



Newsletter December 14, 2008

Dear Friends of Badger, we spread our wings in all kinds of new areas and accomplished some wonderful things this year. You were the wind beneath these wings. Thank you very much for your **very generous** contributions in time, labor and dollars (see more below).

As noted, we are regrouping regarding preserving Little Badger. To raise the significant amount of money required for purchase we need a signed agreement. And...we can't get an agreement until we can make a substantial offer. We are undertaking an all out effort to identify potential "angels" who will see preservation of Little Badger as a legacy to our communities for generations to come. If the money required cannot be raised, contributions, with the donor's agreement, will go towards acquisition of **other ridge land** adjacent to the Badger Preserve in the city or county's jurisdiction. Separate monies raised from grants, memberships, and t-shirt sales go towards trail development and projects to enhance recreational use of the ridges, with approximately 1% for administration.

To affirm, FOBM's **long range goal is to preserve as much ridge land as possible** as natural open space and **establish desired trail corridors and linkages**. We are a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization and a designee of United Way.

To donate go to <http://www.friendsofbadger.org/> to download a contribution form or donate by credit card.

Upcoming Events (check our website for up-to-date details)

Thurs, December 19, 5:30 Meet **Peter Goldmark**, newly elected WA Commissioner of Public Lands, Hedges Winery, 53511 N Sunset Rd, Benton City

Sunday, December 21 Winter Solstice Meet on the second knoll atop Badger for the **4:14 PM sunset** on the shortest day of the year. Bring a flashlight for a little ceremony on top. Gather at **Bookwalter Winery** afterwards, about 5:30, for mulled cider, wine and other goodies. Co-sponsored by **Meier Enterprises** and FOBM.

January 1 New Year's Day Hike Join us for this traditional hike, jointly sponsored by the **Inter-Mountain Alpine Club** (in their 60th year!) and FOBM. Hike begins **11:00 AM** from the Skyline Trail parking lot, off of Dallas Road. See the FOBM website for directions.

Saturday, January 10, 9 AM Trail work and native plant restoration. Badger Mountain Skyline Trail, off of Dallas Road. Adam Fyall, Benton County

Thursdays, February 5th and 12th Open Space Public Workshops II. Details will be on the FOBM website soon.

March. First Annual Badger Run. Watch for details.

Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network of the Mid-Columbia Region. Friends of Badger, along with other local organizations that care about open space, worked with Tapteal Greenway

to secure the services of a consultant from the National Park Service to guide us in developing an **open space plan for our region**. We held our first public workshops in November with over 100 people attending on the questions: 1) What are your favorite open space places and activities 2) If we could have more open space and trails, what would you like to see. The Network includes representatives from city and county government from all the local jurisdictions. We very much encourage you to attend the next round of public workshops in early February. Check the FOBM website for details.

Open Space Survey. The Network wants feedback from a wide range of people in the Mid-Columbia. Your input will be invaluable for which open space we preserve and trails we create in our region. Please take the survey ASAP -- and forward it to your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. Here's the link, which is also on the home page of our Web site:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ejcMAS2uoHqULVj8G5Nqmg_3d_3d

Trail Maintenance. If you hike the trails you know they are heavily used. Jim Langdon, our intrepid Trailmaster, organized volunteers to refurbish the trails last spring and this fall. We had great turnouts and very much appreciate people's willingness to keep the trails in good shape. Volunteers guided by Jim also built a beautiful rock bench on the Canyon Trail. Also, Dave Comstock organized the leveling and graveling of the Skyline Trail parking lot, a much needed improvement.

Green Project of the Year. The City of Richland on November 2008 awarded Friends of Badger Mountain with this honor. The honor really goes to all the volunteers who have built and maintained the trails, staffed booths at trailhead and special events throughout the year, organized and hosted wine 'n cheese nights, helped out with fundraising in multiple ways, led wildflower walks and geology tours, and restored habitat with native plants. Check our website soon for a big thank you to all the volunteers.

Ice Age Floods Marker. Volunteers from Team Battelle, the Lake Lewis Chapter of the Ice Age Flood Institute of the Mid-Columbia, and FOBM installed granite erratics on both trails marking the height of the huge lake that covered the area in 900' of water in the great floods that occurred 1000's of years ago.

Truck. The truck stuck in the gully off Canyon Trail will be removed soon. Benton County staff have been burning the tumbleweeds in the gully in preparation. In the meantime please don't disturb the truck or its environs. The driver has taken responsibility. He is being cited by the Benton County Sheriff. You can read Herald articles on this singular event on our website.

Activity on Little Badger. As you may know from the Herald article of 12/3/08 http://www.tricityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/v-story_images/story/405282.html, the landowner needs to seek a permit before he can continue any action above the road already there. That road serves Crested Hills extended, approved long ago.

Web site. We encourage anyone who takes photos of or on Badger — the views, the fleurs, people hiking, biking or horse back riding, your group posing -- to send them to Gene, our webmaster at webmaster@friendsofbadger.org. Gene plans to post a seasonal rotation of photos. If you can reduce the photos down to about 800 pixels wide before sending them, that would help a lot.

Questions/Comments? Write sharon@friendsofbadger.org or call 943-8688.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your moral and financial support in our endeavors and look forward to your future support as new opportunities arise to secure ridge land and other open space for the benefit of all in our community.

Sharon Grant, President
For the Board of Friends of Badger Mountain