



Happy May Everyone!

It is with great excitement that we are finally re-opening for the season tomorrow at 9 am. After a very long winter, our gardens are just waking up but we have hit the ground running with a full [list of events](#) this May!

The Arboretum Nursery will be open again all season on our property stock full of your favorite native plants grown by us. If you can't make it out to the Arb to pick up some new plants, you can come see us at the Coconino Master Gardeners' Plant Sale held at the Museum of Northern Arizona's Colton Garden May 20th 10am-2pm.

Our Eco-Explorers Summer Camps are selling out fast. However, there are still spaces available in Garden Growers and Weird Science. So if you haven't registered your children or grandchildren for camps this summer, please go to this [link](#).

Our first early morning bird walk kicks off on May 20th from 7:30 am - 9:30 am. Join Dr. Celia Holm for a morning walk around the Arboretum. Members receive a discount on tickets which can be purchased [here](#).

The Botanical Blacksmith Exhibit will also be opening on May 20th. Celebrating its 12th season at the Arb, Arizona metalsmiths place up to 30 pieces throughout our grounds. Come see these unique works of art and pick one out for your garden. Proceeds from the exhibit benefit both the artists and the Arboretum.

Our Mountain Melodies Concert Series kicks off on June 3rd with Adam Bruce and Eric Caroffino. In addition to Dark Sky Brewery, I am pleased to announce that Mountain Sports and Northern Arizona Healthcare are sponsoring the series this season. Advance tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Finally, please see our improved [map](#) of our grounds that we developed this winter to enhance our visitor's experience. If you haven't visited the Arb for a while, I invite you to enjoy the splendor of spring by reacquainting yourself with our grounds using the new map! If you are wondering about the condition of Woody Mountain Road, I had it freshly graded last week so it is ready for our May visitors.

The staff and I look forward to seeing you this season!

With gratitude,

Nate O'Meara
Executive Director

Predicting the Weather

by Sarah Armanovs- Gardens Manager

The weather is warming up, the trees are leafing out, and we're all just itching to do some planting! But springtime is a fickle thing, and the weather changes often. Luckily, we have weather forecasts to keep an eye out on the weather. But how did gardeners of old predict the weather before weather forecasts?

Before weather forecasts, people had to rely on their keen sense of observation to predict the weather. They watched the clouds, plants, and animals around them for clues. Some of these observations became sayings, such as "Ring around the moon, rain or snow soon."

Some of these sayings are even backed by science, for example "Beware mare's tails and mackerel scales." This phrase refers to clouds that precede a low-pressure system. And a low-pressure system usually brings wind and rain. So, when you see cirrus clouds, cirrocumulus, and cirrostratus clouds, watch for a change in weather in 24-72 hours. Other clues of a drop in air pressure are, "When smoke hurts the eyes, rain is on the way," and "The earth and flowers smell strongest just before the showers." This is because when a low-pressure system arrives, the air is usually warmer and more humid, thus smells and smoke linger in the air longer.

Other old-time weather sayings may be more accurate based on the region they originated from. Then there are sayings that sometimes just don't make much sense at all. Either way, these weather prediction sayings can provide a valuable lesson for us these days: Don't forget to use your own senses to observe the marvelous world around you.

Mother's Day is just around the corner!

The Arboretum is the perfect place to visit for a hike, a picnic and a new plant from our nursery or a unique gift from our shop!



THE Arboretum
AT FLAGSTAFF

Members receive 10% off all
purchases in the gift shop!



Can't make it out to the Arb?
Check out our [online giftshop](#) for Mother's Day!

Plants for Pollinators: Seed Collections and Amplifications for Restoration and Seed Banking

by Sheila Murray- Research Botanist

In Arizona, a large proportion of the land is preserved as public land through the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and State and local parks. While these lands may not be developed, the vegetation is still at risk from natural and human-caused wildfires. Wildfires are becoming more common and more destructive due to drier environments and the spread of invasive grasses and shrubs that provide fuel.

The loss of native vegetation from preserved lands can have far-reaching effects. One potential effect is a decline of native pollinators and other wildlife that depend on plants for food or reproduction. Pollinators are already imperiled due to other environmental factors. The second potential effect is the loss of populations of rare and threatened plant species. Restoration projects after fires are hindered by a lack of seeds and plant material of the right ecotype. We cannot predict when or where fires will happen. So, it is imperative that we collect, amplify and bank seeds prior to fires. If we do not, entire populations of already rare plants could be gone forever and restorations may need to use seeds and plants from an entirely different region. This has the potential to negatively affect the adaptability of native plants and the pollinators that rely on them. If we have seed collected from near the area that burns, we can restore plants of the right ecotype.

This year we've started on a new collaborative project with Desert Botanical Garden called "Plants for Pollinators". We will visit areas that are likely to be affected by fire in the coming years to collect seed and then grow the plants to produce additional seed of known ecotype. We will focus on collecting two types of seeds:

- A. Perennial and annual species that provide nectar for pollinators, grow well in disturbed environments and produce relatively large amounts of seed.
- B. Rare and threatened plants that grow in fire-prone regions where populations may be destroyed by fire

Species we are looking at are: Thurber's cinquefoil, wild bergamot, wild buckwheat, and a few penstemon. We are also looking at increasing the supply of rare or endangered plant seeds, and will be propagating Goodding's onion and Arizona bugbane. We will be growing these species in dedicated raised beds near our Produce Garden. As seeds are produced, we will coordinate with USFWS and Southwest Seed Partnership to distribute seeds or coordinate with large-scale growers for increased seed amplification. We will also maintain a quantity of seed in our seed storage at the Arboretum.





Thurber's cinquefoil



Gooding's wild onion

Volunteers will be needed this summer to help prepare the seed beds and to maintain them over the growing season. If you would like to help, please reach out to us and we can get you started right away!

Come Volunteer with Us!

Come volunteer with us! Here are our volunteer opportunities for this season:

Visitor Center

We are looking for volunteers who would like to help out in the visitor center / gift shop on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30am - 12:30pm. We are also looking for creative individuals to help us think up ideas for kids' crafts!

If interested in volunteering in the visitor center, please email info@thearb.org.

Events

We need volunteers for a variety of tasks at concerts, plant sales, Pumpkin Walk, Garden Party, and Pollinator Fest! Some of these tasks include ticket checkers, beverage servers, and money takers.

If interested in volunteering during events, please email events@thearb.org.

Education

We need volunteers interested in leading or assisting in leading school groups in field trips at the Arb, and aiding camp staff in daily activities and tasks. Attending table and outreach events such as Science in the Park, STEM City, or Youth Climate Summit, and leading the table activities and interacting with the public.

If interested in volunteering in the education, please email Helena.Murray@thearb.org.

Gardens

Weeding Wednesdays are back! Wednesday from 12:00pm - 2:00pm. We will also have other opportunities for garden volunteers throughout the season.

If interested in volunteering in the gardens, please email gardens@thearb.org.

Hummingbirds

We need volunteers to refill the hummingbird feeders at the Arb!

If interested in volunteering with the hummingbirds, please email info@thearb.org.

Thank you to our 2023 Sponsors!





Want to become a sponsor of the Arb this season?

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