



THE BRENTON ARBORETUM

Fall 2014 Newsletter

Thoughts from the Founder

The Brenton Arboretum started 17 years ago. The very first tree, labeled 97-001 (year planted-number one), was a white spruce on the west side. The spruces were bought from Heard Gardens. On that exciting day, five or six of us planted about 100 trees.



White Spruce, *Picea glauca*

I mention this because it all started so simply. I just didn't know where it would lead. I had little forethought of the breadth of its development with trees, education, and research we have today.

I was 63 years old then. My perspective has shifted. Always our efforts have been geared to build the arboretum, but now we also must lay solid plans for sustaining the arboretum for the future. Today, the board of directors of the arboretum, always the guiding hand, becomes even more important as Brentons, myself included, assume less of a role. We are blessed with a marvelous board of directors that goes far beyond the immediate Brenton family. They are Bill Brenton, nephew and farmer, West Des Moines; Bob German, former banker and tree farmer, Dallas Center; Dr. Jeff Iles, head of Iowa State University Department of Horticulture, Ames; Bob Jester, insurance executive, Des Moines; Mark Kane, former garden editor, Des Moines; Bob Rennebohm, former Heard Gardens owner, Des Moines; Mike Simonson, architect and businessman, Des Moines; Jim Van Werden, attorney, Adel; Fred Weitz, businessman and philanthropist, Des Moines; and Deb Wiley, freelance writer and editor, Des Moines. Family members include Sue Brenton, Des Moines; Lockie Markusen, Minneapolis; Julie Brenton, New York; and myself [Buz Brenton], Des Moines. This group, plus two new members coming aboard at year's end--- Phil Harrington, Adel and Ray Bening, Des Moines--- will set the future course of the arboretum and sustain it.

Membership: The arboretum members are vital to our existence. Although the arboretum is free and open to the public, our members use our spaces (inside and out), offer goodwill, and financial support. We thank you for your support. Members are listed in this newsletter.

BOARD

J.C. "Buz" Brenton
Chair

Sue Brenton
Vice Chair & Secretary

Bob German
Treasurer

Bill Brenton

Julie Brenton

Jeff Iles

Robert Jester

Mark Kane

Lockie Markusen

Bob Rennebohm

Mike Simonson

Jim Van Werden

Fred Weitz

Deb Wiley

STAFF

Andy Schmitz
Director of Horticulture
& General Manager

Elizabeth Wingert
Director of Education
& Outreach

News

Lynn Kuhn: Our former executive director, Lynn Kuhn, recently stepped aside from her duties and is now working with us on special projects. She has done a very important job here. I will be temporarily acting on her behalf. We hope to soon do a search and hire a full-time executive director.

Fundraising: To cover the cost of a full-time director (the position has been part-time) as well as expand our educational and research work, we will undertake our first fundraising campaign. Board member Fred Weitz is chairman of the fundraising committee. Its success will be critical to our future.



New Board Member: Mike Simonson of Des Moines has recently joined our board. Mike is a landscape architect and owner of Simonson and Associates, Inc. He is involved in community activities, serving as chairman of the Salisbury House Foundation board in Des Moines, and as a member of the Des Moines Art Center board. We feel so fortunate to have him join us.

Vanishing Acts: In July, we received a traveling exhibit developed by the Morton Arboretum of Lisle, Illinois. It is an absorbing and enlightening series of outdoor displays presenting trees under impending extinction in the world. It is called *Vanishing Acts: Trees Under Threat*. Look for the signs marking this exhibit on a trail just west of the Pavilion. It's well worth a visit for adults and children alike. Four of the threatened trees on the list of 15 grow at the Brenton Arboretum--- Fraser fir, dawn redwood, Serbian spruce and Anhui elm.

More Threats: The arboretum is part of two large watersheds. The larger of the two drains some 1,200 acres, starting in Dallas Center. This watershed forms Hickory Creek East, which flows through the arboretum with major flooding from time to time. The other watershed is smaller (450 acres), but more damaging and enters Lake Homestead from the east. During flood stage, major siltation comes down into our lake. This is a real concern. We are working with the town of Dallas Center and farmers to our east to find a solution.

Chamber Music: On the afternoon of August 23, the arboretum held its 9th chamber concert. An enthusiastic audience of 85 listened to the sensitive and lively performance of the Odyssey Trio, comprised of a harp, flute and cello in the sylvan setting of the Pavilion. It was a perfect combination.



Pavilion and Vista Room: The rental use of the green roof Pavilion and glass-walled Vista Room, a benefit open only to members, is increasing. Please contact Beth Wingert (515-992-4211) to schedule your event.

Thank you for reading these comments and thank you for your interest.

Buz Brenton

The Importance of Wild Seed Sources

Provenance was discussed in a past newsletter and how important it is to our collection of plants. That column ended with the statement; “more wild provenances in our collection will help us to better determine which ones are best suited for the central Iowa landscape.”

But, why is wild seed collecting important?

Back in October of 2011, Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) nuts were collected from Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge in Louisa County, Iowa by Jeff Carstens from the Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa and myself. Some of these nuts were grown into seedlings and planted in the pecan grouping here at the arboretum. Since hickory nuts are recalcitrant, they will not survive long-term under optimum seed storage conditions, and must be grown into a tree for preservation. So, collected nuts were also shipped to the National Collection of Genetic Resources for Pecans and Hickories in Somerville, Texas to be planted and grown to preserve the genetics of this population.

In the past month, L.J. Grauke from the National Collection of Genetic Resources for Pecans and Hickories informed Jeff Carstens and me that they had a severe outbreak of black pecan aphid in their greenhouses where they were growing out 2500 seedlings of pecans from wild collections ranging from Mexico to Missouri. The black aphid feeding causes bright yellow-orange chlorotic spots on the leaflets and can cause defoliation. All 2500 seedlings of pecans were affected by the black aphids, except for the 50 seedlings grown from the Louisa County, Iowa site. The genetics obtained from the Louisa County population appear to be completely resistant to the aphid. This is the invaluable information we learn from growing out wild collected specimens of known origin.



Pecan, *Carya illinoensis*

One of our missions here at the arboretum is to improve our collections through wild collecting and through acquiring plants from known sources, which includes other arboretums. This work continues today.

In 2014, we have 21 different wild sourced seed accessions growing and another 40 plants which were grown from wild sourced seed we received from the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois and from the Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa. Currently, these trees are in seedling containers or in the nursery and will eventually be added to the permanent collections. In early October, I was in southern Iowa collecting nuts from native shellbark hickory, (*Carya laciniosa*). Seedlings of this collection will be planted at the arboretum and, again, nuts will be sent by the Plant Introduction Station to the National Collection of Genetic Resources for Pecans and Hickories in Texas. And, who knows, three years from now we might find out some interesting information about this wild collected seed.



Andy Schmitz
*Director of Horticulture
and General Manager*

Thank you to all our members!

Endowing (\$500 or more)

Anonymous
 Bean, Lisa and Andy
 Brandt, Marietta
 Brenton, Julie & Bob Galbraith
 Burkert, Jean
 Demeulenaere, Ruth and Robert
 Eddy, Cathy and Bill
 Eddy, Liz
 Gadelmann, Ann and Wayne
 Gibbons, Nancy and Tom
 Hunt, David & Connie Hass
 Hurd, Trudy and Dave
 Jester, Bob
 Kelley, Susy and Bruce
 Kirk Elliot, Catherine
 Lammert Jr., Warren
 Lederhaas, Erin and George
 Murken, Dewey
 Stoner, Kitty and Tom
 Urban, Mary and Tom
 Weitz, Emily and Fred
 Weitz, Linda and Steve
 Wiley, Deb & John Schmidt

DeCamp, Sharon and Bob
 Drake, David
 Duben, Jane and Dean
 Duvick, Selma
 Eby, Mary and Fred
 Eckoff, Barb and Ron
 Francis, Gina
 Funk, Charlie
 Gelb, Marian and Sam
 German, Pam and Bob
 Ghrist, Jo
 Grieve, Mary Anne and Doug
 Grundberg, Betty and Arnie
 Hanson, Tamera and Mark
 Hays, Mary
 Henderson, Karen and Bob
 Henderson, Stacey
 Hornaday, Bill
 Howell, Virginia
 Hradek, Carol and Tom
 Jacobs, Marian
 Jahn, David and Leila
 Johnson, Ed
 Jutila, Stephanie & Tom Seltz

Sustaining (\$250 to \$499)

Anders, Carrie and Bruce
 Barrett, Judy and Tom
 Canarina, Audrey and John
 Conway, Andrea
 Hill, Sara
 James, Lois and Dwight
 Larson, Caroline and Ron
 Levitt, Jeanne and Dick
 Matthes, Bobetta
 Michalek, Carroll and Richard
 Moore, Polly
 Myers, Rich
 Nicholson, Judith and John
 Peyton, Diann and Dean
 Pruchnicki, Judi and Mike
 Rennebohm, Mary Anne and Bob
 Ruan III, Janis and John
 Stine, Harry

Kane, Loulou and Mark
 Levi, Rick (Consolidated Management)
 Levine, Caroline
 Levine, Tracy
 Lonergan, JoAnne and John
 Lynner, Carolyn
 Mandernach, Millie and John
 Markusen, Lockie
 Mathers, Betty and Jeff
 Mathur, Treva and Balbir
 McKlveen, Nancy and Tom
 Michel, Shirley and Ray
 Midtlyng, Mary Kay and Dave
 O'Brien, Cathy
 Ortgies, Sally and Tony
 Owens, Elizabeth & William Brock
 Poertner, Shirley
 Ramsay, Shannon (Trees Forever)
 Randall, Emily and Jason
 Reeve, Patty and Ted
 Rhinehart, Judy and Charlie
 Riche, Mary
 Rough, Maria and Randy
 Schlaefer, Marge and Roger
 Schmitz, Nancy and Dan
 Schulz, Ron
 Schwab, Margaret and Carl
 Scott, Joyce and Bill
 Shepherd, Jeani and Ken
 Shives, Kathy and Craig
 Stammerman, Pat and Bill
 Stauffer, Rachel & Jim Lawson
 Stephens, CJ
 Textor, Mary
 Tyznik, Marilyn and Tony
 Varley, Evelyn and Carl

Supporting (\$100 to \$249)

Albertson, William
 Anderson, Ann and Sig
 Banse, Karen and Tom
 Beavers, Ann and Doug
 Biermann, Bill
 Bissell, Anna and John
 Bloodgood, Jeanne and Jack
 Bone, Nancy
 Brenton, Ken & Valerie Sturdevant
 Brenton, Sue and Buz
 Burnett, Rochelle and Doug
 Christensen, Sandra and Dale
 Collison, Jane & Bob McCracken
 Cornell, Mary and Pete
 Des Moines Founders Garden Club
 Des Moines Herb Study Group

Varley, Marilyn and Andrew
 Vernon, Chris
 Weiss, Ellen and Doug
 Wells, Karolyn and Michael
 Wichtendahl, Teresa and Kevin
 Williams, Corrine and Dave
 Windsor III, Sandy and Jim
 Winterhof, Janis and Roger
 Yearick, Phyllis and Mike

Organization (\$50 to \$99)

ASLA Iowa
 City of Dallas Center
 Dallas County Conservation
 Dallas County Master Gardeners
 Dolmage, Dennis
 Evening Star Federated Garden Club
 Foster, Shirley and Jack
 Gerety, Kim and Kevin
 Grimes United Methodist Church
 Habitat for Humanity
 Highland Park Garden Club
 Hom, Helen
 Hunsberger, Deborah
 J & D Computers
 Kennybrook Retirement Community
 Lamair, Jane and Mike
 Pendry, Charlton and Alec
 Schmitz, Vicki and Tom
 Software Solutions, Inc.
 Spurgeon Manor, Inc.
 Strohbeen, Karen & Bill Luchsinger
 Taylor, Julie and Larry
 van der Linden, Judy and Peter
 Wilk, Mary Beth and Gabriel

Family (\$30 to \$49)

Allen, Pam and Reid
 Amend, Nancy and Richard
 Ayersman, Susan
 Bailey, Shelly and Ken
 Baker, Vicky and Mike
 Brenton, Bill
 Brenton, Evan
 Bulgarelli, Donna Mae and Aldo
 Bures, Natasha and Steve
 Burkett, Jen and David
 Carstens, Jeff
 Case, Teena and Dan
 Chizek, Mitzi and Wayne
 Chleborad, Carolyn
 Churchill, Beth
 Collum, Lori and Richard
 Colyer, Haverlee and Jon
 Conner, Jenny and Jake
 Cooper, Maggie
 Cory Kuker, Susan
 Creighton, Jim
 Crittenden, Nancy and Paul
 Currier, Susan and Russell
 Davis, Micky and Larry

Day, Judy and Don
 Deaver, Jackie and Scott
 Desmond, Betsy & Dennis Diddy
 Dray, Kati and Casey
 Drilling, Dot and Bob
 Engelhardt, Sharyl and Jon
 Erickson, Kate and Reed
 Everhart, Dennis
 Fagen, Marsha and Chuck
 Farris, Patricia and Paul
 Fettkether, Martha and Roger
 Findlay, Diane and Bob
 Fleishman, Deb and Craig
 Fleming, Lisa & Tom Hagen
 Foresman, Carrie and Steve
 Forsman, Judy and Don
 Fox, Lynn and Jim
 Frederick, Ann and Al
 Frisk, Nancy and Bob
 Green, Elaine
 Haines, Wayne
 Halfpaps, Jen and Jason
 Handley, Samantha & Bill Clutter
 Hannan, Merilee and Joseph
 Harrington, Phil (Kuder, Inc.)
 Harvey, Gwen and Thomas
 Hersch, Jean and Mark
 Hill, Chelsea and Martin
 Hokschi, Lorry
 Hulen, Sharon and Bill
 Jackson, Maridel and Walter
 Kennedy, Karen and Jeff
 Kidd, Darci and Mike
 Knisley, Christopher
 Kuhn, Lynn and Nick
 Laffey, Anita and Lon
 Levine, Ann & Bryan McCay
 Lickteig, Michele and Russ
 Loewenstein, Etta and Howard
 Maahs, Naomi and Gene
 MacDonald, Steve & Priscilla Derven
 McAdon, Julie and David
 McAdon, Shirley and Kent
 McKnight, Erika
 Meginnis, Paul and Jo Sloan
 Myers, Nancy and Steve
 Myers, Sara and Larry
 Myszewski, Mike & Martha James
 Parker, Linda and David
 Perkins, Pam and Dave
 Peters, Renae and Carl
 Petersen, Devon and Daniel
 Peterson, Amy and Dave
 Reeg, Meagan and Patrick
 Richards, Geri
 Rychnovsky, Jackie
 Schaefer, Carolyn and Greg
 Schneller, Judy and John
 Schultz, Joy and Ken

Snyder, Carolyn and Paul
 Steed, Judy and Robert
 Strom, Rebecca and Byron
 Strum, Teresa
 Stuart, Marci and Dan
 VanDerSluis, Verle
 Ver Steeg, Adele and Dirk
 Wessels, Andrea and Eric
 Wingert, Elizabeth and Mike
 Zweig, Sara and Josh

Individual (\$20 to \$29)

Allen, Stephanie
 Armentrout, Jill
 Baer, Sue and Tom
 Barnett, Nancy
 Beh, Mary
 Black, Craig
 Broderick, Pat
 Brown, Ralph
 Brown Mehalovich, Mary
 Burke, Scott
 Cooper, Deborah
 Cross, Alice
 Dixon, Margaret
 Dunlap, Paul
 Earhart, Cy
 Gates, Paul
 Gilbertson, Tim
 Gilham, June
 Hance, Elvin
 Harris, Lonnie and Doug
 Heinicke, Ray
 Helps, Eva
 Hunter, Ellen and John
 Hutcheson, Squire
 Illes, Jeff
 Jordahl, Don
 King, Jill and Bradley
 Kirk, Bonnie
 Kline, Jessalyn
 Kress, Eric
 Larsen, Robert
 Lorber, Fred
 Madison, Robin
 McAvaddy, Audra
 Nielsen, Sorrel
 Olson, Stan
 Oothout, Mary
 Rhiner, Deb
 Rollins, Sally
 Rottler, Steve
 Schwarch, Lyman
 Simonson, Michael
 Sims, Alma
 Stark, Craig
 Steele, Linda
 Stjernberg, Cathy
 Tyler, Eileen and Paul
 Vogel, Ruth
 Woline, Trudy and Bob