

nebraska's living tree museum

Beautiful Arbor Lodge beckons history and horticulture enthusiasts.

By Tom White

(Reprinted courtesy of NEBRASKAland Magazine.)

To newcomers, it's a jarring juxtaposition: Nebraska, once described as a treeless desert, became the home of Arbor Day, now an international holiday celebrating trees.

The roots of the transformation are in Nebraska City, where Julius Sterling Morton and his wife, Caroline, settled in 1854. Morton saw great agricultural and horticultural potential in Nebraska and promoted it through his position as editor of the local newspaper and a rigorous tree-planting program on his own land.

In 1872, a state resolution offered by Morton established April 10 as a tree-planting day. Two years later the Nebraska Board of Agriculture awarded prize money to counties and individuals who properly planted the largest number of trees. Though the date has changed through the years, Arbor Day has become a Nebraska fixture and is now celebrated in every state and many other countries.

In addition to this powerful, transforming idea, the Morton legacy to the state includes Arbor Lodge, a 65-acre historical park and arboretum in Nebraska City which was the Morton family home. The focal point of the park today is the Morton mansion, a stately, 52-room,



A horse-drawn carriage moves past the Morton mansion's north portico.

Photo by Eric Fowler

neo-colonial structure completed in 1903 by Joy Morton, the family's oldest son and founder of the Morton Salt Company. Joy Morton and his family used the mansion as a summer retreat until 1923 when he donated the house and grounds to the state.

The arboretum is a peaceful, aesthetically pleasing park, especially in summer months, and a living museum of woody plants including some specimens planted by J. Sterling Morton and his family more than 100 years ago. The collection includes 260 species, which are identified and labeled.

A half-mile walking path guides visitors through original arboretum trees, including a stand of American chestnuts, which escaped a fungal disease that virtually wiped out the species in its native eastern forests. To the east, there are four large, old Osage orange specimens, which are thought to be remnants of a hedgerow planted when the land was farmed. The grounds also include a fishpond, a gazebo, an Italian terraced rose garden and a new arboretum tract. Interpretive signs throughout the arboretum provide information for visitors.

The Morton mansion began as a four-room, L-shaped, frame structure in 1855. It was expanded with

four additions. The last alterations, made by Joy Morton in 1902, included adding the neo-colonial façade and stuccoing the entire house.

Most of the authentic Victorian- and Empire-style furnishings in the home were owned by the Mortons. There are numerous examples of Tiffany glass, including an ornate skylight in a sun parlor. The house has hand-carved woodwork and hardwood floors.

Nineteenth century horse-drawn

vehicles – coaches, carriages and surreys – and an Overland stage-coach are on display in the carriage house.

For those interested in history or horticulture, Arbor Lodge is an ideal spot for a leisurely, summer visit. Picnicking is permitted. Each September the park is the site of the Applejack Festival.



Through August, the Morton mansion is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. A self-guided tour of the arboretum and grounds is free. Admission to the mansion is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children ages 6 to 15. Children age 5 and under are admitted free. A current Nebraska State Park Entry Permit is required for vehicles entering the park. For additional information call the park, (402) 873-7222.

compulsive gamblers *assistance*

When Gambling Becomes a Bad Bet.....

The Gamblers Assistance Program was established in 1992. Since that time, the GAP has worked to assist those negatively affected by problem gambling. The GAP contracts with individuals throughout Nebraska to provide treatment services to problem gamblers and their family members.

Gambling is a recreational activity

enjoyed by the majority of adults in Nebraska. There are some, however, for whom gambling is more than recreational and is, in fact, addictive and destructive. The devastation of the gambler and their family is well documented. What is less known is how families can protect themselves from the devastation of gambling and the gambler.

Below is a self survey to discover whether you or someone you know has a gambling problem

- *Have you ever lost time from work because of gambling?*
- *Has gambling ever made your home life unhappy?*
- *Have you ever felt remorse for gambling?*
- *Do you ever borrow to finance your gambling?*
- *Are you reluctant to use "gambling money" for normal expenditures?*
- *Does gambling cause you to have difficulty sleeping?*
- *Have you ever considered self-destruction as a result of your gambling?*
- *Do you often gamble until your last dollar is gone?*
- *Do you ever gamble longer than you planned?*
- *After winning, do you ever have a strong urge to return and win more?*

(Most problem gamblers answered yes to at least 3 out of these 10 questions.)

1-800-522-4700 Call 24 Hours a day, 7 days a week

word search

Complete the puzzle below by circling words or phrases that appear in this issue of Players Digest. HINT: There are a total of ten (10) words or phrases located horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

Then mail* this entire page to Nebraska Lottery Digest Players Paradise, P.O. Box 94878, Lincoln, NE 68509-4878.

At noon on each of the drawing days (July 1, 2008, and July 31, 2008), we will draw 25 entries. For each word/phrase identified, those entries will receive one (1) coupon for a free \$1 Scratch ticket and one coupon for a \$1 free play of each of the four Lotto games. That's the equivalent of \$5 worth of free tickets for each word/phrase identified – maximum total prize value \$50. Entries not selected in the first drawing will be retained for the subsequent drawing.



** ONLY ENTRIES SUBMITTED THROUGH THE MAIL WILL BE ELIGIBLE. ENTRIES ARE NOT OPENED BEFORE DRAWINGS AND SHOULD BE IN SEPARATE ENVELOPES. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ENTRIES WITH ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE. YOU ONLY NEED TO SUBMIT ONE ENTRY, AS THOSE NOT DRAWN WILL BE RETAINED FOR THE NEXT DRAWING. You must be 19 years or older to participate. You can win only once in the contest.*



Like playing word search games? Then try the \$3 Word Search® Scratch ticket at your favorite Nebraska Lottery retailer. The game features a top prize of \$35,000 and \$979,400 in total cash prizes.

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Nebraska & Me Photo Contest

Winter is over, with a summer of fun on the way – and the Nebraska Lottery wants to know what you will be up to during the next few months. From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, make sure to keep your camera handy so you can capture your favorite sights, locations, events, and people. Show us the fun you are having throughout the state this summer by sending us photos of your summertime activities. You can submit these photos to us for a chance to win great Nebraska Lottery prizes!

The Nebraska Lottery & Me Photo Contest starts on May 26. For full promotion rules and more information on what we are looking for, visit www.nelottery.com.