

Chinook Trek #32

May 2000

National Trails Day 2000

— Editor

Save the date of Saturday, June 3rd, 2000, and join with us in CTA's eighth annual celebration of National Trails Day. This year, we will gather together and continue the effort to complete the Bells Mountain Trail and its multi-use connection to the Cedar Creek Trail. However, this time there's a new twist: *Plans are to build a bridge!* We'll try to keep the crews small in number to enable us to maximize the energy flow to meet, as best we can, other needs along both Cedar Creek and Bells Mountain, such as culvert placements, maintenance and grooming on both sides of the creek. And, if we get the ok, we'll also start work on a disabled access nature loop on the Bells Mountain Trail's side of the falls. As always, CTA's NTD will be a good time and an opportunity to join with others of like minds, like wills and like wow! Don't miss out.

National Trails Day



A Note from the President

By Ted Klump

High above the mighty Columbia, on the windswept rim of the gorge at Menucha Conference Center, the Board of Directors of the Chinook Trail Association met for our fifth annual retreat to review past target goals and accomplishments to date, and project where we need to go and what we need to do to continue moving toward realizing our dream. Many things were discussed: the need for more members and how we can involve more of our members in the ongoing duties and responsibilities of running the CTA. Our facilitator once again was Mark Veneroso, without whose help we would not accomplish half of what we do. Thank you, Mark.

Menucha sits high above the river just east of Corbett and west of the Vista House off the Scenic Highway. It is the former estate of the Julius Meier family (Meier & Frank), who used it as a summer home. It is now owned by the First Presbyterian Church of Portland and is one of the best places to hold a retreat or conference. The views are spectacular and the meals excellent.

It is becoming evident that if we are to accomplish our vision we need to change the nature of the CTA from an all-volunteer organization to an organization with a paid executive director and, ideally, a community coordinator, the job that both Kim Bayer and Chris Koren have done for us. We

also need people on our Board of Directors who know how to generate major donations and grants so we can have a paid staff. It has become clear that without someone on the front lines every day, our vision will not materialize in a timely manner. That does not mean we will no longer need volunteers. There will always be a place for volunteers in our organization. They are the lifeblood.

It was a good weekend and a lot was accomplished, but there is still much to do. Thanks to all the board members who took time out of their busy lives to attend.

Ken Herman Retires

Long time CTA member and activist Ken Herman has announced his retirement from the Board of Directors due to personal responsibilities. Ken has served on the Board since 1994 and helped do the survey work on the Chinook Trail 180b (formerly Squaw Butte Trail). Ken was also part of the DNR crew that originally flagged the Silver Creek Trail back in the late 1970's. We appreciate all he has helped us accomplish. Thank you, Ken.

Monthly CTA Meetings

Executive Board	Contact: Ted Klump, President @ (360) 695-7149
Trails Committee	2nd Wednesday
		Contact: Roger Anderson, Chair @ (360) 254-2371
Membership Committee	4th Monday
		Contact: Fred Rogers, Chair @ (360) 256-2927

Outdoor Education

By Randy Holland

This recent January I participated in a 30-day-long National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), Outdoor Educator course. The course took place in the Kofa Wilderness area in SW Arizona. The Kofa has two rugged mountain ranges that run through it, the Kofa and Castle Dome, both of which are the homes of the mighty Desert Bighorn sheep, giant saguaro cactus, Gila monsters, rattlesnakes, tarantulas, mountain lions and scorpions, to mention just a few. I participated in this course because I have an interest in the outdoor education/guiding profession. The course exceeded my expectations and has helped me achieve personal goals I have set for myself regarding my future in outdoor education. Personal agenda aside, I want to utilize some of what I have learned on this NOLS course for the benefit of the CTA.

During my 30-day stay in the field I learned to teach classes in an outdoor setting, learned risk management, developed leadership skills, studied wilderness first aid, evacuation procedures, navigational skills and enhanced my rock climbing skills. One skill that I would like to share with CTA is a skill I practiced every day through the entire trip—to follow the principles of “Leave No Trace.” As members of a trail group, I feel all of us need to adhere to these principles which are not a set of rules and regulations but rather wild land ethics that will, if adhered to, help to preserve our beloved wilderness areas.

In the 1960's Paul Petzoldt created NOLS. At age 50, he had already a lifetime of outdoor experience behind him, including an attempt with an American expedition team on K2 in 1938! Stopped short of the summit, and returning to find a dismantled, packed up and gone expedition team, a furious Paul realized then the importance of good leaders in the outdoors. He felt that there was a growing need for outdoor leaders. His foresight led him to believe that outdoor recreation would be increasing. He knew that responsible outdoor leaders would be necessary to

help educate the public on how to preserve our wilderness areas and how to enjoy and benefit from them. So he established NOLDS and developed the principles of LNT.

On my recent trip I had the chance to experience first hand how important the LNT principles are. I traveled in a group of 15 students, quite a large group. By adhering to the LNT principles we can honestly say we left a minimal impact on the wilderness we traveled through. Since we were traveling in a desert ecosystem, we had to stay continually focused on the effects of our impact. A boot print, a

piece of garbage, and a trampled cactus can all take years for the environment to recover from, if it recovers at all.

Below, I would like to share the LNT principles with my fellow CTA members. If you are familiar with the LNT principles, pay close attention to the list. In the past two years two new principles have been added.

Reach me at 360-699-6025 or e-mail me at randyholland@columbian.com. You can also consult the LNT website at lnt.org or call 1-800-332-4100.

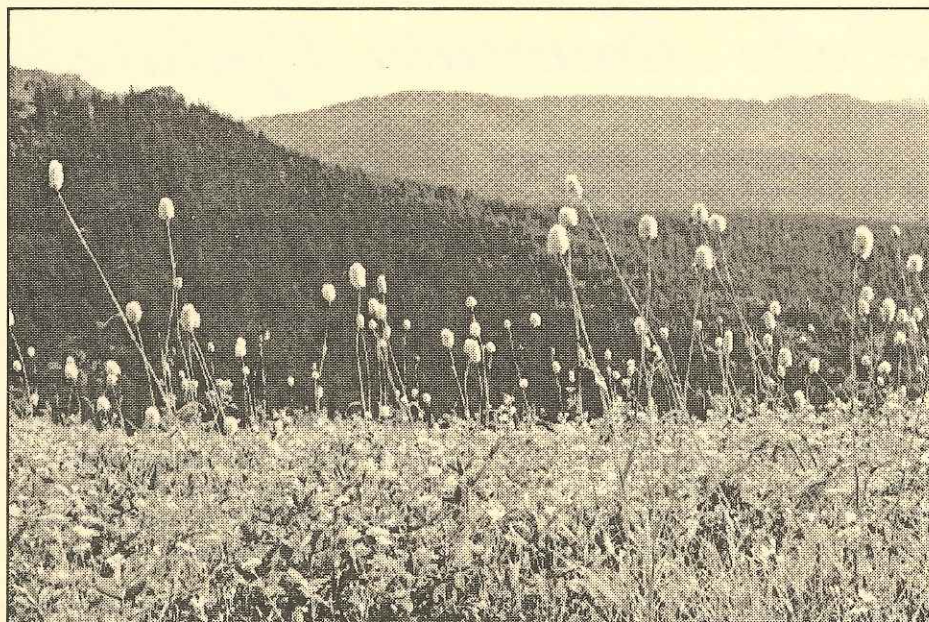


LEAVE NO TRACE *Outdoor Ethics*

- ✓ **PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE**
 - Know the area you visit and what to expect.
 - Repackage food (minimize garbage).
 - Select appropriate equipment.
 - Learn about local ecology.
- ✓ **TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES**
 - Concentrate use in resistant areas.
 - Avoid places where impact is just beginning.
- ✓ **DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY**
 - Pack it in. Pack it out.
- ✓ **LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND**
 - Protect cultural resources.
 - Avoid damaging trees and plants.
 - Leave natural objects.
- ✓ **MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS**
 - When is fire appropriate?
 - Learn how to build a safe and low impacting fire.
 - In high use areas, use existing fire rings.

Editor's Note

Due to job and personal needs, I'm finding it necessary to take a hiatus from the CTA newsletter responsibilities. I'm sure readers who have been wondering where their last issue has been will offer no arguments. My hope is that I'll have time to re-commit to this important CTA vehicle in the fall. Doing the newsletter is no burden. It just takes some time and energy which I'm unable to find right now. Anyone interested in trying your hand at it should not hesitate. It can offer you some satisfaction, but importantly, it can help CTA. Call me, or any other Board Member if you're interested.



Grasses bloom on Silver Star

Membership

A Lesson from the Geese

There are many things we can learn from the world of nature. Doubtless the search for the many faces of this truth is one of the main reasons we find ourselves working to increase access into wilderness areas and enjoying the fruits of our labor. Please consider joining CTA, or if you know a 'bird of a feather,' ask them to consider joining. Share with them this *Lesson From The Geese*:

This spring, and again this fall, when you see the geese coming or going, flying along the 'V' formation, take a moment to consider why they fly that way.

The fact is that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an

'uplift' for the bird immediately following. By flying in a 'V' formation, the flock has a much greater flying range than if each bird were to fly solo—71% greater according to the science of aerodynamics.

The lesson? People who share a common direction, a sense of community and a sense of purpose can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the trust of one another. Alternating between drafting and being drafted to lead.

By the way, do you know why the geese honk in flight? It's to encourage one another, to keep up the pace, if not also to keep the faith.

Speak with a friend about CTA and ask them to consider becoming a member. Share with them why you belong to the fold. Explain to them the peace of mind that you've received from the knowledge that you help build the trail; from knowing you put the creation in outdoor re-creation.

Chinook Trail Association (CTA) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ Individual \$25 ☐ Family \$35 ☐ Student/Senior \$15 ☐ Institution \$75 ☐ Sustaining \$100 ☐ Life \$500

Name _____ Tel. # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

Please send application and remittance to:

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

Bells Mountain Update

by Roger Anderson

Another trail building season is upon us! Our first work party of the new millennium was on March 4th on Bells Mountain. After the winter storms there were lots of downed trees and brush to remove and we need your help as we continue to clear the trails.

Over the winter, work has been going on trying to secure the needed permits so we can begin building bridges over the streams. CTA trail members have been meeting with Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation

personnel and Department of Natural Resources personnel in an attempt to finalize the remaining loose ends.

On January 24th a historic meeting took place. For the first time all the key people from CTA, DNR, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation and Stimson Timber Co. met face to face and hammered out some new guidelines for the trail easement through the Stimson property. We then went to the site and reflagged a route that will hopefully be more in line with Stimson's request.

Once the route is surveyed, the survey will be sent to Stimson for approval.

So after all that, we hope to get the applications sent to Olympia for issuance of the permits. Then we can finally start on the last phase of the Bells Mountain Project.

In the meantime, there is still plenty of work to do, so join us for some of our trail construction and maintenance work parties. See the schedule listed below. For more information, call Roger Anderson at 360-254-2371.



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

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CTA Work Parties 2000

May 6th Bells Mountain
 May 20th Bells Mountain
 June 3rd Bells Mountain – National Trails Day
 June 17th Gorge Hike – Call Roger FYI
 July 8th Silver Star & Lower Tarbell Spur
 July 20th-23rd Summer Campout
 August 5th Silver Star
 August 19th Silver Star – Ed's Trail
 September 9th Bells Mountain
 September 23rd Bells Mountain
 October 14th Hamilton Mountain ★
 October 28th Hamilton Mountain ★

Meet at PUD at 8:00 a.m. except . . .

★ Meet at Woolen Mills, Washougal at 8:00 a.m.

For more information on trail work parties, call Roger at 254-2371.

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



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