

*The Woodlands*  
Newsletter of the  
**Jacksonville  
Woodlands Association**

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- Bob Schroeter
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 541 899-7402

If your group or club is interested in taking part in a guided hike of the Rich Gulch Historic Mining District give Larry Smith a call at: 541 899-7402



State Senator Jason Atkinson, a Jacksonville resident and a Woodlands supporter appreciates the Rich Gulch Bike Trail. Bikes are welcome on the wider, flatter portion of the Woodlands Trail System.

clip and use if there is no envelope

**Yes, I want to help!**

Thank you for your generous support as the Woodlands Association continues to protect the historic wooded backdrop of Jacksonville, and provide hiking and educational opportunities for school classes and adult groups.

All gifts are tax-deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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A \$100 contribution can be leveraged to \$1,000  
 A \$1,000 contribution can be leveraged to \$10,000

Mail to :  
**The Jacksonville Woodlands Association**  
**P.O. Box 1210**  
**Jacksonville, Oregon 97530**

541 899-7402 or e-mail: info@jvwoodlands.org



# The Woodlands

*Setting the Standard for Community Land Preservation in Oregon*

Newsletter of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association



Fall Issue 2003

## Jacksonville Honors S.O.U's Native American Program & Local Youth



A large crowd of enthusiastic JWA supporters gathered at Doc Griffin on a cool April morning. David West, SOU's Director of Native American Studies at SOU was the featured speaker sharing information on how local Indians survived in the Oak Woodlands.



School groups from across the Rogue Valley and the nation are using the interpretive resources of the Jacksonville Woodlands. Pictured are the 3rd grade classes from Jacksonville Elementary School.



Following David's talk, the group went on a three mile hike into the Rich Gulch Historic Mining District.



Eagle Scout candidate, Greg Ekberg, brought in his troop of scouts in July to build the new Beebe Woods Loop Trail. This new half mile trail is the latest addition to the Woodland's network of recreational trails. Access to the Beebe Woods is gained from South Hill Street.



### Petard Loop Trail Completed

The 1.7 mile Petard Loop trail, following the remains of the historic Petard Mining Ditch, was completed last May (2003). The long planned trail to connect the Rich Gulch trails with the Petard portion was first conceived in 1990. Two years ago JWA board member, Bob Schroeter, laid out the trail course which was followed by two years of environmental reviews by the BLM. A trail construction grant from the Oregon State Parks department funded the project. Shady Cove trail builder Randy Hodges spent five weeks building the connecting loop trail. The new Petard Loop Trail opens foot access into 57 additional acres of prime woodlands and is becoming a prime destination for Jacksonville's long-distance hikers.

### Long time board member, Phil Gahr, retires from the JWA Board

After serving on the JWA Board for 12 years, and having served eight of those years as president of the Association, Phil Gahr has retired from the board as "other interests are taking up most of my time." It was Phil who redirected the JWA's mission to include the preservation of open space into the Britt and Rich Gulch areas of town following the JWA's successful purchase of the Beekman Woods in 1991.

In his letter of resignation Phil states, "As you know I have a deep connection to the Woodlands and still consider it the most important project in Jacksonville. I will continue to be a strong supporter of the Woodlands. I have loved every moment with the Woodlands. It has been a major life experience. I'm so proud of the many people who have helped in so many ways over the past twelve years."

And thank you Phil! We owe much of our success to your many years of leadership.

### Fuel Reduction Project

The JWA is continuing its fuel reduction project in and around the City of Jacksonville that was started last fall. Three different contractors that JWA had hired completed the cutting and piling of brush and small trees on a mix of public and private lands earlier this spring. This fall these same contractors will be chipping and burning these piles.

The work is scheduled to begin after fire season is over. JWA will have a recorded message phone that residents can call to see if there will be pile burning in the City that day. The message phone (541 899-5687) will be set up at the Jacksonville City Fire Department.

JWA also received three more grants to partner with more private landowners in and around Jacksonville to do fuel reduction work on their properties. To date over 50 private landowners have partnered with JWA to have fuel reduction work done on their properties.

The number of private landowners participating and the properties being treated greatly increases the effectiveness of reducing the risk of a catastrophic fire occurring in the urban interface zone around Jacksonville. The fuel reduction treatment also enhances the ability of the fire department and fire crews to safely stop any wildfires that may occur in the future.

Private landowners also benefit by helping protect their homes and property from wildfire. When the fuel reduction work is all done, private landowners will also meet the requirements of Senate Bill 360 so they won't be liable for the cost of suppressing a wildfire should one occur on their property in the future.

All residents of the City of Jacksonville and the surrounding area will benefit from the reduced risk of a catastrophic wildfire occurring and by helping preserve the natural wooded foothills setting that surrounds the Historic Landmark City of Jacksonville.



### The Economic Impact of the Jacksonville Woodlands

The economic impact of Jacksonville rests on three major attractions. The Britt Music Festival, Jacksonville's Historic District and town ambiance, and the Jacksonville Woodlands. More and more people are showing up in town to hike the trails and visit our well preserved historic gold mines.

The Woodlands are also attracting many community events including: Hike-A-Thons, Dog Walks, the Fire House Run, school classes, and adult group tours. People who visit and hike the Woodlands often stay in town and spend money in Jacksonville's shops and restaurants.

After experiencing Jacksonville's special beauty and historic attractions, many people want to return again and again. Some even move here. Several families have purposely purchased houses in Jacksonville because of the proximity of the trail system. One new resident recently stated: "The trails are the main reason we stay in town. The trails are what to do in Jacksonville!"

Businesses are limited to opening and closing hours and museums may be forced to close because of lack of funding, but the Jacksonville Woodlands, with its seven miles of trails and 13 interpretive panels, never closes.

### A \$1,000 Gift Returns \$10,000

Sounds too good to be true doesn't it? But it is true if you "invest" with the Jacksonville Woodlands. No grants are awarded without matching funds in place.

Currently we are working with the Trust for Public Land and the City of Jacksonville to submit an application to the Federal Government for a Land and Water Conservation grant of \$230,000. The money will be used to purchase the 5.7 acre Dr. Woods parcel (Beekman Addition). This keystone parcel will protect a concentration of the rare and endangered Fritillary Gentneri flower. The Woods property purchase will allow for a cross-town trail to happen 13 years after the idea was first conceived. Public ownership of the property will also protect the visual heritage of the upper portion of Third Street.

We are asking 20 people to contribute \$1,000 or more and 20 people to contribute at least \$100 in the next two months. Should our grant application be successful, your investment in the JWA will bring in \$230,000. That is a 10-fold return. This process is known as LEVERAGING.

### The National Park Service Awards Major Grant

This summer the National Park Service notified the Woodlands Association that we were the recipient of a \$29,500 education grant. The grant will be used to create two student booklets. A portion of the grant will be used to provide for several interpretive panels between the Britt Gardens, Jackson Creek and the Jacksonville Pioneer Cemetery. The Jacksonville Boosters Club, the Friends of the Library, the Jacksonville-Applegate Rotary Club, and the City of Jacksonville are partners in the project.



New Woodlands Tee and Polo/Sports and Sweat Shirts are available for purchase from the History Store located in the U.S. Hotel building or by calling 541 899-7402