



National Trails Day June 2, 2018



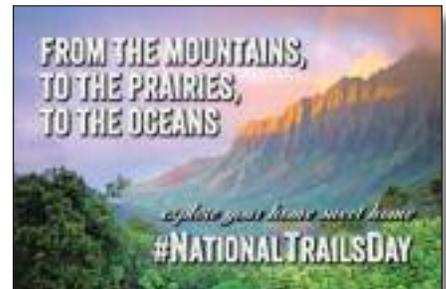
National Trails Day, June 2, is the next big event for CTA folks (and thousands of others around the country). The beginnings of National Trails Day are rooted in the National Trails System Act which President Lyndon Johnson signed on October 2, 1968 (fifty years ago). On June 5, 1993 the American Hiking Society launched the first National Trails Day.

Check out the fascinating history at

<https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/national-trails-day-history/>.

This year CTA returns to the Chinook Trail section through the Yacolt Burn State Forest. Stay tuned for more details and check out our website and Facebook postings. We plan to gather at 8:30 a.m. at the trailhead for coffee and pastries and a safety talk. Lunch will be whopped up again by our chefs Steve Klump and Phil Mitchell. Hamburgers and Dogs with all the fixin's will greet the happy trail builders as we wind down our work at about 1 p.m. Check out the link below to pre-register for another great day in the Pacific Northwest.

Our CTA website is now set up for online pre-registrations for our events. Check it out at www.chinooktrails.org/events-2.



Snowshoeing to Silver Star Mountain

Text and pictures by Steve Jones

In the winter, Grouse Vista and the 180 trailhead are the two shortest ways to summit Silver Star. My friend Jeremiah and I snowshoed on the 180 trail to the south summit of Silver Star Mountain on March 4th. If you're not familiar with this trailhead, it is on the 1200 road, off Skamania Mines Road, southeast of the Grouse Vista trailhead. We weren't able to drive to the 180 trailhead, which is about 2,000 feet in elevation, because the road isn't plowed and the trailhead was snowed in. We found a place to park about three-quarters of a mile before the trailhead at 1,800 feet in elevation.

We walked up the main road to the trail and headed up a logging road for about a mile and picked up the trail where it crosses the logging road. The trail goes steeply up the slope for about half a mile and then climbs a little more gently with some steep parts.



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Snowshoeing to Silver Star Mountain - continued from front page

The weather was cloudy and we saw a few snowflakes coming down as we passed along the edge of a recent clear-cut. The mix of alder and hemlock trees screen the views and the snow weighs the alder down into the trail. There were a few areas where it was better to step off the trail and avoid the alder in the trail. There was a spot with a rivulet running down the trail and we had to step in a little water to get by.

After about 2.8 miles the alder and hemlock forest opens up to views of the mountains and distant valleys to the north and west. Pyramid Rock can be seen across the valley and Vancouver in the distance. The avalanche risk was pretty low so we went across the sweeping, open slopes for about 1,000 feet back to the forested hillside. When the avalanche risk is higher you

would want to ascend to the ridge here and follow it to the summit or turn around and head back downhill.

The snowpack continued to create tangles of alder in places and there was a small stream crossing where we had to slip down a snow canyon to the water, then pull ourselves up the other side. When we re-entered the forest it had changed to mostly Noble Fir. The trail steepens again as it gets closer to Silver Star. The next time we broke out of the forest we headed towards the ridge using the edge of the forest to stay away from a potential avalanche slope. As we got to the crest of the ridge the wind was really blowing with clouds and snow creating a near whiteout. The scrubby trees were covered in rime as we made it to the south summit. A clear day gives the hiker wonderful views

of Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, Mt. Hood, and Mt. Jefferson, but we could barely see the true summit of Silver Star 1,000 feet away. It was exhilarating being out in the weather and feeling the power of nature.

We were getting tired from breaking trail the whole way and since the weather was socked in, it seemed like a good time to head back. As we dropped off the ridge and into the forest, we met two backcountry skiers who had come up from the Grouse Vista trailhead. We stopped for a snack and compared trail conditions while more snowflakes fell.

Going back down we had some views as we dropped below the clouds, then back in the forest and back to our car. We only saw those two skiers the whole day. The trip was about 8.5 miles and about 3,000 feet of elevation gain.

CTA Annual Brunch and Meeting



On Sunday, February 25th, the Chinook Trail Association gathered for our annual brunch and meeting. Keynote speaker was Lorelei Haukness, Recreation Program Manager for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. She shared with us information about the Eagle Creek Fire and the recovery efforts currently being planned and implemented in the Gorge. We also heard from Vancouver's new mayor, Anne McEnerny-Ogle. Brunch was provided by Artistic Catering.



Want to know about trail closures?

Check out <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/crgnsa/alerts-notice/?aid=41589>.
And check out Trail Keepers of Oregon at <https://www.trailkeepersoforegon.org/>
for more information on trail restoration following the Eagle Creek Fire.

Rock Creek Work Party

On February 24th, the CTA volunteers joined the folk of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington/Washington Trail Riders Association to tackle



spring cleanup work at Rock Creek Campground. According to Barb Thomas of the BCHW, weather couldn't have been "better" as the day began with a welcoming fire, hot coffee and a variety of pastries. With the help

of various machines hauled in by the BCHW/WTRA folk, camp cleanup and trail work progressed at a satisfying pace.

Barb Thomas described the work of CTA volunteers: "CTA gave us a grand show of how to have some good ol' clean fun when it came to digging in the mud. With the help of their motorized tote, CTA installed not just one culvert but two. We ALWAYS appreciate the time and effort that they put into the projects they do for us, especially knowing that the fine work they do is of the highest standard and will hold up for many years."

Barb continued: "While the CTA was out working on the

perimeter of the campground on the Tarbell Trail, the rest of us dispersed throughout the campground. Some got nitty gritty, cleaning out the corrals and breaking down the edges for better drainage. As the corrals were cleaned we had tractors bringing in loads of sand as needed."

"Balance is key to enjoying life . . . It's so rewarding to see the results of ALL the planning, time and hard work it takes to have yet another TOTALLY successful work party."

The BCHW/WTRA are just two of the groups that CTA partners with in our ongoing efforts to make Pacific Northwest outdoor recreation among the finest in the world.

A Tribute to Don Cannard

Text by Ted Klump



Most of you know by now that we lost our co-founder Don Cannard several weeks ago. He and Ed Robertson were the visionaries of the Chinook Trail. Thirty years on we have made great strides toward bringing their vision to reality. It was an honor and privilege to work closely with Don and Ed on the grand vision of the Chinook Trail.

Don worked tirelessly pretty much up until he left us. I was always impressed and inspired by his strength and energy, especially in light of the health problems he had to deal with on a day-to-day basis.

Don was an educator in the Vancouver School District for 33 years as both a teacher and a principal at several schools. He was principal at the old Peter S. Ogden when the tornado of 1972 destroyed the school. He also helped start the outdoor school program in the 60's.

The Bells Mtn. Trail, the Ellen Davis Trail, Ed's Trail, Cedar Creek Falls ADA Trail, Don's cut-off on Hamilton Mtn., and the Hadley Trail are just some of the trails to which he made major contributions.

He and Ed were also instrumental in the creation of the Silver Star Natural Area.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of his contributions to outdoor recreation and conservation. His legacy will live on for a very long time, and he will be greatly missed.



Chinook Trail Association

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Mark your calendars

Sat., June 2nd

**National
Trails Day**

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Partnership with Loowit Brewing ~ June 10, 2018

Your **CTA BOARD** is developing a partnership with Loowit Brewing Company of Vancouver. Plans are progressing for an afternoon of brews, fellowship, and a chance to support the work of CTA. Sunday, June 10th is the date to remember. Stay tuned for more details. **Loowit Brewing is located at 507 Columbia Street, Vancouver.**

Washington State Trails Conference ~ October 25–27

This year the Washington State Trails Conference is focused on shared advocacy, inclusive access, the value of public lands, managing for change, and spotlighting unique and educational trails in Washington State. Held in Wenatchee, registration opens in June with early bird discounts available for a limited time.

National “Take a Hike Day” ~ November 17, 2018

Is it a coincidence that National Take A Hike Day is the week before you indulge in a Thanksgiving feast? We think not! Hiking can burn up to 400-550 calories per hour, which means hiking is a great way to lose some excess weight before your holiday temptations overtake all your senses.

Did you know that there are more than 50,000 miles of hiking trails across the fifty states? That means there isn't a shortage of hiking trails. In fact, most people schedule group walks or hikes on National Take A Hike Day. You might even decide to schedule your own hike this weekend! You don't have to do a ten-mile trek in and out of valleys; rather, you can walk around your neighborhood, ascend your local hill, or find a hiking trail near you. Just make sure to bring water to stay hydrated.

Did you know that the Chinook Trail is officially a National Recreation Trail? And did you know that the Chinook Trail includes urban, rural and backcountry trails? From the Vancouver/Portland area to the eastern edge of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (on both sides of the river), you can find a trail that will meet your needs and desires for outdoor recreation. If mobility is an issue, some of the trails (including some of the more remote trails) are ADA compliant.

Mark your calendars and get out for that pre-holiday adventure and calorie burning romp in the great outdoors.

For more information about CTA, connect with us . . .

Through our website: www.chinooktrails.com
On Instagram: www.instagram.com/chinooktrail/

Check out our Chinook Trail at

www.alltrails.com/trail/us/washington/chinook-trail-section-one

To support the work of the Chinook Trail Association,
click the donate button on our website at www.chinooktrails.com or use the QR code to your left.

