



Photos by Tim Walker, Larch Mountain DNR. More photos on page 3.

Cherry Orchard Trail

The heavy work of restoring the Cherry Orchard Trail has been completed. The Washington Department of Natural Resources work crew, under the direction of the Chinook Trail Association, have completed the first phase of the trail improvement project at Cherry Orchard. Jim Slagle, “Recreational Trails” engineer, will be working with Aubrey Russell in laying out other trails on the property. Aubrey Russell will be leading a hike on the Cherry Orchard Trail on Sunday May 17. This will be a part of the Friends of the Gorge “Hike the Gorge” series. This is a semi-strenuous trail, so get in shape early. And be prepared for beautiful vistas of the Columbia Rive Gorge. You will be treated to some grand vistas, Oregon Oak trees, open grasslands and hopefully wildflowers.

Thanks to Cherry Orchard Contributors

Many thanks to those who contributed to the Cherry Orchard Trail Improvement Fund. The first phase is completed and plans are being made for the next phase.

Contributors: Julia Ferreira (in memory of Nancy Russell), Doris Brooking, Fred and Neva Rogers, Stephen Dörner, Richard and Grace Monghan, Florence Wager, Ruth Blackburn, Jon and Carol Beima, Charles and Patti Allen, Jeff Hunter and Margery Dogotch, William and Barbara Harris, Leslie Labbe, Phil Durkee, Zach and Vossie Stombos, Dorothy Saintz, and Joanne Kendal.

Future Outing Events

Save The Dates . . .

Saturday, March 7, 9:00 . . .

Hike the Ellen Davis Trail

Sunday, May 17, 10:00 . . .

Hike the Cherry Orchard Trail

Saturday, June 6, 9:30 . . .

17th National Trails Day, Beacon Rock

Articles inside give more information.

Outgoing President's Message

By Megan Raymond



Megan Raymond

Hello all. Hope everyone is faring well this winter. I just wanted to say farewell as your president for the last year. While it was a tough year with internal changes and rebuilding needed within CTA, the events we hosted did well and I hope we continue to improve with the coming years. I stepped down as president this year due to family obligations. We are

expecting our second child in early June so I thought it would be better if a new president was on board. I will still remain on the board as vice-president assisting Evan Hull with duties. We are expecting another great year and we have big plans for National Trails Day this year. Hope you all can attend.

Again, it was a pleasure serving as your CTA president for the past year. If you have the time, try and get out and volunteer in your community in order to help build a better place for our children.

CTA Elects 2009-2010 Officers



Evan Hull
CTA President

Photo © Gerald Bartlett

CTA elected Evan Hull president to lead the organization in the coming year. Megan Raymond steps in as vice president, Dave Sanks is treasurer and Larry Swatosh will serve as acting secretary.

Letter of Appreciation

Don:

It's been nice working with you and I am looking forward to working with and for the Chinook Trails Association in the future. Your group really is special in that they provide forward visionary resource protection and recreation for the people living in the gorge, and Washington State, and visitors from afar. Thanks!

— Geoff Aschoff, Larch Camp Superintendent,
Pacific Cascade Region-DNR,
360-260-6300 Ext. 380

Ellen Davis Trail Stroll on for Saturday, Mar. 7, 2009

Submitted by Evan Hull

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a hike on the Ellen Davis Trail. The statement in their catalog for January-April 2009 reads: "Ellen Davis Trail Saturday Stroll, Saturday, March 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

"Bring your family on a free, guided two-mile walk on one of Vancouver's hidden scenic trails. Learn about the trail's history, future trail connections and upcoming trail-related volunteer opportunities. Vancouver-Clark

Parks and Recreation staff and members of the Chinook Trail Association will lead the walk. The walk will occur rain or shine, so dress for the weather.

"Meet at the Bonneville Power Administration Park and Ride on N.E. Ross St. at N.E. 15th Ave. By car: I-5 Exit 2; east on 39th St.; north on N.E. 15th Ave; west on N.E. Ross St. By bus: Take C-Tran bus 190 or 157 to the BPA Park and Ride on N.E. Ross Street.

"Call 619-1134 for more information."

Seventeenth National Trails Day - June 6th

Chinook Trail Association is teaming with the Washington Trails Association for National Trails Day 2009. Work will be done on the new Hardy Ridge Trail. This trail has been under construction for the past three years. We will meet at the equestrian trailhead up the road from the park headquarters. From there we will carpool to the beginning of the work site. A newly completed bridge crosses Hardy Creek. Getting permits to complete this has been arduous for Parks and WTA but all seems ready to proceed. Tools will be provided. Bring the usual work boots, gloves, drinking water, trail snacks and clothing appropriate for any weather.

Hardy Ridge is west of Hamilton Mountain and is several hundred feet higher in elevation. Be prepared for some really special views on this work party. Bring your camera.



A Brief History History of the Chinook Trail Association

By Don Cannard

On the occasion of our twentieth year, a review of our efforts is in order.

The Chinook Trail Association was formed in 1988 and received 501c3 status in 1989. The goal of CTA is to see the three-hundred-mile Chinook Trail planned and constructed. The founders envisioned that the Chinook Trail would loop the Columbia River Gorge, at rim top wherever possible. Chinook Trail representatives were invited by the Forest Service to Wind River in 1990 to chart the proposed trail. USFS personnel from Wind River, Mt. Adams, Mt. Hood and Columbia districts as well as the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, the Gifford Pinchot and the Region Six office were in attendance. At the end of the day the proposed Chinook Trail was a line on the map. The proposed trail is in the State Trails Plan for Oregon in the Oregon State Parks Plan for the Columbia River Gorge, and in Washington in the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation's Trail Plan.

The Chinook Trail Association recently completed the seven-mile Bells Mountain Trail. The trail project was funded by an IAC grant in partnership with Clark County. A portion of the local match was \$150,000 of CTA volunteer effort. The completed 30-mile trail system connecting Lucia Falls County Park with Bluff Mountain by way of Silver Star Mountain received the coveted National Recreation Trail status in 2005.

CTA is the steward for the backcountry trails at Beacon Rock State Park. This included stabilizing a 200-foot landslide area, the construction of six bridges, replacing inadequate culverts, and rerouting and building over two miles of trail along Hardy Creek. CTA laid out, conducted assessment work and constructed Bells Mountain, Ed's and Kloochman Butte trails. CTA received a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Chief of the Forest Service for its work constructing and maintaining these trails on Forest Service lands. CTA also laid out and constructed two 1,000-foot barrier-free trails on WDNR and Beacon Rock State Park lands.

Since our inception, CTA has made a special effort to work with youth in our trail building efforts. We have partnered with selected Boy Scout troops and Eagle Scout candidates. Educational Service District 112 provided nine Summer Youth Employment teams funded through the Private Industry Council of Southwest Washington. The Northwest Service Academy partnered with CTA by providing twelve teams working for a week and camping with CTA members on fieldwork.

CTA was successful in receiving two National Recreation Trail Restoration grant awards through IAC



More Photos of Sections of the Cherry Orchard Trail.
(Photo by Tim Walker , Larch Mountain DNR.)

for a portion of this work and future trail work in Beacon Rock State Park. CTA has received grants supporting our work from the Meyer Memorial Trust, SWIFT, Southwest Washington Community Foundation, SEH America, WP Fuller and Lower Columbia River Estuary Restoration Group. CTA is currently a major partner with USFS and WDNR in the project to eliminate vehicular traffic on Silver Star.

The Chinook Trail Association is governed by a volunteer board, produces a newsletter, sponsors National Trails Day events, conducts celebratory events upon completion of trail building projects and conducts numerous trail building and maintenance work parties. CTA maintains those trails the association has constructed.

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
 Evan Hull, President 360-693-7455
 Megan Raymond, Vice President 360-798-2494
 Larry Swatosh, Acting Secretary
 Dave Sanks, Treasurer 360-834-6103
 Bob Scullin, Tool Steward 360-834-7892
 Don Cannard, Newsletter Editor 360-694-4033
 Membership Chair POSITION OPEN
 CTA Business Office 360-883-6211
 Bob Scullin Vern Swaim Larry Swatosh

Advisory Board

Bobbie Bindreiff Mitch Bower Russ Jolley
 Paul Cannard Kelly Puntoney 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 Puntoney Chelatchie Prairie 360-921-8374
 Evan Hull Discovery Trail, CT Portion. 360-693-7455

Chinook Trail Association

New Address: P.O. Box 821132, Vancouver, WA 98682

Business Office Phone: 360-883-6211

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

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This newsletter may be received in full color as a PDF email attachment. Adobe Acrobat Reader will allow you to view it. If you are not already on our list and would like to receive it this way in addition to the black and white mailed version, simply email your request to <vistatype@gmail.com> with "Subscribe Chinook Trek" in the subject line and you will be added to the subscriber list.



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Next Event:

**Hike the
 Ellen Davis
 Trail**

**Saturday
 March 7th, 9 am**