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ANNUAL FRIENDS OF MANITO FALL PLANT SALE SET FOR AUGUST 27

The Friends of Manito (TFM) will stage its annual fall plant sale on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot just east of the Manito Park Gaiser Conservatory.

More than 20,000 plants in nearly 400 species will be available. A full description of these plants can be viewed and printed in both pdf and excel format from the TFM web site www.thefriendsofmanito.org.

The fall and spring plants sales are the major fundraising events for The Friends of Manito, a volunteer organization. Some funds are used for educational activities, but most are used to fund projects that preserve and improve Manito Park.

“The Friends of Manito is a non-profit organization and all funds raised eventually benefit Manito Park,” says Eberhard Schmidt, president of the volunteer group.

Plants available at the sale are all hardy to at least Zone 5, although many are hardy to Zones 3 and 4, according to Janis Saiki. “We will have plants that will provide beauty for every season of the year, as well as drought-tolerant, deer-resistant and long-blooming plants,” she says. “I research every plant I bring in and order only those that have outstanding attributes and, if given the correct cultural requirements, should flourish here.”

Since 1990, the group has allocated more than \$560,500 to projects at Manito Park.

Recent significant allocations include \$30,000 toward construction of a retaining wall in Duncan Garden, nearly \$46,000 toward replacement of the Japanese Garden fence, \$15,000 to replace the Japanese Garden bridge, and

\$10,000 toward play equipment in lower Manito Park near the Mirror Pond. A complete list of projects is available on the website, www.thefriendsofmanito.org.

While The Friends of Manito fall plant sale occurs near the end of the gardening season, Saiki says it's a great time to plant perennial flowers, shrubs and trees.

The summer heat that stresses plants has passed, but there is still time before winter for the plants to develop good root systems, Saiki says. Many of the plants will still be in bloom, or are fall bloomers, including agastache, achillea, asters, clematis, echinacea, hydrangea, monarda, salvia, sedums and ornamental grasses. The complete list of plants that will be available, along with photographs of most, are also on The Friends of Manito website,

www.thefriendsofmanito.org.

Many TFM volunteers learned of the group at the plant sale.

"I retired from geology and was involved in gardening," explains TFM president Schmidt. "I came to a fall plant sale and someone said 'why don't you join?' So I did."

The group boasts more than 650 memberships from throughout the area, but some are family memberships so the number of members is greater than that.

Annual dues are \$30 for individuals, \$35 for families and \$24 for full-time students or seniors at least 62. Some join just to get into the plant sales for early shopping. While the sale opens to the public at 10 a.m., Friends of Manito members can begin shopping at 8 a.m. (membership card required).

About 100 volunteers are needed to stage the sales, according to The Friends of Manito volunteer coordinator. There are opportunities to volunteer all year round. In the winter volunteers work in the polyhouse and during the growing season outside.

Membership and volunteer information are also available on The Friends of Manito website, www.thefriendsofmanito.org.

Calendar / PSA:

The Friends of Manito will hold its annual fall plant sale on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot just east of the Manito Park Conservatory. More than 20,000 plants will be available in nearly 400 species. Free admission. The Friends of Manito members can begin shopping at 8 a.m.; membership card required for admission. For information: www.thefriendsofmanito.org

About the Friends of Manito

Founded in 1990, The Friends of Manito (TFM) is a non-profit group that works to support Manito Park by providing funds for improvements for the general enhancement of Manito Park. Three major plant sales are given each year with approximately 100 volunteers working for months before to prepare the plant material - making the events the premier plant sales for Spokane gardeners.

Throughout the year, TFM also offers educational programs to further promote the community's use and enjoyment of Manito Park. Since their beginning, The Friends of Manito has contributed over \$525,000 to Manito Park. For more information www.thefriendsofmanito.org

About Manito Park

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Department maintains Manito Park's 78 acres of native and cultivated landscape and 20 acres of world class botanical gardens. Comprised of five major garden areas, the Nishinomiya Tsutakawa Japanese Garden, Duncan Garden, Rose Hill, Lilac Garden and Ferris Perennial Garden, Manito Park is nationally recognized for its diverse horticultural displays. In 2007, Rose Hill was named number one in the nation by All-America Rose Selections (AARS), a nonprofit association dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. Manito Park was officially established in April 1904, and has evolved from an undeveloped recreational area with a few flower beds, picnic spots and a zoo to one of Spokane's primary showplaces. Other Manito Park features include: Mirror Pond, a favorite of those who enjoy watching ducks and other water fowl; the Park Bench Café, open in season for light meals; the Loop Drive and Bridge offering majestic views of the Rose Garden; Upper and Lower Playgrounds – a favorite gathering spot of children; and the large basalt rock office building constructed in 1912. Central to the Park is the Gaiser Conservatory where beautiful flowing displays change seasonally.

About Spokane Parks and Recreation

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation is responsible for the professional management and prudent caretaking of more than 4,100 acres of developed parks and conservation land. The Golf Division maintains and operates four championship municipal golf courses, including Indian Canyon, Downriver, Esmeralda and the Creek at Qualchan. Park Operations has responsibility for the maintenance of all park land and park facilities in the City of Spokane including Riverfront Park, Manito Park, Gaiser Conservatory, the many city-wide gardens, and Finch Arboretum. Urban Forestry staff manages 50,000 street trees and another 28,000 trees on developed park land within the City of Spokane. The Recreation/Entertainment Division offers classes, special events, athletic leagues and activities for youth, teens, adults, seniors and persons with physical and mental disabilities. It also operates Riverfront Park attractions, activities and events, and provides support for community centers, senior centers, the Northeast Youth Center, Corbin Art Center and outdoor swimming pools. For more information please visit www.spokaneparks.org

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