

NewsLeaf Friends of the Arboretum Newsletter

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

Winter 2025

Volume XL No. 1

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Native Plant Sale™



Start planning your new garden today! For a list of available plants, scan the QR code below. You can order online or purchase plants in person at the tent sale—May 17th.



Lily Butler

Shop the Native Plant Sale in the Tent in 2025

**Save the date:
May 17, 2025**

**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, 2025.

**Our online store:
foamadison.org**

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

- A full catalogue of available species can be found at our online store at foamadison.org (or scan the QR code below).
- Trees and shrubs will be distributed 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 12th. 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.**
- Our popular mixed plant kits are available for rain gardens, savanna

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garden short grass prairie gardens, pollinator gardens, and gardens which help sustain the endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.

Onsite offerings will include a wide variety of species available as individual plants as well as the mixed plant kits described above, 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



We will again offer our popular citizen science kits in collaboration with Journey North in 2025. These kits focus on plants that produce nectar which helps sustain two migrating species that we treasure—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:

- A colorful garden sign to tell passersby that your planting is part of a citizen science project.
- 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.

Grass-to-Gardens Initiative

We are proud to sponsor our fourth annual “Grass-to-Gardens” initiative! As part of our mission to build positive relationships between people and the land, the initiative is designed to reduce turf grass and increase the number of native plant gardens in the Madison area. We are excited to continue this initiative by donating three garden kits to community members—individuals or organizations who have a presence or live in the Madison area. The kits include 32 plants and cover a garden area of approximately 35 to 65 square feet. Recipients can choose either a Rain Garden Kit or an Endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Garden Kit. You can apply at the FOA website: foamadison.org.

Welcome Allison Eyring-Green, New Plant Sale and Events Coordinator

Allison Eyring-Green has a passion for native plants! She’s a graduate of the University of Illinois, where she earned a degree in Landscape Architecture with a focus on ecological restoration. She’s been an independent landscape designer for the past twenty years. In that role, she’s managed all aspects of the design process for residential master plans and coordinated with installation contractors and nurseries to achieve project specifications.



Allison Eyring-Green

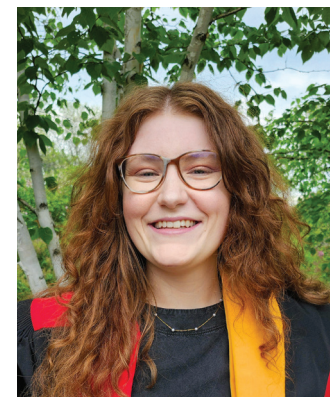
She has volunteered as a plant expert at several Native Plant Sales and assisted with planting, seed collection and maintenance around the Arboretum Visitor Center. Allison also has professional marketing and customer service experience. In her free time, Allison explores fiber arts. She recently exhibited a quilt in the Arboretum Visitor Center’s Steinhauer Trust Art Gallery as part of a group show. She can be found walking her rescue dog or hanging out with her spouse and two teenagers in Middleton.

The scope of the position she assumes with FOA has been expanded compared with past duties. In addition to leading and managing all aspects of the annual Native Plant Sale, Allison will also serve as coordinator for FOA’s luncheon-lectures and trips/tours. FOA Business Manager Donna Halleran, who previously acted as events coordinator, will now focus on financial management duties and take on additional responsibilities in that realm. We thank Donna for her tremendous accomplishments as events coordinator, particularly her unwavering, steadfast support of the luncheon-lectures series.

Please join us in welcoming Allison Eyring-Green to FOA. Be sure to stop by and say hello to her at the Native Plant Tent Sale this spring!

Thank You Lily Butler

Over the past two years, Lily Butler served as Native Plant Sale Coordinator. She achieved remarkable results during her tenure, generating nearly \$100,000 in support of Arboretum initiatives. She led significant improvements to the plant sale online storefront, making it easier for Friends and other customers to plan their gardens with certainty earlier in the season.



Lily Butler

While she served with FOA, Lily completed her Master of Science in Environmental Conservation at UW–Madison’s Nelson Institute. Since completing her degree, she has taken a position with Gathering Waters—Wisconsin’s Alliance for Land Trusts—in the role of Events and Outreach Coordinator. She has graciously agreed to help shepherd the current plant sale while Allison transitions into her new position, and she’ll volunteer for plant sale committee in the future. We congratulate Lily on her amazing accomplishments with FOA and wish her the best in the next phase of her environmentally focused career. Many thanks, Lily!

Luncheon-Lectures February–June 2025



Seats are still available!

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.

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.

Tuesday, March 11, 2025: **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.

Thursday, April 10, 2025: **Studying and Reducing Bird and Window Collisions** by Brenna Marsicek, Director of Outreach, Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance.

Wednesday, May 7, 2025: **Preserving Green Space in Urban Areas** by Brian Ohm, Professor Emeritus, Department of Planning & Landscape Architecture, UW–Madison.

Wednesday, June 4, 2025: **What's New in the Wisconsin State Climatology Office** by Steve Vavrus, Wisconsin State Climatologist.

2024 President's Report

While we welcome the new season, we reflect on our challenges and achievements over the course of the prior year. I would like to share a few of the amazing successes by Friends of the Arboretum during 2024. In doing so, I would like to thank Kate Martin who served two years as FOA president, through June of 2024, for her guidance and mentorship as I transitioned into my new role.

- FOA contributions to the Arboretum continue to grow. In fiscal year 2023–24, total donations were up 12 percent over the prior year, while our average donation increased by 28%. We welcomed over 100 new donors during that time, which is a remarkable achievement given that many nonprofit organizations have experienced reductions in support over the past several years. We are especially grateful and thank all of you for being such good friends of the Arboretum!
- Last fall, FOA pledged \$15,000 in matching for a project to install a BCycle station near the Arboretum Visitor Center. The station will provide an environmentally

friendly method for visitors to ride in and securely park their ebike, then spend time hiking the trails, attending an event or class, or simply communing with nature.

- In July, five new board members joined FOA. They bring a broad range of experience—from legal to financial to ecological to communications—to FOA, along with fresh ideas and vigorous energy.
- In December, we recruited a new Native Plant Sale and Events Coordinator to replace our previous coordinator of two years. (See related article on page 2.)
- Our 2024 Native Plant Sale was a great success! Total plant sales included over 100 trees and shrubs; 7,600 forbs, grasses and sedges were sold at the tent sale, and more than 11,400 forbs, grasses and sedges were sold in the online sale; as a result of the sale, an estimated 1,400 square feet of native plant pollinator gardens were planted, and 2,000 square feet of home gardens will be converted to rain gardens. The event raised over \$40,000 to support Arboretum initiatives.

- We led three popular trips last year: a return trip to Horicon Marsh, a tour of the UW–Madison Geology Museum, and a forest bathing experience in the Arboretum. We planned two very interesting events for the coming spring and hope to offer additional trips later in the year.
- Our Luncheon-Lectures Committee did a fantastic job scheduling interesting speakers and providing delicious meals in a sustainable manner. Attendance has been strong. Note that there are still seats available for our spring luncheon-lectures, so sign up soon!

I would like to thank our generous Board members who contributed their time and talents to making these activities a success.

I hope that each of you has had the opportunity during this past year to experience the Arboretum, and I hope to see each of you there—on the trails, in the gardens, at the plant sale, or in a class or tour—over the coming year.

—Kate VandenBosch
FOA Board President



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Spring Trips

Register online at foamadison.org or send a check payable to FOA: Friends of the Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711.

Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois—April 22

Join Friends of the Arboretum for Earth Day at the Morton Arboretum. We will tour the East Woods to see spring ephemerals, explore the Schulenburg Prairie and visit the Herbarium. Our guide for the day will be Andrew Hipp, PhD, Director of the Herbarium and Senior Scientist in Plant Systematics. We hope to see some spring wildflowers, including some not found at the UW—Madison Arboretum. We will learn about the restoration of the 100 acre prairie and the experimental plots. At the Herbarium we will get a behind the scenes glimpse of how the Herbarium aids biodiversity research. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit this world-class facility.

The trip is scheduled from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Transportation will be provided by comfortable coach to/from the Morton Arboretum and between areas on site. Water and snacks for the return trip will be provided on the bus. Admission is included. Lunch will be available for purchase at the Ginko Restaurant or the Grab and Go Café (or bring your own). Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes. Cost: \$125 per person.



Holy Wisdom Prairie, Middleton—May 22

Join Friends of the Arboretum for “Butterflies, Bumble Bees and Blooms” at the beautiful Holy Wisdom Monastery Prairie. Sundial lupines and wild indigo will be blooming on the hillside prairie overlooking Lake Mendota, and we have a wonderful lineup of speakers for this outdoor event with guided walks through the prairie. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn from experts in a lovely prairie setting. We will learn about:



- Monarchs and Milkweeds—Karen Oberhauser Director, Monarch Larva Monitoring Project and Professor Emeritus, UW—Madison Entomology
- Holy Wisdom’s Sustainable Energy Achievement using renewable solar and geothermal resources—Amy Alstad, Holy Wisdom Director of Land Management and Environmental Education
- Wisconsin Bumble Bees—Judy Cardin and Bob Plamann, Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade
- Prairie Flowers and Pollinators—Micah Kloppenburg, Xerces Society Pollinator Habitat Specialist, and David Kelly Master Naturalist.

The tour is scheduled from 12:30 to 3:45 p.m. Transportation to Holy Wisdom Prairie is not provided. Bring water or snacks. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes. Cost: \$40 per person.

Your Donations at Work

Your donations to Friends of the Arboretum support a wide variety of programs and projects. Financial contributions help fund our ranger and steward programs, which provide much needed maintenance and visitor stewardship on over 17 miles of trails throughout the year. They also support our team of naturalists who offer educational tours, hikes, and lectures to learners of all ages. Contributions are also vital to research, outreach, and land care efforts. Thanks to you, we had a very successful end of year fundraising season, raising over \$100,000 as of the end of December. We thank you for your continued partnership and look forward to seeing you in the months ahead.

— Erica Lee, Advancement Manager, UW—Madison Arboretum

Poem

Blending with the wind,
 Snow falls;
 Blending with the snow,
 The wind blows.
 By the hearth
 I stretch out my legs,
 Idling my time away
 Confined in this hut.
 Counting the days,
 I find that February, too,
 Has come and gone
 Like a dream.

—Ryōkan