

# TAPTEAL TALK

*Conservation, education, and recreation on the Lower Yakima River since 1995*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Trail excellence for a family-friendly corridor. Fighting encroachment. Volunteer engagement. Membership development. Trail corridor protection. Student engagement. Trail excellence and maintenance. Permanent trail access and acquisition. Volunteer and member engagement.*

What do all those words represent, and is there a common theme? They represent the goals expressed from each of the Tapteal Greenway board members as we reflected on 2017 and planned for 2018. After much discussion, we settled on our 2018 goal: **Stewardship and Engagement**. We believe this is at the heart of the mission of Tapteal Greenway, and the key to accomplishing our goal is . . . YOU—members, volunteers, donors, and event participants. Why?

Trail maintenance is a popular volunteer activity, yet we are facing significant challenges in keeping the Tapteal Trail intact with continued housing development in the Horn Rapids area. Outreach and education is always well received, yet the demand for more of it is at times overwhelming. Trail use in all our properties is on the rise, yet there are many citizens who have never heard of Chama, Amon, or W.E. Johnson. Where do all of you come into this? By becoming engaged in what we do, by taking on a sense of stewardship of the Tapteal Trail and Tapteal Water Trail, by committing an hour or two in 2018 to volunteer with something we do that you are passionate about. Perhaps that means digging into land use and easement issues, helping with publicity, offering to photograph one of our events, spending a couple of hours developing educational materials, sending an email to us with an update on trail conditions, offering to lead a hike or volunteer at a school field trip – the list is endless! We will be reaching out to you more often this year and hope you will help us to reach our 2018 goal of Stewardship and Engagement!

Karen Sowers

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 10, 9:00 a.m.**

Tree and shrub planting—Amon Creek Natural Preserve (meet at Claybell Park)

**March 17, 8:00 a.m.**

Bird Walk—Amon Creek Natural Preserve; co-hosted by LCBAS

**March 31, 9:00 a.m.**

Wye Park cleanup with WSU-TC Environmental Club

**April 17, 9:00 a.m.**

Nature Walk—Amon Creek Natural Preserve

**April 22**

Earth Day—Activity TBD

**April 24 & 25**

Salmon Summit—Columbia Park

**April 28, 9:00 a.m.**

Wildlands Walk—Amon Creek Natural Preserve

## WHAT A YEAR!

It's been a while since our last newsletter, so we'd like to offer just a few highlights of the many events and other happenings since then.

**Conservation**—trail maintenance and improvement remains high on our list to provide the best experience possible for all user groups: a massive tree and shrub trimming day with equestrians in Chamna, more wood chips added to the Tapteal Trail, trail markers installed by an Eagle Scout, weed pulling in Amon and Chamna, and trash cleanup at Wye Park and Horn Rapids Park. As mentioned in the President's message, we can certainly use some help working through trail acquisition and access challenges; please email us if that is of interest to you. The future of the Tapteal Trail depends on a concerted effort from us and you!

**Rachel Road Alignment Study**—the long-awaited decision as to where a road was going to cross Amon Creek Natural Preserve was finally made and voted on by the Parks & Recreation Commission and the City Council after an extensive public input process. The southernmost alignment with the least amount of impact to the preserve and beginning across from Lorayne J was recommended and received a unanimous vote, much to our relief. We can't thank you enough for your support during the months-long process!

**Education: Salmon Summit**—after a short presentation, the students at our station assembled a bracelet where each colored bead represents an aspect of the salmon life cycle. We also donated \$2,500 to the Benton Conservation District that funded fish tanks at two schools that were on a waiting list to be able to participate in the Salmon in the Classroom program.

**Wildlands Walk**—we brought back this popular event in Amon Creek Natural Preserve with more than 70 people of all ages stopping at learning stations spread along a 1.5-mile loop through the preserve. Wetland and shrub-steppe mammals, bird banding demonstration, pollinators, and several other topics were presented at the stations.

**Other Education**—two elementary schools in Pasco and Richland invited us to participate in their STEM night events, and we hosted 100 third graders from Vista Elementary on a field trip in Amon Creek Natural Preserve with six learning stations for the students.

**Outreach**—we took our story on the road to a wide variety of venues: REI lecture, Summer Solstice Event, Rancho Reata, WSU-TC Volunteer Fair, PNNL Taste of Diversity, Richland High School AP Environmental Science class, Dept. of Ecology, #FindingYourCommunity, Visit Tri-Cities Annual Meeting, Alternative Gift Fair, and Edith Bishel Center for the Blind.

**Recreation**—we hit the trails on land and water for many outings in 2017 including three trips on the Tapteal Water Trail, our annual #OptOutside hike on Black Friday, a "Tax Hike" on April 15, and monthly nature walks in Amon.

## TAPTEAL HIKES

Tapteal Greenway recently sponsored two public hikes. The first was our Opt Outside Black Friday hike, co-sponsored with REI. Hikers were given a 3 and 6 mile option, starting from the north end of WE Johnson Park and ending at Chamna or Columbia Point Park. We had clear breezy weather around 50 degrees, and 53 people turned out to hike. Tapteal provided shuttle service from both end points.

The second was a New Year's Day hike. We again provided a 3 mile and a 6 mile option, with both loops starting and ending in Chamna. The weather was cloudy and cold with some icy trails from recent snow and freezing rain. Despite the cold weather, 52 people attended the event, including two Boy Scout troops!

Another Tapteal sponsored hike is planned for mid-spring, where we hope to view beautiful shrub-steppe spring flowers. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook for updates!

## EQUESTRIAN PERSPECTIVE

Hello! My name is Carole Schuh. I live out in Franklin County near Basin City. I am a fairly new Tapteal Greenway board member. I've been an avid equestrian trail rider for 60 years so these local trails are near and dear to my heart. My love of Chamna Natural Preserve is what brought me into friendship with Karen Sowers and the board members. I helped organize a tree trimming workday at Chamna last April. Members from three local riding clubs—the 40-Something Cowgirls and two Back Country Horsemen of WA clubs—came together to work hard and enjoy a beautiful day at Chamna while they pruned, trimmed and chain-sawed the low hanging branches and limbs on the great trails. We will be having another equestrian workday at Chamna in March. I also enjoy riding in WE Johnson Park where the Tapteal trail runs.

One of the important Tapteal Greenway projects that I'm particularly interested in is the Tapteal North Trail that runs from Kingston Road to Benton City. A section of our trail has been lost due to a recent home development project. At this time we are working with the City of Richland to reestablish our trail easement. This is a great trail for horses, hikers, and cyclists. Let's keep it open! Hope to see you out on one of these trails!!



# PAMELA AND SCOTT WOODWARD

## CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Pamela and Scott Woodward Conservation Scholarship was created by Tapteal Greenway in 2016 in honor of the dedicated service to the local community by Pamela and Scott. Thanks to the generosity of our members and donors, it took less than a year to reach our initial endowment goal of \$25,000—managed by the Three Rivers Community Foundation.

Scott and Pam spent their careers locally as teachers. Scott Woodward retired from the Tapteal Greenway board in 2015 after serving 12 years as president. While Scott had become the face of the organization, Pam was often present as our unofficial photographer. She also provided tasty treats for many of our board meetings.

This \$1,000 merit based scholarship will support college students (entering and current) with a demonstrated commitment to natural resources conservation through their coursework and/or community involvement. Applicants must be a resident of Benton or Franklin County and be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college or university in Washington State. The first scholarship for the 2016–17 academic year was awarded to Nicholas Little, who was entering Whitworth University. The 2017–18 scholarship was awarded to Emily McLoughlin, entering Western Washington University.

Applications for the 2018-19 academic year will be accepted through April 30, 2018. Applications are available on the Three Rivers Community Foundation and Tapteal Greenway websites ([3rcf.org](http://3rcf.org) under NEWS & RESOURCES / REPORTS-SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS and [tapteal.org](http://tapteal.org) under Woodward Scholarship).



## HELP US OUT!

The AmazonSmile foundation is operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. When you shop on AmazonSmile, the foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice, including the Tapteal Greenway Association! It's easy to sign up. Simply follow the link below, then click "select" for Tapteal Greenway. Contributions will be made automatically.

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## FOR MORE INFO

Follow us on Facebook and check out our website for more info on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!

<https://www.facebook.com/TaptealGreenway/>

<http://www.tapteal.org/>



# BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TAPTEAL GREENWAY!

As an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization Tapteal Greenway needs your support.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Level:

\_\_\_\_ Student \$10

\_\_\_\_ Monarch \$250

\_\_\_\_ Individual \$15

\_\_\_\_ Steelhead \$500

\_\_\_\_ Family \$30

\_\_\_\_ Nonprofit partner \$50

\_\_\_\_ Mink \$100

\_\_\_\_ Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mail to:

Tapteal Greenway

PO Box 2002

Richland, WA 99352

Would you like to receive our newsletter electronically: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Please check any areas you can assist us in:

\_\_\_\_ Cleanup

\_\_\_\_ Conservation

\_\_\_\_ Restoration

\_\_\_\_ Trail maintenance

\_\_\_\_ Publicity

\_\_\_\_ Education

\_\_\_\_ Fund raising

\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_