



Annual Report 2017

... to preserve, enhance and maintain the Cape Horn Trail and related public lands within the Washougal to Stevenson corridor ...

Bootlegger Bridge Construction Completed

Perhaps our largest accomplishment of 2017 was the “Bootlegger Bridge”. The small footbridge over the creek just above SR14 has been replaced by a large elevated sturdy structure! This area becomes mired in mud each winter, and the low footbridge presented a challenge for even the most agile hiker. CHC secured the help of Robert Schmidt, P.E., a talented bridge engineer, who donated his time and expertise to provide the structural design. His help considerably sped up the USFS timetable for approving and constructing the bridge, and CHC is extremely grateful.

Construction of the new bridge was no small feat. Three very large logs were delivered to the roadside, then dragged uphill to the site with cables and grip hoists. They were then carefully raised over the ravine and lowered into position, onto sills which had been dug into the bank.

This was a collaborative effort with the US Forest Service, (*which contributed funding for some of the materials, provided tozers to haul them and project planning/leadership*), and Washington Trails Association (*providing additional equipment*). We shared in cost and acquisition of material purchases and our stellar volunteers provided considerable sweat equity and skill in this achievement. **In total, 32 individuals worked 672.5 hours on 15 different work parties in order to complete the hard physical portion of this project.**



Native Plant Restoration

In 2017, the native plant restoration at the Nancy Russell Overlook and adjacent land experienced significant growth of the native plantings installed since the deconstruction of the homesite.

Grant funding awarded to the Conservancy provided resources for the Skamania County Noxious Weed Program to perform integrated vegetation management at the overlook and some adjacent land. Volunteers removed downfall from trees that littered the site after the ice storm in early 2017 and installed additional plantings around the overlook. There is an increasing abundance of native plants and wildflowers resulting from volunteer plantings, native wildflower seeding and ongoing invasive weed removal.

The Cape Horn Conservancy is working as a partner at the overlook and the adjacent areas as part of a gorge wide effort to increase habitat for native pollinators and butterflies. The Forest Service is planning to convert adjacent hay fields to oak prairie habitat that existed within the landscape from Steigerwald to Chelatchie Prairie in the past.



The area adjacent to the Nancy Russel Overlook continues to fill in with native wildflowers as part of CHC's ongoing restoration efforts.

OFF THE TRAIL...

CHC efforts this year to secure a \$3200 grant from REI, were successful. The funds are earmarked to aid in construction of fencing on the Cape Horn Vista property. The NSA permitting process has been completed and planning for construction is underway. Many thanks to REI for partnering with us on this project!



*Rose Checkermallow (*Sidalcea malviflora* ssp. *Virgata*) is a host plant for Checkered Skippers and Gray Hairstreak and key nectar species for Fenders Blue and Taylors Checkerspot butterflies.*

Ongoing Cape Horn Trail Projects:

- CHC Volunteers are continuously brushing and maintaining the trail.
- Native Restoration in the Nancy Russell Overlook area, as well as the Twain Creek vicinity.
- Continued repairs to areas damaged from hikers shortcutting switchbacks.
- Clearing debris & multiple downed trees after storm damage.
- Regular monitoring of Cape Horn's resident peregrine falcons.
- Graffiti and trash removal.

2nd Annual CHC Rake-athon

CHC held our second Rake-athon in early December of 2017. It was a success in many ways! 49 CHC volunteers, along with 20 who signed up through the Washington Trails Association, raked, scraped and cleaned nearly all 7.7 miles of the trail tread in just a few hours. We have found that by doing this in the late fall/early winter, the trail doesn't hold as much water on its tread throughout the rainy season. The result- trail maintenance in the spring goes much smoother.

At this year's event, our volunteers expanded their repertoire beyond just raking, however. The drainage on an area of the trail near the Silver Star overlook was corrected and debris cleared from the tread. Some of the huge blackberry brambles near the western end of the lower trail were cleared so the young cedar trees will have room to grow. Our WTA friends not only raked, but improved the footing across the talus slope, as well as the creek crossing.

The Rake-athon had the feel of a celebration. Many of our rakers gathered after the work was done to celebrate our accomplishments with chili, hot drinks, plenty of desserts, and an abundance of good cheer!



Bonneville Trails Foundation

CHC has provided fiscal sponsorship to the Bonneville Trails Foundation. The goal of this dedicated group of volunteers - preserving, enhancing, and promoting the trail network of North Bonneville Washington - dovetails nicely with those laid out in the CHC mission statement, and we are happy to be providing assistance until BTF grows into a self-sustaining entity.



Top: Members of Portland's Trailmix hiking group joined to help rake the trail December 2.

Above: WTA volunteers raked the lower trail.

Left: When organic debris is cleared from the trail in the fall, it is easier to clear in the spring.

Restoration and Planting at Twain Creek



In the spring of 2017, CHC contracted a certified arborist to fell two dead trees that stood close to the log bridge over the creek on the Twain parcel (very near the trailhead). There had been concerns that should these trees blow down they would damage the log stringer bridge which had been built the previous summer, or even endanger hikers on the trail.

This area suffered pretty significant losses during the brutal 2016-2017 winter storms. Several of the older hardwood trees were blown down, and much debris cleanup was necessary. This highlighted the fact that much of the hardwood forest in the area has reached its maximum life span, making it necessary to consider forest succession. In other words, is there enough long-lived conifer in the understory to eventually fill in the gaps that will be left when the hardwood trees eventually die?

We noticed that the newly created openings were encouraging the invasive blackberries to begin spreading aggressively throughout the Twain Creek area, and made plans to supplement with a new generation of native trees. In an amazing stroke of serendipity, we found that a dedicated volunteer named Mike Wang had taken it upon himself to clear the area. Mike has truly been a trail angel. He's spent at least 100 hours slowly and methodically taking down the vines and cutting up the roots. When our crew showed up to plant the first tree, we were amazed and pleased to find that much of the blackberries had been removed in the very spots we had chosen to plant! This made our task so much easier!

All in all, our volunteers planted 17 Western Red Cedar trees, about 3' tall, throughout the Twain Creek corridor. Ten of these trees were donated to us by Yard 'N Garden Land in Vancouver, Wa.



Top: Transplanting natives on the creek bank next to the Twain Bridge.

Above: Mike Wang has been removing blackberries.

Right: Planting a 5' Cedar.

OFF THE TRAIL...

Our volunteer roster continues to expand. According to our records, **52 people** joined our trail maintenance events for the first time in 2017.



2017 Board of Directors:

Barb Seaman, President
Teresa Robbins, Vice President
Jill Turner, Secretary
Elaine Pfeifer, Treasurer
Cyndi Soliz
Shawn Mathiesen
Sharon Ross

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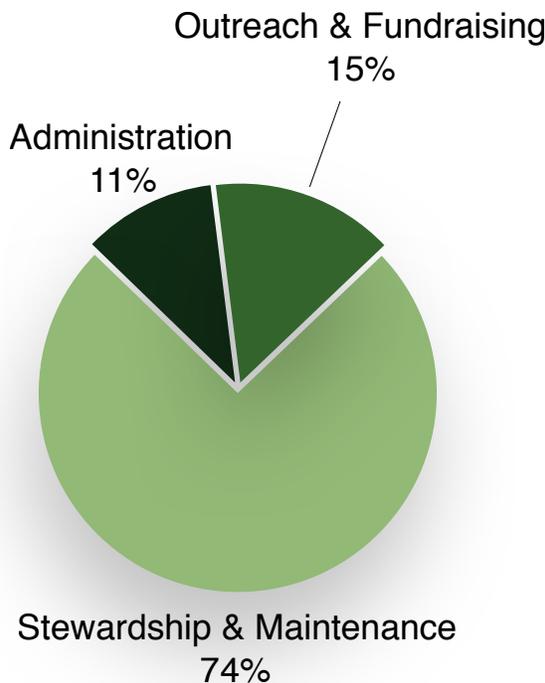
info@capehornconservancy.org

**STEWARDSHIP, MAINTENANCE,
CONSTRUCTION.**

101 individuals
worked on
51 work parties
and
16 rapid response
events.

These **1989 hours**
of volunteer labor
equate to an approximate **\$57,661** value.

2017 EXPENSES



With growth comes additional responsibility and increased expense. Many of our volunteers have reached the 3, 10 and even 25 work party benchmarks, earning them short- and long-sleeved CHC t-shirts, and fleece vests. This year a large purchase of additional recognition awards was made to replenish our supply. Administratively, we've chosen to take on slightly additional costs, as we modernize our sign-up and volunteer email interface systems.

OFF THE TRAIL...

In 2017, 76 members provided \$12,410.51 in funding and in-kind donations.

**CHC BOARD
ADDS NEW TALENT**

Last spring, CHC welcomed **Shawn Mathiesen** to the Board of Directors. She and her husband Earl moved to our area from the East Coast, lured by the beauty and variety of hiking opportunities the PNW has to offer. Shawn has a background in IT, and her talents have helped CHC modernize our website, as well as update our volunteer interface and tracking systems.

In the fall, we welcomed the addition of **Sharon Ross**, who brings a range of valuable experience to CHC. After a 22 year career in finance and marketing, Sharon has dedicated much of her time to hiking all over the world. Close to home, she belongs to the Trailmix, a women's hiking group, as well as the Mazamas. She also leads and shepherds hikes for Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

2017 VOLUNTEERS

Your hard work has made the Cape Horn Trail wonderful. Thank You!

Teresa Robbins

Keith Brown

Jill Turner

Robert Seaman

Mike Klein

Earl Mathiesen

Shawn Mathiesen

John Kadow

Allan Blair

Dan Huntington

Mary Makin

Mike Williams

Sue Rivers

Chris Edwardsen

Logan Forgey

Sharon Ross

Richard Blackburn

Larry Keister

SherrI Irish

Jan Fuegy

Marq Box

Gloria Gardiner

Stephen Krenkel

Nicolette Thomson

Lisa Tyler

Becky McClain

Jane Williams-Grube

Christine Edwardsen

Douglas Grube

Stacy Ozer

Colleen Powell

Lonelle Yarbrough

Ashley Graham

William Kline

Ted Klump

Steve Laird

Ron Patton

Mary Blankenvoort

Tom Davidson

Jessica Downing Guerra

Brenda Hamilton

Loretta Layton

Marjory Morford

Riley Rhodes

Susan Taylor

Ilona Vondolovski

Del Allen

Les Baddgor

Roger Steeb

Mike Wang

Barbara Bergquist

James Chase

Michael Clark

Bruce Copeland

Jim Dalziel

Jim Ebacher

Stefani Erdahl

Catherine Failor

Jimmy Farjots

Jason Franz

Blake Gianella

Marty Guerra

Brian Hart, Jr.

Debbie Hess

Kurt Hiland

Penny Holeman

Bob Horn

Jughead Jones

Jim Kean

Joe Kear

Rachel King

Linda Leyva

Janet Liu

Paul Stasz

Hannah Wentz

Suzy McCausland

John McGlennon

Karen McGlennon

Teresa Meyer

Allen OHara

Amy OHara

Scott Parker

Laura Paxson

Elaine Pfeifer

David Powell

Cindi Rauch

Bev Reeves

Bob Reeves

Larry Richardson

Gary Riggs

Daniel Robinson

Eugenia Salomon

Kate Sanders

Georgia Sawyer

Jessica Sawyer

Robert Schmidt

Timothy Seaman

Warren Shoemaker

Cyndi Soliz

Barb Seaman

Cape Horn Conservancy greatly appreciates the funding and efforts provided by our members and supportive foundations...without whom, we simply could not accomplish the quality stewardship and continuing improvements achieved along the Cape Horn Trail.



Conservator \$100 - \$249	Supporter \$10 - \$49	Sponsor \$250 - \$999
Cecilia Miller	Sandy Wright	Kevin Gorman
Kathryn Harbour	Cory Patterson	Joe Kear
Betty Cooper	Kirsten Muskat	Friends of the Columbia
Michael Williams	Photography	Gorge
Geoff Carr	Jeanette Juster	Sarah Lord
Sharon Ross	James Lanz	Tracey Tomashpol
William & Katherine	Portland Garden Club	Frank Hood
Campbell	Nathan Weiss	Chris and Christine
Steven & Laurie Carley	Towns to Trails Media	Edwardsen
When the Shoe Fits	Karen Pickering	(Anonymous)
Teresa Meyer	Ted Klump	Gregg McAninch
Catherine Failor	Bus Gibson	Teresa Robbins & Keith
Tom & Kate Griffith	Ryan Ojerio	Brown
Gail & Richard Wayper	Barbara Robinson	Protector
Ellen Vanderslice	Mariann Nelson	\$50 - \$99
Bob & Bev Reeves	Amazon Smile	William Kline
James & Mary Chase	Miscellaneous	Cory Patterson
Elaine & Rick Pfeifer	\$1000 +	Patty Buslach
William & Cindy	Steve Duffy	Stephen Krenkel
Connelly	Charitable Fund	Douglas & Jane Grube
Brian Haskell	Dan & Kathy	Gloria Gardiner
Fred Baisden	Huntington	Michael Klein
Tom Nelson	Jill Turner	Jeffrey & Loretta Layton
Kathleen & Marq Box		Richard Blackburn
		David Paull
		Sherri Irish & Larry Keister