



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2009

A VOLUNTEER SUCCESS STORY: Tuesday Mornings



Tuesday morning
volunteers

Several years ago (maybe even 15—no one can remember for sure), a fledgling volunteer program was started at the Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park. Volunteer gardeners, master gardeners and members of the Rhododendron Society joined staff members Michael Robert and Ginny Alfriend on Tuesday mornings to work in the garden. Over time, participation waxed and waned. Building on this program, Friends of Hendricks Park applied for and received a matching grant from Oregon Community Foundation in 2005 to hire a

Rhododendron Garden volunteer coordinator to help the staff run this program. Karen Goeble has been the coordinator for the past 4 years. During that time, we have funded the position for one day a week, first through the grant and then through a matching donation from the City of Eugene. Over the past 2 years, the program has become very successful, with consistent participation: 6–10 people volunteer regularly. According to Ginny, Hendricks Park head gardener, “Volunteers have been able to accomplish tasks that we would have had a hard time fitting into our work schedules. For example, in the course of one morning, several hundred bulbs were planted under the crabapples last fall, something that would have taken the staff many hours to accomplish. They should make a fine show this spring.”

The benefits are more than just extra hands to accomplish tasks. They also include camaraderie and building support for the garden. This is an example of a grassroots organization making a significant contribution.

The projects the volunteers perform include weeding, planting, pruning, mulching and trail maintenance. One of the program’s highlights is the half-hour very social coffee break, when delicious homemade goodies are served.

This volunteer program is an example of membership/donation dollars directly benefitting the park. If you would like to meet some wonderful people, have some fun, gain some gardening knowledge and help maintain this crown jewel of Eugene’s public gardens, contact FoHP at 607-4066 or the park office at 682-5324. 

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

info@friendsofhendrickspark.org • www.friendsofhendrickspark.org • 541-607-4066

Northwest Youth Corps: Great Kids Doing Great Things!

So says the NYC 2008 annual report, and such is our experience at Hendricks Park. For more than 10 years, students from the Youth Works summer program as well as the Outdoor High School have assisted with stewardship of the park's habitats and trails.

Northwest Youth Corps works fall, winter, spring and summer in heat, rain, mud... Everyday is a good day to get work done. In 2008, students, Americorps crew leaders and staff did a lot of work at Hendricks Park, including ivy control, critical trailside weeding to limit the impact of secondary invaders on areas cleared of ivy, control of sweet cherry trees in the Oak Knoll, trail abatement and construction, seed collection, propagation of native plants and construction of the seed removal facility.

This winter, we started a new propagation project to grow sword ferns in a specially designated area within the nursery at the Outdoor High School campus. Students will care for the young plants over the next 12-18 months. Once the plants have grown into hearty plugs, students will bring them to the forest at Hendricks Park and plant them in the understory of the fir



Northwest Youth Corps participants at work

forest adjacent to Gent's trail. Youth Corps and other volunteers have worked to control ivy in this location.

The Friends in cooperation with Hendricks Park staff are working to raise funds to expand opportunities to collaborate with NYC to care for the park's forest and trails. One idea is to foster an environment of mentorship by pairing Youth Corps members with workers from Walama Restoration Project. Stay tuned for updates on this budding new program. 



Jon at work

Volunteer Spotlight

Jon Heritage, a regular Tuesday morning volunteer since fall 2007, has been gardening since his father created his own little garden for him at age 5. A Pennsylvania native, Jon has lived and worked in Oregon for over 30 years, retiring as a computer programmer from the Oregon Student Assistance Commission several years ago. Jon has downsized his gardening work in Oregon since the early 70's, when he picked apples and pears and managed orchards in the Medford area. Now he just maintains his own raised beds at home with his wife, Alice, though he found time recently to join the Master Gardner program.

Jon first saw Hendricks Park in 1975, when he stumbled upon it during a quick trip to Eugene from Medford. He thought it was awesome. "I have had a relationship with the park ever since," he says.

Other volunteers have referred to Jon as the Energizer Bunny, because he has only one speed and loves to work in the park. "Volunteering is a win-win for everyone, since the park gets help, I learn something every time, there is the camaraderie of the Tuesday volunteer group and, of course, the volunteer treats!" he says.

Jon is always keen to practice his Spanish with you. And if you really want to make his day, just ask him about his Philadelphia Phillies! 

Welcome, Emily!

Hendricks Park welcomes a new full-time employee! Emily Aune moved from the City of Eugene's landscape crew to join the small but mighty Hendricks Park crew. Her valuable landscape experience, plant knowledge, people skills and enthusiasm make her a wonderful new addition.

Emily has worked for the City of Eugene in various capacities over the past 3 years. She propagated and tended plants in the city's native plant nursery, hosted weekly volunteer work parties at the nursery and facilitated numerous Stream Team work parties. She also spent two summers on the wetland crew, collecting seeds of native plants. During the past year, she was on the landscape crew, tending landscapes in city parks and medians. She's crazy about native plants, and enjoys using them to create beautiful gardens, at both her home and work.



Emily Aune

Before Emily became a city employee, she obtained an environmental science degree from Lane Community College and Evergreen State College. She focused on earth sciences, including hydrology, botany and riparian ecology.

Emily grew up in beautiful Brown County, Indiana, but she loves Eugene. Her family has relocated to the Pacific Northwest, so she now considers Eugene her home.

If you can't find Emily getting muddy in the garden, you may bump into her at any dance event. She's an avid swing dancer who teaches private lessons and workshops from time to time. Tango dancing and contra dancing also steal her away some evenings and entire weekends.

Come visit our regular Tuesday work parties, or just stop in to welcome Emily. 

Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Dear Aunt Rhodie:

What types of squirrels are found in Hendricks Park? Are they native?

Dear Reader:

Squirrels belong to an order of mammals called rodents. The squirrel family contains at least 273 species worldwide. Few mammals have adapted to human urbanization as the squirrel has, evidenced by the rascals invading bird feeders in our backyards.



Baby western gray squirrel rescued by Shauna

In Hendricks Park forest, three squirrel species have been confirmed. The native squirrels are: western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*) and Townsend's chipmunk (*Tamias townsendii*). A prevalent nonnative introduced species is the eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*). This species is thought to be pushing out the native squirrels, causing the western gray squirrel to be listed as a sensitive species in some areas. It's very likely, but not confirmed, that another native squirrel, Douglas's squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*), may also reside in the park. Although it is smaller than the eastern fox squirrel, the two are sometimes hard to distinguish.

For pictures of the different squirrel species, see: www.enature.com or check out a short video of squirrels on OPB/Oregon Field Guide (www.opb/programs/ofg/videos/view/96squirrels). And for more information about our squirrels, see *Squirrels of the West*, by Pamela Hartson. 

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.

Weeds We Love to Hate

One of the most abundant weeds in Hendricks Park is nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), an annual or biennial plant that germinates in fall and overwinters as a flat rosette. The leaves are bright green and slightly fuzzy. Lower leaves have a rounded terminal lobe and two much smaller lobes closer to the base. Leaves higher up the stem are narrower and more pointed.

Plants reach from 1 to 3 or more feet, depending on conditions. Yellow composite flowers up to ½" wide are borne on a widely branched stem between early summer and mid fall. Each flower opens from a nipple-shaped bud, and may have

as many as 20 petal-like ray florets. The shape of the buds and the fact that broken pieces of the plant exude a milky substance probably account for the common name.

Nipplewort is an adaptable plant that can survive occasional mowing and grows in any soil, wet or dry. It produces abundant seed, and is a very troublesome secondary invader that follows ivy removal in brighter areas of the forest. It also grows thickly along the edges of roads and trails all over the park.

Wall lettuce (*Lactuca muralis*) is somewhat similar to nipplewort, but its leaves are thin,



Nipplewort.

Photo by Forest Starr and Kim Starr

light bluish-green and hairless, with angular rather than rounded lobes. Individual flowers have only five ray florets. Wall lettuce is common along trails and in the forest, but is not as abundant a secondary invader as nipplewort. 

The Silent Invasion at Hendricks Park

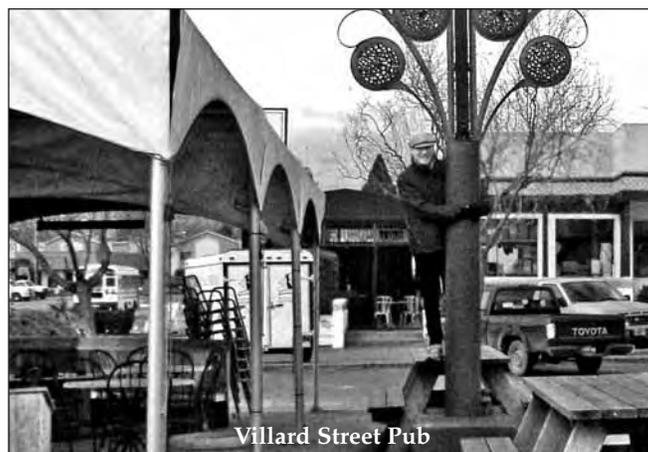
Last year, Oregon Public Broadcasting aired "The Silent Invasion," which earned it the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for excellence in broadcast journalism (the broadcast equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize).

This documentary triggered an unprecedented commitment from government agencies and the public to take action against invasives. Here at Hendricks Park, long before the documentary aired, we have been tackling silent invaders—for the most part ivy, but also many secondary invaders. We are proud of this work and proud to be among the volunteers all over the state who are battling these unwanted plants. To date, approximately 30 acres of the park have been cleared of ivy by contractors and volunteers. You can support this important work by volunteering, becoming a member or donating to Friends of Hendricks Park. More information: opb.org/silentinvasion or FoHP at 607-4066. 

Fundraiser Held at Villard Street Pub

FoHP would like to take this opportunity to thank the folks at the Villard Street Pub, 1417 Villard Street, for sponsoring a fundraiser in November 2008. The Villard Street Pub generously donated a portion of its proceeds for the evening to Friends of Hendricks Park.

Thanks also to all the friends, neighbors and university workers who toasted the park and had fun doing it! 



Villard Street Pub

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 09/30/2008
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Dawn Smith

*Thanks to all our contribu-
tors, and we regret any
omissions or errors.*

Volunteer Opportunities

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
and gain garden knowledge. Our
Saturday monthly forest-restoration
work parties will be held March 21,
April 18, May 16 and June 13 from 9
a.m. to noon. We meet at the F.M.
Wilkins Picnic Shelter.

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 _____

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Hendricks Park Tours 2009

All tours meet at F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter at 2200 Summit Ave. A \$3 donation to Friends of Hendricks Park to support educational endeavors is suggested. For more information, contact Friends of Hendricks Park at 607-4066, www.friends-of-hendricks-park.org or Hendricks Park at 682-5324 or www.eugene.or.us/parks.

MARCH

Sunday, March 22, 1–3 pm

Join Bruce Newhouse for a natural history and ecology walk through the park's forested areas. Get to know the plants, mushrooms, squirrels and other wildlife.

Sunday, March 29, 1–3 pm

Roger Gossler will lead a walking tour of the magnolias, at the height of their blooming season, in the garden at Hendricks Park. Roger is an internationally known magnolia expert and nurseryman.

APRIL

Sunday, April 12, 1–3 pm

Tobias Policha, botanist extraordinaire and director of the Institute of Contemporary Ethnobotany, will lead a tour through the Native Plant Garden and forest, sharing his fascinating and thorough knowledge of local plants.

Sunday, April 19, 1–3 pm

Michael Robert, Hendricks Park's own head gardener emeritus, will stroll through

the Rhododendron Garden, sharing his extensive knowledge of rhododendrons and the park's history.

MAY

**Wednesday, May 13,
7–8:30 pm**

This mid-week, evening tour will be hosted by Jill Schwab. It will focus on native plants and plant lore.

JUNE

Sunday, June 14, 7–9 am

Dan Gleason, well-known local bird expert, will lead a walk through the park, discussing the biology of the birds we encounter along the way.

OCTOBER - STAY TUNED