

Volume One

Spring 1990

Number Two

Volunteers start on Chinook Trail Phase One

In a fitting prelude to Earth Day 1990, construction began April 21 on Phase One of the Chinook Trail.

Twenty volunteers turned out for the first work party, with other workdays scheduled for May 5, May 19, and June 2.

"It was a very good start," said Ed Robertson after the volunteers had cleared brush for more than a thousand feet of future trail. "Everyone was very safety conscious," he added.

Glen and Skip Calvin of the Clark County Amateur Radio Club provided additional safeguards by setting up a radio relay system in case emergency communications were needed. The Clark County club and affiliates will also assist on future work days.

The first section will be part of a Chinook Trail segment extending from the existing Tarbell Trail to

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Ed Robertson, left, and Ted Klump enjoy a break along the future route of the Chinook Trail, near where it will enter the Gifford Pinchot National Forest on the lower slopes of Silver Star Mountain.

Chinook Trail benefit June 3

A leisurely Sunday afternoon hike followed by a gourmet box supper and concert by the Vancouver Brass Quintet will take place June 3 to benefit the Chinook Trail.

The special fund-raising event will begin with a hike on the Discovery Trail along Burnt Bridge Creek, with the supper concert to follow at Vancouver's Columbia Arts Center.

Members of the Vancouver Brass Quintet are Clark County Superior Court Judge Dean Morgan, trumpet; Bob Thomsen, trumpet; Kevin Fitzgearld, tuba; Nancy Jeffrey, French horn, and Chris Cannard, trombone.

Thomsen is director of music at

Wy'East Junior High School; Fitzgearld is a music education major at Lewis and Clark College; Jeffrey is B. Dalton bookstore manager at Jantzen Beach, and Cannard is a trade show/special events manager.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$4 for children under 16, and the catered box supper is included.

Chinook Trail Association members are selling tickets, or they may be obtained at the Columbia Arts Center.

The hike is scheduled for 2-4 p.m., with the supper and concert from 3 to 6 p.m.

Liz Perry is chairperson for the event.



Enroute to the Chinook Trail benefit concert, members of the Vancouver Brass Quintet pause on the Friendship Bridge. Left to right, Judge Dean Morgan, Bob Thomsen, Kevin Fitzgearld, Nancy Jeffrey, and Chris Cannard.

Supporting letters needed now

Proponents of the Chinook Trail need to express their support NOW in the form of letters to the Columbia River Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service. Many of you have already sent such letters, and they speak eloquently of the joys gained from hiking in the Gorge.

We believe the individual letter is the most effective form of communication to the decision makers.

Some thoughts you might consider expressing in your letter could include (but of course not be limited to):

... Walking/hiking is the number one preferred form of recreation, according to surveys.

... The Chinook Trail, when compared with other forms of recreational development, will be one of the least expensive facilities to construct and maintain.

Chinook Trail Association

P.O. Box 997, Vancouver, WA 98666-0997



The Chinook Trek is published at least four times yearly by the Chinook Trail Association.

Roberta (Bobbi) Bindreiff
President

Members of the Board

Don Cannard, Paul Clare, Lawrence Devroy, Jan T. Fancher, Jim Hughes, Dovie Lance, Angie Laughlin, Liz Perry, Ed Robertson, Jayne Sanders

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of Recreational Equipment, Inc.; James River Corporation; and Vista Type, for making publication of the Chinook Trek possible.

The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the Chinook Trail Association is a not-for-profit organization under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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... The Chinook Trail will enable the user to achieve a new primitive trail experience.

... Urban portions of the Chinook Trail and some of the connector trails will provide handicapped persons with a trail experience.

... Development of urban connector trails will bring economic benefits to urban centers.

... The Chinook Trail Association believes in negotiation and compensation to obtain easements on private property. We oppose condemnation to gain right-of-way.

... We believe that aggressive trail management and user education can adequately address concerns over fire protection, trespass, poaching, livestock harassment, weed control, and other perceived problems associated with trail development and use.

... Experience has shown that well built and well maintained trail systems are significant assets to local communities.

... The Chinook Trail is simply a great idea.

Address your letters to:

USDA-Forest Service
Columbia River Gorge NSA
902 Wasco Avenue
Hood River, OR 97031
Attn: Art DuFault

Columbia River Gorge Commission
PO Box 730
White Salmon, WA 98672
Attn: Stafford Hansell

This request is urgent. Please write your letter as soon as possible.

Happy Trails!

Roberta Bindreiff, President
Chinook Trail Association



Tiger lily on Silver Star Mountain.

Nicholas to join Silver Star trek

A dayhike and gourmet lunch on Silver Star Mountain was among attractions offered bidders at the Southwest Washington Independent Forward Thrust (SWIFT) auction April 28 in Vancouver.

Jonathan Nicholas, feature columnist for the Portland Oregonian, has promised to join the hike led by Chinook Trail Association co-founders Don Cannard and Ed Robertson.

It was on Silver Star's 4,390-foot summit where Cannard and Robertson first got the idea for the Chinook Trail to loop through the Columbia River Gorge.

Date of the hike is open, but Cannard and Robertson hope it will happen when wildflowers are at their best on Silver Star's sub-alpine slopes.

The group will be limited to six persons, not counting the leaders and special guest Nicholas.

'Stick with us' and renew

"I hope you'll stick with us and celebrate each mile of the Chinook Trail as it is completed," invites CTA President Roberta (Bobbi) Bindreiff in renewal notices going out to CTA charter members. Tot membership in the Association, organized in late 1988, now exceeds 150 persons.

'Birding' is one of Gorge hiking joys

By Wilson Cady

The Columbia River Gorge, with its diversity of habitats, supports a wide spectrum of the birds found in Washington and Oregon. This makes it a wonderful area to watch birds no matter what the season, though spring has to be the most enjoyable, when the wildflower displays and the migration coincide.

Not only is there a northerly movement of birds through the Gorge, but also a west-to-east flow. Species such as California and Ring-billed gulls and Caspian Terns use this gateway through the mountains to reach their breeding grounds east of the Cascades.

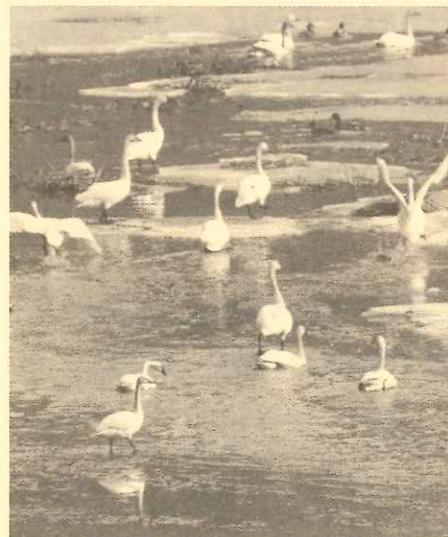
Of course birds that move through the interior of Oregon can just as easily find their way to the

west side, and this can make birding exciting here.

There is always the possibility that you may find birds that overshot their goal. Some examples would be Calliope Hummingbirds and Western Kingbirds in the west end of the Gorge, or the small flock of Acorn Woodpeckers that are found yearly at the mouth of the Klickitat River, and may even be nesting there.

The opportunity to see birds of the Columbia River Gorge will be one of the many priceless dividends for future hikers on the Chinook Trail.

Wilson Cady of the Vancouver Audubon Society is a longtime observer of birds in the Columbia River Gorge.



Wintering tundra swan at Franz Lake.

Skamania leaders endorse trail net

Skamania County, Washington, strongly endorses a coordinated trail plan including the Chinook Trail and feeder trails.

A coordinated trail system "would be a great asset to Skamania County and the proposed Skamania County Conference Center in Stevenson," stated a letter signed by Skamania County Commissioners Kaye Masco, Ed Callahan, and Edward McLarney.

Their endorsement followed a March 26 presentation by the Chinook Trail Association's Don Cannard and Ed Robertson.

Work underway on trail's Phase One

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the Gifford Pinchot National Forest boundary on the lower slopes of Silver Star Mountain.

The initial link is on land administered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Fred Pickering of DNR, together with the Chinook Trail Association's Ted Klump and Ed Robertson, flagged the route earlier

this spring, in preparation for the work parties.

Phase One in Chinook Trail development is envisioned as a three-year project to complete some 46 miles of trail segments that will connect Vancouver Lake with the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail north of North Bonneville, Washington.

Come join our quest for the Chinook Trail

To: Chinook Trail Association
PO Box 997
Vancouver, WA 98666-0997

- () Individual \$20
- () Student/senior \$10
- () Family \$30
- () Institutional \$60
- () Sustaining \$100
- () Life \$500

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

() Please send _____ Chinook Trail patches (\$3.50 each, including mailing/handling) _____

() I wish to make a tax deductible contribution in addition to my membership _____

Total enclosed _____

() I am interested in volunteering for trail building or some other activity to advance the Chinook Trail concept.



Sturgeon Rock.

Davis Trail and bridge dedication held

Vancouver's 2.6-mile Ellen Davis Trail and Friendship Bridge was dedicated Saturday, May 12, at the bridge.

The trail is named in honor of

86-year-old avid hiker, Ellen Davis, and will be an important urban link in the planned Chinook Trail system.

Sponsored by the Vancouver Audubon Society, the trail was completed through grants, donations and volunteer labor.

The Friendship Bridge, spanning Burnt Bridge Creek near Leverich Park, was a \$19,000 project contributed by the Japanese-owned electronics firm, SEH America, Vancouver.

CTA helping with Wasco trail plan

The Chinook Trail Association has been participating with a group of Wasco County, Oregon, citizens studying possible Chinook Trail routes outside The Dalles urban area.

Large scale maps have been developed in anticipation of possible future right-of-way negotiation.

Meanwhile, The Wasco County Planning Office continues to work with appropriate agencies in development of The Dalles River Front Plan. The plan calls for an urban trail from The Dalles Dam to the site of the future Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Interpretive Center on Crates Point about 10 miles downstream from the city.

CTA was represented on the local citizens advisory committee in developing a recommended riverfront economic and recreation plan. CTA proposes to route the Chinook Trail on The Dalles urban trail when it is built.

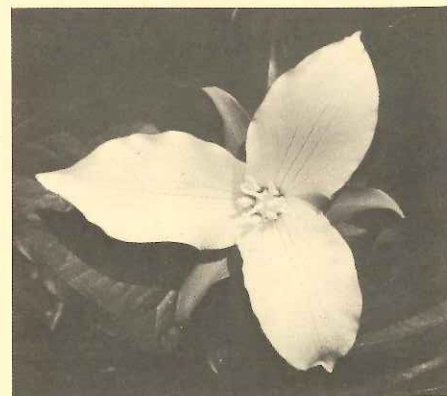
'Dawnbreakers' give \$300

The Dawnbreakers, a Vancouver civic breakfast club, has contributed \$300 toward Chinook Trail construction. The contribution is in the memory of the late Neal Sater, a longtime club member active in civic improvement projects.

CTA sponsoring hikes with Friends of Gorge

The Chinook Trail Association will be among 41 different organizations sponsoring hikes during the Friends of the Columbia Gorge 10th Annual Hiking Weekend, June 16-17.

Don Cannard will lead a 9-mile trek half-way up the Three Corner Rock Trail to Stebbins Creek, north of North Bonneville on Saturday, June 16.



Trillium beside the future Chinook Trail.

Trade show nets results

Six corporate or individual offers of support were received by the Chinook Trail Association as a result of CTA's attendance at the Office Products and Systems Show in February at the Portland Coliseum.

The Association's booth was staffed by CTA members Dan Ogden, Bill Milton, Paul Clare, Ed Robertson and Don Cannard.

On the following day, Ed Robertson will lead a meandering walk amongst the wildflowers on Silver Star Mountain.

The CTA-sponsored hikes are among 65 such events included in the Gorge Hiking Weekend, an official event of the Portland Rose Festival.



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