

Jacksonville Woodlands Association

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Jacksonville Woodlands Association
Larry Smith -- Ex. Director

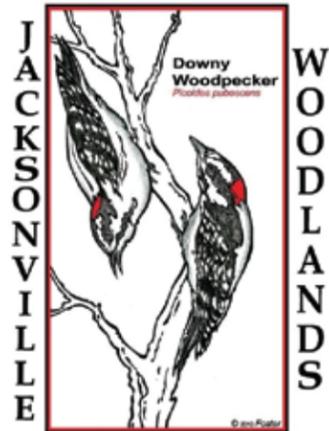
Board of Directors:

Charley Wilson--President
Skip Stokes--Vice President
Bob Budesza--Secretary
John Isaak--Treasurer
Kandee McClain
Ray Foster
Kathryn Williams
Mark Burkhalter
Gary Sprague

Visit the website:
www.jvwoodlands.org
Or email at:
info@jvwoodlands.org

Membership Renewed?

Thanks to Jacksonville artist Ray Foster, the newest Jacksonville Woodlands T-shirt design features the small Downy Woodpecker. T-shirts are still available in most sizes at **GoodBean Coffee** in downtown Jacksonville.



Check Out the New Kiosk



A new informational trail kiosk is now located in the Peter Britt Gardens at the Sarah Ziegler Trailhead. The Kiosk was constructed by former JWA Board Member Will Naumann and was installed by Will, Gary Sprague, John Isaak and Tony Hess.

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!

The Woodlands

Preserving the Natural & Cultural History of Jacksonville, Oregon

Newsletter of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association

Fall 2013

Woodlands Enters New Era

New trails, new benches, and new interpretive displays have been delighting Woodlands users for over 20 years. The Jacksonville Woodlands grew from a dream started in a neighbor's home and given life in teacher Larry Smith's 1989 5th grade classroom. It culminated in a network of nearly 14 miles of trails that meander along different ecosystems, panoramic views, and historical landmarks -- through a 255-acre Woodlands Park. Now the Woodlands has grown up, and a new era is upon us. With that in mind, the JWA board of directors, in consultation with the Woodlands' partners, has adopted an addendum to the General Management Plan (GMP).

The addendum marks a shift in emphasis for the management of the Woodlands. Instead of development, the revised plan will focus on maintenance. The original General Management Plan was

approved in 1999 by the Jacksonville Woodlands Association, BLM, Jackson County, City of Jacksonville, and the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy.

"At the present time there appears to be a consensus among the board that the level of infrastructure and trail development has probably reached its maximum," says JWA vice-president Skip Stokes. "The focus in coming years will be on maintaining the natural integrity of the Woodlands

and encouraging deeper management involvement from members of the community."

The new plan will also make it easier to work with the agencies and organizations that have an interest in the Woodlands by the formal creation of the Jacksonville Woodlands Management Group. In addition to the Woodlands' elected board of directors, this group includes a representative from the BLM, Jackson County, City of Jacksonville, and Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. It will meet on an annual basis to review the Annual Action Plan, which must include any proposed new projects for the coming year. (See article page 2)

The process of reviewing the management plan entailed several meetings with the other agencies and organizations, as well as founding members of the JWA and an individual representing the public at large. An article was posted in The Jacksonville Review asking for public comments. Based on submitted citizen comments, the revised document was again posted on the JWA website, and the final version was presented to the JWA membership as part of the 2013 annual membership meeting. The full addendum is available on the JWA website, www.jvwoodlands.org.



New Bridge in Place



A new bridge now crosses Jackson Creek on the Sarah Zigler Trail. After over 15 years of use, the original foot bridge was determined to be suffering from long term exposure to the weather, dry rot and age. The bridge replacement, which took place last fall, was a joint project between the City of Jacksonville and The Jacksonville Woodlands Association.

The design of the new bridge is based on the Oregon Department of Forestry design standards, similar to a number of new bridges constructed in Jacksonville's Forest Park. Material for the bridge construction was purchased locally with labor provide by City crews and volunteers. The design and work crew included Rick Shields, with Jacksonville Public Works who oversaw the effort, Tom Glover, Eric Villarreal, Jacksonville Forest Park Rangers Tony Hess and Gary Sprague, JWA members Will Naumann and Bob Budesza and Jacksonville resident Omer Kem.



New signage in the Woodlands is the result of Kevin Kuhn's Eagle Scout project. Kuhn, from Scout Troop 5 of Medford, came up with a sign plan that included 10 new signs and reconditioning and relocating eight existing signs. Kuhn's is the 15th Eagle Project in the Woodlands.

Action Plan Guides Future Projects

What would you like to see accomplished in the Woodlands in the coming year? Now is the time to make your thoughts known, as the 2014 Action Plan will need to be voted on soon. As noted in the article on page one, a project must now be included in the approved Action Plan to be implemented during the next year.

Each autumn the JWA will assemble a list of potential projects, prioritize them, and come up with an agenda that can be accomplished within that year. The Action Plan will then be submitted to the Jacksonville Woodlands Management Group for final approval.

Proposed projects can be anything from adding more decomposed granite to certain trails, removing trails, or reducing hazardous fuels. No project is too big or too small at this juncture.

Write down your suggestion or idea, along with any ideas you have about implementation or funding, and send them to jwaplan@gmail.com no later than November 15, 2013.

History Guides Hike-A-Thon

About 100 people gathered on the grounds of the Historic Jackson County Courthouse on a beautiful spring day in April to take part in the 20th annual Woodlands Hike-A-Thon. The location was chosen this year to celebrate the acquisition of the historic building by the city of Jacksonville.

During the program, facilitated by Executive Director Larry Smith, speakers highlighted the rewarding partnerships with the City, the BLM, Jackson County and Southern Oregon Land Conservancy that have helped the Woodlands grow. Then Smith led hikers up to the Historic Jacksonville Pioneer Cemetery, and eventually to the new Galpin Cemetery trail.

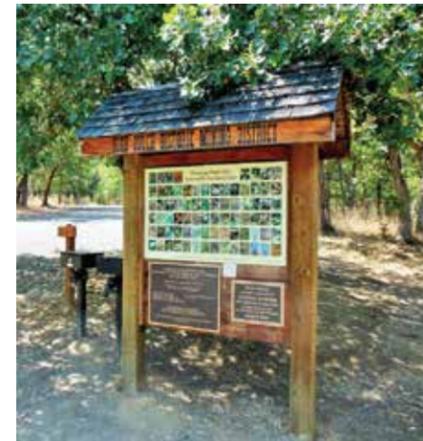
Thanks to the generous contribution of the **Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic**, a rewarding lunch was ready when hikers returned to the Courthouse grounds. Coffee and morning refreshments were graciously provided by **Good-Bean Coffee**.



The Woodlands Needs Your Help

The Jacksonville Woodlands Natural Park and Trail System was created, and has been developed, through the efforts of volunteers. The continued vitality of this remarkable resource will be dependent on the willingness of community members to devote a portion of their time and energy to the future management of the Woodlands.

Here is a brief description of some of the possible ways you may participate: **JWA Board of Directors-**



The JWA Bylaws mandate a board of directors that is composed of between 9 and 14 members. The JWA Board is the management authority overseeing all activities within the Woodlands. The board meets four times a year for required quarterly meetings and, on rare occasion, for a special meeting to address some compelling issue; **Community Outreach Subcommittee-** Monitors the JWA website, oversees the production of educational and informational brochures, and facilitates communication between the JWA, its membership, and the overall community; **Trails Subcommittee-** Responsible for developing an Annual Action Plan that describes all infrastructure design, trail construction, and trail maintenance proposed for the Woodlands during the coming calendar year; **Beekman Arboretum Subcommittee-** Oversees the development and maintenance of the park facility located next to the historic Beekman House. The park contains a wide

sampling of native plants characteristic of our hillside ecosystem; **Hike-A-Thon Subcommittee-** Responsible for planning the premier annual community event sponsored by the Jacksonville Woodlands Association..

Other non-committee volunteer activities include guiding trail hikes, Woodlands Park general maintenance, trail maintenance, web-site maintenance, publication development, and representing the JWA at community events. Please consider contributing to Jacksonville's quality of life by participating in the management of the Jacksonville Woodlands. Go to the web page at jvwoodlands.com, complete the volunteer form and either email or mail it to the JWA. Your information will be included in a secure, non-internet-connected database that will enable us to contact you when a committee vacancy or activity for which you have volunteered occurs.

Hiking Liz's Trail -- by Sue Bennett

*The following is an excerpt of an article from **The Jacksonville Review**. To read the full article, go to the September, 2013 issue of **The Jacksonville Review**.*

The early morning is clear and bright with the cool edge of night still lingering in the air. We've set out to walk one of our favorite trails in the Woodlands maze plus we'll add a 2-mile loop that splits off Petard Ditch Trail.

We start off in high spirits greeting favorite landmarks like the tree trunk "bench" on the Sarah Ziglar trail. We walk through the brilliant green canopy arching overhead and all around us now, knowing these same leaves will become a carpet of gold this autumn. Each season is uniquely beautiful and we're delighting in the wonder of summertime.

The map of Liz's Trail is very appealing, laid out like a drawing of a poppy: a long stem of one half mile, then the flower circling around a mile loop to return on the stem, 2 miles in all. Almost immediately the trail takes some demanding inclines. It's more rugged, more wild and much more steep. We pass a sign that honors Liz Braislin. She had a passion for Jacksonville's trails and this one is her namesake.

We come to a humorous sign that says we have come 1/2 mile on Liz's Trail and now must choose to go left on "The Guaranteed BURN" route or right for "The Optional HURL" course. I'm already burning and don't want to hurl but the humor and generosity of the landowners, Berning and Hurlbut, as well as several others who allow the public to walk through their land is appreciated and gives me a laugh and enthusiasm to press on. We're on the hillside looking out on an open meadow when we arrive at a bench marking over half way on Liz's trail. The bench sits high and we swing our legs like kids as we eat our banana bread and drink more water.

