President’s message

Promises, promises!

For more than a year we have been promising you that the path between Orting and South Prairie would be completed trail by now. Personally, I have also been telling, if not promising, people that more of Puyallup's Riverwalk would be in place. You do not know how much I identify with Charlie Brown in that famous comic strip where he repeatedly succumbs to Lucy's pledge that this time she will not pull away the football, just as he attempts to place kick. If only there were just one Lucy, life and trail development would be more predictable. Charles Schultz knew differently, and by now so should we.

Despite honest assurances to the contrary, those upon whom we must rely to push our projects forward have their own Lucys to deal with. These may be merely irksome like unanticipated regulatory complications, past oversights, adverse court decisions, balky property negotiations or scheduling delays within departments and agencies upon which we depend but have no control. Worse, Lucys can also be tragic as occurred this past summer when Claudia Peters, one of our most zealous members and Pierce County Parks Department's ardent right-of-way agent for the trail, lost her valiant battle with cancer. Cancer surgery also played a role by sidelining a contractor for the better part of a month while he was making plan revisions for a part of the trail requiring federal approval.

Speaking of federal approval— that is the house where Lucy lives. While Pierce County is grateful for its success in achieving numerous federal grants over the years, and these have enabled most of our trail, federal grants have come at a price. Once federal money is used for any phase of the trail, be it only for property acquisition or planning, all future phases, regardless of funding source, are subject to requirements and restrictions that can double and even triple project development time.

Thankfully, the passing of Proposition One (popularly known as Zootrek) in the year 2001 created a source of funding that should assure swifter and less complicated projects in Pierce County's envisioned trail network.

Claudia Peters

by Chuck Morrison

Claudia Peters of Pierce County Parks and Recreation died August 21 after battling breast cancer since last October. Claudia joined the county in 1990 as trail coordinator and most recently worked as a right-of-way agent with a special emphasis on trail purchases.

Claudia will be dearly missed by those members of the public who realized that, for her, the trail was more than a job. I mention it because I truly believe the Foothills Trail wouldn't have progressed as much as it has without her consistent, hard core enthusiasm, passion and drive, above and beyond the call of duty.

Trails are not easy to develop but, in Pierce County, she kept the faith and kept on moving more than the average person would. The fact is that creating this trail has been an exercise in putting Humpty Dumpty back together again. She handled the pieces and was the glue that got us to where we are in good spirits.

Claudia had passion, drive and an inordinate amount of enthusiasm for what, to most others, might have been just a job.

I, for one, will miss her dearly.

continued on next page
President’s message (continued)

Meanwhile, we are assured by the principals that all of Puyallup’s Riverwalk trail extension, and most of The Foothills Trail’s missing links between Puyallup and South Prairie are still on track. Construction bids for Orting to South Prairie are expected to be received before the first of the year.

We are excited about 2004, but saddened that three friends in particular will not be here to witness it. We sorely miss our founder, Dr. Douglas Tait, Ms. Claudia Peters and Mr. Don Schmidt whose support enabled us to receive our very first grant. The grant was from the Mountaineers, and provided us our initial organizational funding. "Charlie Browns" all. They kept the faith, no matter how many Lucys pulled the ball away. — Ernie Bay

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition announces its Annual Meeting for Thursday January 22, 2004, at the Puyallup Public Library for the purpose of electing its Board of Directors and conducting other business as may be presented to the Board.

Nominated for the Board of Directors
Paul Jacobson, 3 year term
John Olson, 3 year term
Art Robinson,* 3 year term
Ken Woolery,* 3 year term
Russ Matthews,* 1 year term
* Currently serving as an officer of the Coalition

In accordance with the bylaws, a member of the Coalition may also be considered an eligible candidate for Director by submitting a petition of nomination to the Board of Directors not less than 21 days before the annual meeting. Such petition must include the valid signature of 10 coalition members or ten percent (10%) of the Coalition membership, whichever is less.

All members present at the Annual Meeting are entitled to one vote for the Board of Directors. The elected Board of Directors will elect officers at the first board meeting following the Annual Meeting. The nominating committee consists of Buzz Grant, Ken Woolery and John Downs.

Breakfast a woodsy treat

by Ernie Bay

The aroma of Endicott coffee and hot Roman Meal cereal stimulated the senses and removed the chill for early morning guests at our October 4 "Breakfast in the Woods."

Guests enjoyed a banquet of fresh fruit, scones, bagels, Krispy Kreme donuts, juices, hot and cold cereals and plenty of good hot coffee, all served in the fresh air and splendor of the upper Carbon River Valley.

Tables were set with white linen, silver and fresh flowers beneath a verdant forest canopy. Continued on next page.
Woodsy breakfast (continued)

Soft flute melodies, as if played by Pan but actually the contribution of local resident Mardel Chowden, added an air of enchantment. Following breakfast, guests hiked, biked or just took walks along the river, venturing into Mt. Rainier National Park.

A special thanks to our friends from The Sierra Club, Cascade Land Conservancy, Friends of the Carbon Canyon and Mt. Tahoma Trails for helping us make this a very profitable fundraiser.

For all of you who missed this much-lauded event, we encourage you to join us next year. (See related photo on page 9.)

Volunteers staff Puyallup Fair booth

More than 50 people took at least one three-hour shift at the booth for the Foothills Trail Coalition at this year's Puyallup Fair. A BIG THANKS to:


Memberships and donations received

$18-25

$26 - 99

continued on next page
Memberships and donations (continued)

$100 - 499
Ernest Bay, Ruth Arlene Bay, Michael & Joan Wright Chevalier, John & Vivian Curtin, Bruce Dees & Associates, Carl & Dinni Fabiani, Clay & Dixie Gatchell, Steven & Kathie Henricksen, Charles & Sheryl Jacobson, Randy Lindblad, Mark R. Palmer, Pierce County Parks Staff, Plum Creek, Art Sandboe, Seattle Regional Accounting, Donna Tait, United Way of King County, James Vadheim, Ralph & Dena Wessels, James Olp & Sue Weston, Nancy & William Wheeler.

Grants - Wilkeson Bridge
Norman Archibald Foundation, $3,000; Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation, $3,000; Fuchs Foundation, $5,000; The Mountaineers, $2,000; Pierce County Parks Department, $3,000; FRTTC fund raisers and donations, $5,200.

Even though we are very sad about the trees being ripped out of the ground near our trail, we still love the trail and will continue to enjoy it as our children grow. We plan on raising our children here in Orting. The trail is one of the main reasons we love this town! :) Thanks again.

Britt Allerton

Please accept the following small gifts for Breakfast in the Woods, which was delightful, and Claudia Peters' memory - such a personal and community friend to so many.

Sincerely,
Gino and Florence Fabiani

Trail User Counts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Avg/day*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foothills Trail (Orting)</td>
<td>Sept. 5 - Nov. 7 (2 mos.)</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puyallup Riverwalk</td>
<td>Aug. 8 - Nov. 7 (3mos)</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Automated counts under-represent users by approximately 20 percent as determined by onsite observations which find people walking in pairs or trios counted as one.

Increase bike lanes to increase commuters

by Robert J. Matter,
Chicago Critical Mass

The Transportation Research Board recently published a paper titled, "Bicycle Commuting and Facilities in Major U.S. Cities: If you build them, commuters will use them." The authors surveyed 50 major U.S. cities to correlate the percentage of people commuting by bicycle with several different factors. The highest percentage (2.63%) was in Minneapolis. Only two of about 10 factors they looked at showed an unmistakable correlation with bicycle commuting: the presence of bicycle lanes and the combined total of bicycle lanes and shared-use paths. In other words, the presence of more bike lanes and shared-use paths increases the number of commuting cyclists in large cities. Minneapolis' high commuting rate is partially explained by its tie for fourth with Portland, OR, in the number of miles of combined paths and bike lanes. Portland ranked second in the percentage of commuters on bikes (2.55%).

Jasmine Arabia and John Peterson were each winners of the FTC bicycle lottery at the Puyallup Fair. Congratulations!

"I got my start in politics building a bike path along the Lake Champlain coast so it could be opened to the public and so that we could have non-fossil-fuel-burning transportation. I believe that when I was governor, I spent twice as much money on bike paths and pedestrian walkways as was required by the Federal government and will continue that policy." -- Howard Dean

Foothills Trail Coalition Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Ernie Bay</td>
<td>253-848-7718</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bugtrail@aol.com">bugtrail@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Chuck Morrison</td>
<td>253-927-6838</td>
<td><a href="mailto:suave51@juno.com">suave51@juno.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Ken Woolery</td>
<td>253-863-4774</td>
<td>no e-mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Art Robinson</td>
<td>253-964-3387</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ajr4142@worldnet.att.com">ajr4142@worldnet.att.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Bill Harmon</td>
<td>253-475-1537</td>
<td><a href="mailto:charmon@nventure.com">charmon@nventure.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Members</td>
<td>Tom Enlow</td>
<td>253-851-8023</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tom@enlow.org">tom@enlow.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marie Bailey Reed</td>
<td>253-847-8647</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marienot@telisphere.com">marienot@telisphere.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Downs</td>
<td>360-897-2617</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johndowns@juno.com">johndowns@juno.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buzz Grant</td>
<td>253-845-4991</td>
<td><a href="mailto:grantbu@ctt.com">grantbu@ctt.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Earl Mikkelson</td>
<td>253-862-4509</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mikkelse@mindspring.com">mikkelse@mindspring.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clive Berglund</td>
<td>206-870-5548</td>
<td><a href="mailto:seajayberg@aol.com">seajayberg@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russ Matthews</td>
<td>253-939-1611</td>
<td><a href="mailto:russ-matthews@comcast.net">russ-matthews@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Jacobson</td>
<td>253-848-5585</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peejay@nwlink.com">peejay@nwlink.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Catastrophic urban development in the Orting and Puyallup Valleys reached a new dimension on September 26, 2003, when 40 of our flowering trees along the trail between McMillin and Orting were uprooted and destroyed. The trees were planted by the Coalition in 1994 as part of its "Buy A Tree For The Trail" program and were just approaching their prime. The trees were removed to make way for a new entrance to the Village Green housing development and accompanying deceleration and right turn lane off SR 162.

Executive Director Chuck Morrison and President Ernie Bay of the Coalition met with a field foreman of the developer, Olson Bros., in March of 2002 to arrange transplanting and asked to be notified when the trees were to be removed. We anticipated, based upon an earlier deceleration lane for Ptarmigan Ridge Elementary School, that no more than a dozen trees, planted more than 20 feet apart, would be affected.

After 18 months delay in receiving permits, the developer gave us less than 24 hours notice, and ostensibly agreed to replant the trees on the other side of the trail. Imagine our horror the next noon to find more than a quarter mile stretch of 12-foot high trees in full leaf lying bare rooted in the sun with no one around.

As much as we were dismayed, Orting's Mayor Dale Jones was furious! While not a trail supporter in the project's early days, Mayor Jones now takes great pride in the Foothills Trail and, since the trees were within the city limits, he considered them to be the city's property and responsibility.

After learning of the catastrophe, the mayor arranged with the developer to dig the trees into a holding grove, and had them heavily watered. Predictably, it was to no avail. All have since died.

The mayor and city manager, Jim Mercer, have assured us that arrangements have been made with the developer to replace all 53 trees that were eventually destroyed.

Also we are glad to report that we were able to salvage nearly all of the surviving name tags, and will affix these to the new trees once they are planted sometime next spring.

Joe Sobinovsky was introduced to Washington's trail community by Washington State Parks Director, Rex Derr, at the 2003 conference of the Washington State Trails Coalition. Barely two weeks on the job at the time of the November conference at Deception Pass State Park, Joe is the new Statewide Trails Coordinator. His office is based in Auburn, but he has settled in Orting where he was delighted to discover the Foothills Trail. We are delighted that he did! Joe, who comes from Ohio, is the former Executive Director of the Pacific Coast Trail Association.

Welcome, Joe!
**Habitat protected**

In April 2003, Cascade Land Conservancy was awarded $425,000 from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board to acquire and protect key properties along South Prairie Creek. South Prairie Creek contains the best remaining salmon habitat in Pierce County and is a target area of our Salmon Sanctuaries Initiative. We conducted a detailed assessment of each parcel of land along the creek last year and created an action plan to acquire the most critical properties.

"Cascade Land Conservancy began its work on the creek in 2001 with acquisition of a key 20-acre property," said Chip Nevins, who is managing the project. "I am really happy that we can continue to protect such important habitat for salmon."

The primary tributary of the Carbon River, South Prairie Creek is the backbone of natural salmonid production in the Lower Carbon River sub-basin and Puyallup River watershed. This waterway produces nearly half of all the wild steelhead in the Puyallup River system. It has the only significant run of pink salmon and enjoys healthy returns of chinook, Coho and chum salmon and sea-run cutthroat trout. *(Reprinted from Cascade Land Conservancy, Summer 2003.)*

**We built another bridge!**

*by Russ Matthews*

This summer, 40 volunteers combined their various talents and muscles to rebuild the Gale Creek Bridge in Wilkeson. The process involved a vast array of skills from understanding engineering drawings to flipping burgers.

A year ago, the Coalition convinced Jan Wolcott, Pierce County Parks Director, to have the County Engineering Department do the design work. Craig Shaner designed a sub-surface of modified ties, a deck of "glulams," and posts and handrails to finish it off. Glulams are an engineered wood which is made by laminating lumber together with glue.

The materials list, supplies and tool rentals added up to $23,000. Tom Enlow got to work writing grant proposals that brought in three quarters of the total costs. The rest was funded with your memberships and donations.

Once we received Craig's plans, Russ Matthews, Earl Mikkelson, Chuck Morrison and Don Partington ordered the lumber and hardware. While waiting for the materials to be produced, we spent many hours at the bridge measuring, marking and re-measuring. I think we "built" the bridge three times while waiting for the supplies to arrive.

On July 12 we started building. The majority of the construction took place on three weekends, spread over three months. Almost every weekend in between, a few of us would meet at the bridge to review and fine-tune our plans.

All together we logged 1,100 volunteer hours and saved the county taxpayers in excess of $75,000. The finished product will be there for the rest of our lives, showing what a village can accomplish. The next time you go through Wilkeson, look to your right as you come into town.

If you would like to help with other volunteer projects on the trail, contact Don Partington at Part7011@aol.com or 253-863-5307.

**Still looking for Christmas gifts?**

What better gift than a membership in the Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition! What better way to introduce a friend or relative to our trails, and encourage them to get outside more often to enjoy a walk or bike ride. What better way to give them a gift of health and relaxation that they can use any time of day, or day of the year.

If you are looking for something more tangible, please consider a brick or tree in their name. *(See the application form on the last page.)* Brick and tree recipients will also receive a one-year subscription to our quarterly newsletter. Trail people have more fun!
Finally abandoned

by Ernie Bay

Surprising as it may seem, the former Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad corridor that is now our Foothills Trail has only this past October become abandoned. King County successfully sued for abandonment of its sector of the same corridor some years earlier. Pierce County opted not to join in that suit for a variety of legal reasons, including finalized settlements with several adjacent property owners.

Originally built as the Great Northern Pacific Railroad, the Foothills Trail route once carried freight and passengers to the east coast on a regular schedule. When rails and ties were removed beginning in 1986, the corridor was assumed by most to have been abandoned.

Worse, no one knew to apply for the corridor to be railbanked. Railbanking, designed by Congress to preserve rather than abandon railroad corridors, was then a recent (1983) and little-known law under challenge by the railroads.

The railroads prevailed in court, making railbanking optional instead of mandatory. Railbanking prevented the ripening of reversionary clauses. Abandonment reverted historic easements to current property heirs and assigns, and allowed railroad companies to sell off property which they owned. This opened the way for a plethora of quiet title lawsuits and difficult property negotiations that continue today. Abandonment also reverted federally granted property, referred to as charter property, to other agencies of government, including cities and counties at no cost.

One particularly egregious action was filed by a fairly recent Buckley resident who purchased property adjoining the trail several years after the trail was in place. He and his partner were told by the assessor that the subject parcels' ownership was long settled. Nevertheless, based upon earlier quiet title actions, the parties chose to challenge the county's ownership in court. The county prevailed, but at a cost of $26,000.

In order to prevent any further such claim jumping attempts, Pierce County sued Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad and the U.S. Government for official abandonment. Neither party contested. A bonus benefit released from consideration a continued on next page

Swirling, ever changing patterns fascinate onlookers from the Voights Creek Bridge as the gentle, clear flow of Voights' spring-fed stream engages the roaring Carbon River, laden with white "liquid granite" glacial flour in a beguiling dance of contrast.
**Abandoned (continued)**
critical parcel of railroad land that had been delaying trail construction between Orting and South Prairie.
The abandonment will not affect previous quiet title settlements, nor will it preclude negotiations and payments to the claimants.

**Trail etiquette suggested**

While many of you know to say a quick hello when meeting or passing fellow trail users, many people may not have been on greenways or trails used by horses.

The key thing to remember is that "Wheels Yield to Heels." Bicyclists and other wheeled users yield to those on either two or four feet! Hikers should yield to equestrians. If you aren't sure what to do, stop and let the other trail user pass. Feel free to ask the horse rider what you should do. Most folks riding horses will gladly chat with you about their mount.

If you overtake a horse, cyclist or hiker from behind, make verbal contact with the trail user. "On your left" will generally do it. A quick "thanks" after passing is always a good idea.

Keep in mind that unlike dog, cat (and people!) droppings, horse droppings are plant based. They will go away quickly after a rain.

Bring along a friend to enjoy the trail with you.

Say hello or at least offer a nod to fellow trail users. We've found that folks who use trails are about the friendliest folks around.

Bring along a cell phone if you have one.

Don't leave valuables in parked vehicles.

Don't carry much cash or valuables with you.

Stay on the trail.

*(The above excerpted from American Tobacco Trail News, North Carolina)*

**Gatchels honored**

Clay and Dixie Gatchel
Ages: 84 and 79
Residence: Puyallup
Achievement: National Take Pride in America Award

Full-time service at Mount Rainier: 8.5 years

Current service: Three days a week at the Carbon River visitors center

Clay and Dixie Gatchel spent their honeymoon 55 years ago camping near Longmire. They have climbed to the summit of Mount Rainier three times and tried 10 other times, including once when Clay slipped into a crevasse and was rescued by famed mountaineer Lou Whittaker.

They have worked as backcountry rangers, headed the volunteer program at Mount Rainier National Park and are outspoken opponents of a White House push to privatize some park service employees. Recently, the Puyallup couple was honored in Washington, D.C., for being among the top U.S. Interior Department volunteers. "You are the best of the best," Interior Secretary Gale Norton said in presenting the Gatchels and 15 other individuals and organizations a Take Pride in America award.

Clay and Dixie said they were honored by the award and have enjoyed every minute of the past 18 years volunteering at Mount Rainier. "It's gorgeous. You wake up in the morning, and there she is, sometimes in the continued on next page
Gatchels (continued)
sun, sometimes in the clouds. You always love it," Clay said.

The Gatchels' love affair with Mount Rainier began the first time they saw the mountain on their honeymoon. "We spent part of it in a tent in the rain and the mud at Longmire," Dixie said. Over the years, they have hiked most of the trails in the park and still walk some of them near Paradise and Sunrise.

Of their 10 unsuccessful efforts to reach the summit, one was aborted when a camp stove blew up, another was interrupted when Clay suffered snow blindness and then there was the time he slipped into the crevasse. Clay recalled Dixie was using an ice ax to brace herself, while she held onto his hand.

"Whittaker finally pulled me up before I fell further," he said. "It was a long ways down."

The couple first started volunteering at the park in 1985, working as backcountry rangers out of the Freemont lookout. From 1992 until 1999, they headed the volunteers program. During that time, the number of volunteers doubled to more than 800. They also formed bonds with the park's professional and technical staff, people who once felt threatened the volunteers would take their jobs. "There are so many dedicated people up there," Dixie said.

But it was the Gatchels' dedication that caught the attention of the Interior Department. "The Gatchels have left a legacy of stewardship that will live on with park volunteers for years," said Marti Allbright, executive director of the Take Pride in America program.

(Excerpted from The News Tribune, October 12, 2003,

Mt. Rainier National Park Superintendent Dave Uberaga and Ernie Bay at Carbon River Charette.

Happy participants in the Breakfast in the Woods fundraiser held October 4. Please see story on page 2.)
New Members Always Welcome
If you appreciate the work that we are doing and wish to see more trails, please consider joining us. Foothills Trail memberships start at $18 single and $25 family. Credit cards accepted.

☐ $18 Single  ☐ $25 Couple  ☐ $50 Trail Builder
☐ $100 Hero  ☐ Even more! Honorary Member

Trees for the Trail / Orting Trail Kiosk Engraved Bricks

_____ Number of tree(s)  
_____ Number of brick(s) 
@ $50 per tree or brick = $__________
Name(s) to appear on Tree Tag or Brick ______________________

Charge my ☐ VISA or ☐ Mastercard
No: __________________________ Exp: __________
Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________ Zip: ____________
Phone: ____________ Signature: ____________

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Changes to Newsletter Mailings
In order to use our funds to build more trails and bridges, we will be limiting the number of newsletters we mail. Our quarterly newsletter mailing costs are more than $5,000 a year and continue to rise. The current newsletter (and back issues) are also published on our web site at www.piercecountytrails.org, which displays the newsletter and pictures in color and, of course, you can always print out a hard copy.

We will continue mailing newsletters to those who have renewed their membership in the past three years. Check your address below. The top line will show the date of your last renewal. If the date is not shown, your renewal was prior to 1998. If the date is prior to 2001 or blank, and you would like to continue to receive the newsletter, please renew your membership with this form.

If your membership is current but you would like to view only the web newsletter and save us the mailing cost, please contact us, and we will remove your name from the newsletter mailing list.