

TREE TIME

THE NEWSLETTER OF MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM



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Photo by August Jackson

A New Chapter for MPA

For more than fifteen years, I've had the privilege, honor, and pleasure of working at one of the most beautiful and beloved natural spaces in Oregon. Mount Pisgah receives more than half a million visits each year. At the Arboretum, we have the opportunity to engage visitors in learning about and caring for the natural world, and to remind ourselves and others every day that nature is our home, it sustains and connects us all, and we have a responsibility to be good stewards of the land.

I've had the profound pleasure to see how much the community appreciates this place. That was never more apparent than after the recent ice storms when so many volunteers and donors stepped up to help. The love for Mount Pisgah is palpable, and I am incredibly proud of all that the Arboretum's staff, volunteers, supporters, and the community as a whole have accomplished over its 51-year history.

Being the Executive Director of Mount Pisgah Arboretum has been the most rewarding experience I could ever have hoped for in life. But, a few months ago, I decided that the time had come for me to pass the baton of leadership on to someone new, someone with the energy and vision to take the Arboretum to the next level. I plan to stay involved and active in the Arboretum community and I know that the community and all our supporters will remain firmly behind our work. The Board of Directors and I have been working together on a plan for succession, and you can learn more about the Executive Director position on our website.

In my time at Mount Pisgah Arboretum, I've seen the organization grow and flourish. We have substantially increased our staffing and our capacity. We've added educational programs and exhibits, and found creative new ways to teach people about the beauty and value of local ecology. We've cared for and enhanced our habitats, trails, and facilities. And, most importantly, we have worked hard to send a message that this natural space, and all its educational resources, belong equally to everyone in the community. I can't wait to see what the future holds for this beloved community treasure. — **Brad van Appel, Executive Director** 

A Historic Storm

The January ice storm that settled in the southern Willamette Valley over the weekend of the 13th-16th varied in severity across the region, but was devastating for the Arboretum, and likely the most significant storm in many decades. This January storm was an order of magnitude worse than the February 2014 ice storm, which was then the most damaging in the Arboretum's history.



Photo by Patrick Wegner

An inch or more of ice accumulated on trees across the Arboretum and persisted for four days. At least 500 whole trees were toppled, and many thousands lost significant portions of their canopies. In some locations there appears to be at least a 50% reduction in canopy cover. Many of these trees will recover with epicormic branching, but for now the difference is stark.

For those of us with strong connections to this place, from staff and board to members, volunteers, and regular visitors, there is an emotional impact to witnessing such extensive damage. We've been heartened by the outpouring of support from the community. Many people have given generously to fund our recovery efforts, and more



Photo by Sara Spoden

than 60 volunteers have contributed over 600 hours of their time to assist with clean-up. Excellent progress has been made and we are looking forward to welcoming visitors back in the coming weeks. Mount Pisgah will look a bit different. But fresh spring growth is already beginning to cover some of the wounds.

– **August Jackson, Interpretation Coordinator** 🐼

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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.

Become a Volunteer Nature Guide!

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



Photo by Sara Spoden

Join us for volunteer orientation night!
March 12th, 4:30-5:30PM.
To sign up, email Education Manager Sara Spoden: education@mountpishgarboretum.org

Nature Guide Profile


What does volunteering mean to you? It may be an outlet for you to share your passion with like-minded folks, or a new venture to grow and develop while giving back to your community. I know for sure the Arboretum wouldn't be the institution it is today if it wasn't for our dedicated volunteers.

Each one of our Volunteer Nature Guides is a treasure, bringing their own approach to sharing nature with students. So as the Nature Guide program continues to grow, we will be highlighting the incredible people who commit their time, expertise, and vigor to this treasured educational component.

In this issue of Tree Time we would like to shine a light on Margie Aten, who shares her experience in the following message:



I'm a newbie Nature Guide having only been at it since April 2023, however I have hiked Mt. Pisgah 3-5 times a week for the last 30 years. Mt. Pisgah has been my sanctuary and I think guiding kids is a good way to give back to a place I love. It's been an amazing experience being a guide and learning about all the things I have walked over, next to, or on top of and had no idea of what was at my feet or up in the trees. The kids have been a pleasure as well as entertaining. One of the best lines I heard from a 3rd grader was, "How about less talking and more walking!" When I'm not hiking at Mt. Pisgah I'm usually thinking about where I want to travel to next.

If you are interested in learning more about our Nature Guide and Discovery Tour program for elementary students here at the Arboretum please email Sara Spoden at education@mountpishgarboretum.org. — **Sara Spoden, Education Manager** 




Remembering Tim King

On December 2nd of last year, the community came out to the Arboretum to celebrate the life of Tim King. Tim was one of the kindest and most caring people I've ever had the pleasure to know. He generously supported the Arboretum and volunteered his time and talents for more than twenty years.

Tim was a landscape architect who spent most of his career at the University of Oregon supervising landscape and grounds maintenance operations. He brought that skill set to the Arboretum where he chaired the site committee, served on the Board of Directors, including as Board President, and was always willing to roll up his sleeves and do whatever needed doing.



In the final years of his life, Tim developed ALS. While the disease steadily took away his physical capacity, Tim stayed positive. He became a champion of the Arboretum's work to make our trails and facilities more accessible to people with disabilities.

Tim was a friend and a mentor to me, and I miss him dearly. When he passed, Tim's wife Linda helped the Arboretum set up the Tim King Nature Accessibility Fund to support continued site improvements and programs to enable people of all abilities to get out and enjoy nature. You can find more about this work and how to support it on our website. — **Brad van Appel, Executive Director** 

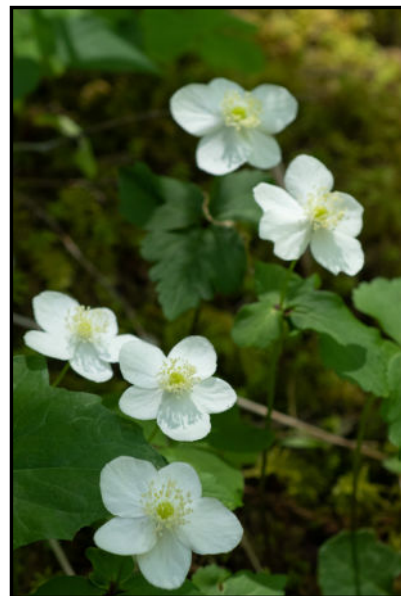
Board Spotlight: Jessica Winans

Jessica Winans is the current board vice president and the Department Chair, Center for Teaching Excellence at Linn-Benton Community College. Of her reasons for joining the board, Jess writes:

When I moved to Springfield, the Arboretum and greater Buford Park area quickly became my favorite spot for trail running close to home. Upon becoming a parent, I started spending more time hiking the Arboretum trails and visiting the interpretative exhibits. For me, the Arboretum is a place for both community and solitude. It feels familiar while also triggering my child-like sense of wonder. Joining the board was a way to give back to this place that is so special to me and my family, and it's fun to connect to my background in environmental and geography education. I hope that more of our community, and especially families, will enjoy the Arboretum and our outstanding education programs.



Save the Date!



Wildflower Festival 2024!

**Sunday, May 19th,
10am-5pm**

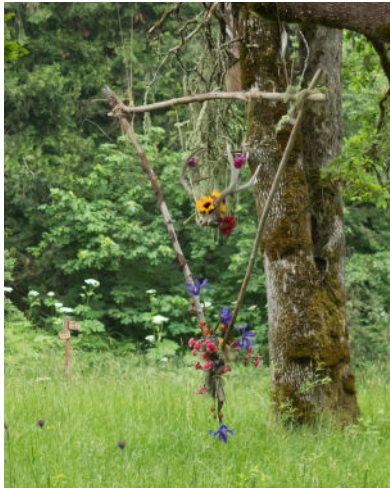
**Tickets on sale in early
April**

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



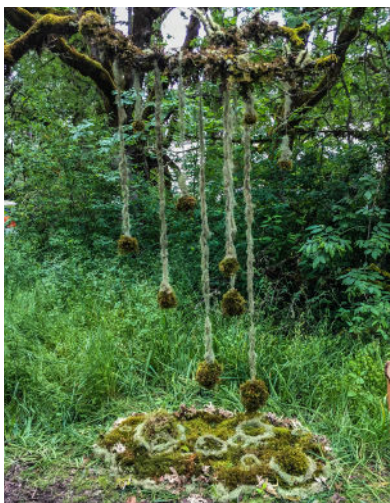
Photos by August Jackson

13th Annual Art in Nature!



Mount Pisgah Arboretum is seeking volunteer artists to create in situ works of art made of natural materials, which will be displayed during the Wildflower & Music Festival on Sunday, May 19th, from 10am-5pm.

For more information, Email August Jackson at interpretation@mountpisgaharboretum.org



Photos by August Jackson

Nature Blog Update



Photo by Karen Richards

For the past three and a half years, we have hosted a nature blog on our website, made possible by the dedicated work of two volunteers. The concept originated with Karen Richards, who authors the blog *Insect Insights*. Karen reached out to me in the summer of 2020, with an offer of leading guided tours or providing some online content about insects. At that point in the pandemic our public tours were on hold, but Karen is a reporter for KLCC and was already maintaining a great personal blog about her insect discoveries. A bi-weekly nature blog seemed like a natural fit. Karen has now published nearly 80 blog posts and made some very neat discoveries. Karen says “I enjoy writing *Insect Insights* because I look forward to each step of the process. I’ve seen new things nearly every week, for over 40 months, at Mount Pisgah. Some of my favorites are the impossibly long-antennaed fairy moths and the colorful, communal oak treehoppers.” Karen now also regularly leads insect tours during the summer.


Bryan Ribelin began regularly volunteering with the Arboretum in 2020, particularly focusing on habitat projects. It wasn’t long before we discovered that he, too, was maintaining an excellent personal blog. I asked Bryan if he would be interested in contributing to our nature blog in the week between Karen’s posts, and he



Photo by Bryan Ribelin

enthusiastically agreed. Bryan notes that for him “writing a blog has been an exercise in photography, journaling, researching, honing my observation skills, and staying curious about the natural world. It has also kept me motivated to regularly be out in nature and to keep exploring all of the fascinating life found at Mount Pisgah Arboretum.”

Through this ongoing blog series, Karen and Bryan are documenting the rich diversity of life on Mount Pisgah, from a semi-aquatic moth (pictured at top) that lays eggs underwater in the Coast Fork

Willamette River, to a muskrat making its home in the wetlands. We are privileged to have both of these enthusiastic naturalists volunteering their time to share the wonders of the local ecosystem with the public. If you haven’t read the blog yet, make sure to take a look!— **August Jackson, Interpretation Coordinator** 

Contributions

Sept. 19th, 2023 to January 19th, 2023

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Adam Walsh
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Donors will be acknowledged in the spring issue of Tree Time.**

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Individual	\$55
Family	\$75
Supporting	\$100
Sustaining	\$250

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