

# Jacksonville Woodlands Association

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Jacksonville Woodlands Association  
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*Membership Renewed?*



Be sure to get out in the spring to enjoy all the many wildflowers blooming in the Woodlands. Wildflower guides are located at several trailheads and are available at the Jacksonville Visitor Center and at the annual Hike-a-thon in April. This year's Hike-a-thon would not have been possible without the help of **Good Bean Coffee Co., Jacksonville Chiropractic Clinic, and Art Presence of Jacksonville.**

Above: Elegant cat's ear.  
Right: Yellowleaf iris.  
Photos by Jeanena Wilson.



Please support the Jacksonville Woodlands Association with your Tax Deductible Membership Renewal. New members are welcome to join with an individual annual membership contribution of \$20.00. Additional contributions are greatly welcomed! Your donations help support the development and management of the Jacksonville Woodlands Historic Natural Park and Trail System established in 1992.

Fall 2012

## New, and Soon To Be New, Treasures Abound Along Jacksonville Woodlands Trails

*A new bridge will replace the old one over Jackson Creek*



**Then:** Students from Larry Smith's 1997 5th grade class kept the bridge in good shape.

If you've ever crossed Jackson Creek on the bridge that connects from the parking lot alongside Highway 238 to the Sarah Zigler Trail, you've probably admired its beautiful wooden workmanship, and also stepped a little tentatively over its aging structure. After this fall, however, those worries will be gone. A new replacement bridge is being constructed, a joint project between the City of Jacksonville and The Jacksonville Woodlands Association. The old bridge was constructed in 1997 by AmeriCorps using local timber harvested from within the Woodlands. The new bridge will be a rustic wooden bridge based on a standard bridge design by the Oregon Department of Forestry

and will be similar to a number of new bridges constructed in the past four years within the Jacksonville Forest Park.

Cost of removal and replacement of the existing bridge is estimated to be approximately \$5,000. Material for the bridge construction will be purchased locally with labor to be provided by City crews and volunteers. Contributions to help with the bridge replacement costs will be gladly accepted by the Jacksonville Woodlands Association.

Removal of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge by the City is anticipated to begin this fall with completion before the winter rainy season.

--by John Isaak



**Now:** After over 15 years of use, the existing bridge across Jackson Creek near the upper trail parking lot was suffering from exposure to the weather, dry rot and other detrimental environmental effects.



A new mining display was officially dedicated and new benches are also in place, thanks to several Boy Scout projects. Stories on page 2.



## New Benches Encourage Quiet Contemplation

Two new benches await hikers at Panorama Point and at the top of the Petard Loop Trail, thanks to Life Scout Andrew Dunn, from Boy Scout Troop 61. In August, Dunn assembled a troop of 15 scouts and adults to install the two trail benches. The scouts also worked on improving trail access on the French Gulch Trail and reworked the tread on the new Rich Gulch bypass trail as part of the Eagle project.

Andrew is presently a senior at South Medford High School.

Troop 61 is sponsored by the Central Point LDS Church. Several more local boy scouts are queuing up for five more Woodlands trail improvement projects.

--by Larry Smith



**No one said it would be easy.** The boys had to hand-carry water buckets, dry cement mix, two benches and an assortment of digging tools to the top of each high point.

## Mining Display Brings History to Life



The French Gulch Mining Display was officially dedicated at the Hike-a-thon in April, the result of three Eagle Scout projects from Jacksonville Scout Troop 17. Caleb Rayburn's scout crew installed the "Blasting Out of French Gulch" display and built a reproduction of the Petard Sluice Box. Noah Simdorn and his scout troop installed 1860s

vintage mining equipment and water pipe, including an authentic hydraulic water cannon similar to the one that was used by the Petard family to blast out French Gulch. Mason Sash and his crew completed a connecting trail and steps leading down into French Gulch, allowing for much safer access into the Gulch.

--by Larry Smith

For more photos of the Scouts projects or the Hike-A-Thon go to [jvwoodlands.org](http://jvwoodlands.org) and click on "web albums".



## How Will The Trails Be Managed?

A committee of major stakeholders will be meeting this fall to review the Woodlands' General Management Plan. The GMP is the guiding document on how the trails will be managed. The committee will determine whether or not changes are necessary. If so, those recommended changes will be made public, and open to public review. Eventually, a revised GMP may be adopted. The GMP was last reviewed and amended in 1998. In addition to the GMP review, an annual work plan will be drafted. For the most part, the land within the Woodlands' boundaries will not stand additional trails. So at this point we're shifting into a maintenance mode.

If you are interested in following these efforts, please check the Jacksonville Woodlands Website: <http://www.jvwoodlands.org/>; or contact Larry Smith, JWA Executive Director: at 541-899-7402 or E-mail at [info@jvwoodlands.org](mailto:info@jvwoodlands.org).

--by Bob Budes



## 19th Annual Hike-A-Thon Is An Emotional One

Following the informative program and business meeting, Larry Smith led a large group up to the Rich Gulch Trailhead behind Britt Park for a tree planting ceremony in honor of Ryan Beavers. Family members, friends and former classmates planted seven native pine trees at the trail junction. Ryan grew up in Jacksonville, attending our local schools. During Ryan's time at Jacksonville School he assisted with several woodlands projects including tree planting and bridge painting. Ryan's sudden death as a young adult has had an enormous effect on those who knew him.



## Run Raises Funds for Fire Department

The Britt Woods Firehouse Run, the 10k event that traverses the Woodlands' trails, drew 116 local runners in July, with Jacksonville's Suzanne Ray winning the race in a time of 54.26 and Sandi Whittle finishing



second, just minutes behind. Proceeds of \$1000 from this year's race were donated to the Jacksonville Fire Department, bringing the 10-year total to more than \$10,000. 2012 race event sponsors provided food, drinks, support services and gift items and include: Farmhouse Treasures, McLevins Whole Food Deli, Umi Sushi, Ray's Market, Willow Creek Gifts,

Jacksonville Mercantile, Britt Festivals, LaFiesta Mexican Restaurant, Pot Rack, Las Palmas Restaurant and Blue Door Garden Store. Race organizer and director is Dr. Doug Naversen.

--by Andrea Yancey, *The Jacksonville Review*