

THE **A**rboretum
AT FLAGSTAFF

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December 2023

Happy December Everyone!

The Arboretum at Flagstaff has been a special place in our community for over 40 years. It was the vision of our founder, Frances McAllister, to turn her 200-acre property into a public garden and educational site where we could come together to learn about high elevation gardening, native plant conservation, and wise stewardship of the Colorado Plateau.

As the Executive Director of this remarkable organization, I have been inspired by your love for The Arb. From witnessing over 900 children experiencing one of Flagstaff's best outdoor classrooms, to seeing so many of you at our plant sales, concerts and special events, I have been filled with gratitude. I have also been humbled by your generosity in supporting our mission. Individuals and local businesses have been giving in so many ways. I can't thank our community enough for volunteering your time, [renewng your membership](#) and/or providing donations, sponsorships, and in-kind services.

Together, there is so much more we can accomplish!

In 2024, we will be focusing on revitalizing our gardens and improving our visitor experience, expanding our public programs to reach even more people of all ages and backgrounds, offering more Arb-grown plants for your garden, and carrying out another year of conserving at-risk plant species of the Colorado Plateau.

As the season of giving is upon us, I ask you to please consider a tax deductible year end contribution to the Arboretum in order to guarantee that we have the resources to continue the important work we do.

Making a donation is easy by clicking on this link:

[DONATE HERE!](#)

Together, we can ensure that the Arboretum remains a sanctuary of learning, a haven for biodiversity, and a source of inspiration for generations to come.

From all of us at the Arboretum, I wish you Happy Holidays!

With gratitude,

Nate O'Meara
Executive Director
The Arboretum at Flagstaff

*We are a 501c3 charitable organization, EIN 94-2788812

Winter Youth Education

by Helena Murray - Education Manager

Winter is here and although our grounds are closed for the season, educational opportunities are still available for our Flagstaff students.

The Arboretum's K-5 in-classroom lessons are available to schedule now for both in-person and virtual options with topics ranging from habitats and ecosystems to plant adaptations to forest health and management.

These lessons are a great introduction to our spring field trips at The Arboretum and help students to make real world connections to the concepts discussed in class. Each lesson is designed to encourage conscientious stewardship of our environment by providing hands-on interactive learning opportunities.

Reach out to Helena.Murray@thearb.org with questions about scheduling your classroom presentation or spring field trip, or to discuss additional learning opportunities for your students.



Our Plant Superheroes comic book used to teach children about plant adaptations of the Colorado Plateau

Our Produce Garden Needs Your Help!

by Gina Goegan- Greenhouse Manager

Growing edible crops at high elevation is undoubtedly a challenge. Here at the Arboretum, we have seen incredible years of abundance, as well as tragic years full of extreme temperature fluctuations and drought. Regardless of obstacles, gardeners in Northern Arizona persist, adapting like the plants, and carrying forward with dreams of overflowing harvest baskets.

We at the Arboretum have a unique opportunity to not only inspire our community, but educate them on how to be successful in the vegetable garden.

We utilize our 200-acres to increase understanding and appreciation for the place we live, and take pride in teaching people how to create oases in their own yards. With that, we are in need of building supplies to create wind-breaks and season extenders like frost cloth for those freezing June and August nights. We also need funding for seeds to increase the variety of cold adapted edibles. With this, we can show our visitors, volunteers, and students that vegetable gardening at 7,000 ft is possible.

We have partnered with SeedMoney for this campaign. **In addition to keeping 100% of the funds we raise from individuals like you, we have a chance to win a challenge grant of up to \$1,000 from SeedMoney based on how much we raise over the course of the 30-day period ending on December 15th.** Just as a small seed can grow into something much larger, a small donation can have a big impact when added with others.

You can donate to our SeedMoney campaign by clicking [here!](#)



The Arboretum produce garden in full summer glory!

Is My Garden Ugly?

by Sarah Armanovs - Gardens Manager

Right now, you may be thinking, "What will the neighbors think? It's the end of the season, we've even gotten some snow, and now all my plants are brown and dead-looking!" It's that time of the year you may be wondering, do I cut back all the perennials and annuals or leave them over the winter?

Some plants, like grasses and our native yarrow actually look amazing when dormant!

That's right, maybe you can cut some of your plants back but keep others for their aesthetic value. At the same time, you could support wildlife and leave all your dead and dormant plants just as they are. What you'll end up seeing is critter tracks in the snow and birds chirping and jumping between the plants, loving the habitat your plants provide.

Keeping your garden wild this time of year is my favorite thing to do for two other reasons:

1. You're tired. It was a long season. Why not keep those cutbacks in the garden for when you get that gardening itch in the spring but it's stillllll too early to plant!
2. Leaving the plants with seedheads as they allow the seeds to fully develop and drop. Thus, free plants! And free seeds for the chipmunks and birds to eat.

Whatever you do with your cutbacks this fall, I hope you enjoy the last days of gardening for the season!



Leaving plant die back this time of year in your garden adds habiat and winter interest.

Arb gifts for the holidays?

Our gift shop has closed for the season but you can still find cute Arboretum merchandise on our Bonfire fundraising page by following the link [here!](#)

Did you know that you can gift a membership to The Arb? Choose the level [here](#) and we'll do the rest!



We also have books and items from our gift shop available for purchase on our website. Local pick-up is available in town for your convenience.

Shop our online gift shop [here!](#)

Thank You to All of Our 2023 Community Sponsors!





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