



Dedicated to the preservation & promotion of the Klickitat Trail

Klickitat Trail Conservancy
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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.

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BRIDGES OF KLICKITAT COUNTY

by Pam Essley



Twin Bridges at mouth of the Klickitat River, Washington, as seen from Rowena Crest, Oregon. Lyle is the town on the right. Image taken March 20, 2004. Copyright © 2004 Lyn Topinka, private archives, used with permission. For more information and photographs about the Columbia River, visit "The Columbia River -- A Photography Journey" at <http://englishriverwebsite.com/LewisClarkColumbiaRiver/index.html>

Near the trailhead just west of Lyle two distinctive arched bridges span the Klickitat River at its confluence with the Columbia River. One is a railroad bridge named the Klickitat River Bridge. The other bridge is Washington State Route 14 (SR 14). Because the railroad bridge and the highway bridge run parallel to one another, they are generally referred to by locals as the "Twin Bridges".

The Klickitat River Bridge was constructed by the Contracting and Engineering Company of Tacoma in 1908 as part of the Spokane, Portland, and Seattle Railway. The 200 foot bridge consists of a 160 foot concrete arch, one of two large concrete arches built for railroad use within the State. Of the two, the Klickitat River Bridge is the oldest, and has the longest arch span. Like most of the concrete arches built for railroad use at the turn-of-the-century, the Klickitat River Bridge is a massive full-centered vault with a solid barrel arch ring. However, unlike many of the early concrete railroad arches, the Klickitat River Bridge is an open spandrel arch. Due to its significance in its demonstration of the early experimentation in the use of concrete for the construction of railroad bridges, the Klickitat River Railroad Bridge was listed on the Washington Heritage Register in 1981.

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**A heartfelt thank you to the Columbia Gorge Environmental Foundation
for their generous grant allowing color to be added to Trail Notes**

DISCOURAGING TICKS

By Jim Denton

Toward the end of last winter I took my daughter for a hike in the eastern Columbia River Gorge. At the time we were planning the hike I was thinking mostly about staying warm in the cold, windy, exposed hillside and not about ticks. But not long into the trip it became obvious that it would be the critters and not the cold that would make the day less than pleasant. We had hardly begun breathing hard before I noticed multiple ticks crawling up my daughters fleece pants. My denim jeans usually came up tick free but her fleece seemed to be sending out sirens calling the little buggers.

After 25 years of hiking, what happened that day last winter in the dry lands of the eastern gorge is not surprising. Ticks like something that gives them a good surface to cling to and I can't think of anything better than fleece. My denim jeans fared better, but my favorite clothing for walking in tick infested country has become the tough cotton/polyester fabric used for work clothing. It's a fairly slick surface which is designed to repel dirt and it seems to be able to do the same for ticks.

Over the years I have observed how many people try to repel or avoid ticks. One Forest Service employee always wore white coveralls so that he could spot them more easily. Many people recommend that you tuck and tape every opening in your clothing. Some go the opposite route and claim that shorts and bare legs are good. This way ticks can be more easily seen and felt. Others choose to swim in bug repellent. I guess everyone that spends much time in tick country has their own ideas. Several years ago at the Intel Science Fair in Portland I saw an experiment that seemed to hold promise. It attempted to determine which colors ticks were attracted to. It was found that ticks were not attracted to any particular color, but tended to move away from green. I guess that it makes sense when a tick lives in a green world and its food is just about any other color it would not choose to head towards green when hungry. I will admit that my own attempts to test this experiment were quite unscientific. For one entire year I tried to do all my hiking wearing green clothing including a pair of green John Deere boots. The result was that I found zero ticks on my clothing or skin the entire year. Unfortunately, I had no controls and I have also gone other years without getting ticks on me either.

When hiking the Klickitat Trail my best advice is to avoid ticks by staying on the trail and away from brush. Ticks can be seen near the top of tall blades of grass and other vegetation just waiting for you to walk by. By keeping on the trail you will greatly reduce your contact with ticks.



WHY GATES ON THE TRAIL?

Because the Klickitat Trail passes through private land as well as public land you will encounter gates on certain parts of it. Some of these gates have a valued purpose which is to protect livestock and to deter unlawful driving on the trail. The need of other gates is questionable. The Forest Service, Parks Department and KTC are working with adjacent property owners to assure public access is not impeded unnecessarily. The Klickitat Trail is a public trail. When you encounter a gate feel free to open it, pass through it and close it behind you.

KTC thanks you for your cooperation.

Dan Lichtenwald, a valued board member, has resigned to concentrate on other interests. His thoughtful and insightful opinions were always appreciated as well as his great knowledge and sensitivity of the natural world. His presence on nearly every work party will be missed.



KTC WORK PARTIES...DID YOU KNOW?

Official KTC work parties are generally led by a KTC work committee member, announced in advance, and everyone signs in on an official State Parks form. This gives State Parks insurance benefits to the work party members. But sometimes there are informal work parties. For instance, when a hiking group finds trash along the trail. If everyone spends time picking up trash here and there for the full length of the hike, let's say three hours, then everyone has worked for three hours.

To report this work:

- ◆ There is a form to fill out on our Website. To access this form go to our home page click on Trail Monitoring. Cut and paste the form to our email address info@klickitat-trail.org.
- ◆ Or, call our Works Reporter, Laurie Wilhite, at 509-773-3839 and either give her the information or leave it as a message on her voicemail.

In addition to mentioning the work done, please include the names of all persons doing the work, and approximately how much time each spent working.

Your participation in any way will be greatly appreciated and welcomed. Thanks for pitching in and helping out.

Because KTC work parties are scheduled as needed and sometimes are coordinated with US Forest Service and State Parks personnel check our Website for the 2007 Work Party Schedule and updates. - www.klickitat-trail.org."

KTC Hiking Schedule, Spring 2007

The following are KTC scheduled events. 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. 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.

March 10, Saturday: Hike Leader: Cheryl Steindorf & Pam Essley

Old Dry Ice Plant and Mineral Springs hike. This is a lovely and historically interesting stretch of trail which in a mile gets us to an old Dry Ice Plant and mineral springs. If the weather permits, we'll continue south along the river to the Suburbia trestle. Five miles round trip (or 2 miles if the weather is bad). Parts of the trail are quite rocky, so wear good boots. **Meeting Place:** Meet in **downtown Klickitat**, 13 miles north of Lyle on Hwy 142, at 10:00am. In Klickitat, go north past a brick building and a closed food market on the left, and park on the left just after the food market. (You will see a gas station a little north of the parking area on the right.)

March 25, Sunday: Hike Leaders: Donna Enz & Pam Essley

Upper Swale Canyon, WA (Held jointly with Friends of the Gorge) Moderate: 7 miles round trip, 300-ft. elev. Gain. This is an early wildflower hike along Swale Creek in the eastern Gorge. Look for desert parsleys and rare buttercups on this occasionally rocky trail. If the weather is bad or the spring is late, we may switch to a lower elevation hike. **Meeting Place:** 9:30 AM at **Lyle Trailhead**. Actual start of hike is 15 miles north of meeting place at the Harms Road Trailhead. We will carpool to it.

April 1, Sunday: Hike Leaders: Bev Linde & Laurie Wilhite

Fisher Hill Bridge to Pitt, WA; Moderate: 8 miles, 100-ft. elev. Gain. This is a beautiful hike along the wild Klickitat River, with excellent flowers and birding.. Yellow and purple parsleys line the canyon walls along this fairly level old rail-bed trail. **Meeting Place:** 9:30 AM at the **Lyle Trailhead**.

April 1, Sunday: Bike Ride Leader: Bob Hansen

Klickitat Trail Bike Ride, WA (Held jointly with Friends of the Gorge) Mod/Strenuous: 8-31 miles (Your choice), 1,000-ft. elev. LOSS. Ride from the high prairie of the Goldendale plateau down to the Columbia River with Klickitat Trail Conservancy's first president Bob Hansen. Helmets, a spare tube and front suspension required; rear suspension recommended and fenders worthy of your consideration. **Meeting Place:** 9:00 AM at the **Lyle Trailhead** (\$10 shuttle fee). *Please contact Bob Hansen at 509.637.2736, or by e-mail at bobhansen@gorge.net, if you plan to participate so that appropriate shuttle arrangements can be made in advance.*

April 7, Saturday: Birding Walk Leader: Stuart Johnson

Birding Walk, starting at Harms Rd and going east towards Warwick, also going west from Harms Rd. a little. This is a hike for serious (or would-be serious) birders. Expect to stand still looking and listening more than walking. Bring warm clothes and binoculars. We're hoping to see Long-billed Curlews and hear Vesper Sparrows, as well as much more. **First Meeting Place:** **Lyle Trailhead** at 7:00 AM. **Second Meeting Place:** **Harms Rd. Trailhead** at 7:30 AM

April 15, Sunday: Hike Leaders: Jim Denton & Dave Berger

Swale Canyon, 13 miles, heavy railroad gravel in sections. There is no access to this section of trail except at the beginning and end, so come prepared. About 6 ½ hours. This is a one way hike through remote and beautiful Swale Canyon. Early flowers should be at peak. The trail is railroad gravel in places, so wear sturdy boots. This hike will involve a car shuttle on gravel roads. **Meeting Place:** **Lyle Trailhead** at 9:00 AM.

April 28, Saturday: Hike Leaders: Jim Minick & Cheryl Steindorf

Fisher Hill Bridge to Pitt, 8 miles, rocky in places. This very scenic route along exciting stretches of the Klickitat River will be at wildflower peak, with yellow balsam root, purple lupine, and much more. **Meeting Place:** **Lyle Trailhead** at 9:30 AM.

The **Lyle Trailhead** is located on the west end of Lyle, WA on SR 14, across from Greg Colt Realty. From Portland, take I-84 East to the Hood River Bridge. Cross into Washington and turn east on SR 14, to Lyle. From The Dalles, cross The Dalles bridge and turn west on SR 14 to Lyle. There is a portable toilet at this location.

Harms Rd. Trailhead is located just off the Lyle-Centerville Hwy. From Lyle, take the Lyle-Centerville Hwy., heading NE for approximately 15 miles and left on Harms Rd. Drive north one-half mile and park just north of the bridge. There is a portable toilet at this location throughout the spring and early summer only.

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

May 5, Saturday: Wildflower Hike Leaders: Donna Enz & Pam Essley

Swale Canyon from Harms Rd, about 6 miles round trip. Rocky in places. This will be a very easygoing educational hike along Swale Creek, focusing on wildflowers and the ecology of the area. If the flowers are better elsewhere another trail location may be substituted.) **Meeting Place:** **Lyle Trailhead** 9:30 AM

May 19, Saturday: Hike Leaders: Jim Minick & Jim Denton

Swale Canyon, 13 miles, heavy rail ballast in sections. Moderate pace. About 6 ½ hrs. Here's your second chance to hike beautiful and remote Swale Canyon before it is closed for fire season. (Usually around June 15) We do a car shuttle (involving gravel roads) so that we can hike one way. Remember, there is no way out except the beginning and end, so be in shape and come prepared. Bring plenty of water. **Meeting Place:** **Lyle Trailhead** 8:30 AM

June 2, Saturday: Hike Leaders: Jim Denton & Dave Berger A National Trails Day Event

Fisher Hill Bridge to Pitt, 8 miles, rocky in places. Can be hot. Hike along this Wild & Scenic designated section of the Klickitat river and see Native American dip net fishery at the "Narrows" section of the river.. **Meeting Place:** **Lyle Trailhead** 8:30 AM

June 10, Sunday: Hike and trash pick-up Leaders: Cheryl Steindorf & Pam Essley

Pitt to Klickitat, 4 miles, flat, rocky in places. There will be a car shuttle so we can go one way. Bring gloves. This is a very scenic stretch of the Klickitat River. Help us pick up some areas that have special litter problems. **Meeting Place:** **Lyle Trailhead** 9:00 AM

Note: There is a possibility of bridge work at both the upper and lower ends of the Swale Canyon Hikes which may force a change in plans. Also, we did not schedule hikes on the Lyle to Fisher Hill trail section because (we hope) there will be spring work done to improve the trail surface. See our website near the time of the hike for any updates to the hiking schedule.

Trail Improvements Report

The design review is nearly completed for the Lyle trailhead and construction is still on target for 2007.

Contractors are in place and just waiting for the weather to improve in order to begin trail resurfacing. We should see some improvements to the trail this spring north of the Lyle trailhead and in the town of Klickitat.

The Fisher Hill trestle decking design contract is under way. "It is my understanding that we have received the design for final review" said, Stan Hinatsu, US Forest Service Recreation Program Manager for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. "We did not receive the IAC Grant, so currently there is no funding for construction in 2007. State Parks and Forest Service will make another run at an IAC Grant this year". IAC is the Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation which helps finance recreation and conservation projects throughout the state.

Mr. Hinatsu also reported that the Cooperative Working Group (CWG) has met several times and that they are making good progress on the development of the Annual Operating Plan. The CWG includes representatives from State Parks, US Forest Service and the KTC. As a group, the CWG will cooperate to develop, manage, and maintain the trail.

HELP WANTED

BOARD MEMBER WANTED

KTC has an opening on our board. If you have time once a month to attend meetings in the Lyle/Klickitat area and would like to share in developing the trail with like minded individuals you will find a place on the board rewarding. Our board members are the strength that have made KTC the successful organization it has become. There is still a lot to be accomplished. Consider taking a step toward the future of the Klickitat Trail.

Email us at info@klickitat-trail.org

Bridges...continued from Cover

Major improvements were done to the SR14 Highway Bridge around 1933 to accommodate increased motorized traffic. An interesting story about this bridge is recounted by Jim Curl, a long-time Lyle resident. He remembers that in 1933 a Hollywood film company came to Lyle to make a movie, which included a car going off a bridge. As the story goes, the filmmakers took out the middle part of the SR 14 Highway Bridge railing and put in a false rail. Through a sequence of filming short takes, and stopping the action in between for repositioning, a car was filmed going through the rail and landing in the Klickitat River. Fortunately, no one was injured. Unfortunately, the name of the movie remains elusive. It is believed the car is still at the bottom of the river. Mr. Curl was an eye witness to this event because he was one of the kids let out by the school to watch the spectacle.

There is another bridge in Klickitat County by the name of Klickitat River Bridge. It is also known as Bridge Number 142/9. It carries State Route 142 (SR 142) over the Klickitat River seventeen and one-half miles to the northeast of its junction with SR 14 in

Lyle. This is a well-used highway between Lyle and Goldendale, the Klickitat County seat. This bridge is 141 feet 8 inches long and consists of two pre-stressed girder spans. Starting from the west end, the spans are about 47 feet 7 inches and 91 feet 1 inch long. They are supported on concrete piers from a previous bridge at the site, and were modified to accommodate the pre-stressed girders. The Klickitat River Bridge is listed in the National Register of Historic Places "for its association with bridge building in Washington in the 1950s, and for its association with and contribution to the beginning and growth of a vigorous precast pre-stressed concrete industry in the state". Constructed in 1954 for Klickitat County, the bridge appears to be the first designed and constructed bridge for public highway use in Washington that incorporated pre-stressed concrete. The Klickitat River Bridge is the oldest pre-stressed concrete bridge on the current Bridge Inventory for the State of Washington.

KTC Receives National Recognition and Grant

Pam Essley

KTC received national recognition and a \$500 grant from the Kodak American Greenways Awards Program. The grant will provide building materials for informational kiosks at trailheads on the Klickitat Trail. These will display the trail map, trail use guidelines, interpretive trail education and safety reminders. The KTC will contribute volunteer labor to complete and install the kiosks. In addition to receiving the grant award, the KTC will be showcased as a national model for its innovative efforts to develop a greenway in the Columbia River Gorge.

KTC is one of 44 groups nationwide honored for its innovative efforts. The Kodak American Greenways Awards are made possible through the generous support of the Eastman Kodak Company. The awards are administered by The Conservation Fund, a recognized leader in working with local communities to expand the nation's network of linked open spaces. The Awards Grants Review Committee selected grant recipients this year from a pool of nearly 125 qualified applicants. "It's exciting to be recognized nationally for

our local trail," said KTC President Cheryl Steindorf, a resident of Klickitat. "This trail would not be open to the public today had it not been for a lot of local residents pulling together."

KTC's first organized hikes started in August 2002. This planted the seeds for an organization that was to become the Klickitat Trail Conservancy. Since then our group of members and supporters has grown. We were committed to making the dream of an improved Klickitat Trail become a reality. In October, KTC celebrated the 4th Anniversary of the first hike with a hike and a bike ride. This was followed by a luncheon and speeches recalling the past four action-packed years. We recognized how much has been accomplished through the shared efforts of many individuals.

For more information about the Kodak American Greenways Awards and The Conservation Fund and its mission please go to www.conservationfund.org.

A special thank you to Pam Essley, Julie Larson and Laurie Wilhite for all their work and efforts in preparing and submitting this grant.

Swale Canyon Work Party Oct. 8th

Barbara Robinson

Hi Friends – KTC’s work party on Sunday, October 8th was a rousing success! Work Committee Chair Jim Denton led eight other volunteers, Avalon Denton, Mark Reynolds, Dave Berger, Bev Linde, Dale Stone, and Gene Huse, in cleaning the woody debris from under a trestle about six miles down from Harms Rd. in Swale Canyon. The day before, Andy Kallinen, head ranger at Columbia Hills State Park, had built a cart to carry tools and also people to the work site, variously dubbed by us the Klickitat Cadillac, the Swale Canyon Cruiser (SC Cruiser), the Klickitat Cruiser, and the Klickitat Crusher. Four of us rode in the cart, with Doug King of State Parks driving. The others did a car shuttle, biking to the trestle and later biking out to Wahkiacuscus. In less than two hours, ten people, working with a purpose, had the log jam removed.



Much thanks to Doug for the chain saw expertise as well as lots of just plain muscling the logs out of the jam. Also, a huge thanks to Andy and any others at State Parks who built the cart. Without that three or four of us could not have participated. On the way back we stopped occasionally to do weeding and pruning. The weather turned out to be wonderful and those of us riding the cart agreed that, because we didn’t have to watch our feet, we had never before had such a good chance to look around and enjoy the beauty of Swale Canyon.

Check our Website for upcoming work parties. We hope you will join us on a work party soon!



Before



After

Time to Renew or Join?

Your membership in the Klickitat Trail Conservancy (KTC) is critical to our success. If you are an existing member of the KTC and would like to continue supporting the Trail, you may have recently received a reminder letter letting you know your annual membership is due for renewal. How are your membership dollars utilized? Here are some of the ways:

- Enables us to keep you abreast of new trail developments and happenings via our listserv, website, and newsletters.
- Supports our ability to provide portable toilets at several trail heads and install new gates and fences.
- 100% of your annual membership contribution is used to help us continue to preserve and promote public use of the Klickitat Trail.

If you are not an existing member of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy and would like to become a member, you are encouraged to complete the form in this newsletter, or copy the one on our website at <http://www.klickitat-trail.org/membership.htm>, and mail it to us. Whether you are renewing your membership, or are a new member, your support will help to pay for trail improvement. Your continued support keeps our mission alive and is greatly appreciated.

The KTC Board of Directors

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

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 (Standard) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ |

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Add me to the KTC listserv, an email list for sharing timely information about the trail, including hike updates, work party information, fresh news, and events.
- I am interested in volunteering for trail work.
- I am interested in being more involved in the KTC organization in the following areas:

Comments:

Please mail your membership to:
KTC
P.O. Box 512
Lyle, WA 98635

KTC Anniversary Celebration

Barbara Robinson

On Saturday, Oct 7th, KTC had a wonderful 4th Anniversary Celebration, starting with a hike and a bike ride. KTC's first president, Bob Hansen, led a bike ride of Swale Canyon. Our current president, Cheryl Steindorf, led a hike from Pitt to Fisher Hill with about 30 people. This included several students from Klickitat Middle School and High School. Other board members helping out and shepherding on the hike were Jim Minick, Bev Linde, Joe Kelsey, and Laurie Wilhite with her whole family.

After the hike, people gathered at the Klickitat School Cafeteria for a wonderful mid-afternoon lunch. Three tasty styles of sandwiches were catered by the Lyle Hotel, the scrumptious huckleberry cheesecakes were catered by Huntington's Restaurant in Klickitat, and delicious potluck additions were supplied by several members. The walls were decorated with large photos, made by Bob Hansen, of the first two very controversial hikes on the trail, and by a huge, beautiful old relief map of the Columbia Gorge, including the old Klickitat Railroad. Member Donna Enz recently borrowed that map from a local railroad expert, Jerry Tanquist, and made us a copy. After a call for speeches, our guest of honor, rail-trail lawyer Charles Montange reminisced some about those first two hikes in Bob's photos. On the first August hike four years ago, Charles and others removed illegal "no-trespassing" signs. Then in October of that year Charles used bolt cutters to cut through an illegal fence that had been erected across the trail just south of Pitt. About 20 people on that hike walked through the cut barrier and past some vocal trail opponents to complete the hike to Fisher Hill. Cheryl, Bob, Jim Minick, and several others added their stories and good words which heightened the sense of celebration we



October 7, 2006 Anniversary Hike

all felt. Many thanks to all involved in the hard work of preparing the celebration and the good food, especially Cheryl, Laura Bales, Laurie Wilhite, Pam Essley, and Donna Enz. Also many thanks to those of you who joined us on the hike, bike ride, and/or the feasting, and made the day feel like a true celebration of all that has been accomplished on the trail in the last four years!

A special thanks to the KTC board for changing the anniversary date from the first weekend in August to the first weekend in October, so we could enjoy the wonderful, cooler fall hiking weather that day!

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