Rainier-to-Ruston Relay and Ultra Results

by Dave Seago, Board Member

The 12th annual running of the Rainier-to-Ruston Relay and Ultra on June 7 will be remembered as a ringing success: near-record signups, great weather, super volunteers, lively relay teams and, of course, determined Ultra runners taking on the challenge of running 50 miles from The Mountain to Puget Sound.

Continued on Page 6

President’s Message

by Buzz Grant, Coalition President

The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (Coalition) Board of Directors is working diligently to leverage money that membership has bequested to the organization. We are also utilizing profits made from selling 11 acres of land purchased at a tax foreclosure auction to the National Park Service for part of the expansion of Mount Rainier National Park.

The Coalition have taken said monies and stepped in to become partners with Pierce County, Bonney Lake, Puyallup, and Sumner in their grant applications for trails. As examples, we have:

1. Donated $5,000 to the City of Sumner to be used for trail improvements and signage along their trail system. The reason for providing this money was based upon the amount of new trail Sumner has created over the past two years.

2. Pledged to grant $46,000 as a three percent match for a grant application by the Cities of Puyallup and Sumner to plan and purchase land for a trail bridge over the Puyallup River to connect the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail and the Sumner Trail System.

3. Pledged to donate $50,000 as a one percent match of a $5 million grant application by Pierce County Parks and Recreation for construction and paving to complete the Foothills Trail between the cities Buckley and South Prairie.

4. Partnered with the City
President’s Message continued from page 1

of Bonney Lake in the amount of $17,000 for a pledge to donate a match for their grant application to extend the Fennel Creek Trail about three-quarters of a mile.

If grant applications for items 2, 3 and 4 receive approval we could see major improvements and extensions of trails throughout Pierce County. This would be a ‘perfect storm’ so to speak for our trails. If the perfect storm occurs it will create a gigantic hole in our finances, which is not such a bad thing because what are we here for if not to extend trails in Pierce County and its various municipalities?

The match grants help our local government entities by showing non-government participation and support for their grant applications. These donations help to obtain points needed toward the grant applications, which like everything in life, points are very important.

We recently sent out our annual appeal for membership. We need you to respond anyway you are able, be it $20 or $1million, this money provides working capital to improve and extend trails for our citizens, communities, and visitors to Pierce County. Trails are truly a tourism draw to the whole area.

Have a great Summer and Happy Trails. Thank You for Your Support.

R2R Volunteer Dedication
by Bill Hilton

As reported in the Rainier-to-Ruston Relay and Ultra Results’ (R2R) article in this issue of the Trail Line News, volunteers played a big part with ensuring the success of this year’s event. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition would like to recognize a particular volunteer, Ms. Florence Fabiani, for her having helped with every R2R to pass thru Wilkeson. Florence also just happens to be turning 92 years of age this coming September and her dedication is to be commended!
Families In Motion Day - Bicycles Awarded

BY ERNIE BAY

No sibling jealousy here! A brother and sister were the lucky recipients of two bicycles awarded as door prizes at this year’s Families In Motion event on Parks Appreciation Day. Halley (6 years of age) and Zane (4.5 years of age) Knight, children of Alexa and Zane Knight of South Hill, were the lucky pair. Zane is still a little short for his prize but, he is proudly looking forward to growing into it! The bicycles were donated by the Bill and Leslie Hilton and Jeff and Nicole Martineau.

Left to Right: Dixie Gatchel, Diane Kastama, Halley Knight, Zane Knight, Ken Woolery
Photo by Ernie Bay

$5,000.00 presented to the City of Sumner WA

BY LORAS GASSMANN, BOARD MEMBER

The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition trail amenity awarded $5,000.00 for completing the Sumner Link Trail System. The City of Puyallup is... currently preparing a grant request to link the Riverwalk Trail with the Sumner Link Trail. The Foothills Coalition has pledged $46,000 as matching fund if the grant is awarded. Good things are happening!

Left to right: Dixie Gatchel; John Warhol; Mayor Pat Johnson of Buckley who is also VP of the Foothills Trails; President Buzz Grant; Treasurer Loras Gassmann, Ken Woolery; Sumner Mayor Dave Enslow; Ernie Bay; and Sumner Associate Engineer Ted Hill.
Photo by © Bob Rowan/Progressive Image 2014
Great news for those who utilize the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail. On Saturday, May 31, 2014, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place to celebrate completion of a short but significant connection between Shaw Road and the Meeker Trailhead of the Foothills Trail. The ceremony was well attended on this bright sunny day and this latest piece of the trail (Riverwalk Trail-Phase IV) was dedicated as the JEB III Link, named after Puyallup resident John Ernest Berry III.

By the number of individuals making use of the connection during the christening ceremony one could easily conclude it’s already a big hit with trail users. In these times of all too often hearing what can’t be done it is nice to see what can be done when everyone works together on behalf of our community. Congratulations on a job well done by those who advocated for the connection, the city of Puyallup, and those who constructed this portion of the trail.

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.
Friends of the (Puyallup) Riverwalk Accomplishments

BY DIXIE GATCHEL

When looking back it has been pretty amazing what the Friends of the Riverwalk (FRW) have accomplished the past five years beginning with our first Families in Motion Day event on the Riverwalk Trail held in May 2010. I believe it all began when then Senator Jim Kastama, who grew up close to the trail, donated $1,000 to create awareness of recreational and health benefits for people using the trail on a regular basis. He also provided training on Performance Management and improving effectiveness thru establishing a vision, mission, goals, and then monitoring progress. Jim, now a private consultant in strategy and technology, will facilitate a review and update of our latest efforts at an annual FRW retreat scheduled in June.

Some of the FRW accomplishments over the past five years include establishing Veterans Park under the leadership of veterans Bob Kastama and Tom Shriver, gifting the ‘Nature’s Medley’ tree sculpture by artist Jason Smathers to City of Puyallup, advocating for connecting the Shaw Road Overpass with the Foothills Meeker Trailhead and gaining approval of the Puyallup City Council to name this connection the Jeb-III-Link in honor of John Ernest Berry III, supporting the Foothills Coalition pledge of $46,000 to Puyallup for grant funding to design and construct a trail bridge across the Puyallup River to connect the Riverwalk and Sumner Trails, providing funding and hundreds of volunteer hours for trail maintenance, graffiti repair, and beautification projects such as murals and landscaping.

These successful efforts have been blessed by the generous partners whom have been with us from the start such as the City of Puyallup Parks and Recreation, Goodwill Riverwalk Store, Fred Meyer Riverwalk Store, American Legion Post #67 along with other veterans groups, and the Daffodil Valley Volkssports Association. A giant step forward occurred on January 1, 2011, when FRW became part of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization.

On April 26, 2014, in a continuing effort to attract more people to the trail, FRW again partnered with the Puyallup Parks and Recreation in a combined Parks Appreciation/Families in Motion Day event with activities at various venues along the Riverwalk Trail. Activities included volunteer cleanup/planting at Veterans Park, 5K Fun Run with Puyallup Parks, 5K/10K Walk with Daffodil Valley Volkssports, and a Bicycle Rodeo for Children of ages 4 to 10.

Hats off to Diane Kastama and Janet Rich for coming up with the idea to hold the bike rodeo and doing a great job in putting it all together. They “lucked out” with great partners including Lieutenant Michael Ampe with Central Pierce Fire & Rescue District #6, Noah Struthers and Cameron with Tacoma 2nd Cycle Community Center, and Jeff Martineau, Orting Police School Outreach Officer. The need for training in safe bicycle operation and helmet necessity is paramount for both children and adults. Turnout was less than hoped for, so future bicycle rodeos and partnerships desired to move them forward will be an agenda item for discussion at our June retreat.

Friends of the Riverwalk regularly meets most Mondays, 9:00-10:00 a.m., at Mrs. Turner’s Hometown Café, 701 Main Street, Puyallup. Our vision is “Trails Unitng Communities.” Visitors are welcome. For further information contact Chair Bill Hilton, billhltn@aol.com, or Co-chair Janet Rich, dcnjlrich@msn.com.

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”

- Alan Kay, U.S. computer scientist, 1940 - .

ForeverGreen Trails

BY DR. JANE MOORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2014 Pierce County Trails Conference will be held in the evening on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 in the Pagoda at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. ForeverGreen Trails is updating our website and when finished registration will be available online as well as by mail or at the door. Please mark your calendars now and continue to watch for more details over the coming months.
developed trail extending from Mount Rainier National Park to the shores of Commencement Bay.

Every year there’s always a glitch or two in putting on a complex event involving so many runners and volunteers spread out over a 50-mile course through forest, fields and city streets. But this was the first time the organizers ever lost a bus.

Somehow the drivers of two buses carrying Ultra runners to the starting line got the idea that they were supposed to go to Ashford -- on the other side of the mountain from the Carbon River entrance to the park. The first driver corrected course in time, but the second bus driver went all the way to Ashford before discovering his mistake. That bus arrived at the start about two hours late.

Pasquier credited the BuDu Racing team for quickly adjusting the timing arrangements for the latecomers. Race founder John Selby, who once again posed for photos in his Sasquatch outfit, said he heard no complaints. “They really took it with a lot of grace and humor. It was just Murphy’s law.”

For the record, 982 runners signed up, just a few short of last year’s total. Of the 115 Ultra sign-ups, 85 started the race and 74 finished. The Ultra winner was Zach Gingerach of Portland, in 6 hours, 35 minutes; he nearly broke the course Ultra record of 6:19 set by Phil Kochik of Seattle in 2006. The first female Ultra finisher was Tara Berry, of Vancouver, B.C.

The fastest relay team was the Route 16 Locos, and a team representing the City of Buckley outpaced a rival team from Puyallup by 20 minutes to claim the annual Mayor’s Cup trophy.

Once again a 150-strong corps of volunteers helped make it all happen, a grateful Pasquier pointed out. He singled out a crew led by Herb Munson for great work at the finish line, and John Downs for recruiting and coordinating volunteers for the bell stands along the route.

Let’s give the last word to Ultra runner Brandi Swortz of Lakewood, who told Pasquier by email:

“I have to thank you for a truly amazing experience yesterday. I ran the Ultra. It was my first, and I simply loved every minute. The on-course support and aid stations were superb, the best I have ever experienced, and all of the runners on the course were fun and excited.

“I was especially impressed with the coverage in the first four legs (on rough forest trail); many 4-wheelers were out patrolling along with volunteers and sheriff’s deputies in the woods. I felt completely safe the whole way. Thank you for making this such a wonderful day and memory for me, as well as so many others . . .

“Thank you again. Can’t wait for next year. You truly run an amazing race!”

Editor’s Note: Please don’t forget about the Buckley to Orting (B&O) Half Marathon being held on Saturday, July 26, 2014. To enter the B&O as a runner please visit the following website to register http://www.rainiertoruston.com/FoothillsBOHalf.html. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this year’s B&O, please contact race director, Richard Pasquier by email at rpasquier@comcast.net.
R2R 2014

Photos by © Bob Rowan/Progressive Image 2014
Eagle Scout Project on the Riverwalk Trail

BY ERNIE BAY

Eagle Scout candidate Marshall Bush of Sumner, along with a crew of volunteers, completed phase one of a project to contain the garden mound featuring a Riverwalk Trail dedication plaque. The project is located in the Puyallup Kiwanis Grove between the trail and Skate Tiffany’s.

The garden mound involved is one of three in the grove that earlier featured dense blooms of tulips and narcissi planted last fall by members of the Friends Of The Riverwalk. These are now being succeeded by a riotous planting of tall bachelors’ buttons in addition to an assortment of wildflowers. Phase two of the project calls for a small patio of paving blocks in front of the plaque pedestal.

Marshall is a Life Scout of Boy Scouts Of America and also a member of Sumner troop 172. His project is, in part, funded by a $400 dollar grant from the Puyallup Kiwanis Foundation in addition to an equal amount from various sources including an in-kind contribution of paving blocks from the City of Puyallup Parks Department. Marshall intends to recommend the remaining flower mounds as projects for fellow Eagle scout candidates.

Eagle Scout candidate Marshall Bush poses with his dad and Ernie Bay, founder of Friends of the Puyallup Riverwalk. Photo by Timothy Bush
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.

Arkills, Janet M. & James W.  Peterson, Wilma N
Bay, Ernest C & Ellen  Quintella, Joseph & Karen
Carter, Doug & Kathie  Sawyer, Mark & Jill
Cooper, Dale L.  Shedd, James & Joyce
Greater Tacoma Community Foundation  Strait, Viora L.
Hassur, Michael  Tucci, Margol & Joseph SR
Huhn, Ronald  Vervoort, Ed
Kalapus, Carol & Len  Voller, Jerome & Carole
Klickitat Trail Conservancy  Wessels, Ralph & Dena
Klingman, Judy & Kirk  Wilkinson, Robert & Corrine
Mahr, Bill & Theresa  Wolcott, Jan & Shirley
Peach, Samuel & Winifred

How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?

by John Selby, Board Member

Here’s your chance to win a one-year membership renewal in the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition! All you have to do is to be the first to name the trail and the exact location of the photo below.

Diane Kerlin correctly identified the photo in the March edition, which was taken on the Edgewood Interurban Trail at the 114th Ave. E. trailhead about one block north of Jovita Blvd. Congratulations, Diane! As usual, Stuart Scheuerman also identified it. Too bad for Stuart as he is a board member of the Foothills Trail Coalition and therefore is ineligible to win a free membership. There were no other guesses. Come on, folks! Give it a try.

Here’s a sight which should be familiar to many of you, so I expect a lot more guesses. Be the first to accurately identify its location and win! Please respond with your answer to “Where is this?” to JohnSelby16@gmail.com.

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

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. are held 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 the 3rd 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. Bill Hilton (253) 302-1104 billhltm@aol.com, or Janet Rich, dcnjlrich@msn.com, Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447

**2014 Pierce County Trails Conference** - Trail Conference will be held in the evening on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 in the Pagoda at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. ForeverGreen Trails is updating our website and when finished registration will be available online as well as by mail or at the door.

The fourth Thursday in July (24th) is the annual potluck dinner at Pat Johnson’s house. All are welcome to attend.
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 communities in building, maintaining, and promoting a network of safe, non-motorized trails that provide healthy recreation and transportation options.

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

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Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371-0021