

GROUND COVER



Winter Edition
December 2022

Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens is a non-profit organization supported by tax-exempt gifts and contributions. All gardens are maintained by volunteers. Many trees, shrubs, plants and seeds are gifted from arboretums and botanical gardens, nurseries, growers and friends from all over the world.

Mission Statement:

To establish, preserve and maintain an arboretum and botanical garden to be a source of information, education, culture and beauty for all to know.

No admission fee.

Guided tours are available on request with advance notice. Cart tours are also available for visitors with limited walking ability. Call the Visitor Center, 563.556.2100 for reservations or book your tour online.

Phone: 563.556.2100
www.dubuquearboretum.net

Garden Hours

Daily, 7 a.m. to sunset

Winter Office Hours:

1 November-31 March
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. T, W, TH

New Signage Will Aid Visitors



Those of us who volunteer on the DABG grounds often field questions from visitors:

- Where can we park?
- Where is the Packard Pavilion?
- Is there a map someplace?
- How about a restroom?

The list goes on. . . .

Now, we don't mind chatting with visitors and giving directions! But many folks visit at times when no volunteers are working on the grounds—especially evenings and weekends. What are those visitors to do?

Thanks to generous donors (Premier Bank and Jeff and Janet Mozena), that situation is being remedied by the addition of 14 large outdoor signs. The signs were constructed by Dubuque Sign Company.

Six of the new signs are road signs for drivers, pointing out common destinations—for example, the Legacy

Tree Trail, the Packard Pavilion, the Visitor Center, and the children's playground.

Four more signs on the main grounds show walkers where to find major locations such as the gazebo and the Herb, English, Hosta, and Japanese Gardens. Following these signs will also lead them past numerous other gardens and features that they might otherwise miss.

The last four signs detail the "etiquette" for visiting the DABG. A sign outside the Visitor Center applies to the whole grounds and details our no-pets and no-smoking policies, among others. Three more signs in the Japanese Garden list the guidelines for safe behavior around the koi pond.

Sign installation is in progress as this newsletter is being written. Hopefully it will be complete by the time you read this!

Submitted by Kennie Harris





BEYOND THE GARDEN GATE



From The Director...

The end of November marks a full year for me at the DABG. It has been an amazing year, and I have been truly impressed by the talents and commitment of all the volunteers. A lot of things have changed and improved in this past year. In October the DABG officially kicked off its online booking system. Lots of weddings, baby showers, and graduation parties are being scheduled online for 2023 and beyond. Holding these special events shows that the DABG is a gem in our community where many people can create lasting memories. The DABG has had many visitors from all over the world this year, and they often leave comments in our guest book about how amazing the volunteers and the grounds are. One of my favorite comments in our guest book was, "I got engaged!" During this offseason, I will remain busy, completing and starting new projects to get us up and running for next year. We are already starting to have conversations about Music in the Gardens for 2023. Exciting! This year we have also been blessed to receive new art pieces, and there are more to come. Additionally, we are adding new signage to the grounds to help motorists know where to drive and visitors know where to venture on the grounds. Finally, we have added a new wedding venue called Whispering Pines. It provides a wedding setting surrounded by towering white pines and carpeted with a soft needle floor. It has been exciting to see the growth in the past year thanks to the gracious donors and dedicated volunteers, and I look forward to next year!

Submitted by Jenna Hirtz, DABG Director



From The Chairman...

Welcome to the winter issue of *Ground Cover*. I hope we're finding you warm and healthy! We had the most beautiful fall season this year. The weather was comfortable, and the colors were some of the most vibrant and long-lasting that I can remember. Because there were no storms, the leaves didn't blow away. We received a huge leaf donation from the community, enabling us to grind the leaves for next year's mulch in record time. The nut trees were full, and both the wildlife and the human nut collectors were kept quite busy. Winter is a special season at the DABG. Most days there is a hush over the gardens. Bring a bag lunch, find a parking place that provides a serene vista across the gardens, and keep warm by heading your windshield into the sun. You might see someone in snowshoes walking by. Well, it might be you in the snowshoes. After the New Year, the Green Team will begin seeding next year's flowers, and the greenhouses will offer a welcome breath of the coming spring. If you are reading this newsletter, you are a part of the DABG family. Please remember us in your end-of-year giving. Your donations keep our grounds looking beautiful and welcoming year-round.

Submitted by Steve Ulstad, DABG Board Chairman



From The Volunteer Coordinator...

It is always bittersweet in late autumn for me. I welcome the days of less busyness, but I miss interacting with the volunteers. After our fall cleanups, the grounds turn peacefully quiet, the Gift Shop becomes bare, and office hours are reduced, so I wait the long winter for chatter of visitors and volunteers to fill the air again. We had around 120 tours this year (record-setting), and I'm thankful so many people were able to enjoy our gardens and Gift Shop. For all of you reading this, I wish you a blessed holiday season of gratitude and peace.

Submitted by Barb Block, DABG Volunteer Coordinator

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



The Riniker Family

We have been big fans of the beautiful Dubuque arboretum for many years! When we saw an online posting looking for volunteers to help with bird-related duties, we thought that could be a great way to introduce our young boys, Everett (7) and Grayson (3), to volunteering in a fun way. When we recently moved into a house in a more timber-like setting, we really got to like feeding and watching the birds, so this seemed like a natural fit. It gives the kids (and us) an enjoyable thing to do outside our house.

We've only been volunteering for a few months, but thus far we have cleaned out old bird seed and cleaned the bird bath. Jeremy has spent time installing butterfly houses and taking down older birdhouses in preparation for fixing them this winter. Natalie recently met with Jenna to discuss how she could assist with graphic design-related projects, so she may be doing some in the future. Since we now live near the arboretum, we come here a lot more, even when we aren't volunteering. We love to walk around, play at the park, and feed the fish. The arboretum volunteers and staff keep it fabulous!

Submitted by Jeremy and Natalie Riniker

Exploring the Woodland Garden

Quietly nestled in the woody area between Gottschalk Falls and the English Garden is the Woodland Garden.

What makes a woodland garden unique from other display gardens is that the plants simply grow naturally as you would see in a small forest, left alone to grow and thrive as happens in nature.

The Woodland Garden comprises native trees such as white oak, walnut, and buckeye that provide needed shade for the understory of plants native to the Midwest. Close to the ground, visitors will find bloodroot, trillium, wild ginger, and a variety of ferns, including northern maidenhair fern, ostrich ferns, and interrupted ferns.

Beginning in early spring, the ground is carpeted with colorful early bloomers such as Dutchman's breeches, Virginia bluebells, and white trillium, along with violets and lily-of-the-valley. But, like most spring blooms, the plants don't stay very long. Their colors—and even their leaves—disappear beneath the soil, replaced with other curious and unusual native plants, such as Jack-in-the-pulpit, Solomon's seal, bellwort, and over 50 other varieties of native shrubs and plants.

The Woodland Garden continues to grow and mature each year



as volunteer gardeners remove invasive plants such as poison ivy, nightshade, and bristly greenbrier while installing a large variety of native plants. This fall, thirty new native plants were added to the gardens, including Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*), foamflowers, black and blue cohosh, and white wood aster.

Make sure to stop by the Woodland Garden! Enjoy a sample of what nature has to offer in our midwestern native forests.

Submitted by Sandi Butt



New Irrigation System a Timely Addition

A highlight of the 2022 season in the Gottschalk-Hoeger Rose Garden was the installation of an underground irrigation system.

"With annual precipitation almost 10 inches below normal, the system contributed greatly to the excellent condition of the plants as fall approached," said Dick Weitz, who heads up the Rose Team.

Current team members provide many hours of service to ensure that the beauty of the garden is maintained. Besides Dick, this year's team was composed of Dave Bonnett, Fay Hanson, Gene Hanson, Sharon Jensen, Beth Kundert, Rob Kundert, Carl Lange, Bev Mach, Mark Pasker, and Rich Skinner.

"Their work is much appreciated," Dick said.

Long-time rose team volunteers Dave Bonnett and Carl Lange have now retired after many years of service. Dave and Carl were a familiar sight as they regularly applied fertilizer and fungicide to keep the roses healthy. Their expertise and effort will be greatly missed.

Lilies in Remembrance

The DABG has recently added another new sculpture to its collection.

"Legacy of Integrity," five metal calla lilies embedded in a block of limestone, is in the Edna Mozena Conifer Collection in Marshall Park. To view it, take a left at McLean Lane; the sculpture is visible about halfway up the lane on the right.

The calla lily sculpture was created by Paul Russell of Brookfield, Illinois, the same sculptor who crafted "Ancient Protocol," which stands at Gottschalk Falls. The calla lilies are a gift of the Ken and Edna Mozena family in memory of Jeff Mozena's mother, Edna, who carried calla lilies in her wedding bouquet.

Russell forged the lilies from bars of angle iron and used a spreader tool to move the steel outward and create enough area for forming the flowers and leaves. The steel had to be heated to between 1,700 and 2,100 degrees for persuasion.

The sculptor named his work "Legacy of Integrity" for two reasons:

- We all create our own legacy of integrity as a result of influences and circumstances in our lives. We then inherently pass down our practiced values and intellectual integrity through generations.

- Another component is the physical aspect: while the calla lilies appear to have physical integrity, the steel and its stone base will corrode over time, compromising integrity.



Thank you for giving generously...

The following donations were received
August - October 2022

Supporting Memberships

Neil Burmeister
Keith Cook & Sharon Kress
Judy Curnan
Gene & Jane Gartner
Bill & Addy Gard
Virginia Gordon
Shirley Hansen
Paul & Barb Horsfall
Dennis & Sandy Hoyer
Richard Pouzar
Mary Reuland
Sue Simon
Al & Carolyn Smemo
John & Jacqueline Thompson

Corporate Memberships

Jim Matz Family

Estate Gifts

Randall Judge
Susan T. Schmid

Donations

Allied Tours, Inc.
Jim & Jane Bradley
Thomas & Ethel Brant
Alanna Callahan
Judith Curnan
Marilyn Conklin
Country Travel Discoveries, LLC
Dubuque Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
First Congregational United Church
Bill & Addy Gard
Jim and Bernita Gibertson
Roger & Ruth Grundmeier
Rod Henry
Linda Howard
Thomas & Elizabeth Hyde
Sue Mettillie
Jeff & Janet Mozena
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Kathleen Weber
Donald & Wilma Sanders
Yogacare
Seiji & Mary Yoshioka

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Door Prizes

Arboretum Gift Shop
Jeanne Ambrosy
Jean Bledsoe
Barb Block
Della Goetz
Edward Jones, Marsha Abbott
Engraved Gift Collection
Full-Bohr Concrete Construction

Harris Golf Cars
Herb Society of Dubuque
HyVee
iPlatformance, Glory Hougham
Dennis Kollars
MidWestOne Bank
Planted.
Tom Remakel
Scott Printing & Design
Steve's Ace Hardware
Travel Dubuque
Wagner Nursery

Music in the Gardens

HyVee Dodge Street

Grants

Dubuque Racing Association LTD
Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
Sam's Club (Walmart Foundation)

Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

Paul & Judy Brandt
Merlin & Josephine Green
Shirley Hansen
Bob & Donna Wahlert Fund

Monthly Sustaining Contributors

Wylie & Jean Bledsoe
Bob Hoffman

In-Kind Donations

Linda Erpelding - Butterfly plants
Laura Klavitter (Planted.) - Potted plants for entry way of Visitor Center
Jay Lenocho - Cacti
Oswald Family - Dawn Redwood Trees
Linda Phillips - Plants
Pat Puls - Sumac for Japanese Garden
Mike Reinert & Marty Schiessl - Electrical work
Elijah Russel - Handmade ash wood table for library
Seiji & Mary Yoshioka - Tarps for fountains

Sculpture

A gift of the Ken and Edna Mozena Family: Legacy of Integrity, five metal calla lilies, made by Paul Russell, located in the Mozena Conifer Collection

Memorials

In Memory of:

William Bicksler, given by Frances & Donald Hedeman
John Chapman, MD, given by Mary

Chapman

Jack Frick, given by Brad & Marsha Abbott; Joyce Bausman; Donna Beadle; Jeanne Beringer; Barb & Barney Bishop; Carol Bitter; Marilyn Blanchard; Wylie & Jean Bledsoe; Dan & Barb Block; Suzanne Blum; Jan Brown; Marilyn Conklin; Mary Conzett; Keith Cook & Sharon Kress; Judy Curnan; Eugene & Jane Gartner; David & Kathleen Golinski; Daryl & Twila Griffith; John & Carolyn Hauptert; Don & Fran Hedeman; Herb Society of Dubuque; Jan & Paul Hemmer; Barbara Heitzman; Nick & Sandi Helgerson; Jenna Hirtz; Jean & Stephen Hoeger; Robert & Faye Hoffman; Paul & Barbara Horsfall; David Howe; Joseph & Tonya Howe; Darlene Kaufman; Linda Kerper; Beverly Kolz; Louis & Patricia Manders; James Miller; Judy Miller; Joe & Lydia Molera; Rudy & Joan Molera; Jennifer Morenus; Keith Nilles; Stephen & Sue Davis Oeth; Diane Repass; Elizabeth Seiler; Susan Simon; Clement & Mary Jane Steele; Karla Steger; Kristen Winchell; Richard & Marcia Young; Harold & Joan Zimmerman Jr.

Dr. Allen Harves, given by David & Eva Stabenow

Jim Husemann, given by Jenny Miller
Sharon Killian, given by Alanna Callahan; Herb Society of Dubuque; Michael & Emily Killian; Margaret Plotkin

Zelda Meyers, given by Linda Evitts; William Meyers

Francis Miller, given by Joyce Bausman; Marilyn Conklin; Robert Hoffman

Bob, Char & Kris Neenan, given by Paul & Elyn Schroeder

Leroy Pavelka, given by Ann Edleman
Steve Reisdorf, given by Sid & Jan Scott

R. H. Wahlert, given by Jeff & Janet Mozena

Mary Zugenbuehler, given by Bob & Pam Schmidt

Benches

In Memory of:

Danny & Helen Heiderscheit, donated by Chris Jelinek

Hayley Hubbell, donated by Roger McGrath

Jennifer Lopez, donated by Maria Lopez

Doris Paisley, donated by Charles Paisley

Virginia & Fred Rohner, donated by Ellen Kremer

Jim Schilling, donated by Inga Schilling

John & Cora Wolff & son Gustave, donated by Elizabeth Fitzsimmons

Bricks and Pavers

in Honor and Memory of:

Bonnie Adkins, given by Kelley Donovan
Tony & Mary Burbach, given by Kathy & Don Rupp
Sally Cashman, given by Sandra L. Henry
Cletus F. Cashman, given by Sandra L. Henry
Camryn L. Clark, given by Judson & Sharon Clark
Paul "Monk" Claussen, given by Melissa Claussen
Al Harves, given by Heather Harves
Helen Heiderscheit, given by Chris Jelinek
John R. Henry, given by Sandra L. Henry
Sandra L. Henry, given by Sandra L. Henry
Jim & Kate Husemann, given by Michael McNamer
Lois Houselog, given by Julie Schwendinger
Kathleen Kelley, Sharon Marshall, Aileen Murphy, given by Janet Fitzgerald
Virginia Lammer, given by Michael Lammer
Evelio Mesa, given by Meza Secura
Grace C. Ruden, given by Ellen Grace Ruden
Lois Sweeney, given by Jill Ungs
Danny Vandermillen, given by Karen Vandermillen, Dena Trannel, Diana Brayton, Wayne Hostetter
John W. White, given by Sandra L. Henry
Sue H. White, given by Sandra L. Henry



From left: Bob Schmidt, Gary Harris and Bob Kennedy.

Leaf Mulch: DABG's Secret to Success

For many springs, DABG volunteer gardeners have mulched their annual and perennial gardens with ground-up leaves collected the previous fall.

When applied in a 3-4" layer around the plants, leaf mulch holds moisture in the ground, discourages weeds, adds organic nutrients to the soil, and gives a finished appearance to the gardens. Sinking a trowel into one of our long-mulched flowerbeds is like digging into softened butter.

Mulch of such fine quality cannot be bought—we have to make it ourselves. That's when the team of leaf-mulch volunteers springs into action. Grinding up leaves is a noisy, dirty job, but luckily our cheerful team does not seem to mind. This year's crew consisted of Tom Drake, Gary Harris, Bob Kennedy, Al Krueger, Mark Litka, Mike Mulligan, and Bob Schmidt. They worked on six different days for a total of about 100 man-hours. Because the leaves fell earlier than usual this fall, the team was able to finish on November 1.

The process starts after sufficient leaves have been raked during our fall cleanups and dropped off by community members. The team runs two grinders at once, constantly checking the hopper to make sure a stray glove, flowerpot, or walnut does not slip through and jam up the works. Leaves that are too wet can also cause problems, and although the leaf-mulch team is well-versed in mechanical repairs, they do not suffer delays gladly.

After being ground, the leaves are piled next to the white fence on McLean Lane. Volunteer Keegan Uthe will then apply the finishing touches throughout the winter by regularly stirring up the leaves with a backhoe. By spring, the leaves will have fermented into a dark, moist substance that looks almost like soil. Beautiful! This finished mulch is then transported to an area near the upper perennial gardens where bed adopters can easily access it. Leftover whole leaves are saved for use in the Rose Garden and the English Garden.

Gardeners: Be sure to thank a leaf-mulch volunteer next spring!

Submitted by *Kennie Harris*

Master Gardeners Hold Seminar at DABG

Part of our mission statement at DABG is to be a source of education. On September 24, the Dubuque County Master Gardeners presented a fall seminar for anyone interested in the following topics: Healthy Soil and Water Quality, Edible Flowers and Drying of Herbs, Invasive Plants, Caring for Sick and Dying Plants, Crop Rotation, Perennials and Bulbs, Trees for Landscaping, and Using Live Succulents and Pumpkins for Fall Décor. It was a cold autumn day, but the turnout was great!

Submitted by *Barb Block*



WISH LIST

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

The DABG needs several items to continue with the work of keeping the gardens beautiful. If you are interested in donating toward any of them, you may do so on our website at <https://dubuquearboretum.net/wish-list/> or by calling the office at 563-556-2100.

- Golf Cart with Hydraulic Dump (\$12,000)
- 3720 Utility Tractor (\$60,000)
- 3/4-Ton Truck with Salter and Plow (\$70,000)
- Restrooms on Legacy Tree Trail (\$60,000)
received \$45k so far and \$15k remains to be funded
- Husqvarna 18" Chainsaw (\$600)
- 3500 PSI Power Washer - industrial-style (\$1,000)
- 4-Wheel Drive Gator with Dump Box (\$15,000)
- 120 Wheel Stops for Parking Spots (\$8,000)
- Concrete Curbing Project for Garden Beds (\$20,000)
- Irrigation System for Water Conservation (\$8,000)
- Energy Efficient Lighting Maintenance Building (\$6,000)



FALL CLEANUPS!

We had beautiful, sunny weather for our fall cleanups in October. Combining the two Saturdays, about 120 community volunteers participated in several projects.

Leaves were blanketed around the roses in the English Garden and the hydrangeas in the Hydrangea Garden (both for winter protection). The Garden of Eat'n was prepared for the oncoming season; the Japanese Garden was raked and walnuts picked up; water features were drained and shut down; the rhododendrons were mulched with pine needles; loads of leaves were raked and transported to our leaf-mulching site; maintenance was done in the playground area; our Herb Garden was tidied up; and sadly our annuals were pulled and their beds mended. Delicious lunches with a variety of sides and desserts were served on both days.

Thank you to all who helped!

Submitted by Barb Block



HELPFUL VOLUNTEERS

In October, we had two special groups assist in a variety of projects here at DABG. Many thanks to the University of Dubuque men's soccer team and the West Dubuque high schoolers who gave their time and talent to get us ahead of our fall cleanup schedule!

Submitted by Barb Block



GRANTS GALORE!

The DABG has been blessed with several grants and gifts this year.

"Keep Iowa Beautiful," in partnership with Diamond Vogel, donated six gallons of paint to help us freshen up the color in our offices and conference room. The Iowa Arts Council awarded a \$10,000 grant to support our work in advancing arts and culture in Iowa. The DABG also received a \$19,900 operating grant from the City of Dubuque to continue cultural vibrancy and creative enrichment for the Dubuque community.

The Walmart Foundation, through their Sam's Club location in Dubuque, donated a \$500 community grant toward the new restroom facilities to be constructed at the Legacy Tree trailhead.

Hy-Vee has been an amazing partner over the years, grilling food for our guests at Music in the Gardens. This year we received \$3,849.50 from them as a portion of their proceeds.

Thank you all for your support!

THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

**ARTS & CULTURAL
AFFAIRS**

**PAINT IOWA
BEAUTIFUL**

Keep Iowa
Beautiful

Diamond
Vogel

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Walmart Foundation

HyVee

WHY NOT STROLL THROUGH THE CONIFERS?

The woody plant committee is in the process of creating a “conifer walk” that will enable visitors to walk (or ride a golf cart) through the DABG’s three conifer collections located in Marshall Park.

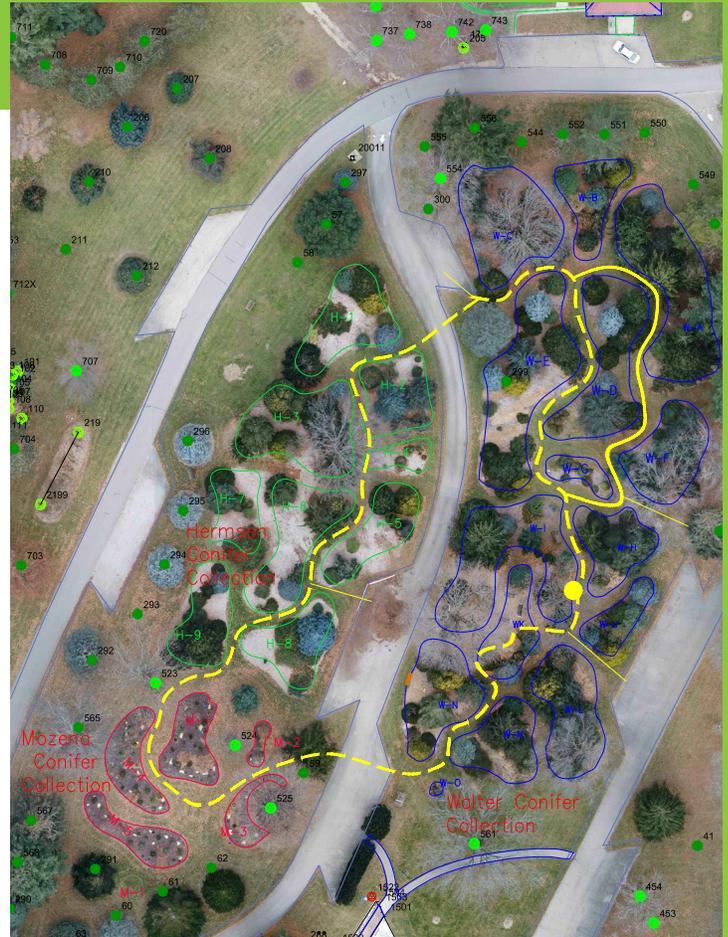
The route will weave through the Walter Collection, the Hermesen Collection, and the Edna Mozena Collection, highlighting specific plants.

“The hope is to bring our guests into the conifers via a designated pathway where they can experience the richness of the plants in our collections,” explained Steve Ulstad, who leads the woody plant team. Viewing these trees and shrubs may also inspire visitors who are landscaping their own yards.

The conifer walk will not be a surfaced path, but rather a recommended route, marked with signage that designates the entry points. Limestone cairns (stacked stones) will also help visitors find their way through the conifers.

Eventually a leaflet will be provided to show a map of the walk as well as the location and description of each specimen plant.

The Walter Conifer Collection, originally consisting of more than 400 dwarf and rare conifers, was donated to the DABG in 1995 by the Walter family of Illinois. In 1996, Dennis and Nancy Hermesen of Farley donated 154 additional conifers, known as the Hermesen Conifer Collection. The Edna Mozena Conifer Collection was begun in 2019.



JAPANESE GARDEN FROM THE INSIDE LOOKING OUT...

While volunteering in the Japanese Garden and koi pond each week, one can see interesting and revealing moments:

It is fun watching the children racing down the pathway to feed the fish in the pond.

It is heartwarming to look around and see people relaxed and possibly meditating in a certain chosen spot just to enjoy a moment or two.

It is with much gratitude that we acknowledge the dedicated

volunteers who come in on their own time throughout the season to spruce up their spots for all to enjoy.

But the most rewarding thing is the people stopping all the time to say, “Thanks for your time in making this place so special.” We are a team working together to make that happen season after season.

Come back often—we love having you here.

Submitted by Barb Bishop





**DUBUQUE
ARBORETUM**
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

Dubuque Arboretum Association, Inc.
3800 Arboretum Drive
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-1040

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DABG
Winter Activities:
Walk • Hike • Snow Shoe
Cross Country Ski • Watch Wildlife

MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

Our membership fees support many of the activities at the Arboretum. Members receive the Ground Cover newsletter as well as 10% discount on all purchases in the Gift Shop.

- \$25.00 Individual
- \$50.00 Family
- \$100.00 Supporting
- \$250.00 Corporate

Renew or become a member online at: www.dubuquearboretum.net/join
or send a check payable to: Dubuque Arboretum Association, Inc.

Return to: Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
3800 Arboretum Drive, Dubuque, Iowa 52001-1040



Membership is a thoughtful year-round gift for family and friends. Complete form below.

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How would you like to be contacted in the future? Email Mail

Donor's Name (if gift) _____

Donations and membership fees are tax deductible.