

# Jacksonville Woodlands Association

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[www.jvwoodlands.org](http://www.jvwoodlands.org)  
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[info@jvwoodlands.org](mailto:info@jvwoodlands.org)

*Membership Renewed?*



## Meet Our Newest Board Member: Becka Kem

Becka Kem is a mother, wife and outdoor enthusiast living in Jacksonville. After six years of teaching public school, she settled with her young family in the Rogue Valley, choosing Jacksonville because of its amazing people and network of trails. Her personal interests include being outside with her young son, hiking the numerous trails around Jacksonville and gardening. She is very excited about joining the JWA and focusing on development of the Beekman Arboretum along with introducing new people to the diverse trails available here.

If you'd like to have a hand in determining projects for the JWA, setting priorities for the JWA's future direction, or helping organize events, consider joining the board of directors. Send an email to “[volunteers@jvwoodlands.org](mailto:volunteers@jvwoodlands.org)”.

*The JWA Board would like to thank the JWA partners: City of Jacksonville, Bureau of Land Management and the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, whose active support and ongoing contributions play a vital role in the Jacksonville Woodlands success. And, thank you to the JWA membership and Jacksonville community for the generous financial contributions which provide the financial resources to sustain the Jacksonville Woodlands Association!*

# The Woodlands

Preserving the Natural & Cultural History of Jacksonville, Oregon

Newsletter of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association

Fall 2016

## Beekman Arboretum

Efforts are underway to rejuvenate the Arboretum, thanks to volunteers and a memorial fund donated by Dr. Bill Brodie in honor of Linda Brodie. The goal is to create a space where residents, visitors and school groups can learn about native plants, enjoy the water feature and nearby trails, and perhaps have a picnic.

Volunteers have already started working on cleaning out weeds and dead plants, reclaiming the bog and creek bed, preparing the area around the waterfall for new plantings, and laying down wood chips and decomposed granite.

However, this is a long-term project, so much more help will be needed. If you'd like to participate, contact Becka Kem at [beckakem@gmail.com](mailto:beckakem@gmail.com).



## Volunteers Take on Restoration Projects

### Second Jackson Creek Bridge



The bridge at the end of the Sarah Zigler trail was replaced this summer after 15 years of service to hikers, runners, and cyclists. Former JWA Board member and Forest Park Volunteer Tony Hess coordinated the project effort on behalf of the City. Jacksonville City Parks Coordinator Rick Shields and Parks staff Eric Villarreal provided project supervision and oversight as a City construction project, with volunteers providing much of the labor. The Jacksonville Woodlands Association (JWA) provided financial support of \$6,500 covering the cost of materials. JWA funded the project with donations provided by the Bella Union and the Eugene Bennett Memorial Fund.

The new bridge is a rustic wooden bridge based on a standard bridge design by the Oregon Department of Forestry, similar to a number of new bridges



constructed in Jacksonville's Forest Park. The ramp was constructed by Richard and Eric. The city purchased the pressure treated wood to build side boards extending a minimum of 12 feet out from the bridge to provide a graded slope up to the bridge deck, which is about 12 inches higher than the old deck. Volunteers included Steve Casaleggio, David Bylund, Mike McClain, Bradley Harris, Clayton Gillette, Gary Sprague, Bob Budesa, and Ryan Hungerford.



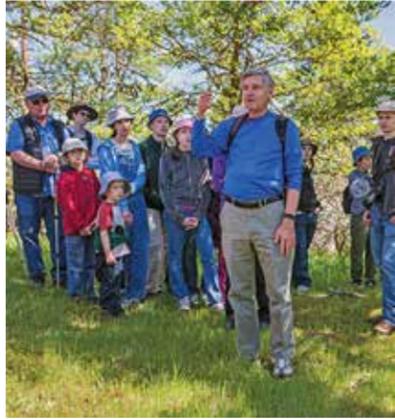
# Past and Future Highlight 2016 Hike-A-Thon

Participants at this year's Hike-A-Thon might have felt like they were being shuttled about in a time machine, as they were asked to imagine a future with an expanded regional trail system, and then told to travel back in time, to before any trails were here at all.



The future came first at the event program, held in Doc Griffin Park, with about a hundred people on hand. After representatives from Forest Park introduced their new trails map, co-sponsored by the Jacksonville Woodlands Association, the audience was asked to imagine an even greater trail system. Representatives from the Applegate Trails Association described the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail, which they hope will link the Cathedral Hills trail system south of Grants Pass to Jacksonville's Forest Park. And speakers from Southern Oregon's Siskiyou Upland Trails Association asked us to enlarge the picture yet again: with the Applegate Ridge Trail joining

up with the proposed Jack Ash Trail. That proposal would provide 40 miles of connecting trails from Ashland to the city of Gold Hill, as well as to Jacksonville and Forest Park.



After the program, hikers joined executive director Larry Smith as he led them back to a time when there was an active Chinese Quarters along Main Street and mining was still the primary industry. Moving through time and distance, he described a period when the old City Brewery stored beer near what is now Highway 238, and Peter Britt's gardens were a state-wide destination attraction.



Eventually the group made its way to the place where gold was discovered, marking the beginning of the town of the Jacksonville.

Back at Doc Griffin Park, hungry time-



travelers and hikers were treated to a lunch provided by Jason and Jacque Williams of the **Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic**. Coffee was provided by the **GoodBean Coffee Company**. This marks the 22nd year that **GoodBean** has donated coffee to the Hike-a-Thon. **Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic** has donated lunch since 2005

JWA board members and volunteers provided logistical support, and local artist and founding JWA board member Ray Foster designed the Jacksonville Woodlands commemorative ceramic mugs.



## Want to See More Photos or Learn More?

Check out the JWA's newly designed website at [www.jvwoodlands.org](http://www.jvwoodlands.org). It's hoped the new format will be more user-friendly for members and visitors. If you want to find a map, for instance, click on the first tab "Maps and Trails". The new website is also easier to update and keep current from a locally-based volunteer. However, the best method for staying up-to-the minute with breaking news or immediate work party schedules is the Facebook page, **Jacksonville Woodlands Assoc.**, managed by volunteer Trina Janssen.

## Rich Gulch, French Gulch and Chinese Diggings Trails Restored



Thanks to partnerships, several Woodlands trails have been repaired and improved in the past year. This past May, the Bureau of Land Management completed several restoration projects on Rich Gulch Trail designed to arrest erosion and drainage problems. These water flow problems have been plaguing us for many years, and finally, through a Title II program grant, BLM acquired the funding to see them taken care of. Zack Million, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner worked with JWA board member Bob Budesia in prioritizing the needed trail repairs. There remain some issues still to be resolved, and these will more than likely be completed as an Eagle Scout project this fall.



*This wooden cut-off collar will help collect running water, and force it through the French drain (gravel-filled ditch) on its journey down the drainage..*

Meanwhile, last November, volunteers from three organizations -- JWA, Forest Park, and the Boosters Club -- wheeled in and spread multiple loads of rock and granite to refurbish areas of the French Gulch and Chinese Diggings trails. These trails had suffered erosion and degradation from the wet winter weather. Another partner, the Jacksonville Parks Department, provided granite and gravel so the volunteers could create a French drain at the bottom of the Chinese Diggings Trail, to help prevent future flooding.



## Special Sponsors Help Support the Woodlands

Maintaining the Jacksonville Woodlands requires help from community residents, local organizations and business sponsors. For instance, Michael and Mary Kell along with the staff of the GoodBean Coffee Company, and Dr. Jason and Jacqueline Williams with The Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic have been long-time supporters of the annual Jacksonville Woodlands Hike-A-Thon. Dr. Bill Brodie and Brodie Dental recently donated memorial funds in memory of Linda Brodie which are now being used to revitalize the Beekman Arboretum. The Bella Union recently donated funds which were used in part for the construction of the Jackson Creek replacement bridge. And throughout the year, Whit Parker, owner and publisher of The Jacksonville Review, has provided coverage of the varied Jacksonville Woodlands programs, activities and events.

This year, the JWA would like to acknowledge Pronto Print, its owner Arnie Klott and the staff at Pronto Print who have provided much of the JWA printed materials and brochures found at the Jacksonville Woodlands trail junctions and kiosks including the Take-a-Hike map. Pronto Print's professional staff provided technical assistance in the design of these informational brochures. Arnie and his family live in Jacksonville.

The JWA strongly supports local businesses providing local products and services to sustain Jacksonville residents and its environs.



*Fun Fact:*  
According to a BLM counter on the Jackson Forks Trail, the trail is averaging almost 2500 uses each month!