



## 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 able to do the things you enjoy during the warmer, lighter days. You now get to roll into autumn with a heavy dose of me for this season's newsletter!

While the summer tends to be a slower time of the year for our Greenway endeavors, one thing we work on is preparations for the **Annual Celebration**. We hope you will join us at **7:00 pm on Friday, October 20, at Tucannon Cellars in Benton City**. Tucannon has been our venue for the past several years and we look forward to remaking acquaintances with everyone out there once again. There will be a few slight modifications to the event this year... This will be a wine and dessert affair and we are starting slightly later than recent years. The program will be shorter than last year (I promise). We will begin that program at about 7:30 and it will feature a short recap of the past year, highlight current projects, detail our fundraising appeals, and close with introducing our 2023 Conservationist of the Year.

While the primary purpose of this annual event is to see old friends and celebrate milestones achieved toward our long-term conservation, recreation, and education missions; there is also a fundraising element. This year we have three appeals. We think there is something here to meet many of our members' interests and we hope you will consider a specific contribution toward one of the following:

- **Tool Inventory (\$3,000)**: We are trying to build our own power tool supply so that we no longer have to rely on volunteers' tools at work parties. We want to build an inventory of new, uniform, electric (battery) power tools that we own and maintain. The battery technology is now of such a quality that chainsaws, pole saws, and the like are powerful and reliable enough for our needs.
- **Scholarship (\$1500)**: The Woodward Scholarship continues to grow, albeit slowly. We have upped the single annual award to \$1500. We have enough of an endowment to support this, but we want to continue growing the endowment. Our appeal for \$1500 would fund the 2024 scholarship outright without having to draw down the account, allowing it to build without deduction.
- **Weed Abatement (\$1500)**: We have made a strong commitment toward noxious weed control on several public and Greenway-owned lands along the Yakima corridor. Specifically, we have been doing spraying and removal primarily for Poison Hemlock at the Chamna Preserve and WE Johnson Park in recent years, and \$1500 would roughly cover that effort for those two properties in the spring of 2024.
- We do hope you will consider a contribution toward these endeavors, but we want to see you on October 20 regardless. Do watch of a separate invitation to the event. We hope you will be able to join us.

Thank you as always.

## 2023 Tri-Cities Conservationist of the Year

by Adam J. Fyall

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the Greenway's 28th Tri-Cities Conservationist of the Year recipient – **Sharon Grant**. 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 late summer each year and votes on an awardee ahead of the Annual Celebration.

I am proud to say that I have known Sharon Grant for about the last 20 years. I have personally borne witness to much of her dedicated hard work and contributions of time, energy, and goodwill, primarily in her efforts on behalf of the Friends of Badger Mountain organization, which she co-founded in 2003. Sharon continues to be a board member with Friends, and in recent years has been working specifically on developing trail access to and on Red Mountain, and on setting the organization on a path to long-term sustainability. Sharon is the soul of Friends of Badger Mountain, without which the Badger and Candy preserves would not be a reality.

We will honor Sharon at the **Annual Celebration at Tucannon Cellars on October 20**. We hope that you will be able to join us as we recognize Sharon and all of her selfless hard work.

## Tapteal Water Trail ~ Fall Paddle

by Adam J. Fyall

The final Greenway-organized paddle event of the year will be **Saturday, September 30**. We will be touring the "middle section" between Snively Road and Hyde Road. I suspect it will take about 2½ hours to complete. Greenway volunteers will provide shuttle service (you leave a vehicle at the end, and we return you to the start). Push-off is 9:00 am. If you would like to learn more or to RSVP, please send an email to [taptealgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:taptealgreenway@gmail.com) with "WATER TRAIL" in the subject line.

## Fox Island

by Adam J. Fyall

Fox Island is for sale, and the Board is taking a look at the situation. The property is located immediately across the river from our existing Tapteal Bend property above the Van Giesen Street bridge and across from the end of Hyde Road. The holding consists of 13 acres of floodway riparian habitat, much of it covered with a climax stage cottonwood grove. This is a nice habitat piece that also has potential for outdoor education and not much else. If you are driving across the bridge westbound into West Richland and you look upriver, it is the property you're looking at.

The Greenway actually made an informal offer on this property once about 20 years ago, but the owners weren't interested in our number. Now they have put their own number out there and it is pretty rich in my opinion given the limited options one would have with this property, not the least of which begins with getting to it, which is actually rather difficult. The asking price is \$399,000. As of this memo, the property has been on the market for 85 days.

We are discussing getting an appraisal for the property. I'm guessing a fair market appraisal is going to be a much different kind of a number than the one the owners have in mind, perhaps by an order of magnitude. Nonetheless, for our kinds of purposes, this would be a nice property to have, but only for a reasonable and responsible price. We will keep you posted.