



Hoyt Arboretum

a world of trees for all seasons



Fall 2011 Newsletter

Introducing HAF's new Executive Director

Hello, HAF members! I am very excited to be the new executive director of HAF and would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

*Peggie Schwarz
Hoyt Arboretum
Friends Executive
Director*

I am a native Portlander and an avid hiker, climber, kayaker and opera singer. I have been exploring the Northwest for the past seven years as executive director of the Mazamas mountaineering and conservation organization. While with the Mazamas I managed the purchase and renovation of the first permanent headquarters, administered a capital campaign that raised over \$1.4 million for the building and increased membership to the highest levels in the Mazamas' 113-year history. Prior to the Mazamas I spent nearly 20 years in performing arts management in senior positions at Portland Opera and the Oregon and Chicago Symphony Orchestras. I was a consultant for several years with organizations such as the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras and the Nonprofit Association of Oregon and I've had the pleasure of serving on grants panels for the Oregon and Idaho Arts Commissions and teaching arts administration at conferences and at the U of O.

I was drawn to HAF by the beauty of the arboretum and the importance of supporting Portland's "living museum of trees" where we exhibit trees and plants from around the world, educate our community and conserve vitally important plant diversity.

There are a number of projects we're currently implementing that build on the success of HAF since its founding in 1986. In the next year new trail signage and maps will improve way-finding. Additional interpretative kiosks will strengthen the educational experience. We will continue to plant new trees; expand, upgrade and diversify our collection and protect endangered and rare species. Did you know that we have one of only 18 *Magnolia zenii* trees in the world?

Our current goals include strengthening our Board of Directors by filling vacancies; expanding our membership; and cultivating relationships with individual, corporate and foundation donors to support our mission. Our dreams are to build additional overlook decks, increase educational offerings, update and add more tree identification labels, increase the level of care for the collection and enhance the overall visitor experience.

Do I have a fully-formed personal vision for HAF and Hoyt Arboretum? Not quite yet. That vision will be informed by ongoing conversations with our parks partners, our members and the many dedicated people who have contributed time, talent and treasure to HAF for the past 25 years.

I've had the good fortune of working at what I love for my entire career - from music to mountains to trees. What do they all have in common that continues to inspire me? That's simple...it's the beauty.

Peggie Schwarz, Executive Director

Featured Tree

Picea breweriana, Brewers Spruce

Often described as North America's most beautiful conifer the Weeping or Brewers spruce is a throw back to the origins of the genus. It is unique among spruces due to its cone form and production of alkaloids which is unknown in other spruces. This species is in fact a basal member of the family. Basal status indicates that a plant is the oldest recognized species and all other species within the genus are its descendants.

This long isolated spruce, which exists in a small area of Northern California and Southern Oregon, is the parent of the 36 other *Picea* species. *Picea* occur only in the Northern hemisphere throughout North America, Asia and Europe. Its closest relative today is the Mexican spruce, *Picea chihuahuana*, also a rare isolated species.



The Brewer's Spruce at Hoyt Arboretum

Brewers spruce is truly graceful, exhibiting a weeping nature that is both attractive and functional. In high altitudes near the coast (within 90 miles at the most inland point) heavy wet snow is plentiful and this branching sheds snow easily before limb breakage occurs. In this region most of the 110 inches of precipitation occur as snow and the summers are very dry. To the very east of the range the trees tolerate as little as 39 inches of rain. Although large stands of the trees seem restricted to shallow rocky soils, authors on the subject seem to agree that this is due to competition from other conifers on the more fertile soils than the tree's inability to grow in those soils.

The trees are slow growing and are sometimes shaded out by other conifers in their native habitats. This characteristic, however, has made them very popular in Europe as an ornamental tree. In cultivated settings they slowly reach but seldom exceed 50' tall and their narrow form and weeping nature make them a handsome garden tree. Hardy to USDA zone 6 they are tolerant of garden conditions as long as soils are well drained. In extreme heat the tree will shut down stomata in order to avoid excess water loss, again a good adaptation to the harsh summer environment of its mountain home. In their native range trees may reach as much as 130 feet and may live to be over 1000 years old

(Notable conifer expert Frank Callahan estimates Oregon's largest brewers spruce to be 2,200 years old).

The tree derives its name from the first recorded sighting by William H. Brewer (1828-1910). He was the professor of Agriculture at Yale University, though more influential for his involvement as field botanist in the first geological survey of California in 1860-1864.

Hoyt Arboretum is home to 18 brewers spruce though is soon to be home to more. The Arboretum has partnered with The Portland Garden Club's Centennial Tree Program and Brewers spruce is the focus tree for this project. We will be collecting seed from the Siskiyou Range in Southern Oregon and with the garden club's assistance, be propagating trees for placement in the Hoyt Arboretum's collection. Additional goals of the project are, learning about this rare native tree, promoting its horticultural use and enhancing awareness about its sensitive environment.

Martin Nicholson, Hoyt Arboretum Curator

Sources:

Dale Thornburgh- Silvics of North America, Volume One pg 181-186

Molecular Phylogeny and Biogeography of *Picea* (Pinaceae):

Implications for Phylogeographical Studies Using Cytoplasmic Haplotypes. Jin-Hua Pan a,b, Xiao-Xin Wei a, Xiao-Quan Wang

www.conifercountry.com - Micheal Kaufman

Conifers of California - Ronald M Lanner



Curator, Martin Nicholson, explains to our Chinese visitors how Hoyt Arboretum's collections are arranged.

Building International Connections - Lushan Botanical Garden, China

During the week of July 24th to 29th the Hoyt Arboretum Friends (HAF) and Portland Parks & Recreation were proud to host a 3-person delegation from the Lushan Botanical Garden in China.

The week-long visit was the result of many months of planning by HAF and Elsa Porter to build a cooperative relationship between the two gardens. Elsa and her amazing history with the Lushan Garden spearheaded the project and was instrumental in the planning, fundraising and overall success of the visit.

The week allowed HAF to showcase Hoyt Arboretum's Collections along with Washington Park's International Rose Test Garden, Forest Park, the

Lan Su Chinese Garden, the Japanese Garden, the Min Zidell healing garden of the National College of Natural Medicine, US Forest Service land, Oregon State University's North Willamette Research Station and local nursery productions at JFrank Schmidt and Dover Nurseries.

The culmination of the week was a farewell banquet solidifying our new friendship. Commissioner Nick Fish was on hand to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) along with HAF Board Chair, David Ellis, and Deputy Director Zhan from the Lushan Botanical Garden. The MOU agrees to establish a long term mutually productive and collaborative scientific relationship. Common interests between the gardens are environmental conservation, exchange of seed material, protection of rare species, garden management, and disjunction species between China and North America.

HAF would like to thank the many people involved with the visit for their assistance in launching this international relationship. It was an amazing group effort and we are excited to continue strengthening this link. Look forward to hearing more about this partnership in the future!

Laura Zanetto, Program Director

Upcoming Events: Fall Color Preview Tour

October 16th

2pm - Members Reception

3pm - General Tour

Meet at the Visitors Center, 4000 SW Fairview Blvd. Portland, OR 97221.

We're gearing up for fall, can you believe it? Join us for a celebration of fall color with our Curator, Martin Nicholson. Martin will guide us around the Arboretum, on a special route designed for optimum color viewing and answer all of our questions along the way. Did you know that fall color's timing is determined by the length of daylight and not by the drop in temperatures? Learn more great facts like this and enjoy your Arboretum on a lovely fall afternoon.

Thank you for being a Hoyt Arboretum Friends Member! Join us before the tour for a members reception honoring Hoyt Arboretum Friend's new Executive Director, Peggie Schwarz. Peggie is looking forward to meeting our members and sharing her passions, ideas and love for the Arboretum. Join us at the Visitors Center, Bill deWeese Classroom, at 2pm for some light hors d'oeuvres and great local wines.



Hoyt's Tupelo Collection is a wonderful fall color experience.

Are you a Hoyt Arboretum Friends Member?

Renew your membership today! We'll be contacting you soon to renew, the easiest way is to visit our website, www.hoytarboretum.org. Join the fun and the beauty today!

A special thanks to all 62 arborists who participated in Arborists in the Arboretum Day, 2011

This year marked the 26th anniversary of the event. It was a great day, full of smiles, chainsaws and amazing comradery. An incredible amount of work was accomplished this year, and Hoyt Arboretum Friends and Portland Parks & Recreation would like to thank everyone for volunteering their time and expertise. You make an amazing difference!

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