



FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

# Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

Winter 2004

## Volunteers Build Kiosk

Last November 2, workers from Rainbow Valley Design and Construction interrupted the serenity of Hendricks Park with a flurry of pounding and sawing as they built a new information kiosk at the southeast entrance to the parking area.

The project began very quietly months before the first nail reverberated in the park. Early in 2003, Joan Kelley started writing a grant proposal to the City of Eugene's Neighborhood Matching Grant Program. A design from architect Lee Kersh became the sub-structure of the proposal on which the grant was built. Contributions of time, materials and labor came next. Rainbow Valley Design and Construction made the kiosk a reality by donating their skills, tools and labor.

Glass panels will soon be installed, providing a sheltered place for posting announcements of neighborhood and park activities. A large map of the park is also in the works. Contact Friends of Hendricks Park if you wish to post an announcement.

While painting the kiosk during the last dry weekend in December, Joan summed up the project. "What started with pencil and paper," she said, "was transformed by Michael Scarola and Rainbow Valley with lumber and nails."



The Friends give thanks to:

Rainbow Valley Design and Construction  
L. A. Kersh, Architecture, Inc.  
Stringfield Building Materials Company

Eugene True Value Hardware  
Jerry's Home Improvement Center  
Beth Bridges (City of Eugene)

## Successful Conference

On Oct. 9 and 10, a workshop titled “Mending Natural Systems in Our Cities: Examining Community Stewardship, Ecosystem Repair and Environmental Education in Urban Areas” was presented by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division (Hendricks Park and Stream Team) and Friends of Hendricks Park.

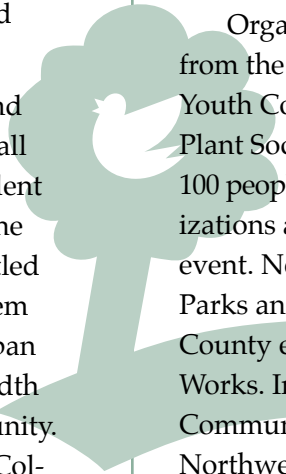
Three speakers provided the background and inspiration for small-group dialogues in which all attendees participated. Bruce Newhouse, president of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, opened the workshop on Thursday afternoon with a talk titled “Integrating Community Stewardship, Ecosystem Repair and Environmental Education in the Urban Landscape.” Bruce provided a sense of the breadth and depth of activities underway in our community. Dr. Robin Kimmerer, associate professor in the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at the State University of New York, Syracuse, began Friday morning’s session with a talk titled “Reciprocity and Restoration: Restoring Relationships Between Land and Community.” In the afternoon, Jan Vandertuin, president and co-founder of the Network Charter School in Eugene and executive director of the Center for Appropriate Transport, talked about “Developing and Maintaining Communication to Help Us Learn from Each Other’s Experiences and Share Resources.” The organizers strongly intended the workshop to embody the concepts of sustainability and to reflect the realities of environmental education and restoration work. Toward that end, the workshop was held at the Northwest Youth Corps campus in east Eugene rather than at a hotel or conference center.

“Mending Natural Systems in Our Cities” was a successful event that again demonstrated the effectiveness of a public-private partnership between the city and nonprofit organizations in the community. There certainly was a strong sense among participants that the workshop was worthwhile and productive for them. At the same time, ideas surfaced for making a future event even more positive. It was a good first attempt

at generating constructive discussions about important social, ecological and political issues in our community.

Many thanks to all the organizations and volunteers who contributed so much to the workshop’s success!

Organizational assistance and sponsorship came from the Camas Educational Network, Northwest Youth Corps, Walama Restoration Project, Native Plant Society of Oregon and Café Soriah. More than 100 people representing more than 20 nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies attended the event. Nearly 20 people from different crews in Parks and Open Space were present, as well as Lane County employees from the Department of Public Works. In addition, students and faculty from Lane Community College, University of Oregon, the Northwest Youth Corps and South Eugene High’s International High School participated.



### Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Dear Aunt Rhodie:

On my daily walks through the park, I have often encountered a mysterious masked, hooded person with a perky beagle leashed to his waist. Who is this person?

Thank you, SANDRA



Dear Sandra,

This masked, hooded person is Tim Scott, who walks with his dog, Sugar Ray, in the park. Sugar Ray is a 17-year-old female beagle who got her name from her pugilistic attitude when she was younger.

Tim says she was quite a handful. Tim wears a mask for allergy reasons and a hood to help with peripheral vision problems from an old head injury. The amazing thing is that he and Sugar Ray have walked an average of 25 miles each week for the past 17 years. If I have done my math correctly, that amounts to about 22,100 miles. They love walking in Hendricks Park—what better place to put on all those miles. So don’t be nervous when you see them.

Say hi, but watch out for Sugar Ray!

Sincerely, AUNT RHODIE

## Michael's Retirement Party

Colorful lights, merriment and salsa music radiated from the shelter at Hendricks Park Nov. 21, 2003, during the festivity commemorating Michael Robert's retirement. Well-wishers were seemingly medieval, with headdresses adorned in English ivy, jewels and even flashing lights. The oversized fireplace roared with warmth while the revelers paid little heed to the dark, chilly evening.

All were celebrating Michael's retirement and rite of passage from longtime gardener to man of leisure. There was certainly no rocking chair or gold watch since Michael plans to travel and research the park's history.

Michael worked for the City of Eugene Parks Service for 30 years, spending 20 of those at Hendricks Park, where he definitely has left his imprint. We wish Michael the best and, like many others, believe his finest accomplishments are yet to



Michael (center) celebrating at his retirement party with Keith and Ginny of Hendricks Park's staff.

## Michael's Reflections on his Long Career

To have kept the magic and beauty of Hendricks Park with so many others for more than 25 years is my greatest accomplishment. To have given the park a unified vision for the greater part of that time is where I really feel successful. Promoting and coordinating the labor of the park to achieve those dreams is where I feel particularly blessed. Hendricks Park has been an incredibly creative opportunity for me, and the support of the few dedicated long-term fellow stewards and a rich variety of many hundreds of other workers has made it very rewarding.

Alan Dickman spoke at a Friends of Hendricks Park lecture about forest ecology and said that, in the bigger picture, natural histories are centuries of boredom interrupted by moments of chaos. It does seem that over my long career at Hendricks Park and the Rhododendron Garden the interrupting moments of chaos were more frequent, but it's nonetheless true that these natural landscapes wear the histories of

growth and decline that shape them. One of my best accomplishments was the community's acknowledgement and the park's management of the dynamic nature of the park. With the acceptance of the Forest Management Plan in 2001, the city

management and public began a new era of parks and open space management that respects natural systems and is dedicated to conserving and restoring them.

I think that my continuity of effort—building a community of support and maintaining an aging infrastructure—has yielded cumulative benefits for the park. For all the labor that

we have put into Hendricks Park over the years, we haven't built large monuments. But by building gardens, memorials and seating areas, we've increased the public's participation and enhanced the use and ownership of the park. I've worked at Hendricks Park long enough to see generations of citizens' support.

Over the course of my career, it is the unseen achievements that may be more substantial—drainage systems and run-off control, irrigation systems and reduced water use, a less extensive but well-built trail system, a less chemical use in the park and creation of ecosystem management methods that have set a standard for other Eugene parks. The closed road and control of the other negative impacts on the park is also unseen yet significant.

In 1985, we completed work with a citizens group to adopt a set of recommendations for the Rhododendron Garden that have been guiding principles for the Garden ever since. In 2001, we completed the Forest Management Plan for Hendricks Park with another citizens group. These documents are major achievements, but the real accomplishments have been and are in their implementation.

I've built the education and outreach efforts of the park by offering workshops, tours and volunteer

Micheal's reflections, continued from page 3

and work opportunities for a diverse public during my entire tenure. I am most proud of the long-term commitment I have made to young people who have worked and learned at Hendricks Park since I began working there. In the beginning, they provided the extra help we needed to accomplish the extraordinary tasks of the park, such as weeding the forest of ivy and blackberries.

I could summarize my accomplishments in Hendricks Park with a simple comparison. When I began working at the park, nearly all the high school students that I knew told me that they partied at Hendricks Park. The era was rife with destructive vandalism, underage drinking and lack of law enforcement. For many years now, the most consistent youth impact on Hendricks Park is from the hundreds of young people who have proudly worked there. I've worked long enough at Hendricks Park to have worked with generations of youth.

When I first interviewed for the job with the Parks Maintenance section in 1973, the city's personnel director wrote that I really would rather be a teacher and she wasn't sure if I would stay working for parks. I feel that I've been a teacher ever since.

## Native Plant Showcase

### *Winter-active ferns*

**L**icorice fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*) comes alive this time of year when all seems lethargic in the forest. Inactive in the dry summer months and active with the seasonal rains, this drought-deciduous fern grows on moss mats of logs and trunks of hardwood trees. It is also growing on the top section of the chimney in the park's F.M. Wilkins Shelter.



During summer, its fronds dry up and fall off. With autumn rains, new fronds appear.

Named for its licorice-flavored rhizomes (root-like structures), the fern has a stem and long triangular fronds only in winter. This moss-loving fern is native

## Volunteer Spotlight

*After several months of struggle by volunteers who had never attempted such a process, the Friends' newsletter made its debut in November 2002. Fortunately, Jeanne Maasch received a copy in that first mailing and came forth to help, offering to polish up the design and layout. She has continued to volunteer her design skills and knowledge of printing—happily working with old friends at Clancey Printing—and makes the newsletter shine (have you noticed?). She donates her time and artistic view while working full-time as an art director and designer in the University of Oregon's publications office.*



Jeanne Maasch

*A former pastry chef for the Metropol Bakery, Jeanne went back to school in 1983, completed LCC's graphic design program and worked at a local ad agency and a PR/marketing firm before joining the university in 1994. She is pictured here at her computer, but you are more likely to see her walking in the park, as she is a frequent walker and park neighbor. (She likes to think of the park as her back yard.) Thank you, Jeanne, for making a difference in the family of Friends.*

to the moist temperate rainforests that extend from northern California to southern Alaska.

Native Americans used the rhizomes medicinally, as a cough remedy and throat aid, and for flavoring foods. In the complex ecosystem of the forest, this small fern has a role to play. Its extensive network of rhizomes provides a place for other epiphytes, such as mosses and lichens, to grow. The fern also provides food for herbivorous insects. The fern crop is especially green and lively this year due to our early ample rainfall.



## Watching the Witch Hazels (*Hamamelis*)

Under the feeble winter sun, look for the small frilly blossoms of witch hazel in the Rhododendron Garden.



## Forest Restoration Update

Restoration of the forest remains the Friends' primary goal, and we are proud to report both progress and satisfaction.

In December, Walama Restoration cleared 5 acres of ivy from the upper saddle to the oak knoll. Some of the debris is being composted, but the bulk is being loaded up and trucked away. Volunteers cleared an additional 1/8 of an acre of ivy in the fall of 2003.

A trail into the oak knoll was built last spring in partnership with REI, increasing access and making it easier to remove nonnative plants and spread mulch and plant native seeds in that area of the park.

Volunteers planted a dozen yew trees, propagated on-site from mature, native Pacific yews. Yews are one of the tree species that naturally succeed Douglas fir. They were planted where nonnative laurels had been removed.

The Hendricks Park staff prepared a large nursery bed for propagating native scrubs (small trees or shrubs) for future restoration projects. Staff members have also been involved with an ongoing study of secondary weed invasion with the University of Oregon's Service Learning Center and the City of Eugene's natural resources staff. Sites have been set up, and data are being gathered and analyzed statistically to determine the best methods for preventing herb Robert and nipplewort from invading areas cleared of ivy.

Walama Restoration will soon plant snowberry plants that were propagated by one of its classes two years ago. The snowberries will be planted on steep, erosion-prone banks.

Park staff burned weeds and mulched the long, narrow planting area around the parking lot in preparation for replanting the area with a mix of native scrubs and forbes.



Tim Scott and Beth Hunt, neighbors on Cresta de Ruta, are attempting to raise \$5,000 to fund an acre of ivy removal along Highland Drive. If you would like to donate to this project, please contact Tim at 484-0368.



## Hendricks Park Magnolia Tour

Roger Gossler, owner of the local, highly respected Gossler's Nursery, will be guest tour leader for a Hendricks Park magnolia tour on March 28 at 1:00 p.m. (rain or shine). Mr. Gossler, a nationally known magnolia expert, will give a fantastic tour of Hendricks Park, which has one of the best magnolia collections in the Northwest. Meet at the Wilkins Shelter in Hendricks Park, and wear sturdy walking shoes.



## Volunteer Opportunities

- **Adopt-A-Plot** The weeds are on their way! Now is the time to get a jump on them by adopting a plot in the Native Plant Garden, Rhododendron Garden or forest. Call Sandra at 343-3452.
- **Forest Restoration Work Party** Meet at the shelter at 9:30 a.m. February 14. Other dates in March and April will be announced.

*Thanks to Eugene City Bakery for donating fresh pastries for every work party.*



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Hendricks Park

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New Year's Day Snowstorm

