



# Tapteal Talk

Vol. XX

News For The Tapteal Greenway

Feb. 2007—April 2007

President's message:

## A Better Place to Be

After living in a *place* for an extended period of time one develops a sense of *place*. No matter where you travel there are always certain smells or sights that remind you of home, the *place* we are from. Most of us will have a few of these such places in our lifetime, most Americans will live in a minimum of four, maybe five, different locations but very few feel in *place* at all of their stops. So, when we find a *place* that fits we develop a relationship with the details of this home. It usually occurs when you slow down and what has been a vague impression now fills with detail and exceptional noise. The variations of color and intensity jump out, the different songs of birds and fixed remains of what has walked on the same path as you is now open for your inspection. All of this settles in and becomes part of this *place*. A proper homing develops and you begin to nurture a sub-conscious feeling for where you are. Your sense of *place* is established.

By definition a place is somewhere that isn't going anywhere. So when the familiar parts of a place begin to change it no longer is the same place. The erosion of the details that gave you awareness and connection to my place is taken away. The sub-conscious jolts of smell and noise and sight lines that remind you of home are in a state of fluctuation, a result of man-made change. Homing instincts dull and you contemplate the search for what is going away. Do you go and get them back, save what is left, or do you contemplate another place.

We all desire a home, no place like home, it feels like home. If what we once recognized as familiar seems unbalanced and not quite right we lose our way and tend to get nowhere and call it somewhere. We wander about in search of the old wonder, "salmon living like carp seeking our home-grown waters".

What is special about this place that reminds you of this place when you are in some other place? What gives you this sense of place?

### Our Choices

- \* The smell of wet sage after a brief shower
- \* The comfort of un-scathed ridges that cradle the city
- \* Open space that eases the soul and lets us breath
- \* The burst of song from a nearby bush or treetop
- \* Moving water that has the opportunity to touch the wild things that come to the banks and grow along the shoreline
- \* Paths that allow us to slow down so we can realize the sense of place

President's Message Continued (Page 7)

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**Vision Statement**

*The Tapteal Greenway is a corridor where wildlife, natural vegetation, and people coexist; which provides opportunities for non-motorized recreation, education and habitat protection; and is planned and managed for future generations through community involvement and interjurisdictional cooperation.*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

• **February 10th (Saturday)**

**Horn Rapids Plantings**

9 AM

Location: Horn Rapids Park

The next work party at Horn Rapids is February 10th, where we will be doing mostly plantings. Plan on a morning of work.

• **February 24th (Saturday)**

**Amon Basin Clean Up**

9 AM

Location: Claybell Park-S. Richland

Our second annual clean up of the Amon Basin. Bring gloves and a pick up truck if you can. We will be working through the afternoon but feel free to leave when you have to.

• **March 31 (Saturday)**

**Amon Bain Celebration**

At this writing we are planning to celebrate the final deed transfer of the first phase of the **Amon Basin Community Project**. With March 22 as our target date to complete the deal we are looking at March 31 as our big celebration day. We are working out the details for this much anticipated day and all we can say at this time is to keep an eye on the web site calendar and Amon Basin page to get the full scoop. Our early planning indicates that the March 24 wildlands walk will be moved to coincide with the celebration day. This has been a monstrous *team* effort and we hope that you can join us for the celebration.

• **April 21st (Saturday)**

**Duportail**

9 AM

Location: Duportail

Finish the trail day has arrived. We will be finishing the final 1/8 of a mile on the Duportail Trail starting at 9 AM. Please bring gloves and water, we will be spreading wood chips and leveling the trail as well as clean up of the Duportail area. Meet at the east terminus of Duportail just off of the hwy 240 exit in Richland

## “THIS IS JUST DISGUSTING!”

Guest article from Chinook Cycling Club

That was Greg Turpen's comment regarding having to clean up the human/pet waste in the Chamna parking lot prior to the Chinook Cycling Club December Chili & Cornbread gathering....Which also put Greg into action to complete a Chinook Project which has been on the back-burner for a year. So, we started exploring some "options" to see if we (Chinook Cycling Club) could get "something" in the area. The fastest/simplest option was some kind of Porta-Potty.

Chinook Member Jay Webber works for Basin Disposal in Pasco. Jay is the one who currently brings the Porta-Potty to events on a trailer. Jay made the initial contact with Darrick Dietrich, who owns/manages the *Able Tank & Toilet Porta-Potty division of Basin Disposal*. Darrick made us an offer to provide a loaner unit for a year at no charge (with a yearly review after that) and agreed, as a contribution to the area, to provide pumping of the unit on a monthly basis at 1/2 of the normal pumping charge (about \$65 per month). The Chinook Cycle Club agreed to assume the pumping charge for the first year as a donation. Laurel Strand with the City of Richland Parks & Rec. worked the basic concept through the City, with a final confirmation based on design and location. That's where the project was left on hold in the late winter of 2006...

Then, the "disgusting" thing.

That's when Greg Turpen, the current President of the Chinook Cycle Club, took over the reins of the project. Greg made contact with Darrick, got a reconfirmation of his commitment, made contact with TGA for their input, got approval for site design and location (he is an engineer!) from the City of Richland, a key being that all construction was to be on the top of the ground with minimal ground disturbance, and "got 'er done!"

Here's a list (assuredly we've missed someone) of the contributions.

Jay Webber...making the contact arrangements with Able Tank & Toilet. Darrick Dietrich of Basin Disposal/Able Tank & Toilet for his contributions of the unit and the pumping. Phil Pinard (Capital Projects Manager for the City of Richland and Laurel Strand, City of Richland Parks & Rec.) for working the request through the city. Adam J. Fyall, Community Development Coordinator for Benton County, for advice and assistance throughout the project. Russ Burtner/Bruce Beauchene (City of Kennewick) to borrow an insulated concrete curing blanket. Charlie Barnett (Metal Fab.) who fabricated and donated the steel support angles. Steve Hamilton (George A Grant Construction) for the loan of a roto-hammer. Greg Turpen, who formed and poured the slab and cleaned up the site by taking a 1/2 day off work on a warm January day. The father of Greg Turpen who helped Greg move the Porta-Potty and secure the unit to the slab,

Chinook Cycle Club who coordinated the project, paid for the concrete, and they will pay the pumping for at least the first year.

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Due the 20th of the month preceding for:

- ⇒ **May 1, 2007**
- ⇒ **August 1, 2007**
- ⇒ **November 1, 2007**



### Kingfisher Moment's

#### **DUPORTAIL TRAIL DAY HAS ARRIVED**

Yes, it is hard to believe, after years of red tape the finish line is in sight for the Duportail Trail. On April 21 at 9 AM we hope you can join us to finish the trail. We have approximately 1/8 of a mile to smooth out and lay on wood chips. So if you can spare a few hours we need weak minds and strong backs to spread the bark and level out the trail. Most of this can be done with hand tools provided by the Greenway. You will need some water and possibly a dust mask or bandanna if you plan to spread the wood chips. Good gloves will be helpful. We are also planning a clean up in the area. It is hoped to have the Duportail launch finished at that time so some of the errands may include the launch area. Please meet at the foot of Duportail below the barriers and we will get 'er done!

#### **Governor's Budget**

Amon Basin funding is approved by Governor, now it's time for the legislature to debate the budget amount. Our legislatures need input. Please visit: [www/Tapteal.org](http://www.Tapteal.org) and click on the Amon Basin item to see how to correspond to our legislator's on this important piece of funding.

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### **CONSERVATION COALITION**

The Tapteal Greenway Association, Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society and the Friends of Badger Mountain are coming together to share resources and identify common goals in order to maximize the conservation effort here in the Tri Cities. This is not a merger, it does not distract from any established identities or missions of each organization. It will give a common voice to priority conservation projects, eliminating duplication and simplifying contact points for the jurisdictional conversations that are needed to get things done. Rest assured that The Tapteal Greenway Association will diligently maintain our own identity as crafted in our mission statement and subscribed to by you, our members. Our initial meetings have identified the Rattlesnake Ridges as a primary target for our shared energies. We look forward to working with these valuable organizations to accomplish a common conservation good for our communities.

#### **Jack Rabbit Ridge Natural Area *A New Community Preservation Effort***

A community effort is underway to preserve an area called "JackRabbit Ridge" (JRR). This is a volunteer community effort dedicated to preserving this remaining island of native habitat as a connective open space natural area for limited-use educational, research and muscle-powered recreational activities.

The vision is to incorporate the JRR Natural Area into the Tapteal Greenway trail and preserve system developing along the lower reaches of the Yakima River.

## TINGSTAD and RUMBEL Weekend a Big Success – Mike Lilga

The Greenway held two fund raising events with Grammy-award winning duo Eric Tingstad and Nancy Rumbel. The first, on Friday, January 19, was a wine tasting at Bookwalter Winery. “Tasting with Tingstad” attracted about 50 people who got to taste 7 different red wines, six donated by 5 area wineries and one donated by Eric (see sidebar). The second event was the concert on Saturday night which drew about 240 people, most of whom were not associated with the Greenway. The concert was outstanding and Scott made a great presentation about the Greenway’s activities. Our new Greenway map was on display in the lobby and many new people learned about us and the good work we do for the community. Overall, we made about \$1,600 on these events for our Amon Basin Community Project.

A round of applause is deserved for Andy Plymale, who first alerted us to the possibility of hosting T&R then followed up by coordinating both of these events. We couldn’t have done it without Andy. Thanks also to T&R, who had many nice things to say about us and put on a great show. Numerous volunteers helped with concert details and provided goodies for the refreshment table (which by itself raised an astounding \$160 in donations). We appreciate you all!

For those of you who missed these events, we’ll see you next year.



Scott Woodward, Nancy Rumbel, and Eric Tingstad at “Tasting with Tingstad”

### SPECIAL THANKS

A special note of thanks goes to these wineries who donated wines for “Tasting with Tingstad”. They are Bookwalter Winery, Alexandria Nicole Cellars, Hedges Cellars (2 varieties), and Sandhill Winery. Thanks too to John Bookwalter and Betsy Pimentel of Bookwalter Winery who graciously allowed us to use their facility for this event.

## PLEASE RESPOND TO ROUNDTABLE SURVEY

**The members of the Three Rivers Community Roundtable are seeking input from the community as to which direction to proceed.**

On February 16 at 5 PM the Three Rivers Community Roundtable will close comment on the direction the Tri Cities should go. We strongly urge you to submit comment before that deadline. You can go to their online format at: <http://www.my3rivers.org/questionnaire.html> to fill out the three questions or you can submit your own comment via snail mail. We have taken the liberty of drafting sample responses to these questions and including them below. You can cut and paste, you can add your own comments or create a new response of your own. There is a 100 word limit per question. It is very important that we have a consistent voice in numbers for the Roundtable to consider our responses. Please take a few minutes to submit your response. The questions and recommended answers will also be posted on our downloads page at: <http://www.tapteal.org/download.php>

### **Roundtable questions and recommended responses.**

*What do you consider to be the main issues impeding the economic progress of the Tri-City region?*

The Tri City region has tremendous natural resources available to attract the best and the brightest. We should take a page out of Spokane County's book:

***Quality of life is the second most important factor in company relocation. The first is available workers.... policies that enhance the quality of life, ..give us a competitive edge compared to over developed wastelands in most areas.... affordable recreation opportunities are high on the list for younger workers.***

The opportunity to mesh economic development with quality of life and understand the relationship of open space and low impact outdoor recreation to that quality of life will benefit all.

*What is working that we should continue to emulate or enhance?*

You should continue to enhance the waterfront however be more conscious of the resource value. View-scapes should be guarded from all angles of approach including the skylines and ridges that identify this area. River front, open space shrub steppe and skylines are the defining images of the Tri Cities, development has to enhance these sight lines and consider soft recreational opportunities for access to these resources.

*Considering your answers to the first two questions, what are your recommendations for future projects or areas of focus?*

Consider the natural resource value and low impact recreational opportunities that identify us as a community. Institute those into the economic development equation as an equal value. Make a conscious effort to identify and prioritize what makes this a special place, natural ridge lines, open space shrub steppe and rivers that not only attract interest in our area but it keeps us in a place we call home. When the familiar parts of a place begin to change it no longer is the same place and it no longer is home.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

So we get down to business. The business of planning what this place will be. The fluctuation is on and the man-made changes are at full speed. As we move into this century the design of our Tri- City community is indeed changing. This place is rapidly shifting. As an old Chinese proverb says: If we don't change direction, we are likely to end up exactly where we are headed. We are the stewards working to keep this place home. We can't wait any longer to act on these issues: zoning laws, plat proposals, transportation plans and community priorities. We must stay on top of these to insure that the concept of special place is part of the process and that the voices of homebodies are heard.

(some thoughts here courtesy of author David James Duncan)

## AMON BASIN CLEAN UP PHASE TWO



On February 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM we will be taking on the Amon Basin abusers once again. We will meet at Claybell Park in South Richland and disperse from there. We anticipate the effort will take most of the morning depending on the turnout and the equipment available. Last year's effort netted 11 tons of trash, this year will not approach that but the dumpers and abusers have been hard at work trying to trash the Amon Basin and we fully intend to send a message again by cleaning this place up. Sometime in the near future these abusers will be slowed down if not stopped along with the illegal vehicle traffic. We strongly encourage those of you who live in the immediate area to report **dumping** violators immediately to the RPD. Once we get our vehicle barriers and signs in place you will be the eyes and ears for the protection of Amon Basin and the off road vehicle destruction. On the 24<sup>th</sup> we need pickup trucks to haul the trash to the disposal bins in Claybell Park. The rest of us will be filling trash bags and loading and unloading the trucks. Heavy gloves are recommended, see you on the 24<sup>th</sup>.