Fall 2026
Volume LV, Issue 3

TREE TIME

THE NEWSLETTER OF MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM

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A Chanterelle is not a Chanterelle: The Different Species of a Beloved Favorite

This year, the Mushroom Festival features the Cascade chanterelle and black-tailed deer. This duo is relatively easy to see in the wild, at least one at a time, and they lend themselves fantastically to shirts, posters, stickers. But, for two commonplace species, there's likely more to their stories than you've heard.

Most hunters of edible mushrooms throughout the Pacific Northwest are experienced at finding chanterelles. Chantrelles are sometimes known as a "gateway" into mushroom hunting and eating, as they are prolific and comparatively easy to find and identify.



Art by Emily Poole

What if I told you that "a chanterelle is not a chanterelle"? Where we find ourselves in central western Oregon, a chanterelle actually could be one of three different species found in the mountains around us: the pink-edged (or rainbow) chanterelle *(Cantharellus roseocanus)*, the Pacific golden chanterelle *(Cantharellus formosus)* which is the state mushroom of Oregon) and lastly, our featured Cascade chanterelle *(Cantharellus cascadensis)*. They all are similar in that they all "look like chanterelles" - having an irregular cap with shades of yellow-orange on top, shallow gills that run partway down the stem, growth in conifer forests, and a smell often described as apricot-like – though, everyone registers smells and tastes a little differently, and the three species may be a bit different. They are distinguished by gill and cap color, overall stature, and to a limited extent, by which trees they partner with – forming fungus and tree root linkages, or mycorrhizas, which benefit both partners. Their orange color often stands out like a little lantern amongst the otherwise dark greens and browns of the forest floor. Let's take a look at each species one at a time.



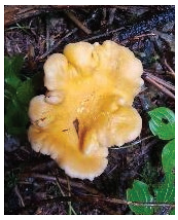
Pink-edged Chanterelle

The pink-edged chanterelle was named the rainbow chanterelle *(Cantharellus roseocanus)* by the mycologists who first identified them as a distinct species.

Continued on page 2

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

A Chanterelle is not a Chanterelle: The Different Species of a Beloved Favorite (Cont.)

"rainbow" is a misnomer (in our area, at least). Local specimens have only two colors: light orange gills and cap, and pink on the young cap margin. Not a rainbow at all! The gills are deeper orange than either of the other two species. This chanterelle almost always partners with spruce: Sitka spruce at the coast and Engelmann spruce in the Cascades.

Pacific Golden Chanterelle




The Pacific golden chanterelle *(Cantharellus formosus)* is the most common chanterelle in our area and is the species most often found by mushroom hunters. It can be orange to brownish-gold on the cap and have gills that are paler orange than pink-edged chanterelles. It grows with a wide array of conifers and is the most slender of the three species.

Cascade Chanterelle



Our featured mushroom is the Cascade chanterelle *(Cantharellus cascadensis)*. Thanks to some hard work by a student at Oregon State University a few years ago, it was found to be different from the other two species and was officially described and given recognition as a species. It is yellowish-orange on the cap (similar to an egg yolk color) and the gills and stem are light colored – giving a clear two-toned look to each mushroom. It is the huskiest of the three species, and perhaps the least common.

iNaturalist has only 107 Cascade chanterelle observations by 47 observers in Oregon, and over the entire range (southern British Columbia to central California), there are 437 observations by 289 different observers. Where as pink-edged chanterelles have been recorded in Oregon 269 times by 152 observers using iNaturalist. From Alaska to Mexico, pink-edged chantrelles have been documented 1,150 times by 640 observers. Pacific golden chanterelles have been documented in iNaturalist 1,236 times in Oregon by 691 observers. Along the Pacific coast, 5798 observations have been documented by 2,661 people. In Oregon and throughout the region, we see similar proportions of species observed: 6-7% Cascade chanterelles, 15-17% pink-edged chantrelles, and 77-78% Pacific golden .

Black-tailed deer *(Odocoileus hemionus columbianus)* is just one of many mammal species that eat fungi. We are another, but don't do it for survival as these forest creatures do! Slugs and snails, insect larvae and probably other animals eat fungi too. If you see tooth marks from deer or anyone else on an unidentified mushroom in the woods, don't ever assume that it must be suitable for you to eat! The animal that snacked on it might have a different digestion system than you do, or perhaps it went off somewhere with a serious ailment.

Deer and other animals that consume fungi often spread fungal spores in their scat – often far from where the fungus was eaten. In addition to wind dispersal this natural "taxi ride" is one way a chanterelle or other fungus can be introduced into a new habitat.

Article and photos by Bruce Newhouse

Kalapuya people and their neighbors have met here and used this place like you do for millenia. They have come to places like this along the Willamette to play and swim, cook and eat. They have gathered foods and medicines, and materials for basketry, tools, and clothing.

This is, was, and always will be Kalapuya land.

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About

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

Our EIN is 23-7345974

Thank You to Our Festival Sponsors!

mountain rose herbs

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iNaturalist MycoBlitz

Upload your photo observations of fungi in Lane County to iNaturalist from October 15th to October 24th.

Your photos will be identified by experts and these observations will complement the mushroom display for this year's Mushroom Festival!

Check out the project and participate at mountpisgaharboretum.org/festivals-events/mushroom-festival/



Photo of western chicken of the woods (Laetiporus gilbertsonii) by August Jackson

Festival Activities

Enjoy all the Mushroom Festival has to offer:

- A huge mushroom exhibit where you can learn about hundreds of local species
- Educational talks from local experts
- Edible and poisonous mushrooms display, including an expert identification table
- Live music
- Guided nature walks by local naturalists
- Mushroom vendors
- Local foods, arts, and crafts
- Kids crafts and activities
- Cider pressing, scarecrow contest, and hay rides!



Photo by Brooke Bumgardner

MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM

Cascade Mycological Society & Lane Community College Present



Mushroom Festival

Sunday, October 25th 2026

Advance Tickets Required

Tickets & more information at mountpisgaharboretum.org

Members, please check your emails for your free admission information.

Art by Emily Poole

Caring for the Land in Community

Crunchy leaves under foot and the promise of rain signal our transition into fall and offer a moment to appreciate the many people who spent time this Summer helping to care for this special space and make some big projects possible.



Northwest Youth Corp brought four crews to the Arboretum to tackle projects including continuing our Tree Inventory Project, invasive species removal, and brushing out the Water Garden Trails.

At our new Tuesday Tenders work parties, volunteers have been removing weeds and transforming the traffic circle into a memorial garden. Volunteer Caroline has been an absolute powerhouse on this project, against her weeds don't stand a chance! The newly graveled path winds through the space and is lined with beautiful river boulders that are available for engraving in memory of a loved one.

The double bridges on the creek trail came full circle as Henry Brown replaced the northern bridge as his Eagle Scout project. This matches the southern bridge that Henry's brother Sheppard built two years ago. Together, the two bridges are a great example of service that Arboretum visitors will enjoy for years to come.

There's no shortage of bridges in the Arboretum and several work parties ventured up the Oak Savanna Trail to remove the old, deteriorating foot bridges, rebuild the landings, and construct new, sturdy bridges. These bridges were constructed wide enough to accommodate our track chairs, offering users a new trail to explore.

Stewarding groups returned to care for our interpretive exhibts. At the Oak Savanna and Oak Woodland Exhibits, The Obsidians cleaned signs, trimmed vegetation, spread fresh gravel, and repaired broken fittings. In the water garden, volunteers from Oregon Community Credit Union cut willow whips, using them to re-weave the outer shell of the Wetlands Exhibit.

Thanks to volunteers from Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad the pond seemingly got larger! Brush removal addressed invasive species and increased important open water habitat.

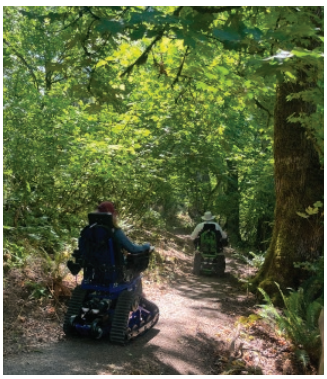
Staff, volunteers, park visitors, wildlife, plants, and fungi thrive thanks to each others efforts. It truly takes all of us. We hope you come out this Fall to enjoy these improvements, and maybe work alongside us on the next project.

Article & photo by Connor Reinecke, Operations Director

New All-Terrain Track Chairs

After hosting all-terrain track chairs through the organization David's Chair for two years, we recently purchased two track chairs of our own thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor. The new chairs are available now with significantly expanded reservation times. And, the new chairs can navigate more of our trails safely!

After launching the new iteration of this program in late July, it's been incredible to see over 45 users be able to get out and enjoy all the Arboretum has to offer.



Article & photo by Jade Pfaefflin Bounds, Communications & Volunteer Coordinator

Upcoming Events

Tuesday Tenders Work Parties
Every Tuesday
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Weekly Office Volunteering
Every Wednesday
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Wildflower Garden Work Party
Saturday, September 26th
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Eugene Bright Parade: Mycelium Display with Cascade Mycological Society
Saturday, September 26th
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Mindful Meandering
Sunday, October 4th
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Wonderful World of Trees Tour
Saturday, October 10th
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

October Bird Tour
Sunday, October 11th
8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Fall Ecology Tour
Sunday, October 11th
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Festival Set Up Work Party
Friday, October 23rd
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Mushroom Festival
Sunday, October 25th
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

The Art of Decay: Grief, Transformation, & Native Plants Workshop
Saturday, November 7th
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



For more and to sign up, visit: mountpisgaharboretum.org/learn/workshops/

Photo via Cascadia Wildlands

Scarecrow Contest

Make the Mushroom Festival a little spookier (or sillier) with your very best scarecrow!



Competitors set up the Saturday before the Festival and get free entry to the event.

Festival attendees will vote on the best scarecrows and winners will be announced at the end of the Festival!

Competition Categories:

Hay-larious (Funniest)

Most Likely to Scare a Crow (Scariest)

Pick of the Pump-Kid Patch (Youth ages 12 and under)

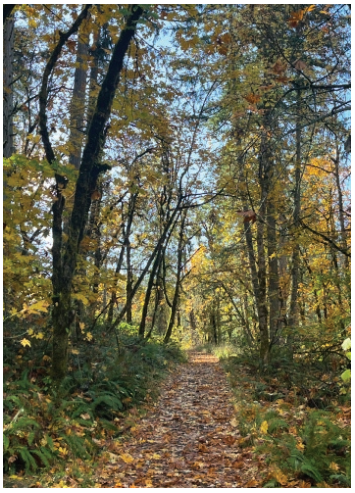
Out-Standing-in-its-Field (Best overall)



To enter email education@mountpisgaharboretum.org.

Remember to have a gourd time!

Finding Calm Amongst the Quiet and Not-So-Quiet of Nature



With parking lot construction underway this summer, I've spent a lot of time contemplating the importance of quiet places. If you frequent the Arboretum, you've likely found many secluded pockets of stillness and serene moments. If you stay in one of those quiet places long enough, you'll likely notice it's not so quiet at all! The hum of a bee past your ear, a symphony of bird calls, the rustling of squirrels, lizards, snakes, and rabbits, the distant laughter of children, or even the shifting noise of your body, all are part of these moments we seek. These experiences offer our minds the opportunity to notice what's around us, which I find invaluable during days which can seem like a constant hustle. Whether you're on a "Mindful Meandering" tour, or enjoying the accessible path along the river, I hope your time at the Arboretum gives you the space for this not-so-quiet-quiet,and a reprieve to notice and appreciate our place in the world.

If you're looking for more opportunities to tune into the subtle goings on of nature, there are opportunities for all interests this Fall and Winter in the Arboretum. Join our next Mindful Meandering or tune into the worlds of trees, insects, birds, and more during a guided tour. Let's all find a little peace in nature this season!

By Sara Spoden, Education Manager

Photo by Jade Pfaefflin Bounds

Preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer



Over the last few months, we've been learning alongside other habitat stewards and making plans that will best protect the Arboretum against the impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle that infests and kills ash trees. So far, the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Oregon and is anticipated to reach Eugene in the next ten years.



This year we've documented and mapped an estimated 95% of ash trees with a trunk diameter over four inches as a part of our Tree Inventory Project (1,144 ash trees in total). These data, along with the accompanying documentation of our trees of other species, allow us to anticipate the specific impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer — where we will lose canopy cover and dense stands of trees, and where standing dead and dying ash trees could present hazards over trails.

To ensure we are staying safe and setting the Arboretum up to thrive, we will start planting trees to succeed the impacted ash and removing some ash trees that are overhead on the riverbank trail and through the water garden. Join us at Winter work parties to support the next generation of trees in our wetlands and riparian forests.

By Jade Pfaefflin Bounds, Communications & Volunteer Coordinator

Photos by David Cappaert (top) & August Jackson (bottom)

Tree Cheers to Volunteers!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Arboretum, running from the founding in 1973 through every project, every trail, every Festival, and all our Discovery Tours. Thank you to everyone who has given their time, their energy, their humor to the care of this special place. Together, we care for the communities of people, plants, and creatures that rely on us. The Arboretum would not exist without your efforts!





Photos by Ilana Jakubowski

Get Involved

We are always looking for volunteers to care for the land, help people to access it, and share the joy of nature! Right now you can get involved as an:

Arboretum Ambassador
Table in the Arboretum on weekends and at local events to answer questions, share upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, sell Arboretum memberships, and share the joy of nature!

Guided Tour Leader
Do you have ecological expertise? We are always looking for guided nature tour and workshop leaders! Most tours are two hours and cover topics like seasonal ecological highlights, insects, reptiles, fungi, etc.

Habitat & Lands Volunteer
Lend a hand at trail maintenance and habitat restoration at a work party! Work parties happen approximately two weekends per month and every Tuesday.

Mushroom Festival Volunteer
We couldn't hold these annual community events without the help and dedication of hundreds of volunteers! Join us and get free admission to the Festival along with a poster.

Office Volunteer
You can volunteer in our office any Wednesday afternoon from 1pm to 3pm and help with tasks like mailing memberships, laminating educational materials, and helping us to prepare for the Festivals.

Track Chair Volunteer
Support users of our all-terrain track chair program by checking the chairs in and out to users and helping them get oriented.

Interested in one of these roles? Learn more on our website mountpisgaharobretum.org or email volunteer@mountpisgaharboretum.org.

Welcome New Members!

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members! We are happy to have you join the Arboretum family.







Photos by Jade Pfaefflin Bounds, Sara Spoden, & Tawnia Ross

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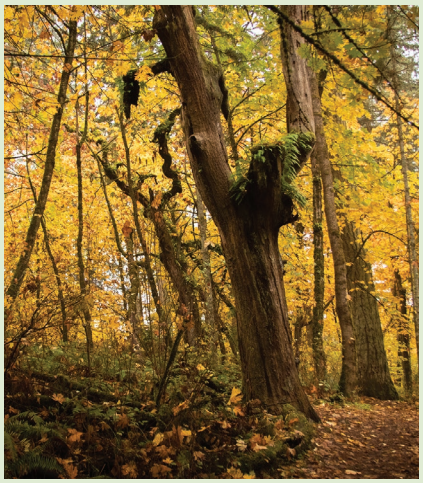


Photo by August Jackson

Memorials

In Memory of Andrew Karasek
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In Memory of Emily Rose Monfort
Delma Keith & Margaret Monfort

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Thank You to All of Our Donors!

Every donor who supports the Arboretum is woven into the work, the programs, and the place. To each of you, our gratitude overflows for your generosity and care. What we are accomplishing together nourishes the land, the community of plants, insects, and animals that rely on it, and a way of life that leaves room for precious time in nature. Your sincere support of the Arboretum's mission enriches our home here in the Willamette Valley and creates greater health, peace, and vitality for our whole community. *Thank you.*

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

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Art by Emily Poole

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

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Please keep my donation anonymous.