



*Dedicated to the preservation & promotion of the Klickitat Trail*

**Klickitat Trail Conservancy**  
P.O. Box 512  
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**The Mission** of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy is to preserve and promote the public use of the 31 mile Klickitat Trail as a recreational, cultural, natural, educational, and economic asset of Klickitat County.

**Members** strongly support the purposes, goals, and objectives of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy.

**Trail Notes** is a bi-annual publication of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy. Submissions are welcome. Articles, photos and comments can be sent to PO Box 512 Lyle, WA 98635 or emailed to [info@klickitat-trail.org](mailto:info@klickitat-trail.org).

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### Share Your Photos/Stories

Have you taken any photos or do you have a story to tell of your trip to the Klickitat Trail? Share them with us. Send them to [info@klickitat-trail.org](mailto:info@klickitat-trail.org).

## Damming the Klickitat River

By Donna Enz

For generations the "narrows" on the Klickitat River has been an important fishing area for Native Americans. This is a place where basalt flows laid down some of the hardest rock known and where thunderous waters carved a channel so narrow only fish dare to enter. In the steep canyons of the Klickitat Valley, it is nearly midday before the morning sun melts frost on the valley floor. It was on a bluff above this reverent place that Ellen Elkfoot lived in a small cabin. She owned this land thanks to the Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887. Life for her followed the path that generations before her took. In the spring she collected camas root and other wild plants. Dried fall Chinook would see her through the winter and she gave thanks for the berries from the great mountain to the north. The wind, the hills and the water, this was all she knew.

She referred to her age in years of many snows, and Ellen had a wisdom that only many snows could bring. She was quite old when one day two strange white men came to call. One was an interpreter from the town of Lyle. The other was from a big city down the Columbia River who had his eyes set on a prize that Ellen could not have imagined. She was told that her water was very important to many white people and they would like to buy it from her. She agreed when she was told she could stay and her home would be left in peace, because they only wanted the water. For this she was satisfied with a sack of gold coins and signed a "skookum paper" or deed. Unfortunately, for the company who bought her water rights, they did not realize that the Dawes Act stipulated that allotments could not be sold for 25 years from the time the allotment was made. This protected allottees from unscrupulous land deals procured by fraud. Ellen had lived on the land 23 years. The Federal Government would not allow the water brokers to take possession for another two years. So Ellen lived on her land in peace another two snows.



*Photo courtesy of Barbara Bond*

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## Klickitat Kafe Now Open

A new dining opportunity for Trail users is available, off of Hwy. 142, in the town of Klickitat. The Klickitat Kafe is open for Breakfast and Lunch with indoor and outdoor dining. They have a varied breakfast menu, which includes omelets. For lunch you can choose burgers, sandwiches or salads. Feel like a milkshake? They've got that too. Hours are 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM Wednesday – Sunday. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

The Kafe is owned by Rolf Evenson, who also owns the Klickitat Trader, which is connected to the restaurant. The Klickitat Trader is a gas station that has groceries, fishing supplies and an ATM. It is open 6:30 AM – 8:00 PM seven days a week.

## Hiking through History

By Cheryl Steindorf

It was such a pleasure to arrive at the Pitt Trailhead on June 7th (National Trails Day) to see Retired Teacher/Native Son, Russell Schofield with backpack in hand and ready to hike. Russell's parents were, not only my grandparent's best friends, but I grew up in the house on Second Street that his parent's sold to mine in 1962. Russell's daughters came with their father to hike that day, but most importantly, to hear the stories of the past that only their father could share. I never had the opportunity to walk the trail with my father but I imagine that many of the stories of the people and events would have been similar. As we hiked the three miles along the river and through Skookum Flat, Russell (known to the locals as Denny) shared his experiences as a young boy, floating and fishing the river and exploring the area that is now the Klickitat Trail. After our hike, which flew by, we met for lunch at the Klickitat Kafe and planned our next hike. Each time I hike the trail I learn something new and interesting but nothing quite as special as the history of a boy who explored and evolved in the ultimate classroom-the Klickitat Canyon.

### ***Damming the Klickitat River continued from page 1***

Shortly after the act expired, another white man came to have her sign an additional skookum paper, to seal the deal. She did and received more gold coins. Survey work started on the area of the "narrows". Workmen were hired, dynamite was engaged, holes were drilled and cables were strung across the river that was life to the local Indians. Soon Ellen's home was beset with falling rocks from the construction.

When her life became unbearable she complained, but she was told to move if she did not like the noise and falling rocks. In an effort to remedy her circumstances she set off to the city with the interpreter from Lyle. This led her to yet another water broker who gave her one more skookum paper to sign and more gold coins. This deal would give her and her heirs a similar amount of gold coins every year for 99 snows.

Relying on the white man's law and an interpreter, Ellen had signed away her rights to the water in the Klickitat River to two different water brokers. Now both claimed the right to dam the Klickitat River and both sides claimed fraud and deceit. It is not surprising that Ellen soon found herself in court.

Ellen Elkfoot made the long journey to an unfamiliar place, the county seat in Goldendale. She would not go alone so it was arranged that she could bring along her brother, Jim Pel-i-whit, and her friend, Sally Wah-kia-cus. A long court

battle ensued to gain possession of Ellen's water rights. Witnesses were called, arguments were made and the thump of the gavel called for calm again and again. For several days interpreters relayed questions and answers. The court room was filled with unfamiliar Indian words and sounds. Wisely Ellen held firm that the decision of who owned the rights to the water at the "narrows" should be left up to the holders of the skookum papers she signed. Appeals followed and the battle raged on, and on. But not for Ellen.

With gold coins in her purse Ellen went back to the Klickitat Valley. As she had always done, she harvested roots and watched eagles fly high on wind currents that came up the valley. There would always be peace by the turbulent waters of the "narrows" because the water brokers lost interest in the long battle to dam the Klickitat River.

Sadly the story does not end here. Because the emerging paper industry to the west was hungry for electric power, a way of life for two Native American fishing villages, at the mouth of the White Salmon River, was about to come to an end. The search for a river to dam continued until the water brokers, with no court battles to wage, found the White Salmon River. It fell victim to Condit Dam in 1913.

Sources: *Early Klickitat Valley Days*; (Windmill Publications Inc., 1972) Robert Ballou

*Environmental Law*; 22-JUN-06; Becker, David H.

*So This is Klickitat*, Selma Neils, (Metropolitan Press 1967)

*Northwest Lands, Northwest Peoples, Readings in Environmental History*, (University of Washington Press 1999) Dale Goble, Paul Wittirt

Over **235** volunteer hours were spent improving the trail this year.

Get more information on volunteering by contacting us at [www.info@klickitat-trail.org](mailto:www.info@klickitat-trail.org)

## Fall 2008 KTC Scheduled Events

### Saturday, October 11 Hike -

**Lyle to Fisher Hill Bridge:** (Held jointly with Friends of the Columbia Gorge) Hike Leaders: Barbara Robinson, Mike Paruszkiewicz, Dave Berger

Come to the Klickitat River Valley, enjoy the fall colors and join Klickitat Trail Conservancy members for our 6th anniversary hike. This can be two short, easy trail segments totaling 4 miles, one near Lyle and the other near Klickitat. Or, for those more adventurous, we will do an 8 mile hike from Fisher Hill Bridge to Pitt. We will follow the Wild and Scenic Klickitat River on both of these hikes.

You can choose which hike you want to do when we meet at the Lyle Trailhead. Water, lunch and hiking boots advised.

Join us after the hike for our annual anniversary celebration. **Meeting Place:** 9:00 AM **Lyle Trailhead**

### Saturday, October 18 Swale Canyon Bike Ride

Bike leaders: Mike Paruszkiewicz and Donna Enz

Moderate/Strenuous: 12 to 15 miles, depending on whether you want stop at Wahkiacus or Klickitat, 1,000-ft. elev. LOSS. Pace of the ride will either be moderate (led by Donna) or fast (led by Mike) depending on your skill level. We will ride from the high prairie of the Goldendale plateau down to the Klickitat River. Experience fall colors as we follow Swale Creek through the oak, pine and Douglas fir riparian habitats.

Helmets, a spare tube and front suspension required.

**Meeting Place:** 9:00 AM at the **Lyle Trailhead**  
*Please contact Cheryl Steindorf at 509-369-2151 or email - [mccccsteinforf@gorge.net](mailto:mccccsteinforf@gorge.net), if you plan to participate so that appropriate shuttle arrangements can be made in advance.*

### Saturday, October 18 Hike-Swale Canyon Hike Leader: Barbara Robinson

Barbara Robinson will lead a 6 mile round trip hike in the upper part of Swale through the transition from open prairie to oak/pine woodlands.

**Meeting Place:** 9:00 AM at the **Lyle Trailhead**

### Sunday, October 26 Hike - Pitt to Klickitat

Hike Leaders: Cheryl Steindorf, Donna Enz and Laura Bales

This part of the trail follows the Klickitat River the entire way. Come and enjoy the fall colors. Depending on the weather, this will either be a one-way 3 mile hike or round-trip 6 mile hike. Bring a snack and water. Parts of the trail are rocky so hiking boots are advised. **Meeting Place:** 1:00 PM **Lyle Trailhead** or at 1:30 PM at **Pitt**.

### Saturday, November 8 Bike Maintenance Basics 10:00 until Noon

In this two hour class learn to evaluate your brakes, gears and wheels to prevent mechanical problems on the road. Bring your bike and tools. We'll make adjustments to brakes and gears that would be appropriate before or during a ride.

Fee: \$10 per person includes instruction and handouts

Class size limit: 10 people

Instructor: Portia Masterson, retired bicycle retailer and professional bike mechanic with 25 years experience.

*To register call Laura Bales at 509-369-3652 or email her at [lbales@esd112.wednet.edu](mailto:lbales@esd112.wednet.edu).*

**Meeting Place:** 10:00 AM - Old Mill Building in the town of Klickitat, on Hwy. 142, just past Huntington's Bar & Grill.

### Saturday, January 24 Eagle Spotting at Klickitat-Balfour Park Led by Wildlife Biologist Cathy Flick

Experience an educational winter field outing for bald eagles at Balfour Park. Cathy Flick will come armed with a spotting scope, give a life-history overview, and introduce you to specific year-round pairs in the area. Part of the outing will involve a short walk in a grassy area. Bring binoculars, and dress warmly. There are toilet facilities at the Park.

**Meeting Place:** 10:00 AM **Klickitat-Balfour Park**

**Access from SR-14** - heading east just before the Klickitat River turn left (north) onto Old Hwy 8. Follow Old Hwy 8 for approximately 1/4 mile to the parking lot on the east side of the road.



### Have Breakfast in Lyle

If you are planning on attending one of the KTC hikes or you are in the Lyle area for any other reason don't forget breakfast. The Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast is a popular and very well attended event held the First Saturday of each month. What you get is a choice of eggs and ham or an omelet. Both come with all the pancakes you can eat. Delicious! Coffee and juice included.

Money raised through the first Saturday breakfasts goes toward eyeglasses, hearing aides, disaster relief, seeing eye dog foundation, community relief, Christmas food baskets, scholarships and maintenance of the local club.

7:30-10:30 am, Lyle Lions Community Center on Hwy 14. Cost: \$5 for adults, \$2 for children under 12. See you there.

## Klickitat Trail In The News

By Donna Enz

Calling it a "mountain biker's playground" the July Portland Monthly featured the Klickitat Trail in its "18 Ultimate Outdoor Escapes Less Than 90 Minutes From Portland." The photograph they used, of bikers crossing the first railroad trestle from Harms Road, represents one of the unique features of the Trail.

For those of us who live in Klickitat County and receive the Klickitat PUD Ruralite, our own State Fish and Wildlife guy, Bill Weiler, wrote a wonderful article, "Klickitat Wild", about scenic Swale Canyon. For those of you who don't live here, his article will be featured in our spring 2009 newsletter.

The Klickitat County Tourism Board ran an ad in the July issue of the Columbia Gorge Magazine. A great photograph of the Klickitat Trail, taken by Darryll Lloyd, was the prominent photograph in this ad. Good work Darryll and Klickitat County.

This spring I spent an afternoon with Barbara Bond who came out to the Klickitat Trail to gather material for a new hiking book. The Klickitat Trail will be part of Take a Hike Portland: hikes within two hours of the city, published by Moon Outdoors, and will be available spring of 2009. Barbara is a professional photographer and has already published 75 Scrambles in Oregon which focuses on six different ecoregions and hiking to the top of some of Oregon's most beautiful and remote peaks. [www.oregonscrambles.com](http://www.oregonscrambles.com). Check out Barbara's writing/photography site at [www.barbaraibond.com](http://www.barbaraibond.com).

I biked into Swale Canyon just before it closed on June 28th. I was part of a photo shoot with Greg Vaughn who was hired by VIA Magazine to shoot the Trail for an upcoming article. VIA is a AAA magazine that is circulated in Oregon and Idaho. The article will appear in the September/October issue. Greg is from Eugene and is a professional photographer. To view some of his work log on to his Website at [www.GregVaughn.com](http://www.GregVaughn.com).



Greg Vaughn photographing in Swale Canyon

### A Klickitat Trail Conservancy member wrote

"Thanks for the Trail Notes. When I read them I enjoyed the article on Harold Weathered". In her email she went on to tell us about a neighbor. He is an Octogenarian who likes to be called Mitch. She wrote that "Mitch has grown a huge orchard on both sides of the trail, (just north of Pitt) over about 20 years and he has done this simply to provide food for anyone who walks past. I am sure that many people pass these apple, pear and nut trees and don't dare touch anything, thinking the owner will be annoyed. This is the very opposite of Mitch's intention". KTC knows he encourages people to bring bags to collect the fruit.

She also wrote that "Mitch is the same person who looks after Doug's beach, without pay. He has planted mulberry trees, plum, and many other trees and mows the grass at his own expense. He is not the sort of person to blow his own trumpet, so I would like to do it for him".

KTC would also like to thank Mitch for all he does.



By Bev Linde

I am an unwanted noxious, aggressive, annual, and non native weed. My height can be 2-32 inches. I am a light grayish-green plant with multiple rigid stems that extend in all directions from the base growing weapons of long stiff spines, surrounded by 2-4 shorter spines, guarding my yellow disk flower head. A goal of mine is taking over disturbed soils, fields, and roadsides. My two main enemies are humans pulling me out and chemical spraying.

I am a Yellow Star Thistle. Scientific name is *Centurea Sostialis* and am a member of the Sunflower (*Asteraceae*) family. I was introduced to North America in the mid-nineteenth century.

Once you know this weed, Yellow Star Thistle, please help by pulling it when you see it on the Trail usually mid July into early August. Since it has no ability to reproduce asexually from the roots, getting a couple of inches of the taproot is acceptable. However, any plant that is cut or breaks off above the soil surface is likely to grow new stems from buds in the leaf axils. If plants are picked before they flower they can be left on the ground. But once you see flowers, the seeds will mature even if pulled. At this stage, the plants must be bagged and removed.

### "Pick Me, Pick Me"

## Persistence Pays Dividends

By Jim Denton - Work Chair

A half dozen years ago, when I first walked the Klickitat Trail, there were areas where beating back the vegetation and creating a trail for people to take a pleasant ramble seemed pretty daunting. Our early forays into the thicker areas barely marked the alders and blackberries, and they grew back so quickly that we all but had to lop our way back out through areas we had just, hours earlier, fought our way through. Persistence has slowly paid off though and we have learned a lot about the job before us. For example, this year we entered Swale Canyon very early in the spring when the ground was soft enough that we could easily grub out willow roots. Having done so will save many hours of lopping in future years. The use of bikes for doing work parties in Swale and between Pitt and Fisher Hill Bridge has also allowed us to spend more of our time working and less traveling.

Our repeated attack on invasive weeds is paying dividends at this point as well. When I first visited the mineral springs, downstream from Wahkiacus, a forest of Spotted

Knapweed surrounded us. There were thousands of plants per acre. On early weed pulling expeditions there we had pile after three foot pile of uprooted Knapweed spread across the area. Six years and many weed pulling excursions later, things have changed. I hiked into the same area late this past summer and only noticed two Knapweed plants. Learning the best timing to pull each species of noxious weed has also been a plus. Too early in the season and a target plant may be too hard to spot and too late the seed head will have already developed and be ready to spread its seed even if pulled.

This year KTC purchased a professional grade string trimmer or weed eater. The use of this tool has allowed us to brush areas of trail that were too dense or too long to be easily done with hand tools. Several sections of the trail that had been intimidating to some users, due to tall grass and reeds, are now open and pleasantly accessible. In particular we used KTC's weed eater to whack back vegetation downstream of the ice plant and between Harms Road and Warwick. This tool has been a good purchase and should pay back handsomely over the years.

## Depot Park Gets a Spring Cleaning

By Barbara Robinson

KTC board members Cheryl Steindorf, Barbara Robinson and Bev Linde joined Edan Lira, and a Forest Service trails crew, for a work party at Depot Park in the town of Klickitat on April 18, 2008. The Forest Service Crew put in railroad tie steps from the Klickitat Trail down into the park. Andy Kallinen, from WA State Parks, brought a truckload of bark chips which we all spread under the playground equipment, around the bench, and between the new steps. Edan took a chain saw to some dead trees, while KTC volunteers pruned shrubs, raked and picked up trash. The new steps look great and should be a safer way for folks to get up to the trail from the park.



*Spring cleaning*

## Meet Mike P.: Klickitat Trail Steward

Since June, Klickitat Trail Steward, Mike P. has been a familiar sight on the Trail. He is working to enhance the usability of the Klickitat Trail, assist Washington State Parks, the US Forest Service and KTC. He has been monitoring the trail, talking to trail users, assisting with trail maintenance and numerous other important tasks. Mike will be with us until November and has been a great asset to the usability of the Trail.

Mike has provided a short bio to introduce himself.

I go by Mike P. because my last name is officially unpronounceable. I was born in Detroit, MI, and grew up near Chicago, IL. I studied film at Columbia College in the south loop, and graduated in 2003, then moved to Texas a few years ago, throwing my ice scraper and ear muffs out the window somewhere along the way. I worked in film and television for a few years, wearing hiking sandals around the office, eating trail mix and drinking from a Nalgene carabinered to my dress pants during meetings, and generally daydreaming about my next outdoor adventure.

My ticket out of the hustle and din of mass media came in a chance reading of an ad for a National Forest trail crew position on Mount Hood, which turned out to be an AmeriCorps position offered through the Northwest Service Acad-

emy. I spent a couple anxious weeks considering the complete abandonment of my career and financial stability, then another couple talking my girlfriend into the same, then another couple driving cross country to get to Trout Lake, WA. After a season in the forest, I knew there was no going back, and returned this year to do a second year, this time in a more diverse position for the KTC.

This season I have been doing trail work, absorbing as much of Barbara's weed-ucation as possible, and collecting poison oak lesions, as well as doing my best to facilitate the partnership between KTC and Washington State Parks. I have worked on a National Trails Fund grant and a trail survey with the Forest Service. Later in the season, I will be helping lead some hikes on the trail and working with an outdoor school day program from Goldendale. I've met and interacted with many trail users so far, most being thrilled at the development of the new public space. I've also been monitoring the traffic along three major sections of trail via infrared counters, and have recorded some exciting numbers.

The members of the KTC, and Ranger Kallinen from State Parks have gone way above and beyond to welcome me and make my stay here enjoyable. I am really excited about the rest of the season, and meeting the trail enthusiasts that are making this year so great for me.

# You are invited

## 6th Anniversary Party

Klickitat Trail Conservancy will be holding our 6th anniversary party

**Saturday**  
**October 11th, 2008**  
**1:30 - 3:00 PM**

Join us for snacks and refreshments

**In the historic Old Mill Office Building in Klickitat**  
**Just past Huntington's Bar & Grill at the north end of town**  
 (see events calendar for the hike details)



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