

Chinook Trek #41

August 2003

"National Recreation Trail" Status Sought for Chinook Trail Segment

By MarCine Miller Miles

Start getting ready to get your party hats out! An application is in process to give the Lucia Falls to Bluff Mountain segment of the Chinook Trail "**National Recreation Trail**" status.

This segment of 29 truly magnificent miles of the 300-mile trail loop has been completed with grants, hundreds of hours of volunteer labor, donated materials and cooperation with governmental agencies.

This is an exemplary trail and is clearly worthy of national recognition because of its local and regional significance.

The Chinook Trail will benefit from the prestige and increased visibility it will gain from NRT status. The Trail will go on the National Registry of Trails for trail users throughout the United States. Other benefits of the Trail include promotion, technical assistance, networking and access to funding. We will be able to use the NRT logo.

The community will benefit from

the economic advantage of bringing hikers and outdoor enthusiasts to the area to experience this jewel of a trail. The Trail also serves a broad population of citizens in this area. According to a recent study, \$4.1 billion was spent on outdoor recreation in Washington in 2000, and the numbers continue to grow.

Only a few NRTs have been designated in Washington and Oregon, including the John Wayne Pioneer Trail and the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail. The Chinook Trail will hike along in distinguished company.

Letters of support for the designation have already been received from U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, U.S. Representative Brian Baird, Governor Locke, State Senator Don Carlson, State Representatives Moeller, Fromhold, Mielke and Wallace, the three Clark County Commissioners, the Interagency Committee, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Vancouver Audubon Society, the Portland Chapter of the Oregon Native Plant Society, the Sierra Club Loo Wit Chapter, the Mazamas, the Ptarmigans,

Washington Trails Association, Trails Club of Oregon, All Weather Walkers, Columbia Land Trust, and the Silver Star Study Group. Still more letters from important people are on the way!

The very committed members working for the NRT designation are Don Cannard, Phil Durkee, Susan Saul, Paul Clare, Larry Swatosh, and MarCine Miller Miles.

You now have notice to get your hat ready, but don't wait until the last minute.



Date and Speaker Set for First Annual Meeting

CTA's 15th Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 2nd at noon at the Vancouver Water Resource Education Center. The featured speaker will be Rex Ziak, master story teller and author, whose expertise is the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Rex is very much in demand throughout the country so we are delighted that we could secure him for our annual meeting.

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.

Bells Mtn. Trail and Hantwick Rd. Trail Dedicated

Saturday, June 7th, 2003, was a significant milestone for CTA with the twin dedications of the excellent trailhead just west of Lucia Falls as well as the Bells Mtn. Trail. Highlighting the event were greetings by County Commissioner Craig Pridemore who had participated in building one of the larger bridges on National Trails Day 2002. Pete Capell, Clark County Operations Manager, spoke of the significant contributions made by some 150 volunteers supervised by Project Manager Roger Anderson. As Master of Ceremonies, Roger kept the dedication flowing smoothly crediting the special people and individual partners in this enterprise. Also offering brief remarks were co-founder Don Cannard and Florence Wager, chair of the Vancouver-Clark County Parks Advisory Board, who cut the ribbon with the help of children present. Interim



The dedication was enjoyed by all, especially the children who helped with the ribbon cutting. (Photo by Phil Durkee)

Vancouver/Clark Parks Director Dave Mletich, who hiked the Bells Mtn. Trail the day before in 95° F weather, was impressed with the incredible scenery along the route.

Thoughtfully, CTA board member Sue Saul provided cover which shaded the speakers and

refreshment tables. Following the dedication, everyone enjoyed a delicious spread of food and drink. Quite a number of attendees hiked the trail to the Bells Mtn. junction rounding out the day.

Items of Interest

by Fred Rogers

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The CTA board would like to develop a complete member email address list. This would help CTA to better reach out to members with informative items, updates, changes in work party dates, etc. Also, it would save some money with reduced postage costs. Presently we have 37 email addresses (not all members). If you wish to be added to the list, please send your email address to [cta@pacifier.com](mailto:cta@pacifier.com). Also, please advise CTA of any change in your email address. Thank you.

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Following are some CTA board changes that have occurred this year:

- DAVE SANKS, PS & Associates, Camas, is our new treasurer and replaces MARCO MACIELS who resigned from the Board due to other commitments. We welcome Dave and thank Marco for his years of holding the treasurer's job.
- LARRY DEVROY, longtime Oregon board member, former vice president, chair of the Membership Committee,

etc. and one who spent many hours on trail building and trail maintenance work parties, will be missed as he pursues other endeavors in Oregon. Thank you Larry!

- MARIA MUSCARELLA resigned from the Board because of work conflicts. She was instrumental in procuring and working with Americorps persons in the CTA office. She also served as vice president and was Membership Committee chair and continues as a member.
- PHIL DURKEE resigned recently due to travel and other commitments. He greatly helped CTA in the photo/video/computer area and continues to do so as a member. His generous contributions to the National Recreation Trail Committee is greatly appreciated.
- TOM KNAPPENBERGER is leaving the board because of U.S. Forest Service work where he serves as public affairs officer for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Tom will continue on the Advisory Board but is unable to attend night board meetings. We appreciate Tom's expertise and expect to tap his advice in the future.
- FLORENCE WAGER has spent a number of years as a board member and treasurer but is unable to continue at this time due to other considerable community commitments. Her wise counsel and ardent support of the CTA vision has benefited the organization immeasurably.

Monument for Ellen Davis Trail Dedicated

By Don Cannard

May 7, 2003 was declared by City of Vancouver Mayor Pollard as "Ellen Davis Day." The occasion was the dedication of the Ellen Davis monument. Mayor Pollard read the proclamation at the junction of the Ellen Davis and Discovery Trails at the foot of the pedestrian crossing of Interstate 5. Following the invocation by Ken Ellertson and welcoming remarks by the Mayor, the over 50 friends of Ellen and members of a variety of outdoor groups listened on the rainy afternoon as tributes to Ellen, trails and making things happen through participation and partnerships were highlighted. Former Mayor Bruce Hagensen remembered Ellen's remarks before the Vancouver City Council on the occasion of the dedication of the Ellen Davis Trail in 1990. Clark County Commissioner Craig Pridemore, Chair, and Don Wagner, SWWA Administrator of the Washington Department of Transportation, further highlighted the importance of partnerships and the importance of volunteerism in community activities. Don Cannard remarked about the many individuals, organizations and businesses who contributed to the construction of the monument. In

addition to plantings of native vegetation, the monument consists of three stones with logos and inscriptions memori-



alizing Ellen Davis. Organizations were the Vancouver Audubon Society, All Weather Walkers, the Ptarmigans, Sierra Club, Minnehaha Garden Club, Shin Etsu-SEH Corporation and Chinook Trail Association. The event closed with the reading of the poem "Ellen" by Arlene Paul.

Ellen

by Arlene Belisle Paul



*Just as the green-backed heron seems rooted
in the riverbank, one with the water,
yet part of the rushes, so still its feet,*

*Just as the dove's wings leave a shadow of beauty
in the muted morning, wafting softly as a cloud,
so white its wings,*

*Just as the fawn lies beside a fallen fir
half-hidden by ferns, disguised as tawny earth,
so tranquil, so trusting its eyes,*

*For ninety-five years, Ellen's footprints
have become part of the mountain paths
on Chinook Trail, Silver Star, Mt. St. Helens,
past hay-gathering pikas scampering over the talus rock,
snow-like willow ptarmigans strutting over alpine meadows,
plumes of ash that overwhelmed us all.*

*She has traced the currents of the Snake,
the Columbia, Sherars Falls on the Deschutes,
beside illusive American Bitterns,
horned larks sustained by grasslands,
petroglyphs guarding white water.*

*She has entered the deep forest
of the Coast Range, the Olympics, the Cascades,
touched pink bitterroot growing in the high, dry air,
mountain heather blanketing the high forest,
wispy hanging moss that veils the sun,*

*With footfalls silent as the heron,
light as the dove's flutter,
hushed as the fawn's breath,
Ellen courses her trail,
bringing only herself,
leaving only her spirit.*



Proclamation

WHEREAS, walking, jogging, hiking and cycling are activities enjoyed by people of all ages for recreation and fitness; and
WHEREAS, a 2.6-mile trail named the Ellen Davis Trail was constructed using more than 300 citizen volunteers and \$20,000 in donations from local businesses, foundations and individuals and was completed in 1990; and
WHEREAS, Ellen Davis was an energetic ninety-five-year-old when she passed away in 1999. She was an inspiration to all for her enthusiasm for life, and her quiet manner of contributing and serving as a role model for many people; and
WHEREAS, Ellen Davis was an active member and supporter of outdoor, environmental and community organizations, including Ptarmigans, Sierra Club Loo Witt Chapter, Minnehaha Garden Gate Garden Club, Minnehaha Grange, Volkspotters, the Chinook Trail Association and Vancouver Audubon Society, attending outings and meetings through the nineties; and
WHEREAS, May 7, 1990 was the date Vancouver City Council declared as Ellen Davis Trail Day with a proclamation; and
WHEREAS, May 7, 2003 is the date set for dedication of a monument to Ellen Davis.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Royce E. Pollard, Mayor of America's Vancouver, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2003, as

"Ellen Davis Day"

with a monument to be installed at the junction of the Discovery Trail and the Ellen Davis Trail near the recently completed pedestrian bridge crossing Interstate 5, and encourage all citizens to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 5th day of May, 2003.

R. E. Pollard

ROYCE E. POLLARD, MAYOR



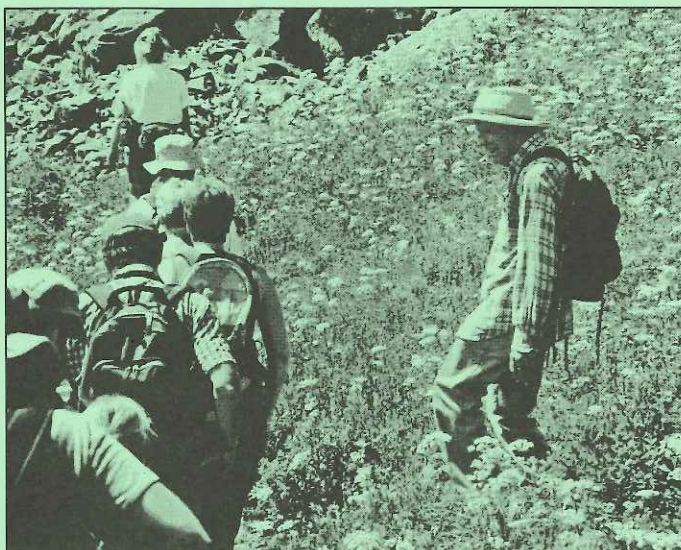
Hikers Enjoyed July Wild Flower Hike on Silver Star

By Roger Anderson

On July 12th, the Chinook Trail Association hosted a wild flower hike to Silver Star Mountain. It was led by local wild flower expert, Russ Jolley, who is the author of the book "Wild Flowers of the Columbia Gorge."

Jolley rattled off the names of many of the flowering plants for the crowd of 18 people. Whenever someone asked, "Russ, what's this plant?" he would carefully inspect the specimen and in a few minutes come up with its name.

The 18 hikers thoroughly enjoyed the hike with fair weather in the morning and clouding up some in the afternoon. A cold breeze finally forced all the hikers off the summit and back to the vehicles parked at the trailhead.



Russ Jolley leads wild flower hike on Silver Star in July.

(Photo by Roger Anderson)

September Hikes Scheduled

Wed., Sept. 17th ~ Stebbins Creek



This trail is located on the upper Washougal River. It is a fairly easy trail through the forest to Three Cornered Rock and the Pacific Crest Trail. Chinook Trail will connect with this segment when the Silver Creek Trail is completed. A major bridge will be constructed across the Washougal River. Bill Feddler, an experienced leader, will lead. Meet at Clark Public Utilities at 8600 N.E. 117th Ave. (SR 503) at 8 a.m. to carpool. For further information, call Paul Clare at 360-892-8173.



(Photo by Tom Nelson)

Sat., Sept. 27th ~ Bluff Mtn. to Silver Star



Hike from the east end of the proposed National Recreation Trail at Bluff Mtn. to Silver Star Mtn. Some vehicles will be parked at Silver Star 4109 trailhead. Jim Eplin will lead the hike. Meet at Clark Public Utilities at 8600 N.E. 117th Ave. (SR 503) at 8 a.m. to carpool. For further information, call Paul Clare at 360-892-8173.

CTA Wish List

- Media Projector
- Digital Camera
- CTA office volunteers are needed to answer phone and e-mail inquiries, maintain the membership database and help with newsletter mailings. Contact Fred Rogers at 256-2927 if you can provide some time.



Tidbits

- New York Times, June 26, contained an article about a new trail in New Jersey. It also mentioned "Chinook Trail from Vancouver to Portland, a distance of 300 miles." Wonder if they have mistaken us for Vancouver B.C. again!

- Sue Saul and Roger Anderson joined a WTA llama trip into the Goat Rocks Wilderness.

- Megan Murray, last year's Ameri-corps volunteer with CTA, landed a summer ranger job at Beacon Rock State Park, work that she enjoys.

- Don Cannard has furnished a memorial bench dedicated to Lee Paul who was a longtime active member. It is located on the Ellen Davis Trail at the St. James trailhead.

- Roger Anderson, vice president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, represented CTA recently where he attended the Lake Tahoe meeting. He also found time to hike a section of the Tahoe Bi-State Rim Trail.

- Kudos to Morgan Miles for his good work in updating the CTA web page.

Ever See a Mountain Beaver?

by Paul Clare

A frequent query when hiking Ed's Trail on Silver Star Mountain is, "What causes the deep holes in the trail—gophers?" So how do you describe an animal you've never observed or even seen a photograph of? Well here's a picture. The scientific name of the Mountain Beaver or Boomer, is *aplodontia rufa*. An adult measures about 14 inches with no visible tail and is a mammal that is unique for being the only specie in its family. No one seems to know the origin of the common name, Boomer, since they only make a whimpering cry. Trail builders know of their tunneling habits for they cause extra work to fill in the holes in the trail which can be a real hazard to hikers who are not paying attention where they walk.

This elusive creature is mostly nocturnal, which of course explains why you don't see them. (How many of us hike in the dark?) Living in colonies, they can construct quite an elaborate network of tunnels and mounds on a hillside.

Several years ago Oregon Field Guide filmed an excellent segment on the Mountain Beaver. The videotape can be obtained at the OPB Store at Clackamas Town Center. In a conversation with Steve Amen and the producer, Eric Cain, I was led to Bob Gelman, one of Oregon's most experienced trappers who, in 25 years of trapping, has seen only two or three live Mountain Beaver. Foresters are concerned about the feeding habits of the Mountain Beaver due to their fondness for young tree seedlings—some as thick as 3/4 of an inch—clipping them off to the ground. There are very large populations in Coast Range tree farms where they can cause considerable damage. Dr. Bruce Collins, wildlife professor at OSU did a research study several

years ago on the effects of trapping on populations of Mountain Beaver and found that 12 months after trapping, population numbers had returned to the previous levels.

Mountain Beaver also consume many other types of vegetation including bleeding hearts, salal, sword fern and wild flowers. Natural predators of the Mountain Beaver include owls, coyotes, bobcats and weasels.

Now, with the above photo obtained through a photographer in California, you might just be fortunate enough to see one of these critters on your



The seldom-seen little Mountain Beaver

(Photo by Stephanie McDonald)

next outing. It is suggested you use gloves, as in the photo, if you attempt to hold the animal—note the claws!

RAC Grant Awarded to CTA

by Roger Anderson

A Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant has been awarded to the Chinook Trail Association to block off illegal off-road vehicle use so as to avoid meadow damage, and destruction of signs and trails in the Silver Star Scenic Area.

The RAC fund, also known as payment to counties, reimburses several counties for lost timber receipts due to timber set aside for Spotted Owl habitat. The awarded grant for \$58,000 comes with the stipulation of matching funds of approximately \$20,000 in volunteer labor hours. Get ready to roll up your sleeves and help us with revegetation work!

This grant will provide for approximately 500 three- to four-cubic-yard boulders to be placed in the ground at eight locations in the Silver Star Scenic Area. The project will take place in July through October of 2004. The grant was sponsored by the Chinook Trail Association and the Washington Trails Association in cooperation with the Dept. of Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service. This marks the first time in recent memory that the two agencies have cooperatively worked together to achieve a common goal.

CTA looks forward to working with both agencies on this project.

Bells Mtn. Update

By Roger Anderson

Another major step was taken toward the trail's completion on May 12th when the two 70-foot steel bridges were helicoptered into place.

The contractor, All Concrete Specialties, had a twin rotor Chinook helicopter (the name is an interesting coincidence) fly the precast footings into place first, while the ground crew tamped gravel around them. Then the chopper lowered each bridge into place, gently guiding the bridges onto bolts extending from the footings. The pilot had to precisely set each bridge over the bolts with less than an inch of room to spare.

The next step will be to fly in the

remaining bridge packages and culverts. This was scheduled to happen in June but some of the lumber was deemed defective and had to be reordered before being treated. This delay caused a ripple effect resulting in further delays. The months of June and July have passed, and the helicopters are now busy fighting wild fires and are unavailable until fire season ends. The Larch Mtn. Corrections crews who were scheduled to build the bridges are also busy fighting wild fires.

The delivery date has been tentatively moved to late September or early

October when fire season is over, at which time we can proceed with the project. CTA had hoped to complete this segment of the trail by the end of August at the latest.

These delays are quite typical of this seven-year project and it will be good to get it behind us so we can move on to construction of the next segment of the Chinook Trail.

Have you visited
our new website?
Check it out at
www.chinooktrail.org



CTA Board Members

Don Cannard, Co-Founder	360-694-4033
President	POSITION OPEN
Business Office	360-906-6769
Fred Rogers, Vice President	360-256-2927
Robert Threadgill, Secretary	503-275-9596
Dave Sanks, Treasurer	360-834-6103
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	POSITION OPEN
Vern Swaim	Bill Byrd
Florence Wager	Susan Saul
Michael Dianich	Marcine Miles
	Larry Swatosh

Advisory Board

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

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CTA 2003 Work Parties

Aug. 23
Sept. 6, 27
Oct. 25

Work will be on Bells Mtn. Trail, Silver Star area trails, and Kloochman Ridge (formerly Squaw Butte). Specific type of work and location to be decided. For details, call CTA at 360-906-6769.

Nov. 8* . . . * tentative date

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 Website: www.chinooktrail.org
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This Newsletter is printed
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Mark your
Calendars:

Annual
Meeting
Nov. 2nd, Noon

Ted Klump
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