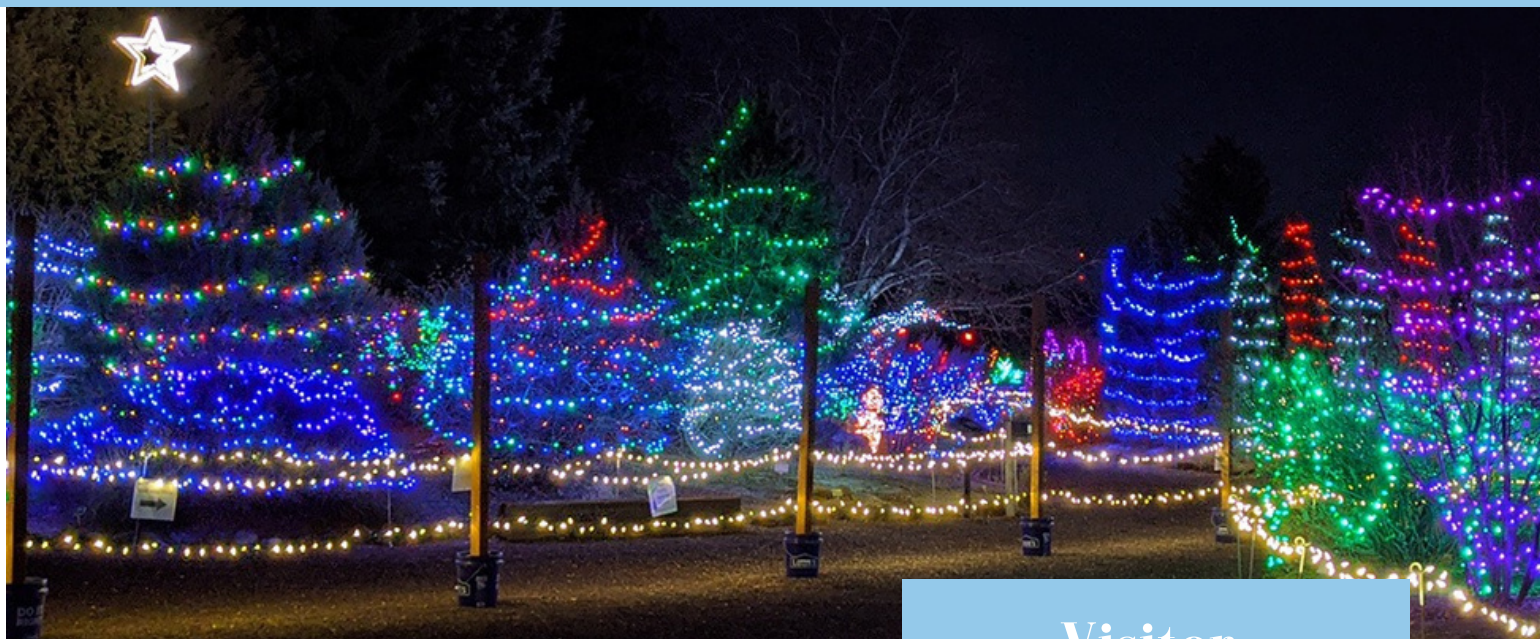


Member Newsletter

Hello to all renewing and new Orton Botanical Garden Members!



2022 Christmas Light Display

"Christmas in the Garden" 2022 was once again a huge success! We counted 9,393 visitors over the course of the holiday season! Thank you to all members and non-members who attended this lights display. YOU are the reason that OBG continues "Christmas in the Garden" each year!



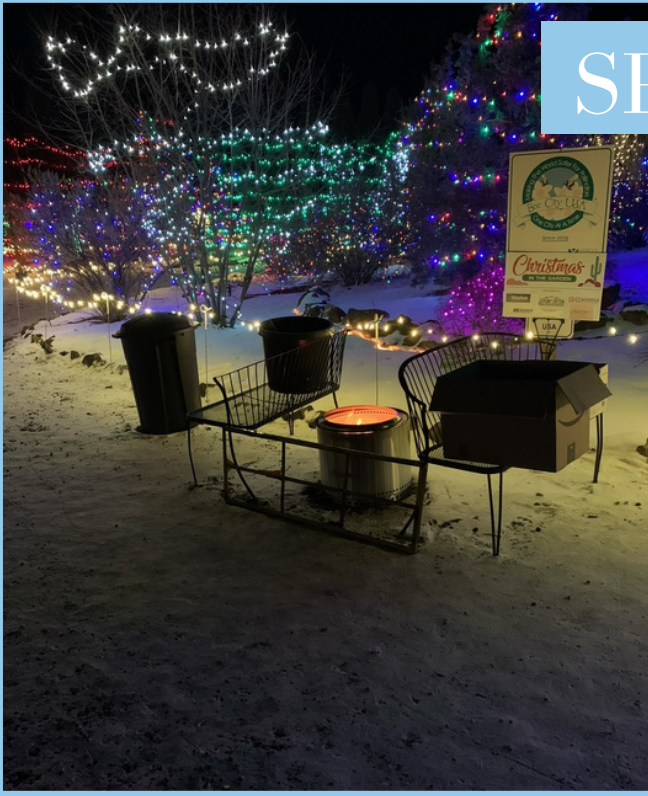
Visitor Feedback

"It is such a restful and peaceful place to come and enjoy the lights and a winter walk."

"Wow, look at all the lights! There must be at least a million!"

"Thank you so much for doing this each year for the community."

SPECIAL THANKS



A huge thank you everyone who contributed to "Christmas in the Garden" including...

- All **volunteers** who gave many hours putting up the lights, taking them down, and greeting visitors to the garden each night.
- Our sponsors this year: **Jeremy Orton Real Estate; Andrea Clark, Farm Bureau Insurance; D & B Supply; and SiteOne Landscape Supply.**
- The **Seagraves Foundation's** \$4822 grant for commercial lights upgrade.
- All the generous **Donors** for their support of the Orton Botanical Garden.
- **Mike & Lisa** for loaning a fire pit and **Caroline** for donating one. It kept volunteers much warmer!

You all made this a magical experience for everyone coming to the garden! Thank you so much!

NEWS AND EVENTS

OBG Will Hire Its First Employee

OBG welcomes **Megan Devaney** as our first paid employee. Megan will start in March 2023 as a part-time Garden Specialist. Her position will involve learning the day-to-day workings of the garden and reducing some of LaMar and Rosalie Orton's responsibilities. More about Megan in the next OBG Member Newsletter.

Daytime Garden Visits 2023

The Garden will be open by appointment only starting **March 1, 2023**.

From May 5 through September 30, 2023, the garden will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 9 am-6 pm. For other days and times (excluding Sundays) make a prior appointment by contacting LaMar Orton, lorton1@msn.com/208-734-7959.

Spring Plant Sale

OBG annual Spring plant sale will be May 18, 19, 20 and May 25, 26, and 27. More details in next Newsletter.

Volunteers Needed

We have an online volunteer form for easy submission. There are tasks for every talent. Check it out on the website at

<https://ortonbotanicalgarden.com/volunteering>, or use the QR code.

Classes

If you have recommendations for an OBG class or event, send us your ideas.

For your questions, contact LaMar Orton. We are always glad to hear from you.



MEMBERSHIP

BENEFITS

DISCOUNTS

Receive discounts on:

- All education programs
 - Classes
 - Lectures
 - And more!
- Orton Botanical Garden Guide

FREE ADMISSION

Free admission to:

- Orton Botanical garden including the "Christmas in the Garden" event
- More than 300 public gardens through the Reciprocal Admission Program. See details at: ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap/

INFO AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Presale Opportunities/announcements
 - May and Fall plant sale information

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

All yearly memberships renew each **January 1st**. Since it's beginning 2 years ago, OBG's membership has grown to 181 people holding 130 memberships. Recruiting continues to help the garden expand and improve. We truly appreciate each of your contributions.

We hope you will continue to be a member, easily done by visiting our website at ortonbotanicalgarden.com/membership or by using this QR code.



RECIPROCAL ADMISSION PROGRAM

Some recent beneficiaries who enjoyed free garden visits during their travels reported:



"In January, Lisa and I visited the San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG). Set on 37 acres in suburban Encinitas, California, SDBG features over 5000 plant species from around the world. The gardens are geographically organized with a focus on Mediterranean climates. There are also tropical, bamboo, desert, and children's gardens. The highlight of our visit was the guided tour with an enthusiastic volunteer docent. We learned about many interesting plants along with some garden history. A few of our favorite plants were the various cycads, the Cork Oak, the Dragon tree, Arucaria spp. and of course all the fascinating succulents. We had fun seeing many familiar houseplants being used in landscape plantings, including whole 'forests' of jade plant. SDBG is one of more than 345 gardens in the AHS Reciprocal Admissions Program so our visit was free of charge with our OBG membership card. Be sure to take yours along when traveling!"



"On a sunny, mild December 2022 day, we enjoyed using our OBG membership's Reciprocal Admission feature for a free visit to the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, CA (about 20 miles NE of San Francisco). This exciting 3.5-acre garden has fascinating cacti and succulents, some duplicating OBG's, and other wonderful, often weird-looking plants - many that prefer temperatures milder than Idaho's. This was our 4th visit there, usually to introduce this great place to friends or family."

**We appreciate your membership in the Orton Botanical Garden community.
See you in the Garden!**

ANN DEBOLT'S DEPARTURE

In late 2022, Ann DeBolt resigned from the OBG Board, partly because her Boise residence prevented her full involvement with the Garden. She believes that locally-based Board members have more effective ties to the community. Ann became an OBG Director when the Garden's Board of Directors was formed in April 2015. However, her connection with the Garden and the Ortons began much earlier.

Ann and her husband Roger Rosentreter are botanists known Idaho-wide for their dedicated, informed, concerned activities with the Idaho Native Plant Society and many other botanical, environmental and ecology groups. They met the Ortons about 2003.

In 2008, Ann offered to bring a crew of plant-lovers from Boise for an OBG spring cleanup. Ortons could not refuse, so an annual tradition of the 3-day OBG April Cleanup extravaganza began. A group of about 15 Boise-area hard-working plant-lovers travel to Twin Falls for 1, 2, or 3 days to prune, lop, weed, trim, dig and saw various plants for better appearance. The April Cleanup is hard work, with sometimes very wet, snowy or windy weather, but many volunteers return annually for the FUN. Twin Falls Board members have joined them recently also. The sunny days displaying wonderful early blossoming cacti and native perennials lure workers back the next year.

Fortunately, Ann will continue managing the OBG April Spring Cleanup. If you would like to help in April 2023, please contact Ann at annmdebolt@gmail.com. New volunteers always are welcome.

Spring Cleanup was a mere fraction of Ann's OBG efforts. She wrote the OBG brochures about Native Plants and Native Buckwheats. Her classes about Trough Gardens and annually the pre-Plant Sale Zoom review of how best to use plants available for sale demonstrated vividly that Ann is an exceptional teacher, highly competent, humble, never talking down to people. Her knowledge base could make her very intimidating, yet Ann is remarkably accessible. She participated vigorously in the Education and Newsletter Committees and many other Board Committees, conducted many terrifically enjoyable Garden tours, and much more. She will continue offering training and classes. The Board will definitely miss Ann!

If you or an acquaintance may be interested in an OBG Board position, please contact LaMar Orton lorton1@msn.com

