

# Jacksonville Woodlands Association

P.O. Box 1210  
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Jacksonville Woodlands Association  
Larry Smith -- Ex. Director

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*Membership Renewed?*



Alan Horobin recently relocated out of Jacksonville to be near family members. The Jacksonville Woodlands Association wishes to extend its appreciation to Alan for his contributions to the Jacksonville community, its residents and visitors, who will enjoy the Beekman Arboretum. The following is a partial reprint from the 2008 JWA Newsletter:

"For years, access to the Jacksonville Woodlands' Beekman Loop Canyon Trail had been blocked by an overgrowth of poison oak, discarded building material and blackberry vines. In summer 1997, Alan Horobin, a long-time member of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association and a professional garden designer, developed a plan for cleaning up the area and the development of a native plant garden and arboretum.

"My idea was greeted enthusiastically by the City of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Woodlands Association," recalls Horobin. "I'm so pleased that after many years of hard work and the planting of hundreds of native plants, my dream of a native plant garden has been fulfilled." As with all arboretums, the job is never finished. Alan continues to look for additional native plants to add to the collection. Each Wednesday for the past five years, weather permitting, a group of Jacksonville volunteers gather at the arboretum to help maintain the garden."

*The Arboretum is maintained by volunteers. Additional support by the City of Jacksonville Public Works/Parks staff is also acknowledge and appreciated. Your continued donations to the Jacksonville Woodlands Association will help continue with Alan's legacy for the ongoing development and maintenance of the Beekman Arboretum and very much appreciated.*

*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 2014



# Celebrating

# 25

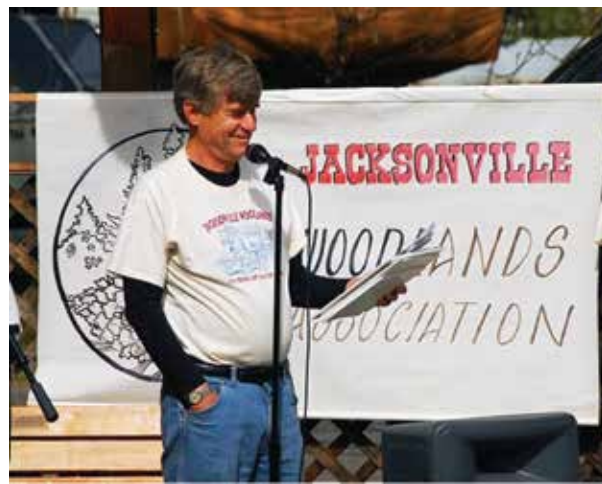
# YEARS





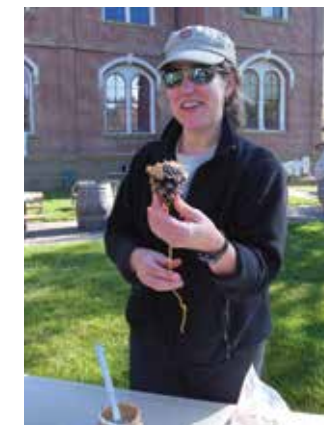
Over 25 years of JWA advocacy and support for the Jacksonville Woodlands has resulted in:

- ▶ Approximately 255 acres of scenic woodlands habitat and historic sites acquired and maintained.
- ▶ Nearly 16-miles of hiking and multi-purpose trails constructed and maintained.
- ▶ Educational interpretative panels and displays installed at historic points in the Woodlands.
- ▶ The Rich Gulch Mining area placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service on March 22, 2000.
- ▶ The Sarah Zigler Interpretative Trail designated as National Recreational Trail by the NPS on April 14, 2000.
- ▶ Strategically placed benches installed to afford opportunities for rest and contemplation.
- ▶ A Jacksonville Woodlands information kiosk and drinking fountain located at the Rich Gulch trailhead.
- ▶ Directional and informational signage placed at key trailheads and intersections.
- ▶ Informational brochures and maps of Jacksonville Woodlands published including the Beekman Native Plant Arboretum brochure, the Flowering Plants of the Jacksonville Woodlands brochure, and the Sarah Zigler Interpretative Trail guide.
- ▶ The French Gulch Mining Interpretative Trail and display panel completed and dedicated.
- ▶ A forest fire fuel-reduction effort completed in 2004.
- ▶ The Beekman Native Plant Arboretum, with its information kiosk and water feature established adjacent to the historic CC Beekman House highlighting the eight biological habitats of the Siskiyou Mountains.



## Celebrating 25 Years

The JWA extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to both the current and past members of the JWA Board of Directors whose contributions over the last 25 years guided the development, management and maintenance of the Jacksonville Woodlands. And most importantly, the JWA extends its appreciation and gratitude to the JWA membership for their generous financial contributions that provide the necessary resources that sustain the Jacksonville Woodlands. Please take a moment to ensure that your membership is up to date. Your \$20 annual membership fee is important to allow us to keep the Woodlands going for the next 25 years.





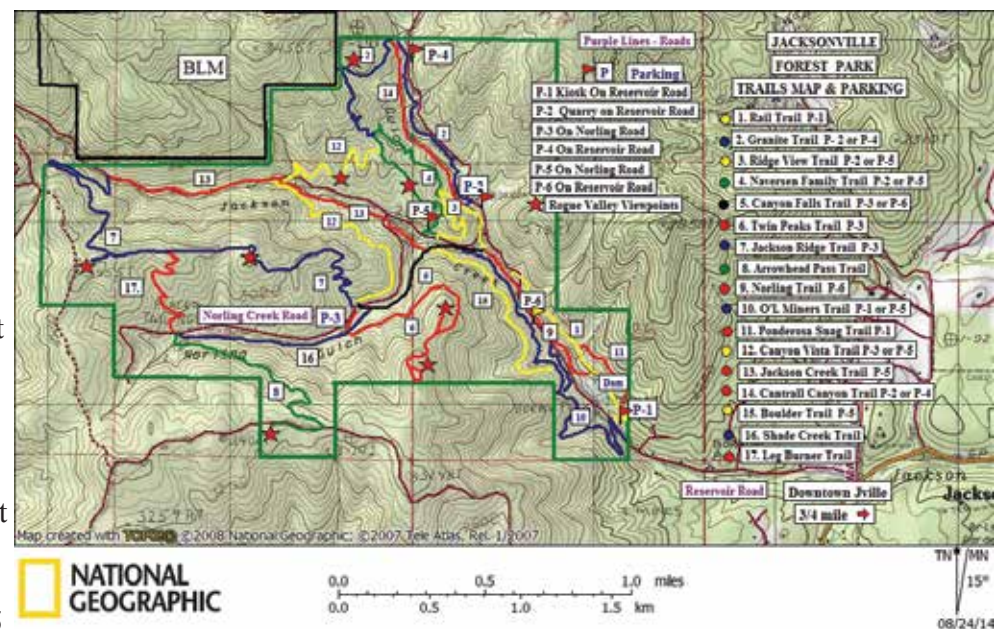
## New Forest Park Trails Offer Hikes for Everyone

Whether you are looking for an intense work-out or just a family-friendly stroll in the woods, your trail options have expanded. Forest Park volunteers have been putting in numerous hours designing, building and improving trails, and building a new bridge across Jackson Creek at the big parking lot P-6.

Forest Park volunteers set out in the summer of 2013 to add to the 15 miles of trail already in the Forest Park. First new trail built was the Twin Peaks loop at the top of the Twin Peaks Trail. This 1,500-foot loop takes the hiker to the top of the peaks, with views of Grizzly Peak to the south, and the Three Sisters peaks near Bend. While the trails along the three streams in the park are shady and cool, more trails in cool shade are always welcome. Gary Sprague, a JWA board member as well as Forest Park Volunteer, had long advocated another trail in the bottom of the Norling Creek canyon, continuing up the streamside where the Canyon Falls Trail ended at the P-3 parking lot on Norling Road. Sprague and Forest Park Volunteer Clayton Gillette cleared and flagged a route along Norling Creek for another three-quarter of a mile to connect to the trail head of the Arrowhead Pass trail further up Norling Road. Sprague appropriately named it Shade Creek Trail.

However, it was then determined that a critical connection was needed up to the Jackson Ridge Trail, 400 feet higher on top of the ridge. So a new one-half mile trail from the end of Shade Creek Trail on Norling Road up to the ridge was flagged. While the grade on Shade Creek Trail was easy to follow along the gentle incline of the stream, this new trail was up some steep ground. So Sprague and Gillette, along with volunteer Tony Hess, headed up the mountain, with their experienced eyes determining an average 12 percent grade. They kept themselves honest, though, with frequent crosschecks with the inclinometer. Once they had determined a workable route Sprague and Gillette went to work to build the Leg Burner Trail.

Their hard work wasn't quite completed even then. Part of the Jackson Ridge Trail, which is an old logging road, had become very rutted and rough. Also, the lower half of the trail was in the hot sun. Sprague and Gillette went to work again, building a new one-mile shady trail to the side among the pines and madrones. So over two and a half miles of new trails now await the hiker, some easy for strolling, and some challenging for a work-out.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

0.0 0.5 1.0 miles  
0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 km

08/24/14

## What Do You Want?

There are many projects by various groups or individuals created within the Jacksonville Woodlands and Forest Park. Prescribed burns to reduce the probability of catastrophic fires, new trails, benches, kiosks, invasive species control, etc. Much of the time, projects come to our attention through necessity: trees brought down by storms or old age, for example. Those projects take little thought or planning since they're emergencies in nature. We simply pull together a crew, and go to it.

A few projects require long-range planning, fund raising, easement acquisition, consultation with other landowners/managers, etc. Bridge replacement, landscape alteration, fuel reduction, management plan revision are tasks that must be thought of years, or at least months, in advance of implementation.

Our little band of merry Woodlands workers are always open to new ideas or suggestions that anyone might have, in order that we may provide a better experience for all. Towards that end, we'd encourage anyone to write to us with ideas for enhancement, safety, or education. I'm not promising that the suggestion will be

*Continued p. 7*

## Larry Smith and Woodlands: Linked by History

*by Carolyn Kingsnorth*

The Jacksonville Woodlands Association will be celebrating the Silver Anniversary of its founding this year, and for all 25 years, Larry Smith has been an integral part of the organization's history—as founding member, Board member, Vice President, President, Executive Director, teacher, and advocate. In many ways, Smith's history with the Woodlands is the history of the Woodlands.



“Carrie Beekman left most of her Jacksonville properties to the University of Oregon to endow a professorship in memory of her father and brother. In the summer of 1989, the University put 21 acres of the Beekman Woods up for sale. It was appraised at \$123,000 with 23 building lots” Smith recalls. “When a ‘for sale’ sign went up on the Beekman Woods, my next door neighbor, Joe Reyman came walking up Laurelwood with this really pained look on his face. He said ‘What are we going to do about it?’ Sale of the property meant major changes for the neighborhood and loss of a neighborhood playground.”

Reyman talked to neighbor Ray Foster, and in November, they held a neighborhood meeting at Foster's home. “Over 40 people showed up. After trying out several names, we decided on the Jacksonville Woodlands Association. Joe was elected president, Ray vice president, and I was elected to the Board.”

The organization had planned to go out of business after the Beekman property was paid for, and after three years it started losing momentum and focus. Then a welcome alliance with the Friends of Jacksonville brought in three more properties that the Bureau of Land Management had intended to trade to developers. Equally important, it brought in Phil Gahr.

Smith says, “If it hadn't been for Phil, the Woodlands would be history. He reinvigorated it, gave it a bigger picture. Phil became President of the Woodlands, and I became Vice President.”

Eventually using grants and timber sales, the organization acquired part of the Britt Estate. However part of it was owned by a descendant of Sarah Zigler.

“She was living in Indiana and she had to be in her 90s if she was still alive. So on Saturday morning I dialed her number with trembling hands, and I heard this faint ‘Hello?’” Smith talked her into giving the property to the City. The City got a \$4,000 trails grant, and the Woodlands built the Zigler Trail.

About the same time Larry noticed on a map that the City of Medford owned 10 acres across the highway adjoining the cemetery. He took one of his 6th grade students, Brian Mulholland, with him to see it. “I casually mentioned that the property was owned by Medford, and the first words out of Brian's mouth were ‘How do we get it?’ I said you have to go down to the City and talk to the City Manager.” With Smith advising from afar, Mulholland eventually talked the city council into selling it -- with the Woodlands contributing \$250 it had raised through selling t-shirts and those attending the council meeting finding the rest of the money that night.

After about 10 years, Garr resigned as President and the Board put Smith in that position. In 2001, JWA underwent a complete restructuring process creating an Executive Director position to run day-to-day operations. The board wanted Smith, and he said yes.

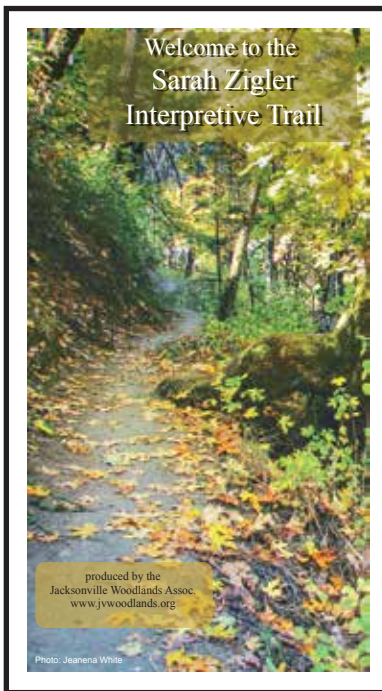
Over the years, the Woodlands has acquired additional properties—the Beebe property, the Burkhalter property, Rich Gulch. Each was a challenge and a success; each one has its own story; and each story has Larry Smith as a central character. Many of these stories can be found on JWA's website, [www.jvwoodlands.org](http://www.jvwoodlands.org).

According to JWA President Charley Wilson, “Larry is an incredible source of contacts and potential resources. He understands how government works and who you need to talk to. And above all, he's persistent. He finds a way to make things happen.”

The JWA no longer plans to “go out of business,” and over the years it has switched its focus from adding properties to managing and maintaining the 320 acres of scenic habitat and historic sites that it currently oversees.

As it kicks off its 25th year, the Jacksonville Woodlands Association has a lot to celebrate. This may be the Woodlands' Silver Anniversary, but the organization's contributions to Jacksonville livability are pure gold. And the golden nugget that's the heart of JWA is Larry Smith.

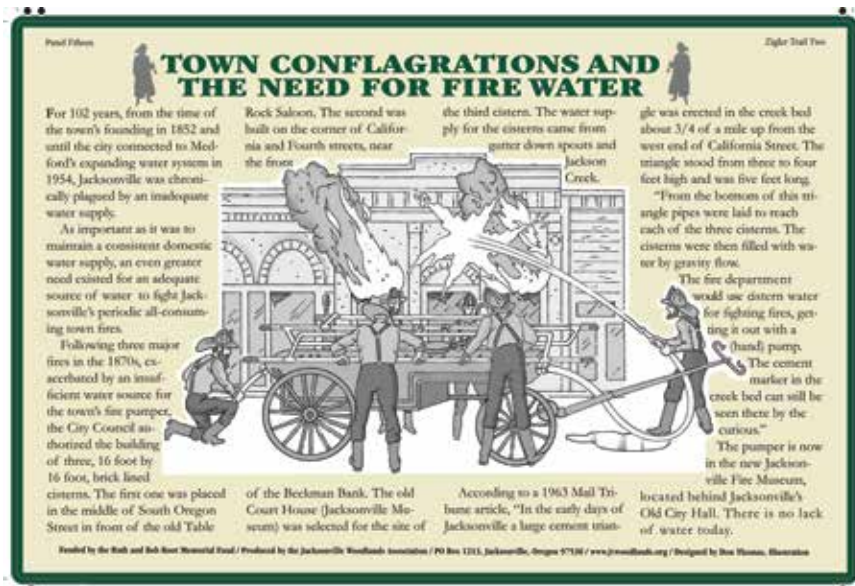




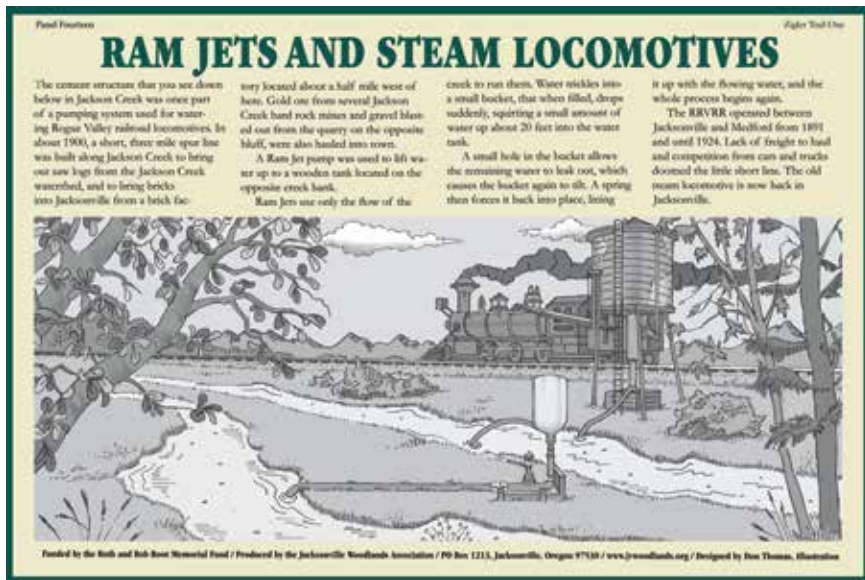
## Sarah Zigler Trail Gets Make-Over

The Sarah Zigler Interpretive Trail has a new brochure, newly-placed numbered posts, and two new trailside displays. (The trailside displays were scheduled to be installed as the newsletter went to press, pending trail work that also needs completing in that location).

The original brochure and interpretive stops were designed and written by Larry Smith and his 5th grade class in the 1990's.



Eventually, with the passage of time and re-designs to the beginning of the trail and to the trail system in general, the brochure needed updating. Kande McClaun and Gayle Stokes took on the task of walking the trail, brochure in hand, to see where changes were needed. The result is a new brochure that retains the historical information of the first one but is a bit shorter. It also meant the replacement and moving of some of the posts, as well as replacing the numbers on the posts, accomplished by Bob Budesa, Cliff Oakley and Charley Wilson.



In addition, two new trailside displays explain the five-sided cement structure located in the creek by the trail. A hundred years ago Jacksonville's little rail line was extended five miles beyond Jacksonville up Jackson Creek to haul out saw logs and gold ore. The locomotives needed water, so a ram jet was placed in the creek bed to pump water into a newly constructed water tower placed on top of the irregular cement pentagon to provide train water.

The new brochures can be picked up at the trail head, at the far end of the newly-renovated Britt Gardens.

### Like the Woodlands on Facebook!

Facebook users can now keep up with Woodlands' news on the JWA Facebook page, thanks to volunteer Trina Janssen. Search for "Jacksonville Woodlands Assoc." Then "Like" it, and start contributing your own observations, photos, comments and suggestions! Thank you Trina for setting this up and keeping it going!

## Family-Friendly Woodlands Trails Focus of Hike-A-Thon



The Jacksonville Woodlands Association held its 21st annual Woodlands Hike-a-Thon on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The event drew an estimated 100+ participants gathering at 9:30 AM under warm spring skies for coffee and refreshments provided by the **Good Bean Coffee Company**. Executive Director Larry Smith facilitated the event program which included opening remarks by Jacksonville Mayor Paul Becker.

This year's event featured two guided hikes. One was a narrated hike by JWA Executive Director Larry Smith who guided participants along the Sarah Ziegler Trail utilizing the recently amended Sarah Ziegler Trail Interpretive Trail guide. Smith's narration included historical references to Jacksonville's historic past including the 1880's City waterworks features found along Jackson Creek.

A non-narrated fast pace hike was led by JWA Board member Kande McClaun who guided participants a little over three miles through the Rich Gulch Historic Mining District, the Beebe Woods and the Woods Grove. Both groups re-convened at the park for a lunch supplied by the **Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic**.

A second change for this year's Hike-a-thon format was the elimination of the Hike-a-thon fee as a thank you to the Jacksonville Community for its support of the Jacksonville Woodlands.

The success for the Hike-a-thon could not have occurred without support by our local business and JWA members. Local artists Ray Foster and Warren Straus donated the ceramic mugs which were sold at the event. Foster also designed this year's Jacksonville Woodlands commemorative t-shirt. The JWA extends its appreciation to the **Good Bean Coffee Company** and the **Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic** for their continued support of the Jacksonville Woodlands.



### What do you want? continued

done to your satisfaction, but we'll certainly consider the notion, visit with you, receive your generous donation towards the work, and take it from there.

Ideas can be sent to our mailing address, or emails can be sent to [jwaplan@gmail.com](mailto:jwaplan@gmail.com). The sooner the project is submitted, the better. By the end of the calendar year, we will have put our Annual Action Plan in motion, and projects submitted after that will have to wait until the next cycle.