

PTC Newsletter Summer 2006

Deer Park Scenic Overlook- a volunteer project

The Port Angeles Garden Club members chose a tough assignment when they agreed to try to produce a small garden for the trail head kiosk at Deer Park Scenic Overlook. They soon found they were working about 8 inches of soil above the top of an old asphalt road. The garden was to compliment a kiosk (not visible in picture) that was built by a Boy Scout earning his Eagle Scout badge. They laid out the dimensions and filled the area with 10" of compost- that was 3 years ago, and with a lot of trial-and-error they have about a dozen sturdy plants that are making the best of their limited root area and occasional watering. For information on the Port Angeles Garden Club or to volunteer on this project contact Dorothy DeLand at 417-3595

PNTA Mountain Trail Crew Report-from Daniel Collins, Olympic Regional Coordinator *(Collins is the new regional coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association. The Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) will run from Glacier Falls, Montana to La Push when it is complete. It has two routes across the Olympic Peninsula. One route goes into the Olympics through the park. The Olympic Discovery Trail is the second route for winter months.)*

Hood Canal Ranger District

Our youngest trail builders, the Quilcene Ranger Corps cleared brush and tread on the section of the PNT which climbs Mt Zion from the east via Snow Creek and also the lower west side of Mt Zion on a road to trail conversion. They finished the summer building new trail where the road ended, following a flagged route into a second growth timber stand and among thick mats of salal root; I used candy to keep them moving. In 2007, the Ranger Corps will press on following this same drainage route-the Gold Creek Trail down toward Forest Road 2830. A contractor for the Forest Service is building road to trail conversion out of road 2830 – Gold Creek where the new trail will join in. Jon Knechtel, Director of the PNTA, Susie Graham Recreation Manager, Forest Service and many others reviewed the heavy equipment work to date in August. Finally, along the same drainage, a SKY trail crew of older youth worked their way from the bottom of Gold Creek where it meets the Dungeness River and improved tread along switchbacks and areas where timber blowdown undermined the trail. Most of the blowdown is now removed but still not passable by stock.

Pacific Ranger District

This same SKY crew from the La Push area focused their front country trail work on the Lower Bogachiel doing light trail maintenance up to the National Park Boundary until we turned their attention on a forgotten wetland trail that parallels the main trail. The beautiful wetland trail meanders through a grove of massive sitka spruce and is worth exploring however, following the vague markings of the wetland trail absorbed their strength as well as their imaginations. SKY crew also improved the 1st Beach trail near La Push. Their work included building a retaining wall from sand bags and improving tread on a trail that is also the Tsunami Evacuation Route for beach users. Finally, a crew of volunteer vacationers – all artists from the eastern US took a

section of trail by the headwaters of the North Fork of the Bogachiel River and widened it to stock standards from the river crossing down to 21 Mile Camp.

Adopt-a-trail

Steve Gilchrist and family have joined our list of trail adopters, helping Dixie Keltner with the section from McDonnell Creek west to the dairy entrance.

Volunteer Lola Little was recently married, so her new husband, George McCubbin is joining our group of adopters between PA and Sequim. They have the section from Deer Park overlook to Bagley Creek.

Paul Beck is new adopter between Lake Farm and Gasman.

From another satisfied customer-

I want to thank you [the Peninsula Trails Coalition] for the great Olympic Discovery Trail website. We visit your area often on our way to the Hoh or La Push or Crescent Lake. We've always wanted to try the bike path. Our kid has organized us into a skate park camping tour and we will be staying in Sequim Bay. The last thing a 14 year old wants is for parents to stick around while he and his friends are skating. Your maps will help us hit the road on our new tandem. And, since it is new, we will probably need bike shop assistance so the locations and phone numbers will be invaluable.

Thanks very much!

Somebody from...

Vashon Island

Joyce Daze

As part of our ongoing effort to spread the gospel of the Olympic Discovery Trail the PTC had a booth at this year's Joyce Daze. We were well received and may have made a few converts.

Seven people went on the guided bike ride of the Adventure Route. The volunteer guides were Jerry Fagerlund of the Thursday Trail Crew, and Officer Jon Beltrami of the Chain Gang.

Volunteer Opportunities

We have plenty of fine volunteer opportunities for all of you who want to get involved with building the Olympic Discovery Trail. We have; a regular Thursday work crew (currently working on the Adventure route), a monthly work party that does a variety of things on the Second Saturday of each month and we periodically have openings in our Adopt-a-Trail Program to which we recently added Sequim. And we are always looking for people who are interested in

working on the Board of the PTC. Look at our newly revised website (OlympicDiscoveryTrail.com) or contact someone on the board.

And, of course, you can also volunteer for the chain gang to work on the Adventure Route but you have to be incarcerated first - they don't just take anybody. (Incidentally Jon Beltrami and the chain gang have been building a fantastic trail on some very rugged terrain)

Mailing Label

If you happen to see an old date on your address label it means you can send us money to renew your membership-what a deal!

Donations

Would anybody like to buy and donate to the coalition a digital projector. The first thing we bought 15 years ago when we started the Olympic Discovery Trail project was a fine Kodak slide projector. It was a top-of-the-line model. To build support for the trail (it may come as a surprise to some of you but 15 years ago there was very little enthusiasm for building a trail) we developed a slide program and started making the circuit of service organizations. This project got off the ground largely on the back of our slide projector and, of course, we've used it for Traveler's Journal to raise money to feed our volunteers working on trail projects.

Here it is 15 years later, the slide projector works fine but it is obsolete and what we need is a digital projector so..... if you are looking for some way to spend money for say a memorial donation.....

For Sale

Cheap-one slightly used slide projector. Will take a digital projector in trade.