

The Woodlands

Preserving the Natural & Cultural History of Jacksonville, Oregon

Newsletter of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association

Fall 2021

Arboretum Springs to Life

What a difference 5 years and an abundance of energetic, willing volunteers can make! The changes visible in the Beekman Arboretum since its revitalization began in the spring of 2016 have been made possible by the dedication and work by volunteers from Jacksonville Boosters, Jacksonville Garden Club, Jacksonville Woodlands Association and Jacksonville residents.



One of the most noticeable and well-used additions to the Arboretum is Heather's Shelter, named for the daughter of our enthusiastic supporter, Mary Ann Byrne. We were saddened by the recent loss of Mary Ann and will miss her generous spirit, tireless energy, and delightful smile. Her way of making those around her feel special was truly a gift.

At the September Arboretum work session, 15 volunteers made a visible difference. A two-hour whirlwind of activity included weeding, wood chip spreading, shrubbery cage enlarging, pruning, raking, and debris clean-up. Visit the Arboretum soon and see the results.

Message from the JWA President

After over a year of missed Jacksonville Woodlands Association (JWA) meetings due to Covid-19 and related difficulties, I am happy to announce that your JWA is back in action and down to business. We have had three meetings in 2021, attended by an eager and energetic board.

One of our first actions was to approve and implement a JWA Endowment Fund which will secure and help manage our donations. It is our hope that in the future we will be able to use the earnings from this account for our operating budget.

We are also pleased to resume the annual Fall Newsletter tradition. During the rest of the year, between issues, you might want to check out our website www.jvwoodlands.org and our very active Facebook page.

I hope to see you out on the Woodlands trails, using our new map in the traditional form (or downloaded on Avenza or other app), or enjoying the Arboretum, all found right here in our special town of Jacksonville.

Kandee McClain, President

Guided Woodland Hikes Coming

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy is excited to work with Jacksonville Woodlands Association to launch a new program in the Woodlands: free hikes guided by volunteer docents! This program will offer locals and visitors alike an opportunity to explore and connect with the Woodlands in a new way.

This program is still in its early stages, and we need your help to get it up and running by spring 2022:

Contribute financially -- no donation is too small to help SOLC staff establish this community service.

Volunteer as a docent -- receive training from local experts before stepping up as a hike leader.

Participate as a hiker -- after we announce our spring 2022 dates, put one on your calendar.

We look forward to working with the Jacksonville Woodlands community to bring this program to life! Contact Tara Laidlaw, SOLC's Education Program Manager, with questions or if you'd like to get involved: tara@landconserve.org, 541-482-3069 ext. 111.

Reducing the Risk

With the severe wildfire seasons we have been experiencing, there has become increasing interest in treating the fuels within the Jacksonville Woodlands. What does this entail? Fuels management is simply using vegetation treatments to meet a land management objective to reduce the potential fire behavior if and when a wildfire occurs. Fire behavior is a function of fuels, weather, and topography; the fire behavior triangle. Only one of these three elements, fuels, can effectively be changed by human intervention.

Wildland fuels include all the live and dead vegetation that could be available to burn in a wildfire. Fuels management treatments involve modifying and/or removing the existing fuels to create a desired post-treatment fuel profile. When I look at a potential treatment site, I first look at the fine fuels as they are the primary carrier for fire spread. Fine fuels include grasses/forbs, smaller shrubs, shed bark, fine dead sticks/twigs, and leaf litter. How much is present, how tall or deep is it, how consistent is the coverage, is it compacted or not, what species are present are some of the questions I evaluate to determine how well and how intense a fire will spread within the fuel bed. I then look at the larger shrubs and trees on the site. I ponder the effect of fire burning below on the surface and look for where fire may climb vertically into the larger shrubs and trees; ladder fuels provide a pathway for surface fire to become crown fire



Maintaining a fuel profile that favors keeping fire on the surface is a key

objective of fuels management as surface fire has a much lower resistance to control by wildfire responders than crown fire. Having a fuel bed that burns with flame lengths less than four feet is also a key objective as fire responders can directly attack flames less than four feet. Flame length in excess of four feet becomes too intense for responders to directly attack and generally requires indirect strategies and additional resources such as dozers and aircraft, increasing the complexity of incident. Furthermore, as the surface fire intensity increases in the right conditions, the probability of crown fire increases.

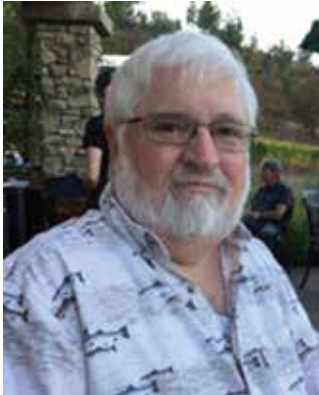
So, what about treating fuels in the Jacksonville Woodlands? The good news is that much of the woodlands has been treated by thinning many years ago. The beneficial effects of that thinning work is still being realized today as the potential for crown fire has been reduced. Furthermore, the pine/oak woodland that is the dominant cover type will produce flame lengths of less than 4 feet in most areas. That said, there are areas that do need treatment to reduce potential fire behavior.

Last year, a 13-acre area of dense ceanothus/manzanita brush was cleared via cutting and chipping below Panorama Point to significantly reduce the existing potential flame length which was greater than 40 feet. What is left is grass and small brush with scattered trees and a potential flame length of less than 2 feet. A seven acre understory burn is proposed for the Britt Woods along the boundary south of the city water tanks. This is meant to be a demonstration burn to maintain the fuels in a previously thinned area. This project is in the works, however, patience is key as there are many elements that need to come together for this burn to be a success including, burn crew availability, smoke management, resource concerns, contract issues, and burn timing. Additional planning for future treatments is ongoing and additional funding is in the works to accomplish more treatments in the future.

Chris Johnson is a JWA Board Member. He is a retired fire management specialist that worked for BLM and Forest Service and served on incident management teams as a fire behavior analyst.

In Memoriam: Mark Burkhalter

October 6, 1946-July 19, 2021



This issue of the Jacksonville Woodlands Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Mark Burkhalter who left a rich legacy to Jacksonville by the sale of his family’s 15-acre hillside, now known as Panorama Point, a beautiful spot in the heart of the Jacksonville Woodlands trail system. Mark was an attorney for forty years and served as the municipal judge of his beloved Jacksonville from 2009 to 2017.

In 1990s Jacksonville’s Larry Smith and his wife made the challenging climb to the top of what was then called “The Knoll”. As Jacksonville’s highest point, Larry saw the potential for the section of land of what was to become “Panorama Point” for the Woodlands trail system. This thought continued to simmer until 1997 when Larry contacted Mark, the major owner of this fifteen-acre piece of property, asking if he would be interested in selling it. Mark and three partners had purchased the property

in 1996 with the intent of developing it, but Mark indicated to Larry that he was starting to see the historical significance of the land and would be interested in seeing at least the French Gulch part of his property preserved. Discussions and negotiations continued along for several months and multiple agencies were brought in so that eventually the money was raised to make the purchase of the entire 15 acres. Larry remembers, “Mark was cordial, accommodating, flexible and cooperative to the extreme as we worked through this most complicated acquisition.”



Mark’s enthusiasm for the Woodlands led him to serve on the Woodlands Board of Directors for 20 years which included one term as President. As you walk on a Jacksonville Woodlands trail it would be appropriate to give a “shout out” to the memory of Mark Burkhalter, a citizen of Jacksonville who made a difference.

Smart Donations May Mean More \$\$ for All

Many people have contributed to help maintain the trail system, either physically or financially or both. Direct cash contributions in the form of a check or on-line donation are helpful, and the donor may receive some tax deduction or benefit because the Woodlands is a non-profit organization. However, according to financial planner Anthony J. Roa, there are more tax-efficient ways to contribute financially to the ongoing upkeep of our local trail system.

Roa has three suggestions:

1. If you are age 70 ½ or older and you have an IRA, you can make a Qualified Charitable Donation, (QCD) directly to the JWA each year. This not only satisfied your Required Minimum Distribution but may also entitle you to better tax benefit.
2. Gifting of appreciated assets – If you were to liquidate an investment holding with significant gain and then write a donation check, you may be subject to paying taxes on the gains. If you directly transfer your appreciated holding to JWA, you may qualify to receive the entire donation amount as a tax deduction.
3. Final Legacy Gifting – Some people tend to not give too much while they are alive for fear of running out money during retirement. However, many people in this situation have designated non-profits in their final wills or trusts to specify a certain amount or percentage to be left behind to the non-profit they care about.

The best way to decide if any of these ideas are a good fit for you is to contact your tax or financial advisor.

Anthony J. Roa is a financial planner with Pioneer Financial Planning, 820 N. 5th St., PO Box 1587, Jacksonville. (541) 899-9164. Oregon Insurance License #17826113

Jacksonville Woodlands Association

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“Where Am I?” Now You’ll Know

The Woodlands has many wonderful trail signs, but even so, when several trails converge, it can be difficult to figure out just where you are. An Eagle Scout project has taken care of that. Everest Smith is the grandson of JWA’s executive director and co-founder Larry Smith. For his Eagle Scout community service project he decided to design and place seven kiosks with “you are here” maps throughout the Woodlands. The work included purchasing supplies, rounding up manual labor support, and building the kiosks. Installation involved hauling a borrowed auger to the chosen intersections, digging the holes and setting the signs. Some were put on trees, and two additional maps were put in place of outdated maps on existing kiosks.

Look for them as you hike the trails – the excellent maps may even prompt an exploratory on a trail you haven’t tried before!



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.