Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Celebrates 35 Years

Connie Paxton, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc. Administrator

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum celebrates its 35th anniversary this year. Though its goals and efforts were always expansive, a statewide network of gardens has been at the core from its beginning. Arbor Lodge in Nebraska City was designated the first accredited arboretum in 1976. Today, the network of arboreta, parks, historic properties and other public and private landscapes stretches from border to border, boasting 95 affiliated sites in more than 50 Nebraska communities.

To see just how unique this network is, I invite you to visit the Campus of a Thousand Oaks at Peru State College, with 45 varieties of native oaks and oak hybrids, and more to be added.

Or take a drive to Taylor, where the Taylor Community Arboretum is just that—spread across the community. It includes the interior town square, park, library, visitor center, historic Pavilion Hotel and the three-building Loup County Museum complex. The arboretum features Taylor’s most famous arboricultural connection, the Taylor juniper. This very narrow, upright form of eastern redcedar was found growing naturally west of Taylor in 1978, and has become a popular landscaping tree nationwide.

On your next trip west, take a few minutes to discover Sallows Conservatory and Arboretum in Alliance, a tremendous community resource displaying plants that can thrive in western Nebraska and demonstrating the wonderful landscape possibilities these plants offer.

If you’re feeling adventurous but aren’t able to get away physically, you can visit the Arboretum’s website and take a whirlwind virtual tour of all 95 at arboretum.unl.edu.

The relation of people and trees in Nebraska history is widely known. Folks who live in Nebraska—the home of Arbor Day—usually recognize that an arboretum has something to do with trees. Certainly the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is about trees. But surprisingly, the word “tree” does not appear at all in its articles of incorporation. Instead the founders used the much more expansive word “flora,” which encompasses all kinds of plants—trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers, grasses, etc. Intended or not, this word choice was profoundly appropriate because, whether in the wild or in cultivation, trees grow best in the context of other plants, that is, in community.

And, as you will see from NSA’s rich history and from the many names and faces inside, so do people.
Leaves of Change

Sadly, the 35th Anniversary Issue of Leafings will be the last one I will oversee as administrator of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc. I have served the University of Nebraska Lincoln’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) for more than 18 years and it has been my privilege to be part of the NSA team since 2003.

I will be retiring Aug. 31, 2013 to pursue other professional interests, so I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your continued generous support of NSA and to reflect on how deeply grateful I am for the opportunity to have served the Arboretum’s members, volunteers, donors, advocates, board and partners.

It is the history and connection to the people who have so passionately served the Arboretum and IANR over the past 35 years that have been, and will continue to be, the foundation for my enthusiasm, inspiration and creativity.

Please join with me in celebrating the Arboretum’s bright beginnings, development and continued growth.

Connie J. Paxton, Administrator

“If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.”

Confucius

NSA, Inc. Board meetings are scheduled for Sept. 27 and Nov. 22, 2013. All board meetings are open to members and the public and include a time during which community comments can be made. Persons wishing to address the board are asked to contact the office at 402/472-2971 or arboretum@unl.edu prior to the meeting.

We are proud members of the American Public Gardens Association and the American Horticultural Society.
Many of the plants that will be offered at a Sept. 21 plant sale are hardy plants grown from seed gathered regionally. Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is hosting a sale of trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the greenhouses north of University of Nebraska-Lincoln east campus.

Horticulturist Bob Henrickson will give a tour of the display gardens at 11 a.m. Henrickson invites gardeners to “bring their problems” in the form of questions or photos of problem sites. “There’s a right plant for even the toughest spots,” Henrickson said.

Trees for sale include Taylor juniper, a very upright juniper growing 3 feet wide and 25 feet high. Though it’s as hardy as the highly-invasive Eastern redcedar, this narrow form is appropriate to even the most formal garden and not at all invasive.

Osage orange was once a standard hedgerow tree but is almost impossible to find in nurseries today. The wood is extremely dense; fenceposts have been known to last for more than 70 years. It’s also a useful landscape tree. Author and plantsman Guy Sternberg calls it “a wind-resistant, drought-resistant, disease-resistant, insect-resistant, pollution-resistant, everything-resistant species with many aesthetic attributes.”

Chokeberries are touted for nutritional value and several varieties will be available, including ‘Viking’. Originally selected for its extra-large berries, it also has masses of fragrant, white flowers in spring, red fall color and edible berries that persist into spring for returning robins.

Golden alexanders is an lesser-known, under-used prairie plant with flat heads of brilliant yellow flowers and bright green foliage. It can handle shade as well as sun. Other perennials include showy black-eyed Susan, one of the hardiest and most heavily-blooming of the Rudbeckias and prairie smoke with airy pink seedheads and purple fall foliage.

For grasses, Henrickson recommends Junegrass, which greens up earlier than most prairie grasses and has large, stout seedheads. Frost grass is a bold, bamboo-like grass growing 4 feet high that turns purplish in late fall. Unlike many other grasses, it can take light shade and does poorly in hot, dry sites.

For more information about the plant sale, go to arboretum.unl.edu/plant-sales or call 402/472-2971.
Henrickson Honored by UNL Horticulture Students

Bob Henrickson received the Presidents’ Citation for 2012-13, awarded by the presidents of University of Nebraska-Lincoln Horticulture Club and Pi Alpha Xi Horticulture Honor Society in recognition of service to UNL students. The award is presented to one individual each year who has “positively influenced horticulture and horticultural students at UNL.” Previous recipients have included faculty and industry professionals, including the late Harlan Hamernik.

The award is presented in recognition of service to UNL students. Previous recipients have included faculty and industry professionals, including the late Harlan Hamernik.

Horticulture Club president Laura Armbrust said, “It is the highest award that the two organizations can give and a lot of thought is put into nominations and selections.”

Henrickson has overseen dozens of interns over the years. Almost without exception, interns have considered their time under Bob’s tutelage as some of the most valuable career preparation they received during their college years.

Arborists Recognize Evertson for Writing & Outreach

At the spring 2013 meeting of the Midwestern chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, Justin Evertson was given the Society’s “Author’s Award of Excellence.”

Nominators wrote that Evertson had “written prolifically in support of forestry, environmental stewardship and many other related topics in a whimsical but ‘no-nonsense’ style that appeals to a wide demographic.”

Evertson is a major contributor to NSA’s Beneficial Landscapes blog and monthly columns, and his writing has been published in numerous newspapers, newsletters and other publications.

Evertson has compiled extensive lists of the state’s native plants and recommended plants for particular landscape uses. His lists and suggestions minimize guesswork, promote under-utilized species and, ultimately, improve community forestry throughout the state. Evertson’s practical advice on landscape management, combined with plant recommendations, awe of nature and “the occasional corny joke” communicate information in an appealing and usable way to readers and gardeners at every level of experience.

Evertson spends many hours weekly maintaining parks and school grounds in his hometown of Waverly. His efforts helping to manage large, public landscapes with minimal expense and effort make his recommendations forthright, honest and deeply practical.

Evertson’s experience with public landscapes, combined with a personable writing style and his ability to relate to the sensibilities of Nebraskans, give his writings a compelling and effective voice.

Evertson’s experience with public landscapes, combined with a personable writing style and his ability to relate to the sensibilities of Nebraskans, give his writings a compelling and effective voice.

Justin in his backyard nursery (“gotta grow more trees”); and planting trees with Waverly students.
Christina Hoyt, community landscape specialist for the Nebraska Forest Service and Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, received IANR’s Outstanding Employee Award for the second quarter of 2013, for going above and beyond job responsibilities.

Since joining IANR in 2004, Hoyt’s friendly and positive demeanor has inspired both internal and external team members to work together harder, nominators write. She “deals splendidly with the public, sharing knowledge in the teachable moments that come about during her work” and excels in interacting with children, “helping them to find the magic she sees in the natural world.”

In recent years Hoyt volunteered to coordinate duties for Project Learning Tree and Project Wet, which required additional training and effort to become certified. Nominators wrote that Hoyt kept the initiatives funded and on track, despite staff turnover, changes in funding sources and other hurdles.

Nominators also wrote that Hoyt volunteered for training “in the very detailed hard science” including stormwater drainage, horticulture, botany and Nebraska Department of Roads’ requirements for grant funding, while verifying accounting accuracy for massive public grant projects. She also successfully works on appropriate plant selection and aesthetically pleasing designs in several simultaneous landscape-oriented projects statewide.

Hoyt Named IANR Outstanding Employee

NSA Grows Interns (as well as plants)

Rachel Anderson
Ryan Armbrust
Jeff Carstens
Zack Fergus
Kristy Fortik
Leah Goossen
Anne Houser
Christina Hoyt
Jonathan Jacobs
Kristina Jensen
Christine Karloff
Sue Kohles
Kay Kottas
Dan Kuhl
Linne LaLire
Carol Lane
Brian Larsen
Lacy Liebhart
Lindsey Moore
Chris Mooter
Kate Schumacher
Aaron Sedivy
Joe Smith
Lisa Sutton
Julie Van Meter
Carter Westerhold

Lee Wheeler, Peace Corps in Zambia
Anne Houser, Kinghorn Gardens
Rachel Anderson will begin graduate school fall 2013 at the University of Iowa

Linne LaLire, freelance landscape architect
Aaron Sedivy, Denver Botanic Gardens
Christine Karloff, Papio Valley Nursery, Inc.
Unlike any other arboretum in the nation, Nebraska’s statewide arboretum fulfills the unique vision of its founders—to improve the state’s community landscapes across the state. Now, 35 years later, the founders’ successful endeavor continues to inspire Nebraskans to choose plants that are appropriate for their specific region.

The idea of a statewide arboretum was first discussed publicly as early as 1958, when Dr. Joseph O. Young assumed his duties as chairman of the Department of Horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR).

Raised in southwestern Connecticut, Young wrote he had “always been surrounded by trees.” Growing up, he recalled childhood visits to the Jennings, Bedford and New York Botanical Garden. While completing his education in Chicago, he became enthralled by the Morton Arboretum. He remained in Chicago to do research for the Libby, McNeil and Libby Company, a producer of canned foods, which required travel to the Great Plains. Witnessing the treeless vistas of the west, he became keenly aware of the impact climate had on regional plant communities.

When he came to Nebraska in 1958, Young quickly learned Nebraska’s arboricultural traditions—Arbor Day; Nebraska National Forest in Halsey; the thousands of miles of windbreak plantings across the state; Armistice Day Freeze; Old Jules Sandoz’s orchard; and other aspects of tree-planting on the Great Plains. He immediately recognized the importance of trees in Nebraska and recommended adding the word forestry to the departmental name. This insightful step recognized and drew together some of the important research being done by Karl Loerch in extension forestry, Walter Bagley in teaching and research and a federal research group then headed by Ralph Read. As the idea of a Nebraska arboretum continued to germinate in his mind, Young collaborated with these and other university visionaries like Glenn Viehmeyer and Roger Uhlinger.

Young wrote, “One couldn’t travel in out-state Nebraska without being immediately aware of the paucity of trees and tree species. Our western Nebraska cities would be nearly devastated by the removal of Siberian elm, green ash, a couple of junipers, hackberry and a few conifers. Surely more needed to be done. The work of J. Sterling Morton and his Arbor Day colleagues needed to be speeded up and buttressed by newer scientific knowledge.”

Knowing the steep climatic gradients that existed across Nebraska and how the altitude increased westward as the humidity decreased, he realized that work centered in Lincoln would not be meaningful to Sidney, Broken Bow, Alliance or Scottsbluff. Young wrote, “Nebraska is a true transition state and...
Selected Historical Highlights

1975  
Joseph Young appointed first curator of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
Roger Uhlinger appointed interim curator of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

1976  
Arbor Lodge becomes first arboretum site of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

1977  
Joseph Young resumes as Curator of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

1978  
NSA incorporated as a private nonprofit corporation associated with UNL
First meeting of Board of Directors
Wilbur (Bud) Dasenbrock becomes first NSA, Inc. Board President
First issues of ‘The Seed’ and ‘Leafings’ published

1981  
George Briggs becomes first director of NSA, Inc.

1986  
First landscape grant program established in partnership with Peter Kiewit Foundation

1987  
First Spring Affair event held in Lincoln
Kim Todd appointed Interim Director

1988  
Art Ode, Jr. becomes Director

1991  
Research Consortium established

1993  
Paul Read appointed Acting Director

1994  
James Locklear becomes Director

1996  
GreatPlants® for the Great Plains Program established

1997  
Nebraska Green Space Stewardship Initiative established

2000  
Website launched

2006  
Trees for Nebraska Towns Initiative established in partnership with the Nebraska Environmental Trust

2008  
NSA receives Urban Beautification Award from American Horticultural Society

2009  
Justin Evertson appointed Interim Director

2010  
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum merges with Nebraska Forest Service
Waterwise Initiative established in partnership with Nebraska Environmental Trust

2012  
Sustainable Schools Partnership established in partnership with the Nebraska Environmental Trust
Online Plant Store opens—nsaplants.org

This page, photos from top: Joseph Young; Bud Dasenbrock; George Briggs

Opposite page, photos from top: Joseph Young; Roger Uhlinger; Glenn Viehmeyer (news archive photo about flower introductions)
Willard Barbee recommended that Arbor Lodge State Park (historical home of J. Sterling Morton) be designated as the first affiliate site. Wayne State College, Blair City Parks, Earl Maxwell Arboretum, Nebraska Wesleyan University and others soon followed.

When Young returned from Afghanistan in the summer of 1977 to resume his duties as curator, his first order of business was to establish NSA as a legal entity and to tie the structure of this organization to the University. UNL Vice Chancellor Martin Massengale helped establish the Arboretum as an administrative unit of IANR, reporting directly to the vice chancellor. The NSA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were prepared with the assistance of a committee chaired by David McGill from the Department of Agronomy and were filed with the Secretary of State on Febr. 24, 1978.

This last step completed the legal, structural framework needed for Nebraska to embark on a cultural and academic voyage never previously undertaken in the United States or elsewhere. The Articles of Incorporation provided linkage with the University and other affiliates. It also gave the vice chancellor of IANR the power to designate an ex-officio member to serve on the executive board. The initial directors were Tommy Thompson, Wilbur (Bud) Dasenbrock, Robert Lommason and Joseph Young. Thirty-four Nebraska citizens signed as incorporators.

The concept grew more rapidly after Young spent a day in North Platte discussing these ideas with Glenn Viehmeyer, who served as a horticulturist and assistant professor at the University of Nebraska’s North Platte Experiment Station from 1943-1967. Viehmeyer had a national reputation for his work with strawberries and penstemon and for the 50 varieties of mums he had introduced.

Young wrote, “Glenn Viehmeyer was a living witness that a man can be a cowboy and westerner and a roughneck and gardener at the same time. He was rough and ready; brilliantly self-educated and uncannily assured when explaining the love-lives of flowers and trees to the ladies of Nebraska. He was the darling of the garden clubs and a friend to the whole west, Canada as well as the U.S.” Viehmeyer’s cowboy hat was in dramatic contrast to Young’s ubiquitous bowtie, but the two were like-minded friends working toward the same goal.

Unfortunately, in June of 1974 Viehmeyer died while traveling to a garden club convention in Colorado. His death, plus the upcoming bicentennial celebration of 1976, provided key rallying points for supporters of the statewide arboretum concept. Representatives of several state and federal agencies, including the State Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska and the American Penstemon Society, formed an inter-agency committee in the fall of 1974 to discuss possibilities for memorial and bicentennial plantings.

The University merged with this committee to form an arboretum advisory council and submit a proposal for a statewide arboretum to IANR. The proposal was approved and the University committed to funding a three-quarter-time curatorship and some technical support. University President Durward Varner publicly announced the proposal at Arbor Day ceremonies held at Arbor Lodge in April of 1975.

Uhlinger subsequently accepted an appointment as chairman of UNL’s Department of Horticulture and also as interim curator of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA), effective July 1, 1975, until Young could return from a tour of duty in Afghanistan. The dream was on the verge of coming true.

Under Uhlinger’s leadership, the committee established criteria for affiliation and began drafting a constitution and bylaws for NSA. Director of the Game and Parks Commission
NSA Founders

Signers of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Articles of Incorporation, February 23, 1978.

Hans Burchardt, Lincoln
Calvin Carsten, Avoca
Wilbur Dasenbrock, Lincoln
Lawrence Enersen, Lincoln
Mitchell A. Ferrill, Roca
Gladys Forsyth, Lincoln
Robert B. Gaul, Lincoln
Harlan F. Hamernik, Clarkson
Kermit Hansen, Omaha
Orville K. Hatcher, Omaha
Kip Hulvershorn, Lincoln
D. E. Hutchinson, Lincoln
Peter Jensen, Lincoln
Kenneth R. Krabbenhoft, Omaha
Lola Leu, Hayes Center
Robert C. Lomasson, Lincoln
Charles R. Maier, Wayne
David A. Osborn, Kearney
Val Peterson, Wayne
Nancy A. Pollack, Norfolk
Ralph A. Read, Lincoln
John E. Rosenow, Lincoln
Myron G. A. Rumery, North Platte
Lyle E. Seymore, Wayne
Donald Steinegger, Lincoln
Ralph W. Steyer, Blair
Richard K. Sutton, Lincoln
Tommy R. Thompson, Lincoln
Roger D. Uhlinger, Lincoln
John Weihing, Gering
Warren G. Whit, Lincoln
Dayle E. Williamson, Lincoln
Joseph O. Young, Lincoln
An arboretum can be many things—an outdoor classroom, a place for play or reflection, a testing ground for new plants, a stage for the performing arts—always they are places where plants are displayed to foster an appreciation of their beauty and educational value.

Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha is a welcome respite year-round.

A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them.  

*Liberty Hyde Bailey*
wide Arboretum
Landscape Steward Sites

for play or reflection, a testing ground for new plants, a stage for the
need to foster an appreciation of their beauty and educational value.

Omaha area affiliates

| Nebraska City | Creighton University Arboretum |
| Nebraska City | Elmwood & Memorial Park Arboretum |
| Omaha | Halleck Park Arboretum |
| Omaha | Pender Community Arboretum |
| Omaha | Good Sam Garden |
| Omaha | Scriber City Park |
| Nebraska City | Concordia University Arboretum |
| South Sioux City | South Sioux City Arboretum |
| Springfield | Springfield Library Arboretum |
| Stanton | Maskentine Lake Arboretum |
| Taylor | Taylor Community Arboretum |
| Tekamah | Hancock Home Farm |
| Wayne | Wayne State College Arboretum |
| York | York Foster Park |

Pender Community Arboretum—truly a community-wide garden.

Landscape Stewards

Alliance Sallows Arboretum
Alma Pheasant Point Arboretum
Bassett Bassett Memorial Park & Nature Trail
Bellevue Bellevue Community Arboretum
Cambridge J. Norman Walburn Memorial Arboretum
Chadron Chadron State College
Concord Northeast Arboretum
Creighton Bruce Park Arboretum
Crete Crete Area Medical Center Arboretum
Crete Crete Public Schools Arborum
Crofton Crofton Courts Arboretum
Falls City Itha T. Krumme Memorial Arboretum
Fremont Ridge Cemetery
Gretta Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center Arboretum
Hastings Central Community College
Hastings Good Samaritan Society - Hastings Village
Hastings Hastings College Arborutem
Hastings Highland Park Arborum
Hebron Arrowhead Gardens Arborum
Hickman Hickman Linear Park Arborum
Kearney Kearney Public Schools Arboretum
Lexington Stenberg Arboretum
Lincoln Joshua C. Turner Arboretum
Lincoln Lincoln Children's Zoo & Botanical Garden
Lincoln Lincoln Water System, Mayor's Water Conservation Task Force Garden
Lincoln Lower Platte South NRD Arboretum
Lincoln South Ridge Village Association
Lincoln Taylor Park
Lincoln Wyuka Cemetery
Milford Stan Matzke Arboretum
Minden Minden Community Arboretum
Nebraska City Nebraska City Schools Partnership Arboretum
Nebraska City Wildwood Park & Golf Course
Norfolk Northeast Community College
Omaha CABG Patch
Omaha Chalco Hills Arboretum
Omaha Creighton University Arboretum
Omaha Elmwood & Memorial Park Arboretum
Omaha Omaha Dwarf Town Arboretum
Omaha Omah Science Park Arboretum
Papillion Halleck Park Arboretum
Pender Pender Community Arboretum
Scriber Good Sam Garden
Scriber Scriber City Park
Seward Concordia University Arboretum
South Sioux City South Sioux City Arboretum
Springfield Springfield Library Arboretum
Stanton Maskentine Lake Arboretum
Taylor Taylor Community Arboretum
Tekamah Hancock Home Farm
Wayne Wayne State College Arboretum
York York Foster Park
The significance of the founding of NSA may have been best expressed at the 1979 Trees for Nebraska Conference by Professor Patrick Horsbrugh of Notre Dame University, founder of the Environic Foundation International:

“The development of this scientific and educational endeavor is an event of more than local and regional importance. This arbicultural prospect is of national importance if the undertaking is considered as a planning challenge no less than a dendrological exposition. This is the first time that the particular but limited dimensions of an arboretum have ever been considered as having statewide extent. The scale of the idea is as logical as the concept is daring. It should be explored as a demonstration of scientific significance, with special reference to climatic influence, soil fertility, erosions of every kind and water conservation, air pollution reduction, insect and wildlife vitality and to pest control and chemical effects.

The founding of NSA ‘for the promotion of knowledge, appreciation and the use of Nebraska plants, to introduce, evaluate and distribute useful plants for Nebraska landscapes’ is timely in what might be termed ‘landscape hygiene’ in the global panorama in which the condition of the earth must be viewed, hence forward.”

What began 35 years ago as a dream and an effort of a small group of statesmen, ranch women, plant growers, cowboys, foresters, researchers and horticulturists has evolved into a coalition of community builders, environmental stewards and others who love the land, whether it be the pristine prairies of the Sandhills, or a schoolyard in a challenging urban neighborhood. For 35 years, NSA has promoted plains-proven plants and landscapes and has inspired communities and gardeners across the Great Plains by offering regionally-appropriate plants and landscape information.

The vision of the Arboretum’s founders has expanded and allowed NSA to implement hundreds of landscape projects in communities statewide through funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (more on pages 18 and 19). These projects have enabled Nebraska communities to use sustainable and environmentally-sound landscape practices that conserve water, improve water quality, create habitat, improve air, save energy and restore community forests.

Today, you—the members of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum—carry forward the vision and imagination of NSA’s early pioneers and organizational founders. As we plant for the future, we invite you to take part in this 35th anniversary celebration and join in our commitment to foster “sustainable landscapes for healthy homes and communities” all across Nebraska by visiting one of the 95 arboretum sites (map on preceding pages). Look around your community and you will see the growing treasures of Young’s idea and his work, along with the work of so many others who have followed. Young said, “Ours is a pioneering effort and we have work enough for a thousand years.”

“Many people are first drawn to NSA because of a love for plants and beautiful landscapes, but eventually see plants as the means, rather than the end. Every arboretum created, every aging park renewed, every schoolyard made shadier, every nursing home made more inviting, is an act of kindness. And given the demographics of Nebraska, most of these are small acts of kindness, at least in terms of scale and scope. Kentucky farmer-poet Wendell Berry has suggested that a truly good society is one that is kind to small places. A lot of trees and landscapes have been planted over the past 30 years, but the more stirring story of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is the multitude of small places that have been made even more beautiful and even more humane because this organization exists.”

Jim Locklear, NSA Executive Director (1994-2008)
Thank You Volunteers!

The gift of service is invaluable to the Arboretum, and we are very appreciative of the many hours volunteers devote to our programs. Our volunteers share their many talents and time to make the Arboretum’s special events successful, especially Spring Affair. They also propagate cuttings, pot up seedlings and tend to the plants at the greenhouse in preparation for our spring and fall plant sales. Volunteers make it possible for us to do more in all aspects of our organization.

NSA volunteers contributed 1,304 hours of their time and talents this fiscal year.

That’s equivalent to $22,298.

Top photos left to right: Mary Elizabeth Lomax; Bob Vogel; Harold Dynneson; Janet Buck; John Dietrich; and Betty Olson.

Bottom photos left to right: Shelly Francis; Kim Todd; and Terri James.
The Morton family’s interest in trees was evidenced early on when an orchard, as well as shade and evergreen trees, were planted in 1858 around the four-room L-shaped structure that was to become Arbor Lodge. Both Mr. and Mrs. Morton were lovers of nature and their new home was adorned with trees, shrubs and flowers. Arbor Lodge represents one of the very earliest attempts at home landscaping in Nebraska.

In the same year, J. Sterling Morton was appointed Territorial Secretary, and upon the resignation of Governor Richardson became Acting Governor. (Morton would later become the first Nebraskan to hold a cabinet post when he was appointed Secretary of Agriculture by President Cleveland in 1893.)

In 1872, Morton presented a resolution to the State Board of Agriculture calling for an annual tree-planting day to be known as Arbor Day. On March 31, 1874, Governor Robert Furnas issued the first Arbor Day proclamation. The Arbor Day concept has since received widespread recognition across the U.S. and in several foreign countries.

The heirs of J. Sterling Morton donated the property to the State of Nebraska on Sept. 28, 1923, for ‘park purposes and reservations to conserve forest, animal and bird life.’

Morton has conclusively demonstrated that he practiced exactly what he preached by his extensive plantings on his own land near Nebraska City. Several of his farms contained large orchards, mostly surrounded by pine tree borders and the fine arboretum at Arbor Lodge, where more than 160 species and varieties are growing.

On the memorial monument at Arbor Lodge, which was dedicated by former President Grover Cleveland in 1905, is the inscription from the writings of Morton:

Other Holidays Repose upon the Past—
Arbor Day Proposes for the Future.”
The Newest—Good Sam Garden in Hastings

Paul Hamelink, Administrator of Senior Living, www.good-sam.com

The Good Samaritan Society-Hastings Village opened its doors to the first residents in 1957, but our campus’s history does not begin there. In the early 1940s, the U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot was constructed in east Hastings. Housing was quickly developed for workers and their families in the southeast corner of Hastings. After World War II ended, many of the residents of what was then called Spencer Park moved, leaving the housing development vacant. As with most buildings, once vacated they quickly fell into disrepair. Through the vision and dedication of Rev. William Goldbeck and August “Dad” Hoeger, the Spencer Park property was purchased by the Good Samaritan Society to become a retirement community.

Since our humble beginnings in 1957, we have grown to be a community of approximately 800 residents and employ 380 staff members. We offer several independent living options, including affordable housing. For those needing higher levels of care, we have both assisted living and skilled nursing facilities available on our campus. Another important asset to our campus is the Children’s Ark, which is a daycare and preschool that is highly utilized by the greater Hastings community.

We recognize the importance of providing our residents, guests and children with the opportunity to enjoy green spaces throughout our 138-acre campus. In the past year, Good Samaritan Society-Hastings Village has made landscaping of our campus a priority with the hiring of a full-time landscaper. Previously, the duties of landscaping and lawn care fell to our maintenance staff and even, in some cases, volunteers. With the recent addition of a professional landscaper to our staff, we now have an expert in design and in the care of our trees and plants.

In recent months, we have made great strides toward improving two of the gardens visible from our resident rooms located at our assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. This is a welcome improvement for those who get to enjoy the garden’s beauty.

We implemented rain gardens to reduce runoff and help replenish groundwater at our newest neighborhood, the Hastings Village Gardens. We hope to continue to add such features throughout our campus, as well as more trees, as we construct additional housing options.

Several of the trees that are located on our campus were originally planted as saplings when the village was first constructed. Other trees of note are three large spruce trees located at our skilled nursing facility. We believe they were planted when the building was completed in 1972. We have a very large flowering lilac bush, which our landscaper says is the largest one he has ever seen. The campus also has six ginkgo trees and one Ohio buckeye in addition to many other trees.

Since the 1980s, we have utilized an in-house tree nursery with approximately 150 various species to provide trees for our campus as necessary.

As a Landscape Steward site, we plan to increase the variety of plants and trees on our campus. We want our village to be a place where residents, staff and guests can enjoy the beauty of nature for decades to come.

Photo Credits

Most of the photos in this issue of Leafings are NSA photos. We apologize for any photo credits that may have been overlooked. Please feel free to contact arboretum@unl.edu with corrections.

Page 1: Wilbur (Bud) Dasenbrock, photo by Jessica Kelling
Page 6: Joseph Young, UNL archives
  Roger Uhlinger, UNL archives
  Glenn Viehmeyer, James Denney for the Omaha World Herald Midwest Magazine, September 1963
Page 7: Joseph Young & Wilbur (Bud) Dasenbrock, Luann Finke
  George Briggs, American Society of Landscape Architects
Page 9: Lola Leu, Charles W Guildner for Impressions in Silver 2001
  Dayle Williamson, Nebraska Agribusiness Club
  Lawrence Enersen, Triangle Modernist Archives, Inc.
Page 12: Jeff Culbertson, Backyard Farmer Facebook page
Page 13: Mary Elizabeth Lomax, Facebook
  Shelly Francis, Facebook
  Kim Todd, Backyard Farmer Facebook page
  Terri James, Joel Stuthman for Spring Affair 2013, Stuthman.com
Contributors

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc. gratefully acknowledges the following generous contributors for membership, annual fund, sponsorship and endowment gifts received between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

MEmBERSHIP SuPPORT
Recognizing donors whose membership gifts totaled $100 or more in vital support of the Arboretum.

Guarantor level ($1,000-1,499)
Walt Bagley
LaVerne Bish
Jim & Carolyn Brandle
George & Sara Briggs
Barbara Cizek
Wilbur (Bud) & Betty Dansenbrook
Warren Dunkle
Finke Gardens & Nursery
Dick Finke
Lyle & Diann Fieharty
Ken & Maureen Hake
Dr. & Mrs. Klaus Hartmann
Ron & Wanda Kelly
Ibrahim & Debra Khouri
Joe & Kay Kottas
Robert & Carol Lynch
Becky Anderson & Bill Minier
Papio-Missouri River NRD
Edward Rasmussen
Paul Read
Jan & Don Riggenbach
Roxanne Smith
Stock Seed Farms, Inc.
U.S. Bank

Sustainor level ($500-999)
Aesthetics, Inc.
HDR, Inc.
Hoffman Nursery
Susan Loeffel
Papio Valley Nursery, Inc.

Contributor level ($250-499)
George Acker
Barcel Landscape Products, Inc.
Big Muddy Workshop, Inc.
Bluebird Nursery, Inc.
Carol & Gary Bodeen
Kathy Burden
Joan & Jim Chambers

Ronald Crampton
Daniel J. Duncan & Dr. Paula L. Harre
Faller Landscape, Inc.
Bob & Nila Fessler
Finders Keepers Landscaping, L.L.C.
Great Plains Nursery
Mary Jessen
Carol A. Kraus
Charles Maier
Jeannie Owen
Bill Pospichal
Ty Sabin & Christina Dando
Tom Stalder & Eileen Rock
Dave & Peggy Stenberg
Susan & Mike Unruh
Vicek Gardens
Don Weldon
York General Hospital

Patron level ($100-248)
John Anderson
Mary Anna & Clyde Anderson
Jane Andrew
Catherine Angle
Aspen Greens Commons Assoc., Inc.
Earl Barney, D.D.S.
Sharon Blackburn
Samuel & Patricia Boon
Campbell’s Nurseries
Gary & Sharon Carlson
Jim & Rosalind Carr
Ann & Gary Chalupa
Countryside Bank, Unadilla
The H. (Pat) Cullan Family
Kirk & Joan Dietrich
Gerald B. & Kit Dimon
Mary Dobrovolny
Mary Ellen & Jim Duffack
Al Dutcher
John & Marty Eischeid
Dorene Eisentraeger
Barbara Else & Brad Carson
Lynn Embury
Richard Farlow
Charles & Eunice Fenster
Larry & Peg Fletcher

Charles & Barbara Francis
Deborah Geis
Pamela & David Gross
Kathy Gross
Russell R. Hahn
Ryan Haney
David Hastreiter
Michelle Hayes
Laurie Hodges
Catherine J. Hohman
Gerald Hunt
Carolyn Ireland
Mary Jo & Clifford Jarecke
Ruth & Jim Keene
Mr. & Mrs. James Kenner Jr.
Valetta Klahn
Ann & Robin Koozer
David & Adena Kreutz
Alison Krohn
K. Wayne Lainof
Will & Ginny Locke
Ann Marsh
Ann Martin
Midwest Tree Moving
Shannon Moncure
Etsuko & Hideaki Moriyama
Mary Ellen Mulcahy
Ian Newman
James F. Nissen
Monica Norby
Leslee O’Bradovich
Nancy Packard
Judy & Carlton Paine
Allison D. Petersen
Gene & Patricia Petersen
Jim Petersen
James Pryzynski
Charlene K. Rasmussen
Dennis & Gail Russell
Phyllis & Harry Salyards
Gregg & Debbie Schmadelke
Cynthia Schneider
Ross Scott
Jo Seiler
Amy Seiler
Linda L. Shaw
Cynthia Shuck
Frank C. Sidles
Pam Simonsen
Judith Smith
Doug & Karyl Smith
Amy Spiegel & Michael Hoffman
Bruce & Lisa Spilker
George Tom Surber
Richard & Lisa Sutton
Jan Thelen
Unadilla Area Foundation
Lorraine Urban
Tim Vala
Amy Vertin
Richard & Barbara Voeltz
Fred & Kathleen Vrana
Carlene & Phil Waldron
Tom & Ann Wardle
Steve Wehrbein
Kirsten Wettlaufer
Peggy Wheelock
Deborah & Robert Wighton
Jim & Judy Wighton
Jack Winship
Dorothy Wise
George Wolf
Julie & David Zahn
Dwayne D. Zobell

Organizational level ($100-248)
City of Auburn
City of Burwell
Central Community College
City of Crete
Douglas County Environmental Services
City of Grand Island, Parks & Recreation
Greenlife Gardens
Gretna Arbor Society
City of Hartington
LaVista Public Works Dept.
Lewis & Clark NRD
Lexington Tree Board
Loveland Garden Club of Omaha
Nebraska Game & Parks
John G. Neihardt Foundation
Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners
City of Papillion Tree Board
Parks of Pride Arboretum
Pender Tree Board
SCC - Physical Plant
City of Schuyler Tree Board
Schuyler Community School
City of South Sioux City
City of Springfield
Village of Sutherland
Tekamah Garden Club
City of Tilden
City of Valley
City of Wayne

IN-KIND GIFTS
Bluebird Nursery, Inc.
Chase Suite Hotel
Eclipse, Inc.
Hoffman Nursery, Inc.
NBE Solutions

IN MEMORY OF
Dale Bush
Karen L. Bashford
Harlan Hamernik
Bellevue Garden Club
Mitzi Fox
Joe Martin
Ann Martin

COMPANY MATCHING GIFTS
Becton Dickinson & Company
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska

EVENT UNDERWRITING
Spring Affair
Anonymous
Barcel Landscape Products, Inc.
Bluebird Nursery, Inc.
Comhusker Bank
Countrywide Bank, Unadilla
Lincoln Electric System
Outdoor Recreation Products
Stock Seed Farms, Inc.
Union Bank & Trust Company
Vice Gardens

Joseph & Dorothy Young Memorial Lecture in Horticulture
ABC Nursery
Barcel Landscape Products, Inc.
Berried Treasures, L.L.C.
Countrywide Bank, Unadilla

IN-KIND GIFTS
Bluebird Nursery, Inc.
Chase Suite Hotel
Eclipse, Inc.
Hoffman Nursery, Inc.
NBE Solutions

TRIBUTES
IN HONOR OF
Patricia Evans Austin & Larry Austin
Robert & Carol Lynch
John & Julie Petr
Jerry L. Petr

IN MEMORY OF
Dale Bush
Karen L. Bashford
Harlan Hamernik
Bellevue Garden Club
Mitzi Fox
Joe Martin
Ann Martin

GIFT NOTES
The support and recognition of all our donors is extremely important to us. We regret any errors and appreciate your corrections, which can be sent to arboretum@unl.edu.

HELP US GROW!
You can help expand our membership program by giving a special Gift of Membership. It not only keeps giving 12 months of the year, it is also your opportunity to introduce family, friends or neighbors to this wonderful horticultural resource and to share your passion for the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. Best of all, your tax-deductible gift helps this valuable community resource grow.

Join, renew or give the gift of membership today!

If you have a question, need a card replacement or need to change your contact information, contact Member Services Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 402/472-2971 or email arboretum@unl.edu.
NET Programs Improve Schools, Parks, Public Spaces

Justin Evertson, Green Infrastructure Coordinator

Back in 1997, NSA was awarded $1 million from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to work with communities and organizations across the state in designing and implementing sustainable landscape enhancement projects for public benefit. So began a partnership between NET and NSA that continues going strong. To date, NET has awarded more than $5 million to NSA to help fund several programs including the Nebraska Green Space Stewardship Initiative, Trees for Nebraska Towns, Waterwise Landscapes and the Sustainable Schoolyards Partnership. The common thread to all these initiatives is the message that the green spaces within the communities where we live, work and play are just as important, or maybe even more important, than the natural areas outside our towns. Through these initiatives, nearly 1,000 projects have been implemented in more than 200 different communities.

Although these projects can be valued monetarily (over $10 million in total to date), the best value is in the environmental and social impacts they’ve achieved: many thousands of trees and shrubs have been planted; hundreds of acres of lawn have been converted to prairie-inspired landscapes; communities have been beautified; drinking water supplies have been protected; wildlife habitat has been improved; and many Nebraskans have been educated and informed about the value of trees, native plants, biodiversity, water conservation and sustainable green space stewardship. Nothing gives us greater pleasure than helping our fellow Nebraskans make our communities greener and more environmentally sustainable, and the Nebraska Environmental Trust is one of our best friends in this regard.

Waterwise project being installed in Sidney.

Trees for Nebraska Towns Funding Available

Communities and organizations wanting to plant shade trees can apply for Trees for Nebraska Towns (TNT) grant funds from now until Oct. 1. The program, which focuses on plant diversity and sustainable landscapes, provides grant funding and technical assistance to public-oriented projects that emphasize the planting of large-maturing trees in Nebraska communities. Approximately $250,000 of TNT grant funds are available this year.

Grant Coordinator Kendall Weyers said, “Over the last few decades, community forests in Nebraska have lost 30-50 percent of their tree canopy to disease, insects, extreme weather, old age, development and human neglect.” TNT funds seek to replace these lost trees and the many benefits they provide. According to Weyers, “The positive impacts of trees go far beyond shade to a wide range of economic, environmental, aesthetic and social benefits.”

TNT funding, provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, a beneficiary of the Nebraska Lottery, is coordinated by the Nebraska Forest Service and is part of ReTree Nebraska’s 10-year effort to plant 1 million trees by 2017.

To be eligible, projects must provide clear public benefit and be located within or near the incorporated limits of a Nebraska community. Typical planting sites include but are not limited to street trees, parks, schools, college campuses, libraries, courthouses, fairgrounds and cemeteries. Funds are not available for private individuals or homeowners. For individuals interested in coordinating a neighborhood-wide tree planting project, Weyers suggests working through a neighborhood association or other local organization to apply for a TNT grant.

The application, due Oct. 1, requires advance planning and consideration so applicants are encouraged to begin the process early. The application is available online at retreenebraska@unl.edu. For more information, contact Kendall Weyers at 402/472-6693 or kweyers2@unl.edu.
Bringing Nature to Nebraska Schools

Rachel Anderson, Conservation Education
Assistant Coordinator

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is launching the Sustainable Schoolyard Partnership (SSP) this year, a new program designed to help Nebraska schools transform their landscapes into beautiful and ecological places that foster learning and healthy development. The Partnership includes training for teachers in environmental education and grants for landscape projects. Funding for this statewide, three-year initiative has been granted by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, a beneficiary of the Nebraska Lottery, and coordinated by the Nebraska Forest Service. All Nebraska elementary, middle and high schools have been invited to apply. The first six to ten partners will be selected in August.

The program was developed in response to research showing that most schoolyards do not have enough “rough” vegetation to provide the social, physiological or ecological benefits natural areas can provide. Through this program, NSA hopes to help schools shift their grounds from mostly pavement and lawn to plantings that offer students and staff a more diverse and stimulating experience. By incorporating aspects of sustainability like habitat for wildlife, energy-saving trees and gardens that conserve and clean water, schoolyards can serve as classrooms for stewardship and environmental education.

The bulk of the partnership will take place over the course of one school year and involves participation in the national GreenSchools! program. This renowned program gives students real-world learning and allows schools to save and earn money while helping the environment. It begins with a team of students, faculty, staff and community volunteers conducting hands-on explorations of the sustainability and ecological health of their school. Through data gathering and analysis, students apply math, science and technology to find out how the school’s environmental footprint can be improved and then use that information to make an action plan. Overall, GreenSchools! gives students the confidence and belief that they can make an impact.

NSA will be there to provide guidance and support as SSP partners become a GreenSchool! Later in the process, students use what they learned to help design the school landscape and undertake it as a service-learning project. Whether it is a butterfly garden, a rain barrel system or a total landscape revitalization, SSP will supply up to $20,000 to make the project a reality. After the installation, schools help manage and use the landscape. They can also give feedback about the program to NSA so next year’s partners can benefit from their experience.

Schoolyards serve as the setting in which young people develop into the next generation of voters, leaders and environmental stewards. Previously unused landscapes can be dramatically transformed by students into compelling places that teach about the environment while fostering well-being and healthier, more vibrant communities. By giving youth the tools and voice to lead, NSA hopes to inspire them to take personal responsibility in making sound environmental choices about the communities where they live.

Graduate Student Receives Research Award from NSA, Inc.

The recipient of the 2013-14 Graduate Student Research Award is William Ballesteros. His research focuses on reducing the release of gases and increasing carbon storage in soils and woody products.

Nebraska is among the top five states for agricultural production of greenhouse gas emissions but windbreaks or other agroforestry practices have been shown to limit carbon emissions to almost zero, besides offering a whole host of other benefits such as heating and cooling savings, increasing milk production and feed efficiency, providing habit, etc.

Ballesteros looks forward to sharing the research and knowledge he has gleaned in agroforestry both here in the U.S. and in his home country of Colombia when he completes his Ph.D.
Lots of Ways to Connect!

To receive our monthly e-newsletter with garden-related articles, ideas and photos, send an email to klarsen1@unl.edu.

Visit us on the web at arboretum.unl.edu, where you'll find plant and landscape information and recommendations, public gardens to visit, and other events and resources for Great Plains gardeners.

For information on how to become an Arboretum member, call 402/472-2971 or visit arboretum.unl.edu.

Become a fan on Facebook & Twitter!

www.facebook.com/NEArb
twitter.com/NEarboretum

Corporate Member Spotlight

Stock Seed Farms, Nebraska grown since 1955

From my earliest memories I have been in the seed business. As a small child I watched my parents drill native grass seed fields. In 1956 my parents Lyle and Margaret Stock harvested their first acres of Nebraska certified grass seed, a new release from the Agricultural Experiment Station called “Nebraska 28 Switchgrass.” The warm season native grass allowed my father to act on his strong commitment to soil conservation and to diversify his traditional corn and livestock farm.

With the help and encouragement of the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service) and University of Nebraska personnel, my family has been recognized as a leader in the production and marketing of native grasses and wildflowers. It has given us great satisfaction working with these native prairie plants. With the use of native plant material, millions of acres have been protected from wind and water erosion while providing food for domestic animals and habitat for wildlife. For humans, these same acres have provided food for our eyes, mind and soul.

We attribute much of our success to three elements: quality seed, educating our customers and dedicated employees. We live in a world that is constantly changing and so is our industry. Will native grass be the source of our fuel in the future? Is the next medical cure growing in our prairies? Will our irrigated farmland be turned back to prairie? Wherever the future leads us, Stock Seed Farms will be involved.

Dave Stock, www.stockseed.com

NSA, Inc. Corporate Members

For more than 35 years, corporations and corporate leaders have actively supported the mission of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc. through their contributions, event sponsorship and guidance.

Our corporate partners lead by example—advancing the Arboretum’s mission to make every Nebraska community a more attractive, healthy and vital place to live and work.

We extend our sincere gratitude and are truly honored to have these corporate members:

Aesthetics, Inc.
Barcel Landscape Products, Inc.
Big Muddy Workshop, Inc.
Bluebird Nursery, Inc.
Faller Landscape, Inc.
Finders Keepers Landscaping, L.L.C.
Finke Gardens & Nursery
Great Plains Nursery
HDR, Inc.
Hoffman Nursery, Inc.
Outdoor Recreation Products
Papio Valley Nursery, Inc.
Stock Seed Farms, Inc.
Vleck Gardens
York General Hospital