

TREE TIME

THE NEWSLETTER OF MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM



Announcing the Retirement of Site Manager Tom LoCascio

by Brad van Appel, Executive Director



Photo from archive

For a tree, 40 years is not old, but for humans it is a career. That's how long Tom LoCascio has served Mount Pisgah Arboretum and our community. As the Arboretum's Site Manager, Tom has left an indelible mark on this special place. Everywhere you look, from the vegetation and habitats, to the trails, benches, bridges, and facilities you see Tom's handiwork and dedication, as well as his creativity and ingenuity. Along the way he has also helped craft the Arboretum's culture and values. He's engaged thousands of volunteers, won awards for his work with at-risk youth, and nurtured a wide range of community partnerships.

In December Tom retired from his long career at the Arboretum. His unique perspective and dedication to the site, the organization, and our mission will be missed. We

wish him all the best with whatever he chooses to spend his considerable energy and talents on next, and hope he will always be able to enjoy the fruits of his labors at Mount Pisgah Arboretum.

Thank you, Tom!

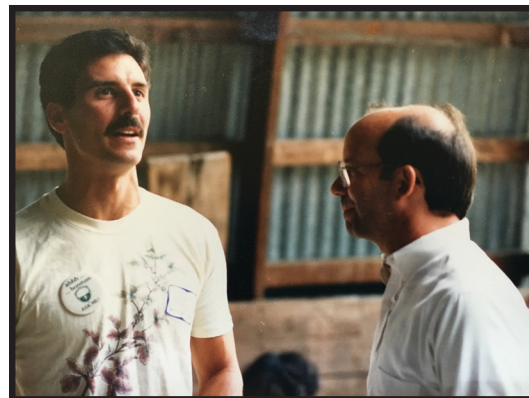


Photo from archive

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Education Report

by Jenny Laxton, Education Manager

Like many outdoor focused non-profits, here at the Arboretum we are all about in-person education--touching, seeing, hearing, smelling and occasionally tasting the world around us. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged our ability to do our usual in-person programs, but created opportunities for us to think outside the box. During the fall, we started doing small weekly walks for families and created a kid's "after-school" program for elementary-aged students. We'll be continuing these programs in the spring, along with the return of more frequent walks just for adults. Keep an eye on our online



Photo by Patrick Wegner

calendar for when those walks will return (once COVID restrictions have again eased in Lane County) and join us to get your nature fix! We are also continuing to provide virtual offerings with our new Mount Pisgah Arboretum YouTube Channel. If you can't make it out to the Arboretum, or aren't comfortable with in-person walks, checking out our content there is the next best thing. It's a great way to learn more about some of the common plants and animals you see during your Arboretum walks. As we start 2021, let's all stay safe, keep getting outside and keep learning however we can!



Photo by Patrick Wegner

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Mount Pisgah Arboretum is a nonprofit organization with a mission to engage people with nature through interactive learning and stewardship.

Facilities include miles of riverside and forest trails, picnic areas and a pavilion for events. We host outdoor programs to foster appreciation of the natural world.

Thank you for being a supporter!

Now booking for 2022!



Photo by Amanda-Meg Photography

Picture your special event at our beautiful White Oak Pavilion



Photo by Will Nielsen Photography

Contact Leisha Wood,
Venue Manager

events@mountpisgaharboretum.org
541-747-1504

Saving Paper and Trees!

A change to our publication schedule

By Brad van Appel, Executive Director

For the last several years, we've been sending out e-newsletters at least once per month in addition to our quarterly Tree Time publication. More and more, Arboretum members have asked us to send their issues of Tree Time electronically as well. In the interest of saving trees and using more of our limited resources on the care of our site and our educational programs, we will be cutting back on the frequency of Tree Time publication from four times each year to two. After this final winter issue, members can expect to receive Tree Time in the spring and the fall going forward. Please contact our office if you have any questions about the new publication schedule.

Thank You!

by Julie Hubbard-McNall, Development Coordinator & Bookkeeper

We are grateful to announce that the Arboretum's year-end fundraiser brought in a total of \$42,000, exceeding our goal of \$40,000! More than 240 people participated in the donation drive giving gifts beyond their annual membership dues. The past year has been challenging for everyone and many have found respite here at Mount Pisgah Arboretum. Your support makes it possible for us to maintain the natural habitats, trails, exhibits, and facilities, while also finding new ways to provide environmental education in a changing community. Thank you for joining us to ensure that the beautiful natural legacy of Mount Pisgah Arboretum continues.



ARBORETUM EXPLORATION

Spring Kids' After School Program

Explore Mount Pisgah!

- Hikes
- Games
- Stories
- Journals

March-June
1-3:30pm

Tuesdays
ages 5-8

Thursdays
ages 8-11

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Sign up at www.mountpisgaharboretum.org

Site Report

*By Patrick Wegner, Habitat and Trails Manager;
& Connor Reinecke, Facilities Manager*

Happy New Year! As the days get longer, it is a great time to pause and reflect on what has been accomplished and what to begin to look forward to. It has been a busy past few months for site staff at the Arboretum. Our shop received a new back deck for tool storage and the Zig-Zag Trail got an improved switchback that will make for easier walking while also better protecting the trailside vegetation.

A large blackberry removal project took place in the upper bowl and removal has started along the Buford Trail between the tree round and the stone bench built by Tom LoCascio. Four of our honorary benches were repaired and refinished including the Scherer bench and the Aten Bench.

We said goodbye to our trusty 1981 Kubota tractor and finally cleaned up our woodshop. The welcome winter rains have revealed a clogged road culvert and some wet spots on our roads, and we have been hard at work clearing ditches and draining potholes. This phase of drainage improvement is a little messy at the moment, but will save us future headaches and maintenance. The Patricia Baker Wildflower Garden is looking great as we prepare for new plantings and spring blooms.

Look out for new roofs on some of our buildings in the coming year. In our parking lot, expect to see a wider lower tier, new connecting trails, and even an electric car charging station. At the main trailhead we will be installing a handrail and removing the gate. This should really help with navigating the steep section between the pavement and the kiosks. A big shout out to the Mavens for helping us clear leaves from trails this fall and winter. The trails are looking great and we hope to see you around!



Photo by Patrick Wegner

The Zig-Zag Trail gets a reconstructed switchback, armored with boulders. This portion of the Zig-Zag Trail had become difficult to navigate, particularly for those with mobility issues.



Photo by August Jackson

The Palmer bench, located under the shade of a legacy white oak, is one of several benches to have received some much-needed restorative attention.

Contributions

Sep. 20, 2020 to Jan. 17, 2020

New Members

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In honor of Rio Salazar --Sean and Steven Hellickson
In honor of the fire and all affected by Covid-19 --Mary Bishop
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In memory of Jody Milliman --Carol Milliman
In memory of John B. Hogan --Elizabeth Rottger
In memory of Larry Aten --Margie Aten
In memory of Lorrie Hong --Emma Kim
In memory of Mrs. Louise Behnke --James Lasseter
In memory of Paul Alan Snyder --Jeanne Miller
In memory of Paul O'Brien --Grace O'Brien
In memory of Randy Thomas --Richard Silverman
In memory of Tamba --Ellen McQuilkin
In memory of Tasha Dog --Brenda Bailey
In memory of the trees that died in the fires --Elizabeth Van Buren
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We're excited to welcome kids back on field trips in the fall of 2021! Many schools can no longer afford these field trips, and the financial impact of the pandemic will make them depend even more on scholarships from people like you. A \$10 donation to Discovery Tours brings out one child. \$250 can bring out a whole classroom!

I want to help children discover nature
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