



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench

EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

FALL 2017

McCready Arbor Rises



The long-awaited repair of the McCready Arbor was completed in late summer. This arbor, situated southwest of the main lawn, became a casualty of last winter's ice storm, crushed by a large oak limb that also damaged a nearby park light. Thanks to the City of Eugene's planning department, we now have a splendid, brand-new arbor built by Oregon Woods out of Alaskan yellow cedar.

The original arbor, built in 1995, was donated in memory of Gladys Wilkins McCready. A bronze plaque at the base of the structure bears her name, followed by "1895-1990" and "Historian of Early Eugene."

Emily Aune, Lead Gardener at the Rhododendron Garden, writes, "I did not know Gladys's story, but couldn't help but notice the name Wilkins correlating with the F.M. Wilkins shelter at Hendricks Park. With some research, I verified there is indeed a connection. Gladys's father, Francis Marion Wilkins, was a former mayor of Eugene. During his service from 1905-1907, he was responsible for the first paved street and for the purchase of the first parkland in Eugene. That purchase was half of the 80 acres that is now Hendricks Park. The other half was purchased by the Hendricks family.

"When the shelter was built in 1938, it was dedicated to F.M. Wilkins on his 90th birthday. Francis and his wife, Emily, had four daughters: Gladys, Lucia, Nina and Maude. Gladys was a graduate of the University of Oregon and an editor for the *Eugene Morning Register*. Three of the sisters, including Gladys, co-authored *The Story of Eugene*, an early history published in 1949. If anyone still has connections to the family members or knows more of their history, feel free to contact me," Aune says. The arbor remains a beautiful seating area, just off the main garden loop trail.



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

Bouncing Back from the Ice Storm

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of staff, contractors and volunteers, the Rhododendron Garden made a remarkable recovery from last December's ice storm. But for much of this year, there was a prominent reminder of that dreadful event: a large fallen Oregon white oak near the middle of the main lawn. It sat there until late summer, when the ground firmed up enough to allow staff to remove it without too much damage to the lawn. We miss the tree, but now the lawn once again presents a serene aspect from the main entrance to the garden. Fortunately, two young oak trees planted in the lawn a few years ago



came through unscathed and appear to be doing well.

Although the garden has been looking good this summer, you don't have to search too hard

to see lingering signs of damage. Friends of Hendricks Park is funding another round of aesthetic tree work that will address, among other things, ice-storm damage to many understory trees. Magnolias were particularly hard hit. Some rhododendrons were so badly damaged that they had to be removed,

leaving some prominent gaps that remain to be filled.



A Late Summer Note

Emily Aune, Lead Gardener at the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden, wrote this article in late summer for the newsletter of the Rhododendron Society, Eugene Chapter, where she serves as a board member.

As the last of the *Rhododendron auriculatum* fades away, the rhodie bloom season ends at Hendricks Park. However, the rhododendrons won't let me forget about them, as they are quite good at pointing out any irrigation issues. The curling or drooping of their leaves demands my attention, and I spend many of my days repairing irrigation, setting up sprinklers and prun-

ing vegetation that has grown to block some of the 500 sprinkler heads we have throughout the garden. With the absence of rhododendron blooms, I have come to rely on some of our companion plants to cheer up the garden. Hendricks Park has a huge variety of hydrangeas that bring pinks, blues and whites to speckle the hillside. A grove of vitex (chaste tree) makes the south slope glow purple, kaffir lilies create swaths of pink and one of my personal favorites—our ginger lily—brings a tropical look to the garden. Even if you only have time to drive by, you can catch the explosion of wil-

low gentian in the Gateway Bed across the street from the shelter.



'Ginger lily (*Hedychium* species)'

New Steps for the Rock Garden


Some years back, when Michael Robert was head gardener at Hendricks Park, a distinguished alpine gardener from Prague visited Eugene. Michael recalls: "I was asked by the Rock Garden Club if we were interested in building a garden, as Josef Halda had offered to build one as a demonstration. We accomplished the first section of the wall on that first visit in April 1999, including gathering the rocks and plants and doing the planting, but felt we had more to do. Josef offered a return visit for more garden construction." A few years later, after heart surgery, he did return, and the structure of the rock garden was completed in March, 2002.

A narrow gravel trail ran up through the rock garden, with some steep steps at the lower end. Those steps fit


right in with the rock garden look but were never particularly safe. Loose gravel on their gently sloping surfaces could make them quite a hazard. Volunteers and staff who worked in the area were wary of slipping, and visitors rarely ventured up the path. One of our board members, while attending a park tour, witnessed a child slip and fall on the steps. Luckily, the child was not badly hurt.

Thanks to the large anonymous gift we received in 2016 for operating expenses, Friends of Hendricks Park was able to pay for a new flight of steps this spring. We selected master mason Alan Ash to construct them, on the basis of a clear, detailed proposal that showed a good grasp of what was required and an appreciation of the aesthetics of the setting. Alan



went to a quarry and hand-picked large blocks of basalt that were a near-match to the existing stone. The job took him less than a week, and the steps were finished in time for Mother's Day visitors. They feel very secure, look great and suit the site perfectly. 

Volunteer Spotlight

Claire Beekman, a retired nurse, says she was destined to volunteer at Hendricks "as soon as she was old enough to volunteer." Claire raised her children near the park. The family spent countless hours playing and exploring in the park, and at one point she studied botany and landscape architecture. She finds the park a place to learn and relax, and it has inspired her in developing her own garden. As she enters her fifth year as a Tuesday volunteer, Claire claims she actually enjoys weeding: it's all part of beautifying the park, she says. She loves the staff and volunteers and feels she has found her place again "with people who really know Latin plant names"! 



Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Dear Aunt Rhodie:

On my frequent walks through Hendricks Park, I pass many benches dedicated to people I don't know: Mel Freeman, Jill Heiman, Helen F. Henry, Joyce Goody Powell, Rosanna West Walker, Barbara and Bill Winter, Rachel and Harry Coutin.

Who are these people? Why are they honored with benches? What are their connections to Hendricks Park and Eugene?

Sincerely,
M. Grandiflora

Dear M,

It's going to take a bit of research to answer this question fully. Named benches are usually dedicated by friends or family members to a loved one as a memorial. Some of these benches are quite old, and so am I. My memory is slipping. Perhaps our readers can help me sate your curiosity. How about it, readers? Do you know any of these people or their families? What are their stories? I will compile any information you provide for next spring's newsletter.

Yours truly,
Aunt Rhodie




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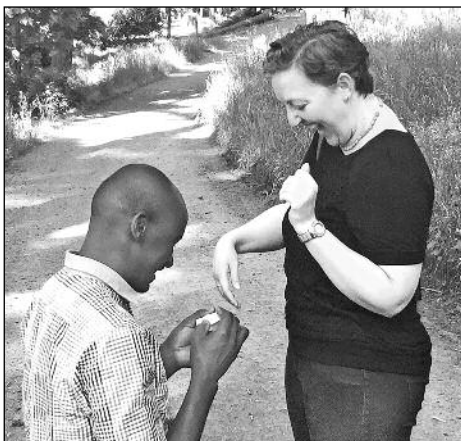
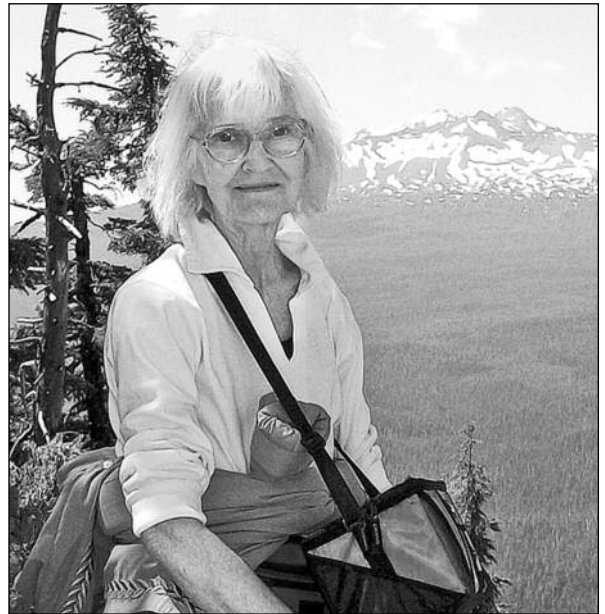
Send questions to: Aunt Rhodie, Friends of Hendricks Park, P.O. Box 3784, Eugene, OR 97403 or call 607-4066 and leave a message.

Marilyn Brooks


Inge Brouwer, a Friend of Hendricks Park, has let us know that Marilyn Brooks, a former volunteer in the rhododendron garden, passed away peacefully on July 5th of this year at the age of 79. She had moved to California in 2011.

Inge says Marilyn loved the beauty in nature and was able to capture this in her photography. She liked to decorate with gems of nature: shells, leaves, rocks and flowers.

Marilyn really enjoyed coming up to the Park via Ride-Source to work with fellow volunteers and she especially liked the Volunteer Appreciation dinners. 



Park Magic

In late May 2017, Gordon Okumu proposed to Robin Zimmerman in the Rhododendron Garden, and FoHP board member Svevo Brooks took some photos. "I happened to be walking by, and they asked me to witness the occasion," Svevo says. "They have since been married. Gordon sent me an announcement of the wedding." 

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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Richard & Beatrice Rosenbloom – In
Memory of Allen DeJung

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).



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



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Hendricks Park**

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Volunteer Opportunities

Save the dates!

- **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 restrooms.

- **Forest Work Parties** to be determined.

*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*



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.

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 information about 2018 tours, contact Friends of Hendricks Park at 541-607-4066 or info@friendsofhendrickspark.org