

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

FALL 1993 NEWSLETTER

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Telephone: (503) 241-3762

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

The greatest of all God's gifts, according to Dante, is the freedom of will. From such freedom springs humanity's greatest accomplishments and the means for all of its noble pursuits.

For a non-profit organization engaged in a noble pursuit, such as is Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the "greatest gift" comes in a specific form—as an unrestricted gift, bequest or grant. Gifts like these offer us the most flexibility to carry out our singular purpose—protection of the Columbia River Gorge.

In effect, unrestricted giving is the best means to provide us with the "freedom of will" to pursue our mission. That is why we were so pleased this summer to receive an \$11,500 challenge grant from a private donor. The terms of this unrestricted grant are solely that it be matched, dollar for dollar, by other contributions.

This is the second straight year our organization has received such a generous donation. And, once again, I ask your help in meeting this challenge—and in providing Friends of the Gorge with money that we can apply to the most important tasks and activities we engage in.

Unrestricted giving not only helps us do the most visible and popular of our activities—such as our educational and recreational endeavors—it helps us meet the nitty-gritty needs of the organization that are difficult to mount a fund-raising campaign around. After all, who wants to pledge money toward a printer, toner cartridge or file cabinet? Yet, these are the tools we must have to educate, influence and mobilize people to help us protect the priceless resources of the Gorge.

Remember, by donating to this matching fund, your dollar is worth two to us. A \$50 gift means \$100, a \$10 gift means \$20. So, please, help us realize the full value of this "greatest gift" by contributing today. And, thank you for your continuing support, both in time and money. You provide the means for our success.



Mark Your Calendar for Friends' Citizen Leadership Workshop

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is planning an all-day workshop open to the public on Saturday, Nov. 13, at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Wash.

The goal of the workshop is to bring local residents together, improve communication and to look to future citizen involvement

with local planning offices to see that the National Scenic Area Act is carried out.

"This is a great opportunity for people to get up to speed on issues in the Gorge and to provide us with feedback on critical issues and hot topics," says **Tamra Lisy**, Friends Educational Outreach Coordinator.

"It also is an opportunity for residents of the Gorge to meet one another and to help us understand how to better enable their participation in Gorge protection activities."

For more information, contact the Friends' office, 241-3762.

Gorge Parks Master Plan Needs More Time for Evaluation

In early September, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department released its Draft Master Plan for state parks within the National Scenic Area. According to the initial schedule, interested parties had only a week to review the complex document prior to public meetings scheduled for mid-month.

And, according to the original schedule, the State Parks Commission was scheduled to act on the Gorge District Master Plan as early as Sept. 21. Now, largely because of pressure from Friends of the Gorge, parks planners have scheduled an additional public meeting on Oct. 28 in The Dalles, and have extended the public comment period to Oct. 17.

It's good that these schedule changes have been made because the Master Plan is an important document—a 20-year guide for the development, acquisition and use of state parks. There are presently 27 state parks or waysides within the Gorge, covering 6,600 acres. As part of the process, State Parks staff inventoried recreational needs in the Gorge, natural resources within state parks, cultural and historic sites, and developed a park usage projection for the next decade.

Among other things, the Master Plan details recreation demand and opportunities for the district or region; resource types, locations and sensitivities; appropriate levels and areas of resource protection and development; physical development restraints; interpretive opportunities; priorities for expansion and/or diversification of facilities and lands; priorities for resource management and enhancement; and possible partnerships, trades and land stewardship alternatives.

Given the importance of the Master Plan, Friends requested that more time be allotted for public review and comment on the plan.

State Parks staff will incorporate public comments into their recommendations. However, Friends felt that the Sept. 21 Commission meeting provided insufficient time for meaningful comment to be developed, as well as insufficient time for staff to consider public comment. While this meeting is still scheduled, there will be additional time for public comments—and revisions to the draft plan. The Commission is now expected to act on the plan in late November.

The Master Plan is an important document — it is a 20-year guide for development, acquisition and use of state parks in the Gorge.

"Prior to the public meetings scheduled for September, only two public meetings had been held—and both were meetings two years ago to identify issues," says Tamra

Lisy, Friends' Education Outreach Coordinator. Lisy notes that the Master Plan document is complex, totaling some 300 pages. A summary document, itself nearly 160 pages, also is being distributed. (The Draft Master Plan also will be available at public libraries in the Gorge.)

Public agency and in-house review has been going on since January. "But allowing less than two weeks of review by the general public and non-public agencies simply was not sufficient," Lisy says. "Such a schedule threatened to undermine the integrity of the entire planning process."

People who would like to comment on the Master Plan, should mail their comments to: Oregon State Parks Director Bob Meinen, 525 Trade Street SE, Salem, OR, 97310, and/or to: Oregon State Parks Commission Chair Brian Booth, c/o Tonkon, Torp, Galen, Marmaduke & Booth, 888 SW 5th, Suite 1600, Portland, OR 97204.

For a copy of the Draft Master Plan or its summary, contact Oregon State Parks at (503) 378-6305. Staff members to talk with are Mark Stenberg (378-6821, Ext. 275) or Kathy Shutt.

Public Access to Archer Mountain Contemplated

In the past, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has sponsored a Mazama hike on Archer Mountain which leads to public lands. However, concerns raised by local landowners have prompted the Skamania County Planning Office to organize a meeting of interested parties on the subject of public access.

It has been agreed that all parties work together to keep individuals out of this area until these concerns can be worked out through the formal U.S. Forest Service process.

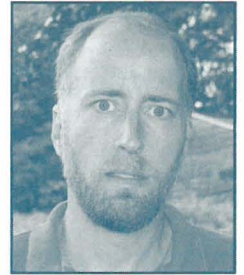
Although the Archer Mountain hike is proposed in the Permanent Gorge Management Plan, at this time

there is no formal trail on public land. Once this trail project is initiated by the Forest Service, a public process will be scheduled. At that time, the Forest Service, along with other interested parties, will identify a trail that will allow public access to this outstanding area.

"Friends of the Columbia Gorge is committed to a trail on Archer Mountain, but until the concerns can be adequately addressed we are asking that there be no attempts to hike the area," says Tamra Lisy, Friends Education Outreach Coordinator. "We applaud Skamania County Planning Director Susan Lorne in her efforts to resolve this issue."

Welcome Our New Board Members

Rick Ray, a Corbett resident who has been a member of Friends of the Columbia Gorge since 1983, is one of three new Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board members. Ray, a former television engineer for Multnomah Community Television, has recently been active in the Sandy River Delta gateway center project. He also participated in the Forest Service's public involvement process related to the National Scenic Area.



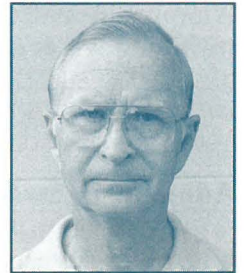
Rick Ray

John Reynolds, a second new Board member, was born and educated in Portland, graduating from Washington High School, Reed College and the University of Oregon Medical School. Dr. Reynolds was on the faculty of the Pediatrics Department of the University of Minnesota for 21 years before returning in 1977 as a Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Oregon Health Sciences University. He retired in 1993, and says he now has time to indulge himself in his non-medical interests in botany, native plants, hiking and the Columbia Gorge.



Dr. John Reynolds

Also joining the Board is **Len Swenson**, an electrical engineer who retired last year from the Bonneville Power Administration after 25 years. Swenson and his wife, **Donita**, overlook the Gorge from their home near the Women's Forum State Park. A resident of the Gorge since 1969, he has been a member of the Friends almost since the organization began—and recently represented the organization in the conflict over the best public use of the old Bridal Veil lumbermill site.

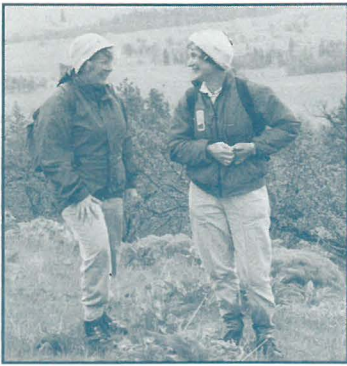


Len Swenson

Land Use Intern Joins Friends

Michael Weeks, Vanderbilt Law School graduate and a land use planning graduate student at PSU, has joined the Friends as a land use planning intern. His one-year, part-time internship is supported by grants from the Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust and The Collins Foundation. Last year, he served as a legal intern.

Weeks will evaluate land use planning decisions and help the Friends better inform residents of the effects and impacts of those decisions. He also will work toward better understanding of the cumulative effects of land use management decisions in the NSA.



Hiking Weekend coordinator **Julia Ferreira**, left, and Friend's Chairman Emeritus **Nancy Russell** enjoy on moment on the trail, while a spotted owl was seen along the Herman Creek Trail for the second year. (Left photo: Gayle Hammond; right photo: Richard Getgen)

Hiking Weekend Delightful For 1,300

Friends of the Gorge's 13th annual Hiking Weekend was a great success—weather cooperating and more than 1,320 hikers participating on scores of hikes both Saturday and Sunday, June 19-20. Of those, 586 participated in the volkswalks.

Julia Ferreira, who coordinated the event for the eighth time, said there were a number of memorable

The 14th Annual Hiking Weekend will be June 18-19, 1994. Mark your calendars now!

events—a spotted owl for the second straight year in the ancient cedar grove at Cedar Swamp Camp, all 21 hikers seeing the angel visage in the outcroppings of Angels Rest and the raw beauty of the Augspurgen Mountain hike, led again this year by **Frank** and **Charlotte Head**.

"The wildflowers were exceptional this year because of the long, cold, wet spring," Julia reported. "We just had a wonderful time."

Julia would like to thank the many volunteers who made it possible—and memorable. Special kudos go to **Marilyn Holsinger**, for her once-again error-free brochure, and **Moe, Fred** and **Al Jubitz** of Jubitz Corp., who underwrote its publication.



Overcast skies didn't daunt the enthusiasm of those who gathered for the July 25th Summer Picnic.

photo: Ken Denis

Friends to Comment on Historic Highway Traffic Management Plan

The Oregon Department of Transportation has issued its draft Traffic Management Plan for the Historic Columbia River Highway. Its goal is to protect and enhance the historic values associated with the highway's National Register status and to be consistent with the National Scenic Area Management Plan.

Among the study's objectives are to preserve historic features and the historic integrity of the corridor; recognize existing rural communities and their economic character; plan for an appropriate level of tourist traffic consistent with local access and circulation needs; reduce conflicts between bicyclists, motor vehicles and pedestrians; investigate strategies to encourage alternate transportation modes; and plan for continued access to recreation facilities along the historic highway.

Among other recommendations, the study examined a number of alternatives for the Larch Mountain Road to Dodson segment, where narrow rights-of-way and heavy and conflicting uses have created problems. Among alternatives evaluated were installing one-way traffic signals at each end of narrow structures, restrict-

ing the segment to bicycle and pedestrian use, widening shoulders, limiting size of vehicles traveling west-bound or in both directions, one-way traffic only throughout the segment, toll operation and a shuttle system.

A considered alternative that is not favored by this study is the one-way option for the Larch Mountain to Dodson stretch of the highway. Friends of the Columbia Gorge believes that this option would best meet the concerns associated with the safety and conflicting uses.

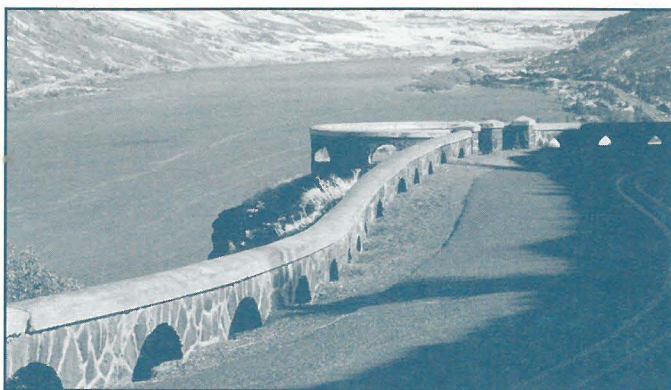
"Many areas of this stretch are too narrow and winding to accommodate wide vehicles such as recreation vehicles and buses, and bikers and hikers," says Tamra Lisy, Friends' Education Outreach Coordinator.

The remaining public meetings on the plan will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the following locations:

Sept. 21 — Mt. Hood Community College

Sept. 28 — Corbett School

Comments will be incorporated into recommendations to the Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee, which will then make recommendations to the Oregon Transportation Commission.



Stone "observatory" at the top of Rowena Loops along the Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway.

Photo: Ken Denis

Volunteer Activities

Adopt-a-Highway Litter Pickup

Hats off to volunteers, including four newcomers, who helped with the July 10 cleanup along the Friends' "adopted" section of Historic Columbia River Scenic Highway. Returnees included Felice and Ken Denis, Renee Scott, Mitch Neuharth, Pat Sims, Laura Castlebury, Alicia Simons (from Explorer Post 309) and Alicia's mother, Jenny. Newcomers to our event were our own Nancy Russell, plus Burt Burton and Jay and Cookie Baer.

Everyone started work at 9 a.m., split up into groups of two or three, and canvassed a 1/2-mile stretch of highway. The group was done by 11 a.m., and they look forward to another effort in late September or early October. Interested? If so, contact Ken Denis at (503) 287-2761.

Open Space Fair

Hearty thanks also go out to Jeanne Norton who not only set up and manned the Friends' booth at this spring's Open Space Fair in Clark County, but also

presented the Friends' "mission" on cable television. Jeanne also is about to serve for the 10th straight year as volunteer at the Friends's booth at Salmon Fest.

Columbia Gorge History Class

Phyllis Clausen deserves accolades for her presentation on behalf of the Friends to teachers from Oregon and Washington who were participating in a course on "Northwest History, the Columbia Gorge". Phyllis made her presentation on Aug. 4 at the Cascade Locks Marine Park.

OMSI & More

Andy Gaul, our trusty volunteer intern from Lewis & Clark College, gets well-deserved recognition for his work with a Marshall High School class on an interpretive display for Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, and for representing Friends at a recent conference at OMSI for teachers of environmental classes. The latter event was sponsored by the Oregon Consortium for Quality Science and Math Education.

ODOT Analysis of The Dalles/Chenoweth Interchange on I-84 Due Soon

An Oregon Department of Transportation study on the proposed The Dalles/Chenoweth interchange is expected to be released in late September and be the subject of a public meeting in mid-November.

Four alternatives are being considered in a draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) now being finalized. Two alternatives are a variation of Alternative 1, one of two original alternatives examined by ODOT.

Alternative 1, which was one of the original concepts, involves an intersection with the Historic Columbia River Highway within the National Scenic Area. This would require widening the scenic highway—a resource listed on the National Historic Register—at the interchange. Alternative 1 is the subject of a package deal of land, gravel and state-owned property arranged by the county, city and port. Estimated cost is \$9.5 million.

Alternative 1A, which is the most expensive at about \$17.6 million, would require that a frontage road be built on General Management Area land parallel to the Mosier-The Dalles section of the Historic Highway just west of The Dalles. The frontage road would eliminate the need for a connection to the scenic highway—and the widening which would have been required—until it enters the urban area.



Site of the proposed The Dalles/Chenoweth interchange on I-84 is this area immediately west of The Dalles. Friends wants to keep the interchange out of National Scenic Area.

Photo: Ken Denis

The Friends support Alternative #2, which would best protect the Historic Columbia Gorge Highway.

Alternative 1B is very similar to Alternative 1. It would involve a new intersection with the Historic Highway within the NSA; however, instead of widening the scenic highway in order to add turn lanes, it would retain the current width and use stop signs at the intersection of the freeway interchange access road. This, however, might not provide an acceptable level of service during periods of peak traffic. Price tag is approximately \$9.5 million.

Alternative 2, which is favored by Friends of the Gorge, would cost about \$9.7 million according to estimates. It would place the freeway interchange within the urban area, just east of Chenoweth Creek. This type of development is not appropriate in the NSA, when other options are available within the Urban Areas.

The Friends have insisted that Alternative 2 and others be evaluated because, under federal law, if a project “uses or affects” a national historic resource (e.g., the widening proposed in Alternative 1), all feasible and prudent alternatives must be considered.

Friends of the Gorge Legal Update

Birkenfeld

A U.S. District Court in Yakima has ruled favorably on motions to dismiss a lawsuit that challenged the Gorge Commission’s authority to make land use decisions and asserted that certain such decisions constituted a taking without compensation. However, one plaintiff in the original lawsuit has filed a motion for reconsideration and all plaintiffs have filed an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

The May 27 ruling to dismiss came after the Friends, acting as an intervenor, joined two other parties seeking dismissal of the lawsuit.

Condit Dam

The Friends have intervened with American Rivers and 14 other conservation organizations in the federal relicensing process for Condit Dam on the White Salmon River.

The PP&L dam does not have a fish passageway. Friends has supported a motion that a full Environmental Impact Study address all alternatives, including removal of the dam, to determine the best fish passage option.

Gorge Commission vs. Murray

The Friends also have intervened in a lawsuit brought by the Gorge Commission against a landowner in Wasco County who allegedly defied the Commission’s denial of permission to operate a gravel operation on Sevenmile Hill Road. The Commission told the property owner, **Richard Murray**, that he must first survey archaeological and cultural resources before commencing with any activity.

When site work began anyway, the Commission obtained a temporary restraining order, then in July—with Friends’ assistance—a preliminary injunction to prohibit such activity.

Reflections of the Gorge

Pierce Wildlife Refuge Offers Lush Haven to Fish and Other Wildlife

By Tamra Lisy
Friends of the Columbia Gorge

(Ed. Note: This is the first of a three-part series offering an introduction to the federal wildlife refuges located in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.)

The Pierce Wildlife Refuge is located some 36 miles east of the Portland/Vancouver area, immediately south of Washington State Highway 14. Beacon Rock State Park borders on the west and the relocated town of North Bonneville is to the east.

The earliest known inhabitants of the area were several tribes of Native Americans known as Shah-ha-la Nation, or Cascade Indians. The main period of Native American occupation of the Columbia River lasted more than 10,000 years. The Wahclellahs, a tribe within the Shah-ha-la Nation, were attracted by the bounty of fish and other food essentials, such as roots and tubers.

In the early 1800s, a large influx of Europeans arrived. The Donation Land Claim Law of 1850 made it possible for settlers to obtain title to their land in the Oregon Territory. Settlement claims were made for Ebenezer Hardy and Elizabeth Snooks in the area that is now the Pierce Wildlife Refuge.

In 1955, Lawrence and Lena Pierce purchased the ranch from Loren "Pappy" Woods (Hardy Land Claim) and Eunice Perry (Snooks Land Claim). The Pierces removed much of the timber and brush to allow the carrying capacity of the ranch to increase to 300 head of cattle. According to Mrs. Lena Pierce, Great Basin Canada geese numbers increased from approximately 20 to more than 1,000 between 1955 and 1987.

Following her husband's death in 1980, Mrs. Pierce received many offers from developers who wanted to buy the 337-acre ranch, which then had an appraised value of \$1.1 million. But she resisted, and followed through with her husband's and her plan to turn the property into a wildlife sanctuary.

In 1983, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife was informed through Sen. Mark Hatfield's office that Mrs. Pierce wished to donate 319 acres of her land to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge System.

Some 10 years later, the Pierces' dream is a reality. The Refuge includes 337 acres of pasture land; oak, ash and cottonwood groves; a lake; a stream; and approximately two miles of Columbia River shoreline. It provides habitat for large flocks of resident and migrating Western Canada geese, bald eagles, wood ducks, great blue herons, band-tailed pigeons, songbirds, black-tailed deer, beavers, raccoons, opossum, and other species.

Hardy Creek, which runs through the Pierce Na-



Beacon Rock looms in the background in this 1987 aerial photo of what is now the Pierce National Wildlife Refuge (area to left of Washington State Hwy. 14).

tional Wildlife Refuge, supports one of the three remaining viable wild chum salmon runs in the upper Columbia River system. The creek also supports a small run of coho salmon, steelhead and several species of trout.

Mrs. Pierce donated the land with the clear directive to manage it for local and wintering Canada geese. When the Pierces grazed cattle on the property, the short, succulent grass was ideal for Canada geese. Today, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service continues to incorporate controlled grazing as a management tool to maintain the geese habitat.

Since 1989, Refuge Manager Jeff Holm has resided on the property. He says the Fish & Wildlife Service has been working to enhance fish populations—both chum and coho salmon—by fencing the creek and planting trees and shrubs. In keeping with Mrs. Pierce's wishes, steps also are being taken to increase wetlands to benefit waterfowl, water birds and other species. Also planned is work to increase the variety of available habitat in order to increase the diversity of wildlife using the refuge.

One challenge ahead is to balance protection of the wildlife with access to the refuge for educational opportunities. However, Holm says that preserving the wildlife and continuing enhancement measures will remain the number one priority.

Currently, the refuge is not open to the general public, although visits can be arranged through the refuge office. The conceptual plan for the future is for a small loop trail for wildlife viewing, interpretation and education opportunities.

Those interested in visiting or volunteering at the refuge should call Holm at (509) 427-5208.

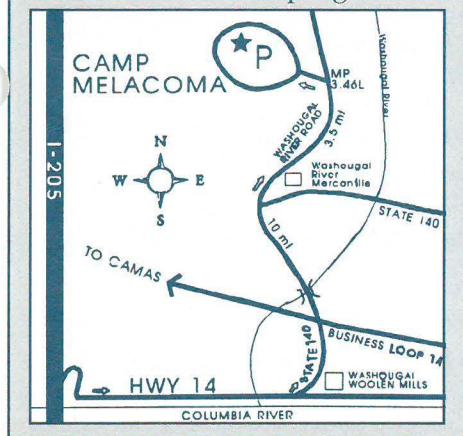
What's Happening in the Gorge

September

21st, 28th. ODOT Traffic Management Workshops on Historic Columbia River Highway. Workshops are from 7-9 p.m. at Mt. Hood Community College (21st) and Corbett School (28th). (See story on page 4.)

16th. Columbia Gorge Audubon Meeting. Meeting will be held at the Klickitat County Bank, White Salmon, at 8 p.m. Contact Dan Dancer, (509) 493-1757.

18th. John Muir Picnic. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Camp Melacoma on the Washougal River. Activities include nature walks, children's scavenger hunt, potluck picnic and environmental program.



October

9th. Catherine Creek Clean-up. Cleanup will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring work clothes and gloves. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at ODOT parking lot, NE 60th and Glisan, or 10 a.m. at Catherine Creek parking area. (See story below.)

16th & 17th. 10th annual Salmon Festival, Oxbow Park. Enjoy salmon-viewing walks, a volkswalk, 10k run, hay rides, children's events, salmon bake and other activities. Stop by the Friends' booth for an update and to help Board member **Jeanne Norton**, who returns for the 10th year to represent Friends at Salmon Fest.

16th & 30th. Chinook Trail Association work parties. Come prepared to work on Hamilton Mountain segment. Meet at park & ride lot on Hwy. 14, one mile east of I-5 bridge (take Camas exit). For info, call **Ted Klump** (206) 695-7149.

21st. Columbia Gorge Audubon Meeting. Meeting will be held at the Klickitat County Bank, White Salmon, at 8 p.m. Contact Dan Dancer, (509) 493-1757.

November

13th. Friends of Columbia Gorge Citizens Leadership Workshop. Day-long workshop at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson will bring local residents together to better understand needs of National Scenic Area and learn to work together to protect it. Call Friends office, 241-3762. (See story on Page 1.)

18th. Columbia Gorge Audubon Meeting. Meeting will be held at the Klickitat County Bank, White Salmon, at 8 p.m. Contact **Dan Dancer**, (509) 493-1757.



Shooting Stars on the Starvation Creek Trail provided hikers on the Spring Wildflower Hikes with plenty to enjoy. Hike series drew an average of 39 hikers over a period of 11 weeks.

Photo: Gayle Hammond

Join Your Friends at the Oct. 9th Cleanup of Catherine Creek

*By Nancy Russell
Chairman Emeritus*

Join our haberdashery friends, **John and Beverly Helmer**, in a Friends of the Columbia Gorge-sponsored cleanup of Catherine Creek on Saturday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The cleanup will be south of County Road 1230 (old Hwy 14) at an old homesite. There are plenty of old tires, broken glass, junk metal and several garbage dumps—enough to keep a good crew (we need at least 20!) busy.

The Helmers have agreed to be

in charge of the Friends' effort to assist the Forest Service in cleaning up the area. Forest Service staff will provide a dumpster and other equipment, as well as some refreshments.

Participants need to bring a sack lunch, water, work gloves and a garbage bag. Also, wear hiking boots, long socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the ODOT parking lot (NE 60th and Glisan in Portland), or at 10 a.m. at the Catherine Creek parking lot. (Take I-84 exit 64 at Hood River, cross the

Hood River Bridge north to the Washington side, then turn right on Hwy. 14. Proceed east 5.8 miles to Rowland Lake. On the west side of Rowland Lake turn north (left) onto County Road 1230. Follow County Road 1230 for 1.5 miles to the parking area at Catherine Creek.)

The Catherine Creek area is extraordinarily beautiful, with sweeping views of the Columbia, of cherry orchards near Mosier and of Mt. Hood to the south. You will certainly enjoy joining the Friends to keep this area clean and beautiful.

MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, cultural, historical and recreational values of the Columbia River Gorge, encourage compatible economic development within urban areas, and educate people about the Gorge in order to gain the public support necessary for effective implementation of the National Scenic Area Act.

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MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Friends of the Columbia Gorge wishes to thank the following people who have made memorial contributions since our last newsletter:

In memory of Maud Neighbor Raisin

Elizabeth Neighbor Smith

In memory of Maud Neighbor Raisin

Nancy Russell

In memory of Barbara Pooley Wilson

Constance Morrow Morgan

Friends Forms The Columbia River Gorge Conservators

The fund-raising committee of the Friends of Columbia Gorge has created a \$1,000-a-year benefactors' group called The Columbia River Gorge Conservators.

Board Chairman Debbie Craig says the appeal will be launched this fall, with prospective contributors invited to an event at a private home along the Columbia River. The purpose of The Conservators, she says, is to cultivate a group of people who will provide long-standing support to the organization and its mission.

In addition to an initial event, The Conservators also will be guests at a special event at the Skamania Lodge later this year. These "special friends" will help Friends of the

Gorge ensure that the enhancement and preservation of the Gorge continues, Craig says.

Those interested in becoming founding members of The Conservators are invited to contact the Friends' office, 241-3762.



Hikers along Wahkeena Creek during Hiking Weekend (story Page 2). Photo: Ken Denis