



# Leafings

A Newsletter of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Fall 2022 - The Annual Report Issue (FY 2022)

[plantnebraska.org](http://plantnebraska.org)



## Greenhouse Campaign Reaches Goal

We are pleased to announce that our Let's Build a Greenhouse Campaign was successfully completed in September, raising more than \$140,000 to support the construction of a brand-new production greenhouse on University of Nebraska-Lincoln's (UNL) East Campus. Thank you to all those who donated to this effort!

The new 30' by 72' production greenhouse will enable Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) to more than double its current production output, allowing NSA to send more plants to more communities throughout the growing season.

"We are thrilled with the success of the campaign and grateful to all the generous donors who helped make the new greenhouse possible," said NSA Executive Director Hanna Pinneo. "We're excited to begin construction and start planting in the new space."

Currently NSA utilizes a small production greenhouse in Mead, Nebraska, where NSA Director of Horticulture Bob Henrickson and a cadre of dedicated volunteers grow more than 6,000 seedlings every year.

The new production greenhouse will be constructed next to the NSA's shade house and tree nursery on East Campus, allowing all the facilities to be in a single convenient location.

Nebraskans across the state have come to rely on NSA as a source of native plants that help to create more resilient, sustainable landscapes and beautiful gardens and green spaces in their yards and neighborhoods.

Donor and longtime NSA member Jane Marie drives to Lincoln from Hastings to attend the Friday plant sales.

"It's absolutely worth the drive," said Marie. "I appreciate the availability and quality of the plants and the super knowledge of Bob Henrickson."

NSA also partners with organizations and businesses across the state, providing landscape grants that enable our partners to address environmental challenges through purposeful planting.

## Mission

We plant Nebraska for healthy people, vibrant communities and a resilient environment.

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## A Message from the Executive Director

It has been a banner year for the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and we're looking forward to another.

This year we received grants from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy to create waterwise demonstration sites in vulnerable watersheds across the state, from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to continue our Trees for Nebraska Towns and Greener Towns programs and from the Nebraska Department of Education to create pollinator gardens at 45 schools and plant trees at 45 more schools throughout the state and train their staff on how to integrate gardens and trees into daily learning.

Also, thanks to your generous support we recently finished fundraising for our new production greenhouse, which was sorely needed and will help us better serve individuals and communities alike.

Finally, we were also able to get back to in-person events. Spring Affair was open to the public for the first time since 2019, the NSA staff traveled for Wildflower week again with stops throughout western Nebraska, and Sarah Buckley and I represented NSA at the American Public Gardens Association conference in Portland, Oregon, to a standing-room-only audience to share information about our Bloom Box program.

We're excited to head into another banner year. Throughout the winter we'll build our new greenhouse, which is a monumental occasion for NSA. We've already submitted our plant order for Spring Affair with a record amount of individual plants after the sell-out we experienced last year. Most importantly, we're working closely with communities throughout the state to complete tree and garden planting efforts thanks to generous grantors.

Thank you for helping us make 2022 a year to remember. Here's to many more banner years to come!



Hanna Pinneo  
Executive Director  
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum



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Here's to many more  
banner years to come!

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# FY 2022 Financial Overview

This fiscal year has been a unique one for us. First, it's the first year we've been working with an outside accounting firm, The Charity CFO. We've been very pleased with their work and are thankful for the ways they've helped us streamline our processes and clean up our reports. These changes have allowed us to spend more time serving our members and communities. This also means we have built in dual-control and continuity procedures, which makes NSA a more appealing organization to donors and granting organizations.

Second, it's the first fiscal year NSA has had with a major capital campaign (for the new greenhouse). That changes the proportions on the pie charts quite a bit, but it's important for us to remember that a large chunk of the donation revenue is specifically for the greenhouse project, which we are very thankful for.

## FY 2022 Revenue

Plant sale revenue is our largest source of unrestricted funding, and we expect this to continue to increase as we build the new greenhouse and as gardening with native plants continues to experience a boom. A majority of the revenue reflected in the donation section are for the greenhouse.

Membership dues are down a bit as we continue to reconnect with members lost during COVID and cultivate potential new members. Grant revenue is also down during this year because we were between grant cycles. Finally, "other" represents merchandise sales such as t-shirts.

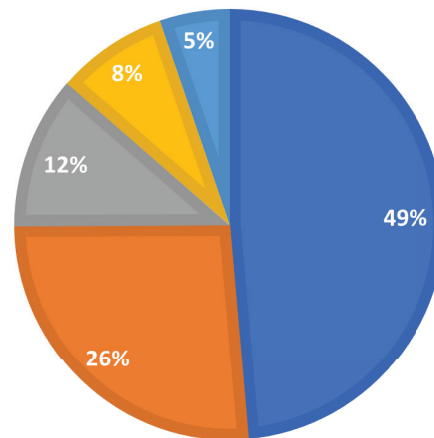
## FY 2022 Expenses

Personnel remains our largest expense, as is generally the case for most organizations and businesses. We currently have four full-time staff members and multiple staff members whose salary is cost-shared with the Nebraska Forest Service. All staff are employees of UNL; NSA reimburses UNL for our staff salary and benefits.

The largest expense under Materials & Supplies is plant material for plant sales. Professional & Contract services represents the expense of our bookkeepers and auditors. General Expenses are composed of fees: rentals, bank fees, transaction fees, insurance, and greenhouse maintenance. "Other" includes travel costs and uncategorized one-off expenses.

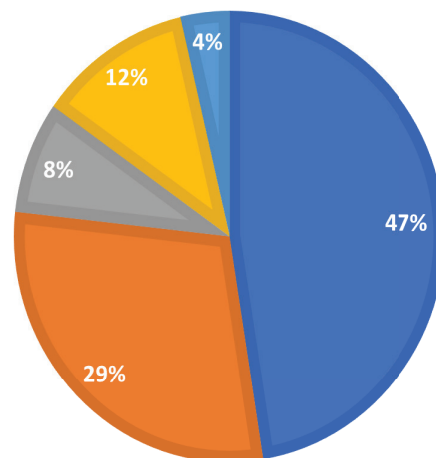
### NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM REVENUE FY22

■ Plant Sale Revenues ■ Donations ■ Membership Dues ■ Grant Revenue ■ Other



### NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM EXPENSES FY22

■ Personnel ■ Materials & Supplies ■ Professional & Contract Services ■ General Expenses ■ Other





# In the Spotlight: Catalpa Tree

The northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) is a native flowering tree in the *Bignoniaceae* (catalpa) tree family. It has a medium growth rate of about 13-24 inches per year and can do well in a variety of soil types, though it thrives best in well-drained, moist, nutrient-rich soils. Northern catalpas prefer full sun to partial shade, requiring at least four hours of unfiltered sunlight per day to prosper.

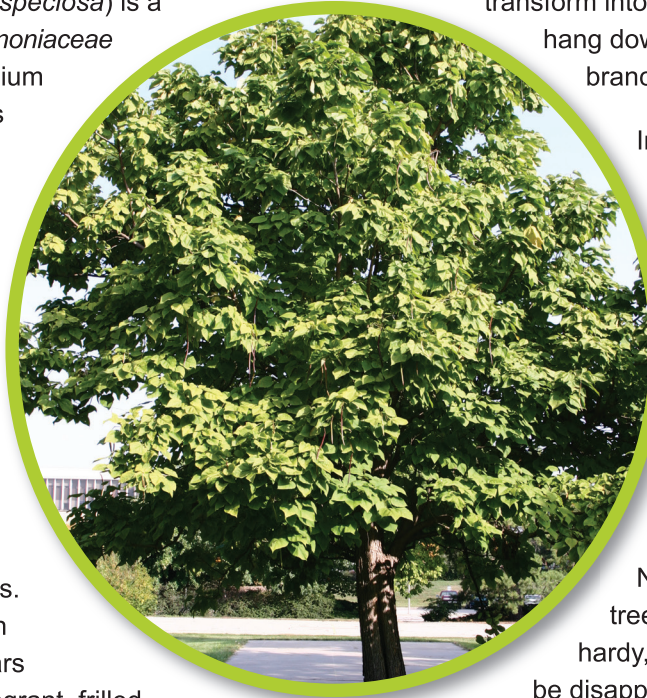
At between 75 and 100 feet tall, the northern catalpa is a majestic giant shading the world below with its bulky, heart-shaped leaves. Blooming from late spring through early summer (it can take 5-7 years before it produces blooms), its fragrant, frilled flowers form on the ends of branches in upright clusters. Once the blooms have faded, the flowers then

transform into skinny 8-20-inch seedpods that hang down from the tips of the branches.

In addition to its aesthetic value, the catalpa also plays a key role as a provider for native wildlife. Hummingbirds frequent its flower clusters in late spring, and this tree is the sole host of the native catalpa sphinx moth. The tree is also deer resistant, as its leaves and roots are said to be slightly toxic for animal consumption.

Next time you are considering a tree for your property, consider this hardy, striking native species. You won't be disappointed with the *Catalpa speciosa*.

— John Woodworth, NSA Horticulture Assistant



## Save the Date

**Mark your calendar—you won't want to miss these events and happenings.  
Visit our events page at [plantnebraska.org/events](http://plantnebraska.org/events) for more information.**

### October

#### Plant Sales

October 7 & 14  
12:30-4:30 p.m.  
UNL East Campus Greenhouse  
2150 N. 38th St., Lincoln

#### Plants & Pints

*Sponsored by the Dorothy & Joseph Young Family*  
October 25  
7-9 p.m.  
The Barred Owl, Scarlet Hotel  
2101 Transformation Dr., Lincoln  
Speakers: Heather & Brian Byers, owners of Great Plains Nursery and Amy & Jeff Grewe, owners of Arbor Aesthetics. Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres.  
Tickets: \$20/for NSA members;  
\$25 for non-members.  
Visit [plantnebraska.org/plants-pints](http://plantnebraska.org/plants-pints) to register.

### November

#### Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Awards

November 4  
2 p.m.  
First Plymouth Congregational Church  
2000 D St., Lincoln  
Join us to recognize those in our great state who are working to plant trees, make gardens, build their communities, and educate others about the importance of greening towns and protecting natural spaces.

### Coming This Spring

#### Spring Affair Plant Sale

April 27-29  
Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln

#### Bloom Box Spring Sign-up

Opens March 1  
See the back page for more details.

# Affiliate Curators Make Connections

You've likely heard of museum or art gallery curators, but did you know NSA has more than 100 curators of our arboretum and affiliate garden sites, too? These folks—many of whom are volunteers—oversee and maintain these green spaces, ensuring that they continue to bring beauty and life to the people who visit them.

Recently 20 NSA affiliate curators gathered at the Prairie Loft Center for Outdoor and Agricultural Learning in Hastings for a day of connection, information sharing and tours of several nearby outdoor spaces.

"This is a great opportunity to learn from each other and share about the challenges we are facing," said Central Community College groundskeeping supervisor and affiliate curator Aaron Theisen. "I really like to network with others who are in similar roles and have the opportunity to share my knowledge and maybe even help someone else."

The affiliate curators then take what they learned from each other and share it with others in their communities.



*Affiliate arboretum and landscape steward curators gathered in Hastings in September to connect and share information.*

# A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

More than 100 people turned out for our annual Garden Walks in September to take in the beautiful sights and scents of 15 Bloom Box and My Garden Affiliate gardens across Omaha and Lincoln.

Lindsey Button's pollinator plot, one of eight gardens featured on the Omaha tour, was started with a Bloom Box from NSA in 2020.

"I knew I wanted native plants, and I knew I wanted a pollinator garden, but trying to familiarize myself with what kinds of plants are available and where to get them and how to lay them out was really overwhelming," said Button. "With the Bloom Box, I got the plants and a map with instructions indicating where to put each plant."

In just two years, her native perennials—including blue sage, ironweed, coneflowers, and rose milkweed—have thrived and require very little weeding and watering. "It's worked out great," said Button.

Visit [plantnebraska.org/bloom-box](https://plantnebraska.org/bloom-box) for more information and to sign up for the spring Bloom Box program.



*Omaha gardener Lindsey Button*



# Thank You to Our Donors

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*NSA gratefully acknowledges the following generous supporters for gifts given between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.*

## \$5,000+

Gross Family Foundation  
Backhaul and Track Logistics Inc.  
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Steven & Marilyn Woerth  
Nancy & Philip Wolf  
Robert Wright  
Nancy Zaraya  
Julie Zoucha

## *NSA by the Numbers*

Our goal is to support communities throughout Nebraska when they have an idea but need help accomplishing it. We work with their Green Teams to make a plan, coordinate the project, and provide funding. From planting 10 free trees to multi-year green infrastructure installations, we do what it takes to Plant Nebraska for healthy people, vibrant communities, and a resilient environment.

*In 2021*

**Grant Dollars Distributed**

*\$81,659*

**Trees Planted**

*5,260*

**Plants in the Ground**

*42,195*

**People Impacted**

*117,370*

## What to Plant?

Get bulbs in the ground now for a bounty of spring beauty.



Here are some bulb planting tips to get you started:

- Choose a spot with at least six hours of sunlight.
- Prepare your bed in advance. Bulbs like well-drained soil that's rich with organic matter.
- When purchasing, look for firm, plump bulbs with no mold or rot and store them in a paper bag in the fridge (away from your fruit!) until you are ready to plant.
- Plant at the right time—ideally when nighttime temps are 40-50 degrees and six weeks before you expect the ground to freeze.
- Plant the right bulbs—dahlias and gladiolus are planted in the spring, while tulips, daffodils, and allium can go in the ground right now.

## Get Involved

JOIN US for events, talks, podcasts, tours, and plants sales.

BUY native and recommended plants from us, many with local seed source.

RECOMMEND NSA and our resources to family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors.

BECOME A MEMBER. We are a nonprofit organization that relies on donors to make our many programs and resources possible.

## Connect with Us!



facebook.com/NeArb



@NEarboretum



@nebraskastatewide  
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pinterest.com/  
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## Spring Bloom Box Sign-Ups Open March 1-31

Spring Bloom Box sign-up will open March 1 and close on March 31 or when we have reached our spring capacity of 125 gardens. Plants will be ready for pickup or shipped in May. Email Sarah with any questions or to request a reminder email on opening day: sarah.buckley@unl.edu. Spring planting fills quickly so be ready to order early!

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### Michelle DeRusha Communications & Event Coordinator

Michelle comes to NSA from The Salvation Army Western Division Headquarters in Omaha, where she was responsible for publications and other communications projects. She's also the author of five books and lives in Lincoln with her husband, their two teenage boys and their dog, Harvey the Handful.



### John Woodworth Horticulture Assistant

John graduated from UNL in May with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife, specializing in wildlife management and conservation biology. At NSA, he can often be found helping Bob in the greenhouse, staffing events, and taking photos for our social media channels.

