



FRIENDS OF  
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

# Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

FALL 2016

## Thank You, Keith!

Keith Stanley retired this October. He had worked for the City of Eugene since 1998, when he joined the staff at Hendricks Park under Michael Robert, the head gardener at that time. Keith's position there continued after Michael's retirement in 2002, when Ginny Alfriend took over the post of head gardener. "Those




were my good times," Keith told me. "I was very fortunate to work so long in a great place with really great people and to meet many wonderful neighbors and park users." After budget cuts forced changes in staffing strategies at Parks and Open Space in 2010 and 2011, Keith worked at Hendricks Park on rotation with other South Region staff members.

Michael Robert told me he always appreciated working with Keith. "Keith was always willing and able to accomplish any task; I could always count on him to use his skills and good judgement to help maintain Hendricks Park as the great park and neighborhood and regional asset it is. Keith accomplished great things at the park; his organic gardening skills made a very positive addition to the Parks division," Robert says. "When we first began to weed out ivy from the forested area of the park, Keith set up a very large ivy composting operation in the big parking lot; it was a very impressive and successful operation. Keith's presence, his sense of humor and his many con-

tributions to Hendricks Park definitely made for some of the best years ever for the park, its permanent staff and the many casual employees, including youth, volunteers and neighbors."



Volunteers and members of the board will particularly remember Keith for his regular attendance at the annual volunteer picnic, where he was in charge of lighting the big fire at the picnic shelter. We've assured him he'll be invited back to continue that tradition. It's clear that Keith already feels nostalgic for the park. Keith lives in Fall Creek, but says he's already been back to visit the park and walk the trails in the forest, a practice he plans to continue.

Emily Aune, currently the only full-time staff person at the park, really enjoyed working with Keith, and says, "Keith was the kind of worker who was willing to help out in any way possible, capable of so many things, and always a friend." 

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




## A Letter from Our President

# Rhododendron Garden Endowment Fund: Success!

Thanks to the very many of you who made a special donation last spring, the Rhododendron Garden Endowment Fund has gotten off to a superb start! We can now confess that this funding drive had seemed very ambitious, as much a recognition of how important the RG's future is as a readily feasible goal — but the amazing happened. Way to go!

The drive raised \$22,870 via a high number of individual contributions and one incredibly generous large gift. Adding in the \$3,250 that the Board directed from other accounts yielded a total of \$26,120. This sum went to the Oregon Community Foundation last summer to start the rhodie garden's very own endowment fund. At the OCF rate of return,



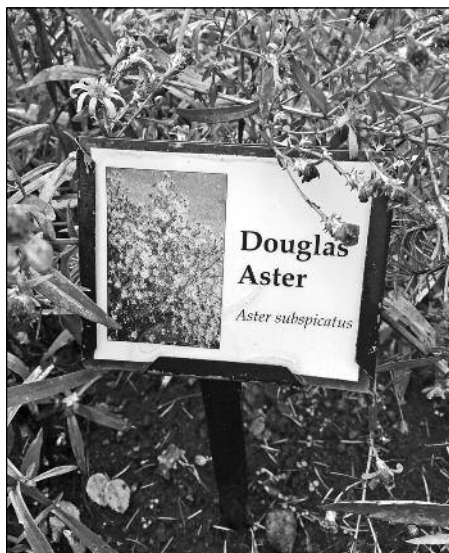
this will generate more than \$1,000 per annum, which may be used immediately for RG projects, or plowed back into the Fund if it looks like taking the longer view would be the better choice for that year. It's hard not to be repetitive and say thank you again — so I will: Thank You! 

*Erik Fisher*

*President of the Board of Directors,  
Friends of Hendricks Park*


## New Plant Labels in the Native Plant Garden

Sasha White, our gardener for the Native Plant Garden, has been making new labels. Working with Jeffrey Flowers, a graphic designer for the city, Sasha has created more than 85. The labels have updated photos (which Sasha took) and provide scientific as well as common names. Aside from photography, she says, the primary work was updating all the plants' scientific nomenclature. The labels are printed on adhesive vinyl with a UV-protective coating, and mounted on a tough plastic substrate. They are expected to last two to five years depending on



their location and sun exposure.

More labels will be made as new plants are added to the garden and as Sasha is able to take new photographs. Trees,

shrubs, perennials and annuals will be labeled. Not all of the labels will be out at any one time. The goal is to identify those plants that are in bloom, showing good foliage or maintaining a visual presence even as they go dormant. Proper labeling of plants in the garden has long been a goal of the Friends of Hendricks Park, and we are very pleased and grateful that Sasha has taken on this task. 

## Volunteer Spotlight: Svevo Brooks

Svevo Brooks moved to the Fairmount Neighborhood 4½ years ago from Creswell. As he now lives on Elk Ave, Hendricks Park is like his backyard. He was familiar with the park, as his parents' best friends were Sandy and Bertha Tepfer, longtime neighbors of the park. Bertha made an impression on him as a child, because she would stop and pick up litter every time she went for a walk. When he is not walking or working in the park, he teaches at Oak Hill School.



Svevo is an active volunteer in the park, working in the forest with our Saturday work parties. He also visits the park twice a day for recreation, and carries out stewardship activities, such as picking up litter, while there. When asked why he volunteers, he replies, "I use the park all the time, so in return I need to give something back." He likes to introduce people to the park and teach them about stewardship. He has also agreed to become a Friends of Hendricks Park Board Member in 2017.

Mieko Aoki, volunteer coordinator at the park, says it all: "Svevo works very hard and always has a smile on his face. He is excellent with the groups of high-school and college volunteers, engaging them in interesting conversations and motivating them to keep working. I am always happy when he attends volunteer projects, as he is very calm, capable and stable, and is a delightful human being."

## Azalea Lace Bug (ALB) Update

We reported in fall 2015 that most of the park's rhododendrons looked pretty good following repeated treatment with insecticidal soap. This year, the city again contracted with Glass Tree Care to spray on a similar schedule, omitting only the rhododendrons in the Native Plant Garden. We skipped the dormant oil spray this time and went with five applications of soap. As before, the city and the Friends shared the cost of the treatment. Staff also removed some extremely badly affected plants.

This spring, we were surprised by a late onset of the first hatch of bugs, in spite of mild weather. Since a state entomologist we contacted had not received similar reports from other gardens, it is possible that last



year's soap treatment somehow delayed the hatch. By the end of

An adult azalea lace bug.  
Photo by Robin Rosetta

the season, however, the more susceptible plants were once again heavily infested. Overall, though, the garden's rhododendrons look markedly better than in pre-spray years, and we have concluded that the spray program reduced overall ALB numbers and improved the park's appearance. Staff and the Friends are now discussing ways to reduce the expense of annual spraying while still effectively protecting the Rhododendron Garden.

Other good news: so far we have seen no evidence of ALB spreading to plants that were clean in previous years, which tends to confirm that certain rhododendron types are reliably resistant to the disease. If this observation holds, it will help greatly with future planning.





## Aunt Rhodie tells all...

*Dear Aunt Rhodie:*

*Is it unusual to have rhododendrons blooming in the fall? Why does it happen?*

*Sincerely,*


*Some members of the board who volunteer in the garden.*

Dear Puzzled Board Members,

I passed on this question to Ted Hewitt, Rhododendron Garden Committee member and past president of the Eugene chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. He responded:

Your query happened to arrive on the day of our October ARS Eugene Chapter meeting, so I could pose the questions to several very knowledgeable people. From my own experience and reading as well as from several other growers, it is quite normal to have a few rhododendrons blooming in the fall or even at times of the year other than spring. Fall bloom is more consistent with some rhododendrons than others. Some of the rhododendrons that consistently bloom a little in the fall are Elizabeth, Yellow Hammer, Cunningham's White and Cupcake, though there are many others.

Why does it happen? This question had me stumped. Some of the answers I received from others sounded quite reasonable, though they concurred that they did not know exactly why. One idea is that the rhododendrons experience a kind of dormancy in late summer from experiencing some degree of drought during the summer, and when the cooler days of fall occur with moisture, it stimulates the opening of the flower buds as if it were spring. Another idea was that rhododendrons bloom according to a certain amount of daylight each day and that the proper amount of light in the fall (corresponding to the same amount in the spring) triggers the fall bloom.

If you would like to read some more technical answers, you might enjoy an article written by Sandra McDonald and published in the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society, summer 1981, entitled Fall Bloom of Rhododendrons. A brief statement is: "The starch to sugar conversion seems to be a common factor in dormancy breaking in several of the methods discussed above. Sugars serve as food for the developing meristematic tissue in seeds and buds. Verifying the drought, sugar and fall bloom relationships in rhododendrons would be an interesting project and perhaps would be a start toward solving the problem." You can read this article at <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v35n3/v35n3-mcdonald.htm> 

*Yours truly, with thanks to Ted,*

*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.

# 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  
4/11/2016 to 11/25/16

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## Rhododendron

## Garden Endowment

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## Contributors

Rudy Fox, Fox  
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Thanks to all our con-  
tributors, and we  
regret any omissions  
or errors.

## 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.friendsofhendrickspark.org](http://www.friendsofhendrickspark.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

- ☐ 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 (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

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Tax ID #93-1330075



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

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## Volunteer Opportunities

*Save the dates!*

### Forest Work Parties

Meet at F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter,  
2200 Summit Ave. Rain or Shine!

- Saturday, October 22 – 10:00 am-1:00 pm  
(UO Make a Difference Day)
- Saturday, November 19 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Saturday, December 10 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Monday, January 16 – 10:00 am-1:00 pm  
(MLK Day of Service)
- Saturday, January 21 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Monday, February 20 – TBD – (OCCU  
President's Day of Service)
- Saturday, March 11 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Saturday, April 8 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Saturday, April 22 – TBD (UO Earth Day)
- Saturday, May 20 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm



### Rhododendron Garden Work Parties

- Every Tuesday, March through November,  
9 a.m.-12 noon. Work parties resume  
March 7, 2017

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