

Tree Time



THE MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

A Winter Experience

by Tom LoCascio, Site Manager

For those of us who spend a good portion of our lives in urban landscapes, our rainy season can easily come to represent puddles in pavement or water flowing in gutters soon to be lost through steel grates and concrete pipes. Compare this to those who frequent natural areas where they can experience the glow that fills places such as the Arboretum once the rain returns, or witness the highlights that cloudy skies and their various shades of grey bring to this winter landscape. Having this perspective has given me an appreciation for the wet season and all it embodies.

During the darkest months at Mount Pisgah when the predawn and evening air is still, there are often low, dense clouds, a hundred feet or so above ground, forming a thick blanket. Below this cover, the air is clear or misty. Not far off, city lights shining upward reflect down and across the landscape lighting up the hillsides and forest. Now, every tree stands out unmasked, every shape is revealed. Seeing the Arboretum in this light has taught me to look more closely to see the often-elusive beauty of the individual parts of a forest.

While cloudy skies can mesmerize, keeping watch as the rainfall gathers in the valley has fascinated me. As the rain sets in, I study the amounts that have fallen in the days, nights or weeks before. I look for clues—water in ditches, fresh erosion along trails, pools forming in dry creek beds—all signs leading to the day the waters return to the creek beds. When the waters do flow, it may take a month or more until that day arrives when water can be seen and heard almost everywhere while walking within the Arboretum.

Now the creeks are back in their power, pulsing with the river as they ebb and flow; brown and heavy, to clear and light, in step with rain or snow. Their beat fills the site, energizing and cleansing. The water season also brings the calls of geese, frogs and Great Horned Owls; their chorus strikes primal notes reminding me just how lucky we are to have such a season.



Photo by Kimberly Cullen

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Hiking the Arboretum trails during our darkest months, I have come to view and to appreciate this time of year differently, and in those times when the winter blues suddenly happen, I find comfort having this place to walk about, and I hope you will too. 🍄

Fun Games for the Trails

to Keep the Whole Family Moving

by Jenny Laxton, Education Manager

Ever had this experience? You've managed to wrangle your family out on a trail for a hike, a feat of patience and perseverance. Everyone has been fed, watered, geared up for the weather and visited the bathroom. You start off on the trail. The air is fresh, the plants are green, the birds and squirrels are chattering. After five minutes of walking, you're just starting to relax when someone stops. You cringe because you know this is the start of many stops to come. If keeping a hike going is hard for your family, you probably have one of two types—the reluctant hiker, or the overly enthusiastic naturalist.

A reluctant hiker might stop for the first time because of something simple like an imaginary rock in their shoe. This starts the dreaded whining cycle. They're tired. They're bored. Reluctant hikers can be quite contagious. You'll soon find yourself moving along at the slowest pace imaginable, while dragging in your wake one or more people who have such a sour face that every other hiker you pass can't help but recoil as they go by. If you have small children in the group, you may find yourself doing the walk of shame down the trail i.e., carrying a screaming child over your shoulder that can be heard from every corner of the park.

On the other end of the spectrum, is the overly enthusiastic naturalist. You might have a few in your family who can't help but stop at every rock, stick, flower or leaf along the trail. You may have a toddler. Getting ten feet past the parking lot with a toddler can feel like 10 miles. But this isn't a problem reserved only for the younger set. Do you have an amateur (or professional) botanist, birder or

geologist in your midst? Whether they're 5 years old or 50—with their constant need to check out that plant, or that bird, or pick up every cool rock—these folks can make any hike feel like a marathon.

So how can you avoid constant stopping and an unhappy family so that you can actually get a bit of exercise on your family hikes? Try a game. Games can keep everyone happily moving along without realizing that they're moving along. Here are a few options for easy trail games that you can use with all ages. Try one out the next time you come for a hike at the Arboretum.



Photo by Jenny Laxton

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Mount Pisgah
Arboretum

Mount Pisgah Arboretum is a nonprofit organization with a mission to engage people with nature through interactive learning and stewardship.

Facilities include miles of riverside and forest trails, picnic areas and a pavilion for events. We host outdoor programs to foster appreciation of the natural world.

Thank you for being a supporter!

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Photo by Jenny Laxton

I Spy - The classics are classics for a reason. Pick something you see along the trail and give a hint. "I spy with my little eye something... green." Everyone tries to guess what it is using yes and no questions. Because you are moving, the game has a time limit. If they don't find it soon enough, whatever you picked will be out of sight. Warning- younger kids may be unable to do this game without stopping to look around.

Monster - This is a good choice for the young ones. Be a monster chasing them along the trail. Kids must stay ahead of you at all times. At every curve or split in the trail, they are required to wait until you are just out of reach before running again (otherwise you will never get them back). It's amazing how fast formerly exhausted children can move

once this game is introduced. Bonus points if you get the family botanist or birder to do the chasing.

Riddles - Do you know any riddles or brainteasers? You can find a bunch of these online. (You have to ask yes or no questions to get at the answer.) This game is one where the group will be so focused on solving the riddle that they'll forget that they are walking altogether.

Senses Count Down - Have everyone say 5 things they can see, 4 things they can touch, 3 things they can hear and 2 things they can smell as you walk. This is a great calming/mindfulness exercise if the family isn't in the best mood and you're trying to turn things around before the hike goes south!

Two Truths and a Lie - Remember this one? Everyone says two things that are true and one thing that is a lie. Everyone tries to guess which is the lie. This is a good way to surprise older kids with the knowledge that yes, the adults have had a life, and parents might get to hear about the childhood indiscretions of now adult children, or what's really going on with their teenagers.

Red Light/Green Light - As everyone walks, one person calls red light or green light. Anyone caught moving on a red light has to go to the back of the group. You can also have someone walking fast in the front as everyone tries to catch them. Randomly, they stop and look back without saying anything. Everyone chasing has to freeze. Anyone who moves has to go to the back of the group. This is a great way to get a group of kids moving fast. Instead of dragging themselves back to the car, they will run there! 🌰

We're Hiring!

Assistant Habitat & Trails Manager

This is an excellent opportunity for a person with skills relating to: habitat restoration and care, trail maintenance, landscape ecology, and volunteer supervision, as well as facilities and equipment maintenance and repair, and special events. Position is 36-40 hrs. per week with benefits. For more information/to apply, visit: mountpisgaharboretum.org
Position open until filled. Please no phone calls.

Executive Director's Message

by Brad van Appel

Former United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan once said, *"Let us be good stewards of the Earth we inherited. All of us have to share the Earth's fragile ecosystems and precious resources, and each of us has a role to play in preserving them. If we are to go on living together on this earth, we must all be responsible for it."*

At Mount Pisgah Arboretum we believe that learning leads to caring. That's why we work to engage people with nature through education and volunteerism. The more we understand the complex natural world that sustains us, the better stewards we can be.

Through our programs and activities, the Arboretum promotes stewardship, fosters a culture of caring for nature and community, and inspires future generations of leaders. Time spent learning at the Arboretum can have a lasting impact, and some of our current board members were inspired on their path by our school field trips and summer camps.

A lot has changed in the world since the Arboretum was founded in 1973, and a lot of lives have been touched by this beautiful place. Community support has grown tremendously over the years. In 2019 Arboretum membership topped 1900 for the first time, and more than 12,000 people took part in our educational programs and activities.

If we want this positive impact to continue and grow, our work needs to stay relevant to people's lives. In the coming years we plan to: expand opportunities for hands-on youth activities, and citizen science for all ages; make our activities more inclusive and equitable, and our site more inviting for everyone in our community; shine a light on global issues from a local perspective; and empower volunteers, program participants, and other visitors to bring what they learn at the Arboretum out into the rest of the world.

Pursuing this vision will require leveraging more community support than ever. But the stakes are high and you've already demonstrated your commitment. Thank you for helping to share the responsibility. 🌰



Now booking for 2021!

Picture your special event at our beautiful site.

We still have some dates left for 2020 too.

Contact Leisha Wood, Venue Manager
events@mountpisgaharboretum.org
541-747-1504

Thank You!

by Julie Hubbard-McNall, Development Coordinator & Bookkeeper

Thanks to you, Mount Pisgah Arboretum finished 2019 on a strong note. Year-end donations exceeded the Arboretum's goal by more than 25%, providing funding to sustain the Arboretum's education and outreach programs in the upcoming year. In 2019, donors supported field trip programs for more than 3,000 elementary school students from Eugene-Springfield and surrounding communities. Access and outreach were improved as the Arboretum's first Spanish-language trail map was created and donors provided 40 sponsored Arboretum memberships to families who otherwise might not have been able to take advantage of all that we offer. Your support will enable the Arboretum to continue these programs and engage our community in learning about and protecting local ecology. **Thank you!** 🌰

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New Roles, New Faces

by Brad van Appel, Executive Director

The Arboretum is making some staffing changes to take better care of our site and facilities and prepare for the future. Last fall we upgraded what had been a Site Assistant position into a new Assistant Facilities Manager role. We were very fortunate to hire Stephan Campbell for this new job in October.

Stephan joined our team with a degree in broadcasting and electronic communications from San Francisco State University, an extensive background in farming, construction, landscaping, and events, and a great love of the outdoors.

We hope to complete our new team by filling another new position, Assistant Habitat and Trails Manager, in the coming months. 🌰

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Stephan Campbell, Assistant Facilities Mgr.

Site Report

by Tom LoCascio, Site Manager

Stephan Campbell, our new Assistant Facilities Manager, is busy learning the ropes of how things work at the site. Topping his "To-do" list is inventorying the condition of our bridges, roads and trails, and creating a database of the Arboretum infrastructure. He is getting inventorying help from winter interns, Sydney Balderson and John Wilson, both University of Oregon Environmental Studies students. Sydney and John are also helping staff with site repairs.


This past November, Arboretum staff, with help from our interns and volunteers, completed the final stretch of Trail 5 (Quarry Road) that passes under the south power line corridor and connects to the old rock quarry. This section of trail, which also serves as a utility and emergency access road, leads to sections of Trail 3 and Trail 56 on the east side of Pisgah. This has been a multi-year collaborative effort between the Friends of Buford Park, Lane County Parks Department, and Mount Pisgah Arboretum.

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We've been enjoying our Saturday Volunteer Work Parties! With the first wave of spring wildflowers not far off, volunteers and staff are busy working in the Water Garden, Patricia Baker Wildflower Garden, and in the front entrance areas. We've been pruning trees and shrubs while also grubbing out blackberry roots along the trails.

Stay tuned for the following work parties that are being planned, they should be fun and interesting!

- Grade & resurface Oak Savanna Trail, and the Hillside Trail
- Repair bridges on the Incense-cedar Trail, Oak Savanna Trail, and the Upper Plateau Trails
- Weekly tending to native landscape
- And more!

For information on upcoming work parties and events, check out our public calendar on our Events & Festivals (Overview) page at our website: mountpishgaharboretum.org and/or feel free to send an email inquiry to: site@mountpishgaharboretum.org. 



UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are held at the Arboretum unless otherwise noted.



Front Entrance Prune & Groom Work Party - Saturday, February 8, 10 AM - 1 PM

Join us as we clean up the front entrance landscaping. This landscape has suffered from past ice storms and is in need of some major pruning. If you have a green thumb or you would like to learn some proper pruning techniques, please join us! Tools, gloves, and a parking pass will be provided to volunteers (we suggest you bring along a water bottle). Please RSVP to site@mountpishgaharboretum.org if you plan to attend.

More Work Parties will be held on Feb. 15 (Wildflower Garden), Feb. 22 (Trailside Prune & Groom) and Feb. 29 (Blackberry Removal), same time & place!

Bird Walk - Sunday, February 9, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for another monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. We'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of our spring migrants and year-round residents. Come discover the Arboretum's avian diversity. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Rain or shine. Meet at the Education Bldg. & remember your parking pass. \$5/members FREE.

More Bird Walks with Julia Siporin & Joni Dawning are scheduled for March 8 & April 12. Walks begin at 8 AM these dates.

Nature's Slimy Creatures Walk - This one's always popular with the kids! Saturday, March 7, 10 AM - 12 PM

Slugs, snails, worms and more! On this walk for families, learn about the lives of our slimy friends here at the Arboretum with Education Manager Jenny Laxton. These greatly under-appreciated creatures are more fascinating than you've ever imagined. Finish the walk by creating some slime of your own to take home. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Education Bldg. Remember your parking pass. Members \$5/family, Non-members \$8/family.

Plein Air Landscape Painting Workshop - 2 days: March 21 & 22, Noon - 5 PM

The natural world is full of awe-inspiring environments, and there are few experiences more exciting than capturing a sense of these places through paint. In this two day workshop with Jordan K. Walker we will explore the basic principles of landscape painting, including composition, value, depth, and color. We will paint directly from life at Mount Pisgah Arboretum, and learn to record some of the subtleties of nature while altering what we see to create compelling images. This class will also touch on essential techniques of oil painting, such as paint application, edge control, and color mixing. All levels of experience are welcome. Meet at the Education Bldg. Members \$50, non-members \$60. Pre-registration required. To register go to: <http://www.mountpishgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration> or call 541-747-3817

Contributions

Sep. 17, 2019 to Jan. 17, 2020

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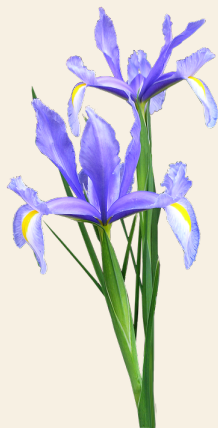
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UPCOMING EVENTS *continued*

All events are held at the Arboretum unless otherwise noted.

Birds, Bees, Butterflies & Blooms Walk - Saturday, April 25, 10 AM - 1 PM

Join local ecologists Peg Boulay and Bruce Newhouse who will identify and talk about flowers and trees, birds and bees, and anything else you please! We'll also be participating in City Nature Challenge (CNC) this year! Anyone interested in iNaturalist and the CNC will be invited to take photographs along the walk. Details on participating can be found under this event on the public calendar at the Arboretum website. Co-sponsored with the Native Plant Society of Oregon Emerald Chapter. Rain or shine. Meet at the Education Bldg. Remember your parking pass. \$5/members FREE.

Bird Songs Workshop, 4-parts - May 2, 9, 23 & 30, 8 AM - 12 PM

Julia Siporin will help participants learn how to identify and better understand local and summer resident birds by their songs and calls. Members \$60, non-members \$70. Pre-registration required. More details at mountpishgarboretum.org

More events can be found at:

www.mountpishgarboretum.org/festivals-events/



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Sponsor a Family Membership	\$60
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Interpretive Program	_____
Endowment Fund	_____
"In Honor of" or "In Memory of"	_____

Name of person receiving tribute _____

Please mail your membership and/or contributions to:

Mount Pisgah Arboretum
34901 Frank Parrish Road • Eugene, OR 97405

All contributions and dues are tax-deductible. IRS #23-7345974

Sponsor Kids' Nature Field Trips!

Each year, 3,000 school children discover nature on our volunteer led tours. Many schools can no longer afford these field trips and they depend on scholarships from people like you. A \$10 donation to Discovery Tours brings out one child. \$250 can bring out a whole classroom!

I want to help children discover nature
with a gift of \$ _____

Membership \$ _____ + Donation \$ _____ = Total Contribution \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please keep my donation anonymous.