



FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

# Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2015

## A Banner Year for Forest Volunteers

Many thanks to everyone who came out to work in the forest this winter. You pulled ivy, weeded, moved mulch and sometimes planted things. We had high-school students, UO students from International Studies, Environmental Studies, the Outdoor Program and fraternities and, of course, park neighbors and members of Friends of Hendricks Park.




Photo by Jessica  
Boone

"I owe a huge thank-you to the 24 volunteers who came out on November 8 for our first big restoration planting," Assistant Volunteer Coordinator Mieko Aoki said. "Eighteen of you planted 238 shrubs and 203 ferns and flowers, including our favorite—the disappointing buttercup!" The remaining folks removed ivy, liberating about 40 trees. Thirty-six volunteers came out on December 6. Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Karl, who led that group, reported, "We pulled 3,000 square feet of ivy, raked leaves from 1,400 feet of trail, and planted over 200 bulbs and forbs." Forb, by the way, is a handy term for 'herbaceous plant.' Find a way to slip it into your conversation!

There were three well-attended work parties in January, including one on Martin Luther King Day that drew 35 volunteers, mostly from a UO Environmental Studies class. In contrast to last year's ice, snow and bitter cold, the weather this volunteer season was mostly cooperative. The exception was February 7, when a sudden downpour right at the start of the day left Mieko with 58 very wet and cold students from UO Environmental Studies program. The weather was kinder the following week, when 14 folks from Oregon Community Credit Union came out on Presidents' Day and removed a whopping 4,000 square feet of ivy. As Mieko says, "Volunteers are making a huge dent in the ivy this year!" A 12,000 square foot dent, approximately.

Mieko reported 14 volunteers on March 7: four from Delta Sigma Phi, four from South Eugene High, five regular Friends, and one park-user who was walking by and decided to help! Impromptu helpers are always welcome, but if you—or your



group—prefer to plan ahead, check with Mieko for upcoming dates (Mieko.E.Aoki@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-510-4636). The forest work party season continues through May. It's getting a bit late in the season for pulling ivy, as native perennials are emerging. But there's always plenty of work to do, and spring is a beautiful time to be in the forest. Tools, gloves and snacks are provided. 




# Azalea Lace Bug Update

Hendricks Park neighbors received a letter from the City of Eugene this winter informing them about azalea lace bug in the park and the threat it poses to the Rhododendron Garden. The letter said that “the infestation is serious enough that it could even kill many of the historic rhododendrons.” It also announced that the city’s Parks and Open Space Division, in partnership with Friends of Hendricks Park, has devised a plan (now underway) to combat this pest and help save the park’s rhododendrons and azaleas. Because pesticides have been shown to be the only effective way to kill the insects, a contractor will apply pesticides approved for use in organic gardening directly to the undersides of the leaves.

The protocol is based on tests conducted last year in the Rhododendron Garden. Those tests indicated that azalea lace bug is quite susceptible to insecticidal soap, which contains potassium salts of fatty acids. Such soaps do not harm mammals or the environment, and they are less toxic to beneficial insects than traditional pesticides.

Pre-treatment began in mid-February with a mineral oil spray, intended to smother overwintering eggs. Spraying with the soap will begin as soon as active nymphs and adults of azalea lace bug are observed.

“Generally, we start seeing activity by May, and that’s when we will apply our soap spray,” says Park Specialist Emily Aune. “It may be early this year, since hatch rate is based on temperature and duration of that temperature.” Applications will occur two early mornings in a row, every other month between now and October 2015. Park staff will post notices at the entrances to the Rhododendron Garden 24 hours in advance to inform park users about planned applications. The city and Friends of Hendricks Park are sharing the cost of the spray program.

Partly in response to the azalea lace bug menace, Friends of Hendricks Park initiated a Rhododendron Garden Committee in 2014. Committee member Paula Hewitt volunteered to monitor a number of rhododendrons throughout the garden for azalea lace bug activity this season. We hope Paula’s efforts, along with observations by staff and volunteers, will help us document the spread of this pest and its response to treatment. We also hope to gather further information about which rhododendron species and hybrids may have significant resistance to the bug. So far, we have seen little or no infestation on plants that have substantial indumentum (tan-colored fur on the undersides of leaves). 


*See what to do on page 3.*

## Volunteer Spotlight: Riley Patterson

Riley is a senior at South Eugene High School. She first came to volunteer in Hendricks Park forest with a group from her school’s chapter of the National Honors Society.

Riley tells us: “I grew up right here in Eugene, Oregon, just a mile and a half from Hendricks Park. I have always loved the outdoors, and have taken every opportunity to become involved in it. I love hiking, swimming, running and basically any activity that does not involve hanging from a great height (I am not a fan of rock climbing). I am also a big fan of reading, baking and spending quality time with friends and family.

“I really enjoy the physical aspect of working in the forest, and pulling ivy is my specialty! I was also drawn to the community outreach. I rarely have the opportunity to talk with people outside of school or family, so it is fun to develop relationships with people I would not otherwise be able to meet. Helping the environment is a wonderful way to start my weekends, especially when it includes pastries and new friendships.”

Riley goes to college in Portland next year to study nursing. Good luck, Riley, and thank you! 



# What To Do About Azalea Lace Bug in Your Yard


*(This information is excerpted from the city's letter to park neighbors.)*

To prevent harm to plants in your yard and help stop the spread of this pest into Hendricks Park, you can take a number of steps:



An adult azalea lace bug.  
Photo by Robin Rosetta

- Look for normally green leaves on rhododendrons and azaleas that look bleached or have light yellow stippling.
- Look at the underside of the leaves for small, dark brown splotches, especially near the midrib. These may be excrement, eggs and nymphs of azalea lace bug. An adult azalea lace bug is about an inch long and has a black X on its lacy wings.
- Dormant oil spray can be applied in late winter to reduce egg hatch. Insecticidal soaps, such as Safer Soap, should be sprayed at least four times between first lace bug activity and October. Both products must be sprayed on the undersides of the leaves to kill the bugs. Local tree and shrub spray services can do this work for you. Follow label directions if you do the work yourself.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is interested in knowing where the insect is found. Contact Jim LaBonte with the Oregon Department of Agriculture at [jlabornte@oda.state.or.us](mailto:jlabornte@oda.state.or.us) or 503-986-4749. 

**Editor's note:** Based on a USDA publication, we wrote in a previous newsletter that azalea lace bug adults are "about a quarter of an inch long." We have observed that the bug is considerably smaller than that. The Pacific Northwest Insect Management Handbook gives a more accurate figure of 0.13 inches.

Here is the link: <http://insect.pnwhandbooks.org/hort/landscape/hosts-and-pests/azalea-rhododendron-azalea-and-rhododendron-lace-bug>

Please note that the handbook includes imidocloprid, a neonicotinoid pesticide, among possible treatments. We do NOT recommend this long-lasting, systemic product because of risks to beneficial insects, especially bees.



Azalea lace bug damage

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




## Aunt Rhodie tells all...

*Dear Aunt Rhodie:*

*Who cut down all those trees on Fairmount Boulevard, and why?*

Dear Reader:

A number of park visitors were startled to see those trees come down at the western edge of the park. It happened at the site of an old underground EWEB reservoir, just east of the intersection of Fairmount with Spring Boulevard. Built in the 1950s, the reservoir had been empty and out of use for years and was seen as a possible hazard. Last fall, EWEB and the city completed a memorandum of understanding that allowed them to move forward with demolishing the reservoir. This major operation involved removing the top of the reservoir along with the soil covering it, breaking some holes in the floor and sides to facilitate groundwater drainage, and then filling the reservoir with gravel. The area has been re-graded, and will soon be covered with 4 feet of soil, then planted with native shrubs, trees (Douglas-fir and maple), ferns and grasses to stabilize the soil.

EWEB tried to impact the forest as little as possible, but some trees were growing right on top of the reservoir or so close that they would have been severely damaged during the demolition. Urban forester Mark Snyder was on site during the excavation to decide which trees had to come down. Some trees were cut partway down and left standing as habitat trees. EWEB will plant two new trees of the same species for every tree it felled. 


*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.



## Trailside Weeding Pays Off!

This spring, thanks to the combined efforts of volunteers and Walama Restoration Project (financed by Friends of Hendricks Park), views from the Pileated Trail and the Wildflower Trail have never been better. This part of the forest, the first to be freed of ivy years ago, is currently almost free of secondary invasives (exotic weeds), and we are seeing abundant seedlings of diverse native annual and perennial plants in areas where a year or two ago we saw mostly herb Robert (aka stinky Bob).

Some of us have been 'weeding the forest' for quite a few years, and it's easy to get discouraged when the same old weeds seem to keep coming back. While we recognize that limited financial and human resources make it exceedingly unlikely that results like this can be achieved throughout the forest, we do hope to keep areas adjacent to the most popular trails as weed-free as possible. 

# 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.

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## PayPal is Now Available

If you would like to join FoHP, renew your membership and/or make an additional contribution, you can use PayPal on our website ([www.friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://www.friendsofhendrickspark.org)).



Go to the "Join Us" webpage, where you'll find two ways to donate to FoHP using PayPal. You can chose either the "Membership Dues" donation button or the "Additional Contributions" donation button. We have suggested amounts for Membership Dues, but any amount is greatly appreciated. Simply contribute the amount that fits you.

For the "Additional Contributions" donation, when you get to the "Checkout" page, click on "Please indicate the area of contribution." That way, you can designate a category (if any) for your extra contribution: Rhododendron Garden, Native Plant Garden, Forest Restoration or FoHP's endowment funds (either Native Plant Garden Fund or General Endowment Fund).

Of course, you don't have to use PayPal. A check in the mail works also.

Thanks for all the donations you make to Friends of Hendricks Park. The great work we do is supported by your generosity!



– David Moon, Treasurer

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Friends of Hendricks Park  
P.O. Box 3784  
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## Volunteer Opportunities

### *Rhododendron Garden Work Parties*

- **Every Tuesday, March through November, 9 a.m. – 12 noon.** Park in the lot at the top of the garden, near restrooms at 1800 Skyline Blvd. Meet at the office, below restrooms.

*For forest stewardship opportunities, please contact Mieko at [Mieko.E.Aoki@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:Mieko.E.Aoki@ci.eugene.or.us) or 541-510-4636.*

## 2015 Tours of Hendricks

April 17, 1 p.m.	Michael Robert	Rhododendrons and park history
April 26, 1 p.m.	David Wagner	Mosses & ferns
May 17, 7 a.m.	Glenn Johnson	Birding
June 7, 7 a.m.	Dan Gleason	Birding
June 12, 1 p.m.	Whitey Lueck	Forest walk
November 1, 1 p.m.	Joe Spivak	Mushrooms

## Some Radical Pruning

The 'Sherwood Orchid' evergreen azaleas around the park entrance on Skyline are being cut back in a regeneration effort. This phased process is being done for several reasons. The plants have grown too big, restricting pathways, blocking views, shading out neighboring plants, restricting air flow and impeding irrigation. These plants are also heavily infested with azalea lace bug.

Removing the entire top growth also removes 1000s of overwintering azalea lace bug eggs. This type of drastic pruning is safe for most azaleas, in spring time, when the plants are striving to put on new growth. Staff will follow up with fertilizing, mulching and extra water. 