

# Jacksonville Woodlands Association

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Jacksonville Woodlands Association

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Membership Renewed?

“Like” us on Facebook  
at *Jacksonville Woodlands Assoc*

Save the date -- **JWA's 23rd Hike-A-Thon, April 16, 2016**  
Look for details in the spring 2016 Hike-A-Thon brochure



## Fallen Trees Trigger Forest Health Study

Trail users couldn't help but notice part of the Sarah Zigler trail was closed near the Jackson Forks bridge last fall, with two fallen fir trees blocking the way. Fortunately, no one was hurt when they fell. However, the incident served as an alert. After a tree health assessment in the area by City administrator Jeff Alvis, 29 trees were determined to be dead or dying, primarily from beetle infestation. Bartlett Tree Service was hired to fell the diseased trees. The larger ones that still had

some commercial value were removed, while several others were placed as parking lot barricades near the Jackson Forks Bridge. City employees Richard Shields and Eric Villarreal removed the smaller trees and limbs, turning them into wood chips that were then spread out over the trail.

In addition, a study is being made of the Britt Ridge trail system by the city. The findings will be summarized in a Jacksonville Woodlands Forest Health Assessment. Recommendations will then go to the city council. It's likely that other unsafe trees will need to be removed in the months and years to come. The plan is, as often as possible, to

*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 2015

## Hike-A-Thon Focuses on Volunteerism



The Jacksonville Woodlands Association (JWA) was founded 25 years ago because of the foresight and dedication of a small number of community members. The following years have seen the development and maintenance of a nationally recognized historical park and trail system through the continuing efforts of citizen volunteers.

It is volunteers coming together each April that make possible the annual Woodlands Hike-a-Thon. This year's 22nd. annual event presented Larry Smith, one of those dedicated founding members, with a commemorative certificate recognizing his countless hours of service through his roles as vice-president, president, and executive director of the JWA.

Another long-time Woodlands supporter, past president Phil Gahr, spoke about the history of the organization and thanked the many individuals, businesses, civic groups and public agencies that made it all possible.

After hikes led by Larry and board member Kandee McClain, participants returned to a delicious and health picnic lunch once again provided by Jacqueline and Jason Williams of the **Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic**. As in years past, coffee was donated by the **Good Bean Coffee Company**. JWA Board member and artist Ray Foster donated custom ceramic mugs for sale as a fund raiser. Ray also created the artistic design for tote bags sold at Hike-a-Thon.



“The Hike-a-Thon as we know it would not be possible without the support of local businesses like the Good Bean Coffee Company and Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic”, said JWA president Charley Wilson. Nor would it without the volunteer efforts of people like Larry Smith, Charley Wilson, Kandee McClain and Ray Foster.

## Become a Woodlands Volunteer

Anyone hiking the Woodland trails, visiting the Beekman Arboretum, or learning of the history and natural history of the Woodlands through the kiosks, interpretive panels or brochures owes a debt of thanks to people like Larry Smith, Will Naumann (see articles this issue), Charley Wilson, and a host of others who have committed their time and talents to making it happen. If you enjoy following the Woodlands on Facebook, thank volunteer Trina Janssen.

If you are one of the Woodlands volunteers, past or present, the JWA Board would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for what you have contributed. If the quality of the Woodlands is to be sustained, more volunteers will need to step forward in the coming months and years. The ways by which you may participate range from managing the organization by serving on the JWA Board of Directors to putting on gloves and pulling weeds in the arboretum on a Saturday morning. If you would like more information as to how you could help, go to the JWA web site at [www.jvwoodlands.org](http://www.jvwoodlands.org) and click on the volunteer tab. Additional questions can be directed to us by e-mail at ([info@jvwoodlands.org](mailto:info@jvwoodlands.org)) or by contacting JWA Executive Director Larry Smith.



# Featured Hike: History Loop

*Peter Britt Gardens to Beekman House, about 4 miles*



Begin at the Peter Britt Gardens/Sarah Zigler trail-head (Britt Festivals)

Featured historic sites:

- Peter Britt Gardens
- Sarah Zigler Interpretive Trail
- Rich Gulch Mining District
- Chinese Diggings
- Beebe Woods
- Grove Woods
- Beekman House & Native Plant Arboretum

Return to the Peter Britt Gardens through Historic Downtown Jacksonville

The newly designated History Loop Trail from the Peter Britt Gardens at the Sarah Zigler trailhead to the Historic Beekman House and Arboretum located off California Street and Laurel Streets combines the experience of hiking the Jacksonville Woodlands with discovering some of Jacksonville’s unique historic sites and places. The distance is about 4.0 miles with some moderate slopes.

Visitors will hike through several vegetative zones including riparian along the Sarah Zigler Trail, chaparral along Rich Gulch, and mixed conifers in the Woods-Grove and Beekman Woods. Hikers taking a slow pace may see a variety of wildlife including deer and squirrels, and birds such as turkeys, woodpeckers, jays, nuthatches, and various songbirds. In spring, a wide variety of wildflowers may be seen, including the rare and endangered Gentner Fritillary. Along the way, visitors can stop at a number of historic panels revealing a glimpse of Jacksonville’s historic past.

The Take-a-Hike map showing the History Loop Trail is available at the Jacksonville Woodlands Trailheads, the Jacksonville Visitor Center, and many downtown businesses including the Good Bean Coffee Company, a JWA sponsor.

## New Trail Displays Explain History

Thanks to the benevolence of the Linda Brodie and the Bob and Ruth Root Memorial Funds, the Woodlands Association has produced and installed four new interpretive displays along the Sarah Zigler Trail.

Two of the displays tell the story of how Jackson Creek supplied water to Jacksonville’s downtown fire cisterns. The second display explains how a ramjet pump, installed deep down in the creek, was able to pump water up to waiting locomotives traveling on what is now Highway 238.

The second set of displays is located out at the western terminus of the Zigler Trail – between the two foot bridges.

The first display in this set reveals the history of the mysterious concrete “vault” that once was an important part of Jacksonville’s early water system.

The second display, found bordering the small gravel parking lot, uses several historic photographs to explain the history of Jacksonville’s largest brickyard. With transportation help from the Rogue River Valley Railway, the old brickyard supplied many of the bricks used in building Jacksonville.



# Spotlight on JWA Volunteer Will Naumann

As visitors to the Jacksonville Woodlands walk the many trails they may notice and appreciate the hand-crafted wooden direction signs, trail maps and information kiosks. These amenities were created by past JWA Board member and JWA Volunteer, Will Naumann.

Coming to Jacksonville after a career in mechanical engineering, Will and his wife, Kathy, built their retirement home on Creekside Court off Daisy Creek Lane. Will and Kathy both fell in love with the Jacksonville Woodlands Trail system and became frequent hikers on the Woodlands’ trails. Driven by this love of the trails, Will joined the JWA Board in 2003.

With the establishment of new trails in the Historic Rich Gulch and Britt Ridge areas, Will saw a need for directional trail signs and maps. First, working with former JWA Board member, Rob Buerk, and continuing with JWA Board Treasurer, John Isaak, Will created a sign template, and a location map showing key trail junctions.



Since 2003, Will has crafted each sign for installation at designated trail junctions and other locations. In conjunction with the trail signs, Will worked with JWA Board members to develop the first Jacksonville Woodlands Trail Map. With the addition of new parcels and construction of new trails, this map has been amended several times with Will’s guidance. Will also designed and constructed the several kiosks found at Jacksonville Woodlands trailheads including the new kiosk located at the Peter Britt Gardens/Sarah Zigler Trailhead displaying the Jacksonville Woodlands Wildflowers.



The JWA Board of Directors extends its appreciation and gratitude to Will for his contributions to the Jacksonville Woodlands Historic Park and Trail System benefiting both Jacksonville residents and visitors.

## Scotch Broom Pulled, Shed Put Up

One Saturday morning last March, a group of volunteers, led by Bob Budes, participated in the annual Scotch Broom pull in the upper Rich Gulch area of the Jacksonville Woodlands, behind the Britt Festival Grounds. A group of like-minded weed aficionados arrived wearing long pants, long sleeve shirts, and gloves to pull the young Scotch Broom plants before they begin to blossom and produce seed. Walking off-trail among poison oak and other welcoming shrubs on moderate slopes proved to be a challenging but fun workout.



The Scotch Broom is a non-native noxious plant which has adapted well to the Southern Oregon climate and soils, replacing native species. The purpose of the annual Scotch Broom pull is to eradicate this plant over several years. It is important to pull the entire plant prior to blossom, preventing the seeds from spreading out to other areas.



Thanks to the City of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Boosters, and JWA volunteers, there is now a new garden shed at the Beekman Arboretum. The new 10x12 garden shed allows the arboretum

volunteers to store garden equipment and supplies on site. Shelving inside the shed allows JWA materials such as maps, brochures, and Woodlands t-shirts to be stored in one single location. Boosters volunteers Steve Casaleggio, Rob Burke and Mike McClain joined JWA volunteers Bob Budes, Kandee McClain and Charley Wilson in helping to complete the project.