

## Winter 2003 Newsletter

### WHAT A GREAT YEAR FOR TRAILS!!

#### ...a message from the president, Jeff Bohman

It may be tough to top 2002 when it comes to making progress on the Olympic Discovery Trail and other important trails on the North Olympic Peninsula. So thank you's and congratulations are in order to all of you who've made it all happen. Just take a minute to think of what's been accomplished:

- Completion of over 3 miles of trail through Sequim.
- Conversion of the 410' Johnson Creek Trestle into a beautiful trail bridge.
- The extension of the Larry Scott Park Trail to State Route 20.
- The completion and opening of the temporary trail route through the former Rayonier mill site, including the new bridge over Ennis Creek and rebuilding a trestle over Lee's Creek.
- The addition of 3 miles of trail between Port Angeles and Sequim.
- A new section of trail, including a new converted flatcar bridge, on what will someday be a route from the ODT on the waterfront up Valley Creek to Olympic National Park.
- Planting ½ mile of trail along the gun club with hundreds of plants (with \$4000 from the PA Soroptimists)
- Obtaining a \$3,400 grant from the Sequim Community Foundation for artwork on the Johnson Creek Trestle (we'll be placing the artwork in March)
- Redesigning our website with a \$5,000 grant from the North Olympic Visitors and Convention Bureau.

In addition to all these visible accomplishments, we've also set the stage for lots of further progress. We've put a lot of effort into developing and evaluating trail route options in Jefferson County (from Four Corners south to Discovery Bay); in east Clallam County (from Whitefeather Way to the county line at Diamond Point Road); heading west from the Port Angeles Waterfront Trail toward the airport and the Elwha River; and, working to support the county's Trails Advisory Committee and Joyce area residents to route the trail west from the Elwha. These coordinating efforts have been very productive, so there's a good chance we'll see more exciting progress in these areas in the next couple years.

With so much trail in place and in the making, we've also emphasized two other vitally important aspects of trails-their management and their maintenance. In fact, as the trail gets closer and closer to completion, these two tasks will become the primary ways in which we'll be able to continue to support the Trail's completion and ensure its long term success-as well as give our attention to other trails on the Peninsula. In the months and years ahead we'll be calling on our members, service clubs & organizations, and all interested folks to support the Olympic Discovery Trail in these new ways and to support the local governments who have the ultimate responsibility for the Trail.

As 2003 begins, we'll be working to get the rest of the ODT completed between Port Angeles & Sequim, to get the trail extending further eastward from Johnson Creek and westward from downtown PA, to add trail segments in Jefferson County and west Clallam County, to work with local governments to develop a comprehensive management plan, and to initiate a full-fledged Adopt-A-Trail program. You'll hear more about these goals in the months ahead and as specific activities occur (don't worry, there'll be no shortage of volunteer projects!). We also invite you to visit our new and vastly improved website at [OlympicDiscoveryTrail.com](http://OlympicDiscoveryTrail.com) to keep up with all our progress. It's a great site that will continue to improve.

Finally, we'd like to invite you to consider involvement on our Board. We're particularly interested in adding one or two board members from the Port Angeles area and two or three from Jefferson County. There are exciting and interesting tasks ahead and we'd welcome your participation to help make them happen. See you on the trails!

## **SUPPORT TRAIL THROUGH WEST PORT ANGELES**

The City of Port Angeles Parks and Recreation Department is in the last stages of collecting public comments on priorities for their Parks and Open Space Plan. So far they have had about 600 surveys from city residents returned. We urge you to comment, by the end of January to the City in support of finalizing and constructing the Olympic Discovery Trail westward from the waterfront toward the Elwha River. PTC has supported this goal through sponsoring two community workshops to explore route options, to identify related concerns, and to develop preliminary cost estimates.

Now it's time for the City to carry forward with the process as part of their overall capital facilities and long-range planning efforts. There are some good viable routes to be sorted through, but nothing will happen if we don't make it clear that this is a priority for the community. So, whether or not you're a PA resident-you are a trail user and your comment will be important. Please write a quick note (and cc Parks Director Marc Connelly) to: Port Angeles City Council, 321 East 5th Street, P.O. Box 1150, Port Angeles, WA 98362. Email is [council@ci.port-angeles.wa.us](mailto:council@ci.port-angeles.wa.us)

## **Adopt-a-Trail**

We are getting ready to initiate our Adopt-a-Trail program in Clallam County. We are asking for volunteers (what else is new) to help maintain the Olympic Discovery Trail. We have divided the trail between Railroad Bridge Park into 11 sections and are looking for 28 people to maintain it.

Responsibilities will include; litter patrol, brush control, noxious weed control and other things that may come up. If you can't do it yourself (like pulling Scotch Broom) we will organize crews to do it.

Volunteers will be required to attend an orientation which will help you understand your responsibilities, find out what tools we have available and show you how to identify some of the noxious weeds we want to control.

We will be putting signs up along the trail to recruit volunteers soon so if you have a section you frequently use and would like to be the caretaker for, contact us. Our person in charge of this program is Stan Macklow (582-1447)

After we get this program running in Clallam County's portion of the ODT we'll be taking it to Jefferson County and the cities of Sequim, Port Angeles and Port Townsend.

## **Memorial Fund**

As many of you know, Jerry Williamson died this past fall. Friends of his ask us to set up a memorial fund to do something for the trail. We suggested using the money to rebuild the water platforms on the Johnson Creek Trestle. These platforms jut off to the side of the trestle and originally were used to hold barrels of water for extinguishing fires on the trestle. We think they will make great viewing platforms,

from which, people will be able to look back under the trestle and see its timber frame and the metal salmon we will be hanging above Johnson Creek.

The cost to rebuild the two platforms will be around \$5000. Currently Jerry's friends have sent in about \$4,500. If you would like to contribute to the fund mail a check with the notation "Jerry's Platforms" to PTC, PO 1836, Port Angeles, 98382.

## **Traveler's Journal**

The Traveler's Journal slide show series will begin again this year February 6th. For the past 12 years we have been using this 8 week event to raise money to buy food for volunteers working on trail projects and over the years have raised (and spent) about \$12K. This year's schedule promises to be one of the best - but I say that every year. Check the Sequim Gazette each week for details on each presentation. March 27th is open. I like to leave one date open for that special once-in-a-lifetime presentation. Contact me if you have it.

Feb 6th - Mt McKinley- Brian Berg  
Feb 13th-Tanzania-Norma Turner  
Feb 20th- Norway-Betsey Howell  
Feb 27th-Alaska's Inside Passage-Paul Lutus  
March 6th- Dick & Pat Gritman-Italy  
March 13th- Ann & Jim Fisher-China  
March 20th-New Zealand, Ireland-Chris Duff  
March 27th- Open

Shows are held in the Sequim Middle School Cafeteria (301 W Hendrickson-west of the Sequim Library). They begin at 7:30PM and cost \$3. Kids are free. The seats are hard and lots of people bring cushions.

## **Never Underestimate the Value....**

Between the efforts of Clallam County's Volunteer Coordinator, Kathe Smith and the PTC, Clallam County, Port Angeles and Sequim get a lot of free labor.

Clallam County-2002 Hours

Adopt-a-park 1057  
Group weekend projects 795  
Weekday Work Crew 1607

PTC

Johnson Creek Trestle 1087  
Lee's Creek Trestle 37  
Valley Creek Bridge 70  
Ennis Creek Bridge 225

**...and just what is the value of a volunteer?**

## **Trail Advocate and Volunteer group Forming in Jefferson County.**

Trail enthusiasts in Jefferson County are forming a core group of people who will meet monthly in the Port Townsend area to support trail-building and trail-maintaining efforts throughout the county. They are focusing on the Larry Scott Trail and the greater Olympic Discovery Trail to Discovery Bay (with trails to Gibbs and Anderson Lakes) and connecting with Clallam County. They will be updating and expanding an email and phone list of trail supporters in Jefferson County who can be counted on to be advocates and volunteers for extending and maintaining trails. The meetings are planned to be 1:00 p.m. lunch meetings the last Thursday of the month--Thursday, January 30 is the first meeting. Please call or email Jan Marts if you are interested in attending or volunteering:

379-9637 or [janmarts@olympus.net](mailto:janmarts@olympus.net)

### **Expiration Dates**

Check your expiration dates on your mailing label to make sure you aren't in danger of missing an issue of this fine newsletter.

## **Marathon**

A nonprofit group, the Port Angeles Marathon Association, has formed to stage a marathon that will be a certified 26.2-mile course on the ODT between Sequim and Port Angeles. The mission of the group is to run a high quality marathon that can be used as a qualifier for the Boston Marathon. Initial thinking is to run the course from Carrie Blake Park to the City Pier in PA. They would like to incorporate the Johnson Creek Trestle into the race but need to spread the runners out before reaching the trestle. They don't want to start the race off at the John Wayne Marina because the beginning of the run would be uphill on Whitefeather Way so the final route hasn't been determined. The runners would be on the ODT for the entire distance except parts of Sequim and the unfinished section between Vautier and Spring roads. When the bridge goes in over McDonald Creek next year they will change the course and have it re-certified.

This group is big into promoting the volunteer spirit that accomplishes so much on the Peninsula. Contact Larry Little at [Llittle@Olympus.net](mailto:Llittle@Olympus.net) if you want to help with this event on June 15th..

## **One Person**

About three years ago one person had a conversation with the road department about improving the safety of Kendall Road between Old Olympic Highway and Hendrickson either with lower speed limits or by filling in the ditch and giving pedestrians and cyclists a safe place to walk/ride. This past year the county filled in the ditch and now this road, which sees a lot of auto, bicycle and pedestrian traffic, is a lot safer.

At one of their public meetings recently the road department said the action was taken as a result of that conversation three years ago.

Last year one person walked into a trails meeting and walked out with a mission. That mission was to find a way for the ODT to cross Ennis Creek going through the Rayonier Mill site. That one person was able to; track down a bridge, talk the Port into selling it to Port Angeles, arrange for sandblasting and welding, organize volunteers to paint it, get it transported to the site, get volunteers to deck it. Without the efforts of that one person trail might still be closed through Rayonier.

**One person can make a difference.**