Dear Friends,

You experienced it with us; the upending of life as we knew it, uncertainty about the futures we hoped for, and hundreds (okay, thousands) of encounters with the word “unprecedented.” You won’t be surprised that our 2020 annual report looks a little different from the reports of years past. One thing that changed for the better, however, is the increased ability for Portlanders to experience Hoyt Arboretum.

With most of our income streams halted, we were so worried about the park and our ability to continue operations. We canceled dozens of field trips, which are a gateway to Hoyt Arboretum for thousands of children. We closed our tiny Visitor Center and Bill de Weese Library, which kicked off a scramble for new ways to engage with visitors from a distance. All of our plans for the year were shaken . . . so you can imagine how overwhelmed we were with gratitude when thousands of locals – long-time Hoyt Arboretum members and first-time visitors alike – made donations, volunteered their time, and shared words of encouragement while taking physically-distanced walks through the park.

Thanks to our members, volunteers, and small-but-mighty staff, we found new ways to connect with the park’s many visitors; Pop-Up Nature!, our youth scavenger hunt program, returned as a self-guided series every Thursday during the warmer months. In-person outdoor programs eventually resumed with small, widely spaced groups of eager participants. A “Physical Distancing” chart was created so that every visitor could see for themselves which trails provided the most room for distancing from others. Volunteer trail rovers took on solo shifts so that newcomers could find their way around our trails with ease or just have a friendly (masked) face to converse with. We deepened our commitment to diversity, equity, access, and inclusion, which led to increased inclusivity training for volunteers, staff, and board members. And of course, virtual programming became the Arboretum’s mightiest tool over the course of 2020; volunteer presentations, youth workshops, and adult botanical education classes all happened online, allowing our friends to stay safe-at-home while engaging with all the knowledge and beauty the Arboretum has to offer.

We’re so glad to be on the other side of last year with you. Behind every statistic, letter, and image to follow is the support of thousands of Friends of Hoyt Arboretum, just like you.

Anna Goldrich, Executive Director

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

HIGHLIGHTS

Our first set of digital programming!

2,677 total attendees from in-person and virtual workshops and classes

2,000 MORE PEOPLE attended classes in 2020 than in 2019 (604 total attendees in 2019)

New CLASSES THIS YEAR:

Youth: Virtual bird and pollinator classes, virtual preschool programs, in person family tours, bird walks and nature walks

Adult: New birding topics, mushroom topics, entomology workshop, and new art classes
**VOLUNTEERISM HIGHLIGHTS**

**VISITOR SERVICES KIOSK**
Visitor Center volunteers welcomed many first-time local visitors to the Arboretum at our kiosk from summer through fall.

Volunteers also showed up for over **5,400 HOURS OF SERVICE** Tuesday and Saturday crews helped make up for understaffing due to COVID.

**ARBORETUM NATURALISTS** adapted to new COVID protocols to lead youth education activities.

Volunteer photographers, videographers, writers, and instructors all pulled through to support our new **VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING**.

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**CONSERVATION & NEW PLANTINGS HIGHLIGHTS**

**8 NEW MAPLE VARIETIES**, including Kawakami Maple (Acer kawakami)

**HIROSHIMA PEACE TREE**
A descendent of a single persimmon tree that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in WWII now lives at Hoyt Arboretum.

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**COMMUNITY SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

Our first season of community science at a distance!

**PROJECT BUDBURST**
Community scientists ensured that Hoyt Arboretum didn’t miss a season of valuable data collection.

- **40 TRAINEED VOLUNTEERS**
- **118 OBSERVATIONS**

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**COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS**

**VIRTUAL TOURS** on our new YouTube channel

**NEW Blog**
2020 Curator’s Report

For the plant collections at Hoyt Arboretum, 2020 was an especially eventful year.

At the beginning of the year, our newly constructed greenhouse was brimming with young trees intended to be planted on Arboretum grounds in March of 2021. With the pandemic’s closures and limited staff, I decided to halt those plantings and continue their care in the nursery. As a result, we only planted 20 new trees - less than the 50 to 100 we usually add every year. Seeds collected in fall of 2019 started to germinate, filling the nursery; these included little oaks, manzanitas, and the less well-known summer holly (*Comarostaphylis diversifolia*). These California endemics are great additions to the Arboretum as we continue collecting climate-forward plants that can adapt to a hotter, dryer Portland in 30 years.

We got a taste of that future climate last summer, and I was extremely concerned for our more established tree collections during the hotter months. The 2019/2020 water year was eight inches below normal – perhaps the new normal, as we see the effects of sustained dry years on local flora. Western hemlock and Western Redcedar were both observed to be in decline as a result of low soil moisture. We’re extremely lucky to have irrigation, volunteers, and staff that water our collections and help offset dry stretches of time. Following the summer drought, wildfires exploded in the region and made national news. Fortunately, no fires occurred in or near the Arboretum. We look forward to adding more drought-resistant plants to the park and expanding our irrigation systems to protect our collections in the coming years.

While there were some rough patches, 2020 ended on an upswing for Hoyt Arboretum’s tree collections. Even without the ability to take seed-collecting trips due to travel restrictions, seed and plant material was received from other botanic gardens, with a variety of tree and shrub species finding space in Hoyt Arboretum’s already-full nursery. 2021 will be a big planting year, and our Nursery Manager Vincent Parisi is already busy potting trees for future plantings.

I want to end this letter with a statement of gratitude. First, our volunteers, who we missed dearly at the height of the pandemic’s closures. We now have our Tuesday crew back and able to support the care of our young and old trees alike. I also want to thank all the visitors we met on the Arboretum trails over the past 14 months, many of whom were locals visiting for the first time. It’s been so rewarding to see so many people enjoying the trails and learning new things along the way. And finally, I want to thank you, dear reader, for your kind words and your support.

Martin Nicholson
Curator
2020 FINANCIALS

Early in the COVID year, the Hoyt Arboretum Friends had serious concerns about income due to losing several important income streams (gift shop sales, wedding venue rentals and our annual summer fundraising event). Board members helped by reaching out individually to donors, and member support was very strong in 2020 with annual gifts making up about 33% of total revenues showing that neighbors and friends are committed to our mission and pivotal to our future. Two bequests added to our revenue, as well as a large individual gift in support of a specific project. At the same time, we cut expenses where possible to help us weather an uncertain year. As we move into 2021, our financial position remains strong and we are taking on some much needed park improvement projects with greater confidence about future revenue.
THANK YOU
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Leslie and Chizu Hunter

Members of the Evergreen Circle. To learn more about becoming a monthly donor, contact mj@hoytarboretum.org.
We have made every effort to include all donations from 2020. If our report contains errors or omissions, please accept our apologies. Notify MJ Jackson, Development and Communications Coordinator, with record updates at 503.823.3655 or mj@hoytarboretum.org.

**BY INCLUDING HOYT ARBORETUM AS A BENEFICIARY IN THEIR WILLS, BEQUESTS, AND OTHER PLANNED GIFTS, SEQUOIA LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS ARE THE PROTECTIVE CANOPY OF OUR LIVING MUSEUM. WE’RE THANKFUL TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS FOR MAKING THE ULTIMATE COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF TREE CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, AND STEWARDSHIP.**

**SEQUOIA LEGACY SOCIETY**

Names highlighted in green have passed.

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**$250 - $999**
First Tech Federal Credit Union
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If you have included Hoyt Arboretum Friends in your estate plan or would like to learn more about how to do so, we invite you to join the Sequoia Legacy Society. Please contact Anna Goldrich, Executive Director at anna@hoytarboretum.org or 503.823.1648.

**SILVER LEAF STEWARDS**

2020 Commemorative Donations

In Memory of Bruce Hall
Caroline Hall
In Memory of Hal Balyeat
Elizabeth Casso-Gomez
In Memory of Hal and Bernice Hurwitz
The Hurwitz Family
In Memory Of Charlene North
Ray North
Despite program disruptions that began in mid-March and continued through the end of the year, volunteers quickly adapted to the many changes brought on by COVID-19 and found ways to stay involved from home and at the Arboretum. In 2020, we recorded nearly 5,400 hours of volunteer service (in a typical year, it’s usually about 12,000 hours). But based on limited operations, that number reflects a strong commitment by Hoyt’s volunteers to stay connected and give back as much as possible to best support the health and safety of everyone at the Arboretum despite the COVID shutdown.