



PO Box 604
Dallas OR 97338

Arboretum Center
631 Park Street
Dallas, OR 97338
(503-623-4845)

www.delberthunterarboretum.org

Like us on Facebook

Volunteers Needed!!

No experience
needed. We will train.

Every Tuesday
From 9:00 AM to Noon

Coffee and snack time
provided

It's not just about pulling
weeds!

Opportunities abound for all

The arboretum grounds are
open during daylight hours.

**Celebrate Earth Day at
the arboretum,**

7:00 A.M. Bird Walk

**Activities for all ages
from 10:A.M, to 1 P.M.**

**See page 2 for further
information.**

DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM and Botanic Garden

Volume 22, Number 1

Spring, 2017



Our Seasonal Wetland

Our seasonal wetland was excavated in 2003, as a part of the project to slope the creek bank and install engineered logjams. After soil tests showed that the underlying clay layers would hold water, engineers from the Oregon National Guard used their bulldozers to excavate the wetland. Our intent was to mimic the seasonal wetlands which dotted the Willamette Valley prior to European settlement. The wetland is fed by rain runoff and possibly seeps or springs in the sloping land to the northwest. An overflow drainage swale was carved out, from the south end of the wetland southeasterly about 300 feet across the meadow. From that point (near the Conifer Informational Sign) the water enters a pipe under the Creek Trail and then downslope, overland into Rickreall Creek.

The Friends of the Arboretum planted paper birch, quaking aspen, blue elderberry and roses near the pond. They planted bulrushes, cattails and sedges in the water, but the cattails have disappeared. Near the wetland were planted milkweed, balsamroot, Oregon sunshine and Douglas aster. The wetland dries up every summer, but it is wet long enough for Pacific Treefrogs (*Pseudacris regilla*) to be able to produce offspring. Frog egg masses were observed in the

wetland on Feb. 23. The half-inch-long juvenile frogs will leave the wetland from mid-May to mid-June. The nearby meadow, which is not mowed until late summer, provides refuge for the small frogs until they are big enough to move into the woods. Among the issues facing the Friends over the future are the inevitable filling in of the wetland and water quality. Many wetlands naturally disappear eventually due to soil and dust washing into the wetland and the buildup of plant material. Unless we decide to dredge the wetland, it will eventually disappear. Woody plants that have appeared by themselves in the pond are alder, ash, willow and cottonwood. In the future volunteers will have to decide whether to manage the wetland to maintain its character or let nature take its course.

EARTH DAY AT THE ARBORETUM

In celebration of Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, come and ask us about the native trees and plants in the Arboretum.

Would you like to use native plants in your landscape? We can help you choose the best plants for you.

Want to give back to the environment? Bring your gloves and help volunteers keep the arboretum looking its best.

Many of the plants will be in bloom. Bring your camera and take a walk through the Arboretum.

We'll have a Seek and Find Challenge and interactive stream table to help you and your family get to know the arboretum and adjacent creek better.

Celebrate Earth Day with us. Saturday, April 22, 2017, 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

BRING YOUR BINOCULARS TO THE ARBORETUM

Among the markers and delights of spring are buds, blossoms, bugs and birds becoming more active and returning to the arboretum, bringing their calls, their songs and colors. Of those that have been seen already are Yellow-rumped Warblers, a Common Merganser and Rufous Hummingbirds. Swallows will be arriving any day now. Nuthatches and chickadees as well as kinglets, sparrows and sapsuckers are among the most easily seen and heard with the arrival of spring. Lastly, don't forget to check the birdhouses in the meadow for Western Bluebirds and along the creek for kingfishers and, if you're lucky, a secretive and usually solitary Green Heron.

We will also have a **guided bird walk** in the arboretum as part of our Earth Day celebration. Meet at the Arboretum Center Building at **7:00 A.M. on April 22nd**.

NATIVE SHORE PINE DAMAGE

Shore pines are a variety of lodgepole pine and generally a hardy tree growing in various areas in Western Oregon. ***Pinus contorta***: Shore pines are found on the Pacific Coast, from Northwest California through Alaska. The species name is *contorta* because of the twisted, bent pines found at coastal areas and the tree's twisted needles.

The shore pines in the arboretum are located on the mound between the Meadow Loop trail and the Oregon Grape Loop trail. This winter the native shore pines experienced severe damage due to ice and snow events. There had been some previous injury to the trees from the sequoia pitch moth which probably helped to weaken the trunk and/or limbs.

Arboretum volunteers will be assessing the harm done to the trees. There are questions that will help us to decide on what actions to take in saving the trees:

Is the tree generally healthy? Are major limbs broken? Has the leader been lost? Is at least 50% of the tree's crown or branches still intact? How big are the wounds? All questions courtesy of Oregon State Extension.

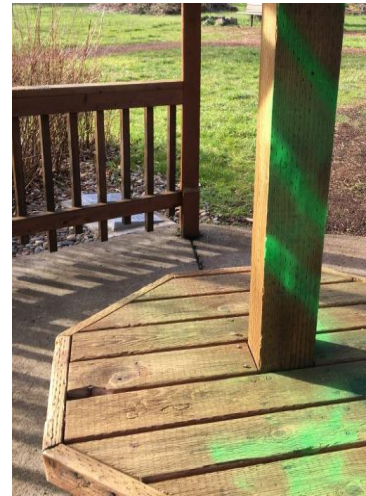
Because of the growth characteristics of shore pines the loss of the leader is not as serious as in most other trees. We are hopeful that the trees will recover and continue to grow in their unique way after careful pruning is accomplished.

FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER

In 2001, the City of Dallas offered Hunter Arboretum an adjacent piece of land which would approximately double the arboretum's original area. The land was an old ball field which was generally so wet that it was not playable until late June. It was a stark contrast to the original wooded area. The Friends of the Hunter Arboretum, who are responsible for the care and development of the site, accepted the offer and began working on plans. We sought partners to help with the plans, and found them in the Rickreall Watershed Council, Polk SWCD, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Dallas High School, Oregon National Guard and others. The major planning and grant writing began in 2002. Work on the ground began in 2003 and was basically completed by fall, including the two engineered log jams in the creek. What had been a creek bank with a fifteen foot cliff became the sloped bank we see today. Grasses, shrubs and trees were planted along the new slope, using an erosion cover prior to planting. The material removed to create the slope was used to build the two mounds along the creek and along the woods. Our wetland

was created where soil tests determined it could function much as a naturally occurring wetland. All of the plants in the west area, except for oaks along the fence, have been planted since that time.

Other than growing, we have seen some other changes. In the first year large amounts of woody debris accumulated on the west log jam, causing the creek to end run the log jam. Some of the largest creekside alder trees were thus undermined and toppled. The east log jam has also eroded on the north end, causing severe bank erosion. We're calling on partners again to evaluate whether we should make any changes, or let nature change the stream course as it will.



Vandalism

Once again, the arboretum has been hit by vandals, using spray paint on and around the gazebo. We gave the evidence to the police with our report. You can help by reporting any suspicious activity you see during your visits to the arboretum.

Please renew your membership

Check your address label for your membership expiration date. Thank you for your support.



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501(c)3 ID # 93-0843369

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FRIENDS DONATIONS (non-membership)

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

TRUST FUND DONATIONS

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Trust Fund Friends of the Arboretum

\$ _____ In Memory of: _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "City of Dallas/Arboretum"

P.O. Box 604 Dallas, Oregon 97338-0604

YOUR NAME: _____

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