



The Chinook Trek

Chinook Trek #40

May 2003



Ellen Davis Monument Dedication Set for May 7th

By Don Cannard

Ellen Davis was an energetic ninety-five-year-old when she passed away in 1999 and was an inspiration to all because of her enthusiasm for life and her quiet manner of contributing. She served

as a model for many individuals and was an active member and a supporter of outdoor, environ-

"If you want a workout, walk my trail."

Ellen Davis, 1905-1999

mental and community organizations. In addition to being available to her children and grandchildren, she participated in the activities of the Ptarmigans, Sierra Club (Loo Witt Chapter), Minnehaha Garden Gate Garden Club, Minnehaha Grange, Volkporters, the Chinook Trail Association and the Vancouver Audubon Society, attending outings and meetings of many of these groups throughout her nineties.

It was thirteen years ago on May 7, 1990 that the Vancouver City Council declared Ellen Davis Trail Day with a

proclamation, and this year, on May 7, 2003, the dedication of the monument to Ellen will take place. It will be installed at the junction of the Discovery Trail and the Ellen Davis Trail near the recently completed pedestrian bridge crossing the I-5 freeway. Participating in the event will be the Washington Department of Transportation and the Vancouver Clark Parks and Recreation.

The Chinook Trail Association is acting as the Project Coordinator for this project and is soliciting funds to install the monument and plant appropriate native vegetation at the site. The JD Ross Complex of the Bonneville Power Administration has contributed the stone upon which the commemorative wording will be inscribed as a tribute to Ellen. The Ellen Davis Trail is built largely upon BPA property or right-of-way on a recreational easement.

The dedication will be on Thursday, May 7th at 3:00 p.m. north of Leverich Park Way and 45th Street. Proceed north from that intersection a short distance and follow Discovery Trail to where it intersects with the Ellen Davis Trail.



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.

National Trails Day Event to be Held on June 7th

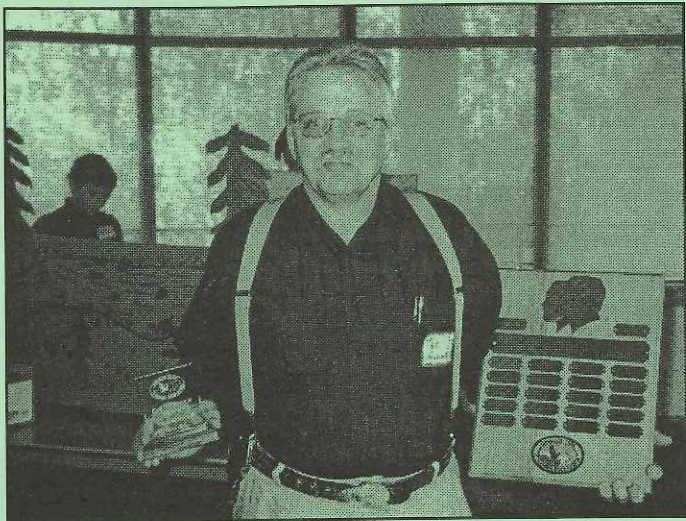
By Roger Anderson

The annual National Trails Day celebration is coming up soon—June 7th to be exact. This year's event will be a little different. We are planning to have a three-way dedication ceremony: we'll dedicate the Bells Mountain Trail, the Murphy Grade Trail, and the Murphy Grade Trailhead, where the ceremony will be held. This is in conjunction with the City of Vancouver / Vancouver-Clark Parks Department. We will also have a work party as usual.

At the dedication, there will be a ribbon cutting, guest speakers, plenty of food and hopefully good weather. Much of the event is still in the planning stages so some of the details are sketchy yet. A planning committee has been formed with Roger Anderson, Fred Rogers, Susan Saul, Megan Murray and Mike Dianich to work out the details of the celebration.

Most of the trail work and bridge building is

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Ted Klump holds Co-Founders Awards at the 2002 Annual Meeting.

Kudos to Ted Klump

Ted Klump, who retired as CTA president on December 31st, 2002, has not retired from spreading the CTA story. He has brought in 11 new members to our organization. Quite an achievement and a challenge to us all!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

Planning Underway for Klickitat Trail

by Susan Saul

Trail supporters showed up in large numbers at community meetings and a State Parks and Recreation Commission hearing to decide the future of the Klickitat rail-to-trail conversion. Parks Commission Executive Director Rex Durr closed the 31-mile route to public use in November 2002 after trail opponents confronted hikers and blocked access by park workers.

In January, the Parks Commission voted to retain ownership of the former railroad right-of-way and work with others to develop it as an improved recreation trail. The commission was swayed by the fact that so many people were willing to donate money, time and labor to develop the trail.

The newly formed non-profit, Klickitat Trail Conservancy, pledged to raise \$5,000 by June to reimburse the state for costs associated with the trail.

In return, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has agreed to update and complete a 1997 environmental assessment that evaluated the impact of developing the corridor as a recreational trail. Political pressure and litigation from trail opponents had prompted the agency to shelve the assessment in 1998. The USFS held public scoping meetings in February and hopes to make a final decision by July.

The 31-mile right-of-way in Klickitat County, which once connected Lyle with Goldendale, was abandoned by Burlington Northern in 1992. The Rails to Trails Conservancy purchased the corridor in 1993 and donated it to State Parks for conversion to a recreational trail for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians.

The key issue facing the USFS is whether to develop the entire

31-mile trail or only the 15 miles between the communities of Klickitat and Lyle that lie within the Klickitat River wild and scenic corridor. Under one alternative, the entire trail would be developed to a primitive level, 4 feet wide, with a compacted

surface, and parking would be developed at 6 trailheads. The other alternative would limit development to the lower 15 miles but at a higher standard with hardened surfaces and widths ranging from 6 to 12 feet, and 3 trailheads at Lyle, Pitt and Klickitat.

The resolution of these issues is important to CTA since some day this trail will be a connector to the Chinook Trail. CTA was represented at the public meetings in November and February.

More information is available at www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia/. Comments should be sent to the USFS at: Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, 902 Wasco Avenue, Suite 200, Hood River, OR 97031 or faxed to 541-386-1916. Tax deductible contributions to the Klickitat Trail Conservancy can be sent to P.O. Box 512, Lyle, WA 98635.



Hikers explore the proposed Klickitat Trail route. (Photo by Susan Saul)

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



CTA Seeks Funds for Silver Star

by Susan Saul

CTA has partnered with the Washington Trails Association (WTA), Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to develop a \$70,000 grant proposal for the Silver Star Scenic Area.

Although Silver Star has been closed to motorized use since 1989, unauthorized motorized vehicle use has continued to occur. Vehicle barricades have been vandalized or circumvented. Quads and four-wheel drive vehicles are being driven through fragile wildflower

meadows and across cultural resource sites. Trampling and introduction of invasive species threaten the area's famed botanic features, and the recreational experience for non-motorized users is diminished.

Vandalism has become so severe that the USFS has taken the Road 4109 North trailhead out of the Northwest Forest Pass program.

The proposed project would reinforce existing gates, place large boulders at ten access points on DNR and USFS lands to block motorized vehicle access,

and use narrow trail tread where possible to block quads. Boulders have proven to be effective barriers elsewhere in the East Fork Lewis River watershed and they fit well into the natural environment. The boulders are oriented, sloped and buried to a depth so a chain or strap cannot be placed around them to pull them out.

CTA and WTA volunteers would do the finishing work to fill dirt around the boulders, restore natural vegetation at the trailheads and spread oat straw for erosion control until the natural vegetation becomes established. CTA and WTA work parties would continue to provide maintenance on Silver Star trails.

This project has been submitted for funding under a Federal Payments-to-Counties program that gives counties a payment in lieu of taxes on federal lands. The counties are required to spend between 15 and 20 percent of their payments on national forest enhancement activities. The project proposals are screened by a 15-member Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) that recommends to the Forest Supervisor which ones should be funded. The RAC will meet later this year to recommend projects for the 2004 field season.

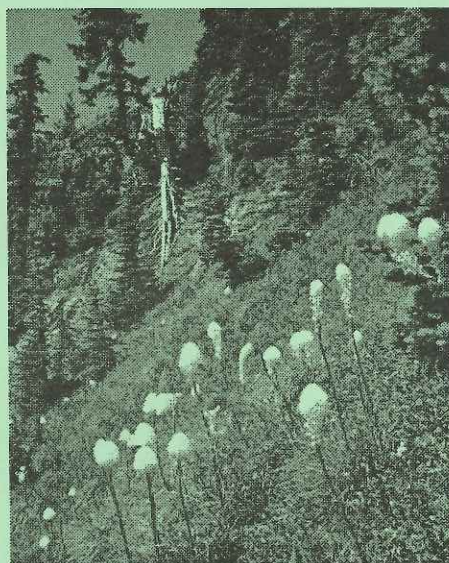
Summer Hikes Scheduled

June 14 ~ Mt. Hamilton

Fred Rogers, Jr. will once again lead a hike up Hamilton Mtn., a moderate hike of 8 miles to 2,100 feet. You will pass the outstanding Rodney Falls and through forests to the spectacular ridge affording magnificent views of the Columbia River, Mt. Adams, and the Gorge. This is a CTA contribution to the Friends of the Gorge weekend hikes. Meet at the Washougal Woolen Mills parking lot at 9 a.m. to carpool.

July 12 ~ Silver Star Wildflower Hike

Russ Jolley, author of "Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge," will lead us on a quest for the remarkable wildflowers on Silver Star Mtn. This time of year is considered the peak of the wildflower season. Ed's Trail affords incredible vistas of all the guardian peaks: Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Hood. Meet at Clark Public Utilities at 8600 N.E. 117th Ave. (SR 503) at 8 a.m. or at 9 a.m. at the Sunset Campground parking lot on the east fork of the Lewis River.



Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway

by Paul Clare

The City Parks has been successful in obtaining an IAC grant to restore a significant section of the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway between Devine Road and South Meadowbrook (Burton Road). Several workshops and informational meetings have been held to seek public comment. Of particular interest to CTA city walkers at the latest workshop held on April 24th was the slide presentation showing the plan to provide an extension of the Urban Discovery Trail including a trailhead. The project should improve water quality and enhance fish and wildlife by planting native tree cover and shrubs along the creek. Construction of Phase I is expected to be completed by the end of 2004.

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.



CTA Well Received

By Roger Anderson

Recently, the Olympians Hiking Club, based in Hoquiam, WA, invited the Chinook Trail Association to present a slide show at their annual oyster feed in Montesano, WA. CTA was asked to profile who we are and what we do.

On Saturday, March 22nd, Roger Anderson and Susan Saul made the 2½-hour drive to present the slide show. Susan began the program with an overview and history of CTA focusing on accomplishments over the past several years. She emphasized the need for donations and new members to keep CTA going strong; a couple of people stepped forward with donations and at least one person signed up as a new member.

Roger's portion of the show consisted of about 30 minutes of ad lib narration profiling the various trail projects, starting at the westernmost

points (Discovery Trail and Ellen Davis Trail) and moving east.

Much of the time was spent focusing on the natural beauty of the Silver Star area, with many slides of the wildflowers in bloom and the snowcapped mountain peaks. The slide show ended with a quick photo tour of the Columbia River Gorge and its possibilities for siting the trail.

The show was well received by the Olympians, with about 70 members attending the event. The oyster feed was delicious and there was plenty of food for everyone.

National Trails Day

(Continued from Front Page)

scheduled to be completed by June 15, 2003. We are getting help from a DNR crew who has been contracted to finish the trail. This will complete an ongoing saga of trail building which started about a year before the IAC grant was awarded on August 16, 1996. This seven-year project will finally be completed.

We invite you to join us on June 7th for this special event.



CTA 2003 Work Parties

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

June 28

July 12, 26

Aug. 9, 23

Sept. 6, 27

Oct. 25

Nov. 8* . . . *tentative date

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.

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

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	
Larry Devroy	Vern Swaim	Larry Swatosh
Florence Wager	Phil Durkee	Bill Byrd
Michael Dianich	Susan Saul	Marcine Miles
Tom Knappenberger	Maria Muscarella	

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Steve Tubbs	Dave Cannard
Joanne Swanson	Paul Cannard

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