

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Fall 2017 Newsletter



Inside

Take Action Against Oil

Page 2



Blue Skies & Big News:
Gorge Towns to Trails

Page 4



Hikes, Outings, Events
& Stewardship

Insert

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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An oil train heading west, near Bingen, Washington.

Photo: Darryl Lloyd

Take Action!

Keep Fighting Oil By Rail

If you live in Oregon, you are probably aware that the oil train safety legislation we were trying to pass this last session failed. Please contact your Oregon representative and Governor Kate Brown to let them know you want oil safety legislation prioritized at the upcoming short session that starts in February.

Contact Gov. Kate Brown: State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE, 160, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 378-4582

Find your Oregon legislator online: oregonlegislature.gov

Vancouver Oil Terminal Decision Looms

And if you live in Washington, please take action right now for the Gorge. The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) just held the last permit hearing for the proposed oil terminal in Vancouver on August 22. As you know, that terminal is one of numerous proposals to increase oil exports through the Pacific Northwest, all of which would result in more, dangerous oil trains through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Please urge Governor Jay Inslee to oppose any new oil terminals or refineries.

Contact Gov. Jay Inslee: Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002
Phone: (360) 902-4111

Stay Connected with Friends

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

Hiking e-news: Receive biweekly 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.

Sign up at: gorgefriends.org/subscribe



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Director's Letter

Early this summer, as the Columbia River Gorge Commission's hearing on Union Pacific's rail expansion proposal near Mosier progressed, a biblical drama seemed to play out, David against Goliath. Our handful of underpaid but dedicated attorneys faced down Union Pacific's platoon of high-priced lawyers. And just as David had his sling, Friends, too, had a secret weapon: the irrepressible persistence of our senior staff attorney, Nathan Baker.

Nathan came to Friends in 2000, straight out of law school. He immediately immersed himself in the rules of the Gorge Management Plan and the Scenic Area legislation. In fact, Nathan showed a dogged pursuit of all things Gorge. He began researching all the movies and TV shows filmed in the Gorge, learning, among other things, that both Lassie and Charlie the Lonesome Cougar had ridden the Broughton log flume near Underwood.

So I wasn't surprised when, three years ago, just for fun, Nathan was poring over the legislative history behind Congress's passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. While

digging, Nathan uncovered an obscure quote by Washington Senator Slade Gorton regarding railroads. During Senate debate on the 1986 legislation, Gorton stated on the Senate floor that *"the [Gorge] Commission may require mitigation measures to ensure that [railroad] activity will not adversely affect the resources protected under the act."* Digging deeper, Nathan also learned that the railroads had drafted and urged Congress to include language in the Act that would have specifically exempted their activities from regulation, but Congress declined to do so.

Nathan's discoveries were interesting, but none of this was explicitly stated in the final legislation, so I wasn't sure it mattered. Turns out it does matter. When Oregon courts are asked to interpret statutes, they must consider the legislative history to determine, if possible, legislative intent.

Union Pacific argued that the Gorge Commission had no authority over railroad activities and that Union Pacific's own application for a Scenic Area permit was merely a courtesy. Nathan, however, made sure that the Act's legislative history was presented in a legal brief arguing against Union Pacific's plans. Amid the 20,000



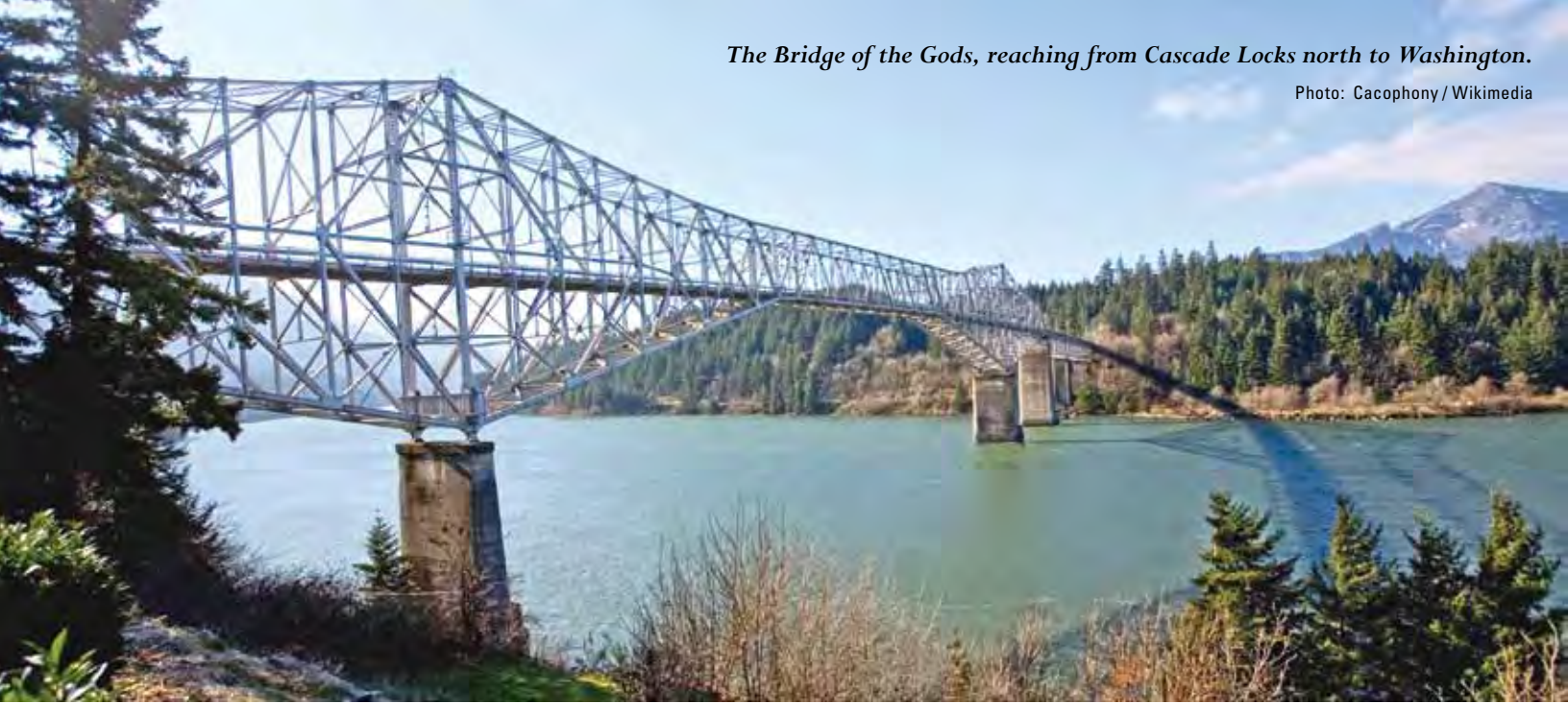
Senior Staff Attorney Nathan Baker, left, with Staff Attorney Steve McCoy. Photo: Michael Horodyski

pages of materials the Gorge Commissioners had to review in hearing the case, they saw that legislative history, including Gorton's statement, and relied on it to reject Union Pacific's rail expansion project and underscore the Commission's authority over railroad activities in the National Scenic Area.

What was once arcane congressional trivia has now made a difference on the ground, thanks to Nathan Baker and his love of the law, history, and the Columbia Gorge.

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.



Blue Skies & Big News: *Gorge Towns to Trails*

Renee Tkach, Project Manager, renee@gorgefriends.org

For many people, summer is a time for rest, relaxation, and reflection – a chance to step back and slow down after a busy and productive spring. But on Friends' *Gorge Towns to Trails* initiative, this summer has seen a nonstop flurry of activity. Those of us who live in and love this beautiful area stand to benefit for many seasons to come from the growing momentum of support for creating a world-class system of trails around the Gorge.

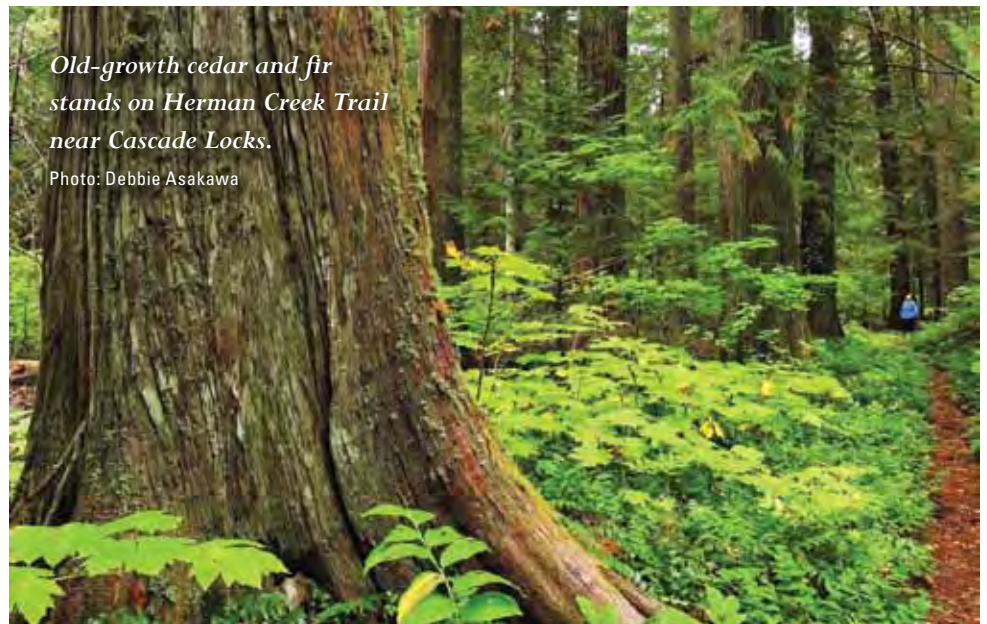
The vision of a series of trails connecting Gorge communities, businesses, and wild areas is one of the highest recreational objectives within the National Scenic Area's management plan. *Gorge Towns to Trails* is an effort to make this vision a reality by creating a European-style hiking system that wraps around the Gorge, connecting communities with tourism, dispersing congestion, and creating contiguous wildlife corridors. To accomplish this ambitious feat, Friends has been working over the past six years to

bring together private, public, and nonprofit sector partners committed to building a sustainable vision for Gorge recreation.

The charm and appeal of Cascade Locks and its iconic Bridge of the Gods is now spreading beyond Gorge residents and

longtime visitors. The bridge's prominence in the recent film *Wild*, based on Cheryl Strayed's popular book, prompted a dramatic increase in hiking along the Pacific Crest Trail, along with visitors eager to cross the bridge or snap selfies mid-span. By some estimates, foot traffic to the bridge – the Gorge's latest must-see tourist destination – has increased as much as five-fold. This has not only placed a strain on current infrastructure, but increased safety concerns for hikers and pedestrians attempting to cross the bridge.

As part of its *Gorge Towns to Trails* efforts, Friends has partnered with the



Old-growth cedar and fir stands on Herman Creek Trail near Cascade Locks.

Photo: Debbie Asakawa

Port of Cascade Locks, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, and City of Stevenson to raise \$18,000 to explore the feasibility of a new pedestrian lane on the Bridge of the Gods. The result of months of talks between leaders of local jurisdictions on both sides of the river, this critical infrastructure improvement project would not only provide safe access for future pedestrians and bicyclists, but could create a key link with other Gorge trails, such as the recently completed Trail of the Gods in Skamania County. Further work sessions are scheduled for this fall with a growing list of regional partners as the planning and scoping process for the pedestrian bridge continues.

Progress on the *Gorge Towns to Trails* project can also be seen further east, in The Dalles. As the largest city in the Gorge, The Dalles has been an important regional commerce center for generations. More than 300 days of sun every year make it a popular destination for countless hikers, cyclists, and other visitors. The Dalles-based Columbia Gorge Discovery Center is a vital educational resource providing opportunities for students around the region to learn Gorge history, and also learn the importance of habitat protection and conservation.

This past June, The Dalles City Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of *Gorge Towns to Trails*. Citing the nearly \$100 million that Wasco County annually receives from tourism, the resolution pledged the Council's support of the initiative and called for "prioritization for creation of a trail system from The Dalles to Hood River in

coordination with local communities and partner organizations." The city council resolution also stressed the importance of *Gorge Towns to Trails* as a key tool to promote sustainable recreation and alternative transportation options to alleviate congestion at popular trailheads throughout the Gorge.

the Gorge. Over the summer, Friends has held a number of community talks and special hikes to help build public support to reach the campaign's ambitious \$5.5 million goal. Friends also has seen significant progress this summer in its efforts to engage key community leaders in the *Gorge Towns to Trails* initiative.



Looking north from the Riverfront Trail in The Dalles. Photo: John Sparks

This spring, Friends publicly launched its *Preserve the Wonder* campaign to acquire 420 acres of land along the Washington side of the Gorge. The campaign adds an active way for the public to join the *Gorge Towns to Trails* endeavor by helping to acquire properties, such as Steigerwald Shores and Duncan Creek, which will be vital in connecting a trail loop around

To learn more or make a donation, visit preservethewonder.com. We'll also be holding Friends' fall *Gorge on Tap* event in The Dalles on September 20, where you can hear more about the areas where we're making exciting progress and learn how you can help with this visionary project. ■



Wednesday, September 20, 2017
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Freebridge Brewing
710 E. 2nd St., The Dalles, Oregon

Join us for conversation and inspiration!
gorgefriends.org/gorgeontap

Preserving Turtle Haven



Western pond turtle, basking. Photo: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sara Woods, Stewardship Coordinator, sara@gorgefriends.org

Nestled in a wooded area called Collins Slide, Turtle Haven is one of seven acquisition sites in our *Preserve the Wonder* campaign. This 64-acre parcel, surrounded by U.S. Forest Service land on three sides, has long provided habitat for western pond turtles (*Clemmys mamorata*), and our conservation efforts there will enhance this invaluable turtle refuge.

Western pond turtles have been listed by Washington State as endangered since 1993, due to wetland habitat loss and predator invasion, primarily by nonnative bullfrogs. A centuries-old, slow-moving landslide may have also played a part in the demise of this pond turtle population in the Gorge. However, the current geography of Turtle Haven offers a mosaic of ponds, seasonal pools, springs, and streams, as well as terrestrial areas where they can forage, mate, nest, overwinter, estivate, bask, and travel between water bodies – exactly the type of habitat turtles need to support their recovery.

The Oregon Zoo has collected pond turtle hatchlings to rear in captivity, allowing them to triple in size before reintroducing them, so they can better defend themselves from predators. The Forest Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have worked to improve turtle habitat by removing bullfrogs and their egg masses, mowing tall grasses and removing invasive weeds where turtles nest, and putting wood into ponds to provide basking sites, a key activity of turtles to reduce parasites on their shells.

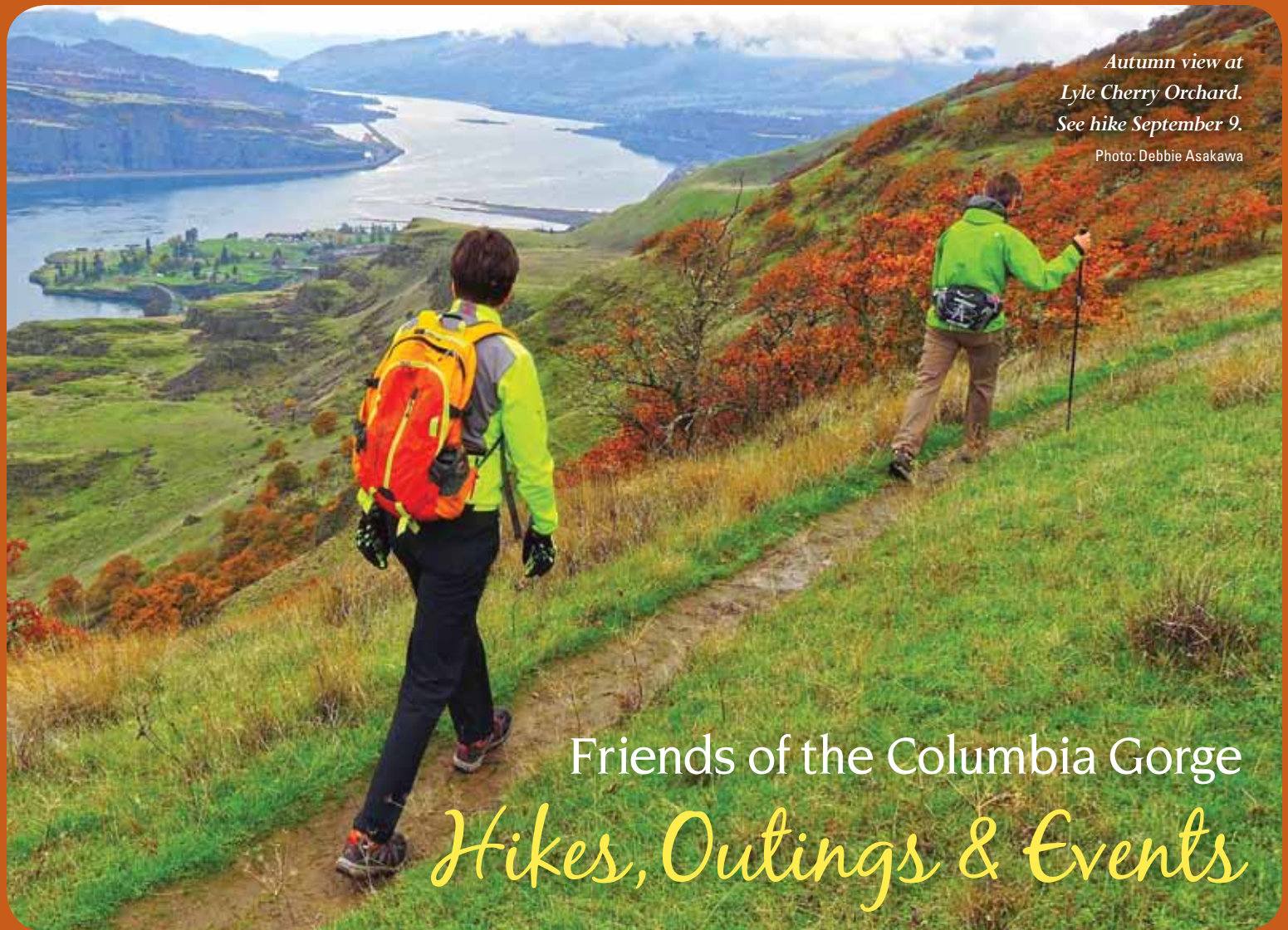
Turtle Haven supports many other wildlife species including megafauna such as black bear, cougar, coyote, elk, and deer. With more than a dozen ponds within a square-mile area of Turtle Haven, this *Preserve the Wonder* acquisition could play a key role in larger, cooperative conservation efforts, especially for turtles, by making wildlife habitat in the Gorge more contiguous and less fragmented. ■

PtW gorgefriends.org/turtlehaven

Photo: Greg Lief / liefphotos.com



The woods below Wind Mountain protect Turtle Haven.



*Autumn view at
Lyle Cherry Orchard.
See hike September 9.
Photo: Debbie Asakawa*

Friends of the Columbia Gorge *Hikes, Outings & Events*

Register now at gorgefriends.org/hikes

FALL 2017

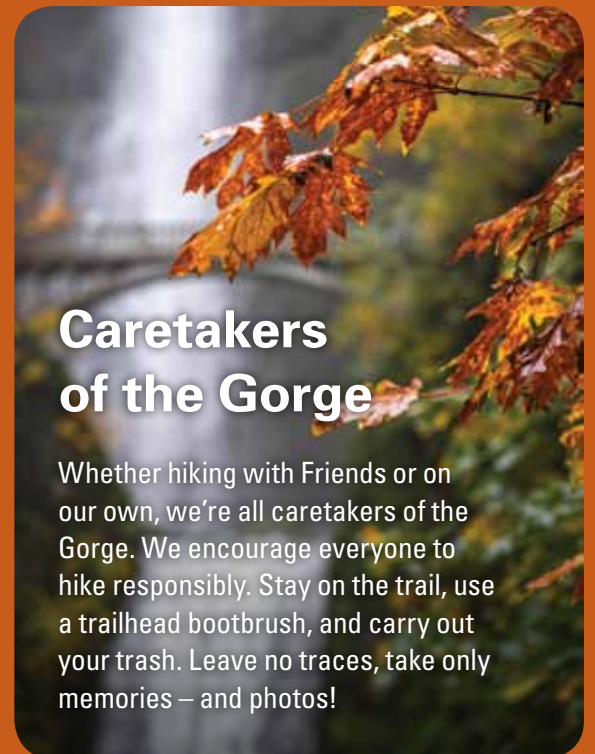


Lend-a-Hand Stewardship!

Join a work party on our land trust properties with Stewardship Coordinator Sara Woods. Help remove old fencing, collect and plant native plants and acorns, maintain trails, and more. There's lots to do!

Dates & details at
gorgefriends.org/stewardship

Volunteers at Mosier Plateau. Photo: Kate McBride



Caretakers of the Gorge

Whether hiking with Friends or on our own, we're all caretakers of the Gorge. We encourage everyone to hike responsibly. Stay on the trail, use a trailhead bootbrush, and carry out your trash. Leave no traces, take only memories – and photos!

Autumn at Multnomah Falls. Photo: Nick Wiltgen

Fall Outings

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

★ Mona Bell Hill and The Tale of Toothrock, OR Easy: 2 miles, little elev. gain

Walk along a section of Sam Hill's Columbia River Highway with John Harrison, author of *A Woman Alone*, and learn about Hill's consort, Mona Bell. Oregon State Park Ranger Jamen Lee will share native and pioneer history and describe Samuel Lancaster's connection to the region.

M Lyle Cherry Orchard, WA Moderate: 4 miles, 900-ft elev. gain

Hike with wildlife biologist Bill Weiler on Washington Department of Natural Resources land near Lyle Cherry Orchard and learn about threatened western gray squirrels, pileated woodpeckers, and other local wildlife.

Elowah Falls and Upper McCord Creek Falls, OR Easy: 3 miles, 600-ft elev. gain

Join environmental educator Roland Begin on this family-friendly hike to two beautiful waterfalls and a sweeping view of the Gorge. Learn about plants, animals, geology, and local history. A nature hunt will add to the fun for both the young and young-at-heart!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

★ Finding Bigfoot in North Bonneville, WA Easy: 3 miles, 100-ft elev. gain

Join Jake Meyer of the Bonneville Trails Foundation and *Gorge Towns to Trails* Project Manager Renee Tkach at North Bonneville Discovery Trails. Learn what the future holds for this major hiking hub and look for up to 30 Bigfoots along the way.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Larch Mountain Crater Loop Trail Run, OR Moderate: 6 miles, 1,300-ft elev. gain

Start your week with a trail run through lush forest with Friends' Staff Attorney Steve McCoy, and take in the view from Sherrard Point to cool down afterwards. All running paces are welcome.

Member Registration is Now Open!

gorgefriends.org/hikes

Questions? Contact Kate Lindberg at 971-634-1265 or katel@gorgefriends.org.

General Information

- Hike distances listed are round-trip.
- Please note difficulty levels when choosing hikes: *Easy, Moderate, Strenuous* or *Expert*.
- As a courtesy to other hikers, please register only if you're sure you will attend.
- Carpool information and outing-specific details will be emailed to you upon registration.
- **PTW** New this fall! Hike with board members to properties in our *Preserve the Wonder* land campaign.
- Children are welcome with a parent or guardian on hikes appropriate for their age and ability.
- **Dog** Dogs are welcome only on hikes with the dog-friendly icon.
- Leave no traces, take only memories and photos!

Fall Outing Icon Key

- M** Members Only
- ★ Special Focus
- PTW** Preserve the Wonder
- 🍷 Trails to Ales
- 🍷 Wiking
- 👨👩 Family Friendly
- 🐾 Dog Friendly

OUR HIKING PROGRAM
IS SPONSORED BY



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

M Dog Mountain, WA Strenuous: 6.9 miles, 2,820-ft elev. gain

Join Field Representative Peter Cornelison on a climb up to enjoy panoramic views and solitude. We'll hike up the west-side trail and descend by the main route.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

🍷 Starvation Ridge Loop, OR Easy: 2.5 miles, 600-ft elev. gain

Hike the newest Gorge trail, with views of three waterfalls and a new stone bridge, and learn local lore from leader Billie Anger. We'll take an easy pace to reach great viewpoints.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

M ★ Petroglyphs and Horsethief Butte, WA 2 Easy walks: 2.5 miles total, little gain

Explore culturally treasured Yakama Nation lands with leader Judy Todd as we quietly visit *She Who Watches*. We'll reflect on the deeper cultural story as it relates to climate change, cultural changes, and the intersectionality of our lives today.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

M ★ Herman Creek Ancient Cedars, OR Expert: 16 miles, 2,600-ft elev. gain

This Gorge trek with Jim Chase passes sparkling waterfalls and towering stands of noble fir, hemlock, Douglas fir, and ancient red cedar.

★ Gorgeous Relays Volunteer Opportunity

Help Friends earn \$100 for Gorge protection as a Gorgeous Relays volunteer. We need 30 volunteers along the racecourse from Wyeth to the Willamette. Free shirt and beer at the after-party!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

🍷 Coyote Wall and the Labyrinth, WA Moderate: 5.8 miles, 1,500-ft elev. gain

Leader Annette Hadaway will lead us up Coyote Wall to sweeping river views, for weekday beauty and solitude. Sections of the trail are steep with loose rock.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

★ **Earth Walk with Mindfulness, WA**

Easy: 2-3 miles, 150-ft elev. gain

Fall equinox offers this opportunity to connect quietly with nature. Renew your mind and spirit by walking this trail with Klickitat Trail Conservancy board member Steven Woolpert.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

🧑‍🦜 **Rodney Falls and Little Beacon Rock, WA**

Easy: 3.5 miles, 600-ft elev. gain

Environmental educator Roland Begin leads this hike to a beautiful waterfall. We'll learn about plants, geology, and maybe catch the squeak of a Columbia Gorge pika. Nature games will add to the fun for the young and the young-at-heart!

★ **Watercolor and Outdoor Art Workshop, WA**

No hiking involved

This all-day watercolor exploration at Beacon Rock State Park with artist Heather Brunelle is perfect for beginning or advanced painters. Supply list provided upon registration. Limited to 10; \$25 fee.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

🧑‍🦜 **Bridal Veil Falls Loop**

Easy: 1.2 mile, 70-ft elev. gain

From its days as a lumber company to a ghost town, to more recent stories of weddings and waterfalls, with NASCAR and Kraft Cheese along the way, we'll uncover Bridal Veil Falls State Park's secrets with Oregon State Park Ranger Miranda Mendoza.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

🏔️ **Nick Eaton Ridge, OR**

Strenuous: 10.2 miles, 3,100-ft elev. gain

Learn about current conservation challenges as we climb to great Gorge views on the rugged Herman Creek trail with Friends' Field Representative Peter Cornelison.

🏔️ ★ **Fishwheels of the Gorge, WA**

Difficult: 2 miles, no elev. gain

(Hike traverses rocky shoreline.)

Learn about the fishwheels of the Gorge with hiking guidebook author Scott Cook. He'll lead a history walk back in time to the late 1800s, when fishwheels churned along the Columbia River.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

🍷 **Catherine Creek Arch and Universal Trail Loop, WA**

Easy: 2.5 miles, 325-ft elev. gain

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

PtW **Steigerwald Shores, WA**

Easy: 3.8 miles, no elev. gain

Celebrate National Public Lands Day with board members and Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards at Steigerwald Shores, a 160-acre parcel adjacent to Steigerwald Lake NWR, and learn how wildlife will greatly benefit from the restoration of this land as part of *Preserve the Wonder* campaign.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

🏔️ **Hamilton Mountain, WA**

Strenuous: 9.4 miles, 2,100-ft elev. gain

Join Friends Executive Director Kevin Gorman and leader Sharon Ross on National Public Lands Day to hike a challenging trail that has it all: waterfalls, cliffs, deep forests, and breathtaking Gorge views.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

🐾 **Hardy Creek Dog Hike, WA**

Moderate: 7.75 miles, 1,330-ft elev. gain

Our furry friends are welcome on this hike with dog-lovers Madeleine Von Laue and Don McCoy. Enjoy phenomenal views as we climb to the saddle behind Hamilton Mountain.

OCTOBER 6 – 8

Play & Stay Weekend **Foliage and Fall Wines**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

🏔️ ★ **Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge, WA**

Easy: 3 miles, 100-ft elev. gain

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

🧑‍🦜 **Wahclella Falls Salmon Hike, OR**

Easy: 1.8 miles, 300-ft elev. gain

Hike under colorful foliage along Tanner Creek to Wahclella Falls with Mary Ann Schmidt to witness fall spawning salmon. Great for the whole family.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

🏔️ **Cape Horn Loop, WA**

Moderate: 8.3 miles, 1,500-ft elev. gain

Fall foliage brightens the dramatic views on this outing with our Field Representative Peter Cornelison to several stunning view points, including the Nancy Russell Overlook.

Gorge vineyards in fall.

Photo: Courtesy of Analemma Wines

Play & Stay: Foliage and Fall Wines

October 6 – 8 in Dufur, Oregon

Enjoy autumn beauty on this getaway weekend at the Historic Balch Hotel, in Dufur, Oregon. Your all-inclusive package offers you exclusive hikes with Gorge experts, wine tasting with local vintners, weekend meals, and more!

Play & Stay is an opportunity to step beyond day hikes to experience a deeper appreciation of what the Gorge has to offer.

Details and reservations at gorgefriends.org/playandstay

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Klickitat River Rail Trail, WA

Choose from 2 hikes:

Easy: 4 miles, 100-ft elev. gain

Moderate: 9 miles, 100-ft elev. gain

Celebrate Klickitat Trail Conservancy's 15th anniversary with us on either of these hikes along the Wild and Scenic Klickitat River.

Breakfast and trail snacks provided.

M Petroglyphs Tour and Dalles Mountain Ranch, WA

Two Easy Walks: 4 miles, 600-ft elev. gain

Washington State Park Ranger Chon Clayton will lead us to ancient petroglyphs and rock images, including *She Who Watches*. After lunch, we'll hike at nearby Dalles Mountain Ranch with leader Kristin Price.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

★ **Lyle Cherry Orchard, WA**

Moderate: 5 miles, 1,500-ft elev. 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.

★ **Pierce National Wildlife Refuge, WA** **Easy: 3 miles, little elev. gain**

Join Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards Jared Strawderman and Dave Pinkernell for a leisurely walk through this beautiful wetland habitat. Bring binoculars for better bird viewing.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

Multnomah-Wahkeena Falls Loop, OR

Moderate: 4.8 miles, 1,540-ft elev. gain

Enjoy early autumn colors on this iconic Gorge trail. We'll pass seven sparkling waterfalls on this hike with leader Billie Anger.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

🍷 **River to Crest Bike Ride, OR**

Moderate: 26.6 miles, 1,200-ft elev. gain

Ride with Field Representative Peter Cornelison on this great bike tour from the south bank of the river through the famed Rowena Loops to scenic views. Option for post-ride beer afterwards.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

PtW **Lyle Peak, WA**

Moderate: 7 miles, 1,400-elev. gain

Join board members for a hike to Lyle Peak, one of the highest points in the eastern Gorge, and learn why our *Preserve the Wonder* campaign includes protecting this scenic 25-acre parcel.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

★ **Sandy River Delta Evening Walk, OR**

Easy: 3-4 miles, little elev. gain

Visit architect Maya Lin's Bird Blind to learn about the collaborative restoration efforts of Confluence, Sandy River Basin Watershed Council, Friends of Sandy River Delta, and others to preserve this multiuse area.

M 🍷 **Two Hikes at Eagle Creek, OR**

High Bridge: Moderate: 6.4 miles, 840-ft elev. gain

Tunnel Falls: Strenuous: 12 miles, 1,640-ft elev. gain

Autumn beauty brightens these classic Gorge hikes past cascading waterfalls, with Outreach Manager Maegan Jossy to High Bridge or with leader Sharon Ross to Tunnel Falls. Option for a nearby post-hike beer afterwards.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

M ★ **Maple Tree ID Hike, OR**

Moderate: 4 miles, 600-ft elev. gain

Hiking along the Elowah and Upper McCord Falls trails with Tom Kloster, we'll learn to identify each of the three maple tree species that are so important in Pacific Northwest forests.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Latourell Falls, OR

Easy: 2.5 miles, 500-ft elev. gain

This loop hike with leader Ross Edginton will take us past two beautiful waterfalls as we learn local history and lore.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

PtW **Coyote Meadow, WA**

Strenuous: 9.5 miles, 1,250-ft elev. gain

Hike with board members to this oak-studded grass savannah surrounded by public land. The scenic beauty and habitat on this 10-acre expanse make it an important part of our *Preserve the Wonder* campaign.

PRESERVE
the Wonder
Preservethewonder.org

A campaign to ensure the wild and wonderful Columbia Gorge endures for many generations to come.

See *PtW* hikes on Sept. 30,
Oct. 21, and Oct. 28.



Lyle Peak, part of Friends' Preserve the Wonder campaign to acquire and preserve 420 acres across seven Gorge properties.

Photo: Debbie Asakawa

PRESERVE *the Wonder*

Guided Hikes this Fall

Experience the wonder of three unique landscapes firsthand this fall, on hikes at Steigerwald Shores, Lyle Peak, and Coyote Meadow.

You'll understand the importance of protecting these outstanding properties and learn about our *Preserve the Wonder* campaign.

PtW Dates and details are in the hike insert.



Friends' Third Annual Photo Contest

Submit your best photos in our *Preserve the Wonder* photo contest. Entries accepted through September 10. The five "Gorge wonder" categories to photograph are cultural, scenic, waterfall, wildflowers, and wildlife. Learn more at gorgefriends.org/photocontest.

Midnight at Vista House by Nick Wiltgen. Submitted for 2017 Preserve the Wonder photo contest.

Fall Hikes, Outings, Events & Stewardship

See our insert for the full schedule of outings from September 9 through October 28. **Member registration is open now!**

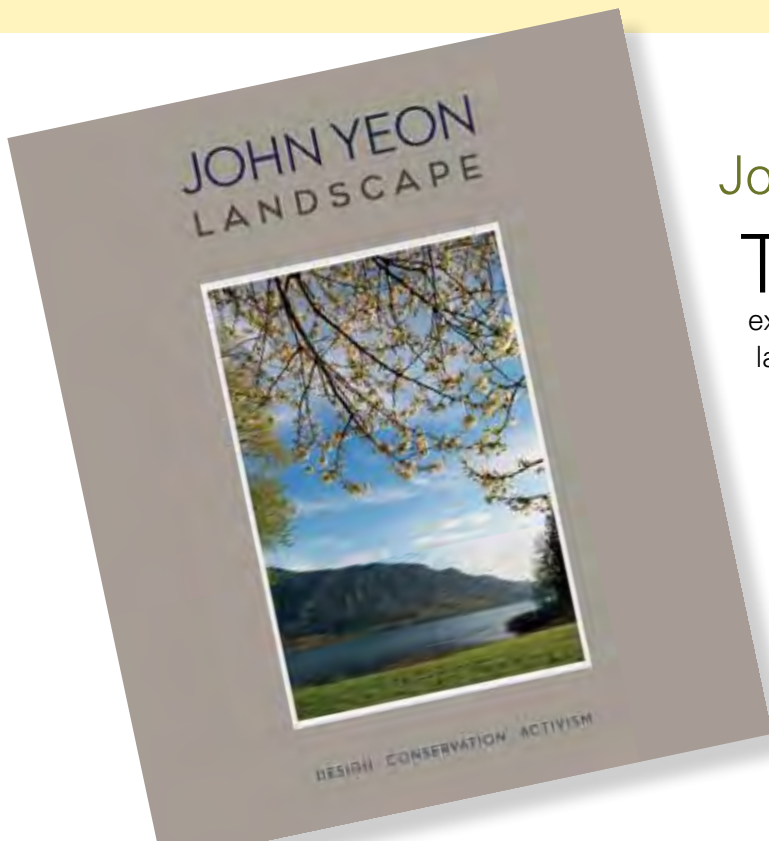


John Yeon Landscape Book

This beautiful new book, published in conjunction with the *Quest for Beauty* exhibit at the Portland Art Museum, explores Portland architect John Yeon's role as a planner, landscape architect, and conservation activist.

John led a national committee dedicated to the conservation of the Columbia Gorge, and he acquired 78 acres in Skamania County, directly across from Multnomah Falls, and transformed it into The Shire. This private, picturesque landscape showcased the beauty of the Gorge and served as the birthplace of our organization.

Book sells for \$25. Proceeds benefit Friends of the Columbia Gorge. gorgefriends.org/johnyeonbook





Oregon Oil Train Bill Derails

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

At the close of its session, the Oregon Legislature failed to pass legislation to improve oil train emergency response requirements and oil terminal review standards, including House Bill 2131. As a result, Oregon will continue to have the weakest laws on the West Coast for oil trains and terminals.

As originally drafted, HB 2131 would have required railroads to submit oil spill contingency plans for state approval, demonstrate their ability to meet the requirements of their plans, provide financial responsibility statements to state regulators, and assess fees to the railroads. These conditions are required in Washington and California laws.

Railroad lobbyists and many Republican legislators opposed these measures. In late May, the bill's sponsor, Rep. Barbara Smith

Warner (D-Portland), bowed to this pressure, and HB 2131 was weakened to: prohibit public involvement and disclosure of oil spill plans and financial responsibility statements; eliminate railroad fees for emergency response planning; remove standards for oil spill plans; and make oil spill plans unenforceable. Without recourse to review response plans before an emergency occurs, the public would not know whether those plans are adequate until too late.

On June 30, when HB 2131 came to a vote in the Oregon House of Representatives, it was sent back to committee due to public and media outcry over the secrecy requirements for oil spill plans and financial responsibility statements. Rep. Smith Warner admitted that her own bill was flawed and pledged to restore public disclosure to the bill. Rep. Mark Johnson (R-Hood River)

and Rep. John Huffman (R-The Dalles) voted against strengthening the bill and restoring public disclosure. At the close of the legislative session the House and Senate leadership were unwilling to restore public disclosure and pass a meaningful bill.

Across the region, communities including Mosier, Hood River, Portland, and Vancouver have stood up to oil trains and terminals, but the Legislature bowed to pressure from the railroads and failed to protect our communities, rivers, and the Columbia River Gorge.

Oil by rail will never be safe, but we look forward to working with the Legislature in the future to pass legislation that better protects the Columbia Gorge and Oregon communities from oil trains. Our thanks to all legislators who supported strong legislation that would address oil spill emergency response and oil terminals. ■

Victory! Rail Expansion Blocked in Mosier

Steve McCoy, Staff Attorney, steve@gorgefriends.org

On June 13, the Columbia River Gorge Commission heard appeals of Wasco County's decision to deny a National Scenic Area permit to allow Union Pacific (UP) to build a double track through and on both sides of Mosier.

Wasco County presented evidence that tribal treaty rights, which are explicitly protected in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, would be damaged by the rail expansion. The proposed expansion would specifically harm tribal fishers and increase harm to the fishery the next time an oil train derailment occurs. The Commission voted 9–3 that UP's proposal would harm treaty rights.

Union Pacific's primary contention was that federal railroad law preempts the National Scenic Area Act, despite established case law that requires "harmonization" of federal railroad law and other federal laws, giving effect to the requirements of both laws to the extent possible. Federal laws that do not "unduly restrict the railroad from conducting its operations" are not preempted and are thus allowed under

harmonization of the two laws. The Gorge Commission voted 11–1 to adopt this interpretation of the federal laws and uphold the Wasco County decision.

Communities up and down the Gorge celebrated the decision. Gorge communities including Cascade Locks, Mosier, The Dalles, Hood River, Portland, and Multnomah County in Oregon and Bingen, Stevenson, and Vancouver, as well as the Port of Camas and the Washougal School District in Washington have passed resolutions against oil by rail. In addition, the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission and fire chiefs on both sides of the river have opposed oil-by-rail. The consensus is that mile-long trains filled with explosive Bakken crude oil have no place in the Gorge.

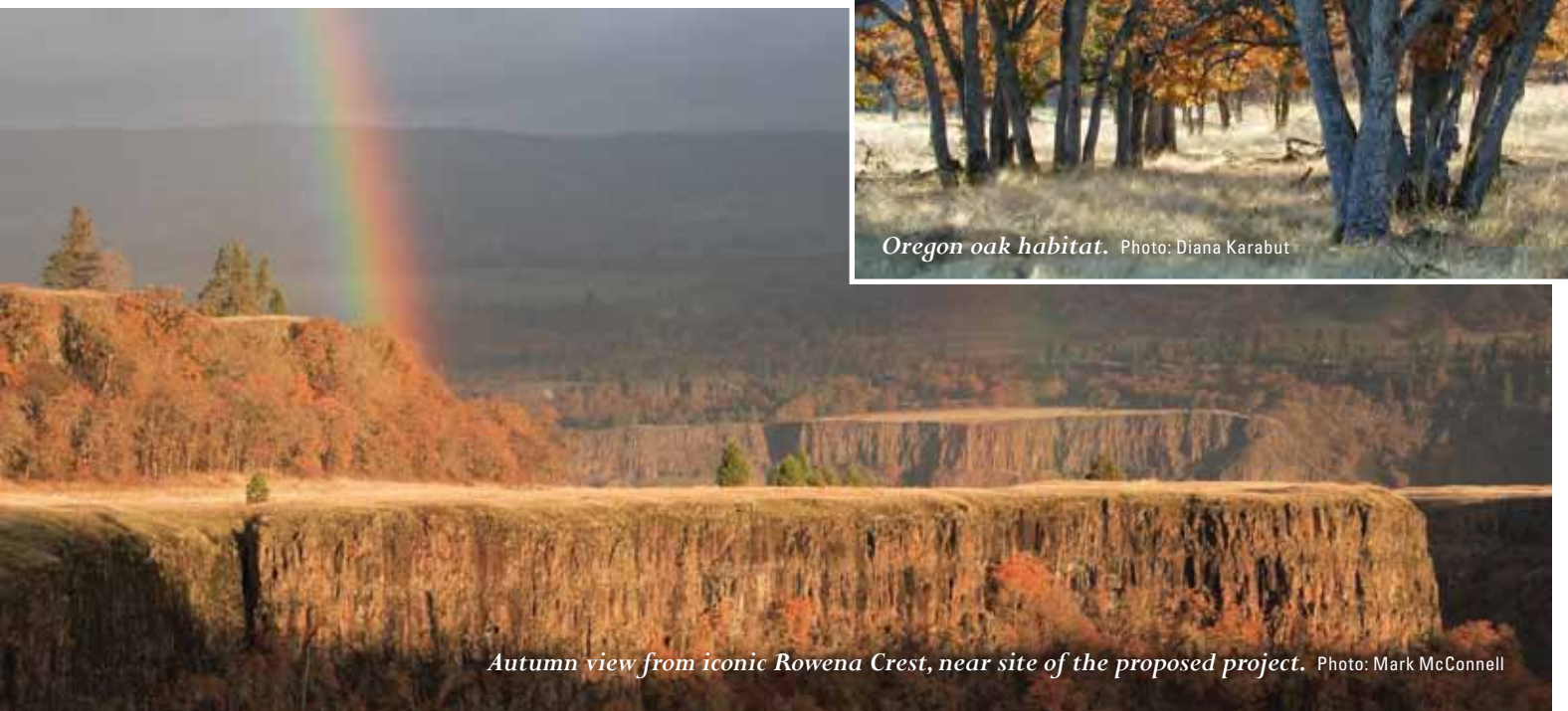
Union Pacific is likely to appeal the Gorge Commission's decision, despite the risks to tribal treaty rights and the safety of Gorge communities. Further, UP's proposal would remove some 1,400 trees, including

Oregon white oaks that provide crucial habitat. The likelihood of damage to the scenic, cultural, natural, and recreation resources in the National Scenic Area is significant. Still, UP has filed a lawsuit in federal court, and that suit is still pending.

Friends will continue standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the Yakama Nation, the Warm Springs Tribes, the Umatilla Tribes, and the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission to defend the Columbia Gorge against increased oil train traffic. Collectively, we have won in Federal District Court, at Wasco County and the Gorge Commission, and in procedural skirmishes at the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals and the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. We are determined to vigorously protect the Gorge from the Goliaths of fossil fuel and the multi-billion dollar railroads. ■



Oregon oak habitat. Photo: Diana Karabut



Autumn view from iconic Rowena Crest, near site of the proposed project. Photo: Mark McConnell

Jewels for the “Jewels of the Gorge”

Kate Harbour, Membership Coordinator
kateh@gorgefriends.org



Linda Felver and Peter Christ,
at Portland Women's Forum.

Linda Felver's happiest times have always been in the outdoors. From a young age, she had a great love of the natural world, cultivated by her parents who were both birders.

She and her husband, Peter, have lived on the Washington side of the Gorge for more than 20 years. They revel in the Gorge's hiking trails, and in 2000, they joined Friends to help protect this special place.

When Linda heard about *Preserve the Wonder* she was intrigued and quickly saw the opportunities for habitat preservation and trail connections. She began to think about what she could do to make this dream a reality.

During the 1960s, Linda's family moved to Brazil. At the time, Brazil was just developing its oil industry and her father, a petroleum geologist,

was hired to train Brazilian engineers to become geologists as well. During that time, her family purchased some Brazilian gemstone jewelry. Linda has a dozen pieces: rings, brooches, pendants, and earrings with green tourmalines, amethysts, aquamarines, and other gems.

When Linda read that Steigerwald Shores was the “crown jewel” of the campaign those words sparked the idea for her unique gift. “I decided to donate all of my Brazilian gemstone jewelry to *Preserve the Wonder*. Jewels for the jewels of the Gorge!”

Thank you, Linda, for the gift of your jewels, to help *Preserve the Wonder!*

The Brazilian gemstone jewelry is available for purchase at Posh Jewelers in Lake Oswego. Direct inquiries to Mark Hoyt at 503-343-3444. ■

A Special Thanks

Every year, artists at the Portland Society for Calligraphy volunteer their talent to create lovely hand-lettered invitations for special Friends' events.

In an increasingly digitized world, the beauty of their lettering art speaks volumes. Thank you, volunteers at the Portland Society for Calligraphy!



Hand-lettering on a recent Friends invitation.

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PENNY BERNARD SCHABER AND
DALE SCHABER
GAIL TOOKER

IN HONOR OF PHYLLIS CLAUSEN
SANDY WALLSMITH

IN HONOR OF EZRA COHEN
THE COHEN FAMILY

IN HONOR OF OLIVER DALTON
TOM AND SANDI ROUSSEAU

IN HONOR OF BRIAN DOYLE
JILL TURNER

IN HONOR OF GWEN FARNHAM
HOWARD GOLDSTEIN AND
MARSHA OLIAN
GEORGE POST

IN HONOR OF BENNA GOTTFRIED AND JEFFREY SCROGGIN
JEFFREY GOTTFRIED

IN HONOR OF THE BELOVED GUESTS OF THE WOLFGANG WEDDING
HARIS AND LIZA WOLFGANG

IN HONOR OF JULIE GUY
SUZANNE JUMPER

IN HONOR OF LEWIS LINN McARTHUR
BARBARA AND SCOTT McARTHUR

IN HONOR OF LAILA McNEESE
INGA FISHER WILLIAMS

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VIRGINIA MORELL

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IN HONOR OF JIM PETERS
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IN HONOR OF RICK RAY
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IN HONOR OF LIZA AND HARRIS WOLFGANG
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MARILYN AND EDWARD EPSTEIN

IN MEMORY OF MARJORIE SUE ABRAMOVITZ
DR. MARSHALL GOLDBERG

IN MEMORY OF CARL ADDY
ROBIN THOMAS

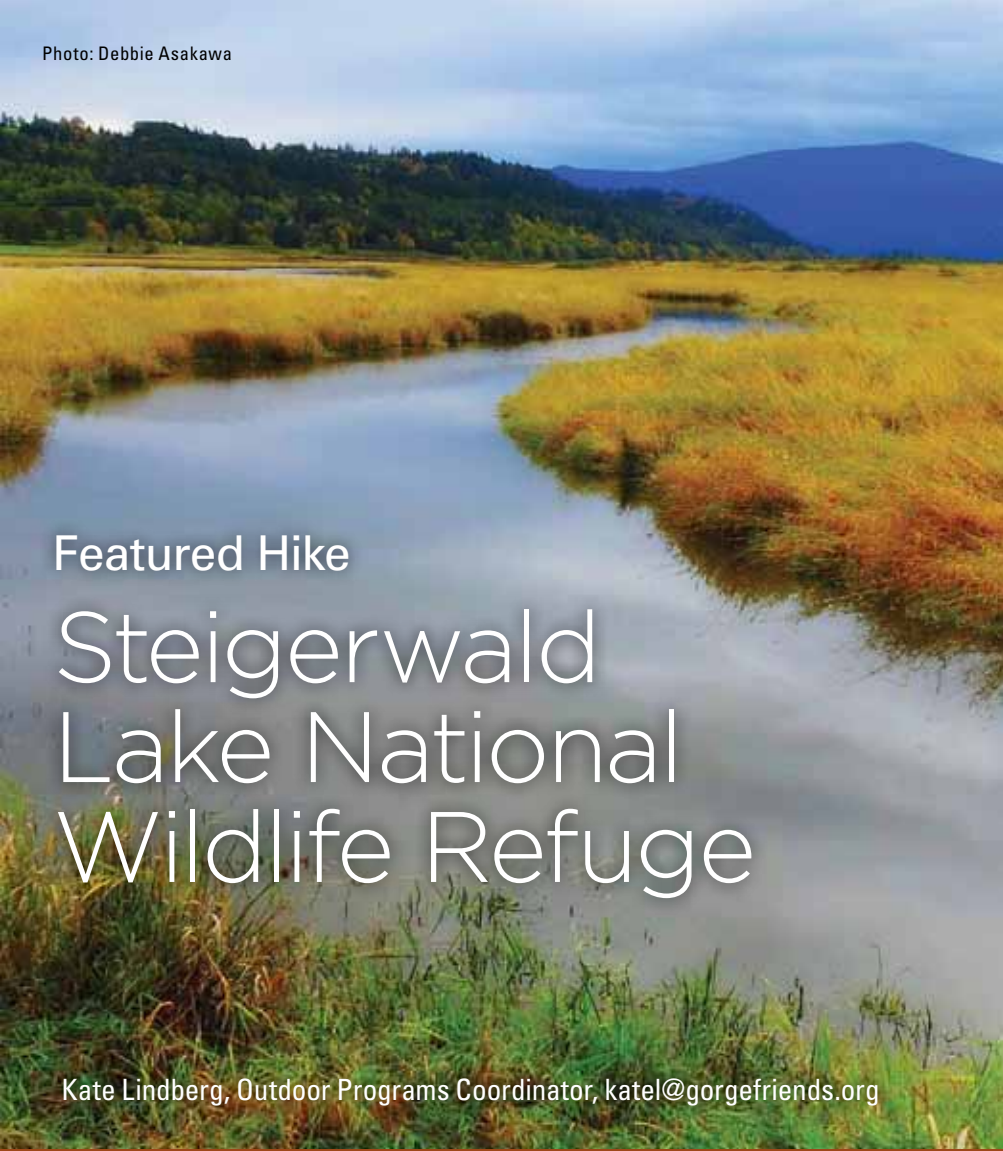
IN MEMORY OF TRACY BOGH
LARA E AND RONALD BOGH

IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA BURNET
DONALD CARLSON

IN MEMORY OF VIC CLAUSEN
SIDNEY CLAUSEN AND ROBIN REXIUS

IN MEMORY OF JANICE DRIEDGER
CAROLYN AND LARRY MASTIN

IN MEMORY OF SAM EVANS
CAREY AND CHARLES EVANS



Featured Hike

Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Kate Lindberg, Outdoor Programs Coordinator, katel@gorgefriends.org

Enjoy an autumn stroll along the Gibbons Creek Wildlife Art Trail leading to expansive views of the Gorge's canyon walls colored by the changing foliage. Then continue east for a ½-mile along the Washougal Dike Trail to its end. Upon the successful completion of the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign, Friends will acquire the 160-acre parcel to the east, making it possible to expand the refuge, breach the dike, and create a more natural ecosystem. The refuge will soon be the site of the largest restoration project in the history of the Columbia Gorge. Total mileage for the flat, out-and-back hike, is 3.8 miles.

Directions: From I-205 in Vancouver, take WA Hwy 14 east for 12 miles. Just past the National Scenic Area welcome sign at Milepost 18, turn south into the refuge parking lot.

PtW Join us on Saturday, Sept. 30, for a guided walk at Steigerwald.

gorgefriends.org/steigerwaldshores

IN MEMORY OF MARY S. FARNHAM
GWEN FARNHAM

IN MEMORY OF NEIL FARNHAM
GWEN FARNHAM

IN MEMORY OF RACHEL ELIZABETH PRATT FLAKE
DR. JOANNA SMITH AND DAVID NOONE

IN MEMORY OF SUSANNA GABAY
SUSAN GABAY

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE HENRY GALE
PATRICIA THOMPSON

IN MEMORY OF WILL GEROUILD
KATHY FISKUM

IN MEMORY OF NED HAYES
MARIE HALL

IN MEMORY OF SIS HAYES
ELIZABETH BROOKE
ALICE DAVIES
MARIE HALL
LESLIE AND RANDY LABBE
HELEN LINDGREN
E. K. AND MELINDA MACCOLL
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JOSEPHINE AND PETER POPE
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BETSY NEIGHBOR HAMMOND AND
PAUL HAMMOND
CAROLYN AND MARTIN WINCH

IN MEMORY OF MAC JONES
ANITA BARBEY
SUSAN AND JOHN BATES
GAYLE CABLE
HOLLY COIT
SPENCER AND MARY DICK
CLAIRE AND ZANLEY GALTON
ANNA GRISWOLD
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KATHY AND STEVEN KELLY
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MARTHA ANN SMITH
BILL AND SUSI STEVENS
REBECCA AND RUSS TEASDALE

IN MEMORY OF AL KING
JENNIFER WILSON

IN MEMORY OF JOANNE LASKEY
BRUCE CANTWELL AND
ELIZABETH LASKEY

IN MEMORY OF LETTY AND GAYLE MAYHEW
MARYLYN MAYHEW

IN MEMORY OF EDDIE MCANINCH
AFS INTERCULTURAL STUDENT EXCHANGE—
CAMAS WASHOUGAL CHAPTER
MARILYN CORDELL
WILLIAM AND SHEILA GOOD
GERALD AND JUANITA MCGRAW
PHILIP OSBORNE
FLORENCE TAYLOR

IN MEMORY OF CONNIE MCKENZIE
DON MCKENZIE

IN MEMORY OF AAGE R. NYLEN
MARIE NYLEN

IN MEMORY OF T. ANDREW PRIEBE
DONNA PRIEBE

IN MEMORY OF DAVID RICHEN
DARLENE A PERRY

IN MEMORY OF COE AND LOIS ROBERTS
JANE HEISLER AND ROSS ROBERTS

IN MEMORY OF MARY ROSENBERG
DEBORAH NEFT
MEREDITH AND C. WILLIAM SAVERY

IN MEMORY OF RUSS
CARLTON OLSON

IN MEMORY OF NANCY RUSSELL
TOM AND SANDI ROUSSEAU

IN MEMORY OF JESSIE SIMMONS
EDWARD AND LAURIE SIMMONS

IN MEMORY OF CHUCK STEADMAN
DONNA STEADMAN

IN MEMORY OF GORDON STORY
DARLENE STORY

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH AND EDWARD VAN BEMMEL
KEN AND MEREDITH LONG

IN MEMORY OF MARY VRANIZAN
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IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW WINTHROP
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Know Your Gorge The White Salmon River

Laura O. Foster, Author, *Columbia Gorge Getaways*

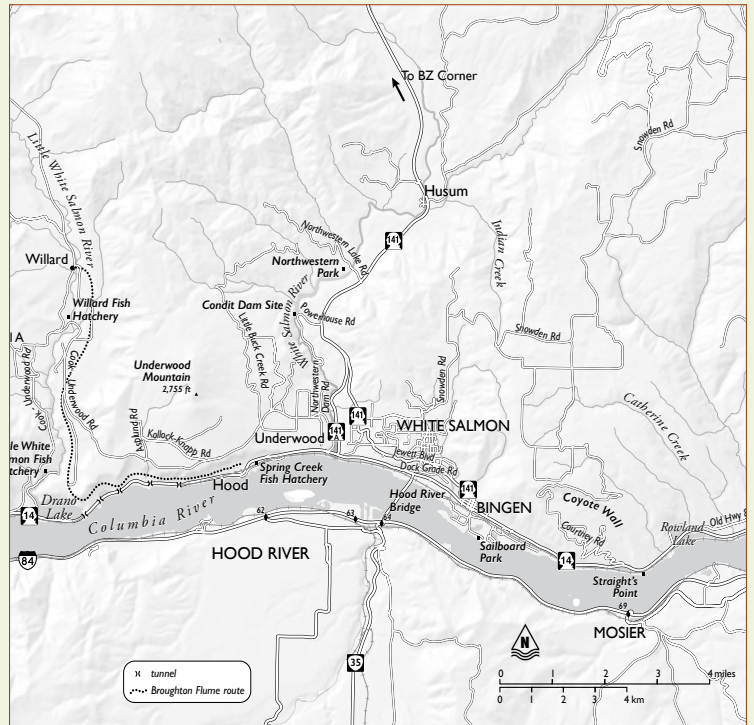
For 98 years, a tall concrete dam filled a narrow canyon on the White Salmon River. Completed in 1913, Condit Dam generated power for the Camas paper mill, transmitting electricity via the Gorge’s first power lines. After fish ladders washed out in the 1910s and 1920s, efforts to help fish bypass the dam were abandoned. Native Chinook, coho and steelhead populations were extirpated above the dam.

In the 1990s, Friends, the Yakama Nation, and our conservation partners played critical roles in bringing the dam’s owner, PacifiCorp, to the table to discuss removing the dam and restoring salmon runs. Talks culminated in PacifiCorp’s 1999 decision to decommission the dam rather than construct fish passage facilities. The dam was breached in 2011, and all traces were removed by 2012. Since then, the return of salmon and steelhead has been monitored by state, federal, and tribal agencies.

Today, steelhead redds are consistently found in tributaries above the dam site, and fall 2016 studies also found spring Chinook salmon spawning upstream. “One of the really interesting things we haven’t seen in previous years is spring Chinook spawning above Husum Falls,” says Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Jeremy Wilson.

You can visit the dam site and abandoned powerhouse via Powerhouse Road, off SR 141. Further north, Northwestern Lake Road leads to the now-drained reservoir, its former waterfront homes, and its revegetating slopes. Through early October, rafting outfitters make the spectacular run through the former reservoir and past the dam and powerhouse. ■

Map: Matthew Hampton of Cascade Cartography



Map of the White Salmon River area from *Columbia Gorge Getaways*.

This year we are featuring excerpts from Laura O. Foster’s *Columbia Gorge Getaways*. The book shows where to connect hikes with the natural and human history of the Gorge, as you discover *Gorge Towns to Trails*. Order it at gorgefriends.org/gorgegetaways; a portion of each sale supports Friends.