

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Fall 2010 Newsletter

Inside:

Iconic Gorge
Land Protected

Page 4

A New Face at
Friends

Page 7

Still Time to
Step Up!

Page 10

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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(541) 386-5268



Link to us on Twitter and Facebook
from our website: www.gorgefriends.org



Take Action Today!

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Keep Pressing to Stop the Gorge Casino

The decade-long battle to stop the Gorge casino proposal is in the home stretch.

Just as we would not tolerate a huge casino resort in Yellowstone or Yosemite National Park, we cannot allow a casino resort to be approved within a National Scenic Area – especially one adjacent to federally protected wilderness and surrounded by endangered species. This development would scar the Gorge, and would also establish a terrible national precedent that would endanger other special landscapes and protected areas across the country.

Take action: Time is running short for casino proponents. Help us keep pressure on the Department of Interior. Please

write or send a fax to Secretary Salazar and Undersecretary Echohawk, and remind them that the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area would be a terrible place for a sprawling casino resort development. Urge them to deny the Warm Springs proposal to build a casino in the Columbia River Gorge.

Secretary Ken Salazar
US Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240
Fax: (202) 208-6956

Assistant Secretary Larry Echohawk
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C St., NW, Mail Stop 4141
Room 4160
Washington, DC 20240
Fax: (202) 208-5320

Active citizen support makes the difference! Your actions for Gorge protection are crucial to our success. Contact your Senators and Representatives using the information below, or check www.senate.gov or www.house.gov for other offices.

Oregon

Sen. Ron Wyden, (202) 224-5244
<http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/>
Sen. Jeff Merkley, (202) 224-3753
senator@merkley.senate.gov
Rep. David Wu, (202) 225-0855
Rep. Earl Blumenauer, (202) 225-4811
Rep. Greg Walden, (202) 225-6730
Rep. Peter DeFazio, (202) 225-6416
Rep. Kurt Schrader, (202) 225-5711

Washington

Sen. Patty Murray, (202) 224-2621
<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>
Sen. Maria Cantwell, (202) 224-3441
<http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/>
Rep. Brian Baird, (202) 225-3536
Rep. Doc Hastings, (202) 225-5816
Rep. Norm Dicks, (202) 225-5916
Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to www.house.gov/writerep/

Cover photo: A winter view from Angels Rest. Photo: Matt Abinante

Director's Letter

In my twelve years on the job as executive director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, I have found two things that consistently leave me in awe: the breathtaking beauty of the Columbia Gorge and the people who work so passionately to protect that beauty.

As you'll read in our lead story, this incomparable landscape and those passionate people dovetailed perfectly in the past few months. Friends members stepped up to preserve spectacular properties at Mount Pleasant that had come on the market and were prime for development. One couple stepped up as conservation buyers, and another individual as a major financial contributor to a purchase by our land trust.

Although these visionary members followed somewhat different paths to protect the Gorge, they share similar traits in their philanthropic efforts. All were very firm in their intention to remain anonymous, in not wanting to draw attention to themselves. And each was inspired by the land conservation purchases made over the years by Friends founder Nancy Russell.

The commitment, generosity, and courage of these members remind me of a quote I read a few months ago, which stated, "When people care about the condition of a place, its scores tend to

go up and stay there." The scores referred to were the rankings given to iconic destinations by *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. In the magazine's November 2009 issue, the Columbia Gorge ranked sixth place among 133 international world-class destinations. The Columbia Gorge ranked higher than all our country's national parks, higher than Tuscany, Italy, and higher than the Serengeti Plains and Kilimanjaro in Africa.

When people care about the condition of a place like the Columbia Gorge, great things happen. One-of-a-kind federal legislation is created. Beautiful properties are preserved. A sensitive development ethic prevails. World-class recreation is created. Millions of people "love" the Columbia Gorge, but it is those who genuinely "care about the condition" of the Gorge who will ensure its preservation.

We are now in the home stretch of our *Step Up for the Gorge* Matching Gift Campaign, and our generous matching donor has agreed to stretch even further (see page 10) to encourage new and upgraded gifts. The campaign runs through December 31 this year.



Kevin Gorman addressing Friends members at the Vista House overlook.

Photo: Maegan Jossy

We know you love the Gorge. We hope you'll "step up" to help in our work to care for the condition of this world-class landscape. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kevin Gorman".

Kevin Gorman
Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org

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

Classic view of Mount Pleasant and the Vista House at Crown Point, seen from Portland Women's Forum viewpoint.

Photo: Judy Wilcox

Vista House View Protected

Visionary Members Follow Nancy Russell's Lead

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director, kevin@gorgefriends.org

In our current “Great Recession,” silver linings are hard to come by, especially for nonprofits. People everywhere are trimming expenses, which sometimes means trimming donations. But as individuals find ways to pare down and simplify, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust is finding opportunities.

In the Columbia Gorge, prime undeveloped land that was unavailable for years is now coming on the market. Over the past eighteen months, landowners have been waiting out the down market, but in the last six months the tide has shifted. Properties are being listed, and as a result, an iconic landscape that was pivotal for Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area recently sprouted “For Sale” signs.

The view from Vista House

Over thirty years ago, Portland homemaker Nancy Russell was asked to take the lead in creating Friends of the Columbia Gorge and to spearhead the push for federal

legislation that would protect the Gorge from exploding real estate development and short-sighted land uses.

Nancy was passionate about Gorge protection, but as the mother of young children at the time, she was hesitant about the commitment such a challenge would require. One afternoon, she drove up to the Vista House at Crown Point to ponder her concerns. Looking across the Columbia River at the pastoral landscape known as Mount Pleasant, her decision was suddenly clear. She later told friends and family, “I looked at those Mount Pleasant farmlands and decided that I would never forgive myself if the lands were developed and I did nothing to stop it.”

Concern for iconic farmlands like Mount Pleasant drove Nancy and Friends to push for a two-pronged strategy in creating federal legislation to protect the Columbia Gorge. Those strategies included establishing a strong zoning overlay throughout the Gorge and creating a robust federal land-acquisition campaign

to protect areas where zoning rules alone are not enough. The result of those efforts recently led *National Geographic Traveler* to state in its November 2009 issue that the Columbia Gorge “benefits from some of the best land-preservation programs in the nation.” The publication ranked the Gorge as number six among 133 iconic destinations around the world.

Ongoing challenges

Although the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act stopped the threat of housing subdivisions at Mount Pleasant, poor implementation of the resulting Gorge Management Plan failed to stop other development from affecting that scenic landscape. Over the past decade, two huge houses, each more than 5,000 square feet in size, have been built on Mount Pleasant farmlands that are zoned for agricultural use. Without the intervention of conservation acquisitions, this gradual progression of development would continue.

Aerial view of farmland purchased by Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust in October. Photo: Sullivan Valaer

Mount Pleasant farmlands, seen from the Vista House at Crown Point.

Photo: Greg Lief / Liefphoto.com



“I looked at those Mount Pleasant farmlands and decided that I would never forgive myself if the lands were developed and I did nothing to stop it.”

– Nancy Russell

That brings us to 2010. In June, an undeveloped 16-acre property directly across from the Vista House came on the market. Screening a house with vegetation on this sloping farmland would be next to impossible, and most developers would push to build on the most prominent parts of the property, in order to take advantage of the spectacular views of the Gorge and the Vista House.

Conservation purchases

Around the same time, two long-time Friends members approached our land trust, expressing their interest in serving as conservation buyers just as Nancy Russell had years ago. As anonymous conservation buyers, these members would buy the property with the intent of holding it until such time as a public agency could purchase it from them. As with any real estate deal, there would be a risk of losing money on the venture, but inspired by Nancy’s example and by the property itself, the members purchased the land for \$450,000, thereby ensuring its long-term protection.

Even as we were celebrating this success, another threat to Mount Pleasant emerged. Within weeks of this 16-acre purchase, an undeveloped 54-acre property immediately adjacent to it came on the

market. Once again, Friends’ land trust went into action. This time, the solution wasn’t a conservation buyer, but another anonymous donor committing \$400,000 toward the \$655,000 purchase price of the property. Leveraging assets already in hand, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust purchased that property in late October.

The longer view

The long-term goal of Friends and conservation buyers is for ownership of the lands to eventually be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service. Given the budget climate in Washington, DC, acquisition funds for the Forest Service have been scarce in recent

years, but there is reason to hope for a boost in funding in the coming year. The House of Representatives recently voted to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the source of land acquisition funds available for allocation by Congress. If the Senate and President Obama support this bill, the result will be a tripling of land acquisition dollars across the country in the coming fiscal year.

Since 1918, visitors stopping at the Vista House on Crown Point have marveled at the scenic beauty of the Mount Pleasant landscape. Protection of these lands today ensures that these breathtaking vistas will continue to be enjoyed far into the future. ■



Map created using TOPO! software ©2010 National Geographic Maps.

To learn more, visit <http://natgeomaps.com>

Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge. The land trust's forested property is seen at far right, north of the refuge.

Photo: Rudy Salakory



Long-range Planning Protects Upland Habitat

Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager
kate@gorgefriends.org



Map detail: Kate McBride

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust has been busy in recent months ensuring protection for Washington farmlands across the Columbia from the Vista House (see pages 3 and 4). At the same time, we have been actively planning for the future of land trust properties a little further west, near Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge, that the land trust received from the estate of Friends founder Nancy Russell.

In late 1997, Nancy purchased ten acres near Washougal, at the western entrance to the Gorge in Washington. The property is zoned to allow two homes, but Nancy’s conservation purchase was motivated by her strong conviction that the “gateways to the Gorge” on both sides

of the Columbia River should be free of development. The property, which sits just north of the 1,049-acre Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, was donated to Friends’ land trust in 2009.

The Steigerwald Refuge was created in 1987 and lies almost entirely within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Encompassing historic riverine flood plain habitat, semi-permanent wetlands, cottonwood-dominated riparian corridors, and open pastures, Steigerwald supports remnant stands of Oregon white oak that provide habitat for breeding neo-tropical birds, as well as migrating and wintering ducks, geese, and other birds. A new parking area and walking trail was created in 2009, and a “Gateway

to the Gorge” visitor center is in the works. The visitor center will provide outstanding birding and wildlife viewing opportunities for an anticipated 100,000 visitors each year.

The Russell properties adjacent to Steigerwald are covered with a mix of conifers, Oregon white oak, and a wide range of understory plants, providing a perfect wildlife compliment to Steigerwald’s pastoral lands.

Looking ahead, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the refuge, is considering these new land trust properties for inclusion in a larger projected purchase that would secure additional upland habitat land and support a larger range of wildlife. ■

A New Face at Friends



Photo: Michael Lang

In August, Friends staff member Kelley Beamer moved on to a position with the Cascadia Green Building Council. We wish Kelley the best, and we're excited to welcome Nicole Forbes as our new Conservation Organizer.

Nicole brings a strong background in environmental organizing and advocacy, including experience at her most recent position as statewide field organizer for Environment Oregon. Raised in the Northwest, she's passionate about protecting the Columbia Gorge.

Nicole will work with Friends supporters and activists who testify at public hearings and write comment letters, and will lead our outreach and organizing efforts in the Portland and Vancouver metro areas. Contact her at nicole@gorgefriends.org or 503-241-3762 x110.

EverSummer Gardens of the Gorge

Peter Cornelison, Field Representative, peter@gorgefriends.org

Basil is known as the "king of herbs," an essential food ingredient loved around the world. With basil in mind, in 2005 entrepreneur Meredith Meskin Martin founded EverSummer Gardens. With its 3,000-square-foot greenhouse in The Dalles Business Park near Google and the Columbia River, EverSummer Gardens flourishes in The Dalles's sunny weather.

Meredith and her engineer husband Ron use hydroponics – just water and organic nutrients – and biological pest control to grow luscious pesticide-free organic basil, as well as several varieties of lettuce. Their customers include local restaurants and regional grocery stores.

Meredith and Ron are sports enthusiasts and committed Gorge activists, engaged on Gorge issues ranging from the proposed Broughton destination resort to the proposed Gorge casino. "I grew up in Colorado," Meredith said recently, "and the level of development there bothers me. The Columbia Gorge is the opposite, unspoiled. We think our twenty minute drive from Hood River is the most beautiful commute in the world, and Ron and I do what we can to keep it that way."

Ron and Meredith Meskin Martin in their EverSummer greenhouse in The Dalles.

Photo: Peter Cornelison



REI Supports Friends

Maegan Jossy, Outdoor Program Coordinator
meagan@gorgefriends.org

This fall Friends received a generous check from REI, following a special benefit screening in September of *Banff Radical Reels*, which nearly 400 outdoor enthusiasts attended at Portland's Bagdad Theater.

REI had chosen Friends as the beneficiary of this event, and their check for \$2,050 was a great result. REI also donated six pairs of trekking poles (valued at \$417) for our hiking program, which are now available for individuals attending our hikes.



Sandy Wright (center) and Maegan Jossy accept REI's check from REI Outreach Specialist Bob Leonard. Photo: Wendy Hogan

BIA Issues Flawed Casino Analysis

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

Last August the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) released its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed off-reservation casino resort within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The EIS selected the Cascade Locks site as the “preferred alternative” instead of selecting the site in Warm Springs, which would have far less environmental consequence. Rather than an objective review of the alternatives and their environmental impacts, the EIS,

which was written by consultants hired by casino proponents, is so seriously flawed that it cannot legally be used as a basis for a decision on the casino proposal. Here are four examples:

1. The EIS has no analysis of the casino resort proposal and its adverse effects on several federally protected areas including the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness Area, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

2. The EIS fails to examine the cumulative effects to scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources in the Gorge or the impacts to surrounding communities.

3. The EIS fails to propose any mitigation for air quality impacts from vehicular emissions associated with the increased traffic resulting from the proposed casino.

4. The EIS uses the wrong methodology to evaluate the scenic impacts of the proposed casino and does not include a “visibility analysis.”

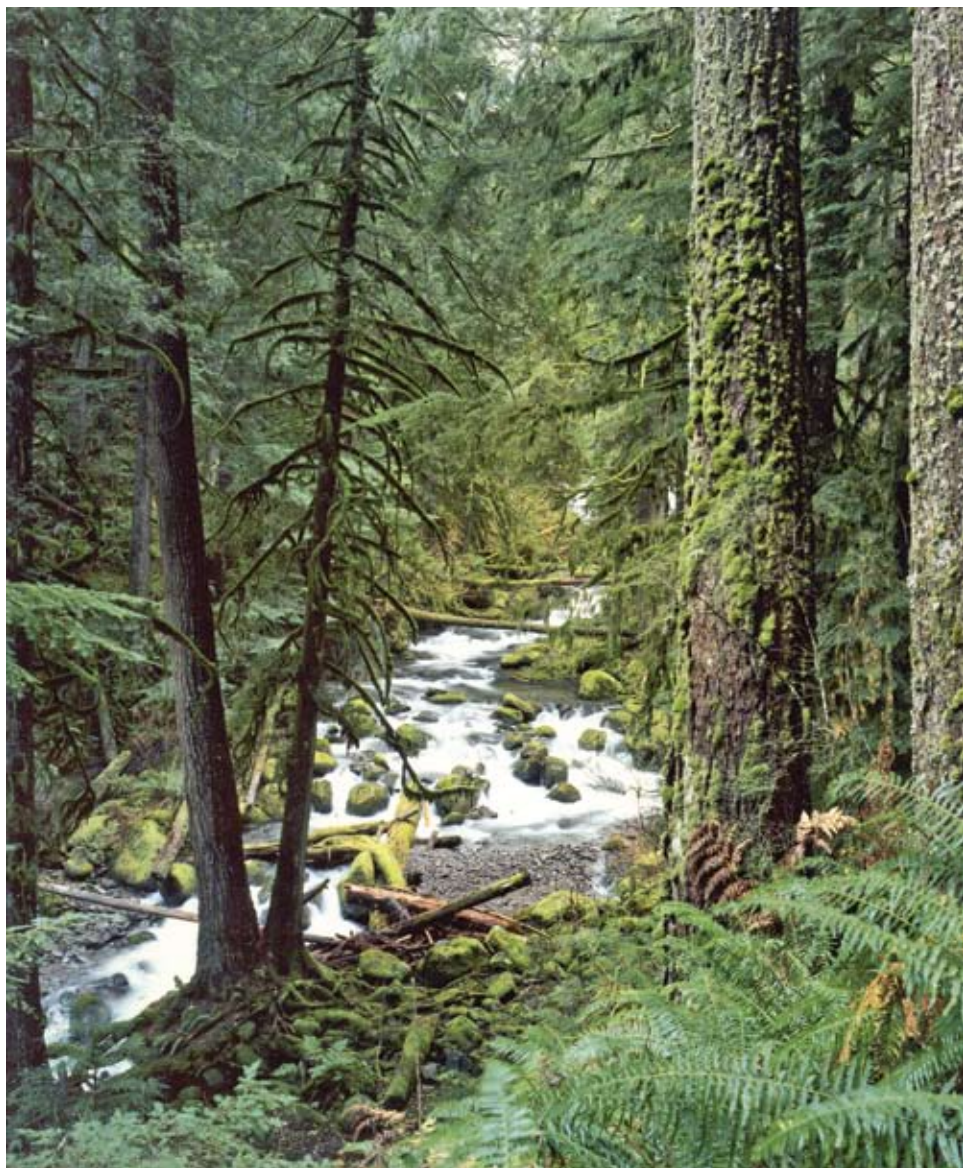
The BIA received more than 3,000 comments opposed to the Gorge casino resort and objecting to the flawed analysis in the EIS. Friends and our allies have requested that the BIA either deny the proposal or issue a revised EIS that corrects its substantial flaws.

Since the approval of the proposal would require concurrence by the Governor of Oregon and both leading gubernatorial candidates are opposed to the casino, casino proponents are pushing the Department of Interior to issue a decision before the end of Governor Kulongoski’s term, which ends in January. ■

The BIA received more than 3,000 comments opposed to the Gorge casino resort and objecting to the flawed analysis in the EIS.

Protected Gorge wilderness begins one-quarter mile from the proposed mega-casino development.

Photo: Oliver Dalton



Friends Blocks Hawaii Garbage Shipments

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney
nathan@gorgefriends.org

When an idea is inherently bad, even if it is cleverly packaged and promoted, it still stinks.

Such was the case with an ill-conceived proposal to ship 150,000 tons of garbage annually from Honolulu, Hawaii, to the Roosevelt Landfill in Klickitat County, Washington, a journey of 2,500 miles.

Hawaiian garbage could potentially introduce hundreds of invasive plant and animal species to the Gorge, such as the Mediterranean fruit fly and spotted winged drosophila, wreaking havoc on Gorge agriculture and ecosystems.

Despite this threat, the U.S. Department of Agriculture lifted a long-standing ban on shipping Hawaiian garbage to the mainland, and then approved the shipments to Klickitat County. According to the USDA, an environmental impact statement (EIS) need not be prepared for



Invasive pests in Hawaiian garbage could threaten Gorge agriculture and ecosystems.

Photos: Robert Harris, Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter

the proposal, because the garbage would be packaged in shrink-wrapped bales.

The USDA's questionable assumptions proved to be wrong. The shipping contractor illegally stockpiled garbage, even before it had the necessary permits. Many of the supposedly airtight plastic bales ripped open during handling, spilling their rotting contents and attracting flies and other pests. Hawaii health regulators fined the company more than \$40,000 for its violations.

Just two days before the garbage was scheduled to set sail, Friends of the Columbia Gorge teamed up with the Yakama Nation, Klickitat County citizens, and other environmental groups to sue the USDA and seek an injunction. Friends is represented by

the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center and the Gonzaga Environmental Law Clinic.

The federal court promptly enjoined the garbage shipments, finding that there were serious questions about whether the USDA had adequately analyzed the proposal and consulted with the Yakama Nation, and that invasive species from the garbage could irreparably harm the Gorge.

On October 4, the USDA formally withdrew its decision not to prepare an EIS, and announced plans to reevaluate the shipping proposal.

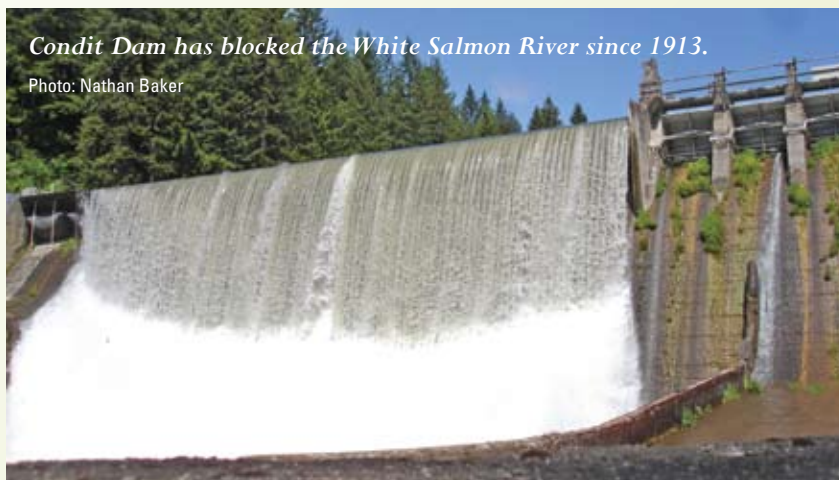
In the coming months, the plaintiffs and the USDA will discuss possible ways to resolve the case. For now, the Columbia Gorge is safe from the risks of importing Hawaiian garbage. ■

State of Washington Approves Condit Dam Removal

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney
nathan@gorgefriends.org

On October 12, the Washington Department of Ecology issued a long-awaited water quality permit approving the plans to remove Condit Dam from the lower White Salmon River. The permit is a major milestone, clearing the way for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to issue a dam removal order later this year.

Removing Condit Dam will restore 33 miles of high-quality salmon habitat and boost regional salmon recovery efforts.



Biologists predict annual returns of about 800 steelhead and up to 8,000 salmon.

Friends has been involved in the efforts to remove Condit Dam since 1992, and is among a number of entities representing diverse interests – including the dam's owner (PacifiCorp), the

Yakama Nation, government agencies, and conservation and recreation groups – who support dam removal. Friends looks forward to the imminent return of a healthy, free-flowing White Salmon River. ■

Sandy Wright, Development Director
sandy@gorgefriends.org

Step Up Match Increased by \$25,000!

We launched our *Step Up for the Gorge* Matching Gift Campaign in August. Our goal was to raise \$50,000 in new and upgraded gifts by December 31st to qualify for a \$50,000 match from an anonymous donor. The campaign has been so successful that we met our goal in late October! The donor, thrilled with the results, agreed to increase the match to \$75,000! That gives us just a few weeks remaining to raise an additional \$25,000 in new and upgraded gifts. Please help us reach the new goal!

- Any gift amount greater than what you gave in 2009 will be matched dollar for dollar.
- All new membership gifts will be matched dollar for dollar.



Special Gifts

July 16, 2010 to October 19, 2010

IN MEMORY OF VERA BROWNSTEIN
HELEN RUNSTEIN

IN MEMORY OF SANDRA L. COHEN
DIANE AND BRUCE FOLLANSBEE
KEN MOLSBERY

IN MEMORY OF LOLA AND KOLA FELLMAN
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IN MEMORY OF JOANNA KARL
LOUIS KARL

IN MEMORY OF ALICE MALARKEY KOEHLER
SIS HAYES
ELIZABETH N. SMITH

IN MEMORY OF JOHN BRADY MARKS
MARIE V. HALL
ELIZABETH N. SMITH

IN MEMORY OF NANCY AND BRUCE RUSSELL
JAN AND LOUISE LEININGER

IN MEMORY OF PEGGY STONE
ANNETTE MYFEDOV

IN MEMORY OF MATT WINTHROP
KATHLEEN BEAUFAIT
BETSY MCKILLOP
DEBRA AND ANTHONY VASSALLO
LORING AND MARGARET WINTHROP

IN HONOR OF BOB HANSEN
JIM AND MILDRED OLDFIELD

IN HONOR OF THE WEDDING OF
WALTER MOBERG AND VONDA KIMELDORF
CATHERINE M. ELLISON, M.D.
PETER FREEDMAN
ALICE MOBERG-SARVER

IN HONOR OF THEORA WILEY
MIRIAM LAMBERT

IN HONOR OF ALL THE GUESTS
AT THEIR WEDDING
ANDREW MUEHLECK AND ASHLEE CARL



Conservator Party hostess Mary Hinckley (right) and Board member Pat Wall outside Mary's historic home. Photo: Sandy Wright

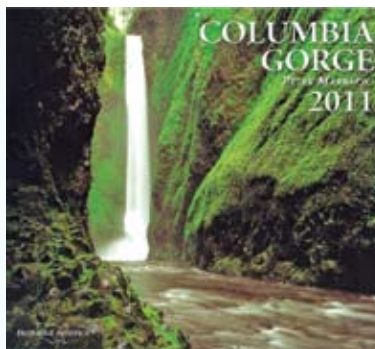
Special Event Honors Conservators

On November 1, Friends board and staff honored a special group of members at the annual Conservator's party, held this year at the beautiful home of Mary and Greg Hinckley. Conservators enjoyed cocktails and appetizers while getting to know each other, and heard a special address by Executive Director Kevin Gorman. These visionary and generous donors each support the organization with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.

The *Step Up for the Gorge* matching gift campaign has motivated many more members to "Step Up" their giving to the \$1,000 level. This year the number of Conservator members could be the largest ever. Gifts from our Conservators provide more than 20% of our annual operating budget.

Gifts of the Gorge

The holiday season is upon us, and Friends offers many wonderful gift items celebrating the Gorge. From tee-shirts to fleeces, calendars, books and cards, your gifts can delight your loved ones and support our work for Gorge protection at the same time. And gift memberships make great stocking stuffers! Shop at our online Gorge Store today, at www.gorgefriends.org.



December Concert!

Ragtime piano player (and photographer; see page 5) Greg Lief is offering a special concert to benefit Friends. Join us for a great evening program.

Sat. Dec. 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
TaborSpace Coffee House
SE 55th & Belmont, Portland
Details at www.gorgefriends.org



Featured Hike: Bald is Beautiful

Distance: Easy one mile, little to no elevation gain

Justin Carroll, Grants and Content Specialist
justin@gorgefriends.org

Join Friends for one of the Gorge's most amazing wildlife-viewing opportunities. Each year, dozens of bald eagle pairs return to the mouth of the Klickitat River in search of salmon. Forest Service biologist Cathy Flick will guide us in viewing these magnificent birds in their habitat. Bring binoculars and warm layers.

Friends will schedule this outing for a January 2011 date to match the height of winter salmon runs and eagle activity. The official date will be announced in December. Registered hikers will receive date confirmation by e-mail. Register for the hike at www.gorgefriends.org/baldeagle.

Many Thanks!

Our recent Annual Report did not include the complete list of our 2009/2010 donors. We sincerely apologize for the omission. The contributions of all our members are greatly appreciated. Thanks so much to these individuals for their support:

Beacon Rock

\$2500 - \$4999

Stewart Family Fund of the Oregon
Community Foundation

Conservator

\$1000 - \$2499

Maria Hall and
Walter McMonies, Jr.
William Rosenfeld
Andre Stevens

Guardian

\$500 - \$999

Mark T. Turner

Trailblazer

\$250-\$499

Alexander Miller
Mark Miller

Guide

\$100 - \$249

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John and Kae Armentrout
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Sharon L Baker
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John and Sue Carroll
Sherry Cohen
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G. Thomas and Nannette Edwards
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Elizabeth Richard
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\$50-\$99

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Jeneen C. Bell
Robert Brenner
James and Maggie Brown

Lynn Brown

Vaughn Brown and
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Stephen G. Brown
Keith Brown and Teresa Robbins
Elva Busch
Joseph M. Campbell
Glen H. Cole
Michael and Martha Cooper
Doug and Darlene Daggett
Arthur C. Davis and
Patricia Johnston
Elsie Davis
David and Kay Dawson
Lisa Edwards
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Heather Henderson and
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Beverly Ann Linde
Duff Linde
Howard Marcus
Karen Marks and Michael Wilson

Alvenia Martin

Val and Rick Martin
Marian McBride
Marlene and
A. Ronald McCartney
Barbara Merrick
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Know Your Gorge: *Then and Now*

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2011. To commemorate the occasion, our quarterly newsletters are providing windows to the past, from the 1860s up to the early 1980s, presented in tandem with more recent images.

The visual history presented in Gorge photography often reflects the impact that human activity has on the landscape. The photographs featured here are a case in point.

The upper selection is the work of the celebrated early Gorge photographer Carleton Watkins, taken on his first trip to the Columbia Gorge in 1867. On that trip, Watkins produced the first known photograph of Multnomah Falls; an iconic view of Cape Horn; and this photo of the Fort Rains site in Washington, near what is now the Bridge of the Gods.

More than a century later, in the early 1990s, longtime Friends member Oliver Dalton took the companion photo. A fan of Watkins, Dalton deliberately framed his shot to compare the view he was seeing with that captured by Watkins nearly 130 years earlier.

It's interesting to note that on this particular site the presence of European-style development yielded to time. In the century separating the photographers, the buildings in the early photo were removed and replaced by rustic in-lieu tribal fishing sites. Today the site is far less developed than it was 140 years ago.

In 2008, Carleton Watkins' photos of the Columbia Gorge were featured in Terry Toedtmeier's book and Portland Art Museum photo exhibit, "Wild Beauty."

Oliver Dalton spent the last two years of his life curating his own collection of photographs he had taken in the Gorge over more than two decades. Dalton died in 2003, and the following year his family presented Friends with four thick albums of Dalton's work, each carefully dated and annotated. Another Dalton photo is on page 8 of this newsletter. ■



Photo: Carleton Watkins, 1867



Photo: Oliver Dalton, circa 1993