

# NewsLeaf Friends of the Arboretum Newsletter

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

## Winter 2024

Volume XXXIX No. 1

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### Winter Trees

All the complicated details  
of the attiring and  
the disattiring are completed!  
A liquid moon  
moves gently among  
the long branches.  
Thus having prepared their buds  
against a sure winter  
the wise trees  
stand sleeping in the cold.

—William Carlos Williams

## Native Plant Sale™

Start planning your new garden today! Use the QR code below. Just scan with your phone's camera to generate a shortcut link to the FOA Native Plant Sale website. FOA Office Phone: 608-890-2555



Lily Butler

## Shop the Native Plant Sale In the Tent In 2024

**Save the date: May 18, 2024**

Early shopping for Friends at 9:00 A.M.

General Public from 10:00 A.M. until plants sell out

AND

Last year's wildly popular online Native Plant Sale is back!

For convenient curbside pickup in May,

order between January 1 and March 31, 2024

Our online store: [foamadison.org](http://foamadison.org)

**Online offerings** include our most popular species for your native garden:

- A full catalogue of available species can be found at our online store at [foamadison.org](http://foamadison.org).
- Trees and shrubs will be picked up curbside at McKay Garden Center in Oregon, WI in May. Bear in mind that some of these are in five-gallon pots, or are more than four feet tall, and may require a large vehicle for transport.
- Trays of wildflowers and/or grasses will be picked up curbside at the Arboretum the week of May 6. We will contact you in late April to schedule your pickup.
- Selected species will be available in single-species full and half trays of 16–32 plants. **Please note that there is a 16 plant minimum order.**

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- Mixes will be available for rain gardens, savanna gardens, and pollinator gardens. Pollinator gardens help sustain monarch butterflies and hummingbirds. (You can participate in citizen science by recording and reporting your sightings!)

**Onsite offerings** will include a wide variety of species available as individual plants. We will also offer our popular garden mixes for rain gardens, savanna gardens, and pollinators at the tent sale, which will be located on the Arboretum lawn near the Visitor Center.

**Note that trees and shrubs are only available online and will not be offered at the tent sale.**

## Partnership with

JourneyNorth



The Native Plant Sale will again offer our popular citizen science kits in collaboration with Journey North. The kits focus on plants that produce nectar which helps sustain two migrating species: monarch butterflies and hummingbirds. Support the Arboretum and the Journey North project by selecting either a Monarch Butterfly or Hummingbird Citizen Science Kit. Each kit includes:

- Information about registering with Journey North to submit your observations and watch the migration unfold on real-time interactive maps.
- A selection of 16 native plants that provide nectar specifically suited to monarch butterflies or hummingbirds.

## New Shortgrass Prairie Garden Mix

We have a new addition to this year's Native Plant Sale: the Shortgrass Prairie Garden Mix! The mix is designed for areas with full sun and dry or medium soil moisture; it includes native grasses and prairie flowers that will bloom throughout the season and attract pollinators and wildlife. The plants will stay fairly short throughout the season (about 2.5 feet tall) and are easy to care for. The mix is inspired by the newly established shortgrass prairie in the Arboretum Native Plant Garden.



## 2023 President's Report

As 2023 draws to a close, we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the upcoming year. In 2023, Friends of the Arboretum had a strong year, and I'd like to share a few highlights.

- FOA contributions to the Arboretum are growing; last fiscal year, total donations were up eight percent over the prior year. Our average donation was also up over this period. The "Fill the Hill" fundraising campaign brought 18 first time donors during a time that many organizations saw reductions in giving, so we are especially grateful. Thank you all for being such good Friends of the Arboretum!
- In September, the FOA Board approved two large gifts to the Arboretum, utilizing funds raised from our special events including the native plant sale, luncheon-lectures, and trips. We donated funds to help cover the costs of an Operation Fresh Start crew at the Arboretum. Operation Fresh Start is a local non-profit organization that recruits people who do not have traditional academic training in ecology fields and places those individuals with various conservation organizations, so they can progress in the field of ecology. In addition, we donated funds to help purchase an electric mower. The benefits of the electric mower include both emission and noise reductions.
- In July, five new Board members joined our team. They bring diverse experience and new enthusiasm and are in full swing assisting with our various activities. We also hired a new Native Plant Sale coordinator who assisted with last year's event and is now leading our effort in 2024.
- Our 2023 Native Plant Sale was a great success. Over 1,100 customers attended the event. Total plant sales included over 360 woody species; 13,000 forbs, grasses and sedges; 5,200 square feet of native plant pollinator garden mixes; and 1,200 square feet of rain garden sets. The sale raised \$35,000 in support for the Arboretum initiatives.
- We led two popular trips last year: one to Horicon Marsh and one to the Lost City area. In the coming year, we look forward to a several very interesting trips. February will bring an opportunity to tour the UW Geology Museum, including a guided tour and a

"behind the scenes" look. May will bring a return excursion to Horicon Marsh at peak of spring migration including a boat trip led by a naturalist. Watch for more information on these events!

- Our Luncheon-Lectures Committee did a fantastic job scheduling interesting speakers and providing high quality meals in a sustainable manner, resulting in an overall great experience. We are pleased to see attendance on the upswing, reaching full capacity for several events.

Thank you to all our hard-working Board members who contributed their time and talent to making these activities a success.

I hope that each of you had the opportunity during the past year to experience the Arboretum, either on a solo walk or with friends, or joining one of the many events at this wonderful gem of nature at the ready to reconnect us all with the natural world.



—Kate Martin,  
FOA Board President



# Karen Oberhauser—A Very Fond Farewell

In November, Karen Oberhauser retired as Director after six remarkable years leading the Arboretum. Karen is an internationally renowned conservation biologist and expert on monarch butterflies. As Arboretum Director, she was recognized for her accomplishments in habitat restoration and her leadership in promoting biodiversity, citizen science and environmental literacy. (For more on Karen's exceptional accomplishments, visit the Arboretum website.) While the University conducts a national search for her replacement, Josh Goldman will serve as Interim Director.

At the November FOA Luncheon-Lecture, former FOA President Laurie Elwell offered her thoughts regarding Karen's extraordinary service and the partnership between the FOA organization and the Arboretum. Her sentiments are shared by current FOA President Kate Martin and former President Kathy Poi, and all of the Board members and volunteers who were fortunate enough to work closely with Karen during her tenure. Following is Laurie's synopsis of her Luncheon-Lecture tribute to Karen:

I was impressed with Karen Oberhauser's can-do attitude from the first FOA Board Meeting she attended. In short order, Karen was able to problem solve and help the Board move forward in areas where we had become stuck. Her arrival was immediately energizing.

Over time, I had the good fortune to observe Karen's leadership and mentoring styles up close. She is open, empathic, insightful, and remarkably calm. Throughout the hundred or so meetings I likely attended with her, I never heard her once utter even a soft sigh of despair!

In the words of FOA staff member Mary Chandler, Karen embodies the principles of servant leadership. Whenever praised for her management style or achievements, Karen would heap the praise back onto the staff and volunteers as a whole, reiterating that she felt lucky to lead a team of



Laurie Elwell and Karen Oberhauser, left to right. Photo Credit: Nansi Jo Colley.

wonderful folks. With remarkable grace and warmth, she made herself available to all. No matter how busy her calendar, she found time to listen, offer constructive input, and share a laugh.

In addition to her leadership skills, Karen is an outstanding educator, able to break down complex topics in ways that make them easy to understand and appreciate. We are grateful that she was willing to share so much of her expertise with us.

Karen is leaving the Arboretum better than she found it—more vibrant, in fact, than it has been in decades. She has expanded an already impressive staff and forged new, improved relationships with the public and with our conservation partners. Karen has increased programming for public education, citizen science, and graduate research. And, closest to my heart, she has helped launch a new era of dedication and collaboration with FOA. Karen has truly been one of our best Friends. Her years of positive leadership will continue to be a source of inspiration at the Arboretum.

## Luncheon-Lectures February–June 2024

Luncheon-Lectures are held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Arboretum Visitor Center Auditorium. A **buffet** lunch is followed by an educational presentation. This popular series fills up quickly, so register as soon as you can. Registration confirmation will be sent to you. You can register online at [foamadison.org](http://foamadison.org) or send a check payable to Friends of the Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Hwy., Madison, WI 53711. The cost of each Luncheon-Lecture is \$40.

We are very pleased to announce that **Blue Plate Catering of Madison** will continue to provide culinary services for the spring Luncheon-Lecture series. Enjoy the wonderful cuisine!

**Meet an Arboretum staff member.** An Arboretum staff member will be seated at each table during the lunch and presentation.

Here is a list of dates for the remaining lectures. More detail is available on our website.

### Tuesday, February 13, 2024:

*Ecological Restoration at Holy Wisdom Monastery*—Amy Alstad, Director of Land Management and Environmental Education

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

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

**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

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

## Grass-to-Gardens Initiative

It's back: the third annual Grass-To-Gardens initiative sponsored by FOA! This initiative provides free rain garden plant mixes to community members to promote native plantings and beneficial water management. See more information and application material at [foamadison.org](http://foamadison.org). Watch for our report on last year's program in the upcoming *NewsLeaf!*





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

Friends of the Arboretum  
1207 Seminole Highway  
Madison, WI 53711-3726  
608-890-2555  
arboretum.wisc.edu

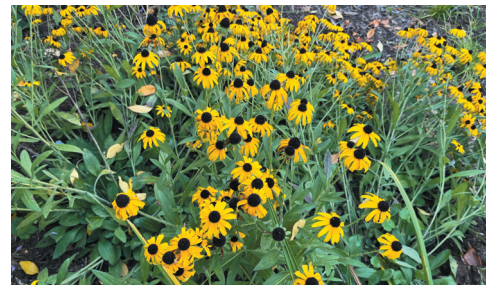
Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Madison, WI  
Permit No. 1360

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## 2024 Native Plant Sale: Online Ordering January 1–March 31



**Questions or need help ordering?**  
Email Lily Butler at [npscoordinator@foamadison.org](mailto:npscoordinator@foamadison.org) or call our office at (608) 890-2555 and leave a message.

*Photo Credits: Vince Aiello, Taylor Drogemuller, Maddie Norris, and Prairie Nursery*

**Your Donations at Work**  
Thanks to all of you, we had a very successful end-of-year fundraising season. So far a total of \$75,000 was brought in from our end-of-year appeal. This is a 36% increase over the same time last year. From free public offerings such as nature hikes and family nature walks to winter trail use and visitor center exhibits, your donation to the Friends of the Arboretum fund are spent directly on programming and projects that support the mission of the Arboretum to conserve and restore Arboretum lands and to foster the land ethic. Thank you for your continued support and be on the lookout for the 2023 Annual Report!  
— Erica Lee, Advancement Manager, UW–Madison Arboretum

**Explore the UW–Madison Geology Museum**  
1215 Dayton Street, Madison  
Tuesday, February 20, 9:00–Noon  
Cost \$35.00  
Limited to 25 people  
Participants provide their own transportation

We invite you to join FOA for a visit to the UW-Madison’s Geology Museum to learn more about the natural wonders displayed in the many geological formations across Wisconsin—from our rich deposits of galena to our impressive cliffs of quartzite. This trip will begin with a 60 minute guided tour of the museum, followed by a peek behind the scenes to learn more about the museum’s collection. At the end of the trip, PhD candidate Chelsea Volpano will tell us about the exciting research she is conducting. We hope to gather after the tour at a local lunch spot to reflect on our experience. See registration details including parking and accessibility information at [foamadison.org](http://foamadison.org)

