



PO Box 604  
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Arboretum Center  
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Dallas, OR 97338  
(503-623-4845)

[www.delberthunterarboretum.org](http://www.delberthunterarboretum.org)

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## 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.

**Delbert Hunter  
Arboretum is entirely  
maintained by  
volunteers and  
supported by your  
contributions.**

# DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM and Botanic Garden

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*Lesser celandine*

Photo: Dale Derouin

## Nasty Invasive: Lesser Celandine, Fig Buttercup

During the past month, Arboretum volunteers have been carefully digging up and bagging the nasty invasive plant from Europe known as lesser celandine or fig buttercup (*Ficaria verna* or *Ranunculus ficaria*). Sometimes confused with our native well-behaved marsh marigold, this low-growing yellow-flowered plant will quickly take over large areas, invade lawns and smother all other low-growing plants nearby. A 5-acre patch has been reported in Wilsonville. It completes its life cycle in winter and early spring and dies back by late spring, returning the following year from underground tubers and tiny bulbils produced at the leaf-stem nodes.

Lesser celandine grows as a low rosette of fairly flat glossy leaves that can be heart shaped or lily-pad shaped with a visible veining network. The yellow daisy-like flowers have 7-13 petals and are usually carried singly to a stalk. Roots are fleshy tubers. Unfortunately, this plant is sometimes sold in nurseries, even though it is considered a noxious weed in Washington and Oregon.

The native marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) is a similar size, also with yellow daisy-like flowers, but its 5-9 petals are actually sepals. They tend to grow in single clumps and do not produce bulbils. Several sites in the internet offer comparisons between the two species

We first realized we had a big infestation around the pond in early 2015 and asked Polk Co. SWCD if they could help with initial chemical control to knock it back. Since then, we have been hand digging the returnees every spring, which is when they are visible enough to see. Since then, we have also spotted some in other parts of the Arboretum. For small infestations, hand digging can work, though it must be repeated every year, as miniscule bulbils fall off the stem nodes and will sprout the following year. It can also spread from its tuberous roots or less often by seed. Important: When digging it up, the entire plant and the soil near its roots should be bagged and disposed in the regular trash (not yard waste) or else burned. Mowing is not recommended, as it will spread the bulbils and seeds.

*By Nancy Heuler*

## New Additions!



*Illustration by Paul Landacre*

**Oregon Crab Apple** (*Malus fusca*) (*M. diversifolia*)

Oregon (aka Pacific or Western) crab apple is a sturdy deciduous tree with attractive, fragrant flowers that look very similar to the flowers of domesticated apple. In the fall, look for its berry-sized, yellow-to-red, tart fruit. In the wild, it grows primarily in wet but sunny locations. It ranges in nature from the Aleutian Islands, southward along the coast and islands of southern Alaska and British Columbia, through western Washington, Oregon west of the Cascades (up to 2500

feet of elevation), and in the northern Coast Ranges of California to Sonoma County. It is found in moist woods, swamps, edges of standing and flowing water, upper beaches, often fringing estuaries, low to middle elevations. If it survives a few years, it becomes drought tolerant.

It can grow either into a large 8- to 10-foot multi-stemmed shrub or into a 6- to 40-foot tree. For rapid growth and for fruit and flower production, this tree should receive at least 3 to 4 hours of full sun each day. Fruit is eaten by birds, and by humans. The fruit is very tart, but makes good jelly.

In the Arboretum, the tree was planted in the Meadow, near the Quaking Aspens, and near where the Wetland pond overflows in winter.

*By Pam Wetzel*

Sources for this article:

Booklet: Native Trees in our Gardens, by a Committee of the Emerald Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon

Book: Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast, by Pojar and MacKinnon

Book: A Natural History of Western Trees, by Donald Peattie

Book: Flora of the Pacific Northwest, by C. Leo Hitchcock and Arthur Cronquist

## Subalpine Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*)



Very tall and narrow in form, subalpine fir looks like a green church spire. This fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) grows in nature from about 65 to 165 feet tall, on subalpine to alpine slopes. It

ranges from Alaska and the Yukon to the southern Oregon Cascades and southerly to New Mexico and Arizona in the Rockies. Its native range is the largest among the true firs, and trees 400 years old are known. It likes cold, moist areas, and is a pioneer on severe and disturbed sites, lava beds and talus slopes. It is very tolerant of shade, but has low tolerance of high temperatures. Sometimes the lowest limbs lying on the ground form roots. New shoots grow up and form a clump. It is very slow growing, and does not produce cones until at least 20 years old. The cones are 2 ¼" – 4" long, cylindrical, upright on topmost twigs, dark purple; cone-scales finely hairy with short hidden bracts; paired, long-winged seeds. Cones grow and mature in one season, disintegrating and scattering seeds in the fall.

The wood is white, soft, brittle, and quick to decay, used for rough construction and boxes, doors, frames, poles, and fuel. Small trees are often used for Christmas trees.

In the Cascades, the European balsam woolly adelgid (*Adelges piceae*) has caused significant mortality to subalpine fir, virtually eliminating it from some stands in Oregon and southern Washington. This tiny, soft bodied insect may infest all species of true firs, though Subalpine fir is the most susceptible species.

Subalpine fir, is suitable for small gardens, container growing, and bonsai, and several cultivars are available. Grow it in full to partial sun in a fertile, moist, well-drained soil. Pruning should be kept to a minimum, for when older branches are removed, new growth seldom develops. In the Arboretum, three subalpine firs were planted in a group on the Shore Pine Mound by a generous donation from the friends and family of Donald T. Thomen. It may be advisable to plant some companion shrubs to provide partial shade, in view of the trees' known intolerance of heat. A deep watering once a

month in the dry summer is also advisable, in view of the trees' known requirement of moisture.

*By Pam Wetzel*

Sources for this article are:

[https://www.ecrater.com/p/29705217/20-abies-lasiocarpa-alpine-fir-seeds?gps=1&id=115929833059&gclid=EAIaIqObChMIgrXC8ys4QIV9R6tBh2ZbgHsEAYYASABEgIfEvD\\_BwE](https://www.ecrater.com/p/29705217/20-abies-lasiocarpa-alpine-fir-seeds?gps=1&id=115929833059&gclid=EAIaIqObChMIgrXC8ys4QIV9R6tBh2ZbgHsEAYYASABEgIfEvD_BwE)

[https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg\\_abla.pdf](https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_abla.pdf)

Book: *Western Forests, Audubon Society Nature Guide, Seventh Printing January 1993.*



## **New Utility Service Vehicle**

We have been using an old, modified golf cart to support our maintenance activities at Hunter Arboretum. These activities include hauling trash and pulling our trailers filled with top soil, gravel, mulch, and trail dressing. We also transport our volunteer gardeners and their tools to their worksites. This vehicle is an indispensable tool for the arboretum. The old vehicle was over 10 years old and required in excess of \$1,000.00 to repair and upgrade. The Board of Directors authorized the purchase of a new Kubota Utility Vehicle (pictured above with Nick Yerbick), which is much better suited to the chores required. We would appreciate any donations that our supporters could give, to offset the cost of this purchase. Thank You!

*The Board of Directors.*



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The Arboretum is completely funded by donations.

( ) FRIENDS OF THE ARBORETUM FUND: All donations to the Friends of the Arboretum are used for current activities. Membership in the Friends is renewed annually and includes voting rights and periodic newsletters. All donations are tax deductible.

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

( ) TRUST FUND OF THE ARBORETUM: A financial endowment ensuring the future.

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