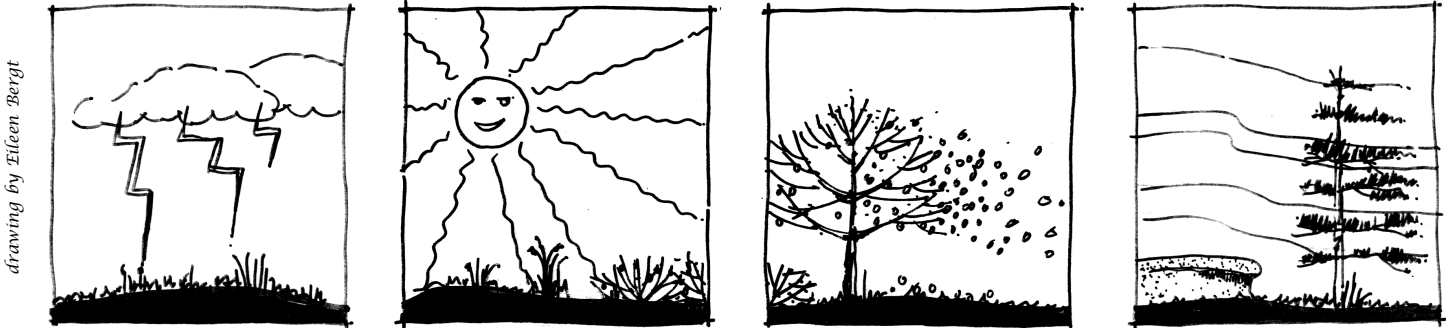


Adapting to Nebraska



drawing by Eileen Bergt

Spring Affair 2003

Saturday April 26, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lancaster Building, State Fair Park

Perennial plants sale, educational programs & displays

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By reservation only:

"Spring Affair Preview Party: Feast From the Heartland," plant sale, silent auction, door prizes.
Friday April 25, 6-9 p.m. at the new Spring Affair location: Lancaster Building, State Fair Park.
Deadline is April 5. Call (402) 472-2679 for information.

Please join us for an exciting time at Spring Affair 2003! This year the preview party, plant sale and related activities have been moved to a new and improved location: the Lancaster Building at State Fair Park.

This year's timely theme, "Adapting to Nebraska," features drought-tolerant plants along with the perennial favorites for sun, shade, part-shade, herbs and "surprises." New for sale this year is a group of plants for trough gardens. Hand-out information will be available on making a trough garden, and Harlan Hamernik of Bluebird Nurseries will discuss them at his educational talk, "Today's Fare: Plant Sale 2003."

The educational sessions, to be held in the Youth Complex (south of Lancaster Building) will be in two tracks: "How People Adapt," and "How Plants Adapt" to extreme

weather conditions. Sessions by topic experts will be given on landscaping with native and introduced grasses, native plants, drought-tolerant plants, containers, and insects. And not to be missed is the "Anything and Everything" panel discussion with Hamernik, Gladys Jeurink and Kim Todd; Bud Dasenbrock serves as moderator.

Related gardening vendors, organizational booths and educational displays give Spring Affair a fun and festive atmosphere. Attendees have traveled from all around the midwest. This is your chance to be part of a lively spring kick-off event.

Volunteer opportunities for Spring Affair are still available. For more information on the Spring Affair location, programs, volunteers or other topics, please call us at (402) 472-2679 or visit our website: <http://busfin.unl.edu/unlbga>.

Hope to see you there!

See "Plants & Water: Coping With Drought" p. 5

by Twyla Hansen, Project Assistant

Personnel Updates

Thanks to:

by Carol Bom, Staff Assistant

◆ **John L. Marker**, Assoc. to the Asst. Vice Chancellor for Facilities Management & Planning, acting Interim Director for Landscape Services while **Eileen Bergt** was on family medical leave. Marker previously served as Interim Director at Landscape Services from September 1999 to April 2000.

Congratulations:

The following personnel changes have been made to fill recently vacated positions:

◆ **Nick Burnham**, hired as a Permanent Groundskeeper II, working for Joel Tabor in Area 1 City Campus. He previously worked as a temporary employee at Landscape Services from September 2000 to August 2001.

◆ **Matt Coatney**, Groundskeeper II, transferred to Area 6 East Campus Supervisor. Matt started as a temporary employee for Area 1 East Campus in 1990, and was promoted to Groundskeeper II in 1992.

◆ **Tracy McCormick**, hired as a Permanent Groundskeeper II (previously a student employee), working for Korey Klaus in Area 7 on City Campus.

◆ **Dan Yost**, hired as a Permanent Groundskeeper II (previously a student employee), working for Jeff Stout in Area 3 on City Campus.

Goodbye & Good Luck:

◆ **Ann McIntosh**, Groundskeeper II in Area 6 East Campus, hired to the position in 1995. Ann started as a student employee in 1994 and became a temporary in 1995. We wish you well, Ann!

Congratulations:



Nick Burnham



Matt Coatney



Tracy McCormick



Dan Yost

Education in The Garden

In 2002, more than 50 tours and programs provided exposure for the gardens and arboretum. Volunteer presenters and participants really showed their support for UNLBGA. The UNL Garden Friends and the Friends of Maxwell pledged support for printed materials in the form of new brochures. The Garden Friends and Friends of Maxwell supported us in many other ways for which we are most grateful. I would like to personally thank those of you who are members of either of those organizations for your kind attention to the University Garden and Arboretum.

This year, the Garden Friends will sponsor the photo contest that is now in its third year. If you are an amateur photographer, please feel free to enter this independently judged contest. Last year's overall winner, Harlan Heald commented that the contest brought back some memories of his childhood living and playing very near the campus. One of the UNL students that entered the contest remarked that she saw the campus in a new light. These are the kinds of experiences that we are hoping to bring to all the participants.



George Schade "Garden Photography" in 2002

by Kay Kottas, Education & Plant Records Manager

It has been an increasingly popular and rewarding event. Each year we have changed the categories to offer new challenges and inspiration to those who enter the contest and to new images for our use.

Tours were immensely popular last year, and will be continued this year with some new twists, such as plants discovered by Lewis and Clark and plants from Willa Cather novels. We will also try to keep you up to date on the state of plant material, which ones are coping well and which are not.

Just ahead on April 10th is a program highlighting the plants for sale at Spring Affair. Bring your list of plants and let our experts help you decide which plants are right for your garden spaces. We will also give you some tips on getting them started and

bring you some information on starting your trough garden. Watch future newsletters and our web site for updates on tours and programs. The sunny days of spring are just around the corner.

Hope to see you in The Garden!

From the Garden Friends President

Friends of the UNL Gardens celebrates its 11th birthday this year. Many thanks to those whose interest in the gardens and greenspaces at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln sparked them to create a friends group. Having a committed group of advocates in place does make a difference.

Most of you have followed the budget travails that dog the state and affect UNL. Previous editions of this newsletter have outlined the staffing changes that have occurred at Landscape Services as its budget has been reduced. Twice last year Garden Friends Vice President Emilie Ellingsen testified before the University's Academic Planning Committee to tell our concerns. Our messages are that the gardens are a living teaching laboratory for students, are a selling point for student and faculty recruitment, boost morale of university faculty and staff, serve as greenspace for the city of Lincoln and are an asset for the citizens of the State because of the gardens' extensive and unique plant collections.

Those on the committee, and university administrators, have sympathy for our message, but the reality is, all units at UNL will be affected by budget cuts. We will continue to forward this message.

Not all the news is bad. Plans are under way for the 17th Annual Spring Affair and Preview Party. Due to budget cuts, the Garden Friends board has shouldered more of the workload for both these events and members are involved in all aspects of planning. The Garden Friends board is becoming a working board with duties ranging from DRO – dining room orderly (busser) at the Preview Party – to looking up plant characteristics and descriptions for signage and other needs.

Right now, we are gathering items for the silent

by Kim Hachiya, UNL Garden Friends President

auction and door prizes for the Preview Party. If you want to be involved, email me at <khachiya1@unl.edu> or call the Landscape Services office, 472-2679.



Kim Hachiya

On Feb. 21, Eileen Bergt, Interim Director of Landscape Services and Landscape Architect, Bud Dasenbrock, retired Landscape Services Director, and I taped a program for a Lincoln cable access show called "Live and Learn." The show, sponsored by Lancaster County's Aging Services and aimed at older adults, is hosted by Ruth Ann Lyness, a retired Lincoln Public Schools administrator and teacher. We talked about UNL's gardens, how they can be a resource for home gardeners, and about the Garden Friends. The show ran seven times each week in March on Cable

Channel 5 (and may still run occasionally). I hope that if you saw it, you were pleased with our publicity. We are also hoping to be featured in the Journal Star's Spring Garden tabloid.

Finally, those of you who missed the annual meeting in January missed a great program. Mary Ellen Connelly, owner of Perennial Passion garden center in Sioux Falls, S.D., returned for a second year. Her slide presentation about hardy and shrub roses that will grow in our tough climate, with minimal care, was excellent. Most of the pictures were taken in her gardens, and she told of her good experiences with cultivars developed in Canada and at Iowa State University. As we plan for the 2003 annual meeting, we welcome your suggestions for topics and presenters.

This organization exists to benefit the UNL Gardens. Please call me at 472-8844, or email me with your comments and concerns.

2003 Garden Friends Officers, Board & Members

by Kay Kottas, Education & Plant Records Manager

Pictured at the Garden Friends annual meeting Jan. 19, 2003:

Back row, left to right: Kim Hachiya (President), Emilie Ellingson, Jan Cutshall (Advisor), Suzy Taylor and Linda Hillegass.

Front row, left to right: Bonnie Williams, Arlene Hanna (Secretary) and Judy Johnson.

Other 2003 Officers & Board members not pictured:

Susan Evnen (Vice-President), Mark Canney (Secretary), Irv Omtvedt (Membership), Hope Robb (Historian), Bob Bleicher, Gerry Dimon, Mike Jess, Diane Oldfather, Bryan Poppe and Paula Steinberger.



2003 UNLBGA Calendar of Events

2003 Educational Programs/Tours

(more details to be announced):

April 10: "Sneak Preview of Spring Affair Plants," Bob Henrickson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Nebraska East Union, 7-8:30 p.m.

April 25: "Spring Affair Preview Party: Feast From the Heartland," plant sale, silent auction, door prizes, State Fair Park, Lancaster Building. 6-9 p.m.

Apr. 26: "Spring Affair Plant Sale: Adapting to Nebraska," perennial plants sale & educational programs, State Fair Park, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 6: Tour: Maxwell Arboretum Lilac Collection, 12:15-12:45 p.m.

May 14: Tour: Maxwell Arboretum Viburnums & More," 12:15-12:45 p.m.

May 20: Tour: Maxwell Arboretum Rhododendron Collection: 12:15-12:45 p.m.

May 28: Tour: Iris Garden (Tentative) 12:15-12:45 p.m.

June 3, 10, 17, 24: Jazz in June garden tours: Beginning at 6 p.m. Follow updates on our website and in the Lincoln Journal Star.

September 20: "Landscape Connections," Educational programs, tours and more, East Campus, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

September 21-27: 2003 Garden Photo Contest Winners Display, Rotunda Gallery, Nebraska Union, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

For more information call Kay Kottas 472-9139 or visit our web site. <http://busfin.unl.edu>

On the Bookshelf

For additional gardening book reviews, please visit our website: <http://busfin.unl.edu>

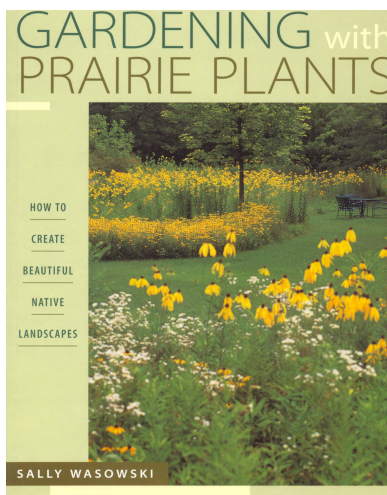
by Emily Levine, Grounds Supervisor, Area 4 East Campus

Sally Wosowski. Photography by Andy Wosowski. **Gardening With Prairie Plants: How to Create Beautiful Native Landscapes** (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002).

As homeowners gravitate toward native plants and seek to bring the prairie into their backyards, a number of books have seen publication addressing this trend. The best I've seen is Sally Wosowski's *Gardening With Prairie Plants*. For the novice gardener or the experienced designer this is a complete book. Wosowski's long time passion for natives, coupled with her husband's sumptuous photographs provides the reader with all the inspiration they need to explore the world of prairie gardening.

In Part I, Wosowski provides a comprehensive background to gardening with native plants by backing up and taking a look at just what a prairie is. She writes about what she calls the "anatomy of a prairie," that is, how a prairie is built—from Weaver's root layer up to the tallest grasses. She also examines "shapers of the prairie": wind, fire, grazing mammals, and burrowing animals. We are led through examples of existing home and public prairie gardens with easy to read planting plans and photographs. Wosowski also teaches the reader how to use preserved and replicated prairies as models for their own designs.

Part II is a thorough look at designing, installing and maintaining prairie gardens. Again, Wosowski presents



text, designs, and photographs to address the needs of different types of gardens: wet sites, those used for food and medicine, birds thickets and savannahs, a nectar garden, and others. "Installation" will teach you everything from enriching the soil and preparing the seed bed to seed collection, plugs, and transplants. Weed control, burning, and other topics are covered in the maintenance section.

Many gardening books include some sort of encyclopedia of plants. Wosowski calls hers "plant profiles" and they cover hundreds of species divided into grasses, sedges, and rushes; cool season forbs; warm season forbs; and savanna trees and thicket shrubs. There are charts delineating what sort of prairie each plant is native to, maps showing growing range, a short bit of text, and photographs that really show what the plant looks like. The volume also has a glossary of terms and a good list of resources for prairie gardeners.

Sally and Andy Wosowski have created a book that will allow even novices to feel comfortable undertaking a native plant installation and, at the same time, provides a stunning resource for the more experienced horticulturalist. As Floyd Smith of the Morton Arboretum has written, "This book will be an anchor for prairie enthusiasts for years to come."

Plants & Water: Coping with Drought

Are you looking for the perfect weather resistant plant? The key to the perfect plant is really "the best plant in the best spot," and requires understanding the conditions your site creates and finding plants that are native to those conditions.

The function of water:

Water plays some very critical functions for ALL plants. Even "drought tolerant" plants require water, although the unintentional experiment I have in my basement proves that *Aloe vera* will survive with no watering for at least 5 years!

What water does for plants:

- Provides a solution for all chemical reactions including photosynthesis.
- Dissolves nutrients in the soil that are brought up through the roots and are carried through the plant.
- Provides pressure on cell walls stretching them, promoting plant growth and preventing wilt.

Nearly 99% of the water that roots absorb is lost from the leaves as water vapor. This transpiration increases in hot, dry, windy weather; serves to cool the plant; and is the mechanism that moves water to the top of the plant. So in order for nutrients to reach the top of a plant, it must lose water. Water stressed plants will frequently close stomates (openings in the leaves) to prevent water loss. With less water for growth, plants in drought prone areas will be smaller.

How to use this information:

Gardeners can think of the environmental factors that will help slow the loss of water from plants.

- Shade reduces water loss by lowering the surrounding temperature. A tree, for instance, will lose 25% less water on its shaded side.
- Humidity is much lower where there are large areas of concrete. Plants create their own humid environment by releasing water vapor into the air. Screening driveways or buildings with mass plantings will help a more humid "microclimate".
- Wind increases evaporation, so shelterbelts effectively reduce water loss.
- Younger roots (feeder roots) are located at the outer ends of roots, so water applied at or beyond the dripline will be more effective than water at the trunk of a tree. Picture water dripping off the leaves at the outer edge of the tree canopy to find the dripline.

Things to keep in mind:

Plants have evolved their own mechanisms for reducing

by Kay Kottas, Education & Plant Records Manager

water loss including waxy coverings, small hairs that reflect light, thick leaves that store water, deep roots and many more.

- Let nature be your guide and choose plants that would be found naturally in the same environment as your garden.
- Remember that new plants are not immediately drought tolerant. They need water for several weeks until their feeder roots have time to repair themselves and get settled. A good shot of phosphorus will help those roots get started, but avoid too much nitrogen which increases top growth at the expense of the roots.
- The plants you buy will be in a light soil mix. It's cheaper for the nurseries to ship that way, but it requires frequent watering.

It is also important to remember that drought tolerant means a plant will be more likely to survive in drought, not necessarily that it will look every bit as or more beautiful in drought conditions. Expect less effect from drought on drought tolerant plants, not zero effect.

The Chicago Botanic Garden recently evaluated a genus of plants called Artemesias. Many of these species are native to arid or Mediterranean climates, as well

as the Midwest, and are suited to sunny, dry infertile gardens. In some cases, excessive moisture is a problem for these plants. Many artemesias have silvery foliage, which cools down harsh colors in the garden as well as cooling the plant by reflecting light. These plants are good for perennial borders, herb gardens, containers, rock gardens and edging. With a variety of colors and textures, they make outstanding perennials. In this study, *Artemisia ludoviciana* 'Valerie Finis' was the best cultivar of the white sage group, with its vibrant silver leaves.

This plant will be available in the Spring Affair sun plants as will other *Artemisia* species in the herb section. Artemesia flowers are not particularly ornamental. The general health and visual appearance of these plants can typically be improved by removing flowers, although it is not required. Their silver foliage makes for excellent accent plants.

Sources:

- Hawke, Richard G., Plant Evaluation Notes, Garden-Worthy Artemesias, 2003. Issue 19, Chicago Botanic Garden
- Tanino, K.K. and Baldwin, B. Physiology of Drought in Stressed Plants, 2003. Dept. Of Horticulture Science, University of Saskatchewan <http://www.ag.usask.ca>



Artemisia ludoviciana 'Valerie Finis'

Garden Photo Contest Announcement

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Botanical Gardens and Arboretum & the Garden Friends
announce the

2003 Garden Photo Contest

Capture the beauty of the UNL campus

Categories: 1. Black & White; 2. Color. 3. Most Creative*

**Most Creative category includes creative processing, digital enhancements, or other creative photographic techniques.*

Prizes: Best of Show: \$50.00

Prizes in each Category 1st Place: \$25.00, 2nd Place: \$15.00, 3rd Place: \$10.00

Contest Entry Deadline: September 3, 2003

**Photos will appear on the UNLBGA website and printed materials and at displays
on the UNL campus. Winners will be announced at
Landscape Connections on East Campus, Sept. 20, 2003.**

Contest Rules and Conditions

- 1. All entries must be photographed by amateurs. No professional photographer (deriving 50% or more of his/her income from photography or photo processing) work will be accepted.*
- 2. Photographs must be taken in any of the gardens or arboretum on the UNL City and/or East Campus. All entries must have been taken from September 2002 to September 2003. Subjects must be of the landscape and may include plant specimens, garden scenes, people, art and/or architecture.*
- 3. Entrants are limited to a total of four photographs. An entry form must be completed and submitted with photographs.*
- 4. Digital prints are acceptable. Electronic copies of digital prints (300 dpi or higher resolution preferred, .tiff or .jpg) with submissions are appreciated.*
- 5. Please indicate on the back of the photo the top of the photo, your name, category, photograph title, and contest year (2003).*
- 6. All photographs must be submitted in 8 x 10 in. print format. Any film size dimensions approximating 8 x 10 in. are also acceptable.*
- 7. Photos must be mounted in 11 x 14 inch mats with inside dimensions cut to fit the photo. Submit photographs without frames. Attach mat to the photo by using transparent photo corners, double-sided tape or acid-free rubber cement (we must be able to remove the photo from the mat in order to scan it).*
- 8. All photos and mats become the property of UNL Botanical Gardens and Arboretum.*
- 9. Employees of UNL Landscape Services Department are not eligible to enter the contest.*
- 10. Names of entrants will appear wherever the photo is displayed.*

Entries must be postmarked (or delivered) by 5 p.m.
Wednesday, September 3, 2003. No exceptions.

Mail (or deliver) entries with an entry form to:

Photo Contest, UNL Landscape Services, 1340 N. 17th St. Lincoln, NE 68588-0609

**For an ENTRY FORM or more information, call UNL Landscape Services at (402) 472-2679
or visit our website: <http://busfin.unl.edu/unlbga>**

Employee Spotlight: East Campus Area 3

by Twyla Hansen, Project Assistant

Area 3 on East Campus includes the historic East Campus Mall and the landscape areas around Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Hall, Plant Industry, Home Economics, L. W. Chase Hall, Ruth Leverton Hall, Nebraska East Union, Miller Hall and the Food Industry Complex



Susan Budler

- ◆ Grounds Supervisor & Asst. East Campus Manager
- ◆ At Landscape Services since 1979
- ◆ Duties include: East Campus personnel data & time entry, landscape management, supervise employees, training, snow removal
- ◆ Likes the variety of work, interactions with people on both campuses, working outdoors and some indoor office work, and her part of the historic campus area
- ◆ Enjoys sporting events and travel



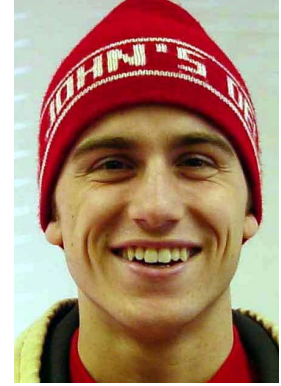
Stanislaus "Stan" Paczkowski

- ◆ Groundskeeper II
- ◆ At Landscape Services since 1997
- ◆ Duties include: litter, tree work, planting and maintaining trees, shrubs, perennials & turfgrass, unofficial Landscape Services weather forecaster
- ◆ Likes working outdoors in all sorts of weather, the diversity of people to work with including students in an education environment, and the historic campus area
- ◆ Enjoys storm-chasing and cooking; earned B.S. in meteorology Valparaiso U. & has completed coursework toward M.S. at UNL



Corey Nelson

- ◆ Student employee
- ◆ At Landscape Services since 1999
- ◆ Senior Fisheries & Wildlife major from Gothenburg
- ◆ Likes the convenience and closeness of working on East Campus, variety of work and the seasons
- ◆ Enjoys hunting, fishing and sports



Jeff Cloud

- ◆ Student employee
- ◆ At Landscape Services since May 2002
- ◆ Junior Broadcasting major from Sioux City
- ◆ Likes working on East Campus, flexible hours, learning practical knowledge and skills from work at Landscape Services
- ◆ Enjoys playing in Christian music band



Poets' Corner

SIGNS

by Twyla Hansen, Project Assistant



They come more or less
At regular intervals:
One leaf falls,
Others follow.

We wait in winter, then,
For additional signs:
Thick fur on the breast
Of the squirrel,
Juncos scratching for seed,
Students burrowing as if moles
Into a labyrinth of library.

Until lo! the first crocus
Pops its crust,
Spring with its myriad signals
Unsettling our sleep.

Awake, we climb into summer
To lose ourselves among the leaves
Of oak, of locust, of linden,
Our eyes at night in quaint and
Curious alignment with the stars.



UNL Arboretum & Garden Friends

2003 Maxwell Friends Board

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Secretary: Ron Case

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John Furrer Dave McGill
Francis Haskins Irvin Omtvedt
Peter Jensen Howard Ottoson
Gladys Juerink Margaret Ottoson
James Kendrick Helen Peterson
Jim Locklear Jane Wendorff

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Emilie Ellingson Bryan Poppe
Linda Hillegass Paula Steinberger
Mike Jess Suzy Taylor

Advisor:

Jan Cutshall

Historian:

Hope Robb

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Landscape Services Administration & Management

Eileen Bergt: *Interim Director & Landscape Architect*
Jay Schluckebier: *Assistant Director*
Kirby Baird: *Landscape & Botanical Services - City Campus*
Carol Bom: *Staff Assistant*
Jeff Culbertson: *Landscape & Botanical Services - East Campus*
Dale Ekart: *Recycling & Solid Waste Resources*
Don Hinds: *Operations Equipment*
Kay Kottas: *Education Programs & Plant Records*
Jim Sommers: *Irrigation Systems*

Newsletter

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