



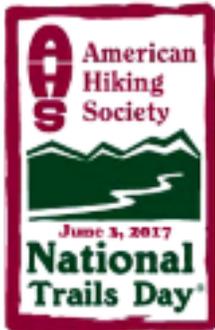
Pick up the Burn - Saturday, May 6, 2017



<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/event/pick-burn>

The Chinook Trail Association is planning to bring an information booth to the Pick Up the (Yacolt) Burn on May 6th. This is an annual event sponsored by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Recreation. The day offers volunteers an opportunity to pick up litter, do general maintenance, improve campgrounds, and much more.

National Trails Day - June 3, 2017



<http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org/>

National Trails Day comes annually on the first Saturday of June. This year the Chinook Trail Association will gather at 9:00 a.m. at Beacon Rock State Park to work on the Hadley Trail. The day will officially end at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided by CTA. Please RSVP to tedklump@gmail.com by May 26th.

Although typically you need a Discover Pass to use the park, National Trails Day is one of the free days provided by the state (as is the National Get Outdoors Day). See www.discoverpass.wa.gov.

National Get Outdoors Day - Saturday, June 10, 2017

<http://www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org/about/>



National Get Outdoors Day is an effort to connect people, especially kids, with the outdoors. Perhaps you've heard of Nature Deficit Disorder. This is a phrase coined by Richard Louv in his 2005 book, *Last Child in the Woods*. His thesis is that human beings, especially children, are spending less time outdoors, resulting in a wide range of physical, mental, spiritual and behavioral problems. More information can be found on Wikipedia at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature_deficit_disorder.

National Get Outdoors Day is a coordinated effort to address this challenge. Got children? Grandchildren? Ever been a child? Tired of being a 'groan' up? You'll love National Get Outdoors Day!

Check the internet for activities in your area.

Hamilton Mountain Trail at Rodney Falls

Text and pictures by Ted Klump

The winter ice and wind devastated many trails in the Gorge. One of the worst hit was the Hamilton Mtn. Trail on the east side of Hardy Creek at Rodney Falls on the section of switch-backs and steps. A large fir tree blew over and the root-wad took out a section of tread. When the tree went down it destroyed the railing and some of the steps. The Hamilton Mountain



New Crib Wall

Trail is a designated connector trail to the Chinook Trail System.

Washington Trail Association's Rapid Response team (many of whom are CTA members) spent two back-to-back multi-day work parties repairing the damage. While there is still work to be done on the stairs and railing, the trail is open for hikers.



CTA Memberships and Financial Support

If you haven't already done so, this is an excellent time to renew or begin your membership in the CTA. Enclosed you will find a return envelope with all the information you need. Remember, a gift membership would be perfect for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, or any special day.

Your membership and gifts to the CTA keep the vision alive.

The Chinook Trail was founded in 1986 as a non-profit 501c3 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, 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 Trails Plan, and 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

In Memoriam: **Vernon Swaim** Oct. 27, 1924 - Feb. 7, 2017

Text by Ted Klump

Vern Swaim, a long-time member of CTA, passed away on February 17th. He was an active member and served on the Board of Directors for many years. He was an avid outdoorsman and environmentalist. He and I (Ted) worked together on the survey for the Kloochman Butte Trail (formerly Squaw Butte Trail) as well as other trail projects. He was a quiet, gentle soul and a good friend. He will be missed.

Rock Creek Trail Day ~ February 18, 2017

Text and pictures by Tom Griffith, Ted Klump, and Steve Jones

The Backcountry Horsemen of Washington and the Chinook Trail Association had a work party at Rock Creek Campground

machines with rubber tracks and a dump bed that you steer as you walk behind). One crew of four continued the work of scraping

Jones did most of the work gravelling the trail and Ted Klump and Dick Blackburn worked the totes. In between gravel dumps Steve cut brush along the trail and Kenika chipped away at the corner of a boulder sticking up into the trail.

By the end of the workday we had readied about 300 feet of trail for use by horse, mountain bikes, and hikers. After that we met with all the others at the shelter and had soup and stew for lunch provided by the Backcountry Horsemen.

The other crew of six CTA volunteers completed a 100-foot-long reroute of the Tarbell Trail, moving the trail from an often-flooded section near Rock Creek. The new section of trail is farther from the creek and is raised above grade using rock to mitigate flooding. The crew decommissioned the former trail.



on February 18th, 2017. The weather was a typically cloudy day, interspersed with passing drizzle. It was practically a perfect day for getting physical. But first we had doughnuts and coffee at the shelter as we signed in and divided into work teams.

There were two projects that we helped with during the day. First we carefully unloaded the totes from the trailer. (Totes are

the dead leaves and other organic debris from the trail, pulling out rocks to smooth the way and spreading a layer of gravel to create a durable surface, free from mud. To do that we have the help of our motorized totes, garden tractors with front-end scoops, and our tools of the trade such as rock bars, Pulaskis, McClouds, and loppers.

Kenika Peach and Steve

Chinook Trail Annual Meeting ~ February 26, 2017

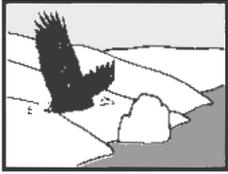
On Sunday, February 26th, about forty members and friends of the Chinook Trail Association gathered at the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center for our annual meeting. Featured speaker was Jeff Garmire who shared his experiences as a Triple Crown Hiker. In less than one year, Jeff hiked the entire length of the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Continental Divide Trail. Beginning in the east during “ice season,” Jeff discovered that hiking when everyone else stays off the trail (because of the ice and other serious conditions) provided multiple and unanticipated challenges.

His tales of the journey held our attention as we lived vicariously through his determination and pain and through his times of ecstasy and adventure in the great outdoors.

We also welcomed Vancouver City Councilor Ann McEnerny-Ogle who shared with us her thoughts about outdoor recreation and the role of the city in making that happen.

A wonderful brunch provided by Kathryn’s Artistic Catering set the stage for a great afternoon of friendship and inspiration.





Chinook Trail Association
P.O. Box 61686, Vancouver, WA 98666
360-907-5733
www.chinooktrails.org
chinooktrails@comcast.net

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark your calendars

Sat., June 3

**National
Trails Day**

 PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Hiking the Chinook Trail Spring and Summer Adventures

From the lush rainforests of western Washington and Oregon, to the high desert plateaus of the east side, the Chinook Trail offers an endless variety of sensory delights for the casual or hard core adventurer. Spring is a wonderful time to get out and explore. The weather is mild, the landscape is lush, and the winter cobwebs of body and spirit are begging to be swept away.

Among other delights awaiting the wanderer is the bursting of spring wildflowers. The blooming flowers lift their heads over an extended period of the year. If your journey takes you out early and into the lush western forests you'll find skunk cabbage popping up in the wetlands. If your preferred environment is the open plateaus of eastern Oregon, find your way to the Rowena Plateau (west of The Dalles,

Oregon) and the Tom McCall Nature Preserve. Please note that this trail is seasonally open (from May 1 to October 31). Among the flowers that grace the view are balsamroot and lupine. (Check out an article by the Friends of the Columbia Gorge at www.gorgefriends.org).

And if your preferred "bouquet" comes from a bottle, you'll find multiple wineries, brewpubs and craft distilleries along the way.

Summer brings a different experience to the Chinook Trail. With the eastern Gorge warming up, drying out and pushing strong winds eastward, it is time for shady trails, early morning hikes and careful attention to staying hydrated. It is also a time to find those cool streams and waterfall pools and dip your tired body in the bracing waters of the Pacific Northwest.

