

Chinook Trek #30

May 1999

CTA Celebrates 7th Annual National Trails Day on June 5th

Leatherman and The Columbian Spearhead Support

By Paul Gregory

On Saturday, June 5th, CTA members and supporters will gather at 8am at the PUD on 117th Ave. in support of National Trails Day (NTD) and the continued effort to complete the Bells Mtn. Trail (note flyer insert). A special thanks goes to Leatherman Tool Company, Inc., generously becoming the event's primary corporate sponsor for the second consecutive year, and to

"Start a Trend... Bring a Friend"

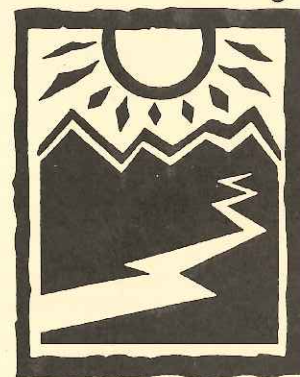
The Columbian for their significant advertising space donation. In addition, Pendleton Mills, The Mountain Shop, R.E.I., H. B. Fuller, and Washington Trails Association have also donated materials toward an auction and/or additional financial support; Nature's and Safeway have provided support toward the afternoon BBQ; Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Clark County Parks and Recreation Department continue to underscore their

endorsement of CTA's work and the NTD event.

The actual trail building of Bells Mtn. is now near completion with only minor trail widening, grooming, a few re-routes, some drainage work and the water crossings remaining; however, the lion's share of the latter calls for the placement of some 20 bridges, a few run-off ditches and puncheons (elevated walkway sections), and 22 culverts—some of which will be installed on NTD—to comply with all the erosion and habitat issues along the 7.5 mile trail. We'll also be incorporating a deck-like falls overlook. The Bells Mtn. Trail will become part of a network from Moulton Falls to the Pacific Crest Trail via Ed's Trail on Silver Star Mtn., Hamilton Mtn., Beacon Rock State Park... and onward to realize the gorge loop vision.

As in the past, participants will receive a free event T-shirt and an afternoon BBQ. This year we'll also be auctioning a few outfitter items to raise addition funds, including a genuine Pendleton Blanket (Native American

National Trails Day



June 5, 1999

pattern), Mountain Shop gift certificate, daypack and Leatherman tools. As always, the event is an opportunity to enjoy the day with others of like mind and spirit, to have a good time while getting some work done. CTA hopes that the '99 NTD will be the most successful one to date and your participation can ensure this happens. So, on June 5th, come hither for a mutually beneficial experience!

Web Page Update

By the Editor

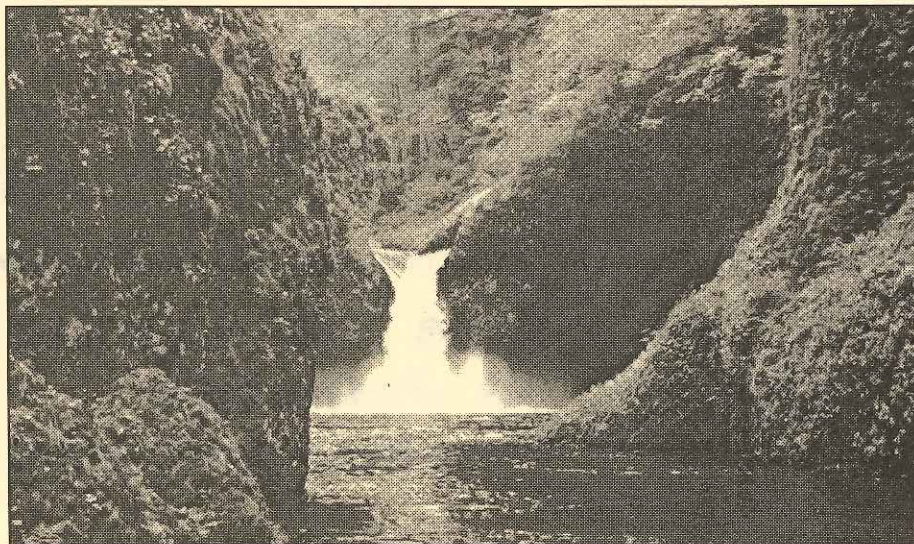
If you Net surfers have noticed changes in our web page at www.chinooktrail.org, you can thank the fates that brought Kara Smith into the CTA fold. She would be the first to say that husband, Stephen, helps out too, which may be true, but we're hip to her humility as well as her

expertise; she also re-routed the e-mail (cta@pacifier.com) and kept folks informed during a recent glitch hitch. Cultivating CTA's web site is a work in progress, so when you look at it you can also look forward to new improvements and as you notice and appreciate them you should also appreciate Kara for her cybergardening.

My Introduction to the Columbia River Gorge

by Chris Koren

My journey to the Northwest from Lansing, Michigan began on a frigid -4 degree morning in January. Ten days and 2,500 miles later I arrived in a river gorge full of life. Everything was green and the 45 degree weather felt like summer to me. As I drove through the Columbia River Gorge I noticed all the beautiful waterfalls and had to stop. The ground was soft from all the fallen conifer needles and the air smelled like fresh rain and fungus. I hiked part of a majestic gorge trail, stumbling a couple of times as I looked up and surveyed my surroundings. A couple miles down the trail I heard a thunderous noise, a grand waterfall seemingly 100-200 feet tall! I saw another small falls cutting through the basalt above the larger one. I was curious to see what the pool looked like between the falls, but I realize I couldn't walk or climb up the chasm. I wondered if the Chinook Trail would go along the top of those falls. I continued on for a while, investigated an interesting cave and ultimately took the same trail back to my car. As I continued to Portland, I thought to myself: "I've seen more waterfalls here than I saw all last summer. I think I'm going to like this place."



I would like to express how impressed I have been with The Chinook Trail Association since I started in February as a coordinator. The dedication of the active members has been completely inspiring for me; and this spirit, whether found on a day's trail-building workparty or at a committee meeting, gives me no doubt that the Chinook Trail will be completed. I am glad to be a part of this trek and will do all I can to further CTA's progress during my year of service.

As coordinator I offer support to all

committees, assist with planning events, send out press releases, find new volunteers and always look forward to Saturday Workparties. As summer draws near I will be working on the trail more often with different groups. For example, on May 19, 20, 21 Don Cannard and I will be working with the Northwest Service Academy-Enviro-Corps at Beacon Rock State Park on the Hardy Creek Trail. Feel free to reach me at the CTA office (360) 906-6769. 🌸

ESD 112 High School Re-entry Program & Friends of the Columbia Gorge Helps CTA For a Day

by Chris Koren

On March 6th CTA kicked off its '99 Saturday workparty schedule at Lewis and Clark State Park near Troutdale, OR. Together with 12 members of "Friends," the CTA trailbuilders widened nearly 1-1/2 miles of the 400 trail. The sunny weather and the Marsee Bakery donation of bagels and pastries helped everyone to shake off the previous winter's 95 days of rain and have a great time! Thank you Julie Wasserman and The Friends of The Columbia Gorge for your hard work.

Also, I worked with another AmeriCorp member, Sera Lawrentz, to organize a day of work for students who are trying to return to school after being expelled. A group of 12 students harvested Red-Osier Dogwood whips and replanted them on the Chum Salmon Habitat Protection Project on Hardy Creek Trail for two hours on Friday, March 19th. Jim Comrada, The Mabry Center, has donated space to grow the Dogwood for CTA at their facility. The Mabry Center will care for them, gratis, until we plant them near Hardy Creek during autumn. 🌸

Hewlett-Packard Grants CTA Printer

Cudos to CTA member and computer wizard, Stephen Smith, who was instrumental in gaining a donated top shelf color ink jet printer from Hewlett-Packard. Steve reported that HP was impressed with CTA's work via our application for National Trail Days corporate sponsorship; and, while they were not able to designate funds for that event, they did want to support our ongoing efforts. HP saved CTA some \$500 and enables us to create high quality mappings and other materials. CTA extends our collective sincere thanks to Hewlett-Packard for their gift and the innovative community support it represents. 🌸

—Editor

In Remembrance of Ellen Davis 1905-1999: 95 Years Young

by Don Cannard

Ellen and her husband settled in Vancouver in the 40's. Charles worked for the Clark Co. PUD. Ellen remained in the family home following Charles' passing. A charter member of the over-50-year-old Minnehaha Garden Club, Ellen held many offices and never missed a meeting unless out of town. She was also a charter member of the 50-year-old Minnehaha Social Club, an organization with the purpose of generally spreading good cheer and fostering camaraderie among its community, which it does to this day. Her flower arrangements and displays gathered from her own backyard were well known in all her circles and she participated in many district shows and meetings.

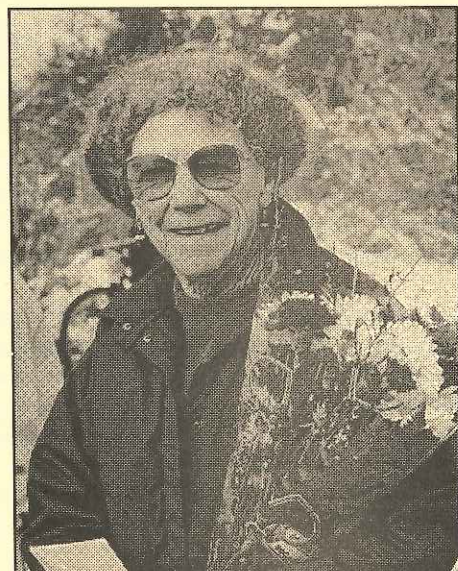
Ellen's yard was a showcase and displayed a wide variety of blooming plants. Many Minnehaha neighbors have a cutting or rooting replanted from her gardens. The spring took on new meaning in her multi-level yard. Many of us worried for her safety as she scurried about tending her flowers and vegetables; but this fear was misplaced as we were the ones who needed to take care and Ellen knew well how to navigate the narrow steps from level to level.

As a member of the Ptarmigans, a Vancouver based outdoor club, Ellen went on many of the outings. She rafted,

canoed, backpacked and hiked through many of the noted places of the Northwest. She continued these outings even as she entered her 90's, and similarly enjoyed the Parks and Recreation Department's "Wilderness Wanderers" program outings. Ellen was also an active member of the Vancouver Audubon Society, and drove to those meetings up to about a year ago when friends would stop by and provide a ride. Ellen enjoyed both the overnight birding trips as well as the day trips to local places, appreciating the available outdoor sites and discoveries. She did not let her advancing age preclude her attendance at any of the organizations in which she participated.

Many of you know, as a member of the CTA, Ellen helped construct the trails on Silver Star and worked on other trails, most notably the one that would bare her name — The Ellen Davis Trail. She attended each of our annual meetings since CTA was formed ten years ago.

Although Ellen was not the type whose name one finds on a list of who's who, those she touched in her quiet and effective ways regarded her to be a "Woman of Achievement." She made an impact on all who knew her and marveled at her spryness, alertness and interest in the world around her. Her contributions came in varied and



dedicated ways and she was a friend and a pleasure with whom to enjoy an outing or event and to be around. Goodbye Ellen! We will miss you. 🌹

Addendum

Funds have been received in memory of Ellen Davis. Unless otherwise specified, these funds will be placed in the CTA's Remembrance Fund, which is utilized exclusively as a revolving fund. Grant funding is often received after the expenditures have occurred. The Remembrance Fund is used to do the purchasing and is then reimbursed upon completion of the grant award. The Board of Directors is in hopes of eventually utilizing these funds to create a perpetual endowment fund. 🌹

Further Acknowledgements

Ken Herman, longtime CTA fixture, wrote to advise us that his friend and CTA member Roland Aspen passed on last winter. Readers who knew Roland would benefit from spending time remembering him in your own way. Newer members, who weren't so blessed to know Roland, might consider that all of us follow in the footsteps of the dedicated ones who came first, whether we notice the footprints or not.

Please contact Paul with any newsletter information or suggestions at (360) 254-2901. 🌹 —Editor

Chinook Trail Support Continues

by Don Cannard

Key organizations continue their support for CTA. Meyer Memorial Trust approved a grant to assist us in updating the urban Vancouver Ellen Davis Trail; C-TRAN has also provided assistance for the restoration of a portion of this trail. The Ellen Davis Trail provides ready access to the Park and Ride in the Ross Complex, and because of this, C-TRAN believed the work was an appro-

priate focus for a construction grant. Northwest Mutual has also assisted in this restoration project.

The CTA Board of Directors is pleased to note the confidence these funding organizations have in our ability to provide a valuable contribution to our community 🌹

TURNING FIFTY ON SILVER STAR – NOTES

From Don Cannard and author's submission

Robert Michael Pyle is a longtime CTA supporter. The article printed below is done so with the author's and the *Orion Afield Magazine's* permission. Robert and his wife, Thea, offered CTA this list of butterflies observed during their summer '97 Silver Star Campout. Common and scientific names and locations are cited. Robert notes the list is incomplete and suggests that 2x+ many occur there, e.g., Sara's Orangetip in the springtime. Butterfly season peaks in July and August.

Dreamy Duskywing (*Erynnis persius*) — Trail to Summit

Anise Swallowtail (*Papilio zelicaon*) — Hilltoppings on Summit

Mustard White (*Pieris marginalis*) — Forest below trail

Western Sulphur (*Colias occidentalis*) — Abundant in meadows

Silvery Blue (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*) — Lupin near the Summit

Chalcedony Checkerspot (*Euphydryas chalcedona*) — Abundant

Western Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria epithore*) — Common in meadows, glades; pupa found on rocks above 4WD trail near Viola

Hydaspe Fritillary (*Speyeria hydaspe*) — Last of road near Summit

Clodius Parnassian (*Parnassius clodius*) — Common all over

Pale Swallowtail (*Papilio eurymedon*) — Forest edges

Western White (*Pieris occidentalis*) — Hilltopping on Summit

Boisduval's Blue (*Icaricia icarioides*) — All around the lupine

Mariposa Copper (*Lycena mariposa*) — Saddle, from N toward S

Edith's Checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha*) — All over, but less so

Milbert's Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis milberti*) — Ridges near Summit

Turning Fifty on Silver Star

by Robert Michael Pyle

When Thea and I married, we built the living-room ceremony around friends, family, flowers; autumn leaves, the local judge, Walt Whitman; and a best-forgotten sonnet with a well-remembered message: that getting OUT would define our lives together, so help us. And gotten out we have; but never enough.

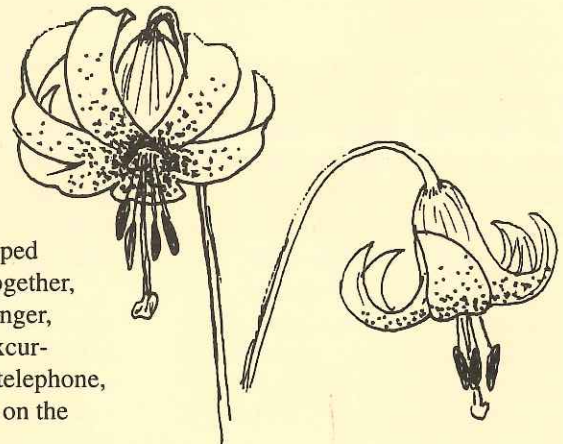
A regrettable but formidable tendency ensures that many would-be naturalists betake themselves out-of-doors all too rarely. This misdirection not-so-subtly subverts the very impulse that drives us to work for the outside world. So biologists spend their time in labs, committee rooms, and conference halls, while conservationists haunt offices, meetings, and legislative chambers. Rangers administrate, managers delegate. And they all devote much more time, unless they are clever or vigilant, to a computer terminal than to the wild, be it yard, park, or mountain fastness.

Years ago, when I worked for international conservation groups, most of my colleagues had been inspired by a love of nature. But they had grown far from the model I envisioned for myself: an engaged, yet oft-sauntering naturalist. Plainly, they never got out; and then they forgot.

I took steps to avoid that fate, and over the years I have made certain to get out often, if only modestly. That is one reason I live where I do, where even fetching the mail is an adventure. But I have not escaped that insidious counter-pull altogether, especially when it comes to longer, more physically demanding excursions far from the desk, mail, telephone, terminal and all other anchors on the ambler's drift.

In our early 20s, Thea and I belonged to the University of Washington Conservation Education and Action Council. We watched David Brower movies on the North Cascades and other imperiled wildlands, secure in the knowledge that we would see all those charmed scenes with the aid of boots and backpacks. Thirty years later, the treks to high meadows and wilderness beaches have been far fewer than we'd anticipated. Last summer, we decided to mend our ways.

I suppose we did it partly to prove we still could, partly out of a sense of summers slipping by rapidly and irretrievably. No matter. On July 18 we girded, loaded, and stretched our loins, and set out on a trailhead recently



redeemed from an old forest lookout road in Washington's southwesternmost Cascades. Silver Star Mountain was reputed to be a fine place for butterflies. Since these insects favor flowers, the mountain held high promise for Thea's primary interest too.

Our first morning broke to Mount Adams emerging from the night into a slurry of rose mist and summer sun. The snowy cone suffered in competition with the dawn-and-dew-struck flora. Tall orange Columbia lilies swayed on a light breeze all around the carefully placed gray dome of our tent. A canopy of creamy umbels and full-maned yellow composites wrapped outbursts of magenta paintbrush, furry mariposa lilies, blue gentians, and scarlet

Hiking The Hill

CTA Goes to D.C.

by Randy Holland

This past March 13-17, CTA sent me to represent the association at the American Hiking Society's (AHS) 'Hiking The Hill' trail advocacy program in Washington, D.C. This annual event, facilitated by the AHS and underwritten by major outdoor retailers, provides non-profit trail organizations with information on trail advocacy issues, federal funding streams for trails promotion and strategies to maximize local and national political support and endorsement.


AHS awarded me a travel scholarship and the CTA Executive Board approved a travel budget allocation. Prior to leaving, I scheduled appointments with Sen. Patty Murray's and Rep. Brian Baird's office. I was also eager to take advantage of all the AHS workshops available. Soon March 13th came and I found myself proudly in our



Nation's capital at the first event, an evening reception where I met representatives from the Washington TA, Pacific Crest TA, Appalachian TA, Florida TA and the Backcountry Horsemen, among others, whose mutual affinity and enthusiasm for trail promotion, building and use was clear.

The subsequent two days were filled with workshops and special speakers from various governmental agencies such as the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Parks and Recreation, wherein I learned some trail advocacy techniques and strategies through role playing visits to politicians — which was very beneficial in my later meetings with representatives and their staff. AHS provided informational packages to attendees on a variety of issues. They encouraged trail groups to request their Congressional Reps to join the HR Trail Caucus. A recurrent theme

from each speaker was that adequate trail funding will only exist to the degree that organizations like CTA make their constituencies visible and their case for the importance of trails to their politicians; a theme which was to be set in motion the next two days. In my meetings at both Senator Murray's and Congressman Baird's office I established contacts for future discussions and underscored CTA's entirely volunteer structure and ongoing efforts. I also expressed CTA's concern for adequate trail funding and interest in becoming a designated "National Trail."

Some might say that CTA was more of a rookie among more established and better funded trail groups, but I was proud to represent us. As CTA grows organizationally and as the Chinook Trail expands throughout the greater gorge region, we must continue our political trail advocacy in D.C. and locally. Our ability to effectively promote trail funding will be critical to realizing our shared vision of a Columbia River Gorge loop trail system. 

Turning Fifty — continued

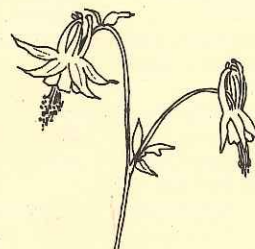
columbines. Our perch on the flower-strewn slope was solitary, since a lack of surface water deterred backpackers. You wouldn't know it from the lushness of the turf. For two days we explored the slopes, trails, hollows, and peaks of Silver Star, and I turned over my first half-century embraced by four white volcanoes.


And the butterflies? I have never seen such a spectacle in butterfly-subtle western Washington. Only 14 species, but thousands of golden western sulphurs, hundreds of wax-and-cherry Clodius parnassians, chalcedony and Edith's checkerspots by the score. Sharp-eyed Thea spotted the small brown chrysalis of a western meadow fritillary on a granite chip beneath its host-plant violets. And as sunset glazed Mount St. Helens, she saw three backlit butterflies bed down: a diaphanous parnassian on a pinkened umbel, a meadow fritillary on a rush, and a checkerspot on a blown dandelion. There they stayed till morning rays warmed their wings

and sent us down the mountain to water.

One week later, we again took up our beast-of-burden packs for a trek into the proposed wilderness of the Dark Divide, northeast of Silver Star. On the summits of Sunrise and Jumbo peaks, among native-plant-society friends and mountain heather, we found alpine butterflies never before recorded in Skamania County. Come September, we kept Thea's 50th among the red-and-blue blaze of ripe huckleberries that gave Indian Heaven Wilderness its name. If our loads were not yet second nature, neither was the experience secondhand. I don't doubt that next summer we'll see our packs further exercised, our canoe wetted more than it has been lately. We are rebuilding the habit of getting out, often and well.

You don't have to backpack, of course, to taste the "tonic" that Thoreau distilled from his walking. But as we age and our lives complexify more and more, we must ardently resist the busy demon that would keep us in. It doesn't



do to become prisoners of our own commitment. We deserve to experience what we labor to preserve. For the good places' sake—for our sake—we are wise to get out. After all, going afield, as the old naturalists called it, is its own reward. 

Robert Michael Pyle lives and writes in southwest Washington, along the tangled banks of a Columbia River tributary. He recounts his rambles from home, or wherever he finds himself, in each issue of Orion Afield.


Bells Mountain Update

by Roger Anderson

The spring work parties have resumed on Bells Mtn. During the winter a Larch Mtn. Corrections Center crew constructed approximately five miles of trail between the Stimson Clear Cut and Moulton Falls County Park. Now the CTA's job is to fine tune the tread, install culverts, construct bridges and, in spots, puncheons (elevated walkways); and while we can do some of this work now, CTA must wait for the County to issue the shoreline and hydraulics permits before we can legally construct the bridges and puncheons.

We had hoped that, if by now the green light hadn't been given, we could see the crossroad amber suggesting we would soon be good to go. However, the permit applications needed to be rewritten and the process delayed some three month later than originally planned. So, a collective knock on wood and we should be able to build bridges in July 17-24 during the summer campout/work event — we'll need helpers then as well — so, bated breath persists, but we'll breathe easier soon.

Anyway, throughout the summer

and fall there will still be plenty of work to do and fun to be had, and we need your help more than ever. Will you join us on a Saturday work party? Years from now you can say, "Hey kid, see that bridge down the trail? I put that one up." Please consider helping to complete the Bells Mtn. Trail (note the National Trails Day article, leaflet and the work party schedule below). Remember, we can't do it without you and it's always more fun when you're there! Call Roger at (360) 254-2371 for more trails info. 

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.

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 Chris Koren, Community Coord.....360-906-6769
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 Newsletter, National Trails Day

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CTA 1999 Work Parties

All sites meet at designated areas at 8:00 a.m.

May 15th	Bells Mountain	@ PUD, 117th Ave./Hwy. 503
June 5th	Bells Mountain - NTD	@ PUD, 117th Ave./Hwy. 503
June 19th	Ed's Trail - Silver Star	@ PUD, 117th Ave./Hwy. 503
July 10th	Bells Mountain	@ PUD, 117th Ave./Hwy. 503
July 17-24	Bells Mountain - AHS/CTA Summer Campout	@ Cold Creek Campgrounds
Aug. 7th	Bells Mountain	@ PUD, 117th Ave./Hwy. 503
Aug. 21st	Bells Mountain	@ PUD, 117th Ave./Hwy. 503
Sept. 11th	Bells Mountain	@ PUD, 117th Ave./Hwy. 503
Sept. 25th	Bells Mountain	@ PUD, 117th Ave./Hwy. 503
Oct. 9th	Hamilton Mtn./Beacon Rock S.P.	@ Pendleton Mills, Camas
Oct. 23rd	Hamilton Mtn./Peacon Rock S.P.	@ Pendleton Mills, Camas

Bring the usual work attire (work boots, gloves, etc.), your heavy tools, lunch and drinking water. Some tools will be available at the site. Return by 4:30 p.m.
 For more information on trail work opportunities, call Roger Anderson, Trails Chair, 254-2371.

E-Mail: cta@pacifier.com Website: www.chinooktrail.org



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Hey You, Take A Hike!



A volunteer organization dedicated to creating a network of trails to encircle the Columbia Gorge and connect its surrounding communities invites you to...

Help Build Trail

Registration:

8am @ Clark PUD,
NE 117th Ave./Rt. 503
Carpool to trail site

Bring: Drinking water,
raingear, work gloves,
clothes and boots.

Participants Receive:

Free event T-shirts &
Afternoon BBQ

National Trails Day



June 5, 1999

1999 Work Parties*

Bells Mtn.: 5/15, 6/5-NTD,
7/10, Campout: 7/17-24, 8/7,
8/21, 9/11 & 9/25,

Silver Star Mtn.: 6/19

Hamilton Mtn.: 10/9, 10/23

** For More Trails Info:*

Roger @ (360) 254-2371

For CTA/NTD Info:

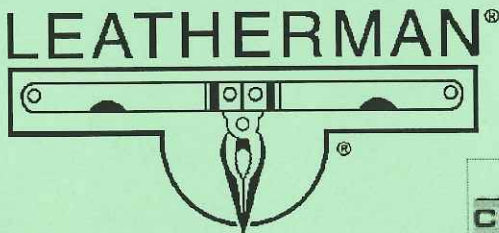
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