



News from Friends of Badger Mountain March 15, 2013

Badger Mountain Challenge - Have you caught the buzz about the third annual Badger Mountain Challenge (BMC)? Over 500 people have already entered these events that all begin and end on Badger Mountain, and traverse nearby ridges, with the 100-milers running through the night all the way to Prosser and back! New this year, the 15 K hike-or-run takes place all on trails, not partly on streets as last year.

The BMC is quickly growing in stature and recognition. The 100 mile event, now a qualifying race for the [Ultra Tour de Mont Blanc](#), has attracted people from Spain, Dubai, and all across the U.S. and Canada.

Consider becoming a **Sponsor**. Your name will be seen by nearly 2000 people who will gather in Trailhead Park, the command-central for all race events. McCurley Integrity Subaru has signed on as a major sponsor for the second year in a row. Proceeds go towards developing the **BMC** and furthering the efforts of **Friends of Badger Mountain**. You can learn about the benefits for different levels of sponsorship with this [information packet \(PDF\)](#).

Of course, an event of this size also needs lots of **Volunteers** - checking in entrants, staffing aid stations, serving food, etc. This year, signing on as a Volunteer specifically benefits FOBM. You can learn more about volunteering and sign up as well, on the [home page of the BMC](#).

To register or to volunteer 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.

Facebook - If you like Facebook, you can like [Friends of Badger there](#). You don't have to be a member of Facebook to view our page, but you do need to join to leave messages, photos, etc. Thanks to Mary Cooke for setting up our page and getting us started.

Wildflower Education - With our beautiful new wildflower brochure as a guide, FOBM will be leading wildflower walks for youth, families, and the public in April and May. The local [Native Plant Society](#) will also lead walks. [Check our Friends of Badger calendar](#) for dates and events. You can [download the brochure](#) right now (PDF, 3 MB).

Annual Meeting and Celebration - Nearly 200 people attended our annual meeting on January 26 at the lovely Kiona Winery, lauded as "the best party of the year!" by

enthusiastic attendees, as this [sampling of photographs illustrates](#). 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 2012**:

- Rerouting the "Windy Ridge" trail to a route that is a lot less rocky and less windy, as well
- Continuing to strengthen the edges of the Canyon Trail and widening the Sagebrush Trail to assure their long-term viability.
- The completion of the lovely new Badger Flats trail
- Doubling the size of the Canyon Trail and Skyline Trail parking lots
- Counting over 187,000 users on the trails, an increase of over 25% from 2011
- Continuing popular "Hike Wine Dine" events with wineries on Red Mountain, in conjunction with the [Fun Fit and Over Fifty](#) organization.
- Leading hikes with sister organizations on the flora of Badger Mountain.

We honored retiring Benton County Commissioner **Leo Bowman** with remarks by new commissioner **Jerome Delvin** and presentation of a lovely [montage of favorite Badger photos \(click to see it\)](#). **Bill Painter** was acknowledged for his climbing Badger 2000 times (and counting) as he turns 90. **Sara Hedges Goedhart**, the **Hedges Winery**, and **Jordan Youngs** of the Tri-Cities Visitors and Convention Bureau, outlined the vision for an official trail across Red Mountain, the westernmost leg of FOBM's commitment to a trail across all the ridges. 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 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 your time and finances to our mission.

If you're not yet a member or have not yet renewed for 2013, 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 from our Web site. Membership contributions that were made after 10/1/2012 mean you're in good standing for 2013. If you're not sure, contact our membership chairperson [Melinda d'Ouille](#).

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

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