



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2005

Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden *The Spirit of the Natural*



Unlike many public gardens, the Rhododendron Garden in Hendricks Park is not intended to be a manicured, formal space. Nurtured by the Northwest climate, it evokes the natural. Native shrubs such as Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) and flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) mingle with Asian azaleas, rhododendrons and English perennials. Plants are allowed to develop with a natural inclination, and insecticides are not used. The naturalistic garden blends with the conventional and is stamped by the region.

Rhododendrons planted within the oak woodland explode with color this time of year. This contrast creates a stunning balance. Pathways curve and connect, leading visitors to discover and explore this enchanted space that is often shrouded in mist or fog during winter.

The garden celebrates natural shapes with a concern for careful weeding and planting of Northwest flora. This translates into a welcoming space one can visit over and over, always finding something new, whatever the season. Being witness to the spring-time grandeur of a fawn lily (*Erythronium oregonum*) in bloom or the velvety green sea of Oregon oxalis (*Oxalis oregana*) under a rhododendron are some of the discoveries available in these spring months. The garden receives the most visitors in spring, when the blooms are brightest and the sun's warmth is treasured.

To appreciate the garden is to understand that the entire park, all 78 acres, is one ecosystem. There is no separation in the tree canopy between the forest and Rhododendron Garden, and certainly none that the deer and bird life are aware of.

Garden maintenance harmonizes with nature's cycles. Leaf cover is nature's compost. Tree stumps are left to rot because they support insects and add humus to the soil, a snag is a woodpecker's feeding place, and sword ferns are free to rejuvenate themselves from last year's growth. The

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Volunteer Spotlight


In the spring of 2001, after head gardener Michael Robert presented *The Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan*, local resident Joan Kelly invited interested neighbors to join a discussion. Over the next few months, these discussions provided the impetus for organizing Friends of Hendricks Park. That's why we call Joan "the founding mother."



By the time Joan and her husband, David Moon, returned from a 9-month trip to Central America in 2002, Friends of Hendricks Park had become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Since then, Joan has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Friends and Hendricks Park. Her amazing ability to make community connections led her to REI, whose sponsorship aided the building of the Oak Knoll Trail. Joan also wrote the Neighborhood Grant to develop a kiosk at the park. And again, with REI's support, there will soon be a park map on the kiosk. It was also Joan who organized this winter's successful fundraiser at Beppe & Gianni's Trattoria.

Oh, and did we mention that, along with these achievements, Joan also is vice-president of the Friends, writes the newsletter and grant proposals for park programs, and volunteers with the Tuesday morning regulars in the Rhododendron Garden?

Joan believes that parks build community, and enjoys working to make Hendricks Park a better place. "No matter what I do for the park, it always gives more to me in terms of peace, beauty and calm," she explains.

Joan is pictured here at the entrance to the Rhododendron Garden, which she sees as the park's front door and the best way to introduce the public to the rest of the park, the Friends, and volunteer opportunities. 


The beauty of the rhododendron blossoms excites the poet in all of us...

*I watched a perfect blossom
transform from bud to bloom
it grew in a rhododendron's
wispy, iridescent plume*

Spirit of the Natural...continued from page 1

Hendricks Park staff takes into account the seasons and gives way to the independence of plants — the effect is a dynamic, living garden.

Our mild climate, native flora, and connection to the forest invigorate the Rhododendron Garden, which is a great treasure for all Eugene, especially in springtime. While you're visiting, thank the staff and volunteers who work to maintain this public space.

For more about Northwest gardening, see Ann Lovejoy's *"Cascadia and Naturalistic Gardening,"* or Ken Druse's *"The Natural Shade Garden."* 

Spring Tours

(Top to bottom) Roger Glossler, owner of Glossler Farms Nursery, gave a tour of the magnolias in the Rhododendron Garden on March 20. Ginny Alfriend, Hendricks Park gardener and resident native plant expert, led tour of the Native Plant Garden on April 3. Rich Aaring, member of the Rhododendron Society, guided his tour on April 10.



Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Dear Aunt Rhodie:

I just love to run free in Hendricks Park. Why do I hear people telling my master to keep me on a leash in the park?

Thank you, Fido

Dear Fido:

Boy, this is a tough one! Simply put, loose pets adversely affect native wildlife and native plants. I too have a four-legged friend who loves to run, especially off the trails. In fact, I used to let him have free range through the forested parts of the park before I learned about the detrimental impact of loose domestic animals on the forest environment.

I've seen evidence just this spring of damage to native plants by dogs running free. Swaths of camas were leveled in the Oak Knoll area. If a trillium is uprooted or knocked over, it may take years to bloom again. Even after native plants become dormant, dogs can spread invasive species into the forest when seeds attach to their paws and fur. So domestic animals should be kept out of the forest in all seasons or, by law, on leash.

While we are on the subject of dogs, I must also mention dog excrement. As we humans do restoration work in the forest, it is quite disconcerting to put your hands in or step on "dog doo-doo," which happens all too often during ivy removal. Please pass the word onto your masters to carry the ubiquitous plastic bag to collect your leavings, even in the forest. Also, remind them to deposit the plastic bags in the garbage and not leave them along the paths or in the forest.

With good training, you should be able to get your masters to obey. So, good luck.

Let's keep the forest safe for both our native plants and animal friends. Hope you find an appropriate place to have a great run without a leash. 🌀

Yours truly, Aunt Rhodie


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Send questions to:

Aunt Rhodie, Friends of Hendricks Park
P.O. Box 3784, Eugene, OR 97403
or call 607-4066 and leave a message.

Rhododendron 'Michael Robert'


One of the Rhododendrons in the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden has a new name, Rhododendron 'Michael Robert'. If that name sounds familiar, it's because Michael Robert, Head Gardener Emeritus, worked at Hendricks Park for over 25 years. The newly named plant was hybridized about 50 years ago by Del and Ray James who were instrumental in the development of the garden. Ron Friedland, a long time friend and advocate for the park thought of the idea of naming the plant for Michael. Rich Aaring, a member of the Rhododendron Society picked an appropriate plant and did the paper work by petitioning the *American Rhododendron Society* and the *Royal Horticultural Society* to name the plant for Michael Robert. His petition was accepted. Currently, there is only one of these plants in the garden though Rich has taken many cuttings and is propagating more plants with the idea of planting more specimens of this newly named hybrid.

Come to the garden and enjoy the soft buttery-yellow flowered plant named in honor of Michael for all his efforts for the Rhododendron Society and the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden. 

Volunteer Recruitment

The volunteer committee of the Friends would like to recruit and retain more volunteers while meeting the goal of our mission statement. Working together, having fun and building community are the rewards of volunteering.

Hendricks Park Staff and the FoHP board will conduct a needs assessment to identify appropriate activities for volunteers. New roles will include serving as naturalists/historians for tours of the park's three areas (Native Plant Garden, Rhododendron Garden and the Forest).

The committee is currently looking for help to staff an FoHP booth for Mother's Day on May 8 and the Arboretum Wildflower Show on May 15. Also, during the last weekend of July (30 and 31), volunteers are needed to help refinish the park's picnic benches. To volunteer, please call 607-4066 and leave us a message. 



Edison School Work Party

On March 12, Edison grade schoolers put bark on the Wildflower Trail in the forest.



New and Renewing Friends of Hendricks Park

October 1, 2004 to April 10, 2005

Benefactors

Beppe & Gianni's
Trattoria
Jerry Blakely

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Sandra Martin
Gloria Merriam

*Thanks to all our contribu-
tors, and we regret any
omissions or errors.*

Memorial Contributions Received

Rhododendron Garden Contributions in Memory of:

Evelyn Kieran
Francis Christie & Robert Kiernan

Hendricks Park Contributions in Memory of:

Alton McCully
Alton McCully Family

Native Plant Garden in Memory of:

Mary Rear Blakely
David & Jean Campbell

In Kind Contributors:

Tim Boyden/Wildwood Design
Rudy Fox/Fox Graphics
Charles Koehler/Eugene City Bakery

Yes! I want to become a member of Friends of Hendricks Park

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Senior/student/limited income \$20
 Individual \$30
 Family/household \$45
 Sponsor/business \$100
 Sustaining \$250
 Guarantor \$500
 Benefactor \$1,000
 Other amount \$_____

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$_____

- Forest restoration (i.e., ivy removal)
 Native Plant Garden
 Rhododendron Garden
 Unrestricted gift
 Memorial/commemorative gifts

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

Make checks payable to Friends of Hendricks Park

Yes! I want to volunteer

- Work parties
 Education
 Standing committees



Friends of Hendricks Park

P.O. Box 3784, Eugene OR 97403-0784

PERSONAL INFORMATION

name _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

telephone _____

e-mail _____

*Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.
Tax ID #93-1330075*



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

**FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park**

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Special thanks to our
printer, Clancey Printing.

Newsletter by Joan Kelley,
Sandra Austin, Linda Sage,
and Beneda Design

Upcoming Events

- May 4, Wednesday, 6 p.m. Ginny Alfriend leads a tour of the Native Plant Garden
- May 8, Mother's Day, Informal forest and garden Tours
- May 15, Wildflower Show at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Volunteer Opportunities

Tuesday Morning

Rhododendron Garden Regulars

9 a.m. – noon, every Tuesday
Meet at Hendricks Park Office

Forest Work Party

May 21. Meet at the shelter at 9:30 a.m.

Picnic table maintenance, sanding and painting

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.,
July 30 and 31.

Meet at park shelter



Trilliums in the forest. Picture taken on March 19th.

