

# THE YAKIMA GREENWAY

Vol. 23 No. 1

Membership Newsletter

Winter 2007

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### President

Pam Cleaver

### Vice President

Ronda Ide

### Secretary

Don Skone

### Treasurer

Tony Sagare

### Past President

Brian Blount

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Carol Cavanaugh-Rose

Shelley Dix

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Brian Fecht

Lance Forsee

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Sam Granato

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Gary Johnson

Anne Knapp

Mike Leita

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## Yakima Greenway Foundation Annual Meeting

Three new members were elected to the Yakima Greenway Foundation board of directors at the annual meeting on January 22. Voted in for three-year terms on the board were Shelley Dix, Brian Fecht, and Gary Johnson. We are happy to welcome Shelley and Gary back to the board – both served six years previously. (See inside for profiles of all three of our new board members.)

Pam Cleaver was elected President, Ronda Ide Vice President, Don Skone Secretary, Tony Sagare Treasurer, and Brian Blount Past President. Rounding out the executive board are Michael Buchanan, Gary Johnson, and Garry Heilman.

Retiring from the Greenway board is Brendan Monahan. He served as president two years ago, and past president in 2006. We will miss his leadership and knowledge.

Awards for Volunteer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and Volunteer of the Year were presented and Gary Johnson was awarded as a “Point of Light” for 2006. See below and on page 5 for more details about these great volunteers.



Incoming President Pam Cleaver thanks Past President Brian Blount for his year of service

## Point of Light Award

In 1991, then-President George H.W. Bush named the Yakima Greenway volunteers as the 503<sup>rd</sup> of the 1,000 “Points of Light” in a presidential program to recognize volunteers who have made a difference to our communities. Of all the great work done by volunteers across the country, it was an honor for us to receive this recognition. The Greenway has followed that tradition by creating our own Point of Light Award to recognize individuals for their long term volunteerism to the Greenway.



Not given every year, it is held for those people that exemplify the spirit President Bush envisioned. This year, we are awarding this award to **Gary Johnson**. Since the beginning 15 years ago of “A Case of the Blues & All that Jazz,” Gary has done it all from pounding tent stakes to directing traffic to managing the beer and wine tents. Gary also served six years on the Greenway Board of

Directors and Executive Board and chaired the Maintenance and Safety standing committee for several years.

## Volunteer of the Year

With the number of great volunteers who give of their time and talents each year, picking that one outstanding individual is difficult. This year’s award winner distinguished himself by chairing the Gap2Gap Relay last June. As those who have been involved with G2G understand, it is a huge undertaking. Coordinating the activities of several hundred volunteers, making sure they have all the materials they need and know their individual tasks, dealing with the unexpected and sometimes working in crisis mode, **Brian Fecht** has done this with grace and a cool head.

Brian was elected to the Greenway Board of Directors for his first term as a director, again showing his willingness to support not only this organization, but his community through service to the Greenway.



Maintain the Legacy

# President's Message

*Pam Cleaver, 2007 Greenway President*

Dear Fellow Greenway Members,  
As we start a new year and I step into the role of Greenway Foundation President, it has me reflecting back over the past several years. The Greenway Foundation Board has accomplished a great many things: the Frank Frederick Wayside was built and dedicated, miles of the Greenway path were cut & repaired, and of course our old standbys, Case of the Blues, Gap2Gap, and E.A.G.L.E. Earth Day, came and went.

Even as a member of the board, it is easy to take the Greenway for granted. I can tell you that I have done it myself. But what it really takes is a dedicated staff who makes all our operations flow smoothly. This includes everything from ensuring that pathways are cleared for our recreational users to serving in a variety



of critical roles at our events. It also takes an active board & community that strive towards preserving the path and parks and looking to the future of the Greenway.

This is not a responsibility the board takes lightly, but critical to the Greenway's success is the support of the community. As we - like many Not for Profit Organizations - look to our mission, we will continue to grow and stretch both the organization and ourselves. Who knows what path expansions could be in our future? What role would you like to play?

Since the Greenway is not funded nor owned by the county or city it takes resources to maintain, preserve and expand one of the Valley's jewels. This takes money but it also takes the time & talent of many volunteers. We would like to encourage everyone as you take stock of the new year, to look at our various events & operations and consider getting involved. One way to do this is easy: renew your membership.

In closing, we want to thank all our members for a fantastic 2006 as we look forward to 2007 and beyond. We again encourage you all to come out and enjoy all the possibilities that the Greenway has to offer. Who knows - you may just spot an eagle or two. Enjoy!

**- Pam Cleaver  
Greenway President**

## A Message from the Executive Director

I recently took advantage of a free lunch hour, sunny but cold weather, and a walking partner who walks as fast as I do (my wife, Melanie) and took a quick stroll from Sarg Hubbard to Sherman Park. That 40 minute walk brought back into clear focus what the Greenway means to this community. Like most of us, I get so wrapped up in day-to-day activities that I lose sight of where this organization is going and why.

In that short walk we observed five bald eagles perched above the icy Yakima River, looking for their own lunch. Three Great Blue Herons were seen in the shallows, also looking for a quick meal. The ponds were full of geese and ducks and even a swan was paddling around Buchanan Lake. A squirrel scam-

pered up and down a huge cottonwood right next to the pathway.

As I returned to my desk to continue my work preparing for the Annual Meeting of the Membership, I paused to consider what I had just witnessed. We live in a desert, but within a two minute drive from the center of our community, I had just walked with eagles and watched geese landing on an ice covered pond.

The few people that we encountered on our walk all seemed to have that nod of understanding of what was around us. The Greenway is more than just "that park" or "that playground." It is more than a place for



car shows and birthday parties. It's more than Gap2Gap Relay and more than "A Case of the Blues & All that Jazz." It's something different to everyone who visits. The far thinking founders that had the dream—they knew.

There is much more work for the Greenway. I'm very excited about the future, both near and far. I see fantastic opportunities to engage the community again in continuing the legacy and the dream of the founders. Nope, the Greenway isn't finished.

**- Al Brown  
Executive Director**

# 2006 Washington State Trail Conference

The Washington State Trails Coalition held "Trails for Future Generations," their 2006 conference, in Yakima on November 3-4. Yakima Greenway Foundation staff were among those in attendance, including Jeff Brantner, who shares his perspective:

The Washington State Trail Conference was not only grand in numbers but especially in impact. With over 230 leaders representing all types of trails and their uses, plus a dozen state legislators present, the conference hit



the current issues facing trails in Washington and more importantly gave clear paths and targets for the future. Being an avid hiker, I am very concerned about the future of trails in our great state of Washington. What I found is that maintaining the current trails is now the focus. I also learned that what the Yakima Greenway Foundation has accomplished is the model for future success for new pathways and trails.

With many of the leading decision makers and representatives from trail and land trust organizations attending this conference, it was palpable that this group holds the Yakima Greenway Foundation in very high regard. This is due to the Greenway's unique history and the amount of civic and community effort it took to make this 3600-acre land trust a reality. It was with awe that other trail providers would ask about this linear parkway, which is maintained and supported by our local community.

Due to continual cutbacks and reduced budgets, the focus for most trails

organizations is to maintain an aging infrastructure. The Greenway has not only maintained its parks and pathways, it has also enhanced and will continue to grow. There are possibilities to connect with Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, the William O. Douglas trail, Naches, the east side of the Yakima River via the new SR24 bridge, and Selah. Though the Greenway must adhere to Federal, State and City laws and regulations, since it does not receive any tax support it is able to make decisions locally that are best for the Yakima Valley.

The Greenway is the model for the future. To keep parks and trails from being the first cut, communities need to rely on local leaders, service groups and volunteers to help maintain their local

assets as the Greenway has done and will continue to do.



*Above: A group of delegates from the conference sets out on bike and foot to view portions of the proposed William O. Douglas trail route*

*Right: Standing on the ridge where Justice Douglas walked as a boy*



## Neil McClure Assistant Mayor, Yakima



What keeps trails in Yakima functioning? Answer...It takes a vision, taking advantage of opportunity, and great collaboration in the community. The Yakima Greenway along the Naches and Yakima Rivers joins parks like Sarg Hubbard. But visionaries made it happen; they took advantage of opportunities.

Maintenance is a key. The Yakima Greenway is a prime example of how to accomplish maintenance via fundraisers, special events, etc. Yakima is a trail community and hopes to soon connect the Greenway with the Wm. O. Douglas Trail and then perhaps to Mt. Rainier National Park.

*(from Neil McClure's welcoming speech to the conference)*

**To learn more about the conference, visit [www.wwta.org/wstc](http://www.wwta.org/wstc)**

# Board Members in the Spotlight



**Shelley Dix** has lived in the Yakima Valley since 1975. She and her husband Russ own Idea Marketing, Inc., a 20 year old marketing and advertising agency. She has two children, a 26 year old son Bryce who is a web designer in Seattle and a 16 year old daughter Kelsey, a sophomore at Eisenhower High School.

Shelley has volunteered her time on many community boards including the Yakima Chamber of Commerce, the Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau, and the Yakima School District's Citizens Levy and Bond committees. She is a Past President of Sunrise Rotary.

Shelley is back on the Yakima Greenway board having served 6 years previously. Her long-held passion is the Gap2Gap, having raced in the first Gap2Gap 22 years ago. Shelley is looking forward to being a part of the upcoming changes and improvements to the *Jewel of Yakima* - the Yakima Greenway.

**Brian Fecht** is 47 years old and was raised and educated in Reno, Nevada. His lovely wife Karen is a lifetime Yakima resident. They have two children: Ashley, currently in pursuit of a Master's Degree from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, and Eric, well into his second year at Western Washington University with his sights on teaching history upon graduation.



Brian has been employed by Shields Bag and Printing for the past 17 years as a National Account Manager, working with the likes of Johns Manville and Owens Corning. He spent the earlier years of his life serving in the Army and enjoying the fun, travel, and adventure in exotic locations such as the jungles of Panama and the mountains of Turkey. He spends his down time reading, running or biking the Greenway path, and most of all sitting in his favorite chair watching TV while sampling the latest Yakima Valley wine.



**Gary Johnson** rejoins the Greenway Board of Directors after a short hiatus. Gary completed two three-year terms on the Greenway Board of Directors from January of 2000 through January of 2006 (board members are limited by Greenway bylaws to two terms). After his required year off, he was invited to again join our Board.

Gary has been with Case of the Blues since the very first year – that was 1992! He currently chairs the wine/beer committee and serves on the event executive committee. Gary is an invaluable source of knowledge about the event and the operations of the event.

Gary owns and operates All Services, Inc. in Yakima. He is married to Tami and in his spare time plays lots of tennis, enjoys boating and likes riding motorcycles. He is also a fan of the Seahawks.

## Volunteers Needed

The Greenway **Courtesy Cart** program begins the first of May, weather permitting. Volunteers to work shifts of 3 hours are needed most days of the week during daylight hours. Two carts run throughout the day providing an excellent, free service to Greenway path users. A one-hour training course is provided in April for new volunteers.

**Got a green thumb?** The Greenway has several garden areas that we would like to “adopt out” to individuals or groups. The areas need weeding, planting, and care throughout the growing season.

For more information on volunteering please call the Greenway office at 453-8280.

## Save the Date 2007 Greenway Events

**June 2 ----- Gap2Gap**  
**August 18 --- A Case of the Blues**

**Don't miss out!**

*Have you lost keys or other items at the Greenway? Check our lost & found at the Greenway office, 453-8280.*

## Letter from a Visitor

The Yakima Greenway is a lovely combination of paved trail, connected parks, and land held in conservation running along the Naches and Yakima rivers. About 10 miles in length, with smooth pavement and very little elevation gain or loss, the trail is perfect for families and new cyclists. I particularly enjoyed riding along the curving pathway of the rivers in November, listening to the water move over smooth gray rocks, soaking in the golden glow of the cottonwoods, and knowing that I was escaping the rain pounding back home in Seattle.

Parks along or nearby the trail include:

- Sarg Hubbard Park: the jewel of the Yakima Greenway, with its amphitheatre & “dock stage” on the kids’ fishing pond, a children’s playground, a series of connected pathways, and the headquarters of the Yakima Greenway Foundation.
- McGuire Playground/Sunrise Rotary Park: a terrific wooden play structure built along the trail about a mile north of Sarg Hubbard Park.
- Sherman Park and the Yakima Area Arboretum, on the southeastern end of the trail (the Arboretum is its own entity, not part of the Greenway system).
- Chesterley Park, near the western end of the trail, which has a super-cool, kid-designed skate park, and which connects to a three-mile pathway built on top of a capped canal (Chesterley Park and the three-mile Powerhouse Path are City of Yakima Parks and not part of the Greenway system).

May through September, “courtesy cart” volunteers ride the trail in golf carts, offering water to thirsty walkers and cyclists, picking up litter, and helping with small emergencies.

Discover the warm (ok, in summer one might say hot!) hospitality of the Yakima Greenway for yourself and include this trail in a bike tour of the Yakima Valley. Several hotels are situated right along the trail, just north of Sarg Hubbard Park, and the Bike Yakima Map includes several wonderful cycling routes along low-traffic country roads. In spring and fall it will give you a dose of much-needed sunshine too.

Revolution Cycles, located near the western end of the trail at Fruitvale and 40th Ave., is a terrific bike shop (they really helped me out with a broken gear cable and 2 flats!) and because you’re traveling in goathead country you might need to pick up a spare tube (or 2)! (Goathead is a low-growing weed with 2 sharp thorns that punctures a lot of bike tires in Yakima.)

One problem with the Greenway Trail is access – access points are relatively few and hard to find. Check the Bike Yakima Map and ask locally, or park in Sarg Hubbard Park for the easiest-to-find trail entry point.

Alas, I was there in November, so I do not know where to find the best ice cream in Yakima... but I’ll bet one of the summer courtesy patrol volunteers will gladly guide you to it!

**- Ellen  
November 4, 2006**



## Volunteer of the Quarter

Our volunteer of the quarter for the fourth quarter of 2006 is Mike Wojnoski. Mike helps our maintenance crew one day each week, doing everything from picking up garbage to painting out graffiti. He is very reliable and we appreciate all his hard work!



## Construction News

In December, the Department of Transportation opened the pathway under the Highway 24 bridge construction project, re-connecting the pathway south. It currently has a temporary gravel surface. In mid-May, the pathway will once again be severed and re-routed to accommodate the removal of the old bridge and support pilings. It is anticipated that the pathway will then not be reopened until early fall of 2007.

In December, the Department of Transportation awarded bids for the reconstruction of the Hwy 12/Fruitvale/40<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection. Included with that project will be the construction of a trail extension from the Greenway path around Myron Lake to 40<sup>th</sup> at Fruitvale. Expect to see work on this project begin in early spring and be completed by mid-year. This will provide Greenway users a way to access Chesterley Park, the Powerhouse Pathway and open opportunities to fill in a gap in the Wm. O. Douglas trail and link with the Cowiche Canyon.

# Membership Report

10/16/06-1/15/07



**Thank you to our members who renewed between October 16 and January 15:**

## Eagle Circle

Mr & Mrs John Bloxom Jr  
Mr & Mrs Maxwell James II  
John & Mary Place

## Leaders Circle

Ms Jane Kirk  
Dr & Mrs Hamilton Licht  
Mr & Mrs Anthony Sagare  
Ms Louise Snyder

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Yakima Valley Audubon Society

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Ms Diana Bailey  
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Mr & Mrs Robert Busse  
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Karen Stotsenberg

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Mr & Mrs Bill Boggess  
Mr & Mrs Dave Brush  
Mrs J J Butler  
Mr & Mrs Dale Cobleigh  
Mr Lyle Collins  
Ms Beatrice L Cook  
Ms Dorothy Egg  
Mr & Mrs Dennis O Eliason  
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Ms Ruth Milton  
Mrs Elynor Roehr  
Mrs Janet Shaw  
Mr Gilbert Smith  
Mrs Fern Stotsenberg  
Ms Sheila Treat  
Mr & Mrs Robert Wall  
Mrs Hilda A Ward

**Welcome and thank you to our new members who joined between October 16 and January 15:**

**Leaders Circle**

Mr Kevin Foley  
Mr & Mrs Martin Verbrugge

**Major Donor**

Jesse Licht

**Patron**

Guy & Kathi Hoon  
Michael E Jach

**Family**

Eric & Melanee Bruntjen  
Ron & Sue Christenson  
Dr & Mrs Doug Corpron  
Tony & Ilene Gerardi & Family  
Mr & Mrs Bruce Kite  
Ms M Aileen Kulik  
Shane & Nicole Pierone  
Oscar & Sinia Rodriquez

**Individual**

Clay Mobley

**Student/Senior new members**

Mr Marlon Batin  
Harold L & Betty Cook  
Mr & Mrs Brian Fecht  
Mr & Mrs Donald Gargas  
Mike & Sue Gunderson  
Mr Lamont A McLachlan  
Mr Lloyd Roddy

**Business Members**

10/16/06-1/15/07

**Thank you to our business members who renewed between October 16 and January 15:**

**Leader**

Acordia Northwest Inc  
Burger King of Yakima  
Chalet Dental Clinic  
Leingang Excavating  
Vision Craft Inc  
Yakima Federal Savings & Loan

**Patron**

Horizon Distribution Inc  
McKinney's Auto Glass Inc  
Papé Machinery  
Russell Crane Service Inc

**Supporter**

Cook Northwest Inc  
Excel Fruit Brokerage Inc  
Grumpy's Outdoor Store  
PLSA Engineering & Surveying  
Sign Works Custom Concepts  
The Janitor's Closet  
Yakima Bindery & Printing

**Welcome and thank you to our new business members who joined between October 16 and January 15:**

**Eagle Flight**

The Williams Companies, Inc.

**Patron**

Land of Lakes Foundation

Need to renew?  
Donate online at [www.yakimagreenway.org](http://www.yakimagreenway.org)

*If you received this newsletter, you are likely already a member of the Yakima Greenway Foundation. You know our parks, pathways, and playgrounds are maintained not through receipt of tax dollars, but by our members. Unfortunately, not everyone realizes this. Help the Greenway and tell your friends and neighbors about Greenway membership! Together we can help the Greenway grow.*

**Honorariums**

10/16/06-1/15/07

**Marian Robison**

JC Penney Company

**Mike Poppoff & Gay Dorsey**

Poppoff Inc Employees

**Memorials**

10/16/06-1/15/07

**Kenneth Colvin**

Mr & Mrs Charles Bohoskey

**Betty Friesz**

Ms Shirley Lisle

**Linda Hall**

Ms Gloria Anderson

**Arthur D. & Dorothy G. Kirk**

Ms Jane Kirk

**Ryan Leitch**

Mr & Mrs Dennis Snider

**Maudry McCarthy**

Pat Ball

**Margaret Mendenhall**

Pat Ball  
Mrs Barbara Beck  
Ms Barbara Dwinell

**Jean Patterson**

Mr & Mrs Stanley O Johnson

**Norma N. Sixkiller**

Mr & Mrs Michael Saul

# 2006 Annual Appeal

Thank you to all of our members and donors who contributed to our 2006 annual appeal. You value the Greenway as much as we do and we appreciate your support. Thank you!

Dr & Mrs James Abbenhaus  
Mr & Mrs David Aggett  
Ms Sharon J Balding  
Mr Andy Black  
Ms Doris J Brandeen  
Mr Don Carlton  
Ms Elizabeth Carroll  
Mr Thomas Clayton  
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