



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

FALL 2010

Staffing Changes at Hendricks Park



From left to right:
Emily Aune, Ginny
Alfriend, Keith Stanley
and Jason Blazar

In response to budget cuts proposed by Parks and Open Spaces (POS), Friends of Hendricks Park (FoHP) board testified before the City of Eugene Budget Committee this spring in favor of continued funding for the park's Forest Management Plan (FMP). We stressed that this funding leverages countless hours of community support and volunteerism that more than matches the city's investment. Councilman Alan Zelenka supported our position, and the Budget Committee recommended reinstating \$30,000 for the FMP. That amount will cover the contract salary of the FMP coordinator as well as some funds for invasive species control.

POS made some staffing changes at Hendricks Park, however. The biggest change is that the forested part of the park and the FMP coordinator are now under the auspices of the Natural Resources Crew (NRC) at POS. So Hendricks Park staff no longer manages the forest.

Although FoHP is looking forward to working with the NRC and tapping into their expertise, we will miss working with HP staff on forest issues and projects. We have had a very good grassroots connection with them for the past 10 years and a long list of collaborative accomplishments. Hopefully, we will continue that collaborative experience and accomplishments with the NRC. Jason Blazar, Hendricks Park FMP coordinator, will still be under contract with the city for the next year, and POS staff member and restoration ecologist Emily Steel will be his direct supervisor.

Budget cuts and reassignments have also affected the non-forested part of Hendricks Park. Lead gardener Ginny Alfriend has been moved to the Owen Rose Garden, leaving two on-site staff members, Keith Stanley and Emily Aune.

Although Ginny will spend most of her time at the rose garden, she will still oversee the HP staff. We will miss our frequent contacts with Ginny, as she has been a strong supporter of our work and mission at the park and an incredible resource for us.

Needless to say, the staff reductions are disappointing, because HP is Eugene's primary park and a great attraction to community members and tourists. But FoHP will continue to support Hendricks Park in every way possible, and will fulfill its mission—through volunteerism and donations—during these tough economic times. We hope that staffing will return to a more adequate level at some future date. 

To report something concerning the forest, downed trees, dead deer, etc., call Emily Steel at 541-682-4874 or 541-505-4780.

Northwest Youth Corps Works on Floral Hill Trail



The Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) Outdoor High School has received a City of Eugene Neighborhood Matching Grant to enhance the Floral Hill Trail at Hendricks Park. This is an exciting opportunity for members

and staff of NYC and AmeriCorps to work with neighborhood volunteers on a project that will improve accessibility to Hendricks Park and the recently constructed Ribbon Trail. NYC hopes this opportunity will benefit Hendricks Park and foster collaborative relationships between NYC and both the Fairmount and Laurel Hill neighborhood associations.

The schedule for this fall will include removing non-native vegetation, transplanting native species into the old trail corridor and graveling over the newly established trail tread. The first opportunity for volunteers to get involved is **"Make a Difference Day" on Saturday,**

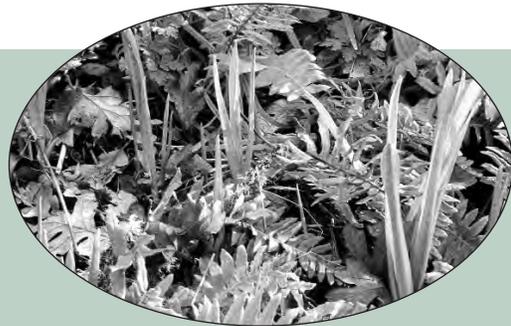
October 23, 9-1 p.m. This is a regular forest restoration work party supported by FoHP.

Please put that date on your calendar, and plan to volunteer for this important community event. Meet at the Wilkins Picnic Shelter at Hendricks Park, 2200 Summit Ave. Tools, gloves, water and snacks provided. Information: Jay Runte at NYC 541-743-8591 or Friends of Hendricks Park 541-607-4066. 



H.P. - A Riddle

*Not White Lotus but twisted oak,
Doug-fir groves like sprouted cress,
Paint rhythms of wondrousness.
Like animated DNA, squirrels spiral up a tree.
For visitors this place is free –
Some leave fairies, others gnomes,
While black tailed deer trail pheromones.
Summer's spiderwebs brush your face,
Dodge the sprinklers, slow your pace.
D-lit(t)erations on Emily's list,
Bob and Ivy won't be missed.
Autumn falls, colors change
Green to brown and back again.
Ferns on maples, lichens swell,
Moss on branches covers well.
Now it's winter wet and mild,
Storms break branches, slanting lines –*



*Visual puns, irregular rhymes.
Berries bead and fairies rest;
Aunt Rhody's garden's at its best
As Trillium opens on forest floor,
The scent is one only flies adore.
Such ambiguity we deplore.
Stop us, please –
Or,
(Before?)
We might come up with even more!
Yes, spring is early in this park
Forget the P....it's Hendricks Ark. *

M.S.

Edison Elementary School's Trip to Hendricks Park

Kathleen Rockwell's second grade class took a field trip June 3rd to participate in the Friends of Hendricks Park Ecology Program. Twenty-eight students split into three groups, led by Walama Restoration Project instructors, to three different areas of the park; the Rhododendron Garden, the Native Plant Garden and the forest. In the Rhododendron



Garden, the students went on a scavenger hunt for things in nature like a fallen petal, different kinds of leaves, and a twig with moss or lichen on it.

In the Native Plant Garden, the students explored the plants, got to eat one (sorrel), and had the opportunity to be botanists and find a plant, draw it and name it whatever they wanted.

Before coming to Hendricks Park, all the students colored a bird cut-out. In the forest, those birds were hidden down a path, and the students had to try to see them. Walama's main goal was to allow the students to appreciate nature through Hendricks Park. Instructors also shared some history of the park and the differences between native and non-native plants.

A Place for Learning

FoHP's environmental education program supports outings in Hendricks Park for grade-school classes. Educational tours of the park are also organized and funded by the Friends. The park is an educational resource in other ways, too: Northwest Youth Corps members work in the park as part of their education; University of Oregon track, soccer and basketball teams use park trails for training; a tai chi group meets in the park; and Dan Gleason brings birding students.



It rained for about a third of the field trip, but the students appeared to enjoy being outside in the fresh crisp air in one of Eugene's most beautiful places and didn't mind a few rain drops. They seemed really excited to look for things, and were very observant. They ran to find fallen leaves and petals during the scavenger hunt. When looking for birds, the students were in a line and encouraged not to let on when they spied a bird. It was difficult for them to hold in their enthusiasm on finding a hidden bird! 



Want to Excel?

Friends of Hendricks Park is seeking a volunteer to develop and maintain a volunteer data base. This should not be a large time commitment. If you are handy with EXCEL or a similar program and would like to make a material contribution to running this organization, please contact Sandra at 541-343-3452.

Looking Forward to Winter Hazels

As late winter turns to early spring, it's time for winter hazels (*Corylopsis* species) to take a turn in the late winter limelight. Like those of witch hazel (*Hamamelis*), a close relative that blooms as early as January, the flowers of winter hazel open before the leaves appear. Winter hazels have somewhat showier blooms than witch hazel but a narrower color range: all *corylopsis* species have pale yellow, bell-shaped flowers arranged in little strings called racemes.

Two species are conspicuous in the Rhododendron Garden. Buttercup winter hazel (*Corylopsis pauciflora*) forms a low, spreading, fine-textured bush densely clothed with flowers, then with dainty leaves that open with pretty purple margins. The specific name *pauciflora*, meaning few flowers, refers to the number of blooms in each string, not to their abundance on the bush!

Spike winter hazel (*Corylopsis spicata*) is a larger shrub, coarser in twig and leaf but elegant in its broad, arching structure. While *C. pauciflora* is one of the best shrubs for a small garden or for mass planting, *C. spicata* needs plenty of space to develop its graceful form. Fall foliage color is clear yellow in both species. All winter hazels do best in partial to light shade. 



Above:
Winter
hazel

Left: Witch
hazel

Volunteer Spotlight

Phyllis Hamel and her husband, John, moved just over 2 years ago to Eugene from Princeton, NJ, to be closer to a daughter and grandchildren. A second daughter followed shortly. Within a month of arriving in her new home, 83-year-old Phyllis was volunteering with the Tuesday Rhododendron Garden Volunteer group, and has been a consistent and valuable volunteer ever since.



Phyllis has a longstanding interest in horticulture. On the East Coast, she designed and implemented gardens in four different homes, and taught propagation workshops for garden clubs. Her love of gardening and plants came from her grandfather, who lived in Bermuda, where she was born.

Volunteering at Hendricks Park is giving her an opportunity to learn about western plants, and provides an “anchor” in her new home as well as an opportunity to make wonderful new friends. Head gardener Ginny Alfriend says, “As well as her keen interest in gardening, which she is very good at, she is cheerful and pleasant to be with and has an uplifting quality about her. Everyone, especially staff, looks forward to seeing her on Tuesdays.”

The other volunteers appreciate Phyllis's wild work wardrobe of bright colors—especially the orange and purple combinations—as well as her “mean” lemon bars. Phyllis also makes beautiful hooked rugs, which were part of a display at the Eugene Public Library last winter. 

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

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 03/16/2010 through 09/15/2010

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Memorial

Commorations

In memory of Mary Blakely – David and Jean Campbell

In memory of John deJung

George Jones and Janet Robyns
The Mitchell Family
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Via

Debora Landforce
Maureen Keith
Sonya M. Vik
In memory of Zlotta E. Cash – Christine Jenkins

Please support our In-Kind

Contributors:

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

Are you looking for more opportunities to volunteer in the forest? Jason Blazar, Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan Coordinator, says, "Give me a call, and I'll put you, your friends, your co-workers, your neighbors to work right away in your very own adopted section of Hendricks Park forest. This is the perfect opportunity for all of those students looking to fulfill community service obligations or businesses in search of a team-building exercise. Call for details: 541.543.6869.

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

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Hendricks Park**

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Volunteer Opportunities

Saturday forest work parties

Volunteers meet at the Picnic Shelter at 9 am.

- **October 23** – Floral Hill trail “Make a Difference Day” work party with the NYC Outdoor High School, Laurel Hill Valley neighbors, and Fairmount neighbors
- **October 30** – planting and/or propagation projects
- **November 13** – ivy removal season begins
- **December 4** – ivy removal continues

Dates for 2011 forest work parties and tours will be posted at www.friendsofhendrickspark.org

Tuesday Garden Volunteers

Every Tuesday through November, Rhododendron Garden volunteers will meet at the park office at 9 a.m. Join this dedicated group to help maintain the garden, have fun and share gardening skills. Tuesday volunteers return the first Tuesday in March, 2011.



Park Tour

On Sunday, October 17, 1-3 pm, Roger Gossler of Gossler Farms Nursery will lead a tour of the Rhododendron Garden, providing insight into choice and unusual plants for autumn interest. **2011 tours** will be posted at www.friendsofhendrickspark.org