

Clallam County—2005 Progress

We've got momentum! Significant gains were made in getting the Olympic Discovery Trail closer to completion. Probably the most visible progress was the section of trail completed through the Jimmy Come Lately estuary. Two thousand feet of trail from Jimmy Come Lately Creek on the east to Dean's Creek on the west, replete with 3 bridges were finished in November. You can see most of the trail from the road. Senator Patty Murray came out and cut the ribbon to open this section of trail. She left no doubt in anyone's mind that she is one of this project's biggest supporters.

We (the chain gang and Thursday Crew) also completed building about three miles of trail through DNR land west of the Elwha. Because this part of the trail is really only suitable for horses, hikers and mountain bikers this part of the ODT is called the Adventure Route. This three miles of new trail hooks up in various places with logging roads and results in a 13-mile stretch of useable trail that runs from where the 112 Bridge crosses the Elwha to the Joyce Access Road which comes out by the Joyce High School on 112. It is a great ride and has been a fun project.

As a result of a presentation developed and presented to the Interagency for Outdoor Recreation by PTC president Chuck Preble and a new board member representing Port Angeles, Bill Sterling, the City of PA was awarded a \$73,000 grant for the engineering for the bridge that will go over Dry Creek west of Port Angeles.

What we might see in 06 is the trail extended from the JCL Estuary west to the city limits of Sequim. In fact you can see county equipment roughing out part of the trail as you drive by on 101. And, the City of Sequim is planning on building the trail east from Whitefeather Way to the city limits this fall. There is a good possibility that you'll be able to ride from Blyn to Port Angeles *entirely* on the trail by the end of the year.

Jefferson County 2005 Progress-*from Dennis Burk*

Jefferson County has completed the latest half-mile segment of the Larry Scott Memorial Trail. The new trail, called the Cape George Trailhead, meanders through a young fir forest and includes a large parking lot that can accommodate horse trailers. The Back Country Horsemen organization and other Jefferson Trails Coalition members have also cut a single-track equestrian trail north of the main trail from the parking west lot to Sand Road. The parking lot entrance is on the south side of Cape George Road just west of Nelson's Landing Road.

Trail right-of-way has now been acquired from the State Route 20 underpass to the Discovery Bay Golf Course. Volunteers have roughed-in trails from Highway 20 west to Cape George Trailhead and from the trailhead south to the golf course. A grant has been

approved to acquire right-of-way from the golf course south and east to Four Corners Crossing. Construction grants have yet to be approved.

Pacific Northwest Trail Association

An Update From Larry Browning

The off season this year has been anything but slow for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association. PNTA Executive Director Jon Knechtel has been busily working on securing funding for this summer's youth trail work programs, and PNTA Native Plant Nursery Manager Nate Melanson has been keeping school kids busy with **our** year-round programs in Skagit County working with both the Sedro-Woolley and Burlington School Districts. As for myself and the other Regional Coordinators, we will all be starting back up in the middle of March, working on a project for the Pacific Ranger District in Forks. Then its on to planning our summer youth programs for the upcoming season. PNTA's SKY (Service Knowledge Youth) and Quilcene Ranger Corps programs are an exciting opportunity for local youth to earn some summer cash, improve local trails, and experience the backcountry firsthand. We hope to have around 35 students working on the Olympic Peninsula again this year. These students will be doing a variety of projects in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

Additionally, this summer PNTA is excited to be hosting a volunteer vacation working on improving the Pacific Northwest Trail through Olympic National Park in cooperation with the American Hiking Society and Olympic National Park. I had the good fortune of working with this program in the Mount Baker National Forest last year, and it was a lot of fun working with volunteers from around the country and across the globe improving trails in our beautiful part of this world. The hard work and good humor emanating from Dick the retired postman from Iowa and Ola from Sweden were especially memorable. We picked a lot of blueberries, too! Check out the Volunteer Vacation details and pictures at www.pnt.org if you think you might be interested in something like this yourself.

Real People

Real People Kieth Haugland & Family

Kieth and Laurene Haugland and their four children first moved to Clallam County from Federal Way in 1975. Kieth worked for the county building department until 1993 when the family took a hiatus to the city of Mill Creek, Washington. They returned to life on their Heuhslein Road property in 1999. A daughter and son share adjoining parcels, and the whole piece is affectionately known as the "Haugland Compound". A closeknit family, Kieth and Laurene's other two children live in Poulsbo and Coupeville. They love having their eleven grandchildren so close.

Kieth was looking around for a way to give back to his community when the section between **Spring and Lewis Roads** became available. It was perfect for him: he

wanted to work outside, he walked the trail every day, and his son, Craig, was available to help.

The first week that Kieth began caring for his section he found two beer stashes. He had to dismantle them twice before the stashes finally gave up. One of the biggest challenges Kieth tackled was getting rid of the scotch broom. He thought that he and Laurene could accomplish it in a day. Three days and three truck loads later, the job was done. Now he has a couple love-sick teenagers who write notes to each other and tear them into little pieces which they strew along the trail. Fortunately, Kieth approaches his job with a great sense of humor!

We are grateful for the Haugland family's commitment to the Olympic Discovery Trail. If you or your organization are interested in adopting a section of the ODT, please notify Lorrie Campbell at 565-2606, lcampbell@co.clallam.wa.us

Lorrie Campbell-Clallam County Volunteer Coordinator

Adopter Needed - Morse Creek (Straight View Drive) to Deer Park (Buchanan Drive). (This was Kathe Smith's section and since she is getting ready to have a knee replaced she needs to give it up.)

Volunteers Needed - three volunteers to do noxious weed work along the ODT

Adopt-a-Trail volunteer Kieth Haugland reached 200 hours of volunteer work on the trail, and received a Clallam County Parks Volunteer baseball hat with his hours embroidered on the side. Thank you Kieth!

Adopt-a-Trail volunteers Carol and Wayne Packer reach 100 hours of volunteer work on the trail, and received a Clallam County Parks Volunteer baseball hat with the hours embroidered on the side. Thank you Packers!

The Thursday Trail Crew:

The Thursday Trail Crew meets every Thursday from 9am to 3:30pm, working mainly on new trail construction of the Adventure Route of the Olympic Discovery Trail. The crew was formed in January 2005 – they started strong, and have only gotten stronger! I'm talking physical strength as well as strength in numbers. This crew is not afraid of hard dirty work or trying new things – and they seem to be impervious to the weather!

Working in the snow in December, the crew finished up their part of a trail section just west of Eden Valley Road. This means that as soon as Clallam County finalizes the use agreement with the DNR, the trail will be officially open and from the Joyce-Access Road to Highway 112 at the Elwha River – a total distance of around 13 miles.

It is challenging work to build a trail by hand, but very rewarding. When digging (and digging, and digging) on a particular Thursday, trying to find mineral soil, it can often feel like no progress is being made. But at the end of the day, when all the finished bits are put together, the results are impressive! A long beautiful stretch of finished trail is a sight to behold – especially knowing it was constructed of strong backs, clever minds, teamwork, and true dedication. Kudos to the Thursday Crew and Sheriff's Chain Gang!

Traveler's Journal-15th year!

Traveler's Journal, a series of adventure and travel slide shows begins it's 15 season in February. This is how we raise the money to buy food for volunteers working on trail projects. (Last year our food bill was around \$3,500). All shows begin at 7PM in the Sequim Middle School cafeteria on Hendrickson Road. Admission is \$4 -kids are free and so are people who walk or ride their bikes to the show. Call Tom Mix for more information- 582-0460 or look in the Sequim Gazette. You are welcome to come early and help set up chairs-or stay late and help set them down.

February 2

New Zealand - A Year with the Kiwis
Anna Boenish

February 9

China - The Backcountry and Icy Places
Richard Isherwood

February 16

France and Italy By Bicycle
Chet Rideout

February 23

Siberia - Up Close in 3D
Christine Bosa and Marlin Peterson

March 2

Greece - Island Hopping
Dennis Collins

March 9

Riding the Rails - The View from the Engineer's Seat
Geoff Tozzer

March 16

North to Alaska - By Kayak
Tom Stammer

March 23

Madagascar - Scenes from the Red Island
Becky Carlson

Port Townsend's Winter Wanderlust 2006

Winter Wanderlust is similar to Traveler's Journal and also raises money for trail projects. They are half-way through their season. The shows are on Wednesdays at 7:30 P.M. in the Fort Worden State Park Chapel. Contact Jan North at janmarts@olympus.net

Feb. 1

Solo Kayak from Friday Harbor to Alaska

Paddling north 700 miles through gales, swirling seas and tidal rapids, plus Chilean kayak adventures on the Patagonia coast
-with Tom Stammer

Feb. 8

Exploring the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Rafting through a wild remote area gives perspective to a threatened refuge (at the Wheeler Theater, Fort Worden)
-with Jane & Keith Wentworth

Feb. 15

Solo Hiking the Continental Divide Trail

From Canada to the Mexican border -2,663 miles in 114 days
-with Al Learned

Feb. 22

Biking Siberia – an amazing 3D slide show

“Bikepack” through the Siberian wonderland of Russia's Kamchatka peninsula with your special 3D glasses
-with Christine Bosa & Marlin Peterson

Expiration Dates

Check yours-you wouldn't want to miss a newsletter would you?

Help Wanted

We are looking to hire (you won't get rich but it could be fun) someone with website capabilities and a keen interest in the Olympic Discovery Trail. Contact Gary Gleason at ggleason@olympen.com or 457-3948.

Volunteer Opportunities-Second Saturdays

In March help us celebrate Spring with extensive planting along a branch of the Olympic Discovery Trail that runs along Kitchen-Dick Road. (Contact-Dave Le Roux)

In April and May we'll be working on the bridges on the Waterfront Trail just east of the Red Lion. This is a great part of the trail to spend a couple of hours. We are going to do some general repair and painting on the bridges.(Contact- Bill Sterling)