



Tapteal Talk

President's Message

By Dirk Peterson

Normally by now we would have held our Annual Celebration. Ahh, but COVID. One of the features of the event is the silent auction and for several years we have had local businesses donate items for it. With all of the disruptions caused by the pandemic we worry about the 'health' of our local businesses. So we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the businesses that have donated to us and encourage our members to show them some love when they can.



Adventures Underground	Float Euphoria	Orange Theory
Airfield Estates Winery	Footwear Outfitters	Pasco Golfland
Alexandria Nicole Cellars	Frichette Winery	Perspectives Hair Salon
Anelare Winery	Frost Me Sweet	REI
Applebees	Gamache Landscaping	Roasters Coffee
Barracuda Coffee	Gianni's Fine Foods	Stone Soup Café
Bob's Burgers	Goose Ridge Winery	Style Bar
Bombing Range Brewery	Graze	Superior Tree Service
Bonefish	Greek Islands	Tap & Barrel
Brick House Pizza	Greenies	Tapteal Vineyard Winery
Canyon Lakes Golf Course	Hightower Cellars	Terra Blanca Winery
Chan Chiropractic/Massage	Hops n Drops	Thai City Restaurant
Chicken Shack	Huckaby's Tree Service	The REACH Museum
Columbia Kayak Adventures	Ice Harbor Brewery	Tim Stiteler Dog Training
Columbia Point Golf Course	Island View Market & Deli	Total Energy Management
D&D Rents	Jokers Comedy Club	Trek Bicycle Store
DavenLore Winery	Kagen Coffee & Crepes	tsp Bakeshop
Dermacare	Kiona Winery	Tucannon Cellars
Eatz Pizza	Kitzke Cellars	Twigs
Edible Arrangements	Knights Welding	Two Sisters Honey
Elements Massage	Lotus of the Moon	Velo City Cycles
Emmanuel Enterprises	Love Curry	Walter Clore Center
Ethos	McBones (George Last)	WildLands
Fat Olives	NW Paddleboarding	
Fidelitas Wines	Olive Garden	

Tapteal Trail Repair Work

By Dirk Peterson

A couple years ago an erosion problem started in a spot of the Tapteal Trail along the Horn Rapids neighborhood. Over time the problem grew to about a twenty foot stretch of the trail. After building six timber retaining walls along the Grayhawk section of the trail, we finally felt confident to repair this section. In addition to dealing with a steep hillside, the project site was located more than a third of a mile from the nearest access point and the final section of trail consisted of deep loose sand. We couldn't have taken on this project without the loan of the concrete buggy from Friends of Badger Mountain along with Jim Langdon's pickup (well actually we could have done it, but the equipment rental and delivery fees would have sunk our budget). In the process of shoveling up rock from a previous pile three of the volunteers suffered a total of eight yellowjacket stings (they had a nest under the pile and were they ever pissed at us). Other than that the project went smoothly. We started on a Tuesday and finished the following Monday (the preceding week I prepared the timbers in my driveway, and boy, those pressure treated timbers are heavy). The repair required four layers of timbers and over six yards of fill material. Funding for this project, along with the previous purchase of the concrete buggy, was provided by grants from REI. Thanks to volunteers Stan, Dan and Kip as well as the scouts from Troop 190 and Troop 219.



The first three layers of the retaining wall assembled in my driveway



Dan surveys the problem



The first three layers of the retaining wall installed



Stan surveys the completed project

Amon Creek Natural Preserve BioBlitz

By Diana McPherson

Over the weekend of October 16-19, I organized a *BioBlitz* around Amon Creek Natural Preserve (ACNP) partly in response to the proposed apartment complex application that was resubmitted to the city earlier in the month.

ACNP and the surrounding habitat has already been designated as a biodiversity corridor by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Many of you may already be aware of the diversity in the area if you've joined us on a guided hike or if you walk to the area on a regular basis on your own. So why do we need to further document the diverse flora and fauna in and around the preserve?

When you make these discoveries yourself, you develop a sense of ownership and become a steward of this 'newly discovered' place. You also contribute important species data that scientists can use to monitor a species and to help determine further conservation efforts.

A *BioBlitz* is an intense period of biological surveying in order to record all living species within a designated area. This includes birds flying overhead or perched on a shrub; dragonflies zipping by your head and rabbits taking cover under the shrubs; beetles crawling along the trail and snakes crossing the trail; spider webs on the shrubs and nests in the trees; animal tracks and scat (aka poop).

Typically, a *BioBlitz* is conducted over a 24 hour period, but given our current COVID social distancing requirements, I spread the survey time out over four days. ACNP was divided up into three zones and only two people were allowed per zone for two hour time slots. This way we could gather the data without any group gathering. We communicated via Zoom and email to make sure participants knew what to look for and what to record.

It worked out really well. We had 21 participants and documented over 25 species. Many participated on their own or with their family, and several covered more than one zone. As regular walkers in the preserve, they were now noticing things they hadn't noticed before. We also had a student from River's Edge High School survey a zone, and his class will also be helping to analyze the data.

A *BioBlitz* is a great way to engage the community and can be done in a safe, socially distanced manner. I plan to hold another one during the winter. Watch for the date in the next newsletter and on our social media channels.



Tracks
By Vas Bhardwaj



Beaver Activity
By Wyatt McKellep



Red-winged Blackbirds
By Tanya Lasuk

Favorite Tapteal Hikes

By Stan Kuick

One of my favorite hikes centers around Horn Rapids Park between Richland and Benton City. This is an out-and-back hike of 4.8 miles which combines very low people traffic, good views, varied ecosystems, and great flowers in the spring.

I like to start by parking at the Wanawish Dam parking lot on the left side of Highway 240 if you are coming from Richland and just before the Benton City turnoff. Look for a chain link fence on the left near the dam and turn down a steep gravel path to the small parking lot right next to the dam. During the spring salmon smolt migration you may want to view the many pelicans feasting on the smolts just below the dam. Then hike up the old dirt road that parallels the river going upstream.

The first section is classic shrub steppe and in the spring has numerous species of wildflowers and flowering shrubs. Look for orange globemallow at the beginning of the hike and as you reach the crest of the bluff overlooking the river there are a number of large purple sage and bitterbrush shrubs with their purple and yellow flowers. At the top of the hill is a high overlook of the Yakima River with expansive views in both directions and even a bench for a more lengthy and relaxed appreciation. About a quarter mile from the dam there is also a geocache along the trail. Look for a group of white painted rocks just on the right side of the trail.

Coming down from the overlook you will enter Horn Rapids Park proper (0.9 miles into the hike) near the boat launch. Go past the launch staying near the river and enter a forest of cottonwoods that makes you think you are in the woods, at least for a short distance. This is also a good bird-watching area. Look for evidence of beaver activity here in the form of felled and chewed up trees. As you exit the "forest" you will enter yet another type of ecosystem, a floodplain. This area is dominated by species such as willow, sumac, wild rose, golden currant, and tall grasses. The roses and currants have lots of pink and yellow flowers in late spring and the currant berries are edible. In the fall the sumac turns bright red and makes for a nice color palette. You will also see some of the tallest sagebrush in our area here. This section goes close to the river and has virtually no development in sight as well as a great view of Rattlesnake Ridge on your right.

The hike turnaround is at Omaha Beach where the trail goes right to the river at a popular fishing spot and Tapteal Water Trail put in, now 2.4 miles from your starting point. There is a Tapteal Water Trail sign there that got used for target practice which will be replaced soon.

So if you like low to no trail traffic and development, a constant view of the beautiful Yakima River, and an amazing variety of plants, this is a great hike for you.



Taken from the Bench at the Overlook

#Tapteal Tuesdays

By Diana McPherson

We will be continuing our online outreach called #Tapteal Tuesday until we are able to resume educational events and gatherings. Most every Tuesday we'll share wildlife videos, demonstrate nature crafts, read nature stories or go live from the Greenway.

Posts are on Instagram (@taptealgreenway) usually at 10:00 am. A countdown will be posted early so you may join live sessions. Live and pre-recorded videos will be available on IGTV and our YouTube channel (@taptealgreenway) so you can access them any time. Links will also be shared via our Facebook page (@taptealgreenway).

#TaptealTuesday posts are kept under 30 minutes, typically running from 5-20 minutes. If you're an educator, we invite you to use the videos to supplement your science kits and use them as a field trip. Education materials are being created to accompany the videos and can be found at www.tapteal.org/education (downloadable lesson plans).

Currently our focus is on wetlands and its food web. We look forward to seeing you at #TaptealTuesday.



Marshmallow and toothpick Constellations –
Perseus for the Perseids meteor shower



Painting ladybug rocks



Nature journaling

New and Improved – tapteal.org

By Dirk Peterson

For the past several years our outreach has focused on our Facebook page while our website has languished. We have made occasional efforts to update our website, but with varying degrees of success. This past year our Vice President Delaney spurred us to make a major overhaul of the site. The board agreed to hire professionals to accomplish this; while we updated the content, they handled the design. One of Delaney’s visions for the new website was to include an interactive map of the Greenway. The new website now has three interactive maps – Tapteal Greenway, Tapteal Trail and Tapteal Water Trail. The site also includes trail maps for Chamna and WE Johnson and all of these maps can be downloaded. If you haven’t already, please take a look at the new site and email us at (taptealgreenway@gmail.com) if you find any glitches or have any suggestions.



Chamna Cleanup

By Carole Schuh

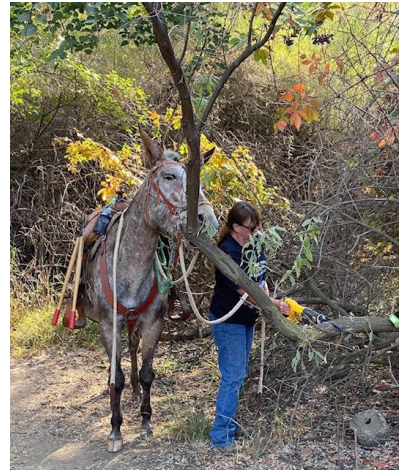
In late September Tapteal Greenway was notified that there would be a large equestrian event in Chamna Natural Preserve on October 17. In preparation for this event our President Dirk mounted our trusty tractor and mowed the grassy trails. When that task was accomplished, five equestrians from the Rattlesnake Ridge Riders Back Country Horsemen Chapter met at Chamna and spent the morning trimming, pruning, and sawing the overhead branches along the River Trail. It was a very successful endeavor and a lot of fun besides.



Jeanie and her trusty pack mule with the chainsaw



Contemplating the best way to cut



Karin and her helper Turtle



This was a tangled mess



Carole working on that tangled mess



Linda and Alyson did lots of overhead pruning

***Until next time... stay safe, stay healthy and enjoy your outside world!
~ Tapteal Greenway ~***