Veteran marathoner foot-race director Sabina Seher summed up the 2017 Rainier-to-Ruston Relay and Ultra (R2R) event perfectly. “We hit it out of the park,” she happily declared after the 15th annual running of the R2R came to a close June 3 amid tired runners and cheering friends and relatives in brilliant sunshine at Marine Park on Tacoma’s Ruston Way.

Seher and race founder John Selby reported that a new record of 1,360 runners registered for the 51.5 mile event, which began in the foothills of the Cascades near the Carbon River entrance to Mount Rainier National Park. Forty-seven solo or ultra runners completed the entire course through Wilkeson, Orting, Puyallup and Tacoma. In the relay category, 234 teams consisting of two, three, four or six runners made the distance.

“This year we extended the finish line festivities with Georgetown Brewery, some fun music and freshly made grilled cheese sandwiches,” Seher concluded. “We aren’t sure if the runners enjoyed the actual running of the R2R or the finish line more!”

Each year we take constructive feedback to fine-tune the race and make it the most positive experience for everybody, including the residents and businesses. 51.5 miles is indeed a long way. We cross many properties and businesses and cities. Sasquatch cannot thank you enough for allowing this event to happen every year!

**President’s Message**

I would like to thank the 120 Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra volunteers, for without your hard work this event could not take place. Your assistance with mowing the trail and upper parking areas, weed eating different sections of the trail, setting up and taking down the food tables and bell stands, and manning the exchanges is greatly appreciated. The race committee puts in untold hours coordinating volunteers, which in itself is an unbelievable job added to work done on the website and time spent on the day of the race. You all have my heartfelt thanks!

Well, after 17 months of waiting, all the squatters have been removed from our Wilkeson land on Johns Road and State Route 165. Work parties spent two long days in April cleaning the land to make it presentable. We had one 50 yard dumpster which was filled up with “stuff” that was left behind by the squatters. There was even a motorhome they attempted to drive
Pierce County Trails Day
by Chris Beal, President, ForeverGreen Trails

ForeverGreen Trails is spearheading two new trail program initiatives this year aimed at increasing the recognition, use and stewardship of trails countywide.

First, ForeverGreen is promoting the establishment of ‘Pierce County Trails Day’ with local park agencies and other non-profit advocates. Sandwiched between National Trails Day – annually the first Saturday of June, promoted by the non-profit American Hiking Society and Washington State Trails Day – annually the first Saturday in August, promoted by Washington Trails Association – Pierce County Trails Day (PCTD) will be held on July 22, 2017. A day to celebrate trails and get residents of the communities across Pierce County involved in trail use, maintenance and stewardship.

ForeverGreen is compiling a list of host agencies and organization events to be published in a comprehensive event calendar; ForeverGreen hopes to compile a dozen trail events to be held on PCTD.

ForeverGreen is also establishing a new community recognition program known as the ‘Certified Trails Community’ initiative. Under the program, ForeverGreen is looking to designate three communities as ‘Certified Trails Communities’. Under the program, a local agency would need to: 1) Celebrate and officially proclaim ‘Pierce County Trails Day’; 2) Hold a local ‘Trails Day’ event; 3) Establish and implement an ‘Adopt a Trail’ program; 4) Adopt and maintain a local trails master plan; and, 5) Allocate funding and resources annually to the local trails. The idea behind this program is to promote awareness and celebrate the benefits of community and regional trails, engage and educate elected officials, establish an ethic of and robust participation in public trail stewardship across the county, increase trail maintenance activities and local spending on trails and ensure that local planning documents are aligned with the region’s trail priorities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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Mission:
The mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County government and communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is a 503 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

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Foothills Trail Construction Update
by Theresa Turpin, Capital Projects Manager, Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services Department

Progress continues on filling in the missing links on the Foothills Rails to Trail sections between South Prairie and Buckley. Pierce County Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with our Public Works team, has been busy with the following Foothills Trail projects:

Phase 2
The 2,850 linear foot pin-pile bridge construction is nearing completion (may even be completed by time of publication). The construction of the pin-pile is not weather dependent and Pivotta Brothers Construction (PBC) crews have been working through the rainiest October to April on record! Once the pin-pile sections are completed, paving can begin. We are hoping the coming months will be dry enough to allow for paving.

Phase 3
The bids are back and this project has also been awarded to PBC. This section is essentially from bridge to bridge. Phase 3 will open the bridge over South Prairie Creek to travel and will extend east, one mile to the Coalition Bridge, only requiring 160 linear feet of pin-pile bridge. This section passes through the trailer park along highway 162 and will provide the connection past Cascade Junction to the Lower Burnett Bridge (finally!).

Switchback Bridge
The last missing link on this section of the trail is the Switchback Bridge, also known as the FEMA Bridge. The bridge was destroyed by a double stemmed cottonwood in April 2014. The replacement will be a 52 foot arched culvert with a specially designed rock wall. Additionally, Parks Resource Staff has worked with the adjacent property owners and will be removing several cottonwoods in the project vicinity and replanting with native tree species that will be less of a threat to the replacement structure. The request for bids is being prepared. This project possibly won’t start until late summer or early fall. There will also be lead time needed for obtaining the arched culvert. My plans for leading late fall bike ride of the entire section might not come to fruition, but progress continues and the missing links are nearing completion.

As a trail user, it is so exciting to be involved with the Foothills Trail and all the work that is happening to fill in the missing links on the trail! I hope you are as excited as I am with the recent trail progress.
Visions of the Foothills Trail

by Bob Rowan, Editorial Advisory Board Member

Spring is my favorite time of year on the Foothills Trail. Of course, it’s not that I’m yearning for sunshine, green grass and warm weather. After six months of rainy, cold and depressing weather, the concept of a bike ride or walk with family, friends or even solo on a 70 degree day, sounds refreshing. Would anyone out there argue that point? With Spring being half over (as I write this article and select a photograph to go with it), it warms my spirit just to think about a sunny day on the Trail.

Don’t we all want to go to a place where it’s warm, the air is fresh, and the people are all out there for the same reason: to forget about the daily grind and just enjoy the gift of clean air, sunshine and exercise? It is truly a time and place to consider all that is right with life. Go out there. Enjoy the Foothills Trail on your own terms. And replenish your spirit. It’s finally springtime!

2018 Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition Annual Meeting and Dinner

Can you help? We are looking for donated items for a silent auction and raffle to be held, in January 2018, at the annual meeting and dinner for the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. It is not too early to start thinking about what you or your office can donate to help raise money at this dinner to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

If you want to donate or have any questions please contact Bill Hilton, Vice President, Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition at 253 302-1104 or Billhltn@aol.com.
Passing of Bob Kastama
BY DIXIE GATCHEL, BOARD MEMBER

It is with a heavy heart that I write about the passing of Clarence Robert Melvin (Bob) Kastama, long-time community leader and Foothills Trail volunteer. Bob was an outstanding individual and excelled in many facets throughout his life as outlined in a memorial service held in Veterans Park in Puyallup, Washington on June 4. Family members and many friends shared loving memories of our extraordinary Bob at the service along the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail at Veteran’s Park.

It was a beautiful day, at the perfect spot to thank Bob for all he had done for each of us in so many different ways. Bob was the beloved co-founder of our Friends of the Riverwalk, an affiliate of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (FRTTC), and was the prime booster for establishment of Veterans Park. Bob had love in his heart for all life and made us want to be the best we could be. A robust rendition by those present of “The Happy Wanderer” sent Bob off on his next big adventure. During the service John Selby, FRTTC Board Member, was able to present the 2017 Rainier to Ruston Founders Award to Bob and Diane Kastama for their many years of faithful race support and trail stewardship. Happy Trails Dear Friend. Further information can be found at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tribnet/obituary.aspx?n=clarence-kastama&pid=185506493&fhid=14892

Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time.

-Steven Wright
Active Transportation Update

BY DIXIE GATCHEL, ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR

Happenings along the Tahoma to Tacoma Trail Network:

Need is critical for safe multi-modes of alternative (people-powered) transportation connecting people to destinations where they live, work, go to school, shop, catch the bus or train and/or enjoy healthy recreation. The Governors Highway Safety Association cited distraction as the cause of death for 6,000 pedestrians in 2016. It is encouraging to see so much positive going on in Pierce County to advance the cause for active transportation. I was happy to learn that the Rails to Trail Conservancy will be focused on twelve large projects of national significance the next four years to bring world-class, multi-use trails to entire regions of the country. Each project will be a must-visit destination for trail lovers everywhere. Count our Tahoma to Tacoma Regional Trail Network in on that!

Alert! Temporary Closure Foothills Trail 08/01/17 thru 10/31/17

Construction by Puget Sound Energy (PSE) requires a temporary closure of a portion of the Foothills Trail between the East Puyallup Trailhead and 96th Street East in Puyallup. A temporary parking lot will be available near 96th Street East from August 1st thru September 30th to accommodate trail users to the south. In mid-May of this year, PSE began construction of the new eight-mile KV transmission line from the White River substation in Bonney Lake to the Alderton switching station in Puyallup. The work is expected to be completed in October. Work includes building a new 230 KV transmission line by installing new steel poles and new higher capacity conductors (wires). PSE also plans to upgrade the existing Alderton switching station, which is currently designed to accommodate 115 KV transmission lines, enabling to accommodate the increased capacity of the new 230 KV line. The upgrade will require expanding the station’s footprint within PSE’s existing property. For updates, PSE suggested visiting the following website: pse.com/pierce230kv.

Knutson Farms Industrial Park (Shaw Road/Pioneer Way):

The “no significant impact” decision on the part of Pierce County Planning & Public Works in regard to moving forward with this seven mega-warehouse development lacks credibility. It is regrettable that City of Puyallup’s request for input was summarily ignored as was a similar one from the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (FRTTC). Puyallup has reason for concern, because with the future probable annexation it will inherit the multitudinous aftermath. FRTTC considers itself a “stakeholder” because of our desire to connect Puyallup’s Riverwalk Trail with the East Puyallup Trailhead of the Foothills National Recreational Trail. FRTTC will ask the County to designate this as the “Ernie Bay Connector” in honor of long-time trail activist and community leader Dr. Ernest C. Bay. The City of Puyallup has approved the name “Ernie Bay Connector” for its trail segment within the future Van Lierop Park. Funding was approved by the Legislature and work will start in the near future. The last draft of the development map I saw proposed this connection pretty much as it appeared on the wall of Roger Knutson’s office, ie north to the river then west along the levee to the Riverwalk under the RR bridge. However, there is no mention of the trail in the following news article link: www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article149006484.html

Puyallup Watershed Initiative (PWI) Opportunity Fund In-Kind Contributions:

Thanks to PWI and donations over the past three years from The Russell Family Foundation (TRFF), the FRTTC has been able to start an Opportunity Fund with a current balance $25,300. The purpose of the Opportunity Fund is to have matching funds ready to help bolster award of trail-type projects administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and other governmental bodies. For the first time the year four TRFF application requires applicants to list

What is Active Transportation?

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
Sasquatch, of course, is Mr. Selby, who again donned his hairy traditional costume and, sweating profusely in the heat, entertained runners and fans along the course. Although this year’s event was considered a success in terms of total participation, Selby said the number of Ultra runners, once as high as 71, continued a declining trend, and the Race Committee has announced that the Ultra category will be discontinued, so that volunteer and sponsor resources can be focused in the future on the increasingly popular relay competition.

An old friend showed up this year: The R2R Mayor’s Cup. After a team representing Buckley in 2014 claimed the trophy, the glass artifact was broken and the award was dropped. But race leaders recently discovered the trophy was repairable and put it back into service this year. The “Start Slow Then Taper Off” team of Tacoma won the award this year with a time of 6:09:19. Congratulations as well to the following new record holders for 2017:

• 3-runner Male team, The Skeleton Ran Out of Shampoo in the Shower, set a new record of 6:02:56.
• 3-runner Female team, C-City Runners, #4 set a new record of 7:03:39.
• 4-runner Male team, #hashtag, set a new record of 5:14:05.
• 4-runner Female team, Fierce Fast Females, set a new record of 7:04:59.
• 6-runner Female team, 6 Shades of Grey: Sometimes you have to get dirty, set a new record of 6:27:46.
• 6-runner Mixed team, Tarts & Farts, set a new record of 6:08:52.

The annual Founder’s Award went to Bob and Diane Kastama in recognition of their volunteer work for the R2R and their leadership in Friends of the Riverwalk, the popular trail in Puyallup. The award was presented the day after the race at a memorial service for Bob Kastama, who died earlier this year.

The R2R, sponsored by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition and Fleet Feet Sports, is held each year on National Trails Day, the first Saturday in June. It is designed to call attention to the coalition’s goal of linking Mount Rainier National Park and Tacoma with a 51.5 mile recreational trail accessible to runners, walkers and other non-motorized recreationists.

The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition has a mission with this event; to raise public awareness of the trail system as well as give 100% of the race proceeds towards the purchase and maintenance of the trail system the runners enjoy on race day.

We certainly hope to see you on June 2, 2018 if not as a runner or volunteer as a sponsor of this epic event.

Please don’t forget that we also have a FAST paced race called the Buckley to Orting (B&O) Half Marathon on July 22! If interested in participating or volunteering please visit the following website: https://www.rainierstoruston.com/b-o-half-marathon/.
My idea for this event was that it could be enjoyed by runners who wanted to experience one of the most beautiful and pristine parts of Pierce County, as well as draw attention to the Foothills Trail. Organized by our Race Director and a team of over 120 volunteers, this event is not only unique, but a great experience for runners throughout the Northwest and beyond. We call it ‘An adventure in your own backyard!’

- John Selby, Founder

15th Annual Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra

June 3, 2017

*1360 REGISTRANTS* (a new record)

47 ULTRAS
3-2 PERSON TEAMS
3-4 PERSON TEAMS
139-6 PERSON TEAMS

Photographs by Bob Rowan © 2017

Ingrid Barrentine - 37 years old. From Tacoma.

I ran the R2R for the first time with a group of 6 women. We called ourselves “Females are Strong as Hell!” which was surprisingly appropriate! One of our runners was 9 months pregnant - she ran her 2.7 mile leg with an average pace of 10:30! Two others were injured and couldn’t run, but they showed up anyway and power walked four legs of the race. The rest of us ran personal bests - picking up the slack. The teamwork and camaraderie made the day one that I won’t soon forget. I can’t wait to sign up for next year’s race!

Theresa Downs, Volunteer: “As a multi-year volunteer for the R2R, my responsibility this year was to stand on the trail, and show the runners directions at a highway crossing along the route. It was such fun to wish them luck and see them all with smiles on their faces as they ran by. Volunteering for this event is always a great experience, and I highly recommend it to all”.

Bob Rowan, Photographer: “I’ve had the pleasure of photographing the R2R for 11 years. Watching it grow and succeed year after year, I’ve observed that it is one of the best organized and respected running events anywhere. The small towns and unmatched scenery along the route are unique to the event. The runners and spectators along the trail are always upbeat, a little crazy and good spirited. It is a great event that just keeps getting better.”
“My idea for this event was that it could be enjoyed by runners who wanted to experience one of the most beautiful and pristine parts of Pierce County, as well as draw attention to the Foothills Trail. Organized by our Race Director and a team of over 120 volunteers, this event is not only unique, but a great experience for runners throughout the Northwest and beyond. We call it ‘An adventure in your own backyard!’”

-John Selby, Founder

Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra

National Trails Day

Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra

June 3 2017

*1360 REGISTRANTS* (a new record)
47 ULTRAS
3-2 PERSON TEAMS 14-3 PERSON TEAMS
72-4 PERSON TEAMS 139-6 PERSON TEAMS

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From Tacoma.

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How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?

BY JOHN SELBY, BOARD MEMBER

Here’s your chance to win a free membership renewal in the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. If you can describe the location of the photo below before anyone else does, you will win a one-year individual membership renewal. (Sorry, board members are excluded.)

The photo in the March issue was of the Fennel Creek Trail in Bonney Lake. I suspected it might be a hard one, but no-one even guessed! Come on, folks! Get out there and try a trail you haven’t been on yet.

Let’s see how well you do on this really easy one. It’s a repeat from the June 2014 issue, because no one even tried to guess it either! Please respond to JohnSelby16@gmail.com with your answer to “How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?” Good luck! The winner will be announced in the next issue. If you don’t know your Pierce County trails well enough to guess, then get out there and explore them! You are missing out!

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collections to projects by providing either cash or in-kind contributions up to 50% of project. In-kind support includes direct costs; donations; donated labor provided to project; donated materials or supplies provided free; or donated or real property or transfer of or transfer of privately owned real property at a low cost or free to the sponsor. We need to review our current methods of documenting in-kind volunteer labor so that our super hard-working trail crews know what they are doing so well. Happy Safe Trails!
into Gale/Wilkeson Creek that would have been a mess, but mud stopped them 15 feet from the stream. They cut down a 43 year old fir tree out of spite that was a crowning jewel on the property. We are in the planning stages of how to develop the land to maximize the value on resale by the Coalition. The profits we are able to return to the Coalition’s coffers will enhance work we will be able to do on trails throughout Pierce County, which is our primary job.

By the time you read this the section of the Foothills Trail from the end of the paving (Fitzer’s Mill) in Buckley to 268th Street East about 3/4ths of a mile with 2850 feet of elevated walk way will be completed by Pierce County and their contractor. For now you will need to go back the same way you came, but hopefully sooner than later trail users will be able to travel all the way to South Prairie on the last phase of the Buckley to South Prairie construction.

I once again want to thank ALL of our volunteers. Without your hard work and dedication the Foothills Trail would not exist. Together we are building a legacy of multiuse trails that will be enjoyed for many generations to come. Great work everyone!

Happy Trails

Photos by Daryl Dinwitte
Memberships/Donations

The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is a non-profit organization with a mission to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance, and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mount Rainer to Puget Sound. The following people and organizations have renewed their memberships or made a donation between November 2016 - January 2017.

Adair, Gene, Alan & Eloise
Aldrich, John & Becky
Allen, Wayne & Susan Armstrong
Althauser, Heidi & Jerry
Anderson, Jim
Angeline, Vernon E
Arnold, Bob & Mariella
Aymonin, Audrey Lynn
Baczuk, Lesley
Bailey, Eleanor
Barclay, Janet R.
Beadle, Marlene
MARLENE’S MARKET & DELI
Berry III, John Ernest
Bond, Clayton & Becky
Bowden, Bryan & Beth
Brenneman, Ruth E.
Bridges, Paulette
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Brown, Jack & Billee
Brown, Julie
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Johnson, Burton & Doris
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Low, Verdelle & Emma
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Marsee, Don & Jill
Martin, Bruce & Helen
Matthews, Russ
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Moore, Jane & Hugh
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Ohlsen, Allan
Olexick, Nancy & Rick
Olsen, Walter & Martha
Osborn, Robin
Otis, Harley & Jeanette
Pagoria, Philip
Parkington, Sumner
Partin, Dwight
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Partington, Don & Robin
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Peachey, John
Pearson, Nancy
Pease, Karen
Peranzi, John
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Peterson, Lowell & Janet
Peterson, Lorraine
Petranovich, Jeanne
Phibbs, Philip and Gwen
Pierson, Beverly
Pigott, Judy
Piper, Linda
Pitigliano, Audrey
Purbaugh, John & Julie Barnett
Qualey, Paul W.
BONNEY LAKE BICYCLE OF SUMNER
Quintella, Joseph & Karen
Rich, Donald & Janet
Ried, Terry
Roening, Marcus & Heather Ballash
Root, Earl & Joan
Sailer, David & Gwen
Sanborn, Phillip & Jean
Sanderson, J.R. & D.E.
Scheuerman, Stuart & Nancy
Schler, Judith S.
Schultz, Betsy & David
Schulz, Rainer
Scofield, Stephen P & Julie Ann
Selby, John
Shedd, James & Joyce
Siegenthaler, Mary
Skinner, John & Barbara
Sleet, George & Gail
Slettvet, Steven M.
Smith, Dainel W.
Spanier, Scott & Lorry
Stanley, Philip
Stark, Galen (Lynnette Arthur)
Strodtz, Beverly & Gary
Sundstrom, Marvin & Sandra
Tacoma Washington Bicycle Club
Taranovski, Gisela
TerLouw, Joe & Ruth
Thorsheim, Joel
Tibeau, Linda
TOYOTA of PUYALLUP
Tremblay, Milt Buckley Council

Member
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Tucci, Margol & Joseph SR
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Vogel, Bob & Koko
Volland, Larry & Barbara
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Warhol, John & Carolyn
Weis, George & Marie
White, Johathan
Whitehouse, Gerald
Wickett, Judy
Wilkinson, Robert & Corrine
Wise, Joe H
Wiseman, C.R. & V.J.
Wolcott, Jan & Shirley
Woolery, Ken
Worley, James and Marlyce
Wyatt, Virginia
Young, Robert & Patti
R & P ENTERPRISES
Meetings:

**Monthly Board Meetings:**
Open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Thursday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Heritage Quest Research Library located at 1007 Main St., Sumner. Monthly meetings may be rescheduled, so check our website at www.piercecountytrails.org for changes.

**Friends of the Riverwalk Committee:**
We are an informal group of volunteers devoted to the enjoyment and betterment of the Puyallup Riverwalk. Please join us for most Monday mornings* at 8 a.m. at Mrs. Turner’s Restaurant, 701 East Main, Puyallup. We also have a group walk that starts at 9 a.m. following the meeting and is open to those who would like to join us. *Call prior to confirm in case of cancellation. Bill Hilton (253) 302-1104, billhltn@aol.com, or Janet Rich, dcnjlrich@msn.com, Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447.

**Charlie Chat - Weekly Luncheon:**
Informal luncheons every Wednesday from 12-1 p.m. at Charlie’s Restaurant, 113 East Main, Puyallup. All are welcome to come and share what they have been doing to promote the mission of the Coalition. No business is conducted even if a quorum of members is present.
Pierce County Trails Day Continued from Page 2

Both of these projects are grant funded – ForeverGreen received funding from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and the Active Transportation Community of Interest program. Do you have an idea for an event you’d like to host on PCTD? Any project that is trail related is eligible – a trail walk, a 5K event, trail maintenance project, etc. are acceptable projects. Contact ForeverGreen Program Coordinator Heather Rawley to register your event now: Rawley.forevergreentrails@gmail.com

Membership makes a difference!
The work we are doing is made possible because of your membership and generous support. Credit cards accepted.

☐ $20 Single
☐ $30 Family
☐ $50 Pathfinder
☐ $100 Trail Builder
☐ $200 Corporate  (Includes a 1 year ad in the Trail Line News)
☐ Please email my newsletter to __________________________

The Mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County government and communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

Pay online using Pay Pal  http://www.piercecountytrails.org/become-a-member/

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