

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Fall 2018 Newsletter



Living with Fire

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Founder Nancy Russell, 1932-2008

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Sunrise over Hood River. Photo: Matthew Gutt



Protect the Gorge from Urban Sprawl

The Columbia River Gorge Commission is currently reviewing policies that allow revisions to urban boundaries in the Gorge. This process is part of a periodic management plan review for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Land developers are pushing the Commission to weaken rules and allow major expansions into protected areas in the Gorge. Friends of the Columbia Gorge opposes expansions that would allow subdivisions, strip malls, and industry to encroach on preserved lands in the National Scenic Area.

The Commission is focusing an inordinate amount of time and attention on urban area boundary policies, at the expense

of vital concerns such as climate change, illegal mining operations, and fish and wildlife habitat protections. These and many other concerns deserve far higher priority than the special-interest agenda focused on needless urban sprawl.

Please join us in asking the Commission to focus on preserving the outstanding resources of the Scenic Area. Economic prosperity in urban areas does not require the sacrifice of our National Scenic Area lands.

To submit your comments online, visit gorgefriends.org/stopurbansprawl, or send a physical letter to:

Columbia River Gorge Commission
P.O. Box 730
White Salmon, WA 98672

Stay Connected with Friends

Action Alerts: Stay updated on conservation threats to the Gorge and how to take action.

Hiking E-news: Receive updates on Friends' guided outings, stewardship work party announcements, trail alerts, suggested seasonal hikes, and other hiking-related news.

Monthly E-news: Keep updated on Friends' work, upcoming events and news, volunteer efforts, ways to get involved, and more.



gorgefriends.org/subscribe



@gorgefriends

Cover: Spring fairy bells in the Eagle Creek burn area. Photo: Lillian Palmer, courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service

Director's Letter

Last September, we were taught a lesson in the fragility and vulnerability of the Columbia Gorge. One 15-year-old boy and one reckless decision involving fireworks left 48,000 acres burned in the Gorge. Roads were closed for days, entire communities were evacuated, and businesses suffered losses. The fire was devastating, and almost a year later, many favorite trails are still closed.



Kevin Gorman. Photo: Micheal Drewry

But the Eagle Creek fire also shed light on the resilience of the Gorge itself and the people who live there, and the land-use system that was put in place to protect both. Carelessness ignited the blaze, but the fire itself followed the course of big burns

typical in west-side forests. Fire ecologists surveying the post-fire landscape recently have noted surprising regeneration of plants, shrubs and trees.

One month after the Eagle Creek fire started, catastrophic fires roared through Santa Rosa, California, making national news. The Santa Rosa fires burned only 75 percent as much acreage as the Gorge fire, but due to density and development, left 43 people dead and destroyed 5,643 structures, at a cost of \$1.2 billion.

By comparison, the Eagle Creek fire produced zero fatalities and destroyed just four structures, with a total cost of \$36 million. Many factors contributed to the stark difference between the loss of human lives and property in Santa Rosa and the Gorge, but one unique component stood in the Gorge's favor: the carefully crafted framework of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

The Columbia Gorge land-use system encourages public acquisition of forested lands, restricts residential expansion into fire-prone areas, and concentrates development in urban areas. Last fall, these factors freed firefighters to focus on protecting Gorge communities. With that focus, Corbett,

Cascades Locks, Hood River, North Bonneville, and historic structures like Multnomah Falls Lodge all escaped harm. Had the Gorge been covered with individual houses on five-acre lots, as is common in many scenic locales, fire crews would have been stretched thin to save families and single homes scattered throughout the area, putting Gorge communities and the nearly 1,000 firefighters deployed at much greater risk.

As I write, wildfires are raging along the West Coast. Firefighters across the region are being pushed to the brink and thousands have lost their homes. The creators of the National Scenic Area legislation never discussed wildfires as an issue, but their decisions demonstrate that sound land-use practices can address even threats that are unforeseeable. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all the firefighters and agencies that battled the fire, but we also owe great thanks to the foresighted individuals who crafted the Gorge legislation and pushed it forward more than 30 years ago.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Gorman".

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org

Friends of the Columbia Gorge works to ensure that the beautiful and wild Columbia Gorge remains a place apart, an unspoiled treasure for generations to come.



Fresh growth in a burned section of the Pacific Crest Trail.

Photo: Ralph Bloemers | Crag Law Center

One Year Later Living with Fire

Burt Edwards, Communications Director, burt@gorgefriends.org

Last year's wildfire season was one of the worst in recent Pacific Northwest history. More than 1,000 fires were recorded in Oregon, including the Eagle Creek fire in the Columbia Gorge. As the first Gorge fire to jump the Columbia River in decades, the Eagle Creek fire disrupted communities on both sides of the river and damaged scores of popular recreation areas in the heart of the Gorge's waterfall corridor.

Now wildfire season is back, and tensions are high. As of July 31, more than 16 active fires were burning across Oregon, more than any other state in the nation. In the Gorge, over 25 fires have been reported, with the Substation fire east of The Dalles burning more than 70,000 acres in just over a week. Yet as we approach the Eagle Creek fire's one-year anniversary, the larger themes emerging are not of destruction or despair, but of renewal and resilience.

Helping neighbors in need

When the Gorge erupted into flames last September, it wasn't a question of whether Friends of the Columbia Gorge should act, but how we could best help. For decades, Friends has worked to mobilize the public and our members to address threats to the Gorge. The Eagle Creek fire



Remnants of a trail sign on Larch Mountain.

Photo: Claudio Berstein | Trailkeepers of Oregon

was no different. Since the initial days of the fire, we have worked to assist community partners, educate the public, and advocate for the policies needed to ensure the forest is allowed to naturally regenerate.

The response of our members and the broader public has been overwhelming. Together, Friends members and the public have rallied countless times in response to the Eagle Creek fire. This support also has enabled Friends to launch a larger ongoing initiative to strengthen long-term resilience in an age of increased wildfire danger in the Gorge (for more details, see page 17).

Letting nature take its course

The Eagle Creek fire is completely contained, but it remains active, with hotspot flare-ups reported as recently as May. Yet while this fire burned a vast swath of forest, only a small percentage was severely burned, and since spring, signs of new plant life are evident in burned

“The larger themes emerging are not of destruction or despair, but of renewal and resilience.”

areas. Native plants are returning, but unfortunately, unwelcome invasive species are taking root as well.

Utilizing the unprecedented outpouring of donations and new volunteers who signed up in the weeks after the Eagle Creek fire's start, Friends launched a new effort to train and deploy teams of volunteer stewards on lands particularly vulnerable to invasive weeds. This effort has built on the Friends' stewardship work over many years on our land trust properties across the Gorge and augments trail-rebuilding efforts by partners such as Trailkeepers of Oregon, Pacific Crest Trail Association, and Washington Trail Association.

Keeping the public educated and engaged

According to numerous studies, in future decades, climate change will produce increasingly drier summers in the Gorge. At the same time, recreational demand will increase as urban populations across the Pacific Northwest grow and the Gorge's reputation as a global tourism destination rises. Since more than 70 percent of all fires



Charred old-growth bark holds a nest on Wahkeena Trail. Photo: Morai Helfen | U.S. Forest Service

are human caused, these and other factors could be a very volatile combination.

Increasing stewardship to keep the Gorge healthy and allowing the forest's natural systems to rejuvenate are two essential aspects of addressing these threats. Also, the public and Gorge communities must stay engaged in active dialogue with key policymakers about new policies, approaches, and partnerships to build increased resilience in the decades ahead.

To keep the conversations going, Friends is presenting a pair of community forums in late summer around the Eagle Creek anniversary, to explore the challenges of living in an era of active wildfire danger. To support our overall public education efforts and stewardship work, our fall hiking program will include a number of outings focused on wildfire ecology and forest recovery (see our Hikes & Outings section on pages 9–12).

Friends also will continue to explore questions such as how to better manage vehicle traffic on the Historic Highway, and what systems most effectively balance increasing recreation demands with protection of fragile resources. And we'll urge public officials and elected leaders to seek solutions that include community input, use the best science, and are robustly funded.

The growing danger of wildfires may increase uncertainty in many aspects of life around the Northwest. The lesson of the Eagle Creek fire is that by working together, we can create resilient policies, plans, and programs that will enable the Gorge to adapt, survive, and thrive. ■

Community Forums: Living with Fire

Join us for a pair of upcoming community forums around the anniversary of the Eagle Creek fire. We'll examine the progress made over the past year and explore the policies need to strengthen future wildfire resilience for the land, communities, and trails that make the Gorge such a special place.

August 30 | Hood River | Columbia Center for the Arts
September 12 | Portland | Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI)

gorgefriends.org/fire-events



A tiger lily on the Pacific Crest Trail. Photo: Ralph Bloemers | Crag Law Center



Preserve the Wonder – YOU DID IT!

1,361 gifts
completed our *Preserve the Wonder* campaign!

470 generous members supported both the campaign *and* our general operations for 2017-2018.

418 donations helped us meet the final challenge match.

213 donors gave more than once to the campaign.

66 *Wonderful Acre Club* gifts (\$10-\$25k) got us to the top.

Pam Davee, Development Officer, pam@gorgefriends.org

You did it! You – along with 1,360 other generous donors – helped raise more than \$5.5 million to preserve 470 acres on the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge. Thanks to your support, wildlife, hiking trails, habitat, and world-class vistas are now protected from development threats and resource extraction. The campaign also furthered Friends’ *Gorge Towns to Trails* vision by connecting critical pieces

of land that will eventually allow completion of a loop trail encircling the Gorge and connecting towns in between.

In a typical fundraising campaign to raise more than \$5 million, strategists recommend securing several six- and seven-figure gifts to ensure success. Knowing such gifts were beyond the reach of almost all our supporters, our campaign team employed a strategy of asking hundreds of our staunchest supporters

to make a \$10,000 gift to “preserve an acre,” as we set out to purchase 420 acres for \$4.2 million. The vision of making this happen “one acre at a time” appealed to many of you and as a result, the *Wonderful Acre Club* raised over \$877,000 – roughly 16 percent of the total \$5.5 million goal.

Another amazing example of generosity during our campaign occurred when the landowner of one of the seven properties we were purchasing came forward to donate an eighth. Inspired by the fundraising video we had created about her family’s property, she decided to make a gift of an additional 50 acres of forestland, with a stream running through it, in honor of her parents.

The final chapter of the campaign received a boost when two families stepped up to offer a \$250,000 challenge match to get us to our goal. We announced the match at our Annual Meeting & Luncheon on April 8, and more than 400 people responded to the challenge, helping us end our campaign six weeks ahead of schedule, bringing the long journey to an early close. Your enthusiasm and generosity humbled and inspired all of us.

We especially want to thank everyone who made a gift to *Preserve the Wonder* in addition to giving to support Friends’ ongoing operations. These gifts were critical to the amazing success we experienced over the past year. Thank you for “Preserving the Wonder!” ■



From left: Kevin Gorman and Pam Davee, with board members Gwen Farnham, Debbie Asakawa, and Geoff Carr, celebrating the successful completion of the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign at our *Picnic in Paradise* this summer. Photo: Micheal Drewry

Gorge Caretakers

Stan Hall, Digital Content Specialist, stan@gorgefriends.org

Photos: Swanson Studio



Individuals featured in “Caretakers of the Gorge,” from left: Aimee Wade, Jim Chase, Casey Roeder, David Spangler, Roberta Cobb, Paul Freeman, Arlene Burns, Matt English; not pictured: Miranda Mendoza.

When the Eagle Creek fire began on September 2, 2017, Pam Lauwerens, executive producer of Portland-based Swanson Studio, found herself in the very last car on westbound Interstate 84 that was allowed to pass through the Gorge before the freeway was closed.

“Witnessing the smoke and flames was surreal,” she said. “I asked myself, ‘How can we help? Where do you even begin after a tragedy like this?’”

Swanson, an award-winning commercial photography and motion studio, decided to give back by donating its time and its holiday-party budget to producing “Caretakers of the Gorge.” Created in collaboration with Friends, this beautiful portrait-and-interview

production features stories of nine individuals who embody the spirit of Gorge resilience.

From a tourism director to trail builders, these caretakers represent the deep connections to the Gorge that are shared by those who love this beautiful landscape and its communities.

For decades, Friends has worked to help bridge the gaps between the conservation, recreation, and economic development communities in the Gorge by educating the public and working to build a network of dedicated Gorge advocates and stewards. While there are many more Gorge caretakers than those profiled in this collection, this project underscores the importance of current Gorge stewards and hopefully



Buck Jones, with the Columbia Inter-tribal Fish Commission, is another featured Gorge caretaker.

points the way for a new generation of Gorge caretakers.

Meet these wonderful people at gorgefriends.org/caretakers. ■

Gorge Towns to Trails

Going the Extra Mile in Lyle

Renee Tkach, *Gorge Towns to Trails* Project Manager, renee@gorgefriends.org

The Lyle Cherry Orchard, our 550-acre land trust property above Lyle, Washington, will undergo a transformation this fall. More than three miles of trail will be re-routed and added to the existing five-mile trail system. Two new loops are planned – one to highlight the site of the long-abandoned namesake cherry orchard and another that wraps around the iconic “Lyle” sign. Our long-term goal is to connect the trail into Lyle as a key component of *Gorge Towns to Trails*, an effort to create a loop trail around the entire Gorge, connecting Gorge communities.

Our project partner Washington Trails Association (WTA) will hold four weekend-long work parties this fall where

you can join for a weekend of camping and trail building, or for a single day.

The history of the Lyle Cherry Orchard is rich. In the early 1900s, the visionary roadbuilder Sam Hill built a demonstration road on the property that was a precursor to the Historic Columbia River Highway. In the 1990s, Friends founder Nancy Russell began purchasing pieces of the property and gradually built the current trail. Nancy’s estate donated the land to our land trust in 2009, and last year, Friends purchased 25 acres adjacent to the Cherry Orchard in our *Preserve the Wonder* campaign.

The trail additions are the product of seven years of careful planning, public engagement and trail plotting. To bring this trail project to life, it’s been critical

to work with businesses, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. “This is a true collaborative effort,” said WTA Program Manager Ryan Ojerio. “Partnerships like this will drive sustainable recreation development for years to come.”

To celebrate this important next step for *Gorge Towns to Trails*, we’re hosting a *Play & Stay* weekend in Lyle, October 12–14 at the Lyle Hotel. The full weekend of activities will include hikes at the Cherry Orchard and the Klickitat Trail, an electric bicycle wine tour, a wine-themed dinner, and a *Gorge Towns to Trails* presentation.

See the enclosed insert for more details and registration information.

Learn more about *Gorge Towns to Trails* at gorgefriends.org/townstotrails. ■

Map: Lisa D. Holmes | Yulan Studio

Gorge Towns to Trails: Lyle Cherry Orchard Addition



Hikes, Outings & Stewardship

FALL 2018



Lyle Cherry Orchard. Photo: Debbie Asakawa

This fall, join us for more than 35 educational and inspirational outings to experience the Gorge's autumn beauty.

Our hike program this season features outings that focus on wildfire ecology and forest recovery, in recognition of the one-year anniversary of the Eagle Creek fire. We'll also celebrate the success of our recently completed *Preserve the Wonder* land campaign with hikes on newly preserved landscapes.

In addition, October marks the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act, which designated these nationally recognized trails that traverse the Gorge: Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Oregon National Historic Trail, and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Whether hiking with Friends or on your own, remember to be especially careful in areas affected by the Eagle Creek fire, as sensitive trails and landscapes are still recovering.

General Information

Before attending Friends outings, please read our Hike Program Information & Guidelines at gorgefriends.org/hikeprogram.

Space is limited, so as a courtesy to others please register only if you're sure you can attend.

Carpool information and trip-specific details will be emailed upon registration.

Learn more and register at gorgefriends.org/hikes.



Photo: Micheal Drewry

**Members-only
Registration begins
Monday, August 27.**

General Registration
begins Friday, August 31.

Play & Stay Weekend Foliage and Fall Wine

October 12 - 14

Enjoy an exclusive getaway weekend that highlights the autumnal richness of the eastern Gorge. Our guide, *Gorge Towns to Trails* Project Manager Renee Tkach, will share inside details of Friends' effort to link Gorge communities with nearby recreation opportunities.

We'll enjoy hikes on the Lyle Cherry Orchard and Klickitat Trails, an electric bicycle wine tour, and a wine-themed dinner with a *Gorge Towns to Trails* presentation. Learn more at gorgefriends.org/playandstay.

September

Saturday, September 8

Local History Walk at Bradford Island and Bonneville Dam, WA

Easy: Less than ¼ mile on paved trails, no elev. gain

Learn about Mona Bell Hill, consort of Sam Hill, and the mansion he built for her, how the government condemned her land and home to build Bonneville Dam, and the critical role the dam has played in the economy of the Northwest. Led by Friends board member John Harrison, author of a book about Mona Bell, and Pat Barry, former Bonneville Dam Visitor Center manager.

Super Nature Walk at Steigerwald Lake NWR, WA

Easy: 2.5 miles, no elevation gain

Bring the whole family to explore this special wildlife refuge at the “Western Gateway to the Gorge.” Young hikers will receive a trail packet from Super Nature Adventures, including an interactive map, scavenger stickers, and a field guide with activities and learning material about the wildlife that live here. \$20/child or family.

Sunday, September 9

Lichen Discovery Walk at Whistle Punk Trail, WA

Easy: 1.5 miles, no elevation gain

U.S. Forest Service Botanist Andrea Montgomery will lead this family-friendly outing to learn about forest lichens. Discover what makes lichens unique and how scientists are using this complex life form to learn about air quality and forest health.

Wednesday, September 12

Coyote Wall Hike, WA

Strenuous: 7.3 miles, 1,655-ft elevation gain










Leader Annette Hadaway will lead us up the cliffs at Coyote Wall to the summit for sweeping river views. We'll do an upper traverse to the infamous Labyrinth before descending to the trailhead.

Friday, September 14

Rooster Rock Kayak Tour, OR

Oregon State Parks rangers will lead this two-hour afternoon kayak trip on the channel from Rooster Rock to the Columbia River, with a possible visit to Mirror Lake, depending on water levels. Learn history of Rooster Rock as we paddle on the river. \$15 fee includes kayak equipment.

Outing Icon Key

-  Members Only
-  Preserve the Wonder
-  Fire Ecology & Recovery
-  Special Focus
-  Wiking
-  Trails to Ales
-  Family Friendly
-  All-Access
-  Dog Friendly

Friday, September 14

Mindfulness Earth Walk Klickitat Trail, WA

Easy: 2-3 miles, little elevation gain

Enjoy this opportunity to connect with nature, health, and yourself with Klickitat Trail Conservancy board member Steven Woolpert. We'll use mindfulness practices to bring the healing power and beauty of nature into mind, body, and spirit.

Saturday, September 15

Deschutes River Trail Ecology Hike, OR

Moderate: 4-5 miles, little elevation gain

Join naturalist Ralph Thomas Rogers on this leisurely walk featuring riparian ecology, emphasizing birds, plants, and other interesting facets of nature that we encounter.

Sunday, September 16

Cigar Rock Kayak Trip Dalton Point, OR

Experienced paddlers only

Join Field Representative Peter Cornelison for a kayak trip across the Columbia from Dalton Point in Oregon to Cigar Rock on the Washington shore and back.

Thursday, September 20

Plants, Geology, and History Hike at Latourell Falls, OR

Easy: 2.4 miles, 510-ft elevation gain

Join environmental educator Roland Begin as we explore the plants, geology, and history of Latourell Falls. This popular hiking spot includes some of the oldest rocks in the western Gorge, along with the colorful history of the town of Latourell.

Thursday, September 20

A Year Later: Dry Creek Falls Hike, OR

Moderate: 4.7 miles, 760-ft elevation gain

Outreach Manager Maegan Jossy and Pacific Crest Trail Association Trail Caretaker Roberta Cobb will guide us on a section of the Pacific Crest Trail for a close view of the effects from last fall's Eagle Creek fire.

Saturday, September 22

Catherine Creek Arch and Universal Trail Loop Hike, WA

Easy: 3 miles, 325-ft elevation gain

Naturalist Ralph Thomas Rogers will describe late-season flowering plants and point out early spring favorites after their beauty has faded. Optional wine tasting afterwards.

Sunday, September 23

Falls Creek Falls Hike, WA

Moderate: 3.4 miles, 700-ft elevation gain

Discover this magnificent multi-tiered waterfall with leader Billie Anger. We'll hike the gentle ascent at a comfortable pace under lush forest canopy, following the cascading creek to the towering 200-foot falls.

Herman Creek to Benson Plateau Hike, OR

Expert: 13.4 miles, 3,800-ft elevation gain

Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails Act with leaders Paul Freeman and Christoph Stauder on the PCT from Herman Creek to Benson Plateau, with views of the Columbia River, Mount Adams, Herman Creek Canyon, and Nick Eaton Ridge.

Tuesday, September 25

Tom McCall Nature Preserve Hike, OR

Moderate: 3.5 miles, 1,070-ft elevation gain

Learn the preservation story of this important site, named after former Governor Tom McCall, whose commitment to conservation in Oregon remains an inspiration. The Nature Conservancy's Jen Langevin and Friends volunteer Donna Acord will point out unique plants and features of the preserve.

Thursday, September 27

Steigerwald Shores Celebration Hike, WA

Easy: 3.8 miles, no elevation gain

Friends Development Officer Pam Davee and board members will guide us on the Gibbons Creek Trail at Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge to celebrate the success of our *Preserve the Wonder* land campaign.

Saturday, September 29

Hike Leader & Shepherd Training

Learn all about Friends' hike program and how to better lead or shepherd Gorge hikes. A classroom session and Q&A will follow a morning training hike. Designed for both new and experienced volunteers.

Sunday, September 30

Mayer State Park to Mosier by Kayak, OR **Experienced paddlers only**

Field Representative Peter Cornelison will lead us 8 miles downriver from Mayer State Park to Mosier. Along the way, we'll pass Memaloose Island, beautiful shorelines, and sandy beaches.

October

Wednesday, October 3

Hamilton Mountain Hike, WA

Strenuous: 7.2 miles, 2,100-ft elevation gain

Join hike leader Steve Carples to enjoy early fall colors and expansive views of both the west and east Gorge on this challenging loop hike through lush forests. Great views of Beacon Rock, Table Mountain, and Mount Adams.

Thursday, October 4

★ **Beacon Rock Geology and History Hike, WA**

Moderate: 3.5 miles, 850-ft elevation gain

Join environmental educator Roland Begin for this informative exploration at Beacon Rock. We will hike the River-to-Rock trail and Beacon Rock trail, discussing Gorge geology, Native American history and the European American presence. We'll hear about Lewis and Clark's travels through the area as we honor the 50th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Friday, October 5

Hood River to Rowena Crest Bike Ride, OR **Experienced cyclists only: 22 miles, 932-ft elev. gain**

Ride with Field Representative Peter Cornelison from Hood River to Rowena Crest on the Historic Highway, through the car-free Mosier Twin Tunnels and past vineyards and orchards up to scenic Rowena Plateau.

Learn more and register at
gorgefriends.org/hikes

Saturday, October 6

📄 ★ **Ferry Springs and Lower Deschutes River Trail Hike, OR**

Difficult: 7.5 miles, 800-ft elevation gain

Hike to Ferry Springs and Gordon Canyon along the beautiful Deschutes River with leader Sharon Ross. We'll enjoy lovely fall color and views of the Deschutes as it flows into the Columbia.

📄 ★ **Klickitat River Rail-Trail Hikes, WA** **2 Hikes: Easy and Moderate**

Choose one of two hikes along the Wild and Scenic Klickitat River to celebrate Klickitat Trail Conservancy's 15th anniversary. Breakfast and trail snacks will be provided.

Sunday, October 7

🐾 **Hardy Bridge Trail Hike, WA**

Strenuous: 8.7 miles, 1,800-ft elevation gain

Bring your leashed furry friend on this hike with dog-lovers Don McCoy and Madeleine Von Laue to enjoy great views as we climb to the saddle behind Hamilton Mountain.

★ **Ecology Walk at Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge, WA**

Easy: 3 miles, 100-ft elevation gain

Discover the rich ecology of Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge on this educational walk amid fall colors on the Willard Springs Trail with naturalist Ralph Thomas Rogers.

Wednesday, October 10

Photography Enthusiast Hike at Dry Creek Falls, OR

Moderate: 4.7 miles, 760-ft elevation gain

Bring your preferred photography device and follow leader Gloria Gardiner on the Pacific Crest Trail to Dry Creek Falls. We'll stop frequently for photo-ops on this slow-paced hike to capture early autumn foliage, rushing falls, and fire recovery in the area.



Petroglyph at Columbia Hills State Park. See October 19 hike. Photo: Francene Grewe

Thursday, October 11

📄 ★ **Lewis and Clark History Driving Tour, OR**

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail with Executive Director Kevin Gorman. We'll learn about Lewis and Clark's voyage through the Gorge as we stop at scenic viewpoints along the interpretive trails next to the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. \$40 includes chartered transportation and museum admission.

Friday, October 12 & Saturday, October 13

★🌿 **Forest Disturbances and Fire Ecology Hike, OR**

Easy: Location TBD

U.S. Forest Service Biological Science Technician Kate Santini will lead these hikes through an area affected by last year's Eagle Creek fire, to view the fire's mosaic burn patterns while learning about the effects of fire on wildlife habitat over time.

Play & Stay Weekend Foliage and Fall Wine

October 12 - 14

gorgefriends.org/playandstay

Saturday, October 13

★🧑‍🦰 **Super Nature Exploration at Bridal Veil Falls, OR**

Easy: 1.2 miles, 70-ft elevation gain

Bring the whole family for this exploration with Super Nature Adventures of the 120-foot falls, the Pillars of Hercules basalt tower, and the distinctive native plants in this area. Oregon State Parks Ranger Miranda Mendoza will describe the nearby forest's recovery from the Eagle Creek fire. Young hikers will receive an interactive packet with trail map, scavenger stickers, hands-on activity field guide, and more. \$20/child or family.

Wednesday, October 17

Hike & Stitch at Beacon Rock State Park, WA **Moderate: 3.5 miles, 850-ft elevation gain**

Join Outdoor Programs Coordinator Kate Lindberg and designer-illustrator Amy Frazer for a hike-craft opportunity. We'll hike up Beacon Rock for panoramic views, then settle at the covered pavilion at Doetsch Day Use Site for an introductory embroidery lesson to start creating a holiday ornament inspired by the Gorge. \$30 fee includes all supplies and embroidery kit to take home.

Thursday, October 18
Amateur Photography Hike
Starvation Creek State Park, OR
Easy: 1.6 miles, 100-ft elevation gain

Bring your preferred photography device and explore three waterfalls dappled with early fall colors. Oregon State Parks Ranger Miranda Mendoza will offer tips on finding your focal point, photographing flowing water, and filters that emphasize natural beauty.

Friday, October 19
Fall Color on Hardy Ridge Hike, WA
Difficult: 8.5 miles, 2,200-ft elevation gain

This steady climb with leader Sharon Ross passes through an autumn forest to the rocky ridge above Hamilton Mountain saddle. We'll enjoy gorgeous views of the river, Mount Adams, and Mount Hood.

M **★** **🍷** **Petroglyphs Tour**
and Wine Tasting, WA
Easy: 0.5 miles, little elevation gain

Washington State Park Ranger Chon Clayton will lead us to ancient petroglyphs and rock images, including *She Who Watches*. We'll enjoy a BYO picnic lunch at Horsethief Lake, weather permitting, before heading to a nearby winery for an optional wine tasting.

Saturday, October 20
M **🍷** **Lyle Cherry Orchard Hike, WA**
Moderate: 5 miles, 1,500-ft elevation gain

Hike with naturalist Ralph Thomas Rogers to take in sweeping views from the old pioneer cherry orchard on this Friends Land Trust property. Afterwards, enjoy an optional wine tasting at a nearby winery.

Thursday, October 25
★ **Fall Foliage Hike at Latourell Falls, OR**
Easy/Mod: 2.4 miles, 520-ft elevation gain

Join Oregon State Park Ranger Miranda Mendoza on this beautiful loop trail, where the falls plunge 224 feet down a columnar basalt cliff highlighted with chartreuse lichens.

Saturday, October 27
M **★** **Swale Creek Wildlife Walk, WA**
Moderate: 5-6 miles, 300-ft elevation loss

Wildlife biologist Bill Weiler will lead us through Swale Creek along the Klickitat Trail, where we'll learn about wildlife, diverse recreation activities, and concerns of private landowners along this National Rails-to-Trails path.

Saturday, October 27
PtW **Coyote Meadow**
Celebration Hike, WA
Strenuous: 9.5 miles, 1,250-ft elevation gain

Join board member Debbie Asakawa for a hike to oak-studded grass savanna surrounded by public land. We'll celebrate Friends' successful land campaign and learn why this 10-acre parcel was a key feature to *Preserve the Wonder*.

Sunday, October 28
PtW **Lyle Peak Celebration Hike, WA**
Moderate: 7 miles, 1,400-ft elevation gain

Board member Debbie Asakawa will lead this hike to one of the highest points in the eastern Gorge. We'll enjoy sweeping views and celebrate protection of this stunning 25-acre parcel. Much of this hike is off trail, with steep sections on ascent and descent.

Stewardship volunteer team at Angel's Rest. Photo: Mika Barrett



Fall into Stewardship

Fall stewardship work parties will be held on our Lyle Cherry Orchard land trust property. Additional Friends projects on trails affected by the Eagle Creek fire and other public lands in the Gorge are online. To receive work-party updates, register for Stewardship E-news at gorgefriends.org/subscribe.

Friends' work parties are 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. unless otherwise noted. No experience is needed, and all tools and training are provided. As a special thank you, when you volunteer at three or more work parties, you'll receive a Friends of the Columbia Gorge custom Columbia Sportswear tech tee. Full details and registration are at gorgefriends.org/stewardship.

Cherry Orchard Native Plantings

Tuesday, October 30
Saturday, November 3
Tuesday, November 6

Join Stewardship Coordinator Sara Woods at the Lyle Cherry Orchard to plant and seed native species as part of a larger restoration project to control yellow starthistle on land trust property. We'll carry plants and equipment a half-mile uphill (1,000-ft elevation gain) to our work site, where the existing trail will be decommissioned and rerouted. Come on any or all work party dates.

Cherry Orchard Weekend Work Parties

October 20–21
November 3–4
November 17–18
December 1–2

Work with Friends and Washington Trails Association for one day or the entire weekend, building a new trail at Friends' Lyle Cherry Orchard land trust preserve. We'll construct a new route to bypass a steep, treacherous section of the existing trail and create a new loop. Stay for the Saturday campout and potluck. These workdays are 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Stewarding Partnerships



Mika Barrett, Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator, mika@gorgefriends.org

Sara Woods, Land Stewardship Coordinator, sara@gorgefriends.org

A stewardship team on Gorge Trail #400 near Ainsworth State Park.

Photos: Mika Barrett

The Eagle Creek fire's first anniversary, on September 2, provides an important opportunity to reflect on the incredible stewardship strides that have been made over the past year. Friends and our partners would not be able to do this work alone and we are grateful for everyone who has donated their time.

Together with the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State Parks, Friends has brought 179 volunteers out to 24 stewardship work parties since March, to combat a major post-fire ecological threat

to the forest: colonization by invasive plants. Soil disturbance caused by the fire, coupled with sunlight shining through burned tree canopies, encourages the growth of invasive plant species that crowd out the native flora. Between April and early July, stewardship volunteers removed more than 7,728 gallons of invasive plants from the Gorge, most notably garlic mustard, herb Robert, and Scotch broom.

Volunteer groups have worked at some of the most-visited trails in the Gorge, including Multnomah Falls and

Angels Rest, to preserve the landscape's natural beauty and promote biodiversity. Members of the Gorge Trails Recovery Team, including Friends, Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO), and the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), have been diligently working to improve burned-area trails to prepare for reopening. We have been working alongside PCTA on the Eagle Creek trail removing Herb Robert as PCTA clears fallen rock from the trail. On the Angel's Rest trail, 1,386 gallons of invasive plants have been removed at 29 work parties collectively between TKO and Friends.

Trails that reopened this summer include Herman Creek, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Starvation Creek, and the Benson Bridge at Multnomah Falls. These trails pass through areas of the burned landscape that present new safety hazards. With loss of vegetation, the ground floor is less stable, so be sure to look up, down, and around frequently as you hike.

Our invasive plant removal projects will continue through fall on both sides of the Gorge. Efforts will focus on planting native vegetation in the newly-created open areas where invasive plants were removed this spring and summer. View our fall schedule at gorgefriends.org/stewardship. ■



Interested in creating your own customized stewardship work party? Send us an inquiry at: gorgefriends.org/groupstewardship.

The planned Weyerhaeuser clear-cuts would abut land previously clear-cut east of Hood River.

Photo: Darryl Lloyd

Rethink Clear-cut Logging Plans in the Gorge

Arlene Burns and Peter Cornelison

In Oregon, we love our trees. We even have an old growth Douglas fir featured on our state license plate. Oregon's forests provide critical habitat for wildlife, clean water for salmon, and abundant public recreation opportunities.

Oregon also needs our forest products industry, but logging needs to be done in a sustainable manner that is consistent with our community values. This is especially true in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

One would not expect clear-cuts to be allowed within a national scenic area. However, due to a loophole in the 1986 law, clear-cuts are exempt from the National Scenic Area Act on nonfederal land in certain parts of the national scenic area.

Recently, corporate giant Weyerhaeuser Co. bought land in the National Scenic Area between the communities of Hood River and Mosier, and obtained a permit to create the biggest clear-cut in the Gorge since the

passage of the 1986 National Scenic Act. Parachuting into our community and clear-cutting these lands flies in the face of Weyerhaeuser's conservation pledge, which states: "We recognize that some lands have special value to the people who live in communities surrounding them. Respecting that, we seek opportunities to protect areas that have exceptional historic, visual, recreational, forestry or wildlife habitat attributes."

Despite these platitudes, Weyerhaeuser has not contacted the communities of Hood River or Mosier, which will be significantly impacted by their clear-cutting plans. They do not seem to value the exceptional attributes of the Columbia River Gorge, an international treasure. To Weyerhaeuser, this is just another unit of forestland subject to industrial logging practices, designed to maximize profit and minimize expense.

So far, Weyerhaeuser has failed to engage the public. Their clear-cut plans remain unchanged despite concerns raised

by the Gorge Commission, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, and community members.

Clear-cutting a national scenic treasure is morally unacceptable; a thing of our past. Most Oregonians value clean drinking water, wildlife viewing opportunities, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty on forest lands. Clear-cuts compromise these values.

Scenic resources and healthy forests enhance Oregon's quality of life, which may, in the end, be its most valuable economic development asset. We ask Weyerhaeuser to engage in a dialogue toward a sustainable solution. ■

Friends Field Representative Peter Cornelison, peter@gorgefriends.org, is a Hood River city councilor. Arlene Burns, arleneburns@gmail.com, is the mayor of Mosier, Oregon. They coauthored this article as private citizens, not in their elected capacities.

An extended version of this article appeared in the Portland Tribune on July 10, 2018.

Urban Sprawl in the Gorge?

Pressure on the Gorge Commission to relax urban boundaries

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

The Columbia River Gorge Commission is currently in the process of reviewing Gorge protection rules to see if they need to be revised to better protect the scenic beauty and natural and cultural heritage of the Gorge. As part of this review, the Commission is updating its policies for revising urban area boundaries, and development interests are pushing for changes that would lead to urban sprawl.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act of 1986 protects the Gorge and requires growth and development to be directed to urban areas. The 13 congressionally designated towns and cities in the National Scenic Area comprise nearly 28,000 acres, roughly 10 percent of the land in the Scenic Area. Development within those existing urban areas is exempt from Gorge protections, and the Commission has

sole authority to revise urban boundaries. By law, any revision must be minor in scale, based on demonstrable needs to expand, and ensure the protection of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources and agricultural lands, forest lands, and open spaces.

Developers and local government officials are lobbying the Gorge Commission to relax restrictions on urban boundary expansions and also to allow more development outside of urban areas. They claim land is needed for residential and industrial expansion.

But studies commissioned by the City of The Dalles show a 47-year supply of residential lands and a more than 20-year supply of industrial land already exist within The Dalles urban area. Under Oregon's land use laws, The Dalles won't be eligible for an urban boundary

expansion for many years. In addition, the City of The Dalles owns nearly 1,000 acres in the neighboring Dallesport urban area across the river in Washington, including hundreds of acres of vacant land.

In May and June, the Commission held public discussions on urban area policies that were well attended. Local residents expressed near unanimity for strict limits on urban expansion. At the June Commission meeting in The Dalles, local residents packed the hearing room, calling for strong protection of Scenic Area lands from urban sprawl.

Friends strongly encourages the Commission to heed these cautious voices and prevent urban sprawl. There is only one Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, and we can't allow urban expansion to chip away at it. Future generations will thank us for holding the line on sprawl. ■



A view of The Dalles looking east from Friends' Mount Ulka land trust property.

Photo: Joszef Urmos | panojoe.ursos.net



Executive Director Kevin Gorman discussed fire ecology with a sell-out *Gorge Talks* crowd in Portland.

Photo: Megan Zabel Holmes

Gorge Talks Fundraiser: A Partnership Success

This past spring, Friends, Trailkeepers of Oregon, and REI co-hosted a three-part presentation series titled *Gorge Talks: Towns, Trails, and Trees*, at Lagunitas Community Room in Northeast Portland.

“We wanted a way to bring the community together, support our nonprofit partners, and highlight the ways the Columbia Gorge is recovering from the Eagle Creek fire,” said Janet Schmidt, REI’s Outdoor Programs and Outreach Coordinator. More than 300 people attended this fundraiser series, raising over \$2,500 for the groups. The *Gorge Talks* series enabled the three partners to spotlight the hard work and dedication of stewardship and trail volunteers, whose combined efforts over the winter were essential in reopening several of the Gorge’s most popular trails this summer.

This year, REI awarded Friends a \$7,500 grant to enhance our public land stewardship work in the Gorge in the coming year.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust

Stakeholder Notification/Public Notice

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see

www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices.

To learn more and submit a comment, visit **landtrustaccreditation.org**, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to:

Land Trust Accreditation Commission

Attn: Public Comments

Fax: 518-587-3183

Land mail: 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust’s application will be most useful before October 28, 2018.

A Mark of Distinction

The accreditation seal **AFFIRMS** national quality standards are met.



- SOUND FINANCES
- ETHICAL CONDUCT
- RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE
- LASTING STEWARDSHIP

www.landtrustaccreditation.org

A Closer Look

Friends' Fire Response & Recovery Initiative

Paige Unangst, Finance Director,
paige@gorgefriends.org

The Eagle Creek fire prompted a massive outpouring of public concern and generosity last fall. Donations poured in to Friends of the Columbia Gorge from our members, school kids, community and civic organizations, faith congregations, and businesses anxious to support fire response efforts.

Friends received almost \$350,000 to support our overall response to the fire. In addition, just over \$48,000 was



Outreach Manager Maegan Jossy and U.S. Forest Service Biological Science Technician Katie Santini scouting fire damage near Devil's Rest. Photo: Mika Barrett

donated by members of the public to support the Hood River County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Division, who had taken the lead in rescuing 150 hikers trapped by

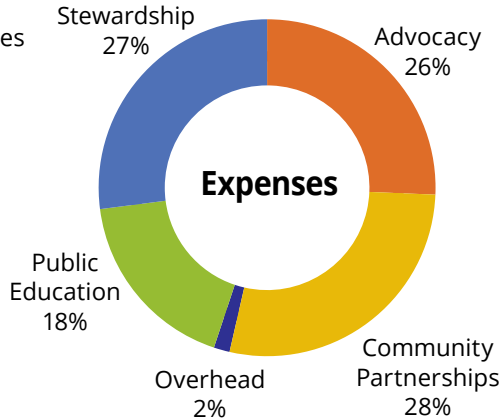
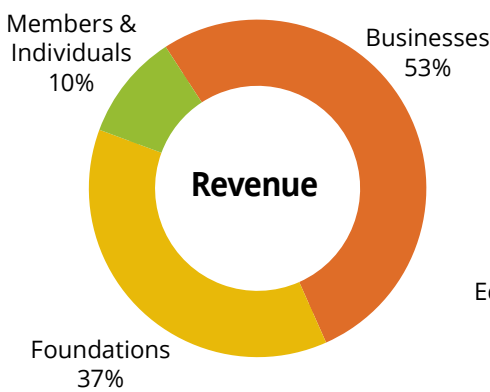
the fire on the Eagle Creek Trail. Roughly 80 percent of the donors to the search and rescue fundraising appeal had not been previously associated with Friends.

Together, this new, public generosity and energy have allowed us the flexibility to respond quickly in numerous ways. We were able to launch an advocacy campaign to forestall action on hastily developed congressional legislation that would open fire-affected forests to clear-cut logging. We created new maps showing trail closures and co-organized a fall public education campaign to "Show the Gorge Some Love," in support of fire impacted Gorge businesses. And we directed \$30,000 to the Oregon's Kitchen Table's crowd-funding campaign to help restore trails near Multnomah Falls.

Looking ahead, these resources enabled us to launch a new program to support the forest's natural recovery by removing invasive weeds at the edges of the burn area, and to hire a staff person (Mika Barrett) to coordinate those efforts. So far this year, we have hosted more than two dozen stewardship work parties focused on invasive weed control.

To learn more about Friends' ongoing fire response and resilience efforts, please visit gorgefriends.org/fireresponse. ■

FIRE RESPONSE FINANCIALS



Fire Response Revenue

Businesses	\$182,563
Foundations	\$129,684
Members & Individuals	\$35,427
Total	\$347,674

FY 2018-19 Carryover: \$233,069

In the current fiscal year, July 2018 – June 2019, we have budgeted nearly \$400,000 (including the carryover) to continue our advocacy, education, partnership, and stewardship efforts focused on Eagle Creek fire restoration.

Fire Response Expenses

Advocacy	\$29,400
Community Partnerships	\$32,006
Overhead	\$1,755
Public Education	\$20,468
Stewardship	\$30,976
Total	\$114,605



Linking the Gorge's Past and Future

Photo: Courtesy of Carole Douglass and Bill Pressly

Kate Harbour, Membership Coordinator, kateh@gorgefriends.org

“The warm summer days and nights. The beauty of the soft colors of the dry lands, and sage-scented breezes. . .” Even fifty years later, Bill Pressly remembers what first drew him to the Gorge.

Bill and his wife, Carole Douglass, each have a long history of loving the Columbia Gorge. Carole grew up on ranger districts in the Pacific Northwest where her father worked for the U.S. Forest Service. One of those places was Trout Lake in the 1950s. She holds vivid memories of visits to Celilo Village as a girl to purchase fish, and of traveling the old Historic Columbia River Highway from Hood River to The Dalles to buy groceries.

Bill’s introduction to the Gorge came in college in the 1960s, when he would spend countless days hiking and fishing in the Gorge. He recalls that he could board a freight train at Wishram, out past Lyle, that would cross the Columbia near where Celilo Falls had been until it was flooded in 1957. “You could request a drop off point up the Deschutes River,” Bill recounted recently, “then after several glorious days of fishing for steelhead, flag down a returning train at night with a flashlight, and return to Wishram.”

Watching development spread and seeing the loss of places like Celilo Falls gave Carole and Bill both a passion for preserving or restoring lands to their natural state. They live out these values on their 62-acre property in North Plains, Oregon. For years, they managed their land as a Christmas tree farm, then six years ago they began transforming it back to native forest and meadow.

Bill and Carole joined Friends 17 years ago to support an organization that carries out the values they hold as individuals. As members, they learned more about the rich human and geologic history that shaped the lands of the eastern Gorge that they both loved in their youth.

Carole Douglass and Bill Pressly chose to include Friends in their estate plans because they are devoted to keeping the Gorge in its natural state for future generations, and they hope to see further restorations take place. They recognize the power of having access to nature and understand that a seemingly simple thing like a sage-scented breeze can inspire a lifetime of conservation.

Thank you, Carole and Bill!

Special Gifts

April 13, 2018 – July 13, 2018

In honor of all Native Peoples of the Columbia River Gorge
Dennis Reichelt

In honor of Leslie Joan Allen
Dr. Beverly Bancroft

In honor of Nadav Ame
Jordan Epstein

In honor of Debbie Asakawa
Patricia Hutchinson
Annie Walsh
Melaura Wittemyer
Jim Carlisle and Kayleen Shiiba

In honor of Stephen Blackman
Janet Metzger

In honor of Megan and Robin Brown
Paulanna and Doug Wilkinson

In honor of Coaches Ana Reiser, Coral Burgess, Criss Haneberg
The Cleveland Dance Team

In honor of Rosemary Margaret Cooley
Julia Cooley

In honor of Miel Corbett
John Corbett

In honor of Kevin Coser
Hartnett Homes

In honor of Chelsie Coser
Hartnett Homes

In honor of Watson Dotson
Travis Bond

In honor of Nadege and Peter Dubuisson-Kahn
Megan Horst
Patricia Payne

In honor of Elizabeth Evans
Diane Cherry
First Tech Federal Credit Union

In honor of Gwen Farnham
Diane Gilbert
Annie Walsh

In honor of Laura Foster
Faith Carlsmith

In honor of Karen Slauson and Brian Friedrich
Dr. Karen Ireland

In honor of Heather Gillespie and Justin Gray
Kim and Mark La Croix
Kathleen Strombeck

In honor of Julie Gretchen Grunes
Lee Grunes and Susan Nolte

In honor of the Habersacks
Hartnett Homes

In honor of Susan and Larry Hirsch
Hope Bookman

In honor of Laura Iwasaki
Hartnett Homes

In honor of Glenn Lamb
Frederick Grossman

In honor of P. Jayne Lebsack
Milton Lebsack

In honor of John Miner
Standard

**In honor of Mother Nature
and her abundant beauty**
Robin Carlisle

In honor of Tyler Neal
Hartnett Homes

In honor of Jeffrey Nickel
Hartnett Homes

In honor of Lois Roby
Clinton Roby

In honor of Eleanore Rubinstein
Diane Koopman

In honor of Aubrey Russell
The Tuesday Club

In honor of John Sallak
Kristin Ratten

In honor of Marlene Salon
Jim Carlisle and Kayleen Shiiba

In honor of Meredith Savery
Caitlin Szieff

In honor of Scott's birthday!
Amelia Loy

In honor of Maggie Marie Simpson
Meaghnann Santos

In honor of Gilah Tenenbaum
Diana Stotz
Stephen Kemper

In honor of Marcia K. Tripp
Mia Mauberret

In Honor of the family of Chief Tumult
Marilyn and Richard Portwood

In honor of Dorothy Wand
Helen Wand

In honor of my parents
Joan Sunderland

IN MEMORY

In memory of Brin Bays-Thomson
Lynn Marshall

**In memory of Dennis and
Marie Bourdonnec**
Darlene Story

In memory of Christina Mae Brentano
Chris Brentano

In memory of Don Cannard
Ted Klump

In memory of Mary Clifford
Warren Morgan

In memory of Maxine Crookham
David and Susan Hanson

In memory of Ebb Cross
Ellen Ballantine
Arne Bostrom
Dan Brueggenjohann
Catherine Campbell
Justine Clark-Mull
Jordan Fink
Jeremy Harvison
Peter Kleine
Michael Posovich
Sarah Rask
Andrew Rasmussen
David Rawlings
Brian Shenk
Claire Whittal

In memory of Oliver Dalton
Tom and Sandi Rousseau

In memory of Helen and Bill Dobson
Linda Dobson

In memory of Bill and Sadie Duerden
Barbara Duerden

In memory of Peg Gauthier
John and Sharon Leary
Jennifer Wilson

In memory of Cheryl Hatswell
Tyree Lindsey

In memory of Lee and LaWanda Hitt
Bruce and Lori Gregory

In memory of Piper Jones
Rick and Michelle Petersen

In memory of Christopher Kit Kearns
Meghan Kearns

In memory of Kim Kelly
Karen Berry

In memory of Ruth Kirk
Phyllis Clausen

In memory of Fred Koch
Dale Kirkbride, Barbara Koch and
Carol Kirkbride

In memory of Martha Lawrence
Josh Lawrence

In memory of Eddie McAninch
Jeanine and Ken Ward

In memory of Rick Norrander
Wendy Finicle
B. Karls
Gary Lackman
Steve Libke and Bianca Hart
Nancy and Rick Lujan
Margaret and Mark Norrander
Kristine Peterson
Xiologix

In memory of Anne Olson
Anne and Gary Olson

In memory of Rick Perry
Dale and Kay Rhoney

**In memory of Pinedo, Cortes, and
Reales family members**
Eugene Lampi

In memory of Don and Frances Ream
Barbara Duerden

In memory of Mary Rosenberg
Lucille Beck

In memory of Nancy Russell
Larry and Susie Black
Tom and Sandi Rousseau

In memory of Klaus and Elsa Schneller
Mary Griffiths

In memory of Ruth and Howie Smith
Barbara Smith

In Memory of Alice Wanke Stephens
Lucille Beck
Lynn Stephens

In memory of Gordon Story
Darlene Story

In memory of Margaret Turner
Gail Cheshire
Dorothy Fahلمان
Sheila Kimball
Bette Reitter
Dean and Janet Swanson
Melissa Tucker

In memory of Elizabeth Van Bommel
Ken and Meredith Long

In memory of Matthew Winthrop
Megan Muth-Larson

In memory of David Zagal
Samuel Adams



Dawn at Dalton Point. Photo: John Standing



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Explore the Gorge!

Kate Lindberg, Outdoor Programs Coordinator
katel@gorgefriends.org



Students learned to identify Northwest native plants on the Hamilton Mountain Trail. Photo: Micheal Drewry

Every June for the past 11 years, sixth-graders from the Washougal, Washington, school district have had the opportunity to attend a multiday outdoor school and explore the historical, geological, cultural, natural, and ecological wonders of the Columbia Gorge as the culmination of their school year.

Friends' *Explore the Gorge* outdoor program fosters students' relationships with these wild places through interactive educational activities, aiming to inspire the next generation of Gorge stewards. Started in 2008 with a memorial gift from member Phyllis Clausen in honor of her late husband, this program has since been offered free of charge to more than 2,200 students.

This year, a record number of 21 volunteer naturalists guided 270 students through interactive educational activities at Beacon Rock State Park. Continued support comes from Bonneville Dam Park Rangers, who led the students on the historical trail and at wildlife ponds on site. New to the program this year was involvement by U.S. Forest Service Rangers who offered a lesson and activity on wildland fire and forest ecology. From the Doetsch Day Use Area below Beacon Rock, students had a clear view of the charred cliffs across the river, as they learned the positive and negative effects of fire and how Gorge landscapes are already recovering.

When asked about their experience this year, one student answered, "We learned about our environment and how to take care of it." Another chimed in, "I like learning better when it's more exciting, and it's more exciting when it's out here like this."

Learn more at gorgefriends.org/youthprograms.