

Winter 2022

# Trail Crafters News

Olympic Peninsula, Washington



New Trail Project  
Coordinator  
Rebecca Wanagel

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501

(c)(3) organization with 31 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies.

## Special Interest Articles

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## PENINSULA CHAPTER BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

PO Box 451, Carlsborg, WA 98324 visit us on FB [peninsulabchwchapter@gmail.com](mailto:peninsulabchwchapter@gmail.com)

Peninsula Chapter's New Website: [www.pbchw.org](http://www.pbchw.org) (New photos, maps, past Newsletters, Calendar, and other information are being added frequently.)

Upcoming Events: Feb. 2 Zoom Mtg & Program; Mar. 13 "Rides of March" (Trail Ride)  
(There is a new Calendar on the website. Click the date of any event to see more.)

Newsletter Editor: Donna Hollatz [jdhollatz@gmail.com](mailto:jdhollatz@gmail.com)

## President's Message

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times..." This famous quote from Charles Dickens' Tale of Two Cities reflects the world we live in today. The New Year, 2022, holds out both promise and disappointment. Covid has reshaped our world in both positive and negative ways. It is up to us to focus on the promise and the positive and move forward to growing the Peninsula Chapter from its strong foundation into an organization that is well positioned to meet the many challenges of a rapidly changing world. I am honored to have been selected as your president and to work with the talented and dedicated people who have built the Peninsula Chapter into one of the strongest and most accomplished in the State. Now, it is time, for the leadership board, in partnership with all of you, the membership, to identify the next steps needed for the continued success of this exceptional Chapter.

By strengthening our membership and building our resources, we can, together, ensure that the Peninsula Chapter remains an effective organization and a Force to be reckoned with for keeping trails open for all users and stock. Every good trail ride begins with a map (or an app) to point the way. Likewise, the Chapter needs a map for planning its future course. Therefore, we are in the process of finalizing a work plan that identifies priorities and outlines specific actions for their accomplishment. This plan will include strategies for continuing to conduct significant trail work, expanding educational and training opportunities to enhance trail and horsemanship skills, advocating for trail safety and conservation, and hosting a variety of activities and events that will enrich and enlarge our Chapter's special fellowship. In addition, we will be sending out a survey to identify members' interest, talents and skills thus, providing a pool of resources that will make the implementation of this work plan a reality and success.

So, saddle up and get ready to ride this trail into 2022!

Theresa

## Introduction of New Officers!

### Meet our New President---by Theresa Percy

What do an east coast transplant, a retired Library Director, and an avid trail rider who is leery of drop off switchbacks at high elevations, have in common? They are all biographical facts of your new president. The West has always had an allure to me and, after college graduation, I finally had a chance to Come West as a Vista volunteer (the predecessor to Americore) working for a self-help housing project in Sumner, WA. Following a year of service, I returned to Massachusetts, got my Library Degree and had a 35 year career as a library director. Well, you can take the person out of the West but you can never take the West out of the person. When I had a job opportunity in Port Townsend, I packed my suitcase, and headed west with my truck, trailer and 2 horses.

I had never heard of Back Country Horsemen until, shortly after I arrived in 2004 and was invited to a Buckhorn Chapter meeting. The rest is history. I totally embraced BCHW's mission of trails and since I had been trail riding "forever" I felt it was time to do my part for keeping these trails open. Making a contribution for the future is important to me. That is why I was a public library director, a position which could positively impact a community. Influencing positive change is also why I am willing to step up and be part of an organization that works, not only, to keep trails open, but also, advocates and educates for their safe and enlightened use, hopefully forever. In this case, I want to Leave a Trace for trail users now and in the future!



Theresa and Tico

A **Peninsula Membership Survey** was emailed to all members on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Have you completed it? For another copy, contact Denise Hupfer at [dhupfer1@outlook.com](mailto:dhupfer1@outlook.com). We need your input!

## Meet our New Vice-President---by Kim Merrick

In the days before the internet, BCHW was sometimes hard to find. When I found the Cascade Horse Club Chapter in 1997, I spent a few minutes yelling at them after they introduced me. I had recently moved to Lake Stevens and was looking for people to ride with and information about local trails. I had a nice Quarab gelding that I raised from a weanling. I had no idea then that I would be doing a lot more than riding Rusty on the trails!

Cascade Horse Club Chapter was busy. I was able to participate in some rides, work parties and Dutch oven cooking clinics. By the next March, one of our members became the BCHW President. When the Trailhead News editor was looking to move on, I was asked to edit the Trailhead News. In those days I used scissors and tape to put it together on a card table in my living room. It was around that time that I went on my first horse camping trip, to Kalama Horse Camp. I drove my truck all the way there first so I would know what to expect. It's still my favorite place.

After moving to Enumclaw, I continued with the THN for another year or so. I joined Tahoma Chapter in 1999. It was there my friend Colleen and I first started making a Dutch oven lunch for work parties. It's a great way to get more people at a work party. In 2004 Colleen and I did our first of 8 or 10 multi-day work party with a crew of about 35 people from 3 chapters. The first 2 years all the food got packed into the Goat Hole off the PCT. Our Goal was "NO LEFTOVERS". Those 'Tri-Chapter' work parties, had more participants every year, until we were feeding 85 for 4 days. That experience morphed into heading up the kitchen crew for the first 7 'State-Wide' work parties.

Some people know me from chairing the Rendezvous Auction. I started doing that in 2006 I think, taking over from Jeff Swanberg. I will say that I never, ever had problems getting helpers, and I am grateful for that, because it's a big job. These days I head up Leadership Training (now being held over 2days!), and I also have helped at the Winery Ride (THAT is an experience). I retired from teaching in 2021 and moved to the Olympic Peninsula last summer - I wonder what new things I can do here when not riding my mule Eloise.

I like the feeling of contributing to something bigger than myself. I had not done much volunteer work before joining BCHW. My involvement has taught me that I am competent, that working together is fun, and if a job seems too big, you can probably cut it down and divide it up. I have learned teamwork and leadership, planning, discretion and tolerance from my experience. I have grown as a person. Most BCHW Members are problem solvers, cheerful, and hard-working. Wherever I go, YOU are my people!

Kim and her mule Ellie



## Scout Merit Badge Workshop, October 24, 2021

### Horsemanship Merit Badges for Peninsula Scouts

By Donna Hollatz

BCHW Peninsula Chapter is continuing with efforts to help local Scouts earn their Horsemanship Merit Badge that was started with a Weekend Workshop on September 25 and 26. This award requires that the Scouts acquire an extensive knowledge about horses and their care in addition to developing riding skills. They must learn and pass tests about breeds and their characteristics; conformation, colorings, and markings; feeding and nutrition; diseases and ailments; veterinary and hoof care; ground-work; horse safety; and, how to catch, bridle, saddle, and ride a horse, with control, at the walk and trot! This is a lot of knowledge, but very important for anyone involved with equines.

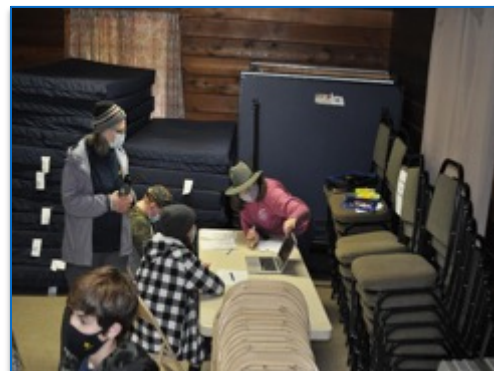
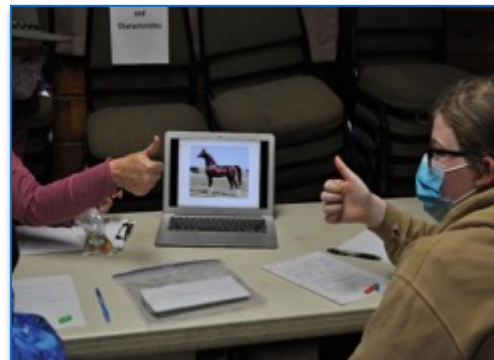
After the introductory weekend, ten Scouts are continuing on with the training and badge process. A classroom learning session was held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at Ramblewood in Sequim Bay State Park. Organized by Linda Morin and facilitated by Peninsula chapter volunteers, the Scouts were divided into small groups to study some of the information they must learn.

Julie Dalzell used posters and charts to teach about Conformation (and its importance to maintaining soundness), Colors, and Markings. Kim Merrick brought a power point presentation covering Breeds and their Characteristics. Judy Dupree and Kris Phillips had a large assortment of both English and Western Tack to help the Scouts develop a knowledge of all the parts of the various equipment pieces and their use and maintenance. Linda Morin covered Hoof Care and its importance. The small groups made it possible for all of the Scouts be very engaged in the learning process.

The Horsemanship Merit Badge Training will continue into the spring of 2022 with individual kids paired up with chapter members to get the riding experiences they need to complete the Badge requirements. It is the hope of Peninsula Chapter that this outreach will lead to a few kids becoming future BCHA members! This is one way to encourage equestrian pursuits in our community.



Photos  
by  
Denise  
Hupfer





## **“Last Hurrah of 2021” -- November 21, 2021**

Peninsula Chapter’s “Last Hurrah of 2021” was held at the beautifully decorated “Fox-Bell Wedding and Event Center” on Barr Road on November 21<sup>st</sup>. A bounty of wonderful foods and friendship was shared! A raffle with great prizes added to the excitement. Linda Morin presented awards to our out-going officers who have served the Chapter for several years: Dan Dosey, President; Leif Hoglund, Vice-President; Tom Mix, Trail Projects Coordinator; Del Sage, Alternate Director; and Secretary, Rob Hupfer. These wonderful volunteers, who have worked so diligently on behalf of Peninsula Chapter, will not disappear, but may now have a little more time to ride their horses! We appreciate all the time they have donated to BCHW!

We are grateful to Martha Vaughn (Shelby’s mom) for graciously allowing us to hold our gathering at her venue. The beauty of her barn added so much to the festive atmosphere. Shelby owns Fox-Bell Farm where many of our members take lessons and have training done for their horses.



## Salt Creek Trail Tree Removal, Nov. 20, 2021

Most of you are aware that **Rebecca Wanagel** has taken the reins as **Trail Projects Coordinator** (formerly held by Tom Mix). Her name has been mentioned many times in our trail reports as she is a **WTA Chief Crew Leader** and Del Sage and Tom Mix have frequently packed tools into the back country to facilitate her trail work activities. She is so very knowledgeable about all aspects of **TRAILS** that we are looking forward to her greater participation and leadership in our chapter. She has been the Chief Crew Leader for the new equestrian trail that is being built by WTA volunteers at Salt Creek. The trail should be complete by this summer—we'll let you know when!

On Saturday, November 20, a joint WTA/BCHW effort accomplished a dangerous tree removal. A live Douglas fir had uprooted and was hanging over the new Salt Creek Trail, bound up in the tops of other trees! Rebecca, Martin, Toothpick, and Tom used rigging, chainsaws, and experience to get it safely down and bucked up. Rebecca classified the work detail as a **“fun project”** and took pictures to prove it!



Photos by Rebecca Wanagel



## Miller Peninsula Trails – Fall Storm Damage

The winds have taken their toll on the trails of Miller Peninsula. There was a big blow on October 24th. Jim and Donna Hollatz rode and cleared numerous blow-downs on Fireweed, Bluff Trail, and Manzanita on November 20, 29, and December 3. The new Park Ranger, Jacob Ellis, who is assigned to Miller, helped with removal of a huge pile on Manzanita. We are so happy to have a ranger who will be able to spend time in the park we love so much. The trails were mostly open by December 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Another wind storm, along with snow, on January 2<sup>nd</sup> did even more damage. A local bicycle riding group reached out to help with trees across the Beach Trail. Trees that fall across that canyon and hang above ground require experienced sawyers for safe removal. The riders offered the “muscle” to clear the debris if Peninsula Chapter could cut and buck the logs. Tom Mix and Jim Hollatz worked for 5 hours to clear that 1.5 mile section of trail. There were more than 40 trees (10”-24” diameter) to remove. About a dozen bicycle riders rode in from all sides of the park on January 6, clearing the trails along the way with hand saws. They converged at the Beach Trail and moved all the cut logs and branches. It was a tiring day for our sawyers, but having the help of a number of strong, younger, people was delightful.



## Miller Peninsula Trails – Fall Storm Damage - continued

### Miller Peninsula, Storm Damage (cont.)

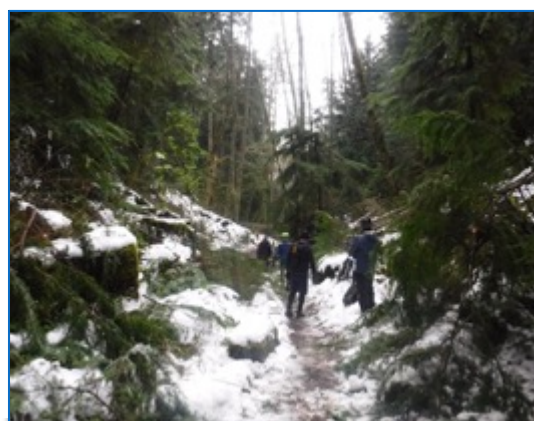
Everyone worked together seamlessly and plans are being made to combine our efforts on future trail work. It will be a great benefit to the chapter to get these much younger, energetic individuals involved with keeping trails open.



Manzanita: Before and After



Beach Trail Obstacles



Helpful Bicycle Volunteers on the Beach Trail

## Special Announcements:

**General Membership Meeting:** Our next General Membership Meeting will be held by **ZOOM** on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. Our special program for that evening will be a presentation by Jeff Chapman, "Fourteen days of nomad living across the Palouse by horse, cart, and bike. An adventure for the tough of heart involving death, sandstorm, attack badger, tumbleweed, happy hours, and catered meals." (also known as the Cascades to Palouse Ride or John Wayne Ride) that he and Juelie Dalzell took part in last summer. We hope you can join us. An announcement and **link** will be sent to all members shortly before the start of the meeting.

**BCHW 2022 Calendars:** Three calendars are still available at the cost of \$10 each. Contact Denise Hupfer if you want to buy a calendar.

## GO PNC! Be Proud of Your Volunteer Trail Work!!!

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU TURN IN YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS BY THE 5<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH. Don't hesitate to send Suzanne an email, [rkingandsking@gmail.com](mailto:rkingandsking@gmail.com), as soon as you do volunteer work of any kind related to trails, events, education, or anything tied to our Mission Statement.

Here are our latest numbers and comparison from last few years:

### 2016

Total VH 7899.5

Total Value \$261,197.36

### 2017-year end

Total VH 5165

Total Value \$165,492

### 2018 year end

Total VH 6,150.5

Total Value \$205,265.50

### 2019 year end

Total VH 6,380

Total Value \$240,919.75

### 2020 year end

Total VH 9,688.5

Total Value \$326,224.00

### Oct. 1, 2020 thru September 30, 2021

Total Basic Hours	4,898	\$139,788.92
Total Skilled Hours	1,024.5	\$43,585.85
LNT & Educ.	333	9,503.82
Admin. & Plc Mtgs.	2,202.5	\$62,859.35
Travel Time	1.178	\$33,620.12
Total Hours	9,636	\$289,631.06
Vehicle Mileage	28,600	\$28,600.00
Total Miles	28,600	\$28,600.00
Total Stock Days	153	\$15,300.00

Grand Total \$333,531.06.

## **VOLUNTEERING IT'S WHO WE ARE MAKE YOUR HOURS COUNT – REPORT THEM**

### October 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021

Total Basic Hours	683.5 hours
Total Skilled Hours	226.5 hours
LNT and Education	443 hours
Admin & Public Mtgs.	582..5 hours
Travel Time	160 hours
Vehicle Mileage	3300 Miles
Stock Days	56

**As You Can See We Have a Good Start on the New Year!**

**Peninsula Chapter has more than double the hours of any other chapter in Washington!**



## Volunteer Hours – Over Achievers Club

We want to applaud our Volunteers who have gone above and beyond this year to keep trails open and take care of the administrative details that BCHW requires. The following 15 volunteers donated more than 200 hours each of time on BCHW projects in 2021.

	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Stock Days</u>
Tom Mix	1636	51
Denise Hupfer	788	
Mike Bonomo	614	
John Wegeman	488	
Jim Hollatz	440	18
Donna Hollatz	403	9
Del Sage	347	42
Suzanne James-King	314	3
Paul Kamps	313	
Randy Kraxberger	288	
David Graves	281	
Joanne Graves	272	
Greg Raymond	271	
Paul Hornberger	254	
Mark Platt	201	

Some of these workers are part of the Olympic Discovery Trail "Thursday Crew" who donate their hours to BCHW although they are not members of our chapter

Important Events to add to your calendar:

Feb. 26, 2022	Frosty Moss Relay Race, Dan Kelly Trailhead
Mar. 13, 2022	Rides of March (First trail ride of the year! Location not yet decided.)

## Report Trail Hazards

Please Report Trail Hazards on Website: [www.pbchw.org](http://www.pbchw.org)

If you encounter downed trees or other trail hazards while riding, please report them so our trail crews can address and correct the problem.

- Go to the website.
- Click on “contact”
- Give a description of the problem and where it is located. Be specific: date, which trail, approximately where along trail, size of tree or explain problem. Leave contact information if possible.

The website is monitored daily and this information will allow us to get the information to the necessary workers in a timely manner.

Thank You!

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### Trailhead Courtesy Reminder:

State Park personnel have complimented equestrians on the improved Parking Lot clean up, but everyone should be reminded to practice the **Leave No Trace** principles that we teach. Be sure to clean up any “deposits” you and your horses leave around your horse trailers or on the trails. If you cannot get your horse to move off the trail to “poop,” dismount and kick the stuff off the trail (especially the ADA section at Miller). Walkers and bicycle riders will appreciate your courtesy! This includes shavings and hay in the parking area! Park rangers use a “blower” to clean the parking lot, and some of that stuff just won’t move when damp! We want to be sure that equestrians set a good example for other trail users.

### New Request to All Members:

We are working toward having accurate information regarding **Trailhead Parking** on our Website.

**Please:** If you go to a trailhead, take a photo of your truck and trailer that shows the parking lot.

Send those photos to me and also report any unsatisfactory road conditions or problems with stock rig maneuvering space. This will be very helpful to people planning trips. (If we get multiple photos of the same lot, we’ll be able to choose the best one.) Send photos and information to Donna Hollatz [jdhollatz@gmail.com](mailto:jdhollatz@gmail.com) 360-457-6694.

## Photography Assistance Requested

One of the best ways to document all of our wonderful activities is through photos! We do not have an official photographer and it is difficult for one person to be at all of our events, so it would be extremely helpful if those of you in attendance would take some photos and send them to Newsletter editor, Donna Hollatz ([jdhollatz@gmail.com](mailto:jdhollatz@gmail.com)). This documentation can then be used for posters, newsletters, state calendar, and other promotions. If you have a photo that you feel is worthy of submission to “Chapter Accomplishments” or “Calendar” at the state level, please send it to me “full size” as that is the format that is needed for submissions.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE SENT PHOTOS IN THE PAST!

## Your 2022 Peninsula Chapter Officers & Chairs

Take the time to note that this list of Chapter members continues to step up and be your Board Directors and Chairs. They do an outstanding job. We are a very successful BCHW Chapter because of the work they do for you. You can support them in many ways: attend your General Meetings, do volunteer event and trail work, attend our ride events, join every year, bring in new members, and send them a thank you now and then. As with all organizations, burn out is a given. Consider shadowing the person who holds one of these positions so that you can step up to take their place in the near future. Your Chapter's future depends on you!

<b>President</b> – Theresa Percy	<a href="mailto:teopercy@gmail.com">teopercy@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b> – Kim Merrick	<a href="mailto:eloise55@gmail.com">eloise55@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b> – Denise Hupfer	<a href="mailto:dhupfer1@outlook.com">dhupfer1@outlook.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> – Denise Hupfer	
<b>State Director</b> – Theresa Percy	<a href="mailto:teopercy@gmail.com">teopercy@gmail.com</a>
<b>Alternate State Director</b> – Vacant	
<b>Trail Project Coord.</b> – Rebecca Wanagel	<a href="mailto:rwanagel@gmail.com">rwanagel@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership Chair</b> - Vacant	
<b>Events &amp; Education Chair</b> - Linda Morin	<a href="mailto:ehoytr3@yahoo.com">ehoytr3@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Volunteer Hours Chair</b> – Suzanne James-King	<a href="mailto:rkingandsking@gmail.com">rkingandsking@gmail.com</a>
<b>Publicity Chair</b> – Donna Hollatz	<a href="mailto:jdholatz@gmail.com">jdholatz@gmail.com</a>
<b>Email for the Chapter:</b>	<a href="mailto:peninsulabchwchapter@gmail.com">peninsulabchwchapter@gmail.com</a>

**Membership 2022**     25 members have not renewed for 2022. Please take care of this detail if you have forgotten!

At this time, we have 77 members, including all family members. There are 11 brand new memberships for a total of 45 memberships (which are sometimes more than one person).

Membership is for one year, beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We welcome new members at any time and always enjoy meeting new people. We have a lot of fun while working to keep trails open to everyone. You don't need a horse to belong and contribute or work with us. If you have friends who are interested in joining, please have them follow these directions:

Go to [www.pbchw.org](http://www.pbchw.org). Click or tap the JOIN tab. Click or tap on the Back Country Horsemen logo. Complete the form. Online payment is at the bottom of the form. It is very simple. If anyone has any questions about it, they may call Denise 425-221-1752.

If a paper form is desired, go to our website, [www.pbchw.org](http://www.pbchw.org), click or tap on the JOIN tab, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click or tap on the image of the paper form. It will populate and can be printed from there. Follow the instructions on the form for mailing and payment.



**Summer Horse Needed**

Larry Gonzales (a long-time Peninsula Chapter member) is looking for a:

**Trail Horse to Care-Lease**

(food/farrier provided) for the

**Summer 2022.**

Larry's older Paint, "Sonny," can't do trails anymore, but Larry's mind and body (almost 80) still have a few rides left! Larry is a very kind rider and takes good care of his mount. He usually rides with Monte Rivett. Rides would only be **walk** at either Miller Peninsula or Dungeness Trails, no rough stuff! **The horse needs to trailer well and be gentle and kind.** If anyone has such a "gem" that needs some **TLC** and **exercise** next summer, please give Larry a call at **760-518-1753** and see what you can arrange. You could make Larry very happy!

**Classified Ads**

All BCHW members can post a free equine or farm related ad. 20 words or less. Must include contact info. Due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month by email: [PeninsulaBCHWChapter@Gmail.Com](mailto:PeninsulaBCHWChapter@Gmail.Com)

**Special Trail Opportunity**

Two Weekends a Month – January–June

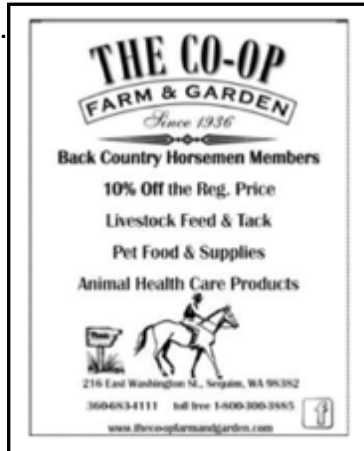
**Come Learn to Build Trail!**

Striped Peak is one of the most beautiful trails near to us. WTA and BCHW have been working hard to build a new, up-to-stock-standards loop trail from Salt Creek...and the project will continue through June. Our own Peninsula Chapter Trail Project Director, **Rebecca Wanagel**, leads a WTA crew on this project and is urging BCHW to help. Peninsula members, this is your time to contribute!

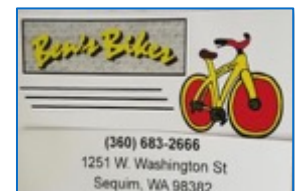
*Beginning trail workers will be trained—there is not a better way to learn to build a trail...than to build one!* Your volunteer hours will be accounted to BCHW chapter grant volunteer hours commitment and there is no requirement to sign up on the WTA site...just sign in as a BCHW volunteer at the site.

Please contact Rebecca at [rwanagel@gmail.com](mailto:rwanagel@gmail.com) for information and to volunteer for the February 5–6 weekend, and for work parties throughout February, March, April, May, and June (two weekends per month). Don't wait, help now!

**Thank You** to the businesses who support our efforts!



These businesses support  
BCHW. Please take  
your business to them.



## Opportunity to Make Donations to the Chapter!

The following is from an article found in USA Today. I tried it and found it works as advertised.

October 31, 2013; [USA TODAY](#). This holiday season, Amazon is in quite the charitable mood when it comes to giving away money to nonprofits. Amazon has released a new project, [Amazon Smile](#), which gives shoppers the opportunity to donate through the site to the charity of their choice. By shopping at [smile.amazon.com](#) instead of plain old [amazon.com](#), 0.5 percent of the value of their purchases will be donated. What's even more amazing is that there seems to be no limit to the amount Amazon will give to charity, although as of now auto-renewed subscription purchases and digital products aren't included in the AmazonSmile project.

Ian McAllister, general manager of AmazonSmile, says the company did it simply "because it thought customers would love it." Donations will be made on behalf of a foundation established by Amazon, so those using AmazonSmile will not be able to claim donations as charitable deductions.

Philanthropic charities looking to register their organizations can visit [org.amazon.com](#), sign up, and begin spreading the AmazonSmile link to start the giving to your nonprofit. And, in a moment of shameless self-promotion, if you'd like to support the *Nonprofit Quarterly* (listed under the IRS and GuideStar as the Nonprofit Information Network Association) through AmazonSmile, [please click here](#) <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-4080038>

Aine Creedon

Every little bit helps so if you do buy from Amazon try this out.