



# DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM and Botanic Garden

Volume 25, Number 1

Spring, 2020

## The Arboretum in Time of Social Distancing

The governor's orders to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus have had some dramatic effects on Hunter Arboretum. We held a planning meeting in January, a regular board meeting in February, and then the COVID-19 closure hit and we have not met since. Spring is usually a season where we have lots of work to do, so it has been adventure to keep up with what needs to be done. While we have canceled coffee, snacks and gathering, many of our volunteers have continued to work on independent schedules. Our lush open area has been mowed as weather



allows, and we've gotten quite a bit of weeding done, though that may not be visible to the casual observer. Some new plants are in place which may not be obvious yet because they are just beginning to grow. Many of our

flowers are in full bloom, like Lewisia above, and camas, which is found several places in the arboretum as well as Dallas City Park.



This spring has seen a regular succession of blooms, with a new flower showing up every day. Columbine, above left, are just beginning to bloom. Coming attractions include fireweed, pictured above center and checkermallow, above right. All three bloom near the arboretum front entrance.

Working in the arboretum provides a welcome respite from the isolation of home as we're reminded of the beauty and resilience

PO Box 604  
Dallas OR 97338

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

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

Like us on Facebook

## Volunteers Needed!!

No experience  
needed. We will train.

Every Tuesday  
From 9:00 AM to Noon

Someone will be there but  
numbers are uncertain

Coffee and snack time  
currently suspended until  
social distancing order is  
rescinded.

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.**

of nature and also have the opportunity to greet the many visitors

Anecdotally, we seem to have more visitors this spring than usual. Perhaps it's because of our beautiful spring, but we know that the arboretum is one of the most beautiful places to be outdoors in the City of Dallas. The volunteers who work to keep the arboretum a place of beauty, respite and solace appreciate the support of the public who donate funds to support our work and the compliments we hear from visitors while we work. We also appreciate the help from visitors in picking up trash. Stay safe.

*In every walk in nature one receives far more than he seeks. John Muir*

### Water for Pollinators



Gardeners know the importance of pollinators and many include plants which benefit them in their garden designs. But did you know that you can also help beneficial insects by providing a dependable water

supply?

The Delbert Hunter Arboretum has created a good habitat for butterflies and other pollinators in the western section of the grounds. Our butterfly garden and many native flowering plants in this area are adjacent to a seasonal wetland which provides a steady natural supply of water throughout the year.

For the home gardener, a water station is easy to make with just a few supplies. You'll need a shallow tray, such as a saucer from a potted plant or shallow bowl. The smaller the

dish the more often you will need to add water. I used a 12 inch terra cotta saucer for mine. Avoid using metal because it will get too hot in the sun, and may rust.

Insects can easily drown in any puddle they can't climb out of, and wet wings make for heavy take-offs. This is why bird baths or mud puddles are risky business for thirsty insects. Be sure your container is clean and add enough clean gravel to cover the bottom, then top with a few larger stones. When the dish is filled to the brim with water you should be able to see it between the rocks, but no areas should be submerged. This also discourages mosquito habitation. Rain water is best but you can use tap water if you let it set for 48 hours to allow any harmful chlorine to evaporate.

Science tells us that the average bee will make 50 trips to a water source per day. They take a sip for themselves and carry a drop back to the hive to feed the babies. Butterflies need water, trace minerals and proteins for fertility, which is something we can easily provide with a 'butterfly puddle'. To make one, choose the same type of shallow container, only this time you will need some clean sand (the type used in children's sandboxes) and a few rocks pushed into it that they can rest and sunbathe on.

For nutrients, add a tablespoon of composted manure to two cups of sand and mix well. You won't need to add more later; once is enough. To make a combination water station suitable for butterflies and other pollinators, make one side of your dish a butterfly puddle. Be sure that the sandy side doesn't become completely submerged by water when it rains. To prevent this you may need to tip the dish slightly by putting a pebble under one side. For best results, put your water station where you intend to keep it and avoid moving it around. Once insects locate a reliable supply of water they'll 'make a bee-line' for their new favorite watering hole every time.

Submitted by Bj Merriman - Resources: University of Georgia Extension Service / Social Media Channel "The Nectar Bar"

*The butterfly counts not months but  
moments, and has time enough.*  
Rabindranath Tagore

### Conifers in the Arboretum

An inventory of all of the Arboretum's conifers is in progress and expected to be finished by the middle of May. The inventory work has uncovered four intriguing "discoveries". Firstly, White fir (*Abies concolor*) is not recognized as a species that can be found in the wild in Oregon, according to the new Flora of Oregon, by Meyers, et al, published by Brit Press in 2015. *Concolor* is found in Oregon as a hybrid with Grand fir. The hybrid is listed as *Abies concolor* x *A. grandis* and is called Sierra White fir. Grand fir, however, is found as a separate species in Oregon. The arboretum has one specimen of the hybrid Sierra White Fir, three specimens of the species *concolor*, and over 30 specimens of Grand Fir.

Secondly, the arboretum has one specimen of Knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*). This pine has needles in bundles of three, 3" to 5 1/2" long, and knobby seed cones 2 1/2" to 6" long that are retained on the tree for a very long time and generally do not open unless heated by fire. This tree is known as "the tree that swallows its cones"<sup>1</sup> because sometimes the trunk grows around the cones when they've been unopened for so long. Our Knobcone pine has cones on it. Bring your binoculars, stand back from the tree, and you will see pairs of cones, one of which looks like it will be eaten by the trunk soon!

Thirdly, you probably already know the big Sequoia tree we have near the Arboretum

---

<sup>1</sup> From OSU Landscape Guide:  
<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/>

Center. We have another younger one on the Creek Trail east of Emma's Bridge. In working on the inventory, I learned that Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) is not native to Oregon, but we are happy to have this tree as a guest.

Fourthly, a Spruce Gall aphid was discovered on the young Englemann spruce on the Gazebo Mound. This may be the Cooley Spruce Gall Aphid *Adelges cooleyi*. The dried galls from last year's infestation are brown and look like the tree's cones at first glance. This insect alternates feeding on Douglas-fir and spruce trees, but forms the galls only on the spruce. It will be interesting to watch and see if this year's new buds are invaded by the aphids, which burrow into a swelling bud and feed inside chambers they create in the developing shoot.<sup>2</sup> This aphid will probably not hurt our healthy Englemann spruce, so we don't need to do anything to control it. The new galls might look like this in June or July:



<sup>2</sup> Haggard, Peter (2006) *Insects of the Pacific Northwest*.  
Portland, OR: Timber Press  
Submitted by Pam Wetzel

---

*Those who contemplate the beauty of  
the earth find reserves of strength  
that will endure as long as life lasts.*  
Rachel Carson



Prstd Std  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
Dallas OR 97338  
Permit No. 035

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

Return Service Requested

**DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM  
AND BOTANIC GARDEN – DONATION**  
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.

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

( ) MEMORIAL GIFT: Friends Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Trust Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

**“Hunter Arboretum” PO Box 604, Dallas OR 97338-0604**  
**A 501(c) 3 organization**  
**Please remember the arboretum in your Wills and Trusts**