



Public Lands Day - September 30, 2017



In 1994 three federal agencies and 700 volunteers launched the first National Public Lands Day.

This year, the Chinook Trail Association is planning to mark the day with annual maintenance on the ADA trail at Cold Creek Day Use Area. We will gather at the trailhead at 0830 hours for coffee, donuts and marching orders. Work continues until 1300 hours. At approximately 1400 hours we will queue up for a BBQ lunch and spend time relaxing and socializing. If you plan to join us for lunch and/or morning coffee, please RSVP to Ted Klump at tedklump@gmail.com or 360-907-5733 by Wednesday, September 27.

Normally a Discover Pass is required for this trailhead, but Public Lands Day is one of many annual days which allow free use of our public lands. (Two more in 2017 include Veterans Day Nov. 11th and Autumn Day Nov. 24th.)

2017 National Trails Day®



Text and pictures by Steve Jones

The first Saturday of June is American Hiking Society's National Trails Day®. Chinook Trail Association held our annual 2017 National Trails Day® celebration on June 3rd at Beacon Rock State Park. With seemingly never-ending government budget cuts, we wanted to work on a busy trail that would maximize our volunteer



efforts. We chose the Hadley Trail and the Little Beacon Rock Trail, both of which are ADA accessible. The Hadley Trail is also a feeder trail to the Chinook Trail and connects to the Hamilton Mountain Trail. Both were built by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) in the late 1930's.

The winter of 2016-2017 struck particularly hard in the western Columbia

Continued on next page

2017 National Trails Day - cont'd



Several of us worked at the trailhead to clear the parking area of blackberries and thimble berries which were encroaching on the trail and signpost. We made a thorny Cadillac-sized brush pile in the parking lot, which the State Park people later hauled away.

Other groups worked farther along the trail and on the Little Beacon Rock Trail, clearing the trail, cutting brush, and restoring the tread where winter's wrath had washed dirt and rocks onto the trail.

Ted Klump, our crew leader, came by with candy and insured our blood sugar and energy levels would see us through to the BBQ lunch that was being prepared for us by CTA volunteers Steve Klump and Phil Mitchell.

About 1 o'clock I (Steve Jones) walked up the trail to gather volunteers, wrap up our trail clearing efforts, and head back to the shelter. I walked through a forest carpeted in beautiful little wildflowers blooming in an open forest and realized what a gem of a trail that we had worked on to make it again accessible to everyone. Back at the shelter we had a delicious lunch of potato salad, chips, water and soda, burgers, hot dogs, and all the condiments, with cookies for dessert; a gracious way to thank our volunteers for giving their time and effort. The rustic log shelter at Beacon Rock State Park was a perfect setting for our picnic, overlooking the Columbia River with an upclose view of Beacon Rock in the foreground. All that made for a great finish to a fantastic day of service.

River Gorge, shutting down both Highway 14 and Interstate 84, with blizzard conditions and ice storms. According to The Weather Channel, Portland, Oregon may have been America's Most Winter-Fatigued City in 2016-17 with at least five major snow and ice storms. Persistent arctic air caused large ice buildups and high winds in the Columbia River Gorge. The storms covered area trails with branches, limbs, and whole trees.

About 16 volunteers, including people from WTA, Friends of the Gorge, and the Cape Horn Conservancy, arrived early Saturday morning to find donuts and hot coffee ready to fuel their day. After introductions and the safety talk, we broke into three main groups armed with loppers, shovels, rakes, and other tools to clear winter's havoc,



2017 National Trails Day Impact

1492 Events Across all 50 States
295 Trail Improvement Projects
786 Miles of Trail Built or Improved
293 Million Reached Digitally
122,829 People Participated

20,263 Volunteers Improved Trails
\$2.6 Million in Volunteer Labor
\$2.7 Million Ad Value
120 Million Facebook and Twitter Users
182,000 National Trails Day Website Pageviews

Wildfire Season

It's a serious understatement to say that the summer of 2017 has been an unusually hot and dry summer in the Pacific Northwest. Endless days of sunshine are not the norm. Nor are so many days of plus 90 degree weather.



Bird Creek Meadows
August 2015

These intense summer conditions have brought unusual levels of smoke and pollution from wildfires across the region. As I write this on August 8, the air quality up and down the coast is compromised by major and minor fires in British Columbia and closer to home.

The sign tells it all. The fire danger is so great that a massively destructive fire can start with the simplest of acts. There are people who deliberately start fires and there are people who carelessly start fires. And there are people who don't realize they've started a fire.



And then there are those good stewards who know how to prevent wildfires.

We were given Smokey Bear in a simpler time. We knew that fires had to be fought and no one talked about the drain on government resources created by the fire season. And while the science regarding which fires to fight is up for discussion, we still need to be in the wilds in a responsible way.

Ted Klump – Volunteer Extraordinaire



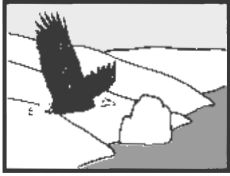
Last winter the Washington State Parks Commission recognized individual and group volunteers who have made a difference in the state park system. Among those honored was CTA's office manager and long time member, Ted Klump. Ted received special recognition for his dedicated work at Beacon Rock State Park in 2016.

The trails at Beacon Rock are some of the most popular around and some serve as connector trails for the Chinook Trail. Ted's work at Beacon Rock State Park goes back decades and continues unabated.

New CTA Board Member

We welcome Andrew Mathe as our latest board member. A native of New Jersey, he relocated to the Pacific Northwest in 2013 after hiking a significant portion of the Appalachian Trail. With recent nonprofit affiliations including the Oregon Zoo, Zenger Farm, Portland YouthBuilders and Portland Fruit Tree Project, Andrew looks forward to supporting the board with his grant writing and program development experience.





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark your calendars
Sat., Sept. 30th
**Public
Lands Day**

 PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

CTA Supports ALDHA-West in PCT Days Hiker Breakfast

Text by Andrew Mathe



CASCADE LOCKS, OR - On Sunday, August 20th the CTA joined with ALDHA-West (American Long Distance Hiking Association-West) to sponsor the group's Thru-Hiker Breakfast, an event to conclude the 11th annual Pacific Crest Trail Days for three years running. Cereal, oatmeal, fresh fruit and coffee were served to an estimated 150 grateful hikers, many of whom will be completing the 2,659 mile border-to-border hike at its northern terminus in Manning Park, B.C. in the coming month. Cascade Locks is the last major town along the trail before the final 500 mile stretch through Washington state.

CTA board member Andrew Mathe was on hand to assist with the event. Familiar faces from his 2012 hike along the Appalachian Trail included Mandy Bland, owner of Purple Rain Adventure Skirts, and trail friend "Knight Shift," both of whom went on to hike the Pacific Crest Trail and now call Oregon home. Conversations with current thru-hikers revealed this to be an especially difficult year to hike the Trail, between Oregon wildfires and lingering snow pack in the High Sierras. After finishing their breakfast, and perhaps a pint at Thunder Island Brewing Company, the hikers continued across the Bridge of the Gods into Washington, where the PCT coincides with the Chinook Trail before resuming its northward route.

You can get the full story at <http://www.pctdays.com/>. Although the festival for 2017 is history, you can look forward to 2018. Check out the PCTA website and sign up for their newsletter.

