

# Tree Time



THE MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

*A message from Executive Director Brad van Appel:*

## As Nature Adapts, So Do We



The term “balance of nature” can be misleading. One can imagine some ideal state of static balance between all the parts of the natural world. Just the right mix of birds, and bees, and flowers, and sunshine and . . . The truth is, nature is never static. It’s in a constant state of change and adaptation.



*Photo by Kimberly A. Cullen*

This year, the human part of nature has found ourselves struggling to adapt to some changes that were unexpected, and some that are long overdue. It’s not easy, and it can be very painful, but adaptation also offers opportunity.

At the Arboretum we’re working hard to reimagine how we can best serve our community in this changing world. How do we engage people with nature when some of our usual activities are not possible because of COVID-19?

For years we’ve been saying “Discover Your Place In Nature.” What can we do to make sure that Mount Pisgah Arboretum feels like a place where we all equally belong, and that regardless of your skin color or how you identify, this place truly belongs to you?

The loss of so many of our regular activities has also had a significant financial impact. Continuing to fund and sustain this beautiful place and all the nature education that happens here will require some creative adaptation.

The Arboretum board and staff are committed to making the most of the opportunities change is presenting us. We know that we can use this moment to become stronger and more effective. We’re working on some exciting new ideas for the future, but what we really need is to hear from you.

Please email me at [director@mountpisgaharboretum.org](mailto:director@mountpisgaharboretum.org), or send a letter if you prefer. Let me know what you value most about Mount Pisgah Arboretum and what you think we can do better. How can we do a better job of serving our mission to engage people with nature, and how can we better serve the needs of our community? How can we help to build a bridge that connects people with nature, one that’s strong enough and wide enough for all of us to walk across together? 

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Membership Drive a Success!



Photo by Kimberly A. Cullen

CELEBRATE  
CELEBRATE  
CELEBRATE

This year we're having a **Virtual Summer Celebration & Annual Meeting** on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 PM.

We invite you to join us for this live event. *Zoom* in and hear about what's been happening in the Arboretum, our plans for the future, and participate in our board member election. RSVP by August 18<sup>th</sup> to: [interpretation@mountpishgaharboretum.org](mailto:interpretation@mountpishgaharboretum.org) and we'll send you a link to the Celebration.

Send us a photo by August 12<sup>th</sup> of you out in nature (caption optional) and you may become part of the Celebration slideshow! Submission to: [interpretation@mountpishgaharboretum.org](mailto:interpretation@mountpishgaharboretum.org). 

## Sponsor a Family Membership!

For \$60 you can give the Gift of Nature to a local family who otherwise might not be able to take advantage of all the Arboretum has to offer. Visit <https://mountpishgaharboretum.com/join-support/personal/> and select Sponsor a Family Membership at the bottom of the dropdown menu under Choose Membership(s).

## Education Report

by Jenny Laxton, Education Manager

What a crazy year it's been for all of us! With our spring programs cancelled, it was sad to not have groups of kids out on site. I also missed getting to see our many wonderful Nature Guide volunteers every morning.

Like everyone, we did our best to adapt quickly to our new circumstances, so we pivoted to on-line educational offerings. Our Interpretation Coordinator, August Jackson, did some amazing on-line programs while our Walks and Workshops were on hiatus.

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### Board of Directors

- Tim King, President
- Karen Anderson, Vice President
- Charlotte Helmer, Secretary
- Charlotte Kreitlow, Treasurer
- Carl Bybee
- Chris Culver
- Anne Forrestel
- Rich Kelly
- Jonathan Stafford
- Sally Stender

### Staff

- Brad van Appel, Executive Director
- Tom LoCascio, Site Manager
- Jenny Laxton, Education Manager
- August Jackson, Interpretive Coord.
- Kimberly Cullen, Office Coord.
- Julie Hubbard-McNall, Dev. Coord.
- Leisha Wood, Venue Manager
- Patrick Wegner, Asst. Habitat & Trails Mgr.
- Josh Head, Pavilion Custodian

### Contact Information

- Office Phone: 541-747-3817
- Events Phone: 541-747-1504
- Education Phone: 541-741-4110
- [office@mountpishgaharboretum.org](mailto:office@mountpishgaharboretum.org)
- [www.MountPishgahArboretum.org](http://www.MountPishgahArboretum.org)
- [www.twitter.com/MtPishgahArb](https://www.twitter.com/MtPishgahArb)
- [facebook.com/mountpishgaharboretum](https://facebook.com/mountpishgaharboretum)



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!

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With schools heading on-line and no spring field trips, we created activities that matched state science standards for teachers to send out to their students. We were able to make at least one activity for each grade level. In the future, these activities will be sent to teachers when they sign up for our Discovery Tours field trips to help compliment their visit.

Since we couldn't bring students out to the Arboretum this spring, we brought the Arboretum to them with virtual field trips. Through short videos, students were still able to see some of the Arboretum and learn about local animals and plants.

We are currently waiting to see what the fall school year will look like to determine how best to help serve kids, teachers and parents. No matter what changes occur, we will continue to find creative ways to meet our mission, help engage people with nature, and support families and teachers in whatever way we can during these challenging times. 🍄



Take a tour on the Zig-Zag Trail with our Education Manager Jenny Laxton!  
13 minutes



*The tree round*

## Exhibits & Programs Update

*by August Jackson, Interpretation Coordinator*

Our Walks and Workshops program got off to a robust start in the first quarter of the year, with some of our highest-ever program attendance, and workshops scheduled for the spring and summer were filling before having been officially announced. Increased demand for these programs is a credit to our wonderful community of guides and instructors, some of whom are new, and others who have been leading walks for decades.

With the arrival of COVID-19 in our community in mid-March, all scheduled programs were cancelled and have yet to resume. In order to continue offering learning experiences during this time, we've become more familiar with webinar platforms and video recording than we'd ever expected. These virtual programs have been popular and well-received, with well over 100 people attending webinars thus far. However, this experience has illustrated just how powerful a classroom the Arboretum is. Learning is enhanced when it is immersive—the name of an unfamiliar wildflower is better remembered if learned on a warm day in early April when the air was thick with the honey smell of bursting cottonwood buds and the electric chirps of tree swallows filled the skies. Learning inside steals much of the context, and some of the magic. We look forward to a time when we can safely resume our nature walks.



*Tiger lily (Lilium columbianum)*

The Arboretum's four interpretive exhibits are well-suited to the age of physical distancing, and have continued to provide pandemic-proof learning opportunities as the site has remained open to the public. The exhibits have been popular destinations, especially with kids home from school and in dire need of time outside the house.

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# OAK SAVANNA



Last July we completed installation of our Oak Savanna Exhibit, but had to wait another year for the accompanying plantings to take off.



The plantings have exploded this spring, really showcasing the beauty of the savanna habitat that is central to this region's natural and cultural heritage. I hope you'll check it out if you haven't already. 🌰



Photos above by Kimberly A. Cullen, except center photo by August Jackson

## *Elope at the Arboretum!*

Plans are changing for many, but this place and all its beauty are still here for you! We are offering a special way to celebrate your special day in 2020 here at the Arboretum with our Elopement Package. Please contact our Venue Manager Leisha Wood at [events@mountpisgaharboretum.org](mailto:events@mountpisgaharboretum.org) if you would like more information about this opportunity to celebrate in the heart of nature.



## **Thank you for making our membership drive a success!**

We made over \$12,000 in memberships in May through our call-to-action May Membership Drive. We sincerely thank our community for the outpouring of support during these challenging times. We extend a hearty welcome to dozens of new members and thank the large number of folks who renewed their membership this spring, many of whom generously upgraded their membership level. We are grateful for community members who have chosen to support the preservation of a local place they love.

# Announcements

- **Save the Date!** Mushroom Festival 2020 will go virtual on October 25th. Details to come.
- **Staff on Furlough:** Until July 26th, most of our staff is on furlough. Response time to some inquiries & requests may be slower than usual. We continue to process memberships & donations and perform maintenance onsite. We are committed to serving our members, donors and community. We thank you for your understanding and patience!
- **Welcome Back!** We are beginning to welcome back volunteer groups to assist with stewardship activities! In this first phase, we are inviting households and small groups to work alongside us. If you would like to get involved, email Assistant Habitat & Trails Manager Patrick Wegner at [habitat@mountpisgaharboretum.org](mailto:habitat@mountpisgaharboretum.org) for more information and to schedule your volunteering!
- **Events:** Mount Pisgah Arboretum in-person events, including guided nature walks, workshops, and school field trips have been cancelled through July. We hope to resume some of these events, with modifications, in August.
- **Resources Online!** Visit our nature education *Resources for Kids & Adults* webpage at [mountpisgaharboretum.org](http://mountpisgaharboretum.org) to view webinars, video classes and download kids' activities.
- **Camps at the Arboretum:** Whole Earth Nature School, and Nearby Nature Summer Day Camps are happening now at the Arboretum. Mount Pisgah Arboretum is glad to provide a space for kids this summer. During camp times you will see small groups of 10 or less kids on our trails. The Oregon Health Authority's guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19 are being followed. Curious about summer camps? Please see our partners' websites for details.

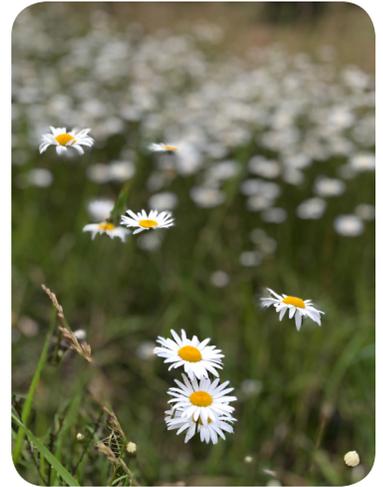


Photo by Kimberly A. Cullen

## Arboretum Wish List

Kids' gardening gloves	Wheelbarrows
Hand trowels for kids	Landscape cart
Shovels	Sandwich board sign
iPad	Socket set
Dry erase board (large)	Steel tow chains



# Site & Facilities Update: My First Spring

by Patrick Wegner, Asst. Habitat & Trails Mgr.

Starting my position, here at the Arboretum, I knew right away it was not going to be a normal spring. My first day, March 19th, we were already in the midst of a global pandemic. There was uncertainty as to whether the park was going to stay open, and I was coming into a position where I knew no one and had a new plant population to learn. (Where else in the valley do you have an Incense-cedar forest!).



A fresh look (and sturdy too!)

As the first few days melted into weeks, I started to feel a bit overwhelmed and stressed due to all of the information I was taking in about the position and site. I also quickly realized that certain duties and perks that drew me to the position were not going to be happening in the foreseeable future; such as volunteer coordination, school programs, festivals, etc.. So, I had to take comfort in projects and tasks that could be accomplished in these weird times.

As the days passed, we (Tom, Jason, Josh, and myself) turned our lemons into lemonade by tackling tasks that would have normally set on the back burner because of higher-priority tasks like the Wildflower & Music Festival and leading volunteers. These projects included invasive and non-native plant control, and facilities updates to help combat Covid-19. Some of the notable projects we have been chipping away at are:

- Updating Howard's Bridge (across from the White Oak Pavilion)
- Installing paper towel dispensers and hand sanitizer holders in the pavilion area
- Cleaning and organizing the barn
- Removing a large chunk of scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) in the Arboretum
- Hand pulling Maltese starthistle (*Centaurea melitensis*) in the Bonneville Power Administration corridor
- Servicing a number of machines used on site



Gerry,  
*Arboretum turtle extraordinaire*

Most of the projects wouldn't have been accomplished if it hadn't been for the overwhelming support received from: Arboretum members, park users, our volunteers (who came out and did independent work on site), my coworkers, and of course Gerry (for holding my hand through it all).

Lastly, with spring having transitioned into summer, I'm not sure if I would have had it any different, and I'm thrilled to see what the next season has in store. 🍂



## Fill up your car, fill up your belly and fulfill a mission!

Through Sequential Driving Change Donation you support Mount Pisgah Arboretum. Thanks to the generosity and environmental consciousness of the folks at SeSequential, 5 cents per gallon and 5 percent of your in-store purchases will go to supporting Mount Pisgah Arboretum's mission *to engage people with nature through interactive learning and stewardship when you tell them you want to support the Arboretum with your purchases.*

# Contributions

Apr. 21, 2020 to June 22, 2020

## New Members

Alison Brown  
Alissa Hansen  
Amelia Wack  
Amy Hart  
Amy Strieter  
Andrew Tessandori  
Annie Dochnahl

Bridget Webb  
Christal Miller  
Christina Hamaker  
Coleen Miller  
Colleen McCaffrey  
Cynthia Orlando  
Cynthia Winkler  
Dawn Cianciulli

Deborah Toobert  
& John Koenig  
Denise Eckstine  
Diana Moncada  
Emma Moon  
Eric Stanley  
Hal Hurst  
Heather  
Jacque Klas  
Janet Kriz  
Jet Eccleston  
John Altshuler

Kathryn Randall  
Kim Munn  
Kristy Keel  
Krystal Elms  
Kylie Hendrickson  
Libby Head  
Linda & Bob Fleming  
Maria Gamez  
Mary Ann Devine  
Mary Morin  
Mary-Anne Linden  
Melanie Harvey

Nadar Steinberg  
Nancy Forrest  
Nancy Heckel  
Nancy McCollum  
Rebecca Crowe  
Ron Unger  
Sara Chesluk  
Shayne Scout  
Susan Carkin  
Tina Tague  
Unwind Inc.



## General Contributions & Gift Memberships

### Education Program

Cheryl Flavin  
Gayle Smith  
Rob & Erla King  
Carol Carver

### Interpretive Program

Deborah Toobert & John Koenig

### Sponsored Family Memberships

Anonymous Donor

Andrea Plesnarski  
Andrew McIvor  
Barbara Sandefur  
Birgit & Michael Musheno  
Charlotte & Bryan Kreitlow  
Charlotte Helmer  
Christine Seifert  
Danielle Wenke  
Dave Ulrich  
Dottie & Jim Dougher  
Jacque Travis & Mark Siemens  
Jamie Fraser

John O'Donnell  
John Votipka  
Judy Evitt  
Karen & Phillip Anderson  
Karen Fincken  
Kathellen Johnson  
Malika Fitch  
Margaret & Dale McBride  
Meer Deiters & Thomas Faxon  
Melissa Rosin  
N Dean DeHeer  
Pam & Andrew Sheridan

Pam Farmer  
Pam Love & George Koris  
Randall McGowan  
& Rachel Foster  
Riccie Shipley  
Rob & Janet Barnes  
Robert Davis  
Robert J. Cummings  
Robin & David Tiedeman  
Sue Wineland  
Tim & Linda King  
Tony Dandurand

## Commemorations

In Honor of Diane Moore - Robert Moore  
In Honor of Emerson Malone - Chelsea Hall

In Memory of Dick Fanning - Jennifer Rowan-Henry  
In Memory of Gretchen Matsuoka - Gary & Kate Herse

A special thanks to  
Evergreen Members &  
Renewing Members!  
Thanks for keeping the  
boat afloat.



## Business Members

Coast Fork Farm Stand, Dwyer Williams Cherkoss Attorneys, PC  
Emerald Empire Kiwanis, Eugene True Value Hardware, KLCC  
Landarc Landscaping & Design, Morning Glory Cafe  
Mountain Rose Herbs, Rainscapes, Right at Home In-Home Care  
Sapient Private Wealth Mgmt., Scherer Investment Co.  
Sea Reach, Ltd., Sperry Tree Care Co.,  
Sundance Natural Foods, Inc., Unwind Inc.





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*Discover Your Place  
 in Nature*

Yes, I want to support the Arboretum!

### Membership Dues

- Student/Senior/Guide \$40
- Individual \$50
- Family \$60
- Sponsor \$75
- Supporting \$100
- Sustaining \$250
- Business \$100-\$1,000 - call!

### Sponsor Kids' Nature Field Trips!

Each year, 3,000 school children discover nature on our volunteer led tours. Many schools can no longer afford these field trips and they depend on scholarships from people like you. A \$10 donation to Discovery Tours brings out one child. \$250 can bring out a whole classroom!

### Other Contributions

- Sponsor a Family Membership \$60
- Unrestricted \_\_\_\_\_
- Interpretive Program \_\_\_\_\_
- Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_
- "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person receiving tribute \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your membership and/or contributions to:

Mount Pisgah Arboretum  
 34901 Frank Parrish Road • Eugene, OR 97405  
*All contributions and dues are tax-deductible. IRS #23-7345974*

I want to help children discover nature  
 with a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = Total Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep my donation anonymous.