



Cantrall Buckley Park NEWS

Art comes to Cantrall Buckley Park

BY JEREMY CRISWELL

A couple of months ago I attended a park committee meeting on the Cantrall Buckley Park playground restoration project. With a background in public art and previous park and playground involvement, I thought I might have something to offer. Beyond that, I have lived near and visited the park for most of my life, and now, having two boys of my own, it seemed quite fitting for me to be involved in the process of making our park even better for them and others to enjoy. It was exciting to hear about the plans for the restoration of the playground, which will result in a safe, structurally sound playground that can be accessed by children of all ages and ability levels.

At that first meeting the committee discussed ways to acknowledge the local businesses and community members who would be donating to the playground restoration project. I had previously worked to create tile and mosaic donor-

appreciation artwork for La Clinica Del Valle in Central Point. I worked with two local artists, the late Lilli Ann and Marvin Rosenberg, who had also led the creation of the Ruch Library entry mural. I suggested using that method to thank the donors for this project. We considered several ways to integrate artwork into the playground. By the end of the next meeting we had come up with a plan to create a community mosaic mural on the playground-facing wall of the restroom.

Community participation

Our goal is to bring as many kids and community members as possible into the design and creation of the project. A community-made mosaic mural will not only be a beautiful addition to the playground, but it will also be an effective way to show appreciation to donors. More importantly, the mural will give all participants a sense of ownership and the first-hand experience of contributing

to a project that will permanently enhance the space they use. Because of a generous gift of \$7,000 from The Maggie Purvis Fund, we are excited to announce that this mural will become a reality. Thank you, Maggie!

Along with the current plans to restore some of the well-loved but aging play equipment and the addition of several

new play structures, we are also excited that the playground will be receiving one more special addition. Thanks to the Ford Institute Leadership Program, a group of community members has been working to design, plan and fund another artful addition to the Cantrall Buckley Park play area. Last month they met with The Applegate Moms group, local kids, and other community members at the park to gain insight on what would be a beneficial addition to the playground. They also met with the park committee and made a site visit to the park with their entire group of around 20 members. They are now in the design stage of their project. There are plans for an educational piece of art featuring a large child-friendly sundial—children actually become the sundial—and a playscape made from natural materials.

As I'm sure you know, Cantrall Buckley Park is funded almost entirely through vehicle admission fees and the sale of season passes. Though our park is well used in the summer months, there is little money left for improvements after necessary maintenance and general upkeep. Luckily our park committee has started the job of raising the \$56,000 needed to fund the playground project. Grant applications to several local private foundations have been submitted, and work is under way on several more. Community members, local businesses and corporate sponsors have begun to show strong support for this project as well. (See box for list of donors.)

Mother's Day brunch

On Mother's Day morning, Sunday, May 10, the Applegate Grange and the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) will jointly host a fund-raising brunch with proceeds to be shared between the Grange and Cantrall Buckley Park. Bring

Donors

Here is a current list of the generous donors to the playground project (with apologies to our Oregon endangered species);

Private Community

Grey Wolves (\$5,000+): Maggie Purvis, Matt and Donna Epstein
Northern Spotted Owls (\$4000+)
Marble Murrelets (\$3,000+)
Pacific Fishers (\$2,000+): Kathy and Tom Carstens
Oregon Spotted Frogs (\$1,000+)
Siskiyou Mountain Salamanders (\$500+)
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimps (1 - \$500):
Frank Ault, Darla Kay Baack, John Blackhurst, Judy Crowe, Dave and Dee Laananen, Kathleen Moore, Peter and Carly Salant

Local Businesses

Applegate Garden Club
Applegate Valley Realty
Bob Thomas Automotive, Medford
Jacksonville Inn
Jacksonville Veterinary Hospital
Pioneer Financial Planning, Jacksonville
Ramsay Realty, Ruch
Richard Brewster Accounting Services, Medford
True South Solar, Ashland
A huge "Thank You" goes out to all our donors!
We have now received \$17,870!
And we have an additional \$7,750 in pledges.

Kids making tiles for a mural. Photo: Jeremy Criswell.



a mom and come on out for a wonderful meal at the Grange and a chance to show your support for your park!

How you can help

If you'd like to contribute to this community project, you can do so in these ways:

- Go to our website at www.gacdc.com and contribute using PayPal.
- Send a personal check to GACDC Playground Project, PO Box 3107, Applegate, OR 97530.
- Find our donation boxes at displays at the Applegate River Lodge, Ruch Country Market, and the Applegate Library.
- Join our Park Committee team. We're always looking for more help and new ideas! We meet the fourth Thursday of every month at 4 pm at Ruch Library.

Jeremy Criswell • 541-899-9024
www.jeremycriswell.com

ATA's plans for the Applegate Ridge Trail surge ahead

BY DIANA COOGLE

Thanks to its many avid supporters and hikers, and thanks to a stepped-up commitment from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) is on a roll!

In September 2014 our fund-raiser at Red Lily Vineyards put a whopping \$4,236 in our treasury. That figure says a lot about the passion of people in the Applegate—and beyond—for our trails and especially for ATA's dream of building a trail from Cathedral Hills in

Grants Pass to Jacksonville, where the Applegate Ridge Trail—ART, as we call it—would meet the Jack-Ash trail that the Siskiyou Uplands Trails Association plans to take on into Ashland.

At the turn of the new year, BLM went into high gear with the ART project. With the money from our fund-raiser and the rest of our Title II grant money, we can now show our financial commitment to: (1) obliterate an old off-highway vehicle trail at the end of BLM road 38-2-29.1,

just west of Sterling Creek Road, that promotes private property trespass, (2) complete the trailhead at the east end of the East ART, which runs along the ridge north of Bishop Creek between Sterling Creek Road and Highway 238, and (3) have the very costly, legally necessary, and environmentally warranted Environmental Assessment (EA) done. BLM is on board with these projects, and the train is moving!

After accomplishing these goals

(we hope by the end of the year), we will seek grants to help fund the construction of the six-mile East ART trail. An ATA fund-raiser in September will help us fatten the coffers for that project as well. In the meantime, check

out our website (www.applegatetrails.org) for the exciting schedule of hikes for this year's season, including a full-moon hike, a photographer's hike, and other specialties. Keep tabs on our website for updates.

We are so excited. If you would like to join the excitement and serve on the board (monthly meetings, some tasks between meetings), let us know. We would love to have you, and we think you would enjoy working with us.

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com

Note: For a map of the working draft of the Applegate Ridge Trail, please go to the home page of our website at www.applegater.org (under "Latest Issue").



Frank D'Antonio
PRINCIPAL BROKER

CELL (541) 499-2233
OFFICE (541) 899-2000

frankd@windermere.com
frankd.withwre.com

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ambercaudell@gmail.com honeybeedesign.oigp.net