

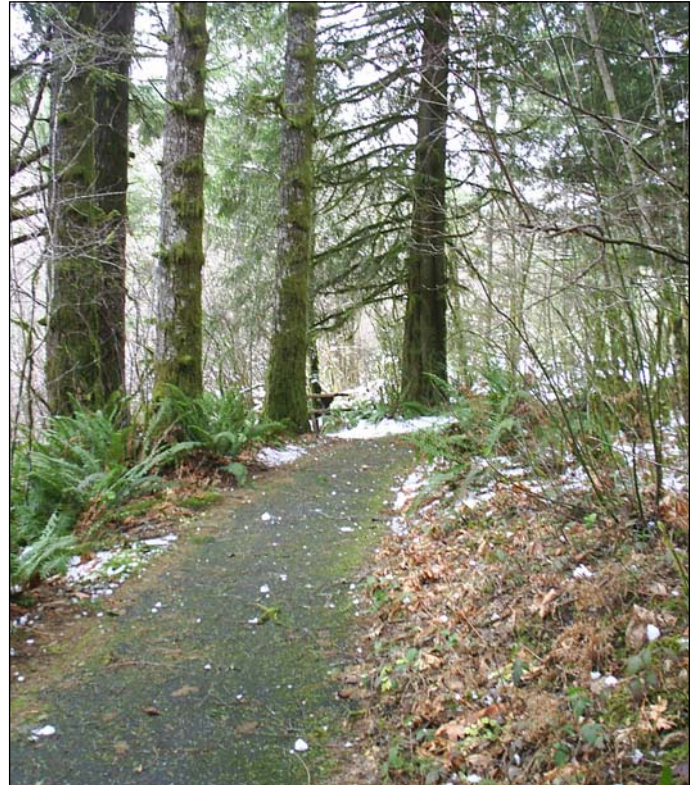


Annual Report 2007

by Larry Swatosh

The 2007 year began with the 2006 Annual Meeting at the Water Resources Center. Our program for the meeting was provided by two of our own members but that made it no less interesting or exciting than past programs. Florence Wager is a former member of the CTA Executive Board and a current member of the Vancouver/Clark County Parks Board. Kelly Puntaney is a former member of the Parks Department staff and a current advisor to the CTA Executive Board. The two of them outlined the opportunities and obligations that the Chelatchie-Prairie Rail/Trail proposal presents to the Chinook Trail Association. The opportunity is obvious in that the rail corridor has long been anticipated as a logical connection for the Chinook Trail from urban Vancouver through Battle Ground to the Hantwick Trailhead on the East Fork of the Lewis River. The obligation is the CTA commitment to provide in-kind work hours. That commitment was instrumental in the approval of the rail/trail grant funding.

We took a little different approach to our annual winter board retreat in 2007. We normally are looking to long-range strategic planning goals but this year we



A winter day on the trail along the East Fork of the Lewis River.

Photo by Megan Raymond.

looked more to the tuning of day-to-day operations. In addition, Florence Wager encouraged our participation in the community outreach efforts that are a part of the obligation of the planning consultants involved in the Chelatchie Prairie Rail/Trail project. This is something we have done successfully having CTA members in attendance at all informational meetings this summer and fall.

Our work party efforts this year improved over 2006. We started early by participating in a bridge installation at the Rock Creek Campground. Our National Trails Day event was staged out of Cold Creek Campground and was a trail and bridge maintenance effort. In addition, we had three smaller work parties closer to home on the Ellen Davis Trail and two trips to the Cherry Orchard project in Lyle that were primarily

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President's Message

By Megan Raymond



Megan Raymond
CTA President

Happy New Year everyone! With the New Year comes new changes. I was elected your president at the 2007 annual meeting which I thought went well this year. In this message I thought I'd tell you a little about myself and our goals. I work full-time as a Certified Pharmacy Technician at the Fred Meyer Pharmacy in Battle Ground, Washington. I am married to my husband, Daniel, and we have one son, James, who's going on three years old.

We have many goals to achieve to complete this trail and one step at a time brings us closer to that dream. I am

focusing on CTA's laying out the foundation for us to move ahead through membership building, trail maintenance, more funding and eventually a funded Executive Director position to work with the Board. These are some goals that CTA needs to achieve to move ahead in the coming years. And with help from YOU, the members, we can make this organization strong.

So, if you're itching this year to get out and help volunteer by building a trail, doing some maintenance, working in our office, or learning a little more about our organization, feel free to send me an email at trailtech@comcast.net. I am here to listen to your suggestions on what you would like to see CTA work on in this upcoming year. Thanks.

Megan Raymond, CPhT
President, Chinook Trail Association

Introducing Evan Hull, Board Member and Trail Steward



A 1982 graduate of the University of Puget Sound School of Law, Evan Hull practices law primarily in the areas of personal injury,

family law, wills, powers of attorney, probate, and real estate, including landlord/tenant law.

Mr. Hull is active in the community in other ways. Besides being on the Board of Directors of the Chinook Trail Association, Evan helps with the community vision of ending homelessness in Clark County by volunteering with the Friends of the Carpenter and Open House Ministries. Evan is on the Board of Director of the Vancouver Methodist Foundation which

donated \$2,000 to the Council for the Homeless for the Winter Hospitality Overflow shelters this year. He volunteers with the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington, the YWCA of Vancouver, and supports the Fort Vancouver Seafarers Center and Evergreen Habitat for Humanity.

Evan has a goal of a healthy body and a healthy planet. He recently became the trail steward of the Discovery Trail. In November and December, 2007, he volunteered 75 hours pulling ivy from 155 trees along the Discovery Trail. "It's a great workout and great for the trees." He has a goal of exercising daily. He wants people to walk and hike more.

Evan is on the leadership team of the Greater Vancouver Interfaith

Association. He believes that working together on common goals can be done by people with varying backgrounds.

Evan attends the First United Methodist Church in Vancouver. He sponsors a cabin at the Ocean Park Camp and Retreat Center. Evan also sponsors two children in Ethiopia and a child at a United Methodist related orphanage in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has traveled to Costa Rica to work with a mission team building a church.

"I want to encourage more children, families, and adults to enjoy the urban as well as the mountainous sections of the Chinook Trail, including the Discovery Trail and the Ellen Davis Trail."

Annual Report 2007 *continued from front page*

information gathering efforts. The year 2007 saw the establishment of the "Trail Steward" program. Six members will now observe the conditions of segments of completed trails and report to the Executive Board to assist in scheduling work parties.

The year 2007 has been a successful year for our founder's grant writing efforts. It appears that the Cherry Orchard project in Lyle is funded and now only awaits the long permitting process. And our more local project

to improve the accessibility of the Ellen Davis Trail should be ready for work parties in early 2008.

Those of you who were at the 2006 Annual Meeting will recall my remarks regarding the "graying" of the CTA Executive Board. That trend has been slowed with recruitment of three new and comparatively younger members to the board. All are long-time CTA members and have been active in past work parties and even retreats. They are Phil Delaney, Andrea deRuyter and Evan Hull. Please give them your thanks for their involvement.

WE WANT YOU . . . to Volunteer!

By Megan Raymond

Hello to all members and prospective members!

We (the Board) are in need of committees this year to help smooth things out and move ahead. In years past, every major CTA project has fallen on the hard workers of the Board of Directors and this has caused a lot of people who brought great energy to this organization to back out.

I don't want to lose our organization due to lack of help, so I put out this call to you the members. We need people to donate a few hours each month to get together and brain storm, plan, and execute our needs for growth.

If you have skills and some free time to help out our organization, please volunteer.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Grant Writing
- Budget Committee
- Newsletter Assembly
- Mailings
- Leading Work Parties/Hikes
- Outreach
- Planning for Annual Meeting '08
- Office Staff

Please, if you wish to help out, send an email to trailtech@comcast.net.

Ellen Davis Trail Update

Crews are continuing to prepare for the reroute to create a more ADA-friendly Ellen Davis Trail. Gravel has been spread on some of the existing trail meeting these ADA standards. An application for funds to proceed with the work has been made. We anticipate hearing soon when these dollars will be available.



Sunset Falls in the winter time.
Photo by Megan Raymond.

Discovery Trail Work Party

Eleven volunteers and two staff members of the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation attacked an invasive species, *Hedera helix*, by removing the English ivy from mature trees along the Discovery Trail in Vancouver. The Discovery Trail is part of the Chinook Trail. The goal of the work party was to help restore natural habitat by removing invasive English ivy.

Among the volunteers was Evan Hull, who is the trail steward for the Discovery Trail section of the Chinook Trail. He can be reached at 360-693-7455.

The work party removed ivy on Friday, December 21, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The volunteers carried the ivy to the paved trail, hauled the ivy in the

pickup, and dumped it into a dumpster provided for the day by the City of Vancouver.

English ivy is an aggressive, invasive, and introduced species that transforms natural areas into monocultures which do not provide habitat for indigenous wildlife.

Ginger Roberts, volunteer coordinator for Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation organized the effort. Brian Potter, Resource Program Manager, drove the pickup and helped load and unload the ivy. He can be reached at 360-619-1123.

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation describes this section of the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway as Stewart Glen. Maps can be downloaded and printed by visiting www.vanclarkparks-rec.org.

2008 Dues are Due

For some months now, the CTA board has been discussing how to simplify our dues payment process and has decided to try to make it an annual payment the first month of each year.

Since the beginning of the Chinook Trail Association, dues have been payable on the anniversary month of each member's original membership. This has proved to be labor intensive for CTA's limited office staff. The Board

has determined that the easiest way to transition into a January-to-January cycle is to rely on an "honor system" policy where each member will round off the amount based on his original anniversary month and his dues category and pay that amount for the transition year. Thereafter, all dues will be due in January and new members' first year dues will be prorated based on the quarter in which they join.

Please bear with us during the changeover.

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.

CTA Board Members

Don Cannard, Co-Founder 360-694-4033
 Megan Raymond, President 360-798-2494
 MarCine Miles, Vice President
 Andrea deRuyter, Secretary 360-263-5097
 Dave Sanks, Treasurer 360-834-6103
 Bob Scullin, Tool Steward 360-834-7892
 Paul Clare, Newsletter Editor 360-892-8173
 Membership Chair POSITION OPEN
 CTA Business Office 360-883-6211
 Bill Byrd Bob Scullin Vern Swaim
 Evan Hull Larry Swatosh

Advisory Board

Bobbi Bindreiff Mitch Bower Russ Jolley
 Paul Cannard Kelly Puntency Steve Tubbs
 Florence Wager

Trail Stewards

Trail Stewards provide a valuable service to CTA and the hiking community. Following are the names, phone numbers and areas covered by our stewards. Stewards survey the trail, suggest work party activities and some even work on the trail. There is room for helpers on these tasks. Give them a ring.

Steve Tubbs Silver Star 360-993-2729
 Don Cannard. Ellen Davis 360-694-4033
 Phil Delaney Tarbell 360-789-2296
 Andrea & Jerry deRuyter . Bells Mountain West 360-263-5097
 Hank Berquist Bells Mountain East. 503-285-5819
 Kelly Puntency Chelatchie Prairie 360-921-8374
 Evan Hull Discovery Trail, CT Portion. 360-693-7455

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