



# MEMBER NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS ORTON BOTANICAL  
GARDEN MEMBERS,  
ESPECIALLY YOU!

## ORTON BOTANICAL GARDEN IS OPEN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Now through **September 30, 2023** the garden will be open **Fridays** and **Saturdays** from **9 am-6 pm**.

**Garden Tours:** Every Saturday at 10:00 am, OBG volunteers offer free one-hour tours through the Garden. No registration is needed.

For other days and times, but never on Sundays, make a prior appointment by contacting LaMar Orton,  
[lorton1@msn.com](mailto:lorton1@msn.com) / 208-734-7959.



# PAST EVENTS

## SPRING PLANT SALE AND OPEN HOUSE

Our Spring plant sale was a great success!! Thanks to all who came to the garden for this event and helped during the sale. OBG holds plant sales in the Spring and Fall to provide attractive, drought tolerant plants to members and others that would like to include these plants in their landscapes but cannot find them in the local nurseries



**May 15, 2023** – Ann DeBolt presented a Zoom class introducing some plants that were available at our May plant sale and other plants represented in OBG. Ann gave a great presentation, and the twenty-five attendees enjoyed the class.

**June 10, 2023 Hospice Visions Butterfly Release and Memorial Service-** This is a wonderful program that OBG has been a part of since 2020. Approximately 100 people of all ages attended. Three hundred Painted Lady butterflies were released into the garden.

**June 22** – LaMar taught **Propagation of Cacti and other Succulents** at the garden. This was a very informative class, and the six attendees left with plant cuttings and instructions for planting them.



*Chalino Lua releases a butterfly after whispering a wish.  
Photo courtesy of Jonathan Ingraham, TIMES-NEWS.*

# COMING EVENTS AND CLASSES



## AUGUST 19TH - 12:00 PM-1:30 PM - MERIWETHER LEWIS'S BOTANICAL DISCOVERIES IN IDAHO



Twin Falls Public Library -- Tom Schwartz will make a slide presentation and field questions. The presentation will celebrate the life of explorer and naturalist, Meriwether Lewis, and his botanical discoveries in Idaho with the Corps of Discovery. Class will be free. Visitors will be encouraged to visit the OBG to see a wide selection of Lewis and Clark plants.



## AUGUST 25 - 26 - FALL PLANT SALE



OBG will be having our annual Fall Plant Sale – Some of the plants that will be available are: **fern bushes, cliff roses, Apache plume, cacti, penstemons, hens & chick, & gaillardias.**

### OTHER CLASSES COMING SOON, WITH DATE, TIME AND ANY COST TO BE ANNOUNCED BY EMAIL:

**High Desert Landscaping** – Lessons from the Orton Botanical Garden - Bruce Kaufman will offer this class at the garden. He will cover soil amendments, berm creation, choosing, buying, and transplanting high desert plants, watering and fertilizer strategies, and suggestions to minimize the risk of failure.

**Field Guide to a Selection of Medicinal Plants in the OBG** – Patrick Jones is a very knowledgeable and engaging field guide who has volunteered to offer this class in the garden. Join us for an exciting time exploring the beneficial qualities of some of OBG's green residents.

**Long Live Bees and Butterflies** – Lisa Detweiler will offer this class which focuses on pollinators and the life cycle of flowering plants. The class will be presented at the garden with cost, date, and time to be decided.

### NEW EVENT: PLANT SPOTLIGHT

#### **Fern Bush *Chamaebatiaria millefolium***

An old jewel of the garden, the fern bush, is currently in bloom in the garden. This hardy shrub boasts a bloom time often spanning two months, attracting beneficial insects with thousands of sweet pearl-like flowers. But, perhaps even more attractive than its flowers are its leaves. The fern bush's attractive leaves mimic those of its namesake without the typical issues of requiring moist soil and shade.



To see this showstopping plant yourself (and to get one of your own), visit OBG this weekend and during our fall plant sale.

# WHAT IS NEW AT THE GARDEN?

## ORTON BOTANICAL GARDEN SAYS GOOD-BY TO TWO OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CAROLINE MORRIS AND KENDALL ORTON



Caroline Morris, a Charter Member of OBG Broad of Directors has resigned from the Board. She was asked to comment on her time on the broad. The following are her comments.

“When I participated in Ann DeBolt's April 2015 OBG Spring Cleanup, I was fascinated by this beautiful Garden. LaMar asked me to join the new Board then being formed. I agreed to be a director and Board Secretary, which position I held until October 2019. I am neither a super paper-organizer nor a computer whiz, so being Secretary caused many headaches. But I did learn more about how OBG functioned. I also persuaded Tom Schwartz to be Co-Vice President starting in July 2020.

I was a career lawyer for the federal government doing financial institution legal and regulatory enforcement, so I could tolerate legalese writing. As a new nonprofit, OBG needed Bylaws prepared. There was no Board opposition when I volunteered to oversee the Bylaws project. Slow but steady Bylaws progress kept the Board occupied for meetings spanning a few years, until their completion in April 2019.

I volunteered many hours for creation of the membership system (and modifying the Bylaws to include coverage), the 2022 summer intern, the 2022 BSPR donated radio ads, Idaho Gives fundraisers, a leadership succession plan, the quarterly newsletter, and reviewing drafts of publications.

My most surprising learning experience involved the development of Tom Schwartz's OBG Visitor's Tour Guide. As I reviewed drafts, I was convinced that this guide was much too long. Other botanical gardens all had shorter guides. However, the final exquisite product made it totally clear that Tom certainly knew what he was doing.

I made both unrestricted financial gifts and for such specific purposes as consulting, a warming barrel, and a large incentive donation conditioned on buying an electric utility vehicle, rather than fossil fuel-powered.

The longer I served on the Board, the more important real familiarity with Twin Falls community resources appeared to me to be a major factor influencing OBG's success. I realized that I knew too little about Twin and the Magic Valley to effectively guide OBG's future. And the roundtrip drives from Boise are tiring.”

Caroline is going to be greatly missed on the Board for her commitment in sharing her personality, experience, talents, time, financial support and driving force with Orton Botanical Garden.



# WHAT IS NEW AT THE GARDEN?

## ORTON BOTANICAL GARDEN SAYS GOOD-BY TO TWO OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CAROLINE MORRIS AND KENDALL ORTON

Kendall Orton, a charter member, has resigned from the OBG Board of Directors.

Kendall has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2015 when the garden became a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Over the years, he and his family have weeded and put up Christmas lights. Kendall has also provided us with specially built boxes for brochures and sign-in sheets for volunteers and visitors. He has also provided insight on various aspects of the garden.

We appreciate Kendall's many contributions to the garden and willingness to serve on the board, although he has been very busy with his Tree City Woodworking business in Boise.

### **OBG has Board of Directors positions available.**

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please submit a letter expressing your desire to serve on the Board and give a brief biographical sketch of yourself. The letter can be submitted via email directly to Board President LaMar Orton, at [lorton1@msn.com](mailto:lorton1@msn.com)



### **Membership Program**

Orton Botanical Garden welcomes all our new members and appreciates the renewals of our existing members. During our plant sale there were 20 new members and many renewals. Reminder if you become a new member or renew your membership from now until the first of the year your membership will not expire until December 31, 2024. Recruiting continues, to help the garden expand and improve. We truly appreciate each of your contributions.

# SUPPORT THE GARDEN

## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- Quarterly newsletter
- Presale opportunities/announcements, such as the May and Fall plant sales
- Discounts on all our education programs, including classes and lectures
- Discount on Orton Botanical Garden guide
- Free Garden admission, including “Christmas in the Garden”
- Remember the advantages of the Reciprocal Admission Program, allowing visits to more than 300 public gardens for free or reduced cost. See the list and details: <https://ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap/>

We hope you will continue your membership, easily done at our website or with the QR Code. Christmas in the Garden is coming up. October 2, 2023 the lights will start going up. Even though the Garden is closed to the public after September 30 volunteers are always needed in the Garden, with work for all talents, cutting plants back, putting up lights, greeting visitors nightly through the Christmas season, etc.

OBG’s website has an online volunteer form for easy submission. There are tasks for every talent. Check it out on our website



## SECURITIES DONATION PROGRAM

Members and other generous donors may appreciate that OBG now can accept gifts of securities, not just cash or in-kind donations. If the tax advantages of securities gifts appeal to you, we will be glad to provide all necessary information to enable your donation.

## WISH LIST FOR THE GARDEN

### More important:

- Hand weeders 2+
- Standing weed puller both for accessibility and maybe a way to get into cactus
- Solid leather gloves for cactus work -

### **REQUESTED BY VOLUNTEERS**

- Long tweezers (12 inches would be ideal)
- Long forceps/hemostat (at least 6 inches)

### **REQUESTED BY VOLUNTEERS**

### Less important:

- Simple tool kit with crescent wrench, hammer, flat/Phillips head screwdriver
- A weathertight medical kit that could be left in the shed (or perhaps the Air B&B) and volunteers would always have access to
- Printer for office
- Upright Plexiglass sign holders
- Also, if you have any good used garden tools that you are no longer using, they would greatly appreciated.