

2006 "Big Chainring" Award Winners Selected

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The Deschutes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) has selected the 2006 "Big Chainring" Award recipients.

Since 1996, the Big Chainring Awards have been awarded annually to honor individuals, businesses and public agencies that have made significant contributions in the support of better bicycling in Central Oregon. The awards were presented by BPAC Chair Bill Hilton June 4th, 2006 at 1:30pm during the Commute Options Fair at the Les Schwab Amphitheater.

New this year was the Peter Hanson Memorial Award honoring individuals that have excelled in bicycle and pedestrian volunteering efforts. Peter was a Deschutes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee member that lost his battle with cancer in 2005. While only a resident since 2003, his presence was felt (and will be missed) in many volunteer efforts in Central Oregon including:

Serving on the Deschutes County Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee

Trail building work parties with COTA, USFS, and the BLM

Leading Naturalist tours for the USFS

Tree planting for Arbor Day and weed pulls, brush clearing and burning at the Metolius Preserve

Litter removal/streamside improvements on area rivers

This year's "Big Chainring" winners are:

Jerry Norquist - "Peter Hanson Memorial Award"

Jerry Norquist is the kind of volunteer that every cycling community would be fortunate to have. He has a vast knowledge of cycling, he is a serious community volunteer, and he easily connects with individuals.

Jerry is constantly on top of what is happening in the cycling world, and regularly lobbies at both the state and national levels - attending year after year both the National Bike Summit and the Oregon Bike Summit. What is most impressive about Jerry is his dedication to advance cycling at the local level - in the wider community around Sisters. He has been one of the most active members of the Sisters Trails Committee from its inception, and had a key input in the Sisters Trails Plan. His knowledge about what a strong cycling community needs continues to provide valuable guidance to the Sisters Committee as it refines its priorities and establishes feasible work plans.

Jerry gives tirelessly of his time, whether marking the trail for the Sisters Mountain Bike Festival, clearing fallen trees, picking up trash to maintain trails, or just bringing his advice to Committee meetings. He is a keen supporter of community-led initiatives, which he helps fund from Cycle Oregon proceeds. He sees cycling as an avenue to support economic development in communities.

Jerry is an avid cyclist and likes to ride hard, whether on the road or on trails. Consistent with his concern for others, he never hesitates to ride further back to support slower riders or to help those who may have mechanical difficulties. In group rides, Jerry is the person who is always looking out for others, and will sacrifice his ride to provide whatever help they may need.

Shevlin Commons (Andy Crosby)

At its inception in 2001, Shevlin Commons granted a public conservation easement governing more than half of its land and incorporated numerous sustainable development strategies in the course of construction. The development enabled the creation of a new trailhead for access, and the preservation and enhancement of a network of trails accessing Shevlin Park. Since then, Shevlin Commons has become a model for development along the urban edge, proving that land conservation and site-sensitive design can greatly enhance the market performance of development.

Bob Woodward

Bob was honored for his dedication to biking as a writer, photographer, trail builder, access advocate, competitor and promoter of the sport. Bob was one of first journalists to write about and promote mountain biking in the outdoor press. In 1980, his stories on the "new" sport of mountain biking and profiles of mountain bike makers began appearing in the outdoor industry's leading magazines. In 1991, he authored the "Mountain Biking" book for Sports Illustrated, still considered to contain the most accurate history of the bike and the sport. Since that time, he has advocated for local cycling and cyclists through his regular column in The Source newspaper and his regular weekly outdoor segment on COTV's Good Morning Central Oregon.

Woodward competed for 10 years (1983-1993) as a National Off Road Bicycling Association (NORBA) licensed racer. He is one of the founders of the Central Oregon Trail Alliance and remains an avid trail builder and trails advocate. He is also a past member of the Law Enforcement Bicycle Association (LEBA). When serving as the Mayor of Bend, Oregon from 1997 to 1999, he was called "America's only mountain biking mayor."

For more information on these awards, please call Deschutes County's Planning Department at 383-6718.

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