

Chinook Trek #28

October 1998

CTA Celebrates 10 years of Trail Building

**Jennifer Belcher, Washington Land Commissioner,
Keynotes November 1st Event**

by Paul Clare

November, 1998 marks the Chinook Trail Association's 10th Anniversary. The last decade has witnessed CTA's conception from a dream of

Don Cannard and Ed Robertson. It has grown to an effective organization leading the crusade for trails throughout the Columbia River Scenic Area.

The Gorge is truly one of our nation's natural wonders; what better way to appreciate the wonder than from an encircling rim top trail view? Hence, the Chinook Trail Association's vision.

Historically, one of the keys to CTA's success has been by way of its mission to build the trek in a cooperative working relationship with the public agencies who supervise the use of the Gorge lands.

Commissioner Belcher will address DNR's significant role in our broad based partnership to actualize our goal. Over the years, DNR has been joined by the USFS, Washington & Oregon State Parks, Clark County Parks and Recreation, the cities of Vancouver, Hood River and The Dalles, as well as other municipalities and public and private service entities who not only share a

Chinook Trail Association

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

Celebrating
A Decade of Trail Building

Sunday, November 1st, 1998

For more information contact:

(360) 906-6769 or (360) 695-7149

Web site: www.chinooktrail.org • E-Mail: cta@pacifier.com

**This ad appeared in the Sept. 17, 1998 issue of
The Columbian's Outdoors Northwest Guide '98.**

CTA Annual Meeting

at Water Resources Center

**Sunday,
November 1 at 12 Noon**

RSVP and For More Information Contact:

Paul Clare (360) 892-8173

or Kim Bayer (360) 906-6769

common belief in the worth of this goal to build a trail, but to also ensure the proper stewardship of the trail.

This 10th Anniversary event reflects CTA's achievement in securing government and public credibility and in heightened visibility throughout the Gorge region. It marks a milestone in the culmination of partnerships with experienced multi-faceted trail building teams, underscoring CTA's expertise in all aspects of the necessary skills from grant writing to networking to trail construction.

We at CTA look toward the future and the ultimate realization of our vision with strong belief and great optimism as public support continues to meet the ongoing tasks at hand.

FWOC Annual Meeting Attended by CTA

by Roger Anderson

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (FWOC) held its annual meeting at the Mazama Lodge near Government Camp on August 14-16. CTA was represented by both Roger Anderson, a voting delegate, and Randy Holland, a non-voting delegate.

FWOC exists to coalesce outdoor organizations for a more effective lobbying voice, to protect and preserve land for appropriate recreational use, and to establish and promote networks of communication and dissemination of information among the member clubs. The theme of this year's meeting was "Harnessing the Grassroots Power of the West." Numerous Audubon and Sierra Club chapters as well as various hiking, climbing and other outdoor activity clubs made for a well represented gathering.

Several speakers facilitated discussions throughout Saturday and Sunday

on a broad range of subjects from medical emergencies to water conservation to ways of more effectively utilizing the power of grass roots. Evenings were taken up with club reports, updates and videos and slide shows including the race to save the ancient redwood forest in Northern California. A special video was shown honoring Hazel Wolf of the Seattle Audubon Society, who is now 100 years old and still very active in teaching children about birds and their habitat needs. What an inspiration she is. The remainder of Sunday was filled with FWOC business including changes in the bylaws and voting on actions concerning preservation and conservation efforts around the country.

Thanks to the managers of the Mazama Lodge for the delicious and bountiful vegetarian fare they prepared and catered to the conference attendees. Next year the FWOC will hold its annual meeting in another western state to which, hopefully, CTA will again send two delegates.

President Says...

by Ted Klump, President

This year the CTA celebrates its tenth anniversary. It is also the year we obtained final approval for the Bells Mountain Trail, and began the ground construction across DNR land. This is a significant event, as I recall the first CTA meeting I ever attended some nine years ago, and the Trails Advisory Committee in which we sat down with representatives from DNR to discuss, among other things, access to the Bells Mountain Trail.

I remember thinking as I sat through that meeting, amidst hearing of all the hurdles and hoops that had to be cleared to make it a reality, that I probably would not live long enough to see it happen. Happily I was wrong. Since then, we have moved from 'mission impossible' to a reality that is an important link to the Chinook Trail System.

This link did not come easy. It has taken dedication, perseverance, cooperation, and hard work to accomplish what has happened. My thanks go to those who have been involved in any and all capacities in this process; far too many to name.

People from CTA, Vancouver/Clark Parks, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and Stimson Timber Company. Thank you all very much. You can all be proud of the part you've played.

So what lies ahead in our quest for the vision of Chinook Trail? What can we accomplish in the next ten years? I know that whatever we accomplish won't happen without the same dedication, perseverance, cooperation, and hard work that has brought us this far. We CAN and we WILL accomplish our dream.

"Hiking the Clark County Segment"

by Randy Holland

"What a grand idea, a continuous loop trail around the entire Columbia River Gorge. I want to hike the whole thing." In joining CTA I discovered a grassroots organization with the greatest of dedication to its vision of building the Chinook Trail. I've been volunteering to help realize that vision since that first meeting some three years ago.

When it became possible for me to tackle the Clark County portion of the trail, I felt it would be important for both CTA to approve of my effort and to generate as much publicity as possible, so with the Board's enthusiastic approval I contacted Al Thomas, outdoor writer for *The Columbian*, who decided to do a feature article about my trek (see the 5/28/98 issue, Northwest Life section). I acquired pledges per mile from supportive family and friends with all the proceeds going to CTA. In finalizing the logistics, I opted to begin at Frenchmen's Bar near Lake Vancouver and end on the summit of Silver Star Mountain—some fifty miles across Clark County.

On May 28th, 1998, I began to hike/backpack the proposed and established route of the Chinook Trail across Clark County, Washington. The cool sunny morning seemed the ideal way to start my trek. I looked east and saw my destination, Silver Star, four days away. The first day of more level hiking cut the total mileage in half, twenty-four miles, to reach my first camp at Battle Ground Lake State Park. Enjoying the company of red-winged blackbirds, various ducks and livestock, I journeyed along Lower River Road to Fruit Valley Road. This led me to the Discovery Trail, and a-h-h-h, my first chance to be on a real footpath. From Discovery Trail to Ellen Davis Trail and a short walk on St. John's Road I came to the Lewis and Clark Railway at St. John's Road at 78th Street. I planned to follow the railway into Clark County's backcountry for the next day and a half.

As I jogged past the "no trespassing" sign on the railway corridor, I felt like a kid doing something that mom told me not to do. I continued my Tom Sawyerish feelings and my hiking. From 78th to Brush Prairie the railway corridor trek offered various songbirds, squirrels, a rooster pheasant, wetland marshes and brilliant spring foliage.

Through Brush Prairie the day's heat and dust was a reminder of how far I'd traveled. I cut back onto the railway and about a mile out of town I ditched into the brush to avoid a railroad patrol. Slightly daunted, I crossed my first railroad bridge safely and continued on toward Battle Ground. The twenty miles I had hiked up to that point met me with the want of a second wind. Mild leg cramps and fatigue stayed with me until the day's end. I was pleased to be greeted by my parents who brought my gear and a pizza. A close friend later showed with firewood, excellent company and campfire conversation.

Sunrise and day two. I packed, ate breakfast and set out on what would become one of my most difficult hiking days. The ominously dark morning sky seemed like the quiet calm before the storm. Near Heisson I crossed the largest railroad bridge yet, reaching the other side just prior to the onset of rainfall, which made the ties too slippery to traverse. The downpour pushed me on into Clark County's backcountry, and following the now abandoned portion of the Lewis and Clark Railway, I passed mudslides, saw many deer, and enjoyed my hike despite the rain.

I saw the final railroad bridge ahead. It was too slippery to cross safely, so I forded the creek below, thus altering my status from wet to soaked. I continued eagerly to Bells Mountain which became the bushwhacking portion of my trek. While the first two miles up is established trail, the remaining five required some trampling along the surveyed trail to reach my destination. I trotted from one pink survey ribbon to the next. About half way to Cold Creek I lost the survey line and was forced to the creek well below the proposed CTA route. Feeling rather foolish, since I had helped survey the trail, I continued on with the shelter at Cold Creek foremost in my mind. There I'd get dry clothes, drink hot tea and be safe from the rain in which I'd hiked for the last ten hours.

After dozens of falls, scrapes and cuts, I completed the fifteen miles soaked head to toe and ready for rest. A pack rat had claimed the shelter first and peered at my food, a look suggesting I move my camp into the rain and leave the shelter to its previous tenant. Morning light revealed part of my provisions assaulted by the varmints, but things were otherwise good.

A CTA workparty took place at Cold Creek that morning, and I took time for a quick greeting before continuing the hike. Just beyond Rock Creek Campground, the creek was too high and too swift to ford safely. So, after some 40 footmiles, I doubled back to the CTA workparty and got a lift from Roger Anderson to my next camp, Tarbell. So I was forced, for safety's sake, to bypass the three miles between Rock Creek and Tarbell to avoid a total wash-out in a dangerous creek crossing.

At Tarbell, I was greeted by three friends. The sky cleared, my gear dried, and I rested. The fourth and final day was a hot and tiring eight mile hike up Silver Star Mountain. Encouraged by my friends and the simple elation from having traveled so far, I soon found myself atop the mountain at the Ed Robertson memorial with a smile on my face, my goal accomplished. It was clear and I saw westward and the land that I had traveled over the previous four days. My focus then turned eastward to where the Chinook Trail will go in the future—as will I, with pack on.

Northwest Service Corps Holds Spike Camp on Bells Mountain

by Don Cannard



In July, the CTA sponsored a weeklong spike camp for a team of Northwest Service Academy (NWSA) young adults. The group was led by Chad Riley. In addition, a team from the Summer Youth Employment Program

(SYEP), under the supervision of Denise Miller, also camped for two days at the Cold Creek Campground. This turned out to be a very good experience for the younger team as they were very observant of the AmericaCorps trail building techniques. The two teams upgraded the existing trail and put the finishing touches on nearly one mile of trail constructed during National Trails Day. In addition, they went on to construct several hundred yards of additional trail. The SYEP was familiar with the Bells Mountain Trail, having worked for the most part of their eight weeks during June, July and August on it. Some



Northwest Service Academy workers await well deserved dinner at Cold Creek Campground with CTA co-founder Don Cannard.

Photo by Karey Cramer, NWSA

stones weighing several hundred pounds each were actually lifted and rolled from the trail tread. Roger Anderson, CTA Trail Committee Chair and Don Cannard worked side by side with these youth on several days of the campout.

Bells Mountain Trail Update

by Roger Anderson

Trail construction is continuing on the Bells Mountain segment after our big National Trails Day event. The CTA held a summer campout at Cold Creek Campground. While it was attended by only six of our members, they collectively pooled their energy with the Northwest Service Academy members (see the NWSA article above).

ESD 112 Summer Youth Employment has also been working on the trail; work that has included minor brushing and some trail construction.

The CTA has also been holding work parties regularly, about every two weeks, and these efforts have benefited from the energetic addition of several new faces to the struggle to continue to push new trail construction.

In addition, CTA reps have been meeting with Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation (VCP) regarding the studies and permits that are required. Recently, the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) has necessitated strategic and technical revisions in our trail building. HCP is designed to protect anadromous fish and other wildlife—e.g. we are required to avoid all construction near streams until all the studies have been completed and all permits are in place. VCP is continuing to pursue the necessary studies and permits so that the CTA can begin to place bridges over streams. We continue to need as much assistance as possible, so please join us on a Saturday work party soon (see the "Call for All Hands" article on page 4). Help make the completion of the Bells Mountain Trail a reality; after all, it's almost in your backyard.



Searching For The Hundredth Monkey: A True Story

From the Editor

Researchers studying the behavior of isolated monkey societies inhabiting islands off the coast of Japan noticed that one particular monkey had learned how to open shellfish with a rock. In time, some others of that first monkey island group duplicated the behavior, although the other island monkey groups remained clueless. Each day some more monkeys joined the clam-crackers club. Then one day, one more monkey got it and not only did all of the first island group perform the new trick, but all the other monkeys of all the island groups. Every member of the

species became equally proficient at the new survival skill.

Simply stated, the Principle of the Hundredth Monkey is that there exists within a community a point in the process of understanding when enough people "get it" to literally create a change in awareness so that everyone gets it. What does this mean for the CTA? Membership is our means to finding that hundredth monkey, to precipitate that leap of consciousness.

So please, be like a pebble tossed on a pond. Start the ripple effect by loaning your newsletter to a friend, talking with them about CTA and encouraging them to become a member too.

Chinook Trail Association (CTA) Membership Application

☐ Individual \$20 ☐ Family \$30 ☐ Student/Senior/Fixed Income \$10 ☐ Institution \$60 ☐ Sustaining \$100 ☐ Life \$500

Name _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send application and remittance to: Chinook Trail Association, P.O. Box 997, Vancouver, WA 98666-0997

A Call for all Hands to Implements of Construction

by Roger Anderson

Work parties are vital; they are the backbone of the Bells Mountain section of the Chinook Trail. While we are grateful for the few workers who have continued to participate regularly, we have not had a large turnout of volunteers since National Trails Day.

We are averaging about eight people per work party, and given this, we are able to construct about 200 feet of trail each time we meet. Trail construction progress is framed by the number of people who compose a work party, and the terrain worked, e.g. large rocks to remove and/or roots to attend to, etc. Fortunately, most of the brushing

foundation was done last year, so current CTA volunteers can focus on actual trail completion.

Lest there be no misunderstanding, we continue to need new people and the energy they bring to the table. Sad but true, some of our more heavy hitters are verging on something of a batting slump, beginning to show signs of trailwork burnout; this is to be expected whenever too few do too much for too long. Take a moment to listen to the wind whisper: "Will you volunteer to help?" It is a great way to spend a Saturday. Call Roger Anderson at 254-2371 or Kim Bayer at 906-6769 for information.

Beancounting Other Need

CTA is in need of a new treasurer as our current fiscal stalwart, Florence Wager, has expressed a desire to pass the torch to another financial wiz. While we've appreciated Florence, who's done her six year tenure admirably, in sum we have to respect her need to otherwise direct her talents. Surely someone reading this either has or knows someone else who has a history of debits and credits, is bondable, is a kindred spirit of the CTA mission and has some time to kill; perhaps a retired accountant or someone else experienced in holding the Treasurer position with another non-profit. Please ask around and refer interested inquiries to Florence at (360) 694-2364.

Mission Statement

The Chinook Trail Association (CTA):

- Advocates development of a Columbia River bi-state loop trail;
- Cooperates with appropriate local, state and federal agencies to develop this recreational resource;
- Monitors and participates in route selection, design standards, trail development and maintenance in an ongoing spirit of conservation to preserve the natural beauty of the Gorge;
- Provides information and education to develop public support.

CTA Board Members

Don Cannard, Co-Founder.....360-694-4033
 Ted Klump, President.....360-695-7149
 Kim Bayer, Administrative Asst.360-906-6769
 Northwest Service Academy
 Fred Rogers, Secretary.....360-256-2927
 Jan Breneman, Corresponding Secretary
 Florence Wager, Treasurer360-694-2364
 Roger Anderson, Trails Chair360-254-2371
 Bob Scullin, Tool Steward
 Paul Clare Ken Herman Larry Devroy
 Randy Holland Vern Swaim Glenn Lamb
 Larry Swatosh

Committees:

Maria Muscarella360-254-2901
 Northwest Service Academy-CTA Liaison
 Paul Gregory360-254-2901
 Newsletter, National Trails Day

Advisory Board

Bobbi Bindreiff Russ Jolley
 Steve Tubbs Dave Cannard
 Joanne Swanson Paul Cannard

Inside This Issue...

CTA Celebrates 10 Years.....Page 1
 FWOC Annual Meeting Report

President Says.....Page 2
 "Hiking The Clark County Segment"

NW Service Corps Holds Spike Camp.....Page 3
 Bells Mountain Update
 Searching for the Hundredth Monkey

A Call for All Hands.....Page 4
 Bean Counting Other Need

REI Contributes

by Don Cannard



Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) has donated funds for the Chinook Trail Association to assist in our membership expansion efforts. REI also provided the funds to help CTA in its

promotion of achieving National Recreational Trail status for the overall proposed Chinook Trail. CTA will be sending representatives to attend two trail conferences this summer and fall for the purpose of presenting this concept. It does seem a logical extension that a National Scenic Area should have a National Recreational Trail in its midst.



1998 Saturday Work Parties

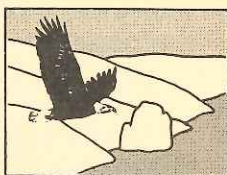
Mark your calendars now for the following work party dates:

Oct. 24 - BELLS MTN.

Nov. 14 - HAMILTON MTN.

The Bells Mountain work party will leave from the Clark Public Utilities Operations Center on State Highway 503 at 8:00 a.m. Those in the north county area can meet us at Moulton Falls Park on the East Fork of the Lewis River. We should arrive there close to 9:00 a.m. The usual work attire (work boots, gloves, etc.) and your heavy tools will be in order. Some tools will be available at the site. Return by 4:30 p.m. Bring lunch and drinking water.

The Hamilton Mountain work party leaves at 8 a.m. from the Pendleton Woolen Mills parking lot.



Chinook Trail Association
 P.O. Box 997
 Vancouver, WA 98666-0997

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Vancouver, WA
 Permit No. 518

Ted R. Klump
 8616 Silver Star Avenue
 Vancouver WA 98664