



FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

# Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2020

## What's Up with Douglas-firs?

If you have visited Hendricks Park's forest in the last year, you most likely have noticed some major changes in the forest canopy. Change is most conspicuous in the area known as The Saddle, where several trails come together in a large opening that is home to the Bonzer memorial bench. Here you will see many downed trees and some dead trees still standing. Another heavily affected area is near the rock restroom and the picnic area. Most of the downed trees, both dead and alive, fell in the February 2019 snowstorm, which toppled more than 50 mature Douglas-firs at Hendricks Park.



Douglas-fir decline is not confined to these locations: isolated dead trees occur throughout the forest. What's going on? According to Parks and Open Space ecologist Emily Steel, "So far, the Douglas-fir beetle seems like the reason for the die-off we are seeing in Hendricks Park Forest. These beetles are native, and are found at low concentrations in our forests all the time. They attack mostly freshly downed trees (think storms) and stressed trees (think drought). But they can sometimes attack healthy trees too, when populations are high enough."

Through 2019, city ecologists worked with the OSU Extension forester for Lane County as well as the state entomologist, an expert in Douglas-fir beetle, to determine the level of beetle infestation in the park, and to discuss what could be done about it.

The state entomologist recommended a one-time, park-wide application of a pheromone, methylcyclohexenone (MCH), on trees selected on a grid pattern. Synthetic MCH, which is relatively inexpensive, is applied in a small bubble cap or tab, stapled 6–8 feet high onto selected trees. The pheromone deters incoming beetles by signaling that the tree is already occupied and they should move on. Contractors and city staff placed pheromone caps this spring, before beetles were on the move.

**For more information on this topic, visit**

**<https://www.eugene-or.gov/4354/Hendricks-Park-Tree-Protection>.** 

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

**[info@friendsofhendrickspark.org](mailto:info@friendsofhendrickspark.org) • [www.friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://www.friendsofhendrickspark.org) • 541-607-4066**



## A Talented Pruner

Park staff and the Friends are most grateful for the many hours Charles Hammer spent pruning in the Rhododendron Garden on a voluntary basis, starting in the winter of 2017. The park's lead worker, Emily Aune, says, "I put Charles to work on special projects immediately. His first project was a mature stand of camellias around the main Rhododendron Garden restrooms. These camellias had suffered through some cold temperatures and winter snow loads. Many had crushed and broken branches, and some were getting spindly and weak toward the top."

Over several years, Charles reduced the camellias to a much more manageable size while maintaining their natural form, and taught staff and other volunteers along the way. "When Charles is done pruning," Emily says, "I can rarely see his cuts. I see just a smaller, fuller, healthier plant." When 18 inches of snow fell at Hendricks Park in 2019, many plants broke and fell, but those camellias stood strong and healthy. 🌿

## Oh, Those Volunteers!

Christina Bentrup reports that volunteers at Hendricks Park put in a total of 5,368 hours in 2019. If those hours had been put in by staff, it would have cost over \$130,000.



A fence now blocks an older, more hazardous route.

## A Safer Crossing

Getting from Hendricks Park's main parking lot to the Native Plant Garden (NPG) is now a little easier and, we hope, safer. This winter and early spring, staff and volunteers completed a new route across Floral Hill Drive, near the intersection with Fairmount and the south end of the parking lot.

Pedestrians headed for the NPG previously crossed directly from Fairmount Drive, closer to a blind turn on Floral Hill and with visibility to the north partly obscured by vegetation. Pedestrians now can cross Floral Hill directly from the parking lot, a bit further removed from the turn in the road and with better visibility in both directions.

This change required removing vegetation on both sides of the road to allow construction of a gravel trail that terminates within the parking lot. The old unofficial entry into the NPG was blocked with a post-and-rail fence and some new planting. Another new planting—at the parking lot's entrance off Fairmount—has been designed for better visibility.

The new unmarked and unofficial crosswalk will stay that way: the powers that be maintain that road markings or a pedestrian crossing sign would give pedestrians a false sense of security. So enjoy the new route into the NPG—but still be careful! 🌀

# MARTIN SAGE

12/6/1935–9/22/2019

Martin and Linda Sage appeared on the scene at Hendricks Park soon after Friends of Hendricks Park was formed, having moved to Eugene in 2000. They chose their home on Woodland Drive because of its proximity to the park. They were charter members of the Friends, and have been long-term supporters and volunteers at the park.

Many of us became acquainted with the Sages at Saturday Forest Work Parties, removing ivy and other invasive plants in the forest. It was hard work, great comradery, and a wonderful way to get to know neighbors and volunteers. Martin's quiet demeanor, intellect, humor and great caring of the outdoors will be missed.

Thank you, Martin:


For weeding on your own while out walking

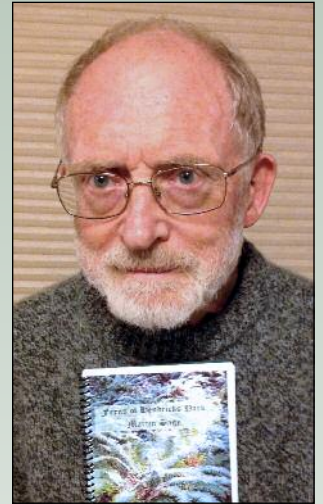
For all those back-breaking volunteer hours

For naming our newsletter "The Park Bench"

For organizing a show of Hendricks Park art work by local artists for the park's centennial celebration


For naming the Pileated Trail

For writing and publishing "Ferns of Hendricks Park" 



## Adopt a Bit of the Forest

Each year, Friends of Hendricks Park and the City of Eugene spend thousands of dollars removing ivy from Hendricks Park's beautiful forests. In newly cleared areas, you can see wood violets emerging in early spring followed by the strong white blossoms of our native trilliums, the pink flowers of wild currants and the new fronds of healthy sword ferns.

Now you can help keep ivy and other smothering invasive plants from returning. Friends of Hendricks Park and Volunteer Coordinator Christina Bentrup are recruiting volunteers willing to adopt small areas of the forest that have recently been cleared of ivy and other invasive species. Volunteers would commit to traipsing through their area at least four times a year to remove re-sprouted ivy before it has a chance to spread. The work could be done any time that is convenient—weekends, summer evenings—in an area sized to fit a volunteer's commitment level. This is a wonderful way to maintain the park's investment in ivy removal and to save thousands of dollars in future costs. If you are interested in this unique and valuable way to maintain the health of the native forest of Hendricks Park, contact Christina Bentrup at 541-510-4636 or [CBentrup@eugene-or.gov](mailto:CBentrup@eugene-or.gov) 



Valerie Close


Valerie Close's husband Dan Close



# Invasive Species and You

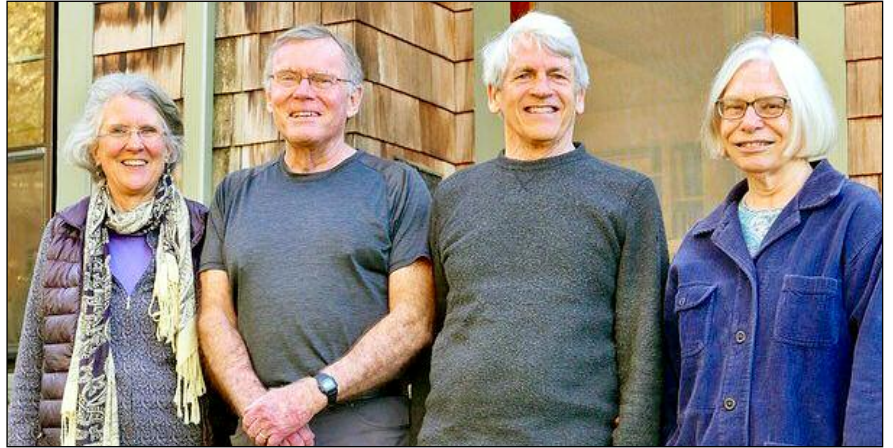
The beautiful forests of Hendricks Park provide a haven for birds and other animals and a quiet respite for humans. Yet invasive species such as ivy and laurel seriously threaten forest health.

What can you do? The most important thing is to make sure any ivy growing near your home doesn't set berries. Why? Birds eat these berries and then distribute the seeds through the forest.

Second, prune your laurel hedges back before they bloom. Those pretty white blossoms turn into plump dark berries that birds love to eat, and then those seeds are also distributed. These two simple things that anyone in our area can do will help keep these invasive species out of our forest. 

*Valerie Close*


## Friends of Hendricks Park gained four new board members in 2019



From left: Val Close, Bob Bumstead, Art Farley, Christine Goldberg

## Take a Look!


We are in the process of updating and improving our website. Visit [www.friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://www.friendsofhendrickspark.org) to find out about the park, our organization and how to contact us. Meet the board, learn about our activities and recent accomplishments, visit the Park Bench archive and find options to donate.

Thanks go to board member Art Farley for leading this effort to spruce up our website. 



## Volunteer Spotlight

Our spotlight falls this spring on the indefatigable Helen Reed. Invited to describe her relationship with Hendricks Park, she submitted the following: "My sister introduced me to Hendricks Park before I moved to Eugene from a Chicago suburb 20 years ago. Under the guidance of Heidi Schroeder, a POS employee, several years ago, I planted my first tree with a family in a memorial garden. Heidi told me about volunteer opportunities at Hendricks Park, where I immediately became enamored by the locale, the park staff, and the volunteers. Ever since then, I've been a regular volunteer for the Rhododendron Garden, Native Plant Garden, and Forest. Apart from high winds, I work in all weather conditions, often putting in extra hours every week. I guess I have an addiction to pulling weeds and removing invasive plants! Before COVID-19 had us confined, I put in an additional 34 hours last month, filling 2 tarps with nipplewort and bittercress alone!"

I believe in park stewardship and can't just take this lovely park for granted. It was a gift for us and future generations to enjoy, and I feel we need to care for it. Furthermore, there's a serenity in Nature and we're constantly learning from it." 

# 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 9/29/19 through 4/8/20

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

### Please Support our In-Kind Contributors

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In Memory of Fred Austin by

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Evelyn and David Hess

In Memory of Dave Kilber by

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In Memory of Harriet Kelly by  
Cynthia Fitzgerald

Special Thanks for the Oregon Community Foundation Grant from "The Hendricks Park Native Plant Garden Fund" (Blakely)

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

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

- ☐ Senior/student/limited income \$20  
☐ Individual \$30  
☐ Family/household \$50  
☐ Sponsor/business \$100  
☐ Sustaining \$250  
☐ Guarantor \$500  
☐ Benefactor \$1,000  
☐ Other amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

### ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Forest restoration  
☐ Native Plant Garden  
☐ Rhododendron Garden  
☐ Unrestricted gift  
☐ Memorial/commemorative gifts

### ENDOWMENT FUND \$\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Rhododendron Garden  
☐ Native Plant Garden  
☐ Forest Endowment  
☐ General Endowment

### TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Friends of Hendricks Park

### Yes! I want to volunteer

- ☐ Work parties ☐ Education

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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**Friends of Hendricks Park**

P.O. Box 3784, Eugene OR 97403-0784

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Tax ID #93-1330075





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**Newsletter by**

Rachel Foster  
Valerie Close  
Linda Sage  
Bob Bumstead  
and Beneda Design

## Public Events Suspended

At the time of writing, volunteer activities at Hendricks Park were suspended through mid-May. In normal times, volunteers work in the Rhododendron Garden every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon and in the Native Plant Garden every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Forest Work Parties are usually scheduled once a month, September through May or June. For more information and updates on volunteer activities, contact [CBentrup@eugene-or.gov](mailto:CBentrup@eugene-or.gov) or 541-510-4636.

**Hendricks Park tours are also suspended at this time.** For information and updates, visit our website at: [friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://friendsofhendrickspark.org) or contact Friends of Hendricks Park at: [info@friendsofhendrickspark.org](mailto:info@friendsofhendrickspark.org) or 541-607-4066. 



If Hendricks Park has provided a place of peace or beauty for you during this time of social distancing, please consider a donation to the Friends of Hendricks Park.