



# DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM and Botanic Garden

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Fall, 2017

PO Box 604  
Dallas OR 97338

Arboretum Center  
631 Park Street  
Dallas, OR 97338  
(503-623-7359)

[www.delberthunterarboretum.org](http://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.

**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 12, at 11  
AM, followed by a  
potluck. All members  
are invited and welcome  
at both.**

## Licorice Fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*)



This Northwest native is a sweetheart of a fern! Or should we say "sweet-foot" as the Latin name implies? *Polypodium* literally means 'many footed' (or many stems) in Latin, and *glycyrrhiza* refers to the sugary sweetness of the roots (rhizomes). Individual fronds emerge from the rhizomes, as opposed to the entire plant arising from a central clump, as most other ferns do. The rhizome is licorice-flavored and can be peeled and chewed, or brewed as tea. Sweeter than cane sugar, it was valued not only for its taste by coastal indigenous peoples

(from Alaska to N. California), it was a treatment for colds and sore throat or an additive to sweeten more bitter herbal mixtures. It is still used today, but with moderation, as it can diminish the body's vitamin B levels.

Licorice fern is green during mild winters when most other temperate plants are dormant, and is so prevalent that it is considered one of the icons of the Pacific Northwest. The graceful fronds are summer deciduous, browning and falling away in hot dry weather, with new growth returning in the wet seasons. It typically sprouts from the thick moss growing on trees or downed logs, from damp rock crevices, or moist soil; it is a lover of cool dappled shade. Although it can grow on other tree species, it thrives best on mossy Bigleaf maples. The rhizomes of the plant creep along under the moss, attached with tiny rootlets. It is not parasitizing the tree, merely using the moss as a way to anchor itself. It is readily identified when seen growing on trees, but there are a few other features that help identify this fern. Two rows of sori (spore producing organs) are present on the underside of the leaflets. The base of each leaflet attaches directly to the mid-rib of the frond and are arranged in slightly staggered opposite pairs



as they make their way up the stem. Each leaflet is tapered to a point, rather than blunted, and the light green fronds are pliable and delicate rather than stiff or leathery. It is not the easiest fern to grow at home, but if you're up for a challenge, propagation materials and information can be found on the internet; use the species name *Polypodium glycyrrhiza* in your search.

*Bj Merriman – Photo credit: Kate Calvert*

## **MONDAY NIGHT VOLUNTEERS**

Evening visitors to the arboretum saw some volunteers working this past summer. For the first time volunteers gathered one evening a month in June, July, August and September. The second Monday of each month saw volunteers working from 6 to 8 p.m. Five new faces joined our regular volunteers in spreading chips, weeding, clearing around benches, clearing dead brush, caging newly planted trees, and pruning.

Over the course of the summer, the evening volunteers completed 94 hours of work. The additional help was much needed as the heavy and continuous spring rains delayed many spring tasks. It seemed like we would never catch up. Focus was placed on the meadow area where we cleaned and mulched circles around the trees with bark chips to reduce weeding, retain moisture, cool the roots during the hot summers and provide nutrients to the trees as the chips decompose. Improvements in the health of the fir and pine rows we tended showed by summer's end with less stress and fewer brown and dropped needles. Thank you especially to our new volunteers.

This family friendly event was publicized in the Itemizer, posted at the arboretum entrances, our website and on Facebook. Watch for this opportunity to return in 2018.

*Kimber Jagodnik*

## **THANK YOU DONORS**

Thank you to all of our donors! The Arboretum is completely maintained by volunteers and funded by your donations. Donations received so far in 2017 are \$4623. Besides regular equipment maintenance and operating expenses, these funds have been used for purchasing and planting native trees, shrubs, bulbs, cleaning and maintaining the pond, trail dressing, new deck railings at the Arboretum Center, repairing plant signs, and improving drainage and completely replanting the Lewisia Garden.

As you walk the paths of the arboretum, you will see identification markers on many trees, shrubs and flowers. These often have the name of a loved one and the name of those who sponsored the memorial tribute. Since the opening of the Arboretum, memorial donations have been a means of supporting the continuing care and development of our space. As a result the native plant collection has grown to over 1,000 species. To discuss a memorial donation, you may call the Arboretum at 503 623-7359 or write to us at PO Box 604 in Dallas.

Whether you give of your time, money or both, your participation is vital and very greatly appreciated. We are proud to maintain this lovely space for our community. A donation form is available on the last page of this newsletter.

*Carol Mannen and Jill Washburn*

## **A TRIBUTE TO NANCY LENON**

Our curator of plants and active board member for the past 15 years, Nancy Lenon, passed away on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> this year. Nancy followed in the footsteps of both parents, Tony and Viola Sobolik, who were part of the founding group of Dallas citizens working with Delbert Hunter to

establish a native Oregon plant botanical garden. Nancy's mother, Vi Sobolik, served as the first curator, establishing a detailed listing of native Oregon plants for our collection. It was of great importance to Nancy to continue to add to that collection. Nancy had a love for all of nature which she so generously shared. She was responsible for building and caring for the Western Bluebird houses in the meadow. It was with great pleasure that she discovered Bluebird eggs within these nests each spring. Nancy also worked closely with the Grand Ronde tribal representatives to gather and provide educational information now displayed on a kiosk at the River Road entrance to the park.

Nancy's beauty was reflected in the caring that she lovingly gave to all living beings, and in her passion for nature. She endured hardships and sadness that would cripple or embitter the hardest of people, and yet she never quit. She continued her fight to make this world a better place.

It is with a great deal of sadness and loss that we bid goodbye to a woman who contributed endless hours of time and energy to continuing to build and care for the Delbert Hunter Arboretum.

*Carol Mannen*

## **ANNUAL MEETING INVITATION**

Our annual meeting for members will be on Tuesday December 12 at 11:00 a.m. A potluck lunch will follow. All members are invited to attend one or both. Members are those that have donated funds within the last year. Check your address label for your membership expiration date. Thank you for your support.

*Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.* Henry David Thoreau

## **A CHALLENGE**

Can you find the spots in the arboretum in the following pictures? Tell us on Facebook.



**Sprouting log** *Kate Calvert*



**Leaves and water** *Bj Merriman*

*No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face."* John Donne



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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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

**“HUNTER ARBORETUM”, PO Box 604, DALLAS OR 97338-0604  
A 501(c)3 organization.**

**Please remember the Arboretum in your Wills and Trusts.**