

Chinook Trek #36

March 2002

## Chinook Trail Association Co-Sponsors Library Forum "Walking and Health – What's The Connection?"

by Paul Clare

A library forum will be held at the new Jim Parsley Center on Thursday, April 18, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor auditorium. This event coincides with the Annual International Discovery Walk Festival, which will fall on April 19th through the 21st. Local walkers and international visitors expected from many countries will be walking various designated trails in the county.

The forum "Walking and Health—What's The Connection?" will feature Mayor Royce Pollard; Mr. John Magnano, Executive Director of Columbia River

Mental Health; and Dr. Robert Ellis, Physician Director of the Southwest Hospital Cancer Center. There will be adequate time allotted for questions and to advocate for expanding trails. The Jim Parsley Center is located at 2901 Falk Road, two blocks north of 4th Plain with ample parking at the east end of the building. Please note the time and date on your calendar. It would be desirable to have a good showing of CTA members at the forum.

## Be safe, have fun and get something done on National Trails Day, June 1, 2002

by Paul Clare

CTA will be building a bridge on the Bells Mountain Trail on June 1st. The stream crossing will be constructed on county park land quite close to the Moulton Falls Trail. You can choose the bridge project, do new trail building, or work on maintenance and grooming of existing trail tread. Crew sizes will be kept small to maximize the effort while having fun.

Highlighting the end of the workday will be food—yes, a gratis barbecue will be provided in the nearby picnic area. And all participants will receive a memorial National Trails Day teeshirt. You

might also be lucky enough to win the raffle with prizes donated to CTA by local sponsors.

Plan to be there June 1, 2002 at 8 a.m. Register for the work party at Clark Utilities Operations Center lot at 8600 N.E. 117th Ave., and sign up for car pooling at the same time if needed. Bring gloves, water, and work clothes (long pants) that are appropriate for the weather. All tools will be provided.

Bring a friend or relative and enjoy doing something worthwhile!

For more information, call Megan at 360-906-6769.

National  
Trails Day



Mark Your  
Calendars



**Library Forum**  
**"Walking & Health—**  
**What's The**  
**Connection?"**

**Thurs., April 18, 2002**

*See Article This Page*

**National Trails Day**

**Sat., June 1, 2002**

*See Article This Page*

**Little Beacon Rock**  
**Trail Dedication**

**Sat., June 8, 2002**

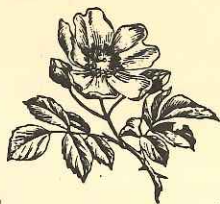
*See Article Inside*



# Hamilton Mountain Restoration Projects Completed

by Don Cannard

The recently completed Hamilton Mountain Restoration Projects have been receiving good reviews from brave winter hikers. This joint project with Beacon Rock State Park and the Chinook Trail Association was partly funded by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. The funds came from the federally funded National Recreational Trails Restoration Project. The project included a rebuilding of the steps near the Rodney Falls area, an upgrade of railing and kick rails on the Hardy Creek Bridge and the relocation of nearly one mile of trail on the east side of Hardy Creek. One of the bonuses of this relocation is the location of a new overlook of the Columbia River above Beacon Rock. Over 20 switchbacks have been replaced and the old trail obliterated. The construction of the Little Beacon Rock Trail was a part of this grant. All aspects of these projects were reviewed in the SEPA (State



Environmental Protection Act) process.

Eroded areas around the falls and the obliterated trail have been planted with over 3,000 potted and bare rooted plants. This portion of the project was funded by the Lower Columbia River Estuary Project. Elimination of silt in Hardy Creek to enhance Hardy Creek for the spawning chum salmon were important aspects of the plantings. Also numerous sword ferns, wild rose and snowberry plants gathered from nearby wooded areas have augmented the planted material. Vine and big leaf maple, snowberry, mock orange, ocean spray and low bush Oregon grape were the majority of plants re-established. Two Americorps teams each spent a week at a spike camp at the park's group camp to not only plant but also to construct the fencing and do other trail work. The highlight for these crews was a treat to an evening at Skamania



Trail Signs at Hamilton Mountain

Lodge's hot tubs and swimming pool. At that time they were also awarded recognition of their efforts.

A handsome bench, constructed and given by project manager Don Cannard, has been installed at the viewing area at the junction of the Hamilton Mountain Trail and the feeder trail coming out of the campground. The failed timbers at this junction have also been replaced. Native plants have been planted to assist with the restoration of this area. When you visit the Beacon Rock State Park we hope you will note and enjoy each of these improvements.

Completion of this project would not have been possible were it not for the many volunteers contributing their time and talents. Don wishes to thank all of them. They are too numerous to list at this time.

## Holiday Trails Day Very Productive

by Megan Murray

On December 8, 2001, we had a small work party come out and join the re-route to the old Bells Mountain Trail. It was a very productive day with eight volunteers out on the trail. We "naturalized" the old trail leading up into the DNR logging area and laid down the trail leading up the re-route. There was quite a lot of work—chain saws were used to cut back fallen debris from the trail, roots had to be chopped out and ferns dug and transplanted on the old trail to prevent anyone from heading into the logged area. (Even Bob Scullin's dog, Moose, lent a paw.) All the volunteers worked very hard on this project and I give a big thanks. All volunteers at this work party were treated to coffee, cookies, and for the holiday theme, candy canes. Again, these parties couldn't be possible if it weren't for the volunteers.



# Introducing Americorps Placement

The Chinook Trail Association has been blessed over the past several years with the dedication and hard work of several Americorps volunteers. This year is no exception. Megan Murray has done an outstanding job leading our community education program with local schools and colleges. She has led a number of spike camps and work parties to teach young people trail maintenance and knowledge of the world around them. Megan is also responsible for the day-to-day operations of CTA working out of our Fish and Wildlife office.

Megan hails from Marysville, Washington and has been active in environmental work since high school. She was vice president of her high school Environmental Club. After high school she joined the Wilderness Volunteer Corps out of Seattle and spent three weeks repairing trails and campsites for the U.S. Forest Service.

Megan is currently working on an Environmental Science Degree from Everett Community College. She



Americorps working at Hamilton Mountain

spent six months as an intern with the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force working on wetland studies, photo point monitoring and plant identification. And now she's sharing her commitment and dedication to the outdoors with CTA.

Welcome on board the CTA team Megan!

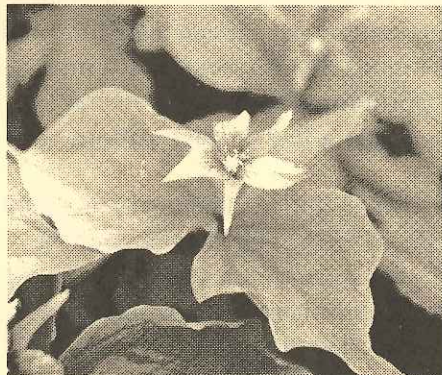
## Little Beacon Rock Trail Dedication Sat., June 8, 2002

*by Don Cannard*

The trail to Little Beacon Rock will be completed and dedicated as a part of the celebration of the completion of the Hamilton Mountain Restoration Project. This trail has been constructed to-soon-to-be-established Barrier-Free Guidelines. These guidelines are designed to provide folks with mobility problems access to those areas usually thought of as 'backcountry.'

Little Beacon Rock formation is above the lower picnic area on the north side of Highway 14 and offers a straight-out view of Beacon Rock itself. The trail travels

through some rather spectacular rock formations heretofore unavailable except to the most agile hiker.



Whyeth Work Center crews working on Community Service projects were the major contributors of labor for this project. Two summers ago the American Hiking Society volunteer workers began this trail but had to stop due to excessively rough terrain.

The boulder buster purchased through a grant from SWIFT has been used on this trail.

Later the public will receive an RSVP invite for this event which will include specially prepared refreshments.



# Dr. Charlene Montierth Describes Geological History of the Gorge

by Paul Clare

The CTA Annual Meeting on Nov. 4, 2001 was again held at Vancouver's Water Resources Center. Mayor Pollard brought greetings and ardently promoted the value of trails and walking. Co-founder Don Cannard served as emcee and kept the meeting moving. A delicious brunch was enjoyed by all provided by caterer Glen Lakin.

Ted Klump gave CTA service plaques to Fred Rogers, Robert Threadgill, Daryl Hoyt and Maria Muscarella (in absentia) for their many valuable contributions to Chinook Trail Association. Don Cannard made the annual board review of CTA activities during the past year. Due to Bells Mountain delays, the Hamilton Mountain Trail relocation and remodeling of the bridge and stairways at Rodney Falls has been a major project. The

Hamilton Mountain trail work included beginning a new handicapped access trail to a scenic viewpoint of the mountain. During the year a number of successful "Spike" camps at Beacon Rock State Park accomplished much good on this heavily used trail.

Featured speaker was Dr. Charlene Montierth whose engaging talk and slides on the geological history of the Columbia River Gorge found an attentive audience. The many probing questions raised were aptly fielded by Dr. Montierth and added much to the program.

Aaron Klump enriched us with his music while we brunched and enjoyed the photographic artistry of wildlife and gorge photographer, Dale Strauss, whose pictures were on display throughout the hall.

## Board of Directors Retreat and Meeting

by Ted Klump

On the weekend of May 3-5, the Board of Directors will meet at Menucha Conference Retreat Center for a retreat to consider what is involved in taking the Chinook Trail Association to the next level. This will be one of the most important and significant meetings we have had since we were chartered 14 years ago. We have arrived at "critical mass" in the life of CTA. If we are to grow and continue our quest for a rim-top trail in the Gorge, we are going to need a person or persons who will advocate for our vision on a full-time basis. An Executive Director would be a real plus. We have also advanced in our trail building efforts to a point where we need to hire contractors to build additional sections of our trail. As we have learned through our efforts on the Bells Mountain Trail, future projects will require contractors for the bulk of the work. Indeed, the logistics involved in the construction of the Silver Creek Trail mandates that the majority of the work be contracted out. All of these things mean we will need to expand our base of financial support. We can no longer afford to be an all-volunteer organization, although volunteers will still be a very important part of CTA. Of necessity we must stretch out and reach for the next level or we will cease to exist. Your on-going support will be more important than ever to the work of the Chinook Trail Association. Thank you for all you have done, and please continue to support our work.

## CTA Positions Available

by Roger Anderson

A questionnaire was distributed at our annual meeting outlining the need for several positions to be filled, including gathering CTA history, publicity/public relations, photography, and newsletter editor. Out of about thirty-five questionnaires a dismal TWO responses came in. Hello! Does anyone care enough to step forward and help us?

We appreciate your dues and generous donations to further our goal, but all the money in the world won't help us if no one lends their time and expertise. It takes **people** to make the Chinook Trail Association's internal parts run efficiently. There are many opportunities for you if you can't or don't want to do the actual trail building. Only a few of the positions were listed above.

The future of our organization hinges on having our members involved with the daily, weekly and monthly duties of CTA. This means you! We are asking you to give the equivalent of one day a month (8 hours) serving in one or more of the positions available. Call Megan at the CTA office 360-906-6769 to get involved. We look forward to meeting with you and working with you soon. Thank you for your continued support.

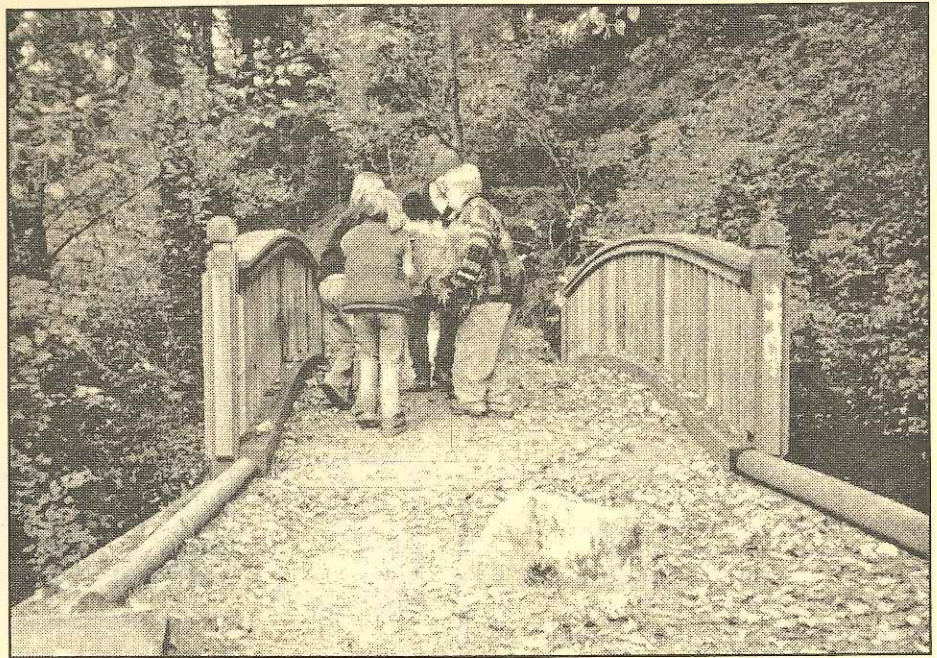


# Local Schools Get Involved with Trails

by Megan Murray

On January 29th and February 13th, 2002, CTA was very fortunate to get young 8th grade students from Frontier Middle School and Wy'East Middle School to come out and repair some of our trails. In January, Frontier worked on the Ellen Davis Trail to remove blackberry tangles. Six students and a teacher clipped back some of the bushes that were hanging over the trail to allow freer movement along the trail. Water bars were also dug out to allow runoff to stay off trail. Frontier will be working with us again in March to do more repairs on a different section of the Ellen Davis Trail.

Wy'East was a larger group, about twenty students and three adults, and they made the trip up to Bells Mountain. They bussed up to Moulton Falls County Park and hiked up to the Bells Mountain Trail. At the trail, they were given a lesson in tools safety and shown how to work on the trail. This group repaired the beginning of the Bells Mountain Trail, widening and



Student Volunteers at Friendship Bridge

smoothing it out for hikers. They worked all the way to the reroute and did a great job. A small part of that group went further up the trail and did some brushing of the debris that had fallen from the winter storms. These schools did wonderful work and I was happy to

work with them.

If you have a school or a community group who would like to volunteer to work on our trails contact me at the Chinook Trail Association office at 360-906-6769 or e-mail me at [cta@pacifier.com](mailto:cta@pacifier.com) for more information.

## Bells Mountain Bridge Projects

The Chinook Trail Association has received approval to construct bridges on the seven-and-one-half-mile Bells Mountain Trail. There are twenty major stream crossings each requiring a bridge. The Bells Mountain Trail Project is funded by a grant from the Interagency for Outdoor Recreation and the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation. Two of these bridges are of major proportions and will be placed out to bid for construction by contractors. The others will be built by volunteers under the supervision of the CTA.

Roger Anderson, Bells Mountain Trail Project Manager, reports the bridges range from 15 to 28 feet in length. Materials for each bridge will be bundled and helicoptered to the various work sites. Chinook Trail volunteers will set the bridge supports in preparation of installing the bridge girders, decking and curbs.

Each bridge presents itself as an opportunity for

individuals, clubs, organizations, agencies, businesses or families to construct one of these bridges. CTA will provide supervision, tools and trail snacks. Roger estimates each bridge will take from one to three days depending upon the size and the distance from the drop site. Opportunities for camping near the work sites are available. We hope to have construction crews lined up by May 1, 2002. The name of the group doing the construction will be recognized with a recognition plaque either on the bridge or along the trail in an appropriate manner.

For more information or to sign up, write Chinook Trail Association at P.O. Box 997, Vancouver, WA 98668, or call Megan at our office at 360-906-6769 or Roger at 360-254-2371. Additional information on this project may be secured from our web site at [www.chinooktrail.org](http://www.chinooktrail.org).



## Bells Mountain Update: Permits Finally Issued!

by Roger Anderson

Great news!! The Chinook Trail Association has actually been issued the needed permits from the Army Corps of Engineers. This means we can move forward with building the bridges and puncheons

over the stream crossings. Project manager Roger Anderson has submitted the materials list to Vancouver-Clark Parks Dept. so they can order the materials. The bridge packages will then be delivered by helicopter to several drop sites along the trail for dispersal to the individual crossings.

CTA has already lined up a number of organizations and several companies to sponsor building bridges, but there are still many crossings yet to be spoken

for, so if your company or employer would like to sponsor or actually build a bridge or two, call the CTA office. Our National Trails Day project this year will be to construct the 25-foot bridge over stream one at Moulton Falls County Park. There will be a barbecue afterwards at the park. The work party dates are listed below.

We are also continuing to post new trail information on our web site at [www.chinooktrail.org](http://www.chinooktrail.org). Or call the office at 360-906-6769.

### 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  
 Megan Murray, Comm. Education Coordinator,  
 NW Service Academy . . . . . 360-906-6769  
 Maria Muscarella, Vice President . . . . . 360-546-3152  
 Fred Rogers, Secretary . . . . . 360-256-2927  
 Marco Maciel, Treasurer . . . . . 360-695-5672  
 Roger Anderson, Project Manager,  
 Bells Mountain Trail . . . . . 360-254-2371  
 Bob Scullin, Tool Steward . . . . . 360-834-7892  
 Paul Clare, Newsletter . . . . . 360-892-8173  
 Membership Chair . . . . . Open  
 Larry Devroy Vern Swaim Larry Swatosh  
 Florence Wager Phil Durkee Michael Dianich

### Advisory Board

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

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## 2002 Work Parties

### Chinook Trail Association 2002 Work Parties

April 6 . . . . . Bells Mountain / Moulton Falls  
**April 20** . . . . . Bells Mountain / Moulton Falls (**Earth Day!**)  
 May 11 . . . . . Bells Mountain / Moulton Falls  
 May 25 . . . . . Chinook Ridge  
**June 1** . . . . . Bells Mountain / Moulton Falls (**National Trails Day!**)  
 June 15 . . . . . Chinook Ridge  
 June 29 . . . . . Ed's Trail  
 July 13 . . . . . Ed's Trail  
 July 20 . . . . . Bells Mountain  
 July 27 . . . . . Bells Mountain  
 August 10 . . . . . Bells Mountain  
 August 17 . . . . . Bells Mountain  
 August 24 . . . . . Bells Mountain

All work parties meet at 8 a.m. at the south parking lot of Clark Public Utilities, 8600 N.E. 117th Ave (SR 503).

E-Mail: [cta@pacifier.com](mailto:cta@pacifier.com)

Website: [www.chinooktrail.org](http://www.chinooktrail.org)

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