



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

FALL 2009

A Memorial for Jack Simons



Jack Simons

Jack (John Victor) Simons (December 27, 1913 - July 27, 2008) was a well-known local horticulturalist and personality who made major contributions to Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden. As a memorial to their father, his daughters Emily Smee of Eugene and Julie Jose of Spokane recently made a generous donation toward the cost of establishing the second of three entry beds at the top of Summit Avenue.

Jack's family moved to Eugene from Missouri when Jack was six. Their house was at the corner of Fairmount and Summit, and Jack grew up playing in Hendricks Park. He lived in Eugene for the rest of his life, creating naturalistic landscapes for many families and eventually developing a nursery on land near the park once owned by his father. He always liked native plants, and would make forays to the coast to dig plants that he propagated in the nursery. His daughter

Julie Jose says, "I remember him creating a display for the annual rhody shows in the park, which my sister and I attended."

A UO graduate with a major in English, Jack read widely and especially loved classics such as Chaucer and Shakespeare. He was adept at languages, especially Spanish, and was always eager to discuss other cultures. In fact, he loved talking, and was apt to strike up a conversation with anyone he met.

Perhaps his most lasting contribution was that he helped design, plant and maintain the Rhododendron Garden. Jack was an early member of Eugene Men's Camellia and Rhododendron Society, along with such luminaries as Royal Gick, Del James, Marshall W. Lyons and Carl Phetteplace. This informal group first met in 1944, and some of its members suggested establishing a rhododendron garden. On April 10, 1951, Jack received a check for work on the garden, which was officially dedicated in 1954. (Women were admitted to the group in 1955, when Jack was president and the group formally merged with the Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.)

Michael Robert, former head gardener at Hendricks Park, says, "Jack worked with any number of local gardens, plant collectors and hybridizers, and was also involved in acquiring the memorial collection of Del James's rhododendrons for the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden. I knew him mostly when he visited the park for a break while working in neighbors' gardens. Jack was gregarious and full of tales of the old timers." 

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

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

Timber to Tables!

This summer, Tim Boyden and his Splinters wood-working group contributed a total of 450 volunteer hours to build rustic picnic tables for the Hendricks Park picnic shelter. The wood came from Douglas-fir trees felled during the implementation of the Oak Knoll project at the park. The trees were milled at the park into 3-inch planks by London Lumber Inc. on its portable sawmill. Tim picked out appropriate lumber for the tables, and the wood was transferred to Urban Lumber Company in Springfield, where it was kiln-dried and then crafted into tables by Splinters members. Urban Lumber provided space, tools and additional milling free of charge. Six finished tables were delivered and installed in the picnic shelter in mid-September, in time for the annual Volunteer Picnic. 

Taking part in the picnic tables project are staff members Joe, Keith and Ginny; Splinters is represented by Tim Boyden, Tim Neun, Seth San Filippo, Drew Parrish, Clay DeForge and Sean Wu.



Douglas-fir logs felled in the Oak Knoll area



Spencer and Scott Early of London Lumber Inc. milling logs on site at Hendricks Park



Loading up for kiln drying at Urban Lumber is Tim Boyden



Final coats with Fred Austin and Joe Fraley



Drew Parrish, Clay DeForge, Tim Boyden, Keith and Ginny

Barto Descendant Attends Tour

James Elwood Barto, a pioneer settler in Junction City, was also a pioneer in horticulture in the southern Willamette Valley. From 1925 until his untimely death in 1940, he raised rhododendrons and other exotic plants from seed of Chinese and American species that he received from sources in England and North America. He grew species of rhododendrons from China that are still in cultivation, and some bear his name as registered cultivars and hybrids. *R. augustinii* 'Barto Blue' is a superior form of Augustinii rhododendrons; *R. davidsonianum* 'Ruth Lyons' was a chance seedling raised by Barto and purchased by the Lyonses. Many other hybrids and seedlings were collected from Barto's garden by the early pioneers who formed the Eugene chapter of the ARS and created a walkway in his honor when the Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park began in 1951. James Barto received the Pioneer Achievement Award from the American Rhododendron Society posthumously in 1995, when the ARS celebrated its 50th anniversary in Portland.

Charlotte (Barto) Lingo, great-granddaughter of James Barto, was present at Michael Robert's tour of the Rhododendron Garden last spring. Charlotte lives on High Pass Road, not far from James Barto's property, which his family still owns. Some of his rhododendrons still grow there. 



Michael Robert and Charlotte Lingo

Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Dear Aunt Rhodie: I have heard a rumor that bobcats have been sighted at Hendricks Park...fact or fiction?

Dear Reader:

I have heard of three sightings over the last 2 years. One was by a park employee, one by a Rhododendron Garden visitor and one on the front porch of a near neighbor to the park (fighting a domestic cat). It is very unusual to have sightings of this mammal, which is very secretive and elusive and hunts mostly nocturnally.



Bobcats have tawny or gray fur with dark spotting, tufted ears and a "bobbed" tail, which gives them their name. They weigh anywhere from 14 to 29 pounds. They are found throughout Oregon, from forests, farmlands to brushy or arid lands. Their main diet consists of rabbits and rodents, including squirrels, but they have been known to kill small deer.

In some areas, especially the Midwest, bobcats have been hunted to extinction. Their skins are in high demand for the fur trade, particularly the spotted belly fur. In the past 20 years, the bobcat has been the most heavily harvested and traded of the cat species. Hunting for bobcats in Oregon is regulated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The far more serious threat to these cats is continuing habitat fragmentation, loss of habitat and persecution by farmers and ranchers. Some conservationists think bobcats should be put on the endangered species list before it is too late.

Let us know if you have a bobcat sighting—better yet, get a picture! 

Yours truly, Aunt Rhodie

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Send questions to:
Aunt Rhodie, Friends of Hendricks Park
P.O. Box 3784, Eugene, OR 97403
or call 607-4066 and leave a message.

Local Businesses Help Out

On Monday Sept. 21, eleven employees from GarageGames, a subsidiary of IAC/InterActiveCorp, pulled ivy and weeds growing within the fire road corridor at Hendricks Park in preparation for trail improvements. IAC employees across the country participated in similar service projects in their respective communities.

This is the most recent of ongoing efforts by local businesses to share in the reclamation of the fire road. Staff from Oregon Medical Group and Levi Strauss cleared vegetation along other sections of the trail earlier this year. Park staff graded and resurfaced the denuded trail with gravel purchased in part with a generous donation from Levi Strauss. 

GarageGames
work party in
action

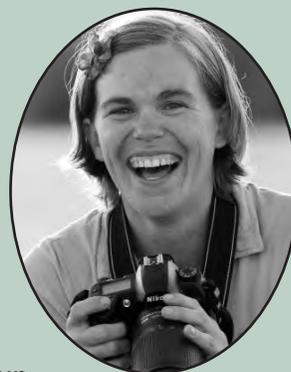


An Endowment Fund for Hendricks Park

Friends of Hendricks Park has created an endowment fund to provide options for donors who may wish to provide for the security of the Friends and the park. Contributions may be directed to the General Endowment Fund or to any of three subsidiary funds representing the three major areas of Hendricks Park: the Rhododendron Garden, the Native Plant Garden and the Urban Forest. Please consider the endowment fund in your estate planning. For more information, contact Friends of Hendricks Park (541-607-4066) or The Oregon Community Foundation (541-431-7099). 

Volunteer Spotlight: Naomi Levit

Naomi Levit introduced herself to the Friends a few years ago during the mushroom festival at Mount Pisgah Arboretum. She had just returned to Eugene after a hiatus to attend photography school in Washington. "I absolutely love everything about Oregon...the people, the environment and the weather!" At the mushroom festival, she was moving through the nonprofit area, becoming familiar with the different groups and volunteering her photography skills. Seeking out nonprofits to help establish a business certainly shows that Naomi understood the makeup of Eugene. Since that time, Naomi has shown up at Hendricks Park to photograph volunteers at work in the forest and Rhododendron Garden, and she even took pictures during a tour of the Native Plant Garden one chilly, wet spring evening. She has skillfully added to our new "Become a Friend" brochure. Naomi's skill and energy have been appreciated by other nonprofits as well. Her interest in nature—the very thing that brought her back to Eugene—seems to fit the city's motto "The World's Greatest City of the Arts and Outdoors." Be sure to check out a show of Naomi's work during the month of November at Nib Dessert & Wine Bar, 769 Monroe Street. Or you can view her work at www.naomilevitphotos@gmail.com. Nonprofits can move slowly, but then one day someone like Naomi comes along and keeps things going. Thanks, Naomi, you make a difference. 



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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through 10/07/2009

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

Memorial Contributions

In Memory of Jack
Simons, 1913-2008
Julie and Jerry Jose;
Emily Smee



Vine Maple

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

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Friends of Hendricks Park
P.O. Box 3784
Eugene, OR 97403-0784

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Hendricks Park**

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Volunteer Opportunities

Fall/Winter Forest Restoration Work Parties

Saturday forest work parties will be held Oct. 24, Nov. 14 & Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter. Gloves, tools, water and snacks provided.

Tuesday Garden Volunteers

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.

University of Oregon Student Day of Service

On Nov. 9 from 1–4 p.m., UO students will meet at the park to help remove ivy. This project, chosen by the Fairmount Neighbors Association, will involve students in a neighborhood project. Please join the students for a community happening. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter.

