



Final piece installed along Cantrall Buckley Park Art Walk

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Great news! The final sculpture for the Cheryl D. Garcia Art Walk was installed in October. It took six volunteers to move the 12-foot Wild Oregon Iris sculpture into place near the arched bridges on the trail system just south of the restroom. You can see it to your left as you drive slowly to the lower park area near the river, and once in the parking spaces near the restroom, you can look up and see it in the forested setting.

This enhancement project started in 2018 with a fundraiser for nine sculptures: Mock Orange, Wild Iris, Violet-Green Swallows, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Nuthatches, Belted Kingfisher, and Common Raven, all supported by contributions from very generous private donors. Members of the Applegate Valley Garden Club supported the Monarch Butterfly, and the Oregon Community Foundation, Gold Diggers Guild of Southern Oregon, and 26 community individuals, couples, and families supported the Shooting Star Sculpture.

The work went smoothly for the artist until smoke pollution, an injury that required surgery, and an accident in the studio halted her work until she could recuperate. The restrictions of COVID also affected the close work of volunteers installing the sculptures. Once Cheryl was strong enough to work again, the last few

sculptures went smoothly, with assurance from the park committee that time helps heal all hurts and that everyone would be thrilled when the last piece was installed.

This project will be complete with the installation of the Art Map that accompanies the art features for the park. The Jackson County Cultural Coalition (JCCC) sponsored the artwork by Cheryl and the design work by Gregg Payne. A Greater Applegate (AGA), Jackson County Parks, and JCCC sponsored the metal stand ready to be installed near the entrance to the park, just past the fee booth.

The park committee and the AGA board are excited to have this beautiful enhancement to the park and proud of the partnership of organizations and individuals, the volunteer help, and the Jackson County Parks program that made this all possible.

The next project is the long-awaited community mural on the wall of the restroom in the lower park. Our artist, Jeremy Criswell, has worked hard to regain the use of his injured shoulder and feels ready to move forward. The date for installation will be determined by the amount of time and materials necessary for the first panel. The fish and other community art pieces are all arranged and waiting to be firmly encased into each panel with cement. Jeremy is excited to be able to take this on again, and he thanks everyone in the community for their patience.

Jackson County Park Passes for 2022 are available at the discounted price of \$30 throughout December. On January 1, 2022, the price changes to \$40. This pass is good at all the Jackson County Parks and at the Joseph H. Steward and Casey parks near the community of Trail, which were formerly run by the US Forest Service. You can purchase a pass at Ruch Hardware, Cantrall Buckley (from

the park hosts) Blackbird, Sportsman's Warehouse, REI, Willie Boats, Water World, Bi-Mart in Ashland, Jackson County Roads Department in White City, and Jackson County taxation office in Medford. The Jackson County Parks Department can take a payment over the phone at 541-774-8183 and will mail you your pass and receipt.

A friendly reminder that the pass is issued to a person, not to a vehicle, so if you go to a park with a friend driving, the pass is valid for that vehicle.

Watch the restoration improvements happening in the riparian zone along the river. AGA and Jackson County Parks will be partnering with Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council's project on a portion of the development with a generous donation from a private donor to AGA.

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Photo, left. Volunteer crew unloads the precious Wild Iris Sculpture. From left on the ground: Chad Sobtka, artist Cheryl Garcia (mostly hidden), and Matthew Katzensen. On the trailer: in front, Chris Wilkey; at rear left, Antonio Aquiler; at right, Criss Garcia. Photo, right. Metal artist Cheryl D. Garcia (left) with very generous donors Bonnie and John Rinaldi of Ashland, former owners of Lavender Fields Forever on Hamilton Road. Photos by Janis Mohr-Tipton.



Siskiyou Field Institute hosts free 'SnowSchool' for school groups

BY MORGAN MURRAY

Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI), a local environmental education nonprofit based near Selma, is offering SnowSchool in partnership with Mt. Ashland Ski Area. Up to 20 school groups can participate *free* of tuition this winter. The program will run from January through March.

Educators seeking a fun way for students to learn about alpine winter environments are encouraged to reserve SnowSchool dates as early as possible, as the number of slots available is limited. Students from Ruch Outdoor Community School are expected to fill one of the slots.

SnowSchool teaches kids new ways to recreate outdoors while introducing

them to the winter wonders in our backyard.

SFI's SnowSchool is part of a national program operating across 70 different sites. At Mount Ashland, students will strap on snowshoes and head out for a fun-filled day of winter exploration! Students will make vital connections between the snowpack—the largest water reservoir in the West—and the water they rely on every day.

Program content includes citizen science with Oregon State University and NASA, snow pit analysis, watershed science, snow crystal study, snow-to-water equivalency, and animal tracking and

adaptations. Students end the day by belly sliding through the snow and reflecting on their experiences together.

Ready to reserve the date for your group of fifth-seventh graders? For priority booking and to ensure funding, register as early as possible. Go to siskiyoufieldinstitute.org and reserve your dates on our homepage. You can

also reach out to SFI's Youth Education Programs Coordinator directly by calling 541-597-8530 or emailing youthprograms@thesfi.org.

Morgan Murray
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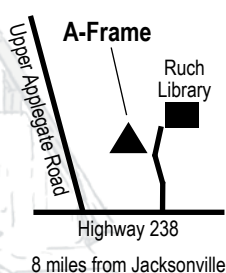
Students gather at a past Siskiyou Field Institute SnowSchool program at the Mt. Ashland Ski Area.

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