

DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM and Botanic Garden

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PO Box 604
Dallas OR 97338

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

www.delberthunterarboretum.org

Like us on Facebook

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

The arboretum grounds
are open during daylight
hours.

**Delbert Hunter
Arboretum is entirely
maintained by
volunteers and
supported by your
contributions.**



Photo: Cindy Smerdon

Lewisia Bed Remodel

Visitors to the Arboretum may have noticed the rock garden in the meadow section with newly-planted succulents. These alpine plants are of several different species belonging to the *Lewisia* genus, also called bitterroot. *Lewisia* is named after Meriwether Lewis. When Lewis and Clark came to the Northwest, they found the local tribes using the root as food. It can be bitter if harvested in the wrong season; hence the name bitterroot. In a month or two, the plants will start producing showy sprays of six-petaled blooms in shades of pink, white, purple, salmon and yellow and may continue to bloom sporadically throughout the year. The rock garden is named after the Arboretum's first curator, Viola Sobolik. (Her daughter, Nancy Lenon, was also a curator until her passing last year.)

Lewisias are found only in the mountains of Western North America, preferring dry gravelly slopes and cliff faces, such as those found in the mid to high elevations of the Eastern Cascades. Their primary growing requirements are perfect sharp drainage and protection of their crowns from rot and fungal disease. Last year, Arboretum volunteers dug out

most of the soil from the rock garden and installed a drainpipe underneath it. Then it was filled with part compost and part pumice, donated by Darryl's Nursery, who also donated the plants. After planting, a few inches of pumice and pea gravel were added to keep the crowns dry and avoid rot. We're also experimenting with monthly deer sprays to discourage munching.

Though *Lewisias* will grow in full sun where summers are cool, they appreciate some afternoon shade where summers are hot. Planting against large rocks helps keep the roots cool in summer. They can use occasional summer water in hot weather, but let them dry out between waterings as overwatering will lead to root rot. Also, planting on a slope helps rain run off the rosettes so it doesn't collect on the plant. In fact, most *Lewisias* will live longer if protected from our Western Oregon winter rains and hail, though that isn't always possible unless they are covered.

Aside from a rock garden, *Lewisias* also can be grown in shallow containers or in crevices of north to northwest facing rock walls. If in a pot, protect the pot under the eaves in winter to keep it drier and protect it from hail damage. Occasionally sprinkle it with one-half strength of a long-acting all-purpose fertilizer. If planting in a rock wall crevice, use a gravel base that will compact well enough to stay put.

Last spring, Darryl's Nursery kindly donated several different species of *Lewisia* to the Arboretum garden. *Lewisia* species come in different forms and habits. The species most commonly found in local nurseries are *Lewisia cotyledon* (cliff maids) and various hybrids. These grow as rosettes, have thick spoon-shaped leaves and keep their leaves throughout the year. The rosettes gradually enlarge in diameter as do other rosette-type succulents. *L. columbiana* also keeps its leaves but the leaves are narrower. *L. columbiana* var.

rupicola also grows in the Coast Range as well as other mountain ranges. Several other species have long narrow leaves. Some, such as *Lewisia rediviva*, *L. nevadadensis* and *L. oppositifolia*, go summer dormant. The summer dormant species should be kept dry in both winter and summer. Native plant nurseries and specialty growers may carry some of the more unusual species. (Needless to say, one should never take species from the wild.) In addition to *Lewisia*, volunteers have added a commonly available native trailing succulent, *Sedum spathulifolium* 'Cape Blanco' (Cape Blanco stonecrop), to the rock crevice edges of the garden. We'll be watching to see how last year's improvement project in the Viola Sobolik *Lewisia* garden helps the new plants to flourish in the years to come.

By Nancy Heuler



Photo: Darryll Combs

**Our Hoped-for Result:
Lewisia in Full Bloom**

Arboretum Technology

Effective April 2018, the www.DelberHunterArboretum.org web site will take on a new look and some additional features. Two primary features available are: 1) an Event Calendar and 2) Volunteer Hours. The Volunteer Hours will allow volunteers to enter the time worked

for the arboretum. This will provide the board an accurate number of hours worked by category or total hours.

A drone has been made available to the arboretum that will allow videos of the arboretum so visitors to the website can see an overhead view of the arboretum. The Friends of the Arboretum can quickly see areas that need work. As more videos are made available, you will see the growth and improvements to the arboretum over time. The videos will be posted on the website.

By Rich Rohde



Photo: Rich Rohde

Arboretum from the air: Trail junction near conifer sign.

Assessing Winter Tree Damage.

Spring is here, and we should be through the worst of the weather that damages trees. It's time to look and see what should be done with those that were damaged.

Is the tree generally healthy, other than storm damage?

Are major limbs broken? Loss of larger limbs can impede recovery.

Has the leader been lost? Many trees, including most conifers have a main upward-trending branch important to upward growth and desirable appearance.

Is at least 50% of the tree's crown or branches still intact? If it is less than 50%, it may not be able to sustain itself.

How big are the wounds? The larger the wounds, the less likely the tree will not be able to seal off the damage.

Are there remaining branches that can form a new branch structure?

Is the tree the right species for the location?

After assessing the damage, if you don't feel comfortable doing the necessary pruning to help the tree heal, consult a local professional for advice and any work you cannot do yourself.

All questions courtesy of Oregon State Extension.

Some Noticeable Changes

In recent weeks we've made two changes to the trails in the arboretum.

We had a contractor rebuild the north end of the flume trail, where the wooden walkway was removed last year. By the time you read this it may blend right in with the existing trails.

The same contractor also removed some of the trail dressing at the front entrance as we attempt to correct the drainage immediately inside the entrance. Our first idea was not feasible, so we are looking at alternatives.



*Of all the paths you take in life,
make sure a few of them are dirt.*

Anonymous



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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: _____

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“Hunter Arboretum” PO Box 604, Dallas OR 97338-0604
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Please remember the arboretum in your Wills and Trusts.