



Delbert Hunter Arboretum & Botanic Garden

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Autumn, 2023

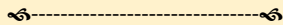
Special edition celebrating

Delbert Hunter Arboretum's 40th Anniversary

Delbert's dream began to take shape back in the 1970's, but it was in 1983 that we had a name as a non-profit organization. His daughter, our curator, Sue Rohde, wrote a timeline of our history for our readers to enjoy.

WELCOME

The trails await you!
Open daylight hours.
Dogs on leashes are welcome!



Visitor Center Hours

631 Park Street
Dallas, Oregon

The building is open from
9 am – Noon, Tuesdays
March – November

Volunteers Wanted

Tuesday mornings starting
at 9 am. No experience is
needed ~ tools are provided.

Contact Information

PO Box 604
Dallas, OR 97338
Message phone: 503 623-7359
(phone messages are checked weekly)
hunterarboretum@outlook.com

Website

www.delberthunterarboretum.org

Visit Us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/DelbertHunter
ArboretumandBotanicGarden

We are a 501(c)3 Non-profit Org

HISTORY OF DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

1970's City of Dallas and the Park District set aside an undeveloped tract of land of about 4 acres at the south end of the Dallas City Park for the purpose of preservation, propagation, and display of native Oregon plants.

1978 The city dedicated this undeveloped tract of land as an Arboretum of native Oregon plants in honor of Delbert Hunter, a Park Board member since its inception and its chairman for 27 years. Brush was cleared, major trails were laid out and an irrigation system installed. Native plants were donated. An entrance area was planted with native azaleas and rhododendrons, which were grown from cuttings.



All of this was done through donations and volunteer labor.



"To plant seeds is to believe in tomorrow" – Lady Bird Johnson



1983 - Formed organization "Friends of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden", incorporated as a nonprofit tax exempt organization created for the purpose of providing contributions of labor and funds with which to develop the area. The buildings were built with volunteer labor and donations. The tractor work used to build and develop the trails were done through donations and volunteer labor. The "Friends" assumed the responsibility of planning and maintaining the Arboretum as

Polk County Itemizer-Observer • July 28, 2010

Dallas Summerfest 21C

Arboretum tours offered during Summerfest

If the crowds at Summerfest get to be too much, take a break with a tour of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum at Dallas City Park.

Arboretum volunteers will offer free guided tours of the site on Sunday, Aug. 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The arboretum was created by its namesake in 1983. It spans about 7½ acres and features a mix of planted evergreens, maples, lupine, larkspur and azaleas.

"Dad's whole idea with the arboretum was to have a place to showcase Oregon native plants," said Sue Rohde, Hunter's daughter. "When he was still alive, he was giving tours. And that's what we've been trying to do."

The feature has been maintained and cared for by a loyal contingent of volunteers. Funding comes strictly from donations.

No appointments are necessary for the tours. Just show up at the park's office and an available volunteer will lead a walk through the arboretum.

For those with mobility problems, participants can get a tour via golf cart.

One new feature is a kiosk created in conjunction with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, which will discuss native plants, their uses among the tribes and the history of the area's local Indians.

The annual tour is one of the biggest events hosted by the arboretum each year.

Hunter Arboretum volunteers will host a booth on the Polk County Courthouse lawn during Summerfest to provide information and recruit new, and badly needed, volunteers.

For more information, contact Sue Rohde at 503-623-7359.



Guided tours of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum in Dallas City Park will be conducted Sunday, Aug. 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The tours of the spectacular native plant areas and other features in the arboretum have been an annual tradition for many years.



well as developing its potential as a resource for educational recreation in the community. But development was soon hampered by lack of labor and funds

Today, 40 years after its dedication, the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden has grown to approximately 8 acres. The Friends and volunteers continue to amass more plant species and maintain them. The arboretum is available for school and community groups as an educational venue and also a place where community groups can arrange to volunteer as a group to work on particular projects.

The arboretum is maintained solely by volunteers and relies on donations to keep the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden available for your enjoyment. — Sue Rohde, Curator of DHA

"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." — **Audrey Hepburn**

Please support us by:

- Volunteering (no experience needed)
- Supporting our special activities with donations and/or labor
- Volunteer your expertise for special projects
- Contribute to our funds so that we can continue to purchase plants, tools, and supplies
- Contribute to special funds; pond maintenance, special plant purchases, doggy bags, or our largest expenses arborist work (\$8000/yr.) and trail dressing (\$3000/yr.)

Thank You!

At it again...

We're still kicking back and having fun greeting people during Art in the Park. Even a couple of deer turned out to high-tail-it through the festivities. They wanted to see what's going on!

We had so much fun hearing stories and answering questions. We reunited with old friends and met some new ones. We were inspired by so many folks interested in growing native plants these days. People

expressed their reasons for growing native trees and flowers for pollinators, and other native wildlife.

Thank you all who stopped by our booth to say hello. You made our day!



*"We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give."*
Winston Churchill



Hey, it's nearly time for our annual hosting of Polk Soil & Water Conservation District Native Plant Sale! Any remaining plants will be sold after the sale (*until cleanup*). For more info and for the online catalog of plants, visit: <https://www.polkswcd.com/plant-sale.html>

**Come Join Delbert Hunter Arboretum for the Annual Fall Native Plant Sale
by Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District!
Pick up your online orders October 13, and 14**



We got our feet wet last year hosting the plant sale right here at the arboretum, and that was enough to learn that we wanted to do it again! It's fun to connect people with plants they will nurture and enjoy in their own yards, especially when everyone involved has a special interest in growing native plants. Now more than ever it's wise to choose plants adapted to our local area; those with disease or drought tolerance; those which support pollinators; plants that serve more than one purpose in our yards, such as for beauty and for berries, or for shade and for fall color. Natives are definitely not boring!

All of the stock sold at the plant sale is locally grown and at wholesale prices.... well, you'll want to see for yourselves! Visit <https://www.polkswcd.com/plant-sale.html>

The Past, the Present, and the Future

It seems appropriate for an anniversary edition to take a look at where we came from, how we've grown, and what our future may look like. As a non-profit organization, our operating budget relies entirely upon donations. With the pandemic, our donations took a plummet. People had so much to deal with, thinking of giving away badly needed funds was not in the playbook at the time. And with rising costs, as the economy catches up, our donation dollars don't go as far as they once did.

But this is true for most, over the past few rugged years. More specifically, our city itself is facing a major budget shortfall in our General Fund. The arboretum recently hosted a meeting with city representatives who gave us a presentation describing why the shortfall exists and what options there are for going forward.

Basically, with the loss of several high-tax-paying corporations, such as Towmotor, Weyerhaeuser, and Praegitzer's, the city's source of revenue has dwindled over the years. The expense of maintaining adequate emergency services for our growing population is not well supported by the current state of the General Fund, and jobs, and services, hang in the balance. While public services have their own small piece of the municipal revenue, the General Fund traditionally takes up the slack; but there are too many other drains on the fund already for this to be sustainable.

There are a few ideas that will bring the General Fund back in line, however there are pros and cons to each of them. From raising taxes to reorganizing our government departments, the options are limited.

One idea is to allow the Parks and Recreation Division to become their own district, thus removing them from General Fund obligations. This may be enough to save jobs and services, and prevent additional cost increases to Dallas residents. The arboretum would then be under the umbrella of Parks and Recreation Division, which would make a few minor changes in the way we work with the city of Dallas, but wouldn't affect our non-profit status or our autonomy.

But don't depend on us for all the facts. For that you'll need to read about it on Dallas' 'Roadshow Presentation'

https://www.dallasor.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city_council/page/6809/roadshow_presentation.pdf

If you have a chance, attend one of the 'Roadshows' planned by the city so you can join the question and answer session. Here is the city calendar: <https://www.dallasor.gov/calendar>

The City Council is giving these roadshows and soliciting input from the public prior to making any decisions to fix the issue. What was most apparent at the Roadshow is that *something must be done* to save the General Fund, jobs, and services, as soon as it is possible. Find out more by visiting the city's website:

<https://www.dallasor.gov/citycouncil/page/creating-sustainable-general-fund>

Dallas City Park and the 'Kids in Parks' Track's Trail Program

The Parks and Recreation Program found a fun and informative way to get kids and adults alike more engaged in discovering what makes our parks and botanical spaces so special. The Delbert Hunter Arboretum has a new kiosk by our building!

We hope families will enjoy following the trail sniffed out by 'Tracks' the cartoon dog, through the City Park to find many different and interesting things. Each brochure describes various activities kids can do and then receive rewards as they track their adventures on www.kidsinparks.com

Like Tracks says, "Grab a brochure and see what we can find outside today."

We hope you'll like the new outdoor activities. You don't even have to be a kid to enjoy them!



Volunteer in the Spotlight – Sue Rohde

One of my favorite tasks as editor is choosing who is going to be the Volunteer in the Spotlight! This time, I chose Sue Rohde, our Curator and long-time friend. Sue, as Delbert Hunter's daughter, is our historian for the arboretum. You've seen her work in this edition! She's also the town historian, having spent many years on the Board of the Polk County Historical Society. Sue has many volunteer interests, but she keeps in shape by working to perfect the front gardens, and anywhere on the grounds, that needs her skilled attention.

She has almost the knowledge of a botanist through her years of studying and gardening experience. Sue is a true asset on our Landscape Committee.

No matter what Sue is doing she's always a gracious person, and a gentle lady. To see her on hands and knees working with our plants, you'd probably not imagine that Sue is a published author, or that she retired from a long and distinguished career as investigator for insurance companies. Sue has traveled the United States from sea to sea, and worked with all kinds of people. Now you probably think all this is enough to say about a person you admire, but nope, there's more! Sue and her husband, Rich, love motorcycles! I mean they really love them. Enough to climb aboard a touring bike and two-wheel it across the U.S. to visit the Sturgis motorcycle rally, more than once. That's a lot of miles and a lot of leather! Of course, Sue loves staying in town too, tending her home and garden with love, patience, and years of devotion. Thank you Sue for your years of love and devotion to the arboretum, and to all of us volunteers as well. 🌿

Here they are! The winners of our 2nd Annual Photo Contest
The theme of the contest was "Things you like about the arboretum".



Kathy Slack – Tree Fungi



Jim Scott – Western Bluebirds



Jim Scott – Varied Thrush



~ *Honorable Mention* ~
Kathy Slack's "Hello Froggy"





Friends of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden – Donation Form

Non-Profit Organization 501(c)3 Taxpayer ID # 93-0843369

All maintenance is done by volunteers and all of our funding comes from donations.

Your tax deductible donation sustains us!

The Delbert Hunter Arboretum Thanks You!

For your convenience, use the QR code to donate. Or fill out and return the form below:

☐ Please accept my donation of \$ _____ for daily expenses of running the arboretum

☐ Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to the Trust Fund – our nest egg for the future

☐ Please accept my donation of \$ _____ as a memorial. Contact us if special arrangements.

We check voice mail weekly: 503 623-7359

Email daily: hunterarboretum@outlook.com

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make Checks Payable to: Delbert Hunter Arboretum

Mail to: Delbert Hunter Arboretum
PO Box 604
Dallas, OR 97338-0604

Revised: 08/06/2023

Friends of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden

Non-Profit Organization 501(c)3 Taxpayer ID # 93-0843369

NEW VOLUNTEER CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please tell us your contact information:

- Home phone _____
- Cell phone _____
- Email _____

We normally meet to work on Tuesdays.

We occasionally work on Saturdays.

Talk to us about *your* availability.

We may be able to flex our schedule.

If you have questions or need special accommodations, please message Cindy, our Volunteer Coordinator.

We check voice mail weekly: 503 623-7359

Email daily: hunterarboretum@outlook.com



P.O. Box 604
Dallas, Oregon 97338-0604

Return Service Requested

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U.S. Postage Paid
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"Little Donation Dino"...
to donate online*



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www.facebook.com/DelbertHunterArboretumandBotanicGarden/

and our web site <http://www.delberthunterarboretum.org/>

Contact us hunterarboretum@outlook.com