



Trails for Future Generations

This was the theme of the biannual Washington State Trails Coalition that met in Yakima this fall. Over 320 delegates representing all levels of trail users—from hikers, equestrians, bicyclists to snow mobile operators—gathered to discover the secrets of how to provide the burgeoning population of the state with the needed trails to meet all the needs. Representatives of major land managers were Rex Derr, Director of Washington State Parks; Doug Sutherland, Land Commissioner, Washington Department of Natural Resources; David Uberuaga, Superintendent, Mt. Rainier National Park; and Marti Marshal, Assistant Director, Recreation/Heritage/Resources, Region 6, USFS. Florence Wager of the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Commission and Kelly Punteney of The Parks, along with others from Vancouver and Portland, attended and participated in this conference. Kelly did a masterful job of presenting the newly hatched Vancouver to Yakima Trail.



"DOWNSTREAM"

This closeup photo of Wahclella Creek near Bonneville was taken by Bud Watkins and is one in a series showing the beautiful finer details of the many lovely streams in the Columbia Gorge that we might fail to notice as we pass by.

Happy Trails to CTA Friend Kelly Punteney

The program was titled "*Kelly Punteney's ('But I'm Not Retiring') Dinner Tribute and Jetty Project Presentation*" at a Hilton party January 12 where 300 people gathered to salute Kelly for his 35 years of service as trails, greenways and waterfront planner. The party raised \$10,000 to remove the blackberry vines on the

Tidewater Cove Jetty and replant with native vegetation.

Former Vancouver mayor Bryce Seidl emceed the evening. CTA members Don Cannard and Florence Wager were among the speakers who praised Punteney's visionary work on such projects as the waterfront's

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President's Message - Annual Report 2006

By Larry Swatosh



Larry Swatosh
CTA President

The annual report begins with the 2005 Annual Meeting held at the City Water Resource Center. Rex Derr, the Director of Parks for the State of Washington, was our featured speaker. Special recognition awards were presented to Susan Saul for her dedicated service on the Chinook Trail Association Board and to MarCine Miles for her leadership in the preparation of our application for the National Recreation Trail Status for the Bell's Mountain / Bluff Mountain Trail and for planning for our celebratory event when the National Recreation Trail recognition was announced.

In February we had continued what has become an annual function—the Chinook Trail Association Board Retreat. It seems we keep getting better and better at defining our problems and shortcomings and at delineating the steps necessary to solve them. Unfortunately, we do not seem to be getting any better at implementing steps necessary to carry out solutions to what we feel are the most significant problems.

We determined that we had two major problems: expanding the Chinook Trail Association membership and expanding the Chinook Trail Association board and management structure. The membership expansion efforts met with some success due to the recruitment efforts of individual board members and a mass mailing to 400-plus attendees of the city's Trails Planning Conference and Lewis and Clark event held at the Hilton in the late fall of 2005. Our largest problem is what I am now calling "board atrophy." It is a withering of the Chinook Trail Association Board, not from disuse but from age and overuse. As an example, your president is rapidly approaching 70 and I am one of the younger members of the current Board of Directors and Advisory Board. It seems obvious that we need an infusion of youth, not just on the board itself but in the committee structure that CTA requires to keep the boards from further "burnout."

We have attempted for the past three years to recruit new board members through one-on-one appeals to individuals who the board agreed exhibited leadership strengths that would benefit the board. The shortcoming to this approach is that it limits us to contacting individuals with whom we have some personal acquaintance. And we were reminded that in the past when our board secretary needed a long leave of absence a chance comment at an annual meeting brought us Walt

Hillemann, a member with whom none of us were well acquainted. He generously offered to step into the secretary's role and became an excellent board member, a frequent work party volunteer, and good friend to boot.

We are hoping, through this annual report, to perhaps once again have the good fortune to find someone among our existing membership who has the time and the skills to step forward as Walt did to help Chinook Trail Association reach its goals.

A new obligation that the Chinook Trail Association has accepted is a "Trail Steward" role. We are hoping it can be a "fun" obligation in that it does not directly require construction or maintenance work, but periodic trail observation hikes to locate and record where trail work is needed or will likely be needed soon. We are currently developing trail condition checklists to accurately record what work is needed where. We are hoping this is work that we can share with some of our bicycling and horseback friends.

Our work party schedule this year has been less ambitious than in the past, perhaps reflecting some of the board burnout. We had some maintenance projects at Beacon Rock and an observation trip to the "Cherry Orchard" site near Lyle, Washington to assess the scope of the work necessary to improve the accessibility of the current trail system on this beautiful site. The travel distance to Lyle demonstrated our need to expand both our general membership and board participation to include Skamania and Klickitat counties.

Our observation of National Trails Day this year marked a first. It was a trail maintenance and road deconstruction project on a portion of the Chinook Trail on Silver Star and was a "joint project" of the Chinook Trail Association, the Washington Trail Association, the Park Service, and the Department of Natural Resources. It was a success with more than sixty volunteers participating and will likely lead to more collaborative projects.

Opportunities for Volunteers

Areas where help can be used: trails and hike coordinators, tool stewards, working in the office, helping with mailings, newsletter, membership, and writing grants. As you can see, there is a job for every talent.

Vice-President's Message

By Megan Raymond



Megan Raymond
CTA Vice-President

Hello all. Just wanted to send a brief message out letting all know I am working in the office part-time. My office hours are limited to ten hours a month and I am in the office at different times.

A little background information on me: I'm a full-time student at Clark College in the Technical Program Pharmacy Technician. I was the last Americorps student with CTA and I have been hired after my service to work for a little while after in the office and have been volunteering ever since. I am married to my supporting

husband Daniel, and I have one son, James, who will be two years old in April. I will be attempting to clean up some of the clutter in our office and try to get the Board back on track and coordinated once again. We have been having some email issues so I will be giving an alternate email address that I can track from home. I will be able to respond to any email that is received at that address. So if you have any questions or want any information on upcoming CTA meetings, work parties, or other information, please email me at trailtech@comcast.net.

I am looking forward to another great year with Chinook Trails. Let me know if you wish to lend a hand and get us hiking again!

Trail Stewards Step Up

Days after an announcement in the Chinook Trail newsletter that trail stewards were needed, volunteers stepped forward. Hats off to Jerry and Andrea de Ruyder and Hank Berquist. These folks will be monitoring and keeping the Bells Mountain Trail in shape. There will still be the need for the occasional full-scale work party but we are off and running on this very important behind-the-scenes activity. Hank has been a long-time member of the Chinook Trail Association, cutting his teeth on hiking and mountain climbing with the Vancouver-based Ptarmigan Outdoor Club. You may have heard of Jerry's highline feats in the building of the bridges on the Bells Mountain Trail and other trails in southwest Washington. Thanks for stepping up!

The Chinook Trail Association welcomes new members. Annual dues are: Individual \$25; Family \$35; Student/Senior \$15; Institutional \$65; Sustaining \$100; Life \$1000. For further information call the CTA office at 360-883-6211.

Happy Trails to Kelly Puntney

Continued from Front Page

Renaissance Trail, the Discovery Trail, and Burnt Bridge Creek Trail-Greenway, and the planting of the many rhododendrons gracing Vancouver.

Most recently, Puntney wrote a critically important grant for the Chelatchie Prairie Trail and Rail Alignment study. It won a half million dollars in funding from a transportation enhancements fund. As part of the grant, a section of trail will be constructed. Happily, Kelly has promised to participate in the CTA's commitment to the project.



Remember Joe Sunthimer? In this photo from about 10 years ago, Joe examines his notes concerning the laying out of Ed's Trail. Joe currently operates a hotel in Southern Germany with his wife and enjoys biking and hiking there in the Alps.

Membership Renewals & Gifts . . .

We would like to extend our appreciation to the following individuals for their gifts to the Chinook Trail Association and for their 2007 membership renewals.

Quest Donations

Vernon Swaim \$400.00 (for Trail Building)
Leslie Labbe \$25.00

Annual Meeting Donations

W.P. Paynter \$25.00

Sustaining Memberships (\$100)

John Coyle
Joyce Kilpatrick (in honor of Florence Wager)
Susi Palena
Vernon Swaim

Family Memberships (\$35.00)

Paul Greenland
Walt Hillemann
Denise Schafte
Keith Henson
Phyllis Clausen
Val Ogden
Bob Scullin
Mary Ann Teague
Patti Allen

Individual Memberships (\$25.00)

Jim McLean
Pat Lewis
Stephen Klump
L. G. Squier

Individual Memberships (cont'd)

Nancy Ellifrit
Bill Feddeler
Margery Dogotch
Jon Beima
Krista Thie
Leslie Labbe

Student / Senior Memberships (\$15.00)

Jean Dunlop
Ruth Blackburn
Donald Fitzgerald

COLUMBIA GORGE ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION 4921 SW HEWEIT BLVD. PORTLAND, OREGON 97221

Mr. Don Cannard
Chinook Trail Association
2303 NE 45th Circle
Vancouver, WA 98663

February 7, 2007

Dear Mr. Cannard,

The Columbia Gorge Environmental Foundation was created in 2004 by Bruce and Nancy Russell in order to fund the work of organizations active in promoting the educational and conservation resources of the Columbia River Gorge.

We are very happy to inform you that we have selected your organization as one whose work stands out for its accomplishments, and for its worthiness of support. In awarding your organization the enclosed grant of \$5,000, we are both appreciative of your dedication to protecting Gorge landscapes, and enthusiastic about opportunities for future collaboration on Gorge protection efforts.

Your organization's work in maintaining and repairing the Cherry Orchard hiking trail on land east of Lyle is a great contribution toward furthering the purpose of this foundation. The trail's current condition is poor and results, in particular, in erosion problems. Your work will address this in a way that supports conservation of the land, its resources, and its scenic and recreational value. In addition, your work will advance this foundation's purpose of supporting educational resources in the Gorge. This trail allows public access to people who come by the hundreds yearly to experience the botany, wildlife and unique view of Gorge geology that this trail provides.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell dedicated many years to protecting the scenic Gorge so that people may be inspired to visit and appreciate its natural beauty, history, geology and botany. The Gorge is a local treasure, but also a national treasure that continues to awe visitors from across the country. Thank you for your efforts in maintaining this public treasure.

Sincerely yours,



Aubrey Russell
President, Columbia Gorge Environmental Foundation

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;



Cherry Orchard Trail

CTA members Fred Rogers and Don Cannard traveled to Lyle recently to meet up with Jim Slagle, Trails Engineer, and Jeff Ashoff of Washington Department of Natural Resources. The nature of the trip was to assess the re-routing of the trail to reduce the excessive erosion occurring. CTA is working to secure funding to do the basic work and permitting from the Gorge Commission. The letter shown on the facing page (left) notes our efforts and some funding which has been secured.

Saul named to City/County Parks Commission

Susan Saul, a former CTA board member, has been appointed by the Vancouver City Council to membership on the Vancouver/Clark County Parks and Recreation Commission. Susan joins Florence Wager, another former CTA board member, on the commission and will undoubtedly be a strong advocate in the implementation of the new county trails plan and certainly for parks and recreation in general. In these times when there needs to be greater public emphasis on physical activity, effective leadership on the parks commission is necessary and these two ladies will surely help to provide it.



In this photo of some ten years ago, Jim Slagle, retired Forest Service trail engineer, speaks to trail workers about his design of Ed's Trail. Jim is currently consulting and helping with the re-routing plans for the Cherry Orchard Trail.



An ancient cherry tree still blooms near the Cherry Orchard Trail in this view looking east towards The Dalles.

Photo courtesy of Jim Scott of Cascade Ramblings, www.cascaderamblings.com

Rock Creek and Murphy Grade Kiosk

CTA needs to find appropriate materials to post. Larry Swatosh will check computer files and with Phil Durkee for photos and info.

**Dues are due January 1st.
Find renewal envelopes
enclosed.**

The Yakima Trail and the Chelatchie Prairie Trail

A contract has been let to do the assessment work on the Chelatchie Prairie Trail from Vancouver Lake to Chelatchie Prairie. This work is necessary before construction cost assessment work can occur. Following this work a contract will be called for on the construction of the section of trail from Battle Ground to Battle Ground Lake. So, bit-by-bit, the vision of the Chinook Trail from Vancouver Lake to Maryhill State Park begins to take shape.



Avalanche Lilies bloom along Ed's Trail.

CTA Board Members

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CTA 2007 Calendar

- April 14 Saturday 9 am-2 pm** **CTA Annual Retreat** - To be held at the home of Larry Swatosh, 1214 North Devine, Vancouver. For more information call Larry at 360-694-1313 or Paul Clare at 360-892-8173. All members who are interested are welcome to attend.
- June 2 Saturday** **National Trails Day** - Will take place at Cold Creek. Watch for details in our next newsletter.

E-Mail: cta@pacifier.com Website: www.chinooktrail.org
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