



#### A Word from our Executive Director

When I first started working at Hoyt Arboretum in August of 2009, I was repeatedly told of the beauty and splendor of our Magnolia Collection. Of course in late August I couldn't really see what all the fuss was about. Fast forward just a few months to April 2010 (and the ridiculously early arrival of spring last year) and I suddenly began to understand what everyone was telling me. There are well

over 150 specimens in our Collection of Magnolias and some of them are even endangered species in their native habitats.

I have fallen in love with these beautiful and ancient trees, and I encourage you to come out and see them for yourself. Right now, most of the trees are bare with no foliage but have hundreds flower buds that are wrapped in a protective bud scale. Even these early signs of spring are a wonder to observe. Soon, those scales will fall to the ground and the most amazing display of flowers will spring forth and color the entire valley where the magnolias live. These special trees are said to be the origin of all flowering plants and a walk through the collections can take you millions of years backwards in time.

Of course spring brings new life to the entire Arboretum! Sure, we're in for a few more cold days and spring in Oregon always comes with some rain, but come on out to visit and see what Mother Nature has brought us this year. See you out on the trails!

Mat Sinclair
Executive Director

#### "TREE BARK"

by Tripp, Chocolate Lab

Woof! Spring has officially arrived! It's time to get back outside and take your people for a walk. Did you know that the City of Portland manages 31 off-leash areas? In fact, Portland is ranked #1 in the country (according to Forbes) for number of dog parks per capita! Check out <a href="https://www.portlandparks.org">www.portlandparks.org</a> for all the locations and details.

But there are still lots of great places to explore with your person on-leash. My favorite spot in Portland is the Hoyt Arboretum. With so many trees and flowers starting to come into bloom it's like

going to a sniffing buffet! Also, if you can keep your people quiet, there's a large amount of wildlife you can see and hear out along the trails. Yup, it's a beautiful place to explore, so get your people going!





## **Magnificent Magnolias**

by Erin Murray

Spring is definitely in the air here in Portland, and nowhere is it more apparent than in the Magnolia Collection. Now is the perfect time to come see the blooms that are just starting to emerge with delicate white, pink and yellow flowers. The Magnolia Trail, just east of the Arboretum Visitors Center, meanders through the collection of 28 different cultivars and

30 species, featuring such cultivars as the Ballerina, Pink Star, Waterlily, among others, making for a great walk in the early spring.

Magnolias are a unique and easily-identified species of tree, and are considered to be one of the oldest flowering plants. The magnolia flowers tend to be large and terminal on the branches, occurring before the leaves on most deciduous species. Depending on the variety, these flowers can be very fragrant and range in color from white and pale pink to deep magenta. Although there are 8 species native to the United States, most magnolias we see commonly are ornamental

cultivars.

This unique plant was frequently used in French botanic gardens and is named after Pierre Magnol, the director of a botanical garden in Montpellier, France. They are popular in French gardens, but also make an appearance in American gardens as well, where they are often planted to commemorate special occasions or events. In Hoyt Arboretum, the magnolia collection begun in the 1930s just after the Arboretum was founded. Many of the specimens still blooming today were planted in the 1960s, arranged together in taxonomic groups along the Magnolia Trail. Come admire these magnificent trees that help announce the coming spring!

#### **Upcoming Events**

Honoring a Friendship-Creating a Partnership
China's Lushan Botanical Garden and Portland's Hovt Arboretum

When: Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011

9:30-11:00am Cost: Free

Location: University of Oregon's White Stag Building

Click here for Directions

Join Portland resident, Elsa Allgood Porter, for her captivating story of connections with the Chinese Lushan Botanical Garden. Elsa's father, Roy Algood, was the headmaster of the Kuling American School in Lushan and worked closely to protect the fledgling garden from destruction during the Japanese invasion in 1938 when the founders were forced to flee to the west. Ultimately, the headmaster and his family, including Elsa, were forced to fee for their own safety.

Now, more than 70 years later, Elsa has rekindled the relationship with the Lushan Garden. Noting that the Lushan Botanical Garden's collections, interest in biodiversity conservation, and even climate, mirror those in Oregon, Porter suggested they come to visit the Pacific Northwest and develop a scientific exchange. Hoyt Arboretum Friends (HAF) agreed to be their host. A delegation of botanists from Lushan, led by Director, Zhan Xuanhuai, will inaugurate this partnership with a visit to Portland in June, 2011.

This is an amazing opportunity to learn more about cultural and ecological exchange between these two great gardens. A special Lushan Garden Fund, in memory of Roy Allgood, has been established by HAF to support our hospitality for this delegation and for reciprocal visits to Lushan. For more information on this fund, or to contribute, please call Hoyt Arboretum Friends at: 503.823.1649.



### 2011 Spring Break Tours

Looking for a fun outdoor activity while the kids are off from school? Look no further than Portland's own backyard! Each day during the week of spring break, Monday-Saturday (March 21-26), we will be offering guided tours through the Arboretum's collections. These tours will depart each day from the Visitors Center at 10:00 am.

Cost: \$3 per person Length: Roughly 90 minutes

# Spring Color Preview Tour Stay Tuned!

We're getting ready for some spring color at Hoyt! Stay tuned as we closely watch the buds and gague the best time for us all to gather and see the Arboretum burst into its colorful spring show. We'll highlight the Dogwood and Magnolia Collections on an evening walk towards the end of April. Check our website soon for more information.

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