



Tapteal Talk

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President’s Message

by Adam Fyall
 Happy Fall, everyone. I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer and were increasingly able to get back to doing things and seeing people that you love as we try to ease-out of the pandemic’s grip.

Over the summer months the Greenway has continued work in many areas, including a renovation of the kiosk at Horn Rapids Park, various trail improvements, planning toward trail extensions in Benton City and activities on the Tapteal Water Trail to name a few.

One of the things that is starting to excite me is the prospect of pulling together the final connections – mainly in Benton City and in the area between Johnson Park and the Horn Rapids housing development – of a continuous 30-mile Tapteal Greenway Trail. We have big pieces in place, and now we are getting down to the nitty gritty of making key connections. You will see this become a point of emphasis over the next few years.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Celebration event - the first time we will host this in person since 2019. It will be a chance to learn more about the things mentioned above and to enjoy an hour or two with friends. I hope you can join us at **6:30 pm on Friday, October 28 at Tucannon Cellars in Benton City**. Tucannon wines will be available and there will be desserts. The first 75 people to RSVP will also get dinner on us from the Non-Fiction food truck. RSVP by sending an email to taptealgreenway@gmail.com.

2022 Tri-Cities Conservationist of the Year

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the Greenway’s 27th Tri-Cities Conservationist of the Year recipient – **Lindsay Gailey**. Awarded each year since 1996, the Conservationist of the Year recognizes an individual, organization or company for their outstanding contributions toward resource conservation, environmental awareness, and outdoor recreation in our community. The Board takes nominations during the early fall and votes on an awardee ahead of the Annual Celebration.

Lindsay Gailey is a fourth-grade teacher in the Richland School District who makes lessons on salmon and shrub-steppe core to her teaching curriculum. Lindsay is a longtime devotee of the ‘Salmon in the Classroom’ program that is operated by the Benton Conservation District and with which the Greenway assists. Salmon in the Classroom focuses on long-term learning about the salmon lifestyle and their iconic status in the Northwest, featuring a component where the students raise juvenile salmon in their classrooms before releasing them into the Yakima or Columbia rivers at an event called “Salmon Summit” each spring. Lindsay Gailey not only features the program in her own classroom but works on mentoring other teachers who are new to it.

We will honor Lindsay at the Annual Celebration at Tucannon Cellars on October 28. We hope that you will be able to join us for the festivities and learn more about Lindsay’s work.

Favorite Fall Tapteal Trail Hikes

by Stan Kuick

Well, I was asked to write an article about my favorite fall Tapteal Trail hikes. So, what do we want to see in the fall? Color, right! In spite of our mostly treeless terrain, we do have some fall color here, although it's not quite New England in October, but it's still pretty good if you know where to go.

The first one I like is hiking from WE Johnson Park (south trailhead off of Hall Rd) to Duportail Bridge. This hike has lots of turning trees, fall blooming native shrubs and even colorful vineyards. Watch the trees for raptors, as Red-tailed and Cooper's hawks are often seen here. Mule deer and rabbits are also often seen. If you start at the Hall Road end and go towards Duportail, when you exit the park the trail continues along some homes on Tanglewood Drive. This area has a spectacular view of the Yakima River which in the fall is bursting with color (see picture). This one is my favorite and is good from October to early November.

The next colorful hike is in Horn Rapids Park. You can start either at the Wanawish Dam and enjoy blooming rabbitbrush and a great view of the Yakima River from the top of the hill, or start in the park at the kiosk parking lot near the boat launch. (This will soon have brand new information panels courtesy of Tapteal Greenway - check it out). Either way, hike upstream, and in the park proper you will see yellowing cottonwoods in the big grove of trees. Look for great horned owls among the trees and artificial conical nests from a Boy Scout Eagle Scout project sponsored by us. Keep walking upriver and you enter a mixture of floodplain and shrub-steppe ecology with blooming yellow rabbitbrush and bright red sumac to please the eye.

Hope to see you out there!



Fall Paddle Event on the Yakima River

By Diana McPherson

We welcomed fall with a paddle along the mid-portion of the Tapteal Greenway Water Trail. The weather was more like summer than fall so peoples’ extra layers were quickly stashed away in drybags and hatches.

Our colorful kayaks launched at Snively Road onto a gentle current which allowed our ten kayaks to remain together. The water was clear enough to see the star grass waving under the surface as we started to drift along.

Aaron, a Tapteal Greenway board member and PhD student at WSU Tri-Cities, discussed some of his research on this quick growing, often over abundant native aquatic plant.

We were joined on this trip by travel writers and lifestyle reporters Kelly Hanson and Amity Adrissi of Seattle’s King 5 News and Jeff Totey of Seattle’s KOMO 4 News. Their kayaks were arranged by Kayak Bateman rentals.

We shared beautiful scenery along the Yakima River even though only a few trees had started their fall transformation. Several birds were seen, including Great Egrets, several groups of ducks, and several Great Blue Herons.

That wraps up our 2022 paddle events. We hope to see you on the Water Trail in 2023.



Safety briefing prior to launch



Colorful kayaks waiting



Aaron talking with Kelly Hanson



Kelly and Amity having fun kayaking



Jeff enjoying the kayak tour



A peaceful, beautiful day

Benton County Comprehensive Parks Plan

By Adam J. Fyall

Cities and counties undertake comprehensive parks plans (CPPs) in order to give policy direction, develop programs, and prioritize projects. In Washington state we do this on a roughly 6-year (three biennia) cycle, and having an adopted parks plan keeps local governments eligible for various state grants, such as from the Recreation and Conservation Office.

Benton County is currently undertaking its periodic CPP update. The process and the eventual final plan will not only address the County's existing 10 parks, but also allows for a community discussion about future recreation and conservation opportunities, including possible future acquisitions. There is also a regional trails element that may be of interest to many of our members. One direct nexus with the Tapteal Greenway will be the discussion of Horn Rapids Park, which is a Benton County asset that is, of course, right in the middle of the Greenway and through which five miles of the Tapteal Trail traverse.

If you would like to know more about Benton County's CPP process and how you can have input, please visit the Benton County website at www.co.benton.wa.us, or send an inquiry to parcs@co.benton.wa.us.

Wanawish Dam

By Adam J. Fyall

Unfortunately, for at least the fourth time since the structure was rebuilt after the 1996 flood, there has been an on-the-river fatality associated with Wanawish Dam, which abuts Horn Rapids Park on the Yakima River northwest of Richland. A gentleman from Prosser went over the dam while using a non-motorized watercraft and did not survive the incident. A female companion also went over the dam and survived.

Paddling the Yakima – on canoes, on kayaks, or on paddleboards – is increasingly popular. This dam, and the way it is built and positioned on the river, is a hazard. More measures need to be taken to raise awareness about the dam and to help river users avoid encounters with it.

The Greenway is working with other partners on some projects that will hopefully help with this awareness and safety. We will share some of these ideas at the Annual Celebration, which include better signage, portage improvements, and possibly in-river warning buoys. If you are interested in learning more or possibly volunteering for a work party, please send us an email at taptealgreenway@gmail.com.

Chamna Races

By Dan Hansen

The Nomad Trail Runners of Eastern WA had their 4th annual “Sole Survivor” event starting on Friday, September 16 at 8 am at Chamna Natural Preserve. A 4.167-mile loop is completed every hour. Runners have to start each loop at the top of the hour or are disqualified and must finish the loop in less than an hour or are disqualified. A “Sole Survivor” race doesn’t have a set distance or time, but goes until there is only one runner left. Hence the name “Sole Survivor”. This year there were 42 entrants with 27 men and 15 women starting the race. The Sole Survivor this year was Jess Mullen with a 29-hour time covering 120.8 miles. The top male, Mikey Sklar, covered 116.6 miles over 28 hours.

The Nomads will also have their 7th annual “Chamna Chase” on October 15 in Chamna starting at 9 am. There will be a Halloween theme and costumes are encouraged. There are three distances this year: half marathon, 10K and 6K. All of the races start from the main parking lot.



The Start



Starting Area



What awaits everyone but the WINNER!