



Springing forward at the park

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

This spring, shooting star wildflowers have made thick magenta-colored carpets in many places in the park and campground. While these brilliant flowers have been busy blooming, metal sculptor Cheryl Garcia has been busy in her shop creating the Shooting Star sculpture, the next in the “Art in the Park” series for our park.

While you are waiting for the Shooting Star sculpture, look for the metal bird sculptures that Cheryl and her crew have already installed—the acorn woodpecker near the entrance, the northern flicker and three red-breasted nuthatches in the picnic areas just beyond the monarch garden in the upper level, and, in the lower picnic area, the pileated woodpecker on a pine tree by the drive-through road and violet-green swallows in flight. At the 12-foot high Mock Orange sculpture, look toward the river for the belted kingfisher taking flight near the volleyball space at the north end.

The winter and spring rains have been good for the recovery of many plants and shrubs. Ponderosa pines that succumbed to the drought have been removed in all the picnic areas to reduce the hazard to visitors of falling dead limbs. Now new plants and shrubs are being added with the help of Ruch Outdoor Community School students, community volunteers, and A Greater Applegate’s Park Enhancement Program team, thanks to an Oregon Community Foundation grant to restore more native, drought-tolerant, and pollinator varieties. Steve Lambert, Jackson County Parks manager, is pleased to see more restoration of the habitat with plants that can survive in the changing environment and attract pollinators.

Our new park hosts, Pam and Bill, are very busy helping to add color to the park with landscaping at the restroom in Area A with the help of Deb, our park ranger. Stop to say hello when you are visiting. They are friendly folks who are adding a lot of cheeriness to the park experience. Ron, who stays in the park throughout the year, is always busy working on improving it and cleaning it up. Give him a hello, too, and thank him for his ongoing dedication to making this park look nice.



During Earth Day cleanup, Lydia Shockey clears weeds and dead debris with the help of Finn and Lyra. Photo: Janis Mohr-Tipton.



Young girl trying out the newly installed interactive sundial in Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Janis Mohr-Tipton.

I want to thank you for all the wonderful compliments about the new features in the park—the art sculptures, the new plantings—and how good the park looks in general. It is a wonderful example of the partnership of our community’s generous donors and willing volunteers working alongside the Jackson County Parks management.

We all love it when the park looks so good, and we are a part of making that happen.

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Sugarloaf Community Association turns 20!

BY JENNY VAN WINKLE

This year the Sugarloaf Community Association (SCA), which supports seven vibrant acres of community land in downtown Williams, is celebrating our 20th anniversary. Founded by folks seeking a sanctuary for grassroots education for their children, the SCA has always been a center for both education and recreation. Previously home to several generations of students, the land now houses a Waldorf-inspired kindergarten, an outdoor after-school program for young children, and a newly opened Resource Center.

SCA has several playgrounds, a playing field and track, a community garden, and an outdoor amphitheater for events—including the recent Earth Day Celebration, marking the first Williams Farmers’ Market of the year. The Monday-afternoon market, open from 4 - 6:30 pm through October, brings the community together, and the land provides an expansive green setting where kids love to run and play while adults shop, mingle, and support our local farmers and artisans. The land is open to the public during daytime hours, excluding the upper classroom area while classes are in session.

Our most active programs on the land at the moment are the Forever Flowering Children’s Garden, with the Friends of the Forest after-school program, and the new Resource Center. Here are a few notes from the directors of those programs.

The Forever Flowering Children’s Garden offers a Waldorf kindergarten curriculum that is inspired with a nature-based approach for ages four to seven. Daily and seasonal rhythms are created with circle movement, free play, gardening, wholesome handmade snacks, nature crafting, forest exploration, earth skills, watercolor painting, storytelling, puppetry, woodworking, early handwork arts, and much more. For more information, contact lead teacher, Misti, at misti.lefevre@gmail.com or 707-921-9694.

The Sugarloaf Resource Center, an all-ages space for culture and learning, welcomes public visitors to SCA land on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30 - 6:30 pm and Sundays from 1:30 - 6:30 pm. The resource center provides a cozy environment for self-directed and social learning and hosts a collection of



The SCA garden is tended by children who attend the Forever Flowering Kindergarten there. Photo: Jessie Casey.

educational materials, including books, zines, games, arts and crafts supplies, computers, and more. The center is also available to host classes, meetings, and events. For more information, to book an event, or to find out about how you can get involved with this exciting new project, visit sugarloafcenter.org.

SCA has received grants to provide low-cost or free preschool at the Williams Elementary School and also supports an after-school Strings Music Program for community children there. Both programs are in high demand, with SCA volunteers administering them.

We are also excitedly preparing for our 20th Anniversary Celebration, which will be held outdoors on the SCA land on Saturday, June 22, from 4 - 10 pm. Games and activities for children and adults begin at 4 pm, with live music, dinner, and drinks available from 5 - 7 pm. This will be followed by a lively live auction and more fun live music and dancing, with drinks and treats available. The silent auction will be an opportunity for amazing scores! SCA is an inspiring haven in our community, and everyone is invited to join the party! We are especially calling on all past board members, teachers, students, and many volunteers to join us in celebrating all we have created together. Let’s see what we can do with the next 20 years!

For more information about Sugarloaf Community Association, go to sugarloafcommunityassociation.org or visit info@sugarloafcommunityassociation.org.

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