



FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE


# Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

SPRING 2019

## Plant Labels for the Rhododendron Garden

A longstanding goal for the Rhododendron Garden is partially accomplished: handsome, durable metal plaques have been securely installed to identify many of the garden's rhododendrons and other woody plants.

Numerous people contributed time and skill to this project, which is being funded by Friends of Hendricks Park. Thanks go to: Ted and Paula Hewitt, who spearheaded the very complex naming and design effort and helped Emily Aune select plants for labeling; city staffers Heidi Schroeder and Kathrine Tromp von Holst; and Kristin Walker of Twin Ravens Press, who participated patiently in the long design process and engraved the beautiful plaques. Friends of Hendricks Park has budgeted for additional plaques this year, and hopes to add more in the future. 




Emily Aune with a new metal plaque.

## Two Rare Plants

A patch of tall bugbane (*Cicimifuga elata*) in Hendricks Park Forest was rediscovered last year in a tangle of blackberry vines. Bruce Newhouse first noted a colony of some 250 to 300 plants in 1999 when he conducted vegetation surveys for the Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan. Bruce submitted his observations to the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (now Oregon Biodiversity Information Center). In 2018, on a tip from Emily Aune, volunteer coordinator Christina Bentrup went to the site near the origin of the Ribbon Trail and found about 50 specimens. Walama Restoration Project was later hired to cut back the blackberries that were engulfing them.

Tall bugbane is a striking, large-leafed native plant that bears slender panicles of small white flowers in summer on stems that can reach 6 feet. It is listed by ORBIC as a species "of conservation concern," and is a candidate species for listing by the state of Oregon.

This year, another uncommon native was introduced into Hendricks Park Forest. Volunteers dug more than 100 specimens of meadow checkermallow (*Sidalcea campestris*) from an area just outside the park that is destined for road construction. Seventy five were transplanted into the Oak Knoll, with the remainder going elsewhere in the park. The Emerald Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon lists both these species as rare. 



Sidalcea



Tall bugbane




# Gaining Ground from Ivy

Efforts to remove ivy from the Hendricks Park Forest began back in 2001 when, according to the first edition of the Park Bench, volunteers and Walama Restoration Project removed ivy from 5 acres of ground above Fairmount Boulevard. City of Eugene ecologist Emily Steel recently reported that ivy has now been removed from 36 acres (60 percent) of the Hendricks Park forest floor and that climbing ivy has been removed from most of the park's trees. Ivy removal vastly improves conditions for both native plants and wildlife, and makes the forest far more attractive and interesting to look at. No-one who was around in the early 2000s will forget the thrill of seeing dozens of trilliums emerge where before they had seen only ivy.

Removing ivy is, of course, a continuing chore. Some ivy regrows from scraps of roots that survive the initial treat-


ment, while other plants sprout from seeds brought from outside the park. As of January 2019, 80 percent of those 36 acres have been retreated, including the entire area first treated in 2004–2006, when the city began systematically recording areas cleared of ivy. Twenty five percent of the 36 acres have been treated three times. The city's goal is to continue retreatment on a 5-year

cycle. Costs of this ongoing project are shared by the city and Friends of Hendricks Park.

Ivy removal is achieved through the combined efforts of staff, contractors and volunteers. The volunteer contribution is significant. In 2018, the 1,507 hours of service by forest volunteers included pulling ivy from 6,739 square feet of forest floor and removing ivy from countless trees. 



## More Space, More Light for Natives

For some years, non-native volunteer trees and shrubs (European cherry and European filbert, mostly) have been taking up space and moisture in the Native Plant Garden (NPG) and casting significant shade. The filberts in particular, because of their low and spreading canopies, have been stealing a lot of light from desirable native plants. Our volunteer coordinator and NPG gardener, Christina Bentrup, has been busy the last few months organizing the removal of many of these interlopers by volunteers and contractors, improving growing conditions for existing natives and opening up exciting new planting opportunities. Contract removals were funded by FoHP, as the city does not remove non-hazardous trees. Most of the huge filbert bushes were removed by hardworking volunteers. 



Fawn Lily

# What's This Plant?

“Imagine you are walking in the Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park with your smart phone and the screen is mapping where you walk. As you approach a bed, you see a rhododendron and click on an associated point on the map. That pulls up a database with information about the plant and photographs of the plant in bloom. Sounds pretty cool, right? Well friends, it’s happening.”

That’s from Emily Aune, lead worker at Hendricks Park, who is getting excited about ArcGIS Collector, a program the City of Eugene is using to map valuable assets in Eugene’s parks and to help staff track their work. At this point, Parks and Open Space has collected restrooms, kiosks, trash cans, drinking fountains, buildings, benches, irrigation shut offs and all the Douglas-firs in Hendricks Park with a diameter of 50 inches or more.


Emily writes “I have the program installed on my iPad, which I can take out in the field if it’s not too rainy. You can attach as many photos as you like, maintain a shared and extensive data-

base, and track certain work over time. For example, I can input when I last pruned a tree, or where I fertilized, or track the spread of an invasive species. I’ve decided to take it a step further in the Rhododendron Garden by

inputting as many of the rhododendrons as I possibly can.”

Members of the local chapter of the American Rhododendron Society have been helping Emily identify many of the plants at Hendricks Park, and ArcGIS Collector provides a great way to store that information. Emily’s current map of the garden shows all the trails, with

red diamonds signifying specific plants. Clicking on a diamond brings up a plant’s name, cultivar, health, when it was planted, bloom color, hybridizer, etc. Attached photographs allow her to track the plant over time, or determine its flower color when it’s not in bloom.

Eventually, all this city park information will be made available to the public, but for now staff are just collecting data and sharing it among employees. 



## 2019 Hendricks Park Tours

April 14, 1 p.m.	Whitey Lueck	New perspectives in Urban Forest Management
April 28, 1 p.m.	Anna Bradley	Secret World of Plants
May 5, 1 p.m.	Ted Hewitt	Origins and Development of the Rhododendron Garden
May 26, 1 p.m.	Emily Aune	Visit Rhododendron Garden midseason with the lead gardener
June 2, 7:30 a.m.	Barbara and Dan Gleason	Birding Hendricks Park. Bring your binoculars
Sept 22, 1p.m.	Heiko Koester	Edible Medicinal Plants
Sept 29, 1 p.m.	Emily Steel	Forest Ecology
Oct.13, 1 p.m.	Nathaniel Sperry	Rooting around: tree root myths and realities
Nov. 3, 1 p.m.	Joe Spivack	Mushrooms

Tours are 1–2 hours long. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter, 2200 Summit Ave. Dress for the weather. For tour details, please visit <http://friendsofhendrickspark.org/events.html>

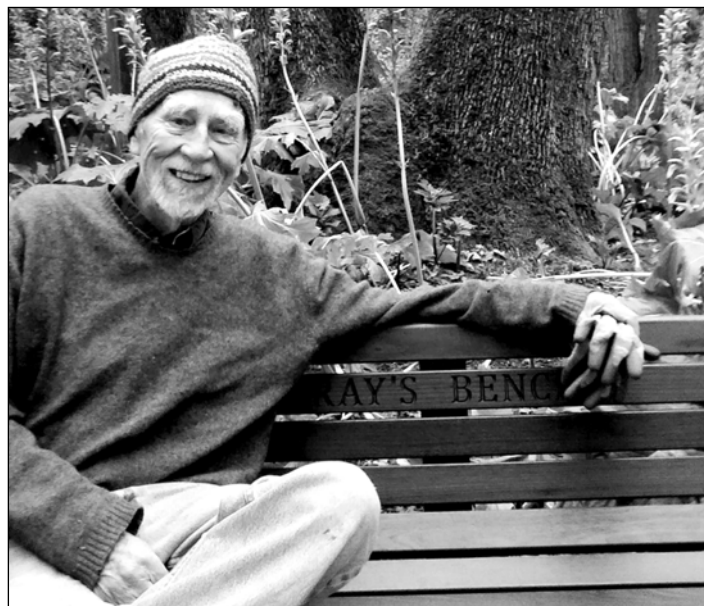
# An Unexpected Legacy

Ray Scofield (1930–2018) volunteered in the Rhododendron Garden with the Tuesday morning regulars for 15 years. ‘Ray’s bench,’ installed in 2015, is adjacent to the bear’s breeches (*Acanthus*) that Ray tended and a few paces from the bench memorializing his daughter, Cari Scofield.

Prior to volunteer work in Hendricks Park, Ray was a teacher at Roosevelt Middle School. His enthusiasm for Shakespeare and the stage plays he directed are remembered by legions of former students. Visitors to Ray’s classroom—parents, teachers, even the principal—had to compete with students in a spelling gauntlet before being admitted.

Fifteen-year-old Isaiah Lightdancer became Ray’s final pupil. While weeding beds and grooming Rhododendron Garden paths, Isaiah and Ray had long, animated discussions about ‘homework’ Ray had assigned—war, peace, the environment, Dickens, Tolstoy, Dr. Seuss.

Park volunteer Jim Northrup has established a scholarship in Ray’s honor: “The scholarship funds higher education and is awarded to a stu-



dent who shares Ray Scofield’s love of literature, poetry, philosophy, Shakespeare and the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden.” The inaugural Ray Scofield scholarship, a \$5,000 stipend, was awarded to Isaiah Lightdancer as volunteers were celebrating Isaiah’s graduation from high school. 🌿

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

## Volunteer Spotlight

We caught up with Denise Egri and Serge Faumont in the Rhododendron Garden during the first volunteer clean-up following the February snowstorm. Serge and Denise are dedicated volunteers in Hendricks Park forest, but on that day the forest was still inaccessible and considered unsafe.

Denise and Serge, who work at Oregon State University and the University of Oregon, respectively, live in Junction City. They are active volunteers, participating in one project or more each month. Just more than 2 years ago, they started working occasionally in the Hendricks Park forest. They have been regular attendees at the Saturday forest work parties for about a year and a half. “We now plan our weekends around the Hendricks Park schedule,” Denise said. “It’s good exercise, and we enjoy seeing the results of our work. It gives you a sense of completion.” 🌿





# 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  
11/5/2018 to 3/23/19

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

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*In Memory of Pauline Rear*  
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Robert Woodson, Woodson Woodwords

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

## 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.friendsofhendricks.org](http://www.friendsofhendricks.org)).



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

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_



**Friends of Hendricks Park**

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

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## Volunteer Opportunities

**Tours on  
page 3.**

### Forest Work Parties

9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the F. M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter

- Saturday, April 27, 2019: resurface wildflower trail; remove secondary invaders
- Saturday, May 18, 2019: remove secondary invaders
- Saturday, June 1, 2019: remove secondary invaders

### Rhododendron Garden Work Parties

Now Year Round! Every Tuesday, 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 rest-rooms.

### Native Plant Garden Work Parties

Every Thursday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at the F.M.Wilkins Picnic Shelter.



Volunteers cleaning up after February snow storm.

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For more information, contact Carrie Karl, Eugene Outdoors, Natural Area Volunteer Coordinator.  
Carrie.L.Karl@ci.eugene.or.us | Office 541.682.4850 | Cell 541.510.4040