

2003 Trail Plans

Another exciting season of trail work is just around the next switchback. In addition to the big three detailed below, VOW is looking to move dirt in urban parks around the Puget Sound area. So stay tuned to your mailbox, email inbox, and www.trail-stewards.org for the latest. Remember, experience is not necessary—interest and enthusiasm are the only requirements. *See you on the trail!*



Trail veterans Duane Acheson and Jim Oosterhof construct rock headwall for culvert installation near

Robe Canyon

Steve Dean and his dedicated team of volunteers are the first out of the gate this year. VOW will kick off the 2003 volunteer season at Robe Canyon with a trail maintenance work party on the Old Robe Trail on Sunday, March 2nd. Subsequent work parties will focus on construction of the fledgling Lime Kiln Trail, tracing the abandoned Everett & Monte Cristo Railway route along the south side of the South Fork Stillaguamish River. The Lime Kiln Trail work will begin with construction of a river loop trail segment at the far end of the 3.5-mile future trail. As the seasons progress, volunteers will apply finishing touches to the trail, working their way towards the trailhead, hoping to complete the trail in late 2003 or early 2004.



Iron Goat

Since the ambitious Iron Goat Trail project first broke ground some 14 years ago, 2,500 volunteers have contributed over 100,000 hours. The IGT hiker register testifies to a job well done: "Even my knees enjoyed this Cadillac of trails. Good work! Thanks for making it wheelchair accessible Best trail in the state."

For 2003, work will continue on the Scenic segment near US Hwy 2, extending 0.5 miles toward the Martin Creek trailhead on the lower grade. Volunteers will also continue to maintain the existing trail, repairing the tread damaged by avalanche debris.

Work parties are slated to commence at the end of April, but mark your calendars now for the season opener: Wednesday, April 16th 6pm at The Mountaineers.

Please note: The Iron Goat Information Line is no more. Please direct all IGT inquires to the VOW office at 206.517.4469.



Bandera/Mason Lake

"Look down to lakes in forest bowls," wrote trail writer Harvey Manning of Bandera Trail, "out north to Glacier Peak and Baker, northeasterly to Snoqualmie peaks, down south to the freeway and beyond to Mt. Rainier, and west past the portals of Mt. Washington and Mailbox Peak to Puget Sound. Civilization is so near but so is wilderness."

Assuming Mother Nature cooperates, the first Bandera Trail work party will take place on May 17th this year. Volunteers can look forward to 0.5 miles of backsloping and tread work and assisting in turning back the clock on the original trail to when there was no trail. With good conditions and a good turnout, the Bandera/Mason Lake Trail should be completed this year!



Harold and crew strike a scenic pose on the Bandera Trail last year.



Todd with Owen (five months) and Ruby (über lab).

New Executive Director

The rumors are true. Earlier this year VOW welcomed Todd Jennings as Executive Director.

Todd looks forward to teaming with the Board of Directors, coordinating with volunteers, and partnering with agencies and organizations to move VOW forward in exciting new directions. He has a Master's in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington and a Bachelor's in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. Todd's non-profit experience includes organizations in the Pacific Northwest, New York City, and Africa. Most recently, he and his wife Anne worked as environmental consultants and tidepool interpreters on the Oregon Coast.

An avid hiker, Todd is looking forward to spending some outdoor time on VOW projects. When not at the office, he changes the diaper of his five month-old, Owen Thomas, and daydreams about sleep. Then he changes another diaper.

Sweet recreation barred, what doth ensue;
But moody and dull melancholy;
Kinsman to grim and comfortless despair.
—William Shakespeare

Trail Notes

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PAID
 Permit No. 534
 Seattle, WA

Return Service Requested



For the latest information and work party details call the office or click on our soon-to-be-updated website at www.trail-stewards.org. To be a Robe Canyon volunteer, contact Steve Dean at 360-652-7181 or steveandnancydean@msn.com.

VOW CALENDAR

February

24th VOW Board Meeting, 6:45pm (Campfire Building)

March

2nd Old Robe Trail work party
 11, 15, 20, 23 Lime Kiln Trail work parties
 24th VOW Board Meeting, 6:45pm

April

16th Iron Goat Season Opener! 6pm, The Mountaineers

May

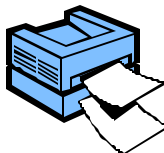
17th Bandera Opening Day! (weather permitting)

June

7th National Trails Day! Stay tuned for VOW activities.



A volunteer improves Seattle's Seward Park. (2002)



VOW Office Needs a Printer

Do you have a laser printer gathering dust in your garage, or an extra one at the office? Chances are you've been waiting for the perfect opportunity to donate it to your favorite volunteer organization. Wait no more. Please contact the office if you have any leads. And thank you.

VOW
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Volunteers for Outdoor Washington (VOW) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting volunteer stewardship of recreation, natural, and heritage resources in Washington State. We partner with land managers to accomplish trail construction and maintenance, youth development, interpretation, and other service projects. VOW is a member of Earth Share of Washington.

We depend on volunteer efforts and contributions. Please fill out form and send to VOW. Thank you for your generous support!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I'd like to volunteer. Please send me a volunteer profile form.

I'd like to become a member/renew my membership:

\$25 individual \$30 family

\$50 Contributor \$100 Supporter \$100 + Patron

I'd like to support VOW with a donation of \$ ____.

Note: If your employer will match your gift, please include a gift-matching form.