



Tree Time

THE MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Mushroom Festival 2020: A Viral Event

by August Jackson, Interpretation Coordinator

The American pine marten (*Martes americana*) is a secretive member of the weasel family and a true master of social distancing. While a small and putatively endangered subpopulation exists on the Oregon coast, it is better known from the mature, temperate conifer forests of the Cascades where its presence is considered an indicator of forest health. Moist, low spots in these same forests are home to another uncommon resident—the blue chanterelle (*polyozellus multiplex*). Though superficially similar to the true chanterelles that are a widespread and popular culinary mushroom in the Northern Hemisphere, the blue chanterelle is not only placed in a different genus, but in a separate family as well.



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These denizens of the moist, forest floor duff reach out to their evergreen neighbors in the establishment of mycorrhizal connections. This symbiotic relationship allows for nutrient exchange, with the tree providing photosynthates to the blue chanterelle, and the fungus providing increased uptake of water and soil nutrients, in some ways functioning as an extension of the tree's root system. Where a fungus creates connections with more than one tree, it opens up pathways for nutrient flow between trees, as well as threads of arboreal communication about changing environmental conditions. For example, a tree might send a distress call, informing its neighbors it is under attack from beetles, and that they should ramp up the

production of defensive chemicals. These complex interactions are carried on out of sight, only evidenced by the mushroom's fruiting bodies which emerge with the return of the rainy season. In the case of the blue chanterelle, these fruiting bodies are fluted vases the color of December rainclouds, clustering together in ruffled arrangements.

We will not be able to cluster together this year as we usually do. However, we are committed to carrying on the spirit of the Mushroom Festival, which has been an annual community tradition since 1982. In partnership with the Cascade Mycological Society and Lane Community College, we will be celebrating the incredible fungal flora of our region's forests with an iNaturalist bioblitz starting on October 16th, and we'll be streaming presentations from nationally-renowned experts, cooking demonstrations, mushroom forays, music, and more on October 25th. For a complete listing of activities, see page three. 

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Wildfires: Supporting Each Other in a Time of Need

by Brad van Appel, Executive Director

On top of the other challenges we've all faced in 2020, this year's wildfires brought devastating losses for many in our community. We all breathed the smoke, and thousands had to evacuate. Our hearts go out to the hundreds of people who lost their homes, and especially to those who lost loved ones.

The impacts of the fires were tragic, and won't be soon forgotten. At the same time, the response from our community has been inspiring. Many people stepped up to help their neighbors and donations poured in to local charities. United Way of Lane County set up a Wildfire Response fund that directs resources to local non-profits meeting the needs of those most impacted by the fires. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to visit www.unitedwaylane.org/wildfire-response to find out how you can help.

While it's little consolation to those who have lost so much, it's important to remember that fire is a natural part of our ecosystems, and that, in time, our forests will recover and thrive. Before COVID hit, the Arboretum was collaborating with other local groups to plan a small conference about fire ecology that was to have taken place in our Pavilion last June. That event was put on hold due to the pandemic, but the topic is now more relevant than ever and we are working on new opportunities to feature fire ecology and climate science in upcoming educational programs.

Times like these make me proud to be part of a community that comes together to support each other. We all have a lot to give and a lot to learn. Let's try to be generous when we can and stay open to what our world has to teach us. Thank you for all the ways you support our community, and please stay safe. 



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Connor Reinecke, Asst. Facilities Manager
Josh Head, Pavilion Custodian

Contact Information

Office Phone: 541-747-3817
Events Phone: 541-747-1504
Education Phone: 541-741-4110
office@mountpishgaharboretum.org
www.MountPishgahArboretum.org
www.twitter.com/MtPishgahArb
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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!



Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Cascade Mycological Society &
Lane Community College present

Virtual

MUSHROOM FESTIVAL 2020

October 25th
10 AM – 5 PM



Free Online!

- Cooking Demonstrations
- Mushroom Forays
- Mushroom Art Tutorials
- Live Mushroom Q&A
- Edible & Poisonous Display
- Kids' Activities
- Music from Satori Bob

Featuring Presentations From:

- Noah Siegel, author of *Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast*
- Peter McCoy, author of *Radical Mycology: A Treatise on Seeing and Working with Fungi*
- Andy MacKinnon
- Else Vellinga
- Kristen and Trent Blizzard of Modern Forager
- And more!

mountpisgaharboretum.com/virtual-mushroom-festival/



iNaturalist Mycoblitz

October 16th-24th

Submit photos of mushrooms in Lane County from the 16th-24th of October to iNaturalist. They'll be identified by expert mycologists and these observations will serve as this year's mushroom display! Awards for Best in Show and more!

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/lane-county-mushroom-show-mycoblitz-2020>



Building Our Team

by Brad van Appel, Executive Director

The Arboretum is pleased to introduce the newest member of our team. Connor Reinecke was officially hired as our new Assistant Facilities Manager back in March, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic he did not start work with us until September 8. If you're keeping track of such things, you might know that September 8 was the day that the Park was closed due to the impacts of the Holiday Farm fire. So, after nearly six month of waiting, Connor finally reported to work and was almost immediately sent home for ten days while we all waited for the smoke to clear.

After this inauspicious beginning, we are excited to have Connor join us. He comes to us with a degree in physics from Western Washington University and more than eleven years of working in the outdoors in field biology, construction, and nature education. Connor also brings a strong background in mechanics and equipment operation and has a knack for fixing just about anything. Please join us in welcoming him to the Arboretum. 🌰



Connor Reinecke

Does your family need a break from online school this fall?

Get outside, explore Mt. Pisgah and have some social time with small group programs for all ages.



Sign up for just one, or more-

- Monday Lunch Zoom Programs for kids- FREE for Members
- Wednesday Walks for Families

Come out every week for 2 hours-

- Arboretum Exploration for elementary students
- Pisgah Inquiry for middle school students
- Willamette Valley Ecology for high school students

Pre-registration, masks and temperature checks are required.
Learn more and sign up at <https://mountpisgaharboretum.com/festivals-events/>

October Membership Drive is Sharing Your Support!

10% of October Membership Dues will be Donated to United Way

This year has stretched us all and brought tremendous hardship to many in our community. While the Arboretum needs your support in order to continue offering people this place to connect with the enduring beauty of nature, we are also called upon to support those in our community who have recently lost so much in devastating fires.

That is why **the Arboretum is pledging to donate 10% of all membership fees we collect this October to United Way** to help with the ongoing relief efforts for members of our community who have lost their homes to fire this year. Our community, and our lands, are resilient when we all stand together to do what is needed.

Because we do not have the added benefit of an in-person event this year to promote Arboretum membership, we are asking for your help! **Refer a friend** to purchase a new membership and we will **enter you into a drawing** for two chances to win a lovely enlarged print of a photograph of a native bee (see below) taken in the Arboretum by our own August Jackson.

What's more, through the generosity of local birder and artist Bryan Ribelin, we are offering the **first 50 new members** beautiful, finely drawn Birds of the Arboretum card sets in appreciation.

We value our Arboretum members; you are the lifeblood of the work we do. That could not be more true now, and we thank you for investing in this special place so that we can see these trying times through with you. 🍂



A male mason bee (Protosmia rubifloris) visiting camas

A female mining bee (Andrena sp.) collects pollen from Oregon fawn lily

Arboretum Wish List

Kids' gardening gloves

Hand trowels for kids

Shovels

iPad

Dry erase board (large)

Wheelbarrows

Landscape cart

Sandwich board sign

Socket set

Steel tow chains

Site Report

by Tom LoCascio, Site Manager

One can't live near or be an explorer of nature for long without being awed by the force and power it has to alter an environment in one brief swoop. One of my greatest gifts and lessons derived from living on-site has been to experience first hand the intensity and purpose of natural forces such as the fires, now burning across much of the West, on managing and promoting biological change. Looking at these types of events through this lens has given me a "window seat," feeding an appetite to better understand nature's need to sculpt and alter the natural world -its need for fuel to evolve. While it's hard to see the value in such events when they cause so much damage and hardship to our human landscape, to our communities, friends and neighbors, we should also remember that fire is an essential element for keeping our native ecosystems and their associated wild habitats, all of which sustain us, healthy and dynamic.

The Holiday Farm Fire closed the park for nearly two weeks. The decision to close the park was based on the extreme fire danger, hazardous air quality, and the lack of firefighting resources should a fire get started in the park. After the park reopened, we were all given a scare again when a brush fire started under a power line corridor near the park on Seavey Loop Road. A quick response from firefighters, combined with a heavy rainstorm, doused the flames before it got out of hand.

It was a heavy vegetative season this past summer at the Arboretum. The cooler, pleasant days created lots of plant growth. The woods and forests responded with gusto. The native and the non-native invasive plants were all lush. With the passing of the equinox has arrived, the paths are covered with autumn's gifts: dried leaves and seeds fresh from the trees.

Connor Reinecke was hired recently to oversee and care for site infrastructure and tools. He's been busy getting to know the site and all its systems. We are excited to have him on our team. Site staff continues to take advantage of the lull in our events season to make repairs and upgrades to the trails and structures. Patrick has taken the lead in reorganizing the shop and barn while he and Connor just completed rebuilding a deck at the shop. Maintenance on the Wetlands Exhibit is currently in the works. Plans are also beginning towards rebuilding the Hillside Trail and continuing to resurface other hiking trails.

We're back to offering Saturday work parties on an RSVP basis, while also offering opportunities for those interested in having an independent weekday or weekend event. Work parties follow specific COVID-19 protocols and are conducted to maintain safe social distancing.

While our education programs and other events are evolving to accommodate current realities, daily visitor activity has continued unabated and the Arboretum trails are busier than ever with folks communing with nature as they exercise their mind and body. Autumn is a beautiful season at the site. If you haven't taken a hike for a while, it may be time to do just that. 🍂



Contributions

June 23, 2020 to Sept. 19, 2020

New Members

AH Newborns
Andrea Humber
Andy Kern & Amy Lovett
Angela Godlasky
Brian Wenzl &
Elizabeth DeMott
Bruce Heldt

Bruce McLennan
Carla Ingram
Chloe Chvatal
Dan Mitchell
David Russell
Debra Nelson-Walker
Donna Courtney
Elijah Sturms
Eric Mushrush
Erin Holiman

Gary Wesley
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Jacob Farrens
Jan Walling
Janelle McCoy
Jeremiah & Naomi Johnson
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Jordan Kihn-Stang
Josh Daniels
Karen & Charles Sturms

Kelli Hemphill
Leilani Stokes
Linda Pauly
Lisa Mirhej
Logan Ellison
Maggie Wickham
Mai-Lin Cheng
Martin Wall
Nicole Chabert
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Terry Spencer
Todd Anderson



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Elizabeth Churchill
Gary Wesley
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Interpretive Program

Shirley Marie Raven

Site

Robin Biesecker

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Faye McMurtry
Tom Bettman

Commemorations

In Honor of Sherrill Bower

-Anonymous

In Memory of Braden Lewis

-Stephen Golledge

In Memory of Gretchen Matsuoka

- Andrea Beardsley

In Memory of Steve Christiansen,

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Discover Your Place
in Nature

**Virtual Mushroom Festival
October 25th!**

Yes, I want to support the Arboretum!

Membership Dues

Student/Senior/Guide	\$40
Individual	\$50
Family	\$60
Sponsor	\$75
Supporting	\$100
Sustaining	\$250
Business	\$100-\$1,000 - call!

Other Contributions

Sponsor a Family Membership	\$60
Unrestricted	_____
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 a Family Membership!

The Arboretum is working with community partners to provide sponsored memberships to underserved families in our community. Give others the gift of nature!

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please keep my donation anonymous.