

Trailblazer 2001 Challenge

By Ted Klump, President of Chinook Trail Association

“...someone whose job it will be to focus not only on the immediate needs of CTA, but someone who can work with agencies and private land owners, someone who knows how to tap into the financial resources that are available to fund our projects and sustain this organization.”



Glenn Lamb addresses the CTA at the Annual Meeting

These closing remarks of my address at the annual meeting refer to our need to hire an Executive Director so that we can move forward with our vision of a trail around the Gorge at a faster and steadier pace. After I concluded, our keynote speaker Glenn Lamb, Executive Director of the Columbia Land Trust, issued a challenge to us to raise enough capital and to designate a special fund for a grant writer, who will then write a grant to fund the position for an Executive Director. His goal was to raise \$10,000 in checks and pledges that very afternoon as seed money for such a venture. Glenn donated a check for \$500 and pledged another \$500. We fell short of his goal by less than \$3000, and since then additional gifts have made up some of that short fall. We need about \$2000 to complete this goal. We call this the Trailblazer 2001 Fund.

This is an important step forward for us as we have come to a critical time in the life of CTA. We MUST take this step if we are to survive and prosper. Your help is needed and will be greatly appreciated. Enclosed in this newsletter is an envelope for your donation to this milestone effort. Thank you for your continued support.

SWIFT Grant Awarded

by Don Cannard

SWIFT has awarded a \$2,500 grant to Chinook Trail Association. The purpose of the grant is to assist CTA in purchasing a Boulder Buster. The Boulder Buster is a device used to split apart boulders that are too large to be broken up

by hand tools or moved by hand. This tool will be very helpful in building trails and in removing boulders, as will need to be done in the Silver Star area due to landslides.

This grant requires a like

amount of match by CTA. Anyone wishing to make a special contribution to assist with this purchase will be duly recognized by having the first blasts from this device detonated in honor of him or her. Donors will be invited to a special blast off ceremony.





Lewis and Clark College students work on the railing project near Hardy Creek Falls.

Alternative Spring Break

by Robert Threadgill

The Chinook Trail Association has already been busy this season as we hosted and led two week-long work parties with students from Reed College and Lewis and Clark College. The students from these schools volunteered with CTA during their spring break, a coveted time for any college student. They worked on the Hamilton Mountain Trail in Beacon Rock State Park and spent their nights in the group camp. As their friends frolicked on the warm, sunny, sandy coasts of California and Mexico, these students enjoyed the beauty and comfort that only the rains of the Northwest can bring. These groups accomplished much during their time on the trail. A retaining wall was replaced and gravel filled in on the approach to the first bridge out of the picnic area, and a fence was installed near the waterfall. The students also performed some general maintenance on the trail, such as filling in problem spots with gravel and cleaning out clogged water bars. Chinook Trail Association is very appreciative of the work that was accomplished and thanks the students and colleges for the time and service they donated.

Bells Mountain Trail Update by Roger Anderson

Here we are in the new year and still in the "wait and see" mode. Not much progress has been made since the previous report in October of last year.

You may recall that the US Army Corps of Engineers required a biological assessment of the Bells Mountain Trail corridor to identify any possible critical habitats and to examine our treatment of water crossings. The Corps is reviewing the assessment now. After a question was raised concerning culverts vs. bridges for three crossings, CTA will upgrade to short bridges to expedite and satisfy the Corps' concern. We should be given the green light to go ahead and finish the trail if there are no critical habitat issues after the review has been completed.

Remember, there are 42 water crossings in the 7.5 miles of trail, so a full steam go ahead signal would be a major step.

The State Department of Natural Resources is proceeding with their timber sale across our trail immediately south of the

Moulton Falls Park Boundary. It is scheduled for this Spring and the highest bidder will have two years to log the unit once the contract has been awarded. There will be some impact on the trail corridor, but the contractor is required to restore the damaged section of trail to its original condition.

As you can see, there are many issues revolving around the completion of the Bells Mountain Trail. It has been a four year effort with the agencies involved, further stymied and convoluted by new environmental regulations to be met each year. CTA in cooperation with the agencies is finally beginning to pull through the mire of red tape; now we will need a lot of helping hands to complete the culverts, bridges, and trail segments remaining.

If you can help build bridges or trail or know of individuals interested in this project, sign them up! Call Robert in the CTA Office at (360) 906-6769 to sign up.

Hamilton Mountain SEPA Moves Forward by Don Cannard

Ever watch a snail move through your garden? It about equals the speed with which SEPA documents move through the system on their way to approval. We are progressing slowly but steadily on the Hamilton Mountain Restoration Project. We have met with most of the individuals having jurisdiction over this project and any future trail projects in the vicinity.

This project will improve some

falling steps on the Hardy Creek crossing, replace over 20 switchbacks with just one, improve the trail to Little Beacon Rock Overlook, replace railings and kickrails on the Hardy Creek bridge, and add some nice viewpoints. The SEPA report also addresses the planned improvement of the trail coming out of the campground area to a barrier free ADA status.

Estuary Grant

by Don Cannard

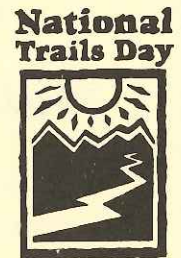
Chinook Trail Association has received a grant from the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program to provide plants and fencing to protect steep slopes around the Hardy Creek crossing. This grant will make it possible for CTA to provide more soil protection in order to eliminate the erosion that leads to sediments finding their way into Hardy Creek. Hardy Creek is one of two of the vital spawning streams below Bonneville Dam for the Chum Salmon.

National Trails Day 2001 By Robert Threadgill

Mark your calendars for this year's National Trails Day event on June 2, 2001. Join CTA in its ninth annual celebration of this day. We will once again be working on the Bells Mountain Trail, helping to bring this trail ever closer to completion. This year's event will be even more exciting as National Trails Day is now a federally recognized program. On January 18th in an Executive Order titled "Trails for America in the 21st Century," Clinton directed federal agencies to celebrate National Trails Day each June and to coordinate their events with the American Hiking Society as the sponsoring organization. As you can see, trails are beginning

to get the national attention and recognition that is needed if we as trail users and trail builders want to continue to receive funding to increase the number of trails. Show your support for the Chinook Trail and all trails by working with CTA on June 2nd.

If you would like to help plan or coordinate this year's National Trails Day event, please call the office at (360) 906-6769.



Volunteer Opportunities

by Robert Threadgill

Spring is here! Although our calendars conveniently remind us of the coming of the vernal equinox and the official beginning of a new season, one can see the coming of spring reflected in nature. A walk through the Gorge at this time of year will reveal many of the signs that spring is upon us: the temperature feels a bit warmer, flocks of geese begin to migrate north, the trillium are gracing the forest floor, and the work crews of the Chinook Trail Association are getting into gear. Yes, the trail work party season is upon us and as always there is much to be done. We will be concentrating our efforts on Bells Mountain this year, but will also be working around Silver Star and Bluff Mountain. All are welcome to come help continue the quest for a trail encircling the Columbia River Gorge. The dates for our work parties are found within this newsletter.



In addition to trail building, there are many opportunities to get involved with CTA. We are in the midst of collecting and recording the history of the Chinook Trail Association and could use folks who are interested in the history or who could provide some organizational skills

and direction. As a part of this project, CTA would also like to produce a video history of the organization, which would include interviews of members and volunteers who have helped with the trail as well as a history of the trail area and footage of trail work. This video will not only serve as a historical record, but could also be used to advocate the continued construction of the Chinook Trail. Anyone interested in producing, recording, editing, or even brainstorming on this project should call or e-mail the office.

Opportunities to volunteer with CTA are abundant as we are always in need of help on the membership committee and in the office. If you have a particular interest or simply want to get more involved in the organization, simply contact our office.

CHINOOK TRAIL ASSOCIATION (CTA)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual \$25 Family \$35 Student/Senior \$15 Institution \$75 Sustaining \$100 Life \$500

Name _____ Tel. # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

Please send application and remittance to:

Chinook Trail Association, P.O. Box 997, Vancouver, WA 98666-0997

Washington State Trails Coalition

~ Save-The-Date ~

**October 4 - 6 (Thurs. - Sat.)
Vancouver, Washington**

Trails Conference 2001

**"Healthy Trails, Healthy People...
Discover The Economic, Social, and Health Benefits"**

Open to anyone with a zeal for trails and the opportunities they afford.

For more information,

Contact conference chair Jeri Krampetz, 877/ 854-9415 (toll free), jerikramp@aol.com



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.

CTA Board Members

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Important Dates

CTA Work Party Schedule

April 21	Earth Day	Bells Mountain
May 19		Bells Mountain
June 2	National Trails Day	Bells Mountain
June 30		Silver Star
July 7		Bluff Mountain

*Fall dates to be announced later. For all work parties, meet at Clark Public Utilities parking lot on 117th Ave. at 8:00 a.m. For more information on trail work parties, call the office at (360) 906-6769.

Friends of the Gorge Weekend Hikes Led by CTA Members

June 16	Silver Star (Roger Anderson)
June 16	Hamilton Mountain (Fred Rogers)

American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacation (Sponsored by CTA)

July 15-20 Hamilton Mountain

Washington Trails Coalition Conference

October 4, 5, 6 (in Vancouver)

E-Mail: cta@pacifier.com **Website:** www.chinooktrail.org

This Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



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