



Tapteal Talk

Vol. XII

News For The Tapteal Greenway

July-Aug. 2005

President's Message

10 YEARS AND 10 MORE and ...

In 1995 a group of Tri Citizens found that they had a common interest that matched a common need in this community. That interest and the common need was the absence of a local grass roots environmental organization that looked after the Lower Yakima River. What a great idea; build a trail that will show off the wonderful habitat and wildlife that have entrenched themselves along the lower reach despite some very serious resource abuse. We sought to protect what was there, make it a clean and safe place to enjoy muscle powered recreation and educate the public about the ethics of environmental standards and improve access to these potentially outstanding pockets of natural beauty. We also intended to restore the abused areas to a native state. We understood all the attention that the "BIG boys" gave to the big rivers and we chose not to play there. In 1996 we qualified as a 501 C 3 non-profit and formed our first Board of Directors. We took the much neglected Yakima River under our wings and pushed on with our agenda. To those of you who have been with us through this 10 year journey we owe you a great debt of gratitude for your support as volunteers and members of our organization. We felt that it was appropriate to take up some space in this edition of Tapteal Talk to pat ourselves and you on the back. What follows in list format is some of what we have accomplished over the past 10 years. Some of these items are works in progress and will lead us into the next 10 years of being 'river soldiers'.

The Tapteal Greenway is now one of the recognized voices of conservation in the lower Columbia Basin. We hope you will join us for the next 10 years of challenges as we try to find the middle ground between the rapidly expanding development in the Tri Cites and the need for natural open space with safe access and educational opportunities. For lack of a better term we will label this our Accomplishment Brief and once again remind you that we have a lot of work to do. We are looking forward to the good work and the next 10 years.

ACCOMPLISHMENT BRIEF

- Tapteal Greenway master plan and GPS/GIS mapping
- Developed a working relationship with city, county, state and federal agencies
- Helped establish the Chamna Natural Preserve in Richland
- Built/maintain the Chamna trail system complete with benches and signs
- Built/maintain the Duportail Trail (soon to add a boat launch and interpretive trail system in the Duportail area)
- 40 tons of garbage clean ups at Columbia Point, Chamna, Duportail, Horn Rapids and Tapteal Bend
- ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY near Benton City

(Continued on page 7)

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Vision Statement

The Tapteal Greenway is a corridor where wildlife, natural vegetation, and people coexist; which provides opportunities for non-motorized recreation, education and habitat protection; and is planned and managed for future generations through community involvement and interjurisdictional cooperation.

DUPORTAIL PROGRESS

Work is progressing on the new Duportail boat launch and trail system. At this writing the final stages of assessment are being done to determine the cultural value of this property. Plans are for an improved small craft boat launch, parking and an interpretive trail system in that immediate area. This is also the mid-point for the Duportail Trail and the parking area will function as a trail head for our trail. The Tapteal Greenway has secured a special WDFW grant to put a vehicle access plan into place that will concentrate motorized use of this area into certain controlled sections. The grant will also fund trail building and educational signage for the upland and river front grounds.

We are poised to get under way to create this big improvement in the Duportail area as well as finish off the Duportail Trail. Once we get under way we will be in need of volunteers to help with trail building and sign posting. We also have a demand for in-kind donation of equipment such as front end loaders to help with the project.

If you can help out with this much anticipated project please contact Scott at; woodfish24@charter.net or 627-36212.



10th Annual Meeting

Are you a party person??

If you rival Martha Stewart, or just love to entertain, then we'd love your help putting the Annual Meeting together. We'd love more supporters to help seek donations, and create and/or set up decorations. Please contact Vicky or Ginger if you'd like to be a part of the fun!

FALL FLOAT (SCRAPE) TRIP

Well the creek aint risin' but we are still planning the annual fall float trip down the Horn Rapids Reach of the Yakima River. This is always a beautiful float, especially as the leaves begin to turn. October 1 we will rendezvous at the Benton City WDFW boat launch at 9:00 AM. We will then shuttle vehicles to Horn Rapids Park for the take out, and return to get on the water by 9:45. If you plan to leave your vehicle there WDFW site you must have a WDFW Access Pass on your windshield. You don't need a kayak or a canoe to

float with us. There will be a few extra spaces in some of the canoes. The float takes about 5 hours depending on the wind direction and velocity. You will need to wear shoes that can get wet because I would anticipate the low water conditions may dictate some portage. We will provide extra PFDs for those who wish to ride along. We will finish up at Horn Rapids Park and shuttle back to the Benton City put in. Please notify Scott at; woodfish24@charter.net or 627-3621 if you plan to attend. See you on the water.



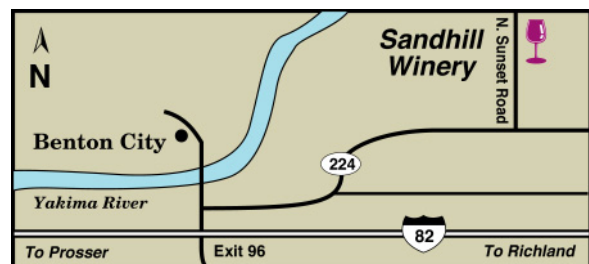
Annual Meeting

The 10th anniversary meeting of the Tapteal Greenway will be celebrated on October 22, 2005.

Place: Sandhill Winery (48313 North Sunset Road)

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Driving Directions: I-82 to Exit 96, Benton City, Route 224 East, 1.5 miles to Sunset Road, North On Sunset 1.5 miles OR Van Giesen through West Richland, Van Giesen becomes Route 224, Turn Right on Sunset Road and go 1.5 miles



AMON BASIN DEADLINE

Time is growing short for all the loose ends to be tied up at Amon Basin. Over the course of the last two months we have been courting partners to join in the coalition to save Amon Basin from the bulldozer blade. By mid October the knot will be either tied and we can move on to secure the Basin or unraveled and developmental chaos will start in.

Well over 350 acres are in the pot at this time. At this writing the City of Richland has still not committed itself to the fight.

Thanks to all of you who expressed yourselves to the council and planning commission on Amon. If the city does not step up then unraveling will begin. The Parks and Recreation

Commission passed on a unanimous recommendation to the city council to fund part of the purchase of Amon Basin properties but we have been lost in the budget battle. If that road block were removed then the rest of the pieces could fall into place. Those pieces include a grant from the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, a grant



from Ducks Unlimited, a check from the Willowbrook Home Owners Association and a contribution from the Department of Transportation to mitigate for the highway 240 project. It has been a delicate balancing act that also included a recommendation for the purchase of MacDonald ridge near Horn Rapids Park. The numbers are

scary when it comes to selling prices in this project. We have been in contact with three different landowners trying to nail down some firm numbers and the results have been much more inflated than expected. The bottom line is in order to secure the entire Amon Basin

we are looking at \$3 million dollars, not to mention the MacDonald ridge unit which has yet to be tagged with a sale price. In reality we cannot raise that much money but we will continue to seek out revenue sources in the short amount of time we have left and strive to find other approaches that may save all or some of this valuable resource.

The following message from Sharon Grant may be of interest to people in the Club.

On October 8th and 9th, we will be building a real hiking trail up Badger Mountain and need your help. REI has awarded Friends of Badger a \$5000 grant for this project. (Thanks REI!) This will buy the supplies, now we need the people to build the trail.

Washington Trails Association (WTA) will provide the technical help and all the hand tools we need. Friends of Badger will provide lunch fixings, extra water and a Port-a-Potty. Bring work gloves, sun hat, sun screen, and water. All ages are welcome. Works starts at 8:00 am.

Please sign up on the WTA web site: <http://wta.org/-wta/cgi-bin/wtaweb.pl?6=sm+14466+WP>. Sign up if you can by October 1 to help with our planning. WTA will accept sign-ups thru Wednesday, Oct. 5. After that call Jim Langdon at 943-9227. If you decide to come at

the last minute we'll still put you to work! For information call Jim or e-mail him: hikerjim@friendsofbadger.org.

Other new trails — for hiking, mountain biking and horse riding — will be considered as part of the County master planning process, which will be undertaken in the fall. Over several years, several new trails will be built and existing scratch trails will be rebuilt or retired and revegetated. We expect that trail building, maintenance and restoration will primarily be done with donated funds and labor.

Links: Washington Trails

Association: www.wta.org. Map of the trail: <http://www.friendsofbadger.org/newtrailmap.html>.

See you there!

HORN RAPIDS BLUFF SLUFF

As we continue to push our trail upstream a key section has now reached a state of criticality.

Arguably the most scenic spot on the Tapteal Greenway is located at the backside (riverside) of the Horn Rapids development. The tall white bluffs that hug the horn in the river have traditionally been the site of an equestrian trail. The high ground has been a great place to pause and take in the panorama of Rattlesnake Mountain and the flood plain below as well as a vista to the southwest of the Horse Heaven Hills. Now that phase two of the Horn Rapids development has been given the go sign from the city that old trail is no longer available for use. As a matter of fact that trail will soon be the back yard of several high end homes that have

purchased the view for their very own. In negotiations with the developer we have secured a trail easement below the bluffs that parallels the old irrigation ditch. We are also working on the connectivity of this section at the northeast portion of this bluffs trail. We lost the battle for the top but at this writing the developer has shown sincere interest in helping us to re-locate the trail and to re-plant the impacted terrain with native plants. Please obey the new directional signs when you approach this section of the trail. We will be calling for volunteers to help us formalize this trail section at a later date.



Benton Conservation District

The Benton Conservation District is requesting an assessment of \$3.00 per parcel and \$0.01 per acre for identified lands in Benton County. A public hearing will be held Wednesday, October 5th at 9:00 am in the Kennewick Justice Center before the County Commissioners. The District has been relying on grant funding. This summer the District ran out of funds to have a manager and educational coordinator.

What has been lost? There is no available funding

for “Salmon in the Classroom” and the “Salmon Summit”. These are very cost effective educational programs for students in Benton County.

The Conservation District has no financial means for providing matching funds for any grant applications requiring such. As you may know, many grants today, require a local match.

Write the Benton County Commissioners: Leo Bowman, Claude Oliver, and Max Benitz requesting their support before October 5th or provide testimony at the public hearing on October 5th at 9:00 am at the Justice Center in Kennewick.

Birding Along the Tapteal Greenway

Submitted by Nancy LaFramboise

If it were not for the rivers, the bird diversity in our area would be much lower. The checklist generated by the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society lists 248 regularly occurring birds plus an additional 63 species which have been seen fewer than 5 times. (Call Margaret at 943-3951 to order your copy.) So where should one go? Bird the Yakima River.

Some of the favorite spots of local birders are Bateman Island and the Yakima River Delta, WE Johnson Park, Horn Rapids County Park and the Chamna Preserve. If shorebirds are your passion, 34 species have been documented on the Yakima River Delta and ten of those are rare here. Last year's Little Stint was a very lost bird from Europe and was the first ever recorded in Washington. Bateman Island is phenomenal almost any time of the year. A good way to enjoy it is to join the Audubon group on their First Saturday walks September through June. They meet at the Wye Neighborhood Park at 8 am. This year's highlight was a pair of nesting Cooper's Hawks. Cooper's Hawks generally only over-winter so when this pair fledged three young it was exceptional.

WE Johnson Park is a wonderful place to find spring and fall migrants. Many kinds of warblers, vireos, and flycatchers are possible. It is one of the best places in the area to find Yellow-breasted Chats. It is also fairly easy to find a breeding Black-chinned Hummingbird on territory from late April through June.

Horn Rapids County Park has provided exceptional birding in the last few years. It is especially good for spring migrants as the trees and riparian shrubs provide food and shelter. Rarer birds seen regularly include Lazuli Bunting, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Lewis' Woodpecker. On June 5, 2005 a pair of Northern Mockingbirds acted territorial and proclaimed it with their complex songs and imitations. One was seen carrying food which indicates nesting. They eventually fledge three young. Local sightings of mockingbirds have increased in the last ten years, but they are by no means abundant.

Chamna is also a great place to see many of the usual species in the area. Why not take a hike there and see what you can find?



A Kingfisher Moment

Tri-City Conservationist of the Year

The Board of Directors is proud to announce Tom McClelland as recipient of the Conservationist of the Year award for 2005. Tom has been a long time resident of the Tri Cities and is deeply committed to preserving the natural heritage of the community. He has openly supported many conservation efforts. He hosted the 2004 annual meeting. Tom has been a constant volunteer for our trail workdays. He has most graciously donated to the Tapteal Greenway allowing us to pursue our goals.

Electronic Newsletter

The Greenway sends out over 250 newsletters via the snail mail route each time we go to press. That's two reams of paper! Over the next six months we would like to reduce our hard copy paper versions by 50% +. We are proposing to send you an electronic version in an Adobe PDF file format. This is in color! The newsletter will also be available on line at our newly enhanced Web Site www.tapteal.org in the same format. Jack Clark (Newsletter Editor) will be making an electronic filing of those members requesting this service. Those who are not on the list will continue to receive their newsletter delivered by the US Mail Service.

United Way the Way to Go!

Did you know that you can donate to the Tapteal Greenway through United Way? It's true. All you have to do is designate your gift to "Tapteal Greenway, P.O. Box 3007, Richland, WA 99354" under Section 3, Optional Choices. Your contribution through United Way counts as your membership fee for the year. Similarly, state employees can contribute through the Combined Fund Drive. You can be sure your contribution will be put to good use to build trails, educate kids, and conserve lands along the lower Yakima River. It's the way to go!

WEB PAGE GRAND OPENING

After many long hours of page building and learning the format for creating and maintaining a web page, we are proud to announce that you can now go to Tapteal.org or just use the keywords *Tapteal Greenway* and our web page will be up and running for your viewing pleasure. If you have dial up it might be a slow load due to the picture content but we are sure you will find it worth the wait. There is more work to be done but the most important thing now is that you can access current updated information about the Greenway. We have included a calendar page and an events page so you can stay current on TGA happenings. If you have an interesting event that might fit into our calendar forward that to Scott at woodfish24@charter.net or go to our web page and use the format on the contact us page. We will evaluate the appropriate nature and if it works then your event will be posted on our calendar. These events can be as simple as a trail work day or as broad as Earth Day.

Feel free to submit interesting dates that pertain to conservation overall. Also we do have a photo gallery page and if you have digital formatted pictures that might enhance the gallery or a specific page such as **recreation** then pass that on as well. We are open for suggestions and if you have any just use the contact us page to pass those on. We do have limited *kb* space for pictures so some of the pictures will seem quite small. Another advantage of the web site is that we hope to post our *Tapteal Talk* newsletter online so that you can receive your newsletter electronically. This will be a big savings for us because if you chose to use the computer for your newsletter then that reduces our mailing costs for the old stand by hard copy. Please let us know if you will be using the web page for your newsletter so we can take you off the newsletter mailing list. We will be going through an experimental phase with this so give us some time to get it right for you.

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

- ALE post fire sage plantings
- Lower Yakima River School Curriculum
- Summer school classes; Leadership on the Greenway and Hikes for Tykes
- Lower Yakima River Water Quality testing
- Christmas tree recycling, Earthday activities, Tri City Conservationist of the Year award, Water Weeks events
- Tapteal Bend Environmental Education park and scholarship program for field trips and equipment for use on the field trips
- Horn Rapids Park informational kiosk and Horn Rapids park trail development
- Partnerships with Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife on the Hyde road, Duportail and Columbia Point small craft boat launches
- Amon Basin preservation effort
- Partner in *Salmon in the Classroom* with Benton Conservation District and *Salmon Summit*
- Badger Mountain preservation partner
- Partner with Benton/Franklin Council of Government master Plan for Transportation and Trails
- Columbia Point restoration planning
- Land Trust with Tapteal Bend and future considerations in the Amon Basin and Horn Rapids area.
- Bi-monthly newsletter
- Web page
- Horn Rapids bend/bluff trail

I am sure you have been involved in some of these accomplishments. This is not a comprehensive list by any means but more of a highlights reel for you viewing pleasure.



Sign Me Up! I'm ready to join the Tapteal Greenway

by Joining:

- Student 10.00
- Individual 15.00
- Family 30.00
- Mink 100.00
- Monarch 250.00
- Steelhead 500.00
- Kingfisher 1000.00
- Other _____
- Non-profit Partner 50.00
- I'd like to make a donation

by Volunteering:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <i>committees</i> | <i>events/projects</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plan Implementation | <input type="checkbox"/> clean-ups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> fundraisers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> water quality monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative | <input type="checkbox"/> restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> trail maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

NAME : _____

ADDRESS : _____

CITY : _____

STATE : _____ ZIP : _____

PHONE : _____ EMAIL : _____

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