



Friday 3/25  
100-miler starts  
7:00 AM

Saturday 3/26  
50 K starts 7:00 AM  
15 K starts 8:00 AM

### News from Friends of Badger Mountain

But first -- The Canyon Trail will be closed **Saturday, March 26, 8:00 to 1:00** for trail work by ShareFest. The Badger Mountain Challenge race will take place the same day, and it's a great event for the Tri-Cities. To avoid the crush of runners and hikers, we recommend you delay your Saturday hike until **after 1:00**. Thank you for your consideration.

**Help w/ Spring Trail Repair** - As you know, our much loved trails are in need of repair. Come on out and give a hand the next two weekends and selected days during the week. Work starts at **9:00 AM** and goes until the last volunteer leaves. FOBM's Trailmaster appreciates sign ups to help him plan the work. Contact Jim at [trailmaster@friendsofbadger.org](mailto:trailmaster@friendsofbadger.org) or 943-3992. In any case, bring work gloves, water, snacks, and lunch, and meet at Trailhead Park at 9:00 or on the trail. The Canyon Trail will be closed for regravelling Saturday March 26 8:00 to 1:00 pm. [You can read Jim's latest report on our Web site.](#)

**Badger Mountain Challenge** - Have you heard? Over 400 people have entered the Badger Mountain Challenge! The 100-mile race starts Friday, March 25 at 7:00 AM. On Saturday the 26th, the 50 K starts at 7:00 AM and the 15 K run/hike starts at 8:00 AM. You can read more about it or register at [the Badger Mountain Challenge Web site](#). Entrants will finish at Trailhead Park between mid-morning and mid afternoon on Saturday. Come out and cheer them in. Hearty food will be available for \$5.00 all afternoon in Trailhead Park. Net proceeds from the race will benefit the work of Friends of Badger Mountain.

**Wildflower Education** - We have a beautiful new wildflower brochure and will commence with wildflower education on **March 28 and April 4 and 11**. Guided wildflower walks for youth, families and the public will follow. [Read about it here \(PDF\)](#).

**Annual Meeting and Celebration** - Over 200 people attended our annual meeting on January 29 at the lovely Goose Ridge Winery, given the moniker "the best party of the year!" by one enthusiastic attendee. A very valuable aspect was coming together in a social setting with people we otherwise see only on the trails. A PowerPoint presentation showed many of our successes in 2010, including:

- The addition of 73 new acres to the Preserve for a total of 647 acres
- Completion of the new Sagebrush-Skyline trail which added nearly three additional miles of trails
- Nearly 120,000 users were counted on the trails in 2010

- Creation of a beautiful new wildflower brochure (see our [home page](#))
- Special fundraising and celebratory events

All these accomplishments clearly attested to the fact that Badger has become the local magnet for outdoor activity. Benton County Commissioner Leo Bowman and Kris Watkins, CEO of the Tri-Cities Visitors & Convention Bureau, spoke. Trailmaster Jim Langdon, "a man who stands above the rest," was honored as the Friend of Badger 2010. With superb wines, delicious food, and the chance to socialize with fellow hikers, the evening was pronounced a resounding success.

**Support and Renew** - The goals of Friends of Badger Mountain are to preserve special ridge land, build and maintain trails for non-motorized recreation, and undertake efforts for youth, families and the public to increase the enjoyment of the ridges. We have a great deal to be proud of: acquisition and addition of 73 acres to the Preserve, for a total of 647 acres; nearly 120,000 trail users in 2010; and a host of new activities enhancing stewardship of the mountain.

If you're not yet a member or have not yet renewed for 2011, we would very much appreciate your support. You can [download a membership and contribution form \(PDF\)](#) and mail it in. Membership contributions that were made after 10/1/2010 mean you're in good standing for 2011. If you're not sure, contact our membership chairperson [Gretchen Makinson](#).

**Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network** - RROSN publicly launched the "*Vision Plan for Open Space in the Mid-Columbia Region*" on February 24, with a hike up Badger. City officials joined members of the RROSN steering committee for the hike on what seemed like the coldest day of the year, which we felt proved their dedication to the principles espoused in the Vision Plan. It is a stunning document: 230 pages with many beautiful photographs and maps detailing what the public told us in four workshops and through a questionnaire about open space conservation and trail connectivity.

We strongly urge you to view the plan, either in person at our local libraries or online at the [RROSN Web site](#). Once you do, let your city and county representatives know what part of the vision matters to you. FOBM Board members Debbie Berkowitz, Tom Page, and Sharon Grant serve on the RROSN Steering Committee.

With warm regards on behalf of the Board of Directors for the [Friends of Badger Mountain](#),

Sharon Grant  
[sharon@friendsofbadger.org](mailto:sharon@friendsofbadger.org)  
March 18, 2011

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