

THE MORTON ARBORETUM

Autumn Newsletter 1972



Dear Members,

As summer shades of green begin to change to the varied shades of fall color on the many trees and shrubs on our grounds, we are looking forward to the return of the seasonal visitors who come to enjoy the beauty of autumn at the Arboretum. These visitors are welcome, and we appreciate their coming, but there is a special relationship between the Arboretum and the families who have become members. We would like you to be aware not only of what is visible on the grounds, but of the multi-faceted purposes of the Arboretum, what the staff members are doing, what projects are planned for the future, and what special occasions might be on our calendar in which you would be interested. We plan to write you in this rather informal way from time to time to keep you abreast of these "happenings," and to nurture the bond of friendship and mutual support which is engendered by our membership program.

Marion T. Hall

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Director

STERLING MORTON LIBRARY CLOSED FOR INVENTORY. Ian MacPhail, Librarian has issued a notice that the Sterling Morton Library will be closed for an inventory of the books from Tuesday, October 17, through Tuesday, October 31. All books borrowed from the library must be returned not later than Saturday, October 14. The library will open again for readers and borrowers on Wednesday, November 1.

BOTANICAL SCULPTURES BY JEAN AGGER. The exhibit cases in the Administration Building of the Arboretum are of particular interest to our current visitors because they hold twenty-seven botanical sculptures by Jean Agger of Glen Ellyn. Mrs. Agger's enjoyment of

wildflowers was the impetus for these sculptures which she created from cut copper and assembled with a torch. Among the wildflowers represented in the exhibit are bunchflower (Melanthium virginicum), pitcher plant (Sarracenia purpurea), butterwort (Pinguicula vulgaris), marsh marigold (Caltha palustris), the common dandelion (Taraxacum officinale), and mushrooms.

A native of Oak Park, Illinois, Mrs. Agger studied at the University of Illinois and the American Academy of Art. She subsequently studied under several noted Chicago artists, and her sculpture and watercolor paintings have been awarded many prizes throughout the region. Her work is represented in the Art Rental and Sales Gallery of the Art Institute of Chicago.

FALL FESTIVAL CANCELED FOR 1972.

We are sorry that we have found it necessary to cancel our Fall Festival for 1972. (We are especially sorry inasmuch as we had included an announcement in the Fall Program of Educational Activities, but at the time that program went to press, it looked as though the Fall Festival was feasible.) Delays in the completion of the Visitor Center, construction in the entrance area, and flood clean-up in various parts of the Arboretum have made it prohibitive to invite large numbers of visitors to the grounds. We are looking forward to April, 1973, when the new Visitor Center will be opened and we will have added facilities to make our special occasions more meaningful to those who participate.

PAT ARMSTRONG PRESENTS PAPER. Pat Armstrong, Education staff member, presented a paper entitled, "Bryophytes of the Juneau Icefield, Alaska," at the August meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences held at the University of Minnesota.

GEORGE WARE, DENDROLOGIST, is serving a second year on the Board of Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District. This Board has as its primary task the supervision of the work of the Soil Conservation Service in the District. Recent legislation has given the Soil and Water Conservation District a greater role in assessing problems of land use in urbanizing areas.

ALFRED ETTER, NATURALIST, continues to receive inquiries concerning his 1971 testimony before the Chicago Noise Hearings, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Noise Abatement and Control. Most recently those individuals who are against the expansion of the Du Page County Airport requested a copy of his remarks. Several months ago, the Washington, D. C., EPA office indicated that demand for the brochure "Noise The Ultimate Insult" has required a fourth printing.

Dr. Etter's knowledge and extensive files on all subjects pertaining to the world about us provide help to many people, whether they are concerned about a local development, or whether they are working at the national level. The control of predators, which engaged Dr. Etter's attention before his coming to the Arboretum, is of continuing interest. Requests for assistance from students, wildlife organizations, and citizens come frequently. Dr. Etter is consulted by planning officials for advice on community development and optimum land use. Although he was on vacation during the flood period in August, local news stories have been clipped (along with other stories about the airport expansion and other environmental matters), and Dr. Etter will, no doubt, have some valuable recommendations for those seeking to prevent a recurrence of the flood problems.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM, 1972. With all the emphasis on population control and family planning, perhaps we should not be quite so proud of our "large family." We are pleased, however, that approximately 890 families have chosen to become members of the Arboretum in 1972. Many of our members have taken advantage of the library borrowing privileges and the discount for the classes in the educational program, in addition to the unlimited admission to the grounds of the Arboretum.

HORTUS BOTANICUS. A handsome publication entitled Hortus Botanicus: The Botanic Garden and The Book was issued this spring by the Arboretum. It contains descriptions of fifty books from the Sterling Morton Library which were exhibited at the Newberry Library in Chicago as a part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Morton Arboretum. This exhibition catalog was compiled by Ian MacPhail, Librarian of the

Sterling Morton Library, and contains a fine introductory essay on the history of botanical gardens and their publications written by Dr. Joseph Ewan, Professor of Biology at Tulane University, and author of a number of books on the history of botany and natural history. The foreword, written by Suzette Morton Davidson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Morton Arboretum and granddaughter of its founder, Joy Morton, gives the history of the Sterling Morton Library and its collection of fine, rare, botanical works. The illustrations in the book, four of them in color, are particularly beautiful and well chosen and add to the appeal of the catalog as a collector's item. Copies of this limited edition are available to the public from the Sterling Morton Library for a cost of \$4.50.

FLOOD CLOSES ARBORETUM TO AUTOMOBILES. On August 25, a heavy rain caused flash flooding in the Chicago region, especially in the western suburbs. The Du Page River, which flows through the Arboretum, was one of the rivers which overflowed, and it was necessary to close the grounds to automobiles for a few days. This flood emphasized once again the importance of designating floodplains as open land and water retention areas.

JENS JENSEN COLLECTION. A few years ago, a collection of original Jens Jensen material was started at the Morton Arboretum as a result of gifts from Leonard Eaton, Ann Arbor, Michigan, the late Ralph Fletcher Seymour of Chicago, and the Chicago Historical Society. In 1971, additional items were contributed by Ragna Eskil of Chicago, and earlier this year, the Arboretum was designated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau as the official repository for archival materials in the possession of The Clearing, Jensen's school at Ellison Bay, Door County.

During the week of July 16-22, Carol Doty of the Arboretum staff and Orvetta Robinson of the Illinois State Museum made a preliminary survey of all historical materials located at The Clearing to identify those which were to be transferred to the Arboretum and to suggest appropriate methods of preservation for remaining items. Grace Richardson of Green Bay, Wisconsin, sister of Jensen's secretary, the late Mertha Fulkerson, also gave a collection of photographs and papers to the Arboretum at that time. It is hoped that additional letters, clippings, landscape drawings, and other materials can be acquired from scattered sources so that a substantial collection will be available for study at the Arboretum.

MAY T. WATTS, Naturalist Emeritus of the Morton Arboretum, was honored on June 5, 1972, when she was presented with the Arthur Hoyt Scott Garden and Horticulture Award at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. The award, a gold medal together with \$1,000, is made from time to time to that organization or individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the science and art of gardening. The award, established in 1929, is a citation for "achievement of great merit; a recognition of work in creating and developing a wider interest in gardening." Because of her long and distinguished career as naturalist, teacher, author, artist, and poet, Mrs. Watts was chosen to receive this award. The Swarthmore citation states that her insights as a teacher have enriched and will continue to enrich and to alter generations to come. We congratulate Mrs. Watts in this added recognition of her achievements as a botanist and her contribution to the uplift of the human spirit everywhere.

"MIDSUMMER NATURE," AT THE CLEARING. The summer program of The Clearing, Ellison Bay, Wisconsin, offered a course entitled "Midsummer Nature," taught by Floyd Swink, Arboretum taxonomist. Twenty-five students were enrolled in the course from August 7 through August 11. They visited various interesting botanical areas in Door County during the mornings and afternoons and saw slides of Door County wildflowers in the evenings.

COLORADO ROCKIES FIELD SEMINAR. A successful week-long Colorado Rockies Field Seminar was held in July. Led by Arboretum instructors, Richard Wason and Elizabeth Zimmerman, fourteen students participated. The seminar began on July 3, with headquarters at Dillon, Colorado. Forays into the forests and surrounding mountains made each day memorable, and the highlight was the one-day exploration of part of the proposed Gore Range - Eagle's Nest wilderness area.

HERB PRINTS BY BOBBIE LIVELY. The herb prints currently on display in the exhibit cases of the Administration Building were done by Bobbie Lively, an active participant in the Arboretum's botanical art classes. The prints were made on Japanese paper, using a separate linoleum block for each color. They were done without a conventional press, using handrubbing to achieve the necessary pressure.

In addition to art, Mrs. Lively's interests include science, landscape design, textiles, and Girl Scout leadership. She and her family live in Glen Ellyn.

A HANDLIST OF WOODY PLANTS GROWN OR TRIED AT THE MORTON ARBORETUM has been prepared for publication by several members of the staff who combined their knowledge and skills to make such a comprehensive handlist a reality. In the foreword to the book, Dr. Hall very succinctly states its purpose: "The trustees and staff of the Morton Arboretum believe that our most important challenge is to make the immense informational resources on plant materials contained in our 1500 acres clearly and concisely available to the public."

Basically, this handlist is an index listing alphabetically by genus and species all the scientific names under which living woody plants are currently being grown out-of-doors at the Morton Arboretum. Although the handlist might sound rather formidable to the amateur botanist and landscape gardener, cross references of scientific and common names have been made so that the handlist should be relatively easy to use. It is the hope of the Morton Arboretum staff that this handlist will be a resource of information used by a variety of persons for a variety of purposes.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH CANCER STUDY. One of the most potentially valuable research activities to be carried on by members of the Morton Arboretum staff, in conjunction with the College of Pharmacy at the University of Illinois, is the collection of material, both native and cultivated, for use in a study being made by the National Institute of Health in its search for a source of certain chemicals that may prove to be an aid in the fight against cancer. Walter Eickhorst and Floyd Swink, Morton Arboretum staff members involved in this project, have collected hundreds of specimens from many different areas, and their satisfaction in being a part of this research is increased in the knowledge that not only are these samples used for testing for cancer, but for other active constituents which could aid in the fight against other diseases.

RON COULTER, ASSISTANT TO THE HEAD OF EDUCATION, is in charge of planning the interpretive facets of the new Visitor Center. He recently completed a tour of selected interpretive sites in the southeastern United States while in that region to attend the Association of Interpretive Naturalists' Annual Conference. Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia, hosted the conference.

It seemed as though the sessions of the A.I.N. Conference were planned with the new Morton Arboretum Visitor Center specifically in mind. These sessions included lectures by a member of the McCann-Erickson advertising staff, by a projection expert from Eastman Kodak, and by a member of the Callaway Gardens staff.

Ron's visits to nature sites took him into the states of Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina. He visited the Arboretum of the University of Tennessee at Oak Ridge, Tennessee; the American Museum of Atomic Energy at Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Keowee Toxaway Visitor Center at Clemson, South Carolina; Fernbank Service Center at Atlanta, Georgia; Cypress Gardens at Charleston, South Carolina; Bookgreen Gardens at Murrells Inlet, South Carolina; the Biltmore Estate at Asheville, North Carolina; the Calaway Gardens at Pine Mountain, Georgia; and the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina. Ron's insights into the interpretive programs at these centers will be of great value to him as he continues to work out the interpretive programs for our Visitor Center.

ARBOR DAY, 1972, 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. After the heat of summer, April and Arbor Day may seem long past, but the many members and friends of the Morton Arboretum will not easily forget Arbor Day, 1972. On Saturday, April 22, a dual celebration was held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day and the 50th anniversary of the Morton Arboretum.

The day began with wind and rain, and we wondered whether all of the festivities planned for the day could be consummated. Nonetheless, about 250 hardy and enthusiastic members of fifty-two organizations arrived at the designated site on the east side of the Arboretum, tools in hand, to help plant 100 trees in the newly created Centennial Grove. The Naperville Municipal Band struck up some cheerful and energizing tunes, and hot coffee, hot cider, hot chocolate, and doughnuts rewarded the rugged planters, young and old, for their hardiness.

In the afternoon, under the protection of a large tent, guests listened to Dr. James C. Olson, Chancellor of the University of Kansas and biographer of J. Sterling Morton, speak on "J. Sterling Morton, The Founder of Arbor Day." The Shannon Rovers, bagpipers dressed in the traditional Scotsman's garb, led a procession headed by the descendants of J. Sterling Morton to a site near the Joy Path where a 'Winter King' hawthorn was planted in commemoration of the day. The descendants of J. Sterling Morton participating in the tree planting were: Martha Morton Latner, daughter of Carl Morton and last surviving member of her generation; Suzette Morton Davidson, granddaughter of Joy Morton, founder of the Arboretum; James H. Smith, Jr., grandson of Paul Morton; Carl Morton, III, grandson of Carl Morton; Jean Latner Palmer, granddaughter of Carl Morton; William Bangs, Jr., great-grandson of

Mark Morton; and Victor Morton Zurcher, great-grandson of Joy Morton.

The guests returned to the Thornhill Building after the tree planting ceremony for a festive reception, and the Shannon Rovers delighted everyone with additional tunes played, their tassels twirling joyously.

Arbor Day, 2072, hopefully will be celebrated, but it is doubtful that it will be enjoyed more than Arbor Day, 1972.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT ARNOLD ARBORETUM. A week-long centennial celebration was held at the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, May 21 - 28. Distinguished visitors from around the world were invited to attend and enjoy the scientific symposia, tours to areas of botanical and horticultural interest in Massachusetts, an exhibition of rare books at the Houghton Library, an evening concert of the Boston Pops Orchestra, and other special events.

Special greetings from the Morton Arboretum were presented to Dr. Richard A. Howard, Director of the Arnold Arboretum, by our Director, Dr. Marion T. Hall. This greeting was in the form of a framed congratulatory citation beautifully written in calligraphic lettering and embellished with drawings of Cornus kousa, the dogwood which the Arnold Arboretum had chosen as its logo for this occasion. The citation was drawn by Nancy Hart, botanical artist at the Morton Arboretum.

Along with Dr. Hall, several other Arboretum staff members attended the celebration: Webster Crowley, Head of Plant Information; Walter Eickhorst, Curator of Cultivated Plants; and Anthony Tyznik, Superintendent.

The Morton Arboretum has had a special regard for the Arnold Arboretum through the years because of the influence of Charles Sprague Sargent, who was the Director of the Arnold Arboretum at the time the Morton Arboretum was becoming established. Dr. Sargent served as consultant and mentor to Joy Morton, and it is a happy coincidence that we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary in the same year as the Arnold centennial.

We congratulate the Arnold Arboretum once again on its 100 successful years and its contribution to the science of botany.

