for all you do! Have you ever wondered how your donations benefit the Arboretum? As many of you know, we are lucky at the Arboretum to have a positive partnership with the University of Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni

Association (WFAA). WFAA provides much needed administrative support to the Arboretum in processing our donations and holding them in trust. All donations to Friends are immediately available to the Arboretum and used in consultation with the Friends Board of Directors to support community education, land care, and visitor learning opportunities.

Recently we received a generous estate gift of over \$44,000. Did you know you can include FOA in your estate? To learn more, contact Erica at ealee7@wisc.edu or 608-263-7889.

— Erica Lee, Development Specialist  
UW–Madison Arboretum

# Welcome to our 2021 – 2022 Luncheon-Lectures Series



We are excited to announce that the schedule, including speakers, topics and dates for the 2021–2022 Luncheon-Lectures Series, has been finalized. The format is still being determined as we await the latest information from the University about continued COVID precautions. The three fall lectures will be offered virtually via Zoom, but we are optimistic that we will be able to return to in-person luncheons and lectures beginning in 2022. The fee for the webinars will be \$10 per program which will be held from 12:00-1:15 P.M. The in-person luncheon-lectures

will meet from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M., starting with lunch at 11:30 followed by the lecture and questions at approx. 12:30 P.M. The charge for the in-person luncheons will be \$40 per event. Save the dates below on your calendar and we will provide more details about registration options as they become available. Check the next emailed issue of *The LEAF* or the FOA link at [arboretum.wisc.edu](http://arboretum.wisc.edu) for the latest information.

## September 13, 2021: **Breathing Life into a Living Collection for Plant Research** – Ingrid Jordon-Thaden, Director of Botany Gardens and Greenhouses, UW–Madison

This presentation will illustrate the wide variety of research topics that have been developing in our facility with our amazing living collection of plants. Our 8000 square feet of greenhouse space is home to 12 different habitats and can therefore provide growth conditions for plants all over the world. We are able to provide space as well as use of our permanent living collection for researchers to tackle questions from plant taxonomy and systematics and ecology to genetics and biomimicry. The role of botanical gardens and their associated greenhouse spaces in the history of plant science will be explored. The future of these collections and their renewed role in biodiversity science and climate change research will be discussed.

## October 21, 2021: **Nature Photography** – Glenn Chambliss, Birdwatcher and Professor Emeritus of Bacteriology, UW–Madison

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 my photography. Today, we explore 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 I have taken locally and far afield of birds ranging from Tundra Swans to Hummingbirds, insects and flowers.

## November 16, 2021: **‘What’s up’ Up North: An Overview of Current Research at Trout Lake Station** – Gretchen Gerrish, Director of the Trout Lake Station, Center for Limnology, UW–Madison

UW Trout Lake Station is in the Northwoods near Boulder Junction, WI and has hosted research on Wisconsin lakes and adjacent landscapes since 1925, with continuous monitoring of 7 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.

## 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.

## 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!

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## June 8, 2022: **Everyone Is Listening for Something** – Douglas Hill, Emeritus Professor of Music, UW–Madison

Douglas Hill will present and discuss excerpts from four of his original compositions, inspired by the wilderness writings of Leopold, Olson, Derleth or Thoreau...the setting of word rhythms and subtle inferences from the selected language, the application of vocal qualities and instrumental tone colors to suggest images and specific elements of the wilderness, and, ultimately, how these choices work together to celebrate the wonders of the natural world through music.



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

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## Letter from the President

Wow, did we learn a lot over the past twelve months! We learned how to convert in-person lectures into webinars, how to communicate, plan, meet and stay organized via Zoom, how to launch an e-commerce website, and how to create an e-newsletter, *The Leaf*. We also learned how to apply for and administer a subgrant to establish rain gardens and educate others about why they are so important, and how to organize a wildly successful curbside pick-up Native Plant Sale. Basically, like many of you, we learned how to innovate.

I want to thank the members of our diligent board and staff for serving our mission to build “positive relationships between people and the land through support of the UW–Madison Arboretum.” Together we collaborated, stressed, re-grouped, and rose to meet the challenges of the past year.

As our calendar year draws to a close, we say “thanks and see you soon” to four outstanding board members who recently “retired” at the end of their terms. They are Kathy Poi, Chris Smithka, Susie Berg, and Judy Troia. Each has given much to the Arboretum over a period of many years—multiple decades for some. The best news is that they plan to stay involved with Friends in different capacities, a testament to their dedication to the Arboretum. In addition to the Board, we say good-bye to retiring Native Plant Sale Coordinator Karen Deaton and Office Manager Sandy Jaeckel who served six years on the Board before agreeing to help keep us and our office systems and procedures in tip-top shape. They have been tremendous assets to Friends.

We’re fortunate to have a terrific class of Board and staff “recruits” to follow in their footsteps. A big welcome to Anita Boor, Ellie Feitlinger, Jane Albert, Jenny Sereno, Donna Halleran and Mary Chandler. They will bring new skills and fresh ideas to Friends.

Over the past twelve months, we reinvented how we operate in ways we hadn’t even imagined last summer. We re-learned how important the prairies, forests, marshes and gardens of the Arboretum are in restoring us both

individually and collectively. Most of all, we learned how committed so many of you are to the well-being of the Arboretum and all that it represents of our past, present and future relationship to the land.

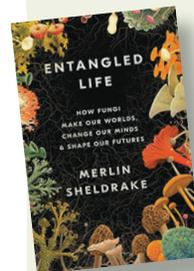
We thank you for your commitment and look forward to reuniting soon.

Laurie Elwell  
FOA Board President

## 2021 Collaborative Garden/Nature Book Series

The UW–Madison Arboretum, Olbrich Botanical Garden, Schumacher Library, and UW–Madison Steenbock Library are continuing to host their book discussion series. This book group is open to volunteers from Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and UW’s Madison Arboretum, Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Allen Centennial Garden, and Schumacher Farm. Join us for one or all of these upcoming informative and engaging discussions. A pre-meeting email will be sent out with resources related to the title and meeting logon information. RSVP to Karen Dunn at karen.dunn@wisc.edu or 608-890-2666 (please leave message).

**Vesper Flights** by Helen MacDonald,  
Sunday, July 18, 1:00–2:30 P.M. via Zoom



**Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds, and Shape Our Futures** by Merlin Sheldrake, Thursday, October 21, 6:30–8:00 P.M. at UW Arb (with optional 5 p.m. fungi walk for book group participants).