



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

Winter 2004

Moon Terrace Rises in Hendricks Park



The terrace replicates the shape of the crescent moon



Dedication plaque

The Moon Terrace, a recently completed deck adjacent to the F. M. Wilkins Shelter, will greatly enhance visitors' enjoyment of this popular Hendricks Park facility. This outdoor venue, with a panoramic view of the Native Plant Garden area, is a perfect complement to the covered shelter. The Moon Terrace expands the space and provides a wonderful natural location for social events from spring through fall. In the evenings, people can watch the moon rise over the trees and shed light onto the Moon Terrace.

Jin Chen, a noted landscape architect from China, designed the Moon Terrace so that it will invite people into the Native Plant Garden and encourage them to explore the surrounding area of native Oregon plants. The Native Plant Garden itself was designed to be inviting, accessible and informative. The Moon Terrace allows people to view many different native plants in a variety of settings.

The crescent moon design emerged from a desire to make the space more inviting and provide a comforting softness to balance the rustic feel of the heritage shelter. The moon shape is also a trib-

ute to Mary Rear Blakely, to whom the Native Plant Garden is dedicated. Mary had a lifelong love of the moon and often wrote poetry and prose about it. Designer Chen was a student and friend of Mary's when she lived and taught in China in the mid-1980s.

The terrace's curved outer railing features posts that are also crescent shaped. This dual curve, together with matte-finished stainless steel materials, adds to the moonlike appearance. Stone masonry columns and a stone border tie the terrace visually to the existing shelter, with its extensive use of natural stone.

The Moon Terrace was constructed by the Friends of Hendricks Park, entirely with donated funds, materials and labor. It is a gift to the city from the Friends organization, and from the family and friends of Mary Rear Blakely.

The Friends of Hendricks Park would like to acknowledge and thank the following contributors to the Moon Terrace project:

Major Contributors – donated materials and labor

Jin Chen *design of the Moon Terrace and Native Plant Garden*

Rears Mfg Co *stainless steel railing*

Feeney NW *stainless steel cable system for the railing*

Water Bros Construction *concrete footings*

GK Goebel Construction *general contractor*

continued on next page

Moon Terrace, continued

Other Contributors – discounted materials and services

- Thomas Nesbit *stone masonry*
- Morse Bros *concrete*
- Gemini Concrete Pumping
- Safway Supply *framing hardware*
- Gene Stringfield Lumber *deck lumber*

Individuals – donated labor


- Fred Austin
- Patrick Burns
- Ken Ramsing
- Keith Stanley
- Jerry Blakely
- Greg Goebel
- Jim Rear Jr.
- Curtis Brown
- Curt Lind
- Erik Shumate

Key Financial Donors

- Jerry Blakely
- Jim & Pauline Rear
- James Blakely
- Jim Rear Jr.
- Baihua Wu
- Beth & Brad Copeland

This major project could not have been completed without significant donations of labor and materials. Construction of the Moon Terrace began in the fall of 2003. Much of the initial work was done in the rainy season by a group of dedicated volunteer workers, who returned in late summer 2004 to install the railing and decking. Greg Goebel donated his services as general contractor and guided volunteers through the construction process.

Water Bros. Construction poured the footings, with help from Gemini Concrete Pumping. Thomas Nesbit artistically enveloped concrete columns with natural stone. Then the hardy volunteers installed heavy wood framing. Jim Rear Jr., Mary’s brother, fabricated the beautiful stainless steel railing. Feeney NW completed the railing with stainless cabling that accentuates the open feeling of the terrace.

Everyone who worked on this project has enjoyed participating in the creation of a beautiful new addition to Eugene’s oldest city park. 



Placing pillars in 1967

Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Dear Aunt Rhodie:

Where did the large basalt columns at the entrance to the Rhododendron Garden come from?

Thank you, Vic

Dear Vic,

Bob Coleman, retired landscape architect for the parks department filled me in on the story of these rhombic crystal basalt columns. They came from the old quarry on the west side of Skinner Butte, where you often see rock climbers. City crews pulled unsafe columns down with cables. The problem was how to get them from Skinner Butte to Hendricks Park. Mayflower Transfer Co. came to the rescue. The columns were loaded onto a lowboy moving truck and transported to the park.

In 1967, Parks and Recreation crews, along with a mason and the head gardener of that time, Ted Trombert, poured concrete for a base and installed the columns to create a formal entryway to the Rhododendron Garden.

Sincerely, AUNT RHODIE

.....
Send questions to: Aunt Rhodie, Friends of Hendricks Park, PO box 3784, Eugene, OR, 97403, or call 607-4066 and leave a message.

Message from the President

Like all of us who appreciate Hendricks Park, I am extremely pleased to see the addition of the Moon Terrace. The Terrace is a beautiful compliment to the Native Plant Garden and also enhances the F.M. Wilkins Shelter. All those who helped with this treasure are worthy of our applause. If you haven’t already seen the Terrace, take the time to visit it soon!

David C. Moon
President of Friends of Hendricks Park

Who's Behind the Name?




Hendricks Park brings to mind majestic Douglas-firs and a feeling that removes us from the frenetic pace of our lives. So we're thankful for this open space. But who had the foresight to protect this land, which becomes more precious as Eugene continues to develop?

Thomas Grundy Hendricks was the person with this vision. In 1848, at age 10, he came across the Plains with his family and settled in Pleasant Hill. After a boyhood in Pleasant Hill, Hendricks worked for his uncle as a clerk in a mercantile store in Eugene, eventually becoming the sole owner. In 1883, Hendricks opened a bank with Stewart Eakin; three years later, the Hendricks and Eakin Bank became the First National Bank of Eugene with Hendricks as president.

Hendricks became an "integral part of the history of the city of Eugene" (Centennial History of Oregon, 1811-1911, Joseph Gaston). When he donated part of the land for Eugene's first city park, Mayor Wilkins referred to him as "the Honorable." When he died in 1919, his obituary was prominent, front-page news. His devotion to public education and civic service was remarkable: he was instrumental in founding the University of Oregon, served as one of its regents for 24 years, established the Carnegie Library (Eugene's first public library), and donated money to buy books. Hendricks was also an early city councilman, and he was county superintendent of public instruction for six years.

Taking in the view from the Rhododendron Garden and seeing the university and Eugene laid out below brings to mind Hendricks' proudest accomplishments (according to his granddaughter, Martha Goodrich): being one of the founders of the University of Oregon and donating land for the nucleus of Hendricks Park with Mrs. Hendricks.

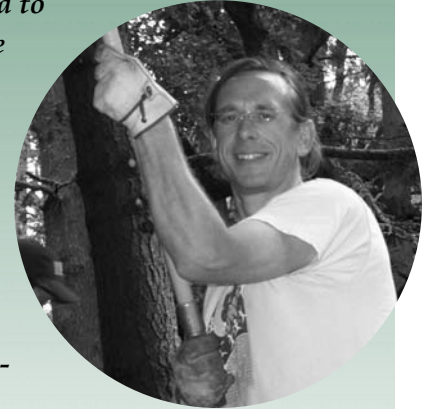
Hendricks is buried in a modest plot in the local Masonic Cemetery. As the centennial of Hendricks Park approaches, the generosity and goodwill of this forward thinker remain front-page news. 



Volunteer Spotlight


When asked why he volunteers at Hendricks Park, Lance Miller responded with the following observations. "There is a certain magic in the park, a healing quality; the park and its people are nurturing. I am being trusted to be a part of it and to make changes in the park." Lance, a materials research scientist, is new to Eugene. About a year ago, he started volunteering at the park most Tuesday mornings. He also tried volunteering in other organizations, but this one has lasted because he was made to feel more involved than anywhere else. According to Ginny Alfriend, "Lance has pruned, weeded, planted, collected seed, helped with storm clean up and building projects—he never wants a special or easy volunteer assignment. We feel as if he is one of the crew, and we are really lucky to have him here."

If you would like to be a Tuesday morning volunteer, contact Ginny Alfriend at 682-5324 or Sandra Austin at 343-3452.



No More Weeding Alone

Ginny Alfriend recently moved up from her position as Gardener at Hendricks Park to being the "person in charge," or to use the Park and Open Spaces' classification: Park Specialist IV. What it means for Ginny is more paperwork, organizing, office and computer time. As she explains with a smile, "My days of weeding by myself all day are gone."

The *Friends* are pleased to be working with Ginny who has been employed at Hendricks Park for the last 15 years. In those years, she has come to know and cherish the park. 

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES CATEGORIES

- 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

PERSONAL INFORMATION

name _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

telephone _____

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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

Oak Knoll Restoration in Hendricks Park

Many Hendricks Park visitors are familiar with the oak knoll on the westernmost edge of the park. This small piece of remnant oak woodland once represented one of the prevalent habitats in the Willamette Valley. Since the arrival of Euro-Americans and the decline of the fire-friendly native culture during the 19th century, however, oak habitat has been disappearing. Without the frequent fires the Kalapuya used to manage the landscape, the oak is being overtopped and outcompeted by the faster growing Douglas-fir trees. And as if that weren't enough, invasive plants in the understory are interfering with oak regeneration.

Recently, the Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan's call to restore and protect the oak habitat on the knoll from further degradation has been heeded. An oak restoration working group composed of Friends of Hendricks Park board members, Science Committee members,

university graduate students and park staff has been gathering field data on the oaks and preparing for future restoration activities.

The first phase of work has included gathering information about the condition of the oak trees and the impact that other trees (primarily Doug-fir, cherry, horse-chestnut and maple) are

having upon them. The group will develop GIS maps and other tools to help determine the most appropriate actions for protecting the oaks.

Once it collects sufficient baseline information, the working group will aim to obtain grants to help fund restoration planning and implementation. The planning process will include opportunities for public input, so stay tuned for further information! If you have questions about the project at this time, please call the Hendricks Park office at 682-5324.



Oregon white oak on Oak Knoll



New and Renewing Friends of Hendricks Park September 2003 through September 2004

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

Memorial Contributions Spring 2003 to Fall 2004

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Bayard McConnaughey
Dorothy Sistrom

Mary Rear Blakely

David & Jean Campbell
Marsha & Geoffrey Gordon
James & Pauline Rear

Maxine Horton Rowan (through the Oregon Community Foundation)

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Friends of Hendricks Park
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Hendricks Park**

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*Special thanks to our printer,
Clancey Printing, and our
designer, Jeanne Maasch*



Volunteer Opportunities

Tuesday morning regulars

For weeding, pruning and fall clean up of the Rhododendron Garden. Meet at 10 a.m. at the park office. For more information, call Ginny at 682-5324.

Forest restoration

Saturday, November 20, 9:30 a.m. Meet at the park shelter. Rain or shine.

