Upper Carbon River-Community Service Work Party

by Tom Faubion, Back Country Horsemen and Coalition Member

On Saturday February 4, 2017, eight Eatonville High School students chose to perform their mandatory ten hours of Community Service with Pierce County Back Country Horsemen (BCH). The work project was to rebuild a section of trail that had been destroyed by the up-rooting of an old growth Spruce tree. The hole created caused exposure of roots of another large tree jeopardizing the long term health of the tree. With buckets and shovels the crew took gravel and rock out of the bank of the river and spread it over the roots re-creating the trail tread.

On January 7, 2017 a group of 11 Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (FRTTC) volunteers opened almost one half mile of the Foothills Trail in the Cascade Junction area, east of South Prairie and west of the Coalition Bridge. This area was covered by blackberry bushes nearly seven feet high. We cut only downed trees which were all blocking our passage. This volunteer work will save the tax payers and Pierce County a good deal of money. Now County surveyors, wetland people and the future contractor will have a much easier time analyzing what is needed to do to construct this section of the Foothills Trail for a hopeful completion by the end of 2017. Opening of the completed core of the Foothills Trail from Puyallup through Alderton, McMillin, Orting, Crocker and South Prairie to Buckley will be just after the beginning of 2018.

It was a day with strong rain and generally miserable conditions, but the students worked hard and accomplished all of the project in time to extend the day into an additional five miles of trail improvement. The trail had large puddles of water creating mud affecting all of the trail users. The crew dug large drains for the puddles eliminating them and giving the trail the chance to dry out over time.

The Upper Carbon River Trail has been created by the joint efforts of the Pierce County BCH and the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. While the entire trail runs from Ruston to Buckley in eastern Pierce County, the section constructed jointly is about six miles long and provides the link between the Foothills Trail and Mount Rainier National Park. The trail is now about two-plus miles short of tying into the Park, but it is hoped that once easement issues are cleared, it will complete the distance making about 54 miles of trails for use by trail users.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
President’s Message Continued from Page 1

Colquhoun, George Sleet, and last, but certainly not least Clay Gatchel.

Now, on to the completion of the Foothills Trail connection to the Mountain from Cascade Junction through Wilkeson, Carbonado, Melmont, Fairfax and on to Mount Rainier National Park.

Tony Tipton, Director of Pierce County Parks and Recreation has moved on to new challenges as Special Assistant in the Pierce County Finance Department. Tony has been great to collaborate with on all Parks related work. Tony, we will miss you but congratulations, and we know you will still be around. Scott Hall, long time Pierce County Parks and Recreation manager has been named Interim Director of Pierce County Parks and Recreation. Congratulations to Scott, and we look forward to helping build for the future with you. These changes and others were announced by the newly elected Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier - congratulations on your new job!

We are quickly approaching our busy season with many work parties to improve and maintain the trail for recreational users as well as the many upcoming events that will involve the Foothills Trail. A couple big events that we are already at work on are the Rainier to Ruston Relay and Ultra and Buckley to Orting Half Marathon. Routine trail maintenance may seem redundant to some, but it is necessary to ensure everyone’s enjoyment while they use the trail for recreational or event purposes. It’s always trail season, so grab your gloves, boots, and enthusiasm and come on out and join us for a work party. No experience necessary.

Like any organization the FRTTC has many moving parts that keep us moving forward. Each and every person that gets involved, even in a seemingly small way to them, is a member of the Coalition team and helps us ALL of us build trails for future generations, one small, or large, stone at a time. So grab your gloves, computers, ideas, time, or knowledge and join us for this exciting year ahead!

---

Foothills Trail Coalition Board

President: Gordon “Buzz” Grant (253) 845-4991, railroadbuzz@comcast.net
Vice President: Bill Hilton (253) 302-1104, BillHilton@aol.com
Secretary: Stuart “Stu” Scheurman (253) 863-8832, snese91@msn.com
Treasurer: Loras Gassmann (253) 862-1157, LAGassmann@msn.com
Board Members: Bryan Bowden (253) 820-1486, bryanbowden@live.com
          Steve Brown (253) 752-4038, tacomabike@yahoo.com
          Dixie Gatchel (253) 435-0452, gatcheldb@q.com
          Dave Harman (360) 893-3460, dharmanw@hotmail.com
          Pat Johnson (360) 829-2068, pat.johnson@ix.net
          Donald “Don” Rich (253) 381-8547, dcjohnrich@msn.com
          Dave Seago (253) 761-8708, davesago@gmail.com
          John Selby (253) 841-1767, JohnSelby66@gmail.com
          John Warhol (253) 347-0325, warhol66@comcast.net
          Ken Woolery (253) 863-4773, kwoolery@comcast.net
          Don Partington (253) 863-5307, cedarfamily@comcast.net

Publisher:
The Trail Line News is published quarterly by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371. Our website is http://www.piercecountytrails.org/ and our email address is foothillstrail@msn.com.

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.

Trail Supporter Ads:
Trail Supporter ads are published for a fee of $25 per quarter or $100 for one year, paid in advance to the Coalition and sent to the Ad Manager, Loras Gassmann, P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA.

Editing:
The Trail Line News is edited by Bill Hilton, FTCeditor@gmail.com. (253) 302-1104

Website:
Brandcraft Media - Torey Azure, Puyallup, WA (253)-770-3144

Layout:
The Trail Line News is designed by Charlene Binfet 253-951-8954, joenchar@hotmail.com.

Printing:
The Trail Line News is printed at L&L Printing and Graphics (253) 848-5546.
Tracking Progress of Safe, Affordable, Active Transportation for Everyone

by Dixie Gatchel, Active Transportation Coordinator

Foothills Trail - South Prairie to Buckley (Phase 2)

Actually experiencing the magnificent pin-pile bridge up close on a recent visit blew my mind. The ongoing construction work during Phase 2 includes paving and constructing a new small bridge over an intermittent stream. Phase 3, the connection through Cascade Junction to So. Prairie, will start this summer, completing by the end of 2017 19 miles of paved trail from Buckley to Puyallup.

Helping to Raise Money for Unfunded Repair Job

Trail users going from the newly constructed part of the trail, near the pin-pile bridge, to the seriously damaged old paved 2008 part are in for a bumpy ride due to serious damage caused by tree root incursion from the bordering cottonwoods. In January, the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition applied for a $50,000 grant from the Doppelt Transformation Fund administered by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. A decision is due this summer.

Riverwalk to Foothills Meeker Trailhead

The 4.1 mile Riverwalk Trail currently ends under the railroad bridge on East Main Avenue behind Stortinis. Bicyclists and pedestrians currently must travel the very narrow 134th Avenue East, shared with motor vehicles, to reach the Foothills East Puyallup (Meeker) Trailhead. Construction on Riverwalk Phase VI, Option A (From the Stortini trailhead along 134th Avenue East and crossing Van Lierop Park to join the Meeker Trailhead) is funded and will begin as soon as conditions permit. The City of Puyallup approved “Ernie Bay Connector” as the name for the overall connection in honor of our late president emeritus Dr. Ernest C. Bay. The Shoreline Alignment Option B (Would run along the Puyallup River and provide a link between the Stortini and Meeker trailheads) is preferred. We have grave concerns about severe traffic congestion impacts which will occur if Pierce County approves the massive Mickelson warehouse development in this beautiful, fragile area. This is especially so due to any degree of public disclosure or input regarding the negotiations. We are especially concerned that the City of Puyallup was refused co-lead status in the negotiations since they are mandated to annex the area in the future.

Continued on Page 9
Visions of the Foothills Trail

by Bob Rowan, Editorial Advisory Board Member

When it snows, as we just witnessed, it can be a winter wonderland on the Foothills Trail. Depending on the temperatures, snow and ice can linger for days. To my knowledge, this paved trail is never plowed. I have seen people snowshoe, ride bikes and walk there. It is all good; solo or with friends. This photograph was made after a healthy snow and includes a colorfully dressed person walking on a bridge on the Foothills Trail near Crocker. There is a large parking lot, a picnic area for family or friends and the Carbon River runs under the bridge less than a quarter mile up the hill. On a snow laden, sunny winter’s day it is as strikingly beautiful a location as anywhere you may find in Pierce County.

Many people nowadays live in a series of interiors… disconnected from each other. On foot everything stays connected, for while walking one occupies the spaces between those interiors in the same way one occupies those interiors. One lives in the whole world rather than in interiors built up against it.

- Rebecca Solnit
Wetlands or Victory Bridge History

by Buzz Grant, Coalition President

The Wetlands or Victory Bridge on the Foothills Trail is Pierce County Bridge No. PRT 27195 E, located between SR 162 (Old Pioneer Way) and South Prairie - Carbon River County Road East, northerly of the Carbon River and between the Town of South Prairie and the City of Orting. It is 1388 feet northerly of Northern Pacific Railroad and Foothills Trail’s Milepost 22.

This bridge/trestle has great significance to the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (Coalition) and the Foothills Trail in general. This was the last of the major court cases concerning the Citizens Against the Trail (CAT) and their fight to stop the construction of the Foothills Trail. This bridge is where CAT’s back was broken (thus Victory) and Mary Harris and her group were finally defeated after many attempts to stop the trail.

What happened? Well like any battle in any war there are turning points and this bridge is our turning point. Ms. Harris got a Decree in Pierce County Superior Court in an attempt to convert 250 to 300 feet of land adjacent to the Northern Pacific Railway Right of Way that she owned into over 4000 feet of right of way, this might be called “land grabbing” without giving notice to adjacent owners, which could be interpreted as a violation of her own call to arms, “The adjacent owners of the railroad right of way are entitled to railroad right of way.”

As the story goes Ms. Harris got her first Decree in Superior Court then she and some cohorts went to work. Greg Horne, president of Ski Park Farms that is adjacent east across the county road heard chains saws cutting on this bridge and being a trail supporter went to see what was going on. Shall we say words were exchanged and a member of the Pierce County Sheriff’s Office stopped by to talk with all of the people and ordered CAT to cease and desist until the courts could decide on the situation. Within very few days orders were filed with the Court and Ms. Harris won once again in Pierce County Superior Court in front of the same judge. Now we start the Appeal process, two hearings in the Washington State Appellate Court and one the State Supreme Court all were lost by Ms. Harris. She knew those judges did not understand, so she appealed to the United States Supreme Court who refused to hear the case, because they felt it was a state’s right type case, thus Ms. Harris lost in the highest court in the land. A hard fought victory for supporters of the Coalition, which took five years of litigation. We won in all the

Continued on Page 7
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 Rainier to Puget Sound. The following people and organizations have renewed their memberships or made a donation between November 2016 - January 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Berry III, John Berry</th>
<th>Hughes, Donald</th>
<th>Parks, Ann</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Dees &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Irion, Raymond</td>
<td>Pasquier, Carolyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coblio, Nicholas &amp; Teri</td>
<td>Johnson, Bertil &amp; Nancy</td>
<td>Quintella, Joseph &amp; Karen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davidson, Madeline</td>
<td>Jondall, Charmian</td>
<td>Remboski, Calaude &amp; Pam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlow, Tom</td>
<td>Kerr, Adam</td>
<td>Rudd, William &amp; Sandra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frazer, Philip &amp; Dawn</td>
<td>Manke, Kathleen – The Spar</td>
<td>Sacklin, John &amp; Sandra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gant, Colleen &amp; Douglas</td>
<td>Marlene’s Market</td>
<td>Spooner Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gard, Lori</td>
<td>Martineau, Nicole</td>
<td>The Old Cannery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gassmann, Loras &amp; Carolyn</td>
<td>Meshke, Beth &amp; Davis</td>
<td>Townsend, Carol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giddings, William &amp; Rochell</td>
<td>Miller, John &amp; Joyce</td>
<td>Wilkerson Historical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gipe, Betsy &amp; Rob</td>
<td>Palmer, John</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support the Foothills Trail-Re-signup for Fred Meyer Rewards Program

This is a great way to raise money for our Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition without any cost to your personal Fred Meyer Rewards. Our supporting households dropped from 190 to 76 because some folks missed the notice shown below. It is not too late to re-sign-just follow instructions in letter shown below. Please spread the word to your friends as well and ask them to enroll and watch our Foothills Trail grow or get your friends to sign up as well.

Community Rewards Customer Re-enrollment - #94355

Dear Nonprofit Community Rewards Participant (Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition), Fred Meyer Community Rewards Customer Re-enrollment began on June 1, 2016 and goes through June 30, 2016. Your supporters who have their Rewards Card linked to your organization will be notified about the re-enrollment process via an email that will easily allow them to choose to re-link their Rewards Card to your organization. Please note that all households that do not re-enroll during this period will be dropped on July 1. Your supporters may still re-link their Rewards Card online after the re-enrollment period by visiting: www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

Thank you
Wetlands or Victory Bridge History

Continued from Page 5

courts except Pierce County Superior Court. Some court expenses were paid by Ski Park Farms, a major portion by the Coalition and a lot of pro-bono (un-paid) work by Donna Roper, nee’ Donna Tait (Who passed in November 2016) of the Tacoma law firm of Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, Malanca, Peterson & Daheim as well as attorneys Bradley Maxa and Stephanie Arend who are now judges, all participated on different parts of the appeals.

Ski Park Farms conveyed the land it acquired including the Wetlands or Victory Bridge to Pierce County Parks & Recreation shortly after the final court order.

The expenses were a major drain at that time on the small non-profit Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, but the end result was well worth it because CAT never made another successful attempt at stopping the trail.

In early 1998 the Coalition, under advice from Pierce County Public Works, started refurbishing the Wetlands Bridge under a matching grant from the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) $25,000 RCO and $35,000 Foothills Coalition.

Duane Hankins and Don Partington supervised the 30 plus people who did the volunteer work on the 195 foot long bridge. We replaced quite a few rotten railroad ties and the ties previously cut by Ms. Harris. Coalition Director Ken Woolery remembers going under the bridge with Public Works people to look for rotten ties and such. When removing the old ties there were two areas that jutted out to hold two - 55 gallon drums of water on each 5 foot by 16 foot space for firefighting in the steam engine days. Well, the balance was upset by the tie removal and about five or six people had moved out of the way when suddenly their weight on that jutted out section did about a 15 second slow roll into the wetlands four feet below. It was very humorous as long as no one got hurt and there was a lot of laughing afterwards.

Work started on weekends near the end of July and was completed on August 15th. The bridge was decked with 40 of what are called glue-lams sections. A glue-lam is 12 foot long 2x4’s with three six foot long bolts and nuts. The 2x4’s are set on their side, glue injected and the nuts and bolts tightened thus making a piece of decking 12 feet by 6 feet by 3 & 5/8ths inches thick weighing 500 to 600 pounds.

The jutting out platform that had been used by the railroad for water drums was converted to include benches for sitting and looking out over the wetland. The wetlands were formed by a small creek that flows from Ski Park Farms under South Prairie Carbon River Road and into a low lying marsh under the bridge/trestle between the two roads and then flows into South Prairie Creek.

Putting YOU first since 1970.

TOYOTA
OF PUYALLUP

customer first.

253.286.6000 – toyotapuyallup.com
1400 River Road

The OLD CANNERY
Furniture & Mattress Warehouse

13608-A Valley Avenue East • Sumner 98390
http://www.oldcanneryfurniture.com
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 December issue was of the Wetlands Bridge on the Foothills Trail west of Ski Park Lake. It was guessed by Carol Townsend. Congratulations, Carol! You know your Pierce County trails!

Let’s see how well our members do on this easy one. 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!

I love running because it’s the one thing I do every day and never regret.

-Katie Mackey

Planning a trail vacation?

Rambletown
http://rambletown.appspot.com/
is an excellent website that features geocoded trail information in their GoogleMaps.

The Rails-To-Trails Conservancy has also been mapping trails nationwide on their trail finder site at http://www.traillink.com featuring detailed trail information, guidebook descriptions and trail reviews.
coming June 2nd. Any amount received will be given to Pierce County as leverage towards the estimated $290,000 for re-paving and removing root barriers from trail. The Coalition just wants to have our Foothills National Recreation Trail to be spiffy from stem to stern for the future grand completion dedication.

Happy Trails

Photo by Buzz Grant

What is Active Transportation?

AT = 🚴‍♂️ + ⛩️ + 🚶‍♂️ + 🚄 + You

Organic, natural & local ...like you!
Federal Way 253.839.0633 - Tacoma 253.472.4080
marlennesmarket-deli.com

Foothills Trail Coalition
Thanks For Your Support!

JEREMIAH MEACHAM
OWNER
360-829-5156
buckleywa@anytimefitness.com
135 Jefferson Avenue
Buckley, WA 98321
www.anytimefitness.com/buckley
Calendar of Events

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, billhltm@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.

Washington State Bike Summit - March 20-21, 2017
Red Lion Hotel; Olympia, WA
Don’t miss the statewide bike conference in the #1 Bicycle Friendly State in America! Advocacy training, the latest in bikeway design guides, legislative visits on Active Transportation Lobby Day (Tuesday March 21), the intersection of bicycling with health, equity, and other subjects, and much, much more. Keynote speakers: Dr. Adonia Lugo on bicycling and social justice, and Ian Mackay on his journey from Port Angeles to Portland via electric wheelchair that highlighted the need for complete, accessible connections. For more information please use the following web link: https://www.cascade.org/connect/washington-bike-summit.
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/

Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard  CCV (3 DIGIT NUMBER)  Exp._____
Name: ____________________________
Address: _______________________________________
City: __________________ Zip:_____________________
Phone: __________ Signature:_____________________
Email: ____________________________

Mark your categories, mail form and check to:
Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
P.O. Box 192,
Puyallup, WA 98371-0021

UPPER CARBON RIVER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In spite of the inclement weather a great amount of work was accomplished and students who had no previous involvement with trail work were given the opportunity to contribute to trail use on the Upper Carbon River.