

## **Spring 2002 Newsletter**

### **Annual Meeting- June 5th 7:00 PM at the Audubon Center in Railroad Bridge Park**

We ask you to attend a variety of meetings throughout the year, but only once during the year do we have a meeting where we offer up many types of desserts for your culinary pleasure and coffee brewed from the finest beans the Sunrise Coffee Company in Port Townsend has ever roasted. Roasted special for this meeting!

At our annual meeting we elect a slate of officers (a brief formality) and have officials from the various jurisdictions bring us all up to speed on the progress of the trail across the peninsula. It is a good time to catch up on trail progress, meet some of the people in the PTC and talk to some of the government officials working to make the Olympic Discovery Trail happen.

This year's meeting will also be a good time for you to see Railroad Bridge Park, the site of the Coalition's first bridge project. We'll be talking about planned work for the Johnson Creek Trestle, other summer projects and it will be a good time for you to sign up to help. It will also be a good time to see the newly completed Audubon Center.

If you haven't been to Railroad Bridge Park come early (dessert is served at 6:30), grab something to eat and drink and take a walk across the river down the trail. (The park also has a nice network of other trails.) This event is open to everyone and we'd like to see you there. Exercise and food- where can you get a better offer?

If you are driving to the park, take the westernmost exit for Sequim and follow the signs to Railroad Bridge Park. Or if you want to walk over the bridge to the Audubon Center from the west side of the river, you can park in the lot at the east end of Runnion Road.

## **Building Bridges**

We've got work this summer and will be needing all the help we can get. We are going to put the Johnson Creek Trestle east of Sequim in walking order, and we have to get the Ennis Creek Bridge ready for the route through the Rayonier Mill site.

### **Ennis Bridge**

The Ennis Creek Bridge is an old metal bridge that was used as a foot ramp for a ferry. Some people think it was originally used for the Kalakala. We have assembled a crew of volunteer welders from Peninsula College to do some repair welding, and as soon as we get a report from our engineer we will turn them loose on the bridge. Over-the-Hill-Hikers and Olympic Peninsula Cyclists donated money to buy materials for this project but we need volunteers to do the painting and put on the deck and handrails. Give us a call. The sooner this bridge is ready for placement, the sooner we will be able to get off Highway 101 and ride the waterfront through the Rayonier Property. Our person in charge of this project is Stan Macklow and he can be reached at 582-1447 or [smacklow@yahoo.com](mailto:smacklow@yahoo.com) . Get in touch with him if you'd like to help.

# Johnson Creek Trestle

The Johnson Creek Trestle located west of Whitefeather Way (the road leading down to the John Wayne Marina) is where the Olympic Discovery Trail will enter Sequim from the east. It is a curved trestle crossing a thickly wooded ravine over a small creek and is 400' long and 100' in the air. It is spectacular! Our job (and we have accepted it) is to make this safe. We are going to do the same work on it that we did on the Railroad Bridge Park and Morse Creek (putting on a deck and handrails).

We start work around the second weekend in June –say the 8th. We need people who can carry lumber, use a tape measure, drill and saw –basic carpentry skills. We also need a few good people to paint handrails, and do some landscaping. I think we'll be able to find work for anybody who shows up, but we need to start getting a handle on who has what skills and who will show up. In fact, I need someone who will help me orchestrate this entire effort. I have worked on the restoration of the Dungeness Railroad Bridge and Morse Creek and know it is not a one person job. I also know it is a lot of fun and very rewarding. Please call now –operators are standing by. (Dave Le Roux 683-7180 [marthadave@olympen.com](mailto:marthadave@olympen.com) ).

We have a food captain for this project; she could use some help too.

# Jefferson County-moving forward!

Jefferson County's Commissioners voted unanimously this month to keep the ball rolling on the Nonmotorized Transportation and Recreational Trails Plan and forwarded it to the county's Planning Commission to review and hold public hearings. Based on the public input, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation back to the board on amending the county's comprehensive plan to include the new nonmotorized plan. This is a very important step for Jefferson County. Nothing really happened in Clallam County until a nonmotorized plan was adopted.

A public hearing for the plan is tentatively scheduled for September 18th at the WSU Extension in Port Hadlock. It is important that trail advocates attend these meetings and voice their support. If all goes well, the nonmotorized plan could be adopted by the commissioners by this winter.

# Trail construction

Construction is underway extending the Larry Scott Memorial Trail from Mill Road to Highway 20. The trail will include a separated horse trail and should be open sometime this summer.

# PTXC Run/Walk 2002-June 1st at Old Fort Townsend

Come join the Peninsula Trails Coalition and Live Productions for the annual Port Townsend Cross Country Fun Run/Walk that covers 4 miles of trails in Old Fort Townsend. This year's race will be held Saturday, June 1st at 10:00AM. Live Productions organizes this fun event and has some cool awards—including the new Olympic Discovery Trail bandana. Registration forms can be picked up at Sport

Townsend or the Port Townsend School of Massage. There is an entry fee of \$8 before May 29th or \$10 on the day of the event. Registration is from 8-9:45AM.

For more information or maps contact Live Productions at (360) 301-3470 or [livepro@olypen.com](mailto:livepro@olypen.com).

## Sequim

Good things are happening in Sequim! In addition to the Johnson Creek Trestle, work begins on the trail leading into town on June 1st. A local contractor (Primo Construction) has been awarded the contract for construction. Primo was a good choice because they gave us (an underbudgeted nonprofit organization) big discounts on the work they did on the Morse Creek Project. For that they got their name on that \$4000 sign we put down at the trestle.

The city hasn't quite figured out what route the trail will take from Carrie Blake Park over to Hendrickson Road at Sequim Avenue, but Councilman Paul McHugh, at recent council meeting, said something to the effect that they should make a choice and vote on it. The section of trail already constructed on Hendrickson Road is well done and the section of trail planned along Washington Avenue seems well thought out. Hopefully they will choose a route that will smoothly and safely connect these two sections.

## Port Angeles

Good things are happening in PA also. Early in May the council, with an agenda item added by Councilmember Headricks, unanimously voted to approve the expenditure of \$80K to fund trail construction through the old Rayonier mill site. Councilmember Rogers commented that there didn't seem to be any project in the city that had such widespread support as the trail. Construction should start in July and be completed by the end of August! This time commitment was strongly supported by PA's Parks and Recreation Director Marc Connelly (which is good because the Red Lion is planning an event on the trail between PA and Sequim in October).

## Classified Ads

Seen as part of a classified ad for a local property: "Close-in Living – Close to the Olympic Discovery Trail, great for those relaxing walks!" The trail- an asset? Fancy that!

## Traveler's Journal

We had a great series of slide shows this year. They covered the world - stopping in the Midway Islands, Borneo, Indonesia, Africa, the Galapagos, South America, India and Madagascar. The series raised \$1500. If you are planning an adventure trip this summer and might want to share a presentation, contact us when you get back.

## Artists

Dana Hyde, a Sequim artist who has a garden sculpture business called Metal and Mud, has volunteered to create some art for the Johnson Creek Trestle. Now we are looking for an artist to do something for the Ennis Creek Bridge. We are looking for art that will stand up to weather and is fun. (It may not propel you to fame and fortune but you'll get your name on a sign!) Call us.

## **Planting**

We've had some great planting parties this year and along with other varieties have planted over a thousand firs along the trail. We also planted about half the grant money the Soroptimists of PA gave the county for the fenced stretch of trail past the gun club. With the help of David Allen at Shore Road Nursery, we planted a variety of plants that will make the corridor look like an arboretum in a couple of years. We also had some major planting efforts along the highway and down along the shore using cuttings and seedlings collected by Martha Rimov in Joyce. We'll be doing more planting this winter. If you are interested in helping let us know.

## **Unplanting**

If unplanting is more to your liking we have scotch broom tools you can borrow to help us rid the trail of this obnoxious, invasive weed. Call us.

## **Memorials**

The county has a program for putting up benches and tables along the trail to honor or memorialize someone. The first bench, replete with landscaping, is going in near Bagley Creek. For more information on this program contact the county's volunteer coordinator Kathe Smith at 565-2606.

## **Eastward HO!**

If you were reading the newspapers you saw we ran into some snags finding routes east of Sequim. It wasn't as negative as it appeared and we are working with residents of the communities involved finding suitable routes. We expect to be following up with further investigation of route options through the summer, and then hold another pair of community meetings in September. Stay tuned.

## **Westward Ho**

We've also developed the feasible options for heading west from downtown Port Angeles and are preparing to meet with the public to review the options in more detail. The meeting is set for Monday, June 17 at 7 p.m. at the Hamilton Elementary School (1822 W. 7th St. in PA). For more info, call Jeff Bohman at 360/457-7536.

## **Trail Tools**

We have tool- tools you can use! The Pacific Northwest Trails Association (PNTA) received a grant from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation ( IAC) to purchase tools to use on the ODT and other trails. We have a stash of mattocks, axes, loppers, chain saws, winch gear, hard hats and two quiet generators. We are ready to build trails and bridges!

These tools are also used for the PNTA's SKY Program ( Service, Knowledge, Youth) which is a collaboration between school districts, the PNTA, The Northwest Workforce Development Council and county governments. The Clallam County Commissioners think this is a great program. Students earn money and high school credits working as part of a trail crew. The SKY crew has been working along Lake Crescent.

## **West End Trail Construction**

The Choice High School has included a curriculum course that allows field time for students constructing Olympic Discovery Trail segments west of Lake Crescent. This semester they have almost completed the segment from the west trailhead of the Spruce Railroad Trail extending it west to the North Shore Picnic Area. This segment was started last year by the SKY crew. Both the Choice Program and the SKY program are run by the PNTA. They have almost completed a trail route on the Vern Samuelson Trail in Port Angeles. This trail may someday be part of a foot trail connection from Valley Creek estuary between the ODT and Olympic National Park.