

Jacksonville Woodlands Association

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Membership Renewed?

Meet Board Member Bagpiper Bob

JWA Board member Bob Budes is also a world class Bag Pipe musician. As a member of the Jefferson Pipe Band, Bob and the band traveled to the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland in August 2017.

Bob is also a competitive cyclist. Bob and his friend Eric Dittmer cycled 3500 miles across the country to New York in 2011. His other hobbies include trout/steelhead fishing, fly-tying, and cooking.

When it comes to the Woodlands, Bob's experience with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management has been a major asset. When you see a fallen tree on the trail, Bob is the one you contact. He is a retired invasive weed coordinator for the BLM, and is known locally as “The Weed Wrangler”. This experience has proved especially helpful in controlling invasive Scotch Broom. (See article on page 7.)



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 2017

Volunteers Transform the Arboretum

Looking for a cool spot to sit and reflect? Or maybe you're interested in native plants and ecosystems. Or perhaps you just appreciate the beauty of falling water and a green landscape. Consider paying a visit to the newly-refurbished C.C. Beekman Arboretum.



The Arboretum, located just south of the historic Beekman House and at the entrance to the one-mile Beekman Woods loop trail, was established in 1997 by long-time Jacksonville Woodlands member and landscape designer, Alan Horobin. When Horobin moved on, however, there was no one to continue its care. Now, it is being renewed,

thanks to the energetic volunteers of the Friends of the C.C. Beekman Arboretum.

The Jacksonville Woodlands Association (JWA) is providing a lead role in this endeavor but is pleased to have the strong support and partnership of the Jacksonville Boosters. The Boosters are well-known in this village for their physical and monetary support of community projects and especially those with a historic background. (continued on page 3)

Garden Honors Linda Brodie

As the location for the 2017 annual JWA Hike-A-Thon, the Arboretum was showcased for its revival, as well as work proposed for future projects. The Hike-A-Thon began with the dedication of the rock and plaque to honor Linda Brodie, wife of retired dentist and long-time Jacksonville resident, Dr. Bill Brodie. Linda was a hiker and supporter of JWA, who loved flowers and plants.



At the dedication, Dr. Brodie said he is particularly happy that the water garden serves as the entrance to Woodlands trails.

“Linda and I hiked the Woodlands trails hundreds of times”, he said.

Youth Groups Dig In for Better Trails

Arboretum Area Benefits From Young Workers

New to the Jacksonville Woodlands this year is the volunteer effort by WorkSource Rogue Valley under the supervision by Abby Nichols, Youth Crew Specialist. Abby's crews worked in support of the C. C. Beekman Arboretum maintenance effort, conducted fuel reduction activities thinning overgrown vegetation at the Beekman Loop Summit, and completion of a re-route of part of the Britt Canyon Trail addressing significant trail damage caused by erosion.



Eagle Projects Result in Safer Trails

Boy Scout Eagle projects continue to make a difference in the Woodlands. Last November, Scout Logan Thurman led a group of 25 boy scouts from Troop 102 in Central Point in repairing the Jackson Forks Trail. The group installed eight retaining walls at points where erosion was narrowing the trail.

In April, Scout Andrew Burnett organized 29 family members, friends and scouts from Troop 160, also in Central Point, for more repairs to the trail. This project included more retaining walls, as well as wheelbarrowing in a truck load of fill to refurbish the southern approach to the Jackson Forks bridge. These two endeavors mark the 16th and 17th Eagle Scout projects completed in the Woodlands.



Volunteers Try to Get Rid of Invasive Visitor



Volunteers led by JWA Board Member Bob Budeska, have been battling the spread of Scotch Broom in the Woodlands for about 12 years. This shrub was listed as a problem species in the 1995 Vegetation Manual for the Woodlands (left). When efforts to control it started, one could stand in the upper Britt parking lot, look into the woods, and not see a person standing 25 feet away. Today, the Scotch Broom has been dramatically reduced and controlled through this annual volunteer weed pull.

The best time in which to accomplish this is in the early spring, after substantial winter rainfall has occurred. This softens the soil, making the plants much easier to hand pull. Also, it's early enough to pull plants before they produce seed. Scotch broom regularly produces seed in March and April.

Keep a lookout for our 2018 Scotch Broom Pull announcement this coming spring. Dates will be posted on Facebook at "Jacksonville Woodville Assoc" and on the website at www.jvwoodlands.org. The work is not difficult, there's usually someone nearby to visit with, and we only work for two hours. Usually, coffee and cookies are provided. Many thanks to all who have participated in this annual event. See you there!



Local Sponsors Contribute to JWA Success

Maintaining the Jacksonville Woodlands requires help from community residents, local organizations and business sponsors. The JWA is fortunate to have the continued support of several businesses. For example, Dr. Bill Brodie and Brodie Dental generously donated funds in memory of Linda Brodie, which are

now being used to revitalize the Beekman Arboretum. The Bella Union recently provided funds which were used in part for the construction of the Jackson Creek replacement bridge. Throughout the year, Whit Parker, owner and publisher of The Jacksonville Review, has covered the varied Jacksonville Woodlands programs, activities and events in wonderful depth and detail. Pronto Print, its owner Arnie Klott and the staff at Pronto Print 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. To the delight of many Hike-A-Thon participants, Michael and Mary Kell, along with the staff of the GoodBean Coffee Company, have donated coffee for the past 23 annual JWA Hike-A-Thon events.

This year, the JWA would like to also acknowledge Dr. Jason and Jacqueline Williams from the Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic for their support in sponsoring the Jacksonville Woodlands Annual Hike-A-Thon. Over the last ten years, Jason and Jacque have prepared the post-hike lunch offering a variety of salads, sandwiches, and soups. For this year's Hike-A-Thon, Jacque and Jason featured a wonderful combination of chicken/rice soup along with chili with corn bread, a perfect match for a cool brisk spring morning.

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



Forest Park Adds Trails

In the three years since Forest Park was spot-lighted in this publication, there has been an explosion of visitors hiking and exploring this wild city park in the headwaters of Jackson Creek. And with the expanded usage, public works crews with Forest Park volunteers have continued to add improvements for the public.

Two new bridges and two new shelters have been constructed as Eagle Scout projects, the old dam has been decommissioned and its environs reconfigured as a wetland area, trails have been improved, along with



improved signage, for visitor safety, and 70,000 feet (about 13 miles) of new trail have been constructed.

The five recent Eagle Scout projects have been a boon to visitors' enjoyment. New construction of Eagle Bridge, built by Reed Hungerford and the Confluence Bridge, courtesy of Skyler Allen, greatly improved safety at two tricky creek crossings. Shelters, built by Jarek Lindholm at Cascade Crest Viewpoint, and by Trevor Foster on Jackson Ridge, provide for comfortable viewpoint destinations in all types of weather. Comfortably level gravel trails were laid down in the Jackson Creek Wetlands by Trevor Cluff. Additionally, new benches are being added throughout the park by the volunteers.

With the removal of the old dam spillway, immediate rehabilitation of the site was necessary. Over 100 trees were planted across the disturbed area, with an additional 200 placed throughout the park to begin rehabilitating years of destructive usage. The wetland area saw work parties from Ruch School removing invasive blackberry, and new native plants added. More ongoing improvements are underway here. The old reservoir is now a wild pond attracting much watchable wildlife, and native vegetation is rapidly reclaiming its former footprint.

Visitors often commend the volunteers on the abundance of signage on the trails. Stepping onto a trail and knowing where it leads is a comforting sensation. Readily available hiker maps are provided free at P1 and P2 kiosks. Along with 'You Are Here' maps posted throughout the park, that niggling discomfort of 'being a bit misplaced' is quickly abated.

New trails have been added to provide visitor access to all corners of the park, often highlighting natural features and views. The web of trails is designed on a concentric circle model to allow loop hikes of various lengths at different elevations (picture an orb weaving spider web). New trails often follow abandoned mining ditches and logging roads, exposing the long history of resource extraction in this area. As the wild things return, it is a great opportunity to see Nature heal past abuses.

Future plans include the addition of a comfort station (outhouse) at P2, more benches at vistas and along streams, and a few additional trails to finish the web. The Jackson Creek Wetland Area will see more invasive weed removal and new plantings of native plants. A sheltered bird-watching bench is also in the works at the old dam site. Of course, maintenance of the existing park infra-structure is certain to keep the Forest Park Volunteers happy and busy.



Arboretum Transformed (continued from p.1)

In addition to the JWA and Boosters, members of the native Plant Society of Oregon, City of Jacksonville and their public works employees, members of the Jacksonville Garden Club and many enthusiastic individuals have joined in the work sessions at the Arboretum. So far, a revamping of the watering system, refreshing of decomposed granite on pathways, removal of dead trees, shrubs and plants, planting of native plants in the area of the new, beautiful waterfall and the placement of a large rock honoring Linda Brodie, have been among the accomplishments of this group (see below).



The revived Arboretum is planned to be a maintainable collection of native plants, including trees, wildflowers and shrubs. The vision of the Friends of the Arboretum is for it to be a welcoming place for sitting and relaxing, enjoying a picnic lunch and learning about native plants, all within an attractive, natural setting. And, now it appears to be even more appreciated as a place of active learning and participation by the younger set.

As a great beginning of this younger participation, JWA member, Becka Kem, has held three summer day camps at the Arboretum, hosting numbers of children ages 4 through 9. The purpose of Becka's Jacksonville Outdoor Cooperative is to get children and families in Jacksonville and surrounding communities outdoors, exploring and learning together. Along with this, another focus is the teaching of community service. The Arboretum is fortunately one of the recipients of their efforts.



In addition, the Jacksonville Presbyterian Church's Summer Vacation Bible School's class of 5th and 6th graders hiked to the Arboretum and on the Beekman loop trail. Along the way they observed natural beauty and heard many of the ways Native Americans used plants that can be found in the Arboretum. During the school year you also might see students from Jacksonville Elementary School enjoying an outdoor experience so near

their school.

As the Arboretum continues to improve and grow, as its uses and visitors increase and as its reputation grows, look for opportunities to volunteer along with the Friends of the Arboretum. Notices of workdays will be found in the Jacksonville Review and in postings at City Hall and in town, as well as on our website "jvwoodlands.org" and our Facebook page "Jacksonville Woodlands Assoc." You may also contact Kandee McClain at mnmclain@gmail.com or Becka Kem at beckakem@gmail.com.

The extended Brodie family looks on as Kandee McClain explains how the "Linda Brodie Water Garden" came into existence. The Garden was dedicated at the opening of the 2017 Hike-A-Thon. For more about the rest of the Hike-A-Thon, see pages 4-5.





Beekman Woods Focus of 2017 Hike-A-Thon



A Saturday morning in April found hikers gathering on the lawn of the Beekman House. Where 140 years ago the Beekman children might have played, youngsters on this day were painting rocks while their parents drank coffee from GoodBean Coffee, discussed Woodlands affairs, and socialized.

After the meeting, hikers of all ages joined Larry Smith and Becca Kem on two hikes through the Beekman Woods. Smith led the longer hike, stopping now and then to relay bits of Woodlands history or answer a question about the flowers and plants. Both hikes started at the newly-refurbished C.C. Beekman Native Plant Arboretum.

The day had started off chilly, but it had warmed nicely by the time everyone gathered back at the historic house for a picnic, provided by the Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic.

