

TREE TIME

THE NEWSLETTER OF MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM



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Celebrating 50 Years at the Heart of Our Community

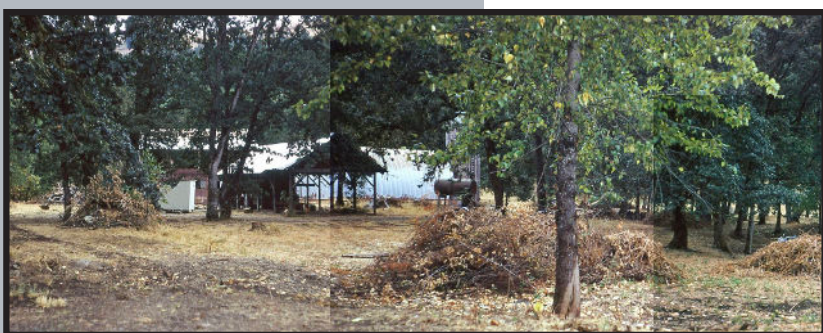
by Brad van Appel, Executive Director

In 1973, founder Barbara Newton described Mount Pisgah Arboretum as “a gift from one generation to the next”. Barbara passed last year, but for half a century people have enjoyed the benefits of the gift she helped create.

In the context of a single human life, fifty years is a long time. But this place we call Mount Pisgah has a much deeper legacy. This land has supported human and more than human life for untold thousands of years. Long before the arrival of European settlers, what is now called Mount Pisgah was part of the traditional homelands of the Kalapuya people. Remembering that history on this milestone anniversary helps put our love for this special place in a broader frame.



The Arboretum in August, 1973. Photos from archive.



Fifty years ago, the community made a long-term investment in this place. In January of '73 a small group that had been talking about a new arboretum for years, officially established the non-profit organization that became Mount Pisgah Arboretum. Later that year the real work began, and before long Howard Buford Recreation Area and Mount Pisgah Arboretum were open to the public. Fast forward to today, and the community's ongoing investment continues to pay dividends for visitors, for the land, and for the future.

Your support has brought us a long way. Every foot of trail, every meadow reclaimed from blackberries, and every school field trip has been a community endeavor. Together we have weathered economic downturns, major political swings, and a pandemic, and we are still here at the heart of our community. With your continuing support, the Arboretum will keep giving back for many generations to come. 🌲

Building a United Future

by Brad van Appel, Executive Director

As we celebrate the 50th birthday of Mount Pisgah Arboretum and Howard Buford Recreation Area, the Arboretum and the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah continue working on reuniting our two organizations. We started on the path toward rejoining forces more than a year ago, and while the process has been slower than expected, we are moving forward. Our shared vision of a unified organization caring for this special place has sustained our efforts.

One manifestation of that effort is our new joint project to improve trail accessibility at Mount Pisgah for people with disabilities. The Friends and the Arboretum are now actively working together with other community partners to create more accessible trail loops that can provide new opportunities to enjoy nature for under-served members of our community. The first results of this work can already be seen in the Arboretum, and more accessible trail loops in other areas of the park are coming soon.

In the midst of this progress, the Friends are undergoing a change of leadership. After three years of dedicated service, Janelle McCoy has decided to step down as the Friends' Executive Director to pursue other interests. We thank her for being a committed partner in launching the reunion, and wish her the best in her next chapter.

And as we forge ahead towards our next chapter, the future looks bright! A combined organization will be more efficient and effective, and the community's support for the Lane County Parks funding levy will ultimately result in more resources coming to Mount Pisgah. However, levy funds won't be available until 2024, and there is a lot of work to be done in the meantime. Bringing our two organizations together will come with costs for staff time and expert assistance. We hope you'll consider making an extra contribution to support this important work.

Caring for Mount Pisgah has been a community endeavor from the start. Thank you for being an important part of that community. 🌲

Events Update

by B. Rothweiler, Venue Manager

Mount Pisgah Arboretum is continuing its legacy of love as we head into our next 50 years of serving this wonderful, supportive community and our 37th year of hosting weddings! There is nothing more romantic than saying your vows beneath the boughs, and our White Oak Pavilion continues to be a favorite venue. In fact, we have already filled up our 2023 season, and are now booking for 2024 events.

At the end of October our Mushroom Festival was a thriving success. We were thrilled to offer a full-size festival and the wonderfully weird Oregon weather blessed us with a gorgeous day to enjoy all of the food, art and fun that we had all been missing. Looking forward, we are working hard to create another beautiful year of growth and prosperity to match the long-standing history of the Arboretum. We hope you will share it with us! 🍄

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Connor Reinecke, Facilities Mgr.
Leisha Wood, Development Coord.
August Jackson, Interpretation Coord.
Olivia Kasama & Katherine Reinecke, Bookkeepers
Mackenzie O'Connor, Office Coord.
Josh Head, Site Asst.*

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facebook.com/mountpisgaharboretum*



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.

Remembering Rhoda Love:

"Flowers Forever"

Lichen Project Updates



Photo by August Jackson

Volunteers are currently recording observations of lichen species along trails across Mount Pisgah, specifically focusing on locating sensitive lichen species. This project is establishing a baseline understanding of lichen distributions on Mount Pisgah and identifying locations of highest quality habitat.

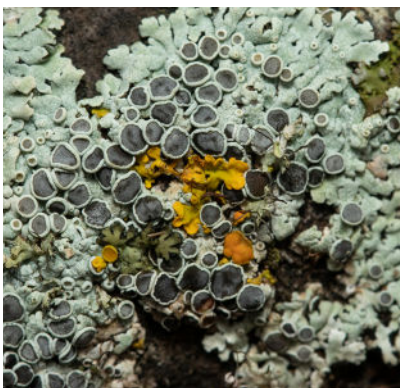


Photo by August Jackson

By the end of January, the Lichen Inventory Project had produced almost 800 verified observations of lichens, representing more than 60 species! A report will be released in mid-spring following the culmination of the project.

As you walk through the Arboretum, you will find benches strategically placed for optimal views or a spot to rest. Most of these benches are built in memory of a loved one after their death, but not all of them. Some people love the Arboretum so much they ask for a commemorative bench to be built while they are alive to enjoy it. Rhoda and Glen Love sponsored such a bench in 2004, with a plaque reading, "Rhoda Love & Family, Trusting in Trees." It was their way of honoring the special place the Arboretum had in Rhoda's heart.



Photo by Jennifer Love

Rhoda Love, PhD, died in October of 2022, and we want to take a moment to share her special place in the Arboretum's history, and in our hearts. Rhoda was well known to many in the wider community as a botany instructor at Lane Community College, and for years she was the only woman in the science department. This led to her being a strong mentor for women in her courses. She taught hundreds of students, in both classrooms and the field, sharing her fascination with native plants.

While she was teaching at LCC, she began her long relationship with the Arboretum, where her natural leadership unfurled: she co-founded the annual Wildflower Festival in 1980, and utilized the opportunity for her botany students to contribute to the event. She was also the Festival poster artist for seven years. Rhoda was the first "regular" employee of the Arboretum, serving as a grant writer and administrative assistant. She wrote the first Arboretum guidebook, *A Natural History of the Southern Willamette Valley*, the current edition of which is still being used to train volunteer nature guides. She also served on the Board of Directors as president and secretary. Not least, she volunteered in many capacities: leading plant walks and workshops, writing plant lists, and keeping her hand in the annual Wildflower Festival.

Rhoda's intelligence, hard work, and passion for sharing plant knowledge extended far beyond teaching and botanizing. In addition to decades of commitment to the Arboretum, she was a longtime member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon where she held many leadership roles and was known for helping out at whatever level was needed. She also helped with the foundation and growth of the Oregon Flora Project, was editor of the Oregon Flora Newsletter for 18 years, and assisted with the development of Oregon Flora's three-volume reference Flora of Oregon.

There will be a celebration of Rhoda's life on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Arboretum's White Oak Pavilion. 🌻

Education Report

by Sara Spoden, Education Manager

One of the many wonderful attributes Oregonians have is resiliency—and this fall was no different. With ongoing wildfires and poor air quality, we worked closely with school teachers and volunteers to reschedule days for our beloved field trips. Many schools haven't been able to return for Discovery Tours since 2019 and we were happy to provide much needed reunions with nature!

Volunteer Nature Guides are the necessary component to keep Discovery Tour field trips going, and it has been a pleasure getting to know many of the returning volunteers this season! Joining the Arboretum staff you learn quickly of the passion many members and Nature Guides hold for this place. I am grateful to continue learning together and growing our dedicated group as we look towards a bountiful spring. If you are also interested in nature and opportunities to help local students get outside, please reach out to us to learn about how to become a volunteer Nature Guide!

Along with the return of field trips we also continued our regular family walks this fall and winter. These two hour strolls through the Arboretum are a great way to engage all ages of your household, and typically run on non-school days or weekends. From acorn processing to winter solstice scavenger hunts, each family walk revolves around a nature-based theme. You can expect more science experiments and hands-on fun on our upcoming walks!



Photo by Sara Spoden



Photo by Sara Spoden

Although I have only recently joined the Arboretum team, I have been learning some of the history this special place holds. Summer day camps where kids make lasting memories, Nature Guides who have continued with the program through a changing world, and many more achievements both big and small made by dedicated individuals. Our resiliency lies within the ability to look at our history, learn from it, and challenge ourselves when looking to new horizons. I look forward to working together to build educational programs which inspire and bolster connections. See you out here! 🍂



Become a Volunteer Nature Guide!



Photo by August Jackson

We're looking for passionate volunteers interested in the natural world and engaging youth in the outdoors!



Photo by August Jackson

**Join us for volunteer orientation night!
March 20th, 5-7pm
at the Arboretum's White Oak Pavilion.
To sign up, email Education Manager Sara Spoden:
education@mountpishgaharboretum.org**

Save the Date!



Wildflower Festival 2022!

Sunday, May 21st, 10am-5pm

Tickets on sale in early April

In partnership with the Native Plant
Society of Oregon-Emerald Chapter and
Lane Community College



Photos by August Jackson

Site Report

By Patrick Wegner, Habitat and Trails Manager

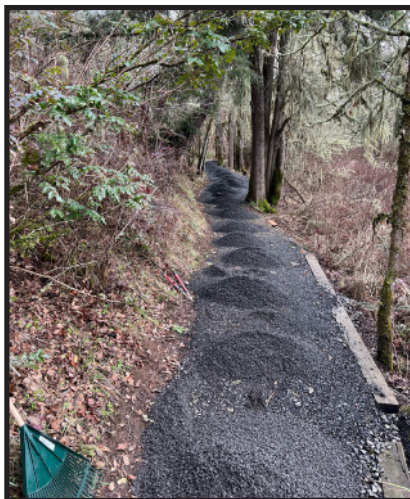


Photo by Patrick Wegner

Over the past 50 years, we have adapted and improved the Arboretum to meet the needs of our members and park visitors. The site went from dense blackberry patches, roaming livestock, and very little access for visitors to where we now provide access to multiple ecosystems within the Arboretum, interpretive exhibits for interactive learning, and miles of trails throughout. All of this work and progress that has led us to this point would not have been possible without the help and support from our members, countless volunteers, and our partners.

To start the year, we will be completing the work on the education building's foundation and will be reopening it to use by late spring. Other facility projects on the docket are installing bird deterrents on more windows throughout the Arboretum and beginning the process for replacing aging roofs on some structures.



Photo by August Jackson

Throughout the trail system we are continuing to improve where we can. We are currently working on two universal access loops and one barrier free loop within the existing trail system. We will finish up the basic implementation of these loops in the early part of this year but will make improvements to sections as we get feedback from users. We will also be looking to reroute a section of the Riverbank Trail away from an eroding bank.

Across the rest of the site we are continuing our battle with blackberries, with Site Assistant Josh Head and volunteer Bryan Ribelin leading the charge this winter. We will be replanting some


areas that the blackberries were removed from but many of these areas have an established plant community that's been suppressed by the blackberries. For the areas that will be planted we will do those plantings during some of our upcoming work parties and community events. If you're interested in attending any of the upcoming work parties, please contact Patrick Wegner at Habitat@mountpispaharboretum.org or watch for upcoming events in our E-newsletter. 



Photo by August Jackson

Contributions

Sept. 1st, 2022 to Jan. 15th, 2023

New Members

Aileen & Scott Frey
Alberta Cruz Bautista
Alex Harrison & James Wheeler
Alexander Schwarzkopf
Alice Maruska
Allison Hyder
Amanda Wojick
Amy & Daniel Johnston
Andrea Wuenschel
Angela Bos
Angus James
Anna Banks
Anna Goldrich
Annmarie Kmetz & Jason McInteer
Aria Wright-Shriver
Aurore Maren
Avalon Reynolds-Brice
Becca Perry & Mike Meyer
Benjamin Bishop & Patricia Goldsworthy-Bishop
Benjamin Glass
Bill Clingman
Blythe Kalson
Bonnie Houston
Brad Mullen & Sarah Pykkonen
Brandi & Ryan Fleck
Cameron Hanes
Camille Stewart & John Davis

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Carrie McCurdy & John O'Herron
Casey Doherty
Celia McLay
Chris Wickland
Christine & James Barry
Christopher & PM Hawke
Christy Maeder & Eddy French
Cindi Bruck
Claudia Rich
Clinton Hudson
Colette Glaeser
Colin & Tina Phifer
Connie & Mark Saylor
Connor Reinecke
Dan Hanson
Dane Butler
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Diana Olin
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Marlie Heberling
Mary Evans
Mathew Quilter
Matt Barnhart
Matt Denberg
Meghan Morgavan
Meorah Solar
Michele Taylor
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Miriam Gage
Molly Millman

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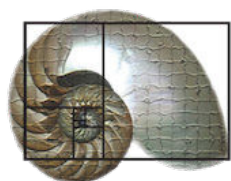
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