Happy New Year Everyone!

January 2024
Happy New Year Everyone!

Since closing to the public in October, we have been blessed with a pack of coyotes frequenting our grounds. They are doing great work controlling the rodent population in our gardens! It was also a blessing to finally see snow on the ground this last week. The snow is a welcomed sight as it provides protection to our plants and much needed moisture for our gardens and wildland.

One of our New Year’s resolutions here at the Arboretum, is to grow our Board of Directors membership in 2024. Currently, we have a great team of dedicated and active members! But we are in need of more!

We are seeking folks who reflect our greater Flagstaff community such as those from the general science, botanical and horticultural communities, education, the tourism and business sector, legal, marketing, property management, fundraising and financial services and/or any citizen who would love to get involved.

Our Board Members are Super Volunteers!

With input from the Executive Director and core staff, the board is tasked with overseeing the strategic direction and financial oversight of the organization*. In this way, the board meets once a month every fourth Wednesday from 4:00-5:30pm. Board meetings are usually an hour and half and include finance summaries, reports from the Executive Director and committees as well as open discussion about current issues related to the stewardship of the Arb.

Board members also serve on various subcommittees to fulfill operational and fundraising needs. Current committees include the following:

- The Finance Committee oversees the general finances of the organization.
- The Development Committee aims to increase our fundraising capacity and donor appreciation.
- The Planning Committee is exploring ways to sustain our land assets into the future.
- The Events Committee focuses on providing support for Arboretum events and planning our biggest fundraiser of the year- the Summer Garden Party, held in August when our gardens look their best.

If you or someone you know may be interested in joining our Board of Directors, please review our application, duties and pledge sheet by following this link and then contact me at nate.omeara@thearb.org.

I hope to hear from you soon!

With gratitude,

Nate O'Meara
Executive Director
*We are a 501c3 charitable organization*

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**Turn on the heat!**  
by Nate O’Meara - Executive Director

This winter, after years of dealing with an antiquated and broken heating system from the 1980s in our Horticulture Building, Another Plumbing Company has removed the old units and is busily installing a new highly efficient and cost saving radiant water boiler system! Here's to finally having reliable heat again in this building!

**These repairs were made possible by in-kind contributions from our contractor, insurance funds, and generous donations from all of you!**

The antiquated and broken heating system (photo on the left) in our Horticulture Building is being replaced this winter with new high efficient units (photo on the right).

**Thank you again for your support as we work to refresh our facilities and grounds at the Arb!**

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**Garden Dreaming**  
by Gina Goegan- Greenhouse Manager

The 2023 gardening season was rough. If you were trying to grow anything in the Flagstaff region from June-August, you know what I mean. At the Arboretum, we had a devastating freeze at the end
of June that decimated the vegetable garden and even zapped some of our hardiest native plants. Then the drought came. I really missed the monsoon rains and rejoiced when they (sort of) arrived in August. It seems no matter how harsh the weather is in the high country; August will always bring a delightful array of color and clouds.

Now, as I sit here on this freezing cold and snowy January day, I find myself dreaming of the gardens to come. Somehow, even after 10 years of gardening in Flagstaff, I still have hope for a good gardening season. They do happen after all, and even if they don’t, August will still provide that soul mending beauty every gardener needs.

As I sit here planning the vegetable garden, flipping through seed catalogs, I am filled with gratitude for those who supported our SeedMoney campaign. A huge thank you to all of you who donated to it! We will use the funds to purchase short season, cold adapted vegetable and flower varieties and warmer insulation for the plants. I am also dreaming of an archway to grow scarlet runner beans, tomato plants as tall as I am and fields of flowers because if I have learned anything about gardening in Flagstaff, it is to dream big- and then surrender and adapt to the weather you are given.

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.

A Garden Dreamscape: Blue Grama and Coreopsis below a post monsoon sunset.
Thank you to all who gave to our year end campaign!

We exceeded our goal! Your generous donations will strengthen our programming in 2024!

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