President’s message

Changing the guard

Let me introduce myself. I’m Ken Woolery, recently elected President of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. Ernie Bay has me beat with more years in the Coalition. However, I have been involved as a member, board member and vice president for approximately 14 years. I am retired from The Boeing Company and love trails. I’m looking forward to the board and guiding the Coalition as our activities evolve more toward a county wide trail system with emphasis on helping other groups, cities, etc., in getting that system built.

June thru August of this year should see trail construction completed from McMillin to Puyallup, as well as a short section in Wilkeson. Many trail activities will also take place, such as Walk for the Benefits, National Trails Day, Rainier to Ruston running and walking relay, Breakfast in the Woods, as well as many work parties.

Speaking of work parties, an old friend in work parties returns to help—REI will be joining the Sumner area work party on June 18 as well as work parties in July and August. This year should also see the Coalition’s relationship with ForeverGreen develop into a strong force for trails in the county. It will be a busy and productive year—much to be accomplished and enjoyed!

See you on the Trail—Ken Woolery

Regional trail system proposed for county

On May 10, the ForeverGreen Council announced a plan for building a regional, non-motorized trail system throughout Pierce County. “The emphasis is on implementation,” said Terry Lee, who chairs the ForeverGreen Council and is a member of the Pierce County Council.

“People are demanding trail development throughout Pierce County and want to see an inter-connected system of non-motorized pedestrian trails developed within the next decade.”

Leading the project is the ForeverGreen Council, a nonprofit organization of elected officials, business leaders, organizations and park and recreation directors from city, county, state and federal agencies in Pierce County. At ForeverGreen public meetings held throughout the county, when people were asked about the need for future parks, an integrated, countywide trail system surfaced as a high priority issue.

Today the Foothills Trail connects four rural towns along the Puyallup River and South Prairie Creek. In public comments, people asked for a trail connecting all the cities in Pierce County. Consequently, the ForeverGreen Council initiated a project in 2002 to analyze the problem and develop an implementation strategy.

The analysis revealed that planning and building trails is complex, requiring specialized knowledge and expertise. One of the largest difficulties is planning systems that cross jurisdictional boundaries. Just developing one trail can tax the resources of a single jurisdiction, much less developing a countywide system.

“We’ve been working to develop the Foothills Trail from Orting to Buckley for nearly 15 years, and it still isn’t complete,” said Jan Wolcott, Director of the Pierce County Department of Parks and Recreation and member of the ForeverGreen Board. “It’s easier for a local park department to acquire and develop a piece of land into a traditional park than it is to plan and develop a trail...
ForeverGreen (con’t.)

The ForeverGreen Council and the Pierce Conservation District to form a new ‘Trails Technical Assistance Office’ that can overcome these challenges. The proposed office would be a stand-alone operation, funded partly through the district’s budget and grant sources.

Starting in July 2007, the office will be dedicated exclusively to trail development and will coordinate with the county, cities and towns to provide technical assistance to partner jurisdictions.

The ForeverGreen Council will work with the Trails Technical Assistance Office in an advisory capacity, coordinating with jurisdictions and setting policy, priorities and scheduling. A proposed countywide trail system map, produced as part of the planning process, utilizing trail information from previously adopted planning documents, will provide a foundation for future action.

The ForeverGreen Council itself received a grant of technical planning assistance in developing this proposal from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program of the National Park Service.

RTCA is a program of the National Park Service that awards grants of non-financial technical planning assistance to communities working on local conservation and recreation projects. Such assistance is awarded based on a written application from the community.

For more information contact Kirk Kirkland at 253-761-1693 or Terry Lee, chair, 253-798-6654.

“TrailBuzz” released

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), the moderator of the Trails and Greenways e-mail listserv, has just announced the release of "TrailBuzz," a new interactive bulletin board for members and visitors to the RTC family of web sites. TrailBuzz offers a forum where users can interact with each other on topics such as trail use, conditions, projects, policies, experiences, commuting and other trails and greenways issues.

TrailBuzz enables registered visitors to:

∗ Post messages to other

continued on next page
**TrailBuzz (continued)**

members, visitors and RTC staff;
* participate in forums on trail subjects of interest to them;
* post information requests about specific trails or trail policies, conditions or personal experiences;
* link quickly to RTC’s TrailLink trail records for more detailed information on trail conditions and access

**CALENDAR**

Monthly meetings are held on 4th Thursdays (except Dec.) from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Puyallup Public Library, south entrance.

324 South Meridian Street

**EVENTS**

Engles’ Picnic
June 23, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
(details, p. 10)

TrailLink 2005
July 27-30

Minneapolis / St. Paul

**WORK PARTIES**

June 18, 9 a.m. to noon

Sumner REI
1700 45th St. E., Sumner
(details, p. 6)

July 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

South Prairie Trail Head
Aug. 27, 9 a.m. to noon

Tentatively set to bring the trail from Buckley to the White River

Check the website below or call Don Partington at 253-863-5307 for details.

**Weekly Meetings**

At Charlie’s Restaurant
Every Wednesday at noon at Charlie’s Restaurant, 113 East Main, Puyallup.

All are welcome.

**For more information**

Call 253-841-2570

Or email bugtrail@aol.com

http://piercecountytrails.org/

points, and upload photos and reviews of trails; and
* share insights, expertise and knowledge that will help support America's growing network of trails.

To register for TrailBuzz, please visit www.railtrails.org/forums. If you have any questions about TrailBuzz, please contact Brian Yourish, the moderator of the Trails and Greenways e-mail listserv, at brian@railtrails.org.

**Railbanking explained**

You’ve probably heard of railbanking, but how much do you really know about what it is and how it works? The following explanation was excerpted from the Rails to Trails Conservancy’s Fact Sheet, Railbanking - What, Where, Why, When, and How?

In 1983, concerned by the rapid contraction of America’s rail network, the U.S. Congress amended the National Trails System Act to create the railbanking program. Railbanking is a method by which lines proposed for abandonment can be preserved through interim conversion to trail use.

If the title to an about-to-be-abandoned rail corridor is in question and there is any interest in trail use, the line should be preserved through railbanking. Railbanking requests are made with the Surface Transportation Board (STB), formerly the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Some railroad rights-of-way contain easements that revert back to adjacent landowners when an abandonment is summated. However, if a line is railbanked, the corridor is treated as if it had not been abandoned. As a result, the integrity of the corridor is maintained, and any reversions that could break it up into small pieces are prevented.

Railbanking can be requested by either a public agency or a qualified private organization. The railbanking request must be sent to the STB in Washington, D.C., and must at the very minimum include a "Statement of Willingness To Assume Financial Responsibility." Since the abandoning railroad company must agree to negotiate a railbanking agreement, a copy of the request for railbanking must be served on the railroad at the same time it is sent to the STB.

A Public Use Condition (PUC) request is a separate request that is complementary to a request for railbanking. If a PUC request is made to the STB, the STB will place a restriction on the abandonment that prevents the railroad company from selling off or otherwise disposing of any property or trail-related structures, such as bridges or culverts, for a period of 180 days after the abandonment is authorized.

This public use condition gives the prospective trail manager some breathing room for preparing an offer to the railroad. (The public use condition is also a good backup device should the railroad not agree to railbanking since the STB will issue public use conditions regardless of whether the railroad agrees.)

There are several other im-

continued on next page
**Railbanking (continued)**

Important points regarding railbanking:

1. A railbanking request is not a contract and does not commit the interested party to acquire any property or to accept any liability. It invites negotiation with the railroad company under the umbrella of railbanking. A party filing a "Statement of Willingness To Assume Financial Responsibility" is not accepting any financial responsibility. It is merely expressing an interest in possibly doing so.

2. The tracks and ties on a railbanked line can be removed. However, bridges and trestles must remain in place, and no permanent structures can be built on the right-of-way.

3. Under railbanking, there will likely still be an actual sale of the property, and the railroad will likely still want compensation. Railbanking is not generally a method for obtaining a free trail.

4. A railbanked line is subject to possible future restoration of rail service. Any railroad can apply to the STB to resume rail service on a railbanked corridor. However, if the STB restores rail service, the trail agency is entitled to fair market value for the corridor. The terms and conditions of a transfer back to rail service would be determined by the STB.

5. The requesting letter can only be filed on a rail line that is still under the authority of the STB. Generally, the STB loses authority 30 days after the effective date of an abandonment. Even if the deadline is missed, the letter should be filed anyway along with an explanation as to why additional time is needed. The STB may be able to reassert jurisdiction over the abandonment.

A more thorough discussion of railbanking and other legal issues related to rails-to-trails conversions is available in Secrets of Successful Rail-Trails: An Acquisition and Organizing Manual for Converting Rails into Trails, which is available from the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) has recently warned that, once again, Congressman Jim Ryun (R-KS) has launched an attack on railbanking. His bill proposes changing the National Trails System Act in ways that "would paralyze the process . . . by creating insurmountable hurdles for trail builders."

Since a railbanked corridor is not considered 'abandoned,' the land can be sold, leased or donated for trail use only. This keeps the corridor intact with one owner—it is a clean process where the land is retained in the public domain. If Congressman Ryun has his wish, no corridor could be railbanked and opened for trail use until each and every claim—justified or not—for the corridor’s land was addressed and resolved.

Help save railbanking by joining the RTC Action Alert Network at www.railtrails.org and let your congressman know how you feel.

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**Enumclaw**

We recently received the great news that the Coalition has been awarded a $15,000 Starbucks grant, in partnership with the city of Enumclaw, to extend the Enumclaw Foothills Trail section northward to a signalled SR 410 highway crossing. The grant was part of a highly competitive program recently established by Starbucks Coffee to enhance community parks and recreation. Projects had to total at least $50,000, and involve the active participation of a local Starbucks store and its employees in some aspect of development or maintenance. Our grant will involve the Enumclaw Starbucks store, and the City of Enumclaw will provide the necessary matching funds.

In celebration of this year’s awards, Starbucks will be hosting a community picnic on Saturday, June 4 on Beacon Hill in Seattle. All are invited, and games will be available for children.—Ernie Bay

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**Foothills Trail Coalition Board**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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Networking (continued)

Edgewood Interurban

In the last update it was reported that the Edgewood City Council had selected Bruce Dees and Associates as their first choice for negotiating a contract for a trail master plan. Unfortunately, the cost envisioned by the council and that set by Dees were too far apart. Therefore, the council went with their second choice, Jay Rood Landscape Architects. This agreement was approved at the April 26 council meeting. Rood has taken a great deal of interest in the history of the Interurban Trolley Line as it once existed through Edgewood.

Meetings between the consulting team and a citizens' committee will begin soon.—Diane Kerlin

Puyallup Riverwalk

Although it may sound odd, the westernmost phase of the Puyallup Riverwalk, now under construction, will follow the river. Actually, of course, the trail was always to have followed the river, but from a birds' eye vantage point, on columns slightly higher than the adjacent River Road.

This would have been a noisy and smelly experience at best. At a cost of more than $1.6 million this would also, perhaps, have been the most expensive mile plus in our entire trail system.

After years of planning, things changed mid May when authorities walked the construction area and determined that there was sufficient space, after all, to keep the trail at grade. Trail users will now be able to enjoy a pleasant riparian flow rather than a noxious flow of traffic.

Upper Nisqually

Pierce County, along with an Advisory Committee of dedicated citizens and agency representatives, has been working for over a year to develop a 'Concept Plan' that describes the community vision for a trail between Elbe and Ashford. The draft plan is complete and is being released for public review and comment from April 13 to May 13, 2005.

"This is not an engineering document," said Bryan Bowden, a community planner with the National Park Service who has been helping facilitate the process. "Rather, it is a document that describes the communities' shared vision and goals for the trail. It includes preliminary information on subjects such as design ideas and issues, management and operation needs, ideas for funding and recommendations for implementation, including partnerships necessary to make it all happen."

A CD containing a copy of the plan can be requested by calling or emailing Bryan Bowden, Mount Rainier National Park, 360-569-2211, ext. 2306, bryan_bowden@nps.gov

In addition, a copy of the draft plan is posted on-line and can be downloaded at: http://www.mt-rainier.com/links.htm

Bowden works for a program of the National Park Service called 'Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance' (RTCA), which provides grants of non-financial planning assistance to communities working to protect local open space resources and enhance close to home connections to recreation and nature. continued on next page
**Milton Interurban**

The IAC extended our grant until June 2005, with conditions. Purchase is complete, and design is at 97 percent. Plans are in review with IAC and WSDOT. The environmental review is still in WSDOT's office. IAC reimbursement, WSDOT reimbursement and Conservation Futures reimbursement have all been received. We were in jeopardy of losing the unspent portion of our IAC grant, due to a proviso in the 2003-2005 state budget restricting reappropriation of WWRP funds past June 30, 2005. However, the current versions of the Senate and House capital budgets both have eliminated this language. Therefore, unless something changes, there should be no problem with us continuing to draw our IAC grant funds in the 2005-2007 biennium. This positive work on our behalf is thanks to Mayor Asay, Representative Skip Priest and Senator Tracey Eide.—

*Public Works Director, City of Milton*

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**Ashford-Elbe**

Our Advisory Committee met on March 1 to finalize the release of the draft plan for the "Upper Nisqually Heritage Trail," running from Elbe to Ashford. The final plan should be released by the National Park Service this summer, and I hope that Pierce County Parks and Recreation will find State IAC funding for this project. On my return from St. Louis this fall, I would like to go up there and begin creating a single track trail so use of the trail can begin.—

*Bob Myrick*

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**New trail cut June 18**

On June 18, we'll meet at the REI Distribution Center in Sumner, just north of downtown. From McLendon's Hardware go north on Fryer, bear right on Puyallup Street, take the first left on Tacoma Ave, then right on 45th Street. Please bring rake, shovel, weed whacker, machete, gloves and boots. We'll be cutting new trail next to the river from the Fryer Ave. bridge to the Tacoma Ave. bridge and grading the trail near the REI parking lot.—

*Don Partington*

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There are 53 rail trails in the state of Washington, totaling 578 miles. The state with the most trails is Pennsylvania with 114. The state with the most miles is Wisconsin with 1,394.
Memberships and donations received

$18 - 25

$26 - 50

$26 - 50


$51-100

$101 - 499
Steve & Kathie Hendrickson.
*Includes brick or tree pur- chase (s)

What's right is not always popular, and what is popular is not always right!—Unknown

Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss you'll land among the stars.—Les Brown
Along the Foothills Trail...

Activity is hopping along the Foothills Trail with more happenings going on than we can keep up with. Growing numbers of enthusiastic trail users from all over the Puget Sound area tell us how much they love the trail. What's not to love? It is family and user friendly. It is safe and cost free. It is nearby and accessible year round in fair weather and foul. The exercise afforded, whether on foot, wheels or horseback, keeps our bodies vital and our spirits high. The prevailing beauty and serenity provides solace for our souls. Spring has sprung with persistent April showers nourishing the profuse growth of flora and fauna. Clay says, "Everything is REALLY GREEN along our trail."

Bravo, stellar souls! You did a credible job of “thinking snow” last quarter as confirmed by our own Steve Brown. In January, Steve "Blackberryed" a snow report from Chinook Pass, indicating only two feet of snow on the ground. In April, Steve reported ten feet. Every little drop of precipitation helps alleviate the dreaded draught. Now just keep thinking snow in the mountains, but give a thought for some sunny weekends for all our worker bee friends. Steve also reported that 800 good-natured, gung-ho cyclists hit the trail for the Tacoma Wheelmen's Daffodil Classic on April 17. That was one really rainy, windy, cold Sunday, friends. You rock, Wheelmen!

How about this? When Clay and I did our first courtesy patrol about four years ago, we were the greenest of greenhorns and strangers to all. These days, especially on mid-week days, we are able to greet most folks, and their dogs, by name. That's amazing and foremost among the many reasons that trails are so great. Our courtesy patrol grows slowly but surely. We are working to hone our skills and coordinate our efforts with other community service groups to better serve trail users. Want to join us? Get in touch!

Here are a few more happenings along the trail during the past quarter: Runners and walkers were out in droves on Saturdays as they got in shape for various worthwhile events. Some represented the Washington/Alaska Lymphoma Leukemia Society, some were practicing for the breast cancer event, and others were training for the June 4 Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay under the leadership of one of the event's sponsors, Fleet Foot Sports in Bonney Lake. Tuesday was the day of choice for the Tacoma Wheelmen’s Mile marker 20 “christened.”

continued on next page
Gatchels (continued)

men with Foothillers Bob Myrick and Don Syverson usually among the cadre whizzing along enjoying the trail. A Gig Harbor Boy Scout troop, including ten boys and two leaders, greeted us at the South Prairie trailhead recently, halfway through earning their 15-mile cycling merit badge. Bike Month started off with the May Day Metric, a grueling bicycle ride which began in Federal Way and ended at Carbon River entrance, and the "Big Wheels" ride from Orting to South Prairie. The 2nd annual Walk for the Benefits focused on healthy living with booths in Orting Park and a hike along the Foothills Trail. Sponsors were Good Samaritan, the City of Orting, the Foothills Trail Coalition, Pierce Co. Parks and Recreation and the Thomas A. Cross Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund.

Clay and I always enjoy the animal life, both wild and domestic, along the trail. We learn something new every day with the help of the attractive, informative interpretative display now in place. All winter long and into March we were thrilled to watch the activities of two, and sometimes three, eagles as they roosted on the log trees. Clay nicknamed them Footsy and Hillersy (you know, for Foothillers?!). One day as we rode past Schoenbachler's Farm in Orting, we saw an eagle swoop down to the ground only to soar quickly upward, struggling, with a crow clutched in its talons. A fierce battle ensued for maybe 30 seconds before the eagle dropped the crow to the ground and flew the scene. As we passed the wetland mitigation site, we saw Hillersy (or maybe Footsy) waiting to eat some crow, maybe. Eagles are fearsome birds.

On the domestic side, Lloyd Johnson passed by the S Farm just in time to witness the birth of a calf. Recently, a pair of Canadian geese moved onto the mitigation site, and while we admire the beauty of the bird, we don't care for their you-know-what. For a few days in April we were attacked by legions of tiny no-see-ums as we passed the mitigation site. About the same time, Bruno Nedergard phoned Ernie Bay, all excited because the fingerlings were jumping in South Prairie Creek. Ernie, our eminent resident entomologist, deduced that the fingerlings were feeding on a midge hatch which he called chironomids.

Folks are also curious about "those funny looking round things sitting on poles." The duck nest boxes were installed in the ponds by Russ Matthews and Earl Mikkelson, and are intended as sort of "duck inns," if you please. No ducks have moved in yet, but the Canadian geese are checking them out for size.

Another question we hear often is, "What are those big stones along the trail with the engraved numbers that don't make sense?" Buzz Grant, Coalition vice-president, explains them in the draft of his interesting and detailed book about the history of the trail. The mileposts mark distances along the old railroad route and do not necessarily depict the actual miles along the Foothills Trail. Milepost 28 at the McMillan Trailhead marks the beginning of the Buckley branch of the old Northern Pacific Railroad, now the Burlington Northern Santa Fe. The Foothills Trail follows the track of the old Buckley branch.

Mileposts 20 and 21 were installed at designated sites in early April. A "miracle team" of volunteers, led by our terrific work party boss, Don Partington, continued on next page
Gatchels (continued)

completed this Herculean task in less than two hours using just brains and brawn. Milepost 20 is "up line" from Arline Road, and 21 is "up line" from the REI rest stop. The miracle is that each basalt stone weighs between 600 and 900 pounds! And after all that, the crew still had strength left to clear more debris from the head of the mitigation ponds. Milepost 19 resides in Carl Fabiani's yard and will be planted just "up line" from the Englin dairy crossing when the needed fill dirt is in place.

Peace out y'all, and Happy Trails—Dixie Gatchel

From the saddle

Howdy partners, how's the trail been treating you? I'm getting sore sitting in the saddle in front of this-here keyboard! Folks, I have enjoyed my six years working with the Foothills Trail Coalition to keep the needs of horses from being overlooked. Riders were part of the 1999 "Summit to Sound" celebration of Mt. Rainier National Park's centennial birthday. Sadly however, today the stretch we rode from South Prairie to Orting is almost all paved with asphalt. I'm sorry my horse sense didn't have a greater impact.

Other members of the equestrian community and I have been asked to play a larger role in the planning process for future sections of the trail that are yet to be developed. Here is my request of fellow riders: Please get involved!

Voice your opinion. Attend the monthly meeting. The Coalition meets every fourth Thurs-

day night in the Puyallup Library from 7 to 9 p.m.

Help at a work party. The Coalition holds regular work parties where riders have always carried a horse's share of the work. Check elsewhere in this newsletter or on our web site to get those details.

Vote as a representative of equestrians. Become a board member of the Coalition. Share your trail experience with other members. Write an article for this newsletter. Then join me to encourage the opening of some new trails. Besides being a part of the annual county fair, equestrians need to be a part of county life with places to ride on an everyday basis. As a group we could approach the agencies that oversee the Tacoma Water pipeline and other utility corridors for public use. Equestrians could blaze the way just like they did with the Foothills route over 20 years ago. Pierce County can continue being "horse friendly" into the future if we create the opportunities today.

Let's work together to make a difference. Please contact me and get involved.

Happy trails—Linda Clark

Letter received

I just wanted to take a minute and pass along my thanks to all of you that are involved with the Rails-to-Trails program that brought about the path in Orting. I rode the path the other day, and I must say that it was wonderful! This is one of the rare things that I don't mind my tax dollars going for. I look forward to the day when it extends all the way up to Mt. Rainier National Park. That will be some ride!—Patrick Brazil, Puyallup, Wa.

Engles invite all

You are invited to the best environmental networking gathering in Pierce County. Join like-minded people from the Audubon, Mountaineers, Foothills Trail Coalition, Cascade Land Conservancy, Citizens for A Healthy Bay, Carbon River Corridor and more for a huge backyard potluck picnic.

Where: at the Engle Garden, 4011 Alameda Avenue, University Place, 1/2 mile south of Fircrest Golf Course. Parking is on Alameda and on Kootnai, the lower street (come in lower gate).

When: Thursday, June 23 from 6-9 p.m.

Featuring: Old Time Fiddlers, licensed falconers with their live birds, native plant sale by Don Norman, photo exhibit by the Mountaineers, earth-friendly crafts and games for kids of all ages, displays by our friends in allied organizations.

Who: You and yours! Children and grandchildren are MOST welcome.

What: Don't forget how great the food is at these events! Engles furnish coffee, punch and crusty buttered rolls. You bring one hot or cold entree PLUS a salad or dessert AND your own table service. Bring a folding chair if desired. Beer and wine is BYO.

How: No signup necessary. Rain does not cancel, just dress for the weather.

For more info: Call Helen or Stan, 253-564-3112, or email at Hengle@earthlink.net
University of Puget Sound students Ben Lee, Zack Fonner and J.P. Bergstad secure a geological interpretive sign at the McMillin Trailhead. Another sign describing the geological terrain around South Prairie was posted at the kiosk at the South Prairie Trailhead. The language for both signs was developed as part of a student team project for a class in environmental sciences related to natural catastrophes. The signs themselves were financed by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition.

Rainier-to-Ruston run on Trails Day

On Saturday, June 4—National Trails Day—teams of runners and walkers and ultra marathioners will descend the 50-mile course on the Foothills Trail, tracing the old Northern Pacific Railroad grade. The third-annual Rainier-to-Ruston Rail-Trail Relay, which is open to the public for the first time this year, is a fundraiser for the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition to help us achieve our mission of creating a continuous, non-motorized, public trail between Mt. Rainier and Puget Sound.

"The Rainier to Ruston is an adventure in your own backyard that offers something for everyone," says race director John Selby. "Following the same railroad grade that once brought pioneers into the west, the Rainier to Ruston brings together athletes and community members for a day rich in history, scenic beauty and excitement."

The relay begins at the Carbon River ranger entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park and descends through three unique naturescapes—alpine, rainforest and coastline—and passes through historic railroad towns that are among the oldest communities in the state. Runners travel 50 miles (12 legs of about four miles each) to Ruston Way on the Tacoma waterfront, while walkers go 26 miles (six legs) to Orting.

"During the relay’s first two years we proved that the Foothills Trail was ready to host a competitive event,” says Selby. "This year the relay has been sanctioned by USA Track and Field and will be open to the public. We fully expect the Rainier-to-Ruston to become an annual classic for runners, walkers, naturalists and trail advocates. The relay is a great excuse to get out and exercise while enjoying some gorgeous country. "And the camaraderie that develops on a relay team is an energizing experience.”

Event sponsors include Fleet Feet Sports, Pierce County Parks and Recreation, Starbucks, Braintank Studios, Northwest Embroidery, Inkslinger Consulting, T.S. Cutter Art, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, L&L Printing and Graphics, Carb Boom, Cascade Land Conservancy, Tacoma Metro Parks, Trader Joes, A&E Relocation Services and (appropriately) KMTT—The Mountain, who will be providing a DJ and music at the finish area celebration.

By the time you read this, the third annual Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay will probably be history. But you can see pictures of the event and learn which teams won the coveted golden railroad spikes at our award-winning website at www.rainiertoruston.com.

Next year I hope to see you and your team on National Trails Day! —John S. Selby

New owners at Sumner Bicycle

We welcome Chris Stewart and his wife Miajh, the new owners of Sumner Bicycle Shop. Chris formerly worked for Bonney Lake Bicycle Shop and, before buying Sumner Bicycle Shop, worked for several years with J&B Importers of bicycles and parts.

Permits let for East Lake Sammamish Trail

After more than 20 lawsuits over eight years, King County finally received the final shoreline and grading permits for the East Lake Sammamish Trail. Construction will begin in July.

The seven-mile section along the eastern shore will connect existing trails in Issaquah at the south end of the lake to the continued on next page
**East Lake Sammamish (continued)**

Sammamish River Trail in Kentmore at the north end. When it opens in January, you will be able to cycle paved trail from Issaquah to Gasworks Park on Lake Union.

King County bought the old railroad right of way from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway in 1998 for $2.9 million as part of a federal rail banking program created to preserve old rail routes for future use. The county has spent roughly $1 million a year on buying, defending and developing the trail. Opposing property owners dropped their case in March after an adverse ruling from the U.S. District Court in Seattle. The cost of construction is estimated at $1.6 million, with $900,000 of that coming from federal transportation money.—John S. Selby

(Sourced from articles in the Seattle PI May 11 and the News Tribune May 12, 2005.)

**Many benefit by May Walk**

The enthusiastic walkers hitting the Foothills Trail on May 14 for the second annual Walk for Benefits not only promoted healthy living, but also raised funds for good causes. Net proceeds for the National Trails Day event benefited Good Samaritan Foundation, Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition and Thomas A. Cross Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund.

The weather, other than a negligible drizzle at the start, was ideal for walking: 60 F and overcast. So much for dire weather predictions that may have kept the number of participants down. This year’s walk was dedicated to energetic, 15-year old Amy Blair, a participant in the Good Samaritan’s Children’s Therapy Unit. Amy led a penny drive to help raise funds for a pool in the new unit.

The event was well organized with Pierce County Search and Rescue 4 x 4’s stationed at each crossing, ready to transport walkers and direct traffic. Nice clean Honey Buckets were in place at several strategic points. Our Foothills booth was tended by President Ken Woolery, Vice-president Buzz Grant, Joan Miller, Ed Davis and Paul Jacobsen. On our courtesy patrol Clay and I met Foothills Coalition members John Selby running, Ed and Phylicia Davis walking and litter picking, Lloyd and Phyllis Johnson walking and Marie Reed dog-walking with several friends from Good Samaritan.—Dixie Gatchel

We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it—and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again—and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one anymore.—Mark Twain

To err is human, but when the eraser wears out ahead of the pencil, you’re overdoing it.—J. Jenkins
Thanks to cleanup volunteers

Thanks to the following volunteers who spent a beautiful Saturday morning, March 5, sprucing up and replanting wildflowers at the McMillin Trailhead: Ernie Bay, Randy Lindblad, Joan Miller and Claude and Pat Rambowski. The original plantings in the island of the McMillin parking lot were done by volunteers as part of Pierce County Parks Appreciation Day in the spring of 2004.

Creativity is so delicate a flower that praise tends to make it bloom, while discouragement often nips it in the bud. Any of us will put out more and better ideas if our efforts are appreciated.—Alex F. Osborn

Democracy is measured not by its leaders doing extraordinary things, but by its citizens doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.—John Gardner

If living conditions don’t stop improving in this country, we’re going to run out of humble beginnings for our great men.—Russell P. Askue

Spring cleaning the McMillin Trailhead on Parks Appreciation Day with the Anderson family of Buckley, John Ernest Berry III, Jeanette Peters and Ernie Bay (photographer)

Looking back to 1989

Auction accolades

On March 23, the Slavonian Hall in Old Town Tacoma hosted a new capacity auction crowd of 162 enthusiastic trail supporters who bid nearly $6,000 worth of items. At the end of the evening those who attended were anxious for a repeat performance next year. Plans are already underway.

Jim Anton of Charlie’s Restaurant, Puyallup, catered a rave buffet while Jef Jasun of Seattle entertained diners with classic songs of the 1950s and 60s. Later, in a peerless performance, Auctioneer Larry Schorno of Yelm, who donated his services, cleared the floor of more than 100 quality auction items ranging from artworks to sports equipment and vacation sites. Many bargains and an outstanding time were had by all.

Outside the hall a dozen CAT protestors paraded quietly with their picket signs, much to the surprise and bemusement of some of our guests. While the pickets could have benefited both themselves and their communities by joining in our festivities, with one empty table and the occasional empty seat, we could hardly have accommodated them. At least they had the pleasure of a sunny evening.

Postscript

Two weeks following the auction, cash contributions from those who could not attend keep coming in, and our total proceeds have long passed $6,000. A final kudos to all who donated their time, merchandise, services and money to the evening’s success, and a special thanks to the Slavonian American Benevolent Society for the donation of their hall.

(Trail Line News, Vol. 005, May 1989.)
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

"He walked with big swinging strides. He had walked across entire lands in his day. As an old man he walked too, daily, stopping ever more frequently to survey the view. When he walked a natural euphoria came over him. That is all one can say. It made him happy. It made him remember all the other walks of his life, before cars and aircraft made us rush about and pollute the world. He looked around him and saw the beauty of the land, and saw that he was moving through it at the pace that he wanted, filling his lungs with air, greeting loudly the people he passed on his way."

[from Zanzibar Chest by Aidan Hartley; submitted by Bruno Nedergard]