



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

SEE PAGE 2 for info
about joining our
Annual Meeting
December 15, 2020,
via ZOOM.

The arboretum grounds
are open during daylight
hours.

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

Seen in the arboretum

Visit the arboretum almost any time of day and you are likely to see wild animals; deer, squirrels, and birds. One that you might see if you're lucky and patient, is the Green Heron which lives around wooded ponds, marshes, rivers, reservoirs, and estuaries.

Compared with most herons, Green Herons are short and stocky, with relatively short legs and thick necks that are often drawn up against their bodies. They have broad, rounded wings and a long, dagger like bill. They sometimes raise their crown feathers into a short crest.



Photo: In Hunter Arboretum by Brad Washburn

Green Herons stand motionless at the water's edge as they hunt for fish and amphibians. They typically stand on vegetation or solid ground, and they don't wade as often as larger herons (Blue Herons). Green herons eat fish, including ornamental species from home ponds, as well as other small, aquatic and terrestrial creatures.

Each breeding season, the male selects a secluded site within his territory, usually in a large fork of a tree or bush, with foliage to conceal the nest. The nest is usually on or over the water, but may be up to a half-mile away. It may be anywhere from ground level to 30 feet off the ground.

They often nest solitarily, although they may join colonies with

From a distance Green Herons look dark, but in better light they are deep green on the back with a rich chestnut breast and neck. The wings are dark gray. Juveniles are browner, with pale streaking on the neck and spotted wings.

other Green Herons or with other species. They defend breeding areas from each other and from birds like crows that prey on their nests. Other predators include snakes and raccoons. Both the male and female brood and feed the chicks, which may stay with their parents for more than a month after leaving the nest, as they learn to forage. Green Herons are very protective of their feeding areas, driving other birds away when they get too close.

In the past, people hunted Green Herons for food and controlled their numbers near fish hatcheries, where the herons were perceived as a threat to the fish. Today, their biggest threat is probably the increasing loss of their habitat.

Contributed by Sue Rohde

You are invited to attend the Annual December Meeting via ZOOM

Our annual potluck meeting has succumbed to the pandemic. Each year in December we hold an annual meeting. Everyone who is currently a donor to the arboretum may raise questions or concerns at this meeting. During this pandemic we are not able to hold the meeting in our building, nor offer a potluck Holiday Luncheon as we usually do. This year we are going to hold a ZOOM meeting for everyone involved. If you'd like to join us, email the arboretum (hunterarboretum@gmail.com) for the ID and passcode for the meeting. We look forward to your participation.

Maintaining the Arboretum During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Arboretum volunteers continued their responsibilities during the pandemic. We have observed social distancing and wear masks. We met out of doors during moderate climate, both under the trees and in a park shelter; Now that the weather is changing we

meet via Zoom from homes. Volunteer work parties continue on Tuesdays.



Photo: Nancy Heuler

KEEPING UP THE TRAILS

A prominent, but often little-noticed, feature of the arboretum is the trails which make everything accessible. The arboretum has more than a mile of trails, with slightly more in the wooded, original section (3000 feet) than the more open, western section (2550 feet), feet of trail. Necessary work on the trails has changed over the years as the availability of trail dressing material has changed. Every section of trail receives attention as needed, with nearly every section having a complete refurbishment every two to three years. Current cost of the dressing for all the trails runs \$3000, one of our highest recurring expenses. On average we spend 10 maintenance days per year on the trails. A few short sections of trail have a rock surface to limit erosion and mud during the winter months.

Trails in the original section of the Arboretum rarely have weed issues due to the shade in this area. The main task in this section is applying new trail dressing on the surface, leaf removal and minor repairs. Currently

there are a couple low areas with poor drainage, including in the entry before you reach the pond. We continue to test and experiment with methods to improve drainage.

The western section of the Arboretum is mainly an unshaded area, ideal weed and grass habitat. Community organizations volunteer to help us weed these trails but this is very labor intensive. We have considered various other options. Herbicides would likely work well, but they do not meet our environmental ethics to minimize pollution. We considered converting this section to rock trails, but this would have been expensive to properly build and would have been harder on the joggers and walkers who enjoy these trails. We prefer to continue to use trail dressing to maintain the same aesthetics and usability of the trails you have enjoyed in the past.

Finally, this summer we tried using 2 different types of roto tillers to redo the most weeded trails. First, we rented a standalone tracked roto tiller which cleared 180 feet of trail in 10-20 minutes. A crew of 8 volunteers raked out as much weed as we could over a 2.5-hour period. This worked very well.

Then we had a volunteer bring in a tractor with a roto-tiller attached. In 20-30 minutes, this cleared 600 feet of trail. A crew of 7-8 volunteers removed weeds, brought in and spread fresh trail dressing over a 3-hour period. We used a lawn roller to compact the dirt before and after applying the trail dressing. This was such a successful method we are considering purchasing a roto-tiller to attach to our tractor "Helen".

Our experimentation did not stop here. We researched how to best use forest products

on trails, which suggested using saw dust along with the trail dressing to help with weed suppression. Three areas have experiments underway. One area is forest product only, another has sawdust on top of the forest product and a third has the sawdust under the forest product. We are looking forward to see if this improves weed suppression. Unfortunately, no one solution will likely work every place in the Arboretum, since there are different types of weeds, sunlight and drainage throughout the Arboretum.

We hope to be able to rototill 700-800 feet of trail in the western section per year and spread trail dressing on another 800-1000 feet of trail in the original section per year.

Submitted by Don Winterstein

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2020 Fiscal Year Highlights (7/1/19 – 6/30/20)	Amount
Remaining cash from 2019 FY	\$7,711
Cash Donations	\$8,697
Donations to Trust	\$1,450
Dividends and Interest removed from Trust	\$4,400
Transferred to Trust	(\$2,615)
Expenses for the year	(\$14,789)
Remaining cash end of 2020 FY	\$4,854

2020 Fiscal Year Expenses (7/1/19-6/30/20)	Amount
Arborist	(\$4,590)
Equipment Maintenance and Repair	(\$3,084)
Pond Maintenance	(\$1,390)
Trail Dressing	(\$1,153)
Other combined expenses	(\$4,572)

Donations to the arboretum have declined for the past few years. We are managing to pay our bills and have not deferred maintenance or projects because of a lack of funds. However, we have had to make up a shortfall in donations from our trust fund each quarter. Thus, the Trust Fund is not growing, and not even staying ahead of inflation. We will appreciate any gift you can make this year to help us maintain our financial stability.



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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