



NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2009

Number 8

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2009 Trail Work Dates

Sat. April 18-Tolman Rd Clean-up

Sat. May 9-Hearts Trail

Sat. June 13-PCT New Trail!

Sun. July 5-PCT west of Mt Ashland

Sat. Aug 1-Mt Ashland Hillclimb Run

Sat. Aug 15-PCT near Grouse Gap

Sat. 26-SOU Civic Engagement Day

Specific meeting places and times will be announced via email.

Earth Day: Tolman Rd

Sat. April 18, 10am - Tolman Creek Rd.

Clean-up of garbage. Meet at the site at 9:45.

Directions: Head up Tolman Creek Road from Siskiyou Boulevard, go past the large gravel pit on the right and continue up the road about one mile. You will pass a number of driveways. The road then makes a sharp 180 degree turn. Go on about 1/8 of a mile and you will start to see the garbage off the right side of the road. This is work effort

Cottle Connector Trail

by Rob Cain

This is one of the many neighborhood trails we have in Ashland, which makes living here so great. Many of these trails are short, reducing a long walk on a busy street, or more typically connecting to a longer trail. That was the case here. We connected lower Terrace Street with the Cottle Property, allowing easy access to the TID Ditch Trail, formerly accessed at the very top of Terrace ([see map](#)).



Great weather brought out many enthusiastic workers.

The Cottle property was given to the City a number of years ago. AWTA had helped to create trails leading through it, and to it from upper Terrace and Herbert Street. We saw a need for a connection to lower Terrace, using an obsolete street easement. Jeff McFarland did a great

organized by Jay Dreyer, not by AWTA, but we liked the idea. Here's part of his description:

"This is a section that is now depressingly littered with old sofas, mattresses, TVs, computers, desks...the list goes on. If we all join in, we can get this area cleaned up and hopefully send a message that the road should be appreciated and not degraded. We will need pick-up trucks, vans, trailers -- whatever would be good for hauling large, dirty items. We will also need trash bags and lots of volunteers. I imagine the clean-up will take a few hours. Feel free to invite others you think might be interested. As soon as we're finished, Syd and I will be having a barbecue party to celebrate our hard work. Kids are welcome (although they will have to be watched carefully at the clean-up site)." For those who would like to come to the barbecue after, we are asking that they bring a side dish."

Mt A Run 2008 Nets \$2.5K

The 2008 version of the [Mt Ashland Hill](#)

[Climb Run and Walk](#) proved the most successful on record with 250 registrants. 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 \$2500. If you are interested in volunteering, send an [email](#).

AWTA Benches

We have placed benches in several locations on the new Hearts trail (connects Granite St with the TID ditch trail), which we helped construct over several workdays in 2008. After working on the Looking Glass and White Rabbit trails, we decided to purchase and install at least one bench for a great lookout spot near the junction of these two trails.

job in working with the neighbors adjoining the trail to provide them a level of privacy. Jeff also worked with the Public Works Department to move a cyclone fence that is used to protect the TID pump station.

We had a great turnout for our Saturday work party. People from the neighborhood as well as members from AWTA were able to complete the trail. We needed to contour the trail around the pump station which required more engineering than usual. Stairs were cut, vegetation cut back, and plenty of gravel hauled and placed to solidify the tread. Later the next week, Jeff had the privacy fence installed, a sign made, and the latest of Ashland's neighborhood trail was completed. See trail on Google Maps

Upper Time Warp Trail

by Rob Cain

This trail may be unfamiliar to walkers and hikers in Ashland, but it is a heavily used trail by downhill mountain bikers. Starting near the Rabbit Ears rock formation near the top of Mt Ashland, the route takes you down to near milepost 16 mark of Rd 2060 in the watershed ([see map](#)). Until AWTA was able to secure approval to maintain, it was considered an unauthorized trail in the Watershed, even though historically it had been part of the USFS trail inventory. In fact, it was the history of the trail that provided the means to obtain approval. We simplified the process by asking to have the trail--formerly known as the Mt Ashland Trail--reauthorized, in effect, reopening it.



Work on the Time Warp trail in cold conditions.

Our maintenance event was co-sponsored by the downhill mountain bikers of the area, SOFA (Southern Oregon Free Riders). The major effort was directed towards two switchbacks in the last third of the trail. Both switchbacks were blown out, leading to major erosion. The group of over 25 moved rocks and trees to stabilize and contour the

Where to hike when it's...

by Emily Zook

Hot - Conde Creek

The temperatures is in the triple digits. You want to hike, but it sure would be nice to have a swim at the end and a cool spot to reest. My choice would be the trail at Conde Creek. It offers a big beautiful waterfall with swimming pond. Try sliding down the waterfall. The trailhead is at the end of RD 3730800, which is off Conde Creek Road. There's a 3-mile hike that loops around and brings you back to the waterfall or just walk the 1/4 mile from the trailhead to the falls.

Rainy - Grizzly

I love the simple loop hike that takes you up and around Grizzly. It's always a treat...even with a bit of drizzle.

Windy - White Rabbit

There's pretty good protection throughout the White Rabbit trails--from all elements, including wind. It's fun to vary your route...maybe taking some of the side trails like the Queen of Hearts or The Mad Hatter.

Cold - Hitt Road

Best to start on the Strawberry/Birdsong side and go all the way to Lithia Park via Rd 2060. You will get warmed up very quickly. Once you reach 2060, it's downhill from there. Catch some great views of Mt McLaughlin.

Fave Trails

by AWTa Board Members

Rob Cain

PCT starting at the Mt. Ashland Exit and heading towards California. Great views of Mt. Shasta, a strenuous climb, water along the way, and the ability to choose how far you want to go. This out and back even has interesting history that is noted by a historical marker. You need to

trail. Efforts were made to slow the bikes leading into the corners, reducing the potential for skidding.

Another group worked on the upper part of the trail, near the Rabbit Ears, attempting to stabilize the heavily ditched trail with some waterbars. This part of the trail is problematic due to the nature of the trail heading straight down the fall line of the slope. It results in an inability to take the water off the trail, via waterbars, as there is no downhill side, no lower area to direct the water to. The USFS is not happy with this part of the trail, nor is the biking community, so we look forward to working with both groups in the future to come up with a more suitable route.

Wagner Glade Gap Trail

by Torsten Heycke

A 1953 map displays an interesting trail/road that apparently climbed from Ashland via Reeder Reservoir to Wagner Glade Gap ([see map](#)). We were interested in the section from RD 2060 up to Wagner Glade Gap. Red paint blazes, cut trees and old rusted buckets confirmed the existence of what turns out to be the old Wagner Butte Fire Lookout service trail. Several efforts to hike the old trail left us lost and bushwacking. Needing more information to ascertain the exact location of the trail, we photocopied the old map onto an overhead transparency, stuck the transparency on a computer screen and then, with Google Earth running underneath, we established GPS coordinates. Armed with these coordinates and careful scrutiny of the landscape, we were able to identify more blazed trees, some old fencing (horse or mule pens?), still more old cans and other evidence of a once well-traveled path.



Allan Goffe and Ian Torrence work the chainsaws.

The Forest Service gave us permission to reestablish the trail. Seven trail work days have been spent on rehabilitating this 2.5 mile trail and

pay attention though!

Torsten Heycke

White Rabbit--Because it captures the full spectrum of the watershed landscape: shady and cool in some spots; open and exposed in others. Also, it's the hike of choice on Thanksgiving and Christmas with family and friends.

John Price

PCT west from I-5. Lots of wildlife, some old growth, wildflowers, and great views of the Shasta valley.

Nathan Riddle

Time Warp--Because from the start the views of the Rogue Valley are amazing and as the trail weaves from turn to turn you start to feel like it will never end. Then when it finally does you can still look forward to around 8 miles and another 2500 feet of descent back into Ashland. Plus it's only out of the snow about 5 months out of the year so that makes it all that much more of a treat.

Rich Vanderwyst

Grizzly Peak, at just under 6,000 foot in elevation, is the highest point on the east side of the valley near Ashland. It offers outstanding views of the valley, the Siskiyous and the Cascades. The trail climbs through a mixed forest of fir and pine to an overlook. In the late Spring the wildflower displays in the open meadow areas on the top of the peak are truly spectacular. A trail loop circles the top of Grizzly and passes through a large burn area from the recent fire. The trail head is only 11 miles from town, up Dead Indian Memorial to Shale City Road and then on BLM Road 38-2E-9.2 where there is usually a sign. Follow this gravel/dirt road

many more are likely to occur this Spring and Summer. Featuring some unique views of the Ashland watershed, Mt McLoughlin and Mt Ashland, above the poison oak, and remote enough to see minimal traffic, this is truly an Ashland woodlands gem.

Looking Glass Trail

by Rich Vanderwyst

The second trail project of 2009 was held on March 7th to work on damage repair and trail improvement on Looking Glass Loop off of upper White Rabbit Trail ([see map](#)). The loop was cut in 2002 and offers spectacular views of the Clay Creek Canyon, the upper Bear Creek Valley and the surrounding mountains to the east and south.



Looking Glass trail rehabilitation.

The boulder field it cuts around contains some large madrones bearing the claw marks of black bears climbing to reach the tree's orange berries for food. The work party used a soil stabilizer, EMC2, to repair trail rutting and minimize erosion. The trail grade and tread were also improved in some areas to improve the hiking and biking experience.

Myriad Other Trail Projects

by Rich Vansen

Additional projects in 2008 included half a dozen Pacific Crest trail work days, a substantial improvement of the lower Mystical trail and a section of Hitt Rd. We forgot to bring our cameras to document much of the work we do, so the next time you're helping out, bring your camera and take some photos!

to a junction and go left up the hill to the parking area.."

Emily Zook

Wagner Butte in late spring with all the wild flowers, little streams, animals and great old fire lookout top gives such a feeling of contentment.

Pilot Rock with its short, but challenging climb and with views to die for just kind of makes you want to say "ahhhhhh."



Hearts trail construction.

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](#)

Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 3472, Ashland, OR 97520

Telephone: 541-482-7061

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