



Trail Notes

Fall 2003

Dirt, Sweat & Fun: Summer Highlights from the Trail

The summer is over and as leaves begin to fall, it's nice to look back on the warmer segment of our trail season. It was a memorable time and true to our motto we had a lot of fun, safely at that, and boy, did we get some work done.

Another **Iron Goat Trail Volunteer Vacation** organized by Richard and Sheridan Botts, and another successful week! Forty people worked on the trail and many of those laid their weary heads at the Mountaineers Stevens Lodge. Including Washington, volunteers hailed from 14 states.

2003 accomplishments include completing puncheon, installing two culverts, grubbing and brushing a side trail to a view area, installing a bench, sign post, and rock barrier, and finally some turnpike toil. Whew! Of course, it was much more than work, it was fun. This from Willie Mae, a volunteer from Alabama, one of many letters the Botts received:



Taking a well-deserved break to say cheese during the Iron Goat Volunteer Vacation.

"You made life warm and very pleasant while I was there. The food and hospitality were outstanding. It was a 'dream trip.' The natural scenes were breathtaking. A beautiful area. I loved working on the trail also. Thanks for having me. I am still dreaming (smile). Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

Our **Bandera Mountain / Mason Lake** project, directed by trail maestro Harold Buresh, is marching ever closer to completion. As the weather heated up so did the turnout. Many thanks to all who have moved dirt on this challenging trail, soon to be renamed the *Ira Spring Memorial Trail*. (see next page)

On the last day of July Steve Dean and his crew finished the River Loop segment of the **Lime Kiln Trail** in the Robe Canyon Historic Park. Steve and three other volunteers also did a three-day trail work party on the Bald Mountain Ridge Trail.

The summer may be over but there's work to do, especially as we lead the charge to complete our Bandera project. And even when the snow flies later this year VOW will

still be on the trail in parks in Woodinville and Seattle. No hibernating for our dedicated volunteers!



Did you know? Bandera volunteers whistle while they work. Join in!



A view of the newly completed River Loop segment on the Lime Kiln Trail.



Ira Spring, 1918-2003

Photographer, Mountaineer,
Hiker, Author, Advocate.

National Trails Day 2003 was a time of celebration and reflection. Earlier that week we lost a friend, Ira Spring. Through his books, photographs and advocacy, Ira encouraged generations to explore and preserve our Northwest wilderness. One book review—"Probably the most dog-eared and gorp-smearred guide in the knapsacks of Seattle-area hikers...If you're a hiker...you need it."—could apply to any of the dozens of hiking and outdoor books he co-wrote over the years.

Surrounded by his family, Ira Spring died in his Edmonds home on June 5th after a two-year battle with prostate cancer. He was 84.

From John Spring, Ira's son and a former VOW President:

"Hiking was a way of life for my sister and me when we grew up, as

well as waiting for hours for the sun or clouds to be in the 'right' spot to get the perfect mountain photo ... Today I look back on my childhood and appreciate every moment I had as I grew up ... what a shame in life we do not see how good we have it when we are there.

"My father's love for the mountains and trails goes so far beyond a love but more of a passion. He wrote guide books to let legislators know trails existed. He figured if a book was written and published it would be proof that there were hikers out there walking the trails. What he did not know in 1963 when he started the idea that he was on the beginning of the wave of the Green Revolution and hundreds of thousands of people young and old would be out exploring and looking for places to go. My father never made

much on the sale of the books and after costs the books were a break-even proposition at best. But getting the word out to help encourage and promote access for folks to see the out-of-doors was his desire."

Many memories have been shared since Ira's passing. His photographs, books and humor touched countless lives. Author Joan Burton: "Once when I was hiking the Green Mountain trail with him to check it for the children's book, we came to a stubborn marmot guarding his hole. He wouldn't let us pass on the trail. Ira spoke directly to him, cajoling and flattering him. The marmot listened to Ira's sweet talk, then relented and let us pass. Who could resist Ira?"

"He lived an extraordinary life, on his own terms," writes veteran VOW crew leader Steve Babbitt. "If only each of us can make that statement when we go. We are worse upon his passing, and he will be missed, but his legacy will live on."

Ira's legacy includes the Spring Family Trail Fund, launched in 2000. Donations can be made online at www.springtrailtrust.org or by mail:

Spring Family Trail Fund
18819 Olympic View Drive
Edmonds, WA 98020

The rehabilitation of the Bandera Mountain / Mason Lake Trail, a project VOW is finishing this year, was a passion of Ira Spring's. The Forest Service is renaming the trail in his honor.

Annual Dinner & Celebration!

- November 1, 2003 -

Mark your calendar and join us for a look back at 2003 and a look ahead to 2004! Food, fun and friends. Like last year, we'll be gathering at the Meadowbrook Community Center. Please contact the VOW office for details.



National Trails Day, 2003, on the Bandera Mountain / Mason Lake Trail. Have just as much fun (minus the mosquitoes) at our Annual Celebration!



Woodinville Park Project



Volunteers for Outdoor Washington, in partnership with the City of Woodinville and the Woodinville Rotary Club, is pleased to announce the launching of a new trail project in Woodinville's Rotary Community Park.



Lane Youngblood (front), Parks Director for the City of Woodinville, and VOW's Janet Wall identify a good place for boardwalk.

On Saturday, September 6th, the City of Woodinville held a Grand Opening for Phase I of the park project, a skateboard and BMX area. VOW has an instrumental role in Phase II: trail construction and habitat restoration in 17 acres of woodland and wetland. In July we signed an agreement with the City of Woodinville that details our role as trail consultants to the landscape architect and as trainers of volunteers and crew leaders during trail construction. The **first trail work party** is on National Public

Lands Day, **September 20th** at 10am. The centerpiece of this property is Little Bear Creek, one of the most important salmon-bearing streams entering the Sammamish River.

Trail plans:

- Boardwalk and soft surface trail
- Interpretive signs
- Viewing platforms

Habitat Restoration plans:

- Remove outbuildings and debris
- Remove invasive species
- Plant native species
- Install large woody debris

Upon completion, the park will be used as an outdoor classroom for Northshore District students. (Woodinville High School is located across the street; Woodin Elementary is nearby.)

Volunteers for Outdoor Washington is proud to be a part of this community effort. Please contact the VOW office for details on work parties and other opportunities for you to get involved.



Spawning Sockeye salmon in Little Bear Creek.



VOW President Al Wagar announces the safe handling tools at a Ravenna work party in July.

Announcements

Iron Goat Trail President's Day Work Party & Salmon Dinner, Saturday September 27th

Join The Mountaineers' President Glenn Eades for this annual event. Volunteers will be constructing a five-foot wide barrier-free section near the eastern end of Twin Tunnels (accessed from the future Scenic trail-head site on Highway 2). You will be richly rewarded for your work: a yummy dinner at the Stevens Pass Lodge featuring cedar plank-baked salmon served by VOW chef Richard Botts. Free to volunteers! Sign up through Mountaineers at 206 284-8484 by Sept. 24th. Questions? Contact Janet Wall (425 392-5506) or Mike Sharpe (206 706-4691).

VOW Seeks Treasurer

Do you like the great outdoors? Are you good with money? VOW is seeking to fill its Treasurer position. Responsibilities include producing financial reports, managing funds and coordinating the development of our annual budget. Interested? Please contact Todd Jennings, VOW Executive Director, at 206 517-3019.



Workplace Giving!

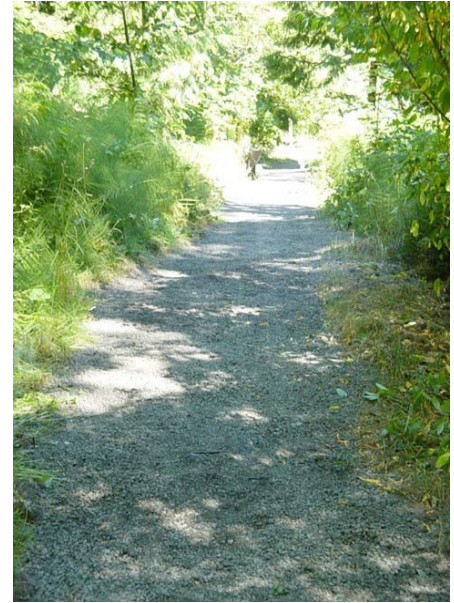
Fall is the season for many workplace giving campaigns. Workplace giving is a means by which employees donate to charitable organizations of their choice, primarily through payroll pledges. Donations through payroll pledges enable Volunteers for Outdoor Washington to spend less time fundraising and more time working toward a healthier environment. VOW is a member of Earth Share of Washington, an alliance of 65 leading conservation and environmental organizations. By partnering with businesses and government agencies, Earth Share of Washington inspires employees to support the environment through workplace giving campaigns and volunteerism.



Don't know if you have a workplace giving program? Want to setup a campaign at your workplace? Visit www.esw.org for more information or call 206-622-9840.



Microsoft work party, 10am



Microsoft work party, 3pm

“So what do you guys do?” It's a question we get a lot. Trail maintenance and construction is the pat reply, but as you can see above, our work is best described with pictures. Trail and restoration work is very rewarding—it's always nice to turn around at the end of the day and be able to say, 'Hey, I did that!' A participant in the Microsoft work party this July put it this way: "It was indeed gratifying seeing how a group of 30 people could make that kind of a positive impact on an urban landscape." Call 206 517-3019 or visit www.trailvolunteers.org to find out how you can make a difference.

Dates to Remember

- Sept. 20 Woodinville Work Party—the first one!
- Sept. 22 VOW Board Meeting
- Sept. 27 President's Work Party & Salmon Dinner, Iron Goat
- Oct. 4 Mountaineers Work Party, Bandera
- Oct. 27 VOW Board Meeting
- Nov. 1 VOW Annual Meeting / Dinner / Celebration!

Project Work Parties

Bandera Mountain / Mason Lake

Sept. 20, 21, 27; Oct. 4, 5, 11, 18, 19, 25

Iron Goat

Sept. 20, 24, 27; Oct. 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29

Lime Kiln / Robe Canyon Historic Park

Oct. 2, 5, 11, 16, 19

Trail Notes

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