



Trail Notes

Spring 2004

2004 and the Goat Rolls On



*Submitted by Janet Wall, Publicity,
IGT Planning Coordination Team*

Progress has been made this winter on the preparations for the "Iron Goat Interpretive Site" at the junction of the Old Cascade Highway and Highway 2, now referred to simply as the "Scenic Site."

The memoranda of agreement between the various partners (Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), VOW, USDA Forest Service, and the Town of Skykomish), are in progress, which makes it possible to pass National Scenic Byway grant funds from one entity to another.

This allows the partners to proceed with ordering the timbers and other supplies for this year's trail construction and with the acquisition of a 1951 Great Northern caboose for the Scenic Site (see photo!). This also enables WSDOT to move forward with the King County environmental permitting process and to complete the survey and design work begun by Seattle University engineering and environmental students.

Our primary goals in 2004 are to complete the construction of the five-foot wide trail along the lower grade from Scenic to Martin Creek and to begin work on the crossover trail to Windy Point Overlook.

VOW will be building some 200 feet of puncheon in a rock-cut area near Twin Tunnels, installing additional culverts and raising the trail near the box-culvert area to deal with flooding problems. We also hope to construct



Photo by Mike Sharpe

VOW is using National Scenic Byways funds to acquire this **1951 Great Northern caboose** from the Henry Wetzel Estate in Puyallup. Vital stats: 57,000 lbs, 36' long (to the end ladders), 14.5' tall, 10' wide, all steel construction, built by Great Northern in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and active on both the Great Northern and Burlington Northern railways through the 1970s. Our favorite caboose will be located at the Scenic Site—on WSDOT property—in the summer of 2005.

the trail segment that will connect the parking lot at Scenic to the railroad grade. **In order to accomplish this ambitious agenda, 32 volunteer construction work parties have been scheduled.**

Trail maintenance of the existing nine miles of trail has become increasingly important; this year 18 work parties are devoted to those activities. As in prior years, work parties are on most Wednesdays and Saturdays from May through October. The ever-popular Volunteer Vacation—totaling five trail work days—is scheduled for the third week of July.

Signup is simple and easy through the VOW website, trailvolunteers.org, or you can still phone the monthly coordinator. (The April/May coordina-

tor is Suzy Stockton, 425-643-0395.) For specific dates of all VOW work parties and events please see the calendar insert.

Come join us on the Iron Goat!

Prepare for an Exciting New Season on the Iron Goat!

Come hear what has been going on behind the scenes to prepare for 2004 at the **IGT Season Opener, Wednesday, April 14.**

- Sign-in at 6:30 pm.
- Bring a friend!
- Light refreshments will be served.

Mountaineers Building
300 3rd West, Seattle
Fireside Room

Looking Back, Looking Forward

2003 Trail Work Totals:

- Ira Spring Trail: 122 volunteers, 2,353 hours
- Iron Goat Trail: 170 volunteers, 3,155 hours
- Robe Canyon: 77 volunteers, 1,730 hours
- Ravenna Park: 94 volunteers, 555 hours
- Grand total: 463 volunteers working 7,793 hours!



Constructing box steps, with a level and a smile, in Seattle's Ravenna Park.

Including administrative hours—and travel time—**VOW volunteers contributed nearly 13,000 hours in 2003.** Well done!

Whew. But no rest for the weary, there's trails in them thar' hills! **Nancy McKinnon** and other VOW crew leaders have already led work parties at Woodinville (see below), and veteran crew leaders **Harold Buresh** and **Annik Wolfe** did a training weekend at Camp Fire's Camp Sealth on Vashon Island. Harold, the 2003 VOW Volunteer of the Year, is also readying the Bandera Mountain / Mason Lake Trail for its dedication as the Ira Spring Trail on June 19th.

Steve Dean and his Robe Canyon crew have completed three miles of the Lime Kiln Trail and this year they're back to finish the job. Plans are to dedicate this trail in August!

Meanwhile, **Ruth Ittner** and the dedicated Iron Goats are ready for their 15th year of construction.

See the insert for a complete listing of work parties and a form for donations, renewing your membership or become a new member. Join us! As always, keep your mouse pointed to trailvolunteers.org for the latest



No, really. It's fun! In fact, 3 out of 3 volunteers recommend trail work as part of a balanced life.



VOW Crew Leader Nancy McKinnon conducts a safety talk at the Woodinville Park project.

Update: Woodinville's Rotary Community Park

In January, 2003 a group of University of Washington students, through the Restoration Ecology Network (REN) Program, began a habitat restoration demonstration project at the Woodinville site. They will be conducting work parties throughout the spring in conjunction with VOW, Woodinville Rotary Club, Woodinville High School and others.

UW student Jason Wine created a vegetation map of the park. His map is proving a useful tool to the City of Woodinville, REN and VOW in the restoration efforts.

The City, together with VOW, received two grants for the project: a WaterWorks grant awarded by the King County Department of Natural Resources, and one from the King Conservation District Lake Washington / Cedar / Sammamish forum. Join VOW and REN for trail building and habitat restoration efforts, including clearing brush, constructing a soft surface trail and installing boardwalk, removing invasive species and planting native species, and installing large woody debris in the salmon-bearing Little Bear Creek.



Ceremonial blessing of the Woodinville site by a local Native American group in early spring 2004.

News from the Board

It's an election year, and so we can't help but get caught up in the mud-slinging. On second thought, we'll stick to the high trail and just introduce the newest members of the VOW Board. Welcome!

Kim Carlson, Treasurer

Known as "Carpenter Kim" to family and friends, Kim Carlson lives with her husband Bill in Marysville. They have four sons. A financial consultant extraordinaire, over the years she has found time to volunteer for the Boy Scouts, Be the Star you Are!, an organization targeting at-risk-youth through literacy, and of course, VOW. Kim and her family have been very involved with Robe Canyon Trail projects (see the website she created at www.robecanyon.org!). We are grateful to Kim for her service and are excited to welcome her as Treasurer to the VOW Board of Directors.

Ann Eschenbach

Ann was born and raised in Baraboo, Wisconsin. She attended Carleton College and graduated from Lawrence College. After college she taught high school English and History in Madison, Wisconsin, and later moved to the Northwest where she graduated from Law School at the University of Washington, and since has been involved in various environmental and indigenous peoples' conflicts in Washington State.

Julai Fox

Julai is a Pacific Northwest native! She is a graduate of Central Washington University and now works as a Certified Public Accountant. Julai enjoys the outdoors; hobbies include rollerblading and hiking. She was christened in trail work with VOW last summer on the vertical but view-full Bandera Mountain / Mason Lake Trail (soon to be the Ira Spring Trail!). Julai joined the Board at the end of 2003.

Christine Wolf, VP

Born and raised in Germany, Christine came to Seattle to attend school 17 years ago and never looked back. Armed with a Master's degree in Public Administration from the UW Christine soon begins work for the Port of Seattle. In addition to serving on VOW's Board, Christine also chairs the Recreation Resources Division of The Mountaineers. One of her more memorable jobs as a child was being responsible for moving the German Alpine Club's outhouse every weekend!

Kim Zelo

Kim was raised near the Sierra foothills in California. She holds a BA in Environmental Studies from Cal State Stanislaus, and a Master's from the College of Forest Resources at the UW. Kim is a highly ranked pool player and has fond memories of

an Alaska to Seattle motorcycle trip. A certified real estate agent, Kim now toils for Microsoft. Future plans include being the first woman to jump the Grand Canyon on motorcycle!

And special thanks to **Fran Troje** for her years of service on the Board. Fran remains active with all things VOW, naturally. Thanks, too, to **Mike Sharpe** who is serving as the Board's Iron Goat Trail Representative. Finally, **Corey Watson** is our work-study student. Originally from Kentucky, Corey moved to the left coast three years ago and in June will boast a B.S. in Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College. The Peace Corps has tapped him for coastal management community work in Asia beginning in January 2005.

BASIC TRAINING!

For the novice or the experienced looking to hone their skills, VOW is offering classroom training on trail construction and maintenance.

April 17th, 2004

8:30am - 12:00pm

**Camaraderie Conference Rm,
Camp Fire USA Bldg.**

RSVP at trailvolunteers.org

Every now and then it's good to pause and say **thank you!** to the many individuals, organizations, agencies, partners and others who help VOW carry out its mission to train volunteers, promote stewardship, build and maintain trails, restore habitat and preserve the rich heritage of this beautiful state we call home. The short list:

American Hiking Society • Burlington Northern Santa Fe • Camp Fire USA • Harry E. Chesman • City of Woodinville • Dunn Lumber Co. • Earth Share of Washington • James R. Ellis • John De Graaf • Great Northern Railway Historical Society • Homestreet Bank, Wedgwood Branch (thanks Gina landola!) • Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation • William & Shirley Hunter • Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation • JJ Graphics & Signs • Alan Jennings • Anne Jennings • Estelle Kapland • King County Cultural Development Authority • King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks • Lake Stevens Rotary Club • Microsoft User Experience Group (thanks Rich Van Schaik!) • Mountains to Sound Greenway • Osberg Family Trust • Michael Osterhoudt • Pacific Northwest Trail Association • Puget Sound Energy • REI (thanks Tim Smith!) • Ella Riach Family • Seattle Parks and Recreation • Starbucks *Make Your Mark* Volunteer Program (thanks Kevin Petrisko!) • Stevens Pass Greenway • Stillaguamish Citizens Alliance • The Mountaineers Foundation • Town of Skykomish • United Way of King County • USDA Forest Service • UW Restoration Ecology Network • Randy Washburne • Washington State Department of Transportation • Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation • Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission • Washington Trails Association • Henry Wetzal Estate • Diana Wilmar • Woodinville Rotary Club • Zipcon Internet Services



Photo by Bob Chesterman

Last October the Old Robe Trail was drenched by flooding of the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River. The following is courtesy of **Bob Chesterman**, Robe Canyon volunteer and photographer:

“As I entered the canyon proper, the humidity level was very high and a mild fog rose above the river—very spooky. You didn't have to move much before you were sweating bricks, the air was thick ... there were a lot of small waterfalls cascading

down between the grade and the hillside ... Suddenly I heard a large ‘crack’ and a tree across the river did a header into the river with a loud splash—you could hear this above the roar of the Stilly. Very impressive.

“That made me stop and reconsider if I was being smart going any further into the canyon. Well, that dumb explorer spirit won out ... The whole trip was a constant stopping to take pics and oohing and ahing at the majesty of nature in her fury.”

Thanks to Bob Chesterman

for this spectacular photo. For more images of last fall's flooding, and for Bob's complete eyewitness account, visit www.robecanyon.org.

Trail maintenance is critical but often overlooked. Be it Mother Nature, being loved to death by hikers like you and me, or a bit of both, our prized Northwest trails need help. Join a VOW work party or give what you can—or both! See the insert for how to give and how to be a part of this year's trail work.

Trail Notes

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Seattle, WA 98115-3101

Phone: 206 517-3019
Email: info@trailvolunteers.org
Website: trailvolunteers.org

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