

NewsLeaf Friends of the Arboretum Newsletter

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

Summer 2023

Volume XXXVIII No. 3

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2023 Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale by the Numbers

1,100+ customers attended tent sale

400+ volunteer hours

13,000 forbs, grasses, sedges sold

360 woody species sold

5,200 square feet of native plant pollinator garden mixes sold

Rain garden sets to cover **1,200** square feet of home gardens to improve watershed health, provide native flora to support native fauna and recharge aquifers

\$80,000 Income

– **\$44,000** Expenses

= **\$36,000** Net income

All income will be used to support UW–Madison Arboretum’s facilities and programs!



Leslie Ladd

Left to right: Nansi Jo Colley, Taylor Drogemuller, Kate VandenBosch, Dave Kelly.
Not pictured: Maggie Honig.

Meet Your New Board Members

Nansi Jo Colley

Nansi is Professor Emerita at UW–Madison. She received her PhD in marine biology and as a postdoctoral fellow studied the evolution of photoreception and eyes. Nansi is internationally recognized for her biomedical research using fruit flies as a molecular genetic model for human retinal diseases. She is a yoga and meditation teacher, and a volunteer at the Arboretum. She is committed to monitoring pollinators, birds and plant communities and supporting the land stewardship, education and research missions of the Arboretum.

Taylor Drogemuller

Taylor is the Adult and Community Program Coordinator at Neighborhood House Community Center, where she connects with local farms and organizations to help people who face food and housing insecurity. At Agrecol Nursery, she worked with the native plant seed collection and helped with preparations for the FOA Native Plant Sale. She’s passionate about restoring a bluff prairie on her parents’ Driftless Area property. She was the Event Coordinator for the Lake Wingra Watershed Gathering and has worked as an Outdoor Educator at UW–Extension’s Upham Woods. She enjoys exploring Wisconsin with her new puppy Rosie. She graduated from Winona State University with a degree in Biology with a focus on Ecology.

Maggie Honig

Maggie is a retired science educator with degrees in biology, environmental science, outdoor education, and cytotechnology. One of her many passions is leading and facilitating field trips that help people of all abilities to get out and experience nature. After living in many places in the U.S., she is delighted to be back in her birth state, volunteering in environmental education, citizen science, ecological restoration, and strategic planning. Maggie’s spare time is spent turning her home yard into a pocket prairie and rain garden, growing wildflowers and vegetables in a local community

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Welcome Lily Butler, New Native Plant Sale Coordinator

Drew Jacobson



Lily Butler is from Eugene, Oregon and is a lifelong lover of native plants. She grew up with a yard full of native plants, and regularly participated in restoration work parties in her neighborhood and around Oregon. During her time at Oregon State University (OSU), she worked in the Materials Management Department, developing waste reduction programs and events like Repair Fairs and Earth Day celebrations. She also worked as a Senator in OSU's student government, leading the group's outreach efforts and Environmental Council. After graduating with degrees in Natural Resources and Sustainability, she moved to Madison, WI to pursue a career in environmental and social sustainability.

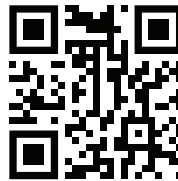
She worked in voter registration and outreach before accepting the position of Native Plant Sale Coordinator for Friends of the Arboretum. She is also pursuing a Masters in Environmental Conservation from the Nelson Institute at UW-Madison. In her free time, Lily enjoys reading, biking, and exploring Wisconsin's natural areas.

Farewell to Mary Chandler



Mary Chandler faced enormous challenges as the Native Plant Sale Coordinator over the past three years. COVID restrictions nearly brought the sale to its knees, but Mary overcame the challenges with her ever present good humor and positive attitude. As she passes the leadership baton to Lily Butler, we are sad to see her leave her role. Mary will now divide her time between Madison and Key West, Florida. Many thanks Mary for all you have done to make the annual event better and better!

Please scan this QR code to go to foamadison.org where you will see information about all the plant species that were sold at this year's Native Plant Sale.



Thank You to Departing Board Members

It is with profound gratitude that we bid farewell to these departing FOA board members. Each of them has contributed countless hours to making FOA stronger.

Laurie Elwell served 2 three-year terms. She served as FOA President for two years during a very challenging time of change for the Friends. Many in-person events had to be re-arranged and/or cancelled because of the pandemic but under Laurie's steadfast leadership and attention to detail, we transitioned to virtual meetings and events smoothly and with good humor!

Ellie Feitlinger served for two years. She was an enthusiastic contributor and brought strong marketing and event planning experience that helped us through needed changes.

Pat Henrikson served 2 three-year terms on the Board. As chair of the Luncheon-Lectures Committee, Pat helped line up speakers, arrange dates, and help with whatever was needed on the day of the luncheons to make sure everything went smoothly. She was also an active volunteer for the Native Plant Sale.

Carl Sinderbrand served for 3 years. He led the effort to make some much-needed updates to our by-laws to reflect our current practices and was also a presenter for the "Managing Wisconsin Water Resources: Past, Present, and Future" Luncheon-Lecture.

Alli Parrish served 1 three-year term on the Board. She was active on the Nominating Committee and served as co-chair of the Native Plant Sale last year. Alli's major contribution to Friends was leading the Water SubGrant effort.

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garden, quilting, and taking hikes with her husband Bob to watch birds and learn about all the wonderful natural areas in Wisconsin.

Dave Kelly

Dave is a lifelong Wisconsin resident who lived in the Nakoma neighborhood for many years. Following his retirement as a program manager, he became a certified Wisconsin Master Naturalist. He works part time as a barista and volunteers with the Arboretum, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Madison Audubon Society and Pheasant Branch Reserve. He resides in New Glarus and is frequently in Madison for school or work or to spend time with his daughter. He is an avid hiker and trail runner, who can often be seen running trails in the Arboretum.

Kate VandenBosch

Kate is Dean Emerita of UW-Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and has pursued research on the development and symbioses of plants. She came to UW-Madison in the mid-1980s as a post-doctoral researcher in botany and made her first acquaintance with the Arboretum as a frequent visitor and occasional volunteer. Subsequently, she was a biology professor in Texas and Minnesota before returning to UW-Madison as Dean in 2012. Now retired, she is enjoying rekindling her interests in biodiversity and the partnerships of plants. As a new Master Gardener, she volunteers at UW-Madison's Allen Centennial Garden, the Arboretum's Native Plant Garden, and the Fitchburg Public Library.



Redstart

Orange and black warbler
Fanning tail, fluttering wings
Chasing bug. Caught it!

Photo by Glenn H. Chambliss, Haiku by Sylvia Marek. Courtesy of the "Things with Wings, and Frog" exhibit, Arboretum Visitor Center Steinhauser Trust Gallery.

Luncheon-Lectures September 2023 – June 2024



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 Luncheon-Lecture is \$40.00.

Wednesday, September 13, 2023: Putting the Kibosh on Extinction—the Power of Birds—Craig Thompson, Chief of Program Integration, Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation, Wisconsin DNR

Climate change and the extinction crisis are the greatest challenges of our time. Both phenomena pose existential threats to the future of life. The decline of birds is a manifestation of the extinction crisis and serves as a clarion call to action. Birds offer the promise of hope. Conspicuous and beautiful, they can help address our greatest environmental perils. The presentation will provide examples of birds as powerful conservation catalysts and offer strategies for engagement by everyone.

Thursday, October 26, 2023: Effigy Mounds of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverways—Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board

Mr. Cupp will provide information on the types of earthworks found in Wisconsin and will focus on the effigy mounds of the lower Wisconsin River valley. The presentation will provide background on the people of the Late Woodland Tradition, better known as the Effigy Mound Builders, commonly believed to be ancestors of the modern-day Ho-Chunk Nation. Maps and photographs will be used to demonstrate locations and types of tumuli found in the region.

Thursday, November 16, 2023: Living One Water—Michael Mucha, Chief Engineer and Director, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

Water is our world's most precious resource and essential to everything we do. No matter who we are, where we live, or what we do, water connects all of us. When we embrace the belief that water in all its forms has value—water in our lakes, seas, rivers and streams, drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater—the full water life cycle can be optimized to build strong economies, vibrant communities, and healthy environments. Michael will share how the sewerage district is implementing one water thinking and offer ideas for how you can too.

Wednesday, January 17, 2024: The Great Lakes Compact after 15 years—Shailli Pfeiffer, Natural Resources Staff Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The 2005 landmark agreement, the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, was signed by the eight Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec. The agreement is implemented in the U.S. by a legally binding interstate Compact and is best known for its prohibition on diversions of Great Lakes water. Significantly, it commits the states and provinces to implement parallel water quantity management programs across the Great Lakes Basin—the largest fresh surface water system in the world. The last fifteen years have seen the implementation of the vision of the architects of the Great Lakes Compact and Agreement bringing together shared principles for water quantity management.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024: Ecological Restoration at Holy Wisdom Monastery—Amy Alstad, Director of Land Management and Environmental Education

Why is it that one of the nicest prairie restorations in Dane County is found at a Benedictine Monastery? Caring for the earth is one of the core mission elements at Holy Wisdom Monastery. This presentation will share stories and photos weaving together the past, present and future of ecological restoration at Wisdom Prairie.

Monday, March 11, 2024: Emerging Technologies for Supporting Pollinators and Pollination: Challenges and Opportunities—Dr. James Crall, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology, UW–Madison

Technology is rapidly transforming nearly all aspects of our lives, including how we interact with the natural world. In this talk, Dr. James Crall will explore how emerging technologies (including artificial intelligence and the internet of things) are creating new opportunities for researchers, practitioners, and naturalists to study insects in ever greater depth. Yet these new tools also create new challenges that will require reimagining how we use technology to connect with and support the health of bees and other pollinators.

Thursday, April 18, 2024: Journey North and Tracking Wildlife Migration: Celebrating 30 Years—Nancy A. Sheehan, Program Manager, UW–Madison Arboretum

With population declines among migratory birds and insects, Journey North seeks to help researchers, land managers and the general public understand how migratory species respond to a changing climate by tracking their journeys each year. Journey North is a crowdsourced, participatory science program that harnesses the power of thousands of volunteers across North America to gain insights into the annual life cycle of a selected number of migratory species.

Thursday, May 9, 2024: The American Fuel-scape: What Modern Biofuels Mean for our Lands, Waters, and Wildlife—Tyler Lark, Scientist, Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment, UW–Madison

Come learn all about biofuels and the current state of the science and policy. We'll cover the latest on the debate about corn ethanol, learn about the potential for better biofuels based on native perennial plants like switchgrass, and discuss what all of it means for the climate, wildlife, and our natural landscapes.

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 The Effects of Glaciers on Wisconsin – Lucas Zoet, Dean L. Morgridge Endowed Chair of Geoscience, UW–Madison

Professor Zoet will detail how Wisconsin has been shaped by glaciers and the types of landforms that can be seen around the region. He will also detail some of the specific glacial geologic history of the Madison region.



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Your FOA Donations at Work

Thank you to all our Friends for your support during what has been a very successful fiscal year. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30th and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the various ways you support the mission of the Arboretum to conserve and restore Arboretum lands, advance restoration ecology, and foster the land ethic.

Over \$175,000 was donated to the Friends of the Arboretum Fund, and we are pleased to report that for the first time in two years, the number of donations to Friends has increased by 4%! These gifts help to support a variety of programs at the Arboretum, from the Ranger unit and steward program to citizen science and educational outreach and more.

The money donated to the Friends of the Arboretum Fund, along with funds raised from restricted gifts, major gifts and planned gifts came to just over \$720,000 this fiscal year. The Arboretum 2022 Annual Report will be available online and in print form later this month and will include more detailed information on development at the Arboretum and the programs those donations support.

Your financial contributions, volunteer support, attendance at lectures and field trips have made this year a great success, and we thank you!

Erica Lee, Advancement Manager,
UW—Madison Arboretum

Grass-To-Gardens Marks Its Second Year

This spring saw the second annual Grass-To-Gardens initiative sponsored by FOA. This initiative provides free rain garden plant mixes to community members as an outreach and educational opportunity that promotes native plantings and beneficial water management. Applications for this year’s program were open for a period during early spring. We were delighted to receive *many* more applications than last year, and many more applicants than we could fund gardens for! Gardens were awarded on a first come, first served basis with the caveat that one garden would be held for a group or organization. Given that, gardens were awarded to two families and one elementary school. Awardees picked up their gardens at FOA’s Native Plant Sale, so the kits are off with their respective owners and were all planted in their new homes within the last month!

These gardens—located in the Waunakee, Madison, and Monona

areas—will support turning approximately 150 square feet of lawn into rain gardens, leading to many environmental benefits including improved infiltration and water quality, support for pollinators and biodiversity, and much more.



If you are interested in learning more about rain gardens, or want to register your rain garden with the city towards their goal of reaching 1,000 rain gardens in Madison, visit the Roger Bannerman Rain Garden Initiative page on the City of Madison’s webpage! Your support of Friends of the Arboretum helps us make a lasting impact with initiatives like this. Thank you for being a Friend!

Alli Parrish, Regional Climate Outreach Project Manager;
Natural Resources Institute;
UW—Madison Division of Extension

Everyone agreed the sold-out trip to Horicon Marsh in early June was a success!



Chuck Henrikson