Foothills Coalition Rails-to-Trails Annual Meeting & Dinner

by Bill Hilton, Coalition Vice President

The Foothills Coalition Rails-to-Trails Annual Meeting & Dinner was held on January 24, 2019, at High Cedars Golf Course in Orting. The venue was packed with many trail supporters and the presentations given during the evening were very well received.

Doors opened at 6:00 pm for registration and socializing with dinner starting at close to 6:40 pm. Just before dinner Foothills President Buzz Grant introduced special guests and board members.

The first order of business was the Foothills Board of Director elections.

Thank you to those having the courage to run and congratulations to Buzz Grant, Pat Johnson, John Selby and John Warhol for being reelected to the Board of Directors for another three year term. A special welcome to Nicole Martineau for being newly elected to the board as well for a three year term.

Buzz Grant, Foothills President, provided an update on the Foothills Coalition’s pledged support and/or funds for projects involving trails such as:

- Two thousand nineteen is shaping up to be an exciting year for The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (RTTFC) and I am honored to be a part of it with everyone involved.
- We are all looking forward to seeing the trail grow and connect to other trail systems, enhancing the recreational possibilities for all users.
- On behalf of myself and the Foothills Coalition I would like to welcome Nicole Martineau as our newest board member. I am sure she will bring fresh insights and new ideas for the trail. Pat Johnson, John Selby, John Warhol, and Buzz Grant were re-elected to the Board.
- At our February meeting we will be talking to personnel from Pierce County Surface Water Management concerning a setback levy South East of Orting. This setback will help protect the trail from the Carbon River flooding and destroying the trail surface thus allowing for uninterrupted recreational use.
- We are looking forward to a great year! Please join us by volunteering and coming out to support the trail at the many work parties and events that drive the FRTTC forward. Without the support of volunteers the dream of turning abandoned rail beds into thriving recreational trails would never have happened. It is the volunteer that will power this trail into the future. Let’s make 2019 a great year together!

Happy Trails!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
Notices:

Upcoming 17th Annual Rainer to Ruston
By Bill Hilton, Editor

On Saturday, June 1st – National Trails Day – the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition will be hosting the 17th Annual Rainer to Ruston (R2R) +50 mile relay, which will once again challenge teams of runners starting near the base of Mount Rainer and traveling to the Puget Sound at Tacoma waterfront on Ruston Way. To learn more about the R2R and to register for the event, please visit the following website: Or contact John Selby, Founder, at JohnSelby16@gmail.com or Sabrina Seher, Race Director, at sabrina@coachingbysuper.com.
Fennel Creek Trail gets more grand funds

Permission to reprint the article was granted by The Courier-Herald. Image courtesy of the city of Bonney Lake.

BY RAY MILLER-STALL, EDITOR, THE COURIER-HERALD NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019 (BONNEY LAKE)

Nearly $2.2 million will be going to finish section 2B, though construction isn’t expected to start for a few years.

Additional funds are looking to roll in to help Bonney Lake construct more of the Fennel Creek Trail.

In a Jan. 4 phone interview with the city’s Special Project Manager Gary Leaf, it was confirmed the city is likely to get more than $2 million in grants from the Puget Sound Regional Council and the Washington State Department of Transportation to construct segment 2B of the trail, meaning that section “will be 100 percent grant-funded,” Leaf said.

The city was aware of the federally-funded Puget Sound Regional Council grant money back in September 2018, but WSDOT only just announced Bonney Lake was one of the city it’s funding through the department’s Pedestrian and Bicycle Program last December.

“We are very pleased to hear that we received this most recent grant to continue our work on the Fennel Creek Trail,” said city Public Services Director John Vodopich. “Gary Leaf has put forth a tremendous amount of time and effort in applying for grants. His success is certainly impressive.”

Before this, Leaf attempted to get grants for segment 2B twice, and failed both times.

“We were asking for too much money. So I split it in half between two different granting agencies and I gambled that we would get them both,” he said. “A highly unlikely scenario, but hey, I’ll take it.”

Segment 2B of the Fennel Creek Trail is roughly two-thirds a mile long, and stretches from Angeline.
Active Transportation Update

by Dixie Gatchel, Active Transportation Coordinator

Map provided by Puyallup Watershed Initiative

Happenings along the Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail Connection (T2T)

Talk about 2018 being a banner trail year! Closing the missing link between Buckley and South Prairie completed the spine (21 miles) of the Foothills National Recreation Trail and served to set the stage for connection to other existing trails within the envisioned Tacoma to Puyallup (T2T) regional trail network. (See map)

Pipeline Trail (aka Cross County Commuter Connector)

The City of Tacoma has made great strides toward completing the trail to just beyond the city limits where Pierce County takes over jurisdiction. The trail connects Salishan, Swan Creek Park, Eastside Community Center, a multitude of businesses, and schools to the Tacoma Dome Station. It will also pass through South Hill’s Orange Gate and Nathan Chapman Parks in the future. Someday, the Pipeline will cover 15 miles from beginning to end and connect with the Foothills Trail at Orting (Crocker).

Puyallup Riverwalk Trail

The City of Puyallup Parks & Recreation Department is working to obtain funds to purchase properties from willing owners to complete the one mile “missing link” between the Milwaukee Bridge and Riverwalk Trailhead at Veterans Park. This will provide walkers and bicyclists safe access below the bridge with no need to cross heavily trafficked streets.

Plans are also underway for Riverwalk Phase IV to connect the trail from where it currently ends, behind Stortini’s Restaurant on East Main, with the Foothills East Puyallup Trailhead. This section of trail, along with the completed section in Van Lierop Park, will be named the “Ernie Bay Connector” in honor of longtime trail champion Dr. Ernest C. Bay.

Tahoma to Puyallup Regional Trail Connection

“This is an envisioned corridor between downtown Tacoma and downtown Puyallup for people walking and rolling that is physically separated from car traffic and safe for people of all ages and abilities. The Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail Connection cohort is a coalition of local leaders dedicated to seeing this project come to fruition. As a next step in making this trail connection

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
Northwest Small Equine Club
BY CAROL TOWNSEND, NORTHWEST SMALL EQUINE CLUB MEMBER
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CAROL TOWNSEND

Thankful for the mild weather we have had, Cascade Cartwheelers participated in the Sumner Christmas Parade as well as getting out on the trail. We are looking forward to trying the new section of trail from South Prairie to Buckley in the future.

How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?
BY JOHN SELBY, BOARD MEMBER

Here’s your chance to win a free membership renewal in the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. If you can accurately describe the location of the photo below before anyone else does, you will win a one-year individual membership renewal. (Sorry, board members are excluded.)

The photo in the December issue was of the pin pile bridge on the Cushman Trail. No one even tried to guess!

Let’s see how well members do on this one. Please respond to JohnSelby16@gmail.com with your answer to “How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?” Good luck! The winner will be announced in the next issue.

If you don’t know your Pierce County trails well enough to guess, then get out there and explore them! You are missing out!
**Stewards of the Trail**

*Each one of these men and women have shared with us, their vision for the Foothills Trail.*

**An Interview with John Selby**

Bob Rowan, member, Editorial Advisory Board, Trail Line News

Over the last 30 plus years that the Foothills Trail Coalition has been publishing Trail Line News, we have attempted to share up-to-date and important information about many subjects relative to the Trail and the impact it has on the communities which it serves. Over the next few issues, we will introduce you to some of the invaluable people who have played a dynamic role in the growth and success of the Trail. Each of these interviewees have found something special in the Foothills Trail that has motivated them to be a part of its success. They have all put a tremendous effort into the trail’s growth. As a community, we are all indebted to what they have accomplished. We want our readers to get to know them, and understand why they chose to undertake such a grand project, for such an extended period of time. We believe you will gain a better appreciation for why they are indeed, Stewards of the Trail.

BR: When did you become involved with the Foothills Trail and what was your motivation for doing so?

**JS:** I met Ernie Bay around 2001. He drew me into the monthly board meetings and then into being the editor of Trail Line News, which I did for 8 years. I had been a member of the Rails to Trails Conservancy and supported trails as both a cyclist and a runner. In fact, trails have been important to me since I was young. I enjoyed working on trail crews in the Olympic National Park every summer of my college years. I have hiked nearly all the trails in the Olympics and in Mt. Rainier National Park. By the time my daughter, Theresa, was 11 years old, our family had hiked the entire Wonderland Trail. For the last dozen years I have been a Meadow Rover volunteer at Paradise on Mt. Rainier, hiking the trails, answering visitors’ questions and keeping them off the meadows. As you can see, I love trails!

**BR:** At what point did you realize that the Foothills Trail was something you could impact in your own way?

**JS:** For many years we had tried to get people out on the Foothills Trail on National Trails Day. Breakfast in the Woods was one event we sponsored, and it was successful. But I thought we could do better. I knew how relays for runners worked. I had run the famous Hood to Coast Relay 17 times. That relay is almost 200 miles from Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood to Seaside, Oregon on the Pacific Ocean. It attracted around 1000 teams of 12 runners each. I thought that a local, 50 mile run from Mt. Rainier to Tacoma would be less difficult, but beautiful and challenging for an individual or a team. We needed only one van of 6 runners, instead of two vans and only 8 hours or so, instead of 32

**Continued on Page 7**
or more to complete the event. For two years I organized
two then three teams of my friends and family, and we did
it. No website, permits, timer or advertising was required.
The third year I got permission from the FTC board, built
the bell stands, and we went public. That year we had
169 runners. Last summer, our 16th year, we had 1450
runners and almost 300 teams. Over 80 volunteers joined
in the fun. It has become our biggest fundraiser and gets
hundreds of people out on the trail demonstrating the po-
tential of connecting The Mountain to The Sound.

This classic photograph of a few of the many volunteers that help prep the Foothills Trail for the R2R, was made a couple weeks before the 2007 R2R. John Selby (5th from left in top row) and Tom Fabion (owner and operator of Speedy the Mule) have been responsible for many years the gathering the Back Country Horsemen and the rest of the volunteers to prepare the Trail for the event.

BR: Name three people that you believe have given significantly of their time to benefit the Foothills Trail.

JS: That’s easy! Ernie Bay and Buzz Grant as long-term Presidents and Dixie Gatchel, long time Board Member, are the first to come to mind. Their contributions are too many to name. But there are many others that deserve mention. In fact, so many people have helped the Foothills Trail, in so many diverse ways, that it is difficult to single out only three. Many members have put large amounts of effort into such entities as the Courtesy Patrol, The Friends of the River Walk, grant writing, property purchases, Forever Green, Trail Line News, trail maintenance, Pierce County Parks, and Board meetings. All of these activities are essential. It’s truly a team effort which has resulted this year in the Foothills Trail being named by the WA State Trails Conference as the winner of the Outstanding Trail award.

BR: What do you feel is the value of having Rails-to-Trails in communities such as ours?

JS: The benefits of non-motorized trails have been well published. Trails benefit communities in many ways; for example, healthy living, visitor spending, family time together, improved property values. Trails are safe alternatives to automobile transportation and they create easy access to nature. In 2010 my wife Dottie and I cycled the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP). The GAP Trail runs from Pittsburgh, PA to Cumberland, MD, spanning 150 miles. This trail is visited by almost a million users every year. That generates significant economic impact along the way. The Foothills Trail will ultimately be one third as long as the GAP. Can we hope for 300,000 users per year? As with the GAP, more than half will be visitors from elsewhere. Think of the positive economic impact these people will have in the communities along the trail. Yes, it will cost money to finish our trail. But every year that it is not finished, we forego the income from those visitors.

BR: What did you do for a career before and after you became involved with the trail?

JS: After I graduated from the University of Washington in 1966, with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, I worked for the Applied Physics Lab at the university on underwater ordinance to stay out of the Vietnam War. After three years my wife Dottie and I joined the Peace Corps and served two years in Tunisia. She was a librarian at the graduate school of business at the University of Tunis. I was an engineer for the national gas and electric company. Next year will mark 50 years since I ran the office of diesel-electric production with my colleagues - a French engineer, a Tunisian engineer and an Italian engineer. Dottie and I always said that our Peace Corps experience was one of the best things we ever did. When I returned to Seattle, Boeing had just laid off thousands of engineers, and I couldn’t find a job, so I went back to the U for a Masters in Mechanical Engineering. After that I joined the Weyerhaeuser Company where I worked in research and development for 30 years.

BR: Over the next generation, what do you see as the future for trails in communities (large and small) in Washington and around the US?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
JS: I believe that when local trails become connected to one another in a network of trails statewide and nationwide, we will see an explosion of trail use for both transportation and recreation.

BR: Do you feel that events such as the R2R and the B&O are important to the communities along the Foothills Trail? Why?

JS: They draw the attention of both locals and visitors to the trail and its potential to connect communities and resources. Hopefully some are inspired to join the Foothills Trail Coalition to help us achieve our mission of completing all the trails in Pierce County and encouraging their use.

BR: What changes, if any, would you like to see in the Foothills Trail over the next 10 years?

JS: I dream of seeing it finished in the next 10 years! (I’ll be 86 years old!) It has already taken some 34 years to build about 25 miles. That is frustratingly slow. To finish in 10 years we would have to build about two miles per year! Let’s not just dream. Let’s make it happen!

BR: Do you feel that organizations such as the Foothills Trail need to be marketed to the communities which they serve? What do you think is the most effective way to do that?

JS: I think non-motorized trails need to be marketed to all the citizens of Pierce County so that everyone will be willing to spend our tax dollars to finish all the trails in the county.

BR: Should trails be regulated by the communities they serve or by state governance?

JS: I think local governments (cities and counties) do a good job of looking after their local trails.

BR: What role does safe, affordable, active transportation play in communities throughout the states and beyond?

JS: I think non-motorized trails are like parks. They are available to all citizens at no cost. They are essential to providing safe, affordable active transportation to everyone. There are no other options. Think about that!

BR: What is your favorite place on the Foothills Trail?

JS: It’s just west of Crocker where the emu comes to the fence to greet me!

It is the seemingly small tasks that often make a difference in an event like this. John has taken responsibly for them all: right up to spray painting the directional arrows on the roads in Tacoma. His passion for the R2R goes well beyond being the founder and race director. He is a very detailed person and that has helped make the R2R a great venue for runners.
Memberships/Donations

The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is a non-profit organization with a mission to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance, and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mount Rainer to Puget Sound. The following people and organizations have renewed their memberships or made a donation between November 2018 - January 2019.

Corrado, Cathy  
Coulter, Richard & Kay  
Davidson, Madeline  
DeBoer, Amy & Cameron  
Downing, Roland & Sharalin  
Erath, Lois M. & Gary J.  
Frazer, Philip & Dawn  
FRED MEYER REWARDS PROGRAM  
Giddings, William & Rochelle  
Grant, Gordon F. (Buzz)  
Griffin, Alexander J  
Hamilton, Hugo L.  
Helmer, Charles  
Hilton, William  
Larson, Steve & Lois  
Lee, David & Carla Moschetti  
Lewis, Tom (SUNRISE GLASS)  
Loney, Kelly & Kevin  
Meshke, Beth & David  
Rudd, William & Sandra  
Sacklin, John & Mary Hektnner  
Sattler, Judi & Bob  
Sawyer, Mark & Jill  
Toomey, Kimberlee  
Walter, Linda  
Whitehouse, Gerald  
Zeiger, Ed & Betty  
Zink, Charlotte & David

2019 New Members  
Loney, Kevin & Kelly  
Lewis, Tom (Sunrise Glass)  
Sattler, Julie & Bob  
Shadko, Heather  
Toomey, Kimberlee
Fennel Creek Continued from page 3

Road and Sewer Lift Station 17 and pushes east into the old WSU Forest, where it turns north and runs parallel to 192nd Avenue East until it hits the Sumner-Buckley Highway.

This section requires just over $2 million to complete “because it’s all wetlands in there,” Leaf said, adding that whoever gets the bid for the project will have to construct a bridge and more than a few boardwalks. “Originally we were looking at doing a tunnel through there, but talk about expensive.”

The tunnel Leaf mentioned would have been constructed about 400 or 500 feet east of Angeline Road underneath SR 410, but was estimated to cost more than $2 million on its own.

“We applied for a grant, and the granting agencies just laughed at it,” he said.

It was after the tunnel option was nixed that the city looked at running the Fennel Creek Trail west through a neighborhood on 95th Street East, then north on Angeline until the sewer lift station, and then head back east. However, the neighborhood complained to Sen. Phil Fortunato, who proposed a different route so the trail that wouldn’t go through the neighborhood.

It was announced last May Fortunato found $500,000 in the state budget to help offset the additional cost the city would have had to shoulder for his proposed route.

But while design for segment 2B is “98 percent done,” and permitting should be finished “a couple months” design is wrapped up, construction isn’t likely to start until October 2020, Leaf said, because the PSRC grant isn’t accessible until then.

If the city can finish design and permitting and work with WSDOT to use some of their grant to secure a bid, the city “could hit the ground running” that fall and complete segment 2B construction in 12 to 18 months, Leaf continued, adding that segment 2A should also be complete around January 2020.

If this can be managed, this means trail-users could walk from Mountain View Middle School, Bonney Lake High School, and Victor Falls Elementary, as well as the various neighborhoods in that area, all the way to Sumner-Buckley Highway by fall 2021 or spring 2022.

An additional hurdle is that the WSDOT grant may not get approved by the state Legislature when they vote on their capital budget this spring. Leaf said he fully expects the Legislature to do so, but added there’s a “one-in-a-million” chance things go awry, like when lawmakers failed to pass a capital budget spring 2017.

In total, the Fennel Creek Trail is expected to cost $9.5 million.

Active Transportation Continued from Page 4

Active Transportation Continued from Page 4

A reality, the cohort plans to work with the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) on a route analysis study to assess the opportunities, constraints, and next steps for completing active transportation connections between downtown Tacoma and downtown Puyallup. This study will be funded through a partnership between cohort member organizations, with in-kind support from the Puyallup Watershed Initiative Active Transportation Community of Interest, Downtown-on-the-Go, and ForeverGreen Trails. The study is expected to take approximately nine months and be completed in 2019.” Puyallup Watershed Initiative is super excited about this collaborative effort and feel strongly it will succeed. It is probably the best shot we will ever have to fulfill our mission for a T2T. Watch for notice of an informational public meeting sometime in the spring at the Puyallup Pavilion. For more information please visit: http://www.pwi.org/tahomatomatacoma

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department 2018 Community Health Awards

Seven jurisdictions were recognized for showing leadership last year to improve community health outcomes at a February 21 gathering at the WA Fair Grounds in Puyallup. The health department ranked the winning projects on public engagement, social connection, economic prosperity and environmental stewardship. Pierce County Parks was one of the six Platinum Award winners for completion of the Buckley to South Prairie section of the Foothills National Recreation Trail. Other Platinum awardees included Fife, Lakewood, Metro Parks Tacoma, Sumner, Tacoma and University Place. Congratulations and a big shout out for all the good work you do for a healthier planet.

Happy Trails
as the Riverwalk Trail, Chambers Creek Canyon Trail, White River Bridge Crossing and Fennel Creek Trail. He also mentioned the Foothills Coalition being honored to receive a Washington State Trails Coalition 2018 Outstanding Trail Award and a Pierce County Trail Award from ForeverGreen Trails.

First speaker, Tale of Two Cities – Mayor Pat Johnson of Buckley presented on how the railroad and trail (Foothills) helped shape the cities of Buckley and Orting. The presentation concluded with how the Foothills Trail has benefitted both cities and connected communities along the trail.

Second speaker, Tacoma to Puyallup Connection – Mayor John Palmer of Puyallup presented on efforts being focused toward the possibility of a Puyallup to Tacoma trail connection. This connection would possibly assist in creating a continuous trail of 63 miles traveling from Mount Rainier to Tacoma’s Point Defiance Park.

Sabrina Seher, Rainer to Ruston Relay Race Director and Jerry Gomez, Assistant Race Director, provided an update on the number of race entries and how things are shaping for this year’s event.

In closing, thank you to everyone who took the time to attend, donate items, provide information or present. The meeting seemed a great opportunity to visit, learn about the past, look to the future, and provide a few chances to win a contest or two.
Calendar of Events

**Monthly Board Meetings:**
Open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30 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.

**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 8 a.m. at Mrs. Turner’s Restaurant, 701 East Main, Puyallup. We also have a group walk that starts at 9 a.m. following the meeting and is open to those who would like to join us. *Call prior to confirm in case of cancellation. Bill Hilton (253) 302-1104, billhltm@aol.com, Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447.

**Charlie Chat - Weekly Luncheon:**
Informal luncheons every Wednesday 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.

**Plateau Trails Coalition**
We are a group of volunteers devoted to the enjoyment and betterment of trails. Please join us on the first Thursday of each month at 630 pm at the Justice & Municipal Building, 9002 Main St E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391. *Please email prior to confirm any changes or cancellation at ptcchairperson@gmail.com

**ForeverGreen Trails Events**
May 29: Trails & Ales 6-8 pm Edison City Alehouse, 5602 S Lawrence St Tacoma
July 27: Pierce County Trails Day - multiple events & locations, all day

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**Scholz Farm and Garden**
14310 128th St. E.
Puyallup, WA 98374
Phone (253) 848-7604
Fax (253) 840-8699
ScholzFarm@MSN.com

Allen Scholz
Fawntella Scholz
Membership makes a difference!
The work we are doing is made possible because of your membership and generous support. Credit cards accepted.

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☐ $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 government and communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

Pay online using Pay Pal  http://www.piercecountytrails.org/become-a-member/

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