



Tapteal Greenway

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



Mark Your Calendars!

- March 11 - Tapteal Trail Hike
- March 18 - Amon Nature Walk
- March 25 - Bateman Island Cleanup
- April 1 - Chamna Trail work with Equestrian Groups
- April 15 - Trail North Hike
- April 25 & 26 - Salmon Summit
- April 29 - Wildlands Walk in Amon

Email taptealgreenway@gmail.com for more details.

Can You Help?

Watch for events on Facebook!

Volunteers Needed:

- **Salmon Summit**
 - Corral Kids
 - String beads
 - Tie knots

Tapteal Talk

President's Message

Karen Sowers, President

The snow is melting quickly after a long, cold, grey winter, and I for one am ready for a string of sunny days! Looking back to last year at this time, we set a primary goal of 'Trail Excellence.' Our board of directors decided to continue that goal in 2017, and also add components **'Collaboration & Outreach.'** There is a wide range of trail users along the Tapteal Greenway, and it just makes sense in many situations that we could all accomplish more by knowing what we each do, understanding the needs of each other, and working side by side rather than as individual groups to address those needs.

We've got a great start on **collaboration** after inviting representatives from three equestrian groups to our February board meeting. We got to know each other, hear their perspectives about trail use and improvements along the Tapteal Trail, and set a date for a major trail work day in Chamna Preserve (April 1). We appreciate the ongoing collaboration with Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society assisting us with the Nature Walks in Amon Creek Natural Preserve. We will be contacting bicycling and running organizations, as well as other conservation and outdoor groups in the area to look into other collaborative opportunities.

Can You Help? (cont.)

Volunteers Needed:

- **Trail Excellence**
 - Individual volunteers*
 - Group/Organization volunteers**
- **Bateman Island Cleanup**
 - Kayaks
 - Waders

*If you want to be on our "Volunteer email list" notify us by emailing 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 or follow us on Facebook to watch for upcoming opportunities.

Support requested:

- **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/>)

For **outreach**, we see a need to involve more sectors and locations than we have been - an example is our recent participation in STEM nights at Pasco elementary schools. Would you like to help with an outreach event, or do you have ideas where there is a need, or are you up for being our outreach coordinator? If so, please email us at taptealgreenway@gmail.com.

Check out our Calendar of Events for 2017 - we've got plenty of opportunities for you to participate in a work day, Salmon Summit, hike, kayaking trip, and so much more. Spread the word about Tapteal Greenway! Like us on Facebook (and watch some cool trail cam videos!). Become a member! I am so grateful for our board of directors, and for all of our volunteers, members, and donors who support the mission of Tapteal Greenway. We would not be where we are today without your passion for conservation, education, and recreation on the lower Yakima River. See you on the trails!

Tapteal Water Trail

Adam Fyall



Last October the weather was perfect for a morning on the the Tapteal Water Trail. Seven paddlers enjoyed beautiful fall foliage along the 9-mile float from Snively Road to Tapteal Bend.

Board member Adam Fyall will be leading four more paddles this summer along the Tapteal Water Trail. Each excursion will cover different stretches of the river. One trip in June will cover the complete water trail from Benton City to Bateman Island. Make sure to see our Calendar of Events for 2017.

Can You Help? (cont.)

- **Donations:** Pamela & Scott Woodward Conservation Scholarship - designed to help us to further our education mission. This is an annual scholarship designed to assist college students in pursuit of degrees or careers in conservation, recreation, or environmental fields.

Facebook: Find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TaptealGreenway/>). Like and share our posts, trail cam videos, work day volunteer requests and successful results with your friends and families.

Many Thanks!

Thank you to these organizations that have been involved with Tapteal Greenway. If you want to be on the list, ask what projects we have available or join us in one of our many ongoing projects.

Boy Scouts
AmeriCorps
REI
AREVA
Energy Northwest
CBC
WSU-TriCities
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
Richland High Key Club
Hanford High Key Club
Columbia Kayak Adventures
Wildlands
City of Richland
Hayden Homes
Benton Co. Parks Dept.
REACH museum

Salmon Summit

Stan Kuick

Every year Tapteal Greenway hosts an educational station at the Salmon Summit held in May at Columbia Park. The summit is an educational experience for area 4th and 5th graders where they rotate between many different stations that teach them about salmon-related topics and other conservation and outdoor activities. Each student also gets to release a salmon fingerling into the Columbia River.



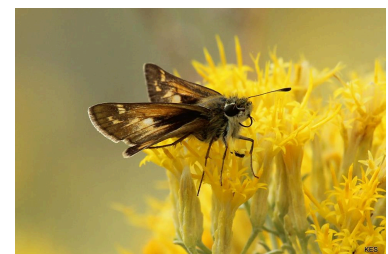
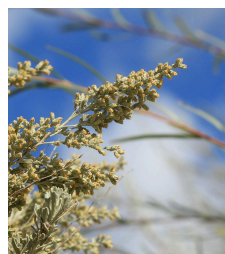
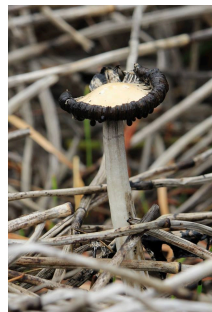
Tapteal Greenway's station teaches the students about the life cycle of the salmon and reinforces the lesson by having the students build a bracelet of different colored beads that each represented a different stage of the cycle. The station is manned by Tapteal Board members and other volunteers.

Could you help move kids through the line, bead a bracelet, cut or know string? If so, email taptealgreenway@gmail.com.

Take a Walk on the Wildlands Side!

Mark your calendars for the morning of April 29, we're gearing up for a Wildlands Walk in Amon Creek Natural Preserve that promises to be the best yet! Learning stations will feature hands-on displays with native plants, pelts and skulls of the mammals of

ACNP, geology, birds, reptiles, and more! We can use volunteers for group leaders and at stations. Please email taptealgreenway@gmail.com if you can help on April 29.



New Kiosk in Wye Park - Check It Out!

Thanks to Eagle Scout candidate Ryan Oehman, there is a new kiosk at the Wye Park water trail launch site near Bateman Island. What happened to the old kiosk? It disappeared, along with the water trail map attached to it, a little over a year ago. Working with Tapteal board members Dirk Peterson and Stan Kuick, Ryan had to plan the design, procure the materials, construct the kiosk, and install it at the launch site. The new kiosk has a simpler, single-sided design. In October, he and some volunteers finished this project which will enable Ryan to meet his Eagle Scout project requirement. The kiosk currently has a map of the Tapteal Water Trail and in the future will have a pocket for water trail flyers as well.



Nature Walks in Amon Creek Natural Preserve

We renamed the Bird Walks to Nature Walks, held the third Saturday of every month in Amon Creek Natural Preserve, as there are so many more treasures to be found than just birds! The 1.5 loop has rewarded participants with great birdwatching, jackrabbit spotting, sleuthing to figure out tracks in the snow, and talking about the Rachel Road Alignment Study while on the walks. The walks begin at 9 a.m. at the south entrance to ACNP along the BPA access road off south Leslie Rd. As spring approaches we will be treated to a talk about all the wildflowers in ACNP, and we are lining up a group leader to talk about geology in the area during one of the upcoming walks. Come on out and join us!



Creature Feature - The Mink

Did you know that mink are residents of the Tapteal Greenway? Mink are semiaquatic, carnivorous mammals that are rarely seen along the trails as they are nocturnal. Their diet consists of fish, birds, eggs, and small mammals. Some of the mink's predators along the Greenway include coyotes and great horned owls. Fully grown males weigh just over two pounds and are 24 inches long, while females are slightly smaller. These critters tend to be very territorial, and often will not tolerate another mink in their territory. For a closer look at the mink you can visit our Facebook page, where we have footage recorded by our trail cams in Amon Creek Natural Preserve.



Will You Go Out With Me?



On Black Friday, in conjunction with REI's #OptOutside program, Tapteal Greenway and REI sponsored a community hike on the northern section of the Tapteal Trail. The idea was to get people to do something outside instead of focusing on shopping the day after Thanksgiving. We offered hikes of three distances: 2.75, 6, and just under 11 miles, and provided shuttle service to the starting point and back from the ending points. Over 60 people of all ages attended the hike, including many out-of-towners visiting for the holiday.

The group met at the Van Giesen park-and-ride lot, where Jenna Bracken handed out REI goodies and t-shirts to the participants and shuttles were made to the "Trail North" starting point off of Kingston Rd. The trail meanders through various habitats and is right next to the Yakima River much of the time, affording excellent views and photo opportunities. All 60+ hikers started out together on the initial shrub-steppe portion of the trail. Ending points were at Twin Bridges road (2.75 miles), Snively Road (6 miles), and the Omaha Beach water trail launch (10.8 miles). The weather was excellent, with temperatures in the 50's and light wind.

Everyone agreed that the hike was a complete success. Many hikers clamored for Tapteal to organize more hikes in the future. Join us for Tapteal's "Tax Hike" on April 15th. Stan Kuik will be leading a hike on Trail North. Stay tuned for details.



[KEPRTV News Coverage of #OptOutside](#)

Chips, Chips, and More Chips!



September 24 was the 23rd National Public Lands Day. This is an event created by the National Environmental Education Foundation to promote stewardship and enjoyment of our public lands. It is a free entry day at all National Park Service sites.

With REI's encouragement, Tapteal Greenway decided to participate with this event by spreading wood chips on the portion of the Tapteal Trail that passes through Chamna Natural Preserve. This effort started by reaching out to local tree services to get wood chips donated and dropped off at the Mid-Point Trailhead. Thanks to Artistic Tree Works, Huckaby's Tree Service, Top Tree Service

and City of Richland for dropping off wood chips. Farrell and Dustin with Apex Contracting donated three hours of their time and equipment use to relocate the wood chips into a central pile along the trail in Chamna. About two dozen volunteers used shovels, wheel barrows and rakes to spread the chips out along the trail.

Over the next several weeks Richland park ranger Jason Janosky continued this effort with the help of LDS missionaries. The chips now extend west of the mid-point trailhead and will eventually reach the main parking lot.



Rachel Road Alignment Study Update

Due to overwhelming public outcry in 2014 about the City of Richland's plan to extend Rachel Road east of Leslie across the heart of Amon Creek Natural Preserve, the City hired the Langdon group last fall to conduct a study to determine the best option for an alignment across the Preserve. A Community Advisory Committee was formed consisting of representatives from Tapteal Greenway, neighboring HOAs, emergency services, Hayden Homes, Lower Columbia Audubon Society, KID, KSD, City of Richland, and others. The CAC has met three times, and there was a public open house in November. The committee has narrowed down the alignment options to four, and Tapteal Greenway supports either of the two southernmost routes (BPA access road or across from Lorayne J). We have worked to develop evaluation criteria, discussed mitigation options and design features, and edited the wildlife report associated with the study. There will be one more open house this spring, and we would like to see a strong showing by our membership and volunteers to support a reasonable decision. Watch our Facebook page and your email for notifications about the next open house.

Trail Excellence - Chamna Backdoor



It is possible to enter Chamna Natural Preserve from the east by dropping off the paved bike path that connects to the Sacajawea Heritage Trail. Shortly after dropping off the bike path, the trail follows along the fencing at the edge of the gravel pit property. There is a steep embankment between the trail and the Yakima River that has been eroding in several spots. We have been working with the City of Richland and American Rock Products to get an easement to allow the trail to cut through the corner of America Rock Product's property. We hope to be able to reroute this portion of the trail by the end of March. We will be looking for volunteers to help us spread gravel on the new trail.

Education Through STEM

Tapteal Greenway has participated in STEM nights at two Pasco elementary schools, Ruth Livingston Elementary and Rosalind Franklin STEM Elementary. Our display included beaver, otter and mink. The highlight of the evening was a five year old who knew as much about beavers as we did. We are happy to participate in this type of educational/outreach event with schools, scouts and civic groups. Please contact us at taptealgreenway@gmail.com if you would like to have us participate at an event.



Bateman Island Clean Up Continues



WSU-TC Environmental Club has planned another clean up of Bateman Island March 25th. Volunteers are always appreciated. If you have waders, bring them along. Kayakers needed! Only you can get to those hard to reach spots.

2016 Annual Celebration



The brand new Sugar Pine Barn event center at Tucannon Cellars was the setting for our 2016 Annual Celebration, and it was a celebration like no other! The event was enjoyed by a record number of first-time attendees. Great food, an excellent silent auction and bucket raffle, displays, and an excellent musician - Pamela Thomas Martin - made for a fun evening for all. Gretchen Graber was presented with the 2016

Conservationist of the Year Award for her tireless dedication to developing programs and educating others about the importance of conservation. Thanks to the many volunteers who worked before, during, and after the event to help everything run smoothly, including the board of directors, Boy Scout Seth Dowell, Karen Harvey, the silent auction crew, Kathy & Sam Dechter, Maureen Hamilton, and those who donated food items. Thanks also to our gracious hosts and owners of Tucannon Winery, Phil, Danette and Ethen Warren. Mark your calendars for 2017 Celebration, October 28!



taptealgreenway@gmail.com
 509-396-5936
www.tapteal.org