



News from Friends of Badger Mountain March 5, 2012

But first -- **Help Us Build a New Section of the Canyon Trail! Saturday & Sunday, March 10 and 11.** Lots of volunteers needed as we replace the rocky section on "Windy Ridge" with a new trail to the north. Work starts at **8:30 AM or 12:30 PM** both days. [To sign up, e-mail or call Jim Langdon](#), 943-3992, FOBM's Trailmaster, so he can plan the work crews. As always, bring work gloves, water, snacks, and lunch. This is a great opportunity to correct a long standing problem on our most popular trail. [Read more details from Jim on our Web site.](#)

Please note that on those days, Sat. and Sun., **the Canyon Trail will be closed** at the top of the steps. So you can take the newer Sagebrush Trail to the top of Badger, with the rest of the Canyon Trail left to the work crews.

Badger Mountain Challenge - Have you caught the buzz about the second annual Badger Mountain Challenge? Over 300 people have already entered this event that is sure to become a classic for our area! The 100-miler starts Friday, March 30 at 7:00 AM. The 50 K will start at 7:00 AM and the 15 K run/hike at 8:00 AM, Saturday, March 31. Of course, an event of this size needs lots of volunteers - preparing swag bags in advance and on race day checking in entrants, staffing aid stations, serving food, etc.

To volunteer [sign up here](#). To register and to learn a lot of interesting facts about the race, go to the [Badger Mountain Challenge Web site](#). Most entrants will finish at Trailhead Park between mid-morning and mid-afternoon on Saturday. Come out and cheer them in. Hearty food will be available all day for entrants at no cost and all others for a suggested contribution of \$5.00. Net proceeds from the race will benefit Friends of Badger Mountain and provide two scholarships for graduating seniors.

Wildflower Education - with our beautiful wildflower brochure as a guide, FOBM will be leading wildflower walks for youth, families, and the public in April and May. In the meantime, the local [Native Plant Society](#) will mount events on Badger and other nearby locations in March. [See our Friends of Badger calendar](#), and keep checking for new dates and events.

Annual Meeting and Celebration - Nearly 200 people attended our annual meeting on January 28 at the lovely Kiona Winery, lauded again as "the best party of the year!" by enthusiastic attendees. A very valuable aspect was coming together in a social setting with people we otherwise see only on the trails. A PowerPoint presentation highlighted our **successes in 2011**:

- Finalizing the addition of 47 new acres to the Preserve for a total of 647 acres - a little over a square mile
- Strengthening the edges of the Canyon Trail and of the new Sagebrush-Skyline Trail to assure their long term viability.

- Widening and grading the road leading to the parking lot for the Skyline Trail.
- Counting over 160,000 users on the trails, an increase of over 25% from 2010!
- Launching "Hike Wine Dine" events with wineries on Red Mountain, in conjunction with the Fun Fit and Over Fifty organization.
- Leading hikes with different organizations focused on the flora and fauna of Badger Mountain.

All these accomplishments clearly attest to the fact that Badger has become a major local magnet for outdoor enjoyment. Benton County Commissioner **Leo Bowman**, West Richland Mayor **Donna Noski**, and **Kris Watkins**, CEO of the Tri-Cities Visitors and Convention Bureau, gave remarks. **Mark Ufkes** and **Bob Marguiles**, major landowners of **Candy Mountain**, laid out their vision of a preserve on Candy that, with critical support from FOBM, would link to and add up to five more miles of ridge trails. **Kent Richert**, Stewardship, and **Gene Weisskopf**, Outreach and Education, were honored as the Friends of Badger 2011. With superb wines, delicious food, a lovely spacious venue, and the chance to socialize with fellow hikers, the evening was pronounced a resounding success.

Support and Renew - The **goals of Friends of Badger Mountain** are to preserve special ridge land, build and maintain trails for non-motorized recreation, and undertake efforts for youth, families and the public to increase the enjoyment of the ridges. We have a great deal to be proud of. At the same time, we are only as successful as you who contribute time and finances to our mission.

If you're not yet a member or have not yet renewed for 2012, we would very much appreciate your support. You can [download a membership and contribution form \(PDF\)](#) and mail it in, or you can donate online. Membership contributions that were made after 10/1/2011 mean you're in good standing for 2012. If you're not sure, contact our membership chairperson [Gretchen Makinson](#).

With warm regards on behalf of the Board of Directors for the [Friends of Badger Mountain](#),

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March 5, 2011

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