

WHATCOM CHAPTER



Whatcom Chapter
P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228
2022

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360-961-4839

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360-296-3512

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360-599-2526
(2020-2022)

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(2021-2023)

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360-734-4258

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360-734-2567

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360-734-2567

Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

TRAIL TALES

Notes from the President

July 2022

BCHW mission statement: To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage. To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.

Thank goodness summer is here! We have had wet and soggy spring year. Hopefully we will all be able to get out there and take part in a work party or help our packers on a organized packing trip.

June was packed full with National Trails Day on June 4th at Blanchard trails with DNR and other user groups and our work party on June 11th at the Vedder Mt Trail head.

Those who all attended these events worked very hard and it certainly proved where the backbone of this chapter begins.

At the Vedder Mt Trail head, Todd Beld from Growsource donated 20 yards of bark, Stemler's Gravel donated their time to spread the gravel and Jeff Reynolds donated the work gloves from Atlas. Thank you also to Bolton tire for making sure our chapter trailer was well maintained at such a short notice. Thank you for your wonderful contributions to help us maintain this beautiful site. I want to thank everyone who helped work on the trail head. At the end we all enjoyed the Dutch oven homemade chili, peach cobbler which Bill and Michelle provided and corn bread. I enjoyed watching everyone come together even though there was no game plan set at the beginning, we still got the job done. The sound of the weed wackers and tractors moving was a joy to hear. A participation raffle ticket was given to everyone who attended and Melinda Smull won a BCH hat.

At our July 13th general meeting we will have Cassie Cichorz give an hour presentation on the Asian Hornet. Our general meeting will start at 6:30 at the Misty River Ranch. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Happy 4th of July everyone and be safe.
~Cindy Piccolo President

Check out our Website:

<http://www.whatcom-bch.com/>

VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. Cold Therapy for Injuries

You are riding down a trail. Your horse Oscar stumbles and becomes non-weight-bearing on his right front. You dismount and check him over. There are no visible injuries. You carefully lift the hoof enough to determine that there isn't a rock lodged in the shoe. But as you flex the pastern he winces. You wait a few minutes. Oscar takes a tentative step on his own, then a few more. At this point he starts bearing 75% on the leg. He is then able to walk but with a noticeable limp. What do you do? It's 2 miles to camp.

One thing you can do, if a cold stream or snow is available, is cold therapy. Cold therapy is well known to anyone doing strenuous activities- it can alleviate aches and pains from over-work. Cold not only has an analgesic effect it can cause blood vessels to constrict, reducing inflammation. Its major benefit is the first 3 days after an injury. However the water must be cold. Most water out of hoses is not cold enough to be beneficial. But a snowbank or mountain stream may be. The guideline is alternating 20 min on, 20 min off the first 36 hours. That is probably not feasible on the trail. But even 20 minutes will help.

There are several other places to use cold therapy. Many folks will ice their horses' legs after a strenuous work-out. Alternating heat/cold can help the recuperating injury. There are all sorts of devices to apply cold therapy, from taped on frozen bags of peas to elaborate devices that pump ice water into boots. The easiest is a simple bucket of water with ice cubes added, or the leg of a pair of jeans tied off at the bottom to hold the ice water, or an inner tube. I keep three soft ice packs in my freezer. They lie flat, are soft and malleable, and can be ace bandaged to an injury, human or horse.

Easy, cheap, low tech, and amazingly effective

**2022
TRAIL BOSSES**

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

Joe Remenar
360-778-9848


Roger Nelson
360-927-6964

**WORK PARTY
COORDINATOR**

Roger Nelson
360-927-6964


**PACKING
COORDINATOR**

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675



ONLINE AUCTION

Go Green Estate / Commercial Liquidation
360-305-1110



ONLINE AUCTION

Paul & Shelley Sanchez
Go Green Estate / Commercial Liquidation
Taking Quality Consignments for upcoming Auctions
gogreenestateliquidation.com



Growsource

Products: topsoil blend, garden blend, fertilizing, testing, compost, magic mulch, bark, rock, crushed rock.

Hannegan road next to Builder's Alliance
Open 8-5pm Monday-Friday, 8-4pm Sat.
360-318-8554. Deliveries Monday--Saturday.

A Special Thank You to:

Laurel Farm & Western Supply

America's Horse Country

Weylin & Amy Eldred

325 W Laurel Rd., Bellingham 360/398-1216

* 360/398-8050 fax

Hours: Mon- Fri: 8:30am. to 7 pm; Sat: 8:30am.to 6:00 pm. and Sun 9 am. to 5 pm.

Advertising Rates

Full Page----\$45.00 per month, limited to space available

1/2 Page.....\$90.00 for 6 months or \$150.00 for a Year

1/4 Page.....\$60.00 for 6 months or \$100.00 for a Year

Business Card....\$30.00 for 6 months or \$50.00 for a Year

Classifieds.....\$3.00 per month

EDITOR'S POLICIES

Trail Tales is published monthly. Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month. Non-copyrighted submissions are welcomed (subject to space limitations). Opinions and views expressed in letters or personal articles are not necessarily the opinions of BCH. Send submissions to: Editor, Fran Van Diest, 723 Van Wyck Rd, Bellingham, WA. 98226. Email to: fvandiest@msn.com.

WBCH General Meeting Minutes June 8, 2022, Laurel Grange

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Cindy P. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Sam moved to approve May minutes, Melinda seconded

Volunteer hours: Verna M.- 361.5 hours for May

Treasurer: Tim V. – balances were read. (Members can request balances) The auction made a little over \$8000 gross.

Directors:

Work party coordinator:

Vedder Trailhead: Cindy- There is a work party at Vedder Mt trailhead this Sat. No horses. Our trailer may be there. Marie will bring the club brush cutters and a pole saw attachment. There will be cornbread, chili, and beverages.

Rocky: we will weed eat and then spread bark. There will be a safety meeting first. The bark application is to make it easier to mow around the rocks and trees. Leave it mounded. The outside perimeter is designed for parking. It will be brush cut back and mowed with the brush hog.it

Spraying herbicide at Vedder was discussed. There were differing opinion on whether it should be done. The spraying was proposed in the picnic area and the berms. One member pointed out although it is private land the owner has opened it to the public. If it is sprayed it needs to be posted that it was sprayed. The owner could be held liable for adverse reactions to the spray. Roger N had specifically requested the berms not be sprayed due to the deer, he does much of the work at Vedder.

National Trails Day (June 4th at Blanchard): Rocky- gravel was packed in to three turnpikes. There was a total of 80 people, BCH had 12 humans (if we count our 11 animals, we made up almost 1/4 the participants. S.H.) All were Whatcom chapter members. There was lack of communication, only partially due to new people managing the event for the DNR. Next year we should double-check facts.

Trailheads

Vedder: Rocky- is working on a new trail that will open several hundred more acres. He is trying to arrange use of a piece of equipment from Bloedel. Bloedel is concerned with the amount of plant growth that occurs after a piece of equipment goes through. Rocky is ribboning a trail near the cemetery.

Marie: she has key access to Vedder, workers can pick it up from her.

Saxon: There is a creek wash-out on the way to Roy's Picnic Table that needs work.

Y Rd: logging is still going on, the new DNR proposed trailhead has issues, it is too small and they want to asphalt it.

General: Tim- if a culvert is needed Hot Shot funds may pay for it. (maybe referencing Saxon?)

Old Business:

Auction: Melinda- the auction did very well. We had 127 volunteer hours the day of the auction. Fran has asked to be relieved of her work on the auction. (Amazing job over the years Fran!) She will be difficult to replace; however, Jackie has volunteered to take over some of the job. (hooray!! Thanks Jackie) However we will need some more people to fill Fran's shoes.

We have confirmed the 2nd week in May for the logging grounds next year. The log show people were impressed with our group.

We may change the event. Ideas welcome. We do not need to vote on having the auction tonight- it is in the budget. People liked the venue, grounds, time of year, etc. \$50 gift certificates for Burnt Ends restaurant was purchased for both the auctioneer and his son. We will also put his business card in our newsletter for 2 months

Sam moved to adjourn the meeting; Andy seconded

Meeting adjourned at 8:20. Submitted by Sharon Hoofnagle secretary

Volunteer Hours:

Report your hours to Verna at verna@soundengineering.com.

Roy's picnic table

Jun 6, 2022

By Tony Mocer

On a late winter day in March, Mother Nature teased an early spring offering: A beautiful day that reminds all of us from the Pacific Northwest why we live here. My good friend Casey Diggs and I had unfinished business with a trail we had hiked last summer. Known by locals as the Thousand Puddles trail, the area, which is a Whatcom Land Trust Conservation site located at the end of Saxon Road, is labeled as the Edfro Creek Trail. Both names are fitting. The trail parallels the South Fork of the Nooksack River and, being flat, is a nice scenic walk offering access to a protected forest and views of eagles soaring over the river. On our summer hike with my daughter in tow, we made it to the end of the marked trail and turned back even though the trail continued. On the way out, we bumped into a couple on horseback who looked as though they were going much farther than we had. Chatting about where they were going, they told us that a little way past the end of the trail was Roy's picnic table. And so I knew finding the table was an adventure for the future.

The couple on horseback had described the table's location as just up a logging road, as though we would have stumbled upon it minutes from where we had ended our hike. So, on this winter day, Diggs and I planned for a little hike, some wet feet and a sunny picnic at a table in the woods.

We crossed multiple creeks bursting with water from recent rain and winter snowmelt. Some of these creeks were a simple hop, and others required some well-placed logs. As we made our way past the end what is marked as the Edfro Creek Trail, we expected to make a couple of turns and be at our lunch spot. We were wrong. We walked on an easy but wet path until we bumped into what was a raging Cavanaugh Creek. We could see that the trail continued on the other side of the creek, but there was no hopping or wading across this creek. The force was incredible, and we were sure we would be swept away if we entered the water. Determined to find Roy's table, we walked up the creek in search of potential crossing points. What we found were some logs that were nearly touching and an old cable bridge that had been reduced to cables with the occasional rotting board attached to them.

Slightly nervous about being swept away by the creek, we opted for the log crossing. Balancing on the slick logs with our feet inches from the rushing water provided an adrenaline spike as we made our way to the other side. At this point, we had no idea where we were going. Diggs doubted whether we were still heading toward the elusive table, but after a scramble up a hill and a little bushwhacking, we were once again on a nice path along the river.

The trail eventually took a left turn uphill and became as much creek as it was dirt trail as water meandered its way down the hillside. Now gaining elevation quickly and with no table in sight, we questioned whether we had understood the couple on horseback correctly. Just as we were beginning to think we may need to find a log to have lunch on, we saw a lone wooden sign that said "Roy's Picnic Table" with an arrow. Reinvigorated, we pushed up the hill spotting a few more signs as we went. Hiking around one more bend, the trees opened up, and there it was, the table and a view of the foothills as far as we could see.

Carved into the picnic table was "Whatcom BCH." Having heard of the Whatcom Back Country Horsemen (WBCH), I knew when I got back; that I would need to do some digging into how the heck this table got here. I found Rocky Leavitt, who, with the help of his mules, has been maintaining trails all over Whatcom County where vehicles can't get to for years. A long-time member of WBCH, he has volunteered countless hours to uphold its mission of keeping trails open. As it would turn out, the table Diggs and I ate at was the second Roy's picnic table, and Leavitt himself had brought it up there. He said he would be happy to chat with me about the table, but it would probably be better if I spoke with Roy himself.

Thrilled to learn the whole story, I sat down with Leavitt and Roy Van Diest to hear their tales. Now in his 80s, Van Diest has spent a lifetime adventuring around Whatcom County and beyond by horseback. It was on one of these adventures that Van Diest stumbled across this viewpoint and declared, "This is a nice place to have a picnic." Roy would return, riding his horse, Lucy, with materials to assemble a picnic table. Now a destination for the approximately 150 WBCH members and the random hiker, the table is a symbol of all those adventures on horseback Van Diest experienced and a reminder of all the volunteer hours WBCH members have put in to maintain trails used by all. This group does this low-impact maintenance not for pay, as it actually costs them to serve this role, but for the love of the outdoors.

(continue on page 6)



CALENDAR



Due to the coronavirus, more information on the following will be sent by email at a later date. All dates are currently pending until further notice.

July 5, 2022----board meeting at Roundtable pizza on Sunset Dr. dinner at 6pm, meeting at 7pm but will also try to have meeting by zoom for the ones unable to attend.

July 13, 2022----general meeting at Misty River Ranch, 5690 N. Fork, Deming. Potluck at 6:00pm, bring a dish to share, your utensils, plate, napkins and beverage. Meeting starts at 6:30pm, Cassie Cichorz give an hour presentation on the Asian Hornet.

Possible work parties/packing scheduled so far, subject to change:

June 29, 2022---Blanchard trailhead. Rocky Leading

July 5, 6 and 7. Baker Lake trail. Joe R leading

July 8. Excelsior trail. Rocky packing, WTA leading. <https://www.wta.org/volunteer/schedule/workparty/a2m2K00000AWOiX/>

July 11, 12, 13 and 14 if we can find a leader

August 6 and 7 at Schreiber's Meadow if we can find a leader. WCC Crew will be onsite.

Possibly a work party at Schreiber's Meadow on August 20 - 21 to finish up whatever WCC, PNTA and WTA does not finish?

2022 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

LEGISLATIVE:

Bill McKenna
360-599-2526

LEAVE NO TRACE:

Bill McKenna
360-599-2526

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Verna McLeod
360-595-2744

PROGRAMS:

Sharon Hoofnagle
360-7344258

SUNSHINE

Michelle McKenna
360-599-2526

TRAIL HEAD COMMITTEE

Mike McGlenn
360-739-2619

SCRAPBOOK

Debbie Lagerwey
360-354-2804
Need Pictures!



HELP WANTED: House cleaner 1x per month. Once acclimated to our house, the cleaning takes about 3 hours. We provide all the products and equipment. We are 1 mile north of Everson. Please email: mtiemersma@hotmail.com OR call / text: 360-815-5992. Thank you, Marie Tiemersma

Sunshine Committee

If you know someone that needs a little ray of sunshine, please contact Michelle McKenna at 360-599-2526 or send her an email at: wintercreek10@gmail.com

E-bike Survey:

The departments are also taking public feedback through an online public survey, available in English and Spanish, through Friday, July 15. To complete the online public survey, visit wdfw.wa.gov/ebikes or dnr.wa.gov/ebikes or call Wildlife Program Customer Service Desk at 360-902-2515 to request a print version of the survey.

(Continue from Page 4) Roy's picnic table:

As I finished my peanut butter and jelly sandwich and Diggs polished off his delicious-looking chicken on a bed of greens, we rose from Roy's table, snapped some pictures, and began our descent. We once again safely crossed Cavanaugh Creek and the thousand or so puddles en route to our vehicle. Besides the soggy feet, we felt great that we had completed such an exciting adventure and enjoyed a meal at Roy's picnic table. We were also appreciative of all the pieces that came together to make our adventure possible. It took efforts by a random couple on horseback, The Whatcom Land Trust, Rocky Leavitt and the WBCH, to make this day possible for us. Most importantly, it took Van Diest and his decades of blazing trails by horseback to discover such a beautiful spot to have a picnic.

Tony Mocerri is a freelance writer who loves to get out and explore the world with his family. He shares his journey @adventurewithinreach and tonymocerri.com.



Roy Van Diest. Photo courtesy
Whatcom Back Country Horseman



Tony Mocerri and Casey Diggs at
Roy's picnic table. Tony Mocerri
photo

(reprinted, permission received from
Mount Baker Experience)

Free Event!



Farm Speaker Series

Sound Horsekeeping In Whatcom County

Thursday, July 21, 2022

6-7:30 PM

RSVP for farm location

Join us at the Northwest Therapeutic Riding Center to learn from Julia & Mike Bozzo about Sound Horsekeeping practices on their farm. Topics will include stall & manure management, heavy use areas, & single bay composting.

They have cultivated a system of efficient & effective practices over years of experience taking care their horses.



RSVP:
Pauline Chiquet
pchiquet@whatcomcd.org
(360) 526-2381 ext. 105



**Volunteer Hours for May'22--
total hours: 362 for the month.**

**(Skilled 45hrs., Admin---268.50
hrs., and travel--48 hrs.)**

**Andy McLeod
Annika Harris
Bill McKenna
Carol Ketchum
Chris McGlenn-nm
Cindy Piccolo
Debbie Lagerwey
Fran Van Diest
Irene Recke
Joy Lagerwey-nm
Judy Kinna
Judy Tate
Leroy Lagerwey
Letitia Wheeler
Lisa Ooestma
Lori Swartwood
Lynn Johnson
Melinda Smull
Michael Bailey
Michelle McKenna
Nancy Giordano
Rik Karon
Robbie Harris
Roger Edmonds
Roger Nelson
Ryan Heacock
Sam Miller
Shirley Todhunter
Silver Aveena-nm
Susan Sebastian--nm
Terry DeBruin
Therese Jones
Tim Van Beek
Tricia Morones
Verna McLeod**



**Work Party on June
11, 2022 at Vedder
trailhead. Mike
McGlenn with tractor
spreading bark around
the trees. Below
Marie T. and Debbie
L. shoveling bark**



The trailhead looks
so nice after all the
work done on June
11, 2022!
More pictures on
page 10.



June 11, 2022



National Trails Day, June 4, 2022 work party at Blanchard trails with DNR and other groups.





More pictures of the National trails day work party at Blanchard trails with DNR and other user groups. They all worked for several hours hauling gravel, working on trails. Thank you to all who participated!

Fran



Vedder trailhead work party on June 11, 2022. Bark around the trees and rocks, they did some weed eating and smooth out the gravel around the area. Two tractors were used. Great job!



The work crew below and afterwards having lunch!



2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Come Join Us!

Go to BCHW.org and join or renew online. If online is not an option, please fill out this paper application and sign, (all members 18 and over must sign) enclose your cash or check made out to BCHW and mail to:

BCHW Membership Chair
11404 210th Ave Ct E
Bonney Lake, WA 98391



Whatcom Co.

Member Info

Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Secondary Chapter Application Only

Adult's name(s):

Children's name(s):

Mailing Address:

City:

ST:

Zip:

Phone number:

E-mail:

Legislative district (if known):

County:

National and State Newsletters are viewable online at BCHA.org/BCHW.org or Please mail a hard copy of Newsletters
(Check Boxes) ☐ BCHA Newsletter ☐ BCHW (Trailhead News) ☐ Chapter Newsletter (If available to mail)

STATE MEMBERSHIP

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Basic Memberships

☐ Single \$41.00

☐ Family \$54.00

Levels below include Single and Family

☐ Contributing \$75.00

☐ Sustaining \$125.00

☐ Patron \$250.00

☐ Benefactor \$500.00

☐ Lifetime (Single) \$1200.00

All chapter members must also be a member of BCHW. However, BCHW dues only need to be paid **once** each year. Joining additional (secondary) chapters only requires paying chapter dues.

Chapter Name (or Independent):

Whatcom Co.

If joining a secondary Chapter, provide the Chapter name where BCHW State dues have been paid for 2021:

Chapter Dues \$10.00

Please consider making a Chapter donation: \$

Please consider making a State donation: \$

Chapter Subtotal \$

State Subtotal \$

Grand Total (State+Chapter) \$

NOTICES

By signing this membership application, you will agree to the terms of our Liability Release. You can read it on our website at bchw.org, under the Join tab. You also agree to receive notices from BCHW/BCHA by electronic transmission at the above email address.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) is a public charity as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Accordingly, membership dues paid to BCHW may be treated as deductions characterized as "charitable contributions" when computing federal and state income tax obligations.

Signature:

Date

Signature:

Date

Signature:

Date

Revised
8/9/2021



Fran Van Diest
WBCH Newsletter Editor
723 Van Wyck Rd
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 734-2567



BCHW mission statement: To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage. To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.



Check out the BCHW
Website at:
<http://www.bchw.org>



Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen

Meeting:
General Meeting: July 13, 2022
Misty River Ranch
5690 N. Fork, Deming, WA
Potluck at 6:00pm
Meeting 6:30pm---8:30pm

