



UNIVERSITY OF
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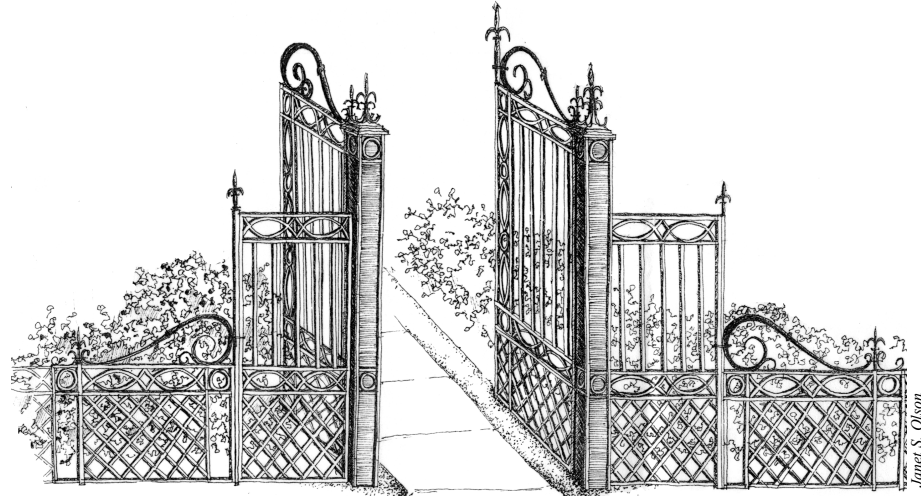
The Garden News

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Botanical Garden and Arboretum

Winter 2003 Vol. 9 Issue 1

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The Gates, a project of the UNL Garden Friends, welcoming you to UNL

UNL Garden Friends Annual Meeting

Please join us for the annual meeting of the UNL Garden Friends on Sunday, January 19 at 2:30 p.m. in the City Campus Union, 14th & R St. Parking is available along R Street or in the UNL 17th & R parking garage.

In addition to a short business meeting and the announcement of new officers for 2003, the featured speaker will be Mary Ellen Connelly, owner of Perennial Passions, from Sioux Falls, SD. Last year, her excellent presentation on perennials made us all enthused for the coming season. Her topic this year will be hardy shrub roses.

Refreshments will be served. This is your opportunity to gather with your fellow enthusiasts, and to show your support for the wonderful gardens at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Mary Ellen Connelly



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**Please join us Sunday, January 19 at 2:30 p.m.
in the City Campus Union, room number will be posted**

*We still have UNLBGA 2003 Campus Landscape Calendars available
Call 472-2679 or stop by Landscape Services 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F for free copies*

Personnel Updates

by Carol Bom, Staff Assistant

Congratulations:

◆ Joel Tabor, Groundskeeper II in Area 2, City Campus - promoted to Grounds Supervisor for Area 1, City Campus.

Intra-Departmental Change:

◆ Brian Dieterman, Groundskeeper II - transferred from East Campus Pasture & Mowing Supervisor to Assistant Supervisor, Area 4, East Campus.

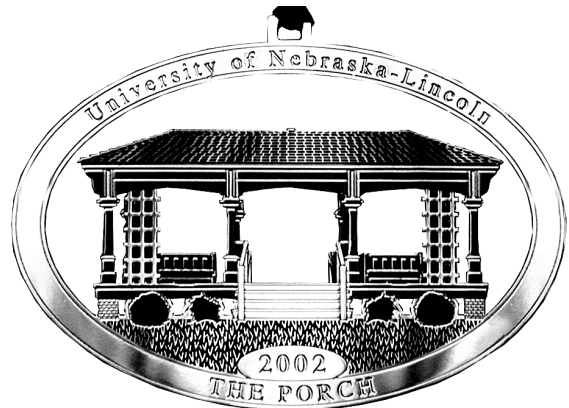
◆ Kevin Herr, Project Manager - will continue work for Landscape Services but his office will be at Facilities Management & Planning with project managers.

Good-bye & Good Luck:

◆ Suzette Hamilton, Groundskeeper II in Area 1, City Campus – transferred to Environmental Health and Safety on East Campus.

◆ Janette Roth, Groundskeeper II on East Campus, Area 4 – transferred to the Custodial Division.

Perin Porch Ornament



Perin Porch is portrayed in the 2002 Chancellor's ornament in conjunction with the University of Nebraska Alumni Association. For more information, contact Landscape Services at 472-2679.

From the Interim Director

When the University experiences lean times, as it is now, we as a department of the University find better ways to economize and work together to accomplish our common goal of keeping campus beautiful. In the last round of budget reductions, Landscape Services lost groundskeeper positions. One of these was critical to the maintenance of the core area on City Campus. We quickly reorganized and called on key personnel to help us maintain this prominent area. We are also reducing maintenance on campus by removing low-profile perennial beds and annual planting beds.

The Landscape Services staff has become team oriented, more in these lean times than in the past. With the loss of staff on both City and East Campus we help each other to complete projects in a timely manner. I am gratified when I hear stories about how crews help out other crews to accomplish a large task. Seeding of the lawn areas at Othmer Hall and



*Eileen Bergt
Interim Director &
Landscape Architect*

the former site of Lyman and Bancroft Halls, planting Teachers College, planting ground cover at Richards Hall, covering the Nursery hoop house, and removing a large partially dead oak tree, to name a few. We also have managers within our department working with other departments to achieve a common University goal; recycling working with Custodial Services and some campus building volunteers to maintain the new voluntary recycling program, our design/project management area teaming with Facilities Planning and Construction to create aesthetically pleasing as well as functional buildings. I am sure there are many more teamwork projects that go unmentioned. Thanks to all the crews and staff who have helped your fellow co-workers.

I feel honored to provide leadership for the Landscape Services department in this time of transition. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you.



2002 Holiday & Awards Pot Luck Luncheon

by Twyla Hansen, Project Assistant



Landscape Services employees and guests at East Campus Shop

Thank You Midland Recycling

We'd like to thank our friends at Midland Recycling for providing food for this year's Holiday & Awards Pot Luck Luncheon. The luncheon was terrific, and we're always grateful for our friends!

The Annual Landscape Services Holiday and Awards Pot Luck Luncheon was held Friday December 13, 2002 at the East Campus Shop. Attendees included Landscape Services staff, and special invited guests from Facilities Management & Planning, University Services, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and Midland Recycling, as well as a few past employees and immediate family. The menu included roast pig, turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, and beverages provided by Midland Recycling. Side dishes and desserts were brought by Landscape Services employees.

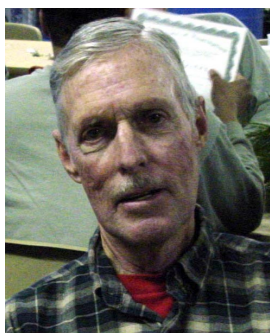
A highlight of the luncheon was the awards ceremony for Permanent Employee of the Year, Student/Temporary Employee of the Year and the Safety Award of Excellence. For all awards, nominations were submitted by Landscape Services employees. For the Permanent and Student/Temporary awards, nominees were voted on by ballot from all Landscape Services employees. The Safety Committee voted by ballot on the Safety Award nominees. There were fourteen nominees for Permanent Employee of the Year, nine for Student/Temporary Employee of the year and eight nominees for the Safety Award of Excellence.

This year's Permanent Employee of the Year winner, Chris Harter, Assistant City



Eileen Bergt, Interim Director and Landscape Architect, presenting awards

Campus Manager, has worked at Landscape Services since 1995. The Student/Temporary Employee of the Year winner, Carl Langenberg, has worked on and off at Landscape Services since 1963. The Safety Award of Excellence winner, Korey Klaus, Grounds Supervisor, Area 7 City Campus, has worked at Landscape Services since 1999.



Carl Langenberg,
Student/Temporary Employee of the Year
*"Always willing to help others."
"His dedication and work ethic speaks for itself."*



Chris Harter, Permanent Employee of the Year
*"Great leadership skills and is helpful training staff."
"Easy to get along with and makes work interesting."*



Korey Klaus, Safety Award of Excellence winner
*"Always points out safety procedures and practices."
"Sets good examples." "Excellent leadership in training."*

Spring Affair Sneak Preview

“Spring is in the air” as far as planning for our next Spring Affair plant sale extravaganza! This year’s Spring Affair will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2003, with the Preview Party being held on Friday, April 25, 2003. The theme will be “Adapting to Nebraska.” The programs will focus on how gardeners can face the often harsh climate of Nebraska, ranging from too much rain, to insects, to drought. We will have plenty of drought resistant plants and will also offer a new section on trough gardens.

We have decided to move the plant sale to the Lancaster Building on the State Fair Grounds. This building is bigger and has quite a few advantages over the Food Court Plaza. For those of you who have volunteered in the past, you know it can be cold! The new building has heat, cooling ability, indoor restrooms, and more space. We will be able to

by Carol Bom, Staff Assistant

enter easily on the 27th Street entrance to the fairgrounds.

Another change will be in the look of the Spring Affair News--more like a newspaper--but will still be the same size. It will still come out at the same time of year and hold the same quality articles you have come to expect from our contributing writers. We will have maps and information about the changes in the location. We will have two sets of programs, as usual, as well as the “Everything and Anything” panel. The plant sale list will still be included so that you can prepare for your shopping early!

We are excited about these changes and trust that you will be also. Watch for updates to our web page at <http://busfin.unl.edu/unlbga/SpringAffair>.

What is a Trough Garden?

At Spring Affair this April, a special section will be set aside for the sale of trough garden plants, which makes this an opportune time to find out just what a trough garden is. Many of you who have recently visited Bluebird Nursery or who travel in very aristocratic gardening circles will already be well aware of the trough garden. For the rest of you, this is a brief overview and should be enough to allow you to converse with the gardening elite on the subject.

The term trough is used because the first trough gardens were created in actual farm animal troughs. These troughs were once made of hand-hewn stone and some enterprising gardener years ago in England (and probably anywhere else they were used) discovered that they made nice planters. Eventually it was worked out that the real troughs were a bit too bulky and hard to come by for the city dwellers; so a lightweight, portable material called hypertufa became the substitute of choice. Hypertufa is a mixture of Portland cement, peat moss, perlite and water, which can be made to look very much like old stone. With hypertufa, one can create the illusion of an old stone trough without all the problems like the back pains that come from trying to lift one.

by Laurence Ballard, Nursery Plant Supervisor

So why would you go to the trouble of putting your plants in a stone trough or any reasonable facsimile when you could just use a plastic container? My view is that rather than thinking of the trough as simply the container, you think of it as the frame for the work of art you will create with the plants that go in it. This may sound elitist, but you would never consider placing a Monet in thin plastic frame, and this concept is much the same. All gardeners can relate to the concept of gardens as works of art, so accepting that a nice frame is better than a cheap one should require no leap of faith.

The plants traditionally associated with trough gardens are generally very small and very interesting, which is why they need to be framed in the first place. They often originate in alpine areas and would fit better into a rock garden than into a typical large perennial design where they would not only go unnoticed, but would also suffer from an overabundance of resources. Each

trough garden is unique, an amazing and beautiful world in miniature, where organisms interact and adapt to the limited resources available. Our plant offerings will be just a small sample of the great diversity of miniature plants available to work with.



Photos of trough gardens from Bluebird Nursery



Notes from Maxwell Arboretum

In spite of the drought, maintenance of Maxwell Arboretum continued on track and a number of improvements were made. At year's end, it's always good to look back and assess, evaluate the setbacks and accomplishments of one's work, and to pass this information on to you, our friends and supporters.

Drought: Useful lessons were learned from our drought experience: we found out which species could survive unaffected, which ones wilted slowly, which ones "flushed" overnight, and which were severely damaged. Spring bud break will tell us even more. We should learn our lessons well, for as they say here on the plains, "drought is a sometime thing."

Herbaceous Collections: This past year, we were fortunate to have the herbaceous expertise of Groundskeeper II Janette Roth. Janette maintained the Yeutter Gardens, Fleming Slope, the hosta collection and arboretum shade bed. Her knowledge and eye for detail was evident in the great appearance of the perennial beds this growing season.

In the spring, we filled in numerous empty spots in both Yeutter and Fleming. Seven new hostas received from Gary Jones were planted in the collection.

Identification, Labeling, and Mapping: Janette worked diligently to update plant identification and mapping in Yeutter Garden. We now have a map of the Yeutter Rock Garden and plant lists for both the Rock and Berm Garden are about 95% complete. Fleming Slope is up for the same work next year. Additionally, the hosta collection has been identified and new labels installed. Look for a new map of the collection in the spring. ID work was also done on the rhododendron/azalea collection and new metal labels, showing parentage, were installed. Mapping has begun, but must wait for the coming spring.

Woody Plants, Removals and Planting: Horticultural work is grounded in the seasons of life. Among this year's removals were: *Pinus resinosa* Red Pine: SE of gazebo - Sphaeropsis tip blight; *Betula populifolia* Gray Birch: East of creek - decline; *Maclura pomifera* Osage Orange: South

by Emily Levine, Grounds Supervisor, Maxwell Arboretum

edge of Prairie - tipped by storm; *Celtis occidentalis* Hackberry: SW of gazebo - decline; *Abies concolor* White Fir: Vine Arbor - storm; *Acer platanoides* 'Emerald Queen' Norway Maple: NW of gazebo - damage from '97 storm; *Acer saccharum* 'Green Mountain' Sugar Maple: NW of gazebo - damage from '97 storm.

New plantings this fall were: *Picea orientalis* 'Green Knight' - Memorial Oriental Spruce honoring Phillip P. Sutton, Cooperative Extension, 1943-1977; *Picea pungens* 'Hoopsii' - a silvery Blue Spruce; *Picea pungens* 'Bakerii' - a small, slow-growing Blue Spruce (these spruces were planted in the green space between the Yeutter Garden and Fleming Slope); *Populus deltoides* Eastern Cottonwood - part of a



nationwide planting in conjunction with the National Tree Trust. This is not one of the industry's hybrid cottonwoods, but a native seedling that took root in our nursery.

Sad News/Setbacks: The arboretum suffered a setback in September when heavy rains felled a White Fir and it landed on the Vine Arbor. The south end of the walkway and a seating area were destroyed and had to be removed. Four Buckthorn shrubs and a few vines were cut to the ground. The department is working to procure funding to rebuild the damaged area and to undertake a rebuilding of the entire structure as rot is setting in.

Education: Maxwell Arboretum's educational mission was fulfilled by tours and programs provided to the University community and the public at large. In September, the arboretum was a focal point in the first joint Festival of Color/Gardeners Gala event. Numerous presenters utilized Yeutter Garden and Fleming Slope to speak to issues of design, maintenance, and cultivar selection. The day was a great success.

It was a challenging year in Maxwell, but we have come through with our maintenance program intact, improvements accomplished, our educational mission fulfilled, and with a renewed commitment to carrying Earl Maxwell's legacy into the 21st century.

Campus Project Updates

◆ Van Brunt Visitor Center - Mary Riepma Ross Film and New Media Center: construction is near completion. Landscape Services is adding soil to the site and will be planting in the spring.

◆ 17th & Vine Street will soon be the site of a new student housing project. The existing parking lot at the SW corner is closed so that construction can begin early in 2003. The project will have approximately 470 apartment-style units.

◆ 14th and Avery Avenue will become the site of a new Parking Structure. Construction is to begin in May 2003. Phase 1 of this project is primarily funded from the loss of surface parking from the Antelope Valley Project.

◆ College of Natural Resources and Sciences, currently scattered in several buildings on East Campus and Nebraska Hall on City Campus, is proposed to occupy the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, which has closed. Renovation of the building and construction of a lab wing are proposed.

◆ McCollum Hall at Law College: construction of an

by Eileen Bergt, Interim Director & Landscape Architect

addition to the building is near completion. As part of the project, we are creating a new courtyard on the north and adding a prominent approach to the south entrance from the parking area. New walks, outside study areas and new plantings will be installed.

◆ A new International Quilt Study Center building is proposed for a site on East Campus between Agricultural Communications and Food Industry Complex. The building is in the early planning stages with fund raising to begin soon.

◆ Teachers College Courtyard was planted this fall. Located between Henzlik Hall and the Teachers College addition, the courtyard created a new outdoor sitting/study area.

◆ Richards Hall renovation is complete. The State allocation of 1% for Art, associated with this project, is under construction south of the building, and will serve as an outdoor classroom and sitting area.

Budget Reductions at Landscape Services

by Twyla Hansen, Project Assistant

There are many questions on the latest round of budget reductions announced November 20 by Chancellor Harvey Perlman and how they affect departments. Details are still being worked out; below are the official reductions for Landscape Services:

◆ *In addition to general groundskeeping responsibilities, Landscape Services is responsible for maintaining the University's designation as a Botanical Garden/Arboretum. While this reduction maintains UNL's Botanical, Endowed and Named Gardens, it eliminates many of the smaller planting beds that are not major points of interest on the campus.*

◆ *Staff reduced by 3 FTE (two Grounds Supervisors, one Landscape Assistant): We are trying a reorganization of City Campus from seven areas into six, and moved a Groundskeeper II position from East Campus to City Campus. Also, the Architectural Services Manager has been moved from state funding to capital project budget.*

◆ *Reduce the number of perennial flowerbeds: We are now working on which beds will be affected; some may be replaced with shrubs.*

◆ *Recycling: custodians enter offices once per week; therefore, office paper recycling may become voluntary or alternate weekly pick-up with trash.*

Thank You to UNLBGA Supporters!

by Kay Kottas, Education Programs Manager

Contributions to UNLBGA are very important. Our supporters help us to keep our plants and structures in good shape. Donors of memorials and honoraries help us to endow and conserve the treasures that make our campus a beautiful place to learn and share with the public. We will continue to provide areas to convey the sentiments these memorials and honoraries are meant to express. Our thanks to the following supporters of UNLBGA for this quarter:

- ◆ Edna Emerson – support for Perin Porch
- ◆ Academic Affairs – On an English Oak on the east side of



Love Library, the plaque reads: "In honor of David B. Brinkerhoff, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs November 19, 2002. 25 years of dedicated service to UNL"

◆ National Tree Trust – new Cottonwood east of Arbor Creek in Maxwell Arboretum

◆ Philip Sutton Family - new 'Green Knight' Oriental Spruce tree replacing an Osage Orange

dedicated in 1991

◆ UN-L Sociology Dept. – Red Bud south of Andrews Hall was labeled "In memory of Cheryl E. Applegate 1946-2002, Sociologist-Teacher-Scholar, Civil Rights Activist"

Staff Spotlight: Landscape Construction Crew

Name: Richard "Rich" Wahl
Position: Landscape Construction Supervisor
Years at Landscape Services: 31
Staff: 2 or 3 student employees
Duties include:

- ◆ grading, soil work, seeding
- ◆ plant identification signs
- ◆ brick & concrete installation
- ◆ maintain/rebuild wood structures
- ◆ assist with tree removal
- ◆ equipment training
- ◆ football litter pick-up
- ◆ coordinate snow removal City Campus

Quote: I like the variety of jobs here. That's what keeps me going.

by Twyla Hansen, Project Assistant



Rich Wahl



Jeremy Franzluebbers

Hometown: West Point, NE
Major: Business



Andrew Waldman

Lincoln, NE
Nursing



Andrew Wendt
Plattsmouth, NE
Art

UNLBGA Educational Programs

NATIONAL TREE TRUST: On the occasion of reaching its 10 millionth tree planting, The National Tree Trust celebrated by planting the state tree in Nebraska--in Maxwell Arboretum--and every other state capital city on November 21, 2002. Governor Mike Johanns proclaimed the day as National Tree Trust Day in Nebraska. Dave Mooter, Community Forester with the Nebraska Forest Service and Jeff Culbertson, Curator of Maxwell Arboretum, spoke to a group of celebrants, observing the day with a ceremonial planting of an eastern cottonwood.

UNLBGA: Our educational outreach was exceptional in 2002. It was my honor to extend the UNL Botanical Garden and Arboretum and related topics to the community. More than 25 programs, tours and demonstrations

by Kay Kottas, Mgr. Educational Programs

were enthusiastically attended. Next year, we will focus on garden tours; look for a schedule of activities in our next newsletter. Thank you to the many people who volunteered their time to share their expertise with eager participants. I especially want to thank Ann McIntosh for her wonderful ideas and expert help with the younger crowds of school groups; Emily Levine and Jeff Culbertson for sharing their knowledge with tour groups and keeping the Arboretum in such excellent condition; Jean Schultz and Matt Coatney for their help with tours of the Old rose collection and the Porch; and to all the other participants from Landscape Services, UNL and the community. We are grateful for your interest and involvement in UNLBGA.



UNL Arboretum & Garden Friends

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Landscape Services Administration & Management

Eileen Bergt: *Interim Director & Landscape Architect*
Jay Schluckebier: *Assistant Director*
Kirby Baird: *Landscape & Botanical Services - City Campus*
Carol Bom: *Staff Assistant*
Jeff Culbertson: *Landscape & Botanical Services - East Campus*
Dale Ekart: *Recycling & Solid Waste Resources*
Don Hinds: *Operations Equipment*
Kay Kottas: *Education Programs*
Jim Sommers: *Irrigation Systems*

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