



PO Box 604  
Dallas OR 97338

Arboretum Center  
631 Park Street  
Dallas, OR 97338  
(503-623-4845)

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

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## 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.

**Thanks to member response to our fall appeal, we are making some changes in the arboretum.**

**A new (used) golf cart has replaced our recently expired one. We have added a new storage shed, to replace the small old shed, and will soon be removing the old shed, the deck on the main building and the walkway into the flume..**

# DELBERT HUNTER ARBORETUM and Botanic Garden

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## Tiny Gems Blooming Now

A small pink flower may be seen in several areas of the older shady portion of the arboretum. This member of the mustard family has underground rhizomes and two kinds of leaves, round lobed leaves that grow out of the rhizomes, and three-to-five-parted leaves on the flowering stalks. This plant is oaks toothwort or beautiful bitter-cress, *Cardamine nuttallii* var. *nuttallii*. It is found in moist to wet forests from British Columbia to California, from the west side of the Cascades westward and also in the Columbia River Gorge

A lovely yellow native violet is stream violet or *Viola glabella*. It may be seen on the Flume Trail and the West Dogwood Loop. This violet does not send out runners (stolons). The fruit is a capsule that explodes at maturity, shooting out the seeds. This violet ranges from Alaska south, on both sides of the Cascades, to Sierran California, and also easterly to Montana, and northeastern Asia.

A tiny light blue-green member of the buttercup family is Siskiyou false rue-anemone or *Enemion stipitatum*. The solitary white flowers are scarcely taller than the leaves. This plant can be found on the south end of the West Dogwood Loop on the east side of the trail in two patches. This plant has spindle-shaped or spherical fleshy roots, and ranges from Yamhill County, Oregon, to northwestern California and the west side of the Cascade mountains.



## Oemleria – Herald of Spring

Osoberry, Indian plum, Oregon plum; all of these common names refer to the shrub, or small tree, called *Oemleria*

*cerasiformis*. Those of us who yearn for the first signs of spring each year view it as the

promise of abundant life returning to the forest. Typically, it blooms in February before most woodland plants have turned the corner on winter dormancy. Hummingbirds striving to make through the last days of winter depend on the nectar from its small white flowers, as do many early risers in the insect kingdom.

The osoberry is the only species in the genus *Oemleria*, and the plant is dioecious, meaning that there are male and female plants. It grows in meadows, riparian zones, open-woodlands and forest edges, and is a valuable pioneer plant returning life to burned areas. The osoberry is native to coastal and inland regions from British Columbia to Southern California. In some places it's considered a pest because it can colonize quickly, sprouting from underground runners, while wildlife freely distributes its seed.



The fruit of the osoberry isn't technically a "berry", it's a drupe. While berries generally have multiple seeds, drupes have only one seed, like cherries and plums. The female osoberry produces

clusters of drupes throughout the summer. The drupes are edible but birds and other creatures are more likely to eat them

because of the bitter taste and rather large seeds. They are very pretty though, because the little fruits mature at different rates, so drupes of yellow, rose, and deep purple may all appear in the same cluster.



The payback for being the crowd-pleasing harbinger of spring is that it also is the first of the deciduous shrubs to exchange its green leaves for yellow ones around mid-to-late summer. This makes it less desirable as the focal point of your yard, but along the edges, it is a significant and highly prized habitat plant for urban wildlife.

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*One touch of nature makes the  
whole world kin*  
*William Shakespeare*

## Spring Has Sprung

A walk through the arboretum this time of year will treat you to a new surprise with each warming day. The red flowering currant is opening, trilliums are appearing, the Oregon grape is showing off its beautiful yellow bloom; and, if you look closely, you might even spot an *Erythronium* (more commonly known as fawn lily or lamb's tongue.)

You might also see daffodils, violets of varying shades of pink and purple, and blue hyacinths. These are considered "non-natives", and they were not planted in this native garden. However, as in nature, there are always some uninvited guests. Perhaps the bulbs came in with high water, or the birds dropped some seeds. We know that the winds and rains are responsible, as well, for moving plant starts around.

The devoted arboretum volunteers work to rid the park of the non-natives where they

have become invasive; but, we must also accept the uninvited guests as a part of nature. We invite you to enjoy all of nature's offerings.

### Upper Rhody Bed Project

Have you walked in the arboretum lately? In spite of the rain, many visitors both human and canine walk the trails each day. In the upper rhododendron and azalea bed area you will find some changes to the garden. Over the past 18 months volunteers have given it some TLC. They have removed weeds, invasive Arum, and ivy, trimmed trees and shrubs, mulched, and transplanted. The work will improve air circulation, soil composition, and soil moisture retention, thus reducing diseases, weeding, and summer watering. All of this tending has opened up some bare ground to add more native plants. This spring we have added red osier dogwoods, black twinberries, salal, deer ferns, bleeding hearts, fawn lilies and tiger lilies. More plants will be added next spring. In the center of this area you will find several rhododendron and azaleas that were hybridized by Delbert Hunter from native shrubs. Walk through in April to see them in bloom and the progress we are making! The upper rhododendron and azalea bed is located to the right of the main entrance. It has a short loop trail that is accessed from the sidewalk.

### Flood Results in Action



The arboretum is now graced with a new “Tuff-Shed” located beside our large shed”. The new structure will replace the lower shed, which was under-water when the arboretum flooded, as it did last December. (see accompanying photo). The new building will be used for hand tool storage, including wheel-barrows.

Ken Kentch, Pam Wetzal, and Nick Yerbick deserve the lion's share of the credit for seeing the project through to completion. George Jagodnik painted the inside of the building. The new structure is a most welcome addition.



*In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous.*

*Aristotle*