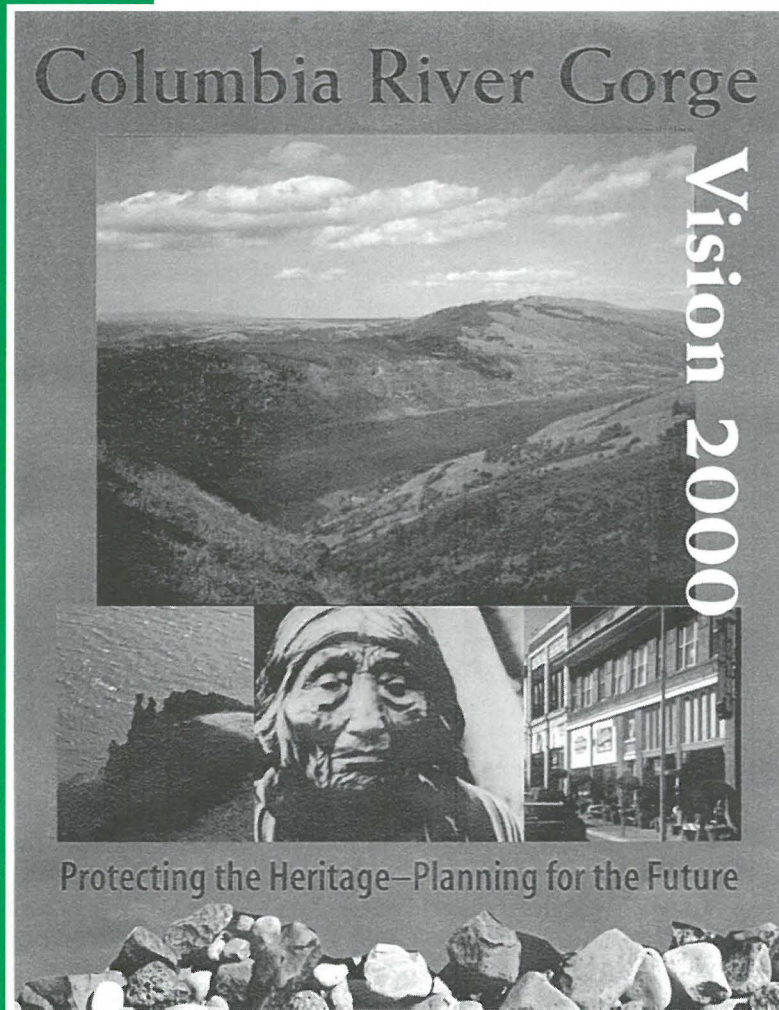


November 1998 Newsletter

Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 A New Campaign for Gorge Protection

by Kathy Armstrong



A central tool of the Vision 2000 Campaign is the Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 publication. Vision 2000 is a full-color, photo-filled booklet that highlights the main values the campaign addresses: the Gorge's unparalleled natural and scenic resources; its abundant recreational opportunities; the rich cultural history; growing, livable communities; and, opportunities for involvement in these areas.

Unparalleled natural areas and scenic beauty. Rich cultural heritage. Abundant recreational opportunities. Growing, livable communities.

Without the protection of the National Scenic Area Act, these qualities — qualities that make the Gorge unlike any other place on earth — are endangered. However, even with the National Scenic Area Act, long-term protection of the Columbia River Gorge is not secure. Because the Portland-Metropolitan area is experiencing tremendous growth, urban sprawl and over-development threaten the Gorge, and continued efforts to weaken Gorge protection are beginning to take their toll.

Recognizing the urgent need to revitalize awareness about, and generate active participation in, issues concerning the Columbia River Gorge and the National Scenic Area (NSA) Act that protects it, a coalition of concerned individuals, businesses and organizations, from within and outside of the Gorge, worked together to develop *Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000*. Vision 2000 is a coalition campaign effort that will work hand-in-hand with the NSA law to protect the heritage of the Gorge and to plan for its future.

The Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 campaign promotes a vision for enhancing and protecting the Gorge through the creation of a working partnership and promoting specific projects and goals. An ongoing, multi-year effort, Vision 2000 will include media and community outreach, grassroots organizing, project implementation and coordination, and advocacy within the state and federal legislatures.

INSIDE

**An update on the Bea House
on page 4**

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[Interim] Executive Director's Letter

Change. It's a word that draws anticipation in the hearts of its recipients. At Friends of the Columbia Gorge, we are experiencing a great deal of change.

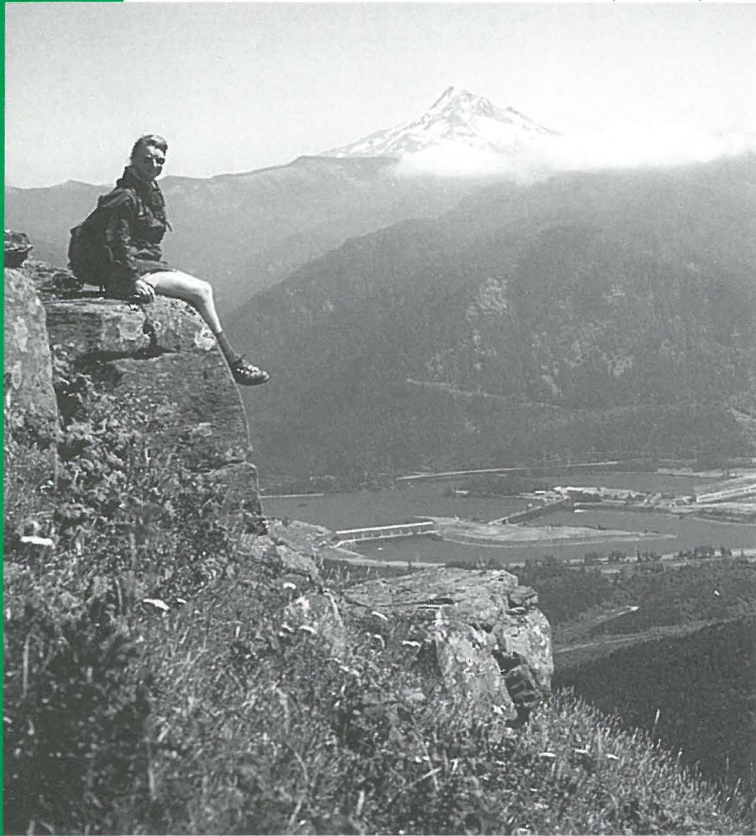
The first significant change is myself, the author of these words. Lauri Aunan, executive director of Friends over the past several years, recently left this organization to take a job with the Department of Environmental Quality as assistant to the director. It's a great opportunity for her that will make the most of her fantastic lobbying and strategic-thinking skills. I recently accepted the interim executive director position as a hiring process proceeds (the search committee hopes to hire a permanent executive director in early November). I have spent the past four years serving as associate director of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, where I oversaw all of the fundraising activities and assisted in managing many of the organizational activities. But I am not the only staff newcomer to join the Friends (see page 7 for more details).

What I have found in my first few weeks here is an organization in very strong financial shape, thanks to Lauri and the board, and a very talented staff. It is also an organization in

the midst of change (there's that word again) as it sets forth a vision for the future that combines what Friends has done best, monitoring and advocacy, with a new focus. That focus is the cover story of this newsletter: Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000. This is the brainchild of Friends of the Columbia Gorge and more than 50 other organizations, businesses and individuals. It reaches out to a diverse array of Gorge-lovers to build a larger base of support for protection of the Columbia River Gorge. It also strives to recapture the vision set forth in the 1986 Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

As the politics for Gorge protection become uglier on a local, state and federal level, we realize that we too must be more aggressive in building a broader base of support to defend against these attacks. That means get more people involved in Gorge activities, from trail maintenance to meeting with local elected officials. You'll continue to hear more about the Vision 2000 Campaign in the coming year.

photo: Nancy Russell



A hiker enjoys the view from Table Mountain.

Change. We have the choice to ignore it or embrace it. With a magnificent treasure such as the Columbia River Gorge hanging in the balance, I believe it is time for a warm embrace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin Gorman".

Kevin Gorman
Interim Executive Director

Vision 2000

(continued from page 1)

Take action — become a partner in this Vision

To be successful, Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 must be a true, diverse coalition effort. There are many organizations and specific projects listed in the Vision, and we urge you to become involved.

By joining together in this working partnership, we can be sure the Gorge will be there for us, our children and those who come after us.

For more information about how to become involved in Vision 2000, and to receive a copy of the Vision 2000 publication, contact Kathy Armstrong (kathy@focg.org) or Michael Lang (michael@focg.org) at the Friends office. ■

Former U.S. Senator Hatfield Leads Vision for Gorge's Future

Kick-off marks beginning of coalition effort

Former U.S. Senator Mark O. Hatfield and several other business, conservation and political leaders gathered in Portland and Hood River Tuesday, October 6, to publicly announce the

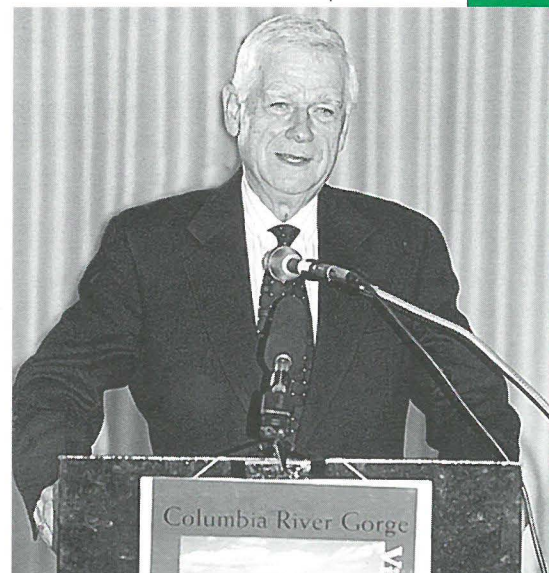
new campaign for Columbia River Gorge protection — Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000.

"It took over 40 million years of geologic forces, including volcanoes and cataclysmic flooding to create the living legacy of the Gorge. It has taken only 100 years of unfettered development to threaten the vitality of this legacy," said Paul Ketcham, conservation director of the Audubon Society of Portland.

Senator Hatfield spoke passionately and eloquently about the need for this new campaign for Gorge protection. In addition to countering the growing threats to Gorge protection, *Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000* is necessary because, as Senator Hatfield simply stated, "We have lost our passion."

The press events, held at the Oregon History Center in Portland and the Hood River Hotel in Hood River, featured an array of speakers in addition to Senator Hatfield and Paul Ketcham, including: Chet Orloff, Director of the Oregon Historical Society, who also served as the Portland event's emcee; Brot Bishop, Chair of Pendleton Woolen Mills and a longtime board member of Friends of the Columbia Gorge; Barbara Bailey of Orchard View Farms in The Dalles; William E. Bell, President of Columbia

Gorge Community College and a Friends board member; Mike Kitts, a business owner and community activist from Hood River; Keith Liggett, who owns The Timbers, an inn, bistro and gallery in Stevenson, Washington; Gordy Jensen, Executive Director of

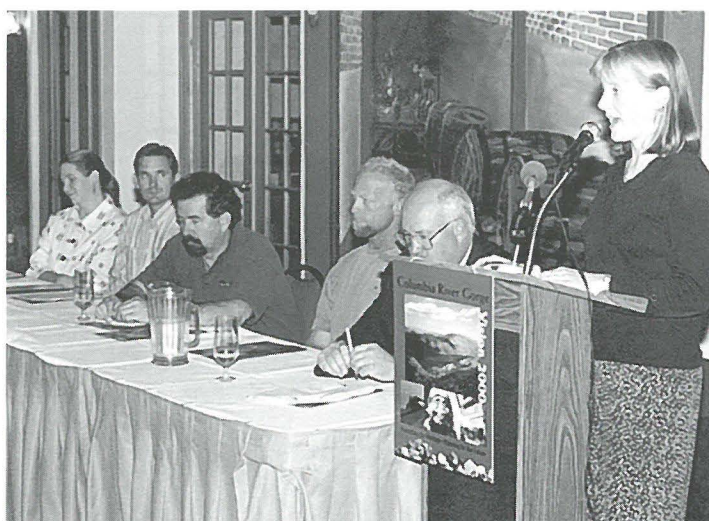


Senator Hatfield addresses the Portland news conference at the Vision 2000 kickoff.

Hood River-based HOPE (HOusing for PEople); Andrea Rogers from the *Mosier 20/20* project; and, Kim Burkland, Projects Director for the Central Cascades Alliance, a conservation organization based in Hood River.

The diversity of speakers and topics at the kick-off events is explained in the introduction to the *Vision 2000* publication: "Some of the participants in this Vision have missions or purposes that focus only on certain aspects of this Vision. However, we participate because we recognize that only through a cooperative partnership can a complete vision be realized. As individuals, we can't do everything. As a partnership, we can share — and implement — a common vision."

David Leslie, executive director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, summed up the campaign nicely: "The Columbia River Gorge is a priceless treasure not only for Oregonians, but also for our nation... As an Endorser, EMO believes that the campaign will be a process that will invite all people to reflect on what kind of Columbia River Gorge we want to pass on to future generations." ■



Speakers at the Hood River news conference include: (l to r) Andrea Rogers, Gordy Jensen, Keith Liggett, Mike Kitts, Bill Bell and Kim Burkland.

4,000-square-foot “Dream House” Degrades Gorge Landscape

Skamania County circumvents Scenic Area Law

by Michael Lang

By now, all of you have heard of and many of you have seen the partially completed, 4000 square foot house perched on the edge of the bluff in western Skamania County.

You may have wondered, given the protection of National Scenic Area Act, how this happened. It happened because Skamania County officials ap-

proved the illegal development, and then failed to notify the public of its actions.

The National Scenic Area Act allows counties in the Gorge to adopt and imple-

ment National Scenic Area land use ordinances that govern land use and development decisions. The ordinances must be as protective as the National Scenic Area Act. Yet Congress recognized that local governments sometimes lack the resources or the will to ensure that land use and environmental laws are followed. For this reason, Congress gave the Gorge Commission the responsibility for monitoring land use decisions made by the counties and to ensure compliance with the laws that protect the Gorge.

As part of our mission to protect the Gorge from inappro-

priate development, Friends of the Columbia Gorge staff also review and comment on all land use applications submitted in the Gorge. Friends has been very successful in stopping illegal developments approved by counties that would have compromised natural and cultural resources or marred the scenic beauty of the Gorge.

When the application for the house in question was made, Friends staff reviewed it and raised concerns that, unless properly sited and screened from view as required by law, the development could degrade the scenic beauty of the forested landscape of the area. The County issued a decision approving a one-story house in May 1997. The decision was reviewed by our staff and appeared to comply with the laws requiring the house to be set back from the cliff and to be screened from view.

Ten months after the development was approved, Skamania County officials secretly approved a site plan that allowed a 4,000 square foot, three-story dwelling to be placed on the edge of the bluff, in clear violation of their earlier decision — and in violation of the National Scenic Area ordinance. Neither the Gorge Commission nor the public was notified of this amendment to the decision. County officials allowed an illegal development to proceed and failed to notify the public, as required by law.

Now, the Gorge Commission’s staff is fulfilling its mandatory duty to enforce Gorge protection laws through pursuing an enforcement action against Skamania County. This action alleges that the County illegally approved the inappropriately sited structure and failed to disclose this action to

the public and the Gorge Commission. Friends of the Columbia Gorge has intervened on behalf of the Gorge Commission staff in order to support its authority to fulfill a strong enforcement role.

It all boils down to this: Skamania County officials gave these landowners the green light to build a highly visible house in violation of the law, and Skamania County should bear the financial responsibility for remedying the situation. Whatever the outcome of the Gorge Commission’s enforcement hearings, we must work to ensure that this kind of blatant disregard for the Gorge Act is not repeated. ■

Skamania County’s History of Fighting Gorge Protection

Prior to 1985, Skamania County did not have a zoning ordinance in place for regulating land uses outside of incorporated cities.

1986: Skamania County’s flag was flown at half-mast when President Reagan signed the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act into law.

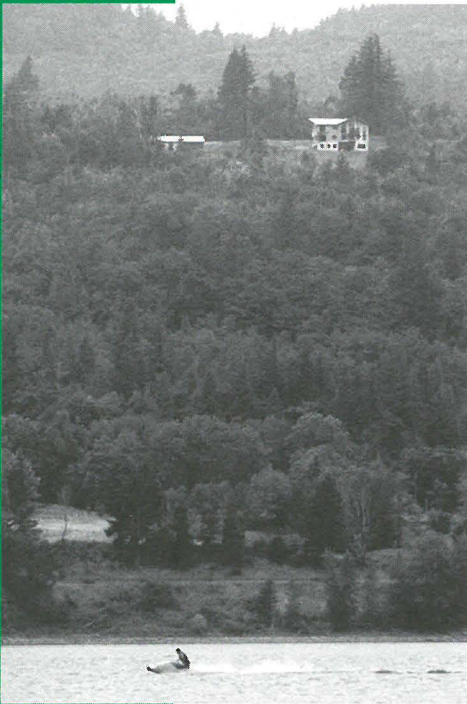
January 1995: The County prosecutor urged legislators to repeal Washington state’s agreement to the Gorge Act.

October 1995: Skamania County officials held hearings to consider halting enforcement of its own scenic area ordinances.

August 1996: The County prosecutor sent a memo to County Commissioners outlining plans to suspend its scenic area ordinance or to keep it in place but refuse to enforce it.

October 1997: Skamania County officials lobbied for amendments to the National Scenic Area Act that would have gutted Gorge protection. ■

These new structures were sited on the most visible part of the 20-acre parcel.



Dave Olson, staff photographer, The Columbian

Spring Hiking Series Huge Success

by Nancy Russell

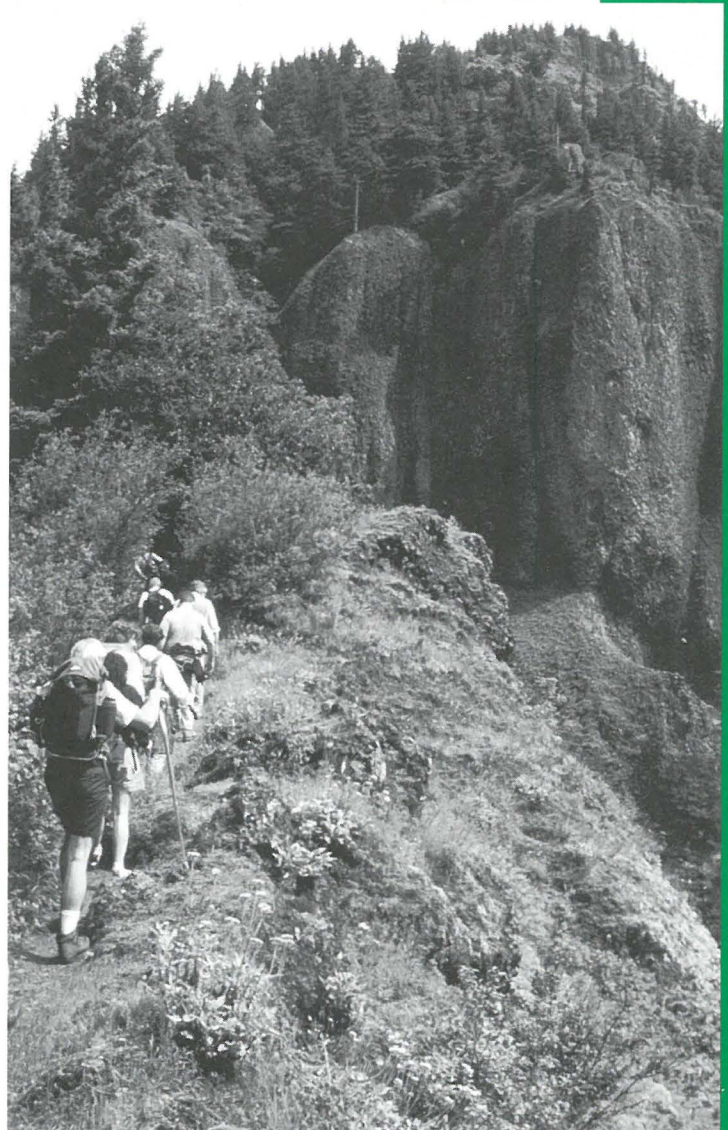
photo: Ken Denis

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Spring Wildflower Hikes were launched April 4 with a new and spectacular six-mile loop hike in the hills above Rowland Lake, Washington, near Catherine Creek. The hike attracted 78 participants from Seattle to Salem and Vancouver to Yakima. Barbara Robinson, Russ Jolley and Nancy Russell each led separate groups on differing routes, ensuring lots of wide open space between hikers. This hike was a great way to start our season.

Each Saturday from April 4th to June 13th hikers met at the Gateway Park & Ride and carpooled to trailheads throughout the Gorge in Oregon and Washington. We outsmarted the west end of the Gorge's rain by hiking in the eastern Gorge in early Spring before returning west in late May. The season concluded with a perfect trip to Hamilton Mountain in Beacon Rock State Park on June 13. This year a total of 438 hikers joined us – more than in any other year.

This year also marked the 18th Annual Gorge Hiking Weekend. Perfect weather the weekend of June 19 - June 21, attracted more than 1,500 hikers, led by 16 outdoor groups – this must be the Northwest's most successful hiking extravaganza.

Friends' Spring Wildflower Hikes and the Annual Hiking Weekend are only possible due to the generous donations of time, talent and energy of numerous volunteers. Thanks to Friends' volunteer hiking coordinator Richard Getgen, and to all the hiking series volunteers, including: Pat Bleakney, Bill Daniels, Ken Denis, Ross and Jenna Edginton, Julia Ferriera, Ray Hayden, Marilyn Holsinger, Carolyn Jenkins, Russ Jolley, Dick Koonce of the Columbia River Volkssport Club, Barbara Robinson, and to the representatives of the other participating groups. Thank you also to this year's hiking weekend sponsor Columbia Management Company. ■



Above right: Hikers make their way up the Cliffs of Hamilton Mountain near Beacon Rock.

Making a bequest can provide a lasting legacy – and is smart financial planning.

Please take a moment to consider designating Friends of the Columbia Gorge in your estate plans – a way to ensure the Gorge will remain a natural wonder for generations to come.

Many of our members have found that a gift of appreciated assets can provide significant support for

Gorge protection while eliminating the burden of capital gains taxes and providing a full value tax deduction for the donor.

Contact our Development Director, Jane Haley, at (503)241-3762 or via e-mail at jane@focg.org, for our free estate planning booklet or to schedule a personal appointment.

Support Klickitat Rails to Trails!

The Forest Service is deciding whether to designate the Klickitat River Trail as a National Recreation Trail. Your letters of support are crucial to the outcome. Write a letter today urging U.S. Forest Service support of this important recreation project to: Bob Williams
Region 6 Manager
U.S.F.S.
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623
Fax: (503) 808-2210

Friends News...

Friends Toasts Major Donors

The gracious riverfront home and garden of Helene and Len Dick served as the backdrop for the annual Conservator Event on September 16th. Conservators are Friends' members who have made gifts of \$1,000 or more during the year. This year more than 50 people enjoyed food, libations and good conversation while watching tugs and pleasure boats motor up the Columbia on their way to destinations in the Gorge.

Conservator members play a major role in supporting efforts to protect and enhance the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. In addition to making significant personal gifts, Conservator members help secure other large gifts, promote our planned giving

program, host events and lend their name and expertise to specific programs such as our *Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000* campaign (see cover story).

This year's event was underwritten through donations from Charlie and Shirley Schubert, owners of Beaverton Bakery, Blitz Weinhardt Brewery and

Willamette Valley Vineyards. Thank you to these merchants, our Conservator members and Helene and Len Dick for making this lovely event possible. ■

Columbia River Cruise Raises Funds for Friends

In May 1999, Friends members will have the opportunity to retrace 450 miles of the path taken by Lewis & Clark aboard the luxury 70-passenger yacht *Sea Bird*, and her sister ship, *Sea Lion*.

The voyage is led by historians and naturalists whose special expertise make this the trip of a lifetime. Trips ashore in small landing craft and jaunts in sea kayaks enable passengers to explore side canyons and remote areas of this remarkable landscape from the mouth of the Columbia to inland Idaho.

The trip is scheduled to take place May 7-13, 1999 – the ideal time of the year to be on the river. For more information, contact the office at 241-3762. ■

Summer Sun Shines on Friends' Picnic

by Nancy Russell

On July 19, 132 Friends members and their guests gathered at Major Creek Ranch overlooking Memaloose Island, the Columbia River and Mt. Hood to enjoy Friends of the Columbia Gorge's 19th Summer Picnic.

The day was hot, but air-conditioned by a gentle breeze

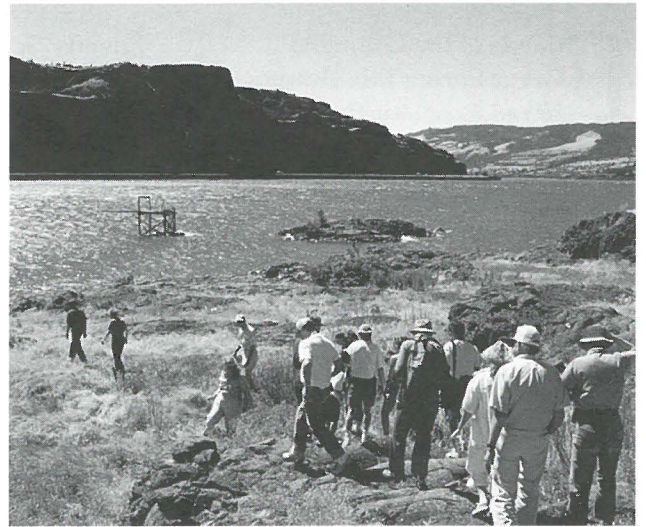
blowing in from the west. Chet Orloff, Director of the Oregon Historical Society, spoke to us about Lewis & Clark's Corps of Discovery, the explorers' interaction with the Native American tribes and their passage down the stretch of river so near our picnic site. Lewis & Clark camped at Major Creek on April 14, 1806.

Following Chet Orloff's talk, many of the guests joined Friends Board Member Chris Beck for a tour of nearby Lyle Point and two properties on the Klickitat River, all of which are under option to the Trust for Public Land, which would provide permanent protection for the land.

This picnic was an unqualified success because of the volunteer support provided by valuable Friends members. Thanks to: Beth and Jerry Hulsman; Jeanne Norton; Barb Wolman; Kay and Nick Dodge; Chuck Trainer; Ann Chapman; Dottie and David Levine; and, Lester Baskin.

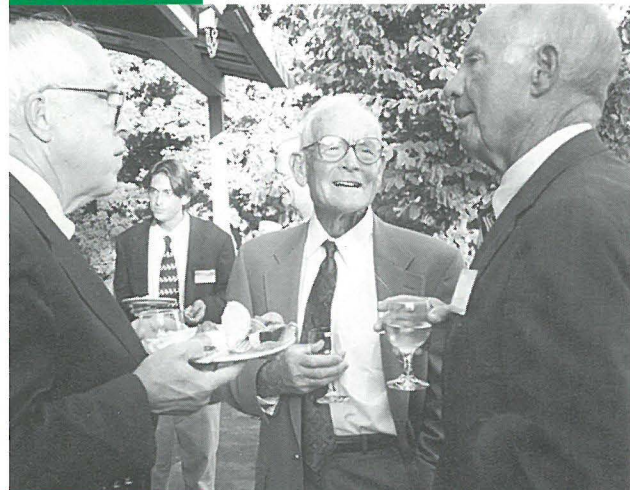
Plans are underway for next year's picnic, so mark your calendars for July 18, 1999, and join us at North Cheatham's Apeasay organic orchard, located in a spectacularly scenic part of the National Scenic Area. ■

photo: Ken Denis



The Summer Picnic was organized so that participants could take advantage of the many tours of the area. Above, they explore the Lyle Point area.

photo: Jane Haley



Brot Bishop (l), Gorham Babson (m) and Bob Noyes converse at the Conservators event. Friends Conservation Director Michael Lang in background.

Friends News...

Change is in the Air

The Friends office is experiencing some serious change and growth as new staff is hired and we say good-bye to departing staff.

Lauri Aunan, executive director since 1994, has moved on to a new position with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality as assistant to the director. Lauri steered the Friends through some major changes, including significant growth in budget, staff, scope of activity and effectiveness. Her contributions to Gorge protection and to Friends of the Columbia Gorge have been invaluable. Thank you, Lauri.

Kevin Gorman is our interim executive director, and will serve until a permanent executive director is hired. Most recently the associate director for the Oregon Natural Resources Council, Kevin will work with Friends' staff and board to ensure all runs smoothly in this transition period.

Beth Englander is our new land use legal assistant and will spend her time researching and evaluating land use and development applications for consistency with National Scenic Area land use ordinances. Beth, a

1997 graduate from the University of Oregon Law School in 1997 takes over from **Amie Wexler**, a third year law student at Lewis & Clark. Amie moved on to the office of Multnomah County Counsel to further her pre-graduation experience. Amie did a great job and was an energetic addition to the office; we wish her all the best.

Kate Roosevelt's hiring is an important step for the Friends — a Puget Sound area Outreach Coordinator. Based in Seattle, Kate will work with environmental groups, businesses, the media, legislators, and citizens to build support for long-term protection of the Gorge. Prior to joining the Friends, Kate was associate director of the Cascade Center for Public Service, which provides management training and technical assistance to nonprofit and public agencies.

Julee Wasserman is filling a new position — volunteer coordinator. Julee will spend most of the 20 hours a week she will be working on creating and coordinating a speakers bureau. Julee comes to the Friends after a stint as the office manager and volunteer coordinator for the Northwest Earth Institute. ■



Friends Staff

Standing l to r: Kate Roosevelt, Beth Englander, Kathy Armstrong, Julee Wasserman, Michael Lang. Sitting, l to r: Kym Snow, Jane Haley, Kevin Gorman. Not pictured: Tom Del Savio.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

319 SW Washington St., #301
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 241-3762
info@focg.org

Mission Statement

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, and cultural and recreational resources within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

We fulfill this mission by ensuring strict implementation of the National Scenic Area Act; promoting responsible stewardship of Gorge lands and waters; encouraging public ownership of sensitive areas; educating the public about the unique natural values of the Columbia River Gorge and the importance of preserving those values; and working with groups and individuals to accomplish mutual preservation goals. —Adopted November 20, 1997

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* Gorge residents

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Conservation Director: Michael Lang
Development Director: Jane Haley
Field Organizer: Kathy Armstrong
Fiscal Manager: Tom Del Savio
Legal Assistant: Beth Englander
Office Manager: Kymberlee Snow
Volunteer Coordinator: Julee Wasserman
Outreach Coordinator, Seattle:
Kate Roosevelt

Newsletter Contributors

Editor: Kathy Armstrong
Layout & Design: Kathleen Krushas

Thank You for your special contributions

IN HONOR OF ELAYNE SHAPIRO
Elaine Friedman & Bob Liebman

IN MEMORY OF
ELIZABETH MARTIN
Wallace & Jane Banta
The Kostiner Family
Mary & Pete Mark
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Address correction requested

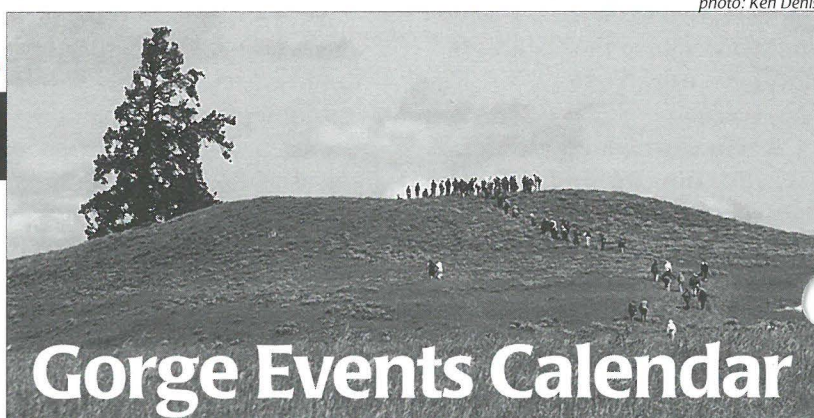
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**12 months of the spectacular
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We are pleased to offer the beautiful 1999 Columbia Gorge wall calendar for the special price of only \$12.95. This stunning 12" x 11" calendar highlights some of the most dramatic and inspiring views in the Columbia River Gorge.

To order, send \$12.95 per calendar (includes shipping & handling) with your name, complete mailing address and a daytime phone number to:
Calendar, Friends of the Columbia Gorge
319 SW Washington, #301
Portland, OR 97204



Gorge Events Calendar

October 24 – January 3, 1999

“Art for Land’s Sake” – the Columbia River Gorge Exhibit at the World Forestry Center Museum, Portland, OR

November 7, 14, 21, 28

Fall Chinook Surveys on the Salmonberry River. Call (541)244-4109 for more information

November 10

Columbia River Gorge Commission meeting – Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA

Wednesday, December 2, 6:15 p.m.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge presentation, followed by a slide show from renowned Gorge photographer Steve Terrill. World Forestry Center Museum, Portland, Oregon.

December 8

Columbia River Gorge Commission meeting – Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA

December 22 at High Noon

Central Cascades Alliance Winter Solstice Bonfire & Celebration
For more information: www.cascades.org/celebrate.htm

January 30 – 31, 1999

Friends of Trees & Friends of the Columbia Gorge sponsors native tree planting at the Sandy River Delta. For more information: James Allison, Friends of Trees, (503)282-8846, ext. 13.