

GOLDMYER NEWS

A Newsletter published by the volunteers of Northwest Wilderness Programs

Summer 2006

WWW.GOLDMYER.ORG

Edited by Bob Jacoby (206) 525-0608

New Middle Fork Campground opens to public on Memorial Day weekend

by Bob Jacoby

The long-awaited return of a public campground to the Middle Fork valley has finally become a reality. On May 13th the Forest Service held a dedication ceremony for the new Middle Fork Campground. The campground officially opened for business on the Memorial Day weekend, and the campground host reports that the number of campers is steadily increasing as word gets out.

Held on a beautiful warm Saturday afternoon, the ceremony featured several speakers. Forest Supervisor Rob Iwamoto and District Ranger Jim Franzel thanked the efforts of numerous people at the Mountlake Terrace headquarters and at the North Bend Ranger Station for creating a campground that will be a popular recreation spot for generations to come. This is the first new campground to open in the region for many decades.

Former Senator Slade Gorton spoke briefly, after being honored for his help in securing funding for the campground. He was given a tour of the valley a few years ago, and was impressed with the untapped potential for recreation so close to the Seattle metropolitan area.

Mid-Forc co-founder Mark Boyer spoke briefly about the history of the valley, and the numerous changes that



Former Senator Slade Gorton and Forest Supervisor Rob Iwamoto chat for a moment just after cutting the ribbon on the new campground

PHOTO: BOB JACOBY

were built. In addition to working on obtaining the funding for this new campground, Mark has worked on various land swaps and property buyouts that result in nearly 100% of the valley now being publicly owned. Northwest Wilderness Programs is now one of the

Old-timers to the valley will recognize the campground as being on the old 510-spur road just before the Taylor River Bridge. In a clearing that was once a logging clearcut and a rock quarry you will now find two large community picnic shelters, each capable of keeping more than two dozen people under cover at three massive picnic tables.

Below these two shelters there are over three dozen campsites, all handicap accessible, and all equipped with firepits and with pedestal-style barbecues for grilling and cooking. Five sets of vault toilets are dispersed throughout the campground, and two hand-operated pumps provide fresh water for drinking and cooking.

About half of the sites are reservation sites, and the rest of the sites are available first-come-first served.

A number of informational signs are posted at several kiosks in the campground, with information on the geology, history, and biological diversity of the surrounding area. A couple of short barrier-free loop trails head out from the campground, to provide easy nature hikes for families with small kids.



The dedication ceremony was held under one of the new picnic shelters

have occurred in the years since the Middle Fork Trailhead and footbridge

largest remaining in-holders in the valley!

See: New Campground, page 3

Floods washed out the road this winter, repairs have been completed

We had another one of those major floods a few months ago. But this time, instead of the usual November blowout, this one occurred in January! The warm wet weather just after the holidays produced a huge amount of snowmelt that saturated the ground in the lower portion of the valley, and a massive slump occurred about a hundred yards beyond the large concrete bridge

An area over 20 yards long and about two-thirds of the width of the roadway dropped from four to six feet, and a massive repair job was needed to rebuild the slumped roadway. The area was dug out over 20 feet deep to determine site stability and to remove layers of clay and sediment. Then new material, starting with very large rocks, was hauled in, using more than a hundred dump-truck loads to rebuild the base of the road.

Finally, in early April the road was reopened, and aside from a lack of vegetation along the shoulders you can hardly tell where this huge sinkhole was! Hopefully we won't see another event like this for a while!

Middle Fork Road (Paving) Project

Meanwhile, in other road-related news, the Federal Highway proposal to pave the lower Middle Fork Road all the way to Taylor River is continuing through its own process, but their draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is undergoing a rewrite to further address the cumulative impacts of the project. They hope to publish a new DEIS this fall.

Currently there are three alternatives that plan a roadway between 22 and 30 feet wide. Most local public interest is for the narrower of the options, keeping it closer to its existing road width for most of the way, with widening and realignment at some of the most dangerous curves. We will provide the latest news on our web-site as it becomes available...

To see the latest news you can also check their website:

www.mfsnoqualmie.org



The washout in February: the concrete bridge is visible in the background.

that is located about 5 miles in along the Middle Fork Road.

Goldmyer's long-time resident, BC the cat, passes away at 18 years of age.

We learned in early March that BC- the longtime resident mouser for the Goldmyer cabin- had finally passed away on March 1, after more than 18 years at Goldmyer.

BC came to Goldmyer when he was barely six weeks old. One of our earliest caretakers, Bob Quick, was tired of seeing the cabin being overrun with mice, and brought BC to his new home. Although just a kitten, BC was a Manx, a breed renown for their mouse- hunting skills.

It didn't take him long to get to work- BC caught and ate his first mouse before Bob Quick even had a chance to start feeding him crunchy food (in preparation for crunchy mice!)

Over the years hundreds of mice, almost as many chipmunks, and an occasional careless camper's food stash, became part of BC's diet. BC spent all but about 8 days on the property- those days being due to visits to the vet.

Due to allergies of some caretakers, BC spent many winters and much of the rest of the seasons primarily outside, but his comfy little box near the front door was lined with a warm wooly sheepskin that he really enjoyed.

On his passing, BC was laid to rest with that sheepskin, buried in the woods below the cabin. Many of us old-timers had to hold back a tear when we heard of



BC, sitting at one of his favorite spots- in front of the upstairs window of the cabin.

BC's departure, but we are consoled by the fact that he was comfortable right up to the end- even catching a mouse just a couple weeks before passing away!

Let's hope that the local mouse population doesn't explode now that BC has left us.

New Campground

From Page 1

The two community picnic shelters are available for group picnics, with plenty of dry space under each shelter when the rains come. The charge is a flat 6.00 per carload for day use.

Campsites are \$16.00 per night, and \$7.00 for an additional vehicle. There are several double campsites and group campsites, with additional tent sites, and these are \$32.00 per night, which includes the first two vehicles, and \$7.00 for additional vehicles beyond the first two. Firewood is also available from the campground host, three bundles for \$15.00

The volunteers of Northwest Wilderness Programs publish GOLDMYER NEWS. If you have any articles, photos or other items to contribute to the newsletter, please call Bob Jacoby, (206) 525-0608, or Beth Burman at our office, (206) 789-5631. We gladly welcome anyone who would like to help us put out the best newsletter possible!

GOLDMYER NEWS is printed on recycled paper- Please keep the cycle going!



New footbridge heads our list of work parties

As usual, we are planning on our usual summer work projects at Goldmyer, and this year may also include some work on the new footbridge. The Forest Service is planning to use a contractor for most of

the technical work, but we will probably use volunteers to help with finishing work, such as the approaches on each side of the river. Check our website for information about this and other projects in store for this summer!

Our Calendar of Events- 2005-2006

Here is a calendar of events for the upcoming months. We have added some monthly topics to our meeting agendas in hopes of attracting members to the various topics. Due to changing road and river conditions it is always a good idea

to call our office for confirmation of work party dates, road conditions, and other details about upcoming work parties. Our monthly meetings are held at 6:00pm in our office at 202 N. 85th St., Room 106.

OUR SCHEDULE:

Monthly Meeting: Topic: open	August 7	Monthly Meeting: Topic: work projects (planning)	February 5
Volunteers' Weekend:	Sept 2 - 4	Monthly Meeting: Topic: office issues	March 5
Monthly Meeting: Topic: voting member selection	September 11	Monthly Meeting: Topic: caretaker's issues	April 2
Monthly Meeting: *Annual Members' Meeting*	October 2	Monthly Meeting: Topic: education	May 7
Monthly Meeting: Topic: work projects (review)	November 6	Monthly Meeting: Topic: open	June 4
Monthly Meeting: Topic: budget	December 4	Monthly Meeting: Topic: open	July 9
Monthly Meeting: Topic: budget	January 8	Monthly Meeting: Topic: open	August 6

----- CLIP HERE AND MAIL IN -----

Membership Application --- NORTHWEST WILDERNESS PROGRAMS

A Non-Profit Washington Corporation, Tax-Exempt Under I.R.C. sect.501(c)(3)

I would like more information about:

- Sustaining Memberships
 Working Memberships

I would like to volunteer my skills for:

- Trail work Forest rehabilitation
 Construction Supplies hauling
 Fund-raising Education projects
 Other: _____

I'd like to join Northwest Wilderness Programs:

- \$40 Membership (4 Adult visits)
 \$60 Membership (6 Adult visits)
 \$80 Membership (8 Adult visits)
 \$30 Laminated Self-Guided Nature Tour Book
 \$20 Regular Self-Guided Nature Tour Book

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL (optional) _____

I would like to pay by Credit Card:

(MAKE SURE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AT LEFT MATCH YOUR ACCOUNT!)

- Visa
 MasterCard Expiration Date: _____

Account Number: _____

Signature: _____

I'd like to send a gift to my friend:

- \$40 Membership (4 Adult visits)
 \$60 Membership (6 Adult visits)
 \$80 Membership (8 Adult visits)
 \$30 Laminated Self-Guided Nature Tour Book
 \$20 Regular Self-Guided Nature Tour Book
 Please send a newsletter and brochure

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Send Check, Money Order, or Credit Card info to:

Northwest Wilderness Programs
 202 N. 85th St., Suite 106
 Seattle, WA 98103

Northwest Wilderness Programs

Northwest Wilderness Programs is a non-profit organization whose goal is the preservation of Goldmyer Hot Springs. 95% of all funds received are used for charitable purposes. Information regarding NWWP is available from the Washington Secretary of State. With the exception of the Goldmyer property manager and part-time office help, the staff and work force of Northwest Wilderness Programs is a completely volunteer organization. We receive no compensation for our efforts except the enjoyment of the Goldmyer property and the fulfillment that comes with the efforts of attaining a worthwhile goal.

We invite those who use the springs to become members of this organization.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Don StonackChairman
- Gary BruntPresident
- Barry Brunt.....Treasurer
- Chuck RouthSecretary
- Bob JacobyDirector
- Darren Emmons.....Director
- Andre Burman.....Director

Office Hours

Our office in Seattle is the hub of our communications network, with Beth Burman holding down the fort. In addition to handling the Reservations Hotline, Beth will gladly give you the current road conditions, information about memberships, upcoming events and work parties, and answer any other questions you might have.

Best times to reach Beth are Tuesday afternoon and Friday evening, but the recorder is on 24 hours a day, and Beth will get back to you during those office hours. **Remember the number: (206) 789-5631**

Monthly Meetings

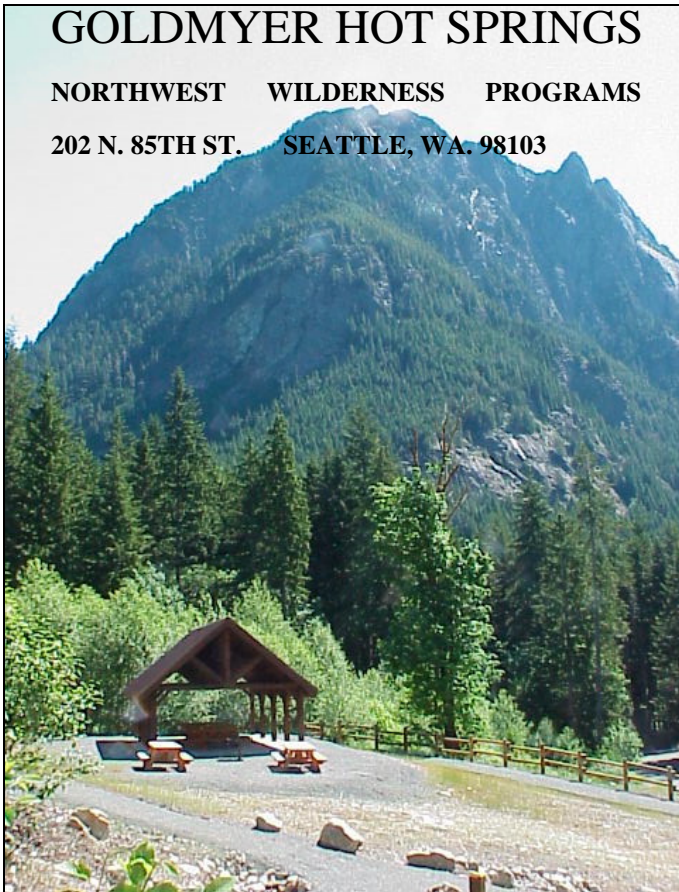
Meetings of Northwest Wilderness Programs are held (at 6:00pm) each month (usually on the first Monday of the month) at our office in the Greenwood area of Seattle, at **202 N. 85th St, Room 106**. Anyone who is interested may attend these meetings, and we welcome your input. If you have a topic you would like to discuss during the next meeting, Gary Brunt will gladly put it on the

agenda for the meeting if you leave a message at his office at (206) 784-6346.

Members are eligible to become voting members after 2 years of active participation in the organization, and upon nomination by a current board member and approval of the board. Please turn to page 3 for a schedule of upcoming monthly meetings for the next few months.

Working Weekends

Our working members hold scheduled work parties several times a year (when weather or road conditions permit) to work on various projects at Goldmyer Hot Springs. We invite everyone who wishes to help to join us on these work parties. If you would like to join us, call the office for information regarding our next work party, and let us know your skills. Also note the dates of our upcoming work parties on page 3.



GOLDMYER HOT SPRINGS

NORTHWEST WILDERNESS PROGRAMS

202 N. 85TH ST. SEATTLE, WA. 98103

A group picnic shelter at the new Middle Fork Campground