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In partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation

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David Porter takes the reins at Leach Botanical Garden

The Leach Garden Friends Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of David Porter as the organization's new Executive Director. David brings to Leach Garden a wealth of experience in non-profit management, having served as the Executive Director of organizations as diverse as Pioneer Courthouse Square and the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. David has a special appreciation for the importance of irreplaceable collections and the opportunities they create: "The stories, whether of John and Lilla Leach or of the plants in the collection, make it possible to spark the imagination and create insights and dialogues on a wide array of topics, connecting our past and our future with the natural world around us."

As Leach Botanical Garden's Executive Director, Porter will lead a staff of 4 and work with the Board of Directors, scores of volunteers, organizational partners and the broader community to help transform the Garden from its current state as one of Portland's "hidden jewels" into a preeminent botanical garden integral to the neighborhood, city and region.

A lush oasis just south of Foster on SE 122nd, the historic Manor House and grounds of Leach Botanical Garden lie in a hollow carved out by Johnson Creek. In 1931 John and Lilla Leach purchased five acres along Johnson Creek and named it "Sleepy Hollow." Here they built their home and devoted themselves to their love for plants. The original Leach collection, which includes *Kalmiopsis leachiana* – one of five plant species discovered by botanist Lilla Leach, forms the core of the now 16+ acre botanic garden. Leach Botanical Garden, a model of sustainable and natural landscaping, is dedicated to the conservation of and education about northwest native plants.

Founded in 1981, Leach Garden Friends is a 501©(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization working in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation to manage Leach Botanical Garden.

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Press Note: An informal "Coffee & Conversation" with David Porter is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 10am - noon at the Leach Botanical Garden Manor House: 6704 SE 122nd Ave., just south of Foster Blvd.

*It is the mission of Leach Botanical Garden to maintain and enhance living collections of plants for the purpose of education, research and conservation and to preserve the legacy of the Garden's founders, John and Lilla Leach.
The Garden is committed to providing positive experiences to the diverse community upon which it relies for support.*

