



FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

# Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

spring 2007

## Our Urban Forest

Viewed from above, Hendricks Park appears wedged between city streets and houses. This urbanization brings specific management needs to the park's 58-acre forest, and these needs differ from those of the larger forestlands in the Cascade and Coast ranges.



The surrounding residential homes with gardens, pets, pollution and noise encroach on a unique natural habitat. One of the many problems they create is the invasion of exotic species (ivy, blackberry, etc.) that threaten the natural habitat. Park staff and volunteer youth crews began cutting ivy from the trees at least 15 years ago, initiating the "Free the Trees" program.

The Friends of Hendricks Park (FoHP) are committed to stewardship of the forest and are looking for ways to educate the community about the importance of this forest as a resource. Promoting volunteerism and citizen participation in caring for the forest, while ensuring that restoration efforts are biologically sound and sustainable, are two ways the Friends are helping the forest.

The protection and restoration of the Oak Knoll is a good example. Located in the southwest section of the forest, the Oak Knoll is a highly sensitive remnant of the Willamette Valley's oak woodlands, which were once a prominent part of our landscape. Environmentally sensitive restoration in this area is being carefully considered.

Together with HP staff and volunteers, the Friends' restoration committee is working on a treatment and management plan for the Oak Knoll. This past winter, the Northwest Youth Corps removed approximately one-quarter acre of ivy, blackberry and herb Robert from the Oak Knoll area and "re-treated" approximately 3 acres to remove leftover ivy, holly saplings and herb Robert. The committee is also working on a plan to educate the community, especially the nearby neighborhood, about the restoration plans. Later this year, the Oak Knoll action plan will be explained during an educational tour for the public.



Volunteers working in the forest

Restoration is also continuing throughout the forest. According to Ginny Alfriend, HP staff manager, approximately 1.25 acres of ivy were newly cleared this past winter (1+ acres by Walama Restoration and the rest by volunteers). Volunteers also "re-treated" about 1 acre of ivy that had been pulled during the winter of 2006, removing secondary invaders and planting snowberry cuttings.

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## President's Message: FoHP's Goals & Priorities

Hendricks Park's centennial year of 2006 was an active time for the Friends, with many lectures, tours, volunteer days and projects celebrating 100 years as a park. Our members and volunteers made 2006 extremely successful.

For 2007, the Board of Directors is looking inward to strengthen the foundation of the Friends. Reviewing our accomplishments over the last few years and examining where the organization should go from here, we have embarked on revamping our mission statement and reviewing our goals to concentrate on projects and planning that reflect the Friends' priorities.

When the Board met in December, we agreed that our main goal was to concentrate on the forest's restoration, emphasizing the Oak Knoll Project. The main article in this newsletter reflects the Board's commitment to the urban forest. We also decided to emphasize "sustainability" as a part of our mission, so we'll be looking for ways to help Hendricks Park become greener in the future!

As always, thanks for your contributions and volunteer support. Your continued interest and amazing support make it all possible and reaffirms to us that you share our desire to restore the forest and maintain this wonderful park. 



David Moon "frees a tree" of big ivy

## Blossom-Filled Tours

Buds are breaking in the eye-popping, attention-grabbing Rhododendron Garden, but don't discount the sublime subtle flowers in the Native Plant Garden surrounding the Shelter. There will be spring tours in both gardens. The following tours are free and open to the public. Join us.

- April 8th, Wildflower tour in the Native Plant Garden with Michael Kennedy. Begins at 1 p.m.
- April 15th, Rhododendron Garden Tour with Michael Robert. Begins at 1 p.m.
- May 23rd, Wildflower tour in Native Plant Garden with Michael Kennedy. Starts at 7 p.m.

All tours will meet at Wilkins Shelter. 



A group of hardy gardeners followed Rachel Foster on February 17th for the first tour of the year. It was an overcast Sunday afternoon with plenty of fragrances, small buds and blossoms to keep everyone happy.

## Scoop the Poop

Hendricks Park walkers, please clean up after your dog. Park staff and volunteers are tired of stepping in, kneeling in and handling dog waste. Stick a plastic bag in your pocket before you leave for your walk. There are plenty of garbage cans in which to dispose of the bag. 



# Wildflower Notes

One of the most charming wild flowers you'll see at Hendricks Park in spring is the Oregon fawnlily (*Erythronium oregonum*). Look for them in grassy patches around the big parking lot and picnic area. These small, cream-colored, down-facing "lilies" on stems less than a foot high are abundant in open forests and oak patches in and around Eugene and the Willamette Valley.

Erythroniums are most closely related to tulips, which (as naturalist Ed Alverson pointed out in a recent lecture) is pretty obvious if you gently tip a fawnlily flower upside down! Note the maroon markings that surround the base of the anthers.

Erythroniums occur in Asia, Europe and North America. The majority—perhaps 20 species—are found in western North America.

Curiously, the few species in the eastern United States are more closely related to Eurasian species than to those here in the west. Dog's tooth violet, adder's tongue and troutlily are all common names for various erythroniums, but those in the west are generally called fawnlilies. Some are rare or geographically restricted, but the Oregon fawnlily is delightfully common.

The names troutlily and fawnlily reflect the attractive mottling on the leaves of certain species, including Oregon fawnlily. (Avalanche lily, a beautiful large, white-flowered species

you might encounter in the Coast Range, has plain green leaves.) Much less common in our area than Oregon fawnlily but with similar foliage is the pink-flowered coast fawnlily (*Erythronium revolutum*). You may encounter it in meadows and forests near the coast, but you can also find it in and around the Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park, where it was introduced many years ago.

Another member of the lily family to watch

for at the park is checker lily (*Fritillaria affinis*). Its flowers are a somber greenish shade checkered in purple or brown, so many people don't notice them. Whereas fawnlilies bloom with one or more flowers on a naked stem that arises between a pair of leaves at ground level, checker lilies bear leaves and flowers on the same stem. Another name for checker lily is riceroot because the

peculiar bulbs look like a clump of ant eggs or sticky grains of rice.

The dangling flowers of both fritillaria and erythronium have six lobes each. Only the inner three are true petals. The outer three are modified sepals. In the flowers of some members of the lily family, such as trillium, the petals and sepals look entirely different from each other. But in checker lilies and fawnlilies, as in tulips, they are similar, all six segments combining to form a cup-like flower. – Rachel Foster



The Springtime grandeur of a fawnlily delights all of us.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Linda Rees moved from St. Louis to Eugene in April 2005 to be near her daughter, who teaches Norwegian at the U of O. Soon after, she read about Hendricks Park's Native Plant Garden, and wanted to discover more. Therefore, she began to volunteer at the park's monthly forest restoration work parties. She loves "being in the environment of the big trees and forest, and likes the physical activity." At her new home in the River Road area, she has incorporated natives into her yard, which is dominated by a large fir tree. Her large collection of cacti and succulents lines the sunny side of her house. In real life, Linda is an accomplished weaver. She has shown her work in several cities, and one of her pieces—a large blue and yellow tapestry—was selected for the 2006 Mayor's Art Show. She has also written a book, *Nezhnie: Weaver & Innovative Artist*, about a famous St. Louis tapestry artist. It's great to have Linda on our volunteer crew. Her curiosity about native plants and gardening keeps us on our toes.



Walama Restoration did follow-up weeding and ivy removal this year on about 15 acres of forest that had been cleared in previous years. FoHP contributed \$5,000 to that effort. Volunteers have also done follow-up work. Continued weeding of secondary invasives, such as herb Robert and wall lettuce, needs to happen at least 3 times per year to stay ahead of seed set. Next year's goal will be to remove another acre of ivy and to continue follow-up weeding.

To date, only manual methods of ivy and weed removal have been used in the forest, but park staff have begun an herbicide trial on ivy removal below the office on the rhododendron garden side of the park. The herbicide is glyphosate (Aquamaster, which was recently approved by the 4J schools), and the surfactant (needed to get the herbicide through ivy's waxy surface) is R-11. The Nature Conservancy uses the same combination to remove ivy from Portland's Camassia Preserve. Glyphosate and R-11 are safe for amphibians (such as salamanders and tree frogs) and, hopefully, lethal to ivy. If this approach works on the test patch, a trial of a small area in the forest will begin next winter. Spraying in winter, during a dry spell, protects native wildflowers since most are dormant at that time and therefore unaffected. Limiting the impact on evergreen plants, such as ferns and Oregon grape, will be key to making this approach safe. Using herbicide would greatly speed up efforts to restore the forest, though it may not be possible or desirable in all parts of the forest. We are actively seeking alternatives to hand pulling, due to the cost and intense amount of labor it requires.

It is really exciting to see the forest coming back to life in areas where the ivy has been removed. There are signs of recovery even in areas where the wildflowers had mostly disappeared due to a dense ivy cover. First, the mosses returned to the forest floor, creating a safe, moist place for seeds and spores to germinate. The following spring, sword fern gametophytes appeared in the mosses. This year (about 3 years later), small sword ferns, with 3 or 4 little fronds, are everywhere. In areas where some wildflowers still lingered, there are tiny seedlings all around the original plants. For example, I counted 17 trillium babies around one "mother" plant this year! Multiply that by the hundreds scattered over the 23 acres that have been cleared to date, and you can imagine a spectacular spring show in just a few more years (trilliums take 5-7 years to bloom). Meanwhile, spreading plants, such as star-flowered Solomon's seal, will form a solid ground cover once again, interrupted only by sword ferns, trilliums and yellow violets! I have also noticed an increase in understory trees, such as osoberry, whose seeds are now able to germinate on ground cleared of ivy. One can expect bird populations to flourish once these small trees begin bearing fruit (they are a favorite food of many birds, such as cedar waxwings). – Joan Kelley 

## News Briefs

- **New board members** Jim Beyer and Greg Smalley joined the FoHP board. Welcome. Thanks for your community involvement.
- **Rhododendron Garden Management Plan.** FoHP and POS (Parks and Open Space) are joining to address the future needs and challenges for this garden. If you are interested in becoming involved, call Joan at 485-1895.
- **Thank you McMenamins** for your interest in community. Last November, a fundraiser was held at McMenamins East 19th Street Café. It was a fun and successful evening.
- **Upcoming Mother's Day.** On Sunday afternoon, May 13, FoHP will host an informational booth in the garden. If you are interested in volunteering your time, call Sandra at 343-3452.
- **FoHP's Annual Meeting** was held March 14th for the voting members. Last year's activities and goals for the upcoming year were discussed. If you are interested in becoming more active in the friends and want to become a voting member call, 607-4066 and leave a message.
- **Pruning Workshops** will be given by Ginny Alfriend on May 17th and May 19th. Please call Lane County Extension to register.

# New and Renewing Friends of Hendricks Park

On behalf of the FoHP Board, thank you to the many people who contribute financially to our organization. Your donation allows us to fulfill our mission with Hendricks Park.

Donors from 09/15/2006 through 02/28/2007

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Rudy Fox  
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Thanks to all our contributors, and we regret any omissions or errors.

## Memorial Contributions

In Loving Memory of  
Arthur C. and Marion B. Hearn – Dr. Edward W. Hearn

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Eugene, OR 97403-0784

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Hendricks Park**

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## Hendricks Park Activities

**Tuesday morning Rhododendron Garden volunteers** meet at 9 am every Tuesday at the park office.

*Educational tours see page 2*

### **APRIL**

**Forest Work Party** Saturday, April 21st, 9:30 am. Meet at the Wilkins Shelter.

## Are You a Member?

If not, join us! We need you. Were you previously one of our members? Please consider renewing your membership. Our members support Hendricks Park and some volunteer to work to restore and maintain the Park. Members help the Friends on work projects, organize educational tours, and are stewards for this great public park. Join us in our mission. If you are already a member, thank you for your support.

### **MAY**

**Forest Work Party** Saturday, May 19th, 9:30 am. Meet at the Wilkins Shelter.

### **JUNE**

**Forest Work Party** Saturday, June 16th, 9:30 am. Meet at the Wilkins Shelter.



Trilliums are a variety of lily

As ivy loosens its foothold in the forest, more trilliums and Solomon's seal bloom every year. Look for the return of these wildflowers in mid-March.

Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*)

