



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2008

It's Not a Pretty Story


Visit Hendricks Park often, but please don't leave your rubbish!



An ivy-removal crew working near the Oak Knoll recently exposed an old garbage pile that included an antique motor bike and chunks of masonry. It's not the first pile of waste to come to light. "Neighbors have thought of the park as a good place to dump unwanted items for a long time," says head gardener Ginny Alfriend. "Lately, people have become environmentally conscious enough that most dumping is now restricted to garden debris, which carries its own set of problems." Those include the possible introduction of invasive plants and snails.


Casual litter is still a problem all over the park. Every day, staff empty the garbage cans and patrol the grounds looking for more garbage. "There has never been a day yet when we did not have something to throw into the dumpster," says Ginny. Volunteers also regularly find and collect beverage cans, bottles and other detritus.

Garbage goes well beyond the usual cigarette butts and candy and gum wrappers to include: condoms, fast-food containers, discarded clothes, sofas, mattresses and other furniture (especially in June), needles and other drug-related waste, abandoned improvised "sleds" after a snowfall, discarded stolen goods (such as cleaned-out wallets and purses), construction debris, paint, household garbage, human and pet poop and so on.

"It's not a pretty story," Ginny says. "Shauna likes to point out that since we are so close to I-5, there's no telling who might pull off the freeway and land here. But we're a lot cleaner than the other parks in town!" 



Thanks to Charles Koehler of Eugene City Bakery

For the past 5 years, Eugene City Bakery has donated many of the delicious calories in the form of pastries for the Saturday forest restoration work parties at Hendricks Park. Those pastries have kept volunteers coming back every month. Charles has now sold the bakery to DeeAnn Hall, and will soon move on to new travel experiences and adventures in his life—which may even include residing in Amsterdam. According to Charles, the single most rewarding aspect of his business has been neighborhood and community support. We want to thank him for his neighborhood and community support, and wish him well on his new adventures. 

Kudos for the Friends


Friends of Hendricks Park was honored with two awards recently. In 2007, Oregon Recreation and Parks Association (ORPA), a non-profit organization based in Astoria, gave us its annual Voluntary Service Award, which recognizes individuals and agencies that have rendered significant service to ORPA and have made outstanding contributions to the field of parks and recreation. Chris Girard, Supervisor for Landscape, Medians and Hendricks Park in the Parks and Open Space Division, made the nomination. At the ceremony, which was held



David Moon and Alby Thoumsin

October 16 at the Eugene Hilton, Frank Jagodnik, ORPA's executive director, said, "In 2006 alone, approximately 3,391 hours of volunteer labor were


recorded at the park, with the majority of them being from Friends of Hendricks Park. What is not clearly reflected in the statistics is the quality of their contributions—their work is always exemplary, well thought out and of the highest caliber."

The other award, presented February 8, 2008, was from Eugene Tree Foundation (ETF), which protects and enhances Eugene's urban forest through planting, education and advocacy. It selected Friends of Hendricks Park as this year's recipient of its Big Leaf Award for our work in preserving the park's urban forest. President Alby Thoumsin made the presentation at ETF's annual meeting at EWEB. Accepting the award, Friends president David Moon emphasized our organization's collaboration with park staff, especially Jason Blazar and Ginny Alfriend. "ETF's recognition of Friends of Hendricks Park makes me proud to be the president," he says. 



Volunteer Spotlight

Greg Smalley, a securities advisor with Edward Jones, brought his valuable financial expertise to the Friends' board of directors in March 2007. Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Greg lived in California from age 10 and moved to Eugene in 2002. He was introduced to the park by Jerry Blakely. "Being associated with FoHP is a rewarding volunteer activity," he says. "I was already familiar with the Rhododendron Garden, but I've learned to appreciate the park in its entirety as well as its educational and aesthetic value to the entire area."

On joining the board, Greg expressed a desire to work with Jerry in the area of development and fundraising. His goals were to see the park even more appreciated and to help provide resources for its proper maintenance. Greg's work on the endowment funds is a much appreciated step in that direction. "I hope the creation of the funds will help ensure that the means to enact the Friends of Hendricks Park's mission statement will always be there," he says. 

If you would like to join Greg on the board of directors, please call FoHP at 541-607-4066.




A Reliable Funding Source for the Future

At the request of our membership and with the industry of board member Greg Smalley and others, Friends of Hendricks Park recently established a Hendricks Park General Endowment Fund, to be administered by The Oregon Community Foundation.

Last fall, the board of directors established a committee, led by Jim Beyer, to investigate ways to establish an endowment fund. Following the committee's findings, Greg Smalley met with Jerry Blakeley, primary donor to the Native Plant Garden, to work out the financial details.


The endowment consists of a General Endowment Fund and a group of subsidiary funds representing the three major areas of Hendricks Park: the Rhododendron Garden, the Native Plant Garden, and the Urban Forest. Contributions may be directed to the General Endowment Fund or to any of the subsidiary funds.

We hope the creation of this endowment will provide options for donors with a long-term view who may wish to contribute to the security of the Friends and the park. Please consider the endowment fund in your estate planning!

For more information, contact Friends of Hendricks Park (541-607-4066) or The Oregon Community Foundation (541-431-7099). 

Scoop the Poop

Volunteers spend many hours restoring the forest, and they are fed up with close encounters with animal poop.

Please clean up after your animals! 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. Thanks to all dog owners who already do this. 




Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Dear Aunt Rhodie:

Why are piles of ivy left in the forest after restoration work?

Dear Reader:

It's all about sustainability! When forest restoration began a few years ago, the ivy was hauled away by big diesel trucks. That was expensive and, as you can imagine, labor-intensive as well as polluting. Also, removing ivy from the site meant removing not only the ivy but other forest biomass, including mosses, lichens and forest duff. The park staff decided to study what would happen if we left the ivy on site to degrade in piles.

So far, that has worked very well, with no regeneration of ivy in the piles. An added benefit is that the piles can provide habitat for the park's reptiles and hiding places for forest birds. Park staff will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this protocol. 

Yours truly, Aunt Rhodie

Send questions to:

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

From Our Mail....

I was thinking this morning, as I ran through Hendricks Park, what a great place it is, even at this cold, foggy, messy time of year. I am so grateful that someone had the foresight to set aside this beautiful piece of land in 1906 and for the work that goes on to maintain the trails, roads and gardens at all times of year. I feel very fortunate to have such a great place to walk, run, and enjoy nature sightings including wild turkeys, pileated woodpeckers, wrens, warblers, deer and (once) a coyote. Thank you to all involved in keeping this place special. — *Judith*

Life on the Oak Knoll

In the southwest corner of Hendricks Park is a patch of oak woodland designated the Oak Forest Management Unit in the city's Forest Management Plan for the park. Dominated by deciduous trees, it is a marked contrast to most of the forest—a particularly bright and cheerful area to visit on a nice day in winter or early spring, when the trees are leafless.

At its highest point is the rocky outcrop known as the Oak Knoll. I walked up there one afternoon in mid-February and was met by an amazing flurry of bird life. Woodpeckers, brown creepers, a nuthatch, kinglets, chickadees and two kinds of warbler joined the ubiquitous robins to feed in their various ways in the canopy. A small accipiter hawk did a leisurely flyover in the late afternoon sun. In spite of this winter's chilly weather, the buds on the Oregon white oaks were already swelling.

In spite of serious invasions by non-native grasses, shrubs and trees, this well-drained knob of land is botanically interesting. The north and west flanks of the knoll retain a thick groundcover of licorice fern.

Luxuriant and brilliantly green, the fern carpet appears like magic after the first fall rains, then subsides and vanishes as the ground dries out in summer. Although this community of Oregon white oak and ground-dwelling licorice fern is unusual, naturalist Bruce Newhouse says it does also occur in similar conditions on Skinner's Butte.

Deep green spikes of camas lily were poking through the licorice ferns in February. By late spring, although the ferns are still present, it's the tall blue spires of camas that you'll notice. Here are two species that seem to live in perfect harmony, although the fern is far more often seen growing on mossy tree limbs and camas is normally associated with low, wet meadows. On the south side and on top of the knoll, the




Camas in Bloom on Oak Knoll



Licorice Fern in February

camas continues, emerging from a ground cover of (largely non-native) grasses. So much camas makes a wonderful sight when it blooms in April and May.

This remnant of oak woodland is in the early stages of restoration. Non-native plants and trees are being removed, and more natives will be added to augment the existing osoberry, ocean spray and Nootka rose. A barrier planting of native shrubs to provide privacy for park neighbors will be a high priority, and native grasses will eventually be reintroduced. The management plan includes some tree removal to "release" oaks that have been suppressed by faster growing trees. The expected increase in twig growth and acorn production will benefit less common species that rely on oak habitat, such as Western bluebird, wood peewee and the Western gray squirrels that already forage here. 

Rachel Foster



I Need a Home

I'm an affectionate, smart, neutered male cat who was dumped in Hendricks Park. Now I'm looking for a home. At present, I'm camping in a park neighbor's basement. If you can help, please call Linda at 342-3174.

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.

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

Memorial Contributions

In Memory of
 Sarah Rose "Peggy" Wain —
 Cynthia M. Searcy

Have you spotted these Spring wildflowers?



Western Trillium



Wild Iris



Checker Lily

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

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Hendricks Park**

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Upcoming Events

Volunteer Opportunities

Every Tuesday through November, Rhododendron Garden volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at the park office. Join this dedicated group to help maintain the garden and gain a lot of garden knowledge.

Our Saturday monthly forest-restoration work parties will be held April 12, May 17, June 14, July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 22, Dec 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter.



Magnolia

Park Tours

All tours begin at the F. M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter, 2200 Summit Ave.

APRIL

Sunday, April 13, 1-3 p.m. Tobias Policha, director of the Institute of Contemporary Ethnobotany, will lead a tour of the Native Plant Garden and forest in Hendricks Park. Tobias' expertise in all things botanical should make this a fascinating tour.

Sunday, April 27, 1-3 p.m. Michael Robert, retired Hendricks Park head gardener, will lead a tour of the Rhododendron Garden. Michael's extensive knowledge of rhododendrons and the park's history will make this a most interesting tour.

MAY

Wednesday, May 14, 7-8:30 p.m. Jill Schwab will lead a special evening tour of the Native Plant Garden and the forest in Hendricks Park. Jill has a passion for native plants, and will share her knowledge of their many indigenous and current uses.