



National Trails Day Work Party to be a Co-Sponsored Event This Year

By Roger Anderson

The 2006 National Trails Day work party on Saturday, June 3rd, will be handled a bit differently this year. The event will be co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, Chinook Trail Association, Washington Trails Association and Trails Club of Oregon. Department of Natural Resources may also become a co-sponsor.

WTA will be handling the registration; **volunteers must pre-register online at www.wta.org**. The event is limited to 50 people. About 30 people have registered as of this writing, so be sure to reserve your place on the

roster. The registered volunteers will be sent an automatic e-mail with the details of the work party, driving directions and a list of what to bring.

Work party tasks will likely include trail maintenance, tree and shrub planting, and litter pickup along the entrance road near the parking area.

There will be a barbeque after the work party for the registered volunteers and possibly a small raffle. We are also working on the idea of having someone leading a short guided hike and talking about a subject related to the area. Please plan to attend.

Cherry Orchard Trail Work Party Report

By Walt Hillemann

It was a beautiful Saturday on February 11th when seventeen folks from the Chinook Trail Association, Friends of the Columbia River Gorge, and the Klickitat Trail Conservancy met at 10:00 a.m. at the trailhead on State Hwy. 14 just east of Lyle to do some trail maintenance. Roger Anderson provided information about the day's tasks, use of the tools, and tasty treats and bottled water. The members spread out with Daryl Hoyt in the lead. Daryl placed markers at points along the trail to indicate areas needing maintenance. The rest of us followed and did a variety of tasks such as placing rocks to help guide water run-off to mitigate trail erosion, smoothing and repairing



Work party leader and professional trail builder Daryl Hoyt (to the right in the group in front) discusses work plans with workers.

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President's Message

By Larry Swatosh



Larry Swatosh
CTA President

In February we followed the tradition of having a Chinook Trail Association Board Retreat. This year's session was not as introspective as in past years. The first two-thirds of the time was informational and the last third was the normal self-examination of the group's shortcomings and search for solutions.

This year's informational segment was provided by a special guest, Kelly Puntaney, who is the Trails Director for the Vancouver/Clark County Parks and Recreation Department. Kelly's talk provided the board with insights into two projects of particular interest to the Chinook Trail Association.

First was the update of the Trails Plan for the city and county. This master plan has been in process for the past year and is scheduled for approval this April. The process for this plan involved a number of public input meetings throughout the county whereby the general public could voice concerns and preferences for trails for various modes of trail use—walkers, bikers, equestrians, and even paddlers. By and large the most trail interest was in

a route following the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad. This route has always been a part of the Chinook Trail Master Plan so we were delighted to hear this.

The second project that Kelly discussed was a direct follow-up to the first. The Chinook Trail Association and other groups "partnered" with the Parks Department on a grant request for a planning study and demonstration project on the Chelatchie Prairie (Lewis and Clark) Railroad rail/trail corridor. The grant was awarded to the Parks Department. This was great news even if it does put us on the hook for several hundred volunteer hours of work.

The last part of the retreat (the introspective part) was in regard to increasing and sustaining membership. We hopefully developed some fresh ideas that are now underway. We keep thinking that with our metro area nearing perhaps two million people we should be able to find a couple thousand who hike and would help support Chinook Trail's dream!

In the good news/bad news department: The bad—Kelly Puntaney is scheduled for retirement from the Parks Department this year. The good—Kelly has agreed to join the Chinook Trail Advisory Board.



The Chinook Trail

*"Inch by foot by yard by mile . . .
for just a couple
hundred miles or so."*



(Vancouver Lake to Maryhill State Park, then back to Portland on the Oregon side.)

*The Chinook Trail:
a 100-year project and
"a legacy worth passing on."*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

- Individual \$25
 Family \$35
 Student/Senior \$15
 Institutional \$65
 Sustaining \$100

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: Daytime () _____ Evening () _____

Email Address _____

Membership year now runs from January to January.

Renewing or new members who pay or join after June 30 need pay for only half a year at 50% of the above prices.

Mail to: **Chinook Trail Association, P.O. Box 997, Vancouver, WA 98666-0997**



Vehicle Breach of Non-Motorized Area on Silver Star

By Ted Klump

In the spring of 2004, Roger Anderson and I were hiking on the Squaw Butte Trail on Silver Star and found a pickup truck stranded down in a meadow in an area where motorized travel is not allowed. I had my digital camera in my pack and I started shooting pictures including a closeup of the license plate. We have been fighting vehicle intrusion on Silver Star for several years and I wanted to nail this guy. I emailed the pictures to the

enforcement officer at the Gifford Pinchot and did not hear much about it until I got the following email this morning. Sometimes justice does prevail! It pays to get involved!

To: Ted Klump

Date: Friday, Dec. 16, 2005

From: Al Knorr, Law Enforcement Officer, Gifford Pinchot N.F.

I'm not sure if I ever got back to you to let you know that, with your help and photos, the subject was very successfully prosecuted with a

significant sentence imposed by the court. It wasn't the maximum (\$5,000 or 6 months imprisonment or both) but it did make an impression. It took a while since we had to wait for the defendant to get out of prison (unrelated convictions) before we could charge the subject. As a result of your information and follow-up, we were able to charge associated subjects with timber theft as well. Again, thank you for the photos, assistance and concern.

Mission Statement of the Chinook Trail Association (CTA):

- Advocates development of a Columbia River bi-state loop trail;
- Provides information and education to develop public support.
- 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;
- Cooperates with appropriate local, state and federal agencies to develop this recreational resource;



2006 Board Retreat Report

By MarCine Miles

Enthusiastic CTA board members and Advisory Board members Mitch Bower and Florence Wager (she who makes things happen) met at the home of Larry and Judy Swatosh for the 2006 board retreat. Those attending were treated to discussions led by Kelly Puntaney and also to the pleasure of being in the creative home of an architect. This combination should result to a number of requests to become a board member, and those requests are welcomed.

Those in attendance viewed a fascinating film about Nancy Russell and the Columbia Gorge that featured the Cherry Grove property. This is the location where CTA members worked recently in recognition of Nancy's many contributions.

Kelly Puntaney, in his presentation, noted that there is a "big push" for trails in Clark County. He provided information about WALK AUSTIN in Austin, Texas as an example of effective development of trails and a supporting organization. They have an emphasis on securing the support of young people who may not be as available to volunteer but who could walk and become members and make their contributions through fees.

As a part of discussing the development of CTA membership, Kelly suggested better mapping and descriptions with trail reaches in the brochure.

The first big planning for trails in Clark County was the Water Front Renaissance, which focused on tying history (which included Capt. Vancouver and Capt. Broughton and Lewis and Clark) to prime waterfront property. The current Lewis and Clark planning has been in effect for years. Locally the push was to tie states together and connect the dots of significant locations. Nationally, the Lewis and Clark plan is being rewritten to develop the actual trail in urban areas.

Kelly noted that Clark County has dreams of the trails to be built. However this will require changes in funding. Attendees stated concerns that parks are not a focus of the City, and those budgets are not keeping up with needed development. IAC now requires that 10% of costs come from local dollars or in kind. However the IAC has 11 funds and most of the funds have city and county agents, with only a few funds for non-profits. The City looks to groups like CTA to build trails, while providing some funding. As a result, organizations like CTA will be critical to future development of building trails. Staff for trails is being reduced in both the City and the County.

A current focus in Clark County is a trail from Vancouver Lake to the Skamania County border. This trail would be approximately 25 miles long and needs strong membership.

Trails need young people who have graphic skills, are engineers and attorneys, and who can work with the Legislature. And their skills in sophisticated budgeting are needed.

There are 16 pieces of trail within the trail plan, which includes the Lewis and Clark Greenway and Chelatchie Prairie. The Lake to Lake Trail is from Vancouver Lake to Burnt Bridge to the Heritage Trail to Camas to Washougal and to Cottonwood Beach. Hikers will be able to go from Vancouver Lake to Cottonwood Beach. It will take transportation dollars to solve creating a trailhead where Fruit Valley Road widens to 78th Street and goes south and west to Vancouver Lake. To cross the railroad at Fruit Valley Road a bridge will be needed with a 12-foot-wide trail.

Mr. Puntaney stated that as for Waterfront Park, the land values have gone up and there are no willing sellers for public trails. New houses are being built on critical land and as a result, the opportunity to complete the trail may be lost. In order not to lose critical land, tougher policy makers are needed, otherwise trails will lose connectivity.

Discovery Trail at Bernie Drive is being widened and a restroom facility is planned. Cars will be put on Bernie Drive for parking. The trail is being regraded to 12 feet wide. No trees were taken down in the construction and no trees will be taken down for the bridge. Reconsideration is being given to bridges with slick surfaces. As a result, while it would have been easier to build a new trail, the integrity of the environment has been protected.

In order to continue developing trails, new partnerships are being formed. The greenways have partnerships with wastewater management. The Health Department is working with trails through Choice 2010. *A Walk About Guide for Clark County* is in production. It is a doctor's prescription for walking. Kaiser Permanent has contributed significant funds to the printing. Florence Wager and Kelly Puntaney have worked on the Guide, which will be available to citizens. Kelly noted that the life span of citizens will come down if we do not do something to create exercise. Florence noted that the interest in walking will climb with accessible trails. CTA trails are included.

Mr. Puntaney described the east fork of the Lewis River as the jewel of the county and noted that we all need to participate in saving this environment. He stated that this should be the biggest push at this time. Stewards are needed for the east fork.

The prediction is that the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad

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“Protecting something . . .



. . . as wide as this planet is still an abstraction for many. Yet I see the day in our own lifetime that reverence for the natural systems—the oceans, the rain forests, the soil, the mountains, the grasslands, and all other living things—will be so strong that no narrow ideology based upon politics or economics will overcome it.”

— Jerry Brown,
Ex-Governor of
California

2006 Board Retreat Report - cont'd

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Trail will happen. There is a Rail Road Advisory Group and Friends of the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail. It is urged that there should not be a conflict with industry. Interested parties should negotiate access and put in physical restraints for safety. Those working to develop the trail need to stay at the table until a resolution is reached. An example of successful development is the Spring Water City of Portland Park, which was developed by metro and nonprofits. The owner of the railroad has testified in support of rails and trails programs after seeing the result of Spring Water. In California, high-speed trains and trails share space with fencing. Access can be provided for horse riders who will be responsible for controlling their horses.

Grants have recently provided \$600,000, which includes a \$10,000 in-kind donation from CTA, for planning and development of the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail. The plan is to develop the historic route from Wenatchee to Portland as a trail. This will tie into the Iron Horse and John Wayne trails. The Centennial Plan is the plan of the State Parks Commission to celebrate 100 years of Washington parks and recreation. The concept of a trail from Wenatchee to Portland should be included in the Centennial Plan. Many historical sources are available for the development of the concept plan.

The first segment of the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail will be built north of Battle Ground and connect

Fairgrounds Park to the City of Battle Ground. Children will be able to ride bicycles from Battle Ground to Battle Ground Lake. There is a four-year window to complete this first two-mile-long segment. There are a few areas with ownership problems, however efforts are being made to resolve these issues.

On April 16th, actors in canoes on the Columbia River will accept the master plan for parks and trails. The plan will be signed on the waterfront. The public will be invited to participate. Kelly Puntney provided a list of other trails-related events that will help develop public awareness and support of the CTA.

CTA members expressed their appreciation for Kelly Puntney's presentation, and volunteered to accept responsibility for activities that will further trail development, further the development of membership to support CTA's completion of the 300-mile loop, and incorporate city and county representatives in future planning.

Opportunities for Volunteers

Here are some areas where help could be used: Trails and hike coordinator, tool steward, working in the office, helping with mailings, newsletter, membership, and writing grants. As you can see, we have a job for every talent.

Cherry Orchard Report - cont'd

Continued from Front Page

trail tread, and creating or repairing water drain dips as needed. As we walked along the trail, we were all amazed and inspired by the grand views of the gorge geology, the Columbia River, and the sky. This more easterly end of the gorge presents vistas which are less familiar to those of us residing at the western side and for this reason makes the experience all the more pleasurable. We all enjoyed stopping for lunch on a hill overlooking these grand scenes before proceeding on through for wooded (mostly oak?) sections of the trail to the site of the old Cherry Orchard. Only three or four very old cherry trees remain, so

the orchard is mostly grasslands now. Some of the participants were Daryl Hoyt, Krista Thie and Cathy Robart representing Friends of the Gorge; and Jim Denton, Donna Enz and Daniel Lichtenwald representing Klickitat Trail Conservancy. We all owe Nancy Russell a great deal of appreciation and thanks for making this trail a possibility for all of us to enjoy!



CTA 2006 Work Parties

**May 13
Saturday**

Beacon Rock Work Party - Meet at Washougal Woolen Mills at 8:30 a.m. or at Beacon Rock at the Hwy. 14 restroom on the south side at 9:30 a.m. Tools will be provided. Bring lunch, boots, appropriate clothing and work gloves. We will be driving up backcountry roads to the backside of Hamilton Mtn. Carpooling available. Work will be to improve two trail reroutes. Flowers should be out and there will be some hiking possibilities.

**May 25
Thursday**

Ellen Davis Trail - First date is on Thurs., May 25 at 9:00 a.m. at the trailhead on St. James Road north of Minnehaha Road. Bring work gloves, drinking water, work clothes and pruners. We will be clearing brush from the trail.

**May 27
Saturday**

Ellen Davis Trail - Second date is Sat., May 27th at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the same place on St. James Road north of Minnehaha Road at the trail head. Bring gloves, drinking water and work clothes. We will be pulling brush up to a chipper along the trail. The chipper will be operated by others.

**June 3
Saturday**

National Trails Day - Always a fun event. Trail treats and remembrance. Silver Star Mountain area. Location may move if if snow level is too high. See article on front page.

CTA Board Members

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