



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

Spring 2003

Oak Forest Renewal to Begin

“Restoration of the remnant oak forest ecosystem is the top priority, while also striving to provide opportunities for visitors to understand, appreciate and enjoy this unique forest environment.” (*Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan, p. 92*)



Courtesy of Lane Co. Historical Museum

A 1908 photograph of Hendricks Park oak woodland.


One of the highlights of the comprehensive management plan was the identification of a remnant oak forest in the southwest corner of Hendricks Park. Often referred to as the Oak Knoll, this area is one of the most unusual and ecologically sensitive in the park.

The knoll represents a fragment of Willamette Valley oak woodland, a forest type considered globally endangered. No other area within the park's borders is so characteristic of this historic type of forest. Among the many native plants in its palette are camas, licorice fern, false Solomon's seal, osoberry and poison oak.

On May 31, 2003, city staff and volunteers will collaborate with REI and *Friends of Hendricks Park* to begin reconstructing the trail to the Oak Knoll. This trail used to lead to a lookout tower in the park, but the tower collapsed, and the trail became overgrown by 1975.

Damage to native plants could occur during trail development and use; therefore, careful planning and construction will be essential. The width of the trail will be restricted to that required for proper maintenance. Further trail design and signs will help visitors appreciate the area and prevent damage.

Poison oak is among the native species that make up the plant palette in the Oak Knoll. Because it plays an important role in providing food and cover for native animal species, the trail will avoid the plant as much as possible. Future trail users will be encouraged to stay on the trail both to protect the sensitive native plants and to protect themselves from contact with poison oak.

Improving access to the Oak Knoll will also increase opportunities for protecting the forest ecosystem. For example, it will be much easier for workers to get into the area to remove invasive vegetation such as blackberry, English ivy and Scotch broom. 

info@friendsofhendrickspark.org • www.friendsofhendrickspark.org • 541-607-4066


REI Community Service Project Will Build Oak Knoll Trail

You may be familiar with REI's trail projects at Mt. Pisgah. The community service organization will focus on Hendricks Park on May 31, when it will build a trail through the Oak Knoll, in the park's southwest corner. *Friends of Hendricks Park* is thrilled to be working with REI's special events coordinator, Robert Woodson. If you would like to participate, mark that Saturday on your calendar.

The proposed trail will run through a sensitive ecosystem within our urban forest, impacting areas with rare native plants and some of the last remaining oak woodland in the Willamette Valley. To prepare for the project, 10 volunteers have identified and transplanted valuable native plants growing in the proposed path to the oak grove. Trail planners have surveyed and resurveyed the area to avoid damage to the ecosystem and deal with challenging terrain.

If you volunteer on May 31, you'll have the opportunity to learn about native and invasive

species. You'll also need to be aware of the poison oak in the area. For trail-building work, wear sturdy shoes and work gloves. Long-sleeved shirts and long pants will help protect you from poison oak.

Because parking is limited, volunteers are encouraged to walk, park and ride with LTD or bike up. Please watch for posters and other information about alternative transportation. 

May 31 Event Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Registration, volunteer check-in and assignments
- 1:00 p.m. Trail work ends
- 1:30 p.m. Gather at Wilkens shelter for pizza

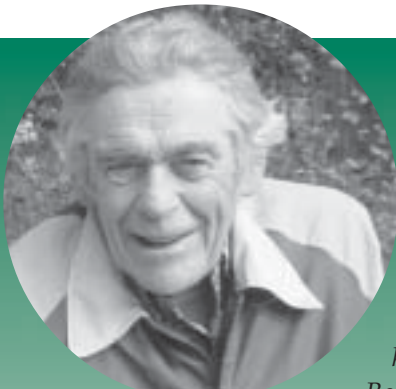
Volunteers will receive an REI T-shirt.

For more information:

FoHP at 607-4066

REI at 465-1800.

Join us for this community day!



Marriner Orum

Volunteer Spotlight

Over the past 40-plus years, Marriner Orum has been a neighbor, friend and volunteer for Hendricks Park. At 85 years of age, he is still pulling ivy from the trees, hiking the trails and bicycling through the park. He has developed such a good relationship with the park staff that he has permission to work on his own in the forest. Head gardener Michael Robert calls him one of his rogue ivy pullers. In his spare time, Marriner volunteers at Mt. Pisgah, eradicating blackberry bushes.

Marriner has a long history—30 years or so—of advocating the Ribbon Trail, which will connect Hendricks Park with Spencer Butte. Parts of this trail are now included in the Ridgeline Trail system in Eugene, and a portion that attaches directly to Hendricks Park will soon be official because the land has been purchased and construction is planned for next year. Marriner and a group of fellow hikers have been walking this route every December for many years, following the “ribbons” to Spencer Butte. Marriner helped the park staff and youth crews initiate parts of the route in the mid-1980s.

After he retired from the Forest Service at 62, Marriner bicycled across the United States. The bicycle remains his favorite mode of transportation, and he is often seen biking through the park on Fairmount or Summit. He says he has seen a lot of changes in the park over the years. Before the ivy took over the forest floor, he saw hundreds of trilliums each spring. Thanks to Marriner Orum's efforts and those of other volunteers and staff, we will see hundreds again before long.

Michael Robert Reports

Ivy Removal

The Parks and Open Spaces crew loaded and carried away **246 cubic yards** of ivy and blackberry debris from Hendricks Park. This represents the invasive plants that Walama Restoration Project cleared from the forest floor this winter as well as the debris that volunteer crews produced. All the material was carried away to Lane Forest Products which composts and recycles it for a fee. That is the equivalent of twenty-




Michael Robert explains weed culture to Master Gardeners

five 10-yard truckloads of material. Last year, we kept that much debris in Hendricks Park and composted it on site. Labor restraints kept us from composting on site this year.

Parking Problems

If you have visited Hendricks Park in April or May, you will know there is a problem finding a parking spot, especially on Mother's Day.

Solutions: Car pool or take the bus to Fairmount Boulevard and Summit Avenue; then walk up the hill to the park. 

Native Plant Showcase


by Evelyn Hess

Trillium

Oregonians know spring is here when patches of trillium appear in woodlands and on shady road banks. Whorls of three large green or mottled leaves top naked stems, and the usually white flowers have three petals. The flower sits directly on the leaves in sessile trillium or *T. albidum* (known previously as *T. chloropetalum*) or nod slightly from a short stem in Western trillium or *T. ovatum*. Hendricks Park gardener Ginny Alfriend tells us a way to remember which name belongs to which plant: Picture *T. ovatum* bowing on the end of its little stem to the crowd as it receives an ovation.




Enjoy trilliums in the woods, in your mind's eye or in a photograph, but don't pick them. Removing the leaves will starve the rhizome of carbohydrate, weakening the plant and discouraging next year's blooms.

Ants love the sticky appendage on each trillium seed, but if you beat them to it you should be able to germinate seeds from trilliums in your garden. 

Camas

Meadows turn blue in the spring with spikes of camas flowers. We have two species, *Camassia quamash* and *C. leichtlinii*, in colors ranging from pale blue to deep purple-blue and occasionally white. *C. leichtlinii* or great camas is the taller of the two, at two to four feet, and it comes into bloom just as flowers of common camas (*C. quamash*, one to two feet) begin to fade. A plant called the meadow death-camas belongs to a different genus. *Zygadenus venenosus* often grows in the same location as common camas and has very similar bulbs, but its flowers are cream and the bulbs are poisonous.

Although camas usually grows in fields or hillsides that are wet in winter, it needs to dry out in summer. It was an important food source for Native Americans, but we now take aesthetic rather than gastronomic pleasure from camas, admiring it in the wild or a sunny, unirrigated spot in the garden. 



FRIENDS OF HENDRICKS PARK

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Emory & Margaret Via
Samuel Vickers & Dana Africa
Terry West & Jack Viscard
A. Kingsley & Ingrid Weatherhead
Scot Williams

Native Plant Garden Contributions in Memory of Mary Rear Blakely

David & Jean Campbell
Brad & Elizabeth Copeland
Ann & Erik Muller
James R. & Pauline Rear
Maggy Rose
Harry Wolcott

In Memory of Gordon Gent

Jim Gent

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Volunteer Opportunitites

We can always use more!

The **Adopt-a-Plot** program is in full swing. Four families will be working in the Native Plant Garden this growing season. If you are interested in adopting a plot in the Rhododendron Garden, that is also possible.

FoHP and park staff are working on mapping, labeling and identifying plants in the Rhododendron Garden beds, with the goal of entering this information into a database.

For more information about these volunteer opportunities, contact Sandra Austin 343-3452 or e-mail freda@efn.org.

Hendricks Park Summer Volunteer Days: Meet John Moriarty at 9:30 a.m. in the shelter on the following Saturdays for work parties: July 19, Aug. 9, Sept. 13.

Watch for Hawks

Like people, hawks like to bring their families to the Rhododendron Garden. For 10 days last August, a family of four was seen in Hendricks Park. The youngsters received flying lessons, bugged their parents and perched on park benches. The parents squawked a rapid *kek kek kek* from the tops of trees.

These birds were Cooper's hawks, which have graced the park every summer for the past few years. Slate-gray above and barred below, Cooper's hawk can be confused with the sharp-shinned hawk. It is larger, though, with the female nearly as big as a crow, and it has a black cap. Its long, white-tipped tail has round, instead of square, corners.

Native Plant Garden Grows

Once again, onlookers of spring are dazzled by the varied display of the color green, with shades of emerald, lime and yellow-green. Meandering through the new paths in the Native Plant Garden can be like strolling through a foreign marketplace without the bustling crowd. There are so many things to catch the eye, and the unusual fragrances and setting are unlike those in ornamental gardens. The lack of a market crowd makes it easier to get down on one's knees to examine the verdant sprouts and tender leaves that are doing their habitual magic tricks. Fortunately, the Native Plant Garden encourages slow walking, meditative moments and close observation. It lets the magic come to you.

The Native Plant Garden was established in memory of Mary Rear Blakely. This memorial reflects Mary's lifelong love of gardening as well as her commitment to learning, sharing and teaching. Mary was an avid gardener and lover of native Oregon plants, her favorites being wild iris and trilliums. Creation of a native plant garden is an essential part of the Hendricks Park Management Plan and a key



component of the vision for the park. A garden composed primarily of native plants will significantly reduce the need for summer irrigation, increasing the stability of overstory trees around the F. M. Wilkins Shelter.

The Native Plant Garden will serve as a living bridge between the ornamental Rhododendron Garden to the north and the natural forest to the south. It surrounds the park's faithful sentinel, the F. M. Wilkins Shelter.



Ginny bringing native plants into the Native Plant Garden from the Oak Knoll

Aunt Rhodie tells all...


Dear Aunt Rhodie,
When I was a small child, my grandparents frequently took me to Hendricks Park, where we explored and picnicked. This would have been around 1920 because I was born in 1915 and am now 87. My grandmother often told of a place in the park she called "The Dutch House." It was a meeting place, I believe, and was still standing when I was a child. Do you know what it might have been?

Thank you, **VIRGINIA ENDICOTT HENDRICKSON**

Dear Virginia,
This was a hard one to answer—it took some time. Head gardener Michael Robert suggested I call Jack Simons, who has a long history with the Rhododendron Garden and the neighborhood. Mr. Simons did indeed remember the Dutch House. It was an abandoned house on the edge of the park east of the Wilkins Picnic Shelter and not actually on park land. There were stairs that went over the fence (a stile). It was an adventure for kids to go there as the place had a somewhat racy reputation as a party place, and this of course played big in their imagination. They thought they might even find a treasure. Thank you, Mrs. Hendrickson and Mr. Simons, for this interesting piece of history.

Sincerely, **AUNT RHODIE**

Busy working in the garden these days is Ginny Alfriend, a park employee who happily shares her knowledge when asked, "What is this?" Every Sunday in April and May, Ginny will lead a wildflower walk through the Native Plant Garden. The walks will begin at the shelter at 11 a.m.

Ask the enthusiastic gardeners in *Friends of Hendricks Park* what their favorite native plants are, and you'll realize you've asked something perplexing. Evelyn Hess said it was impossible to choose and, when urged, she replied, "Whatever is blooming or is about to bloom." Ginny Alfriend said, "Oh, they all are." After narrowing her brow and concentrating, Sandra Austin came up with trillium. It took Karen Goebel overnight to reach her verdict of native dogwood. Linda Sage was quick to respond with spring beauty, but then again it was blooming at the time. 



Friends of Hendricks Park
P.O. Box 3784
Eugene, OR 97403-0784

FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

Join us!

Become a
member of
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Hendricks
Park



Park Events

Lecture Series

"Invasive Species in Your Garden: What You Can Do"

Mariolein Schat
Monday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.
Eugene Public Library
Tykeson Room

"Birds of Hendricks Park"

Don Gleasen
Monday, July 14

"Forest Ecology"

Alan Dickman
Monday, Sept. 15

Community Trail

Building

Saturday, May 31, 8:30 a.m.
Register at F. M. Wilkins
Shelter

Wildflower Walks

**and Rhododendron
Garden Tours**

Every Sunday, April 6–May 18
Wildflower Walks with park
gardener Ginny Alfriend
start at 11:00 a.m.

Rhododendron Garden

Tours with head gardener
Michael Robert start at
1:00 p.m.

Meet at the F. M. Wilkins
Shelter in Hendricks Park,
2200 Summit Ave.

For more information call 682-
5324 or check the park's website,
www.ci.eugene.or.us/PW/parks