



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.

KTC is a 501c (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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KTC Volunteer Hours for 2009
562

Swale Canyon Trestle Work

Photos taken by Bev Linde



Two separate work parties were needed to complete one of the longest trestles in Swale Canyon.

Replacing decaying ties



All materials and volunteers were transported by pickup truck.

KTC and all its members want to thank Jim Denton and his volunteer crews for their efforts to make the trestles safe. All materials were supplied by Washington State Parks.



Three trestles down and four to go.

Volunteering is fun. Join Jim on a work party this year. Dates will be sent via the email listserve.

Geology On the Klickitat Trail



By Barbara Robinson

On Sat. Oct. 3, Klickitat Trail Conservancy sponsored a geology hike led by Jim Denton of KTC, and Bob Detar, Hood River, a recently retired geologist with the BLM in Boise. We were lucky to have at least one other professional geologist with us, Lloyd Dekay of White Salmon. We heard a general overview of geology in the Gorge, touching on the massive lava flows that formed most of our cliffs and bedrock, later deposits such as The Dalles formation and the Troutdale formation, and the recent Ice Age Floods. Then we set off for a car tour of spots of geologic interest along the Klickitat River and Swale Creek, following the route of the Klickitat Trail.

About two miles up the Klickitat, near the Fisher Hill Bridge, we looked at the material in the road-cut next to hwy 142. This was made up of fine brown soil and rather large, angular rocks. There were no signs of layering, or material of an in-between size like sand and small rocks. The geologists concluded that this road-cut was material that had eroded and fallen

down from the hillside above.

About 6 miles up the Klickitat on Hwy 142, a little beyond Dillacourt Canyon, the road-cut along Hwy 142 exposes layers of rounded river rock, and looking back down the road you could see horizontal layering in the road-cut for quite a ways up. The geologists noted that the road-cut rock was the same size and shape as the rocks that we could see below in the river shallows. They said the Columbia had been dammed at times in the past, most recently by landslides at Cascade Locks but also probably by lava flows from Underwood Mt. (an old volcano) and by huge rock and mud flows coming down the Hood River and crossing the Columbia. (Evidence of such a flow is on the west side of the mouth of the White Salmon River). These natural dams would have raised the level of the Columbia and also the Klickitat, and they thought what we were seeing in the road-cut were layers that the Klickitat would have laid down when its level was quite a bit higher than the current level.

About 15 miles up the Klickitat the group went up to the Old Champion Haul Road to see a petrified log in the surrounding lava rocks. Geologists think that if logs and stumps were in swamps or shallow lakes when the lava came, the lava would not have burned them up because they were saturated with water, and this is one way logs could be saved and petrified. (In petrification, the organic material is gradually replaced with minerals carried by water running through cracks in the rocks.)

We stopped at Wahkiacus and noted that on the Geologic survey map there was a fault that ran through about the area of the old mineral springs factory, that could possibly be related to the mineral springs that came to the surface there.

At the Swale Creek Bridge on Harms Rd, we looked at a line of low hills going roughly north-south, and learned that they were on a fault line. A geologist said that any time you see geologic features like hills in a straight line, geologists find that suspicious, as possibly indicating a fault, though there is nothing unusual about the hills themselves. We learned that this fault ran north-south through about Warwick, and that the land on the west side had risen. Because of this, in low-water times of year the only water going down through Swale Canyon would be water coming from west of Warwick.

The end of our tour was a hike on the Klickitat Trail from Harms Rd. to Warwick. At Warwick a geologist noted that the rock formation on the north side of the trail was totally typical in appearance for the top of a lava flow.

Some suggested Reading:

The classic book on the Ice Age Floods, Cataclysms on the Columbia, by Allen, Burns, and Sargent, has just been revised and is coming out in a new edition.

A beautifully written and illustrated book that deals more broadly with the geology of this area is "In Search of Ancient Oregon" by Ellen Morris Bishop.



petrified tree

KTC Activity Schedule, Spring 2010

The following are Klickitat Trail Conservancy scheduled events for spring 2010. 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The Lyle Trailhead will be under construction during 2010.

The alternate meeting place will be at the Klickitat-Balfour Park. It is located off SR-14. Turn left onto Old Hwy 8. Follow Old Hwy 8 for approximately 1/4 mile to the parking lot on the east side of the road. There is a restroom at the park.

Please be safe and avoid the construction zone and workers.

Sunday March 28 Hike

**Hike Leaders: Barbara Robinson and Sara Wu
Upper Swale Canyon**

Moderate: 7 miles round trip. Join wildflower expert, Barbara Robinson, on this moderately paced early wildflower hike along Swale Creek in the eastern Gorge. Look for desert parsleys and rare Dalles Mt. Buttercups on this occasionally rocky and nearly flat trail. Dress for cool weather and bring a lunch.

Meeting Place: 9:30 AM at **Balfour Park**. Actual start of hike is 15 miles north of meeting place at the **Harms Road Trailhead**. We will carpool to it.

Saturday, April 17 Bike Ride

Swale Canyon Wildflower Bike Ride.

**Bike Leaders: Nancy Allen and Donna Enz
Mod/Strenuous: 13 miles, 1,000-ft. elev. LOSS**

Ride from the high prairie of the Goldendale plateau down to Wahkiacus. We will stop frequently to admire miles of Pungent and Columbia Desert Parsley in bloom and a variety of other native wildflowers as we ride along Swale Creek through oak, pine and Douglas fir riparian habitats. Bring your camera. This is meant to be a slow paced ride to take in the wonderful scenery of Swale Canyon. Helmets, a spare tube and front suspension required.

Meeting Place: 9:00 AM at **Balfour Park**. *This is a one way shuttled ride so please contact Donna Enz at 509-365-9527 or email her at denz@hughes.net, so that appropriate shuttle arrangements can be made in advance.*

Saturday, April 10 Birding

**Walk Leader: Stuart Johnston
Birding walk starts at Harms Road**

It's a good idea to get an early start when seeking out birds. Join Klickitat County birdwatcher, Stuart Johnston, who will lead this hike. We will make frequent stops to look and listen. Dress warmly, in layers that can be shed as the morning warms up. We will be alert for flight displays of newly-arrived Long-billed Curlews and singing Vesper Sparrows, among other species. We'll also have opportunities to identify many early spring wildflowers along the trail.

**First Meeting place: 7:00 am at Balfour Park
Second Meeting Place: 7:45 at Harms Road Trailhead**

DIRECTIONS

Klickitat-Balfour Park is located off SR-14. Turn left onto Old Hwy 8. Follow Old Hwy 8 for approximately 1/4 mile to the parking lot on the east side of the road. There is a restroom at the park.

Harms Road Trailhead is located just off the Lyle-Centerville Hwy. From Lyle, take the Lyle-Centerville Hwy, in the center of town. Head north for approximately 15 miles. Turn 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 Trailhead is located 10 miles north from SR-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.

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

Sunday, April 25 Hike

**Hike leaders: Jim Denton and Bev Linde
(Held Jointly with Friends of the Gorge)**

Moderate/Strenuous: Swale Canyon, 13 miles.

This is a one way hike through remote and beautiful Swale Canyon. Early flowers should be at peak. Experience miles of yellow, fragrant desert parsley in bloom. The Trail is rail-road gravel in places, so wear sturdy boots. There is no access to this section of Trail except at the beginning and end. Come prepared to complete the entire hike which should take about 6 1/2 hours.

This hike will involve a car shuttle on gravel roads.

Meeting Place: Balfour Park at 9:00 AM

Saturday, May 1 Hike

(Held Jointly with Friends of the Gorge)

Hike Leaders: Bev Linde and Jim Minick

**Moderate: Fisher Hill Bridge to Klickitat,
11 miles, rocky in places.**

This is a very scenic route along exciting stretches of the Wild and Scenic Klickitat River. It will be at wildflower peak, with balsam root, lupine, and much more.

Meeting Place: Balfour Park at 9:00 AM.

Saturday, May 15 Hike

**Hike Leaders: Laura Bales and Barbara Robinson
Easy/Moderate: Klickitat to Pitt**

As with all of the Klickitat Trail, this is a very scenic stretch that follows the Klickitat River the entire way. Barbara Robinson, a Gorge wildflower expert, will point out special wildflower viewing on some rocky seeps along the Trail. Depending on the weather this will be either a one-way 3 mile hike or round-trip 6 mile hike.

Meeting Place: 9:30 AM Balfour Park.

Second meeting place: 10:00 AM at the Pitt Trailhead

KTC Welcomes New Board Member

The Klickitat Trail Conservancy welcomes **Nancy Allen** to the board of directors. Nancy has been following the progress of the Klickitat Trail since 1994 when the first contentious public meetings were being held. She has been a KTC member for years and has participated in many KTC functions. Nancy worked for the Department of Children and Family Services in Klickitat County for 9 years.

Four counties in the Columbia River Gorge are now represented on the KTC board. Nancy lives in Sherman County, Barbara Robinson lives in Wasco County, and Jim Denton lives in Hood River County with the remainder of the board members living in Klickitat County.

Local Winery Owners Become Trail Stewards

Domaine Pouillon is a small winery owned by Alexis and Juliette Pouillon on Lyle Snowden Road just a few miles west of Lyle. Alexis and Juliette came to the Gorge in 2005 to fulfill a long time dream of owning a winery. Domaine Pouillon Winery www.domainepouillon.com.

In addition to running their winery the Pouillon's are active in the local community. Juliette has just been elected to the Lyle Community Council. With all this going on they have found time to become Trail Stewards and have adopted a section of the Klickitat Trail. They will be maintaining the area from Fisher Hill Bridge up stream for about two miles, through some wet areas where the brush



grows quickly over the Trail. When you hike or bike through that area you will have Alexis and Juliette to thank for helping maintain the Klickitat Trail. Anyone interested in becoming a Trail Steward, please contact Jim Denton. Wildthings@gorge.net or call him at (541) 354-1604

Bike Workshops

Portia Masterson will be holding her popular bike workshops again this spring. She is a retired bicycle retailer and professional bike mechanic with 25 years experience and is the author of *Bicycling Bliss: Riding to Improve Your Wellness*. There is a \$10 per person fee for each class which includes instruction and handouts. Each class size is limited to 10. If you have a stationary trainer bring it to class. The class will meet at the old Lyle School which is on Hwy. 14 in Lyle. For more information and to register call Portia Masterson 509-281-0631 or email her at portia.masterson@gmail.com

**Saturday, April 24
9:00 AM until Noon
Bike Maintenance Basics**

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

**Saturday, March 27
9:00 AM until Noon
Riding Posture for Cycling Performance and Health**

During this class you will learn how to: Use your back, neck, shoulders and arms to eliminate discomfort, pedal efficiently for more fun and less effort and adjust your bike to support this healthful posture. Learn the underlying principles and evaluate your riding position using your bike on a stationery trainer. Bring your bike and riding shoes. A short ride will follow the class.

Remembering Harold Wethered

By Barbara Robinson

In November I took a Certificate of Appreciation from KTC to the house of Harold and Evelyn Wethered in Pitt. Harold has been our informal public relations department at Pitt for several years, giving out maps and brochures, helping people find the trail, and being always observant and helpful. When our outhouse was thrown into the Klickitat River by vandals a few years back, he suggested that we put it across from his house so he could keep an eye on it. And we have never had a problem since. His wife Evelyn has also been so very helpful and kind, as well as supportive of Harold's efforts. To my great sorrow, a lady who was caretaking the house informed me that Harold, who had been in delicate health this past year, passed away. If you hiked from Pitt, perhaps you remember meeting a very friendly thin older man with a beard. That was Harold. He was an excellent carpenter and you might have noticed the inventive bird-houses and lawn ornaments in their yard. Harold and Evelyn have played a very important role in the successful development of the Klickitat Trail. They have lived along the trail, supported it, and gone way out of their way to help trail users have an enjoyable experience. Harold will be greatly missed by everyone at KTC.

New Inn Opens in Klickitat

With lodging options limited near the Klickitat Trail, it was a wonderful surprise to learn about the Klickitat Riverfront Inn. Denise Johnson is the owner and Carl Coolidge manages the inn. He is also the owner of the Canyon Market in Klickitat. The inn was completely remodeled and opened in 2008. It is located at 218 2nd Street and overlooks the Klickitat River which gives all four units river views.

For more information call 509-369-2035 or 509-369-4400 (Canyon Market) or go to the website and see wonderful photos of the inn. www.klickitatriverfrontinn.com.

Lyle Trailhead Facelift Set To Begin

By Donna Enz

Five years ago in the fall of 2005 Trail Notes, Dan Harkenrider, Forest Service Area Manager, first reported on efforts in the works for a proper Trailhead at Lyle and his "vision of the Klickitat Rail Trail becoming a reality". Federal and State money for the project have been in place for some time, but permit delays slowed the start of construction. It is good to report, however, that a contract has been awarded and Lyle Trailhead improvements are soon to become a reality. Stan Hinatsu, Recreation Program Manager at the US Forest Service office in Hood River, said that "a construction start time of late winter/early spring is anticipated and work will continue into the summer".

The new Lyle Trailhead will be an impressive gateway to the Klickitat Trail. The main entrance will be moved from SR14 to Hwy 142. It will have toilet facilities, landscaping, parking for about 14 vehicles and five or six horse trailers. There will also be a viewpoint overlooking the Klickitat River.

The new trailhead will give the city of Lyle a clean and inviting entrance as well as become a welcome respite for all. KTC hopes to be sending out invitations to the grand opening this fall.

The old Lyle Trailhead has been the hub for all KTC activities for many years. **Please be aware that during construction it will not be possible to park in that area. The Klickitat/ Balfour Park, just west of the Lyle Trailhead, will be the temporary meeting place for KTC events and activities.** It is located just off SR-14. Heading east, just before the Klickitat River, turn left, onto Old Hwy 8. Follow Old Hwy 8 for approximately 1/4 mile to the parking lot on the right side of the road.



KTC 7th Anniversary

By Bev Linde

To celebrate the Klickitat Trail's 7th Anniversary a tail-gate breakfast was held prior to the anniversary hikes. It was a big success. There were bagels, fruit, beverages, eggs, meats, muffins, and the list continues. Not only did people have breakfast, many found themselves with lunch or a snack for the hike.

Weather-wise it was a tad bit chilly but once hiking it was nice. Several chose to do the two to four mile hike while 19 did all eight miles from Fisher Hill Bridge to Pitt. Lunch found us by an old apple tree.

Highlights were seeing the ever colorful reds of the poison oak, yellows of the big leaf maples, the rushing sound of the Klickitat River, and snacking on grapes and apples growing along the trail.

Thank you to Friends of the Gorge, KTC, cyclists, hikers, and those who shuttled hikers for the great turn out.

Fisher Hill Trestle Update

By Donna Enz

By the end of the year, you will be able to walk across one of the most spectacular bridges in the Columbia River Gorge. The area of the Klickitat River known as the "narrows" is an amazing sight to see. Native American dip net fishing has been going on there for eons. This dramatic area also has the highest trestle on the Klickitat Trail.

It has been a long five year process to make the trestle safe to cross. Funding has been in place, but permitting issues have delayed the Fisher Hill trestle work until now. In October the last hurdle was overcome when the Klickitat County Commissioners recommended approval of shoreline permits. A short time later the Department of Ecology and the State of Washington gave final approval.

Stan Hinatsu, Recreation Program Manager at the US Forest Service office in Hood River, thinks work will likely start in the fall. In addition to decking on the trestle, 54 inch rails will also be built for safety.

KTC will keep you updated on the progress if you are a list-serve member. How do you become a list-serve member? Just send KTC your email address and ask to be included. info@klickitat-trail.org

Spring Inspirations



Biking Swale Canyon—Spring 2009

**Join us for 2010 Activities
See Page 3**

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