

July – September 2021 Member Newsletter



Happy (Hot) Summer to all Orton Botanical Garden Members!

We hope you are getting through this dry, smoky summer with no ill effect. It certainly makes a person long for autumn, which is, after all, just around the corner.

The Garden has had a busy season, with several classes and tours offered. Nearly 100 people attended the June 26, Hospice Visions Butterfly Release, and our annual May Open House and Plant Sale were highly successful and well attended.

The garden is open every Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Appointments can be made for other weekdays (except Sundays). To make an appointment, you can contact us at 208-734-7959.

On July 11, the Times-News (daily newspaper serving the Twin Falls area) provided a 5-page feature story about the Orton Botanical Garden and our mission to educate about water conservation in the garden. The story also featured our emphasis on gardening with native plants, and the use of plants that support wildlife and pollinators. You can find the story in a separate pdf file, sent concurrent with this newsletter, and on our website.

Just nine months into our first year of offering a membership program, we are pleased to report that 78 of you have joined us. **Thank you for your support!** Because Orton Botanical Garden belongs to the Reciprocal Admission Program of the American Horticultural Society (AHS), our members have the added benefit of access to free or reduced cost admission at more than 300 US public gardens.

We continue to fill our calendar with a variety of interesting activities which we hope you will be able to take advantage of, including:

Upcoming Activities:

- **August-September Weekly Garden Tours:** From 10-11 am on each Saturday in August and September, we will offer a free garden tour. Tours will emphasize our favorite **drought tolerant plants**, and how you can **conserve water** AND grow a beautiful garden at the same time.



No registration is required for these free tours.

- **August 19: Cacti and Succulents for Southern Idaho.** This class will be taught by LaMar Orton via Zoom, from 7 to 8 pm. Although the class is free, registration is required through our website. This class will introduce you to some of our favorite cacti and succulents that thrive in our region.
- **September 28: Lewis and Clark in Idaho.** This class will be taught by two board members via Zoom, from 7-8:30 pm. Registration is required for this free event. You can find more information about this class and how to register on our website.

If you have ideas of classes you would be interested in, or if you would like to teach a class, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Other Developments:

This fall, we will prepare two brochures about the Garden's native plants and native buckwheats. The Idaho Native Plant Society generously funded our grant request to develop these brochures, which will feature a number of the species on display at OBG.



Volunteer Opportunities: With no paid staff, OBG volunteers do garden maintenance from April-October, hang and remove Christmas lights from October-January, greet and guide visitors during May-October on open days, and assist with the May plant sale and open house. If OBG volunteering interests you, please see the website's Volunteer Application form. The Garden's Board of Directors also hopes to add members with marketing and grants skills. Contact LaMar Orton if you or someone you know might be interested. OBG offers a lovely, quiet work environment, surrounded by wonderful plants and delightful birds.

Thank you for being part of the Orton Botanical Garden. We hope to see you soon!