In Memory of Mary Colquhoun

BY DIXIE GATCHEL

It is with a sad heart that I write of the passing on Wednesday, August 1, 2012, of Foothills Coalition member and dear friend Mary Colquhoun following two unsuccessful cancer surgeries. Mary, age 67, was co-chair of the Foothills Coalition Rails-to-Trails Coalition Courtesy Patrol and affectionately dubbed ‘Ms. Trail Ambassador’ because of the many hours she spent spreading goodwill out on the trail.

Mary epitomized everything that is so great about the dedicated, hardworking volunteers that comprise the membership of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition and Friends of the Riverwalk. Mary never sought the spotlight but in her quiet, unassuming way exuded a strong and effective presence out on the trail. She seldom missed a Coalition meeting or event except for regular visits to her beloved granddaughters, Paige and Mackenzie, in Texas, and was the champ at recruiting new members and volunteers.

That easy-going Texas charm and gift for gab facilitated her ability to interact easily with trail visitors.

Mary was always willing to take time to provide information to ensure visitors enjoyed the trail. Mary’s passion for rail-trails and railroad memorabilia started early in her marriage when her husband, Harry, was alive and employed by the Union Pacific Railroad in Texas.

Mary never complained of serious health problems in her final days other than to say, when asked, that she was “feeling poorly.” Nonetheless, she continued her trail vigils up until the time she entered the hospital. Mary was an ardent admirer of, and guarded zealously, the awesome Jason Smather’s tree art “Nature’s Medley,” located at the Puyallup Riverwalk Veterans Park trailhead. Her sons Harry (Buddy) and John, family members, and many friends

President’s Message

BY BUZZ GRANT, COALITION PRESIDENT

For National Trails Day, the Pierce County Foothills Trail was honored by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Director of the National Park Service Jonathan Jarvis by being designated as a “National Recreation Trail.” This year the Bellingham Lake Trail was also granted this designation in Washington State along with 52 other trails throughout the United States. We are the only two trails in Washington State to hold this designation.

I wish I could say that along with this designation came the funding required to complete our trail but unfortunately that is not so. What it does give us is the possibility of receiving extra points when grant organizations count points when we apply for grants and that is ‘money in the bank’ and will most definitely help us in acquiring funding to complete the Trail.

This will help to complete a dream started in 1983 in the office of Dr. Douglas Tait, in Buckley, for all of the people who were at that meeting and for the rest of us who have worked hard the last 29 years to complete that dream.

Congratulations goes to the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services who applied through the Mount Rainier National Park for this designation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
Courtesy Patrol Report

by Bill Hilton, Trail Line News

On behalf of Foothills Rails-to-Trails President Gordon F. (Buzz) Grant, there is an opportunity to volunteer to serve as chair and/or co-chair of the Courtesy Patrol.

Courtesy Patrollers are very important to the Coalition and have extended helping hands over the past few years for a number of community events.

For more information on serving as chair and/or co-chair of the Courtesy Patrol you can contact Buzz directly at (253) 845-4991 or by email at railroadbuzz@comcast.net.

Thanks for your consideration!
In early August, the County began to work on stabilizing and repairing areas along South Prairie Creek below the Lower Burnett Bridge. This area was previously the site of emergency repair work to stabilize the bridge abutment after a flood event. After repairing the bridge abutment, State and Federal agencies asked the County to perform further environmental mitigation and repair work along the creek to further protect the bridge abutment and enhance fish habitat areas near the bridge. After several years of discussion, agreement on the scope of the work and necessary permits were issued by the agencies earlier this Spring. The work involves the installation of several engineered log jams, log revetments, and plantings upstream of the bridge. Work in the creek is scheduled to be completed by the end of August. The plant materials to complete the project will be planted in February and March 2013.
Networking for Trails:

**Edgewood Interurban Trail**
**BY DIANE KERLIN**

Thursday, July 19, 2012, was a red letter day for the people of Edgewood and all who look for completed pieces of the Pierce County Trail Plan. It was the day of the official ribbon cutting for phase one of the Edgewood link of the Interurban Trail and the Jovita Crossroads Trailhead Park.

Residents, elected officials from Edgewood, Milton and Pierce County were in attendance along with several Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition members. Coalition members have been visibly supportive of this trail project throughout the years. The trail bed was originally purchased from Puget Sound Energy using Pierce County Conservation Futures funding. The design and construction funding came from State recreation and Federal trail monies. City Manager, Mark Bauer, gave appropriate credit to the Edgewood Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Administrative Services Manager Bonnie Valens. Bonnie has been heavily involved with this project for many years.

A suggestion came from Coalition members to move forward on the next section of trail by arranging for a work party to clear part of the area. That may be the next step. In the meantime, many users are thoroughly enjoying this beautiful new section of completed trail.

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**Sumner Interurban**
**BY JOHN SELBY**

At the July board meeting Ken Woolery updated the status of the bridge north of Sumner which will cross the White River south of Stewart Road. The footings are in place, and the bridge should be installed by the end of August (in time for salmon season). This will be followed by work on the approaches, landscaping, etc. Funding received from REI ($20,000) may be used for paving the path between the golf course and Stewart Road.

Mayor Hogan prepares to cut the ribbon across the Edgewood Interurban Trail in a dedication ceremony July 19. Photo by John Selby.

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R2R founder, John Selby, presents the Founder’s Award to Bob Rowan for his outstanding work documenting the event with photos and videography. Photo by Loras Gassmann.

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Chambers Creek Trail Update
BY DAVID SWINDALE, AICP DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE

Early this summer, David Swindale and Gary Copper with the City of University Place met with Kathryn Kravit-Smith and Tony Tipton of Pierce County Parks and Recreation to secure permission to access County lands in Chambers Creek Canyon for the purpose of mapping a route for a future trail from Chambers Bay to Kobayashi Park. In May, members of the University Place Public Works crew and Pierce County Parks and Recreation staff spent several days exploring possible trail routes in the Canyon.

On the south side of the Canyon the crews walked up the existing maintained trail, from Chambers Bay to 91st Avenue Court SW in Oakbrook.

From there the crews traversed an existing unmaintained trail between 91st Avenue Court SW north to the Oakbrook Golf Course parking lot on Zircon Drive. At this point, the unmaintained trail descended the Canyon to a relatively flat trail segment which proceeded east and ended in wetlands.

Another section of unmaintained trail begins at the north end and Phelps Road SW and descends down to Chambers Creek across from Kobayashi Park where it ends. Unfortunately, it does not appear that a connection through the wetlands to the south and this trail segment would be possible without a long boardwalk over the wetlands.

On the north side of the Canyon the crews proceeded west downhill from the Kobayashi Park Trailhead to a point where a cove off Chambers Creek limited further travel. Skirting around the cove the crew was able to find an animal track along a steep hillside that crossed several small springs and seeps.

Crew members recommend a boardwalk section be constructed at the base of the hill side to avoid the steep slopes, springs and seeps in this segment. To the west an abandoned logging road traverses along the Canyon for approximately ¾ of a mile to 86th Avenue West where the City of University Place has secured a trail head easement. Before heading out to explore the Canyon the crews were asked to find suitable locations for a crossing. It is at this point where a potential crossing point was identified. The creek narrows in this location and both sides have solid footing material.

This potential cross site affords long views both up and down Chambers Creek. The trail would connect to the relatively flat segment of the trail below the Oakbrook Golf Club parking lot at the point connecting the trail segments on the north and south sides of the canyon.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
Gale Canyon Hike July 14, 2012

By Buzz Grant, Coalition President

On Saturday, July 14, 2012, about 20 trail enthusiasts took a leisurely stroll through Gale (Wilkeson) Creek Canyon. We started at 156th Street Court East and Johns Road, just a little west of Wilkeson. It was a fantastic day for a walk along Gale Creek on the old Wilkeson Branch of the Northern Pacific Railway Company. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition work party crew has done a great job of maintaining a soft surface trail between the Johns Road and Cascade Junction since 2005. Don Partington and his crew along with Tom Faubion and his Back Country Horseman crew have worked long hours to clean up this section of our trail since the February 2012 ice storm. The walk was about 2.5 miles long and took about 2-1/2 hours and there were pauses along the way to discuss flowers, moss hanging from the trees (like a rain forest), and past and present history of the canyon and railroad. We also discussed options for two major washouts in this section of the trail. The work crews and others have made very passable routes around or through the washouts. Those participating had a great time and a great day.

I will also be taking about five or so new employees of Pierce County Parks and Recreation down the same walk on Monday, August 27, 2012.
Generous Donation-Estate of Mr. Alfred R. Hoffman

BY BUZZ GRANT, COALITION PRESIDENT

The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition was recently informed via letter by the firm of Kampbell, Andrews & Arbenz, PLLC, that the Estate of Mr. Alfred R. Hoffman has potentially left an amount of $15,000 to the Pierce County Rails to Trails Program.

We are very grateful to Mr. Hoffman as it is donations like this that support our vision to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

The Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and we do appreciate the support and consideration of those planning for the future.

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Pierce County Trails Conference
Tuesday, September 18, 2012 • 3:00 – 8:00 pm, Pierce County Environmental Services Building, University Place

The ForeverGreen Council invites you to save the date for the 7th Annual Pierce County Trails Conference being held this year in the Pierce County Environmental Services Building located at 9850 64th Street West, University Place, Washington.

The Conference will take place on Tuesday, September 18, 2012, from 3:00-8:00 pm and will feature keynote speaker Rails-To-Trails Conservancy, Western Region Director Laura Cohen.

**Agenda**

* Walk - Soundview Trail (optional)  
* Registration  
* Trails Update  

* Awards Presentation  
* Refreshments and Networking  
* Keynote Speaker

Note: Should those attending want to participate in a walk along the Soundview Trail (listed above) the starting time before the conference begins will be 1:00 pm.

A full invitation, conference agenda, and registration information are available online at http://www.forevergreencouncil.org/ or if you wish further information please contact Executive Director, Jane Moore by phone (253) 307-9873 or e-mail: janemoore.jm@gmail.com
Memberships/Donations

The Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition is a non-profit organization with a mission to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance, and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mount Rainer to Puget Sound.

Those wishing to make a denotation to support the continuing efforts of the Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition can do so at the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation website: http://www.tacomafoundation.org/page10002505.cfm

Once at the website simply click on the large “Donate” button highlighted in yellow and follow the instructions on the page.

Thanks for your consideration!
Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition

Bob & Mariella Arnold  
Ernest C & Ellen Bay  
Joel Beattie  
Clive Berglund  
Leah Bickel  
Gerald K. Boares  
Ron Book & Vicki  
O’Keefe  
Kent Boyle  
Ruth Brenneman  
Elizabeth Buhl  
Drs. John & Anna Cahn  
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Richard Grena  
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Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition
Pin an “Atta girl” medal on me, trail lovers! I spent long hours surfing the sea of Federal stew of acronyms in search for details about what the new MAP-21 legislation actually does for, or to bicyclists, pedestrians and transit. Congress FINALLY “compromised” and passed the first long-term Federal Highway Authorization bill enacted since 2005. President Obama signed MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century) on July, 7, 2012. In my humble opinion MAP-21 rates a C-minus with the devil in the details and contingent on good citizens making wise choices at all levels of government on Election Day.

Kudos, trail lovers! You did it! MAP-21 retains provisions of the Senate’s Carden/Cochran amendment to provide local communities grants to make their streets safe for walkers and bicyclists. Without your concerted advocacy we would have much more drastic cuts. The good news is that the Pierce County/Tacoma Public Health Department received one of these grants. Nonetheless, a “thank you” letter received today from Rails-to-Trails Conservancy President Keith Laughlin states: “dollars available have been slashed 30%...the new law provides escape hatches and expands the kinds of projects that are eligible for this funding to include some road projects and other big ticket items that don’t contribute to more balanced transportation choices.”

MAP-21 moves popular Transportation Enhancements, such as Safe Routes to School and Recreational Trails to a new set-aside called Transportation Alternatives (TA), at a third less funding. The bill, which expires after 27 months, authorizes $82 billion in Federal funding for FY (Fiscal Years) 2013 and 2014.

TA provides a variety of alternative transportation projects that were previously eligible activities under separately funded programs. Funding is at a level equal to two percent of the total of all MAP-21 authorized Federal-aid highway and highway research funds, with the amount for each State set aside from the State’s formula apportionments.

Unless a State opts out, it may use a specified portion of its TA funds for recreational trails projects which remains unchanged. TA also includes the Safe Routes to School program. Also included is a new provision for planning, designing, or constructing roadways within the right-of-way of former interstate routes or other divided highways. What does that mean for the funding available for alternative modes of transportation? Just asking! Large metropolitan areas will get the money directly, but smaller and more rural communities may see little to none depending on their state Department of Transportation.

In a victory for public transportation riders, MAP-21 will continue to fund new rail and rapid-bus projects at current levels, and with simplified approvals. Transit is not included in the new TA but will remain in the trust fund. The bad news is that the fund is wildly oversubscribed.

In conclusion, our strong advocacy efforts for our fair share of transportation dollars must continue. Keith Laughlin, President of the Rails to Trails Conservancy, puts it succinctly: …“new requirements now give communities more of a say in how their states award this funding. But even that comes with a loophole. And you can bet if local trail champions aren’t on the frontlines fiercely advocating for themselves, the state transportation departments will use the control that the new law gives them over the money to funnel most of it to pet projects.” Sounds like good advice to me, trail lovers. What say you?

Happy Trails!

“Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”
- Margaret Mead
Calendar of Events

Meetings:

Monthly Board Meetings:
Open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Heritage Quest Research Library located at 1007 Main St., Sumner. Monthly meetings may be rescheduled, so check our website at www.piercecountytrails.org for changes.

Charlie Chat - Weekly Luncheon:
Informal luncheons from 12-1 p.m. at Charlie’s Restaurant, 113 East Main, Puyallup. All are welcome to come and share what they have been doing to promote the mission of the Coalition. No business is conducted even if a quorum of members is present.

Courtesy Patrol Meetings: (Note: no meetings in July or August.)
Scheduled on 2nd Saturday of each month at High Cedars Golf Course, 149th St. Ct. E., Orting. No-host breakfast starts at 8 a.m. and the casual meeting at 9 a.m. with a free-for-all discussion about the past, present and future of the Courtesy Patrol. Guest speakers and training sessions are often included. Contact Mariella Arnold at RAArnold@aol.com.

Friends of the Riverwalk Committee:
We are an informal group of volunteers devoted to the enjoyment and betterment of the Puyallup Riverwalk. Please join us for most Monday mornings* at 9 a.m. at Mrs. Turner’s Restaurant, 701 East Main, Puyallup.
*call prior to confirm in case of cancellation. Ernie Bay (253)-848-7718, bugtrail@aol.com. or Bob Kastama 253-435-1637, kastamaq@gmail.com, Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447

Events:

Work Parties RSVP to Don Partington at 253-820-8411 or cedarfamily@comcast.net

South Prairie Salmon Run:
On September 29, 2012, the town of South Prairie will host its 7th annual 5K, and 10K run as well as a 3K walk and kids fun walk. First race should start at 9:15am. Cost of the race is $25 unless early registration is completed by September 17, 2012. A salmon bake will follow the race. For more information call Peggy Levesque at 360-897-8253 or email southprairiesalmonrun@gmail.com.

“Some succeed because they are destined to; most succeed because they are determined to.”
Anatole France
MARY COLQUHOUN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gathered there recently to share many warm memories of Mary. Donations for a memorial bench to honor Mary near “Nature’s Medley” may be sent to the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, PO Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371.

Rest in peace Ms. Trail Ambassador. You were the best of the best and will be sorely missed by your beloved family, friends and fellow rail-trail lovers and users. And I for one, dear friend will never ever dare to “mess with Texas.”

CHAMBERS CREEK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Canyon and provide a continuous trail corridor between Chambers Bay and Kobayashi Park.

The City of University Place is developing a presentation to be shown at public meetings this fall. Notice of these meetings will be mailed to property owners abutting both sides of the Canyon and to interested parties. Notice will also be published in the News Tribune and on the City Website.

Membership makes a difference!

The work we are doing is made possible because of your membership and generous support. Credit cards accepted.

- $20 Single
- $30 Family
- $50 Pathfinder
- $100 Trail Builder
- $200 Corporate (Includes a 1 year ad in the Trail Line News)
- Please email my newsletter to _______________________

The mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County communities in building, maintaining, and promoting a network of safe, non-motorized trails that provide healthy recreation and transportation options.

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