

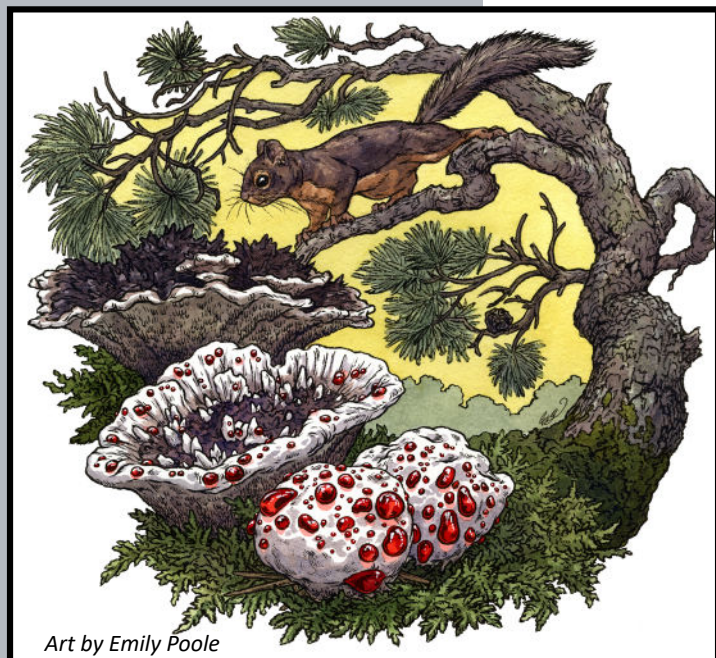
# TREE TIME

THE NEWSLETTER OF MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM



## In This Issue:

- Education Update
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- Site Update



Art by Emily Poole

## Strawberries and Cream

by Cheshire Mayrsohn, Past President of Cascade Mycological Society

This mushroom goes by many names: strawberries and cream, the bleeding tooth fungus, devil's tooth, or according to a kid friend, Dracula's snacks. Officially *Hydnellum peckii*, the name honors Charles Horton Peck, an American mycologist who described nearly 2700 North American fungi species.

The first time I saw *H. peckii* was on a field trip with Freeman Rowe's famous Lane Community College class. I was amazed—a beautiful flat topped glob of white flesh with drops of red juice on top. Was it an alien, a dropped pastry, an alien pastry?! Freeman identified it as bleeding tooth fungi, *Hydnellum diabolicus*, the Latin name he'd learned for it. Once back in the classroom, he corrected it to the modern name of *Hydnellum peckii*, disappointing as compared to *H. diabolicus*, the diabolical tooth fungus—a name that fit the mushroom. As fall progressed, the strawberry pastries in the woods disappeared into the confusing number of brown toothed fungi everywhere in the forest. It took me years to be able to tell the tooth fungi apart once they got old.

When young it is soft and bright white, with red blood-like droplets on top and tiny teeth underneath, so named "strawberries and cream" as it looks like a strawberry Danish on the forest floor. It even has a sweet, nutty odor. It grows into a large, brown, tough funnel, with short thick spines on the underside. It grows quickly and around things it encounters, incorporating twigs, shrubs, plants, leaves and needles into its body. If it encounters another of its species, they will fuse into a single giant fruiting body. As it ages, it turns darker and darker until it rots to black. It has brown spores which seem to be released later in the season, once it has turned brown.

*Hydnellum peckii* is mycorrhizal with trees in the Pinaceae family (hemlock, spruce,

Continued on Page 2



Douglas-fir, true firs, and pines), trading minerals and amino acids for fixed carbon from the trees. It occurs throughout Europe and North America, with some recent sightings in Iran and Korea. In places with summer rains, it fruits in late summer, but in the Pacific Northwest it fruits in the fall. It likes sandy soils and a humid environment. Around here you'll find it at the coast growing near the dunes and in the forest that grows over the old dunes. Further inland, it grows in the forests on volcanic ash soils, such as the ash from Mt. Mazama. As you go east, where it is drier, you'll find it near creeks. It doesn't like disturbance so it is more often found in older forests. After logging, it can take decades to return.

What are the red droplets all about? Called guttation, as the mushrooms are growing too much water may enter the mycelium via osmosis, and the increased water pressure forces liquid to the surface of the fungus. As it moves through the fungus, water picks up pigments and other metabolites, creating the red droplets. The droplets of *H. peckii* have anti-coagulant properties, similar to the drug heparin, which is used to prevent clots. The true purpose of the red drops is currently unknown, but theories abound including that the droplets may be a way for the mycelium to dispose of toxic metabolites, or that insects may drink the drops for beneficial purposes and spread the spores.

*Hydnellum peckii* is not edible, being too tough and acrid to eat. It's like eating a coconut husk that is burning your mouth, not that I've ever tried it. The pharmaceutical industry is investigating compounds derived from *Hydnellum peckii* as cancer and dementia treatments. Prized by natural dyers, it can make teal blue on wool when old fruiting bodies are cooked with ammonia or soda ash to raise the pH.

What can you do you to help keep this mushroom around? Like with all mycorrhizal mushrooms, the habitat of the host trees must be maintained. When gathering these mushrooms for dye, collect only for your own use. Take only the old ones that have already dropped their spores (they make better dye anyway), and don't take all you find or collect from the same place year after year.

Enjoy their beauty! Be pleased with yourself for identifying them. I love *Hydnellum peckii* for its changing appearance throughout the mushroom season, like some kind of shape-shifter, how it incorporates other things into its body, its soft spines, and sweet, kind of plasticky smell. Someday I'm going to make art by seeing what the mushroom will grow around. 🍄

**Mushroom Festival 2023**  
**Sunday, October 29th**  
**10am-5pm**

In Association with Cascade Mycological Society and Lane Community College

**Advance Tickets Required:**  
[tinyurl.com/MPAmushfest](https://tinyurl.com/MPAmushfest)



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## Contact Information

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

Mount Pisgah Arboretum is located on the traditional homelands of the Kalapuya people. The Kalapuya people were forcibly dispossessed of their homeland and moved to reservations in western Oregon by the United States government following treaties in the 1850's. Today the Kalapuya people are largely citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. We acknowledge that the Arboretum is on occupied lands, and express our respect for the Kalapuya. We humbly honor their past, present, and future, and are committed to finding meaningful ways to recognize their enduring legacy in the region.

## iNaturalist Mycoblitz!



Photo by August Jackson

Upload your photo observations of fungi (including lichens) in Lane County to iNaturalist from October 19th-28th. Your photos will be identified by experts, and these observations will compliment the mushroom display for this year's Festival!

Check out the project here:  
[tinyurl.com/mycoblitz23](https://tinyurl.com/mycoblitz23)



Photo by August Jackson

## Education Report

by Sara Spoden, Education Manager

Summer at the Arboretum is an exhilarating time, as community members use this space in so many ways. For us it means hosting & providing summer programming for local youth. And for me it's been wonderful to see both new & returning faces in our Summer Club program! This year we welcomed 3 new Education Interns to bolster



Photo by Sara Spoden

this program: Avery Smith, Kelsey Balcazar, and Isabel McNall. Each of these individuals took the skills built on during their brief hands-on training period, and jumped right into shadowing and eventually leading club programs of their own. From crafting boats for light-hearted races along the river, to monitoring the persistent nuisances of wasp activity- this summer our program was elevated because of the passion and attention our wonderful interns brought to it. We are looking forward to more programs to come this Fall, and opportunities for young adults to build on experience and knowledge in connecting youth to this incredible outdoor space. 🐝

## Board Spotlight

by Leisha Wood, Development Manager

"The Arboretum is such a special place to our community, and being a board member has allowed me to give back a fraction of the joy the park has brought me through the years. The park has (quite literally) been a breath of fresh air throughout my life, and I've made so many memories here. As the world changes, the Arboretum continues to grow and develop, and I'm grateful to be able to serve this organization however I can."

Sally Stender Kesey joined the Arboretum Board in 2019 and has been an engaged and pragmatic voice on our Board from the beginning. Serving as Vice President, and now President, she has led the Board through some challenging considerations with a lot of work and commitment. She has brought a full palette of skills to our table, and the Arboretum is the richer for them. Board service is essential for any non-profit to exist. The Board oversees financial decisions and crafts the vision for how an organization will meet its mission. These volunteers step up to make our community stronger, committing to a three-year term, and we are grateful for their time and participation. 🐝





# Community Events in the Pavilion


by B Rothweiler, Venue Manager

We just wrapped up an especially joyous summer out here at the Arboretum. While most weekends are occupied by weddings, we are also a resource for so many great local organizations. We were lucky enough to host the talented Chamber Music Amici again for two back-to-back concerts. The enchanting sound of piano keys echoing off the oak trees is truly magical. In June we hosted a graduation celebration for high school seniors in the Migrant Education Program, and in August held a celebration for the teen nature guides in the second year of a fantastic partnership with the Migrant Education Program. In September we hosted the annual harvest party for our friends at Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad/Huerto de la Familia, and also made some new friends at our first 'Forest Frolic' in partnership with Transponder, Cascadia Wildlands, Queer Eugene, and Willamette Resources & Educational Network (WREN). Continuing

with our passion for education, we hosted Camping 101 classes, nature walks, a cooking demo, as well as art and activities for the kids. It was a truly delightful day, and we are looking forward to the partnership growing. I would also be remiss not to add the honor of hosting author Freya McGregor for an Access Birding workshop aimed at making birding and outdoor recreation more



Photos by Sara Spoden

accessible for people with disabilities. We continue to work with diversity at the core of our programs, because of course, everyone belongs in Nature! 



## Your Support Matters

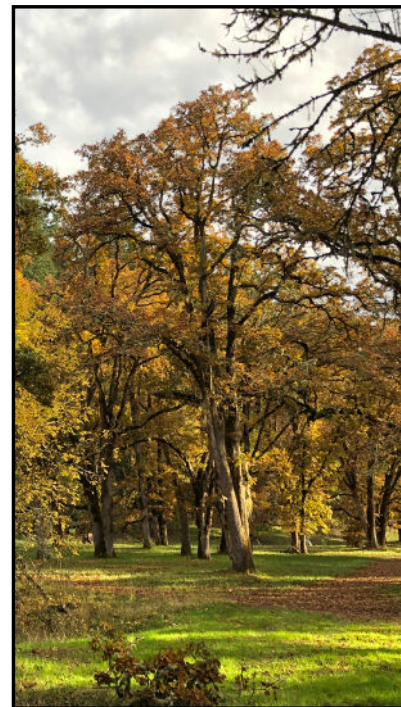


Photo by August Jackson

**Mount Pisgah Arboretum's strength as an organization comes from the generous support of our members. In this past year, the gifts we have received made it possible for us to achieve innovative educational program development, accessible trail improvements, and continue to manage our habitats and facilities.**

**As we approach the season of gift-giving, please consider making a donation to the Arboretum to help us sustain and grow our work of engaging people with nature into the next year and beyond.**



# Site Report

*By Penny, and Connor Reinecke, Facilities Manager*

## Scarecrow Contest!



The scarecrow contest is a beloved tradition at the Mushroom Festival! Prizes are awarded for Outstanding in its Field (best of show), Too Ghoul for School (best youth entry), Classically Corny (funniest), and Most Likely to Scare a Crow (scariest), with all voting by Festival attendees. Are you interested in participating in the Scarecrow Contest? For more information, Email Sara Spoden at [education@mountpishgaharboretum.org](mailto:education@mountpishgaharboretum.org)



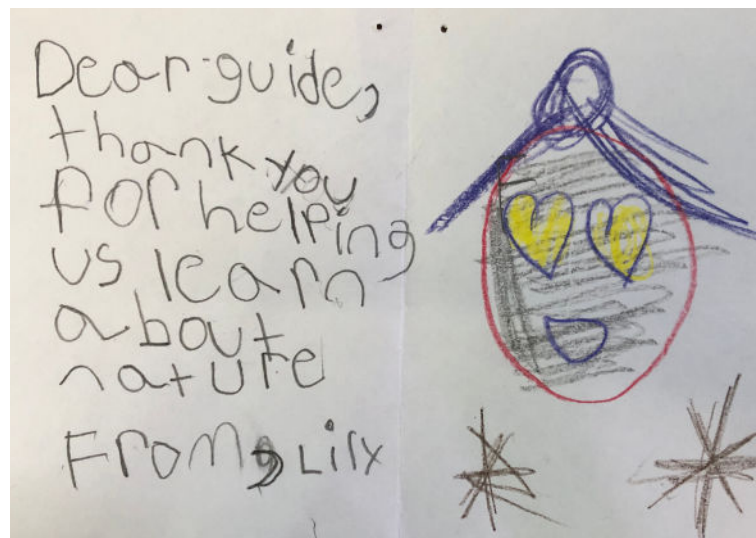
Photos by August Jackson



Hi! My name is Penny and I am a white dog with brown spots. My favorite toy is a frisbee and I think that Mount Pisgah Arboretum is a very special place. Right now, the season just changed to fall and this means acorns! The acorns rain down on windy days and I give chase as they bounce around in the White Oak Pavilion lawn. Speaking of the Pavilion lawn, I love to stage dive into the green grass and roll around on my back. If I was human this would be a delightful place to get married.

My favorite trail at the Arboretum is the newly improved "accessibility loop". I see dogs (on leashes of course) of all shapes and sizes on this trail. Some dogs are small, some have missing legs, and some have gray snouts. In addition to delightful smells, this trail takes dogs through some of the best habitats that the Arboretum has to offer. The combination of mature oak savanna next to the Coast Fork Willamette River means nest spots for birds, forage for squirrels and chipmunks, and plenty of opportunities to watch deer as they graze the meadows and travel to the river for a drink. Recent improvements to the trail's surface, slope, and width make the "improved access loop" the most approachable trail the Arboretum has to offer.

I love to visit the office where a big glass jar holds biscuits for "good" dogs. I tell all the dogs I meet about this great treat spot, but many humans do not understand. All they need to do is go to the window and a delightful human named Mackenzie brings out the tastiest biscuits. This Arboretum truly is a magical place. 🐕



A thank you note from a student on a Discovery Tours field trip.

# Contributions

April 5th, 2023 to Sept. 18th, 2023

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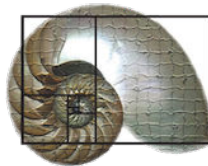
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**Advance Tickets Required**

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