



Chinook Trail Segment Awarded National Recreation Trail Status

By Marcine Miles



After several years of effort by members of the CTA, the Lucia Falls to Bluff Mountain segment of the Chinook Trail has received the National Recreation Trail designation. It is officially time to break out the hats and horns, and to celebrate the result of all the

exceptional and permanent work that has been done by CTA members, like-minded groups, governmental agencies, and life affirming individuals who support CTA's vision of many communities coming together to build a 300-mile trail encircling the Columbia Gorge. Yes, it can be done! And we are doing it!

You, my friends, are specifically invited to come to the Award Ceremony at the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Headquarters on May 23, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. where we will not only celebrate the **NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL DESIGNATION** but also where we will **HONOR DAN OGDEN**, the man who made National Recreation Trails possible, while serving in the Department of Interior

for the Johnson Administration. He clearly saw the future during his time there while chairing the Trails For America Study that led to the 1968 National Trails System Act.



Dan Ogden

It is one of those great circles that occur in our lives when, for Dan, he originally developed federal legislation that supported recreation trails, and then settled 40 years later in a community where he could participate in the wonderful results of his work and vision. And you are an integral part of that circle. As Dan said, "We feel like we did some good in the world."

Please come and celebrate—yourselves, your work, the national recognition of that work, and Dan Ogden, the man who made National Recreation Trails possible.

This celebration is sponsored by Bank of Clark County, The Columbian, Aurora Gallery, and Boyd's Coffee.

"We feel like we did some good in the world."

"Inch by foot by yard by mile . . . for just a couple hundred miles or so."



The Chinook Trail: a 100-year project and "a legacy worth passing on."

Come join us . . .

The Chinook Trail Association welcomes new members. Annual dues are: individual \$25; family \$35; student/senior \$15; institutional \$65; sustaining \$100; life \$500. For further information call the CTA office at 360-883-6211.



(Vancouver Lake to Maryhill State Park then back to Portland on the Oregon side.)

President's Message

By Larry Swatosh



Larry Swatosh
CTA President

This spring has been very busy. The really great news has been the yet *unofficial* announcement that we have received the government's designation of

"National Recreation Trail" for the twenty-eight miles of Chinook Trail which includes the Murphy Grade Trail, Bells Mountain Trail, Ed's Trail and portions of Kloochman's Butte Trail and Bluff Mountain Trail. The announcement will become

official on May 23rd when we are planning a really big blowout at the Forest Service Headquarters. It has been a long process but well worth the wait.

Planning has also been going on for our National Trails Day event. This year we will be dedicating a portion of feeder trail at Beacon Rock State Park. Look for details in this issue.

We had an intense CTA Board Retreat in April where we took a new, far more focused look at our strategic planning process. Our aim was to distill many past efforts down to a document of no more than two pages. The plan now consists of our

mission statement, our goals and the strategic issue, or steps, necessary to carry out the goals. We then identified the most pressing issues and completed an action planning sheet that assigned times and tasks necessary to complete actions required to address the issue. I think the approach was a good one and our tasks for the coming year are laid out for us.

In addition we had to get out a special invitation that most of you should have received for the Discovery Walks dinner event that honored Don and Sue Cannard for their years of work on matters affecting the environment and physical fitness. They received the Dorothy Langsdorf Award. Way to go Cannards!

Bluff Mountain Trail Extension

By Don Cannard

If the Gifford Pinchot National Forest personnel are successful, two nationally recognized trails will be joined. The success will come if an IAC planning grant application of \$55,000 for the Bluff Mountain extension is approved through a highly competitive statewide process. The recently approved 30-mile section of the Chinook Trail, a National Recreation Trail, will be connected with the Pacific Crest Trail, a National Scenic Trail. The general route of the trail will travel at or near the ridge tops producing views of the forests north and south and of many of the peaks of the Cascades.

The trail travels entirely on lands managed by the USFS. Requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) must be met before construction can begin. Completion of those studies will assure that the resource of cultural, botanical, wildlife, hydro and fisheries will be protected. This activity is required whenever land disturbance occurs on federal land.

The grant maps out an 11.1 mile connection trail. It shows a preferred route with four sections as alternatives. The alternatives total nearly nine miles. The final route will be determined following the grant approval so these routes can be more accurately surveyed and assessed for their recreational potential. This proposed trail segment was included in the forest plan previously approved.

The cost of construction is estimated at \$25,000 per mile. Other grants and sources of funding will have to be secured for this phase of trail construction.

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 June 4, 2005

**National
Trails Day**



June 4, 2005

By Don Cannard

National Trails Day 2005 will occur at Beacon Rock State Park on Saturday, June 4th. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch. Drinks and trail snacks will be provided.

The day will start at 9:00 a.m. with a morning work party upgrading the failing water bars on the lower stretches of the Hamilton Mountain Trail. Park at the Hamilton Mountain trailhead.

Tools and instructions will be provided. Wear clothing appropriate for the weather and bring drinking water.

The main event of the day will be the dedication of the recently completed 3,500-foot Hadley Trail. Park at the upper picnic area. There will be recognition of the major funders for this construction. Volunteers who assisted will be given special recognition. The trail has been constructed to barrier free accessible standards suitable for wheel chairs.

Lunch will be at 11:30 in the upper picnic area. At this time the NTD program will begin. A remembrance of the event will be distributed. Presentations will be made by Rex Derr, Director of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and Skamania County Commission Chair, Al Mc Gee, will give the greeting.

A hike on the Hadley Trail will be led by Derr and Mckee after the program and lunch. The trail ends at a junction with the Hamilton Mountain Trail with views of

Beacon Rock, the Columbia River, Bonneville Dam and Hamilton Mountain. A demonstration of the “boulder buster” will be held a short distance off the trail.

The parking fee for participants in the NTD events and work party are waived for this day. Place your invitation or a copy of this newsletter on the dash of your car. This will act as your parking pass.



Bench at the Hadley Trail terminus.

Photo by Don Cannard

News from Old Friends from Afar

From Joe Sunthimer in Germany

To all who remember me, we are doing well and really enjoying it here in Germany. It has been over six years since we left, but I think often of CTA, the friends I made and the work we did. I still hike quite a bit, but now right from our house. I am doing a lot more bike riding as we have lots of great forest and mountain roads with climbs up to 4000 feet in elevation gain. I welcome anyone who would like to come over and enjoy a little different hiking experience here in the Alps.

I really enjoy hearing about progress on some of the projects I was involved with. My email address here is <sonnenzeit@telda.net>.

From Kara & Stephen Smith in Pennsylvania

“Hi” to Roger, Don, Paul, Maria, Fred, and all! We miss doing the trail maintenance with you guys—yah, it’s been a long time. I always wished I didn’t have Saturdays so busy over the last five years (“sigh”).

Our new address is 309 James Road, Carlisle, PA 17013 and our email address is <stuff@kilosierra.com>. We’ve not only moved, but on February 26th we started a through-hike of the Appalachian Trail. Check out <http://stephenandkara.blogspot.com> for updates on our progress.



Marmots

By Don Cannard

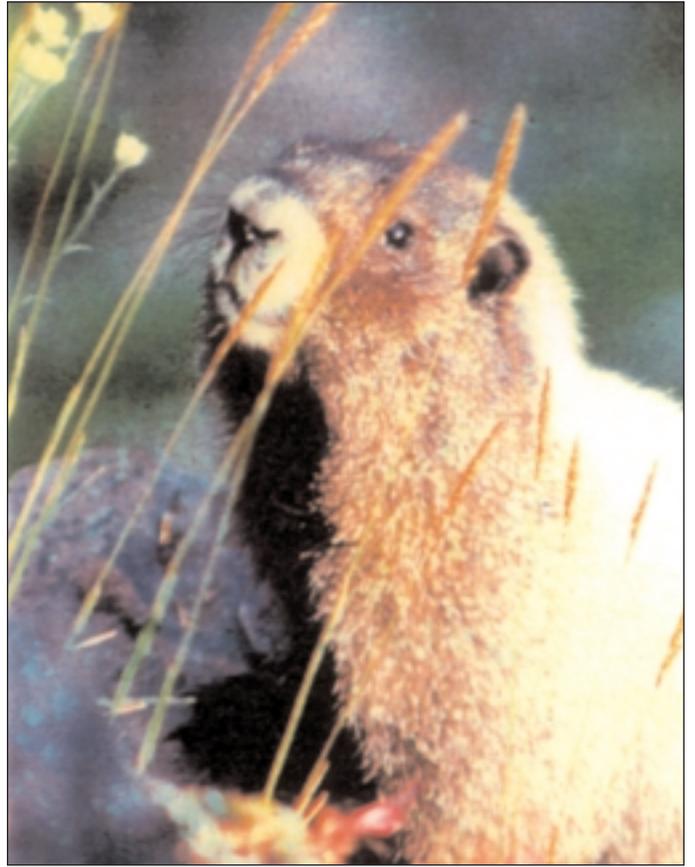
One of the delights of hiking in the high Cascades is the encounter we have with the marmots. When the marmot is mentioned we automatically think about the group which is very social, lives in extended family groups and provides us with much entertainment in our high mountain travels. However, the marmot family is found in a variety of locations and represents several sub groups.

For instance the ground hog of February's shadow watching fame, the woodchuck, is a member. It is probably the least social of all the marmots. Mom and pop come together only to mate and then the male gets out of the picture. Not too unlike, sad to say, some humans. This leaves the female to build a den, give birth and care for the young. When old enough to fend for themselves, the young are booted out to be on their own.

Another family member is the Yellow-bellied marmot. These folks are a little more sociable. The male and female stick together and watch their kits as they grow and develop. The young do not stay with the adults once they can take care of themselves. The male and female continue a relationship following the vacating of the young. These are found in the eastern reaches of the Columbia River Gorge.

The woolly or hoary marmot is found throughout many high country parts of the world. Immigrant Swiss used the nickname *La Siffleur* meaning the whistler. This was probably the way most of us were introduced to the marmot, hearing that high shrill whistle when we would first appear in their territory. If you want to hear repeated warnings, follow someone who has brought a dog with them on the trail.

Wolves, coyotes and cougar are three of the terrestrial predators of marmots. Golden eagles also prey upon them, especially the kits. I suspect this need for being alert is one reason the hoary marmot tolerates such an extended family—father, mother, first year kits and various aunts and uncles. This provides the colony with many pairs of eyes to alert the members to dangers from land and sky. I have noted a variation of the number of marmots on Silver Star over



Marmots are found in a variety of locations including the High Cascades.

Photo by Don Cannard.

the years. A golden eagle nest is in the vicinity. This nest is what is called an alternative nest site. The eagle will use the nest for a season or so then move on to other sites east of Silver Star. My thoughts are that the eagle reduces the rodent and marmot population to a low level and then moves on to a more productive area, permitting the Silver Star area to grow again in numbers of rodents and marmots. Then the eagle returns to inhabit the nest a year or so later. How about that for natural enhancement of the pantry?

One of the close associations I had with marmots was in the Goats Rocks. Ed Robertson and I had camped in a little circ with numerous trickles of water feeding into a larger stream. The circ was inhabited by a family of marmots including several kits and adults. As soon as the colony realized we were no threat to them they resumed their daily routines and wandered quite close to our camp. The kits were great to watch as they frolicked about the meadow and the adults were most intimate in their greeting of each other and the kits when returning to their den.

Don and Sue Cannard honored with the Dorothy Langsdorf Discovery Trails Award

By Kelly Puntenev

On Friday, April 22nd, members of the community, the Chinook Trail Association and the Cannard family joined with Don and Sue Cannard to celebrate walking at the Ninth Annual International Discovery Walk Festival and the Dorothy Langsdorf Awards Dinner which followed the “Mayors Friendship Walk” at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay.

Linda Langsdorf Johnson, Dorothy’s daughter, told the crowd of 200 that her mother would be proud to know that, in honoring her long-time commitment to trails in Vancouver, this year we have honored Don and Sue Cannard.

These two individuals, whose community service and leadership have embodied her vision of environmental improvement for a healthful lifestyle, have organized community efforts to promote the benefits of walking and plan to continue their work in developing a trail system throughout Vancouver



Sue Cannard takes her turn at the mike at the Award Ceremony.



Don Cannard addresses the audience as wife Sue watches on.

and Clark County.

Don and Sue’s names will be etched in stone at the Langsdorf Reflecting Pool in Esther Short Park alongside other recipients of the award that include Val and Dan Ogden, Mayor Royce Pollard, Kelly Puntenev, Bill and Katherine Byrd, and last year’s winner Wendy Bumgardner.

The evening was concluded with an inspirational talk on the health benefits of walking.

Mark your calendar for the Lewis & Clark Trails Symposium on Friday, November 4, 2005 at the Hilton Hotel. You will not want to miss this event of the century to give input on the updated Clark County Trail and Bikeway Systems Plan 2006—“A Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Legacy Project.”

CTA to Co-Host FWOC Convention

By Roger Anderson

The Chinook Trail Association will co-host the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs’ 74th Annual Convention on August 26, 27 and 28 at Menucha Lodge in Corbett, Oregon. Friends of the Gorge will also co-host the event. Friends of the Gorge plan to lead a short hike on Friday afternoon and both clubs will assist with securing speakers and welcome the guests.

This year’s theme “Lewis and Clark . . . Their Legacy, Our Challenge” focuses on issues relating to the Columbia River Gorge, which include logging and road-building, wilderness designation, salmon, recreation and other key interests affecting the Gorge.

Friday evening’s keynote speaker will be Rex Ziak, well known author, historian and speaker on Lewis and

Clark’s journey through our local area. Rex spoke at CTA’s 2003 annual meeting. His presentation sets the stage for Saturday’s program of several speakers who will talk on the various issues affecting the present and future of the Gorge.

The convention needs to have 42 attendees just to break even on the costs and the co-host clubs are engaged in promoting the event at various outlets. To register for the convention, go to the FWOC website at <http://www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org> where a registration form, prices, room reservations and program information are available.



CTA Work Parties for 2005

- May 6 Bells Mtn.
 May 21 Silver Star / Ed's Trail
 June 4 **National Trails Day** - Beacon Rock
 June 18 **Hike the Gorge Weekend** - Silver Star
 June 25 Kloochman Ridge - Silver Star
 July 9 Kloochman Ridge - Silver Star
 July 30 Bluff Mtn.
 Aug. 13. Bluff Mtn. (Possible Campout)

All work parties meet at 8 a.m. at the south parking lot of Clark Public Utilities, 8600 N.E. 117th Ave. (SR 503). For more information call Roger Anderson at 360-254-2371.

Other Upcoming Events

- May 23 **National Recreation Trail Designation Ceremony** of the Lucia Falls to Bluff Mountain segment of the Chinook Trail, 1:00 p.m. at Gifford Pinchot National Forest Headquarters.
 August 26,27,28 . . . **Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs**, Menucha Conference Center. For complete information, visit www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org.
 November 4 **Washington Trails Symposium**, Hilton Hotel, Vancouver.

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National Trails Day



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