



FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

# Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

WINTER 2005

## How Old is that Tree?




That tree was prominent when the Rhododendron Garden was established in 1951 in this section of Hendricks Park. The tree offered shade to the deer when the area was fenced in as the deer "zoo." The tree was there before the Park was dedicated in 1906. When Eugene Skinner claimed his land beside the Willamette River, that tree was already growing. The tree is estimated to be 200 years old.

This distinctive deciduous tree with wide spreading branches is an Oregon White Oak. Oak woodland and savannas were principal habitats in the south Willamette Valley for thousands of

years before European settlers came to the Valley.


Walk over to the Oak Knoll in the forest section of the Park (southwest) and you will see a remnant oak grove that FoHP is working to restore. Oak trees throughout the park tell a story. Make the connection.

This tree has been nominated to the Legacy Tree Program, sponsored by the Eugene Tree Foundation ([www.eugenetreefoundation.org](http://www.eugenetreefoundation.org)). This recognizes trees that make a contribution to the community and demonstrates the important role the urban forest play in our life. 



## Fundraiser at Neighborhood Restaurant

On January 25th, the Friends held their first fundraiser. Thanks to Beppe and Gianni's it was a successful one. They generously donated 50% of all proceeds from that evening to the Friends. Great community support resulted in a prosperous fundraiser. The money raised will go towards a volunteer coordinator for the Rhododendron Garden and restoration of the Oak Knoll.

Please support those who support us.  
*Thanks to Beppe and Gianni!* 

# Volunteer Spotlight



Martin and Linda Sage moved to Eugene in August, 2000 after a careful search for an ideal place to retire. Linda still works at home as a science editor and writer, but Martin has retired from being Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. They chose their home on Woodland Drive because of its proximity to Hendricks Park. You may see them walking in the park early most mornings.

After they finish walking, Martin and Linda weed the park for a short time, each in their own special area. They have made great progress in removing herb Robert along trail edges.

Martin has cleared the trail between Highland Ave. and the junction with the trail to Capitol. He has now moved to the Oak Knoll Trail. Linda works on the upper portion of the rock restroom trail. They are also frequent participants in the park's Saturday work parties.

Linda says it is a great benefit to live near the park and enjoy its resources, and she finds volunteering a way to be a good neighbor to the park and to provide payback for the privilege of using it. She finds the Saturday work parties fun and the Friends of Hendricks Park "a great bunch of people." Martin feels it is important to preserve the park for future generations by protecting native plants and removing the invasive non-natives. "Plants that are native to our area are getting swamped, and we will lose them and habitat diversity without giving help," he adds.

The Sages are charter members of Friends of Hendricks Park and helped establish the Friends. Linda also edits the newsletter. Thank you, Martin and Linda, for all your efforts in forest restoration. 

## Jason Replaces John

**J**ason Blazar becomes Hendricks Park's new Forest restoration leader as John Moriarty moved on to serve as the state-wide coordinator for the watershed councils and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Jason also spends part of his time working with Camas Educational Network ([www.camasnet.org](http://www.camasnet.org)). His background and experience is in resource management.

Welcome Jason. 






# It's Ivy Time Again

## *ivy update*

This year Wilamma Restoration removed two additional acres of ivy and a new method of disposal was used. Instead of ivy being hauled away or composted in piles, the bio-mass is being returned to the forest.

Ivy was pulled out, roots shaken free of dirt and placed back on the ground with as little root contact as possible with the forest floor. This new method of removal takes less money, time and effort. No hauling was necessary. Transporting it out of the forest during the wet season can cause problems, such as rutting paths and tearing up the forest floor. Removal of the ivy mass is difficult when the work area is not a short distance from the path or road in the steeper part of the park. Plus there are forest nutrients-sticks, leaves, and mosses in the debris-that can be returned to the ecosystem. While the area may look odd right now with piles of ivy laying around, in the long run the result will be beneficial for the forest and help stay within budget constraints. 

## THANK YOU, JEANNE MAASCH

for volunteering your time to design the newsletter for the last two years.

You made a difference and will always be part of our family of Friends.



## Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Dear Aunt Rhodie:


*How long have the swings been attached to the Doug fir trees at the picnic grounds in Hendricks Park? Does this hurt the fir trees?*

*Thank you, Joan*

*Finding out how long the swings have been there was difficult... I only have guesses from the experts. According to retired head gardener Michael Robert, the picnic area was first developed in the 1950's, so the general consensus is that the swings were probably placed then. The trees*

*themselves are probably 80-100 years old.*

*The second question was easier to answer. According to arborist Nathaniel Sperry, the crossbar for the swings that is attached to the trees does little or no harm. The trees just adapt and grow around it.*

*If anyone has more information on when the swings were placed, please let us know.* 

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Send questions to:  
Aunt Rhodie, Friends of Hendricks Park  
P.O. Box 3784  
Eugene, OR  
or call 607-4066 and leave a message.

## How Could We Forget?

The last newsletter list of contributors neglected to mention the Eugene City Bakery and Fox Graphics. What would life be like without pastries and web sites? Thank you, Rudy and Charles!



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**FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park**

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printer, Clancey Printing.

Newsletter by Joan Kelley,  
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and Beneda Design

## Volunteer Opportunities



Tuesday morning regulars planting *cimicifuga* (bugbane) in the Native Plant garden last fall.

### Tuesday Morning Rhododendron Garden Regulars

9:00 a.m. – noon, every Tuesday  
Meet at Hendrick's Park Office

### Forest Restoration Dates

February 26  
March 12  
April 23  
Saturdays 9:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
Meet at shelter for pastries and coffee  
before work.

## Annual Meeting

March 16, 7-9:00 p.m.  
Laurelwood golf Course  
Speaker TBA  
Please join us.