

The Chinook Trek

Chinook Trek #39

February 2003

Bridge Materials Helicoptered to Worksite

Roger Anderson Shares His Account of the Drop

At 3:15 p.m. on October 9, CTA received its first helicopter delivery of bridge material to the Bells Mtn. Trail. I had spent the first half of the day loading and securing three bridge packages onto a flatbed truck before "white-knuckled" driving the load to Rock Creek Campground in the Dole Valley area.

Soon, a Lumberman's flatbed truck arrived with the other five packages. Bob Scullin, Don Cannard, and Megan Murray arrived shortly after, as did the helicopter. Phil Oaks and Terry Snider of the Vancouver Clark Parks Dept. also arrived.

After a short planning session, Don and I went to one of the drop sites and Bob hiked almost a mile to the other site. Megan stayed at the campground to videotape the loading process, while Phil and Terry prepared the loads for the pilot.



Roger Anderson directs the helicopter with his two-way radio.

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.

I was in contact with the chopper pilot with a two-way radio because I needed to direct him to the drop sites and tell him when the load was even with the tops of the trees, which were taller than we thought first. The conversation went something like this: "How tall do you think those trees are?" the pilot's voice crackled over the radio. "Oh, probably about 80-90 feet," I answered back. "Well, they're over 100 feet; my cable is that

long and I still can't reach the ground. I'll have to go back and get another 100 footer."

Don and I waited briefly, and soon the helicopter appeared over the ridge with a load of planks dangling 200' below. I directed the pilot in by radio. We quickly unhooked the cargo slings and he went for another load. It was quite spooky watching a load of planks coming at me, then being set

(Continued on Page Three)

Discovery Walk Festival to be Held April 25-27, 2003

The 7th Annual International Discovery Walk Festival is scheduled for April 25-27, 2003. It is sponsored by the International Walk Fest, the City of Vancouver, USA, and the International Marching League and will include two marathons, a one-mile Mayor's Walk, 5-, 10-, 21-, 32-, and 42-km walks, and 25- and 50-km bike rides. An added feature will be a free workshop on Health and Fitness at the Red Lion at the Quay on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Presenters include Rob Sweetgall who has walked across the USA seven times.

For more information, call toll free 1-887-269-2009, e-mail info@discoverywalk.org, or log on to their web site at <http://www.discoverywalk.org>.

Megan Murray Steps Down as CTA Employee

Megan Murray, CTA Office Manager, will be ending her employment with CTA on Jan. 31, 2003. Megan completed her one-year Americorps tour this past fall followed by five months working part-time with CTA while attending Clark College. Her valuable services and energy in the office will be missed. Megan plans to continue as a CTA volunteer, while pursuing an education in environmental studies and finding a job with an environmental agency.



A photo taken by Meagan Murray.

CTA's 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.

From the President

by Ted Klump

As I announced at the Annual Meeting, effective January 1, 2003, I stepped down as President of the Chinook Trail Association. It has been an honor and a privilege to hold that office for the last eight years, but now it is time for fresh energy and new ideas to move CTA forward in the direction we need to go in order to survive and prosper.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their support and hard work. Most of the people who were on the board when I started in 1995 are still there working hard to realize our vision. Without their hard work my job would have been impossible. Trail work has always been my passion and I shall continue to put my energies into helping complete the Bells Mtn. Trail and doing trail maintenance.

Thank you to all of you who have supported our efforts through your financial and/or volunteer contributions. You have helped make my term as president very gratifying indeed.

CTA Annual Meeting a Success

by Paul Clare

A highly successful annual luncheon meeting was held at the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center on Nov. 3, 2002. Susan Saul kept the program flowing as M.C. and attendees were greeted by County Commissioner Craig Pridemore. Craig helped us build a large bridge on the Bells Mtn. Trail on National Trails Day. Congressman Brian Baird provided positive comments about the work of CTA and former State Senator Al Bauer and retiring State Representative Val Ogden were also present for our meeting.

Our speaker, WTA President Elizabeth Lunney, provided an inspiring slideshow and presentation on the need for trails and recreation in our lives. The CTA Board of Directors was fortunate to have Elizabeth remain for an extended time after the meeting to discuss many CTA organizational issues including membership, fundraising strategies, and leadership training opportunities.

Pete Dubois entertained the audience with his humorous earth-friendly compositions and CTA's Megan Murray and troupe presented an amusing environmental puppet show. Special CTA awards were presented to CTA's Paul Gregory and Vancouver Parks and Recreation's Terry Snider for their valuable contributions to CTA. Ted Klump was most pleased to receive the CTA Co-Founder Award for his long and diligent service to the organization.

Mark Your Calendars!

- ✓ **National Trails Day** June 7, Sat.
Includes Three Dedications: Murphy Grade Trail and Trailhead, and Bells Mtn. Trail
- ✓ **7th Annual International Discovery Walk Festival** April 25-27
- ✓ **Home & Garden Idea Fair** April 25-27
- ✓ **Dedication of Ellen Davis Monument** May 7, Wed.

For more information:
Call the CTA office at 360-906-6769

Bridges, Waterfalls, and a Porcupine?

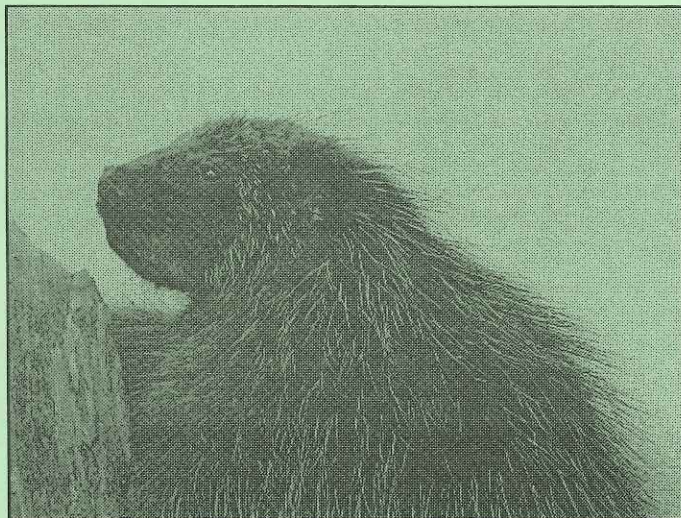
by Don Cannard

On a beautiful day in November, Paul Clare and I set out on the Hardy Creek Trail in Beacon Rock State Park to clear off the accumulated debris from the past year. Armed with an old broom, an even older saw (to clean between the deck boards), a short handled garden hoe and day-packs full of hot tea, lunches and unneeded foul weather gear, we took off to do the yearly task.

The day was clear and sunny but very windy. Barren limbs of red alder clacked against each other. Dried leaves rustled beneath our feet as we proceeded bridge to bridge. Finally we stopped for lunch in the lee of the log retaining walls constructed by CTA near the largest bridge on the upper trail. What a pleasant reprise from the task of cleaning bridges.

On the trip back to the upper trailhead we took a detour down to Hardy Creek on an abandoned logging cat haul road. We discussed how the area must have looked with its mature timber prior to the burns of the Yacolt Fires of the early 1900's. Our goal was to reach Hardy Creek and view the falls, which are visible when the water is very high. But, alas, the water was way down and the haul road petered out where the side hill became very steep and covered with brush. Discovery must wait for another day. At the time Beacon Rock Park was given to the State of Washington by Henry Biddle, its acreage totaled less than 300. Today, due to many gifts to and acquisitions by the State of Washington, the acreage totals over 5,000.

As we turned to ascend to the trail we noticed a pile of what appeared to be fur. Closer examination of the pile revealed it to be the hide of a porcupine. Being curious of the



dentures of a porcupine we poked into the remains. Much to our surprise there was no hide, no bones, only this enormous heap of quills. It was obvious, due to the lack of connective tissue of the pillage, this animal died some time ago. But no skeleton! I remembered reading porcupines are the favorite food of cougars. There have been recent sightings of cougar kills in the park. This probably was an old cougar kill. The hide had been left and the body taken to another location to be devoured. When asked how do cougars kill and skin porcupines, the obvious answer of course is, VERY CAREFULLY!

Helicopter *continued from front page*

down only a few feet from where I was standing!

We had to move the actual drop site about 100' further away from the trail at the pilot's request: "This isn't going to work. These limbs are right in my windshield!" I looked up at the chopper hovering directly overhead, shocked to see the tree limbs tickling the windshield underneath of the rotor! The pilot obviously made a good call.

Don and I moved out to the flat area and awaited the next drops, which came at about 3-5 minute intervals. Soon we heard the "whack-whack-whack" sound of the chopper as it appeared carrying one 24' beam.

"You're coming in kind of low," I radioed. "Yeah, I know," responded the pilot, "but I'm coming in at 100% load and losing power. The beam's too heavy. I might have to come through the tree tops with this one!" Fortunately, he just brushed the top of the alders with the beam before he sat it down hard a short distance from me. Talk about spooky!



Ellen Davis Monument Dedication Date Set

Reserve May 7th, 2003

This is the date that has been set to dedicate a monument in memory of Ellen Davis.

Ellen was an active outdoor recreationist, gardener and homemaker. The monument will be at the junction of the Ellen Davis and Discovery Trails.

We had hired a small chopper from Hillsboro Helicopters partly to save money and partly because we were informed that the packages only weighed a certain amount. The materials obviously weighed much more; instead of the scheduled 12 drops, we had to make 22 drops in smaller loads.

As each load was dropped, Don and I

hurriedly removed slings and cargo nets. On most returns to the loading site, the pilot hauled empty slings and nets back for re-use. "I have haul back," I radioed. It was his cue to hover above me until I connected them to the cable. "Haul back is secure," then he would lift and go for another load.

We were starting to lose daylight as the last load came to our drop site, and we still had three more loads to go to Bob's site. I ran almost a mile to where Bob was at, just as the pilot delivered a beam. "How many more drops here?" I radioed. "Two more. How'd you get here so fast?" asked the pilot. "I know a shortcut!" I joked.

Twilight was approaching fast as the last drop was made at about 6:30 p.m. "That's that," the pilot said. "Thanks," I answered. "Have a safe flight back to Hillsboro."

Bob and I found our way along the trail in near darkness to our vehicles and we all regrouped at the campground in darkness broken only by our headlights.

Being drained of energy, it was difficult to stay awake driving home. I slept very well that night!

Bells Mtn. Progress Report

By Roger Anderson

A lot of work has taken place on the trail since the October 9th helicopter drop of bridge materials. All five bridges from the first drop site have been moved to the crossings and assembled; three have been assembled by the Americorps "East Fork Team."

Stream #40 proved to be the most challenging site to build on. Three 24' beams were dragged about 100 yards by using cargo slings, a home made cart placed under one end of the beam, and a battery powered winch to pull the beams. A pulley and cable highline system was configured to raise the beams above ground and "float" them into place.

After that long process, the decking and kick rails were nailed into place to complete the bridge. Special thanks go to Jerry DeRuyter and his crew for their expertise.

CTA Board Members

Don Cannard, Co-Founder	360-694-4033
Ted Klump, President	360-695-7149
Business Office	360-906-6769
Fred Rogers, Vice President	360-256-2927
Robert Threadgill, Secretary	503-275-9596
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Roger Anderson, Project Manager, Bells Mountain Trail	360-254-2371
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Paul Clare, Newsletter	360-892-8173
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The Washington Trail Association (WTA) has stepped forward and offered their assistance with at least three future work parties; in fact, they will lead the events. Pre-registration is required on their website at www.wta.org.

We are talking with Washington Trail Riders, an equestrian group, about

joining CTA on some of our work parties this year. They are anxious to have the Bells Mtn. Trail completed so they will have more trails to ride.

Much more work is still needed before the trail will be complete and this year is shaping up to be our most intense effort yet. CTA expects to have the majority of the bridges and culverts installed this year and everything completed by August 2004.



CTA 2003 Work Parties

- *February 9 . Bells Mtn. Trail (signup required at www.wta.org)
- February 22. Bells Mtn. Trail
- *March 8. . . Bells Mtn. Trail (signup required at www.wta.org)
- *March 9. . . Bells Mtn. Trail
- *March 22 . . Bells Mtn. Trail
- *March 23 . . Bells Mtn. Trail
- April 5. . . . Bells Mtn. Trail
- April 26 . . . Bells Mtn. Trail
- May 10 . . . Bells Mtn. Trail (Honor your mother . . . Build a bridge!)
- May 24 . . . Bells Mtn. Trail
- June 7 Bells Mtn. Trail (National Trails Day - 3 Dedications:
Murphy Grade Trail and Trailhead, and Bells Mtn. Trail)
- June 14 . . . Ed's Trail

**Washington Trails Association is organizing some of the work parties and pre-registration at their web site is required to attend.

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

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This Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



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April 25-27:
Int'l Discovery Walk
Home & Garden Idea Fair
•
May 7th:
Ellen Davis
Monument Dedication
•
June 7th:
National Trails Day

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