



16th Annual Meeting and Silent Auction Set for Sunday, Nov. 7th

The 16th Chinook Trail Association's annual meeting will be held at the Vancouver Water Resources Environmental Center on Sunday, November 7th at 12:00.

Portland author Molly Gloss will be the guest speaker. She is the author of four award-winning novels and numerous short stories. *Wild Life*, her fourth novel, received the James Tiptree Award for Literary Fantasy and was selected as the 2002 winner of "If All Seattle Read the Same Book" contest. Set among lava sinkholes and logging camps in the Yacolt Burn in 1905, very near to the route of the Chinook Trail, Gloss transforms what at first seems to be historical fiction into a wild and woolly fantasy as the heroine becomes lost and falls into the company of an elusive band of mountain giants.



Molly Gloss, this year's keynote speaker

She uses the story to play with one of our deepest fears—being lost in the wilderness—and the myths that have grown around it.

Gloss will read from *Wild Life* and talk about her ideas regarding the human response to wilderness, about having a sense of place and speaking out in defense of wildness. She says, "I want to live in a world in which it's possible to believe in giants living deeply secretly

in the forests. When the wild woods are entirely gone, that possibility won't exist for any of us anymore."

Mayor Royce Pollard and Maria Cantwell's Vancouver office manager Liz Luce will bring us messages of support, information on Lewis and Clark events and trail activities. Kelly Puntney of Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation will bring us the latest information and plans for the future of trails in Clark County and the City of Vancouver including tie-ins for the future of the Chinook Trail in the Parks planning.

Future plans for the Chinook Trail and the current status of the application to the USFS for National Recreation Trail status for the recently completed 30-mile segment of the Chinook Trail from Lucia Falls County Park over Silver Star Mountain to Bluff Mountain



will be presented by Marcine Miles and Don Cannard. A special award to a person providing outstanding service to the Chinook Trail Association will be a part of the festivities. Music will be provided by vocalist and guitarist Mona Warner accompanied by Ryc Williamson. Wood carver Nancy Ellifrit and watercolorist Mariana Kearney will be displaying their works for your viewing and purchase (neat Christmas gift ideas).

There will be a silent auction featuring a high quality professional

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Friends of the Gorge Hiking Weekend A Success

By Paul Clare

June 19th was a busy day for the CTA. It was the annual Friends of the Gorge Hiking Weekend which CTA co-sponsors by leading hikes.

Roger Anderson led a huge turnout of 35 people to the summit of Silver Star while Paul Clare worked with a party of seven performing necessary maintenance on Silver Star's Ed's Trail.

Meanwhile, to the southeast, Fred Rogers was leading a group up Mt. Hamilton on a trail that CTA has spent thousands of hours improving and re-routing. The weather was near perfect and the flowers were quite spectacular. For many of the participants, it was a new area to explore.

We hope many will consider becoming CTA members. ☺



Paul Clare (left) poses with five of the seven workers who did maintenance on Silver Star's Ed's Trail on June 19th.

Chelatchie Prairie Trail

By Don Cannard

Clark County purchased the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad over fifteen years ago. This purchase makes it possible for a connected corridor from Vancouver Lake travelling diagonally through Clark County for thirty miles to the backwaters of Yale Dam. Clark County has a park on Yale Lake.

When this railroad was first laid out, it was thought it would be a commercial railroad connecting Yakima through the Yakima Nation. The railroad currently connects Vancouver Lake with Chelatchie

Prairie. Plans are afoot to extend the Discovery Trail into the Vancouver Lake lowlands.

The Chinook Trail Association has long identified this as a doable rail-trail corridor. It has been called the Chelatchie Prairie Trail. We believe rails and trails can coexist in this corridor. Historically, Klickitat Native Americans followed this general route as they traveled from Vancouver Lake to the huckleberry fields and points east. It is currently referred to as the Klickitat Corridor.



The Chelatchie Prairie Trail would connect the cities of Vancouver, Battle Ground, Amboy, Yacolt, the communities of Brush Prairie, Hockinson, The Cedars, Battle Ground Lake, Lucia Falls, Moulton Falls, and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest—truly a lake-to-the-forest-trail possibility. Imagine a continuous 33-mile corridor for pedestrians, cyclists, joggers and equestrians. The entire length would be ADA accessible.

Come to the 16th Annual Meeting of the CTA on November 7th and you will see the revealing of the inaugural patch and cap for the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail. This is guaranteed to be a collectable for dedicated patch collectors.

CTA Sends Delegate to FWOC Annual Convention

By Roger Anderson

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (FWOC) held its annual meeting in Ketchum, Idaho on September 17-18 and was attended by CTA vice president Roger Anderson. The theme was “CPR for the Heart of the Rockies – Conservation, Preservation and Recreation.” All FWOC member clubs are requested to send one voting delegate to vote on many resolutions on behalf of their respective organizations.

The resolutions are submitted by the member clubs pertaining to an environmental issue that is currently a hot topic including alternative fuels, logging issues, mining and others.

The voting delegate, who is often also a FWOC state vice president, then contacts other member clubs and senators to pressure

them to pass legislation regarding the resolution. CTA did not submit a resolution this year, but has done so in previous years.

The 2005 FWOC annual convention will be held August 26-28 at Menucha Lodge in Corbett, Oregon. CTA vice president Roger Anderson is the chair of the convention planning committee. The convention is open to the public and all members of the respective clubs.

The convention has several speakers and panel discussions on Saturday pertaining to the convention’s yet undecided theme. Sunday is taken up with a business meeting and voting on resolutions.

There will be more announcements about the upcoming convention as the date draws closer.

Activist Burn Out

By Linda Wolfe, Friends of Clark County Board

Burn out is a state of mind that can happen to people in all walks of life if you have a strong work commitment. Burn out is a term often associated with activists.

Activists are often referred to as “being in the trenches.” Sometimes those trenches are so deep we can hardly see the light above. When this happens, we usually holler “BURN OUT!”

Don’t ever think this implies failure. It happens to almost everyone at some point. For some, it is within a few short months, or it could be a long time.

When you have an overwhelming feeling that can easily turn into anger and frustration, or you feel you are being overworked—even when the work load is light and worthwhile—this is a signal that you may have burn out. Unfortunately, some folks want to escape from being involved altogether.

It is very important that you stop and recharge yourself. For me, it is getting out in nature. After all, protecting nature is what it is all about for me. I love outdoor activities such as hiking and birding. Seeing wildlife never ceases to amaze and thrill me and always affirms the reasons why I work hard to save it.

So, please don’t drop out. Take a break when you need it, respect others who do too, and keep up the good work!

Mission Statement

The Chinook Trail Association (CTA):

- **Advocates development of a Columbia River bi-state loop trail;**
- **Cooperates with appropriate local, state and federal agencies to develop this recreational resource;**
- **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;**
- **Provides information and education to develop public support.**

National Trails Day 2004 Great Success

The 2004 National Trails Day event at Cold Creek was very successful. Twenty yards of crushed rock was carried to and spread on trails in the area to provide better tread for users. The 1,000-foot ADA trail to Cedar Creek Falls was cleared, smoothed, leveled and raked. A connector trail linking the Bells Mountain Trail and the Tarbell Trail was completed. Special thanks to CTA members Darryl Hoyt and Krista Thea for bringing their Bobcat which eased the loading of the gravel onto our totes. The barbecue prepared by Bob Scullin was delicious. Safeway Stores provided the food and refreshments. Columbia Credit Union assisted by covering part of the cost of the tee shirts given to each participant. These solicitations were secured by Paul Cannard, Advisory Committee Chairman.

Completion of this trail work now makes it possible to hike nearly 30 miles from Lucia Falls to Bluff Mountain up and over Silver Star Mountain. CTA is waiting to hear on our request and application to designate this trail segment as a National Recreation Trail.



Roger Anderson receives an award and a tee shirt from three Ridgefield High School students for his assistance in constructing a trail for water monitoring.



Overview of the transport vehicles available to NTD workers this year.



Dee Becker from DNR drives the ATV equipment transport.



NTD work party hard at work on the Cold Creek Trail.



Your dues help CTA to continue its vital work. Please use the enclosed envelope to mail in your contribution today. Thank you!

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Chef Bob Scullin prepares for the barbecue.

Annual Meeting

(continued from front page)

painting and other items. C&L Catering will be providing the luncheon choices including vegetarian. The cost is \$25 per plate.

A separate mailing will include your reservation card. This meeting will be an enlightening and enjoyable experience. Come hike the waterfront trail before or after the event and invite a friend or friends to come with you. Questions? Contact Paul Clare at 360-892-8173 or Don Cannard at 360-694-4033. ☺

President's Message

By Larry Swatosh



Larry Swatosh
CTA President

by Chef Bob Scullin. Special thanks go to Paul Cannard who found us funds for the food and drinks from Safeway and financial support from Columbia Credit Union for beautiful new CTA tee shirts.

In July, the last grooming work was essentially completed on Bells Mountain Trail, marking the end of the largest project CTA has ever undertaken.

An application for National Recreation Trail recognition for the Bells Mountain section of Chinook Trail has been submitted and is inching its way through the process. The application was a lot of

work and Marcine and Morgan Miles did a really great job in pulling together the final product.

As we start looking at trail building efforts farther from home in Skamania County and in Oregon, we can take some comfort in knowing that as we work in the higher, dryer eastern country, there should be far fewer stream crossings.

I hope to see you all at the annual meeting. ☺

We have had a great summer at CTA. On National Trails Day we had over fifty volunteers who braved threatening weather to do some maintenance work at Cold Creek Campground and to rough in the last short connector leg of the Bells Mtn. project. We never did really see more than a few minor showers and we were all rewarded by another good barbecue lunch prepared

Activities Committee Formed

By Roger Anderson

The Chinook Trail Association has recently assembled an activity committee to schedule events including hikes, snowshoe trips, speakers on various topics, and other activities during the course of the next year. The goal is to draw people to CTA with activities other than just trail work parties. The activities will be listed on our website, announced in local newspapers, and published in our Chinook Trek newsletter.

The committee currently consists of chairman Mike Dianich, and members Megan Murray and Roger Anderson. The committee may include more members in the future.

If you have ideas for activities or speakers, or would like to assist on this committee, please send an email to the activities committee at cta@pacifier.com.

CTA Board Members

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Final Bells Mtn. Trail Progress Report

By Roger Anderson

After eight long years, the Bells Mtn. Trail is complete! The trail tread is useable and is being used by hikers, bikers, and equestrians. There are a few small areas that still need some minor work, but essentially the trail is passable and easy to follow.

The last portion of the trail was completed in July by the Americorps Eastfork Watershed Team, a team of five young adults completing a year of service in

stream restoration and environmental training.

Currently, however, the Department of Natural Resources has a logging operation in progress across the trail about 1½ miles northwest of Cold Creek Campground. The trail is temporarily closed during the week, but is open for use on weekends. This operation should be finished by mid October.

Go hike the trail and tell other people about the Bells Mtn. Trail.

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Annual Meeting
Nov. 7th