Weber Pathways Reports
Bonneville Shoreline Trail Progress

Toward completing the Bonneville Shoreline Trail through Weber County, construction has begun on a new trail through the Washington Heights Church property. The trail will be a well-constructed single track, with a maximum grade of 8%, and will tie into a loop trail on the church property.

In North Ogden a new trail alignment was designed and constructed for the BST North trail running from the North Ogden Divide to Pole Patch in Pleasant View. It roughly parallels the powerline road and is within the Rocky Mountain Power Company property. It has been designed as a multi-use trail for hikers, bikers and equestrians. Final construction of the trail will begin again in the spring of 2013.

For information about BST planning in the Weber County portion, contact Mark Benigni, Weber Pathways Executive Director, at (801) 393-2304 or wp@weberpathways.org. Mark Bunker, Weber Pathways board member, at mark.bunker@autoliv.com, or Geoff Ellis, Weber Pathways board member, at gellis@stanfordalumni.org.

Protecting the Greater Canyonlands Region
By Tim Wagner

As a Sierra Club staffer and organizer, I am constantly reminded of why this organization's efforts are so important in Utah. This has been especially true recently as I attended the annual Outdoor Retailers winter market here in Salt Lake City. The business of outdoor recreation is immense, and growing more every day. But without specially protected public places, whether they are county or state parks, national forests, wilderness areas, national parks, BLM lands or monuments, this industry would simply not exist.

Public lands are a huge part of Utah's identity, which is on full display here at the OR show. In addition to the industry providing huge economic value to the state, for the hundreds of thousands of us who live, work, and recreate in Utah, it is that personal connection to these lands, that both keeps us here and draws even more here.

Which brings me to the Sierra Club's monument campaign for the Greater Canyonlands region. The proposed Greater Canyonlands National Monument would encompass 1.4 million of the original Escalante National Monument proposal of 4 million acres, which failed designation in the 1930's. The eventual establishment of Canyonlands National Park in 1964 brought that proposal down to 337,258 acres, a 90% reduction. For those who have visited the region, we know that areas such as Hatch Point, Harts Draw, and Robber’s Roost are equally worthy of protection.

In this very area there is tremendous pressure to develop oil and gas, potash mining, and the ominous tar sands triangle, the largest deposit known to exist in the lower 48 states. This deposit, by the way, is located right on the confluence of the Dirty Devil and Colorado Rivers, the main source of drinking water for 30 million people who live downstream in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Tucson, and Phoenix. These threats are big, and real.

When top business leaders and officials of the Outdoor Industry Association tell me “thank you” for what we, the Sierra Club and other conservation organizations are doing to protect wild places such as Greater Canyonlands, I know they mean it. I respond by reminding them that it's our army – that being you the member and supporter who get involved – who make the real difference. I also tell them “Thank You!” for being here and for also helping all of us get outside and seeing those special places we love. It's a positive reinforcement that, indeed, works both ways.

Tim Wagner is national organizing staff for the Sierra Club in Salt Lake City.
Snowshoeing 101
By Larry Woolsey

From the Snow Basin and North Fork Park areas in the North to the La Sal Mountains and Bryce Canyon National Park in the South, Utah is gaining popularity for its snowshoeing opportunities. The Sierra Club Outings Guide for the Ogden area is a good source for trails, and is found in Ogden-area book stores.

EQUIPMENT:
The first thing you must do is obtain snowshoes. I would recommend renting these from a sporting goods store to see if you enjoy this activity. Practice putting them on prior to participating in the actual activity. Waiting until you get to a trailhead is not the time to experiment with them or practice putting them on.

With snowshoes, you “float” on the snow. The larger the person, the more float you need, and the larger the snowshoes should be. Most snowshoes cost between $100 and $200. Optionally, ski or trekking poles are good for balance. On the trail you’ll need a large enough backpack to carry water, snacks, extra clothes, space blankets, and fire-making tools.

CLOTHING:
Dress in layers, including a warm jacket that is wind-and moisture-proof, a fleece vest, and one or more long-sleeved shirts that wick moisture. It is essential to have warm gloves, a hat, and pants that will keep your legs warm and dry. For footwear, I recommend high-top, water-proof boots and warm socks with gators help to keep legs and feet dry.

LEARNING CURVE:
It’s been said, “If you can walk, you can snowshoe.” However, it takes more energy and time to cover the same distance as it does for hiking. Start by going short distances on easy trails. Don’t overdo it. Three hours of snowshoeing can tire most people.

SAFETY:
There isn’t as much daylight in the winter, so plan ahead to avoid getting caught in the dark. Second, go with other people, NEVER by yourself. Group activities can be found by going to utah.sierraclub.org/activities

OUTING LEADER’S DUTIES
By Joanie Aponte

We are always looking for volunteers to become outings leaders. (If you are interested, please call Joanie at 801-399-0034)

New outings leaders must attend a workshop where they learn to assist hikers of all levels and get some first aid training. It is important to get periodic up-dates for leader training. Leaders are also required to attend a CPR / First Aid course through Red Cross or American Heart Association.

Sometimes a leader must inform people that they are not allowed on an outing because of lack of preparation (no water or food) or perhaps due to physical inability to do a strenuous activity.

It is always very rewarding when we get a group of hikers we have not met, who desire to be out in nature, exploring all she has to offer. This being said perhaps we can spread the word of folks desiring to keep nature as we see it today.

The very best part of being an outings chair is getting to know where all the activities are going to be held. Every quarter or so I send a call out to the trained outings leaders asking them to sign up for a hike or another activity depending on the season. We have had cross-country ski outings, snow shoe hikes, and bike rides.

Once the hikes and activities are submitted, we post them on utah.sierraclub.org/activities for every one to see. The list is also sent to the Standard Examiner to be placed in the 'OUTDOOR' section. We have recently started using other forms of social media to inform the public of Sierra Club events, such as Facebook and meetup.com.
BOOKS AND BLOGS  
By Catherine Sharpsteen

**Fill 'er up with Filth**

Landfills aren’t unfamiliar to us in Northern Utah. Our trash has to go somewhere. But where will it go when the landfills fill and there is no more room for landfills? A disturbing thought. Is it a thought we have when we eat from “disposable” dinnerware? Do we need to create all this refuse?

*Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash* by Edward Humes describes the alarming rate at which our landfills are growing, and how landfill contents don’t break down, but do create lethal gases. The political and economic backdrop for our current phenomenon of producing our own weight in trash many times over is described, as is the massive amount of plastic floating in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Just as the reader is about to give up in despair, Humes describes the ways some cities have created more sustainable waste programs. He tells how one family has adopted a modern no-waste life-style. Could we do that ourselves?

*Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash* is engaging and readable. Fortunately the Weber County Library system has four copies, and the Davis County Library system has one, so you can take in this book without generating more trash.

**Living the (environmental) Good Life**

Tucked into the pages of the Sierra magazine is a regular column dedicated to answering vexing eco-questions. “Ask Mr. Green,” by Bob Schildgen takes on the tough ones, such as “Should I reheat leftover soup on the stove or in the microwave?” as was published in the December 2012 issue. Now you can get weekly blog updates with more detail at http://sierraclub.typepad.com/gremlife/ask-mr-green/. “Mr. Green” runs the numbers (or at least reports them) on everything from air travel to cleaning products with humor and sound information.

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**GOING, GOING... GONE?**

Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth’s oldest surviving species. All 6 species of sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Sierra Club has mounted a major effort to defend and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever.

Help protect our animal friends; because once they’re gone, they’re gone. Join Sierra Club now.
Upcoming Ogden Group Outings

Sat 2/9/13  Yay for Mardi Gras! Decorate your coat bring goodies to share, and snowshoe with Joanie and the gang. Call Joanie for details: 801-399-0034

Sat 2/16/13  Snowshoeing in the Yellow Pine area in the Uintas. Call Larry for details: 801-690-4335

Sat 3/23/13  Hike to the Rock Corral on Antelope Island. Call Larry for details: 801-690-4335

Sat 4/6/13  Hike the South Island Trail to Unicorn Point on Antelope Island. Call Joanie for details: 801-399-0034

Sat 4/13/13  Hike the Mueller Park Trail in Davis County. Call Larry for details: 801-690-4335

To see outing descriptions as well as the activities of other groups in the Utah Chapter, go to Utah.sierraclub.org/activities