



Klickitat Trail Conservancy

TRAIL NOTES



KTC Founder Receives National Award

Lyle resident Bob Hansen recently received tribute for his efforts to open the Klickitat Trail to the public. Bob Hansen began leading organized hikes along the controversial Klickitat Trail in 2002 and helped successfully open it for public use. Bob has been recognized as the winner of this year's American Hiking Society Volunteer of the Year Award for the state of Washington.

Bob Hansen was singled out for his leadership efforts to bring public awareness to the 31-mile rail trail that starts in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. For the tenth year, the American Hiking Society has conducted a nationwide search for top volunteers based on contributions to trail maintenance and improvements.

"I'm very excited to receive the award, but this is by no means a one-person effort," said Hansen. "The success of this trail has been written by the hundreds of people who love this place."

The first six hikes drew over 100 people to the trail, with hikers staying on the narrow right of way and discovering the trail as a hidden Klickitat County treasure.

Momentum for the trail grew and in January 2003 a new organization, the Klickitat Trail Conservancy, was formed to demonstrate local support for the trail. Hansen was elected as board president, a position he still fills today. The Conservancy now has over 100 members, has put in over 750

volunteer work hours on the trail and pays for a number of portable toilets along the trail.

In 1993, the Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) purchased five railroad rights of way, including the Klickitat River and one of its tributaries, Swale Creek, for over \$3 million from Burlington Northern for interim trail use under the federal rail banking statute (16 U.S.C. 1247(d)). In 1994, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission accepted title of the corridor with the understanding that the U.S. Forest Service would develop and manage the corridor as a public trail. RTC donated \$50,000 to State Parks to offset interim management costs.



Bob Hansen, accompanied by his son Rion, receives the American Hiking Society Volunteer of the Year Award from Cecelia Vogt, a Washington State Parks and Recreation Commissioner.

In December 2003, the U.S. Forest Service agreed to manage the lower 13 miles of the trail. Washington State Parks and Klickitat Trail Conservancy are currently working out a management agreement for the upper half. Some landowner opposition to the trail exists, but support continues to

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Soda Springs Knapweed Patrol

The Klickitat Trail offers a unique opportunity to see natural soda springs. Just north of Klickitat you'll find many pipes projecting from the ground. These are old soda spring wells, part of a dry ice factory that operated here from the 1930s to the 1950s. Prior to that, starting around 1908, a series of companies flavored and bottled the soda water as a commercial venture. This was the first business in the town of Klickitat. However, turning the naturally carbonated water into dry ice later proved more profitable.



Barbara Robinson drinks from a soda spring. The amount of water flowing from this pipe changes regularly, from a trickle to a thirst-quenching fountain.

You can see the one remaining Klickitat Ice Factory building just north of Klickitat. There is a public access area off highway 142, at the old factory.

A KTC work party recently patrolled a section of the trail from the Wahkiakus trailhead south, toward the plant. They pruned and performed aggressive knapweed removal. Knapweed is a noxious weed that the Conservancy is working to eradicate from the trail.

You can hike this section of the trail by starting at the Wahkiakus trailhead. Drive to Klickitat and continue on highway 142 for 3 miles. Turn right onto Horseshoe Bend Road. Take the first right onto Schilling Road. A gravel trailhead is immediately on the right, and the trail is beyond the gate. You'll see our porta-potty. The southern entrance to Swale Canyon is located at this trailhead as well, on the other side of the road.



Dan Lichtenwald digs up knapweed from a beach upriver from the old ice factory.



Olivia Ernst plays on a sandy beach on this lovely stretch of river.

Please join the Conservancy for some of their upcoming work parties. It is an excellent way to get to know the trail better.



Mountain Unicycle Spotted on Trail

By Lisa Conway, Lyle, WA

John Hadley has officially brought an "extreme" sport to the Klickitat Trail -- mountain unicycling. But, what exactly is mountain unicycling?

Not for the faint of heart, mountain unicycling puts together several things that should never meet -- a unicycle and bumpy, rocky, uneven, off-road terrain. As with any form of unicycling, the goal is to stay on top of one wheel and have fun. But, mountain unicycling seems to offer more.

According to Hadley, the Klickitat Trail is "phenomenally fun to ride on a unicycle. The terrain is so varied, and it is not too steep to ride up hill. Unicycling makes a mellow trail much more challenging."

Hadley has been working on his mountain unicycling skills for about a year. However, as a teenager growing up in Oakridge, Oregon, he rode a unicycle around town for fun. Years ago, John put his unicycle away, presumably for more adult ways of having fun.

Fast forward to about a year ago, John found himself spending time with a juggling group at Reed College in Portland, participating in a father-son activity. John discovered talented unicyclers practicing and sharing their techniques, and he remembered his old unicycle.

"For humble beginners, someone is usually willing to hold your hand to teach you to unicycle," says John. "Beginners progress from riding along a wall to learning simple tricks like riding backwards and idling. Then comes a myriad of skills. For a mountain unicycler, climbing, precise path riding, and obstacles are perhaps the most useful."

"You do fall off when you ride, and rocks can bounce you off the cycle like a pogo stick. But, fortunately you can only unicycle as fast you pedal, so you learn to sort of hit the ground running. I rarely get hurt (so far!)."

John's first trail ride was a 12-mile round trip, starting above the town of Klickitat. He unicycled, while Laura Green rode ahead on her mountain bike. John enthusiastically proclaims, "Uni-trail riding is great, because the terrain and the rugged scenery combine to make it a quality Gorge-grade experience. And, as with any sport, it's the extra that makes it inspiring."

John lives outside of Lyle, WA, and teaches in White Salmon. If you're interested in some one-wheeled fun, contact him at zhadley@yahoo.com.

- Reed College offers free open gym for both unicycling and juggling on Wednesday nights, from 7 pm to 9 pm.
- Mt. View Cycles, in Hood River, sells mountain unicycles.
- Area uni-riders can be contacted through <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/portlandjugglers/> or check out www.unicycling.com/muni/ for more information.



John Hadley introduces a new sport to the Klickitat Trail...mountain unicycling. Photo by Laura Green

A View from the Back

By Lesa Dixon-Gray, Portland, OR

"We're not really going to go through that, are we? Wait, wait, no, no, stop David! Please stop!"

These unheeded pleas were made often while mountain biking the entire 31 miles of the Klickitat Trail on the back of David Burdick's tandem bike. It was only my second time on a tandem bike, the first in 15 years. I thought I never would have even considered doing a 31-mile mountain bike ride, much less on a tandem. But there I was, the stoker, peddling in the back, my eyes squeezed shut, knowing that we could end up flying over something as David, the Captain, sped over the small rock piles and near the trail cliffs, refusing to get off and walk.



Luckily for me, I was not totally at the mercy of David's wild abandon. Jim Minick had invited us to join a KTC sponsored ride and daylong adventure. Riding in a group always seems to bring a sense of

camaraderie among people who start out as strangers, but end as partners in adventure. This trip was no different. It also provided me with a feeling of safety, because others in our group were facing similar trail challenges.

Our group enjoyed stops to get to know each other, a downhill pace-line of mountain bikes on the road (the part of the trail that's not connected), a group lunch, and even a couple of group flat tires. I think there were fewer riders who didn't get flats than those who did! Lots of us experienced changing tires that day; luckily, our accomplished leader, Bob Hansen, was ready with assistance.

The good news about being on the back of a tandem is that on the calmer sections of trail I was able to settle back and watch the scenery as David maneuvered over and around rocks, moguls and potholes. And, there was spectacular scenery to be seen. Flowers along the hillside above the canyon were in bloom, leaving bright yellow swaths of color in the distance. Riding along the river for miles at a time gave me the feeling of peace and exhilaration. Between the canyon and river, views were breath taking and dramatic.

As a frequent user of other Rails to Trails, the Klickitat Trail is one of the more memorable trails I've ridden. It was a wonderful ride, both for a single mountain bike as well as a tandem. But if you decide to go on the back of a tandem, make sure your Captain understands the meaning of "Stop"!

Lesa Dixon Gray and David Burdick are all smiles as they take a break from their tandem trail adventure. Photo by David Burdick

Family Ramblings *Especially for kids!*

Head out with your kids or grandkids to the trail for some "kid-paced" fun! The trail's gentle grade makes it ideal hiking for preschoolers, young kids and mom's with kids in backpacks. Hikes are approximately four miles, but may vary depending upon what the group is up for that day.

These slow paced hikes will start at 10:00 am at the Lyle trailhead, across from Greg Colt Realty on route 14 in Lyle. This fall, Pam Springer plans to explore some new sections of the trail with her mini-hikers. Please call (509) 365-3866 with questions.

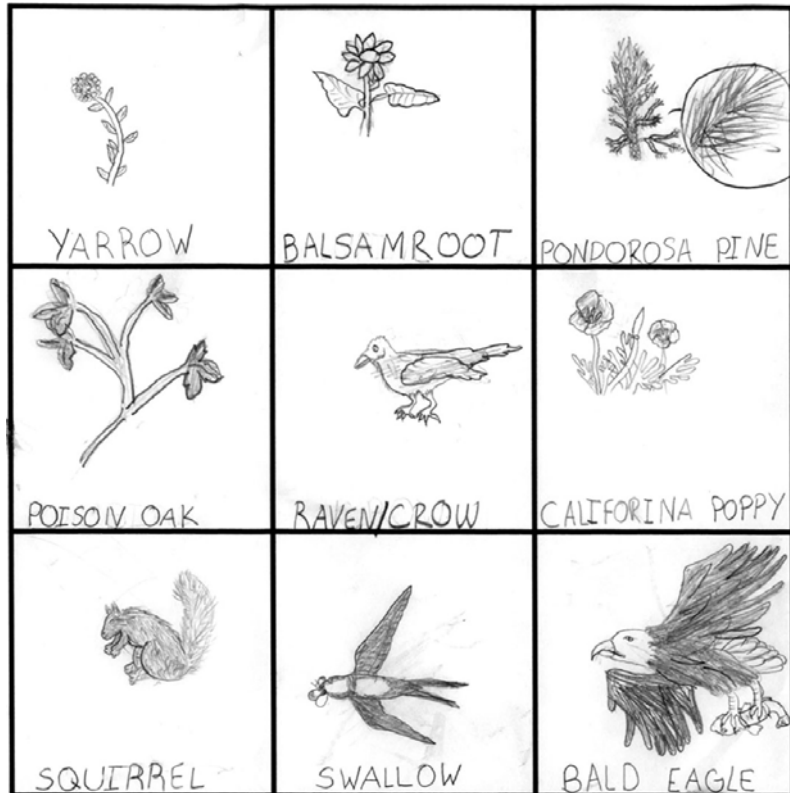
Bring snacks, water, wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.

Fall Hike Dates

September 17 October 15
November

TRAIL BINGO

Here's a helpful game of BINGO to help you keep track of what you see on the trail. Three in a row wins!



Original artwork by Isabel Martin

KTC SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS

KTC hikes are open to everyone. Bi-monthly hikes are usually scheduled the first Saturday and the third Sunday of each month. Come prepared for weather. Bikers should be prepared for flats. Pets and smoking are not allowed on KTC events.

July 22, Thursday: Work Party
8:30 am, meet at the Lyle trailhead.

July 25th, Sunday: Canyon Days Hike
Klickitat to Pitt. Meet at 9:00 am at Klickitat Town Park.

Aug. 7, Saturday: Pitt to Fisher Hill Bridge
Hike is 8 miles. Meet at 9 am at the Lyle trailhead.

August 15th, Sunday: Wahkiakus to Suburbia
Meet at 9:00 am at the Wahkiakus trailhead.

August 16th, Monday: Work Party
8:30 am, meet at the Lyle trailhead.

Sept. 4, Saturday: Pitt to Fisher Hill Bridge
Hike is 8 miles. Meet at 9 am at the Lyle trailhead.

September 17, Friday: Family Ramblings
10 am, Lyle trailhead.

September 19th, Sunday: Klickitat Area

3 miles hike. Meet at 9:00 am at the Wahkiakus trailhead.

September 20, Monday: Work Party
8:30 am, meet at the Lyle trailhead.

October 2, Saturday: Pitt to Fisher Hill Bridge
Hike is 8 miles. Meet at 9 am at the Lyle trailhead.

October 15, Friday: Family Ramblings
10 am, Lyle trailhead.

October 20, Wednesday: Work Party
9:00 am, meet at the Lyle trailhead.

November 6, Saturday: Swale Canyon
Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am. Hike is 13 miles one way. Car shuttle. Hike starts at Harms Rd, at 10:45 am. Hikes ends by 5 pm.

November 19, Friday: Family Ramblings
10 am, Lyle trailhead.

November 24, Wednesday: Work Party
9:00 am, meet at the Lyle trailhead.

December 17, Friday: Family Ramblings
10 am, Lyle trailhead.

Gas, Food and Lodging

Thank you for hiking, biking and spending time in Klickitat County and on the Klickitat trail! Food, drink, gas, lodging and services are available near several areas of the trail. Plan to stop and provision at one of our local businesses. Or, have dinner and spend the night!

Lyle

- **Full Throttle Espresso:** Espresso, ice cream, snacks.
- **Lyle Merc:** Groceries, snacks, laundry, showers, information.
- **Country Café:** Home cooked food.
- **Lyle Gas Station:** Gas, service bay.
- **Milestone Nursery:** Plant nursery specializing in native plants of the Columbia Gorge. By appointment. (509) 365-5222
- **Lyle Taproom:** Food, drink, place to relax.
- **Lyle Hotel and Restaurant:** Historic railroad hotel with 10 guest rooms, fine dining (Wed-Sat 5 - 9 pm, Sun 4 - 8 pm), information and local history. Call for reservations, 100 Seventh St. 800-447-6310
- **Colt Realty:** Gorge real estate. (509) 365-2266
- **Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast:** First Saturday of each month. 7 to 10:30 am. Lion's Club.
- **Wishbone Campground:** Peaceful, quiet, no train noise, lovely location! 10 Canyon Rd, off Old Highway 8. (509) 365-3210

Klickitat

- **Ice Plant Public Access:** Camping, access. Hwy 142, north of Klickitat.
- **Huntington's Bar & Grill** Full menu, from steaks to sandwiches. Open 4 pm, closed Wednesdays.
- **Riverhouse Restaurant and Lounge:** . Pizza, steak, sandwiches. Closed Mondays.
- **G-Mart:** Information, fishing supplies, groceries, deli, gas, rooms to rent, fishing shuttle service. (509) 369-4075

Guide Services

- **Adventure Fishing:** Fishing guide, (509) 369-2366
- **Dana Hale:** Fishing guide, (509) 369-4607
- **John Garrett:** Fishing guide, (509) 365-5563
- **KD Guide Service:** Fishing guide, (509) 493-3167
- **Ken Schleicher:** Fishing guide, (509) 493-3167
- **Diane Gadway:** Birding guide, (509) 493-3448
- **Julee's Gorge Tours:** (541) 806-1075 www.gorgetours.com

Bike Shops and Rentals

- **Discover Bikes:** Sales, rentals. Downtown Hood River. (541) 386-4820
- **Sunset Cycles:** Bike sales and service. Not open on weekends. 85 NE Estes, White Salmon. (509) 493-3117
- **Mt. View Cycle:** Sales, rentals and demos. Downtown Hood River. (541) 386-BIKE

Camping and Parks

- **Horsethief Lake State Park:**

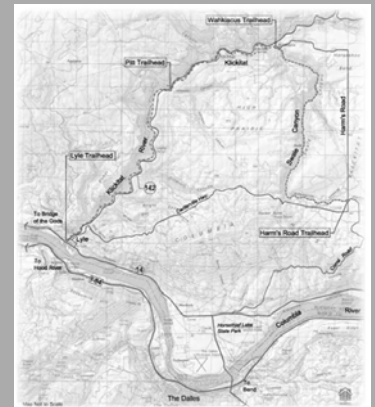
Petroglyphs, petroglyph tours, camping, swimming, boating. Highway 14, Dallesport. (509) 767-1159

- **Wishbone Campground:** Peaceful, quiet, no train noise! Northwest of Lyle. 10 Canyon Rd, off Old Highway 8. (509) 365-3210
- **Klickitat-Balfour State Park:** Day use park, hiking, picnic. Lyle.
- **Catherine Creek:** Day use park, hiking. Old Highway 8.
- **Doug's Beach:** Day use park, windsurf, picnic, and beach. East of Lyle. Highway 14.
- **Huse Property camping and airstrip:** Free camping on private property. Starry nights, good binocular area, great Mt. Adams view. Limited facilities. Uecker Road (east end of Klickitat Trail), 1/8th mile south on Uecker Road from end of Klickitat Trail. 2300' grass landing strip, fly-ins welcome. Call, write or e-mail Gene and Pat Huse, (509) 773-1944, 760 Uecker Road, Centerville, WA 98613, huse@gorge.net.

KTC apologizes for any errors. Updates are at www.klickitat-trail.org.

Trail Map Will Soon Be Available

Walker Macy, a landscape architecture firm from Portland, Oregon, is donating their services to create a map for the Klickitat Trail. The firm, which provided landscape design for Skamania Lodge, was contacted by Klickitat Trail Conservancy last year and Walker-Macy's landscape architects have since walked and ridden the trail. It is estimated that Walker Macy's *pro bono* contribution to the Klickitat Trail Conservancy will amount to over \$2,500.



The full-color map will include geologic and topographical features, trail access points, distances between trail access points and trail etiquette. The map will be available on-line at www.klickitat-trail.org and incorporated into a larger brochure. The brochure will be funded through corporate sponsorships. If you are interesting in sponsoring the map, contact Bob Hansen at bobhansen@gorge.net.



Hansen Award

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grow. The trail was named a "Top Ten Attraction" in Klickitat County by a local newspaper, and hikes led by the Klickitat Trail Conservancy are drawing more people to visit Klickitat County.

"The Klickitat Trail was the comeback story of 2003. If not for Bob Hansen and a number of other locals who pushed for the trail, there would be no Klickitat Trail," said Kevin Gorman, Friends of the Columbia Gorge executive director.

Hansen was nominated by Friends of the Columbia Gorge for the award. The American Hiking Society, a national recreation-based conservation organization, was established in 1976 and is dedicated to establishing, preserving and maintaining footpaths in America. Saturday, June 5 marked the 12th year for National Trails Day.



Forest Service Details Trail Development Plans

By Pam Springer, Lyle WA

The wheels of progress are rolling along the Klickitat Trail, according to Kim Titus of the U. S. Forest Service . Titus, as project manager, said that the U. S. Forest Service intends to complete their agreements with Washington State Parks by September 31, 2004. The U. S. Forest Service has \$240,000 slated for the Klickitat Trail, with funding available October 1, 2004, which is the beginning of their 2005 fiscal year.

Titus explains, "Our first priority is the health and safety of trail users. As a result, decking the Fisher Hill Bridge will be the first project undertaken and should be accomplished by the end of the summer of 2005."

The second priority for the U. S. Forest Service is to protect resources, therefore the second goal is to develop the trailheads at Lyle and Pitt. Currently, the majority of trail users access the trail at Lyle and Pitt. The Forest Service would like to work with the community of Klickitat to develop a trailhead there in the near future.

Titus said, "Planning for the fiscal year 2006 will begin mid-way through next year. Funds will be allocated where they are needed the most."



Another dedicated volunteer, Jim Denton, prunes low hanging trees along the trail.

Your membership is what keeps us going!
Please renew your annual membership,
or join today!

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

___ \$25 (single)

___ \$250

___ \$50 (family)

___ \$500

___ \$100

___ other

I am interested in volunteering for trail work _____

Please list skills and/or areas of interest :

Return to: KTC, PO Box 512, Lyle, WA 98635

For more trail info, go to www.klickitat-trail.org

We appreciate your support. Thank you!

7/04

Swale Canyon Seasonal Fire Closure

As of July 1, due to the seasonal risk of fire danger, there will be a fire ban and closure in Swale Canyon. The area closed will be from the Wahkiakus trailhead to the Harms Road trailhead. No public use of this area will be allowed until the Washington State Parks lifts the closure sometime in October, depending upon weather conditions. For up-to-date information, go to www.klickitat-trail.org.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Have a trail adventure or a picture you'd like to share?
Send it to info@klickitat-trail.org

Klickitat Trail Conservancy

www.klickitat-trail.org

PO Box 512

Lyle, WA 98635

Our Mission Statement:

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.

The Klickitat Trail Conservancy is a non-profit organization.

Trail Notes is a publication of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy. Submissions are welcome. Please send pictures, articles or comments to info@klickitat-trail.org, or PO Box 512, Lyle, WA 98635.


Board of Directors:

President.....Bob Hansen, Lyle, WA
Vice President.....Cheryl Steindorf, Klickitat, WA
Vice President.....Pam Springer, Lyle, WA
Secretary.....Jim Minick, Lyle, WA

Members at Large:

Barbara Robinson.....Rowena, OR
Dan Lichtenwald.....Goldendale, WA
Jim Denton.....Odell, OR
Joe Kelsey.....Hood River, OR
Shelley Baxter.....White Salmon, WA

Go Prepared trail tips

- 4 Stay on the trail right-of-way at all times.
Private property borders the trail in many places.
- 4 Cattle – adjacent lands are “open range”. Do not spook cattle with loud noises. Keep your pets on a leash. Be aware that cows will protect their calves.
- 4 Pets – Your pet must be on a leash at all times while using the trail. Pets are not allowed on KTC sponsored events.
- 4 Wear sturdy shoes. The trail is rocky!
- 4 Ticks – you may encounter ticks while hiking. It may help to wear pants, and pull your socks up and over the cuffs. Check yourself and your pets for ticks when you get home. They inhabit the vegetation on the side of the trail. Staying on the trail may help avoid ticks.
- 4 Rattlesnakes – while sightings are rare, they do live along the trail. Watch where you step, they are very well camouflaged! Hiking boots may offer some protection. Give them the right-of-way.
- 4 Poison oak – it grows abundantly along the edges of the trail. Stay on the trail and you will avoid an unpleasant encounter.
- 4 Flat tires and goatheads – tire eating goathead thorns can be found on the trail, especially south of the town of Klickitat. Carry patches, tubes and know how to fix a flat bike  tire.

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