



Fifteenth National Trails Day June 2, 2007



The Chinook Trail Association is celebrating National Trails Day on Saturday, June 2, 2007. This is the fifteenth NTD event CTA has held. The event will take place at Cold Creek Campground. The Cold Creek Recreation facility is provided by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. Simple trail maintenance will be done as the participants hike the Bells Mountain Trail. Activities will include cleaning out culverts and water bars and cleaning off bridges and elevated walkways of gathered debris. Tools will be provided. Participants need to wear clothing appropriate for the weather, work gloves and drinking water.

Time permitting, participants may wish to hike to the new bridge recently constructed crossing Rock Creek. This closes the gap on the 30-mile trail from Moulton Falls Park to Bluff Mountain. The bridge can also be seen by driving to the DNR Rock Creek Horse Camp.

Special events will include free barbeque lunch, trail snacks and drawings for merchandise contributed by suppliers.

Participants will meet at the Clark Public Utilities Service Center on 117th for carpooling. Vehicles will leave promptly at 8:15 a.m. Those wanting to drive directly and who do not need directions can meet at the Cold Creek Campground picnic facility at 9:15 a.m. Sign-up will occur at Cold Creek. For additional information call 360-883-6211.

Steve Tubbs Steps Up as Trail Steward

by Don Cannard

Steve Tubbs is one of several CTA Trail Stewards checking on the condition of trails along the route of the Chinook Trail. Steve is no stranger to the Chinook Trail. He is an attorney in Vancouver and since our inception in 1989 has done pro bono work for the CTA. An interesting side note, Steve was a student at the old Peter S. Ogden Elementary School when Ed Robertson, co-founder of the Chinook Trail Association, was its principal.

Steve's interests are very diversified. He is a pilot. He is a Master Gardener opening his yard and flower garden

to the public in the spring. He is an active member of the Native Plant Society. He is a long-time member of the Japanese Garden Society and on Tuesdays you can find him serving as a Garden Guide to interested members of the public.

Steve will be the steward for Ed's Trail on Silver Star Mountain where it is anticipated the wildflowers will be spectacular this year. You may see Steve up there this spring with pruners in hand. Thanks, Steve.

By the way, his wife Linda is an avid hiker and I suspect she will be by his side on Silver Star.

Bridging the Gap

Submitted by Andrea deRuyter

Anyone who has hiked, mountain biked, or ridden their horse on the Tarbell Trail loop starting and ending at the Rock Creek Horse Camp, knows there was something missing—namely a bridge across Rock Creek. With the exception of a short period of time during the warmer months of the year, this crossing was always a challenge. Shane Colthern of the DNR initiated the process of “bridging the gap” by applying for a grant for \$50,000 to build three bridges in the area, including this one, and won the grant. Shane moved on to another position with the DNR and was replaced by Joshua Riepe. Joshua oversaw building the concrete bridge supports, the construction of an approach from the campground road down to the creek, and getting the bridge materials delivered to the site.



The actual bridge construction took place on Saturday, March 30, 2007, with over 30 volunteers from the various local user groups pitching in—the Chinook Trail Association, the DNR, the Back Country Horseback Riders, the Cold Creek Mountain Bikers, and the Portland United Mountain Pedalers. The 75-foot bridge beams were assembled as one piece and lifted over the creek and into position by a crane. An extra special thank you goes out to Campbell Crane of Portland, Oregon for donating a 50-ton crane and its operator, Jerry deRuyter (who is a member of CTA, CCMB, and PUMP). The decking and handrails were installed and by the end of the day the gap between the Rock Creek Campground and the Tarbell Trail was closed. The approaches still need to be filled in and should be completed before summer.

When you are in the area, stop by and admire the combined efforts of the multiple users of this wonderful trail system in the Yacolt Burn area that is part of the Chinook Trail.



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;





President's Message

By Larry Swatosh



Larry Swatosh
CTA President

Two significant events kept CTA active this spring: a DNR work party and the CTA board annual retreat.

The work party was at the Rock Creek Campground in late March and involved the assembly and installation of a "bridge kit." The event was organized by Jerry deRuyter, who dazzled us all with his skills in operating a *huge* Campbell Crane. The work party included a diverse group of trail bike enthusiasts, horsemen and CTA members. There were more than thirty volunteers who sloshed through a steady drizzle for at least six of the eight hours that most of us spent at the site. It was very exciting to see the bridge installed. It will be made fully useful when the earth work is completed on the approaches.

The annual retreat this year focused more on day-to-day operations and less on long range planning than in past years.

Heather Melton, a community activist by both education and experience, talked to us about some possible new approaches on membership development.

Flo Wager, a member of the Vancouver/Clark County Parks

Commission, talked to us regarding parks in general and trails in particular and about the political climate with regard to council and commission relations and sensitivities toward trail projects.

Kelly Puntaney talked about the Chelatchie Prairie Rail-Trail in particular and the importance of CTA gathering support to attend a series of five public work shops that will begin *soon* and extend into early 2008— mostly in the Battle Ground area. He also touched on the way his ongoing consultation services to this project will go a long way toward satisfying the requirement for CTA work hours in the consultant's contract.

Don Cannard updated the group on the Cherry Orchard project and the status of application process and funding.

Megan Murray updated us on the problems that have arisen since we now need to share what had been our exclusive office space with new staff required by the expansion needs of our landlord—Columbia Springs. This is a situation that will need monitoring. If anyone out there knows of economical space for rent please contact a CTA board member.

The retreat ended with some board last minute items regarding the newsletter and National Trails Day preparations.

Cherry Orchard Trail

By Don Cannard

Progress on finalizing the Cherry Orchard application to the Columbia River Gorge Commission has slowed down considerably. Jim Slagle, the Trails Engineer laying out the trail, has secured a rather large contract with the Oregon Department of Forestry and has had to put this project on hold. Jim is doing this work on a pro bono basis. This means the botanical survey Barbara Robinson was hoping to conduct this spring will be delayed until next spring. Plant surveys must be done during the blooming season and within 200 feet either side of the proposed trail. I have been up with Jim several times and have pretty well determined the trouble spots where relocation needs to be done to protect soil and plants from soil erosion damage. Final location of the trail will be reviewed by the commission and Aubrey Russell. The largest field of Death Camas I have ever seen were in fine display the last time we were up at the site—quite beautiful.



Death Camas

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Commission Update

Florence Wager, former board member of the Chinook Trail Association, has served on the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Commission for several years representing Clark County. She is stepping down as co-chair of the commission and is being replaced by Bob Dingethal. Bob is District Director for Senator Maria Cantwell. He will serve as co-chair with Alex Veliko, Vancouver.

CTA was pleased to learn that Susan Saul, former CTA board member and long-time trail advocate, has joined the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Commission.

ALTA of Portland, Oregon has been selected to do the trail alignment study of the Chelatchie Prairie along the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad. As a part of this grant a portion of the trail will be planned and constructed from Battle Ground to Battle Ground Lake State Park—a beginning of the long anticipated process of constructing a trail along the nearly 30-mile county-owned right of way. This will double in part as the route of the Chinook Trail.

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Inside This Issue

Cover . . .

* **National Trails Day
June 2, 2007**

* **Steve Tubbs Latest Trail
Steward**

Page 2 . . .

* **Bridging the Gap: Rock
Creek Bridge Report**

Page 3 . . .

* **Rock Creek Bridge**

* **President's Message**

Back Page . . .

* **Vancouver-Clark Parks
and Recreation
Commission Update**

* **Cherry Orchard Trail**



CTA 2007 Calendar

**June 2
Saturday**

National Trails Day - Will take place at Cold Creek Campground. Bring work gloves, drinking water and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. Meet at Clark Public Utilities on 117th at 8:00 a.m. for carpooling, or meet at the campgrounds at 9:15 a.m. Free barbeque lunch follows. See article on front page for more details.

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