



The mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County communities in the creation and maintenance of a connected system of non-motorized trails from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

December 2004

The TRAIL LINE NEWS

Vol. 18, No. 4

President's message

Celebrate and sustain our Trail

What a year of accomplishment! Trail travelers can now journey from McMillin to South Prairie, a distance of eleven miles, while crossing but a dozen intersections. An additional three miles of trail, yet to be paved, has been carved from Meeker near Van Lierop's Bulb Farm southward to McMillin, and nearly a mile more is shortly scheduled for completion in the town of Wilkeson. Finally, as a bonus, Enumclaw has recently paved more than a mile of its Foothills Trail. Multi-jurisdictional meetings are underway to bridge the White River and connect Enumclaw's trail with our Buckley section. The city of Sumner plans to build more trail next year, and plans are also underway to link the Foothills Trail with the Puyallup Riverwalk.

In celebration, I invite other trail supporters to join my wife Ellen and me in gifting to the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition this holiday season to help insure our sustainability. As I have written in previous newsletters, the more trail that we accomplish, the better will be our quality of life, and the greater will be the need for our Coalition to grow and endure. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition serves many functions. Perhaps none is more important than our trail outreach program in which we are a major voice advocating for community trails. As a well recognized, 501 (c)(3) volunteer organization, we work with like-minded organizations such as ForeverGreen and the Tacoma Wheelmen to advance a regional trail system and work with officials in local communities to help them better advance their often lagging trail projects.

We are the eyes and ears of the trail, ever watchful for maintenance and safety issues. As our trail progresses into more beautiful and wilderness-like country, our Courtesy Patrol affords a comforting and friendly assurance to more safety-concerned explorers, especially mothers with young children.

Ellen and I are gifting to the Coalition this season by contributing to the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation's Foothills Trail Coalition endowment that local cycling advocate and Coalition member Bob

continued on next page

County defines trails

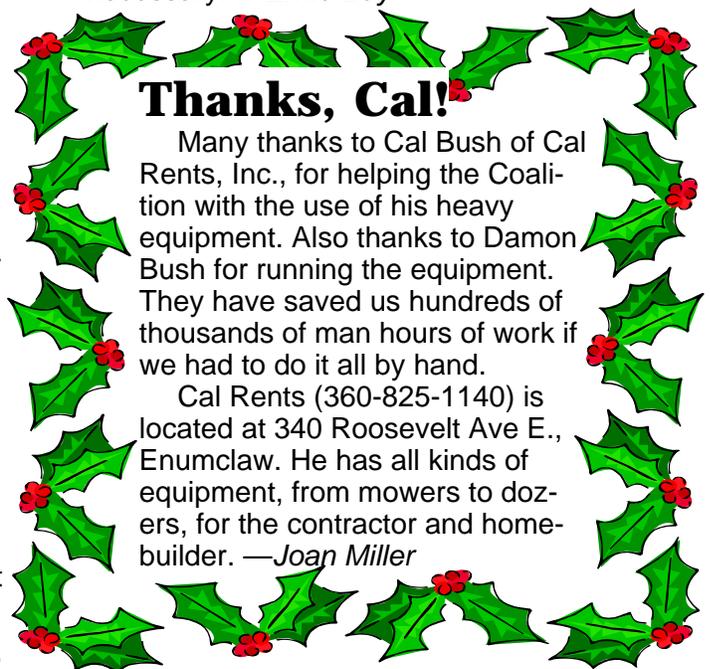
On November 2, the Pierce County Council unanimously approved Ordinance 2004-84 which codifies the definition of a trail and its permissible uses. Ordinance 2004-84 amends Section 14.08.030 of the Pierce County Code by specifying legal trail designations and descriptions. It also amends Section 14.08.060 of the code "to limit trail use to certain motorized means." This amendment adds a subsection to Section 14.08.060 Prohibited Activities, which reads, "It is unlawful for any person to: Knowingly move on a trail other than by human power, horse power, or electrically powered wheelchair. County-owned vehicles and authorized emergency vehicles as defined by RCW 4.04.040 are exempt from this subsection. Movement on the trail for the sole purpose of crossing the trail when such movement is made in the most direct and safe manner possible is exempt from this subsection."

Courtesy patrols will be supplied with written reference to this ordinance to aid them in conveying the message to trail users when necessary. —Ernie Bay

Thanks, Cal!

Many thanks to Cal Bush of Cal Rents, Inc., for helping the Coalition with the use of his heavy equipment. Also thanks to Damon Bush for running the equipment. They have saved us hundreds of thousands of man hours of work if we had to do it all by hand.

Cal Rents (360-825-1140) is located at 340 Roosevelt Ave E., Enumclaw. He has all kinds of equipment, from mowers to dozers, for the contractor and home-builder. —Joan Miller



President's message (continued)

Myrick earlier initiated with a \$10,000 gift. We look forward to the time that this endowment will have grown enough to provide an annual income sufficient to help support paid staff. We sincerely believe this is needed to support a stable and effective organization that will continue well into the future. For more information on how you, too, may add to this endowment, please see the Tacoma Community Foundation article on page 6.

Meanwhile, do not forget that with our extended trail we have many alternative memorial and gift recognition opportunities for the trail in the form of benches, rest stops, trees and inscribed bricks. Income from bricks and trees, in addition to direct gifts to the Coalition, are always appreciated for our ongoing operational costs.

Happy Holidays to all as we look forward to even more exciting accomplishments in 2005. —Ernie Bay

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition announces its Annual Meeting for Thursday, January 27, 2005, 7:30 p.m., at the Puyallup Public Library for the purpose of electing its Board of Directors and conducting other business as may be presented to the Board.

Nominated for the Board of Directors for Three-Year Positions

Ed Davis
John Downs
Buzz Grant
Don Partington

If the membership amends the bylaws at the December board meeting to authorize three more positions, then the following person is nominated for the one-year term: Linda Clark. There are no candidates for the two- or three-year vacancies. In other words:

1 year: Linda Clark. This will become a three-year position in 2006.

2 years: No candidate. This will become a three-year position in 2007.

3 years: No candidate.

In accordance with the bylaws, a member of the Coalition may also be considered an eligible candidate for Director by submitting a petition of nomination to the Board of Directors not less than 21 days

before the annual meeting. Such petition must include the valid signature of ten Coalition members or ten percent (10%) of the Coalition membership, whichever is less.

All members present at the Annual Meeting are entitled to one vote for the Board of Directors. The elected Board of Directors will elect officers at the first board meeting following the Annual Meeting.

Quorum needed at Annual Meeting

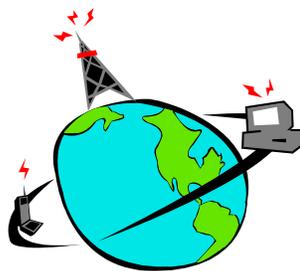
Mark your calendars for our annual meeting on Thursday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m. All Coalition members are encouraged to attend our annual meeting in the south room of the Puyallup Library. Note that we will begin at 7:30 p.m. instead of the normal 7 p.m., due to an earlier occupancy. It is essential that we have a quorum for our annual election of board members and a vote to approve recommended revisions of our bylaws. Please see our web page 'piercecountytrails.org' to review the proposed changes in advance of the meeting. A quorum consists of at least 25 members present. We hope to have more. This meeting will also be an excellent opportunity for members who wish

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How to reach the
Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition



We want to hear from you!

Web page:
<http://piercecountytrails.org/>
Address:
P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA
98371-0021
Telephone number:
253-841-2570
E-mail address:
bugtrail@aol.com

Meeting (continued)

to become more involved in trail activities or who have questions and suggestions for other trails or trail improvements.

Please come a little bit hungry. The meeting will feature a dessert pot luck. See you here!

CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings

December 21 (Tues.),
January 27, February 24,
March 24, April 28

Monthly meetings are held on
4th Thursdays (except Dec.)
from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Puyallup
Public Library, south entrance.
324 South Meridian Street

EVENTS

Annual Meeting

January 27, 7:30 p.m.
Puyallup Public Library

Rainier-to-Ruston Relay

June 4

See story this page.

National Trails Day

June 4

TrailLink 2005

July 27-30

Minneapolis / St. Paul

See story this page.

Work Parties

January 8

Wetland planting sponsored
by Starbucks.

Check the website below or call

Don Partington at
253-863-5307 for details.

Weekly Meetings

At Charlie's Restaurant

Every Wednesday at noon at
Charlie's Restaurant,
113 East Main, Puyallup.
All are welcome.

For more information

Call 253-841-2570

Or email bugtrail@aol.com
<http://piercecountytrails.org>



Kelly Emerick of Tacoma Monumental Works inscribes another course of trail bricks.

National event

Twin Cities host conference

TrailLink 2005, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's international trails and greenways conference, is headed to the Twin Cities. Experience, first-hand, one of the country's most advanced urban trail systems, and be a part of the nation's premier trails and greenways gathering in Minneapolis/St. Paul, July 27-30, 2005.

TrailLink 2005 will introduce you to new trends in trail design and management, showcase area trails by foot and bike, explore the public health impact of trails, provide the latest policy and legal updates and examine other core issues affecting national and international trails—all with a focus on improving communities through expanding trail networks.

For up-to-date conference news and details, visit:

<http://www.railtrails.org/traillink2005>.

Rainier-to-Ruston going public

On June 4, 2005, runners and walkers will participate in the third annual Rainier-to-Ruston Rail-Trail Relay. After two years as a private event, the 2005 relay will be open to the public. All proceeds will go to the Foothills Trail Coalition. The cost is \$25 per person.

The Rainier-to-Ruston starts at the Carbon River Ranger Station and ends at Marine Park in Tacoma, a 50-mile course from mountain to sea. Scheduled for National Trails Day, the event is open to teams of walkers, teams

of runners and "ultra" runners who complete all 50 miles solo.

The Rainier-to-Ruston is currently seeking sponsors for 2005. To inquire about sponsorship, contact John Selby at 253-841-1767. For more information about the relay, go to

www.rainiertoruston.com.

—Jeremy Engdahl-Johnson

Oops, our bad! We misspelled Bev Strodz' name in the last newsletter. Sorry, Bev.



Edgewood Interurban

The City of Edgewood is seeking a professional planning and design consultant to prepare a Master Plan for the city's portion of the Seattle-Tacoma Interurban Trail and associated community open space and parks.

Edgewood's 1.8-mile Interurban Trail is centered in a 100-foot wide Puget Sound Energy right-of-way, stretching east-west along Edgewood's northern border and the Jovita Creek ravine between Military Road and the city of Milton on the west end to West Valley Road and the city of Pacific on the east end. The city of Edgewood has been actively setting the stage for planning and the development of the Interurban Trail, an important recreation, transportation and community development project.

The city's timetable should result in the implementation of a professional services agreement by December 15, 2004. For more details see the "Hot Topics" link on Edgewood's web site: <http://www.ci.edgewood.wa.us>.

Enumclaw

The Enumclaw section of trail is nearly complete. The construction crew has finished the asphalt work for the trail and the parking lot. The crosswalk on Warner Avenue is done, the trail bollards are installed and the waste receptacles are in.

Benches for the trail have been ordered and will be installed within three to four weeks. City staff will now concentrate on the next section of

trail, which will follow SR 410 east from Schucks Auto Supply to the SR 410 crossing location at Second Street. The city hopes to be working on that segment of trail next spring.

The best news of all is that now local residents are using the trail. There are plenty of walkers and joggers out each day along with families riding bicycles. —*John Keates*

Milton

The public works director is continuing the effort to acquire a possible trailhead site at the corner of 28th Avenue and Enchanted Parkway. Though grants have been approved, there is still the need for an official appraisal to be completed before the end of the year. A contract to do this has been signed and we await the results.

Meanwhile, the trail from the I-5 overpass at 70th Ave. E. to 28th Ave. E. is very usable as it received a layer of very light crushed rock some time ago. —*Milton Loflin*

Sumner

Sumner will be putting \$1.2 million into our trail in 2005. We'll build as much of the trail as we can. The full trail will cost \$5 million. I'm hoping that, when

the citizens start using the Sumner trail and get a taste for it, they'll start pushing the city council to complete our part of it. One of the difficult jobs is to acquire the land or easements from property owners for the project. However, I believe it won't take long to finish it, once the trail is started, because it will be so popular.

—*Barbara Skinner, Mayor*

More miles of trail, more acres of wetland

Pierce County Parks Director Jan Wolcott pulled together a great partnership, and on November 12 the region's public got a critical 3.3-mile link in an important trail, plus a 3.5 acre wetland.

The partners in all this, besides Pierce County Parks, are the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, the Pierce County Salmon Recovery/Habitat Protection & Restoration Program and REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.). At the dedication celebration Wolcott read Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg's Proclamation as the earth-moving machines continued their con-

continued on next page

Foothills Trail Coalition Board

President	Ernie Bay	253-848-7718	bugtrail@aol.com
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	Earl Mikkelson	253-862-4509	mikkelse@mindspring.com
	John Olson	253-756-5065	olsonj@cbhp.com
	Russ Matthews	253-939-1611	russ-matthews@comcast.net
	Paul Jacobson	253-848-5585	peejay@nwlink.com

More miles (continued)

struction of waterways and ponds.

Regarding dedication of the new portion of the trail, President Ernie Bay of the Foothills Trail Coalition proudly announced that there are now 11 miles of continuous black-topped trail from the McMillin trailhead on the Puyallup River, through Orting, along the Carbon River and out to South Prairie.

Wolcott introduced Chris Joyce, REI's Tacoma store manager, who explained REI's commitment to stewardship in helping preserve our legacy of trails, rivers and wetlands by supporting projects such as these. REI's gift of \$10,000 provided the REI rest stop and picnic site at the wetland.

Debbie Hyde, who manages the Pierce County Salmon Recovery/Habitat Protection & Restoration Program, was thanked for the large grant, professional planning and leadership in the creation of the new wetland. Enhancement of South Prairie Creek and its tributaries has been a longtime dream of fishing groups up the valley. There will be a total of six acres of wetlands along South Prairie Creek to provide important off-channel rearing habitat for salmon fry.

The "scalping" of acres of reed canary grass is being followed up with plantings of thou-



A happy lineup—Chris Joyce of REI, Ernie Bay, Debbie Hyde and Jan Wolcott enjoy the moment at the REI rest stop, wetlands mitigation site dedication.

sands of native trees, shrubs and emergents, put in place by volunteers under the leadership of Pierce Conservation District Stream Team. "Digger" logs are situated throughout the sloughs and ponds, and tall pilings are driven in for perches and possible nesting platforms.

Taking advantage of the new REI rest stop/picnic area, the celebration party enjoyed a picnic on the trail, with Jan Wolcott roasting the sausages to go with the buns, salads and beverages furnished by REI.

Besides members of the part-

nership, many South Prairie families attended to express their happiness at finally being connected to the trail. Waterfowl enthusiasts talked about the enhancements they plan—nesting boxes for wood ducks and special places for mallard ducks.

John Downs of Tacoma Audubon Society is investigating the possibility of erecting a platform for ospreys to nest atop the huge poles installed around the wetland.

We all agreed, "What a wonderful addition to Pierce County's legacy!" —*Helen Engle*

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Courtesy Patrol members Bill Harmon, Russ Matthews, Dixie and Clay Gatchell and friend share lunch on the trail at REI rest stop dedication.

Help the Foothills trail and yourself

Local rails-to-trails supporters now have more ways to help both rails-to-trails and themselves. For example, they can establish a charitable gift annuity at the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to create a steady, dependable stream of lifetime payments for the donor, then provide for local charities they care about, such as rails-to-trails. Every quarter annuitants will receive the same amount, year in and year out.

Annuities give other benefits, too. Benefits like a good payment

rate (currently 6 percent for age 65, up to 11.3 percent for those 90 or over) and payments that are partially tax-free. Benefits like an income tax charitable deduction and, of course, helping a good cause like rails-to-trails.

To learn more, contact Ernie Bay at 253-841-2570. He can put you in contact with Rose Lincoln at the Community Foundation. Once Rose knows your birth date, the size of the gift you might want to make and whether it will be cash or stock, the foundation can prepare an easy-to-read gift illustration that will show:

- How much you will receive for the rest of your life,
- How much of your quarterly payments will be tax-free,
- How big your income tax charitable deduction will be and
- How your gift annuity can benefit rails to trails.

The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation was established in 1981 to help Pierce County nonprofits and now has more than \$48 million in assets.

By working with the foundation, community members have additional ways to help the charities of their choice. When an annuity designated to help rails-to-trails ends, the remaining funds will go into a permanent endowment at the foundation, with proceeds earmarked for rails-to-trails every year in perpetuity, as long as rails-to-trails exists and retains its charitable tax status. Gift annuities aren't for everyone, and the foundation also has other ways to give.

Foundation personnel can help you determine the best type of gift for you, then give you information to discuss with your own advisors. Give Ernie a call and he will help you arrange for the foundation to provide a tailor-made illustration. There's no obligation to proceed with a gift.



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Puyallup Fair bike winner announced

Jay Crookshank of Rainier was this year's lucky bicycle winner at our Puyallup Fair booth. It was really a surprise to Jay, since it was his wife, Sandra, who actually submitted his name.

"We have never won anything!" exclaimed Sandra, delighted.

Snowbirds, Jay and Sandra, learned the good news just days before departing for Arizona until spring. They are not taking their prize with them, but Jay is looking forward to getting plenty of pedaling exercise upon their return.

"I can step right off my porch onto the trail," said Jay. The couple lives immediately on the Yelm-to-Tenino Trail where it passes through Rainier.



Ernie Bay and Rick Gilmore of Bonney Lake Bicycle Shop with Puyallup Fair bike winners Sandra and Jay Crookshank of Rainier, Wash.

Letter

I just found your web site and think it is really great. I really liked the pictures and descriptions of the trail. My wife and I got our "comfort" bikes last year and have been riding them around our home in University Place. We tried the Cushman Trail here in Gig Harbor, but found it had too many hills. Looking at the Foothills Trail, I think we have found THE place to ride. —Ben Brossard, Gig Harbor

counting procedures. Their total for the first day was well over 500. Some of the exciting finds were the Northern Waterthrush, the Red-eyed Vireo and the Black-throated Gray Warbler to name just a few.

My wife Jeanie and I bike this portion of the trail quite often, and we always carry our binoculars to watch for birds. In the future I plan to stop more often with higher expectations of finding that special song bird or migrant just resting or snacking on their way to some exotic country.

This trail is truly for the birds!
—Vern Sumner

Foothills Trail for the birds

On August 25 and 26 two master birders from our local Rainier Audubon Chapter walked part of the Foothills Trail in search of migrating song birds. Charlie Wright began his report to "Tweeters," an international web site: "With the strong weather fronts of this past week, and southerly winds, I thought this might be a good time to scour some nearby places. So Carol Schulz and I headed down

this afternoon to the Foothills Trail below my house. We parked at the beginning of South Pioneer Road just east of the Carbon River and walked about 1.6 miles toward South Prairie."

I am astonished at the number of birds that Carol and Charlie found on our trail. I counted 47 different species in their report. Many of these came in flocks of 20, 45 and 60. The estimates are based on accepted

The HEIGHTS

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Along the Foothills Trail...

Folks, we kid you not! The *creme de la creme* of a non-motorized linear park trail is now open for business in our own beautiful little corner of the world. How sweet it is to travel, carefree as kids, along the newly-paved extension of the Foothills Trail between McMillin and South Prairie. The distance is now eleven miles per my bike's trusty (?) little odometer. However, for the exact scoop, visit our web site. Bill Harmon, Foothills Board secretary and volunteer, is an expert cartographer whose meticulous map updates of trail construction progress keep us in the loop. Completion of the westward extension from McMillin to Puyallup has been pushed forward to spring 2005. Watch our trail progress as you drive along the Puyallup cutoff road.

Two heart-warming events occurred along our trail in November, proving that mountains move when caring people of great will and high passion join forces to get the job done.

The attractive REI rest stop, made possible by a \$10,000 donation from Recreational Equipment Inc., was dedicated on November 12 at the wetlands mitigation site along the new section of the trail. The ceremony, led by Jan Wolcott, Director of

Pierce County Parks & Recreation, extolled the public and private partnerships and the work of visionary volunteers that conceived and implemented the dream of a Foothills Trail.

Among those on hand so honored were REI representatives Chris Joyce and Luke Syverson, Foothills President Ernie Bay and veteran member Stan Engle, who along with Jan started beating the drums for a trail 18 years ago. Jan demonstrated that he is not only a great park director, but is also a fair-to-middling chef by barbecuing hot dogs (big ones) for those in attendance. Helen Engle is all excited, because the mitigation site with several ponds will become an excellent and hospitable bird habitat. Hundreds of emergents, wetland plants and trees are now in place thanks to the hard work of volunteers from all over the region. Russ Matthews, Foothills planting maestro, will need more planter volunteers on January 8.

On November 11, veterans of all USA wars were honored with the unveiling of a beautifully conceived and landscaped memorial at the South Prairie Fire Station, the current terminus of our trail. Inspired by the heroic actions of a local young hero, Kris Atherton, the South Prairie Cares Committee took his dream for a memorial from conception to completion within about a year. Wilkeson Sandstone donated the impressive

stone. John Downs, Foothills board member and member of the memorial committee, reminds us that donations are still welcome. Bricks sell for \$35 each. Please contact committee president Karen Leming at 360-897-2599.

As we enjoy exploring the new vistas opened along our Foothills Trail, we remind ourselves that we must be as vigilant and tenacious in protecting our trail from adverse intrusions as we were in advocating and supporting it at the start. The Foothills Coalition Courtesy Patrol in their yellow jackets provides a presence on the trail with members dispensing information and aide to trail travelers to the degree possible within our volunteer capabilities. We have no legal authority, so must rely on persuading users through good example and gentle reminders of how to enjoy the trail in a safe and legal manner. Welcome to four new Courtesy Patrol members: Doug and Kathie Carter of Graham and Gully Collier and Lola Kaiser of Orting.

The Safe Rider Citation program, which began mid-August, will continue through December 31. To date, we have given out 90 citations during courtesy stops to children wearing properly-fitted helmets. Sadly, that number represents less than half of the children encountered

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The *Trail Line* News is edited by John Selby at JohnandDottieSelby@att.net.

Newsletter layout is by Sarah Garmire at BSGarmire@cs.com. Photos and captions should be sent directly to her.

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Gatchels (continued)

during our patrols and at the skateboard parks. Kids, keep your eyes peeled for our yellow jackets. If you are wearing a properly-fitted and fastened helmet when we tag you for a courtesy stop, you will receive your delicious Subway deli round just like those other 90 kids.

Fortunately, law enforcement problems are few and mostly minor along the trail. However, the proliferation of all manner of annoying and unsafe little motor-powered bikes and scooters prompted the Pierce County Council to pass unanimously an amendment enforcing the rule that Pierce County trails are for non-motorized usage except as specified (Ref: Ordinance No. 2004-34 (11/02/04)).

We caution Santa Claus and loving parents to get out their magnifying glasses and read the teeny-tiny print at the very bottom of the promotional ads before plunking down a hundred plus bucks for one of those little monsters. It usually reads, "Warning: Use under adult supervision only. The use of electric powered vehicles may be restricted or prohibited by law. Please check with your state or local regulatory offices for further information before purchasing. Please familiarize yourself with restrictions prior to operating this vehicle."

Peace out y'all - and Happy Trails! —*Dixie Gatchel*

Memberships and donations received

\$18 - 25

Wayne Allen, Mary & Dennis Anderson, Gwendolyn Austin, Phyllis & James Bell, Ruth Brennehan, Gail & Charles Bronson, Joan Christnach, June M. Coloff, Dick & Georgean Curran, Herman Diers, Pamela K. Grover, Fred



Gentlemen, start your engines. . . There's trail to be built! A platoon of graders lines up for construction of rail-with-trail from Meeker, near Van Lierop's Bulb Farm, to McMillin

A change of pace on a rainy day

You want to go biking or walking, but it is rainy and foggy in the Puyallup area and you are more a fair weather cyclist or walker. What to do?

Check the weather in the Sequim area. It is in the rain shadow of the Olympic mountains, and there is a good chance it is just cloudy with no rain. Then ride or walk the Olympic Discovery Trail, a 25-mile trail from Sequim to Port Angeles. The trail is 95 percent paved or chip sealed and 5 percent hard packed gravel. Plans are to extend this trail from Port Townsend to La Push. A map and description of the trail is on web site <http://www.olympicdiscoverytrail.com>. —*Russ Matthews*

Hagan, Eric & Peggy Hazen, Nancy Hellyer, Ken Hulett, Susy & Ron Hunt, Bob & Joyce James, Dena Jensen, Lloyd & Phillis Johnson, Suzanne Lewis, Mike & Sharon McPhail, L.J. Medcalf, Larry & Angela Nye, Charles & Phillis Pyle, Linda Robertson, Don Severson, Betty & Michael Smith, Don & Anne Teigen, Treese Vanassche, Elaine Wagner, Gerald Whitehouse.

\$26 - 99

Audrey Lynn Aymonin, Lorne

& Celene Cross, Jane & Steven Galbraith, Patricia Harnish, Mary & James Kenney, Kurt Klingman, Brian & Anna Peterson, John & Lorraine Peterson, John & Barbara Skinner, Kenneth & Kim Schiewetz

\$100 - 499

Michael & Lucretia Berg, Marta & Brian O'Neill, Orting Kiwanis Club, Puget Sound Energy, Ann Tuttle

\$500 +

Ernie & Ellen Bay, Tacoma Wheelmen's Club

Wetlands planting January 8

In conjunction with construction of the Orting to South Prairie section of the Foothills Trail, Pierce County has been improving six acres of wetlands along South Prairie Creek. Among other things, this project will provide important off-channel rearing habitat for salmon fry and turn what was once a field of reed canary grass into a more diverse ecosystem. As a capstone to this project, 40,000 trees, shrubs and emergents are being planted.

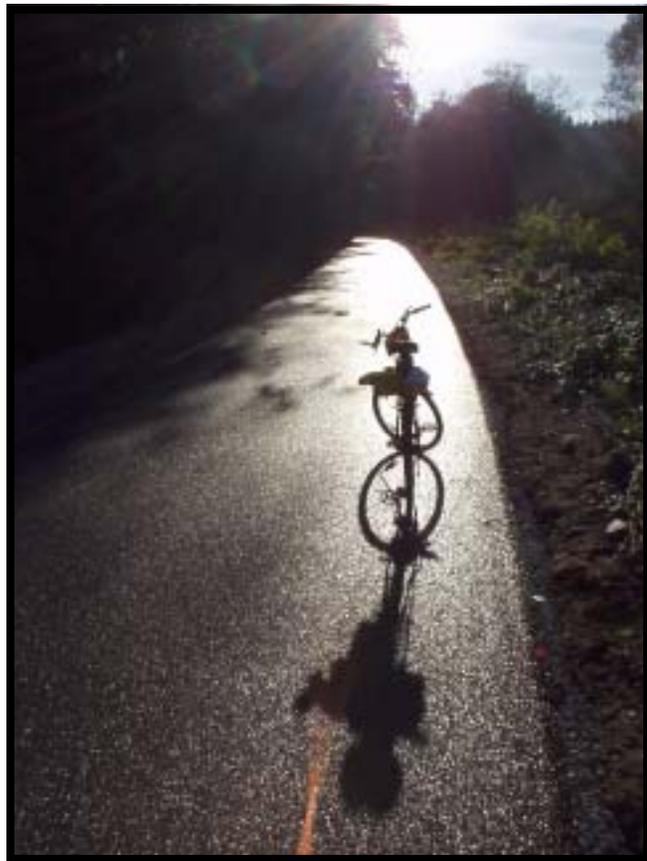
As part of our partnership with Pierce County, the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition has offered assistance in planting this wetland area. The plantings are being coordinated by the county biologist and the Pierce Conservation District Stream Team.

With the help of several hundred volunteers, over one-half of this area had been planted by mid-November. Our thanks to the following volunteers: Cub and Boy Scout Troops, Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), White River, Rogers, Emerald Ridge, Gig Harbor and Puyallup High Schools, Cascade Christian School, University of Puget Sound, Timber Wolf Tree Service, Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition members and other individuals.

Please mark your calendar for January 8 for our next planting, sponsored by Starbucks, which will donate \$10 per hour per person to the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. We hope to see you in January to help with this important project and to raise funds for trail projects. Please check our web site for updated information on this planting. —*Russ Matthews*



Hard work (above) pays off with a silver path (below)—South Prairie to Orting, new pavement glistens in the sunset.



\$13.5 million used to re-build Myra Canyon Trestles

In the summer of 2003 wild fires caused the loss of the historic Kettle Valley Railway trestles through scenic Myra Canyon in Kelowna, BC. Twelve of the wooden trestles were destroyed and the two steel bridges were seriously damaged. At this time there are only four trestles left. Several members of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition have ridden this trail prior to the fires.

Reconstruction of the historic Myra Canyon trestles will begin this fall thanks to a \$13.5 million partnership between the provincial and federal governments, Premier Gordon Campbell and Senator Ross Fitzpatrick have announced.

"The Myra Canyon trestles are a national treasure, a major tourism asset for the Okanagan economy and an invaluable part of our provincial heritage," Campbell said. "The loss of the trestles was a devastating blow, and their reconstruction is a priority for us all. The same spirit of cooperation that helped us face the fires last summer has allowed governments, the community and local residents to work together to rebuild these vital pieces of B.C.'s history."

In October, Premier Campbell appointed a task force to develop a recovery and restoration plan. The task force included representatives from the federal, provincial and local governments and the Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society.

Working from recommendations of a steering committee, the task force selected a plan that includes a combination of scaled-down and historic look-alike rebuilds. Campbell said reconstruction is expected to begin in October on Trestle #18, adding that the reconstruction

plan calls for all work to be complete in 2007.

Built between 1912 and 1914 by Canadian Pacific Railway, the trestles were part of the Kettle Valley Railway that linked the center and southeast regions of the province with the main railway at Hope. Decommissioned in 1973, the rail line was purchased in 1990 by the Province

and transformed into one of British Columbia's most popular hiking and cycling trails. In January 2003, just seven months before the wildfire, the Myra Canyon section of the Kettle Valley Railway, now part of the Trans Canada Trail, was named a National Historic Site.

Each year, 50,000 people visit Myra Canyon and its trestles, generating \$5 million in economic benefits.

Excerpted from The Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada.



Foothills Trail Coalition booth at the 2004 Puyallup Fair.

New Members Always Welcome

If you appreciate the work that we are doing and wish to see more trails, please consider joining us. Foothills Trail memberships start at \$18 single and \$25 family. Credit cards accepted.



- \$18 Single \$25 Couple \$50 Trail Builder
- \$100 Hero Even more! Honorary Member

Trees for the Trail / Orting Trail Kiosk Engraved Bricks

_____ Number of tree(s)

_____ Number of brick(s)

@ \$50 per tree or brick = \$ _____

Name(s) to appear on Tree Tag or Brick _____

Charge my VISA or Mastercard

No: _____ Exp: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____

Mark your categories, mail form and check to:

Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition

P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371-0021

We don't have eternity to realize our dreams, only the time we have here. —*Susan Taylor*, Editor

If you want to achieve great things in your life, you have to take risks. The first risk is daring to feel deeply, to be passionate about what you want and care about. Enthusiasm is the key to breaking through barriers, whether your dream is to touch one person or millions. —*Ken Kragen*, career strategist



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