News from the
PARK BENCH
Friends of Hendricks Park *Eugene's First Park* **Fall 2026**



Fun Fungal Facts

Ever wondered what the world would look like without fungi?

Wet season forests would not offer the visual delights of the myriads of fungal shapes, colors and sizes. Instead of the fungal fruiting bodies we call mushrooms, we would be looking at a clutter of dead plants and animals, because decomposition would be so much slower. Oregon's emblematic Douglas Fir would suffer, because its roots depend on intertwined fungal strands for nutrients and water, and to communicate between individuals. And those of us who appreciate our fungi sauteed in butter would be found wanting.



Fortunately, there are fungus among us. Joe Spivak's November talk and tour on fungi at Hendricks has become a popular perennial favorite. Joe says many mycological enthusiasts do indeed get into 'shrooms because they can be so tasty. Yes, some are toxic, but the safety principle is not so hard to learn: do not taste anything you are not 100% sure of. Even when you are sure, eat moderately: exquisite can turn into tummy upset if you overindulge. Dose matters.

Many fungi fans who start for the good eating stay and go deeper because mushrooms are just so cool, with their endless and amazing forms and functions. Many mushrooms just have to be seen to be believed, like visitors from a midnight dream.

There is an etiquette to mushrooming. Beware where you pick: avoid places where pesticides may have been sprayed, and along trails popular with dogs. While it is hard to overharvest, good mushroom etiquette means picking no more than what you can use. Do not trample the area where mushrooms have emerged. Leave some for others in popular areas.

A reminder: Eugene Park policy prohibits harvest for personal use in city parks. Hendricks is a great place to look, touch, and learn about mushrooms; and to leave them where they belong for others to enjoy.

More questions? Joe Spivak will be back at the Wilkins Picnic Shelter Sunday November 15 at 1 pm. Please join us. ❖

Up to Date



FOREST SADDLE PROJECT

The renovation is almost complete. The refurbished pedestal with park contour sculpture map centers the tidied and graveled Saddle. Walkers enjoy the comfortable donated benches. A commemoration for donors and friends celebrated the new and improved Forest Saddle on October 4th. Awaited are steppingstones for little ones to reach the map, and way finding signs.



THE WINTER FOUNTAIN -- A WORK IN PROGRESS

The Winter Fountain, a secret corner of peace and solace in the Rhododendron Garden, was installed to honor Barbara and Bill Winters in the mid-1990s. But time has taken its toll. The fountain has sprung leaks, electrical shorts, and pump malfunctions. Using Friends of Hendricks Park funds, staff cleaned the pool and found a city electrician to rewire a new pump. The Winter Fountain flows again! Unfortunately, it continues to leak, and the masonry needs more care. To be continued...



RHODODENDRON GARDEN SEASONALS

Kimberly Schultz has joined Andrea Wuenschel to fill out the complement of seasonal employees in the Rhododendron Garden. She started at HP as a volunteer in the NPG last spring -- and turns out to be exceptionally savvy. She has a degree in Environmental Horticulture Landscape Design and has worked for 15 years in the floral industry, most recently at the Little Farm by Mt Pisgah. Now she loves working at the Rhododendron Garden. Welcome Kimberly!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY



On the lovely early fall evening of September 15th, forty-one volunteers and friends met at the Wilkins Picnic Shelter to share tacos, pies, and conversation. A fire in the hearth, bouquets on the tables, and touching tales by Svevo Brooks about how much people love Hendricks topped the evening off. That is, except for the debut of a giant Hendricks Park cookie that has to be seen to be believed -- too amazing to eat. It was an occasion for volunteers to have fun without having to pull weeds.... unless there were those who could not resist slipping off to yank just a few...

LOG ROLLING

What's up with all those logs around the picnic area and Fairmount?

Drought continues to take its toll on unirrigated Douglas Firs across Oregon. Beetles swarm on weakened trees. When trees are felled for safety, they cannot be moved to other parks because of the beetles and attached invasive seeds. So in Hendricks Park they have been moved to line Fairmount and provide more seating.

Your opportunity to be a bump on a log!

NEW & RENEWING FRIENDS OF HENDRICK'S PARK

DONATIONS 10/7/25-09/30/26

LESS THAN $50

Arendt, Dennis & Mary
Beatty, Tom
Bresson, Tree
Dougher, Dorothy Louise
Fiszman, Gayle
Harrison, Wayne
Jones, R.J.
Kingsbauer, Patricia
Krakauer, Deborah
Maasch, Jeanne
Nussbaum, Steven
Shearman, Nancy
Sills, Samuel
Smith, Rebecca
Soussan, Patricia
Speer, Rene
Trachtenburg, Laurence
Widdison, Ben

50-99

Albino, Tony
Black, Edward
Burkland, Doris
Campbell, Kathleen
Coons, James
Detmer, Kenneth
Dickman, Alan
Dudelheim, Wendy
Dyste, Matthew & Karen
Edgecomb, Mary & Paul
Gab, Steve
Goldrich, Dan & Hannah
Gordon, Janine
Greensite, Rose
Gully, Anne
Hammer, David
Hazen, Chris
Hodges, Sara
Hoernig, Deborah
Hoffman, Richard & JoAnn
Hooft, Emily
Jackson, Helen & James
Jahnke, James & Janice
Jewett, Susan & Wayne
Kennedy, Michael
Kilber, Susan
King, Steven
Kirchner, Tracy & Jeff
Lawson, Elaine
McKenzie, Lallie & Stephen
Manley, Carolyn & Mike
Meacham, James
Mercer, Jeannine
Mills, Tom & Martha
Moon, David & Kelley, Joan
Munger, Charles & Robin
Naishtat, Sandy & Nancy
Obst, Rick
O'Connor, John & Nancy
Ostler, Rosemarie
Palo, Denise
Patton, Sandra
Poticha, Otto & Sharon
Reaves, Michael & Bynum, Cherie
Rini, Paula
Ruiz, Charles
Rusow, Karla
Saunders, Patricia
Slade, Rodney & Becky
Swanson, Laurie & Gribskov, Pete
Tabor, Keith
Tonneson-O'Brien, Theresa
Traisman, Andrew
Ward, Charles & Cathy

100-249

Aoki, Mieko
Andrews, Pauline
Austin, Karen
Bettman, Ann
Beyer, Jim & Fitzgerald, Cynthia
Bonnett, Howard & Horstmann, Judith
Brooks, June
Brouwer, Inge
Bumstead, Robert & Matsushita, Carrie
Campbell, Jean & David
Caredio, Anne
Caughey, Brian
Cirel, Barbara
Coen, Riccardo & Paula
Cleland, Trena & MacConnell, Robert
Dame, Peggy
Edgecomb, Mary & Paul
Eisen, Judith
Featherstone, Marjorie
Fossum, Hulihan
Frohnmayer, Lynn
Gerdes, Selena
Gonyea, Joseph & Jomae
Gordon, Marcia & Geoffrey
Grier, Melinda & Lidz, Jerry
Heritage, Jonathan
Hewitt, Ted
Hoffman, Susan
Hushbeck, Harold
Jones, Christopher
Jones, Martin & Landt, Gayle
Kelly, Sue
Levy, Joyce
Mackey, Jennifer
Mikesell, Rebecca
Mooser, Jo Ann
Morgan, Charles & Cheryl
Nees, Michael
Nicholson, Paul
Niemiec, Anne & Kolb, David
Nordenson, Chris
Ogburn, Jeffrey & Deborah
Palmer, Theodore & Laramie
Pazera, Kathy
Petty, Walter
Pierce, Joyce
Plummer, Andrea
Posner, Sharon & Michael
Schuelke, Dennis & Valorie
Skoglund, Roy & Norma
Soltesz, Steven
Stebbins, Chris
Storr, Hank & Denise
Tag, Peter
Thallon, Robert & Etzwiler, Dee
Toner, Kim & John
Vishnoff, Thomas
Webb, Mildred
Weick, Richard
West, Ross & Barbara
White, Dan & Dawn
Young, Michal & Wenks, Cynthia
Zeman, William & Ann

250-499

Alltucker, Kevin & Irene
Ashworth, Polly & Horner, Rob
Close, Valerie & Daniel
Craig, Mathias
Douglas, James & Susan
Edberg, Peter
Eugene Garden Club
Fidanque, David & Ann
Gent, Jim & Mary
Giustina, AJ & Adriana
Giustina, Dan
Hazel, Rich
Johnson, David & Catherine
Kevan, Stephen
Klute, Daniel & Alpern, Sandy
Larsen, Kermit
Markowitz, Nathan & Hendrickson, Jill
Monfort, Keith & Peg
Newlove, Natalie & Robin
Poticha, Shelley
Potterf, James & Nancy
Reeder, Alan
Swanson, Charlie & Vicki
Ward, Tyson
Webb, Lance
Weill, Paul
Weston, James
Williams, Patricia & David

500-999

Anonymous
Anderson, Jon & Terri
Baynham, Morgan & Laura
DeCesaro, Michael & Rebecca
Epstein, Maram
Foster, Rachel
Jeanty, Roger & Tracy
Koch, Elizabeth & Franklyn
McCully, Diane & George
Michels, Lee & Mary Jean
Northrup, Jim
Ramey, Chris & Laura
Sohlberg, McKay
Swan, Sharon
Zelenka, Alan & Smith, Susan

1000 AND UP

Anonymous
Austin, Sandra
Copeland, Beth
Everitt Family
Farley, Art
Fish, Sondra
Gary, William & Jane
Goldberg, Christine
The Harriot Jackson Fund
Jones, Robert & Gay
Kaplan, Karen
Karasek, Michael & Diamond Jean
Lebow, Sandra
Love, Pam & Koris, George
McCall, Jerry
Maltz, Larry & Wendy
Mickel, Tom & Allison
Mooser, Ian
Pomranky, Lisa
Reed, Helen
Ross, Michele & Don
Tepfer, Esther & Gary
Vaona, Sarah
Volmert, John
Woo, Melissa

COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS

COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES AT THE FOREST SADDLE

The Everitt Family
The Tepfer Family

IN MEMORY OF CLAIRE BEEKMAN

Dudelheim, Wendy
Kilber, Susan
Newlove, Natalie & Robin
Northrop, Jim
Pierce, Joyce
Rini, Paula
Soussan, Pat
Tonneson-O'Brien, Theresa
Webb, Mildred

IN MEMORY OF JOAN KELLEY

Decessaro, Michael and Rebecca
Detmer, Maureen

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL ROBERT

Austin, Sandra
Nees, Michael

IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE DYSTE

Matthew & Karen Dyste

Now you see it -- Now you don't...

Notice anything unusual about this photo?

There should be a rhododendron right in the center. But it disappeared last spring, leaving the bare spot between the ferns.

Just this past Labor Day, a *Glendoick petticoat* went missing. *Glendoick petticoat* is a relatively new and popular hybrid. This one had been planted in the spring and hand-watered all summer.

And rhododendrons are not the only plants disappearing. In 2025 large amounts of Oregon grape were removed from the Native Plant Garden. Earlier this year, four-inch diameter Oregon grape stems were sawn off in the Rhododendron Garden.

The leaves were stripped and left strewn about and the stems were taken. Such stems are purported to have herbal remedy properties.

These are not the first plants to have gone missing from Hendricks over the years. There were huge heists in the 1960s. In the 1970s there was a debate whether to fence the garden to protect its rhododendrons from thieves. Today, Park staff have undertaken precautions to thwart theft, and further measures are underway.



Oregon Grape stumps

But the rest of us can help. If you see something -- perhaps one of your personal favorites has been damaged or gone missing -- say something. Contact staff or Park Watch. ❖

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT : GLORIA YOUNGBAUER



Volunteering should be Gloria's middle name. During her career years, she took vacation time to lead educational tours for school children at the Mt Pisgah Arboretum. Now she is retired and loves to work at Hendricks and other parks in Eugene. Except -- she does not call it work: too much fun for that!

Her volunteer fun at Hendricks began in the forest 15 years ago. She shifted over to the Rhododendron Garden a decade ago, where she enjoys its wide variety of tasks. She especially likes edging and trimming. But then -- there is getting to know the plants. And --there is getting to know her fellow workers. And then -- there is seeing kids come through the park as they learn about Nature. When you come right down to it, Gloria says the only thing she does not like about being in the park is poison oak, and the Rhododendron Garden has none of that! ❖

What does Hendricks Park Mean to you?

Hendricks Park is a place to appreciate nature's beauty -- big-time. But it is as well a place for special events and meanings. Lots goes on at Hendricks! Over its 120 years, it has been the site for romantic dates, proposals and weddings, memorials, reunions, holidays, and more.

Just visiting Hendricks can itself become a special ritual. A mother and daughter mentioned last Mother's Day that they have been coming to the Rhododendron Garden *every* Mother's Day for *forty-five years* -- even when they both lived hundreds of miles away.

We would like to hear about what Hendricks Park important to you. Is it your Happy Place? Where you go to sort out life's dilemmas? A special place for special occasions?

If you have a story to share, send us an email at info@friendsofhendrickspark.org so we can get a few into the newsletter or onto our website. If you wish to remain anonymous, let us know that too. ❖

Yes! I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF FRIENDS OF HENDRICK'S PARK

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

- ❑ Senior/student/limited income $20
- ❑ Individual $30
- ❑ Family/household $50
- ❑ Sponsor/business $100
- ❑ Sustaining $250
- ❑ Guarantor $500
- ❑ Benefactor $_____

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- ❑ Forest restoration
- ❑ Native Plant Garden
- ❑ Rhododendron Garden
- ❑ Unrestricted Gift
- ❑ Memorial/commemorative gifts

$_____

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

ENDOWMENT FUND

- ❑ Rhododendron Garden
- ❑ Native Plant Garden
- ❑ Forest Endowment
- ❑ General Endowment

$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $_____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE/EMAIL

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Sarah Decker

HENDRICKS PARK WALKING TOURS • FALL 2026

Scan Here to
SIGN UP FOR WALKING TOURS

Point Your Phone's Camera at the Code

All tours meet at 1:00 PM in the WILKINS SHELTER

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27 @ 1 PM, WILKINS SHELTER

Forest Bathing / Forest Health

AlbyThouminson, master arborist and former president of the Eugene Tree Foundation, will lead an inspiring walk and informative discussion.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4 @ 1 PM, WILKINS SHELTER

Kalapuya Ways

Karen Rainsong, Director of Singing Creek Educational Center, will share her passion for learning and sharing the knowledge of indigenous people of the Willamette Valley. We will discuss food, medicine, clothing, land stewardship, and story-telling

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15 @ 1 PM, WILKINS SHELTER

Mushrooms

Mycologist Joe Spivack will lead us on an exploration of the diverse world of mushrooms. Mushroom enthusiasts will enjoy Joe's wealth of knowledge while walking the park's beautiful fall trails.