

## Membership News »

Left to right:  
Outstanding hikers  
Doug Breckel, Lynn Kit-  
tridge and Matt Thyer.



# My Top Ten for Trails

## Or, why I am making a year-end gift to trails

If you're like me, you love reading top ten lists. This season I've come up with one of my own. The people listed below have made significant contributions to the hiking community this year, and they couldn't have done it without Washington Trails Association.

Each of them has inspired me to give as generously as I can to WTA this season. I hope they'll inspire you too.

**10. Sally Miller and Arian Ensley:** These returning volunteers joined a backcountry youth crew this summer. They spent a week with fellow teens building new puncheon, or boardwalk, on the Hvas Lake Trail, a popular family destination in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

**9. Big Pants Trekkers:** The Trekkers are among hundreds of hikers posting trip reports at [www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org). They share great stories to inspire your next adventure. And, in my opinion, they have the coolest screen name.

**8. Doug Breckel:** As WTA's treasurer, Doug is one of our unsung heroes. He's also part of the reason why WTA continues to receive the highest four-star rating for efficiency and effectiveness from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest charity evaluator.

**7. Jane Baker:** This year Jane became WTA's first crew leader stationed in northeastern Washington. She and 65 volunteers improved trails from Spokane to the Salmo-Priest Wilderness, including some that had been neglected for twenty-five years!

**6. Matt Thyer:** First-time Hike-a-Thoner Matt was one of our top fundraisers and received a runner-up award for Most Miles Hiked. Maybe he would have won first place if he hadn't cut one of his hikes short to rescue an injured hiker

on the Pacific Crest Trail.

**5. Jonathan Guzzo:** As WTA's advocacy director, he worked with volunteers in our Trail Action Network to help prevent the closure of as many as 40 state parks this year, and he's already gearing up for the tough 2010 legislative session in Olympia.

**4. Lynn Kittridge:** Lynn, a WTA member and teacher from Duvall, has spent 26 days helping to rebuild her favorite trail, Glacier Basin in Mount Rainier National Park. She's one of more than one-hundred volunteers who have together contributed 7,000 hours to this crucial project.

**3. Craig Romano, Dan Nelson and Alan Bauer:** Hikers have a great (free) new online resource thanks to these authors. Select content of their *Day Hiking* guidebooks, published by the Mountaineers Books, is now available in WTA's online Hiking Guide.

**2. WTA's trail maintenance staff:** WTA volunteers have contributed more than 81,000 hours to trails this year. That's our biggest year ever. Diane Bedell and her team do an amazing job recruiting, training, and supporting WTA's volunteer crew leaders and the 2,000 volunteers who work hard nearly every day of the year to keep your favorite trails open.

**1. You!** For your love of the wild places that make Washington great, for your sense of wonder and adventure, and for all you give back to benefit hikers today and tomorrow.

So go ahead. Give a little or give a lot. It all adds up for trails. Make your special contribution online at [www.wta.org/give](http://www.wta.org/give) or mail a check to Washington Trails Association by December 31. ♦



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