



FRIENDS OF
Hendricks Park

NEWS FROM THE

Park Bench


EUGENE'S FIRST PARK

FALL 2018

The Swings Are Back!



Julian Elias enjoys a swing


We were sad to lose the old swing set in the picnic area, when the two big Douglas firs that supported it were felled by the December, 2016 ice storm. It was soon determined that this popular feature should be replaced. We watched with interest as an impressive new support structure rose in the spring of 2018. Work was essentially completed by Mother's Day, but only one swing could be installed, due to a faulty part. The second swing was installed this fall, so now you and your buddy can swing side by side. Friends of Hendricks Park partnered with City of Eugene to fund replacement of the swings. 



Big Trees Are 'On the Map!'

The City of Eugene is undertaking an ambitious project: to locate, measure and map all trees in the Eugene Parks System. The goals: to identify areas where more tree planting is advisable; to find out how much carbon is being sequestered to aid in long-term planning for an uncertain climate future; and to provide useful data for a revised management plan. The existing Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan, for instance, is approaching its twentieth anniversary.

Hendricks Park was selected for the pilot mapping project. This summer, a team of volunteers organized by Hendricks Park Volunteer Coordinator Christina Bentrup measured and recorded Douglas fir trees whose diameter was 50 inches or greater. Tree diameter was measured at 4.5 feet from the ground. Tree height was calculated using a laser inclinometer, a device that uses angles to extrapolate the distance between base and crown. Crown spread was measured by pacing or tape measure.

The team found 38 Douglas fir trees in Hendricks Park whose diameter is 50 inches or greater. What appears to be the largest living tree in Hendricks Park at this time is 73 1/2 inches in diameter, 180 feet tall, and has a canopy spread of 64 feet. It stands on a steep slope above Fairmount, not far from the south edge of the park. 



Volunteer Update

Hendricks Park Volunteer Coordinator Christina Bentrup tells us that in the six months from December 2017 through June 2018, when work in the forest typically takes a break for the summer, 327 volunteers contributed at least 976 reported hours of volunteer service in the forest – equivalent to having a fulltime park steward work for six months!


These volunteers:

- Pulled ivy from 6739 square feet of forest floor, crucially improving habitat for native species
- Weeded invasive species alongside 19,083 feet of trail, equivalent to the length of a 5k course, helping to prevent their further spread
- Mulched and pruned an additional 1,332 feet of trail, supporting our Natural Areas staff who are thinly spread throughout the park system
- Planted 120 native understory perennials grown at the City's Native Plant Nursery
- Removed ivy from countless trees, drastically helping us along to our goal of being tree-ivy free by the end of 2018 – we're almost there!
- Cared for the memorial Bonzer Bench forest garden
- Mapped invasive species with GPS monitoring

As well as all those other untold and sometimes thankless tasks that support Hendricks Park Forest.

Christina says: "I want to thank every single one of you who came out once or many times, alone or with one of our many group partners. We owe a big thanks to those partners, including Oregon Community Credit Union, Spencer Butte Middle School, University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program, Delta Tau Delta + Alpha Phi Omega fraternities, South Eugene High, Twin Rivers Charter School at Northwest Youth Corp, Run Hub, Eugene OG, and the

Returned Peace Corp Volunteers of Oregon. Thank you, Friends of Hendricks Park, for supporting the forest, the volunteer coordinator, and all of the volunteers in the myriad ways you do."

Park-wide, volunteers put in a total of 3191 person-hours between January and the end of August 2018. At least 1500 of those hours were spent in the rhododendron garden, which certainly reflects all the effort. 



Tuesday Volunteers



Forest workparty

Aunt Rhodie tells all...

Aunt Rhodie has received another response to the inquiry into commemorative benches:

Dear Aunt Rhodie,

I read your e-mail with such delight in knowing that the swing bench my husband and I donated to the Park in 1999 in honor of my parents' lives continues to be enjoyed by Park visitors today, especially the children. We chose the site under the cherry tree as it was one of my parent's favorite places to visit, long before the park was redeveloped. My mother grew up in England and loved the rhody garden and my father was born in a small village in Russia where his memories of sweet cherries balanced others of famine and brutality. With his grandsons in tow, my father would climb up the hill from our house on Orchard St. to that very cherry tree and sit with them eating cherries while telling them stories about his childhood, the sweet cherry wine his grandmother made as well as her pies and cakes he loved to eat. I have very fond memories of washing their cherry stained shirts. My husband and I inquired about donating a bench to the park ...the fellow who was then in charge suggested that a swinging bench might be a fun addition to the garden. We agreed and asked that it be placed by that particular cherry tree as it was my father's favorite.



My husband and I first moved to Eugene in 1965, he as a graduate student in Mathematics and I in Education and we returned five years later when Gary joined the Department of Mathematics as a professor. We would hike up to Hendricks Park several times a week and enjoyed many weekend picnics there with our family, parents and friends. It was a wilder place in those days with its small zoo and giant trees. The rhody Garden was almost an afterthought as it was set apart across the road in its own small space. We were delighted and very much involved in community efforts to make the Garden into the lovely natural space it is today.

We currently live in Portland where we take frequent walks through Forest Park and the Arboretum. While lovely and grand, the intimate nature of Hendricks Park with its swing bench under an old cherry tree remains a special place in our hearts.

Thanks again for your inquiry.

Sheila and Gary Seitz



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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.

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

Mary's Bench

Mary Rear Blakely (1945-2001) was a passionate advocate for native plants, public open spaces, and kindness. When Mary died, her husband, Jerry Blakely, commissioned craftsman Eric Shumate to build a moon-shaped bench in her honor. Made of wood from the Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*), Mary's Bench is one of four yew benches in the Native Plant Garden (NPG), all recently renovated and refurbished by Mr. Shumate.

Mary's Bench is nestled under a canopy of rhododendrons and surrounded by wood sorrel and deer fern, in the southeast corner of the Native Plant Garden. Mary Rear Blakely's legacy continues: an endowment fund provided by Jerry Blakely supports the ongoing development and maintenance of The Native Plant Garden.

Mary's mother, Vera Pauline Rear, passed away in August at the age of 94. Pauline Rear was a member of Friends of Hendricks Park, and her family continues to support the NPG. Pauline is seen here sitting on Mary's bench with Jerry Blakely in March, 2003. Visitors will find the bench as simple and serene as its commemorative plaque:

**"I WILL FIND A BIT OF JOY
IN EVERY DAY"**


MARY BLAKELY 



Volunteer Spotlight


Hendricks Park gets a double return with Christine Goldberg, a long-time Tuesday morning garden volunteer. Not only has Christine been coming every Tuesday for the past four and a half years, this fall she also started volunteering every Thursday with the new volunteer program in the Native Plant Garden (NPG). She finds working in the NPG very interesting because she gets to deal with a whole new set of plants.

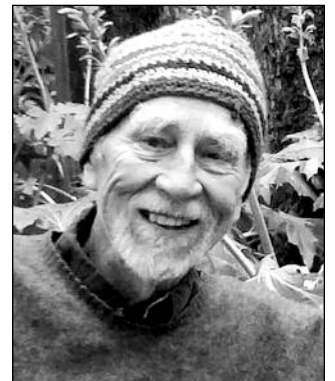
Christine, a librarian by training, is an active volunteer. In addition to Hendricks Park, she also volunteers with the OSU plant clinic and is an exhibit hall interpreter at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History on campus. Prior to arriving in Oregon, Christine was a volunteer at UCLA's botanical garden.

Christine loves volunteering in the Park. "I look forward every week being in the garden, learning new things, and interacting with the other volunteers. I love to re-visit areas we have worked on and I even enjoy coming up in the middle of winter, as long as the weather isn't too crazy!" she says. 



Ray Scofield

Long-time Hendricks Park volunteer Ray Scofield died on Friday, November 9th. Ray volunteered faithfully in the rhododendron garden with the 'Tuesday morning regulars' for over 15 years. He was a spirited, hard-working and well-loved individual who will be greatly missed. 



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
3/11/2018 to 11/4/18

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

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In honor of Ray Scofield
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Memorial

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*In memory of Mary and Jerry
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In memory of Marjorie L. Reed
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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.friendsofhendrickspark.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 (i.e., ivy removal)
☐ 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

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address _____

city, state, zip _____

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Friends of Hendricks Park

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

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P.O. Box 3784
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Hendricks Park**

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Hendricks Park Tours

For information about 2019 Hendricks Park tours, contact
Friends of Hendricks Park: info@friendsofhendrickspark.org
or 541-607-4066

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – *Save the dates!*

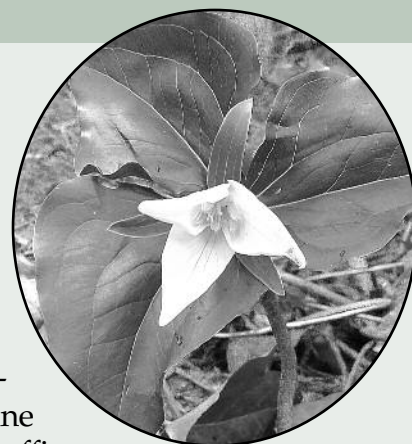
Forest Work Parties

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

- **Saturday, December 08, 2018:** EWEB planting; tree ivy removal
- **Saturday, January 19, 2019:** Tree ivy removal; ground ivy removal with planting
- **Saturday, February 2, 2019:** Tree ivy removal; ground ivy removal
- **Monday, February 18, 2019:** Resurface pileated trail connector; ground ivy removal
- **Saturday, March 9, 2019:** Secondary invaders
- **Saturday, April 27 2018:** Resurface wildflower trail; secondary invaders
- **Saturday, May 18, 2019:** Secondary invaders
- **Saturday, June 1, 2019:** 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 gar-
den, at 1800 Skyline
Blvd. Meet at the office,
below the restrooms.



Native Plant Garden Work Parties

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

Questions? Christina.R.Bentrup@ci.eugene.or.us or
541-51-4636