

Chinook Trail Association Annual Meeting Sunday, February 26



At our upcoming annual meeting on February 26th, CTA members will be treated to a special program featuring Vancouver Triple Crown hiker Jeff Garmire. A Triple Crown hiker is one who hikes the three National Scenic Trails: the Pacific Crest Trail, the Continental Divide Trail, and the Appalachian Trail. Jeff trekked all three trails in one year for a total of 7,636 miles in 252 days.

After a delicious meal, Jeff will share his experiences on the trails, including what went through his mind and all the amazing things he saw.

The meal is being catered by Kathryn Artistic Catering, with assistance from our friend Cindy of C&L Catering. We gather at noon at the Water Resources Education Center. \$25.00 will get you a place at a table. Couples are \$40 and children 10 and under can come along for \$15.

Be sure to send in the attached reservation form (see page 3) by February 17th to secure your place at the table. And be sure to invite friends and family to join us.

The Murphy Grade/Moulton Falls Trail

*Text by Steve Jones
Photo by Ted Klump*

This winter you can get out for a hike on a part of the Chinook Trail that is at low elevation and almost always snow free. The trail follows the Murphy Grade from Hantwick Road to Moulton Falls and was part of an old logging railroad. This wide multi-use trail is open for hikers,

cyclists, and horses.

Start out on a paved path that makes an S turn to cross a fast-moving creek, then another S turn to parallel the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad. Walk beneath a canopy of alders and maples for about half a mile where you come to a pond with a nearby bench and picnic table. This area looks like a rainforest. Most of the low-growing deciduous trees are covered with moss. In the winter the moss can be a spectacular



emerald green as the fall rains speed their growth. Passing the pond will soon bring you back along the railroad tracks of the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad and then next to the raging Lewis River. As the valley narrows, the

Continued on next page

Calendar of Coming Events

February 18 Rock Creek Work Party

February 26 Noon, CTA Annual Meeting

Parks Foundation of Clark County

Text by Don Cannard

On September 14, 2016, the Parks Foundation of Clark County held its annual meeting. The evening program included sharing the writings of Florence Williams. Her January 2016 article in *National Geographic* entitled “This is Your Brain,” revealed that a fifteen-minute walk in the woods causes measurable changes in brain activity, including a 16% decrease in stress hormones, a 2% drop in blood pressure, and a 4% drop in heart rate.



Ed's Trail

Text & pictures by Tom Griffith

This past September 27th and November 3rd, the Washington Trails Association (WTA) along with CTA volunteers brushed the heavy growth on the #180 Trail that practically obliterated this popular approach to Silver Star Mountain. The trail now has an eight-foot-wide, brush-free, one-half mile corridor beginning at the parking lot.



Hike (or snowshoe) the Chinook Trail any time of the year. This photo is mid-December on Ed's Trail heading up to Silver Star.

CTA volunteers often join the WTA on their trail maintenance work parties throughout Southwest Washington. You may join WTA work parties at www.wta.org.

The Murphy Grade/Moulton Falls Trail

(continued from page 1)

forest changes to include many cedar trees. Several streams rush down the back slope to join the East Fork of the Lewis River.

At two miles you'll pass the junction for Bell's Mountain Trail which is the continuation of the Chinook Trail. Continue walking along the gently sloping trail up towards Moulton Falls Park and soon you will reach a spot with a good view of the river and Moulton Falls. In the wintertime, Moulton Falls is a stretch of whitewater because streamflow totally hides the waterfall as the river is funneled through a narrow rock channel.

Walk a bit farther to the wood bridge that crosses high above the East Fork of the Lewis River. You can walk down next to the river then head back to the

Hantwick Trailhead to complete your hike.

There are some steep slopes down to the river so care must be taken not to step too close to the edge of the trail. There is plenty of room to avoid the steep edge of the trail because the trail is 8 to 12 feet wide. Be sure to keep your dog on a leash and control small children to keep them from going over the bank.

Length and Elevation: The trail is 2.6 miles one way. The elevation at the trailhead is 515 feet and at the bridge the elevation is 570 feet.

Directions: From Battle Ground, drive north on SR 503 about 5½ miles farther and turn right on Rock Creek Road. Follow Rock Creek Road, turning onto N.E. Lucia Falls Road for about 5.3 miles to Hantwick Road. Turn right and follow Hantwick Road for one-half mile and turn left into the parking lot for the Hantwick Road trailhead.

Twain Creek Bridge Project

Text and pictures by Ted Klump

The CTA totes were once again instrumental in hauling materials for two trail improvement projects. The first project—a much needed and long anticipated bridge across Twain Creek on the Cape Horn Trail—was constructed in August with volunteers from CTA, WTA, and the Cape Horn Conservancy.

Twain Creek is the first creek crossing on the Cape Horn Trail and has always been a very wet and muddy area with just a rudimentary plank crossing. Now, with the new bridge in place, the crossing is well above the wet area and will help

protect the riparian zone. The project was financed by grant money secured by the Cape Horn Conservancy. The bridge stringer was donated by SDS Lumber.

The second project was at Beacon Rock State Park on the Hamilton Mountain Trail on the approach to the Hardy Creek Bridge below Rodney Falls. The project involved adding a new set of check steps at the junction with the spur to “Pool of the Winds” and a new staircase at the second switchback just before the bridge, both of which were long overdue for reconstruction.

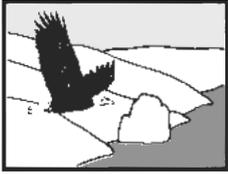


Reservation for the Chinook Trail Association Annual Brunch

Participant names _____

Contact Information: Phone number _____ Email _____

Please return this form in the enclosed envelope to P.O. Box 61686, Vancouver, WA 98666 or contact Ted Klump at tedklump@gmail.com.



Chinook Trail Association
P.O. Box 61686, Vancouver, WA 98666
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www.chinooktrails.org
chinooktrails@comcast.net

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark your calendars

Sun., Feb. 26

CTA
Annual
Meeting

 PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Ellen Davis Trail Update

Text and pictures by Don Cannard

For the last year-and-a-half, CTA has been focused on improving the 27-year-old, 2½-mile Ellen Davis Community Trail. CTA volunteers and DNR Offender Crews have aggressively cleared brush, graveled the trail surface, and installed over 1000 feet of Turf Stone open faced pavers. The result is a great all weather trail.

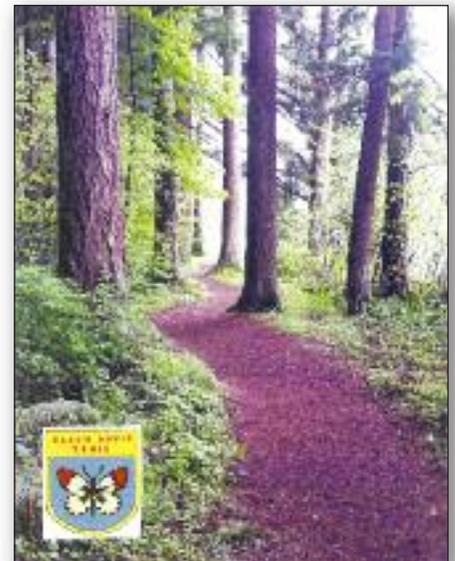
The trail is used daily as a recreational trail. It fills the need to have a trail near residential areas. Health care providers believe one of the most effective ways to maintain good health is by daily walking. The trail is used by walkers, joggers, cyclists and even as a commute-to-work trail.

Neighborhoods enjoy the experience and school groups use it for environmental education and for training athletes. Since the inception of the Ellen Davis Trail, over \$142,000 has been donated to

build and maintain it. Granting agencies include the Vancouver Audubon Society, the Chinook Trail Association, the Community Foundation for SWWA, the Meyer Memorial Trust, and the Bedford Trust. And many individuals have donated time and money to this recreational jewel.

Bob Colf of Colf Construction has been very generous with his donations of time, equipment, and materials. Bob has also restored the Summit Inn (open Sundays for brunch), and about five miles of the trail starting at Starvation Creek Rest Area along I-84 near Hood River.

Safety for Ellen Davis trail users will be greatly improved with the completion of this six-foot-wide path along N.E. 54th St. from 22nd Ave. to Ross St. Because 54th St. has only a one-foot-wide shoulder, these improvements will provide a safer



trail. Completion of this project concludes a two-year effort to improve user safety. With a year-round trail surface and better erosion control, this project adds value to an important community resource. Eventually the Ellen Davis Trail will serve as a connector trail for the Urban Trail system, as well as the rural portion of Clark County via the Chelatchie Prairie Rails with Trail system.

The Chinook Trail was chartered in 1988 as a non-profit 501 c 3 organization. The vision of the Chinook Trail Association (CTA) is to assist in the planning and construction of a 300 mile loop trail, encircling the Columbia River Gorge, from Vancouver Lake to Maryhill State Park, Washington and Biggs, Oregon to Portland and then back to Vancouver. The Chinook Trail is in the Washington State Trails Plan, the Oregon State Trails Plan, the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Trails Plan, the Greater Metro Trails Plan utilizing the 40 Mile Loop Trail. Where and when appropriate the CTA will participate in the maintenance of the trail system.