

Dedicated to the preservation & promotion of the Klickitat Trail

The Mission of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy (KTC) 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. KTC is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your membership is tax deductible.

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

Trail Notes is a semi-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.

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Thank you for your support!!

10th Anniversary Edition

Caboose

Cheryl Steindorf

After many attempts to have the Shay No. 7 Steam Engine returned to Klickitat for display; the Klickitat Historical Preservationists gave up and decided to find a caboose that we could display instead. After making that decision it was happenstance that



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one of our KTC board members Bev Linde asked me if I had ever visited the abandoned caboose in Goldendale. I drove down Tom Miller road to see if I could spot a caboose and low and behold there was an old Burlington Northern abandoned in the PUD work yard. After a year of earning funds, permits and meeting with state and local officials, the old caboose was relocated to it's current home in Klickitat. It sits on an abandoned rail left from the mill days. It represents so much more than a part to a train...it is a symbol of pride in our past and vision for our future.

**CELEBRATE THE 10TH
ANNIVERSARY OF
KTC!!**

WHEN: OCTOBER 14

WHERE: LYLE TRAILHEAD

TIME: 0930

OPTIONS:

A) EASY HIKE

B) DIFFICULT HIKE

C) CHECK OUT THE
CABOOSE

***FREE SNACKS
*CELEBRATORY TALK**



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From the Vice-President | Barbara Robinson

A lot has been accomplished in ten years!

The trail has gone from a controversial idea for what to do with an overgrown, in places impassable rail-bed, to a beautiful, popular trail used by the community and by tourists who bring business into the community.

But there is also so much left to do. Several trestles in Swale Canyon need decking and some ties replaced. The Forest Service plan is for a better surface (packed gravel) all the way from Lyle to Klickitat, Two sections - the first two miles and the trail in Klickitat - are to be paved, but the money for these projects needs to be found.

After the flood of 1996, Washington State Parks removed the trestle at Suburbia at the behest of Klickitat County. This needs to be replaced with a foot, bike, and horse bridge. In Klickitat, a small bridge needs to be built over Snyder Creek and the issue of fixing or finding an alternative to the mile of trail just north of Klickitat needs to be addressed.

Perhaps most important of all, though, the basics of publicizing the trail, encouraging proper use, and doing the considerable year-



ly work of maintaining the trail in usable condition needs to be continued with persistence and grace.

KTC delights in promoting the use of the trail by classes and groups from local schools for outdoor education. We are happy to see the trail being used by another group for a half marathon this fall. It makes all of us feel good when we see families walking the trail, older couples, or some-

one pushing a baby carriage down the trail.

We have worked so hard for 10 years to make this trail a reality, and we hope that you will continue to support us or join us for the next ten years!

Tales from the Trail | Ashleigh Coyner

Swale Canyon April 2012

I have only really recently begun my adventures on the Klickitat trail, mostly starting from the Lyle trailhead.

One day in April, the family and I decided to check out the infamous Swale Canyon. It was a delight just driving to the trailhead at Harms road, having not traveled that area before.

We didn't account for

the weather difference between what it was like in White Salmon versus at Swale Canyon. Luckily, we had some random articles of clothing to add to what we were already wearing. *(Though I am sure my husband was glad I didn't take a picture of him wearing our daughter's bright blue owl hat!)*

We had planned hiking a good portion of this section, but having a three

year old along makes it tough. Add wind to that, and well, our adventure was cut pretty short.

Although short, our adventure was still fun and full of bird sightings. We saw lots of Western Meadowlarks and quite a few Northern Harriers. I say it was a day well spent and we will definitely be heading back!



Work Parties | Barbara Robinson

An unusual work party occurred on a lovely, warm September 13. There is a nasty weed, Sandbur, which grows on the trail in about the middle of the 8 mile stretch between the Fisher Hill Bridge and Pitt. It seemed a shame to spend so much time walking four miles to get to the weeds when the



time could be spent working. Jim Denton, KTC's innovative and very competent work chair, used

his canoe to ferry KTC board mem-

bers Bev Linde and Barbara Robinson across the Klickitat a little upstream from the weed site. He read the current and eddies just right, first going upstream and then drifting downstream to land just across the river from the launch site. After pulling and bagging the offending Sandbur plants, Bev and Jim hiked to Pitt, removing a downed tree along the way while Barbara continued south to another Sandbur site. Bev had left her car at Pitt so she and Jim could drive back to the canoe launch site, but the canoe and Barbara were still on the trail side of the river. Jim swam the river to get to the canoe and bring Barbara back over, which saved him the trouble of tak-

ing a shower that evening. A lovely, adventurous time was had by all!

Most of our board participated in another work party to clean up the trail between Klickitat and Pitt on September 18.

The trail through town was mowed and the beginning of the trail leaving Klickitat to the south was weed-eaten. Local community members joined some of us on a trash pickup on the trail through town. Pruning was also completed on this section of trail.

Lots of food was supplied and happily eaten at the board meeting right after the work party. We hope to see you someday at one of our work parties!



The Beginnings of a Trail...

The railroad that is now the Klickitat Trail was built from Lyle to Goldendale in 1902 and opened in 1903. It was built to get produce down from the rich Goldendale farmlands to the Columbia River steamboats to ship to market. There were also passenger cars, because roads between Lyle, Klickitat and Goldendale did not exist until about 1925. When the railroad was built along the north side of the Columbia in 1908, the Lyle-Goldendale spur was connected to it. After good roads were built the passenger cars were discontinued, but even in the 50s people sometimes rode the caboose to get between Lyle, Klickitat, and Goldendale. One gentleman in Klickitat remembers as a child getting to a dental appointment in Goldendale that way.

As the town of Klickitat developed businesses, starting with Klickitat bottled mineral water in 1912, lumber mill products soon after, and dry ice made from the carbon dioxide in the mineral water in 1936, the railroad carried these to

market. Gradually trucking and business changes decreased the need for the railroad, and it stopped running in 1992 with the winding down of the Klickitat lumber mill. The Klickitat lumber mill officially closed in 1994.



In 1993 Rails-to-Trails Conservancy purchased 31 miles of this rail right-of-way, from Lyle to Uecker Road, from Burlington Northern for

trail use under the federal railbanking statute. This was a law passed by congress in order to preserve rail corridors for future use, even if no train was currently using them, because the country might need them for transportation in the future. In the meantime, these corridors could be used as trails. The rails and ties

were removed. In 1994 Rails-to-Trails gave the title to the right-of-way to Washington State Parks. The Forest Service in charge of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area offered to take on the development of the trail, because the Scenic Area had few wide, flat, multiple use trails.

The Forest Service then held hearings about trail development, but as often happens with rail-trails in the beginning, there was considerable opposition by adjacent land owners afraid of trespass and other problems. Landowners brought legal cases which were dismissed. Surveys showed a high level of support for the trail in local communities, but because of county government opposition the Forest Service dropped trying to develop the trail in 1998. At about this time the property adjacent to the trail in Lyle came on the market and was bought by Nancy Russell, founder of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, with the hope that one day it would become the trailhead for the trail.

KLICKITAT TRAIL CONSERVANCY (KTC) FALL 2012 EVENTS SCHEDULE

Everyone is welcome!

Please visit www.klickitat-trail.org for more details, schedule changes, and maps.

Always remember to bring plenty of water and lunch or a snack. The trail has little elevation change so is a good alternative for hikers who cannot hike hills. It can be rocky in places so good hiking boots are a must. Dress accordingly for the weather. Pets and smoking are not allowed on KTC-sponsored events. Please stay on the trail at all times.

Some of these hikes are long, with no outs except at the beginning and end. If it is evident in the first one or two miles that someone cannot keep up, or is having trouble, KTC reserves the right to require that person to turn back, accompanied, for their own safety and for the safety of the group.



[OCTOBER 2012]

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Swale Canyon 0900 Lyle TH
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 10th Anniversary Hikes! 0930 Lyle TH	15	16	17	18	19	20 East Swale Canyon 0945 Lyle TH
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Wahkiacus to Mineral Springs 1000 Lyle TH	29	30	31			

October 6, Saturday: Entire Swale Canyon

Leaders: KTC work chair Jim Denton & KTC board member Bev Linde

Level: Difficult, 13 mile hike (6+hours)

Meeting Place: 9:00 AM at Lyle Trailhead

This is a strenuous 6+ hour, 13 mile hike through remote and beautiful Swale Canyon, with Fall color beginning. We go from the treeless hills of the East Gorge, through open pine-oak woodlands, and end in solid forest. The grade is a mild downhill grade, and we do it one way, using a car shuttle on gravel roads. The trail is heavy railroad gravel in places, so wear sturdy boots.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING PLACES

Lyle Trailhead: To get there from the Portland area, take I-84 east to the third Hood River Exit, cross the Hood River Bridge to Washington, and turn right (east) on Hwy. 14. Go about 13 miles to the Klickitat River Bridge (the entrance to Lyle), and just beyond the bridge turn left (north) on Hwy. 142. Immediately, turn left at the trailhead entrance. There are two bathrooms at this location.

Harms Road Trailhead: From Lyle, take the Lyle-Centerville Hwy., which starts in the center of Lyle between the gas station and the Cafe. Head north and east for approximately 15 miles. Turn left on Harms Rd. Drive north one-half mile and park just north of the bridge over Swale Creek. There is a portable toilet at this location.

Pitt Trailhead: Go 10 miles north from SR-14 on SR-142. There is a parking area across the street from the row of houses. There is a portable toilet at this location.

Klickitat Town Park Trailhead: Drive 13 miles up Hwy 142, into the middle of the town of Klickitat, and look for a grocery store on the left. Park just beyond the grocery store, on the left by the little park under the trees.

The Old Lyle School is located in the town of Lyle, WA at the intersection of Hwy. 14 and Third Street.

October 14, Sunday: KTC 10th ANNIVERSARY HIKES!

Leaders: KTC board members Jim Denton, Steven Woolpert, Bev Linde and Barbara Robinson

****FREE SNACKS****

Meeting place: Lyle Trailhead 9:30 AM

Hike 1: Fisher Hill Bridge to Pitt, moderate

Hike 2: Lyle to Fisher Hill Bridge, easy

Come to the Klickitat River Valley, enjoy the fall colors, and join Klickitat Trail Conservancy (KTC) members for their 10th anniversary celebration and hikes. We will meet at the new Lyle Trailhead and KTC will treat everyone to snacks before the hikes. There will be two hiking options. The first will be a strenuous 8+ mile hike one way from the Fisher Hill Trestle to Pitt. This hike involves a car shuttle. The second is an easy shorter hike, four miles round trip looking at plants, from Lyle to the Fisher Hill Bridge. The hikes follow the river through oak woodlands. Both hikes are flat, but the trail is rocky, so sturdy shoes are required. Bring water and a lunch

October 20, Saturday: East Swale Canyon hike

Walk Leaders: Barbara Robinson and Ashleigh Coyner, offered jointly by KTC and Friends of the Gorge

Level: Easy, three or four miles round trip, starting from Harms Rd Trailhead

First Meeting place: 9:45 AM at the Lyle Trailhead

After meeting at the trailhead, we will take the Lyle-Centerville Hwy (left at the red Lyle Cafe building) 15 miles to Harms Rd, and then left/north on Harms Rd half a mile to the east trailhead for Swale Canyon. We start the hike from there about 10:30.

We will walk west about three miles along Swale Creek and then back out, looking at birds, plants, fish and wildlife habitat, and wetlands. Bring binoculars. Please wear study boots since the trail is an old railbed and very gravelly.

October 28, Sunday: Wahkiacus to the Mineral Springs

Leaders: Plant expert Barbara Robinson and KTC board member Bev Linde

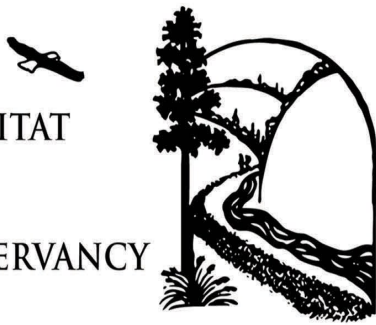
Level: Easy, about 2 miles round trip

First meeting place: Lyle Trailhead 10:00 AM

Second meeting place: Klickitat Town Park Trailhead, 10:30 AM

This is a very scenic hike along the Klickitat River. The hike starts 16 miles up the Klickitat River, and the beautiful drive up the river with the maples and oaks at the peak of Fall color will be part of the fun. We will hike to the site of an old dry ice plant with bubbly mineral water still coming up out of old pipes, and talk about the history of the mineral springs. The hike is flat, but the path is rocky in places and there is poison oak near the trail, so please wear sturdy shoes.

Klickitat Trail Conservancy



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The Klickitat Trail was named by The BestoftheGorge.com as Best Hiking Trail in the Gorge. We couldn't be happier and hope you are too!

Thank you for your support!!



Time to Renew or Join?

Your membership in the Klickitat Trail Conservancy (KTC) is critical to our success.

Yes! You can count on my ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP to help preserve and promote the public use of Klickitat Trail! As a member, I strongly support the purposes, goals and objectives of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy. (please cut out and mail to address above)

\$25 (standard)

\$100

\$500

\$50

\$250

Other

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

- Add me to the KTC listserv, an email list for sharing timely information about the trail.
- I am interested in volunteering for trail work.
- I am interested in becoming more involved in the KTC organization in these ways: