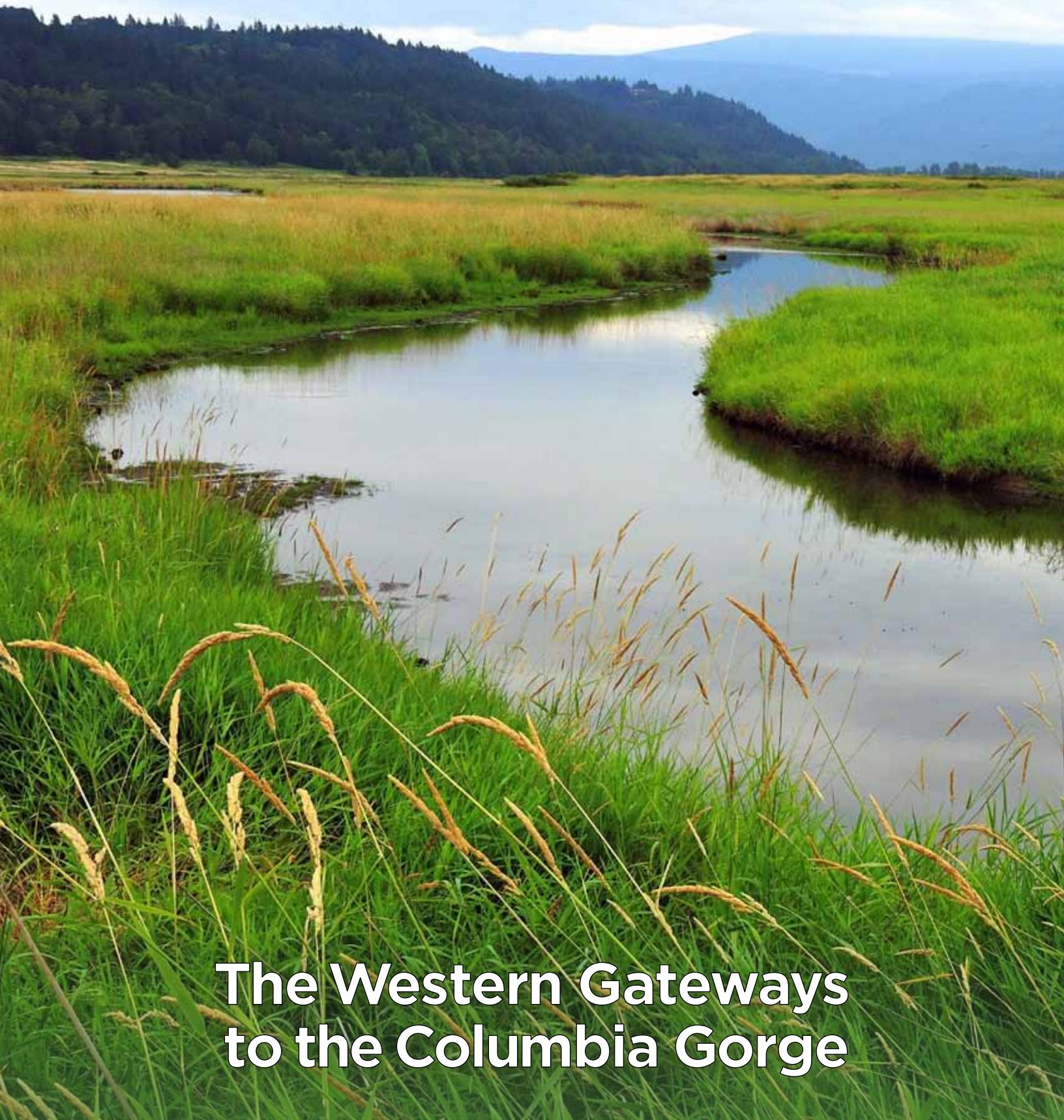


# Friends of the Columbia Gorge

*Protecting the Gorge Since 1980*

*Summer 2018 Newsletter*



## The Western Gateways to the Columbia Gorge

# Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Founder Nancy Russell, 1932-2008

## Board of Directors

Geoff Carr	<i>Chair</i>
Debbie Asakawa	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Kari Skedsvold	<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>
Pat Campbell	Annie Munch*
Greg Delwiche	John Nelson*
Gwen Farnham	Carrie Nobles
John Harrison	Buck Parker*
Wes Hickey*	Lisa Berkson Platt
Temple Lentz	Mia Prickett
David Michalek*	Vince Ready*
Patty Mizutani	Meredith Savery

## Board of Trustees – Land Trust

John Nelson*	<i>President</i>
David Michalek*	<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>
Pat Campbell	
Dustin Klinger	
Barbara Nelson	
Buck Parker*	
Rick Ray*	
John Baugher	<i>Land Trust Advisor</i>

## Staff

Nathan Baker	<i>Senior Staff Attorney</i>
Mika Barrett	<i>Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator</i>
Dan Bell	<i>Land Trust Director</i>
Kyle Broeckel	<i>Database Maintenance Associate</i>
Peter Cornelison*	<i>Field Representative</i>
Pam Davee	<i>Development Officer</i>
Burt Edwards	<i>Communications Director</i>
Kevin Gorman	<i>Executive Director</i>
Stan Hall	<i>Digital Content Specialist</i>
Kate Harbour	<i>Membership Coordinator</i>
Maegan Jossy	<i>Outreach Manager</i>
Michael Lang	<i>Conservation Director</i>
Kate Lindberg	<i>Outdoor Programs Coordinator</i>
Libby Martin	<i>Development Assistant</i>
Kate McBride*	<i>Accreditation Manager</i>
Steve McCoy	<i>Staff Attorney</i>
Ingrid Nylen	<i>Events Assistant</i>
Ryan Rittenhouse	<i>Conservation Organizer</i>
Ali Smith	<i>Trail Ambassador Coordinator</i>
Renee Tkach*	<i>Gorge Towns to Trails Manager</i>
Paige Unangst	<i>Finance Director</i>
Sara Woods*	<i>Land Stewardship Coordinator</i>
Sandy Wright	<i>Development Director</i>

\*Gorge Area Residents

Published May 2018

### Publications:

Newsletter Design: Kathy Fors and Kathleen Krushas / To the Point Collaborative  
Editor: Betsy Toll / Lumin Creative Services

### Portland Office:

333 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 300, Portland, OR 97204  
503-241-3762

### Hood River Office:

205 Oak St., Suite 17, Hood River, OR 97031  
541-386-5268

### Washougal Office:

887 Main St., Suite 202, Washougal, WA 98671  
360-334-3180



**Hiking down from Lyle Point at Lyle Cherry Orchard.**

Photo: Debbie Asakawa

## Celebrate Get Outdoors Day on June 9

**F**riends of the Columbia Gorge, in partnership with land trusts across Oregon and Washington, is encouraging Gorge lovers to take part in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual *National Get Outdoors Day* this spring.

*National Get Outdoors Day* is intended to encourage healthy, active, outdoor fun all across the country. In Oregon and Washington, dozens of land trusts are hosting events on Saturday, June 9, to connect the public to the great outdoors and highlight the work of land trusts to protect our forests, rivers, and farms.

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust maintains more than 1,400 acres

in the Gorge, including two properties, Lyle Cherry Orchard and Mosier Plateau, that are open to the public for hikes and enjoyment. You can find directions to those trails and many more on our website at [gorgefriends.org/hikes](http://gorgefriends.org/hikes).

Enjoy the beauty of these land trust spaces this summer, and learn why each property is important to our conservation efforts at [gorgefriends.org/landtrust](http://gorgefriends.org/landtrust).

To find out more about the national program, visit [nationalgetoutdoorsday.org](http://nationalgetoutdoorsday.org). Entry into all Washington State Parks is free that day.

Share your photos, videos, and more at [#GetOutdoorsOR](#).

## Stay Connected with Friends

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

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

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



[gorgefriends.org/subscribe](http://gorgefriends.org/subscribe)



@gorgefriends

**Cover: Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge is Washington's western gateway to the Columbia Gorge.** Photo: Debbie Asakawa

# Director's Letter

Nearly twenty years ago, when I was just starting as the executive director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, I had the opportunity to hike with author and noted wildflower expert Russ Jolley. Though Russ was in his seventies, he was a rock star of our Gorge hiking program and I felt lucky to have him to myself that day. As we hiked, I kept thinking about something I had read in his book, *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge*. He wrote that the forests around Multnomah Falls were considered silver fir forests, yet as we walked along the trail the forest was thick with Douglas firs. Flummoxed, I asked Russ, "Where were the silver firs?"

Russ gave me a knowing smile and said that if this forest ever reached its mature stage, the silver firs would take over. He explained how silver firs can grow and take hold in an old-growth forest . . . then wait. That's right, wait. They stop growing and bide their time until the older trees topple over and create daylight, sometimes waiting

decades for their opportunity to flourish. I found that impossible to believe until I did some research and learned that silver firs more than a century old and barely seven feet tall have been found in densely shaded Pacific Northwest forests.



**Kevin Gorman, right, with Friends members at the Annual Meeting.** Photo: Richard Kolbell

The patience and persistence of the silver fir seems to offer a perfect metaphor for where Friends of the Columbia Gorge sits right now. As we head into the final

stage of our *Preserve the Wonder* campaign (see pages 8-9), I am reminded of the silver fir's patience eventually paying off, as we first met two of the landowners whose properties we are purchasing more than 17 years ago. As we support Eagle Creek fire restoration efforts and hikers clamor to revisit closed trails, we all need to call upon our silver fir patience and allow the forest to come back in its own time, not ours.

I've been thinking about those silver firs around Multnomah Falls, as it is likely many of them burned in the fire, since their thin bark would not be as fire resistant as some of their larger contemporaries. Nevertheless, future generations of silver firs will come forth, sprouting and then waiting patiently for their opportunity to shine.

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director  
[kevin@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kevin@gorgefriends.org)

**“Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.”**

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

*The view from Portland Women's Forum in Corbett.*

Photo: Greg Lief | [liefphotos.com](http://liefphotos.com)

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.

*Development Assistant Libby*

*Martin and Friends staff*

*explore the site of a former*

*dam in the Sandy River.*

Photo: Stan Hall



# Exciting Changes for Gorge Gateways

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director, [kevin@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kevin@gorgefriends.org)

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, [michael@gorgefriends.org](mailto:michael@gorgefriends.org)

If the passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act was a grand statement to stop the residential sprawl of the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area, the public acquisitions in the 1980s of what we now call the Sandy River Delta and Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge were emphatic exclamation points to that statement. With the support of Trust for Public Land, the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service purchased more than 2,000 acres, ensuring that the western boundaries of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, from the Sandy River in Oregon to Gibbons Creek in Washington, would remain free of residential development.

The National Scenic Area calls for “protection and enhancement” of sensitive lands, and while these acquisitions were certainly protective measures, it is collaborative work over the last decade that is creating a transformational enhancement to bring both of these landscapes closer to their natural states.

## Sandy River Delta

Once zoned as industrial land and owned by Reynolds Aluminum, the 1,400-acre U.S. Forest Service property is perhaps best known today as a dog-friendly natural area. Behind the scenes, though, significant efforts to restore habitat for both fish and wildlife are underway. In partnership with the Sandy River Basin

Watershed Council, Friends of the Sandy River Delta, Friends of Trees, and the Confluence Project, the Forest Service has removed a 750-foot earthen dam built in the 1930s, restoring the mouth of the Sandy to a braided shallow-water habitat beneficial to salmon and smelt.

Massive efforts to remove Himalayan blackberry have also been underway for decades, and thousands of trees have been planted to bring the landscape closer to its presettlement condition. But restoration efforts are not simply looking backward. In preparing for climate change, Friends of Trees has planted ponderosa pine, typically an east Cascade conifer, recognizing that a warm, drier climate is a likely scenario for the future.

**“**Collaborative work over the last decade is bringing both of these landscapes closer to their natural states. **”**

## The Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Just across the Columbia from the Sandy River Delta, Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge was also once zoned as industrial land, and was even proposed as a site for a nuclear reactor. Local birder Wilson Cady and others rallied the federal government to recognize the value of the land, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service purchased the property a few years before the National Scenic Area came into existence. But the namesake of the refuge, Steigerwald Lake, is still mostly a memory, as a flood-control dike built after the 1964 floods turned the lake and its surrounding wetlands into farmlands. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has brought much of the land back to support waterfowl rather than crops, but the dike is an overwhelming obstacle to real habitat improvements.

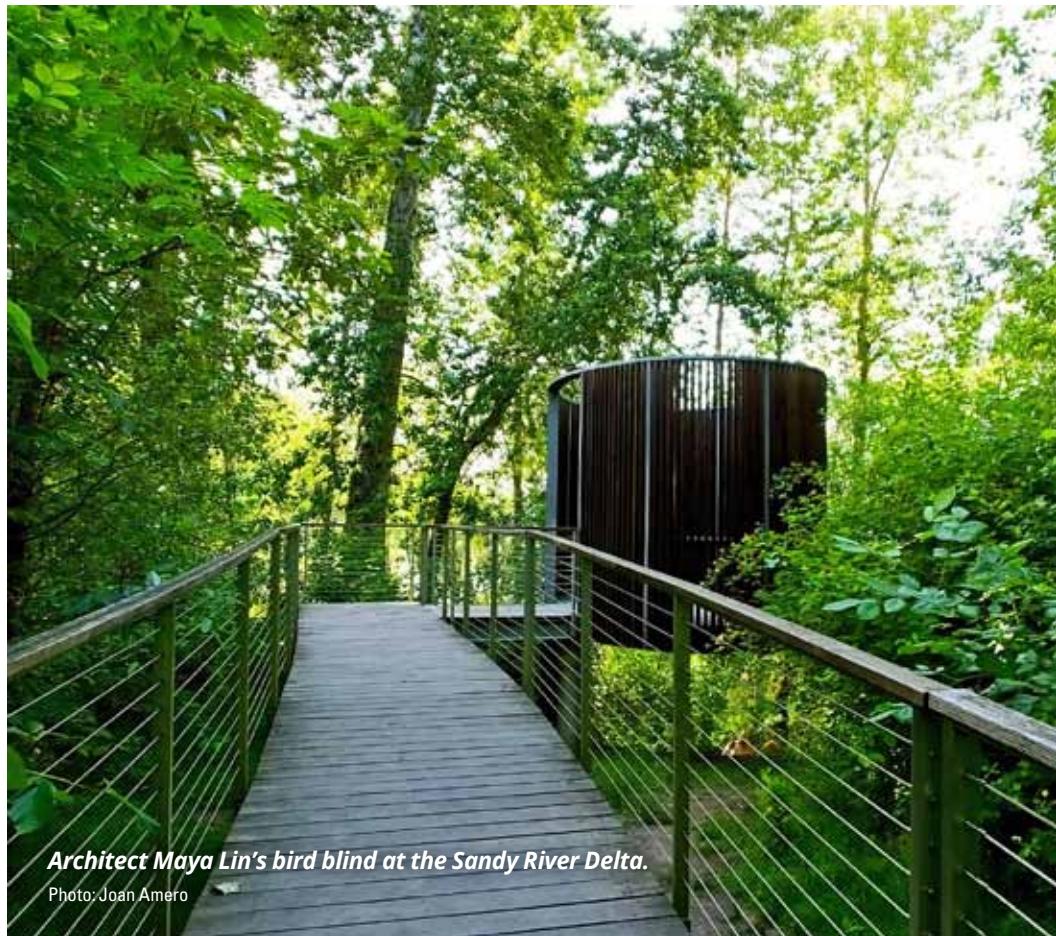
While flood control was the reason the dike was built, flood control is ironically what supports breaching the Steigerwald dike now, as part of the largest environmental restoration project in Gorge history. The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership is leading a \$22 million effort to breach the dike in three sections, allowing water to come in from the Columbia for the first time in half a century. This inflow will create resting habitat for migrating salmon and provide year-round access for salmon and lamprey to the Gibbons Creek watershed. The project also supports flood control efforts downstream and is projected to save the Port of Camas-Washougal hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, funds that are necessary to pay the electrical costs of

pumping water out of their industrial lands. Because of the environmental and economic benefits to this project, its partners and supporters run the gamut from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, and Vancouver Audubon to the Port of the Camas-Washougal, Bonneville Power Administration, City of Washougal, and Washington Department of Transportation.

## Steigerwald Shores

Critical to the success of this restoration project is our land trust's acquisition of the 160-acre Steigerwald Shores property, part of our *Preserve the*

*Wonder* campaign. By purchasing this property and allowing it to be part of the restored lands in the restoration area, the expanded project can scale up and pencil out from both a financial and habitat standpoint. In addition, the project will extend the existing trail system nearly a mile further east on to the Steigerwald Shores property. It will also bring our *Gorge Towns to Trails* vision one step closer to creating a trail connection between the towns of Washougal and Stevenson. Restoration work at Steigerwald is expected to begin in the spring and summer of 2019 and conclude in 2020. ■



**Architect Maya Lin's bird blind at the Sandy River Delta.**

Photo: Joan Amero



*Trainees visit the ice age kolk pond on Friends' Dancing Rock property.*

Photo: Micheal Drewry

# Staying Safe on the Trail

Burt Edwards, Communications Director, [burt@gorgefriends.org](mailto:burt@gorgefriends.org)

Last summer, what started as another beautiful Labor Day weekend in the Columbia Gorge transformed in a matter of hours, for some Gorge visitors, into a harrowing escape from a rapidly spreading wildfire. For more than 150 hikers near Eagle Creek, the fire's advance quickly cut off any easy escape, forcing them to shelter overnight.

While all the hikers were ultimately safely evacuated, the fire was a dramatic illustration of why all hikers should be prepared for the unexpected. In the wake of the fire, Friends of the Columbia

Gorge has taken a series of steps to better equip our hike leaders and shepherds with strategies and skills to handle emergencies.

Friends has offered guided hikes for decades, sharing the Gorge's beauty, resilience, and fragility with the public. A dedicated corps of volunteers and members serve as hike leaders and shepherds, and their passion and knowledge of natural history, flora and fauna, geology, and culture set our outings apart.

To optimize the experience for volunteers and hikers alike, Friends offers a hike leader and shepherd training each

spring. With role playing and educational briefings, the day-long training takes new and experienced volunteers through the best practices, strategies, and skills needed to lead the best possible hike.

In response to the Eagle Creek fire, this year's training included a field simulation that illustrated the difficulty of spending a night outdoors during an emergency on a trail, and the importance of advance preparation for even the most leisurely hikes. The fire also created record demand for the training, with twice as many volunteers attending this year. Led by Outdoor Programs Coordinator Kate Lindberg and former Friends board member Jim Chase, a role-play exercise required trainees to break into subgroups and devise collective strategies to shelter overnight, using just the supplies each hiker had with them that day.

Trainees were then led through a group discussion exploring the pros and cons of their strategies. Jim demonstrated how to construct a makeshift emergency shelter using supplies he keeps in his standard-essentials hiking kit. During a working lunch, Kate offered a series of educational briefings.

Later, these trainees were able to build on these skills in a two-day Wilderness First Aid course. Led by NW Responder, this 16-hour, hands-on, interactive class has been customized over the years specifically for Friends' hike leaders and shepherds.

For more information on becoming a hiker leader or shepherd with Friends' hike program, contact Kate Lindberg at [katel@gorgefriends.org](mailto:katel@gorgefriends.org). ■



*Jim Chase shows trainees how to construct emergency shelter.* Photo: Kate Lindberg

*The endemic Penstemon barrettiae; for locations, see 554 in Russ Jolley's Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge.*

Photo: Mark McConnell

# Climate Change in the Columbia River Gorge

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

**F**riends of the Columbia Gorge's efforts to stop coal and oil terminals and the trains carrying fossil fuels through the Gorge have been successful in protecting the National Scenic Area. The work has also helped combat global climate change by stopping the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure.

Yet unfortunately, the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area does not currently address climate change. In the entire 461-page document that governs all land use and development outside of the urban areas in the Gorge, there is not one single mention of climate change and its impacts on the scenic, natural, cultural, or recreation resources of this national scenic treasure.

The Gorge's five major ecosystems are home to 800 species of flowering plants, 16 of which are endemic to the Gorge. Dozens of threatened and endangered animal species, some endemic, also live in the Gorge. Many

endemic wildflowers, the rare Larch Mountain salamander, and low-elevation pika populations, as well as endangered salmon runs, are likely to be impacted by human-caused climate change. Yet the Management Plan gives no consideration to these species to protect their habitat from the impacts of climate change.

As temperatures increase, glaciers shrink, and snow pack decreases, ecosystems inevitably change. New insect infestations like the California five-spined ips, are already invading Gorge forests, killing ponderosa pines. Wildfires will become more frequent and more intense. Water will become scarce, affecting ecosystems, agriculture, and human needs.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service are currently reviewing the National Scenic Area Management Plan to see if

**Low-elevation pika populations inhabit the Gorge.** Photo: Linda Steider



there is need for revision. In public scoping for the plan review, these agencies heard from hundreds of citizens and groups insisting that climate change adaptation must be a top priority during plan review. Thus far, these agencies have not made climate change a priority in their review of the Management Plan.

Please take a moment to visit [gorgefriends.org/planreview](http://gorgefriends.org/planreview), and find out how you can help make climate change a priority in the review of the National Scenic Area Management Plan. The future of the Gorge depends on it. ■



# Make a Gift to *Preserve the Wonder* and Get Your Donation Matched

We just crossed the \$5 million mark of our \$5.5 million goal, and with \$500,000 to go, we've launched a \$250,000 matching gift challenge. If we can raise \$250,000 from the public, two of our donors will match those funds with another \$250,000 and complete our campaign.



Photo: Debbie Asakawa



Photo: Michael J. Horodyski



Photo: Debbie Asakawa



Photo: Debbie Asakawa

## STEIGERWALD SHORES

**160 acres**

The crown jewel of the campaign, Steigerwald Shores is adjacent to the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. It has nearly a mile of riverfront with views of Crown Point and Mount Hood. Acquisition provides for the expansion of the refuge, the largest habitat restoration project ever in the Columbia Gorge, as well as scenic protection, and additional public trails.

## UPLAND OAKS

**55 acres**

This lovely oak woodland on the hillside above Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge has been threatened by development that would remove existing trees. Acquisition will ensure that this vital upland oak habitat is preserved.

## CAPE HORN VISTA

**58 acres**

This beautiful property adjacent to the popular Cape Horn Trail is currently fenced off, routing hikers away from the bluff. Acquisition allows for an extended Cape Horn trail with a magnificent view, completing the vision of Friends founder, Nancy Russell, for the area.

## DUNCAN CREEK

**50 acres**

Duncan Creek is a magical land of moss, ferns, and waterfalls. The forest we seek to protect is just upstream and located between two large swaths of public land. Acquisition of the land protects it from logging and ensures water quality in the stream. It also makes a 17-mile trail from Cape Horn to Beacon Rock possible.



Photo: Stan Hall



Photo: Ryan Gallagher



Photo: Debbie Asakawa

## TURTLE HAVEN

**64 acres**

For more than 20 years, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Zoo have collaborated on conservation of the endangered western pond turtle on this private land. Acquisition will protect the habitat and allow turtle recovery to continue.

## COYOTE MEADOW

**10 acres**

This oak-studded grass savannah is surrounded by the public lands of Catherine Creek and Coyote Wall, an area renowned for hiking and mountain biking. Acquisition expands the recreation area and creates a continuity of land use.

## LYLE PEAK

**25 acres**

This peak is one of the highest points in the eastern Gorge and is adjacent to state land that is managed for the protection of the endangered western gray squirrel. Acquisition preserves the habitat and will one day offer a trail with views of the Gorge.

**\$5.5 million**

**GOAL**

**\$5 million**

**AMOUNT  
RAISED  
TO DATE**

**PRESERVE**  
*the* **Wonder**

To discuss details of your gift please contact  
Development Officer, Pam Davee at 971-634-2036  
or [Pam@GorgeFriends.org](mailto:Pam@GorgeFriends.org)

Learn more: **PreserveTheWonder.com**



# Trailhead Ambassadors Cover the Region

Maegan Jossy, Outreach Manager, [maegan@gorgefriends.org](mailto:maegan@gorgefriends.org)

A crush of hikers typically visit Dog Mountain each May and June to experience one of the Pacific Northwest's greatest wildflower shows. This has led to traffic congestion and safety issues on Washington State Hwy 14, presenting challenges for local communities.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge partnered with the U.S. Forest Service over a five-week period last May-June to provide nearly 150 volunteer hours of trailhead ambassador services to promote the Dog Mountain shuttle and provide advice for hikers at the trailhead. Trailhead ambassadors also served as an on-the-ground presence to help discourage car break-ins.

Because of the success of this program and the increased need for better educated

hikers in the Mount Hood National Forest and the entire Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, several new partners – including the Mount Hood and Columbia River Gorge Regional Tourism Alliance and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department – have joined this year's effort. The Trailhead Ambassador program is designed to work in tandem with other efforts, to help proactively provide as much information to the public as possible on available hiking options in the aftermath of the Eagle Creek fire.

Overseeing this program is Friends' Trailhead Ambassador Coordinator Ali Smith. Ali joined Friends in February and previously served as a volunteer. Before joining Friends, she received her Bachelor's degree in environmental studies and geography at Ohio Wesleyan University and worked in customer service in the outdoor apparel industry.

Photo: Courtney Bellefeuille



**Trailhead Ambassador Coordinator  
Ali Smith**

Over 80 people have signed up to volunteer at trailheads and have completed the required four-hour training. Volunteer trailhead ambassadors will be placed at some of the busiest trailheads in the Mt. Hood National Forest and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area – including Multnomah Falls, Latourell Falls, Dog Mountain, Cape Horn and Trillium Lake – on the weekends during peak season. The volunteers also will answer hiking and Eagle Creek fire-related questions, promote responsible hiker ethics like *Leave No Trace* principles and steer people to **ReadySetGorge.com**, an online resource to help visitors plan their hiking trips in the Gorge.

To get involved and to sign up for a future Trailhead Ambassador training, visit [gorgefriends.org/ambassador](http://gorgefriends.org/ambassador). ■

A screenshot of the Columbia Gorge Car-Free website. The main heading is "COLUMBIA GORGE CAR-FREE". Below it, a large image shows a person walking through a field of yellow flowers under a blue sky. The page title is "CAR-FREE DOG MOUNTAIN". A sub-section title "DOG MOUNTAIN HIKE" is visible at the bottom left. The page content includes a brief description of the hike and a link to "ITINERARY FROM CASCADE LOCKS".

## New Columbia Gorge Car-Free Site Launches

Ready to plan your next trip through the Gorge? Visit the new website [columbiagorgecarfree.com](http://columbiagorgecarfree.com) to see your best options for exploring and getting to and from the Gorge car-free.



Photos: Mika Barrett

# An Ecological Response to the Eagle Creek Fire

Mika Barrett, Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator, [mika@gorgefriends.org](mailto:mika@gorgefriends.org)

The Eagle Creek fire swept through the Gorge forest quickly, burning away underbrush and moss while leaving much of the upper tree canopy untouched. Eight months later, these areas are starting to green up as the forest floor returns to life.

Sightings of ferns, trillium, and other spring blossoms are being reported, as newly exposed soil with ample sunlight and moisture enables plants and tree seedlings to sprout for the first time in decades. Unfortunately, not all of those blooms are welcome.

Invasive plants with names like garlic mustard, shiny geranium, and Herb Robert are a serious ecological threat in the Gorge. These and other invasive plants can out-compete native plants, causing economic, ecological, and even human-health related harm.

Even before the Eagle Creek fire, invasive plants were degrading wildlife habitat and increasing trail maintenance costs in the Gorge. But in this first year after the fire, the newly exposed soil is an invitation for an invasive plant invasion.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to focus on mitigating the spread of invasive plants during this first season after the fire. The timing of this work is critical while the trails are closed to public access, since invasive plants are most commonly introduced by human activity and seeds hitchhiking on boots, vehicle tires, and pets.

Friends' strategy is to focus on mitigating weed infestations in the fire-affected areas, implemented through

volunteer work parties. Friends' staff have been actively working with U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State Park rangers to identify areas where non-native plants are present or likely to get established and spread. Friends' volunteers will manually remove invasive plants at key trailheads and access points surrounding the burned areas.

As part of a multi-phase process, these initial efforts will set the stage to re-establish native plants. After manually removing the invasives, our volunteer stewardship parties will work in partnership with land managers this coming fall and winter to plant native vegetation within the newly created open areas to avoid recolonization by weeds.

The fire has long been contained, but the focus on mitigating weed infestations in the burned areas will continue for years to come. For information on volunteering this summer and fall, please visit [gorgefriends.org/stewardship](http://gorgefriends.org/stewardship).

Regular stewardship updates and related news are available now on our new stewardship email list. Subscribe at [gorgefriends.org/firestewardship](http://gorgefriends.org/firestewardship). ■



**Invasive false brome, sprouting at Tanner Creek, near Wahclella Falls in the burned area.**



## 38th Annual Picnic in Paradise

**Sunday, July 15, 12 – 2 p.m.**

Enjoy a summer afternoon relaxing on Thunder Island in the heart of the Gorge.

This free, family-friendly event will feature live music, a delectable potluck buffet, short walks, and updates by Friends staff and board.

[gorgefriends.org/summerpicnic](http://gorgefriends.org/summerpicnic)



**2017 Friends Picnic.**

Photos: Micheal Drewry

## *Giving for the Future*

Kate Harbour, Membership Coordinator, [kateh@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kateh@gorgefriends.org)

Elizabeth “Katie” Barker had a lifelong connection to the Columbia Gorge, with family ties to the Gorge’s agricultural and industrial history. In 1884, her great-grandfather started a paper mill in Camas, Washington, and in 1906, her grandfather bought an orchard across the Columbia River in Parkdale, Oregon. In 1937, as a young girl, Katie lived in Cascade Locks while her father worked as an engineer constructing Bonneville Dam.

Katie spent many happy summers on her family’s orchard, and she helped in its operations however she could, doing everything from laying the original

irrigation system to baking pies with the farm’s Gravenstein apples.

As an adult, Katie was aware that much of the privilege she enjoyed in her life grew out of her family’s roots in the Gorge. Katie included Friends of the Columbia Gorge in her estate plans as a way to take something from her family’s legacy and pay it forward to the Gorge for the future. According to her daughter, Betty, “Our mother hoped, as we do, that her gift will inspire others to give of themselves to cherish and protect the Gorge and the Hood River Valley.”



**Elizabeth “Katie” Barker**

We are so grateful for Katie’s generous foresight, and to her children Betty, Charles, and Neil for sharing her story. ■



**Trail Mix hikers at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge.**

Photo: Debbie Asakawa

# Trail Mix: *Preserving the Wonder*

Kate Harbour, Membership Coordinator, [kateh@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kateh@gorgefriends.org)

**W**hen Friends Board Vice Chair Debbie Asakawa started her women's hiking group, Trail Mix, she had three simple goals: build community, get some exercise, and spend more time outdoors. Eleven years later and 200 members strong, Trail Mix has fulfilled those hopes, and evolved into so much more.

Going beyond day-hikes, Trail Mixers deepen their connection to the Gorge through their volunteer work with a variety of nonprofits and public agencies. If you've hiked in the Gorge, you've likely seen their work at the Cape Horn trail, Mosier Plateau, or maybe talked to one of them volunteering as a Trailhead Ambassador.

When the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign was announced last year, the

women of Trail Mix saw a new way to give back to the Gorge and jumped in with their characteristic enthusiasm. Together, Trail Mix members have given over \$250,000 to *Preserve the Wonder*. Not one of them could have done this alone, but together, they have moved the needle for Gorge protection.

The two properties that are bookends of the campaign, Steigerwald to the west and Lyle to the east, are two areas frequented by Trailmixers, and behind every gift there is a personal connection to the land. For Susie Masin it's with Steigerwald Shores: "I love the accessibility factor at Steigerwald. It is a gateway for any age and ability." She also cites the powerful interface with wildlife, no matter the season, "whether spying the first tundra swan of the

season or observing ten lazy turtles sunning on a log."

For many Trail Mix members, including Susie, the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign is a connection between the past, present, and future of the Gorge. Susie notes, "My husband and I recently gave again in my mother's memory because she bestowed upon me the love for nature. I feel these donations are investments that will foster a new generation of nature lovers and preservationists."

Their impact is evident in the Gorge, but Trail Mix isn't done yet. The match challenge has inspired new enthusiasm, and Trail Mixers hope to raise another \$50,000 by the end of the campaign.

Thank you, Trail Mix! ■

# A Lasting Donation: Good's Woods

Sandy Wright, Development Director, [sandy@gorgefriends.org](mailto:sandy@gorgefriends.org)

**A**s we wrap up our *Preserve the Wonder* land acquisition campaign, an unexpected donation was recently offered to us in the form of land.

The Good family, with whom the land trust worked to purchase the 50-acre *Duncan Creek* property, is now donating an additional 50 acres of their land, with *Duncan Creek* running through the heart of it.

Late in our *Preserve the Wonder* fundraising campaign, following the purchase of *Duncan Creek*, a member of the Good family approached us about purchasing an additional 50-acre tract. We explained the current campaign and our need to complete fundraising in order to purchase the lands already secured. Because of the timing, we let them know that, regrettably, we wouldn't be able to purchase their additional acreage. Within days, the

family member got back to us. She had decided to donate the property to the campaign, with two special stipulations. First, the land is never to be logged, and the second request was that we name the property Good's Woods, in honor of her parents Vern and Virginia Good. We happily agreed to both of those conditions.

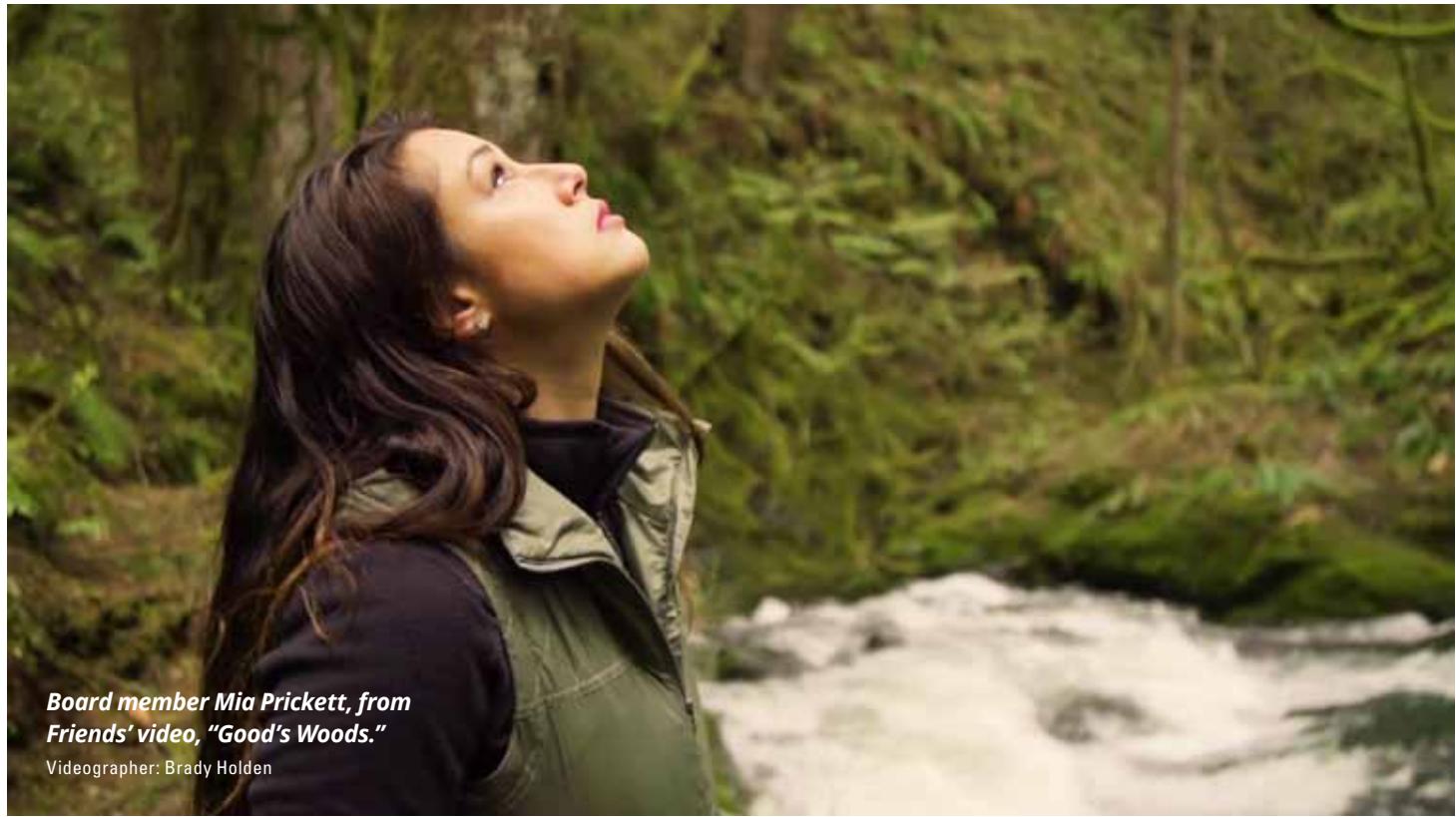
The Gorge has long inspired a strong sense of connection and legacy in many people, and the land around *Duncan Creek* is a prime example. Friends board member Mia Prickett is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the great-great-granddaughter of Chief Tulmuth. A century ago, Chief Tulmuth was the leader of the Watlala band of Cascade Indians and resided in the mid-Columbia Gorge. His daughter, known as Indian Mary, was Mia's great-grandmother.

Indian Mary was a strong woman whose tenacious determination to stay on her family's homeland, despite efforts to forcibly remove her, succeeded.

The Skamania County creek that runs just west of *Duncan Creek* is named Indian Mary Creek, after Mia's great-grandmother. Part of Indian Mary's land was eventually given by her family to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to be part of Franz Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

At [gorgefriends.org/goods-woods](http://gorgefriends.org/goods-woods), you can watch our short video where Mia describes the story of the land and her family's history in the area.

One year ago, we began our *Preserve the Wonder* campaign as an effort to protect seven magnificent properties. Thanks to the Good family's love of the land and sense of legacy, that number is now eight. ■



**Board member Mia Prickett, from Friends' video, "Good's Woods."**

Videographer: Brady Holden



## *Special Gifts* Tribute Gifts January 23, 2018 – April 12, 2018

**In Honor of Justin Alquist**  
Hartnett Homes Group

**In Honor of Debbie Asakawa and Gwen Farnham**  
Laurie Turney

**In Honor of Carol Boyer**  
Arianne C. Boyer

**In Honor of Jim Chase**  
Jay and McKay Nutt

**In Honor of Johnny Garth**  
Georgina Garth

**In Honor of Kevin Gorman**  
Kathleen Kary Reid

**In Honor of David H. Kim**  
Andrew Kim

**In Honor of Sue McGee**  
Joan Shannon

**In Honor of Cheryl Strayed**  
Bridget Buckley

**In Honor of Tara Vanselow**  
Kathleen Farrell

**In Honor of Barbara Robinson**  
Alice Stevens

**In Honor of Laura Van Fleet**  
Janet Van Fleet

**In Honor of John K. Vitas**  
Pat Towle

**In Honor of Pat and Macy Wall**  
Holly Wall

**In Memory of Marjorie Sue Abramovitz**  
Dr. Marshall Goldberg

**In Memory of Steve W. Ammons**  
Teresa Ammons

**In Memory of Roger Bachman**  
Meredith and William Savery

**In Memory of Shirley Jean Bienerth**  
Cascade Sports Car Club  
Robert Inman

**In Memory of Dennis Buchanon**  
Donald and Shirley Clark

**In Memory of Helen and Oliver Dalton**  
Christine Dalton, Patrick Byrne, and  
Trystan Byrne

**In Memory of Carroll and Ida Dubuar**  
Anonymous  
Paula S. Barnes

**In Memory of Ida Dubuar**  
Burt E. Schuman

**In Memory of Irving and Julie Harris**  
Dr. Andy Harris

**In Memory of William and Julianne Harris**  
Laurel Harris

**In Memory of Nancy Jackson**  
Anne Kelly

**In Memory of Patricia Jensen**  
Florence Levy  
Kyndra Needham-Blue

**In Memory of Russ Jolley**  
Betsy Toll

**In Memory of Thomas Jones**  
Terrie Jones

**In Memory of Gloria Ladum**  
Karen Gardner

**In Memory of Martha Lawrence**  
Josh Lawrence

**In Memory of Tom Lawson**  
Lois Engel

**In Memory of Kyle Macko**  
Peggy Macko

**In Memory of Arthur and Hazel Mielke**  
Jean Avery

**In Honor of Norma Reich**  
Deborah Thomas

**In Memory of Nancy Russell**  
Michael Rummerfield

**In Memory of Ruth and Howie Smith**  
Barbara Smith

**In Memory of Alice Wanke Stephens**  
Gail Beaudain  
John and Patricia Bentley  
Judith Berger

Janet Callum  
Sonja Connor  
Barbara Giesy  
Betty and Joseph Labadie  
Ina Potter  
Judith Rice  
Larry Richards  
Marvin, Maria, Andrew, and Joshua Stober  
Doug and Kathy White

**In Memory of Verla Thomas**  
Deborah Thomas

**In Memory of Matthew Winthrop**  
Richard Lira and Gretchen Taylor  
Tom Nelson



Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Portland, OR  
Permit No. 2623

## Friends of the Columbia Gorge

P.O. Box 40820, Portland, Oregon 97240-0820

 [gorgefriends.org/subscribe](http://gorgefriends.org/subscribe)

   [@gorgefriends](#)

**Before you leave home, get Ready, Set, GOrge!**

**READY, SET,  
GORGE!**

[readysetgorge.com](http://readysetgorge.com)



*Tom McCall Point.* Photo: Debbie Asakawa