

Jensen-Olson Arboretum, Manager's Report to the Advisory Board

November 09, 2022

Thank you JOAAB for your input on the budget and use of nonrestricted funds over the past two years. Thank you for your time, interest, and dedication to JOA.

- Budget and use of nonrestricted funds in FY23

JOA requested \$13,000 of the endowment's nonrestricted funds be added to the FY23 budget.

These funds purchased a whole-house water filter device, replacing the water softener. They also go toward replacing the copper and lead plumbing with Pex pipe. The project is scheduled for winter 2022-23 by CBJ Maintenance.

JOA also requested \$5,500 of the endowment's nonrestricted funds for installation of satellite internet service. Modern service will enable JOA to give or interact with online presentations. CBJ MIS said this works with their operations. However, MIS has a new Director and they have been working on updating their master plan delaying action on the JOA plan. A good option was presented by Snowcloud, yet it has not been vetted by MIS. Snowcloud's suggestion looks promising, this is an ongoing search.

- Horticultural updates

Late summer and fall rain caused flooding that created what is affectionately called Lake Caroline. Everyone in Juneau should be well aware that Southeast has set an annual rainfall record. The results impact the grounds of JOA. A spring behind the entry arbor fills to a small pond generally once a year. That is the Lake Caroline area and it has appeared three times this year. The most recent was at the beginning of October when JOA received about 9 inches of rain in a 4-day period. The lake area expanded toward the residence and up into the lawn. A small sump pump was employed to run water over the crest of the lawn toward the coast. Areas that were historically planted with bulbs will have to be reconsidered. Some small species of *Primula* may be impacted, a situation to watch.

Continuing rains into November hampered garlic planting efforts, though covering with tarps, as is conventional here, has stabilized the beds. Saturated soil conditions delayed and rescheduled bulb planting. Most were planted by the first week of November.

The *Sorbus acuparia*, European Mountain Ash, bordering the edge of the forest on the south side of the cultivated grounds, were heavily browsed and damaged by black bear this year. As soon as the berries were ripe in August, a female and her yearling cub began visiting the trees. She was seen onsite twice a week for a while, eventually daily. Late September a larger male black bear started eating in the trees and was seen nearly daily for almost four weeks. Due to the heavy damage and the mother now teaching a cub to eat at JOA, I have decided to remove all the remaining Mtn. Ash at once. I requested permission from SEAL Trust as per the Conservation Agreement and it was granted. The work will be done by Cal Reikert of Cal's Arbor Art over the winter. Cal will fell the trees, cut large trunks and limbs into manageable pieces, and all material will be left at JOA for processing.

JOA continued its commitment of donating produce from the historic veggie garden to the community. Over 200 pounds of vegetables, currants, and herbs were donated to the AWARE shelter, the Southeast Alaska Food Bank, and the Glory Hall.

- Infrastructure

An awning has been constructed over the potting bench area at the rear of the garage.

Materials were purchased by the Friends of Jensen-Olson Arboretum (FJOA) and labor was donated by Bill Ehlers and Ken Murphy.

- Hours of operation and staffing

Members of FJOA volunteered close to 100 hours as Weed Warriors helping to keep perennial beds weed-free. Members also contributed time dividing and potting perennials.

Master Gardeners contributed approximately 250 hours on various projects: updating the *Primula* genus in the plant database (still in progress); cultivating the vegetable garden; preparing perennials for replanting and preparing pots for seeding; and packaging and writing plant descriptions.

Members of the Juneau Chapter of the American Primrose Society contributed approximately 30 hours cleaning and packaging *Primula* seeds for seed exchanges and preservation.

JOA is now in reduced winter hours, mid-October through mid-March, open Friday – Sunday, 9a – 4p. I have not received any negative feedback. My normal schedule remains Wednesday – Sunday 9a-5pm. In order to meet with other P&R employees and to utilize faster internet, weather permitting, I travel to the City Hall P&R office on Wednesdays and some Thursdays.

- Outreach:

FJOA received a \$3,500 ARPA (federal American Rescue Plan Act) Easy Grant in October 2021 that was used to update JOA's online resources. Four short videos have been completed and will be on a FJOA youtube channel soon.

October 27, I attended the Alaska Community Forest Council quarterly meeting, virtual. I would like to source more forest and arbor information in consideration of operating an arboretum.

Nov 1-5, I attended the annual AK Invasive Species Workshop in Anchorage. This is organized by the Alaska Invasive Species Partnership consisting of multiple state and federal agencies. The goal is to educate on all types of invasives (marine, terrestrial, insect), identification, control, or eradication.

2023, February 15-19, I will be speaking for the second year at the Northwest Flower and Garden Festival in Seattle. I will give a presentation with a panel of 3 speaking on summer color, my section "not your grandma's primroses" for early season color. I will have a presentation on the DIY stage on basic garden tools, how to select the best, and how to use. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.gardenshow.com/>

Thank you for your advice and support of the arboretum.

Submitted by Ginger Hudson