



THE SPRING 2022 ISSUE

ON THE PAPER TRAIL

News for Sitka Trail Works Members



2023 Trail Planning Begins

Building off the success of the last twenty years, it's time for a new vision for our trail system. For over two decades, Sitka Trail Works has maintained and improved our local trail network in partnership with the City of Sitka, State Parks, the US Forest Service, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and the National Park Service. Many of the outdoor destinations we cherish today exist because Sitkans identified them as priorities in the 2003 Sitka Trail Plan.

Having accomplished many of the original objectives, Sitka Trail Works is excited to launch a new community-wide Trail Planning process. Collectively agreeing on our next priorities and advancing projects to shovel ready status will help Sitka compete for state and federal infrastructure funding. With this new plan guiding the way, we envision an even more robust trail system that supports the physical, mental, spiritual, and cultural vibrancy for future generations.

Sitka Trail Survey seeks your input

All Sitkans are invited to be a part of shaping the future of our trails. To start, Sitka Trail Works is widely distributing a public survey to gather information about current uses, challenges, and opportunities for our trail system.

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 cash prize. The survey is available online or in print at the library and will be open through the end of May.

After an initial round of extensive public engagement, Sitka Trail Works and partners will assess trail concept feasibility, identify shared priorities, and assemble an initial list of new trail project ideas. This draft list will be distributed to the public for another round of review and feedback. Only after a thorough vetting and approval by all public land managers will the new plan be formalized.



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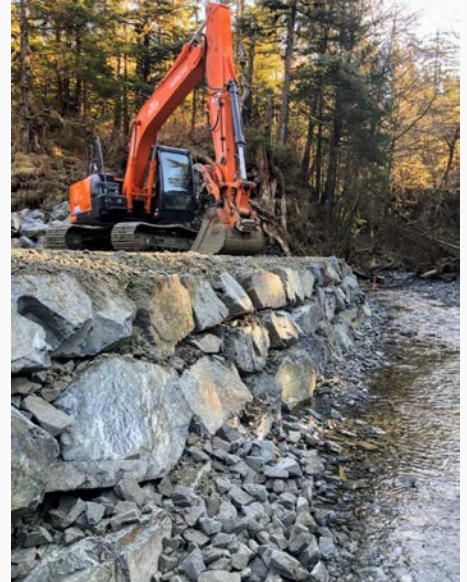
Remembering Marge & Tedin

Late last year, Marge Ward and her partner Marlys Tedin left a generous legacy gift to Sitka Trail Works in their will. Marge and Tedin, who passed in 2019 and 2015, will be remembered as smart, resourceful Alaskan women who led remarkable lives over half a century in Sitka. Marge and Tedin worked as nurses at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital and were dedicated to serving others. Active on the Alaska State Parks Advisory Board, their quiet leadership and advocacy resulted in improvements to Mosquito Cove and Forest & Muskeg Trails, Halibut Point Rec, Old Sitka Boat Launch and other beloved local facilities. Both invested significantly in local causes, bringing sharp wit, good humor, and mentorship. Thank you to Marge and Tedin, extraordinary woman who committed their lives to caring for Sitka and made this incredibly generous contribution as their last wish.

Cross Trail Update

Work is underway on the bridge over Chix'i Héen! Once No Name Creek is spanned, the trail will extend from Starrigavan to downtown! Completion of this route has been a dream of the community since the 1970's and was formalized in the landmark 2003 Trail Plan.

After the mainline is finished, we'll turn our attention to the Connector Trail that will link to 4800 block of Halibut Point Road, near the new Cruise Terminal. Additional funding will need to be secured to complete 0.3 miles of the 0.6 mile Connector.



The project is experiencing a budget shortfall due to increases in construction costs and unexpected terrain challenges. Per lineal foot, excavating the approach to No Name Creek cost three times the average and took four times as long to complete. To ensure we can complete the project, we've seeking new private and public funds. The Royal Caribbean Group has generously donated \$75,000, which will be used to leverage federal funding sources. We are projecting the latest completion date to be June 2023.

Please consider a donation to support the efforts to complete the Cross Trail. All local funds can be used as match for other grants.

Welcome our New Admin Assistant, Mel Beadle

Mel has years of experience as an administrative professional as well as a strong academic and professional background in the nonprofit sector. With a passion for finance and operations, Mel is excited to be part of strengthening organizational capacity at Sitka Trail Works.

Mel loves is a true extrovert, so if you see her out on the trail with her pup Otis, say hi!



Benefits of becoming a Sitka Trail Works Member

ACCESS You will be the first to see the Sitka Trail Works Summer Hike Schedule, and first to snag off-island hike tickets.

UPDATES We keep our members up-to-date with the latest in trail developments.

DONATE Know that you are part of improving our trail system and the health of our community with every dollar you give!

Use your phone's camera app to link you straight to our donation page!

Support today at SitkaTrailWorks.org



Board of Directors Updates

Welcome Lione Clare and Mike Jones

MIKE JONES recently returned home to Sitka to be with family and is eager to support the community through his years of experience in management and sales after a career in Portland. As a station manager at Alaska Seaplanes, Mike does not shy away from public speaking or fundraising and is excited to get out on the trails with us this summer.



LIONE CLARE was born and raised in Sitka and is an avid hiker, trail runner, and biker who grew up on our trails. As a nature photographer and the Wilderness & Community Engagement Coordinator with Sitka Conservation Society, Lione brings a deep connection to the Tongass and the skills to support Sitka Trail Works in developing a strong communications strategy. We are excited to have her on board!

Farewell Jim Rogers and Nicole Duclos

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jim Rogers and Nicole Duclos, who recently ended their terms as volunteers on the Board of Directors.

Over her five years of service on the board, Nicole was a superb leader in our summer hikes program, bringing enthusiasm and experience as an avid outdoor adventurer. Jim is a dedicated walker and committed public servant. You'll see him out walking daily (he once logged 100,000 steps in a day) or responding to calls in his new role as Animal Control Officer.

Join us for a Trail Planning Open House

ON MAY 11 we invite you to join us at Harrigan Centennial Hall. Stop in anytime between 4pm-7pm. We are excited to provide a space for information on the 2023 Trail Planning Process and welcome your feedback to support the future of our trails. Snacks provided, masks encouraged.



SITKA TRAIL WORKS 2022 SUMMER HIKES CALENDAR

ALL HIKES ARE LED BY VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS; TRAIL/HIKE DESCRIPTIONS & POLICIES ONLINE AT SITKATRILWORKS.ORG

Participants should bring a daypack, snacks and water. VHF Radio & first aid kit provided by STW Hike Leaders

| Date | Hike Info (round trip distance) | Meeting Spot | Donation / Ticket |
|----------------------|---|---|---|
| May 7 - Saturday | Cross Trail Bike Ride Downtown to Cross Trail and Back 5 Miles - Moderate | Salty Spoke Bike Co-op 1 Lincoln St. 10:30 AM | FREE Donations welcome. |
| May 14 - Saturday | Family Friendly Hike Ben Grussendorf & Starrigavan Estuary Loop. 1.6 Miles - Easy | Sarrigavan Boat Launch (Gravel Lot across from launch) 9:00 AM | FREE Donations welcome. |
| May 21 - Saturday | Herring Cove - Beaver Lake 3.6 Miles - Moderate | Herring Cove Trail Head 9:00 AM | FREE Donations welcome. |
| May 28 - Saturday | Community Bike Ride | For more information go to sitkacycling.wordpress.com | |
| June 4 - Saturday | National Trails Day Volunteer Trail Maintenance | TBA | FREE Volunteer Event Bring Gloves |
| June 11 - Saturday | Indian River Waterfall 9 Miles - Moderate | Indian River Trail Head 9:00 AM | FREE Donations welcome. |
| June 12 - Sunday | Thimbleberry - Heart Lakes LGBTQ2+ Hike | Check out the Sitka Pride Facebook page for details | |
| June 18 - Saturday | Medveji Solstice Run | Race & Registration info at Medveji Solstice Run's Facebook Page | |
| June 25 - Saturday | Mosquito Cove Trail .5 miles - Moderate | Mosquito Cove Trailhead 9:00 AM | FREE Donations welcome. |
| July 2 - Saturday | Gavan Trail to Harbor Mt. 6 Miles - Strenuous uphill climb | Sitka High Cross Trail Trailhead 9:00 AM | FREE Donations welcome. |
| July 10 - Sunday | Mt. Edgecumbe Hike 14 Miles - Strenuous last mile | Depart Crescent Harbor at 7:00 AM Depart Fred's Creek 5:45 PM | \$110 Tickets Purchase online at sitkatrailworks.org/weekend-hikes or call 907-747-7244 |
| July 16 - Saturday | Alpine Adventure Run | For race & registration info email christinemariehoran@gmail.com | |
| July 23 - Saturday | Verstovia 5 Miles - Strenuous Uphill Climb | Verstovia Trailhead 9:00 AM | FREE Donations welcome. |
| August 7 - Sunday | Mt. Edgecumbe Hike 14 Miles - Strenuous last mile | Depart Crescent Harbor at 7:00 AM Depart Fred's Creek 5:45 PM | \$110 Tickets Purchase online at sitkatrailworks.org/weekend-hikes or call 907-747-7244 |
| August 13 - Saturday | Thimbleberry - Heart Lakes - SMC Loop 3.6 Miles - Moderate | Thimbleberry Lake Trailhead | FREE Donations welcome. |