



# Delbert Hunter Arboretum & Botanic Garden

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Spring, 2023

## Spring is here!

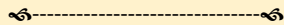
Time to go outside. While you're at it, why not come visit us at the arboretum?

Our volunteers would love to see you, and if you have time, join us for a cup of coffee in the Visitor Center; 10:30 on Tuesday mornings. We can answer questions about native plants or gardening in general. We have a lot of reading materials and some interesting exhibits of natural artifacts as well. Mostly, we'd like to get to know you and hear what you enjoy about the arboretum.



### 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](http://www.delberthunterarboretum.org)

#### Visit Us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/DelbertHunterArboretumandBotanicGarden](https://www.facebook.com/DelbertHunterArboretumandBotanicGarden)

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



We restarted our outdoor work sessions in March. Most of us willingly withstand a bit of rain, but we have had a few days when we had to cancel due to snowy, gusty, cloudbursts; typical tempestuous spring weather. But this is a great time to tackle blackberries all the way to the roots, because there isn't much foliage yet to hide the canes. We're also checking trees for storm damage, replacing plant signage as needed, and cleaning out the bird houses for new tenants. We're planting native plants that were purchased from local growers, to give them the advantage of spring showers and warming soil. Weeding is easiest in spring when the soil is soft. More importantly, pulling the weeds before they make seeds helps tremendously. As you can tell, there's a lot to keep our volunteers busy this time of year!

We weren't idle during the winter months. We've been planning this year's projects and events with collaborators; the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District, the city Parks Division, and the Dallas Community School; and possibly the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. We share the common interest of conserving native species, providing our community with learning opportunities about good environmental stewardship, and of course, also recreation. Please visit our Facebook posts for upcoming events:

[www.facebook.com/DelbertHunterArboretumandBotanicGarden/](https://www.facebook.com/DelbertHunterArboretumandBotanicGarden/)



## "The Meeting Place"

*by local artist*

*Bj Merriman*

Dedicated to the Founders  
and Friends of the  
Delbert Hunter Arboretum

During the worst of the pandemic, our volunteers met outdoors to practice safe distancing. We gathered in a clearing at the arboretum, using this log for a bench with space on the grass for folding chairs.

When we replaced the floor in our Visitor Center last year, we deep cleaned the building. In doing so, we

donated or recycled things we don't use anymore. One item was an old 3'x4' laminated sign board we weren't sure how to dispose of. Rather than throw it away, one of our long-time volunteers, Bj, turned the sign around and painted a picture on the back. Waste not, want not! We're back to meeting indoors now, and the painting hangs in the background, reminding us to be ever grateful and proud of our group for enduring the hard times, and for cherishing the goodness of life. Please come in and see the painting, and then see if you can find our 'meeting place' in the arboretum. The old log is still there and it's a real nice place to sit!

## Volunteer In the Spotlight

**Remembering our Friend, Richard Wolcott**



There might a few volunteer groups around town that didn't know Richard, but not very many. Richard loved people and spent many years volunteering in many capacities in various community organizations. Richard was always ready to help. He spent many years as one of the Friends of

DHA, and in all that time, I for one can honestly say that I never once heard Richard offer a disparaging word. On the contrary, Richard was known by all his friends as a kind and gentle man of many talents. We will miss your warm smile and 'can do' attitude. Whenever I look at our bridges and benches at the arboretum, I think of Richard's handiwork in maintaining them for so many years. We will miss you, Richard, but you remain in our hearts and will always be remembered by your friends at the Delbert Hunter Arboretum.

~ Submitted by Bj Merriman, Editor for DHA

## Delbert Hunter Arboretum Celebrating Our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Please come visit us!*

See our scrapbooks, have a chat and a cup of coffee. Tuesday mornings at 10:30 at the arboretum!

Also, we'll be at 'Art In the Park' again this year, July 30<sup>th</sup>. The winners of our photo contest will have their photos on display!

*See You There!*

## *Did You Know?*

The most common colors of spring-blooming wildflowers is yellow or white. Flies can't see color, but they can see contrast. They are the first pollinators following winter.

The next most common wildflower color is blue to purple. These mid-summer blooms attract bees and other pollinators, who can see color.



## Tips for the Home Gardener

### April Calendar



*Submitted by Sue Rohde, Curator for DH*

As weather and soil conditions permit, this time of year is best to do some gardening tasks in preparation for the growing season. The soil is moist, but not too sodden to be prepared for planting, in the ground or in raised beds.

#### Maintenance and cleanup

- Apply fertilizers, manure or compost to cane and bush berry plants
- Remove last year's old withered foliage from spring-flowering bulbs.
- Remove old brown fronds at the base of ferns to prevent disease and pests. Be careful of new fiddleheads emerging.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above the ground.
- Optimum time to fertilize and de-thatch lawns
- Prune and shape, or thin, spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.

#### Planting and propagation

- Time for planting gladioli, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox and marigolds,
- Start cool weather vegetables such as: Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach and turnips.

#### Pest monitoring and management

- Clean up hiding places for slugs, snails, sow bugs, and other local garden pests
- Monitor strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids
- Remove potential sources for plant disease, by removing weeds near garden
- Manage weeds while they are small

#### Sources:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/monthly-garden-calendars>

## "Dead" Trees Are Actually Full of Life

*Submitted by Pam Wetzel, Co-Secretary for DHA*

Is it possible to have too many snags? This question was asked at a recent meeting at the Arboretum, and I didn't know the answer. I measured and

counted the snags, and we have eleven in the more "cultivated" part of the Arboretum. Then, of course, I researched the topic on the Internet and in some books.

A snag is any dead or dying standing tree. Nineteen species of our birds nest in cavities in trees that they excavate themselves. Twenty-nine species of our birds nest in cavities created by other birds, or created by natural processes of decay. Snags also provide essential habitat requirements for cavity-using amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Snags are used for nesting, shelter and feeding sites. Woodpeckers use dead limbs to drum on to establish territory, call for a mate, and do their courtship dances. Raptors use snags to get a good view of possible prey.

Cavity nesters evolved in unmanaged forest stands where dead and dying trees were common, and therefore evolved to depend on them. Insectivorous birds such as woodpeckers and nuthatches depend heavily on snags as sources of food. These birds are very beneficial in helping to control unwanted insect pests.

Generally, the value of a snag tree increases as its size increases. To maximize the benefit to wildlife, three snags of 12 inches DBH or greater (diameter at breast height) should be available per acre. A minimum of one 15-inch DBH or greater den tree should also remain per acre. Den trees are trees that are living or partially living and possess a cavity large enough to serve as shelter or as a site for birds and mammals to give birth and raise young.

The Arboretum comprises about 7 acres, so our recommended number of snags is 21 snags of 12" DBH or greater, plus 7 den trees of 15" DBH or greater, for a total of 28 snags. Right now, we have two snags of 12" DBH or less, four snags of 13 to 20 inches DBH, four snags of 21 to 34 inches DBH and one snag of 56 inches DBH. Due to its riparian location, the Arboretum's snags provide critical resources to the wildlife of Rickreall Creek.

I conclude that no, we don't have too many snags.

#### Sources:

<https://knowyourforest.org/sites/default/files/documents/Cavity-Nesting%20Birds%20and%20Small%20Woodlands.pdf>  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Fact-Sheets/Snags-for-Wildlife#>:



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## Do you love to take pictures?

DHA is hosting our 2nd Annual Photo Contest.

Theme: "Favorite Things at the Delbert Hunter Arboretum"

Placings: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and an 'honorable mention'.

Winners will have their photos printed in our  
Fall Newsletter and posted to our  
Facebook page and website.

Rules: Contestants may enter up to three photos each.  
The contest begins April 30 and ends June 30, 2023.  
DHA Board of Directors will be the contest judges,  
and winners will be notified by email.

Email your photos to: [hunterarboretum@outlook.com](mailto:hunterarboretum@outlook.com)

