



The Chinook Trek

Chinook Trek #35

October 2001

Annual Meeting on Nov. 4, 2001 will Feature Unique Geological History of the Columbia River Gorge

By Paul Clare

This year's annual meeting buffet luncheon has been scheduled for 12 noon, Nov. 4, 2001 at Vancouver's magnificent Water Resources Center. It is situated on the Columbia River east of the Columbia Way Industrial Park. Access is from Highway 14 at the interchange south of Pearson Airport. Follow the signs east past Marine Park to the Water Resources Center, which is at the end of the road on the left. We will again meet in the beautiful Bruce E. Hagensen Community Room on the second floor.

Featured speaker will be Dr. Charlene Montierth, Clark College Geology Professor, who will present a program on the unique geological history of the Columbia River Gorge. Her University of Oregon PhD dealt with the Volcanology of Hawaii. Some will recall that Dr. Montierth accompanied CTA members and a group of Americorps volunteers on a hike up Silver Star Mountain a couple of years ago. She left us all with a greater appreciation of the fascinating geological history of that area.

Following the meeting, walk the Renaissance Trail along the Columbia River east or west to Wintler and Esther Short Parks.

For additional information or reservations call Megan Murray at the CTA office at 360-906-6769 or Paul Clare at 360-892-8173.



Boulder Buster Arrives Thanks to SWIFT

by Don Cannard

Chinook Trail Association is now the proud owner of a Boulder Buster thanks to a generous contribution from SWIFT of \$2,500. Our next needed purchase is for a gas-powered drill, powerful enough to drill the 1 1/2 inch needed to assist the Boulder Buster in its work. This will be used on the Little Beacon Rock Trail. At a later date CTA will conduct a private showing of this unique piece of trail building equipment to those contributing to the matching dollars for this grant. The drill in question carries with it a price tag of over \$5,000. Contributions anyone?

"Pick Up The Pinchot" theme of National Public Lands Day

by Megan Murray

This year's National Public Lands Day was held on Saturday, September 29th at Sunset Campground. Calling it "Pick Up The Pinchot," the U.S. Forest Service put on this day to clean up our National Forest. Starting at 9 a.m., families and individuals began arriving at the camp to join in the effort to clean up the surrounding area. Attending from the Chinook Trail Association were Don Cannard, Paul Clare, and new Americorps member Megan Murray. We were given heavy-duty white garbage bags and directed to the clean-up site. After driving up a non-maintained forest road we came to a shooting range that was made by target shooters. Thousands of rifle and other gun shells littered the ground and it was next to impossible to get them all. As many as possible were picked up and put into garbage bags but others still remain. Also found along with the shells were oil cans, plastic bottles, pieces of appliances, glass, cardboard, and pop cans. The best find was a plastic hard hat that was shot so many times it looked like Swiss cheese. After working for a while and filling many garbage bags, the group headed back down to the base camp where snacks, pop and posters were provided. And the Forest Service provided everyone who took part in the clean-up with a "Pick Up The Pinchot" t-shirt. We left the day with sore backs and a feeling of accomplishment. It may only just be a small dent in the effort to clean up but every little bit is a whole lot of help.

Hamilton Mountain Update

by Don Cannard

An enormous amount of effort has been devoted toward the Hamilton Mountain Trail Restoration. Nearly 100 failing steps, with attached railings, have been replaced and graveled making for much safer approaches to the Pool of the Winds and Hardy Creek Bridge. The rails and kick curbs on the bridge have been replaced. The 4,000 feet of trail with its 22 switchbacks and numerous cuts is 95% completed. This work was financed by an interagency appropriation from the federally financed National Recreation Trails Restoration grant. A grant from the Lower Columbia River Estuary

Foundation has provided partial funding for installation of over 200 feet of fencing to reduce cutting across the trails near Hardy Creek. This has turned out to be an attractive addition and many comments from users, particularly by parents of small children, indicated a belief that the trail is now much safer for them. The Estuary grant is also defraying the cost of the planting of over 3,000 rooted plants on the slopes near the steps and on the obliterated portions of the trail.

In addition to the planting of vegetation, two large tasks remain: the removal of old

rails and posts as well as the cut end of the treated material used, and the construction of the 1,000-foot Little Beacon Rock Trail. Many hands will make light work. Call Don Cannard at 360-694-4033 to help. Our totes will be called into use on these projects to haul the materials needed for these two projects. Help could also be used on the vegetation plantings. See article on upcoming work parties.

So far, Chinook Trail volunteers, Wyeth Forest Camp crews, ESD112 Summer Youth Employment crews, NW Service Academy teams and individuals, Reed and Lewis and Clark College Spring Vacation students and Beacon Rock State Park personnel have spent over 10,000 hours working on these projects.

Community Foundation Inspects Trail Work

by Don Cannard

Nancy Sourek, Executive Director, and Anne Digenis, Director of Donor Services of the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington, spent an afternoon hiking the Hardy Creek-Hamilton Mountain Trails with Chinook Trail Association's Special Projects coordinator, Don Cannard and his wife Sue. The object of the hike was to review with Foundation personnel the work of the past ten years that Chinook Trail has accomplished within Beacon Rock Park. The Foundation has been a contributor on a regular basis to CTA efforts in the park with grants for a variety of expenses including materials, equipment and youth support services. The review included the work recently completed but also the construction of several bridges, installation of several culverts, 200 feet of retaining wall, trail reconstruction, installation of an elevated trail segment out of the picnic area and the numerous water bars and general upgrading of the main trail to the Pool of the Winds on Hardy Creek. Comments were



Students lending willing hands on past trail projects.

very positive and appreciative of CTA efforts in the work done at Beacon Rock for the general hiking public. In Beacon Rock Park alone over 400,000 people use the facilities. It is estimated nearly 100,000 use the Hamilton Mountain Trail.

Washington State Trails Coalition Conference

It is Sunday afternoon, October 7. This morning at 9:30 PDT, with the aid of our allies, we started bombing terrorist targets in Afghanistan in response to the brutality of September 11 that changed our way of life forever. Those events have helped me put the challenges in my life into perspective and realize that my struggles are not as overwhelming as I had imagined they were.

This has been a tough year for the Chinook Trail Association. Those who have been the shakers and movers of this organization are feeling the effects of being on the front lines for a long time; and the trail project on Bells Mountain is still grid locked in the permit process. We are all tired and frustrated. As a result of my changed perspective however, I realize that while we may be down, we are definitely not out—not by a long shot.

For the past three days, Roger Anderson, Paul Clare, Megan Murray, Vern Swaim, Florence Wager, and I have been attending the Washington State Trails Coalition Conference, "Healthy Trails, Healthy People," at the Inn at the Quay. It was very informative and gave me a new sense of purpose and direction. While I was in one of the meetings I came across a quote I found very inspirational: "WHAT

LIES BEHIND US AND WHAT LIES BEFORE US ARE TINY MATTERS COMPARED TO WHAT LIES WITHIN US."

It could be easy for us to give in to our feelings of fatigue and frustration and give up on our vision for The Chinook Trail. It would also be easy to give up hope for the future resolution to our challenges; but if I learned anything by watching the events unfold in the aftermath of the attacks in New York and Washington DC, it is that within all of us there is a deep, untapped reservoir of strength, courage, and resolve that will not die; and together we can overcome our obstacles, inspired by hope and determination. We will not only survive our temporary setbacks; we will go on to accomplish our goal.

In the closing comments of the conference someone made the remark: "EVERYTHING WE DO IS POSITIVE AND UPBEAT, IT'S ONLY OUR CHALLENGES THAT PULL US DOWN." What we have set out to do will be accomplished. It will take time, and the work will probably stretch beyond most of our individual lifetimes; but it is a worthy goal and in the time our vision will become a reality.

Thank you all for your continued efforts.

Ted Klump, President

Volunteer Vacation a Success

By Robert Threadgill

For the second consecutive year, CTA partnered with the American Hiking Society and hosted a Volunteer Vacation work crew. Sponsored nationally by AHS, Volunteer Vacation provides the opportunity for people all over the U.S. to experience trail building and restoration in the backcountry and forests of our nation. For one week participants leave their computers and marketing and education jobs to head out into the woods to camp, dig trail, and get dirty.

Eleven folks from seven states came to work with CTA on projects on the Hamilton Mountain Trail. The volunteers camped at the group campsite at Beacon Rock State Park, restored and maintained much of the Hamilton Mountain Trail, and definitely got dirty. In addition to completing some greatly needed maintenance on the Hamilton Mountain and Hardy Creek trails, the volunteers

replaced a damaged culvert with a bridge, constructed a picnic area and rock wall, and began brushing the barrier-free trail. The participants were also able to get a glimpse of the Pacific Crest Trail as they performed a bit of maintenance along the stretch of the PCT headed out of North Bonneville.

Ever mindful that our guests were on vacation, CTA trail bosses did not work the crew too hard. The volunteers got to see and experience Southwest Washington a bit as they hiked both Hamilton Mountain and Beacon Rock, spent an afternoon relaxing in the pools at Skamania Lodge, and experienced the beauty of a Northwestern rain coupled with cool breezes of the Columbia River Gorge. At the end of the week, CTA members congratulated the hard-working volunteers with a hamburger cookout.

Many thanks to all of the Volunteer Vacation participants as well as the CTA members who made this week successful.

FWOC Convention Attended by CTA Representative

by Roger Anderson

Chinook Trail Association voting representative Roger Anderson attended the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (FWOC) annual meeting held in Whiterock, B.C. on July 26, 27, 28. The theme was "Conservation Without Borders," giving it an international flavor. Several panel discussions took place on a variety of issues with panelists from the United States and British Columbia telling how they handle issues such as logging near water, endangered species and clean water and air.

It was surprising to find out that Canada does not have an Endangered Species Act or Clean Air and Water Act. These issues are mostly decided at the local level. They have a two-tier government system that has never approved such legislation in three separate attempts to do so.

Surprising was the fact that B.C. exports 70% of their lumber, mostly to U.S. markets. The sad result is heavy logging of the ancient old growth forests in the B.C. interior with little regulation. Perhaps buying local lumber rather than imported material may be worthwhile.

The FWOC business on the third day consisted of approving resolutions submitted by member clubs. These resolutions varied greatly in subject matter but all related to environmental concerns. Most of the 41 resolutions passed, directing all member clubs to support these by contacting their legislators and pressuring them to vote accordingly on these issues.

The FWOC executive committee has selected the site for the 2002 convention, the good news is that it will be held at Tyee Lodge near Government Camp at Mt. Hood. The Trails Club of Oregon will host it and the date has been tentatively set for the third weekend in July. The convention is open to all who wish to listen to the panels of speakers. More details will follow, so stay tuned.

Have Need, Contributions Accepted

By Don Cannard

The description of the completed projects described elsewhere in this newsletter bring pride to all who have participated and who are associated with Chinook Trail Association. However, these all have placed a drain on our limited reserves. Nearly all the grants we have received require some sort of local match. Our power equipment periodically needs tune-ups costing anywhere from \$40 to \$100 each. We have one generator, three totes, several powerful brush whackers, a tree trimmer, a couple of chain saws and an abundance of hand tools all needing some touching up and sharpening. In addition, our support of our yearly expense to the Northwest Service Corps person in our office is ongoing. We are so fortunate to have a desk and cubical located in a local resource management headquarters. The list is endless. Unlike at home when we can reach for the credit card or apply for a short-term loan to get over the rough spots, we don't feel we have that luxury in CTA. Your contribution to the Chinook Trail Association will be deeply appreciated.



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

No news is not good news. We have no new information on the status of our final permit review/approval. It now rests with three federal agencies: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Fisheries Service. When the few people they have reviewing permit applications finally get to ours, then we can expect some action. Preliminary word is that the Bridges project will be approved, but as we all know anything can happen.

In the meantime, CTA is moving ahead with the re-routing of the Moulton Falls Park segment. You may remember the trail was constructed outside of the park boundary, as the Parks Department

was unable to define the park boundaries at the time. Now the Department of Natural Resources has scheduled a timber sale where the trail is so the agency has requested that we re-route about a half-mile of trail. This will put it more in line with the existing easement.

Our work parties are winding down for this season with one session left, October 27, which is "Make a Difference Day," a nationwide opportunity to help out the community in some way. Please join us for this last work party of the season. Call Roger at 360-254-2371 for information.

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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Beacon Rock Work Party

by Don Cannard

Come one, come all for one of the final work parties of the season, "Make A Difference Day," happening on Saturday, October 27th. There is enough work to go around. Given enough participants, CTA will hike the Hardy Creek Trail cleaning off all the bridges of accumulated material; clean out water bars which were removed to ease the movement of materials to the Hardy Creek worksite; move big boulders to a view point overlooking the Columbia River, Hamilton Mountain and Beacon Rock; and finally, will work on the Little Beacon Rock Trail. The work can be as easy as hiking and sweeping the bridges to placing big stones in the totes and moving them to the place of installation at a viewpoint.

One of the benefits of participating in a trail experience like this is the meeting of like-minded people. Folks who love hiking and wish to meet others who share in this interest always enjoy our work parties regardless of how much work is accomplished. Though the event is listed for all day, feel free to leave at anytime.

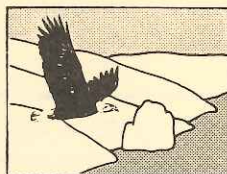
We will meet at the Pendleton Woolen Mills parking lot in Washougal on Saturday, October 27 at 8:30 am. Be prepared to be really impressed with all the work accomplished in the last few years and particularly the past few months.

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