Greetings!

October is one of my favorite months in the garden. Here at The Arboretum, the signs of fall can be seen all around. Plants like ‘autumn joy’ sedum and our native asters have burst into flower while some of our late summer bloomers including coneflower, firewheel gaillardia, and Maximilian’s sunflowers are still putting on a colorful show. The sumacs have turned a fiery scarlet outside the visitor center while the leaves on our deciduous trees such as aspen, Amur maples and service berries are lighting up our gardens in hues of red, yellow, and orange. It truly is a magical time!

As we cherish these fleeting days of autumn, there is still another full month of activities here at The Arb. Come out to enjoy the color while taking memorable photos at our recently decorated
picture frame with the San Francisco Peaks in the background. If you’re looking to add a few more plants to your garden before the soil freezes, we still have a nice selection of native plants for sale in our nursery.

We will host our last live raptor program this Saturday October 7th at 10:30 am.

We will end the month with one of our most popular events: Pumpkin Walk! We invite you to participate in this two-day event that kicks off with a community pumpkin carving on Oct 27th 4-6 pm at Dark Sky Brewing Company downtown. Craving is free for the whole family while supplies last.

Then, visit The Arboretum October 28th from 4-8 pm to see your creation lit up alongside the hundreds of other crave pumpkins displayed throughout our grounds. Sponsored by Unisource and OneAZ Credit Union, the night will also feature kid activities, music, food carts, hot beverages and local craft beer. This is our last weekend open to the public for the season so come celebrate Halloween festivities and another successful year here at The Arboretum. You can purchase your advance tickets here.

In other news, I am pleased to announce that the repairs to our Horticulture Building are coming along nicely and should be completed this month. See below for photos of the progress. These repairs were made possible by in-kind contributions from our contractors- Loven Contracting, Another Plumbing Company and Paragon Contracting, insurance funds, and generous donations from all of you! Thank you again for your support!

With gratitude,
Nate O’Meara
Executive Director

2023 Raptors @ The Arb
Free with your admission to The Arb

First Saturdays @ 10:30 AM
June through October

Free with price of admission.
Get up close and personal with the raptors from the International Raptor and Falconry Center, a nonprofit right here in Flagstaff! Meet up in the living room to learn more about these personable feathery fellows. No dogs at this event please.

THE Arboretum AT FLAGSTAFF
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PUMPKIN CARVING PARTY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
4PM–6PM
DARK SKY BREWING CO~ BEER GARDEN
COME CARVE A PUMPKIN TO DISPLAY AT THE ARBORETUM’S PUMPKIN WALK
Click the Flyer Below to Purchase Advance Tickets for Pumpkin Walk!

2023 Pumpkin Walk at The Arboretum!

$17 Non-Members  $13 Members  $7 Children 5-17 years old
4001 S.Woody Mountain Rd.  Flagstaff, AZ 86005

Saturday, October 28th from 4-8PM

- Hundreds of Jack-o-Lanterns on display throughout the gardens
- Music & Kid Activities
- Food Trucks, Beer & Hot Beverages
- Costumes encouraged

Sponsored by:

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Blanket of Mulch
by Sarah Armanovs- Gardens Manager

Mulch. It is a very innocuous part of the garden, yet perhaps the most vital of all gardening activities.

This saying helps explain the reason why: Take care of the soil, and the soil will take care of the plants. The benefits of mulch are numerous! Think of mulch as a blanket you cover your soil with. Without this blanket, the sun hits the soil and bakes it- your soil gets hard, dry and the invisible (yet super vital) microbes in that soil are baked as well. What you have left is a barren patch of dirt. But what you want is a moist, organic soil. By utilizing a blanket of mulch, you protect your garden from the effects of the hot sun, evaporation of water, and even loss of heat in the wintertime. Yes, mulch is even beneficial in the winter.
So just how much mulch are we talking about? And what to use for mulch? Well, the most common thing you’ll see people use as mulch is wood chips. While wood chips are not only useful but also pretty, don’t stop there! The most ideal mulch is whatever you have on hand already- garden debris (aka chop and drop), leaves, compost, newspaper, sawdust, and even pine needles! And you’ll want to lay down about a 4-6” layer of mulch (making sure to not put mulch right up against a tree’s trunk or else you’ll get rot on your tree).

And there you have it! Mulching- The most innocuous gardening activity, yet the most vital.

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**Thank you to our Bristlecone Benefactors!**

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**Youth Education with the Arb**
by Helena Murray - Education Manager

Our season is wrapping up for field trips out at the Arboretum but our education department is still out there educating! We offer several lessons that are tailored to meet the AZ Science Standards for K-5 grades and can prepare your class for a place based lesson out at the Arboretum when spring arrives in May.

Some of the most popular lessons held in classrooms include **Our Homes in the Forest, Plant Superheroes**, and **Forest Investigators**. Our Homes in the Forest is focused on animal habitats on the Colorado Plateau. We answer questions like, “what makes a habitat a habitat?” and “What do all living things need to survive?”. This lesson explores Ponderosa pine forests, snag trees, riparian areas and more and is geared towards 1st grade learners.

Plant Superheroes of the Colorado Plateau is a lesson created in partnership with AZ Project WET and has been grown and adapted to other regions in the state. However, it all started at the Arboretum learning about the super powers (adaptations) of plants that live on the Colorado Plateau.
Plateau. The 4th grade learners explore the various climatic zones of the Colorado Plateau and the challenges that plants have to overcome and adapt to in order to survive.

Forest Investigators is another partnership lesson made in collaboration with AZ Project WET to challenge 5th grade learners to become forest managers. With this lesson, they learn about the history of fire in the southwest, the importance of fire in the Ponderosa pine forest ecosystem, and ways to manage the forests to create healthy and diverse ecosystems.

If you or a teacher you know would like to bring these lessons into the classroom, or would like to discuss other learning opportunities while the Arboretum is closed for the season, please reach out directly to Helena Murray at Helena.Murray@thearb.org.

It's never too early to start thinking about Spring 2024 field trips and begin signing up now! See the full list of field trip options on our website [here](http://www.thearb.org/).
Thank you to our 2023 Season Sponsors!

Thank You!

Please Note: Opting out of this email will also opt you out of all communications from The Arb including membership renewals and future newsletters.