



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2017

Friends of Hendricks Park is Fifteen

Friends of Hendricks Park (FoHP) was formally incorporated in December 2001. We are 15 years old! We've come a long way—after a flying start. The fledgling group quickly scheduled tours of the park and a public lecture program, and volunteer work parties in the forest were established. The Tuesday Morning Regulars, already volunteering in the Rhododendron Garden, were given more formal status and were soon putting in up to 50 hours a month.

When FoHP was 3 years old, about 250 households and businesses had contributed more than \$61,000. At that time, FoHP was able to report almost 1,000 accumulated volunteer hours in the forest, mostly devoted to ivy removal. We had co-sponsored Mending Natural Systems in Our City, a workshop for restoration professionals. Environmental education projects with grade school students were underway, and we had published seven editions of our newsletter, the Park Bench.

By the end of 2004, FoHP had co-sponsored and completed construction of the Moon Terrace and the public information kiosk near the picnic area parking lot, and built a trail into the Oak Knoll, all with volunteer labor. Four benches were added to the Native Plant Garden (NPG). The first on-site map of the park and trails was subsequently installed in the kiosk. In May 2005, FoHP obtained a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation along with matching funds from our members to support a coordinator for the Tuesday morning volunteer program.

Since 2005, the Blakeley endowment for the Native Plant Garden has supported, through a money match with the City of Eugene, a part-time position of gardener for the NPG.

2006 was Hendricks Park's centennial year. FoHP marked the event with three special issues of the Park Bench that chronicled the park's history and development. It also threw a 100th birthday party, which Mayor Kitty Piercy attended. The Friends presented her with a special centennial plaque (later installed in the overlook area), which read: "Dedicated to all who helped create and preserve Hendricks Park."

The post-centennial year saw the installation of new stone and wood entryway signs for Hendricks Park and completion of the popular overlook area with the handsome Hearn bench. Volunteers removed two more acres of ivy from the forest that year, and restoration of the Oak Knoll was well underway.

By the group's 10th birthday, we had installed a kiosk in the Rhododendron Garden, assisted in the production and installation of the beautiful—and heavy!—picnic tables (built with wood milled on

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Building the park kiosk



New board members Helen and Svevo

Ice Storm!

Many of Eugene's city parks suffered severe damage from December's ice storm, perhaps none more so than Hendricks Park. It took several weeks for city staff and contractors to make the trails there safe to use, and damage to the forest will be visible for many years.

Among the many sad losses, the swing set in the picnic area is gone. The two big Douglas firs that supported it went down, along with several others. In the Rhododendron Garden, oaks took the brunt of the damage, with many large and small branches and some entire trees falling, damaging infrastructure and crushing understory plants, including many magnolias and rhododendrons. Heavy limbs that broke away from Douglas firs were equally destructive.

By mid-January, staff and contractors had removed most hanging hazards—those so-called widow-makers—from trees within the garden and




chain-sawed fallen limbs into chunks mere mortals could handle. On Martin Luther King Day, 58 volunteers were diverted from the forest (which was deemed unsafe to work in at the time) to work in the upper garden, where they cleared an astonishing amount of debris from beds, lawn and paths and kept a staff-operated chipper working non-stop for three hours. Several truck-loads of larger wood was salvaged for firewood and made available, with a permit, to all comers.

Weekly Tuesday morning work parties in the garden offi-

cially begin the first Tuesday in March. This year, an unusual number of volunteers joined a few regular winter diehards in January and February, continuing to clear debris from beds and trails downhill from the main lawn. That's when it became clear just how much damage had been done to understory trees and shrubs. Cleanup efforts followed by fresh spring growth and flowers have gone a long way to restoring the garden to beauty, but there is plenty of planning, pruning and replanting to be done! 

Volunteer Spotlight: Isaiah Lightdancer

Isaiah Lightdancer, the youngest regular Tuesday morning volunteer by at least three decades, has been coming to the park for 3 years. Ray Scofield, a Tuesday morning institution, first invited him to help celebrate his birthday in the park, and Isaiah has never stopped coming. He is a young man of many talents: poet, novelist, philosopher, and artist. This may not seem remarkable to some, but Isaiah is only a junior in high school!

When asked what brings him back every Tuesday morning, Isaiah said it is primarily the wonderful conversations he has with other volunteers and his love of the outdoors. 




Treasurer's Report

2016 was a banner year for Friends of Hendricks Park (FoHP). First, our members continued to provide great support, with a record \$21,436 in membership dues for the year. Second, we received a large anonymous gift (administered by the City of Eugene) that provides \$10,000 per year (plus interest) for our regular operating expenses. Finally, FoHP established a new Rhododendron Garden Endowment Fund with the Oregon Community Foundation—thanks in large part to the organization of Phyllis Hamel. It has grown to \$66,805 in just over a year!

FoHP has made unbelievable strides in establishing and funding endowments to support Hendricks Park. Soon, we will have four separate endowments with the Oregon Community Foundation: (1) General Endowment, \$34,532; (2) Native Plant Garden

Endowment, \$79,965; (3) Rhododendron Garden Endowment, \$66,805; and (4) Forest Endowment, \$25,000 (in the process of being established). The phenomenal growth of the Rhododendron Garden Endowment and the soon-to-be established Forest Endowment were due to a series of donations made by a FoHP member in the last year. These endowments will be invaluable for the future, and FoHP continues to be further supported each year by grants from the Hendricks Park Native Plant Garden Fund established by the late Jerry Blakely in honor of Mary Rear Blakely.

FoHP now has 323 contributing members. As noted above, this steady group is our most important asset. In addition to contributing money, many of these members also volunteer for the Tuesday Morning Regulars and Saturday Forest Work Parties. — *David Moon* 

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site at the park) in the F.M. Wilkins Shelter, and removed tons of ivy and invasive weeds from the forest. We had planted the last of three gateway beds to complete the enhancement of the Summit Avenue intersection, and provided the Native Plant Garden with its own attractive, hand-made sign.

We continue to partner with Parks and Open Space (POS) of the City of Eugene to support staffing in the NPG and a volunteer coordinator for the Rhododendron Garden. Volunteers make an ever-larger contribution to the upkeep of the Rhododendron Garden, currently putting in more than 100 hours a month. Work parties in the forest continue to grow. They remove ivy and other invasive plants, do trail work and plant natives. Our educational park tours continue, and we partner with Nearby Nature to provide educational programs for local elementary school students.

As our funds have grown, we have considerably stepped up our investment in forest restoration efforts, paying for contracted specialist labor for control of invasive weeds, in addition to our

Saturday forest work parties. And for the last 3 years, we have shared with POS the cost of controlling the azalea lace bug infestation in the Rhododendron Garden with professionally applied insecticidal soap. We continue to partner with POS staff in developing ways to reduce that cost while effectively maintaining a healthy and attractive Rhododendron Garden.

Over the years, and especially in the last half-decade, FoHP has established a formidable presence in the park system. When the city threatened to cut funding for the forest during a budget crisis, we successfully testified to continue the funding, including the money for the position of Forest Management Plan Coordinator, who also supervised forest volunteer work parties.

We are grateful for our donors' continued support, and proud of what we are able to accomplish. We hang on to a few big dreams: a new office for park staff and volunteers and perhaps a more sophisticated propagation area and lathe house. We currently have a great relationship with POS staff, who tolerate our sometimes strident advocacy and appreciate our many contributions. In fact we've heard that they consider FoHP a model for park stewardship! 

Mieko Moves On

In our fall 2016 newsletter, we reported the retirement of Keith Stanley, who worked at Hendricks Park as long as most of us can remember. This March, we reluctantly said goodbye to another deeply valued staff member. Mieko Aoki, who had previously worked at Hendricks while a student, became assistant volunteer coordinator for the city's Parks and Open Space in fall 2012. She served in both the forest and Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park.


In early February this year, Mieko told us she had been offered a full-time position as volunteer coordinator with the Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah. "I am excited by this opportunity, but I am more than sad to be leaving Hendricks," she wrote. "I have learned so much in the 4 years that I've had the privilege to be in this position, and have truly enjoyed working with you all."

Emily Aune, lead worker at Hendricks Park,

said, "Mieko will be missed very much by myself and the amazing volunteer base that she has helped to create and support....Her knowledge of native plants species, restoration tactics, horticulture, ornamental plants, trees, birds, park history, plant diseases and WEEDS made her a very versatile and diverse contributor to our entire program. Her ability to remain organized, track and report volunteer hours diligently, take and include photos in her weekly emails...will be leaving some pretty big shoes to fill."



Mieko and volunteer Ray Scofield

Those weekly emails highlighted Mieko's remarkable communication skills with the volunteers, her three supervisors and FoHP board members. Emily speaks for us all in saying, "Thank you Mieko for your hard work, your patience, your sense of humor, your diligence and your ever-pleasant attitude. Friends of Buford Park is lucky to have you." 



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.

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PayPal is 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.friendsofhendricksark.org).



Go to the "Join Us" webpage, where you'll find two ways to donate to FoHP using PayPal. 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.

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

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/student/limited income | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/household | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor/business | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantor | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other amount | \$ _____ |

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$ _____

- ☐ Forest restoration (i.e., ivy removal)
☐ Native Plant Garden
☐ Rhododendron Garden
☐ Unrestricted gift
☐ Memorial/commemorative gifts

ENDOWMENT FUND \$ _____

- ☐ Rhododendron Garden
☐ Native Plant Garden
☐ 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 _____

e-mail _____



Friends of Hendricks Park

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

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Friends of Hendricks Park
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Hendricks Park**

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Volunteer Opportunities

Save the dates!

- **Forest Work Party** Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter.
- **Rhododendron Garden Work Parties** Every Tuesday, March through November, 9 a.m. to noon.

Park in the lot at the top of the garden, at 1800 Skyline Blvd. Meet at the office, below the (closed) restrooms.

For more information, contact Carrie Karl, Eugene Outdoors, Natural Area Volunteer Coordinator.



2017 Hendricks Park Tours

All tours are 1–2 hours long. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter, 2200 Summit Ave. Dress for the weather.

April 23, 1 p.m.	Emily Aune	History of the Rhododendron Garden
June 4, 7 a.m.	Tom and Allison Mickel	Birding. Please bring binoculars.
June 11, 1 p.m.	Sasha White	Native Fruits
November 5, 1 p.m.	Chris Melotti and Molly Widmer	Mushrooms

A donation of \$3 is suggested to help support Friends of Hendricks Park's educational programs.

For more information, contact Friends of Hendricks Park at 541-607-4066 or info@friendsofhendrickspark.org