

Jacksonville Woodlands Association

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Congratulations for a Well-Deserved Award

In February 2023 Jacksonville’s Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Bob Budesa, our longtime Jacksonville Woodlands board member and current vice president. Most Woodlands trail users know Bob as a core in maintaining trails, solving issues, removing downed trees and controlling erosion problems. He is also one of the key players in the very crucial fuel reduction program for the Jacksonville Woodlands, which includes The Forest Park.

Bob is a longtime mainstay and one-time Team Leader of Jacksonville’s CERT (Citizen’s Emergency Response Team). Many locals will also recognize Bob as “The Weed Wrangler”, as he is our city expert on safely spraying noxious weeds and plants.

We applaud and appreciate Bob as an example of dedication and giving back so much to Jacksonville.



*Bob Budesa with Mayor Donna Bowen and 2023 Citizen of the Year Sue Miler.
Photo by David Doi,
courtesy of Jacksonville Review.*

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 supporters and Jacksonville community for the generous financial contributions which provide the resources to sustain the Jacksonville Woodlands and the Forest Park.

The Woodlands

Preserving the Natural & Cultural History of Jacksonville, Oregon

Newsletter of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association

Fall 2024

Donations and Volunteers Keep Woodlands in Shape

This newsletter is dedicated to acknowledging the donors who so generously give and the volunteers who share their time and energy to maintain our trails and areas in the Woodlands, the Forest Park and the Arboretum.

An especially unique project due to be completed in the spring of 2025 is the vault toilet to be located at the south end of the Britt parking lot near the beginning of Rich Gulch Trail. There may be a well-deserved celebration as the blue portable is hauled away and the double unit concrete structure with its solar lights and fans becomes available for trail users and Britt visitors. This project is being supported by JWA, Britt Festival, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, City system development funds (that will not impact the city’s limited general fund budget), grants from Jacksonville Boosters Foundation and Jacksonville Transient Lodging Tax Grant, and a generous outpouring of individual donations.



A rendering shows the potential placement.

The Jacksonville Woodlands Association is proud to be an important part of what makes our town special for residents and visitors. We could not continue to do our best without the many volunteers and the generous monetary donations. From the change and small bills left in our map boxes to larger amounts sent in the mail, all of your gifts are important.

In addition to monetary donations, the JWA relies on volunteers putting in time and effort to keep the trails in shape. An exciting aspect of volunteerism this year is the number of youth getting involved. Several Crater High School students have turned to the trails to fulfill their eight-hour community service requirement.

Junior Brooke Tuers decided to clean out intrusive weeds in Forest Park. She hauled out many wheelbarrows of debris. “Blackberries were my nightmare,” she said. The project came naturally to her -- she’s been volunteering with her grandparents at the Arboretum and cemetery since she was little. She chose the area because she loves to hike there, and wanted to give back.

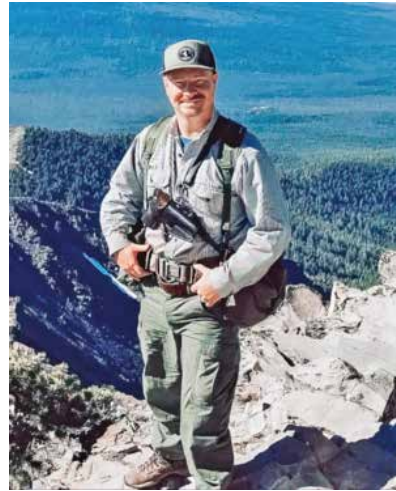


Earlier this year, Crater students Devin Corson, Owen McLaughlin, Cooper Fisher and Kaleb Hargis took on trail surfacing. Bob Budesa of the JWA said “This was no easy task...but they toughed it out...a job well-done!”

Meanwhile, Ayden Miller from Jacksonville’s Troop 17 is working on the trail at the northeast end of the cemetery. He plans to install navigation signs and a dog-waste bin on the trail. He hopes to have the project completed by the end of the year.

New Board Member

Talon Reed is a lifelong Southern Oregonian, born in Medford and raised on a small farm in the Applegate Valley. For him, the outdoors has always been a source of adventure and renewal. An Eagle Scout and Outward Bound alumnus, Talon is also a local attorney and has served as



an elected city council member in Jacksonville. He enjoys hiking, swimming, and camping with friends and family. Talon is honored to be a part of the Jacksonville Woodland Association and

is proud to help the community connect with and appreciate the beauty of the outdoors.

Woodlands Become an Outdoor Classroom

With its 16 miles of groomed trails, and its well-preserved Depression Era gold mines, and its showy spring-time wild flower displays, the Jacksonville Woodlands have become a favorite location for teachers seeking to bring their student into the great outdoors.

Jacksonville is unique in that teachers can study the history of a gold rush town, and then take a short walk out into the native woodlands that surround Jacksonville and visit the actual gold mines that created the town's pioneer wealth.

No other small Oregonian town has this much educational potential. All major historic sites are within easy walking distance and are surrounded by hundreds of acres of undisturbed natural woodlands providing a great opportunity for native tree studies. (Actually, everything in the world is within walking distance if you have the time.)

During this past school year, nearly 1,000 students, ranging from kindergarten to high school, have taken advantage of spending a day or two out in the Jacksonville Woodlands or two miles further out of town at Jacksonville's 1,000-acre Forest Park, with its 45 miles of hiking trails.

After spending a day in our natural outdoor school, teachers are becoming more and more convinced that no child should be left inside. And Historic Jacksonville is the perfect place for this to happen!

For more information about student or adult woodlands field trips, contact Larry Smith at: twinhiker@gmail.com.



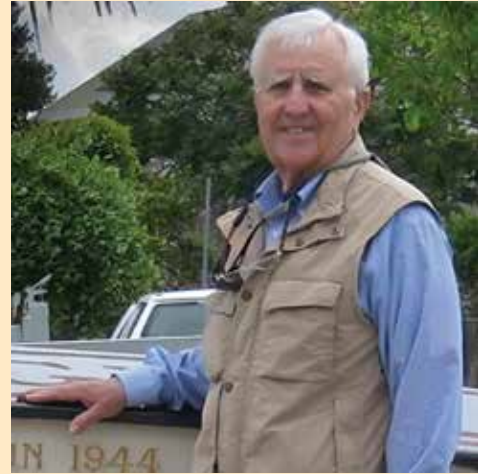
Photo by Lone Pine School 4th grader Austen Huffman

Thank You John Isaak

After serving for 14 years as JWA's treasurer, John Isaak is stepping back from the duties. He has been a board member for 18 years, and now as an honorary board member he hopes to continue to attend meetings and contribute ideas.

His dedication to the treasurer's position will be missed, however. Former board member and database manager Skip Stokes reflected on working with John.

"With his engineering background, John used all his skill sets to be a treasurer extraordinaire," he said. "John made sure all decimal points were in the right place and all receipts signed." JWA thanks John for his hard work over so many years.



Efforts Continue to Reduce Wildfire Risk

Realizing that a major wildfire in our area could not only significantly damage the Woodlands but also cause devastation to nearby communities, fire prevention has become a necessary part of woodlands management. The Forest Park, the land owned by the Motorcycle Riders Association, unmanaged Bureau of Land parcels to the west, as well as the City of Jacksonville are all included in an area designated by Jackson County as a Wildfire Hazard Area. Any fire that starts within the wooded area could turn into a major disaster. High winds could push fire southwest into the city of Ruch, or prevailing west winds could move it into Jacksonville.

Working with grants from the Oregon State Fire Marshal and the West Bear All-Lands Restoration Project, two companies (Greyback Forestry and Lomakatsi) have been working to mitigate wildfire risk. The projects include removing ladder fuels, thinning trees and brush, and piling the material to dry through the summer months.



As of this writing, 200+ acres in Forest Park, and 1,222 acres of city and private lands in the Jacksonville Community Wildfire Protection Project area have been treated. In addition to the impacts to fire management, vegetative thinning will open areas to increased sunlight reaching the ground, which will increase the availability of nutrients and energy for native plant and animal species to flourish.

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Hard Work Makes Trails Easier

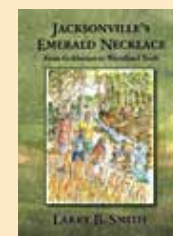
Thanks to the work of volunteers, many of the trails in the Woodlands and Forest Park are now easier and safer to negotiate. The workers, led by board member Michael Sneary, shifted into high gear after the spring growing season. They cleared obstructing grasses and shrubs about two feet on either side of the trails. This makes it easier to pass through a given section of trails, keeping plants like poison oak at a distance. It also reduces the risk of exposure to problematic insects, such as chiggers that often lie in wait at the ends of tall grasses over the trail surface.

Sneary says his cadre of volunteers does most of the work in the Arboretum, meeting four to six times per year as needed. However they also spill over into projects in the Woodlands and Forest Park, and many also participate in Jacksonville cemetery clean-ups.

If you're interested in joining the volunteers for some hands-on work, contact



The Sarah Zigler trail near the Britt Grounds was one of the areas cleared by volunteers this summer.



Jacksonville's Emerald Necklace by Larry Smith is now available. This 400-page book tells the inspiring story behind the formation of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association (JWA) in 1989 and the amazing 20-year efforts of the individuals, students, private organizations, government agencies, legislators, landowners, the BLM, the National Park Service, and the City of Jacksonville to protect 21 parcels of woodlands and to create the Jacksonville Woodlands.

To obtain your copy of the book contact the Jacksonville Woodlands Association, or stop by the Trotting Fox, the Happy Alpaca Toys, the JV Chamber of Commerce, Art Presence, Charro Rush, or Rebel Heart Books – all of these stores are located in Jacksonville.