



PO Box 604
Dallas OR 97338

Arboretum Center
631 Park Street
Dallas, OR 97338
(503-623-4845)

www.delberthunterarboretum.org

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Volunteers Needed!!

No experience
needed. We will train.

Every Tuesday
From 9:00 AM to Noon

Coffee and snack time
provided

It's not just about pulling
weeds!

Opportunities abound for
all

**Volunteers will be taking
time off during
December and early
January. Plan to join us
on Tuesdays in February**

**Our annual meeting will
be December 11, at 11
AM, followed by a
potluck. All members
are invited and welcome
at both.**

DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM and Botanic Garden

Volume 23, Number 2

Fall, 2018



western leucothoe, Photo: Pat Breen, Oregon State University

UPPER RHODODENDRON GARDEN UPDATE

It has been a slow year in the upper rhododendron garden near the front entrance. Volunteer hours in this area were low because of family commitments and yellow jacket nest(s)! Besides the usual weeding and pruning, top soil and wood chips were spread this fall. Our work to remove invasive ivy, vinca, and arum has been very successful. A few plants return each year, however, diligent monitoring and removal keeps the invasives in check.

You may also have noticed the activity on the entry paths. After years of unsuccessful plantings in the small triangular bed, we decided to combine the two front beds. The larger area gives us more room for future plantings. Eventually the lawn area will transition to a native flower bed. Combining the beds appeared to be moving a few edging rocks around and blossomed into a huge pile of rocks to reuse. Some will be used to widen the entry path, some to terrace the hillside into the flume and others to add natural elements to the area. We took advantage of the fall to transplant starts of the medium-sized shrub, western leucothoe, which surrounded the large rock in the center bed. It is an attractive and vigorous shrub that spreads via rhizomes, which

are underground stems. We looked at several ways to contain it in the center bed but all were too costly or time consuming. Instead we have transplanted starts to the back of the garden area where its natural spreading habit can be unleashed to enjoy its beauty, to stabilize soils and to discourage other undesirable plants.

Western leucothoe, *Leucothoe davisiae*, is an evergreen shrub with glossy green leaves that grows 1 - 5 feet tall. In Hunter Arboretum it usually tops out at about 3 feet. This plant is poisonous. Its white urn-shaped flowers appear in clusters in May. Leucothoe prefers part shade and moist acidic soils. Native to the High Sierra Nevada and Warner Mountains of California and the Klamath Ranges of southwestern Oregon and northwestern California it has several common names including Sierra laurel, mountain laurel and black laurel. However, it is not a laurel and it is not related to the other mountain laurels, *Kalmia latifolia* (eastern U.S. native) and *Sophora secundiflora* (Texas native).

By Kimber Jagodnik



How Contributions Are Used

Our donors and volunteers make a substantial contribution to what we are able to accomplish in maintaining and improving the Arboretum. We appreciate our current volunteers and always welcome new volunteers whether they are able to help out every week or just when they are able to fit it in their schedule. Just as important, the recurring and one-time donations we receive provide for the materials needed for tasks throughout the Arboretum as well as the ability to purchase and maintain equipment we use for various activities.

Without donations we would not be able to purchase the chips and other products we routinely put down on the trails to provide a cushioned walking surface. In the last few

years some of the materials we've used for this purpose have become unavailable. We have tried several different products and are continuing to do additional research to find the best product we can obtain while keeping it affordable. After using chipped material from arborist work on the trails for a while, we've come to the conclusion that it is better used under trees as natural mulch instead of on the trails as it is too coarse and variable to use as a reliable walking surface. If you spend much time on the trails, you'll likely notice a change going forward.

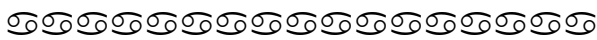
We have numerous pieces of equipment that make the tasks in the Arboretum easier, quicker and/or more efficient. In addition to maintaining a supply of hand tools such as wheel barrows, rakes, shovels, and various pruning tools, we also maintain powered equipment including string trimmers, push mowers, and chain saws. There are also several large pieces of equipment that require annual maintenance and occasional repairs including a small tractor for moving and loading materials quickly as well as mowing, a riding mower that is also occasionally enlisted to haul a cart with materials, and a golf cart which also hauls a cart with materials, collecting trash and plant debris each week, and transporting tools, sprinklers and hoses as needed.

Our irrigation system, and the sprinklers used with it, occasionally require repairs as parts wear out or break. We've had to make several repairs this year to the sprinkler lines for various reasons. Additionally, in the last year we have been overhauling the sprinklers used with this system. Donations help with accomplishing these tasks, as well as purchasing supplies for the building, bench and kiosk painting, maintenance and repairs. As we plant new specimens often there is a sign made and installed with them. Plant signs occasionally require repair or replacement as well. One of the larger expenses is the arborist work that we have done each year. The

arborist crew spends an entire day removing dead or dying trees and trimming limbs the volunteers can't reach. We do a walk-through beforehand to prioritize the most important needs for that year, as there is always more to do than there is time.

Volunteers in the Arboretum come from a variety of backgrounds and their skills help to reduce the costs in various areas in numerous ways, but there are some tasks that require special knowledge or tools that we don't have access to, so that work is contracted out. A few examples are: monthly maintenance of the pond, paving stone entrance done by Stone Solid, help we received from Tom Balcomb when replacing the front deck with Trex and help from Ole Bergman with re-grading part of the trail. We often receive a discount on these goods and services which definitely helps and is appreciated. Donations play a big part in keeping the Arboretum going and the volunteers, as well as visitors, appreciate everything that goes into keeping our Arboretum beautiful. Thank you for contributing!

By Cindy Smerdon and Nancy Heuler



Black Cottonwood

Right Tree – Wrong Place



BLACK COTTONWOOD

Populus trichocarpa Torrey and Gray

Paul Landacre

Our black cottonwood trees are wonderful, and we have many of them in Hunter Arboretum, especially along the bank of Rickreall Creek. But now this native tree has invaded our small wetland, where we don't want it. Black

cottonwood can grow to 200 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet in diameter, and it uses a lot of water. It will be much too large. The invasion started 5 or 6 years ago, and may be 30 to 40 individual trees, or it may be one individual that has formed a colony by sprouting from roots. Cottonwoods like to form deep roots, but may have been inhibited by the hard clay layers under the wetland, which allow it to hold water.

Black cottonwood is the tallest and fastest growing broadleaf tree indigenous to the western U.S. It was used to create the first forest plantations in Oregon along the Willamette River. The wood is used to make crates, pallets, moldings to be painted, toys and paper pulp. It is also known as western balsam poplar, because of the sweet smelling, golden orange resin which fills the buds. The Salish tribe used the resin to waterproof boxes and baskets. The Okanogan tribe used the resin to fix arrowheads onto shafts and to make paint. Bees collect the resin, which is an anti-infectant, for their hives and seal intruders (such as mice) in the resin, to prevent decay and protect the hive.

Black cottonwood is found from Alaska to Baja California. In Oregon it is found from sea level up to 4500 feet in elevation. It is often found along creeks and rivers. It can tolerate seasonal winter wet soil, but needs good drainage. The largest black cottonwood in Oregon is located in Willamette Mission State Park, about 28 road miles north of Dallas, via Hwy. 221 through West Salem and across the Willamette on the Wheatland Ferry. This tree is about 270 years old, 155 feet tall, and 26 feet in circumference.

Along with other members of the willow family of plants (*Salicaceae*), this tree sprouts readily from cuttings (pieces of stems with leaves). The Arboretum Friends may have quite a challenge to remove the cottonwoods, and all the roots, from the wetland. We are currently researching the correct strategy to remove the cottonwoods.

By Pam Wetzel



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

Albert Camus



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**DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM
AND BOTANIC GARDEN – DONATION**
The Arboretum is completely funded by donations.

() FRIENDS OF THE ARBORETUM FUND: All donations to the Friends of the Arboretum are used for current activities. Membership in the Friends is renewed annually and includes voting rights and periodic newsletters. All donations are tax deductible.

Amount: \$ _____

() TRUST FUND OF THE ARBORETUM: A financial endowment ensuring the future.

Amount:

() MEMORIAL GIFT: Friends Fund: \$ _____ Trust Fund: \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

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