

# THE rboretum AT FLAGSTAFF

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November 2023

## Happy November Everyone!

As the final leaves fall from our deciduous trees and The Arboretum closes for the year, I am celebrating the completion of another great season!

I want to thank everyone who came out for the Pumpkin Walk. With over 600 people in attendance it was a fun and successful evening! Thank you again to our Pumpkin Walk community sponsors for their support including Unisource Energy Services, OneAZ Credit Union, Dark Sky Brewing Company and Mother Road Brewery Company!

I am also happy to report the Horticulture Center re-roofing and fascia restoration project has been completed! By replacing the metal roof, this work rectified a maintenance issue over 40 years in the making. I would like to highlight Loven Contracting's talented craftsmen for their attention to detail and final product, Paragon Contracting for installation of 'water and ice shield' throughout the roof's underlayment at no extra cost, and BZ Painting for the painting of the upper fascia and rafter tails 'at cost'. I also thank all of you for your contributions that helped make this essential project happen!

In other big news, I am excited to announce that we have secured over \$260,000 for maintenance of Woody Mountain Road for the next five years! Last year, I applied for grant funding through the U.S. Forest Service's Coconino Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) who allocates funds from the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self-Determination Act. A few weeks ago the funds were secured and a scope of work was finalized with the Forest Service. These funds will allow us to grade the road from the intersection of F.S.R. 532 and 231 to the last driveway of the Arboretum in spring, summer, and fall. We will also be doing a one-time application of gravel in the fall of 2024 to help resurface the road. I can't thank our partners at the Coconino National Forest Office enough for their collaboration on this project. Here's to a smoother road next season!

With gratitude,  
Nate O'Meara  
Executive Director



## Thank You to our Volunteers and Seasonal Staff!

How does our small staff keep the Arboretum running all season? With the help of our amazing seasonal employees, board members and volunteers! We really could not do it without them!

Hopefully, this season you got a chance to meet some of our seasonal staff. We want to shout out to Lainie, Zoe, Janice, Sharon, Jenny and Myles for their dedication and hard work. It's hard to say goodbye each November to our talented seasonals!

**Our dedicated volunteers contributed well over 1,000 hours over the season** helping us with everything from keeping the gardens maintained to leading docent tours, answering visitor questions, to helping us with events and more! We can't thank them enough for their support and contributions!

Please think about how you could be a part of our 2024 season! Seasonal jobs will open again in the spring (watch our website) and you can sign up to volunteer [here!](#) We're always looking for great board members to help us grow. Information on board requirements can be found on our [website.](#)



Over 50 volunteers, board members, NAU Forestry graduate students, seasonal and year-round staff carved 200 pumpkins during 3 events to prepare us for our annual Pumpkin Walk!

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## Center for Plant Conservation Plant Sponsorship Program by Sheila Murray- Conservation Botanist

The news today about climate change has been shocking and disheartening at best to hear. A major new report in the Journal of BioScience describes how scientists around the globe are extremely concerned about the accelerating rate of climate change (The 2023 state of the climate report: Entering uncharted territory, Author: Ripple, William J; Wolf, Christopher, Publication: BioScience, Publisher: Oxford University Press, Date: 2023-10-24).

The conclusion of the report however shows there is still a sliver of hope to slow this change, that is if we "embrace this moment with unwavering courage and determination". That is why it is more important than ever to take action now to save the imperiled plants that we love.

**The Arboretum at Flagstaff is one of many participating institutions involved with the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC).**

As a participating institution we work to protect and secure numerous rare plants as part of our National Collection of plant species. Our work is vital to keeping these plants around for future generations. We are constantly working on gathering seeds for long-term storage, discovering how and why these plants are rare, and performing experiments in our greenhouses and gardens. This important work does not happen without financial support. Our Conservation Department tirelessly seeks various grants and contracts to be able to perform these tasks. But the best way to secure funding is to have a constant annual source, like getting a withdrawal from a retirement account. This fund for us is called the CPC Plant Sponsorship Program (learn more [here](#)).



Our efforts to conserve rare species could not be possible without generous support from readers such as yourself. We are so grateful to those of you who have contributed to the Plant Sponsorship Program and encourage those of you who might wish to help to visit [here](#) where you can contribute to sponsoring one of The Arboretum's National Collection species.

**Right now is a great time to donate during the CPC's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

CPC will be matching funds if you wish to donate towards one of our species, such as the Arizona willow, *Salix arizonica*. For every \$5K raised, the CPC Board of Trustees will provide \$5K in matching funds to bring the species to the full sponsorship level of \$10K. We cannot thank you enough for being a plant conservation hero.



Arizona willow, *Salix arizonica* (Photo credit: Joyce Maschinski)

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## Thank you to our 2023 Pumpkin Walk Sponsors!



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## Leave the Leaves!

by Gina Goegan - Greenhouse Manager

It's that time of year when I start seeing bags upon bags lined up along my neighborhood streets. It is at this moment I must resist the urge to collect the abundance of valuable, life-giving mulch that is laid before me posing as discarded waste destined for the landfill.

You see, the leaves and pine needles that are crammed into those bags not only make a nutrient rich, insulating top dressing in your garden beds. These little tree gifts are also habitat for numerous species of native moths, butterflies, slugs, snails, spiders, beetles, millipedes, centipedes, frogs, and salamanders. Tragically, they can't all take a vacation to Mexico for the winter like the monarch butterfly. In an effort to support these wonderful little creatures that are a vital part of our ecosystem, while acknowledging the very real need to control at least one thing in this chaotic world, I invite you to condense the leaves and pine needles to garden beds and lawn borders. Apply them around trees, shrubs, and perennials to assist in insulating the roots for the cold winter to come. Or better yet, take a break from the garden and let the wisdom of nature take the wheel, returning revitalized and ready to tidy in the Spring. That's right, I am here to promote procrastination in the garden. After all, "If you put things off till the last minute, they only take a minute to do" once said a wise procrastinator.



The fallen leaves of a quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) make for outstanding garden mulch and habitat for western swallowtail butterflies.

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## Arb gifts for the holidays?

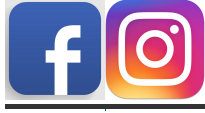
Our gift shop has closed for the season but you can still find cute Arboretum merchandise on our Bonfire fundraising page by following the link [here!](#)



**Thank you to our 2023 Season Sponsors!**



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<b>Thank You!</b>					



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