



## Annual Meeting set for Sun., Feb. 15, 12-2:30 p.m.

Water Resources Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA 98661

You are invited to an exceptional event with three amazing people who, for the first time ever, hiked the entire 290-mile-length of the Chinook Trail—established trail and those sections that are merely lines on maps with growth and hope.

It is our great pleasure that the hikers will take us on their journey at our Annual Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2015 at the Water Resources Center. Brunch will start at noon and the cost is \$25 per person or \$40 for a couple. Vegetarian is available. Make your reservations today by calling 360-993-0040 and come and enjoy a great hiking story along with what you have done and what lies ahead for the Chinook Trail. We have had memorable annual meetings over the past 27 years, but these people's story of hiking the entire Chinook Trail will be sure to motivate, educate and challenge everyone in attendance.

The three hikers who will present the program are **Whitney LaRuffa**, president of the American Long Distance Hiking Association/West; and **Brian Boshart**, a gift store owner; both of Portland; and **Liz Thomas**, a professional long-distance hiker who lives in Colorado.

Whitney LaRuffa and his friends have done a great deal of hiking throughout the United States, and he became interested in finding some long-distance hiking opportunities in the northwestern United States. He was familiar with hiking in the Columbia Gorge, but he was

not aware of the Chinook Trail, and the effort of the CTA to “connect the dots” on a loop trail being both constructed and connecting a series of existing trails to

### Guests to speak of through-hiking entire 290 finished and unfinished miles of Chinook Trail.



L-R: Liz Thomas, Brian Boshart, and Whitney LaRuffa, along with their faithful friend Karluk the dog, pose at Moulton Falls State Park from where they began their hike.

create a “circle route trail” all the way from a start in Vancouver to an end in Vancouver, or a start and finish from any other place on the loop trail.

When Whitney discussed the hike with his friends Liz and Brian, they began planning for the 2014 hike. They successfully navigated the Chinook Trail in eleven days during June and July. Their faithful four-footed friend, Karluk, a lab mix, accompanied them on part of the journey.

After hiking the trail, Whitney found

that a loop or circle route offers a lot in the way of convenience for hikers in Washington and Oregon, especially when the trail has an east/west orientation and hikers can walk fairly easily from one landscape zone to another. A drive from home to a staging area can be less than an hour for a hiker who can then experience the diverse ecosystems that the completed Chinook Trail will have to offer.

These ALDHAW hikers are important assets to the future of the Chinook Trail because they have fulfilled the dreams of many people by having been the first to hike and experience the entire trail. Their input on final trail routes will be very valuable. So come to meet and hear these adventuresome people.

## Ted Klump looks forward to more trail adventures

By Steve Klump

Ted Klump, former CTA president and current office manager, recently underwent triple bypass surgery on November 24, the Monday before Thanksgiving. Various friends and family members gathered at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland to see how the surgery would go.

After several hours of waiting, the doctor shared the good news that the surgery had been “text book perfect” and within 24 hours Ted was out of the ICU and into a regular hospital room.

Five days later on November 29, Ted was discharged from the hospital and on his way to a rehab center in Vancouver. First, however, was a stop at the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Monica, for a post-Thanksgiving extended family holiday celebration.

After a couple hours of feasting and fellowship, Ted was taken to the Cascade Park Care Center for further healing and therapy and on December 10, he returned.

Ted has been an avid member of the Chinook Trail Association since its founding and when he’s not recovering from major surgery is relentless in his pursuit of trail maintenance adventures. His work with the Washington Trails Association has taken him out onto the trails virtually every Thursday for years. It’s hard to keep Ted home, regardless of the weather.

Ted is currently continuing his recovery and looks forward to more trail adventures.

## Report on 2014 National Trails Day work party

By Phil Delaney

On Saturday, June 7th, a couple dozen hardy volunteers got together to attack some much needed trail work. Prior to this, DNR technician Jason Lenz had roughed out a one and a half mile section of trail to reroute around a fish bearing stream. He used a mini-backhoe to do this, but there was much hand work to finish the new trail and make it into a pleasant trail to hike on. We broke into three groups and went at it from three different directions. The mini-backhoe had opened a rough trail through the woods and we went in with hand tools and dressed it up. We were fortunate enough to have a lot of experienced trail workers for the job at hand and along with the help of a few new people, we were able to get a lot done. At the end of the work, we gathered back at the Cold Creek Day Use Shelter for a lunch prepared by CTA members. It was a great day out with good friends doing trail work. As always though, there’s still more to do.



The “desert” section of the Chinook Trail took the hikers through ranches with views of the Columbia River.



And by contrast, other sections took them through old growth forests found in the Columbia River Gorge.

## Annual membership dues are due February 28th

By Evan Hull

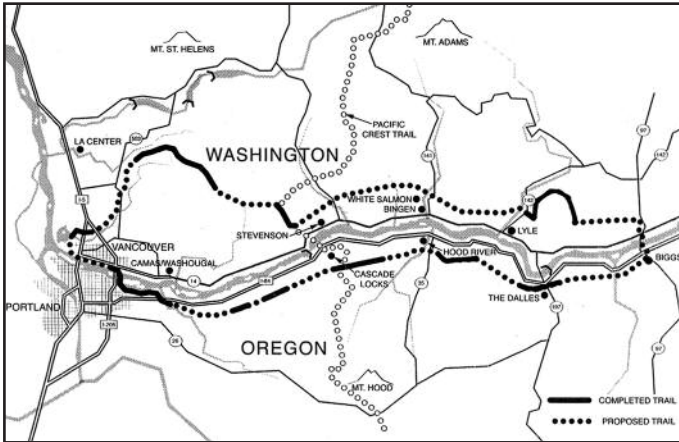
Or they can be paid at the Annual Meeting. An envelope is provided for your convenience. Senior or student is \$20; individual is \$35; family is \$50; and benefactor is \$500. Checks should be made payable to Chinook Trail Association.

Previously, funds have been used to pay for recurring expenses such as the stipend for the office manager and office expenses, website, American Hiking Society dues, newsletter costs, and for non-recurring expenses such as maintenance of the two totes and the tote trailer, National Trails Day supplies, dinner for special guests, and \$2,000 toward proposed improvements to the Ellen Davis Trail.

In the future, CTA will need to replace hard hats and tools, repair the totes, purchase food and supplies for more work parties, and buy components for trail signs and assurance markers as the route of the Chinook Trail is established with more certainty. Thank you for your contributions to the success of the Chinook Trail.



# First ever through-hike of the entire yet unfinished Chinook Trail offers many delights and a few challenges

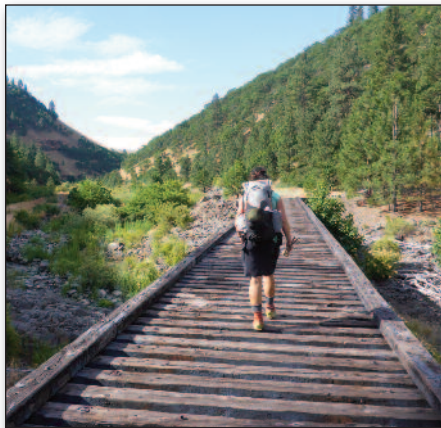


Solid lines indicate completed portions of the Chinook Trail.

When Don Cannard and Ed Robertson started dreaming back in the late 1980's, there was no trail. Now, the Chinook Trail is a National Recreation Trail, and through the efforts of numerous incredible and committed individuals has grown to its current status as shown above. The solid black lines are sections completed, while the black dots indicate unfinished sections. Thank you to all of you who have worked so hard over the years to bring about this impressive progress.



Whitney LaRuffa and Liz Thomas stand atop Mt. Defiance, the Oregon highpoint from which they were able to look back and see their entire route in one view, an experience Liz says she's had in no other point in her hiking career. The diverse ecosystems—from temperate rainforests to dry grasslands, from 5000-foot glacier-covered volcanoes to the near-sea-level Columbia River, were one of the great joys they experienced on the Chinook Trail.



A highlight of the Chinook Trail was walking through Swale Canyon on old railroad bridges.



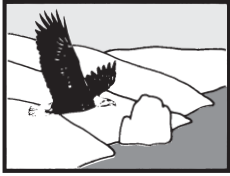
Or hiking a part of the Chinook Trail that follows along the Oregon Trail.



Part of the Chinook Trail also follows the Lewis & Clark Trail.



Fording creeks, bushwhacking and discovering barely discernible parts of the unfinished sections were taken in stride.



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**CTA Annual Meeting**  
 Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015  
 Noon - 2:30 p.m.  
 Water Resource Center  
 Vancouver

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## CTA members explore future trail – eastern segment

By Roger Anderson

On Saturday, Sept. 27, three CTA members explored a future trail segment east of Bluff Mountain. The proposed trail will follow a to-be-abandoned Forest Service Road 41.

CTA president Evan Hull, board members Phil Delaney and Roger Anderson, and a beloved black retriever, rode the very rough 41 road to an area thought to be the long abandoned Snag Creek Trail. Locating trailbed proved to be difficult at best as they picked their way across a steep, brushy slope. Some old pruned branch stubs indicated where a Boy Scout troop tried to reopen a portion of trail in 1982.

The three CTA members explored the old trail to a point where it dropped steeply into the Rock Creek drainage. At this point they decided it was not useful to drop steeply only to regain the elevation by using the Pacific Crest Trail. Instead, they drove further east on the 41 road and explored an alignment that follows the fairly level road and will link in with the PCT about three miles further east.

The timing of completing this segment depends mostly on the Forest Service abandoning this section of the road in the near future and CTA obtaining funding for some construction costs.

## Chinook Trail segment to Vancouver Lake eyed

By Roger Anderson

The CTA Board of Directors is considering a trail alignment that will link the Ellen Davis Trail and the Discovery Trail to Vancouver Lake. This has long been a critical link that will complete the westernmost segment of the Chinook Trail.

Sometime early in 2015 members will walk and explore the route which may temporarily follow neighborhood roads in the Lincoln and 39th Street areas, then across an old dike which will lead to the lake. Ideally, the trail will be a link from the west end of Discovery Trail at Lakeshore Drive/Fruit Valley Road to Vancouver Lake.

Timing of this partially depends on the City of Vancouver and Clark County Public Works' Parks Department. Agreements and actual alignment still need to be worked out and finalized. If you have input on the project, or want to be a part of this essential link in the Chinook Trail, please contact Roger Anderson at [traildog@pacifier.com](mailto:traildog@pacifier.com).

## DNR seeks help with the Tarbell Trail

By Phil Delaney

DNR trail folks, Josh Riepe and Jason Lenz have requested help for the Tarbell Trail. There are trees down and some water damage from this fall's storms. As soon as we get confirmation on work party dates, we will pass it on. Another event coming this spring is Pick Up The Burn on May 2nd, 2015. More details to come on that also.

### CTA Board Members

Evan Hull, President . . . . . 360-693-7455  
 MarCine Miles, Vice President  
 and Newsletter Editor . . . . . 360-696-4280  
 Larry Swatosh, Secretary . . . . . 360-694-1313  
 Steve Klump, Treasurer . . . . . 360-219-8824  
 Bob Scullin, Tool Steward . . . . . 360-834-7892  
 Roger Anderson . . . . . 360-254-2371  
 Phil Delaney . . . . . 360-798-2296  
 Tom Griffith . . . . . 360-624-6212  
 Ted Klump, CTA Office . . . . . 360-993-0040

### Advisory Board

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### Founders

Don Cannard and Ed Robertson