



# Tapteal Greenway

Conservation-Education-Recreation on the Lower Yakima River Since 1995

## Education Events - Volunteers Needed!

### 5th Grade Habitat Sessions (2)

Shrub Steppe and Wetlands  
Wednesday, December 4th  
8:00-9:45am

### STEM Night Volunteer Training

Tuesday, January 7th 6:30-7:30pm  
Have you always wanted to know what we do at STEM Nights? Find out more at this volunteer training session at the Richland Library.

### Parent Outreach Night

Thursday, February 20th  
5:30-7:30pm  
Two volunteers needed to help talk to parents about wildlife, trails and education opportunities along the Greenway.

### Wildlands Walk

Saturday, May 2nd  
We need people with ecological expertise to host informative stations along the hiking trail. We also need volunteers to help with station set up.

To volunteer or get more information please contact Diana at [taptealgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.com).

# Tapteal Talk

## President's Message

*Dirk Peterson, President*

### Volunteers Stepping Up

I first became aware of Tapteal Greenway when I volunteered at the original Chamna cleanup. Although I became a member, I seldom volunteered, as my focus back then was on climbing. About fifteen years later I was getting ready to take an early retirement. Scott Woodward, then president of Tapteal Greenway, sent out an announcement looking for a new treasurer. That got me thinking that retirement would be my opportunity to be more active with Tapteal. Some time later I took on the role of vice president. Then with Karen Sowers' departure last year, I took on the role of president.

Volunteers, like plants, can be classified as annuals and perennials. Annuals are the occasional volunteers who participate when they can. Perennials are the lifeblood of the organization. These are the continuing volunteers who take an active role on the board or organizing events. An excellent example of a perennial volunteer is Mike Lilga. He was our founding member and first president and has continuously served on the board since then - can't get more perennial than that. We need to supplement and replenish our ranks of perennial volunteers because perennial volunteers can't do it all. We need a continuing stream of annual volunteers to step up in order to accomplish our mission of

## Who to Contact:

*\*If you want more information on the **Tapteal Water Trail**, next year's events, or to note specific interest in the full-day event, please contact Adam at [taptealgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.com).*

*\*If you want to be on our "**Volunteer Email List**" please email [taptealgreenway@gmail.org](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.org) or follow us on Facebook to hear about upcoming opportunities.*

*\*If you are part of an organization that would like to volunteer your time and energy to Tapteal Greenway as a **Service Project** or just for fun, contact us at [taptealgreenway@gmail.org](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.org) or follow us on Facebook to watch for upcoming opportunities.*

*\*If you want to volunteer or get more information about **Education Events** please contact Diana at [taptealgreenway@gmail.org](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.org).*

*\*If you'd like to learn more about the **Woodward Scholarship** or consider making a donation, contact Dirk or Adam at [taptealgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.com).*

*\*If you'd like more information about **serving on the board**, please contact Dirk at [taptealgreenway@gmail.org](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.org).*

promoting conservation, education and recreation along the lower Yakima River. Our current crop of perennials (board of directors) is:

- Dirk Peterson, President
- Delaney Towle, Vice President
- Stan Kuick, Treasurer
- Dan Hansen, Secretary
- Mike Lilga
- Adam Fyall
- Dave Harvey
- Dave Berkowitz
- Margaret Ault
- Carole Schuh
- Diana McPherson

We were thrilled a couple years ago when Diana McPherson and Sally Martin approached the board to take on the joint role of education coordinators. Sally has had to step back her involvement (life happens) but Diana continues on our board and is managing a two year ALEA grant to promote our educational outreach.

Our newest board member is Dan Hansen. Dan and I go back almost thirty years as climbing partners. I occasionally borrowed Dan to help with projects and for awhile his Toyota pickup was on extended loan to Tapteal until Stan and I blew the engine on a Tapteal errand. But, finally, with retirement nearing, Dan stepped up to become more active and joined the board!

The most recent perennial volunteer to join our ranks is Alison Cable. Alison is the Tri-Cities Program Manager for Futurewise, an organization that promotes sustainable land use practices that protect natural resources. Alison manages a program funded by a grant from Columbia Riverkeeper and has promoted stormwater pollution prevention practices at a number of our educational events. Most recently she has taken on the role of organizing the silent auction and bucket raffle at our annual celebration. As president I am very pleased to have her take on this arduous task.

As an all-volunteer organization we can only accomplish what our volunteers are willing to take on. You don't need to volunteer at every event, but try one. Do you have a work group or another group that would like to help on a project? Contact us at [taptealgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.com) - we can usually come up with an appropriate project (note: it is challenging for us to manage work parties larger than about a dozen). Interested in serving on the board? We currently have two open positions.

So, if you ask me what I am thankful for, the answer is volunteers, annual or perennial, anyone who steps up to help us accomplish our mission.

## Partnership in Education

For Board Member Diana McPherson, one of the best things about Tapteal Greenway is the partnerships it has with so many other local organizations like the Audubon Society, Native Plant Society, The REACH, PNNL, REI, WSU, KID, Noxious Weed Control, Benton Conservation District, Juvenile Justice Center, Futurewise, as well as local schools and libraries.

**Diana says, "We all work together helping each other in the classroom and in the field."**

### Get Involved

#### Diana's Suggestions:

Help with education, trail maintenance, water trail events, hikes, weed removal.

Become a member of Tapteal, which helps fund and support everything Tapteal is about.

Check out the Tapteal website, ([www.tapteal.org](http://www.tapteal.org)), like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TaptealGreenway/>) and Instagram (@taptealgreenway) and be on the lookout for Tapteal on Twitter and YouTube.

Like and share our posts, trail cam videos, work day volunteer requests and successful results with your friends and families.

## Board Member Profile ~ Diana McPherson

Sally Martin



One of Tapteal Greenway's newer board members is our education outreach coordinator, Diana McPherson. Diana was drawn to the outdoors and its creatures at an early age. She and her friends played for hours and caught and released lizards and frogs at the big open field around the corner from her childhood home in Newberry Park, California.

She tells the story of when she and her friends filled a big bucket with tiny frogs and brought them home. She had gone inside to clean up and then heard her mom screaming. She ran back outside to find out what was going on and discovered that the frogs were jumping all over the patio, much to her mother's dismay.

When Diana moved to the Tri-Cities, she began exploring the area and found Amon Creek and Chamna Natural Preserves. She noticed Tapteal Greenway on signs but didn't really know what it was. Almost a year later she met Karen Sowers, former Tapteal president, who invited her to volunteer at a field trip station focused on riparian zones and wetland ecosystems in Amon Creek Natural Preserve. She learned the Preserve had once been a dumping ground for trash and was impressed to learn that Tapteal worked hard to help acquire, restore and protect the area. This aligned with her personal philosophy that green spaces need to be protected to provide wildlife a place to live and people a place to connect with nature.

When asked why she chose to work with Tapteal, Diana said she wanted to help protect Amon Creek Natural Preserve, in part because it's across the street from her house, and to encourage others to get out and explore it and the rest of the greenway.

**See the front page sidebar for ways you can volunteer!**



## Tapteal Water Trail - Year in Review & a Look Ahead

Adam J. Fyall

The 2019 season was another good one on the water. We have seen continued interest in our guided kayak trips down the Yakima River, and continued growth in use of the river overall. On any weekend during the warm season you can see kayakers, canoeists, and paddle boarders out enjoying the river. Particularly gratifying to the Greenway, is that we see people using the access sites that we have established and promoted, and we are seeing more interest in the Yakima from our commercial operators and the general tourism industry.

We kicked off the season in mid-June with the 11-mile paddle from Benton City to the Horn Rapids Park boat launch. We had a great turnout and enjoyed blue skies and a tailwind. Our planned mid-summer paddle was unfortunately canceled due to poor river conditions. The fall paddle between the Snively and Hyde Road boat launches had to be rescheduled and long-time participant Bill Leonard stepped up to fill in as the on-the-water guide.



Looking ahead to 2020, we will be organizing the three sectional paddles as we usually do, in June, August, and October. Adam will also be organizing a day-long paddle of the entire 30-mile water trail, probably the last Friday in June. We have put the word out for this event in each of the last several years, but so far we haven't have enough committed participants to make it viable. We will endeavor to better publicize it this coming year, as 2020 will mark Tapteal Greenway's 25th anniversary, and the Tapteal Water Trail is one of the great accomplishments of our first quarter century. The full water trail paddle takes about 10-12 hours and should be one of the marquee

events in celebration of our Silver Anniversary. For more information on the Tapteal Water Trail, next year's events, or to note specific interest in the full-day event, contact Adam at [taptealgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.com).



### How You Can Support

- **Membership:** The Tapteal Greenway operates on a budget funded by grants and membership fees. Membership starts at \$10 for students to \$30 for a family. There are higher levels of giving (from minks to monarchs) also, should you desire.
- **Sponsorship:** Talk to your company about becoming a sponsor of Tapteal Greenway. (To see what others have done see our sponsorship page at: <https://tapteal.org/ways-to-help/sponsors/>)
- **Woodward Scholarship:** Consider making a donation for a student with a demonstrated interest in conservation. Contact Dirk or Adam for more information. [taptealgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.com)

## Woodward Scholarship

*Adam J. Fyall*

In 2016, we reached a major milestone in fulfillment of the education pillar of our mission with the establishment of the "Woodward Scholarship" program intended to financially assist post-high school scholars in their pursuit of advanced training or higher education. The program is named in honor of Pamela and Scott Woodward, lifelong residents of Richland who have dedicated their personal and professional lives to education and conservation. The scholarship is administered by the Three Rivers Community Foundation but the selection committee is appointed by the Tapteal Board, and Tapteal is solely responsible for fundraising.

Woodward Scholarships are intended to be funded through a perpetual endowment that should spin-off enough proceeds each year to fund the award(s). The general rule in the industry is that under normal economic conditions, an investment of about \$25,000 is needed to generate \$1,000 annually without tapping into the principle. The stated goal of the Board is a desire to keep increasing the principle with the hope of awarding larger scholarships, more of them, or preferably, both. Currently, the endowment has a value of over \$35,000.

Scholarships are available to university, community college, or trade school students attending school in the state of Washington with a demonstrated interest in conservation. Applications are processed during the spring with an award to be made for the following academic year. During the first three years of the program, five applications were received each year. Selections were difficult, as we had excellent candidate pools each year. We have had the opportunity to assist some really impressive young people as they have pursued their educations at Whitworth University and Western Washington University.

In 2019 we were faced with a challenge that we were not expecting. This year we received only two applications, and in both cases our applicants failed to meet minimum criteria for further consideration. We were disappointed to not be able to make an award this year, but it has also inspired some reflection on our part.

One thing we have concluded is that we are not doing a good enough job of getting the word out about the scholarship. Over the course of four cycles we have received a grand total of 17 applications; so we are looking into ways to give the scholarship more visibility. Also, we accept that the relatively small amount of the award -- \$1,000 -- might not be enough of a draw for the larger pool of applicants we are looking for. When you're starting out -- and starting out small, it's not easy or sustainable to give large awards. Still, the Board is taking a look at this as we enter the 2020 cycle, and as the chair of the selection committee, I will probably be making a recommendation that we up the award amount to \$2,000 for a couple of years to see how we do.

If you would like to learn more about the Woodward Scholarship or would like to consider making a donation, please contact Dirk or Adam at [taptealgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.com) for further information. Thank you to all who have supported us in getting to this point.



## Eagle Scouts Step Up!

### Josh Stairs, Troop 248

The recent Grayhawk development in Horn Rapids graded over a section of the Tapteal Trail. In 2018 we started work on constructing a new section of the trail along the edge of the Grayhawk development. In addition to the trail, the existing native vegetation was also graded over. Josh's project was to prepare the side of the trail for seeding with native grasses and plant native plants along this new section of trail.

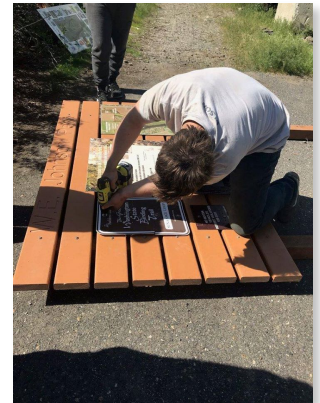


### Joshua Peterson, Troop 249

With Earth Day projects in 2018 and 2019 we were able to complete about half of the new Grayhawk Trail. Joshua's project was to complete construction of a roughly 200' section of the trail. After completing his project Joshua was a frequent volunteer as we continued working on the Grayhawk Trail.

### Jacob Olson, Troop 190

The kiosk at the south entrance to WE Johnson Park had been damaged and was in need of replacement. It was a two sided kiosk but the back side was out of view from the entrance trail. Jacob built and installed a new single sided kiosk using recycled plastic lumber for the boards.



### AJ Brown, Troop 190

With the completion of Josh Peterson's project the Grayhawk Trail was getting close to completion. AJ's project was to construct the next 200' of the Grayhawk Trail. This left us with just one final 200' stretch to complete.

### Aaron Rockwell, Troop 126

Aaron provided us with an inventory of all the signs in Amon Creek Natural Preserve and ended up removing about two dozen signs that we felt were degraded, redundant or no longer relevant. He also removed a degraded bench from Chamna Natural Preserve.



### Cadel DuVall, Troop 248

Cadel's project was to create a native plant garden near the start of the Grayhawk Trail. Over one hundred seedlings were planted of a variety of mostly forbs and grasses: snow buckwheat, rock buckwheat, Munro's globemallow, arrowleaf balsamroot, purple sage, green rabbitbrush, Indian ricegrass, needle and thread grass, and bluebunch wheatgrass.

## Thank You Donors!

*Thank you to these donors that contributed items for our Annual Celebration:*

- Rosie MacDonald
- Nancy Doran
- Columbia Kayak Adventures
- WildLands
- Total Energy Management
- Fidelitas Wines
- Dermacare
- Alexandria Nicole Cellars
- Ethos
- Bombing Range Brewery
- REI
- Kathy Criddle
- Lisa Day
- NW Paddleboarding
- Native Plant Society
- Chan Chiropractic
- Tapteal Vineyard
- Perspectives Hair Salon
- Anelare Winery
- Frost Me Sweet
- Barracuda Coffee
- Pasco Golfland
- Mike and Mary Lilga
- Kami Lowry
- Greenies
- Bruce Bjornstad
- McBones (George Last)
- Tucannon Cellars
- Float Euphoria
- Daven Lore Cellars
- Graze
- Edible Arrangements

## 2019 Annual Celebration



organization of the silent auction and bucket raffle to Alison Cable. We are very grateful for the many years that Kami took on this major role for us and are thrilled to have Alison step up to take it over. She did a great job this year.

Laurie Ness and Patrick Paulson were presented with the 2019 Tri-Cities Conservationist of the Year Award. About three years ago the City of Richland began the process of updating their critical areas ordinance. Laurie and Patrick diligently provided detailed comments throughout the review process. When they found the revised ordinance adopted by the City to be lacking in several areas they successfully appealed to the Growth Management Hearings board. Following this appeal they provided further input to the City to address these weaknesses. The result of their efforts is a stronger local policy that will help ensure areas like Amon Creek Natural Preserve are better protected from the impacts of development. Laurie and Patrick stressed the need for citizens to be active in the public comment process and monitor the City's adherence to its critical areas ordinance.



Organizing the annual celebration is a joint effort. We couldn't do it without the help of our board members and other volunteers. The silent auction and raffle wouldn't be possible without donated items. See the side bar for the list of businesses and individuals that donated items to this year's

celebration. Finally, our thanks to all who attended as this is why we put on the event. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2020 Annual Celebration on October 16.

[taptealgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.com)  
[www.tapteal.org](http://www.tapteal.org)