



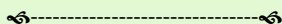
# DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM and Botanic Garden

Volume 29 - No. 1

Spring, 2022

## WELCOME

The trails await you!  
Open daylight hours.  
Dogs on leashes are welcome!



### Visitor Center Hours

631 Park Street  
Dallas, Oregon

The building is open from  
9 am – Noon, Tuesdays  
March – November

### Volunteers Wanted

Tuesday mornings starting  
at 9 am. No experience is  
needed ~ tools are provided.

### Contact Information

PO Box 604  
Dallas, OR 97338  
Message phone: 503 623-7359  
*(phone messages are checked weekly)*  
hunterarboretum@outlook.com

### Website

www.delberthunterarboretum.org

### Visit Us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/DelbertHunter  
ArboretumandBotanicGarden

*We are a 501(c)3 Non-profit Org*

## OSU Polk Master Gardeners' 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale

May 6 & 7 from 9 am – 4 pm  
*(online sale April 16 – 30)*

Polk County Fairgrounds  
In the Main Building  
520 S Pacific Hwy (Hwy 99)  
Rickreall, Oregon

*Annuals, Perennials, and Veggies  
Come and take a look!*

After a long, dark Pacific Northwest winter, there's no denying that the freshness of spring brings with it energy and a gladness of heart. Birds and squirrels chase through the trees as cheerful dog walkers and kids, happy to be outdoors again, have returned to the arboretum!

Last year started with heavy snow, followed by destructive ice storms and flooding, which gave way to record high temperatures and devastating drought. After a year like that, we decided we'd better be ready for anything! 2022, so far, has been more like what we're used to seeing, weather wise. Hopefully the rest of the year follows suit. Regardless, we've spent the winter strategizing for drought management and water saving techniques. The landscape committee has put together some guidelines on drought readiness, choosing heat and drought tolerant plants for purchase, and plant placement.

Like many others, the folks at Hunter Arboretum took advantage of the national downtime these past years to hone our skills. DHA has gotten a lot more 'tech savvy'. We've challenged the learning curve of the 'Zoom' experience, upgraded our website, and now we even have QR codes that link to our webpages. Come visit our Facebook page where people share their experiences at the arboretum.

We're especially happy to announce that the visitor center will be open again on Tuesday mornings starting at 9:00 a.m. It's been too long since we've been able to welcome visitors, and we'll be happy to see you!



Pink Fawn Lilies

~~~~~  
Many native plants are springtime bloomers, so be sure to take advantage of some sunny days to stroll through the arboretum and see what small beauties you can find.

Look high, look low, don't pick 'em though. Their seeds give us the next generation of flowers.



It's time to put our boots back on!  
DHA members meet at 9 a.m. every Tuesday to work on projects at the arboretum. New volunteers welcome!

Snack time is provided and we have tools!



Lois weeds on a chilly morning



## Many Thanks To Buena Vista Arbor Care

We wish to express our heartfelt congratulations to Vern and Priscilla Esplin on their retirement. Vernon has served the arboretum for many years as our trustworthy tree expert. We've learned so much from Vern. He's always taken the time to answer questions. Vern sold his business to Bartlett Tree Experts to enjoy a long awaited and well deserved retirement. Vern, we hope you'll come visit us at the arboretum.

## Invasive Italian Arum

Italian Arum (Lords-and-Ladies, Orange Candle flower) is an invasive species found in the arboretum and each year we see more of it. Introduced from Europe, it is extremely invasive; needing to be controlled as early as possible. As the plants establish in residential yards and gardens, it easily spreads to natural areas and parks. This perennial reproduces by seed and very small underground corms (*bulbs*). The seeds and corms are spread by soil movement, gardeners, and running water.



The leaves can be mistaken for those of Calla lily. It starts popping up in the arboretum in March. First, you will see its dark green, waxy leaves with white veins.



Arum italicum  
The flower is white  
the seeds are orange  
Entire plant is poisonous

Usually in May, it produces white, hood-like flowers that also look like a Calla lily. The seeds look like tight clusters of berries, which change from green to orange-red. Italian arum reaches a height of 12-18 inches.

Wear gloves and cover your arms and legs when working on arum. All parts of this plant are toxic and can cause bad rashes and other health problems.

Getting rid of Italian arum is very difficult. Even the professionals struggle with it, which is why early control is very important. At DHA, our volunteers have tried the "friendly" herbicides with poor results. Manual removal



is only recommended on small patches because soil disturbance tends to increase its spread. All plant parts and nearby soil should be placed in a bag and disposed of in the trash — not your yard waste bin or home compost.

We have tried repeatedly cutting the foliage to the ground, with little success. In 2021, we cut the foliage in a large area near the building and then covered it in cardboard and mulch. This seems to have slowed it down, but it is coming back. Get an early start with your management plan and start cutting foliage as soon as it comes up in the spring. Cut any blooms, that start to appear, to the ground, as this will help slow seed production. Infested sites should be checked weekly to stay on top of any new sprouts.

If you feel you must try an herbicide:

- Always read and understand the label
- More is NOT better, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong.
- With all herbicides, *when* you apply them is as important as *how* you apply them.

*Submitted by Sue Rohde ~ Curator, Delbert Hunter Arboretum*

## Volunteer in the Spotlight

Our Treasurer, Don Winterstein said, "At first, it seemed like an odd fit" since he knows little about plants. Don came to us with a background in software analytics and engineering. But we at DHA have found that Don knows a little about lots of things! Besides his spreadsheet wizardry, he's served on several committees, fixed our leaky waterfall, and maintains our pond. Last summer he worked on refinishing the bridges at the arboretum. We've enjoyed getting to know Don. He values the social aspect of being a volunteer and using his skills



to give back to the community. Since his retirement, Don also enjoys walking dogs at the animal shelter, traveling, designing and making beautiful quilts. Thank you, Don, for all you do!

## First Food for Rufous Hummingbirds

In this part of Oregon, two native species are clearly in sync, the Rufous Hummingbird and Red-flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*). Each year the hummingbirds arrive just as the currant begins to bloom, usually in early to mid-March. Blooming depends on local siting of the plant and weather in each year. The siting variability can be observed at the Hunter Arboretum with different plants blooming in different locations at different times.

This currant is one of several native to Oregon, and is the most commonly seen variety in the Willamette Valley. The plant grows as a shrub, often reaching from 8 to 10 feet in height, and sometimes sprawling. Flower color varies from intense red to nearly white, appearing in drooping clusters for about two months in spring. It blooms before most leaves appear.

Leaves are rounded, usually with three lobes, and slightly toothed. These shrubs grow in both sun and shade.

We have a number of specimens in the arboretum; you could make a game out of seeing how many you can find. Following bloom, berries appear, beginning green and turning almost black when ripe. The berries are not poisonous, but most people do not find them edible. Birds can occasionally be seen foraging for the berries. For the gardener, the plant can be quite easily propagated using a variety of methods, including poking a fresh cutting in the ground in a suitable site during the fall.

*Submission by Dale Derouin, Vice President of DHA*



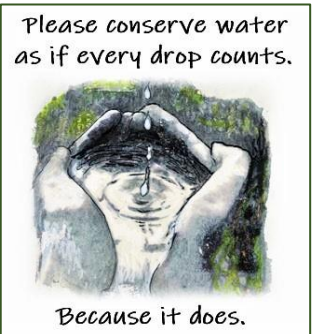
**Red-flowering Currant - *Ribes sanguineum***



**We have new signs!**

### Dear Deers

The arboretum is a natural habitat for wildlife and as such, people can have an unexpected encounter. One normally thinks of deer as shy but some circumstances can result in aggression. One sign explains why you should not touch or feed a lone fawn, and what to do instead. The other sign describes defensive behaviors that signal aggression, such as not moving away when approached, snorting, or stomping. When a deer does this, it feels threatened and may act out. Be sure to keep dogs on leashes in natural areas, such as the arboretum. Many thanks to those who helped post our signs!



### Something Special for Bird Lovers

*from Polk County*

*Soil and Water Conservation District*

**April 26 - 6:30-7:30 pm**

Polk SWCD is hosting a free Zoom presentation, "The Birds of Cornerstone" by Harry Fuller of the Salem Audubon Society – Mr. Fuller is an author and co-founder of Partnership for International Birding.

The presentation covers the diverse bird population found at Cornerstone, an 87 acre conservation area in Polk County.

To register, go to SWCD's website

<https://www.polkswcd.com/>

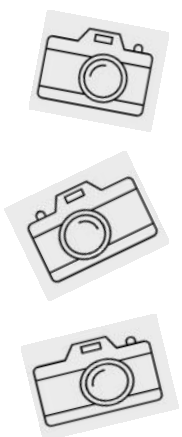
and view *Upcoming Events* on the homepage.



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Dallas, Oregon 97338-0604

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### **Photo Contest**

DHA is hosting a photo contest just for fun!. Three winners will be chosen. Winning photos will be posted to our website, Facebook, and be featured in our Fall Newsletter.

Take a photo of something you like at the arboretum and email it to:

[hunterarboretum@outlook.com](mailto:hunterarboretum@outlook.com)

Contest deadline is Mother's Day,  
May 8, 2022.