

204 Trails Worked On in 2014!

"We survived two nights in the wilderness with a WTA space blanket!"

Washington TRAILS

A Publication of Washington Trails Association



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NW Explorer

Lessons From Legends

Eight long-time Washington hikers share what hiking means to them and why they support trails. » **p.18**

Karen Sykes: Forever On Trail

Remembering the journalist who made hiking her life and inspired so many others. » **p.24**

What Inspires You?

To celebrate a fantastic year of hiking, WTA's community shares who and what inspires them to get out, and why trails are so important for everyone. » **p.28**

Community

Survival on Mount Pershing

Three climbers spent two nights in the Olympic backcountry with a WTA space blanket. Hear their story. » **p.6**

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COVER PHOTO » Classy Climber: Joan Burton on Mount Baker

This black and white photo of teenage Joan Burton was captured by Ira Spring on a photo shoot in the 1950s. Read more about Joan's story in this issue's feature, Lessons From Legends, on page 18.

Photo courtesy of the Spring Trust for Trails.



LESSONS FROM LE

By Cassandra Overby, Tami Asars & Loren Drummond



LEGENDS

HOW DO YOU LEAVE A LEGACY FOR TRAILS?

That's a big question. For inspiration in answering it, we went in search of wisdom from some of the most epic—and impactful—hikers we know. None of them set out to leave a legacy. Some of them didn't even start out as hikers. But all of them have changed the face of the outdoors in Washington. Their stories and lessons show how you can do the same.

JOAN BURTON

INTRODUCE KIDS TO THE OUTDOORS

In the Washington outdoors scene, Joan Burton is nothing short of a celebrity. As a teenager, she climbed six of the highest mountains in Washington and was featured in the second-ever issue of *Sports Illustrated* for summiting Mount Rainier—and camping in the crater rim. She was friends and climbing partners with the legendary Ira Spring and Harvey Manning. And she's the author of *Urban Walks: 23 Walks through Seattle's Parks and Neighborhoods* and the popular *Best Hikes with Children: Western Washington and the Cascades* (now on its sixth reprint). Many would say Joan is a role model and icon for women climbers everywhere.

But Joan never set out to be an icon. It all started when her father introduced her to the outdoors as a young child. He was a passionate hiker, and he loved showing Joan and her sister, Carol, the wilderness he craved. His approach was unconventional by today's standards. He didn't choose easy hikes or short hikes. He simply took the girls wherever he was going. Even as young as seven years old, Joan was hiking challenging alpine trails—it never occurred to her that the hiking was difficult. She'll tell you with a smile that she didn't know any better. It just felt good to be hiking with her dad.

Joan recalls vividly that it was love at first hike. Before long, there wasn't anywhere else she wanted to be. She planned hikes like other girls her age planned weddings. She wanted hiking boots, not a hope chest. When they were 13 and 12, Joan and Carol decided they wanted to hike around Mount Rainier. Their dad couldn't get the time off work, so he encouraged them to join The Mountaineers. The girls signed up for a climbing course led by Harvey Manning. That one course led to a friendship with Manning and Ira Spring, the *Sports Illustrated* photo shoot and, eventually, *Best Hikes with Children*.

So many things in life come full circle, and for Joan, it was no different. As years passed, one of the greatest pleasures in her life became introducing young people to the outdoors. It started with her own kids, then the scouts she led and then her readers. Over time, her mission in life has become getting kids outside. After all, she may just inspire the next icon.

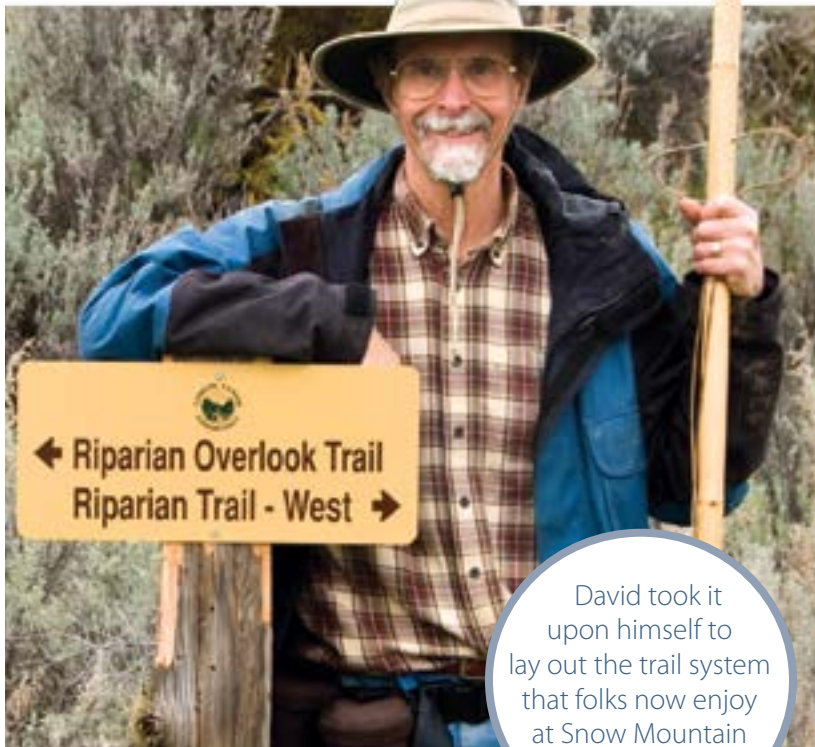


Photo by David Hagen

David took it upon himself to lay out the trail system that folks now enjoy at Snow Mountain Ranch.

DAVID HAGEN

DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Leaving a hiking legacy isn't something David Hagen has done intentionally. He is simply the kind of person who sees something that needs to be done and does it. Since 1985, David has been a board member of the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy (CCC), an organization responsible for acquiring and protecting shrub-steppe in the Yakima area. After serving as the organization's president in the 1990s, he was awarded the CCC's prestigious "It Couldn't Happen Without You" award.

For David, even after being a board member and president, there were still things that needed to be done. He took it upon himself to lay out the trail system that folks now enjoy at Snow Mountain Ranch. He also helped guide CCC's growth from a small volunteer-based organization to an official land trust, and even donated the use of his photos (David is a professional photographer) for the conservancy's purposes.

In addition, David has been leading hikes, snowshoe outings and backpacking trips for the Cascadian Hiking Club for nearly 30 years. In that time, he has led hundreds of outings, including day hikes, multi-night backpacking trips and weeklong adventures. He even started leading a series of monthly hikes in the cold winter months that he calls "David's Winter Walks," and in all these years he has never missed a single one. On top of all that, he still finds time to regularly contribute as the Yakima-area correspondent for *Washington Trails*.

His dedication to guiding and teaching others about the outdoors has not gone unnoticed. In 1992, the Cascadian Hiking Club awarded him the Distinguished Service award, followed by the Honorary Life Member award in 2013. David is proof that you don't always need to leave a legacy intentionally. Sometimes it's just the byproduct of doing what needs to be done.

GOLDIE SILVERMAN

DON'T BE AFRAID TO GO ALONE

Over the years, Goldie Silverman's books *Camping with Kids* and *Backpacking with Babies and Small Children* have encouraged and equipped many parents to introduce their kids to wilderness. They've also increased the number of women and children on trail. But the most impressive thing about Goldie isn't her writing. It's the spirit of independence and adventure at the root of her books.

Now 81, Goldie grew up in an age when there weren't many women camping and hiking in the outdoors. Those who did were usually accompanying a spouse. But Goldie didn't let that faze her; she just wanted to get outside. Nothing illustrates that more than her first experience with backpacking, more than 35 years ago.

Back then, *Washington Trails* was simply known as *Signpost*, a hiking newsletter run out of Louise Marshall's barn. Goldie and her husband, Don, had dabbled in hiking but didn't consider themselves serious hikers. The seeds were there, though; they loved *Signpost* and devoured each issue as soon as it arrived. In one issue, Goldie read about a family in Stehekin that led "Hike and Like It" backpacking trips. She and Don had never tried backpacking, but suddenly it was all she could think about. Don could tell how much Goldie wanted to try it, so he encouraged her to go. She did and fell in love with backpacking.

Goldie wound up taking four trips with "Hike and Like It" before Don finally joined her. Eventually, they became quite serious about hiking and backpacking together. But Goldie will always remember the time when she loved backpacking enough to go it alone. That spirit of independence and adventure is what makes Goldie's books meaningful—and worth learning from.



Photo by Jon Ostrow



CHARLES HICKENBOTTOM

VOLUNTEER OFTEN

Charles Hickenbottom, still an avid hiker and technical rock climber at age 62, is among Washington's own hiking legends—he's been giving back to his community for more than 30 years.

Charles's resume includes spending summers working as a volunteer forest ranger, undertaking numerous trail maintenance projects, participating in several adopt-a-trail projects, and writing countless trail reports for WTA's *Signpost* (now *Washington Trails*), WTA's hiking database, the *Wenatchee*

After four decades of hiking and climbing, Charlie boasts seeing more than 11,000 miles of trail and reaching more than 1,400 summits.

Outdoors website and the Summitpost website. As a former teacher, he took elementary school kids on Saturday hikes and developed curriculum for map-skills courses, which he taught for 15 years. A master navigator, his map skills even helped pilot a Mac version of National Geographic's TOPO! software.

His obsession with summiting peaks began in his teens when he climbed Yosemite's Half Dome with his older brother using the back side cable route. There would be many more summits to come. In 1975 he took a climbing class with the Washington Alpine Club in Seattle, and using a homemade backpack constructed of a handcrafted wooden frame and an army surplus canvas body, he launched into a passionate life of hiking and climbing.

Today, after four decades of hiking and climbing, Charlie boasts seeing more than 11,000 miles of trail and reaching more than 1,400 summits. Retired and living in Wenatchee, he's currently working on a research project to collect and document cross-country ski trails of the Methow Valley for a book, which he hopes to produce in the future. And, of course, his volunteer work continues.

DAN EVANS

BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Almost no one has done as much for wilderness in Washington as former governor and U.S. Sen. Dan Evans. His list of legislative accomplishments includes being at the forefront of the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act, which established 19 new wilderness areas, and the 1988 Washington Park Wilderness Act, which created wilderness areas within Mount Rainier, Olympic and North Cascades National Parks. He also founded the first state-level Department of Ecology (the blueprint for President Nixon's Environmental Protection Agency), and he co-founded the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition.

Although his political accomplishments are impressive, Dan's introduction to hiking was anything but. He readily admits that his first hike was almost his last. As a 12-year-old Boy Scout, Dan went on his first hike to Silver Peak. It was November, and the weather was cold. On the trek up the peak it started to rain—and then snow. Woefully unprepared for the harsh weather, Dan had only one thought: "If I ever get off this mountain, I will never do this again!" Fortunately, fate intervened. The group reached the summit, the snow stopped falling, and the sun came out. By the time Dan was back at the trailhead parking lot, he was a convert. "When I got home," he says, "All I could talk about was climbing Silver Peak."

As a young adult, Dan became interested in politics and, at age 39, he became the youngest governor in Washington history. As a political conservative with liberal environmental beliefs, Dan was a master at uniting the uncommon—and he wasn't afraid to be different. Under his leadership (and before the greater environmental movement took hold) Washington took bold steps toward protecting its natural resources and public lands. It wasn't easy; it required bipartisan coalitions and widespread cooperation, things that seem absent in politics today. But bringing people together was something Dan excelled at. It became his life's work.

That work took him from Olympia to Washington D.C., from the governor's mansion to the U.S. Senate. There were many highlights along the way, including personally meeting with President Ford to champion the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and getting one of his favorite spots, Lake of the Angels, protected as part of the 1988 Washington Park Wilderness Act.

Now, at 88 years old, Dan is retired. But that doesn't mean he has slowed down. He's still an avid hiker and champion of the outdoors. And he loves passing on his love of wilderness and stewardship. Just don't ask him to hike Silver Peak in November.

RICH LANDERS

INFLUENCE WITH INTENTION

Journalist Rich Landers, one of the biggest proponents of hiker interests in the Spokane area, has always been a writer and an outdoorsman. What he hasn't always been is a hiker. Although he grew up hunting and fishing with his dad, it wasn't until college that he had an epiphany: he could get farther into the wilderness if he ditched his jeep for his feet. And although Rich entered college a hunter and fisherman, by the end of his freshman year he was also an avid hiker and conservationist.

His lifestyle became his work. During his senior year at the University of Montana he started the school newspaper's first conservation column. After college, he interned with *Field and Stream*. Since then, he's written for publications from *Montana Outdoors* to *Outside*. He's best known as the outdoors guru for the *The Spokesman-Review*. Through his writing, Rich has introduced thousands of people to outdoor activities—including hiking—on the east side of the state.

But his writing is significant for more than just that reason. It's noteworthy because, from the beginning, Rich has intentionally written about the outdoors with two goals in mind: bringing outdoor enthusiasts together by helping them focus on their shared love of the outdoors rather than on the differences in their approach to recreation, and cultivating a widespread conservation ethic to encourage people to recreate responsibly.

Writing with intention isn't always the popular thing to do. Rich admits that it's a good way to make more enemies than friends. But it does yield real results. When Rich writes an article on hiking safely during hunting season, there are fewer conflicts between hikers and hunters. When he recommends trail work parties, people show up and volunteer. In the end, Rich doesn't care if the trails in Eastern Washington are better known. He doesn't care if he wins any awards for his writing. What he does care about is using his influence as a journalist to make the outdoors a better place.



Rich Landers tests "newfangled" lightweight backpacking gear for an article he wrote in 1985.

Photo courtesy of The Spokesman-Review



Photo by Paul Slichter

SUSAN SAUL

PROTECT THE LAND YOU LOVE

Some might say Susan Saul can't sit still.

Even she admits that her intention has always been to just go hiking. But when the Northwest started losing a great number of trails to road construction and logging in the 1970s, she couldn't help but get involved.

Her work to protect trails began with the Willapa Hills Audubon Society and the Mount St. Helens Protective Association. From there, Susan headed up a grassroots effort to get the Mount St. Helens National Monument Act through Congress in 1982. Next was a wilderness campaign in southwest Washington that brought the expansion of the Goat Rocks and Mount Adams wilderness areas and established the Glacier View, Tatoosh, Indian Heaven and Trapper Creek areas as designated wilderness in the Washington Wilderness Act of 1984. In 1985, she went on to establish the Gifford Pinchot Task Force, which coordinated citizen input on the developing forest plan. Thanks to the work of the task force, the U.S. Forest Service was required to include the issue of trails in the plan, something they'd overlooked on the initial drafts.

But Susan's contribution to the hiking community stretches back even further than her work with the Forest Service. For 12 years she served on WTA's board of directors and for 7 years on the board of directors for the Friends of Mount Adams. She's campaigned to end road and mining development inside Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, volunteered for plant monitoring assignments through the University of Washington and participated in every Hiker Lobby Day in Olympia. She also continues to volunteer as a crew leader for WTA trail work parties.

Now retired and living in Vancouver with her dog Hattie, Susan is still on trail several times a week either with Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation or with her friends from the Foggy Ridge Hikers. For Susan, nothing is sweeter than hiking on land she's fought to protect.



Photo by Loren Drummond

BELINDA CHIN

EMBRACE DIVERSITY

What do folks already know about nature? Belinda Chin uses that question to invite inclusion and equality into the outdoors. As an educator at the Environmental Learning Centers of Seattle Parks and Recreation, and previously as a national park ranger at the Statue of Liberty and then Mount Rainier, Belinda stitches together what people bring of themselves to inspire a love of nature and wild spaces.

Belinda shaped her life and career from the meaning she found in the wild places of her own childhood and her first forays into the wilderness areas of New York state, where she grew up. As the child of Chinese immigrants, Belinda experienced the outdoors as the only minority in the company of friends, classmates and Girl Scouts. In seeking comfort and peace away from the pressures of not-quite-belonging at home or school, she discovered the solace of close-by woods. Over the years, her time in the woods transformed from sacred moments of escape to a deep curiosity about the world around her—one born from studying patterns of tree bark and shapes of leaves.

Fast-forward to the present, and Belinda is one of the most compelling and dynamic voices working in Washington's environmental and recreation movements. As a founding leader of the Environmental Professionals of Color Seattle chapter, she is breaking down barriers to foster a stronger, more diverse environmental movement. On the board of Urban Wilderness Works, she's helping urban-based young adults develop leadership skills through outdoor trips and service projects.

When you ask Belinda about her work, she shares a favorite quote from Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*: "Wilderness was never a homogeneous raw material ... The rich diversity of the world's cultures reflects a corresponding diversity in the wilds that gave them birth." As an educator, storyteller, avid hiker, environmentalist and movement builder, Belinda aims to help Washington's wild spaces reflect a rich diversity of human culture and ecology, one where families of every race, class and ethnicity can seek the connection, renewal and wisdom to be found there.

Belinda shaped her life and career from the meaning she found in the wild places of her own childhood and her first forays into the wilderness

CREATE YOUR OWN LEGACY FOR TRAILS

- Be kind to those you meet on trail.
- Practice and encourage Leave No Trace hiking.
- Introduce someone new to hiking.
- Set a personal hiking goal—any goal!

Let us help you!

- Submit a trip report—with photos—on wta.org.
- Connect with other hikers on our Facebook page.
- Attend a trail work party or Volunteer Vacation.
- Give a gift membership. (see page 44 for info)

Leave a Legacy with WTA

Want to do even more for the outdoors and other hikers? Join WTA's Legacy Circle by naming WTA as a beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy. Anyone can make a bequest and no amount is too small. Visit wta.org/legacy.

PHOTOS FROM OPENING SPREAD (clockwise from upper left): **Charles Hickenbottom**, by Janet Stanek; **Joan Burton**, by Tami Asars; **Rich Landers**, by Amy Sinisterra; **Belinda Chin**, by Mac Lyle; **David Hagen**, by Ethan Schrank; **Susan Saul**, by uncredited; **Dan Evens** (at right), by Gary Smith; (center): **Goldie Silverman**, by Jon Ostrow