



Our First E-newsletter:

Delivering digital saves paper and postage and might even reduce our carbon footprint. Previous issues of the newsletter (in pdf format) are online [here](#).

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2008 Trail Work Dates

- Sat. January 26-Burnson
- Sat. February 23-Burnson
- Sat. April 25-BTI/Lower Alice
- Sat. May10-PCT
- Sat. June7-PCT
- Sat. July 5th-PCT SOB section
- Sat. August 2-PCT

Specific meeting places and times will be announced via email. More to come!

Mt A Run Nets \$2K

The 2007 version of the [Mt Ashland Hill Climb Run and Walk](#) proved the most successful on record with well over 200 participants. Many AWTA volunteers helped with registration, aid stations, transportation, timing, results and clean-up. The event is a fundraiser for AWTA and produced a check for \$2000. Lots of [photos are available here](#).

Building the Burnson Trail

by Rob Cain

One of the primary roles AWTA has is to help envision and create new trails in and around Ashland. Last year, for example, we created a trail from Glenview to Ashland Loop Road. We look for a combination of old right-of-ways, City property, or agreeable landowners to hatch a trail. This year we will be welcoming our newest addition to our trail system, a connector from Granite Street up to the TID ditch trail. The trailhead will be just up from Winburn Way, located on property donated to the City from the Burnson family.



Many hands make light work on the new Burnson connector. Jan 26th

The Burnson family had expressed an interest in having part of the land used as a memorial hiking trail. In recent years, the family has experienced the tragic loss of 2 of their 3 children. The mother, Katrina Burnson, approved the trail design and is working towards adding components of her own to add to the

AWTA to Build Benches

With some of the proceeds from the Mt Ashland Run, AWTA will build and place benches in various spots in the watershed. Do you have an idea of where a bench ought to go? [Send us](#) your ideas! Locations are subject to approval by Ashland Parks and Recreation and/or the US Forest Service. Benches will likely be similar to those in the Hald-Strawberry area.

PCT a big focus for AWTA

by Rich Vansen

We are very lucky in Southern Oregon to have so much of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) within easy access of the Rogue Valley. The PCT is a great local public resource offering some of the best walking, running or riding options in our area, especially in the summer months when the heat settles in the valley and the poison oak is out in full force.

AWTA has partnered for the last 2 years with the nonprofit [Pacific Crest Trail Association](#) (PCTA) to maintain sections of the trail in proximity to Ashland, primarily from old highway 99 to Highway 66, but has also assisted in trail maintenance on the Mount Ashland area sections.

This past summer AWTA was involved in five trail project days on the PCT. AWTA's partnership with PCTA has also resulted in some special training for members such as a chain saw certification class and access to chainsaws and other trail building and maintenance tools for use in other AWTA projects as well as on the PCT.

The PCTA representative for the Northern California-Southern Oregon section of the PCT is Ian Nelson. He can be reached at Ashland@pcta.org. You can get updates on trail conditions in our area at the PCTA website

enjoyment of the trail. She would like to have a couple of benches installed along the trail at nice view areas along the way, which there are many. Also, her daughter has created an artistic design that they would like to have displayed in places along the trail to create the memorial aspect of the trail. The design incorporates the initials of the Burnson family and the 2 children that died. Currently, she is working with the Parks Dept. Superintendent on submitting the design for approval from the appropriate commissions.

After a comprehensive design by Jeff McFarland and a geologist, AWTA volunteers began to cut in the trail Saturday, January 26th. The 15 trail enthusiasts roughed in the upper half, constructed waterbars, laid down fabric, installed cribbing logs, and start hauling in and installing wood chips in 5 gal. buckets over to the trail. Nearby neighbor Tim Tuttle graciously allowed use of his driveway to stage materials which greatly helped our productivity.

This trail is very labor intensive (all material is hauled in by hand) and a logistical challenge to build because we cannot use wheelbarrows or any mechanized toter to haul in materials specified by the geologist. We were all surprised that we almost finished the upper half of the trail on Saturday. It was a no nonsense, hard working group. The geologist has prevented any work taking place on the lower section until March. This section will also be a challenge to build, but as the old adage goes, "many hands make light work". Come out and join us! See the calendar in this newsletter for a schedule of dates.

Comprehensive Trail Map?

by Torsten Heycke

Several excellent Ashland watershed trail maps exist. AWTA has sold several, including one with a 3-D perspective. Various downtown merchants offer maps as does Ashland Parks and Rec. The US Forest Service offers free pamphlets for specific trails. As good as these maps are, none of them show all the trails and roads. Why is there no comprehensive trail map of the Ashland Watershed?

In fact, many widely used trails and roads don't appear on trail maps at all, while some trails are only partially depicted. For example, the Toothpick trail is usually shown as not continuing all the way from Tolman Creek Rd to Ashland Loop Rd.

About 10 years ago, I decided to make my own map. I had just acquired a GPS and some good mapping software so I set about

(www.pcta.org) or toll free by telephone at (888) 728-7245.

If you encounter bad trail conditions while on the PCT such as trees across the trail, slides, brush, etc. make note of their location and call the PCTA at 888-PC-TRAIL to report the problem. The PCTA will post the information on their website to alert other users and will notify the agency responsible for that section of the trail.

Enjoy your experience on the PCT and join us this year on one of our PCT trail projects.

documenting each and every trail I encountered in the watershed. I thought I might print my map and sell it for some nominal fee.

I joined a trail group (pre-AWTA) and spoke to that group about my comprehensive map idea. It went over like a lead balloon. The forest service moderator and a few others politely explained to me that putting the trails and roads on a map might jeopardize their continued use by the public.

In one case an easement had apparently been given with the condition that a portion of the trail never appear on a map.

In other cases, many widely used trails and roads are not public property; the owners may be allowing the use by the public as long as the public doesn't make a claim. Printing a map might constitute such a claim.

Finally, many trails remain "unsanctioned." Individuals have created some of these trails and the city and/or the Forest Service don't support them. In some cases, it is not necessarily that the trails are bad or poorly designed but rather that the agencies don't have the resources to maintain them. Many unsanctioned trails have eventually become supported ones. We have many "unsanctioned" trails in the watershed.

The mapmaker's conundrum is what to include. So far, map producers have been sensitive to the tacit arrangement of not including private land or unsanctioned trails. It is not an ideal situation. A visitor comes to town and you want to send them off on a great long hike, run or bike. You just might have to draw them your own map.

The bottom line is that we have many fantastic trails, not all of which are going to be displayed on maps.

Some of the better maps are available on the [AWTA website](#): Waterproof versions of these maps are for sale at various stores, the Chamber of Commerce and Ashland Parks and Rec.

Creek to Crest

by Rich Vansen

Closely associated with the PCT is Creek to Crest. You may have seen the signs marking the route. This designated multi-use route, forms a connection between the Bear Creek Greenway and the Pacific Crest.

The Creek-to-Crest route begins near Ashland Dog Park at the Bear Creek Greenway and takes Helman Street towards the

Plaza splitting into two variations - one following Winburn Way through Lithia Park to Granite and then following the Loop Road to White Rabbit Trail Head and the other following the Central Bike Way to Walker and then taking Peachy, Hillview and Crestview to Park St and White Rabbit.

The two town alternate roots join at White Rabbit Trailhead and follow Caterpillar Trail to Toothpick Trail to Catwalk Trail to Four Corners. The Creek-to Crest Route then follows Road 200 which is closed to motor traffic to the Bull Gap Trail. The Bull Gap Trail ends at the Mt Ashland lodge where the Creek-to-Crest briefly follows Road 20 out of the back of the ski area parking lot to the first spur to the left which soon reaches the PCT. Below is a chart of approximate distances between points on the Creek-to-Crest route:

Ashland Dog Park to Plaza 1
Plaza to White Rabbit Trail Head via loop Road 3.5
or central Bikeway-White Rabbit route 5
Catterpillar (White Rabbit to Lamb Saddle) 1
Toothpick (Lamb Saddle to Catwalk) .5
Catwalk (Toothpick to Four Corners) 1.5
Road 200 : Four Corners to Bull Gap Trail 2
Bull Gap Trail (Rd 200 to Tolman Trail Head) 2.6
Bull Gap Trail (Tolman to Mt Ashland Lodge) 2
Road 20 (Mt Ashland ski Park to PCT) 1

The Creek to Crest route was listed in the 1995 Oregon Statewide Trails Recreational Plan as one of the states visionary trail routes. The route became a reality when in 2001 a two-year, \$60,000 Oregon Parks and Recreation Association matching grant was awarded to Ashland Parks and Recreation in partnership with the Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest for the Creek to Crest project. The groundwork had been laid by the formulation of an Ashland Trail Users Coalition that brought together hiking groups (Sierra Club and PCTA), bikers (Somba), runners (Sizzlers) horse riders (Jackson County Horsemen's Association) and conservation groups (Southern Oregon Land Conservancy). It also involved Ashland City Departments including Parks and Recreation and Planning, as well as City Commissions including the Bicycle and Pedestrian and Traffic Safety. Actual trail construction involved AWTA, SOMBA, the Regional Ecosystem Applied Learning (REAL) Corps, the Northwest Youth Corp (NYC) and other groups who put in volunteer hours to help fulfill the grant match.

Included in the Creek to Crest trail project were:

1. Reconstruction of five switchbacks on Catwalk where it leaves Toothpick;
2. reconstruction of the White Rabbit and Four Corners Trailheads to provide more parking and the creation of a Bull Gap Trailhead;
3. Reconstruction of 2 miles of the White Rabbit Trail and .7 miles of the BTI
4. Construction of the Catterpillar (then called Contour) Trail connecting Toothpick and White Rabbit Trails;
5. Construction/improvement of 2.6 miles of the Bull Gap trail from Road 200 to Tolman Creek Road; and
6. De-activate the trail from Lamb Saddle to Reeder Reservoir.

The grant also provided for the purchase of the tool cache trailer, trail maintenance hand tools and protective gear and a trail-toter which were used on the above projects and have been used on trail maintenance and building projects since.

The project was originally designed in two phases with signage to be added in stage two but the Parks Dept was able to complete the signage in stage one of the project. New trails added to the watershed trail system as part of the Creek-to-Crest grant were Catwalk and Caterpillar trails as well as improvements to section of the Bull Gap Trail and White Rabbit.

The Ashland Woodlands and Trails Association (AWTA) is a private, non-profit group committed to help preserve, maintain, and provide appropriate public access to the area's woodlands and trails.

Suggestions, Comments, Unsubscribe: [Email Us](#)

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