



## National Trails Day June 7, 2008

by Andrea deRuyter

Come join your Chinook Trail Association members for the 16th Annual National Trails Day\* celebration at Beacon Rock State Park. We will be doing work on the Little Beacon Rock and Hadley trails, and possibly the Hardy Trail if access conditions and time permit.

We will have car pooling set up at the Clark PUD, leaving at 8:00 a.m.; Fisher's Landing Park and Ride, leaving at 8:15 a.m.; Washougal Woolen Mills, leaving at 8:20 a.m.; and arrival at Beacon Rock by 8:50 a.m. The event begins at 9:00 a.m.

Please wear good shoes/boots, gloves, and clothing for varied weather conditions and bring water.

The work will wrap up by 1:00 p.m. and you will be rewarded for all your hard efforts with trail treats, tee shirts and a barbeque lunch for all participants.

For more information on this annual event, please go to [www.americanhiking.org](http://www.americanhiking.org).

*\*National Trails Day® is a celebration of trails that evolved from the report of President Ronald Reagan's President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. In 1987, the report recommended that all Americans be able to go out their front doors and within fifteen*



**Beacon Rock**

(Photo provided by Megan Raymond.)

*minutes be on trails that wind through their cities or towns and bring them back without retracing steps. The recommendation, dubbed Trails for All Americans, became the impetus behind several public and private parties joining American Hiking Society in launching National Trails Day® in 1993.*

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## You are Invited to a Family Hike - May 18!

By Megan Raymond

We have always had work parties with CTA, but this year we have decided to have some fun and not just host work parties. If you love trails and don't want to just work on them, come out and join me on a hike! We will be having a Family Hike for All Ages! We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the upper parking lot of Moulton Falls County Park just east of Battle Ground, Washington. We will cross the bridge over the East Fork of the Lewis River and continue down the Murphy Grade Trail that runs below Bells Mtn. along the river. It will be a nice flat, easy hike. For those looking for more adventure, you may break off at the Bells Mtn.

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# President's Message

By Megan Raymond



**Megan Raymond**  
CTA President

Hello members.

Spring is here, or at least our calendars say so. With such wild weather and low snow level elevations through most of April, I wonder if we'll ever get up into the backcountry this summer. But eventually the snow will melt and the trails will clear so work can be done. Most work parties will be at lower elevations for now.

When the snow does clear we will get up to Silver Star Mtn. and Bluff Mtn. to clear trail. I am

hoping we can do more than just hikes this year, being that it is our 20th anniversary year. So stay tuned for more up and coming projects and activities. Also, I wanted to mention some spring cleaning we have been doing. You may have noticed we have changed our post office box. It is now:

P.O. Box 821132  
Vancouver, WA 98682

It is more accessible now and mail will be checked more often. Sorry for any inconvenience to anyone who sent mail to us and had it returned. All is resolved and you can resend it if you would like.

Pardon our dust as we continue to do updates to make our organization more efficient. Any questions or comments please email me at [trailtech@comcast.net](mailto:trailtech@comcast.net).

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## Board Members Profile: Andrea deRuyter

Please join us in welcoming Andrea deRuyter to the Chinook Trail Association Board. She is our new secretary. Andrea has enjoyed the outdoors since she was a youngster growing up in Moorhead, Minnesota. Her mom got her involved in camping, hiking, and skiing (snow and water). In middle school, she remembers participating in some of the first Earth Day walkathons, clocking 30 miles and numerous blisters to earn donations to help support the environment. She raised her two children the same way she was raised: camping, hiking, and skiing. Currently, she focuses her energy on working on the local trails to keep them in good shape for all users: hikers, bikers, and equestrians.

Andrea and her husband, Jerry, are trail stewards for the Bells Mountain West section of the Chinook Trail.

They also maintain the Siouxon Trail for the Forest Service and have put in many hours on the Lewis River and Ape Canyon trails. In addition to being a Board Member and Trail Steward for CTA, Andrea belongs to IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association), Vancouver Bicycle Club, PUMP (Portland United Mountain Pedalers), and volunteers and assists the DNR on trail projects.

Andrea looks forward to the time when she and her grandchildren can hike or bike the entire Chinook Trail and she will work toward that goal as long as she can. Andrea encourages you and your families to get out and help with whatever you can to make this a reality for current and future generations.

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## Mission Statement Expanded

The Chinook Trail Association Board has changed one of the statements about the scope of our mission. The new mission statement will reflect the importance some of our trails have in providing a transportation corridor for home to work. This is particularly true in the case of the Chelatchie Prairie Rail and Trail corridor. The statement "Cooperates with appropriate local, state and federal agencies to develop this recreational resource" has been changed to read (CTA) "Cooperates with local, state and federal agencies and other appropriate entities, to develop this regional recreational and transportation resource." Resource refers to Chinook Trail.

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## Drop us a Line...

By Megan Raymond

We're always looking for fresh ideas here at Chinook Trail Association, so this is your chance as members to speak out! Let us know how we are doing. What you suggest we work on. We are always open for suggestions and ideas. Also, as always, if you would like to volunteer for a work party or have thought about being a crew leader and leading a work party, let us know! With your input we can continue to grow and expand as a great nonprofit dedicated to our trails!

Email us at: [cta@pacifier.com](mailto:cta@pacifier.com) or [trailtech@comcast.net](mailto:trailtech@comcast.net).

# Cherry Orchard Trail

by Don Cannard

Chinook Trail has completed the formal application process to the Columbia River Gorge Commission for the needed upgrade to the Cherry Orchard Trail in Klickitat County east of Lyle. The existing trail is eroding badly in places and needs to be re-routed to eliminate erosion. This work will also lessen the grade of the new trail. The upper portion meets the criteria as part of the envisioned Chinook Trail. You will recall this is land purchased by Bruce and Nancy Russell. The property has been placed in a trust for perpetuity for the public to enjoy breathtaking views, enjoyment of hiking and the viewing of spectacular wild flowers. There is a waiting period for community, agencies and Indian tribes to respond. If all passes muster, construction work will begin on this reconstruction sometime near the end of May. There will



Hikers navigate the steep grade on part of the Cherry Orchard Trail. (Photo provided by Aubrey Russell.)

be a need for volunteers to assist with this project.

## Earth Day Ivy Removal Work Party Report

By Evan Hull

Earth Day was April 22, but on Saturday, April 19, the Chinook Trail Association sponsored an Earth Day ivy removal work party. Between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. volunteers from as far away as Tigard and organized by the Chinook Trail Association descended on the east end of the Ellen Davis Trail near St. James Road and Minnehaha Street to remove English ivy from trees and off the ground.

English ivy is an aggressive, invasive, introduced species that transforms natural areas into monocultures which do not provide habitat for indigenous wildlife. Removing ivy from trees helps restore the health of the forest, and promotes the health of the volunteer. Removing ivy is very good exercise, and an excellent



Habitat Restoration Project (Photo provided by Megan Raymond.)

way to restore the natural flora and fauna.

Megan Raymond, Evan Hull, John Mudge, Laurie Mudge, Daniel Mudge, Spencer Hamilton, Tracy Pemberton, Kyle Swendig, Angela DiRaimo, Ian Rydberg, and Lulu the dog, helped remove ivy from forty-one trees and off the ground along the trail. Thank you volunteers!

The Ellen Davis Trail is part of the Chinook Trail and is located in the West Minnehaha neighborhood of the City of Vancouver, between I-5 and St. James Road. Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation is responsible for maintaining the 1.2-mile trail and will haul away the piles of ivy along the trail. More information about the Ellen Davis Trail can be seen at [www.vanclarkparks-rec.org](http://www.vanclarkparks-rec.org).

## Family Hike —continued from front page

Trailhead and continue up. We will hike and learn about some of the flora and fauna along the trail. If you would like to learn more about CTA, meet new people, or hike with the kids, please join us. Strollers and wagons welcome! Bring a snack, sturdy shoes, water and dress for the weather. If you have any questions, you may send me an email at: [trailtech@comcast.net](mailto:trailtech@comcast.net).

Where: Upper Parking Lot at Moulton Falls County Park

When: Sunday, May 18, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to noon or ?

Who: All Ages!

## Twentieth Annual Meeting

We look forward to our Annual meeting to be held Sunday, November 2. We are planning some special items for this event. Please place on your calendar.

## 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 local, state and federal agencies and other appropriate entities to develop this regional recreational and transportation 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 Punteneay                      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 Punteneay . . . . . Chelatchie Prairie . . . . . 360-921-8374  
 Evan Hull . . . . . Discovery Trail, CT Portion. 360-693-7455

**E-Mail: [cta@pacifier.com](mailto:cta@pacifier.com)**  
**Website: [www.chinooktrail.org](http://www.chinooktrail.org)**  
**Business Office Phone: 360-883-6211**

## CTA Post Office Box Number Changes

The Post Office box number for the Chinook Trail Association has been changed.

This change will make it more convenient for our mail picker-uppers as this also changes the location of our mailbox. Consequently, some membership envelopes have been inadvertently returned to our

members. We regret this change and mix-up so we are including membership envelopes with the corrected address. Our new address is now:

**Chinook Trail Association**  
**P.O. Box 821132**  
**Vancouver, WA 98682**



Chinook Trail Association  
 P.O. Box 821132  
 Vancouver, WA 98682



*This Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.*

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Mark your Calendars!  
 Beacon Rock, 9am-1pm