



The Garden News

The University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Botanical Garden and Arboretum

Volume 8, Issue 1

Winter 2002

The Garden refers to all the Gardens and plantings on both City and East Campus including Maxwell Arboretum

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Japanese Garden Design: Inspiration for your Garden

January 17, East Campus Union,
presentation given by Eileen Bergt



New Programs For You in 2002

by Kay Kottas, Programs Manager

New UNLBGA programs will begin in 2002. Among them are Third Thursday Programs at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month (except April) from January through August. The first such program will be a talk by Eileen Bergt, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Landscape Architect, entitled *Japanese Garden Design: Inspiration For Your Garden*. We all dream about the coming Spring. This year, dream about the possibilities of incorporating some Japanese design principles into your garden, as you enjoy a talk and slide presentation. Eileen spent six weeks in Japan studying Japanese gardens and the relationship between the garden and the home. She will share some of these ideas with you.

Second Saturday Sessions will teach you a little about the science of Botany and Horticulture. These sessions are held on the second Saturday of each month beginning in February. On February 9, at 10 a.m. (East Campus Union), learn why a banana is a berry; why you should eat triploid endosperm; the difference among bulbs, corms, tubers, and roots; how plants are classified and what to look for when you try to identify your plants at home. This Second Saturday Session is entitled *Botany For Beginners* and is presented by Kay Kottas, Manager of Educational Programs.

On February 21, (the third Thursday), enjoy *Garden Record Keeping* presented by Jane Diesen, Manager of LandMark Gardens in Plattsmouth, NE. Jane has managed this Hosta business for about 15 years, and keeps immaculate records including labels, journals, maps, and photography. We will also share examples of the labels, software,

and other record-keeping aids that gardeners use. Since this speaker is coming from Plattsmouth, we have chosen the following Thursday as a snowday. We will announce postponed or cancelled events on KFOR radio (AM1240).

On Saturday, March 9, Linda Vavrus will give us some pointers on Propagation and Division of Perennial Plants (location TBA). Linda is a Master Gardener and Owner/Manager of her own company, Gardeners at Large. Come to "*Pruning Practice w/ Jeff: A Spring Pruning Primer*" on Thursday, March 21 at 7 pm. Jeff Culbertson, East Campus Landscape Manager will tell you everything you need to know about good pruning techniques and will even let you practice.

These programs are free and open to the public. Please call our office to register (472-9139) so that we can plan for an appropriate number of people. We would appreciate a call at least one week prior to the event, but we want to see you there, so don't let late registration stop you.

Later in the year look for Wednesday walks, Jazz in June tours, and Field trips. Come to presentations on weed identification, orchids, nature photography, bonsai, and sketching nature. Also, look for announcements on Spring Affair, Arbor Day celebrations, the 35th Anniversary of Maxwell Arboretum the Festival of Color and Gardener's Gala! Fees may apply when field trips take us to a park which requires an entrance fee; or for materials in a hands-on demonstration. Call our office at 472-9139 with questions about any of these events. (see Calendar page 7)



UNLBGA is an affiliate site of the



Garden Notes

Personnel Updates:

Welcome to:

- ◆ Janette Roth,
Groundskeeper,
East Campus
- ◆ Brian Dieterman,
Groundskeeper,
East Campus



Winter Blooms

Landscape crews are reporting that flowering quince was blooming on campus on December 20th.

Flowering quince (any one of three *Chaenomeles* sp.) comes from wooded mountain areas in China and Japan. Only two of the species are hardy to zone 5. They are cultivated for their early spring flowers. Well formed buds that normally overwinter may open in the fall when the weather re-

mains warm, as we have seen this year. This may cause some reduced flowering the following spring.

From the Director

Howdy!

As I was writing this article I began to think of all the wonderful projects and continued changes brought about by our staff during the past year. I began to reflect on the various types of people and programs that our department has the opportunity to work with on a daily basis. Further, I thought about how terrific it is to be a part of a University that supports a myriad of ideas and visions creating an environment of progress and change.

Whether it is our landscape staff clearing leaves, pruning trees and mowing turf or our design team designing numerous pockets of beauty throughout campus, we are all a part of our campus environment. As our campus continues to expand, our operations and irrigation crews always seem to meet the challenges presented by last minute changes in the plans. When our education division collaborates with academic departments to provide an extended learning environment, we begin to forge perpetual relationships that benefit our University on a broader scale. Additionally, with the financial support of our support groups, UNL Garden Friends and Friends of Maxwell Arboretum, we have expanded our interpretive and educational impact throughout both campus locations.



It is through these programs that we tie our mission to the greater vision of the University of Nebraska. We are a part of a tremendous effort to mold our campus into an environment that is safe, educational, aesthetic and manageable for present and future Nebraskans. With the help of all our staff, Campus Administrators and Friends groups, we provide a catalyst for student and faculty recruitment that is the foundation of the campus experience.

As we close out the year of 2001, it is important to consider where we have been and what we have accomplished. I urge you to take time to reflect not only on the projects we completed or seminars attended, but also on our relationships that we have developed as well. And as we approach the New Year please challenge yourselves to be engaged in the world around you. We are all caretakers of the land, and as such, the Gardener in all of us should take solace in the rejuvenating qualities of our environment.

In closing out another great year, I would like to say Thank You to everyone that has worked directly with and in support of our UNLBGA mission throughout the year!

Robert Hensarling

Director, Landscape Services, UNLBGA

Adopt-An-Area Litter Campaign

from the Landscape Services Litter Task Force



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus spends approximately \$181,445 per year in labor costs for litter pick-up. Landscape Services crews spend an average of 10,700 hours per year picking up litter on campus.

We know that many of the campus community are concerned and willing to help with this problem. For that reason, we are offering the opportunity for those who work and live on campus to have a positive impact on the beauty of this campus and the pride we have as a united community. We hope that they can help Landscape Services reduce the number of hours and expense involved in keeping the campus beautiful.

An announcement will be issued with a list of buildings, parking areas, and gardens that can be adopted by a

person or group of people within organizations, departments, or buildings. Interested persons can adopt the area around a building, parking lot, and/or garden near their building, and challenge other groups to do the same.

Participants will spend a few minutes each day or week picking up litter in their adopted spot, then visit our web page and report the hours to us. The initial campaign will last from January 14 to April 26. We will acknowledge successful participants in early May. We are confident that the campus community can help reduce costs, contribute to the beauty of campus, and improve campus pride and involvement.

Members of the campus community, including student groups can sign up for this endeavor by logging onto our web site <http://busfin.unl.edu/landscape> filling out the attached form and sending it to Litter Task Force at Landscape Services. For more information contact Kay Kottas at 472-9139.

Book Review by Kay Kottas

The Nature of Nebraska

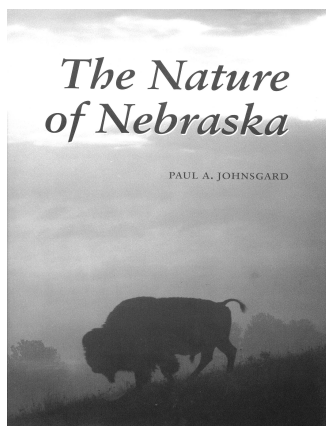
by Paul A. Johnsgard

The Nature of Nebraska is the latest of 41 books written by author Paul Johnsgard. I got my autographed copy as soon as they went on sale. My love of my native home State and nature drove me to it. That sentence alone may tell you that this review is somewhat biased.

Dr Johnsgard's latest book is a reference book of Nebraska's natural history.

There is something for every area of natural history covering animal, vegetable and mineral. Just as importantly, it gives a glimpse of how they are all connected.

It covers the history of Nebraska geology and describes different ecological regions. Dr. Johnsgard lists native birds, mammals, fishes and plants.



" How long the story may last and what lessons we may learn from it are up to us."

The book contains a guide to natural areas and preserves in every county and descriptions of Nebraska's vanishing species. The book is filled with his personal sketches (and those of other artists) of Nebraska's native species.

I cannot do a better job of describing the book than by quoting from it. "One of the purposes of this book will be to point out that the story of Nebraska...is to be found by meditating under an ancient Cottonwood...heard in the song of a meadowlark...present in the gently waving grasses...silently calls out in the smell of ponderosa pine..How long the story may last and what lessons we may learn from it are up to us."

This book contains the kind of information that every resident of the State should be familiar with. This book is written for the mature reader, with the desire to read about natural history. I would love to see it reproduced in a way that would make it understandable and compelling for the youth of Nebraska. Every Nebraskan should have a copy. No naturalist should be without it.

Landscape Services Annual Awards Luncheon

by Danielle Merlino

On Friday, December 14, approximately 100 people gathered at the East Campus Shop for the Landscape Services holiday luncheon of roast pig, turkey and pot luck salads and desert. Landscape Services staff were joined by special



guests from Business and Finance, University Recycling and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, as well as a few past employees and immediate family.

Awards were presented to Landscape Services Employees for their outstanding work performance. There are three award categories; Permanent Employee of the Year, Temporary/Student Employee of the Year, and the Safety Award of Excellence.

This year there was a tie for the Permanent Employee of the Year Award. One recipient was Dave Schneider, Supervisor of Area 4 (areas near the Beadle Center), who has been with Landscape Services since 1992. Nominators stress that "Dave has remarkable communication skills with his co-workers, and a great knowledge of the duties bestowed upon him."



Dave Schneider, Employee of the Year, receiving award from Robert Hensarling, Director

The second recipient of the award is Jeff Culbertson, East Campus Manager, who has been with Landscape Services since 1991. Included in the comments about Jeff are the following: "He keeps himself knowledgeable about new techniques and design processes, to improve the

University grounds. He is a very enthusiastic and hard working individual."

There were several nominees for the Temporary/Student Employee of the year award. The recipient, Matthew Polzin, has been very dedicated to Landscape Services for the past two and a half years. He is a self-motivated individual who takes pride and responsibility for his work. He works well with his co-workers and has remained on the same crew the entire time



Jeff Culbertson, Employee of the Year giving his acceptance speech at awards banquet



Matt Polzin, Student Employee of the Year, accepting award from Robert Hensarling, Director

of his employment. The final award given was the annual Safety Award of Excellence. This award was initiated in 1994 to allow recognition of outstanding employees that strive to make our working environment safe.

Floyd Runge was the recipient this year. Floyd came to Landscape Services in July of 1982,

as a Mechanic III. He retired from full-time duties in January of 1988 and worked part time until August of 1986, when he resumed full-time duties. Comments about Floyd describe him as a teacher of safety, who encourages staff to have training sessions on all equipment. "He is extremely efficient about maintaining our equipment so that it runs as safely as possible."



Floyd Runge, Safety Award Winner, accepting his award plaque

Project Updates

by Eileen Bergt

Four completed construction projects were planted this last growing season; Kauffman Center, Richards Hall, Teachers College (southwest side), and the 17th and R Street Parking Garage. We also added plants to improve another ten areas on city campus and six areas on east campus. We planted throughout the growing season with balled and burlap and containerized plants. In November we had both 55" and 90" tree spades moving trees out of our nursery on East Campus into these project locations.

Planting season, next spring, will be equally busy. We will complete plantings at the 17th and R Street Parking Garage, the south side of Richards Hall, and the north side of Morrill Hall. We will begin working on new areas including Teachers College Courtyard and south lawn at Love Library. We are currently working on the soil work and sidewalks at the site of the former Lyman and Bancroft Halls at 14th and Vine Streets. This area will become a large open green space available for informal activities and events. On east campus, the project we are currently working on is the Old Quadrangle Mall. The mall streets were repaved and new sidewalks were installed. The site has been fine graded and

seeded. New perennial plantings will be installed in the spring. Other projects on East Campus include planting the parking lots at the Judging Pavilion and the East Campus Union. Many of these projects are also in the final design phase with plant material selection to be completed this winter.

UNL has several projects in design and construction. Landscape Services is working with the architects on these projects designing the adjacent exterior gathering spaces including seating areas, plazas and plant material. One of the most visible projects is the Van Brunt Visitor Center and Ross Film Theater on 13th Street between R and Q Streets. The project is under construction with completion scheduled for the fall of 2002. The current design on the site includes open green space with cherry trees between the sculpture "Torn Notebook" and the new Visitor Center, an open seating patio on the west side of the building, a redesigned bus stop on Q Street and planting beds and sitting areas on the east. The Visitor Center will be an attraction for University visitors and moviegoers between the downtown area and the campus.

As spring approaches, take a walk around campus; We hope that you will be pleasantly surprised with all of the new plantings.

We Put a Sparkle in Your Walk... To Go With the Spring In Your Step

by Kay Kottas

Thanks to \$10,000 in matching grant funds from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, several new sidewalks have been installed on campus. This is our version



The ground glass looks like large particles of colored sand.

of the Hollywood Walk of Fame; only it isn't local celebrities immortalized in the sidewalk; It is the glass from your mouthwash bottle or mayonnaise jar. The sparkle in our sidewalks comes from recycled glass. (You provide the spring in your step.) Washington County Recyclers in Blair, NE. provided

the recycled glass. This is a volunteer organization that grinds glass for use as ice-melt on county roads. Ready Mixed Concrete Co. prepared the special mix by replacing 10% of the sand and gravel with ground glass.



*14th & W
(3,835 lbs. of glass)*

The recycled glass concrete (glasscrete) appears to be somewhat weaker than regular concrete, but only time will tell how it wears in pedestrian walkways. Accord-

ing to Rod Leber, Chief Inspector at General Testing Laboratories in Lincoln, strength tests showed that a cylinder cured for 7 days broke under 2,324 p.s.i. where a comparable mix



*E.C. Activities building
(6,047 lbs. of glass)*

using no glass would normally reach 2,500 to 3,000 p.s.i. Prompted by the need to repair and replace sidewalks without available money, Brenda Osthus, UNL Director of Environmental Health and Safety, brought to-

gether the grant from the NE DEQ, UNL Landscape Services, and UNL Recycling to make this all possible.

So as you step across campus this spring, look for the sparkle in these walks:

City Campus

Hamilton hall curved walk on the southeast corner

Bus Shelter, 17th and Y, concrete pad south of existing bus stop.

14th and W, diagonal walk on the SE side of the intersection

East Campus

East entrance walk to the Activities Building on 35th Street

Education in the Garden

Students from St Josephs School in Lincoln, came to visit the Gardens in November. Ann McIntosh and her assistant Dina presented some fun facts about plants in the Arboretum. We were very happy to receive personal thank yous from this second grade class. Danielle Merlino has put together a collage of some of the pictures they sent.



Thank You UNLBGA Supporters

The UNL Garden Friends have generously offered to pay for labels at Love Garden, the Old Rose collection, and for brochures and other printed materials in support of UNLBGA. Many Thanks from the University of Nebraska and the staff of Landscape Services!

Recent Donors were:

Marian Anderson - Swamp White Oak "In Memory of John L. Anderson, PhD, Naturalist, Educator, Environmental Activist, 1938-2001"

Lois Wilson - Green Mountain Sugar Maple, " In Memory of Robert Wilson Sr. Nemaha Co. Extension Agent, 1947-1979 Professor Emeritus"

The University Residence Hall Association Senate - Schlesinger Red Maple, "In honor of the opening of Kauffman Residence Center from the 31st RHA Senate"

2002 GreatPlants

Every year, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) solicits nominations of beautiful and durable, yet underused plants, from Nebraska nursery professionals. This service is provided by NSA to help the nurseries promote plants that are not used as often as they should be in the Nebraska Landscape. This effort also encourages the use of more sustainable, less demanding plants. This year's winners are:

Tree of the Year:

Kentucky Coffeetree

(*Gymnocladus dioica*) a Nebraska native

Recommended cultivars: 'Expresso' and 'Stately Manor', both male selections

Shrub of the Year:

Kalm St. John's Wort

(*Hypericum kalmianum*) Native to Quebec, Ontario, Michigan and Illinois. Zone 4 hardy

Recommended cultivar: 'Ames'

Perennial of the Year:

Crane's Bill Geranium

(*Geranium sanguineum*) Hardy to zone 3.

Recommended cultivars: 'Album', 'Shepherds Warning', 'Elsbeth'

For more information visit www.nnla.org

UNL Garden Friends Annual Meeting

The UNL Garden Friends Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 20th from 2:30-4:00 pm., at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education (33rd and Holdrege) in the Nebraska room (first floor). All members of the UNL Garden Friends and all past volunteers of UNLBGA are welcome. The program will include a thirty-minute program given by Mary Ellen Connelly, owner of Perennial Passions in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We will also show a seven-minute film about the Garden Friends, and recognition of past volunteers.

We are inviting all past volunteers to attend the Annual Meeting. We appreciate your efforts. If you or someone you know is a past volunteer for UNLBGA working at Spring Affair, Gardeners Gala, or in any other capacity, please plan to attend. The Manager of Education Programs has sent letters to past volunteers. If you have not received such a letter, but have volunteered, please consider yourself invited. Call our office (472 9139) to let us know how many years you have volunteered and whether or not you can come.

2002 PROGRAMS

Wednesday Walks (WW)

(approx. 1 per month beginning in May)

20-30 minute tours during lunch hour. Feel free to bring a sack lunch to enjoy in the gardens before or after the tour.

Third Thursday Programs

Evening programs that may or may not require a fee. Hands-on demonstrations, slide shows, speakers. 7-8:30 PM

Second Saturday Sessions

These classes are meant to teach a little about the science of Botany and Horticulture. Held from 10:00 am until 11:30 or 12:00 pm

Field Trips

Car pool field trips evenings or weekends depending on the trip.

CALENDAR

January

Thrs 17 *Japanese Garden Design:
Inspiration For Your Garden*
Eileen Bergt, UNL Landscape Architect
East Campus Union 7-8:30 pm

Sun 20 Annual Friends Meeting
All past volunteers of UNLBGA
are welcome
NE Center for Continuing Ed 2:30-4pm

February

Sat 9 *Botany for Beginners*
Kay Kottas, UNLBGA Education Mgr
East Campus Union 10-11:30 am

Thrs 21 *Garden Record Keeping*
Jane Diesen, Mgr. LandMark Gardens
East Campus Union 7-8:30 pm

Thrs 28 Snowdate for *Garden Record Keeping*

March

Sat 9 *Perennial Propagation & Division*
Linda Vavrus, Gardener's At Large,
Master Gardener
East Campus 10-11:30 am

Thrs 21 *Pruning Practice w/ Jeff:
Your Spring Pruning Primer*
Jeff Culbertson, East Campus
Landscape Manager

East Campus 7-8:30 pm

More Information will come on the following programs

April

Fri 19 Spring Affair Preview Party*
(*fee and preregistration required)
State Fair Park 6 pm

Sat 20 Spring Affair
State Fair Park 9 am - 4 pm

Thrs 25 Tentative Arbor Day Celebration Date
Program TBA

May

Wed 8 Noon Lilac Collection Tour

Sat 11 Weed ID
13-24 2001 Photo Winners Displayed
Rhotunda Gallery City Campus Union

Thrs 16 Orchids

Sat or Sun 18 or 19 *
Field Trip to Fontenelle to view orchids
(*fee required to enter park)

June

Tuesdays in June Jazz in June Garden Tours TBA

Wed 5 Noon Rhododendron Tour

Sat 8 Tree and Shrub ID

Thrs 20 Photography - George Schadde

July

Sat 13 Landscaping w/ Grt Plants & Natives
Thrs 18 Bonsai*
(*may require a fee for materials)

Wed 24 Noon Hosta tour

Fri 26 Tentative date for 35th anniversary
celebration of Maxwell Arboretum

August

Wed 7 Noon Old Porch Roses Tour

Sat 10 Weed ID

Thrs 15 The Art of Nature:
The Nature of Avian Art

September

Wed 4 Noon East Campus Prairie tour

Sat 14 Festival of Color/Gardeners Gala

October

Wed 2 Noon Color of City Campus tour

Wed 9 Noon Color of East Campus tour

Helping the Garden Grow

2001 Friends of Maxwell Board

Officers:

President: Ted Hartung
Treasurer: Bud Dasenbrock
Secretary: Francis Haskins

Board Members:

Agnes Arthaud	Augusta Lux
Cyril Bish	Ed Lyman
Blaine Blad	William Lutes
Ron Case	Dave McGill
August Dreier	Irv Omtvedt
G. Steven Ferris	Helen Peterson
U.E. & Jane Wendorff	John Furrer
Peter Jensen	T.O. Hass
Martin Massengale	Gladys Jeurink
Margaret Allington	James Kendrick
Howard & Margaret Ottoson	

2001 Garden Friends Board

Officers:

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Vice president: Emilie Ellingson
Treasurer: Joe Berchenko
Secretary: Suzy Taylor

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Kim Hachiya
Arlene Hanna
Michael Jess
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Ed Vidlak
Bonnie Williams

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Landscape Services & Garden Staff

Robert Hensarling, *Director*
Jay Schluckebier, *Assistant Director*

Administration & Management
Kirby Baird, *Landscape & Botanical Services - City Campus*
Eileen Bergt, *Landscape Architect*
Carol Bom, *Staff Assistant*
Jeff Culbertson, *Landscape & Botanical Services - East Campus*
Kevin Herr, *Architectural Services*
Don Hinds, *Operations Equipment*
Kay Kottas, *Education Programs*
Jim Sommers, *Irrigation Systems*
Sandy Wacker, *Production and Planting*

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