In describing the career path that led him from working with metals to cultivating plants, Jon said, “Growing plants was natural to me since age 5, so I decided to try it for a living, and make machining and metalwork my hobby.”

During his time at the Garden, Jon was instrumental in the installation, repair, and maintenance of all parts of the irrigation system, as well as other water-related systems that include the decorative fountains. One of his first major tasks was to design and install all of the drip and mist systems on the Greenhouse benches. Jon provided valuable design and creativity to maximize the performance of the irrigation system and ensure garden plantings thrived while conserving water, and his expertise in metal work was invaluable in preparing the Four Corners Potato test beds in Cottom’s Grove.

Chris Madson, Jon’s coworker for more than 17 years, said, “Jon is a rare combination of someone who genuinely loves plants, and maintaining the irrigation system was just another way for him to care for the Garden’s plantings. His prior career in machining and metal work meant that whatever problem arose, irrigation related or otherwise, Jon usually had a good idea how to resolve it.”

We are proud to acknowledge Jon’s career and contribution to Red Butte Garden with a commemorative stone in Gardeners Corner.