

Spring 2005 Newsletter

Annual Meeting

May is the month we hold our annual meeting. It is a casual meeting that begins at 6:30 with deserts, coffee and tea made by board members. At 7 we give a short report on the status of the Peninsula Trails Coalition and after that we have informal presentations from speakers who have responsibility for sections of the trail. We try to wrap things up shortly after 8.

This year we have asked Alan Goff, the new Parks and Recreation manager for the City of Port Angeles, to come introduce himself and bring us up to date on the city's plans for the ODT route out of town. Wayne Fitzwater from DNR will be telling what DNR is up to and we'll also be hearing from Bruce Laurie who is the for Jefferson County

As in the past the meeting this year will be held at the River Center at Railroad Bridge Park.

Jefferson County

Jefferson County is putting work on two sections of trail out to bid. One is for putting asphalt on a section of trail that runs along the east side of SR-20 and under the bridge. The other is for a building a trail on a 37-acre of property about 1.5 miles west of SR-20. The remaining acreage in this property which they are referring to as the Cape George Trailhead will be developed by a coalition of equestrian groups. Both projects should be completed this summer.

Real People

Carol and Wayne Packer are the caretakers for the stretch of trail between Bagley Creek and Bagley Creek Road.

"Wayne and I moved here from S. Cal (LA area) in 1997 when I retired from a nursing career. Wayne had already been retired for several years. He had worked as a machinist doing subcontracting work for the aerospace program. He was a native Californian and I a native Washingtonian. I gave him about 40 years there, so felt it was my turn now. We have been married for 48 yrs. We had both been doing volunteer work for the American Red Cross and found it rewarding, so wanted to do some type of volunteer work up here. We live just a few yards off the trail. I often go for walks on the trail and about 2 years ago I saw a sign on it asking for volunteers. I called Stan Macklow and asked for a section near us. There was no opening at that time, so we were assigned to Robin Hill Park. After a month we got our present section of the trail, Bagley Cr. to Bagley Cr. Rd. We think it's the prettiest section of the trail. We really enjoy the work and find it much easier as time goes by. We also do volunteer work for the Salvation Army." Carol

Adopt-a-trail

Updates from Carrie Kalina, Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator: Randy and Connie Gregg have joined the Adopt-a-Trail program and are taking on the section from Lewis Road to the Siebert Creek Bridge. Bob

and Dorothy DeLand have been taking care of the garden bed at the Deer Park scenic overlook. Dick and Kathy Malnory are now overseeing the Morse Creek garden.

Summer-Weeds-Roundup

Our Adopt-a-trail people go into high gear during the summer trying to keep the weeds from busting up the trail and overrunning the edges. We do use Roundup. We'd rather not use it but currently there is no alternative. Weeds will grow through the trail and will make the edges crumble. If that happens we have to put more chip-seal on the trail and that isn't a happy environmental alternative either.

According to Kathy Lucero the county's noxious weed expert Roundup is about the most benign stuff on the market. Yes it is poisonous but Paracelsus said "All substances are poisons; there is none which is not a poison. The right dose differentiates a poison and a remedy. He wasn't specifically referring to Roundup (He's dead now. Died a long time ago- in 1541.) but he could have been.

The county is open to trying alternative methods of controlling weeds but the bad news is until then we'll use Roundup. The good news is that we may be the only group in the county that takes extra care to use Roundup correctly. And, you can be sure we are much more judicious in its use than the average homeowner whose life revolves around a picture perfect lawn.

What do we do?

- We spray a narrow strip along the edge of the trail
- We spot spray weeds coming through the trail
- We spot spray weeds that are within 18 inches of the trail
- We dilute the Roundup to a 2% solution
- We train our volunteers how to use the stuff)
- We post signs on the trail when we spray
- We mow where we can along the trail

What don't we do?

We don't force our volunteers to use it.

If you want to see what happens when a trail is not maintained take a ride down the trail on the east side of Kendall Road between Hendrickson and Old Olympic Highway. This is a side trail to the ODT that the county built and opened about two years ago. When it was first opened the trail was wide enough to accommodate two cyclists or 3 walkers side-by-side. However, as a result of grass and weeds overgrowing the trail it is little more than a wide shoulder in places. The county needs to maintain this trail better and sign it so automobiles are not surprised to see people and cyclists traveling on the "wrong" side of the road.

Leadership Opportunities

The trestle over Morse Creek needs to be painted this year and we are planning a grand painting event the second Saturday in August. There are a lot of people who have told us they'd like to work on the trail but they are past the age where they can dig dirt, shovel gravel and move rocks. If this is your situation, if you feel something has been missing in your life, if you are overcome with waves of guilt well you can do something about it.-Plan your summer around a Saturday of painting in (and this is really true) one of the

prettiest spots on the Peninsula. The Morse Creek Trestle is a wonderful part of the trail that is shaded by large maple trees which, in the winter, occasionally fall down on the trestle and smash the railings (this is also true). Send us an email or call us if this interests you and we'll start a list.

And now for the leadership opportunity. - We need someone to choreograph this project. We'll supply all the materials and lunches. We just need you to figure out how to best paint the trestle, hand out brushes and crack the whip. It will be really fun. You won't have to get your hands dirty and you can take all the credit for painting the trestle.

Call us. But hurry this offer ends soon.

Adventure Route

The Adventure Route is being built at a fairly rapid pace thanks to Lorrie Campbell's Thursday Crew, her Second Saturday Crew, her \$10,000 grant she got from group called Bikes Beyond, the Job Corp, the PNTA and the chain gang. In fact sometime this summer the Adventure Route of the ODT will be open from Highway 112 where it crosses the Elwha to the Crescent High School in Joyce. This is a distance of about 14 miles. The Adventure Route is being built to give horses, hikers and mountain bikes an alternative to 101. Building this part of the trail is fun work and it is not often any organization gets to actually build trail (usually trail groups do trail maintenance) so if you are interested in actually building trail (as in shoveling, using a mattock and moving rocks) in very pretty forest contact Lorrie Campbell or Carrie Kalina. [Check out [Lorrie's webpage](#) for photos and more information]

Jimmy-Come-Lately Estuary

The route through the Jimmy-Come-Lately estuary has been determined. We are just now finalizing the right-of-way agreements. The trail bridges (two of them) should be going in this summer.

Hendrickson Road

The section of trail from Kendall Road (west of Sequim) to Railroad Bridge Park is well along in the design stage and we should see some construction begin this year.

PNTA Update- Larry Browning

I am extremely pleased to be the new Olympic Regional Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Trails Association, and I'm excited not only about what the PNTA is doing to support local trail efforts on the Olympic Peninsula, but also about our youth programs.

During the month of March, I had the rare opportunity to be crew leader for the Clallam County Chain Gang building the ODT Adventure Route trail in the Joyce area. These guys really get the work done! I was also incredibly impressed by the Chain Gang officers in charge of the crews. Officer John Beltramy's prior work on the Pacific Crest Trail and his engineering background made him a natural fit to continue leading the crew after I was gone – without the need for an additional paid crew leader. Officer Dick Pitt is a great woodsman, and he and his crew still come out from time to time to split puncheon and help out when needed. The effort is further supported by Lorrie Campbell and Rich James from Clallam County, who are making sure the chain gang have the supplies they need, and the Pacific Northwest Trail Association by donating use of PNTA tools to help get the job done.

At the time of this writing, the Bear Creek Bridge has been roughed in, with PNTA Director of Trail Operations Jon Knechtel falling the huge fir used for the three stringers and climbing other large trees to set the rigging and move the stringers into place. The bridge will likely be finished off by the PNTA-led

Job Corps youth crew who is doing work as a part of the Bikes Belong grant.

As for PNTA's youth programs, the more I learn about PNTA's Service Knowledge Youth (SKY) program, the more thrilled I am to be a part of making it happen on the peninsula this year. This summer trail work and outdoor education program is an amazing opportunity for youth on the Olympic Peninsula to get paid to do needed trail work in their local community, on National Forest Land, and in Olympic National Park. It is also a chance for them to find out what backcountry living is all about and make up some high school credits. Put simply, these kids would not have this kind of opportunity without the SKY program. More information can be found under the SKY program link at www.pnt.org.

Expiration Dates

Check your expiration date on your mailing label. We appreciate your contributions to this organization. We will put it to good use.