

NewsLeaf Friends of the Arboretum Newsletter

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

Spring 2023

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Native Plant Sale

The Native Plant Sale is back in the tent for 2023. Mark your calendars—May 20, 2023. Early shopping for Friends at 9 a.m. and general public from 10 a.m. until plants sell out.

For a list of plants that will be available, visit foamadison.org



Karen Oberhauser

A Monarch Larva Monitoring Project volunteer finds a large monarch caterpillar munching on common milkweed at the Arboretum's Grady Tract.

Citizen Science in Your Own Backyard

Citizen science, or community science, is the involvement of members of the public in scientific research projects. Whether it be supporting an online project from the comfort of your couch to getting out in the natural spaces in your community and submitting your sightings, there is a citizen science project out there for every interest, ability level, and bit of time you have to offer!

The UW–Madison Arboretum is home to many citizen science projects that you and your family can participate in using the incredible ecosystem in your own backyard. Two of these meaningful projects are Journey North and the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP). Journey North is an excellent option for people looking for a low-commitment project with a very short time requirement. The project tracks migrations and seasons and asks volunteers to submit photos—as frequently as you'd like—of a select number of species and natural events, including hummingbirds, monarch butterflies, songbirds, ice-out, and more, through their website www.journeynorth.org.

Meanwhile, the MLMP asks volunteers with milkweed on their property (or at a local public space) to monitor their milkweed weekly for monarch butterfly

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eggs and larva from approximately May–October. Data is submitted through their website, www.mlmp.org, where you can also find a variety of resources and training materials.

Not only do these projects contribute to wildlife conservation research happening in your community, but they also offer an amazing opportunity to connect with nature and appreciate the natural wonders in your own backyard. Learn more about citizen science projects at the Arboretum through their website arboretum.wisc.edu.

Julia Whidden,
Arboretum Citizen Science Coordinator,
UW–Madison Arboretum



Jack Chandler

Look forward to hours of dirt and fun planting your own native garden. Then enjoy the butterflies, bees and birds that come visit!



Join Us for the 33rd-Annual Native Plant Sale—Saturday, May 20

Come to the Arboretum and fill your lungs with the superb, fragrant early spring air! We will be bringing in over 1,000 native plants representing 150 species for sun, part sun and shady spots. Come early to avoid the lines, or better yet, if you are a Friend of the Arboretum, come to our Friends-only early shopping at 9 a.m. General public shopping begins at 10 a.m. In addition to single plants we'll also feature some of our popular garden mixes designed for specific fauna and/or growing conditions.

FOA Board—Working Committees Looking for Volunteers

Several of the FOA Board working committees enjoy the assistance of volunteers who help with our fund-raising events throughout the year. If YOU are interested in helping with any of these 3 committees, please contact the FOA office: staff@foamadison.org.

Luncheon-Lectures Committee

This committee meets as needed to:

- Plan a slate of speakers and topics for the coming year and prepare text for promotion in *NewsLeaf* and *The LEAF*.
- Decide on luncheon menu and organize materials for each luncheon.
- Be on hand to supervise and troubleshoot at the Luncheon-Lectures.

Native Plant Sale Committee

This committee meets monthly to prepare for the annual Native Plant Sale in May.

Members also assist on several days leading up to the sale with many and varied tasks, from organizing plants to helping customers.

Day Trips Committee

This committee meets as needed to:

- Discuss ideas for day trips and help plan 3–4 trips throughout the year.

- Help with writing promotional text for *NewsLeaf* and *The LEAF*.
- Be on hand to help on the day of the trip.





Luncheon-Lectures 2023

The Luncheon-Lectures committee has been hard at work in the past few months planning an exciting smorgasbord of topics for the 2023–2024 season.

Details are not ready to share at this time but some of the topics planned include: citizen science, the Great Lakes Compact, bird conservation, decline of honeybees, and switchgrass vs. ethanol for fuel. Watch this space in the summer issue of *NewsLeaf* for final details. As always, if you have an idea for a topic or a speaker, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Luncheon-Lectures committee by email at staff@foamadison.org.

Remaining Luncheon-Lectures 2023

Luncheon-Lectures are held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Arboretum Visitor Center Auditorium. Lunch is followed by an educational presentation. This popular series fills up quickly, so register as soon as you can. A registration confirmation will be sent to you.

You may register online at foamadison.org or send a check payable to FOA to Friends of the Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Hwy., Madison, WI 53711. The cost of each of the Luncheon-Lectures is \$40.00.

Tuesday, April 11, 2023: **The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin: Saving What We Love Together**—Elizabeth Koehler, State Director, Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin

From Wisconsin's Northwoods to Door County and the grasslands of southern Wisconsin, The Nature Conservancy has been protecting the lands and water we depend on and cherish for almost 63 years. Wisconsin State Director Elizabeth Koehler will share some conservation highlights from the past year, including TNC's work to protect and manage a resilient network of lands and waters, address climate change, support farmers in improving soil health and protecting clean water, help create more stable and resilient Great Lakes fisheries, and collaborate with communities in Milwaukee to address water quality and flooding issues and increase the quality and quantity of urban green space. She'll also share a little about what's coming up next and how you can get involved.

Tuesday, May 16, 2023: **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.

Thursday, June 8, 2023: **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 and the application of vocal qualities and instrumental tone colors that 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.

Your FOA Donations at Work

Donations to Friends of the Arboretum support a wide variety of programs and projects from environmental education and outreach to ecological restoration and research to trail maintenance. As you will read in this issue of *NewsLeaf*, the Arboretum is also home to a number of citizen science projects. These offerings provide casual observers and serious scientists alike the opportunity to engage in environmental research in new and exciting ways, and your contribution to Friends of the Arboretum supports these efforts! Key projects focus on monarch butterflies, dragonflies, birds, fungal diversity, and water quality monitoring and more. Your donation helps to support the following Arboretum and partner projects. Thank you!

Arboretum Projects

- Journey North
- Monarch Larva Monitoring Project
- Dragonfly Monitoring Project
- Fungal Diversity Project
- Lake Wingra Chloride Springs Monitoring

Partner Projects

- Bumble Bee Brigade
- Bluebirds
- eBird
- Phenology
- Urban Canid Project
- Stream Health
- Snapshot Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Frog & Toad Survey
- Bat Monitoring

For more information, email info@arboretum.wisc.edu or call 608-263-7888. You can also find more information online at arboretum.wisc.edu.

Erica Lee, Advancement Manager,
UW—Madison Arboretum



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Trip to Horicon Marsh— Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Join the Friends of the Arboretum for an adventure to the world-renowned Horicon Marsh. The northern two-thirds of the marsh is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the 22,000 acre Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. The southern third (11,000 acres) is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area. Together, both properties make up the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States, and it is a critical rest stop for thousands of migrating ducks and Canada geese. It is recognized as a Wetland of International Importance and as Globally and State Important Bird Areas. It is also a unit of the Ice Age Scientific Reserve.



*Illustration by
Patrick Shea*

Once at Horicon, you will have an opportunity to visit the visitor center and Explorium to learn about the Marsh since its establishment in 1941. You will then have an opportunity to enjoy a hearty box lunch while listening to a Wisconsin Master Naturalist. We then will embark on a walk with the resident DNR Naturalist, where will explore the flora and fauna that makes Horicon such a Wisconsin treasure.

So, bring your bird book and binoculars and let's go!

- Tuesday, June 6, 2023
- 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Trip limited to 25 participants
- Please register by May 19th
- Box lunch, water, and snacks provided
- Comfortable coach
- Cost per person – \$90

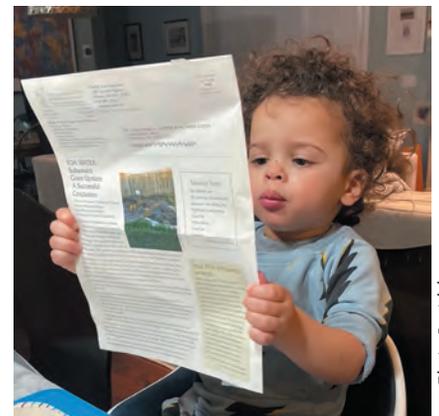
Please register online at foamadison.org or send your check payable, to FOA, to: Friends of the Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Hwy., Madison, WI 53711. You will receive confirmation by email.

Who's Scheduling This, Anyway?

The moon bid me stop here;
the heron said *stay*.
And who am I to argue
with teachers such as these?
If the great bird has time
to slowly flap across this pond
perch in a dead tree and wait
why then so do I, so do I.
Willingly I make him
my secretary
and assign him my bookings
for the morning,
trusting his judgment.
I love the deliberate grace of his flight,
the patient stillness of his perching.
He schools me to resist false rhythms
and wait until the moment is right,
no matter how long that may take
and who is waiting for me.
Sometimes you have to be hungry
for a while.

—Kathy Dodd Miner

*Like you, little Teddy
Smithka finds NewsLeaf
intensely interesting!*



Chris Smithka