The mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County communities in the creation and maintenance of a connected system of non-motorized trails and greenways from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

President’s Message

New officers step up

At the annual meeting on January 26, five new members were added to your board of directors: Ernie Bay, John E. Berry III, Linda Clark, Tom Enlow and Jan Wolcott. February 23, Markus Dennis was appointed to the board, and the following board members were elected as officers of the Coalition:

Buzz Grant, President
John Downs, Vice President
Art Robinson, Treasurer
Ed Davis, Secretary

So who is Buzz Grant, the new president of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition? I have been involved with the Coalition since about 1994, and I’ve been on the board since 1998. A resident of Pierce County all of my life, I presently live in the Puyallup area. As an employee of the Ticor Title Company, I am familiar with the titles to all of the properties along the Foothills Trail. After personally examining all of those old railroad titles, someone should put me out of my misery!

In addition to completing the Foothills Trail, my goals for the Coalition are to help create and connect trails throughout Pierce County with each other and with trails in adjacent counties. Furthermore, I want to bring other trail supporters such as walkers, runners, bikers, equestrians and other interested parties into the Coalition.

Enough about me. What is happening with the Coalition and the Foothills Trail? There are reports in the body of this newsletter about the Foothills Trail and other area trails and their development.

At the Coalition’s April meeting it was decided that due to many factors we would not hold a “Breakfast in the Woods” this year. One of the reasons is that we are placing a great deal of our human resources towards the “Rainier to Ruston Relay,” which is becoming a major fundraiser for the Coalition in its fourth year. Thanks to John Selby, who set the foundation in the first three years of the relay and his continuing assistance this year, and Markus Dennis, our new race director, this event is coming together in a great way.

I’ll see you out on the Foothills Trail on June 3, National Trails Day.

Happy Trails—Buzz Grant

Run adds new legs

Fourth annual Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra

On Saturday, June 3, National Trails Day, runners and walkers from across the western United States will take on the fourth annual Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra. The 50-mile course follows the Foothills Trail, from the shoulders of Mt. Rainier to the shores of Puget Sound. The trail passes through pristine wilderness and historic communities, following the old Northern Pacific railroad grade that once brought settlers and supplies into the west. The top runners and walkers in each division will receive coveted Golden Spike Awards. New this year is the Bent Spike Award, given to the team with the most screw-ups, e.g., missed handoffs, continued on next page
van stuck in the ditch, getting lost, etc!

Look for several new sections to the relay route, including Leg 4 along Wilkeson (Gale) Creek that's just breathtaking. The 4.4-mile Leg 8 from McMillin to Meeker (East Puyallup) has been paved, and we'll also be running the levee in Leg 9 along the Puyallup River west from the Sumner Bridge. It's incredible how, every year, we're able to improve on an already impressive race route.

This year we also welcome our new race director, elite runner Markus Dennis. Markus brings experience and enthusiasm to the Rainier to Ruston and is the perfect person for the job. He's created a Founder's Award that will recognize one individual or group for their significant contribution to trail development.

As far as the race itself goes, we have some exciting developments to report. Last year the big news was our certification by USA Track and Field. This year we've been designated as a qualifying event for the vaunted The Western States 100-mile Endurance Run, one of the oldest ultra trail events in the world and certainly one of the most challenging.

Several well-known walkers and runners are registering for the R2R, including Phil Kochik, the 2004 USA Track and Field 50-mile national trail champion. Kirsten Sanford is returning from Buckley to defend her walking title against Bob Myrick, among other challengers. Our gold running store sponsor, Seattle Running Company, is fielding a team of elite runners; Fleet Feet Sports, a silver sponsor, plans to have five teams in the competition, including last year's winners; and the Puyallup Y Running Club will be back again this year with an all women running team called Bustin' for Ruston.

It looks like the old records will fall again. Be there to see it happen!—Jeremy Engdahl-Johnson (three-time R2R runner) and John S. Selby (race founder)

Reichert secures Mt. Rainier funding

Rep. Dave Reichert announced May 6 that he has secured $1.5 million in critical funding for the Carbon River Land Acquisition near Mt. Rainier National Park. Congress authorized an expansion of the park in 2004 that specifically identified these properties for acquisition in order to enhance recreational access to the Carbon River and reduce management costs.

Procedurally this is the first step. These funds have been included in the US House of Representatives Interior, Environment and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2007 appropriations request that will be voted on by the U.S. House of Representatives. Following passage by the House, the Senate must pass a similar bill, and a final House and Senate conference report must pass both Chambers.—Rep. Dave Reichert (Wa-8th)
Monthly meetings are held on 4th Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Puyallup Public Library, south entrance. 324 South Meridian Street.

EVENTS
- June 3: Rainier to Ruston on National Trails Day (see story page 1)
- June 7: Senior Walk-a-Thon
  Info: Mary 360-829-0190 or Donna 360-825-4741
- June 25: Tour de Pierce
- June 29: Engle’s Picnic (see story this page)

WORK PARTIES
- 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/

Whoever wants to reach a distant goal must take many small steps.—Helmut Schmidt

Engle’s annual picnic announced
What? Big Backyard Potluck Picnic June 29
Where? At the Engle garden, 4011 Alameda Avenue, University Place, 1/2 mile south of Fircrest Golf Course. Parking on Alameda and on Kootnai, the lower street (come in lower gate).
When? Thursday, June 29, 6-9 p.m.
Why? Just for fun and entertainment by Nordic Exposure music group; licensed falconers with their live birds, native plants for sale, photo exhibit, earth-friendly crafts and games for kids all ages plus displays by friends in our allied organizations.
How? We furnish: coffee, punch, buttered rolls. You bring a hot or cold entree, PLUS a salad or dessert; PLUS your own TABLE SERVICE and a chair. Beer and wine is BYO. Don’t forget how great the food is at these events!
Reservations? No signup necessary. Rain does not cancel.
Info? Ask Helen or Stan, 564-3112, hengle@iinet.com

The Tran family from Shoreline, Wa., enjoys a welcome rest during the April 23 Daffodil Classic. Left to right are Lisa, Noah, John, Alea and Joshua.
Fothills Trail Coalition Board

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Fennel Creek

In 2005 the City of Bonney Lake undertook a master plan of a long-planned trail along Fennel Creek, which is a salmon-bearing tributary of the Puyallup River. A citizens committee completed this plan with assistance from Bruce Dees & Associates. An environmental impact statement is currently underway. This seven-mile trail will stretch from Allan Yorke Park on the north to Victor Falls on the south and the proposed Pierce County Flume Trail to the east.

Construction of this $7 million project will take place in stages. The first stage, which is expected to begin later this year, will reach from SR 410 to the Sumner-Buckley Highway and will include a trailhead. The city has already acquired considerable property and right-of-way and is actively pursuing additional land acquisition at this time. Habitat restoration along Fennel Creek will be part of this project. Bonney Lake is receptive to interconnecting with Pierce County’s Foothills Trail in the future.—Gary Leaf, Assistant Public Works Director, Bonney Lake

Lower Burnett

At the February general meeting of the Foothills Trail Coalition, Don Peterson, Bridge Supervisor for the Pierce County Public Works Department, presented the drawings for the last two bridges in the Lower Burnett area of the Foothills Trail.

The arched bridge will be 390 feet long and 38 feet above South Prairie Creek where it crosses both the creek and Lower Burnett Road. The triangular truss bridge will be 155 feet long and 30 feet above Spiketon Creek, part way up the north side of South Prairie Creek canyon. Both bridges will be on the branch of the trail leading north to Buckley from the junction with the Wilkeson branch just east of the FEMA Bridge (aka Bridge to Nowhere). With some good luck, construction may be done this year.

These two bridges replace the bridge removed in 1986 by the railroad. The original bridge was built in 1885 when the railroad extended its line through Stamped Pass. This was the Northern Pacific Bridge No. 1228, which was 921 feet long and 58 feet high. Shown below is the replacement bridge for the 1885 bridge, which was rebuilt in the 1950’s. The original 1885 bridge was so long it comprised both of the new bridges. The land between the two new bridges was filled by the railroad in about 1895.—Buzz Grant

Architectural detail of Lower Burnett bridge used with permission from “Welcome to Burnett,” by Cindy Colton.
Networking (continued)

Milton Interurban

Prior to hiring our new public works director a few weeks ago, our interim public works director for the city of Milton advised the city council that Entranco, the firm that the city hired six or seven years ago to develop a trail plan, had declared bankruptcy. He said he was in possession of an electronic version of their trail design, which was 98% complete. That completion figure had been in effect for at least a year, so even though the city kept getting bills from Entranco, there was apparently no progress. Nevertheless, he believed that, "The city got its money's worth." He then recommended that the council sign a trail design contract with the consulting firm W&H Pacific, because they had hired the Entranco employee who had worked on the Milton design, and he thought that the continuity would be advantageous. There seemed to be no choice, so the council voted to sign the contract.

An article in the April 27 issue of the Milton Edgewood Signal quoted statements from our newly hired public works director to the effect that construction of the trail will start in June. That's the good news. The bad news is that it stated that the trail will run from 380th Street to the 70th Avenue overpass of I-5. The article totally ignored the section of trail between Enchanted Parkway and Military Road, so I was greatly concerned about the apparent lack of planning for the connection to Edgewood's Interurban Trail. Indeed, when I visited our city's new public works director, Letticia Neal, P.E., and got a glimpse of the W&H Pacific "Interurban Trail Plan," I discovered that the first page clearly, but erroneously, states that the scope of the trail design is from 380th to 70th. So there is no plan to cross Enchanted Parkway and Military Road in order to connect with the Edgewood section.

Of course, the new director is totally innocent in this debacle. She inherited a mess and she is now well aware of the need to make the trail complete. She advised me that she has discussed the issue with her counterpart in Edgewood, and that she will be seeking more grant money for the remaining trail development.—Milton Loflin

Edgewood Interurban

We are pretty much in a holding pattern right now. The city and county have signed all the contract documents for purchase of the Interurban Trail property from Puget Sound Energy. Pierce County has deposited money for the purchase from the Conservation Futures program into an escrow account. The escrow company is waiting for the property documents from PSE.

A grant application for design and development was submitted to the IAC program May 1. The technical review and completion of the application is scheduled for July 3. The city will make its presentation for evaluation in August. The approved project list is scheduled to come out September 21-22. So we wait.—Diane Kerlin

More “Networking” on next page

A few mischievous snow flakes working together can cause an avalanche of destruction!—Unknown
Network (continued)

Puyallup Riverwalk

Anticipating settlement of a last lingering property negotiation, the Puyallup Parks Department is scheduled to request to go to construction bid on trail from the SR512 overpass to the Sumner Bridge at the city council’s regular July 5 meeting. The next development stage will be a continuation of the trail beneath the bridge and along the south bank of the Puyallup River from where it will angle back west then south following agricultural property lines to the East Puyallup (Meeker) Trailhead. The last remaining link of the River Walk yet to be approved and designed is a critical connection between the 5th St NE or Milwaukee Avenue Bridge and the SR 512 Trailhead.—Ernie Bay

Sumner

Sumner is where the White River Trail will connect to the Foothills Trail and the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail, creating a true network of trails. There are many pieces to this puzzle, and a number of them are scheduled for completion this summer.

The one-half mile stretch of trail on the west bank of the White River between 16th Street and 24th Street is continued on next page
Network (continued)

plete. It was built by developers.

Glacier Construction is presently building the ramps to the trail river bridge at 24th Street and will extend the trail down the east side of the river to the Number Nine ditch which is approximately at 32nd Street. This work will be completed by mid-summer.

The section from the Tacoma Avenue bridge to the Fryar Avenue bridge is designed, awaiting a shoreline permit, and will be constructed this year.

The trail between the Fryar Avenue bridge and Main Street will take this year and next to complete, due to right-of-way issues. However, some of this section may be built in 2006.

We intend to complete the design and construction of trail from Main Street to State Street along the east bank of the White River in 2006. The trail will run along the side of West Main from Traffic Avenue to Hunt Avenue, then it will continue along the river bank. The section from State Street to the confluence of the White and Puyallup rivers, around the wastewater plant and up the Puyallup River to the Main Ave. bridge will be completed by the 4th of July. Woodworth was awarded the bid and will begin work in the third week of May.

The following sections of Sumner's trail system will take a little longer and are scheduled for next year.

A 12-ft wide trail will be constructed along Stewart Road in 2007, connecting the trail from Lakeland Hills to the White River at the Stewart Road crossing.

Permit Applications are under review in the city for industrial development north of Salmon Creek at this time. We anticipate that the trail will be constructed from just south of Salmon Creek to about 40th Street by these developers in 2007. They will connect the existing trail from REI west to the Tacoma Avenue bridge.

Other trail projects are scheduled for construction in 2008. Stay tuned.—Bill Shoemaker, Director, Sumner Public Works Department

Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.—Calvin Coolidge
Along the Foothills Trail...

Isn’t it great at long last to have the primary segment of our beautiful Foothills Trail in place? With 15 miles of contiguous trail now available, folks travel in droves in relative safety. I use the word “relative” advisedly, because of safety concerns that need to be addressed at some of the street crossings along the trail as well as the access to the trail from my little home burg of Puyallup. Last month I moved down from South Hill to the Puyallup Valley just off Pioneer Way, mainly because I wanted to garage my car and use my bicycle or feet as my primary mode of transportation. I love riding my bike to stay healthy and active at my ripe old age of 82. I am also passionate about protecting the environment and protesting the oil gougers. With the skyrocketing cost of gas, there is no excuse for our government to continue avoiding serious development of alternative fuel sources.

I thought that access from my new place along Pioneer to the new East Puyallup Trailhead would be a piece of cake. Whoa, Nellie! That route is more dangerous than the one Clay and I did on occasion down Meridian’s sidewalks from South Hill. At least on Meridian the motorists have to jump the curb to get at you.

Lloyd and Phyllis Johnson, regular trail users, warned me of their bad experiences following that same Pioneer route. They consider it very dangerous. Of course, I had to try it for myself, and guess what? They are 100% right! Aspire to be a mover and a shaker? Join me in my mis-

continued on next page

Dale and Monica Hemenway trail-train their son Mark, in trailer, in stages for future Daffodil Classics. Note the training bike in portage.
Dixie (continued)

sion to encourage the powers that be to address these safety concerns, before someone is severely injured or killed. Let’s document our bad experiences and concerns and launch a campaign. Power to the People!

Spring sprung magnificently along the Foothills Trail, and after the rains let up somewhat, the weather was perfect for trail users. I was especially intrigued with the prolific growth of horsetail and skunk cabbage during April. These first harbingers of spring may lack glamour, but they do project plenty of perky presence. The first sighting of a new visitor to the REI Site—a graceful, white swan—was reported by Gully Collier, courtesy patroller, and Lloyd and Phyllis Johnson.

Have you heard about geocaching? I hadn’t until a few months back when I met a nice lady near Bob’s Place walking around with a GPS, seeking a treasure that some other geocacher had hidden above ground. No burying is allowed. She maintained a log with coordinates and other information. Visit geocaching.com if you wish to learn more about this interesting hobby. It might be a fun way to become proficient with your Global Positioning System thingy. And who knows?! There could be some real cash in the cache stash. In our dreams!

Notice all the activity taking place along the Foothills Trail this spring? Not only is it a popular destination for recreation.

continued on next page
**Dixie (continued)**

reation and gas-free commuting, but the trail also serves as the venue for a myriad of beneficial events and activities that serve our citizens well. The fun-filled events supported by the Foothills courtesy patrol this spring included: The Daffodil Classic, Pierce County’s 5K & 10K Fun Run and Walk, and Walk for Benefits. On Sunday, June 25, we will be covering the Tour de Pierce.

The next event is the fourth annual R2R – Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra which takes place on National Trails Day, June 3. The R2R began in 2003 as a private fun-run for a few of founder John Selby’s friends and family members in celebration of National Trails Day. The 50-mile course tracks the route of the old Northern Pacific Railroad from near the Carbon River Entrance at Mount Rainier National Park to Ruston Way on Commencement Bay in Tacoma. The R2R was recently listed in the *News Tribune* among the “Ten runs worth training for” in Washington State. With the addition of race director Markus Dennis, the R2R took off like a rocket and promises to become a “must-do” for runners in the Pacific Northwest, and ultimately from around the world. Markus is not only a professional ultra runner in his own right, but also is highly skilled in organization, motivation and recruitment of sponsors and participants. The partnership of Markus and engineer John is a tour de force that makes good things happen. It’s also satisfying to me that R2R is open to walkers as well as runners and people of all ages and lesser degrees of athletic ability, just out to have fun and test their mettle in the challenge of a competitive stellar event.

In closing, thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the much-appreciated, unanticipated outpouring of love, comfort, and help you have given me following the death of my dearest Clay. You Foothillers are beautifully awesome folks. Happy Trails and Peace out Y’all.—Dixie Gatchel

**Letters received**

Dear Trail Makers:

I like to think that the last section of the Puyallup Trail by the river was made just for me. I seem to separate myself from the world while I walk under those great tall trees and listen to the sound of the Puyallup River. The river itself appears all along the way. Wow! I appreciate every bit of the trail, but this part stands out from the rest. I believe it is because of those tall trees.

It makes me very happy to realize my Coalition causes this trail to keep going round and round to cause our One Self as God’s Thought to continually be happy, when we escape the busy dream world and get back to nature.

Thank you.—*Rina Boyd*

What a great ride on Friday. We met Gully along the trail and had a chat with her at our coffee site. She is a very interesting person with many tales to tell. She told us that she had seen a white swan in the water at the REI rest stop, although she wasn’t sure if it was a swan or a large goose. On our way back down the trail we made a stop and, sure enough, there, way across on the other side, was a very beautiful and graceful swan. How lucky are we?—*Lloyd and Phyllis Johnson*

I can certainly understand the county’s reluctance to use a commercial venture’s name for a trailhead. I agree with you that “Meeker” would have been a much better name, since it is an actual place with historical significance, and a junction on the railroad very close to the trailhead’s location.

Looking forward to future extensions of the trail!—*Drew Robinson*
Many ‘Dash’ to dedication

A great time was had by all at the first-ever Foothills Dash 5K & 10K fun run and walk on Saturday, March 18. Three hundred or more tots, teens, “tweeners” and a number of youthful appearing seniors, ran or walked the course in Orting and finished in record time. Foothills Coalition members made a good showing, and provided security along the route with the help of Pierce County Search and Rescue and the Companion-ship Group. All proceeds benefit recreation programs for youth and adults with special needs. Kudos go to Wendi Garrison, Recreation Supervisor, for a job well done. For race results see: http://www.perfect timeevents.com/events/2006/ foothill/foothill06.htm.

After the Dash, many of the participants traveled to the East Puyallup (Meeker) Trailhead for the dedication of the new 4.2 mile Meeker to McMillan segment of the Foothills Trail. A happy crowd of local dignitaries and trail supporters gathered to hear Pierce County Parks Director Kathryn Kravit-Smith launch the ceremony. Kathy began with a moment of silence in honor of Clay which moved my heart. Other distinguished speakers included Shawn Bunney; Pierce County Council Chair; Calvin Goings, Pierce County Council member; Lee Fouts, Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition; Dr. Ernie Bay, Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition; Lyle Quasim, Chief of Staff to Pierce Country Executive John Ladenburg and Jan Wolcott, retired Pierce County Parks & Recreation Director. Bryan Bowden, our old friend from Mount Rainier, represented the National Park Service.—Dixie Gatchel

Trail celebrations punctuate March

March welcomed spring with two long-awaited trail celebrations. The first, on a sunny Saturday, March 18, marked the Puyallup terminus of the Foothills Trail at the East Puyallup (or Meeker) Trailhead just east of the Van Lierop Bulb Farm. The second, celebrated on Tuesday, March 21, was the opening of the equally hard-won East Lake Sammamish Trail in King County. Both events were more than 20 years in coming.

The latest section of the Foothills Trail differs from previous stretches in that it is a rail-with-trail. The corridor it occupies is shared with the Meeker Southern Railroad, which runs but a few slow trains a week between Meeker Junction and the McMillin Industrial Park just north of the McMillin Trailhead. This section is also special for its sweeping, unobstructed views of Mount Rainier and the rural solitude of being widely separated from noisy SR162 for much of its length.

The well attended dedication also paid homage to past Pierce County Parks and Recreation Director Jan Wolcott, and long time president and leader of the Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition Dr. Ernie Bay. Each was honored with a bronze plaque, one on either side of a large colorful... continued on next page
Celebrations (con’t.)
slab of Wilkeson sandstone. (Please see related photos on page 17.) The sandstone, Bay said, is symbolic both for its source and placement, as well as its substance. Its siting at the East Puyallup Trailhead signifies the beginning of the Foothills Trail where it will join with the soon to be completed Puyallup Riverwalk that Bay has also championed for many years. Also, it symbolizes the trail’s ultimate Carbonado destination near where the stone was quarried and incidentally not far from where Jan Wolcott spent his youth. The sandstone is tinged with iron sulfide and studded with carboniferous fossils, including a bituminous tree cast. This itself is significant in that the stone embodies the resources that inspired the economy that necessitated the railroad that is now becoming our trail to the mountain.

Bay noted that, for his part, the plaque location near the confluence of the Foothills Trail, the Puyallup River Walk and the Sumner trail system also has a particular significance. As a youth growing up in Schenectady, New York, Bay fantasized a trail beginning along the Mohawk River that would continue across the continent to the west coast. The Mohawk Hudson Bikeway and Erie Canal Trail now extend more than 350 miles to Buffalo and connect to other trails heading west. Coincidentally, the word Schenectady is Iroquois for “where the trails meet.”

Membership and donations received

$18 - 25
Gene Alan & Elise Adair
Mary & Dennis Anderson
John & Myrna Anderson
The Anderson Family
Joel & Laura Attaway
Gwen Austin
David Bach
Eleanor Bailey
Scott & Janet Barclay
Jan & Terry Bartlett
William & Rhoda Barton
Ken & Nel Batker
Gary & Sandra Bernsten
Nikki Blevins
Bryan Bordenik
Ruth Brennenman
Don Brown
Jack & Billie Brown
Robert & Beverly Bruberg
William & Sigrid Bulley
DeForest Bullock
Annette Burt
Bill & MaryAnn Burt
Paul M. Carbaugh
Mike Carlson
Charles Dils & Kay Carlson
Laurie Carter
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Linda & David Clark
Gerry Broadus & Clarice Clark Family
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June Coloff
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LeRoy Corbin
Dick Coulter
Dick & Georgean Curran
Patricia Czekaj
John & Elise Deguiseppi
John Denzler
Charles Dils
Mike & Marcy Dobb & Family
Jim & Susan Dove
John & Theresa Downs
Michael Doyle
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Florence Fabiani
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Tom & Mary Felkins
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Kathleen Franz
Jack & Evelyn Gallagher
Darlene & Jesse Gilbertson
Charles & Thelma Gilmur
Calvin & Amy Goings
Jeff & Margie Goulder
Art & Claudia Graham
Scott & Judy Groff
Kenneth Haagen
James Hamre
Bill & Linda Harmon
Susan Harris
Eric & Peggy Hazen
Ben Heeb
Fred & Susan Hemmer
Don & Karen Henriksen
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Manon & Al Hokenstad
Ray Irion
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Dan & Connie Janiga
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Colleen Johnson
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Lola Kaiser
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Diane Kerlin
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Kirk Kirkland
Ben Knodel
Gary Knudson
Dave Kokko
Chris Kucklich
Pauline Larson
Evan Lee
Michael & Luann Christenson
Lee

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Memberships (continued)

David & Cathy Lee
Barbara Lee
Karen Leming
Levesque Family
Joan Keltgen Lo & Peter Lo
William & Janice Ludwig
Joyce Madeiro
Erling & Ardella Madsen
Margaret’s Kitchen Studio
Don & Jill Marsee
John & Teresa McArtor
Gordon A. McCarrell
Ronald McFarland
Joseph & Alberta McGuire
Harold McKendry
Mike & Sharon McPhail
Sharon Michael & Family
John & Joyce Miller
Kim & Leo Miller
Cindy Mish**
James Montgomery
Bliss Moore
Debora Munson
Bob Myrick
Mitch Nelson
Dan & Katie Neyens
Walt & Martha Olsen
Harley Otis
William Parrish
Robin & Don Partington
Patrick Novak & Jennifer Pasquini
Richard & Nancy Jo Patterson
Nancy & Doug Pearson
Robert & Laurine Peloli
Anne & Dan Percival
Lawrence & Wilma Peterson
Brian & Anna Peterson
Marc & Coleen Pidgeon
Beverly Pierson
Barbi Pratt
Lyle Quasim
Joseph Quintella
Robert Mananteaux & Lorraine Ricigliano
Gary & Rosalyn Rock
Linda Sader
Dave & Gwen Sailer
Phillip Sandborn
Kay & Dale Schimke
Catherine Scholz
Judy Schuler
Heidi Schuler
Robert & Catherine Scoville
Jeff Selby
Buel & Luana Sever
Don Severson
Dorothy & Joe Shaughnessy
Ted & Marie Sherard
Judy Shrift
Stephen Simpson
George & Gail Sleet
Clyde Smith
Betty Smith
Mike & Sandy Solberg
August & Maureen Soler
Judy Stenberg
Marcus Stuen
Vernal & Jeannie Summer
Tacoma Mountaineers
Don Teigen
Joe Terlow
Roger & Maria Ternes
Robert & Linda Tibeau
Donna Dippolito, Vince & Anne Troccoli
Stacey Van Norman
Phyllis VanWinkle
Tim Vaughan
Barbara Veal
Bruce & Jacqueline Waddell
Linda Walkama
Pete & Hoshiko Weir
Robert & Linda Welander
Douglas Wenzen
Gerald Whitehouse
Judy Wickett
Robert & Corrine Wilkinson
Bob & Roz Willis
Joe Wise
Eleanor Youngs
Dave Zeigler
Manfred Buder
Roy & Sandra Bueler
Sigrid & Bill Bulley
Ron Celestres
Marilyn Brown & Rose Clark
Craig & Mary Cogger
Lisa Corkum
Curbow Family
Kevin & Carol Curtin
Ruth Daugherty
Mike Donahue
James & Margaret Dovey
Robert Dunn
Carl & Dinni Fabiani
Gerry & Terry Fabre
Gus, Karen & Brieann Fant
Sarah & Robert Garmire
Frank Garrett Jr
William Giddings
Mellodee Graham-Evans
Bill & Mary Haire
Jim & Pat Hamish
Dori & Fred Hart
Alfred & Betty Hoffman **
Ed Inderbitzin
Louis Iverson Jr
Anne & Paul Jacobson
Bertil Johnson
Kirk & Pat Johnson
Bob Kastama
Peg Kehret
Thomas & Mary Koon
Dick Larson & Family
Verdelle & Emma Low
Bruce & Helen Martin
Scott McLaughlin
Earl & Glory Mikkeslon
Nicholson’s Sumner Pharmacy
Allan Ohlsen
John Olson

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$26 - 50
Bob & Mariella Arnold
Audrey Lynn Aymonin
Bicycle Alliance of Washington
Terry & Neila Bohn *
Clay & Becky Bond
Rina Boyd

From the saddle

Linda Clark’s column will return next issue.
On June 3 outdoor enthusiasts, families and individuals alike will take to America’s trails to hike, bike, paddle and horseback ride in celebration of the 14th annual National Trails Day, American Hiking Society’s signature outreach program. National Trails Day is the largest single-day trail celebration in the United States and boasts more than 1,100 locally organized events in all 50 states. The day is centered on healthy outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship, and developing friendships and partnerships – both old and new. The theme for this year's program, "Experience Your Outdoors," encourages nature lovers to personalize the day for themselves by exploring trails in a way they may have never before considered.

Below are ten alternative activities, handpicked by American Hiking Society, taking place at several of this year’s National Trails Day events from around the nation that showcase what it means to truly experience your outdoors. [With the exception of the first one, their specific recommendations have been omitted to save space. However, with a little investigation, you will be able to find a local event to suit your interests. - Editor]

3 Add a little competition to your day by entering a trail race or “fun run.” If a casual hike is a little too slow for your style, join the 4th Annual Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra in Washington State. The Rainier to Ruston attracts trail runners and walkers to race the 50-mile course in relays from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound. Walking teams race the first 27 miles to Orting along the Foothills Trail.

3 Discover the sites and sounds of bird watching. This popular activity is enjoyed by 46 million Americans every year.
Outdoors (continued)

year. Grab your binoculars and a field guide and start practicing your bird calls.
✓ Hike a trail by moonlight. Moonlight hikes are a unique way to see the landscape in a new light. Make sure to bring your headlamp and be ready to sharpen your senses.
✓ Go geocaching and letterboxing. These modern day treasure hunts, using GPS technology, are the hottest trends in hiking hobbies.
✓ Join a clean-up team or grab a shovel for some trail maintenance. Most trails would not exist if it were not for the volunteers who build, maintain and keep them clean. Last year on National Trails Day, volunteers contributed more than 200,000 hours of rehabbing trails!
✓ Get active with your baby. Baby-joggers with mountain bike tires and toddler-trotting frame packs – what will they invent next? Bringing your baby along on a hike or a greenway jog is a fun way to spice up your workout and provides quality parent-child bonding time.
✓ Rivers are trails, too! Go for a paddle. Water trails are recreational waterways on a lake, river or ocean between specific points with access points and picnic and camping sites for the boating public.
✓ Take the kids on a scavenger hunt. This is a great way to introduce children to outdoor recreation and familiarize them with their natural surroundings.
✓ Experience a trail on horseback. Learn what it means to be an equestrian and saddle up for a ride.
✓ Swap gear and learn new skills. Recycling is not only for paper and plastic; your gear can be given new life by passing it along to another or with a clever repair. Buy, sell, trade or donate your used outdoor gear while also swapping stories and tips on caring for outdoor equipment with other backpackers. —Ivan Levin, American Hiking Society

Foothills fund increasing

Charitable Gift Annuities and Retirement Planning
Are you aware of the advantages of charitable gift annuities? I have been working with the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation (GTCF) these past three years and have helped create three permanently endowed funds that send annual dividends to the Foothills Trail Coalition, Mount Tahoma Trails Association and Bicycle Alliance of Washington. The Foothills fund has more than doubled in value from donations in less than three years.

If you are 60+, you might consider creating an annuity of $10,000 or more. You’ll get a great tax deduction, plus income for life for you and possibly your partner, after which the balance in your account transfers to a fund or charity you want to support. I created my first annuity this past year and found a great tax deduction and a steady income for life. The process allowed me to transfer appreciated securities and not worry about the tax man and what I originally paid for them. I also found that these charitable gift annuities pay about the same as an immediate annuity from Vanguard, the king of low cost investments, after considering the tax benefits.

I wanted to share with you an important story that was passed on to me by staff at the GTCF. "In February, an annuitant of the Foundation passed away. Jane had established her annuity in 1992 with a contribution of $5,000. At the time of her gift, she received an income tax deduction of $2,222.95. Jane received quarterly payments for 13 years. Through the excellent investment policies of the Foundation, the annuity’s remaining market value was over $4,800 at the time of her death. The balance of which will now establish an endowment at the Foundation which will forever support the causes that were Jane’s passions."

If you are interested in supporting a fund, please send your contribution to the GTCF, PO Box 1995, Tacoma, WA, 98401 or visit online at www.tacomafoundation.org.

For more information, or to create your own annuity, please call Randy Balogh at the Foundation at 253-383-5622. You can also contact Bob Myrick at 253-473-7455.

Donations and gift annuities can save you significant amounts on your income taxes, while supporting a cause that you truly believe in.—Bob Myrick
National Trails Symposium showcases Mississippi RiverWay

American Trails announces the 18th National Trails Symposium will be held October 19-22, 2006, in the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois. The National Trails Symposium is held every other year and is sponsored by American Trails with state and local sponsors. The symposium provides an opportunity for greenways and trails advocates, managers, planners and users, outdoor product providers, as well as conservationists, private landowners and tourism and business interests to come together for an inspirational and educational conference. The symposium addresses both non-motorized and motorized issues and our vision for trails and greenways nationwide. The program will feature cutting-edge sessions delivered by respected national and local experts, an array of terrific workshops, events and field trips, outstanding recreational opportunities, an impressive exhibition hall and much more.

Outings will showcase many of the best trails and natural lands in the region. The centerpiece is the River-Way, a scenic corridor stretching 65 miles along both sides of the Mississippi River, featuring riverside parks, trails, natural areas and overlooks, art and historical sites, unifying themes and attractive and consistent trailheads. In addition, the river front trails are a part of the coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail and the Headwaters-to-Gulf Mississippi River Trail. This is a wonderful example of trails and greenways contributing to economic development.

For more information see http://www.americantrails.org/quad/index.html.—John S. Selby

Buy a brick soon!

There is still time to honor or surprise a friend or relative or to immortalize yourself or your spouse with an inscribed brick in our Orting Kiosk bench. Space is running out and inscriptions are done once a year, but brick inscriptions ordered before July 31 will still meet this year’s deadline. Please see the order form on the back page of this newsletter or visit our web site at piercecountytrails.org.

Bruno’s gone

Bruno no longer lives in his simple trailer in the woods near South Prairie Creek. I wish you could have known him. I wish I could have known him better. Bruno Neddergard was passionate about trails and walking on them and about woods and walking in them. But he told me last summer that he was caught up in the brambles of homeland security due to a youthful transgression after arriving here from the “old country.”

How well do we ever know each other? To me, bearded Bruno Neddergard seemed a quiet and harmless fellow, a collector of amber and a lover of books, especially books about walking. Now I hear he's been deported to Canada where he'll no doubt be walking through their woods and promoting their trails. I like to remember Bruno through the collection he sent me of his favorite quotes. Two in particular remind me of him, both by William Cullen Bryant.

"Luxury, for some of us, is measured by the things we can do without."
"To him who in the love of nature holds communion with her visible forms, she speaks a varied language."—John S. Selby

Quick response to stroke symptoms saves lives

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:
1 Ask the individual to SMILE.
2. Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
3. Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE coherently, i.e., “It is sunny out today.”

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.
**Courtesypatrol grows**

The Foothills Trail Courtesy Patrol continues to grow. We welcome Gary Strodtz, Clay and Becky Bond and John and Dottie Selby, all of Edgewood, as five of our newest members. At our last breakfast meeting, Saturday, March 12, we met at O’Farrell’s Restaurant on the Puyallup River Walk, where we shared trail incidents, discussed equipment and patrol procedures, distributed uniform vests, and later took a walking tour of the newest section of trail. Some members chose to purchase their CP vests at a below cost $30 each while others elected to pay a $20 deposit for an indefinite loan. The new vests have silk-screened logos front and back, and each member is supplied with a velcro-attached name tag.

One agenda item concerned the free bicycle maintenance classes offered at Bonney Lake Bicycle Shop on alternate Sunday evenings. Several people expressed an interest in attending one of these sessions. Anyone who would like to participate should contact bugtrail@aol.com or call 253 841-2570.

Future Courtesy Patrol meetings will alternate between Puyallup and Orting.—Ernie Bay

**Pierce and King County city reps share trail information**

On May 4, representatives from nine local cities met to discuss trail development. Sponsored by the trail organization ForeverGreen, this meeting brought together planners, park directors and citizen trail advocates from Tukwila to Puyallup. The bulk of the meeting was spent sharing the current status of each city’s trail plans. Of particular interest was information that had to do with trail connections between jurisdictions. In addition to information sharing, some of the challenges and obstacles to trail building were discussed. For example, we learned that confusion over how to navigate the contradictory maze of regulatory agencies often delays trail construction, and that developing east-west trail corridors is one of the biggest problems in the south King County cities.

Based on the success of this meeting, ForeverGreen will continue to facilitate connections between jurisdictions and encourage an on-going dialogue about trails. For more information about the King-Pierce County trail meeting or ForeverGreen, please contact Jayme Gordon at 253-845-2973. —Jayme Gordon, Executive Director, ForeverGreen

*Families share honors—Ernie Bay (above) and Jan Wolcott (below) at Meeker Trailhead dedication March 18. (See related story on page 11.)*

Nothing makes a person more productive than the last minute.--Unknown
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
Email: bugtrail@aol.com

Photo unveiling premature
Oops, our bad! The photo of the Tate Memorial that appeared in the last Trail Line News preceded discussions with the officials of the City of Buckley. The scale model that was the subject of the picture was to be presented to the Buckley Parks and Recreation Committee as part of an ongoing process with the Tait Memorial Committee. Unfortunately, the details depicted in the picture were "news" to anyone in Buckley. The city had requested more details and definition after viewing rough sketches and reviewing a preliminary proposal last October.

To those members of the Buckley community who were taken by surprise by the photo, we are sorry that our enthusiasm got ahead of the discussions. Dr. Tait started the Foothills Trail planning and we are eager to recognize it.—Chuck Morrison