



## 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](#),

Sharon Grant  
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