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WINTER 2021 | OUR LIFE



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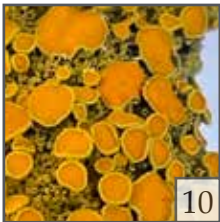
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Cover Photo by Deanie Nelson



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What’s your legacy?

The Northland Arboretum Legacy is preserving this premier public environmental facility in the Brainerd Lakes Area for the promotion of education, recreation and conservation. Ways you may wish to help the Northland Arboretum: Gifts of Cash, Gifts of Real Estate, Gifts of Stock, Life Time Gifts, Bequests, Life Income Gifts, Gifts of Life Insurance. Memorial envelopes can be mailed upon request. The Northland Arboretum can provide you with additional information on any gifts you may be considering. Contact us at 218-829-8770 or at info@northlandarb.org. *Thank you for your support throughout the year.*

Our Mission: The Northland Arboretum strives to be a valued community asset providing outdoor recreation and educational activities for all while protecting the natural environment.

Our Vision: The Northland Arboretum will be the premier destination in Central Minnesota connecting people to the environment for the promotion of education, recreation and conservation.



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A word from the

Executive Director

Happy Holidays to our biggest supporters!

Wintertime at the Arb is a special time. It is a chance for us to slow down and really take in the festivities of the holidays. It won't be long before our Visitor Center is plump full of snowshoers and skiers sipping hot chocolate and anxious to dance over blankets of snow. It really is the most wonderful time of the year!

It is also the most important fundraising time. This holiday season, believe you can make a huge difference to the community through a gift to the Northland Arboretum. Our mission is to provide educational programming, a space for recreation, and efforts to conserve the beauty of our natural resources. We can't do this work without you!

Want to know how your donation makes a difference?

- \$25 will provide a scholarship to a child for an Arboretum class/workshop they cannot afford.
- \$40 will provide a new duck house for our Monet pond.
- \$50 will provide a struggling family with a membership so they have a place to stay physically active during the long winter months.
- \$75 will provide a Nature Knapsack for children looking to expand their knowledge of the outdoors.
- \$100 will buy a set of kids snowshoes to be used on the Arboretum trails.
- \$250 will put a new coat of paint on the old gatehouse (*renovations to start this spring!*)
- \$500 will start a fund to update our brown gazebo.
- \$1000 will update our interpretive signs around the grounds, helping visitors stay educated on our valuable plants and wildlife.

If you would like to give to any of these causes or to our general fund, please send a check payable to *Northland Arboretum* or complete a donation on our website. Your support means so much to us. Thank you and have a very merry holiday!

Give Today So We Can Grow Tomorrow

Candice Zimmermann, Executive Director
Northland Arboretum



SNOW SHOE RENTAL

The Arboretum rents snowshoes!

Adult & kid sizes available.

\$20 a pair for 3 hour rental

Call the Arb to reserve! 218-829-8770



Greetings members,

With the "changing of the guard" this fall at the Northland Arboretum, I have accepted the role as President.

Here is a bit of information about me: my wife and I have been members of the Arb for over 30 years, and I have been involved at various capacities during that time. I recently retired from Crow Wing County as a Natural Resource Manager. I was a forester, managing much of the public land resources for the county.

At the Arb, I am Chair of the Grounds Committee. This committee develops thoughtful ideas on projects related to the flower gardens, to facility and resource management. Conservation is one of the three pillars of the Northland Arboretum's mission and vision and I'm honored to lead this committee in this effort.

Many programs, projects and events at the Arb are a result of dedicated volunteers and members. I continue to be impressed with members and community business support of all aspects at the Arb. I thank all those who have lent a hand or contributed financially to a host of programs, projects and events at the Arboretum. The Arb's continued success truly relies on the community's generosity, and I thank you for past and future contributions.

With winter upon us, I hope you will check out the Arb's beautiful winter landscape for some Nordic skiing or a casual snowshoe hike. Look for the varied programs and winter events at the Arboretum.

I will be on the trails this winter and hope you will too!

Bryan Pike, Board President



Growing up in a family that frequently went camping, I found my love for the outdoors. As I grew older, I knew that the STEM field appealed to me. This led me to the University of Minnesota - Duluth where I majored in environmental science.

After graduating in 2020, I still wasn't sure what I wanted to do. When I learned about the Minnesota GreenCorps program, I saw it as a great fit and an opportunity to help an organization while at the same time gaining valuable experience. I am excited for what is to come and am ready to share and implement ideas to make the Northland Arboretum a destination that brings people in from across the state.

In my free time I enjoy getting outdoors including going on hikes and biking. In the winter I enjoy skiing and sipping a warm cup of hot chocolate.

Nick Bachman,
MN GreenCorps Member Northland Arboretum

Gift Wrapping Alternatives

Be eco-conscious this holiday season
Look around your house and you'll discover
all kinds of ways to wrap presents
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- Fabric • Old maps and newspapers
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- Cloth bags • Baskets
- Children's Artwork • Decorative Boxes



Stop by the Arboretum's Gift Shop, Nature's Gifts.

Just in...Puzzle Twist puzzles, hand carved birds for all of your bird friends, nature socks to keep you cozy, Arboretum hats, Minnesota Hotdish and Scandinavian cookbooks, local honey & syrup, gnomes, walnut cutting boards for a great hostess gift & Minnesota themed gifts! We now carry Smude oil. Don't forget your fur babies this Christmas. We have buffalo plaid dog bandanas. We also carry the Fast Wax line in our gift shop for skiers on the go!

We have books for all ages for identifying animal tracks, birds, plants and more which make great stocking stuffers. The nature-themed journals are our favorite!

Remember gift certificates make great gifts that last all year!





Winter Birding at the Arb

By Judd Brink Owner/Guide MN Backyard Birds

I would invite you to take a look at the birds from your skis or snowshoes this winter at the Northland Arboretum. Birding here can be very rewarding even on the coldest day. Seeing that red cardinal atop a spruce after a new snow lights up like a Christmas light! The one advantage of winter birding is the lack of leaves that can block your vision of looking for birds. Now how many times have we wished that the bird would move a little to the right or to the left because of leaves? This greatly increases how far you can see into the woods to see that Raven on the edge of the clearing or simply looking up along the trails to see a Bald Eagle. Most of the trails are groomed for cross country skiing so be careful where you venture or snowshoe but all the trails will lead you to some good birding. The Northland Arboretum is Brainerd's/Baxter's only Important Bird Area (IBA) designated by Audubon.

Bird feeders are located near the building and parking lot offering a good place to start your day of birding. In some years the feeders have attracted some of the "winter finches" such as Common Redpoll, Purple Finch and Pine Siskins. The feeders are well maintained with fresh seed and suet to attract a wide variety of birds. If you follow the trail past the gate towards the back of the building you will find several large fruiting crabapple trees near the maintenance shed. In some years waxwings and robins can be found eating

any of the remaining fruits well into winter or early spring. More fruiting trees can be found just past the compost pile towards the back of the open field, these trees are much larger with more fruit. A longer hike can take you to the Red Pine plantation where Red-breasted Nuthatches and other birds may gather for shelter against the cold or find food. This can be a good place to find a roosting owl as well. Oftentimes you will hear crows and jays "mobbing" an owl and sometimes if you follow your ears you will see the Owl. If the birding is a little slow you can always look for roosting owls such as the Great-horned Owl or Barred Owl as they tend to be very well camouflaged to match their surroundings. Great-horned Owls tend to favor oaks/pines stands that are in upland habitat (dry) where Barred Owls favor more aspen/birch with some conifer trees in lowland habitat (wet). Owls are one of the earliest nesting birds in the state with nesting starting in February so they are active in December/January setting up and defending territories. Owls don't build their own nest but instead will use an old hawk or crow nest or use a squirrel nest, so watch for any large nests in these habitats to see if an owl will use it. Any large natural tree cavities are also used as Owl nests.

Besides birds, other wildlife make the Northland Arboretum their home year-round like fox and deer and their tracks are very evident during the winter season. All of the trails are

now well marked with maps available inside the visitor center to help you enjoy the trails. Birds are somewhat less vocal this time of year so you want to watch for movement or for clues that birds leave us to discover their presence. Finding bark on the ground would indicate that a woodpecker was here looking for beetle larvae or excavating a new cavity for roosting.

The scenery and the stillness of winter at the Northland Arboretum can be wonderful and finding a roosting owl makes the hike extra special. Your experience at the Arboretum will be more enjoyable if you are prepared for a winter walk in the woods, dress warm and in layers and bring water with you and stay on the marked trails. If you are interested in birding the Arboretum or other areas but not sure where to go or what you can find I offer bird guiding tours for the area. Happy Birding!

Judd Brink, is the owner of MN Backyard Birds in the Brainerd Lakes area. MN Backyard Birds provides birdscaping for homeowners and businesses to attract and enjoy more colorful songbirds. The business was recently featured on Kare 11 news with Belinda Jensen and MN Bound with Ron Schara. For more information about birdscaping or a free backyard consultation contact me at (218) 838-4784 or email me at info@birdminnesota.com.

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MN Backyard Birds

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01



02



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04



05

A Matter of Direction: What to expect on your first walk in the Northland Arboretum

By Charles Johnson

Hiking can be challenging. Some places feature steep switchback trails to climb mountain sides. Some are dull; straight and flat, like a railroad bed turned into a bike trail. Some change altitude gradually, sometimes very quickly, sometimes, not at all. The Northland Arboretum contains none of these extremes, but it contains a pleasant blend for all hikers, skiers and snowshoers that result in a rewarding time in the 540 acres of the facility.

If your preference is solid, level ground, walk in the Arboretum's southwest trails. Very small changes in elevation allow an easy hike through the open fields around the composting area and the exercise trail. If you like a change in scenery but still prefer level grounds, walk east from the Visitors' Center where you will find a short drop to a trail along the creek, leading to the Monet Pond, which is surrounded by level trails. You'll get more of a taste of the watery environment that certain animals and plants prefer. As a bonus, to the south of the pond (and just uphill a bit) is the gazebo garden area. Throughout the growing season, the Arboretum staff and volunteers tend flowers that are in different stages of bloom, so every visit is a bit different.

Gently rolling slopes are a trait of most of the trails in the southern half of the Arboretum trail system, especially in the central portion of this area. Stay to the center trails (Ojibwe, Pioneer, and Acorn, for example.) The larger slopes characterize the perimeter of the Arboretum boundaries – the west side of the Potlatch trail has a “down and up” section that even the cross-country skiers find challenging. Big Ben, the trail on the extreme east side of the Arb, has some climbs and descents that can get a hiker to take bigger breaths. The rewards are a good, healthy walk and some time with nature. You can get all of this in between a hike of one to two miles.

For a hike that carries all the elements of direction, expand your route to the northern half of the Arboretum, where you will find slopes in every direction, immediately starting with the North Star trail aiming downhill towards a creek. There are long, straight sections throughout the northern routes, some that are uphill, some downhill, and on the west turn of North Star at the intersection with the Johnson Tree Farm trail, you'll confront trail sections that so gently slope left to right – but not so sharply as to cause any big problems. If you travel counterclockwise around the pond

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in the northwest corner of the Arb, you'll begin with a downturn to the creek that empties the pond, across a boardwalk, then up a bit of a winding hill that leads to some longer straight stretches through the hardwoods, along the lowlands and the pond. A favorite spot is at the most northwest point of the trail. From here, you

can almost see the paved Paul Bunyan trail to the west. As you descend the trail along the northside of the pond, the trail covers a narrow strip of land that passes between the Arb pond on the south and the open swamp to the north. Up again to the northeast, where there are more straight trails that reconnect back to the way you first came. You won't get as near the water here as you would down by the Monet Pond, but you can still take it all in.

But then, for more straight and flat trails, turn east onto the Johnson Tree Farm trail, where it follows rows and rows of tall pines that are just as straight as the trail. A bit of a heads up, though necessary here; in the spring or after a big rain, you may find the ground wet, swampy or flooded as you approach the intersection of the Johnson Tree Farm Trail and the Red Pine Trail.

As you walk among the fields, the lowlands, the pines and the hardwoods, keep your eyes and ears open for deer and birds and other animals – and remember to watch for whatever is blooming and growing from the ground level on up. The directions of the Arboretum are filled in more ways than we seem to recognize. The next rise or horizon may offer some great surprises.

PICTURED

- 01 Far southwest in the Arb, near the Paul Bunyan Trail.
- 02 A left bend, and uphill to boot.
- 03 Big Ben Gully, south end.
- 04 At the top of a rise.
- 05 The snaky nature in several spots.
- 06 Along the Monet Pond with a trail to the gazebo gardens.
- 07 Deer trails.
- 08 What's beyond the rise?



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Giving Gardens



From Giving Garden to Community Giving Project

By Dan Lee, Master Gardener and Northland Arb Vice President

This past two summers have been challenging for all of us due to the rise of COVID-19 and everything which came with it. Activities at the Northland Arboretum such as the partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners of Crow Wing County were equally affected. In 2019, over 50 kids and adults participated in Gardening 101 classes at the Northland Arboretum in which the Master Gardeners provided participants with hands-on gardening experience. With COVID these in-person classes simply could not be held.

Not willing to give up, the Master Gardeners pivoted to a Giving Garden project and used the gardens at the Northland Arboretum to grow vegetables for Crow Wing County residents in need. A total of 1200 pounds of fresh produce (2400 vegetable servings) were donated to the Salvation Army and Sharing Bread Kitchen for distribution in 2020.

In 2021 the Giving Garden project grew into the Community Giving Project with three integrated projects: Bedding Plants, Container Gardens, and the Giving Garden. Members of the Bedding Plant Project grew 250 plants to be used in the Container Gardens and the Giving Garden. The Container Garden Project donated more than 145 container and bedding plants to several Crow Wing County organizations including: Veteran's Administration, Pequot Lakes Food Shelf, Garrison Lions Club, CRMC Senior Living Crosby, CRMC Social Workers, and Sharing Bread Kitchen. Remaining plants became the strong support for the Giving Garden.

The 2021 goal of the Giving Garden was to donate 2000 pounds (4000 vegetable servings) to the Salvation Army, Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, and food shelves throughout Crow Wing County. In the end 3,132 pounds (6,264 vegetable servings) of fresh produce was grown and donated. As with the Northland Arboretum, education is a significant commitment of Master Gardeners. Instructions on how to grow and use their vegetables were included with the Container Gardens and provided to Giving Garden recipients. In 2022 expect the Master Gardeners to be back again teaching children and adults basic horticultural skills at the Northland Arboretum.

Master Gardeners have been actively creating pollinator gardens throughout Crow Wing County including the Certified Monarch Waystation at the Northland Arboretum by the G101/Giving Gardens area. Other pollinator gardens include MN Adult and Teen Challenge, downtown Nisswa, and the Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa. They assist with the gardens at Woodland Gardens Samaritan Home and contribute to a beautiful resident and visitor experience in collaboration with Downtown Brainerd by maintaining the planters located throughout the downtown area.

The partnership between the Northland Arboretum and Crow Wing County Master Gardeners is a wonderful example of how committed people and organizations can make a positive impact on our community. We thank all the people who participated in the programs and organizations which supported this important work. Thanks to Crow Wing Energize, The Salvation Army, Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, Pequot Lakes Food Shelf, the Veterans Administration, CRMC Senior Living Crosby and CRMC Social Workers.

THANK YOU



Lori Wick

September Volunteer of the Month

I moved to Brainerd in December 2020 from the Hutchinson area. My first order of business after the move was to sign up for a membership at the Northland Arboretum. At that time, I also learned of their need for volunteers and thought it would be a great way to meet new people. I really enjoy the outdoors and people, so this opportunity working the front desk welcoming visitors has been truly rewarding. The Arb has something for everyone. Art classes, nature walks and so many different events celebrating holidays and the great outdoors. I would encourage anyone that has an interest in the outdoors, or knows others that enjoys it, to share this gem in the heart of the Brainerd/Baxter area!



Steve Johnson

October Volunteer of the Month

This is my first year volunteering for the Arb. My wife and I spend about half the year at our home in Brainerd, and the winters at our home in Kansas. I have been helping restore several of the gardens along with other volunteers and really enjoy working with them and learning something new about gardening from them every day.

I became a Minnesota Master Naturalist last year and am excited to apply some of that knowledge to my work at the Arb. Some of my other hobbies include paleontology, silversmithing and creating birch bark art. I look forward to continuing my volunteer work and highly recommend the Northland Arboretum as a great place to visit and volunteer.



Linda Rasmussen

November Volunteer of the Month

My relationship with Northland Arboretum began when I purchased a home in the Brainerd Lakes area and needed to deal with autumn leaf disposal. The Arb's compost site was suggested to me and it worked very well! Next came the snowshoe season and the Arb was there for me again providing great snowshoe trails. I have since found the Arb is also a great place for me to spend time with my grandchildren exploring the outdoors. When the Arb-Life magazine had an article asking for volunteers, it was easy for me to sign up to be a part of an organization that provides so much to the community. I volunteer at the front desk where I get to meet many members and visitors. I am retired from Bemidji State University and enjoy many outdoor activities as well as quilting and other crafts.

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I've Taken a Likin' to Lichens

Article and photos by LeAnn Plinske, Minnesota Master Naturalist and Northland Arboretum Volunteer

(Apologies extended to all educators and English majors for the grammar error in the title, but it was useful for understanding the pronunciation for this tiny organism.)

I would define a 'naturalist' as anyone who is curious, observant, and enjoys being outdoors. I enjoy nature photography as well and discovered over the years since becoming a Minnesota Master Naturalist that I've taken a likin' to Lichens.

Oxford dictionary defines lichen as 'a simple slow-growing plant that typically forms a low crusty, leaflike, or branching growth on ground, rocks, or trees.' More specifically, I learned that lichens are made up of two or three separate organisms: a fungus and an alga, and often cyanobacteria. The relationship is a partnership, or symbiosis, with the dominant partner being the fungus contributing most of the characteristics we observe.

Photographing nature in miniature can be challenging, but at least lichens stay put as I try to focus down to an inch away. The newer smart phone cameras are actually pretty good at close-focus and I use a Canon SX50 Powershot camera on macro as well.

If you are not into taking photos, bring along a magnifier on your next trail walk or snowshoe to help view the amazing details of the varieties of lichen that are growing in Northland Arboretum all year long. What a pleasant surprise to see flashes of green, yellow-gold, or red in a wintery landscape of ice, snow, and trees barren of leaves!

Lichens are commonly divided into three growth forms: **crustose** (in such close contact with its substrate it resembles spray paint), **foliose** (leafy), and **fruticose** (branching, bushy, shrub-like in miniature).

- 1) Fluffy Dust Lichen *Lepraria finkii*: **Crustose**, yellowish-green to pale mint 'dusty' surface. Notice the brown color of the tree bark underneath the lichen.
- 2) Poplar Sunburst Lichen *Xanthomendoza hasseana*: **Foliose**, yellow-orange rosette with a white lower surface and bright orange disks, 0.6-3mm, in the center.
- 3) Eastern Speckled Shield Lichen *Punctelia bolliana*: **Foliose**, bluish-gray, 'wrinkly' surface with convex brown discs; grows on bark of both deciduous and coniferous trees.
- 4) Common Greenshield Lichen *Flavoparmelia caperata*: **Foliose**, pale sage-green on top side with black underneath and pale brown under edges. Commonly seen and easy to recognize.
- 5) Pixie Cups Lichen *Cladonia*: **Fruticose**, notice there are multiple species in this 'community' on an old stump—British Soldiers *Cladonia cristatella* (stalks with red tips), Mealy Pixie Cups *Cladonia chlorophaea* (pale

green with goblet-shaped cups), and Common Powderhorn *Cladonia coniocraea* (gray-green unbranched stalks).

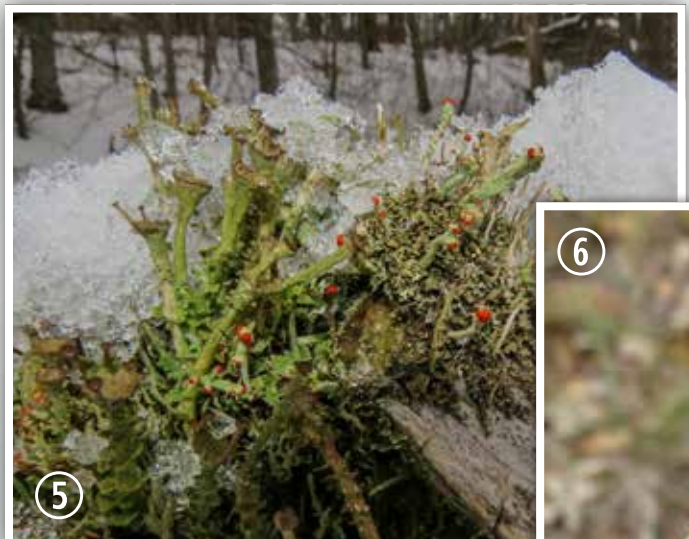
- 6) Sinewed Bushy Lichen *Ramalina americana*: **Fruticose**, yellowish-green shrubby to draping branches. Among the arboreal lichens particularly sensitive to air pollutants.
- 7) Gray Reindeer Lichen *Cladonia rangiferina*: **Fruticose**, white to silver-gray cushions or tufts with antler-like branching main stems. Main food source for caribou and reindeer.
- 8) This is one of my favorite photos I can best describe as a 'fairy forest' of lichens and mosses—all packed into about 6 square inches!

Understanding the roles lichens play in our environment will give you a greater appreciation for the importance of partnerships and healthy ecosystems in our world.

Resources:

U.S. Forest Service: <https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/lichens/biology.shtml>

Lichens of the North Woods field guide by Joe Walewski, Chief Naturalist, Wolf Ridge ELC.





Lichen Fun Facts:

- A person who studies lichens is a Lichenologist.
- Lichens absorb water and nutrients from the environment via air and rain or snow.
- When lichens are wet, they 'wake-up' and start photosynthesizing and growing. When lichens are dry they 'go dormant' and become dry and brittle.
- Lichens need clean, fresh air to survive and are sensitive to pollution in the air. Observing lichens on rocks, trees and ground is a great thing. It means the air you breathe is healthy.
- Hummingbirds use lichens as nesting material for insulation and camouflage.
- Ojibwa historically prepared a decoction of Gray Reindeer Lichen to bathe new-born babies.
- Every lichen lives on top of something else—a substrate—including rocks, trees, soil, gravestones, or old farm equipment.

Kids Corner



Questions for Candice - *Where do frogs go in the winter?*

Surprisingly enough, frogs cannot die from the cold. Frogs are cold-blooded creatures, so their internal temperatures adapt to the temperature in their current environment. In the winter, some frogs hibernate by either digging holes or hiding under piles of leaves throughout the winter. Tiny ice crystals form inside their small bodies and they stop breathing but they will awaken as soon as the temperature warms up and their little bodies begin to defrost. Of course, this depends on the species of frog. Some frogs go through a type of mummification process called *estivating* to protect themselves from the harsh weather. Pretty cool!



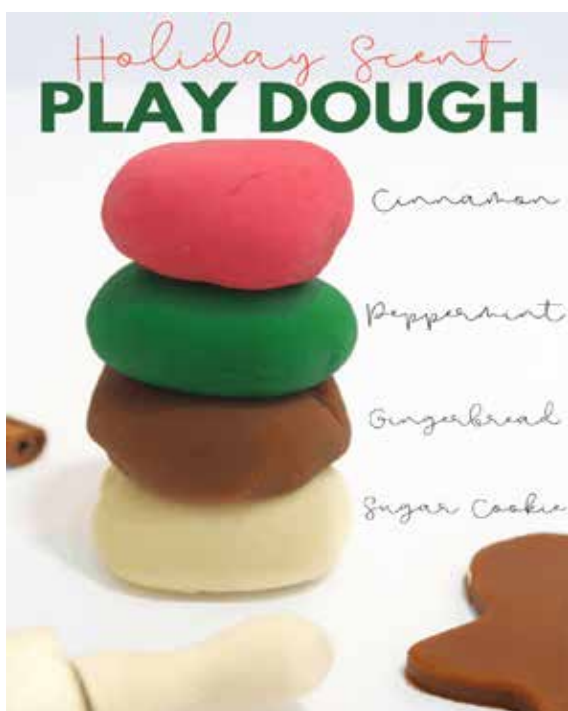
Christmas Tree Decorations

With a quick trip into the outdoors, you can collect materials to make your very own mini twig tree!

Materials Needed: Twigs of different sizes • Twine or string • Glue/ glue gun

Instructions

Take a trip into nature and visit your local forest or woodland. Collect as many different sized sticks as possible. Aim to find ones which differ in length. Begin finding longer sticks, eventually getting shorter and shorter. Depending on how many sticks you have collected, and how big you want your tree to be, find a long flat stick for your base. (You could also use cardboard.) Stick your twigs to your base; Use your longer twigs at the bottom and then shorter ones as you move up the base. You may need to snap or cut the twigs as you go. Take your twine and tie it into a loop that is big enough to hang from your tree. Attach this to your base with glue. Finish by decorating with glitter, paint or your smaller Christmas craft creations!



Holiday Scented Play Dough

Making your own play dough is easy to make, inexpensive and it lasts forever. You can easily add fun colors and scents! It is the perfect time of the year to make this holiday scented play dough when the kids are home on Christmas break. You can make cinnamon, sugar cookie, peppermint, and gingerbread flavors!

We started with our standard play dough recipe: 2 cups all-purpose flour, 3/4 cup salt, 4 teaspoons cream of tartar, 2 cups lukewarm water, 2 Tablespoons of vegetable oil

Start by mixing your dry ingredients together in a medium sized sauce pan. Once well mixed, add in water and oil. Heat over medium heat, stirring continuously. You will begin to see the liquid consistency turn to more of a dough-like consistency. Remove from heat and let cool. Because we were making multiple colors from one batch, we did not add food coloring while cooking. Instead, I divided my dough into 4 and added color and scents separately.

Here's how we created the scents:

- Gingerbread: 1/2 tsp ground ginger, 1 tsp cinnamon
- Peppermint: 1 Tsp of peppermint extract. This can be found in the baking section of your local grocery store. A little goes a long way!
- Sugar Cookie: Vanilla Extract.
- Cinnamon: again, a little goes a long way! Just 1-2 tsp will give it a great scent!

Keep in mind that we divided our play dough batch into 4 to make these flavors. You may need to adjust how much scent you add if you have larger or smaller amounts of play dough.

Storing your Play Dough: The best way to store this homemade play dough recipe is wrapped in plastic wrap and then placed into an airtight container. It will last all the way to the new year if you store it properly!

Winter Gardens, Famous Gardeners, and Private Gardens In The Arb Library

by Rosanne Blass, University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener



During these quiet times of blustery weather and short, dark days, feast your eyes on winter's gardens outside your windows, meet famous gardeners such as Luther Burbank, Gertrude Jekyll, and Claude Monet, or treat yourself to armchair tours of private gardens. All are waiting for you in the Arboretum Library. These quiet times are a time for dreaming about what might be in your own garden.

Winter Gardens: Oliver E. Allen opens our eyes to winter's beauty in his book *Winter Gardens*. He points out the berries left on shrubs, the patterns of leafless tree branches against the sky, the variations of barren tree bark, and the red colors of the dogwood shrubs, the wheat gold of dried grasses, and the dark greens of the evergreen trees. He also reminds us of the underground activity of spring bulbs, perennial plants preparing for new growth, and seeds preparing to sprout. Chapters 2,3,4, and 5 offer suggestions for protecting plants from winterkill and sunscald, for designing a winter garden with a view, and finally recommendations for 94 specific winter garden plants keyed to specific climate zones including zones 2-4.

Rita Buchanan's *The Winter Garden* is written specifically for northern gardeners. She suggests trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, perennials, and bulbs that will add beauty to your winter garden and are hardy in below-zero temperatures. Photos, descriptions, and recommendations for culture make for an easily readable as well as useable book.

Famous Gardeners: You're probably familiar with Luther Burbank who was once the most famous gardener in the world. Jane Smith brings his biography to life in *The Garden of Invention: Luther Burbank and the Business of Breeding Plants*. She introduces the reader to Luther Burbank's personal life, his lifelong experiments with breeding and crossbreeding plants for home and commercial gardens, and his relationships with other inventors such as Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell as well as famous politicians of the time.

Have you met Gertrude Jekyll, a life-long gardener, painter, and writer who developed today's herbaceous borders and designed many famous gardens in Great Britain? Elizabeth Lawrence compiled a selection of Gertrude's writings into an anthology titled *On Gardening*. Each chapter is a charming, advice filled conversation about love for and challenges of gardening, about design, plant selections, the seasons, colors and fragrance, special gardens, and enjoying flowers in the house. You will also find a list of Gertrude Jekyll's books. If you want to read more by Gertrude Jekyll. Claude Monet was a gardener as well as a painter and is known for his gardens at Giverny as well as for his paintings. Author Elizabeth Murray spent a year as a gardener at Giverny before she wrote *Monet's Passion: Ideas, Inspiration and Insights from the Painter's Gardens*. Color photos with captions highlight plants and colors used throughout Monet's gardens with suggestions for incorporating his ideas into your home garden. Chapter One offers a brief history of Monet's life and his development of Giverny. The last chapter provides a zonal map of the US with identification and description of plants used at Giverny as well as sources for ordering the plants. Finally, a Chronology of the Gardens, Vocabulary of Color, and Bibliography complete the book.

Private Gardens: In addition to Monet's gardens at Giverny there are many other notable private gardens. *Great Gardens of America* edited by Carroll C. Calkins introduces the reader to thirty-eight gardens across the country. The gardens of Colonial Williamsburg, the Biltmore House, Callaway Gardens, the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and the Huntington Botanical Gardens are only a few. Color as well as black and white photos with informative text describe each of the gardens including their history and stories of their owners and founders.

The Natural Garden by Ken Druse features private gardens across the country based on the environment, native plants, hardy perennials, wildflowers, and ornamental grasses. Color photos and informative text show how challenging landscapes such as rocky outcrops, steep slopes, or wooded areas were transformed into low maintenance gardens in urban, suburban, and country settings. The book concludes with a section on Planning and Planting A Natural Garden which includes Evaluation and Design, Adjustments and Improvements, Plant Selection. Suggested Reading, and a Source Guide. Also available are two additional books by Ken Druse: *The Passion for Gardening* and *The Natural Habitat Garden*.

Borrowing from the ARB Library: Books are organized and color coded with a Color Coding Guide located on the side of the bookcase. To borrow from the collection enter your name, the book title, and date on the sign out sheet which is located on a bookcase shelf closest to the door. When you return your books, enter the return date on the sign out sheet and place your books in their proper place on the bookshelf.

HAPPY READING! HAPPY DREAMING!



Coming in at sunset



Wingspan of 6.5 to 7 feet!



An Adult and juvenile (called a colt) grazed in the evening in a local field.



Landing gear down!



The crimson crown is not feathers, it is a bare patch of red skin.



The cranes gather in numbers for safety from predation



During the spring and summer, the plumage of sandhill cranes in regions with iron-rich mud acquires a rusty brown hue, due to the bird's habit of preening the reddish mud into their feathers. This artificial coloration is lost in the late summer when the cranes molt their feathers.



Sandhill Cranes

by Jane Stevens, MN Master Naturalist

My camera and I have a “bucket list,” so when a friend asked me if I wanted to join her on a trip to see migrating sandhill cranes, I did not hesitate to say yes! Seeing Sandhill Cranes close enough to get good photos has been on my bucket list for a few years!

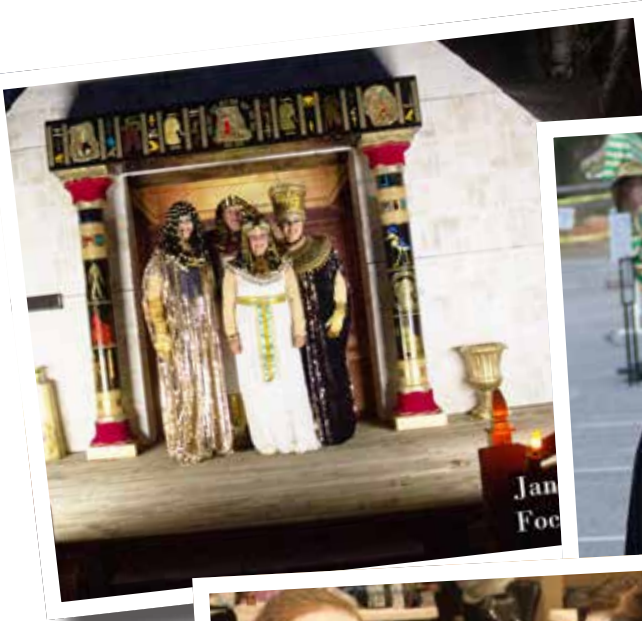
One of the things that I enjoy about photography is learning about my subjects. Sandhill cranes (*Antigone canadensis*) are large birds that live in open habitats, so they’re easy to spot if you go to the right places. They are among the tallest birds in the world, standing up to 5 feet tall, with a wingspan up to 7 feet. Adults are gray overall, with a crimson crown. They often appear rusty brown due to staining from mud during preening.

In summer look for them in open wetlands, fields, and prairies across Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Michigan where they breed and raise their young. They are fairly social birds that usually live in pairs or family groups through the year. Sandhill cranes are on the move in fall and spring when they migrate to and from Florida or the Gold Coast of Texas, where they spend the winter months. Their bugling calls are unique and can be heard

from miles away—they can help alert you to this species’ presence, particularly as they pass overhead.

A good place to see the cranes during migration is on their staging grounds, a stopover place, used for resting and feeding. If you’d like to see hundreds of thousands of sandhill cranes in the spring, visit the Platte River valley in Nebraska, as they stop on their route to breeding grounds in Canada, Alaska and Siberia. Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge near Zimmerman, Minnesota and Crex Meadows State Refuge in Wisconsin are excellent places to see (and hear) migrating sandhill cranes in the fall. The cranes gather in large groups at these places before migrating to their wintering grounds in Florida and the Texas Gold coast. They roost together at night in or near a wetland, leaving at dawn for feeding in nearby fields or wetlands, returning at sunset. Cold November winds will trigger the long migration trek south to reach warmer wintering grounds.

Seeing sandhill cranes can be crossed off of my photo bucket list, but I am sure that I will return to their staging ground to observe another season’s flock gathering for migration!



Left to Right: New this year: An Egyptian Pyramid, complete with a Pharaoh and his court, *photo by Jane Stevens*. Here are mother and daughter in makeup outside the Visitor's Center. They would later haunt the trail near the Gazebo Garden in the High Scare portion of the event, *photo by Charlie Johnson*. Two mist-laden brides haunt the Monet Bridge, *photo by Jane Stevens*.

Bottom: Each night before the gates opened, makeup time came about for every volunteer on the trail, *photo by Lisa Droogsma*.

Thank you!

from the Northland Arboretum

The Northland Arboretum would like to thank the community, sponsors, and supporters for another amazing Haunted Trail event. We had over 2,600 wonderful people join us over our three-night event take part in the chills and thrills of the Haunted Trail. We are so grateful to our community for supporting our biggest fundraiser of the year.

In addition to the attendees, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our awesome volunteers. This event could not be made possible without you whether you had a scare section, helped with parking, security, ticket sales, or other event coordination. Overall, we had 243 volunteers dedicate over 2,000 hours donated toward the Haunted Trail event, not including the hours dedicated to prop and set design, planning, and committee work. Your generous contribution of time allowed us to have some of the best results we have ever had!

Finally, we would like to thank our event committee for taking this fundraiser to the next level this year! Specifically, we would like to thank Ruthie Gmeinder, Renee Defrusne, and DeAnn Caddy for their unwavering support and guidance. We are forever grateful of your generosity and spirit.

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THANK YOU

Northland Arboretum appreciates all of our donors. We could not be here without your generous support!

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Rick Hines, Tools
Matt Hughes - Deer Ridge Property Management,
donation of stump grinding

Marlys Ray, Pumpkins, Corn Stalks
Kathy Snow, Two Christmas Cactus
Wild Bird Store/Little Farm Market, Seeds
Brian Wallace, Stargazing Class Donation

Donation in memory of Dorothy Sundberg
from Larry Sundberg

Donation in memory of Dorothy Sundberg
from Gayle Jacobson

Donation in memory of Francis "Rick" Richardson
from the Brainerd Dispatch newsroom staff

Donation in memory of Dan Nelson
from his happy hour friends - CHS

Volunteer Hours from October - that donated a reported 300 hours- Linda, Lori, Steve, Pat, Judy, Alyssa, Karen, James, Laura, Sharon, Marlys, April, DeAnn, Jayme, Kathy, Melode, Thomas, LeAnn, Bob, Travis, Bryan, Diane, Jackie, Port Girls



CROCK POT CHICKEN TORTILLA SOUP

Ingredients | 1 lb chicken breasts, 1 medium onion diced, 2 cloves garlic minced, 1 15 oz can beef or chicken broth, 1 cup water, 1 15 oz can corn undrained, 1 15 oz can diced tomatoes and green chiles undrained, 1 11 oz can enchilada sauce, 1 packet taco seasoning, ½ teaspoon chili powder, salt and pepper to taste, shredded cheese for topping, crunchy tortilla strips for topping

Instructions

1. Place chicken breasts in the bottom of a 5-quart crock pot.
2. Season with a bit of salt & pepper.
3. Add in diced onions and minced garlic.
4. Then pour in broth, water, corn, diced tomatoes and enchilada sauce.
5. Sprinkle with taco seasoning and chili powder and give it all a good stir.
6. Put the lid on and cook on low for about 8-10 hours.
7. About 15 minutes before serving, take the chicken breasts out and shred them using two forks. The chicken will shred very easily.
8. Then put shredded chicken back in pot and stir.
9. Let cook for an additional 15 minutes. Then serve. Top with shredded cheese and crispy tortilla strips.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

Follow us for updates on events and classes  

We are committed to connecting people to the environment by promoting education and preservation, health and wellness, recreation and enjoyment. Our events and classes are open to members and non-members both. For more information on what's happening - visit our website (northlandarb.org) and click on the events tab or the education tab.

November 25

Sertoma Winter Wonderland Starts

December 3 • 5 - 8 pm

Visit with Santa & the Grinch

December 10 • 5 - 8 pm

Visit with Santa & the Grinch

December 14 • 4 - 8 pm

Business After Hours

Holiday Extravaganza @ Madden's

December 15 • 4 - 8 pm

Pints for a Purpose @ Jack Pine

Brewery

December 18 • 7:30 pm

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

December 27-30 • 8 am - 3 pm

Arb Camp - No Break From Nature

December 29 • 9 am - 3 pm

Blood Drive

January 4 • 1 pm

Day Snowshoe Hike

January 15 • 7:30 pm

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

January 18 • 1 pm

Day Snowshoe Hike

January 22 • 9:30 am

Snowshoe Class

February 8 • 1 pm

Day Snowshoe Hike

February 12 • 7:30 pm

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

February 13 • 6 pm

Valentine's Day Snowshoe Hike

February 22 • 1 pm

Day Snowshoe Hike

February 26 • 9 am

Maple Syrup Class for Beginners

March 12 • 7:30 pm

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

March 27 • 9 am

Maple Syrup Farm Tour @ The Farm of Harry and Judy Worm

Santa and the Grinch are coming to the Arboretum

Free will donations accepted

Friday December 3 & 10 • 5-8 pm

Free Craft for Kids

- Free treat for the kids from Santa
- You may take your own photos
- Bring your letter to Santa and mail it in his special mailbox or you may create a letter at the Arboretum

Come check out our gift shop for all of your Christmas shopping!

Hot chocolate, treats, reindeer & snowman water for sale

Sertoma Winter Wonderland Dates & Hours 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Wednesday - Saturday - November 25 - 27
Wednesday - Saturday in December & December 22 - 31

Advance tickets available before 4:00 pm

Cash or checks only

Drop off location for Toys for Kids



TOY DROP





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