

Applegater

Photo: Lee O. Webb

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Hiking Limpy Botanical and Waters Creek Trails

BY LINDA MULLENS

Two great hiking trails in or near the headwaters of the Applegate are Waters Creek Trail and Limpy Botanical Trail. Both are located not far from Grants Pass and are at low elevations, making them accessible year-round and excellent places to explore the earliest of the spring flowers.

Limpy Botanical Trail provides an easy one-mile hike through a variety of unique habitats, creating one of the best trails in southwest Oregon to observe a high diversity of native plant species. Walking the trail every two to three weeks during the spring will provide a visitor with an almost complete change in flowering species with each visit. As early as late February, the first bloom appears—the small “spring-queen” (*Synthyris reniformis*), but it requires a discerning eye to spot it hidden among many forest-floor species. In early March, the purple flowering fawn lilies (*Erythronium hendersonii*) are easy to

spot carpeting the beginning of the trail. Other highlights are the sweet smelling wild azaleas (*Rhododendron occidentale*) blooming around Mother’s Day, and fields of blue camas (*Camassia quamash*) showcasing in late May. A plant list is available from the Ranger District and records 250 plant species along Limpy Botanical Trail, including 43 shrub and tree species.

Beautifully illustrated interpretative signs by local artist Paula Fong provide an opportunity to learn about plant communities, featured plant species, and serpentine soils. Serpentine soils can limit the growth of plants and many species are just unable to tolerate the soil’s high mineral content and low levels of calcium.

A boardwalk passes through a Jeffrey pine savannah, protecting the fragile serpentine soils when wet in the winter. Jeffrey pine is able to tolerate these soils, while nearby granitic soils grow the more common ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*),

another three-needled pine. Other unusual species growing on



Western dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*).

serpentine are California coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) and Brewer’s oak (*Quercus garryana* var. *breweri*), a low-growing subspecies of white oak.

Numerous benches are placed along the trail and provide places to relax and spend meditative moments, enjoy the creek, a waterfall, or a scenic view overlooking the lower portion of Limpy

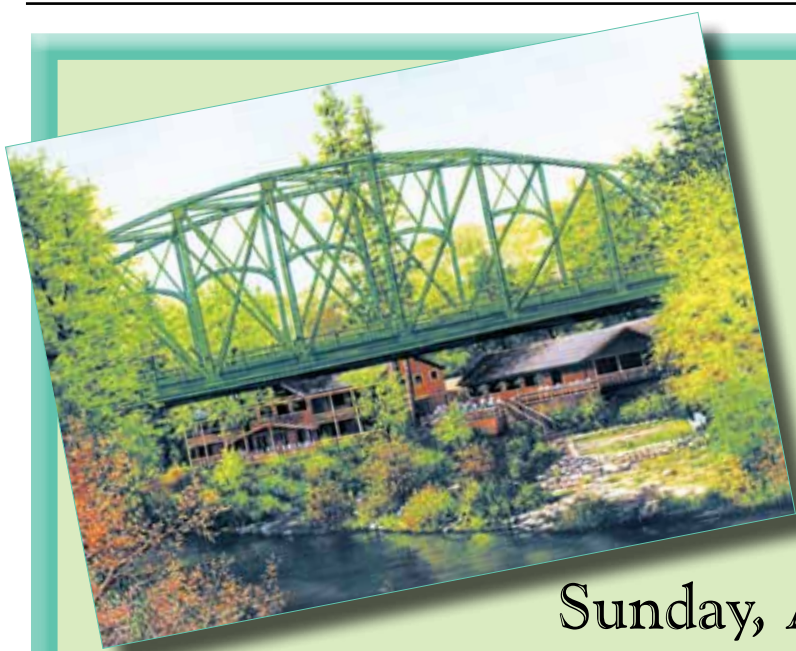


Author Linda Mullen and son Josh at the waterfall, Limpy Botanical Trail. Photo by Linda Mullens.

Creek drainage (which empties into the Rogue River). Wooden bridges provide access across Limpy Creek where red alder (*Alnus rubra*), big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), and even Port Orford cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) provide lush shade in summer months.

Directions: Take Highway 199 south about 7 miles from Grants Pass (measured from the intersection of Highway 199 and 238). Turn right onto Riverbanks Road (just after crossing the Applegate River). Go 4.5 miles and turn left onto Limpy Creek Road.

See TRAILS, page 12



Applegate Lodge to hold BBQ fundraiser for the Applegater

Sunday, April 26 • 3 pm – 7 pm

In spite of tough times, the Applegate River Lodge & Restaurant has stepped up to demonstrate its continuing support for the Applegater.

On Sunday afternoon, April 26, the Lodge will hold the first BBQ of the season with all proceeds going to the Applegater. What a day is planned! In addition to the tasty menu of chicken, salad, baked beans and bread, here is what else is happening:

- Our award-winning local Applegate Valley wineries will be pouring wine.
- Live music will be provided by Duke Davis & Friends.

• A silent auction is planned with a wide variety of items to bid on—something for every budget. Some examples are plants from Forestfarm, gift certificates for local services, and local artwork. There is even a catered dinner for six at your home donated by local epicureans from Eve’s Café. What a way to impress your friends and family for a special event.

So get your tickets now for the BBQ and join us from 3 to 7 pm on Sunday, April 26, at the Applegate River Lodge & Restaurant in downtown Applegate. Tickets are just \$10 for adults and \$6 for ages 12 and under. Kids four and under are free! An affordable afternoon of food and fun for the whole family! What a terrific way to support our very own Applegater.

The Applegater is looking for volunteers to help with the serving and clean-up. We are also looking for donation items to add to our silent auction display.

We are grateful for the following wineries for their donation of wine or services: Devitt Winery, Quady North, Schmidt Family Vineyards, Troon Vineyards and Wooldridge Creek Winery.

Locations for tickets: Applegate River Lodge & Restaurant; Applegate Store; McKee Bridge Store and Restaurant; Ruch Country Store; Outpost Farm and Garden; Williams General Store; and Murphy Country Nursery or call 541-846-7673.

Williams Quilt Show and beyond

BY CLAUDIA BEAUSOLEIL AND PEG PRAG

A “quilting” is a gathering of people of many ages and backgrounds to create in harmony, things of beauty and comfort.

A big thank you to all affiliated with the Williams Community Quilt show held on February 8 at the Williams Grange.

Blankets wrap you in warmth, quilts wrap you in love. When one person makes one square of a quilt to be given to celebrate someone, this reflects a community coming together to share, create and celebrate a generational gift to be passed on in families. Forty-eight quilts were displayed—baby quilts, wedding quilts, birthday quilts, coming-of-age quilts, friendship quilts and loving, healing comfort quilts.

Forestfarm Nursery was the impetus of making traditional friendship quilts back in the 1970s. A special quilt was presented with love and best wishes, along with a potluck party of celebration. This tradition has been ongoing throughout our community in many different homes.

Several members of our community contributed their time and efforts to help make the quilt show a success. Kathy Escott made the flyers. Daryl Jackson and Lisa Horn took pictures. Tressi Albee,

See QUILT, page 13