Riverwalk Walking Club
BY CAROLYN WARHOL, COALITION AND DAFFODIL VALLEY VOLKSPORT MEMBER

Friends of the Riverwalk, a sub-committee of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition and guardians/promoters of the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail, wanted the trail to be used, enjoyed, and loved by all so it was decided to start a walking club. Approximately a year and a half ago, I started putting up flyers and contacted our local newspaper to advertise this new walking club and the club was formed. There are no meetings and no dues, there is only walking on a beautiful trail.

The walking club meets every Monday morning, rain or shine, in the back parking lot of Mrs. Turner’s Café on East Main Street in Puyallup. The walkers alternate between the two sections of the Riverwalk Trail - one week going east for approximately a 5K round-trip and the next week going west for a 7K round trip. The group starts walking at 10 a.m. on the dot. Depending on the weather, there are from five to twenty-five walkers that participate. They spread out on the trail depending on their walking speed.

The main organizers of the group are Nancy Wittenberg, John Warhol, and Carolyn Warhol. These three, along with being members of the Friends of the Riverwalk are very involved in volksmarching and belong to a local club, Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association.

The Monday morning walks are also advertised on the internet. The Website is located at www.meetup.com/South-Sound-Walkers and advises of walk in the greater Puyallup-Tacoma-Olympia area that are generally hosted by local Volkssport clubs. Through this site, many people searching for a walking group have been able to find us.

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President’s Message
BY BUZZ GRANT, COALITION PRESIDENT

It has been a very interesting Spring and Summer for the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (Coalition).

Back in December 2011 the Coalition purchased 11.5 acres of land at the real estate tax foreclosure sale of Pierce County as an investment. On April 15, 2013, we conveyed said property to the National Park Service to help expedite their expansion of Mount Rainier National Park. That made the Coalition a partner in this very worthwhile expansion project.

Personnel from both the Coalition and ForeverGreen Trails spoke at the June 4, 2013, meeting of the Pierce County Council in favor of part of an amended budget for Pierce County. Our participation was in favor of money being transferred to the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department to purchase land to complete the trail through Dwight Partin’s South Prairie RV Park in South Prairie. The date of writing this is August 16, 2013, and yet the ongoing saga of purchasing from Mr. Partin since 1998 goes on. Is it time to file condemnation proceedings to show that Pierce County is SERIOUS, aren’t they? The idea of purchasing a trail through this property has gone on since 1998 and we have been pushing Parks and the Council for the past four years! PLEASE GET THIS DONE!!!

TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS is way, way too long to get the chore of the Foothills Trail completed.!! Many members of the Coalition, Mount Rainier National Park, and its partners in the Carbon Canyon

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
The Fourth Annual Coalition pot luck was held at the remodeled Mayor’s Mansion in Buckley on July 25, 2013. Many dignitaries attended and it was a great function as usual. As with all of our meetings any member of the Coalition is encouraged to attend and state your opinion(s), the more the merrier.

Please remember to volunteer for a three-hour shift at the Washington State (Puyallup) Fair at the Coalition Booth. You will receive a free pass to the Fair for the day you volunteer and also get to meet a number of people who are interested in learning more about trails throughout Pierce County. To sign up please visit our Website at http://www.piercecountytrails.org/ and select 2013 Puyallup Fair: Volunteer Now!! at the top left of the page. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Pasquier at (253)-268-3808 or by email at RPasquier@comcast.net. Always looking for people to serve on the Coalition Board of Directors, please call me.

In closing, I hope everyone had a great Summer!
Government Affairs Report

By Bob Myrick, TWBC

During the August 5th meeting of the TWBC the following items were discussed:

There are over 30 government entities TWBC could be working with. It is important for everyone to take a personal interest in our communities in regards to alternative transportation.

The Bicycle Alliance of Washington (BAW) is working to arrange a meeting with State Senator Bruce Dammeier, 25th Legislative District, in order to discuss the legislature not passing a Transportation Bill this past session. Such a meeting is important due to Metro Parks Tacoma having just received a State grant of $3 million to help build a new trail into Point Defiance Park.

When we prepare the TWBC budget I will be requesting $2,500 for ForeverGreen Trails. I am also asking board members of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition to provide ForeverGreen Trails $2,500 as well. As you may know, the Foothills Coalition seems to be very concentrated on getting trail completed in the Puyallup Valley and does not have enough staff available to work with the 30 government entities we could be involved with. Many of the government entities actually attend the monthly ForeverGreen Trails meetings and have staff on the ForeverGreen Board.

Celebrating Tacoma's pathways will take place on Sunday, September 22nd. A lane of travel on both Shuster Parkway and Ruston Way will be shut down until Noon. TWBC will be celebrating the new temporary trail into Point Defiance Park. The City and Metro Parks Tacoma will be advertising this half-day event. Look on our Rideline for details.

Special Announcement: Next TWBC meeting is scheduled on Monday, September 2nd (Labor Day) at 6 p.m. In October we resume meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at the Harvester Restaurant in the Stadium District at First and Tacoma Avenues. Start time is 6p.m.

Please enjoy your summer and your blessings each day. I will be travelling to South Dakota in September to ride parts of the Mickelson Trail for a week. I hope you get to see and ride some interesting places these next few months.

Statement of Interest to the Puyallup Watershed Initiative

By Dr. Jane Moore, Executive Director, ForeverGreen Trails

ForeverGreen Trails has submitted a Statement of Interest to the Puyallup Watershed Initiative to develop a Community of Interest that would focus on recreation through trails.

ForeverGreen and its current diverse partners would serve as the base of the Recreation and Trails Community of Interest. If the proposal is accepted, each of the ForeverGreen Board members will represent their organization and help with planning the next step of the application. We hope that all of ForeverGreen’s current and past partners, including the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition will help plan the next step of the application if our proposal is accepted.

The Puyallup Watershed Initiative represents a long-term, focused investment of financial and technical support by The Russell Family Foundation (TRFF). The Initiative strives to enhance the capacity of local watershed leadership and communities to restore, conserve, and steward the watershed’s ecological and social values. Ultimately, the Puyallup Watershed Initiative is meant to be owned, led, and sustained by the local community.
“Do you have any data on trail usership?” This is a question often asked by planners and others seeking to justify additional trail mileage or use to governing bodies. Also, this data can provide significant advantage as well when applying for competitive grants.

Hard data on trail use can be difficult to obtain for a variety of reasons, not the least of which are suitable instrumentation and instrument sighting. Most available counters are triggered by infra red and are effective for only a limited distance, usually less than 20-30 feet. Some that depend upon a reflected beam will record up to forty feet. Either way, given an open trail corridor of forty or more it is nearly impossible to locate these instruments within a feet operational distance where they will not be vandalized.

Over several years the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition has experimented with various counter models which cost up to several hundred dollars only to have them destroyed or fouled by insects and spiders.

Ideally, when seeking accurate trail user counts one wishes a device that records users traveling in one direction and not double count them as they return. Thanks to a suggestion from one of our charter members, Dr. Randy Lindblad, we now have such a device. It is the Moultrie Game Camera. Costing only two hundred dollars this is a small self-contained, weatherproof, camouflaged unit that records either still images or video that can be programmed for varying time durations. A six second video segment allows one to count straggling individuals in a group as opposed to only the first individual who triggers the mechanism. The camera is triggered up to 40 feet but image captures much greater distances. Powered by eight AA batteries data is stored on an SD card that can be read on any computer, and records the temperature, date, and time of day for each instance. It can be secreted mostly out of sight in bushes, or secured by a cable in necessarily vulnerable locations.

Several 24 hour counts have so far been recorded on the Puyallup Riverwalk, and a 24 hour count near the Meeker Trailhead on the fourth of July. Also, a 48 hour survey was done near Meeker early in the last week of July. Trail users, both walkers and bicyclists, leaving the Meeker Trailhead have been recorded as late as 11 p.m. at night and as early as 12:21 a.m.

On July 4, 2013, a total of 375 users, mostly bicyclists, departed the Meeker trailhead between 6 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. During the 48 hours between Monday and Wednesday evenings (7/29-31) 537 people and 29 dogs left the Meeker Trailhead with bicyclists outnumbering other users more than two to one.

The Puyallup Riverwalk bordering on a large residential population and connected to local shopping serves far

Continued on page 7
Networking for Trails

Fennel Creek Trail
by Gary Leaf
Facilities and Special Projects Manager
City of Bonney Lake

This month (August) the first mile of the Fennel Creek Trail will be completed, and the project will be closed out in September. This was funded primarily by United State Department of Transportation through a Safe Routes to School grant. The same grant also paid for part of a mile of sidewalks and an extensive education and encouragement program in local schools. The City of Bonney Lake is applying for another Federal grant to design another section of the trail, about a half-mile segment just north of State Route 410.

How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?
by John Selby, Board Member

Here’s your chance to win a membership renewal in the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition.

If you can be the first to correctly describe the location of the photo below, you will win a one-year individual membership renewal.

Dennis Brooke correctly identified the last photo - the large, abandoned tire along the right side of the trail about 130 yards south of the Meeker (East Puyallup) Trailhead.

Please respond with your answer to “Where is this?” under the adjacent photo to John Selby at JohnSelby16@gmail.com.

Good luck! The winner will be announced in the next issue.

Watershed Initiative continued from page 3

TRFF believes that the restoration of Puget Sound must start with focused local efforts at the watershed scale, and that watershed residents, regardless of their diverse perspectives and values, must work together to discover and define common goals and collaboratively carry out actions to achieve them.

ForeverGreen’s overall goal is a countywide system of trails connecting all of Pierce County’s communities. The system would link sidewalks, bike lanes, and local pathways with an integrated network for safe, convenient, non-motorized travel. We are also working to achieve implementation of the Pierce County Regional Trails Plan, advocating for long-term trail funding, pedestrian-oriented community design and connections to the county wide trails system, funding for preservation of trails, and working to strengthen our relationships with like-minded organizations.

The Recreation and Trails Community of Interest will expand on goals to support trail implementation in the Puyallup Watershed to provide more opportunities for all the activities mentioned above. Residents of the watershed and surrounding areas will benefit from this trail system through increased opportunities for contact and interaction with the natural environment. The interaction will be expected to increase understanding of the importance of support for preservation of lands in the watershed area to ongoing human, environmental and economic health. This understanding should lead to improved care for and stewardship of the watershed.

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the Annual Pierce County Trails Conference, on Wednesday, October 30th. Registration 4 p.m.; program starts 4:30 p.m. More details will be available soon. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jane Moore, Executive Director, at (253) 307-9873 or janemoore.jm@gmail.com.

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Allen Scholz
Fawntella Scholz
The bad news is Federal funding for biking, walking and trail programs remains in danger of total elimination as Congress recessed for vacation in August, delaying action on vital transportation bills until September. House and Senate opposition to any amount of funding continues. We need to continue pressuring Congress as individuals to stop the cuts and by joining the Rails to Trails Conservancy’s nationwide campaign at http://www.railstotrails.org/index.html.

The good news, locally, is the steady progress being made toward a Foothills Regional Trail Network, with safe, secure connections to the places we work, shop, play, go to school or catch the bus or train. Learn all about it by visiting our Foothills Rails-to-Trail Coalition booth in the Outdoors Building at the Washington (Puyallup) State Fair in September. You will also find a colorful map on the back cover of our new 18-month calendar “Visions of the Foothills Trail” which will be available at our booth for a small donation. Completion of our Foothills Trail Network will also potentially fuel jobs and economic development as our beautiful Puget Sound region becomes a world-wide tourist attraction.

Governor Jay Inslee, in recently announcing $86 million in state and federal funds for outdoor recreation said in part, “…outdoor recreation in Washington contributes $11.7 billion annually to our economy, supports 115,000 jobs across the state, draws people from around the world to our mountain tops and shorelines, and is one of the reasons people and businesses move here and stay here. Investing in Washington’s outdoor economy just makes sense.”

Some recent encouraging signs of progress in establishing a non-motorized Foothills Trail network include:

On September 22, Tacoma Metro Parks will host “Downtown to Defiance Sunday Parkway” to demonstrate how a new entrance to Point Defiance Park will work for walkers, runners and bicyclists. Prospects are mind-blowing for a future esplanade and link to our Foothills Trail Regional Network. For more information and a map please visit: http://www.metroparkstacoma.org/downtowntodefiance/.

The City of Sumner has set the standard for trail extension progress this year as they near completion of its trail system. Ken Woolery, Sumner Parks Board and Foothills Coalition board member advises a bridge crossing the White River at Stewart Street is the last major hurdle to connect with the Interurban Trail to the north. The system will eventually connect with the Foothills and Puyallup Riverwalk trails to the south. For more information and a map please visit: http://www.ci.sumner.wa.us/Living/Trails.htm

The City of Puyallup will put the bid for “JEB3Way” out sometime in September. This short trail section will provide safe access for walkers and bicyclists, on the south side of the Meeker Southern railroad tracks, along East Pioneer Way from Shaw Road to the Meeker Foothills Trailhead. Friends of the Riverwalk advocate the name “JEB3Way” for this section of trail in honor of Foothills Coalition member John Ernest Berry III, a tireless advocate for accessibility and helmet safety.

There is also a glimmer of hope for a long-awaited connection between the Riverwalk Trail at Stortinis and the Foothills Trail at Meeker. A Memo of Understanding between the City of Puyallup, Pierce County Parks and Recreation, and Puget Sound Energy has led to exploratory discussion regarding a possible trail right-of-way following some future power transmission lines.

Finally, trail fans throughout the Foothills Trail Network are anxiously awaiting the successful execution of the pending agreement between Pierce County Parks and Recreation and the owner of the South Prairie trailer park for the right-of-way needed to extend the trail from the fire station in South Prairie on towards Buckley. We’ve only been waiting 27 years for this to happen – please get the job done NOW!
Riverwalk Bender
by Ernie Bay, President Emeritus

The ‘bender’ was Japanese Knotweed, originally introduced into Great Britain as an ornamental landscape plant. Eventually making its way to the United States knotweed has become an aggressive invasive weed taking over thousands of square miles of shoreline on East and West coasts, as well as rivers and streams in between over the last two decades.

It readily establishes over sunny flood ravaged areas and forms a dense canopy that crowds out all other vegetation.

Volunteers resting after bending and crushing knotweed. Photo by Chris Beale

The Pierce Conservation District (PCD) Stream Team has an ongoing mission to eradicate knotweed throughout the Puyallup Watershed. Recently, the PCD in conjunction with the City of Puyallup approached the Friends of the Riverwalk to assist with eliminating the weed along the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail. On Monday, August 19th, several Riverwalk volunteers assembled at the 11th Street NW Trailhead following our weekly breakfast meeting at Mrs. Turners’ Restaurant. Within two hours the group under the direction of Melissa Buckingham, Stream Team Coordinator for the PCD, toppled and crushed 20,000 square feet of 12 foot high knotweed.

Mature knotweed occurs in dense clumps exceeding 12 feet in height. It cannot be controlled by cutting or weed-whacking because fragments, much like the arms of a dismembered starfish, distribute and regenerate into new entities. Crushed knotweed regenerates in place with broader than original leaf surface which makes them more susceptible to herbicide treatment. Thus the accepted strategy is to bend and crush the bamboo like stalks at their base and spray the new leaf canopy with the systemic herbicide ‘Roundup’ (Glyphosate) once it develops.

Treatment may involve having to repeat the process several seasons to destroy the root systems. Meanwhile, the PCD plans to satellite map the entire Puyallup Riverwalk knotweed population and enlist our members aid in its eradication over the next few years.

Volunteers bending and crushing knotweed. Photo by Ernie Bay

Japanese Knotweed, Fallopian Japonica. Photo by Ernie Bay

Trail Camera A Success Continued from Page 4

more walkers and joggers than bicyclists. On Thursday, July 11, 2013, the eastern section of the Riverwalk leading to Sumner was visited by apparently only five bicyclists compared with 65 other users, including eight people with dogs. It is suspected some cyclists escaped recording owing to speed and camera angle. On Monday, July 15, 2013, five westward traveling bicyclists were recorded on the west section of trail between Veterans’ Park and Meridian Street compared to 130 other users including 22 dog walkers.

While minor technical difficulties remain to be worked out such as improved accuracy in capturing bicycle images at some locations, the Moultrie Game camera is proving to be the nearly ideal recording device for capturing data on trail usership. Not only can we isolate the actual number of users from round trips, but we can also categorize the types of users as to gender, singles, pairs and groups, dog walkers, etc..

Plans are to accumulate seasonal 24 hour trail counts at selected locations throughout the year.
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.

Aaby, Richard & Diana
Abbott, Janet
Abicht, Wolfram & Edith
Anderson, Mary & Dennis
Anderson, John & Myrna
Anderson, Paul E
Anderson Management Group LLC
Angeline, Vernon E
Armstrong, Wayne Allen & Susan
Attaway, Joel and Laura
Aymonin, Audrey Lynn
Bailey, Eleanor
Baird, Sally & Bill
Barclay, Janet
Barton, William & Roddi
Barton, Joyce Clifford & David
Bay, Ernest C & Ellen
Beadle, Marlene
Marlene’s Market & Deli
Berg, Lucretia & Michael
Berglund, Clive
Bernsten, Gary & Sandra
Bivens, Kerry
BOOK, Ron & Vicki O’Keefe
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Czekaj, Patricia
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Dammeier, Bruce
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& Diana HillJoy
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Purbaugh, John & Julie Barnett
Qualey, Paul W.
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Quintella, Joseph & Karen
Reitzug, Mat & Connie
Remboski, Claude & Pam Reynolds
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Robertson, Linda
Robinson, Arthur J
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Root, Earl & Joan
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Schumock, Louise
Scofield, Stephen P & Julie Ann
Seago, S. David & Anne
Selby, John
Selset, Ronald
Silver, Mardell Rediske & Haven
Sleet, George & Gail
Slettvet, Steven M.
Smith, Dainel
Smith, Steve L.
Smith, Mary Ann & Arlin
Spanier, Scott & Lorry
Stenberg, Judy
Stephens, Margaret R.
Strodtz, Beverly & Gary
James Olp & Sue Weston
Summers, Jim & Judy
Sutton, Arthur
Tait, Donna
Tamburello, Catherine
Taranovski, Gisela
Ter Louw, Joe & Ruth
Ternes, Roger D
Thomas, Thomas A.
Thompson, John
Tibeau, Robert E. & Linda
Tipton, Tony & Marjorie
Truman, Brenda
Turnberg, Wayne
Volland, Larry & Barbara
Voller, Jerry & Carole Walkama
Meetings:

**Monthly Board Meetings:**
Open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Thursday 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.

**Charlie Chat - Weekly Luncheon:**
Informal luncheons 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.

**Courtesy Patrol Meetings:**
Scheduled on 2nd Saturday of each month at High Cedars Golf Course, 149th Street Court East, Orting. No-host breakfast starts at 8 a.m. and the casual meeting at 9 a.m. with a free-for-all discussion about the past, present and future of the Courtesy Patrol. Guest speakers and training sessions are often included. For more information please contact Ernie Bay at (253) 848-7718 or bugtrail@aol.com.

**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 9 a.m. at Mrs. Turner’s Restaurant, 701 East Main, Puyallup.

*call prior to confirm in case of cancellation. Ernie Bay (253)-848-7718, bugtrail@aol.com. or Bob Kastama 253-435-1637, kastamaq@gmail.com, Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447

Events:

**Work Parties** RSVP to Don Partington at 253-820-8411 or cedarfamily@comcast.net

**Washington State (Puyallup) Fair** – September 6th-22nd
Please remember to sign up to volunteer for a three-hour shift at the Washington State (Puyallup) Fair at the Coalition Booth. Do so by visiting our Website at http://www.piercecountytrails.org/ and select 2013 Puyallup Fair: Volunteer Now!! at the top left of the page. It’s fun and you receive a free pass to the fair. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Pasquier at 253-268-3808 or by email at RPasquier@comcast.net.

**Downtown to Defiance:** Sunday Parkways
On Sunday, September 22nd, nearly several miles of street along the Tacoma Waterfront will be closed to vehicular traffic but open to bicyclists and pedestrians. Participants will be able to bike, walk, run, and roll from the Tacoma Dome to Point Defiance Park. To sign up to participate and for more information on times and activities please visit our Website online at www.metroparkstacoma.org/downtownodefiance. Let’s help fill the streets of Tacoma’s waterfront with bicyclists, walkers and human-powered vehicles.
Walking Club Continued from Page 1

The walking club includes regular members that walk each and every Monday; however, because of the http://www.meetup.com/find/ Website, new walkers are joining us constantly. Through this walking club, we have introduced the joys of walking the Puyallup Riverwalk to dozens of people who previously had been unaware of the existence of the trail.