



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

FALL 2008

Stop the Invasion



Seed removal station

An army of invasive weeds and animals is advancing through Oregon and the West, threatening the biodiversity, beauty and productivity of natural areas and grasslands. Invasives are non-indigenous species that don't know how to share; they tend to create monocultures that crowd out native plants and animals, making habitat useless to the species it once supported. According to The Nature Conservancy, nearly half of Oregon's 958 at-risk or endangered plants and animals are threatened by non-native species.

This past spring, Oregon Public Broadcasting joined forces with The Nature Conservancy, the Oregon Invasive Species Council and other agencies to help spread the word, promoting an "awareness and action" campaign named Stop the Invasion. OPB aired a program

titled Silent Invasion, which continues to run periodically. Statewide, newspapers have published articles on the topic.

Invasive plants have long been a concern at Hendricks Park. Staff, volunteers and contract crews spend many hours waging assaults on ivy and secondary


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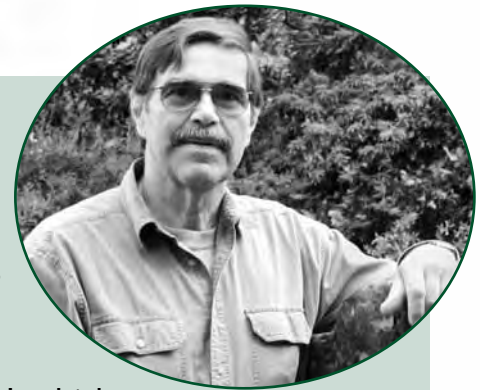
Volunteer Spotlight

Fred Austin, a native Oregonian from southeast Portland, moved with his then-young family to Eugene as a graduate student in 1967. What was originally intended as a short term move has extended into more than 40 years of happiness. Eugene is a most welcoming community.

Retiring after various careers as a carpenter, bookstore owner and financial accountant, Fred found himself with time on his hands. As a near neighbor of Hendricks Park, he and his wife, Sandra, became intrigued by the Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan, developed in response to the series of calamities that befell the park and the Wilkins Shelter in the late 1990s.

"The Forest Management Plan provides a roadmap to the success of Friends of Hendricks Park," said Fred, who has been the Friends' treasurer since the group's inception. "Being able to build upon that vision and the good works of those who created the Rhododendron Garden, the Wilkins Shelter and the Native Plant Garden is both a challenge and a blessing."

In addition to his duties as treasurer, Fred has actively volunteered at almost all Saturday forest restoration work parties over the past 8 years. 



Invasion, from page 1

invaders—weeds such as herb-Robert and nipplewort that come in where ivy is removed. While these species are well-entrenched and nearly impossible to eradicate, a particular focus of Stop the Invasion is the next wave: invasive species that are not yet so well established and, if detected and destroyed in time, may be eliminated before they become entrenched.

A good example is false brome, a grass that is already a problem in other local natural areas. Jason Blazar, Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan Coordinator, says “We have found a few plants, fewer than five in four years, in Hendricks Park. They were quickly removed and disposed of.” Ivy, one of the most ubiquitous and destructive invaders in the park, has never become a serious problem at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. When it does appear there, volunteers and staff quickly destroy it. Such vigilance saves countless hours of future work and may stave off a serious infestation indefinitely.

Most outdoor lovers visit not only HP but many other gardens, parks and natural areas near and far. Potential invaders already infest some of those places, and their seeds are easily transported to the park in the dust and mud that adheres to the shoes of visitors and feet of dogs. Conversely, seeds of established HP invaders may be carried in the same way to other natural




Northwest Youth Corps working on seed removal station


areas where they are not yet established. Cleaning footwear and clothing before and after hiking is listed by The Nature Conservancy as one of six easy things that people can do to help prevent invasions.

Thanks in part to a Neighborhood Matching Grant from the City of Eugene, that job just got easier with the

installation of a seed-removal station near the rock restroom. The station incorporates a bench, scrubber brush and hose. Clear, colorful signage explains the purpose of the station and how to use it. A smaller, simpler unit was placed at the beginning of the Oak Knoll trail. Please use them!

What can we do besides cleaning boots and paws? We can keep to the trails and keep pets on a leash. We can educate ourselves about invasives and try to make sure we grow only non-invasive plants in our gardens. The partners in Stop the Invasion have developed a booklet, GardenSmart Oregon, that identifies known invasive plants and suggests both native and non-native alternatives. The booklet is available from Friends of Hendricks Park. It can also be downloaded at <http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org>. The Nature Conservancy also suggests volunteering at your local park or natural area to help remove invasive species. Please consider doing that at Hendricks Park by joining one of our regular work parties. 

A Team Effort

Many people contributed to the concept and creation of the seed removal stations. Jason Blazar drew the design, Robin Hostick (City landscape architect) reviewed the plan. Richard Whyte (carpenter) prefabricated the main structure. City plumber Roger Blainey installed the plumbing. Jeffrey Jane Flowers, Kelly Darnell, Blazar and staff worked on the text and graphics. Jared Dorry and Kevin Stabile from Riverfront School helped dig the footings and dry well. Northwest Youth Corps helped pour the cement and pressed designs into the border. Fred Austin helped put the structure together, and park staff filled in all the gaps. Jackie Hallett coordinated the Neighborhood Grant, which was matched by FoHP. Northwest Youth Corps matched the grant in kind by donating their time. 


An Endowment Fund for Hendricks Park

Friends of Hendricks Park has created an endowment fund to provide options for donors who may wish to provide for the security of the Friends and the park. Contributions may be directed to the General Endowment Fund or to any of three subsidiary funds representing the three major areas of Hendricks Park: the Rhododendron Garden, the Native Plant Garden and the Urban Forest. 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).


How your contributions are put to work

Thank you to all our contributors. Listed below are some of the good things your donations have made possible.

- Tuesday morning Rhododendron Garden Volunteer Coordinator
- Native Plant Gardener
- Seed removal station
- Rhododendron Garden kiosk
- Educational tours
- Forest Restoration: Contract with Walama Restoration for invasive species removal (1 acre of ivy, several acres of secondary invasives, several acres of follow up).
- Grant to Northwest Youth Corp for trail-edge spring invasive species removal.
- Oak Knoll restoration. 

Our Mission: To provide stewardship for Hendricks Park through education, restoration and community support.

Rhododendron Garden kiosk

The new information kiosk in the Rhododendron Garden was constructed by Tim Boyden. Tim volunteered some of his hours; the balance of his time was paid for by Parks and Open Space. Friends of Hendricks Park paid for the materials. Thank you, everyone. 



Kiosk in Rhododendron Garden


Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Dear Aunt Rhodie:

What are the bark-covered stump-like structures in the forest at Hendricks Park?

Dear Reader:

You must be referring to the “living stumps” scattered throughout the forest. This phenomenon occurs when a tree is cut and the stump continues to live. It is a sign that a root graft has formed between the tree’s roots and those of a nearby tree or trees. After the tree is cut, its roots and stump continue feeding off the live tree through that graft. If the provider tree is felled or dies, the stump will die also.

Like many other conifers, a Douglas-fir cannot sprout branches from a cut stump. But the bark on a live stump continues to grow, eventually covering the entire surface. 

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.

Another Problem Geranium

Herb-Robert isn't the only geranium species that can become a serious weed. With shiny leaves and tiny rose-pink flowers, individual plants of shining geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) look harmless and even slightly delicate. But if you take a closer look around an area where the geranium has really taken hold, you will realize this little plant's shocking potential. Theodore Palmer, treasurer and past president of Mount Pisgah Arboretum, recently described this relatively recent arrival as "hopelessly prolific in all our wooded areas."


While the situation is not yet that serious in Hendricks Park, shining geranium has become

established in a number of locations. This plant produces prodigious amounts of tiny seeds, and control is a challenge. "We have been able to keep it in check in the Rhododendron Garden," lead gardener Ginny Alfriend says. "I started seeing it there about 10 years ago. We pull it whenever we see it, but it continues to appear from time to time."

Ginny adds that the staff has tilled, sprayed, burned and hand-pulled a large population of shining geranium around the rock restroom, and then replanted grass. "The numbers are way down, but the close proximity to the forest there has me worried," she says. "We repeatedly burned and hand-



Shining geranium seedlings

pulled the area around the old A-frame for three years or more, and seem to have made some headway there.....This past spring, we found a small population just off the Wildflower Trail, and immediately went in with a crack team of hand-pullers and, we hope, got it all. We continue to monitor these sites, which are our highest priority since they are in the heart of the forest." 


Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

The volunteer picnic was held on Tuesday, Sept. 23rd in the Wilkins Picnic Shelter, with nearly 40 people in attendance. The weather was perfect, though the fire in the big hearth was still welcome as sunset approached. The food was delicious, and the abundant bouquets (arranged by the Tuesday morning volunteers) were as beautiful as ever. This



Volunteer picnic

year, there was a surprise: grand entertainment by Mitch Hider, a well-known local vaudevillian and whistler. He treated the audience to a world tour of song, putting a hilarious collection of props to good use. Mitch recently returned from a trip to Japan, where he was MC for a whistling contest.

Many people contributed time and effort to the picnic. Thanks go to Sandra Austin for putting it all together. 



John Moriarty and Kit Kirkpatrick at volunteer picnic

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 03/19/2008 through 09/30/2008

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Contributors

Rudy Fox, Fox Graphics
Richard Whyte, Carpenter
Invasive plant kiosk
Tim Boyden,
Artist/Designer
Rhododendron garden kiosk

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

Worst Offenders: Some Major Weeds at Hendricks Park

Celandine

Shining geranium

Herb-Robert

Nipplewort

Wall lettuce

Creeping buttercup

English and Irish ivy

European and

Armenian blackberry

Sweet cherry

English holly

English and

Portuguese laurel

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

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city, state, zip _____

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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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FoHP Fundraiser

Join the Friends at the neighborhood Villard Street Pub (1417 Villard) on Tuesday, November 11th from 5-10 p.m. for a fundraiser. A portion of the Pub's proceeds will be generously donated to FoHP.

So, bring your friends and walk on down to SUPPORT FoHP with supper and a brew or two!

Volunteer Opportunities

Every Tuesday through December 9th, Rhododendron Garden volunteers meet at 9 a.m. at the park office. Join this dedicated group to help maintain the garden and grow your garden knowledge. Tuesday volunteers will resume on February 17, 2009.

Monthly Saturday forest restoration work parties will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on November 22 and December 13, 2008, and on January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18 and May 16, 2009. Meet at the Wilkins Picnic Shelter. Tools, gloves, water and snacks provided. Dress for the weather.



From top: Cyclamen, Snowberry