Donald J Partington
February 3, 1958 - September 29, 2019
Printed with permission from Robin H Partington

Out walking with Don along the Carbon River, Mt Rainier NP. Photo by Robin Partington

Whether he was cuddling a new baby or kitten, recounting a funny story, spending time in the woods, or starting a new project, Don expressed constant joy in his life, and it was infectious. That is the gift he leaves to all who knew and loved him.

Donald James Partington was born February 3, 1958, in Lawrence, Massachusetts to Lewis T. and Josephine M. Partington. He died as a result of sudden cardiac arrest in Puyallup, WA on September 29, 2019, surrounded by loved ones. Don grew up in Georgetown and Sudbury, MA and graduated in 1976 from Lincoln Sudbury High School, acquiring the long-held nickname “Linc”, while spending a semester in high school working in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. He attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and graduated from Green River Community College in Auburn, WA, with Associates degrees in Water and Wastewater Management.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

After saying good-by this past spring to one of our most cherished leaders, Buzz Grant, we had one of our most important members, work party leader and exceptional great friend, Don Partington leave us as well. These two leaders are the type of members that any organization would love to have as part of their organization; dedicated, energetic and all-around great people. We will miss both deeply. But there is another dedicated group of leaders that are stepping up and helping to move our organization forward.

We also had a dedicated key member and longtime treasurer of the Foothills Coalition Loras Gassmann move back to his home state of Iowa. Loras has been a member since 1995 and in 1985 he was an initial supporter of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy back in Washington DC. We will miss his dedication and humor greatly.

The Pierce County Trails Conference was held on October 17, which included two great panel discussions about Safe, Clean & Green Trails and Engaging Youth Outdoors. Don Partington’s family received an Outstanding Leadership Award for Don for his extensive dedication and leadership roles at Foothills Rails-to-Trails and many other organizations he was part of.

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Notice of Annual Meeting & Dinner

The 30th annual meeting and dinner for the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at the Step-by-Step - Farm 13 Restaurant & Events located at 3303 8th Ave. SE in Puyallup. (Across the street from the East Puyallup – Meeker - Foothills Trailhead)

The doors will open at 5:30 pm for registration and socializing with dinner served promptly at 6:00 pm. There will be a celebration video during dinner, a brief business meeting, presentations by the Pierce County Parks Director and others along with a silent auction and a few chances to win a contest or two. There will be a no host bar with everything wrapping up around 8:30 pm.

In order to make sure we have enough meals to serve everyone and not pay for more meals than necessary, pre-registration is important. The cost of the dinner is $35 each (cash, check, credit card) which will be collected at the door. Please RSVP no later than January 17th to Bill Hilton at Billhltn@aol.com or (253) 302-1104.

The brief business meeting is to vote for members of the board of directors. Directors serve a period of three years, with each year at least five members are up for election. In accordance with our by-laws, a member of the Coalition may be considered as an eligible candidate for Director by submitting a petition of nomination to the Board of Directors not less than 21 days before the Annual Meeting. Such petition must include the valid signatures of 10 Coalition members or 10 percent of the Coalition membership, whichever is less. The candidates seeking consideration for the open Director positions this year are: Bryan Bowden, Donald Rich, Dave Seago, Bill Hilton, and Ken Woolery.

Foothills Trail Coalition Board

President: Stu Scheureman (253) 405-5129, messe01@msn.com
Vice President: Bill Hilton (253) 302-1104, Billhltn@aol.com
Secretary: Jeremiah Meacham (253) 427-9516, Jeremiah11@comcast.net
Treasurer: Loras Wassmann (253) 808-3354, Lwassmann@msn.com

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- Bryan Bowden (253) 847-3352, bryanbowden@live.com
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- Matthew McCollum (253) 222-3492, mtcnccollum@hotmail.com
- Vacant
- Donald “Don” Rich (253) 381-8547, dcnlrich@msn.com
- Dave Seago (253) 347-0325, warhol66@gmail.com
- John Selby (253) 841-1767, JohnSelby10@gmail.com
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Publisher:
The Trail Line News is published quarterly by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371. Our website is http://www.piercecountytrails.org/ and our email address is foothillstrail@msn.com.

Mission:
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. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is a 503 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Trail Supporter Ads:
Trail Supporter ads are published for a fee of $25 per quarter or $100 for one year, paid in advance to the Coalition and sent to the Ad Manager, Loras Wassmann, P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA.

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The Trail Line News is edited by Bill Hilton, FTCeditor@gmail.com. (253) 302-1104

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Pierce County Trail Projects
by John Selby, Board Member

On Oct 17 I attended the Pierce County Trails Conference along with Stu Scheuerman, Dixie Gatchel, Steve Brown, JEB III, and Bob Myrick. Robin Partington and her family were also there to receive Don’s Lifetime Service Award.

Pierce County Parks and Recreation handed out a flyer for each of the four regions of the county, listing all of their projects out to 2030. I thought our members would like a summary of trail projects which are coming up in the next couple of years. I have left off those projects not related to trails or scheduled to begin several years out. There is a lot going on! Take a look.

WEST REGION
Chambers Creek Regional Park and Canyon Trail
Construct new trail, improve existing trail and construct boardwalks and bridges.
Estimated timeline: 2020-21
Estimated budget: $1,638,000

Seeley Lake Park Trail
Improve trails, storm water and habitat.
Estimated timeline: 2019-21
Estimated budget: $100,000

SOUTH REGION
Meridian Habitat Park
Extend trails and walking paths.
Estimated timeline: 2020-21

Pipeline Trail
Extend the existing Pipeline Trail from 72nd Street and Waller Road to the Heritage Recreation Center.
Estimated timeline: 2019-23
Estimated budget: $7,400,000

NORTH REGION
Buckley Forestland Preserve
Public access and nature trails
Estimated timeline: 2019-21

Carbon River Valley
Public access and nature trails
Estimated timeline: 2024-30

Foothills Trail
White River bridge construction, 2021
Cascade Junction to Carbonado, 2026-TBD

Riverwalk Trail connection, TBD
East Puyallup Trailhead expansion, 2023-TBD
Estimated budget: $12,000,000

CENTRAL REGION
Bresemann Forest
Improve trail surface, routing and safety.
Estimated timeline: 2020

Dawson Playfield
Improve and extend walking path.
Estimated timeline: 2020

Parkland Community Trail
Construct new trail between PLU and Sprinker Rec Center, linking 4 schools and 3 parks.
Estimated timeline: 2019-23
Estimated budget $4,335,000

Pipeline Trail
Extend the existing Pipeline Trail from 72nd Street and Waller Road to the Heritage Recreation Center.
Estimated timeline: 2019-23
Estimated budget: $7,400,000
R2R Registration is Open!

It’s that time of year again!
Sasquatch + 50-ish miles + running friends

It’s that time of year again!
Do you smell the finish line or is that the grilled cheese?
Perhaps it’s just the memories of the vehicle stuffed with sweaty, happy runners?

We did SELL OUT LAST YEAR

Teams of 2, 3, 4 and 6 can still participate.
There is the solo division if one is feeling up for it.
*Please see our qualifying standards to go about this adventure as a solo warrior!

YES we will presell the super cool updated 2020 hats.

Help us finish the trail by running with us in 2020!

All proceeds go directly back to help finish the trail.

For more information and to register please visit the following website:
https://www.rainiertoruston.com/
Fair Bicycle Drawing Winners Announced

by Bill Hilton, Editor.
Photos Provided by Scheuerman

The 2019 Washington State Fair was well attended and we wish to thank all who volunteered at the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition booth. The two bicycles (graciously) donated by Bonney Lake Bicycle Shop of Sumner and South Hill were won by Terese Jackson and JoAnn Amberg. We also gave out thousands of trail and bike maps for Pierce, King, and Thurston Counties as well as specific maps for the Foothills Trail, Puyallup Riverwalk, and Sumner Link Trail which drew interest from a plethora of visitors.
Regional Trail Progress - Hopes & Happenings

by Dixie Gatchel, Active Transportation Coordinator

Great American Rail-Trail (GART) North Route? South Route?

I was thrilled when the national Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) released the Great American Rail-Trail (GART) route assessment report. Imagine the incomparable experience of riding your bicycle for 3,700 miles, across 12 states, from Washington D.C. to the Washington State coast. Kudos to RTC for all the collaborative effort it took to put the GART together.

The introduction of GART sparked interest in an obviously doable southern route, starting at Cedar Falls at the end of the Palouse to Cascades Trail and ending at South Bend on the Washington coast. The 263 mile Palouse to Cascades Trail (former John Wayne Pioneer Trail) is a big section of both the northern and southern routes. Why not support both options? What say you?

Progress in forming a southern route supporter’s coalition took root at a meeting of the Southwest Washington Regional Trails group on November 14 in Olympia. Paul Simmons, City of Olympia Director/Parks, Arts and Recreation graciously agreed to facilitate the meeting. Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition President Stuart Scheurman and I were present at the packed room meeting of some major trail stakeholders and organizations which bodes well for success of the effort.

Pertinent presentations were delivered by Larry Laveen, ForeverGreen Trails, on the Yelm Prairie Line Trail, connecting the five miles between Yelm and Roy; Adam Cole, Recreation Conservation Organization (RCO) on identifying potential 2020 RCO grants; Roxanne Miles & Brianne Blackburn, Pierce County Parks Recreation on future trail connection projects.

I was especially pleased to hear helpful tips from Randy Kline, WA State Parks, about the Willapa Hills State Park Trail which is a key segment in the cross-state network spanning from the Idaho border to the shores of Willapa Bay. This relatively flat 56-mile-long route represents the western segment of the overall system. Originally acquired by State Parks from the Burlington Railroad in 1993, this trail is aligned east/west between Chehalis and South Bend where it intersects US Highway 101.

This meeting resulted as follow-up to a previous August meeting that was hosted by the Governor’s office and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy where the concept of a contiguous trail through Southwest Washington was discussed. Our Foothills National Recreation Trail would be an integral part of the southern route. It would also create a cross-state network that would join with the larger GART Trail, extending across our beautiful United States of America.

What can we do to help the cause? We can help by pointing out completed sections and missing gaps in either the northern or southern options, or both. A one-page form is available from the coalition to help this effort and can be requested by contacting Board Member Dixie Gatchel at gatcheldb@q.com.

Happy Trails & Onward!
2019 Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay (R2R) Founders Award

BY BILL HILTON, EDITOR

John Selby presenting award to Becky Gilbert

Each year the Founder’s Award is given to someone who has made a significant contribution to the R2R. This year the award was presented during the August meeting of the Foothills Coalition board by John Selby to Becky Gilbert for volunteering as the exchange captain at Wilkeson bell stand every year of the race. Congratulations to Becky.
Stewards of the Trail

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

An Interview with Bill Hilton

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

Over the last 30 plus years that the Foothills Trail 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. In 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 those interviewed 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 know them and understand why they chose to undertake such a large project for such an extended period of time. We believe you will gain a deeper appreciation for why they are indeed, Stewards of the Trail.

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

BH: Before retiring my wife (Leslie) and I did quite a bit of biking during weekends on both the Foothills and Interurban Trails. It was in 2010 when I retired that I learned of a local trail group (Friends of the Riverwalk/Puyallup) and began to attend their weekly meetings. The trail group had individuals such as Ernie Bay, Bob and Diane Kastama, Dixie Gatchel, John Earnest Berry III, and others that were dedicated to advancing both the Riverwalk and Foothills Trail. Through the positive relationships that developed with members of Friends of the Riverwalk I would eventually get involved with the Foothills Coalition the following year.

BR: Describe what you did a career before becoming involved with the Trail.

BH: I retired from law enforcement in March of 2010 after having the privilege of serving our citizens for 30 years with the Washington State Patrol before becoming involved with the trail.

BR: What was your initial role in the Foothills Trail and how did that evolve?

BH: My initial role with the Foothills Trail was that of editor for the Trail Line News. In early 2011 I met with a board member of the Foothills Coalition (John Selby) at his request in a local Puyallup coffee shop. Selby wanted to discuss the possibility of me taking over as editor of the trail line newsletter for the Foothills Coali-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
tion. After giving it some consideration I accepted the position of volunteer editor for the Trail Line Newsletter and began to attend the monthly (general) meetings and the annual dinner/meetings which led to me eventually being selected as a board member in January 2014.

BR: You’ve been the volunteer editor for the TLN for almost 10 years. That is a huge undertaking for anyone. What has that meant to you?
BH: It has been a great experience! Very often rewarding and occasionally challenging as with anything that is worthwhile doing. Over the years I have appreciated the individuals and organizations that have frequently contributed articles, announcements, or information for inclusion in the newsletter. Behind the scenes we could not ask for a better layout designer than, Char Binfer, who does fantastic work. I value the input received from the review committee in helping to complete each copy of the newsletter over the years. I think we have made a good team!

BR: What do you feel is the value of having rails-to-trails in communities such as yours?
BH: I believe parks and trails are a crucial part of any community and serve multiple functions. They bring community members of all ages, families, friends, and individuals from all walks of life together to bicycle, run, walk to get outside and enjoy each other’s company. Parks and trails can also attract individuals or groups from outside of a community which in turn can provide downstream revenue to flow into local businesses. Parks protect natural ecosystems and their trees provide clean air by removing pollutants from the air and trails can also serve as an alternative means of transportation for commuters and/or local shoppers.

BR: There are those who still believe that spending tax-dollars on trails is a waste of resources. How would you respond to that concept?
BH: I would invite to them come out and spend time on a trail walking, running, or riding. I really admired Ernie Bay and his approach of patience and persistence when working to inform individuals that weren’t sure about the value of trails. This question also brought to mind an article that appeared in the September 2011 issue of the Trail Line News on page 3, “Build trails; save dollars.” One of the points emphasized as important to society as a whole was that every dollar spent on building trails for walking or biking saved three dollars in medical costs. This is just one person’s observation – I believe there is strong community support for trails at the city, county, and state levels throughout Washington.

BR: Over the next generation, what do you see that the future holds for trails in communities (large and small) in Washington and around the US?
BH: Recently having attended a meeting in support of the Great American Rail-Trial across our nation and observing successful trail efforts in Washington State the future for completing trails looks bright. I also believe continued success will depend on whether we are able to successfully engage people from all backgrounds and younger generations from across the nation.

BR: Do you feel that events such as the R2R and B&O are important to the communities along the Foothills Trail?
BH: Absolutely. These events bring an air of excitement, visitors, participants, and revenue to the various locations along the route. Why? Having had the opportunity to participate in R2R and B&O they simply create a sense of excitement in the air! Whether it’s among the competitors, those volunteering along the route, or the communities the R2R or B&O pass through, community members can be seen cheering and encouraging those participating all along the way and even after the finish lines.
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.

AMAZON SMILE
Anderson Family
Arnold, Bob & Mariella *
Austin, Gwen
Brain, Jeff
Bridges, Paulette & Benjamin
Broadus, Jerry & Clarice
Brown, Steve
Brzezinski, Mary A
Campbell, Kimberly
CHILDREN READING FOUNDATION
Croshaw, Joann Merrill & Wally
Farris, Robin
FOREVERGREEN TRAILS

FRED MEYER REWARDS
PROGRAM
Hilton, William
Jacobson, Charles and Sheryl
Jansen, Alahna
LaBerge, Mary Ellen
Lee, David
Linehan, Jacqueline A.
Pauw, Jan
PayPal
Pobanz Nancy & David Wade *
Quintella, Joseph & Karen
Rich, Donald & Janet
Scott, Wendy
Sheppard, Marilyn

Siegenthaler, Mary
Tacoma Wheelmen’s Club
Turpin, Theresa
Visnaw, Paula
Vogel, Bob & Koko
Wakasa, Jane T. & Roy H.
Walker, Scott & Amber
Wilkinson, Melanie S. Ito & Charles
Zeiger, Hans A.

* In Memory of Don Partington

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 June issue was taken on the trail in Levee Pond Park in Fife. No one even tried to guess!

Let’s see how well you 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!

Photo by John Selby
The Russell Family Foundation CEO Richard Woo to Retire in December

by Dixie Gatchel, Board Member

A lively group of Richard Woo’s friends and admirers gathered in Gig Harbor on October 29 to wish him happiness in retirement and honor him for his uniquely exemplary service during his 20 years with The Russell Family Foundation (TRFF). The event was led by TRFF’s Richard Russell who promised me to bring his ukulele to our next celebration.

I was pleased that TRFF asked me to be one of the four community speakers at the celebration because I wanted to be sure that Richard knew he was my inspiration in getting on board with the Puyallup Watershed Initiative (PWI) shortly after it was launched by TRFF in 2012.

First off, it was Richard’s laid-back, unassuming demeanor, and the words he used to describe the totally, topsy-turvy different approach to achieving a daunting PWI vision for preserving our lifeline - the 1000 square mile Puyallup Watershed. He did not come across as a stereotypical, hard line CEO with a rigid mandate of rules and mandates required to qualify for grant money. Richard believed in leaving the solutions to the folks who live in the watershed – they know best what might possibly work. He said provide the structure and technical guidance on what might be needed to encourage sustainable stewardship and leadership among the folks who call the watershed home.

The ultimate PWI shared vision was the creation of an independent, community-led nonprofit organization by 2018. Mission accomplished and now functioning under talented CEO Jennifer Chang. Local leadership and grassroots stewardship of our watershed is happening. The various COIs are emerging into an interconnected movement to advance the core strategies and values of the PWI. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is happening as we collaborate and share the hopes and dreams of all our community members.

TRFF so generously pledged $1 million over a 10-year period to be shared among six collaborating PWI Communities of Interest. Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition joined up early on with the PWI active transporta-tion group. We set up an opportunity fund with our share of the TRFF funding which is dedicated to leveraging grant requests to partners to advance the PWI vision.

The big entertainment surprise for the evening took place when Richard’s alter ego Funk Master Fong took the stage. He delivered a very rapid rap without missing a beat. It was a Wowser! Happy Trails, Richard and please stay involved, Friend.

Thanks so very much for inviting me to ride along with you to the event, Stuart Scheurman. Stu advanced to the position of President of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition after the tragic loss of long-time president Buzz Grant, followed shortly after with the passing of Don Partington. They both had high regard for Richard and I know they were with us in spirit at his celebration.
BR: What changes, if any, would you like to see in the Foothills Trail over the next 10 years?
BH: Connections, Connections, Connections and On to the Mountain! Connecting the Foothills Trail in Buckley to the trail in Enumclaw, connecting the Foothills Trail to the Puyallup Riverwalk and beyond to Puget Sound, and extending the Foothills Trail to Mount Rainer National Park.

BR: Do you believe 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?
BH: Yes. Working collaboratively with city and county parks departments to get the word out at various events. Provide information to local media regarding our accomplishments and upcoming events as well as using the Foothills Coalition website and Facebook Page to spread the word. Speak before city and county councils to thank them for their support of trails and inform about our work in their communities. Be willing to present to organizations (Kiwanis, Rotary, Eagles, etc.) about trails and our organization.

BR: Should trails be regulated by the communities they serve or by State governance? A combination of the two.
BH: I like what our Foothills President Stuart Scheuerman had to say on this issue (September 2019 News Letter). The overall logistics of trails should be regulated by the state to keep the systems similar. Local communities can have different signs, pedestrian benches, etc., to give a local feel to their portion of the trail.

BR: What is your favorite place on the Foothills Trail and why?
BH: This is a tough one as I don’t have a favorite place, per se, but rather just enjoy being out on the trail and marveled at what has been accomplished so far. I also enjoy thinking about the opportunity to be a part of extending the trail even further.
Don Partington Continued from Page 1

ment. He worked for King County, WA in Wastewater Management for 27 years.

Don married Robin High Partington on July 5th, 1986. Don and Robin met fortuitously in May, 1980, on a backpack trip in Olympic National Park, while he was visiting a friend attending college at University of Oregon, where Robin was also a student. After spending a year in Oregon, Don returned to Massachusetts and Robin subsequently graduated and took a job with the Lewiston, ID school district. In 1982, Don, an avid cyclist since childhood, set out from Massachusetts with a friend to cycle across the country. He stopped to visit Robin after nearly 3,000 miles en route to the Pacific Ocean and the rest is history. They spent 39 wonderful years together, filled with adventuring and raising their two fine sons, Daniel and Alexander.

As an active member of the Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition for over 30 years, Don served on the Board of Directors, coordinated trail work parties, and enjoyed countless hours of trail building and maintenance. Don was also on the Board of the Russell Family Foundation Puyallup Watershed Initiative, and active with the PWI’s Active Transportation Community of Interest. Don was an active member of the Thea Foss Waterway Seaport Museum and worked as a volunteer in the Heritage Boat Shop that builds wooden vessels and restores and repairs vessels displayed in existing exhibits or collections. A recent project he loved was building a beautiful wooden kayak.

Don had an incredible ability to create, problem solve, repair and re-purpose. Basically, he could figure out just about anything and never saw any challenge as insurmountable, including his health. He would just find a way to fix it, re-purpose it, go around it, or live with it. He loved woodworking and made beautiful wooden boxes, shelving, and gorgeous live edge cedar benches that always drew high bids for the causes he donated them to. He also picked up welding in the last several years and enjoyed being mentored and improving his skills. Projects were his core. He described his work in the garage as “tinkering” or “puttering” and he had to have at least one project going, usually several at the same time.

We will remember Don most for his unfailing kindness, his ability to really listen, his delightful sense of humor, the boundless joy he found in his life, and of course, those long and legendary hugs. Loving and experiencing the outdoors was an enormous part of Don’s life that he enthusiastically shared with his family and friends. He had a reverence for old growth trees and made a point to thank them whenever he had an opportunity. His many outdoor interests included canoeing, kayaking, bicycling, hiking, and camping. Don continued to actively enjoy the outdoors, despite his increasing mobility challenges due to Muscular Dystrophy. He continued to cycle and transitioned to an electric assist bicycle when pedaling became more challenging.

Don was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew, Matthew Munson. Surviving family includes his wife, Robin, of Olympia, WA; son Daniel and spouse Alexandra, and son Alexander, all of Olympia, WA; his sisters Margaret Munson of Franklin, MA, and Ruth Callahan of Gardner MA; brothers Andy Partington of Brandon, VT and David Partington of Worcester, MA; and numerous extended family and cherished friends.

A memorial service to celebrate Don’s life is planned for early Spring, his favorite season. The date and location will be forthcoming.

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WALLY’S WHITE RIVER DRIVE-IN

www.wallysdrive-in.com

360.829.0871
kimariejohnson@gmail.com

328 Hwy 410
P.O. Box 1468
Buckley, WA 98321
Ninety-seven trail advocates gathered at this year’s Pierce County Trails Conference hosted by ForeverGreen Trails in September to hear about best practices in trail management and youth involvement, trail project updates, and a new guidebook by author Craig Romano about trails.

The book is far more regionally significant than the book’s title might lead you to believe; it also covers southern King County and Pierce County. His presentation included enticing images as well as a sprinkling of history that enhanced the desire to explore many trail gems in our area.

As in past years, ForeverGreen presented Trail Awards to those agencies, organizations, and individuals making an outstanding contribution to trails in Pierce County. In the “Place or Project” category, Metro Parks Tacoma was selected as an award recipient for its Wilson Way Bridge & Dune Peninsula at Point Defiance Park. The bridge connects Point Defiance and Ruston Way and the peninsula offers an additional 11 acres of waterfront park space, and a pretty unique staircase with adjacent slides. Kudos to Metro Parks for their work on this project.

The second award, for a non-government agency, went to Washington Trails Association (WTA) for their continued support of trails throughout Pierce County. Known throughout Washington as a crucial steward of soft-surface trails,

The trail management content was expertly delivered by two panels:

- **Safe, Clean & Green - Tyler Eidson Puyallup Parks & Recreation, Sylvana Niehuser Olympia Parks & Recreation, and Peter Mayer Metro Parks Tacoma. Discussed were operating a municipal park ranger program and behavioral issues in parks and along trails.**

- **Engaging Youth Outdoors - Jean Bartholomew Washington Trails Association and Jeremy Taitano and Edison Velez of Northwest Youth Corps. They provided two models on how to involve and mentor young through stewardship and maintenance of trails.**

Author Craig Romano’s latest book *Urban Trails Tacoma* was well-timed for our event.
Overall, ForeverGreen was very pleased with the turnout at the conference and energy and enthusiasm of attendees, panelists, keynote speaker, and mistress of ceremonies Mary Dodsworth, City of Lakewood Parks Department. We received very positive feedback on the event from many people along with a request that the conference materials and presentations be made available. They have been added to our website at: www.forevergreentrails.org/pierce-county-trails-conference.

WTA has leveraged thousands of volunteer hours to build and maintain active recreation trails for the benefit of residents and visitors to our region. This translates to an incredible savings for taxpayers and a fabulous service for encouraging healthy and active lifestyles. ForeverGreen is particularly grateful for WTA’s partnership for Pierce County Trails Day this year as they sponsored two work parties in 2019 - one in Chambers Creek Canyon and one on the South Puyallup Trail in Mount Rainier National Park.

The final category, the Lifetime Achievement Award, was selected several months prior to the Conference for an individual who had devoted countless hours to not only the Foothills Trail, but also had been an active participant in Puyallup Watershed Initiative’s Active Transportation Community of Interest among other trail efforts. Like everyone else, we were taken aback and deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death of our friend Don Partington. We are grateful that amidst dealing with their grief over his passing, that Don’s family — Robin High Partington, sons Alex and Daniel and Daniel’s wife Alexandra — agreed to attend the conference and accept the award on his behalf. We thank them as well as Don from the bottom of our hearts. Don, you are sorely missed, and generations of Pierce County residents owe you a debt for all you have given us.

President’s Message Continued from Page 1

I also want to announce this year we will have our 30th Annual Foothills Dinner and Meeting at a brand-new non-profit facility across the street from the Meeker – East Puyallup Trailhead. This facility, which was historically the Van Lierop Bulb Farm, has been recreated into a beautiful multiuse complex called Step-by-Step (includes Farm-12) which is dedicated to help mothers with life’s challenges. We hope you will join us at our event (January 23, 2020) which will also help support this vital facility.
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, billhltn@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 6:30 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

2020 Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition Annual Meeting and Dinner
Can you help? We are looking for donated items for a silent auction to be held, on January 23, 2020, at the annual meeting and dinner for the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. If you want to donate or have any questions please contact Nicole Martineau, Board Member, Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition at 253 298-5635 or nbmbrm@hotmail.com.
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 1-year ad in Trail Line News)  
☐ Please email my newsletter

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 traits for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.


Name: ____________________________  
Address: ____________________________  
City: __________________ Zip: _______  
Phone: ____________________________  
Email: ____________________________  

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

Make checks payable to Foothills Rails to Trail Coalition