

Friends of Badger Mountain – News, November 23, 2009

Seven items in this newsletter. Check our website: <http://www.friendsofbadger.org/> for more details.

1. Final week for your input to the Benton County Master Plan for the Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve
2. Alternative Gift Fair, **December 5**, 12 – 4:00 pm, Community Unitarian Church, Pasco
3. Winter Solstice Hike, **December 20**. Meet at the top for sunset at 4:13 pm.
4. Annual **New Year's Day** hike. Meet at the Skyline Trail, just off of Dallas Rd, 10:30 AM.
5. Some great trail work was completed recently. Read about it below.
6. Help build more rock retaining walls on the Canyon. Contact Jim to help: Trailmaster@friendsofbadger.org He especially needs help on weekdays.
7. Support FOBM — an all-volunteer, non-profit 501 C 3 organization

FOUND: Digital Camera in Trailhead Park (near the start of the Canyon Trail). Contact Jim at 943-3992 or Trailmaster@friendsofbadger.org

1. Final week for your input to the Benton County Master Plan for the Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve!

When Friends of Badger Mountain -- an all volunteer, citizen organization -- undertook in 2003 an effort to preserve 574 acres of Badger Mountain they raised the money from the public and from state, county and city sources and by prior arrangement ceded the land to Benton County in whose jurisdiction it lies.

Thus Benton County is the owner of what was named the Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve, while FOBM has the role of steward of the land and trails.

Now Benton County is developing a Master Plan for the Preserve and wants to hear thoughtful input from users and advocates on such topics as:

- * Dogs in the Preserve
- * Need for restrooms or other amenities like benches and directional signage
- * Ideas for keeping people on the designated trails, ie strictness of "on trail" rules/usage
- * Needs for trail remediation
- * What additional trails would you like to see

To give feedback, e-mail parks@co.benton.wa.us Comments will be incorporated into a draft Plan and available online for review in early December. Thank you for your interest and participation!

Adam J. Fyall, Benton County Commissioners' Office

2. Alternative Gift Fair, December 5, 12 – 4:00 pm, Community Unitarian Church, 28th & Sylvester, Pasco. Shop for gifts in a warm, relaxed atmosphere that will benefit organizations you care about, including Friends of Badger Mountain. Music, seasonal goodies, hot cider, Solstice crafts. For more information go to <http://www.friendsofbadger.org/>

3. Winter Solstice Hike, December 20. Meet at the top for sunset at 4:13 pm. Official Solstice is Monday, but if you want to be part of a group celebrating the return to spring and summer, Sunday's the day.

4. Annual **New Year's Day** Hike. Co-sponsored by Friends of Badger Mountain and the Inter-Mountain Alpine Club (I-MAC) which has organized a NY's Day hike for over 60 years! Meet at the Skyline Trail, just off of Dallas Road, 10:30 am.

5. Dyelan Ballantyne's **Eagle Scout project to build a rock retaining wall** on a Canyon Trail switchback was very successful. The rocks arrived at trailhead November 10. Ten days later most of them had been carried up the trail steps. Saturday he and fellow Scouts completed a much needed retaining wall just above the Canyon Trail steps. The awesome part of the story is how hikers pitched in and helped carry up the heavy rocks to build the wall, with the gurney system created by Dyelan. (see the front page article in the Herald 11/16/09). Jim Langdon, FOBM Trailmaster, says "for over a year I had been trying to think of a way to get rocks up those steps. Rocks are needed to repair and stabilize the down hill edge and keep the gravel on the trail like is done up at the top. The Badger Buggy cannot carry a load up the steps and I had never thought users would carry very many rocks." You can and you did! Thank you Dyelan!

6. **Help us build more retaining walls where the Canyon Trail has gotten so eroded.** "The Friends of Badger Mountain will place more rocks at the start of the Canyon Trail. These will only need to be carried up past the last switchback. From there I can use the Badger Buggy to move them along to where they will be used. I will then be working to place the rocks as the weather permits. Once the ground freezes, we'll have to wait for spring." Contact Jim at 943-3992 or Trailmaster@friendsofbadger.org to let me know you want to help.

Here's the system: situate a rock in one of the carriers left at the trailhead. Carry it up, leave the rock in the pile and the carrier next to the trail. Return the carrier to trailhead when you return on your hike. If you have a friend, the gurneys created by Dyelan and his crew are a great way to share the load.

Also in the last few weeks, Jim Langdon and his right hand helper Ken McMillan put in place **two new steps**, with another one planned....all making it easier to climb in that area. Other volunteers raked **gravel back on the trails** to help stabilize them. Thanks to Jim & Ken and all the people that are helping to keep the trails in such great shape for our enjoyment.

7. All of these trail improvement efforts cost money! **FOBМ is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501 C 3 organization.** Become a member — you can find a membership form in the boxes at trailhead — or give by credit card on our website. Money raised is used only for trail improvements, ridge lands acquisition efforts, and community outreach to increase enjoyment and stewardship of Badger Mountain.

Have a peaceful and loving holiday season — and thank you for all of your support!

Sharon Grant
Friends of Badger Mountain