Important progress continues to be made on the Buckley to South Prairie section of the Foothills Trail. Pierce County has applied for two construction grants for completing this section of the trail. These grants are working their way through the governmental process, and we are very confident.

The first grant is $2.75 million from the Recreation Conservation Office through the Washington Wildlife Recreation Program and still needs to be approved by the State legislature, which is presently in a special session.

The good news is the grant has been included in both the House and Senate capital budget proposals which have to be reconciled in the special legislative session. The second grant is a $378,000 Rural Town Center and Corridor grant through the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and was recently presented for the consideration to the PSRC.

The County continues to work on acquiring the last four parcels of property necessary to finish ownership of the County for Buckley/South Prairie section of the Foothills Trail. At this time it appears three of the four parties necessary to complete County ownership will require going through the condemnation process approved by the Pierce County Council on October 14, 2014. It appears the fourth parcel will be acquired by the County through negotiations. If all of the above comes together there is a good possibility that construction of this section of trail in phases will start in late 2016.

President’s Message

by Buzz Grant, Coalition President

The 13th annual running of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition – Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra on June 6 can be described in three letters, HOT! Temperatures in Tacoma reached the mid-80’s, and for many runners it probably felt even hotter than that. Those affected most were probably the ultra-runners. For normal folk, ultra-runners would probably be described as a little bit crazy and some of them probably are. For example, Daniel Kuhlmann of Tacoma was originally signed up to run on a team, but his team bailed on him, so he did what made sense to him and decided to run the whole thing! Some were smarter though. A day before the race, there were 77 planning to run the entire 52 miles. This was not counting those who had already dropped from the race due to other reasons. By 7 a.m. on race day there were another 10 that did not even bother picking up their packet. My best guess is they saw the weather forecast and decided it would be easier to go on a nice hike in the mountains or go paddle a kayak on Puget Sound. Out of those 67 ultra starters only 48 finished. That is a testament to how tough it was out there in the heat.

The relay runners fared much better in all likelihood, because they could divide the work load between 2, 3, 4, or 6 people. Most teams are satisfied with the difficulty of running multiple sections, taking breaks and then having to run again, but the 2 person team St. Lunatics made up of Grant Brasher and Zachary Carter from Missouri did not think running 26 miles and alternating sections was hard enough. Not only did they run 6 different sections each, alternating each section, but when one of them was not running the other one

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Welcome to the Foothills Trail
BY BUZZ GRANT, COALITION PRESIDENT

On Saturday, May 9th the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition held one of many work parties in the Carbon River Canyon. We have been maintaining, along with our good friends the Back Country Horsemen, the former rail bed of the Northern Pacific Railway (BNSF) between Carbonado, Melmont, Fairfax and the Kolish/Manley-Moore Bridge since 2001. Last year the Coalition received a Quit Claim Deed for three plus miles of this former rail bed from Carbonado to just upstream of the O’Ferrall or High Bridge crossing the Carbon River. We are working on acquiring more title interest in this future section of the Foothills Trail further upstream toward Mount Rainier National Park. The Coalition Board of Directors made the decision that we needed to, shall we say “mark our property” because so many people believe the land is not owned by someone, well we are the “someone.” Please use this land like you would like your land to be used.

We have statements on the sign about two RCW’s (Revised Code of Washington) which basically advises if you use this land you are not being charged and you use it AT YOUR OWN RISK. We want the public to use this for walking, biking and family recreation in a safe way. We figure it may take a few years to improve this future

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A Tribute to Doctor Tait

by Dave Seago, Board Member

Many friends of the Foothills Trail remember Doug Tait, or “Doc” as he was better known, as the “Father of the Foothills Trail.”

More than anyone else in Pierce County, Doc, who was also Buckley’s beloved town doctor for nearly 35 years before he died in 2003, saw the enormous potential in turning abandoned railroad right-of-way into a public recreational trail.

Today’s Foothills Trail is the result of Tait’s vision, dedication and relentless enthusiasm. The trail has grown from a mile-long paved path in Buckley to a popular multi-use, county-owned trail stretching 17 miles from east Puyallup to South Prairie. Chances are good the trail’s “missing link” between South Prairie and Buckley will be completed in the next two to three years, adding several more miles.

On pleasant sunny days, the trail is busy with joggers, walkers, roller-bladers, fast cyclists, slow cyclists, moms pushing strollers, and dads shepherding small children on their first bikes.

Fishermen use the trail to reach choice fishing spots. The trail is now treasured as one of the county’s top public recreational assets.

Many of those who worked with Doc Tait to help realize his dream, however, are beginning to pass from the scene. To keep Tait’s memory alive and permanently honor Tait’s role in founding the trail, a decade-old effort to build a memorial in Buckley is now being renewed with a web-based crowdfunding initiative.

The goal is to use the power of the Internet and social media to raise $18,400 to complete an already-designed memorial plaza in Buckley, to be located on public property near the intersection of Main Street and the present trail. Coincidentally, the memorial will be only a few blocks from the Main Street office where Doc Tait treated generations of Buckley residents.

Those who wish to contribute can visit GoFundMe at http://www.gofundme.com/ve86xn8 to reach the Buckley Dr. Tait Memorial page and easily charge their gifts to a credit card. The website will provide a running total for the fund campaign.

If the drive is successful, organizers Don Partington and Chuck Morrison said, construction of the memorial could be completed by the end of this year.

The plaza will include a 1920’s-era railroad baggage cart, restored by Enumclaw Eagle Scout Tristan Lewis, and a vintage railroad crossing signal, called a wigwag, restored by trail volunteers. Both elements will recall the railroad heritage associated with today’s trail, which follows the rail line built in 1885 by the Northern Pacific.

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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. (Board members are excluded.) No one guessed the December photo location of looking upstream on the Gale Creek section of the Foothills Trail.

Let’s see how well you do on this one. Please respond to JohnSelby16@gmail.com with your answer to “Where is this?” 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!

R2R CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was riding a mountain bike they rented rather than driving a car to the next exchange point like the other 99.5% of the teams. In spite of this challenge, they still managed to defeat 60 teams!

The stats are always of interest to people. There were to be 88 ultras, 7 2-person teams, 9 3-person teams, 74 4-person teams and 101 6-person teams signed up, which brought the total to 1,031 registrants before race day. However, all did not make it to the starting line! When all was said and done, a total of 973 runners crossed the finish line, and a few set course records along the way.

Congratulations to the following new record holders for 2015:

3-position Open Female: 3’s Company, Renton, WA: 7:30:54.5
4-position Open Mixed: Sweaty Rouples, Silverdale, WA: 5:33:49.3
6-position Open Female: Run Chicks Run, Bonney Lake, WA: 7:16:15.7

The Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra is really about stories made along the Foothills Trail on National Trails Day when a group of 1,000 runners come together, friends and family alike. The purpose of this great event is to call attention to the Foothills Trail, a rail-trail project that tracks the course of the old Northern Pacific Railroad from the start up near the Carbon River entrance to Mount Rainier National Park to the finish line in Marine Park along Ruston Way in Tacoma.

Many of us may take the Foothills Trail’s existence for granted. If you’re one of those people, I would ask you to go to http://www.piercecountytrails.org and make a donation to ensure the work of the Coalition continues so this trail can be enjoyed for generations to come. I would also like to thank all of the countless people who volunteered their time and effort in the months leading up to the race and also on race day, many of whom are Foothills Rails-to-Trail Coalition members or supporters.

I would like to leave you with a review from the “Last Woman Standing” on race day that she sent in to Northwest Runner for the Best of Northwest Running nominations. “I ran my first ultra with Rainier to Ruston in 2015: A 50+ mile course from the base of Mount Rainier to Ruston Way in Tacoma. It was an exceptionally hot day, and I struggled with every ounce of resolve I had: through thick mud, blazing heat for unshaded miles, soul-sucking sand and then finally through the last 5 miles in the dark to arrive last at the finish line [almost 10 pm]. Along those last miles, an “angel of the darkness” race official met me at key turning points in the dark to make sure I got in. They waited for me and when I arrived, they hung the finisher medal around my neck, let me ring the final bell tower they kept up for me, gave me a railroad spike, and presented me with the unexpected “Last Woman Standing” plaque that made that moment so exceptionally sweet and comical--and exactly what I needed. I’m grateful for their no-cut-off time generosity that allowed me to have one of the best and most rewarding experiences of my life.” Marisa Pena

Thanks to everyone who was involved with the Rainier to Ruston 2015. It certainly is “An Adventure in Your Own Backyard.”
ForeverGreen Trails Report
By Jane A. Moore, Executive Director ForeverGreen Trails

ForeverGreen Trails has been busy! We convened a series of meetings in late 2014 and early 2015 to discuss the issue of how to connect the western terminus of the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail to the Tacoma Dome Transit Center at Freighthouse Square. Participants included representatives from Pierce County Parks, Cities of Tacoma, Puyallup, and Fife, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The discussions were purely conceptual and resulted in a conceptual trail alignment connecting the cities of Tacoma, Fife, and Puyallup.

We are also planning the 2015 Pierce County Trails Conference. Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 15th, 4-8 pm. The location is yet to be determined. The theme for this year’s conference is Advocacy and Activism. We are planning some great presentations so don’t miss the event.

Finally, we are in the midst of our annual fund-raising campaign. We need financial support to help offset our operational and administrative costs. These include activities and expenses such as planning and convening the annual Pierce County Trails Conference, payroll, event participation, partnerships, social media communications, and miscellaneous business expenses.

These costs are above and beyond the grant funds we are receiving from the Russell Family Foundation for our role in the Active Transportation Community of Interest (COI). The Russell Family grant will fund ForeverGreen Trails’ specific work in completing four COI projects this year. The funds do not cover the costs of our overall participation in the COI partnership. In the next few years, our contributions to the COI will be designed to build towards organizing a political action committee to develop a tax proposal to ask voters for long range funding for trails. This will include programs and advocacy to build support from both elected officials and the general public.

Our spring fund drive goal is $6,000. We will put all donations to work by improving our annual trail conference and helping fulfill our current and future commitments to our Active Transportation COI partners. Donations can be made on-line at: www.gtcf.org/forevergreentrails.
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 in the last two quarters.

ABBOTT, James
AMAZON SMILE
Bruce Dees & Associates, L.L.C.
Buonadonna, Victor & Mary Jane
Carter, Doug & Kathie
CASCADE WATER ALLIANCE
Cockrell, Rich Q.
Coulbourn, George
Downs, John & Theresa
FRED MEYER REWARDS PROGRAM
GREATER BONNEY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GREATER TACOMA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Hokenstad, Alan J. & Marion
JUSTGIVE
KORUM AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
Lundgaard, Seth
Mahr, Bill & Theresa
Marlene’s Market & Deli
Niemann, Dianne V.

Peach, Samuel & Winifred
Peterson, Wilma N
Pitigliano, Audrey
Sandnes, Larry
Schulz, Rainer
Siegenthaler, Mary
Ternes, Garcia
TRAILSIDE CONNECTION
Tucci, Margol & Joseph SR
Wilkinson, Robert & Corrine

Welcome to the Foothills Trail
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section of the Foothills Trail. We are working on filling mud holes and smoothing out the trail bed/old railroad bed. At the present time we are not thinking of paving it with asphalt, if ever. Improvement of this stretch will take a good deal of time and money. A load of rock costs in the area of $500. One way people can help us is by becoming members of the Coalition and making donations toward maintaining and improving this and other undeveloped sections of the Foothills Trail. We generally maintain the undeveloped Foothills Trail from Cascade Junction (East of South Prairie) to the Kolish Bridge, about 14 miles.

The sign and entrance is located 7/10ths of a mile south (towards Mount Rainier) of Pershing Street which is the main street into Carbonado on State Route 165. The Coalition presently does not have a good parking area but about 100 feet back towards Carbonado there is a rather wide spot for parking along State Route 165.

Tait Tribute Continued from Page 3

Railroad as part of the nation’s second transcontinental rail route.

A plaque will recount both Tait’s service as a physician – equipped with a fire radio, he was the town’s reliable but unofficial emergency medic – and his work as a tireless champion of saving the abandoned rail corridor for recreational use, not only in Buckley but also throughout Pierce County. Tait relentlessly lobbied local and congressional officials and turned an examining room in his office into a repository for maps, letters and promotional material.

His efforts led to the creation of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition and culminated in voter approval of the county trail project in 1991.

“He gave his whole being to that town and to his vision for the trail,” said Partington, a coalition board member and longtime leader of volunteer work parties on the trail. “What he did should never be forgotten.”
**Active Transportation**

by Dixie Gatchel, Coalition Coordinator for Active Transportation

We’re on a roll, trail lovers! For over a quarter of century the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition volunteers have strived to extend the non-motorized Foothills Trail from Mount Rainier to Puget Sound and beyond. Slowly but surely that dream is coming to fruition with a myriad of positive achievements plus promising current actions in play. The majority of respondents to a recent Pierce County Parks & Recreation trail criteria survey favored expanding existing, successful trails into a regional network to destination points accessible for all abilities. The importance of collaborative partnerships in growing, maintaining, and patrolling for safety ranked high on the survey. It’s hard to keep up with trail progress when so much is happening. The Pierce County Open Space Task Force has provided a very comprehensive inventory of existing and proposed connections which provides the framework for doing so. So let’s get tracking the opportunities and possibilities for a Foothills Regional Trail Network!

**Connect Foothills Trail from Buckley to South Prairie (2.7 miles):**

Pierce County has been awarded the Rural Town Centers and Corridors grant from the Puget Sound Regional Council in the amount of $378,000. The money will be used for match funds for completing the trail section from west of Buckley to the existing bridges. The County is also in strong position to receive money from a Recreation & Conservation Office Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program grant to complete the final phase east of South Prairie. Be alert because this is not final until the state legislature passes the budget. The FEMA Bridge, destroyed in a wind storm last year, will be replaced sometime in 2017 at a cost of $600,000.

**Foothills Trail from the East Main Bridge behind Mama Stortini’s Restaurant to Foothills East Puyallup (Meeker) Trailhead across from Van Lierop Bulb Farm:**

Jeb-III-Link, named to honor our own John Ernest Berry III, opened in May 2014. City of Puyallup purchased the up-for-sale Bonar property on the Puyallup River, adjacent to the State Route 512 Overpass in 2014. Once the trail easement is extracted, the property will be resold. Pierce County gave the City of Puyallup trail easement along the Puyallup River from the 512 Overpass to Puyallup’s Bridge Street on 5th Street NE. Opportunities for further easements to the Milwaukee Bridge are being pursued.

Attractive new signage and bicycle sharrows are now in place near Veterans Park and along the approximate one mile of existing sidewalks that serve as part of trail.

**Cross County Commuter Collector Trail (Tacoma Pipeline Trail):**

The once-in-a-life-time opportunity to purchase the largest remaining un-platted open space forest/wildlife/recreation land in Pierce County is one that trail lovers must pursue. Tacoma Water wants to sell 180 acres of the McMillin Reservoir area. Pierce County wants to buy 100 acres to extend the Tacoma Pipeline Trail from Tacoma. Puyallup Public Schools wants to buy 80 acres to build a new junior high school sometime in the next 10 years. The Tacoma Pipeline Trail is a viable connection to our existing Regional Foothills Trail Network so we will be keeping track Big Time on this connection.

Want to keep track of trail progress with us? Website: http://www.piercecountytrails.org/. Find us on Facebook as Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, and Friends of the Puyallup Riverwalk.
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.

Buckley to Orting Half Marathon:
The Buckley to Orting Half Marathon will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2015. Those wishing to participate in the half-marathon may do so by visiting the following Website to sign up: http://www.rainiertoruston.com/FoothillsBOHalf.html

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. We also have a group walk that starts at 10 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.

Work Party: Please RSVP to Don Partington at 253-820-8411 or cedarfamily@comcast.net
July 11th at 8:30am. Meet at the Wilkeson Town Hall. Bring a square shovel or weed eater. Lunch provided if you RSVP by July 9th
In regards to the FEMA Bridge, in the Upper Loop/Bow Tie of the Foothills Trail destroyed by a falling Cotton Wood Tree in a wind storm (November 2014), the County recently awarded a bid to remove the totally destroyed bridge. The County expects the remains of the bridge will be removed this summer. The County’s Public Works Department is reviewing several options for replacing the bridge. The County will select a bridge plan later this year and move forward on construction of a replacement in 2016 or 2017.

In April we discovered a sink hole in the undeveloped section of the Foothills Trail between Wilkeson and Carbonado, near the Carbonado end, and that sink hole was filled in early June by Pierce County Parks and Recreation work crews. Thanks, guys!

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/

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

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 ____________________________

Charge my ☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard  CCV #  (3 digit number)
No: ____________________________ Exp. ________
Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: __________________ Zip: __________
Phone: __________ Signature: __________
Email: ____________________________

President’s Message Continued from Page 1

http://www.piercecountytrails.org/become-a-member/
Free Admission

DisneyNature

Bears
October 17, 2015

Milotte Wildlife Film Festival
Bonney Lake, WA
www.mwlff.org