



## WELCOME

Delbert Hunter Arboretum  
is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization

Admission is Free – Open Daily  
During 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



### Contact Information

PO Box 604

Dallas, OR 97338

Message phone: 503 623-7359  
(messages are checked weekly)

### Email

hunterarboretum@outlook.com

### Facebook

www.facebook.com/DelbertHunter  
ArboretumandBotanicGarden

### Website

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

# Delbert Hunter Arboretum & Botanic Garden

Volume 35 - No. 2

Fall, 2025



## A Pond Farewell and New Beginnings

Delbert Hunter, my dad, spent many hours visiting with people, and ponds, to come up with the original design for our pond and waterfall. We had modified the pond in 2003-2004, which was extremely hard for me. So, this year, making the decision to get rid of the pond all together was very difficult.

What to do with the pond has been an ongoing discussion for at least 3 or 4 years. We finally acted on this because the volunteer who was cleaning the pond weekly and adding chemicals when needed could not physically do it anymore. It took her the majority of each Tuesday and she was not available to work on other projects. So, our discussion began again in February of this year. In the meantime, another person took over the task. Our volunteer group is down to about 10 people on a good day, and sometimes only 5 or so show up. Everyone is old and we don't work as fast. Adding a Saturday work day once per month this year has helped us get more done.

### Professional Maintenance Too Expensive:

In 2023, we had an estimate for \$9,200 per year to have the pond professionally maintained, and while we did not get a new estimate this year, the prices have gone up. Monthly pond maintenance without chemicals was \$600 to \$7,200 per year, plus annual draining and cleaning \$2,000.

### Ideas included:

1. Fill in the pond completely, eliminating the waterfall, piping, electrical and rocks, but keep the bridge, leaving a flat place to put in more natives, and make it a meeting place.
2. Fill in most of the pond but keep the waterfall and a small pool.
3. Make the pond shallower or turn it in to a seasonal bog, also removing the waterfall, pipes and pump.
4. Other suggestions of bogs with winding trails and benches were made.



A task force of four, including me, Ken Kentch, Nancy Heuler and Dale Derouin, came up with a couple of designs. The rest of the board members and volunteers chose what they liked best, and added a couple more ideas.

It was finally decided to go with option one, but keep the waterfall structure to plant with sedums and ferns. We chose to fill in the pond to the water level after removing the liner and all the electrical. The big rocks would be reused in the new landscape. This choice was only possible because the city agreed to do the pond emptying, removing of pipes and electrical, and taking out the pond liner and rocks. We will have a dump fee to pay.

#### **What we have paid for so far:**

5.75 hours for conveyor truck (\$160/hr. = \$920)

1 hr. (125/hr.) delivery fee

Sandy loam - conveyed (\$36 yd = \$1,440)

Soil mix - delivered (\$30 yd = \$600)

8 additional large valley boulders (2.36 tons = \$424.80).

The total this far is \$3,509.80 for materials and labor  
(with non-profit discount)

#### **The New Landscaping**

We will be purchasing native plants and a tree to plant this fall and next spring. Even with this expense, this is much cheaper than pond maintenance. When we get the landscaping done, we hope it will be an inviting area to meander through. We hope you will learn to love it as we know our volunteers will.

Sue Rohde, Curator



*Drained Pond*



*Removing soil and rocks*



*Filling with Soil*



The new landscaping area involves adding a little more soil, placement of the mighty boulders, and purchasing new plants. People have asked if we plan to keep the bridge and the answer is yes. The bridge has been a favored feature, and adds structure to the garden.

Both sides of the bridge will be planted with varieties that do well in partial shade. There are plans for a White Alder, Douglas Spirea, various sedums, ferns, some smaller flowering herbaceous perennials, and native bulbs. Some of the plants will go in this fall, but most we'll plant in the spring.



## Going Paperless! - Printed Newsletter Comes to an End

We have good news! The number of our online subscribers has grown. People like the convenience and accessibility of the digital format. We'd like to thank all of you for choosing to go paperless. While saving resources, you're also saving the cost of producing and mailing paper copies, which has become a strain on our nonprofit budget, and our time! Imagine printing, folding, labeling, sorting, and mailing hundreds of newsletters by hand, twice a year. It's time to go digital.

*Don't Forget About Us ...Please Subscribe if You Haven't Already ...*



Scan here or go to <https://www.dallasopen.gov/portal>, scroll down to Delbert Hunter Arboretum, click the button, and follow the prompts. It's a city portal and your information is secure.

Stay informed about news and events at the arboretum. Read about native plants, explore photos and items of interest to viewers. See newsbytes from groups with goals of native plant education and conservation, such as the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Polk Soil & Water Conservation District.

### 'No. Tax Dollars Do Not Support the Arboretum'

City parks are supported by city taxes. But, we are not a city park. We're a nonprofit organization with our own identity. We do not receive any money from the city to help us maintain the arboretum. The labor is done by volunteers. Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden was created nearly half a century ago by a handful of people who loved nature. Keeping it going is important to us. We're committed to the stewardship of Oregon native flora and fauna. It is our mission to provide the community the opportunity to enjoy and learn about native species. Our volunteers do it because it is meaningful to us. We think it's important to preserve space for the native plants which were originally abundant in our landscape.

### Fourth of July Revelers Set Arboretum on Fire



About a quarter of an acre was burned, caused by juveniles playing with fireworks. Neighbors and bystanders spotted the blaze and quickly called for help. Our gratitude goes out to them, and the Dallas Police and Fire Departments, and the Oregon Department of Forestry for their fast response.

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Many thanks to Rich Rohde, our webmaster, for his upgrades to our website, including an informative native plants database and new formatting!

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

### How Do We Pay Our Bills?

Fundraising and donations pay for our operating expenses. Donations to our trust fund earns interest, which we can draw from. We don't take anything from the principle, which is a rule in our bylaws. Our trust fund is part of the Dallas Community Foundation.

By investing in the Foundation, we're supporting local programs and scholarships. The arboretum uses mostly local businesses for supplies and services: Cascade Home Center, L&L Equipment, Marr Bros, Tipp's Copy Center, Itemizer/Observer, Craven-Wood's Insurance, Dallas Post Office, local arborists, native plant growers, and more.

So, in a way, when donors support the arboretum, they also contribute to our local economy. We're not planning on growing a business, but it's our business to grow plants!

### How One Tribe's 'Flower House' is Re-seeding Oregon with Native Plants" - by OregonLive.com

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have a successful program of growing native plants/seed. Some of their seed and plant materials will be sold at SWCD's Native Plant Sale.

Read the article here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ea87zd5>

### 🍁 Are You Looking for Native Plants? 🍁

Polk Soil & Water Conservation Fall Native Plant Sale has over 70 species of plants supplied by local growers, so you'll be getting plants that are acclimated to our area. Prices are very reasonable. Plus, if you help with the plant sale, you'll receive a 25% discount on plant orders, and free lunch.

Do sign up before ordering to get the discount!

Order by October 3<sup>rd</sup>

<https://www.polkswcd.com/native-plant-sale/>



Pick up plants at Hamblin's Nursery  
4550 Kings Valley Hwy  
Dallas, Oregon

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 to 4:00  
Oct 11<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 to 12:00





## Why We Don't Feed Deer

Native plants provide the diet and micro-nutrients deer require. Diverse seasonal forages provide the right nutrients, at the right time. As the season progresses vegetation changes with it, and this is what our native wildlife has adapted to. Nutrient-dense forage flourishes in spring when needs are highest for breeding and storing fat. In winter, reduced activity, thick coats, and stored fat, keeps deer healthy until the life cycle ramps up again in the spring, when abundant forage is renewed.

### Did you Know?

Dallas has an ordinance against feeding wild animals (except small bird feeders - Code 5.386). Where deer are concerned, feeding supplements leads to negative results. By habituating deer to an area, diseases and parasites can rapidly spread with devastating consequences. As deer become dependent on handouts they lose ability to survive in the wild. Commercial feeds quickly spoil if left out, creating illness-causing bacteria. Other animals eating spoiled food get sick too. Neighborhoods sustain destruction of their landscaping by localized deer pressure. And there's one more factor, which is the danger posed when wild animals lose their natural avoidance of humans. During rutting season male deer can attack with little provocation. As will a doe protecting her young. Never try to pet or pick up a fawn if you see one at the arboretum. They are not abandoned. They're watched by the mother from a distance, even if you can't see her. We would know if there is an orphaned fawn and would contact wildlife rescue if needed. Please don't feed wild animals. We love them, but let's keep the 'wild' in our wildlife.

Sources: Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; OSU Extension Service

Submitted by Bj Merriman, editor

## Nature Ed at the Delbert Hunter Arboretum

Parents and pre-schoolers get to experience hands-on learning and exploration in the beautiful Delbert Hunter Arboretum. We will be outside every day, so come dressed for the weather.

Ages: Parent-Tot  
Children ages 3-5  
Must be accompanied  
by a parent/guardian

Time/Days: 10 – 11 am  
Every Thursday  
October 9 to November 13

## Nature Club

Is your child interested in the environment?  
Do they love being outdoors? Then this club is for them!  
Each session we'll investigate environmental issues,  
have hands-on educational experiences and  
help with projects in the arboretum.

Nature Club  
Ages: 10 - 13

Time/Days: 3 – 4 pm  
Every Thursday  
October 9 to November 13

Registration for all events is now open.

Call 503 – 831-2830



## 🦋🦋🦋 Glow Run 🦋🦋🦋

Glow-in-the-dark fun - Walk, Roll, or Run  
October 11, 2025

A spooky fun way to exercise while raising funds for the Dallas Christmas Cheer program. Route begins at the Academy Building, flows thru the city park and finds its way to the Delbert Hunter Arboretum.

Sign-up by October 2, 2025

<https://runsignup.com/Race/OR/Dallas/DallasGlowRun>

## Delbert Hunter Arboretum Needs Volunteers!

With seven acres there's always lots to do!

**Garden Tasks:** We do the mowing, weeding, string trimming, pruning, maintaining the trails, watering, and planting new native plants.

**Maintenance:** We need help with painting or small repairs to maintain our benches, bridges, and out buildings. We need drivers to pick up piles of weeds and trimmings on workdays.

Doesn't the Parks Department Do This?

No. They have helped with some projects but the arboretum is, and always has been entirely maintained by volunteers and our existence depends on donations.

Please contact us if interested. Stop by or email [hunterarboretum@outlook.com](mailto:hunterarboretum@outlook.com)



## Stretching the Budget...

If you've read this newsletter to this point, you may have noticed our pre-occupation with saving money. It's a fact that we've had to tighten our belt and make some tough decisions. There's no end in sight to rising costs for goods and services and as a nonprofit, we have no income other than donations. When we say 'nonprofit' we mean zero profit!

The 'budget-friendly' decision to switch to a digital format for our newsletter is another milestone in arboretum history. This is our last paper edition sent to homes. Hopefully, our long-time friends will follow us to "digital-newsletter-land" so we can stay in touch. We don't want to lose you!



Can technology replace the time-honored practice of hand-writing a check?

We don't know, but we hope that by giving people two options, we'll satisfy everyone's need!

### Two ways to donate

Scan the QR code to use our secure online donation form. There is also a paper form for donors who prefer to mail a check. You can get the form from our Facebook page - <https://tinyurl.com/2uh5prbt> or online newsletters, or by sending a request via email – [hunterarboretum@outlook.com](mailto:hunterarboretum@outlook.com)

You can also pick up the form at the arboretum's Visitor Center. We hope to see you there!

## Please Consider a Tax Deductible Donation – We Make Every Penny Count



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

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

All funding comes from donations and all labor is done by volunteers

Your tax deductible donation sustains us - *Thank You!*

☐ 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](mailto: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: 09/2025

## Our Mission Statement – The Goal of Delbert Hunter Arboretum

The mission of the organization is first to grow, display, and maintain native plants of Oregon in the Arboretum located next to the Dallas City Park. Second, to provide educational opportunities to any person who wishes to participate in the recognition, appreciation, preservation, scientific study, or landscape use of native plants. Finally, to promote public interest in and to raise funds for the accomplishment of these objectives.





<https://communityservices.us/>

## Many Thanks to the Community Services Consortium

Delbert Hunter Arboretum would like to thank the CSC for their help with bridge and bench maintenance this year. The Polk SWCD Outreach Coordinator, Morgan Neil, recommended them to us, and we signed up for 3 half-workdays this summer.

Four wonderful workers and their fearless crew leader, Nichole, started with staining the decking on Emma's bridge (*large bridge on the creek trail*). They continued with sanding 16 benches, and staining 6 of them. Our regular volunteers have been staining the rest.

With the contribution of their tremendous efforts, Emma's bridge is set for another year, and 16 of our 22 benches are cleaned and stained. We would not have been able to complete these projects without all the work they put in.

It's been a pleasure getting to know them, and we can't thank them enough!

*Submitted by Cindy Smerdon, DHA Volunteer Coordinator*



## The Delbert Hunter Arboretum Fall & Winter Photo Contest Returns!



Winners' photos will be published in our online spring newsletter and on the Delbert Hunter Arboretum Facebook page

♥ It's fun and the whole family can participate ♥



With two seasons to photograph, please select 4 of your best photos of the arboretum, and submit them to [hunterarboretum@outlook.com](mailto:hunterarboretum@outlook.com)

The Board members at the arboretum will be the judges and the placings are:

First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention

Contest begins October 1<sup>st</sup> - The last day to submit photos is Valentine's Day, February 14, 2026

### Dates to Remember

- October 1 –Photo Contest Begins
- October 2 – Last day to sign-up for Glow Run
- October 3 – SWCD Plant Sale - Last day to order
- October 8 – Last day to register for Nature Ed or Nature Camp for children
- October 9 thru November 13 - Nature Ed at DHA
- October 10 & 11 – Pick-up Plants at SWCD Sale
- October 11 – Saturday Volunteer Day at DHA
- November 8 –Last Saturday Volunteer Day for 2025



### Two More Saturdays

This year the arboretum has been hosting volunteer days on the second Saturday of each month, mainly for people who cannot participate on Tuesdays. We've been string trimming, mowing, weeding, raking, putting down trail dressing, pressure washing, doing minor repairs and more. Thank you so much to all who have volunteered. You've really made a difference!

We have two more Saturday volunteer days left, and new volunteers are welcome. Training and tools are provided, but please bring your own gloves, if possible.

We meet at the Visitor Center at 631 Park Street, Dallas Upon arrival, please check-in with Cindy Smerdon, Volunteer Coordinator.

Time: 8 – 11 am Dates: October 11 and November 8