30th Annual Foothills Rails-to-Trails Meeting & Dinner

BY BILL HILTON, EDITOR
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BOB ROWAN

The 30th annual meeting and dinner for the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition was held on January 23, at the Step-by-Step - Farm 12 Restaurant & Events Puyallup.

The venue was great, packed with numerous trail supporters, and presentations given during the evening were very well received. The event officially kicked off just before dinner with Foothills President Stuart Scheuerman warmly welcoming everyone, which was followed by a touching video tribute to former Foothills President Buzz Grant – A Celebration of Life.

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

Thank you to those having the courage to run and congratulations to Brian Bowden, Donald Rich, Dave Seago, Ken Woolery, for being reelected to the Board of Directors for another three year term. A special welcome to Dan Bucci, Matt McCollum, and John Peachey that were recently appointed by the President Scheuerman and confirmed along with the reelected board members.

Presentations
First speaker, Trail Safety through Public Engagement – Director Sarah Harris, City of Puyallup Parks & Recreation presented on Puyallup’s innovative approaches to trail safety through public engagement programs (Park

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

President’s Message

BY STUART SCHEUERMAN, COALITION PRESIDENT

Spring is in sight, but I want to step back and thank those who were involved with and attended our 30th Annual Dinner in January.

If you missed it… you missed a very successful event. Our Vice President and Master of Ceremony and all-around great person Bill Hilton pulled off another exceptional event; Nicole Martineau made the event beautiful; Loras Gassmann came back from Iowa and along with Jennifer Pasquier and Dixie Gatchel got everyone into the event, Jeremiah Meacham and I helped where we were needed and to all those that donated exceptional gifts; we could not have done it without every one of you. THANK YOU!

(We have reserved the beautiful Step-by-Step; Farm 12 facilities for next year’s event, so please add a note to your calendar on 1-28-2021)

Our spring rains were good for the vegetation but devastating to our trails. The Carbon River almost took out a paved trail section upstream from Orting. Our unpaved trail section between South Prairie and Wilkeson was hit very hard where we lost one large section, and another made much worse. It could be some time before we can get it open to users. The Carbon River Canyon section fared better than the others, but a portion of the Fairfax Road slid out and it will take a little time to make it usable.

The Riverwalk Trail in Puyallup
Doing Good through Charitable Gift Annuities

BY BOB MYRICK, TACOMA WASHINGTON BICYCLE CLUB

Several years ago, I gave $100,000 to the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation (GTCF) and created a $70,000 Charitable Gift Annuity along with three separate, $10,000, endowed designated funds for causes that were important to me. I was able to create a Bicycle Safety and Education Fund, a Mount Tahoma Trails Association Fund and a Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition Fund.

The Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition fund has grown to over $40,000 through the donations of others. Each year it pays out approximately 4.3% to support this valuable community asset, $1,700 in 2019.

I not only received significant tax deductions for my donation at the time I made them but also receive $1,000 every three months or $4,000 each year on my Charitable Gift Annuity. When I pass on to the Great Trail in the Sky, any remaining monies in the Charitable Gift Annuity pass to my three designated endowments funds, ensuring the causes I care about will receive support now and in perpetuity.

You, too, can give gifts now of both cash and non-cash assets and leave a bequest in your will to endow a designated fund through GTCF. You could also use some of your savings to create a gift annuity to benefit your favorite charity after you are gone. GTCF has many tools and services to assist you on your philanthropic journey and provide for your special interests.

Please feel free to call me at 253-370-3752 or email bobmyrick@msn.com. You can also contact Robin Callahan at GT CF - 253.345.4186, rcallahan@gtcf.org or go to their website www.gtcf.org.
2020 Already a Busy Year for ForeverGreen Trails

by Larry Levene, Project & Communications Coordinator, ForeverGreen Trails

It seems like the Foothills Coalition Annual Dinner event really kicks off “Trails Season” in Pierce County. The energy and enthusiasm in the room was palpable and the lineup of projects outlined by Director Roxanne Miles, Pierce County Parks and Recreation was very exciting.

Continuing on this momentum, advocates from both ForeverGreen Trails and Foothills Coalition were a consistent presence throughout multiple hearings and final adoption of the Pierce County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. This long-range plan outlines how Pierce County will address recreation needs for the public over the next ten years.

ForeverGreen Trails is now turning its attention to our ongoing annual events that promote trail use and stewardship and that educate and empower citizens. We encourage you to save the following dates on your calendar:

May 14: Trails & Ales, an evening of discussion in a cozy pub (place, TBD) about the County’s Active Transportation Plan update and how you can plug in to make sure people who walk and bike for recreation or transportation are properly served.

July 25: Pierce County Trails Day, featuring over 20 events for all ages and abilities to promote various outdoor activities from birdwatching, hiking, skateboarding, biking, park cleanups, habitat restoration, and trail maintenance.

September 30: Pierce County Trails Conference, our annual gathering of trail users, supporters, advocates, designers, and builders in our region to get project updates and learn best practices.

The reason ForeverGreen Trails is able to offer many different opportunities on Pierce County Trails Day is due to cooperation with dozens of organizations and agencies. We are currently seeking individuals, groups, agencies, or cities, to co-host individual events.

All we need is a little advance communication about event logistics — and of course, follow through in hosting the event on Trails Day. ForeverGreen Trails handles coordinating the promotional outreach for the events and provides guidance beforehand and debrief afterwards. It is about a 4 hour commitment and starts with contacting us at forevergreentrails@gmail.com. For ideas, see a list of last year’s events at https://www.forevergreentrails.org/pierce-county-trails-day.

Spring is right around the corner and we are all poised for a great year for Pierce County trails!

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 taken on the Delong Park trail in Tacoma. No one even tried to guess! In fact, no one has guessed the last two issues!

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!
Edgewood’s New Community Park
by Bill Hilton, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Member

The City of Edgewood has made significant strides toward making the new Community Park a reality at 36th Street East and Meridian Avenue East.

It was actually started back in 2005, when the city purchased an 18-acre parcel of land on the northeast corner of Meridian and 36th from the Puyallup School District. Citizens participated in the pre-development phase by working with a consultant and members of an Ad Hoc Committee through multiple public meetings and workshops. A conceptual design was generated by this process, including amenities that were proven to be important to the community. The City Council accepted the Master Plan for this Community Park in 2007.

A ballot measure was brought forward in August 2008 to fund construction of the park, but it did not pass. It would be several years later before council members had the opportunity to authorize further design work for a “30% design” plan for Phase One that was developed to support applications for two Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grants in 2016.

This project was awarded the two RCO grants in late 2018, which allowed the Council to authorize a contract with the Berger Partnership to complete the Phase One Design and guide the project through construction.

So where do we stand right now? The city remains focused on making the new Community Park a reality. If things stay on track, barring any challenges, the construction contract for the park should go out to bid before summer 2020!

Information on this future park and updates can be located on the city website at: http://www.cityofedgewood.org/government/parks_and_recreation/36th_and_meridian_community_park.php
Drivers, Move Over Three Feet or More to Pass: It’s the Law - WSDOT Blog

People who drive, walk, use a wheelchair or ride a bike should be aware that a new law went into effect on Jan. 1 that clarifies how various users of the road are to operate. The law is intended to reduce the number of collisions and risks for vulnerable users of the roadway.

State law specifies who vulnerable road users are, and includes those on a bicycle, pedestrians and someone on a farm tractor, and it’s important that everyone shares the road safely.

What’s a vulnerable road user?

In state law a vulnerable road user is a pedestrian, bicyclist, motorcyclist, moped rider, someone riding an animal, or someone using a farm tractor or other vehicle or device used in agricultural operations that doesn’t have an enclosed shell.

Driver requirements for passing

With the passage of Substitute Senate Bill 5723, the new requirements for drivers overtaking bicyclists, pedestrians, and other vulnerable road users are:

•When there are two or more lanes in the same direction of travel, the driver must move left into the adjacent lane to pass, after making sure it’s safe to do so.

•When the driver has only one lane for traffic moving in the direction of travel, the driver must move into the lane going in the opposite direction to pass, if it’s safe to do so. If not, they should pass when it’s possible to do so at a distance of at least three feet and slow down to a safe speed for passing relative to the speed of the individual being overtaken.

•Drivers must also allow sufficient space for safety when following behind a vulnerable user.

Bicyclist lane positioning

The new law clarifies an important element of bicyclist lane positioning. Washington law already specified that riders are to position themselves in the lane as far to the right as is safe. SSB 5723 specifies that riders may position themselves in the lane as needed to avoid grates, debris and other hazards. They may also bike in the right-hand turn lane even if it’s discontinued after the intersection; this enables them to maintain position at the right side of the through lanes.

On a roadway with parked cars, riders know they need to stay out of the door zone. This is the space where a driver might open a door without first looking. RCW 46.61.620 already directs people not to open the door on the side adjacent to moving traffic unless this can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic. That’s why we recommend the “Dutch reach,” and it’s another reason a rider might position more toward the middle of the through lane.

Pedestrians and accessible sidewalks

Pedestrian movements received an important clarification: They are directed to use sidewalks if the sidewalks are accessible. If not, they may use the shoulder or roadway. The law also clarifies that a pedestrian should move clear of the roadway “when practicable” if there’s an oncoming driver. That’s not always possible if, for example, there’s a deep ditch or rock wall along the shoulder they’re using.

Some sidewalks are not accessible due to lack of ADA infrastructure. Weather is another factor that can affect accessibility. With winter conditions affecting sidewalks, drivers particularly need to be on the lookout for people who don’t have an accessible walkway available.

What’s the penalty if I don’t?

Fines for drivers who violate the new requirements are doubled, with those revenues going into a vulnerable roadway user education safety fund.

For more information please visit the following website:
https://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2020/01/drivers-move-over-three-feet-or-more-to.html
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 from November 2019 - January 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesley Baczuk</th>
<th>Jennifer Harlin</th>
<th>Heather Shadko</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Bucci</td>
<td>Patricia A. Kinkelaar</td>
<td>Ed Vervoort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles - Lauren Bulley</td>
<td>Randolph M Lindblad</td>
<td>George Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryce Carpenter</td>
<td>Peggy Chatburn O Connor</td>
<td>Linda Walter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeline Davidson</td>
<td>Sandra Olsen</td>
<td>Gerald Whitehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Enlow</td>
<td>Carolyn Pasquier</td>
<td>Jean White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen &amp; Katherine Feldman</td>
<td>PayPal</td>
<td>Ed &amp; Betty Zeiger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip &amp; Dawn Frazer</td>
<td>Karen Pease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Meyer</td>
<td>Audrey Pitigliano</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Gard</td>
<td>Kirby T. Pollard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loras Gassmann</td>
<td>William &amp; Sandra Rudd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ty &amp; Monica Gaub</td>
<td>Russell Family Foundation *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander J Griffin</td>
<td>John Sacklin &amp; Mary Hektner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugo L. Hamilton</td>
<td>John Selby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In Memory of Don Partington

President’s Message Continued from page 1

was almost entirely covered with water in many places along the river. It could take some time to get it back to a usable condition.

I attended a very interesting Washington Wildlife and Coalition Legislation day in Olympia and learned the ins and outs of how politics work.

These are exciting times with so much energy to develop and connect our trails around the county, state and country; so get involved and you and everyone that uses them will benefit greatly.
Ranger Pilot Program and proposed Parks Ambassador Program) and some of the challenges facing park staff. The presentation concluded with a detailed update of how a number of trail projects were coming along throughout Puyallup.

Second speaker, Beyond the Foothills Trail – Director Roxanne Miles, Pierce County Parks & Recreation presented on a number of efforts being focused to complete and connect trails throughout Pierce County and beyond. The discussion of The Great American Rail-Trail (Route between Washington DC and Washington State) and its connection in Washington State to potential north and south routes caught everyone’s attention and had people buzzing.

Awards

The first ever bestowing of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition “Lifetime Trail Achievement Award” served as a highlight of the evening. The award is an individual customized walking stick complete with the name of the recipient and Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition engraved.

President Stuart Scheuerman and Board Member Dixie Gatchel presented Lifetime Trail Achievement Awards to Loras Gassmann, Randy Lindblad, Russ Matthews, and Don and Robin Partington.

Finally, thank you to everyone who took the time to attend, donate items, provide information or present. The meeting seemed to afford a great opportunity to visit, learn about the future of trails, and provide a few chances to win a contest or auction item which seems to becoming a popular part of the event.
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.

**Washington State Spring Fair:**
The Washington State Spring Fair is on April 16 – 19. We can always use volunteers at our booth and this year we will have an all new display which should appeal to all. Please contact Ken Woolery at 253-863-4776 or Stuart at 253-405-5129.

**Plateau Trails Coalition**
We are a group of volunteers devoted to the enjoyment and betterment of trials. 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

**Upcoming 18th Annual Rainier to Ruston**
On Saturday, May 30th – the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition will be hosting the Rainer to Ruston (R2R) +50 mile run, which will once again challenge teams of runners starting near the base of Mount Rainer and traveling to Puget Sound at the Tacoma waterfront on Ruston Way. To learn more about the R2R and to register for the event, please visit the following website: https://www.rainiertoruston.com/ or contact John Selby, Founder, at JohnSelby16@gmail.com or Sabrina Seher, Race Director at sabrina@coachingbysuper.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 trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

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

Mark your Membership Type
Mail form and check to:
Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
P.O. Box 192
Puyallup, WA 98371-0021
Support your local trails by linking your Rewards Card online by visiting www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards