

NewsLeaf Friends of the Arboretum Newsletter

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

Fall 2024

Volume XXXIX No. 4

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Native Plant Sale

January is Just Around the Corner!



Start Your Garden Planning Early

Orders Can Be Made in Early January
Tent Sale Scheduled for May 17, 2025

More Information to Come in the Next *NewsLeaf*

Welcome New Arboretum Director

Patrick Bohlen, a professor of biology at the University of Central Florida (UCF), has been selected as the new director of the Arboretum. He will start in his leadership role at UW-Madison on October 20.

From 2010-2022, Patrick was director of Landscape and Natural Resources and Arboretum at UCF, where he oversaw landscape design, land management, and student and public engagement with nature programs.

He implemented a student leadership program that now includes nearly 60 interns and coordinators per semester at the UCF Arboretum.

His research interests have spanned ecosystem ecology, agroecology, and urban and wetland ecology. His current research focus is on pollinators and other insects in urban ecosystems. Earlier in his career, he studied the effects of earthworms in a variety of ecosystems. His post-doctoral research focused on soil processes in northern hardwood forests.

Prior to working at UCF, he was director of the Agroecology program at Archbold Biological Station. His experience there included several conservation partnerships, including a payment-for-ecosystem-services program on Florida ranches. As research director, he led multi-disciplinary research projects with university partners focused on the ecology, environmental impact, and conservation value of Florida's cattle ranches.

Patrick says, "I am thrilled to have been selected to be the next director of the



Patrick Bohlen

Arboretum, and I am eager to work with Friends of the Arboretum to help strengthen and advance the Arboretum's mission. Friends make such an important contribution to the Arboretum program, as volunteers, supporters, and through fundraising events such as the annual native plant sale, which I am keen to attend next spring! I am thankful to have such a strong group of advocates in FOA, and I look forward to working with you to support the Arboretum's integrative programs in research, land stewardship, education and community engagement."

Arboretum Interim Director Josh Goldman says, "Patrick's scientific background combined with his administrative experience will be a great benefit to the Arboretum. I look forward to working with Patrick to enhance our already excellent collaboration with FOA."

We are excited to welcome Patrick Bohlen to the Arboretum and thank Josh Goldman for his leadership while the national search for a new director was conducted.

Meet Your New FOA President

By Kate VandenBosch



I'd wager that every Friend of the Arboretum has a story about when they fell in love with the Arboretum. Maybe it was on a hike through the Curtis Prairie when the tall grasses turned golden in

the slanting light of an October afternoon. Or perhaps when volunteering, through the shared satisfaction of progress made by a dedicated crew against an onslaught of invasive species. For me, it was 40 years ago, on a couple of early dates with my now husband, Tom. We walked the loop through the Gallistel Woods and the Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, admiring early spring ephemerals and the view from the conifer collections on the hill. Soon thereafter, we made an outing to Curtis Prairie to watch the woodcocks perform their sky dance, and I was hooked.

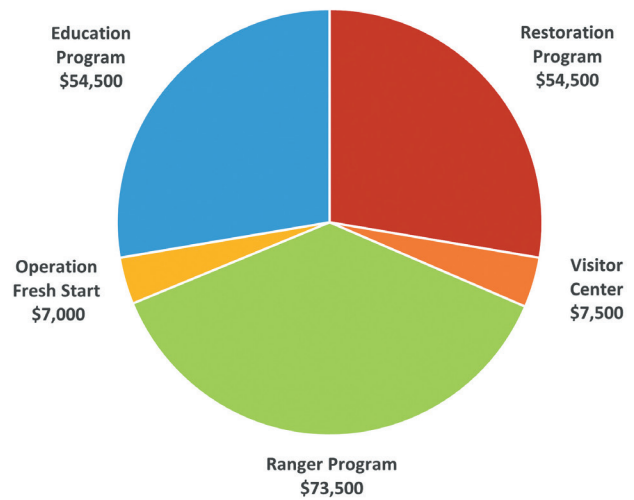
I'd recently arrived in Madison for a research appointment at UW–Madison after completing graduate study in botany in Massachusetts. I was already familiar with Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, so an introduction to the Arboretum, where Leopold had been so influential, was a real treat. Opportunities took me away from Wisconsin to other places— first to England, then to faculty appointments in Texas, then Minnesota—but I always thought it would be wonderful to wind up my career back in Madison. In 2012, the opportunity arose to come back to UW–Madison as dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. After a decade in that role, I am now retired. I'm delighted to have more time to spend at the Arboretum—volunteering in the Native Plant Garden, hiking the trails, photographing insects and serving on the FOA board, this year as president.

As I acclimate to this new role, I would like to thank Kate Martin for her amazing accomplishments in the past two years as board president and for her help in the transition. Thanks also to all our FOA board members and staff, who support the Friends' activities with their many talents. We are excited to welcome Patrick Bohlen, the new director of the Arboretum, later this month and to introduce him to the community of FOA. And we look forward to bringing you new Luncheon-Lectures, trips and tours, and of course the Native Plant sale next May.

In the meanwhile, I hope to run into you at the visitor center or on the trails. I'd love to hear your story of falling in love with the Arboretum and about the experiences that keep you coming back and prompt you to be a Friend.

Your Donations at Work

FOA Operating Budget Support for the Arboretum
2023-24
\$197,000



Since 1963, FOA has provided vital financial support to the Arboretum. Donations support a variety of activities to enhance programming and impact nearly every aspect of the Arboretum. From the restoration team leader program to the educational and outreach programs that are offered free of charge, your donation makes a difference. The chart above shows FOA operating budget support for the Arboretum last year. In addition to these donations, FOA also provides one-time support for high-priority projects when funds are available (such as the new electric lawnmower and proposed BCycle station). Thank you!

— Erica Lee, Advancement Manager,
UW–Madison Arboretum

Leaves

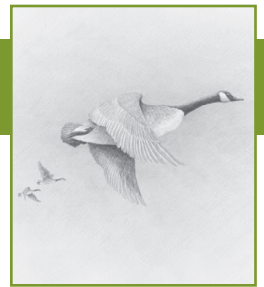
Leaves of the summer, lovely summer's pride,
Sweet is the shade below your silent tree,
Whether in waving copses, where ye hide
My roamings, or in fields that let me see
The open sky; and whether ye may be
Around the low-stemm'd oak, robust and wide;
Or taper ash upon the mountain side;
Or lowland elm; your shade is sweet to me.

Whether ye wave above the early flow'rs
I' lively green; or whether, rustling sere,
Ye fly on playful winds, around my feet,

In dying autumn; lovely are your bow'rs,
Ye early-dying children of the year;
Holy the silence of your calm retreat.

— William Barnes

2024–2025 Luncheon-Lectures



Luncheon-Lectures are held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Arboretum Visitor Center. A buffet lunch is followed by an educational presentation. 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 \$45.

Blue Plate Catering of Madison will continue to provide culinary services for the Luncheon-Lecture series this year. Enjoy the tasty cuisine!

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

Wednesday, October 23, 2024: **Gardening for Hummingbirds** by Michael & Kathi Rock. Hummingbird gardening has been their passion for over 20 years! Learn how to create a sanctuary for the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird in your own backyard. Through the use of perennial and annual plants, wildflowers, shrubs, trees, water features, and hummingbird feeders, you can discover the magic and enchantment of hummingbirds!

Thursday, November 14, 2024: **A Musician and a Score: The Spirit of Experimentation in Music and Science** by Dr. Paul Hanson, Research Professor, UW–Madison Center for Limnology will be joined by professional musicians Chris Wagoner and Mary Gaines. Surprisingly, science and music are very similar disciplines. Both scientists and musicians are creators whose work establishes a foundation for future experimentation and discovery in their respective disciplines. In this hybrid lecture/musical performance, the group will use the history of Lake Mendota’s water quality as a theme to demonstrate how cycles of creativity connect the realms of science and music.

Tuesday, January 14, 2025: **Gravel Gardens for a Changing Climate** by Jeff Epping, Horticultural Consultant and Garden Designer–Jeff Epping Design & Consulting, LLC. In these challenging times of climate change, environmentally conscious gardeners are looking for better ways to garden. Water-guzzling, chemical-dependent, pollution-causing lawns are not sustainable and can be replaced with better alternatives such as earth-friendly gravel gardens that require little water and no fertilizer, chemicals, or mulches. Don’t be fooled by the name, these gardens are as beautiful as they are resilient, and they support a myriad of native fauna.

Tuesday, February 11, 2025: **Gardening with Native Plants at Olbrich Botanical Gardens and Related Tips to Take Home** by Erin Presley, Horticulturist, Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Olbrich Botanical Gardens is a leader in the use of native Midwestern plants in a wide variety of garden styles. Erin will discuss how native plants are selected for Olbrich Gardens and how they’re managed to promote their ecosystem value while providing an inspirational experience for 350,000 annual visitors. Hear some down-to-earth, relatable advice for people at any stage of the journey of native plant gardening!

Tuesday March 11, 2025: **Buzzing Gardens and Landscapes: Bumble Bee Conservation in Wisconsin** by Judy Cardin, Educator, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bumble Bee Brigade Citizen Science Program and Susan Carpenter, Native Plant Garden Curator, UW–Madison Arboretum. Discover the fascinating life history and habitats of Wisconsin’s native bumble bees and learn how to help these important pollinators. Participate in the statewide citizen-based monitoring project—Bumble Bee Brigade. Judy and Susan will share the latest findings from the project and tell us what to watch for as bumble bee season begins. Join us in conserving Wisconsin’s bumble bees!

Thursday, April 10, 2025: **Studying and Reducing Bird and Window Collisions** by Brenna Marsicek, Director of Outreach, Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance. Up to a billion birds die every year in the U.S. after striking windows, and almost half of those accidents occur at residential buildings. The good news is that preventive measures are easy and affordable! Brenna will share the science behind these collisions and describe a local citizen science group’s study of the problem. She’ll provide recommendations on ways to modify home windows to make them safe for birds.

Wednesday May 7, 2025: **Preserving Green Space in Urban Areas** by Brian Ohm, Professor Emeritus, Department of Planning & Landscape Architecture, UW–Madison. Wisconsin has a rich history as a national leader in the preservation of green space in both urban and rural areas. Brian will explore the history and the evolving concepts of green space. He will also provide an overview of current preservation practices and the challenges for the future.

Wednesday, June 4, 2025: **What’s New in the Wisconsin State Climatology Office** by Steve Vavrus, Wisconsin State Climatologist. The State Climatology Office (SCO) has been recently revitalized with additional resources, a new director, and expanding staff. The SCO conducts basic and applied research and provides climate services to help Wisconsinites use weather and climate information more effectively. The SCO’s work expands our understanding of Wisconsin’s fascinating climate and helps decision-makers around the state. Steve will explain how the SCO monitors Wisconsin’s weather variations and long-term climate changes since the 1800s.



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Betty Scott with her friend Kayla. Photo Credit: Jane Albert

Meet a Friend of the Arboretum: Betty Scott

Tell us about yourself. How long have you been a Friend?

I was born and raised in Iowa during the Great Depression. I remember going to the butcher shop with my sister to buy round steak for family dinner for only 20 cents! In high school, I earned a \$100 scholarship to the University of Iowa where I studied education. After teaching in Iowa for a period, I enrolled at UW—Madison where I earned a master's degree. After graduating, I taught for many years at Madison East and LaFollette High Schools.

What motivates you to support the Arboretum?

I love nature and feel that it's important to have green spaces in cities. Appreciating nature and the natural world has been important to me throughout my life.

Where is your favorite place in the Arboretum? Why?

My favorite area is the lilac collection in Longenecker Horticultural Gardens.

I love their incredible beauty and fragrance when in bloom. I'm already looking forward to next May!

Have you participated in the Luncheon-Lectures, joined any field trips, or patronized the Native Plant Sale?

I started attending the Luncheon-Lectures during the 1980s and have been a regular patron ever since. The lectures are very educational, and I enjoy seeing old friends and making new acquaintances at the events. I'm registered for all the events in the series this year. In past years, I participated in trips and tours sponsored by the Arboretum, including a very memorable trip to Wyalusing State Park.

We extend a special thank you to our intrepid reporter, Kayla, for her delightful interview with Betty. We hope to introduce you to more Friends of the Arboretum in our coming newsletters.

Help Bring Bike Share to the Arboretum

Riding a bike is an enjoyable, sustainable, healthy and practical way to visit the Arboretum. To help expand transportation options for visitors, the Arboretum has developed plans to install a Madison BCycle station near the Visitor Center. The station will provide an environmentally friendly method for visitors to ride in and securely park the ebike, then spend time hiking the trails, attending an event or class, or simply communing with friends and nature.

The project cost is \$50,000, which includes concrete pad installation, docks, bicycles, batteries and other components. The UW—Madison Green Fund will contribute over half of the expenses. To raise the remaining \$25,000, the Arboretum launched a crowdfunding campaign in September.

FOA has pledged \$15,000 in matching funds for every dollar raised in the campaign. The campaign has already generated \$8,000 in donations from approximately 50 individuals, including an initial \$4,000 gift from a generous donor.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the campaign. If you haven't yet already donated, you can still contribute to this important initiative to enhance Arboretum transportation options for students, neighbors, and community members. Every dollar you contribute now will be matched by FOA! If you would like to contribute to the project, contact Advancement Manager Erica Lee at ealee7@wisc.edu.