

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

AUGUST-OCTOBER 1994 NEWSLETTER

319 S.W. Washington Street, Suite 301, Portland, Oregon, 97204

Telephone: (503) 241-3762

Friends of the Columbia Gorge invites you to our

14th Annual Summer Picnic

Rooster Rock State Park (Oregon)

Sunday, August 14, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Special Attraction: "Curare" Caribbean Steel Band, 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.



Rooster Rock with four Mazamas on top, 1915.

Weister Co., Portland (Collection of Nancy Russell)

We furnish: Lemonade, iced tea and cookies

You furnish: Lunch, chairs, blanket, suntan lotion, any games you'd like to share and lots of friends

Costs: \$3/car entrance fee and \$4/family donation for the band

Directions: From Portland, take I-84 east to exit 25, the Rooster Rock State Park exit. Follow the exit ramp to the entrance of the park. Pay \$3 at the day-use booth, turn left and park in any parking area on the right. Our section is between the parking lots and I-84. There is a kitchen shelter that is signed "B-2". Look for Friends of the Columbia Gorge banner.

Bingen Cogeneration Plant Threatens Air Quality for Gorge Residents

The Klickitat Energy Partnership, a group of local and Northwest businesses, is planning to build a natural gas-fired cogeneration plant at the SDS Lumber Mill in Bingen, Wash. The plant will produce process steam for the mill and electricity that will be sold to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

The partnership consists of Cogeneration Services Inc. of Portland, Inland-Pacific Energy Corp. of Spokane and SDS Lumber Co., Bingen.

The proposed plant will emit carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and airborne particulate matter, as well as produce noise.

At two public hearings conducted by the Bingen City Council recently, most

people who testified opposed the plant. The Council, however, voted 4 to 1 to issue a "mitigated determination of non-significance" (DNS), which means the partnership can proceed with the plant if they take certain steps to mitigate the air and noise pollution.

The Friends believe that there are too many unanswered questions about the effects this project will have on the environment (such as smog). Therefore, we have requested that BPA do a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The City of Hood River has made the same request to the City of Bingen. The Forest Service also is concerned about the air quality impacts and will be notifying Bingen by letter of its concerns.

Lauri Aunan Hired as New Executive Director of the Friends

After an extensive interview process, Friends of the Columbia Gorge is pleased to announce that **Lauri Aunan** will be the New Executive Director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Lauri comes to us with a strong environmental issue background. She is an attorney with legal, political and administrative experience—and she has been involved in numerous issues at both the state and national levels.

Most recently, she was Environmental Advocate/Policy Director for the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG). She is responsible for developing all facets of a program to advocate recycling and solid waste policy: legislation, public education materials, research projects, media communication and grant writing.

Her other experience includes work with the Sierra Club, the material use program of the National Environmental Law Center and private law practice.

As if that weren't enough, Lauri lives in the National Scenic Area and is familiar with the Gorge Management Plan.

Rick Ray, Chairman of the Friends, says, "We are very pleased that Lauri has accepted our offer and look forward to getting to know her. She has all the experience we were looking for in an executive director and feel fortunate to have someone with her background."



Lauri Aunan, new Director

Photo by Joe Walicki

Lauri replaces **Paulette Carter-Bartee**, who resigned last spring.

Lauri is excited to begin her new position. "I am honored to join the Friends, who have done so much to protect this unique and beautiful resource," she says. "I look forward to working with all of you as we continue the fight to save the Gorge."

Lauri's first day on the job will be Monday,

Aug. 8.

"As a member of the Executive Committee of the Board, I look forward to working with her," says **John Reynolds**, Vice Chairman of the Board. "We trust our members will find Lauri as skilled and enthusiastic as we do."

Come to our annual picnic Aug. 14 at Rooster Rock State Park to meet our new Executive Director, Lauri Aunan.

Legal Update

Friends v. Secretary of Agriculture, Columbia Gorge Commission

This is the second suit filed over the Skamania County Land Ordinance which, although mostly consistent with the Management Plan, contains a "sunset clause" that requires certain events to occur by Jan. 15, 1995 or the Ordinance terminates. The Ordinance also shortens the time period by which lands in the Special Management Area become General Management Area if a landowner offers to sell the property to the Forest Service at fair market value and the Forest Service does not acquire it.

Congress authorized millions of dollars in economic funds for counties with approved land use ordinances. Allowing a county to approve an ordinance, get its share of the money and then terminate the ordinance, undercuts Congress' intent.

The first lawsuit, filed in Superior Court in Skamania County, was unsuccessful. It is now on appeal to the Washington Court of Appeals.

Friends v. Gorge Commission

Friends has filed lawsuits against rules promulgated by the Gorge Commission which give their Executive Director and the Commission authority to approve land use applications even when the Land Use Ordinance and the Management Plan prohibit the use. To invoke the special rule, the landowner must claim that he or she is left with no reasonable economic use of the property.

Friends is very concerned about this special rule because it grants "variance" authority to the Commission not authorized in the Management Plan or in the Act. Further, there is not sufficient criteria to guide the decision makers.

Notice of Intent to Sue

Friends has sent a 60-day notice of intent to sue the Gorge Commission, Forest Service and Washington Department of Natural Resources regarding the failure of these agencies to regulate forest practices in the SMA, as required by the Act and the Management Plan. No agency has stepped forward to take on the responsibility. While we hope that a lawsuit will not be necessary, we feel this is the only way to protect the sensitive resources in the NSA. (See related story, Page 4.)

Citizens' Efforts Stall Project *Quarry Could Alter Gorge View Forever*

Mid-Columbia Asphalt Company, operating a quarry near Bingen, Wash., has applied to Klickitat County for a permit to expand its existing quarry from 8 acres to 58 acres.

If this project is approved, huge scars will deface the Gorge face for hundreds of years. It will change the steep hillsides from natural basalt cliffs, benches and talus slopes to bright loose rock with huge scars visible up and down the Gorge. The effects of the expansion will be seen from Washington SR 14, Hood River, I-84 and the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRC). The HCRC from Hood River to Mosier is a critical viewing area, and is being rehabilitated by the state and fed-

eral government at a cost of \$2.5 million.

The Friends is working closely with the Columbia Gorge Audubon Society to urge our Klickitat County members to write letters and/or testify before the County Commissioners to urge that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared by the landowner.

On July 5, the commissioners voted to send the project back to the planning department for more consultation with the landowner. The landowner can reduce the size of the proposed expansion, or let it stand as is. If he decides to make no changes in the proposal, the county planning department may require him to do an EIS.

Update on Section 8(o)

The Forest Service has developed a policy that clarifies some ambiguities in Section 8(o) of the NSA Permanent Management Plan. This policy will help mitigate the potential burden that hordes of frivolous land sale offers could generate.

Section 8(o) allows a landowner to offer Special Management Area (SMA) land for sale to the Forest Service for fair market value as established by a qualified real estate appraiser. If the Forest Service chooses not to buy the land offered at fair market value, the land reverts to General Management Area (GMA) status after a period of three years.

Under the new policy, the landowner and the Forest Service share the cost of the appraisal equally. Also, a Section 8(o) offer can only be made once. This pre-

vents a landowner from repeatedly bringing an offer and then rescinding the offer, a process which would cost the Forest Service thousands of dollars in appraisals and other administrative costs. Friends of the Gorge supports the Forest Service policy.

However, the law firm of Haglund and Kirtley disagrees. The law firm sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture claiming that the provisions in the Forest Service policy are "contrary to the spirit and intent of Section 8(o)".

H&K asks the Secretary to reevaluate these provisions accordingly, and if the policy is not changed, they will seek declaratory relief in the U.S. District Court. The Forest Service is assessing the issues, but has not decided whether or not to change its policy.

BOOK REVIEW

By Joe Walicki
Friends' Conservation Director

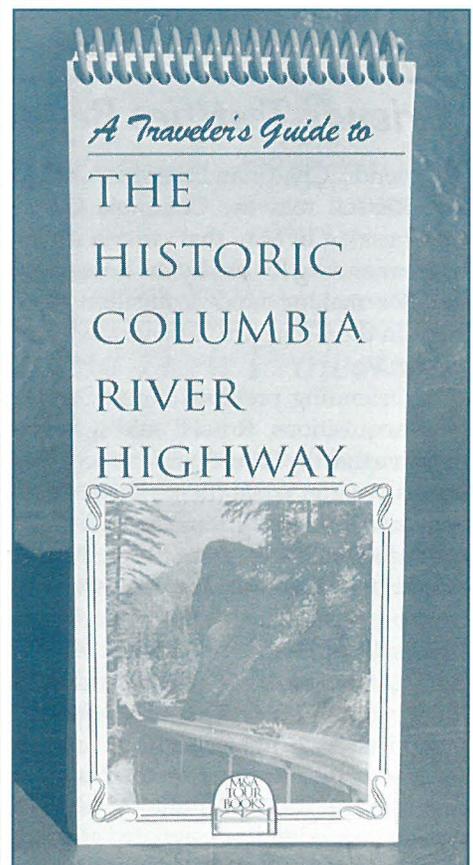
The Traveler's Guide to The Historic Columbia River Highway, edited by Ken Manske, M&A Tour Books, Gresham, OR, 63 pages, wire bound at top, 3-1/2" x 9", 45 photographs, maps, \$7.95 postpaid.

This well researched booklet is ideal for history buffs and travelers who want to know all about the historic highway from Troutdale to Dodson. It's well organized with clear maps, photographs, mile markers indicating possible stopping points along the highway, and little-known facts.

For instance, just 2.3 miles east of Multnomah Falls is the Oneonta bridge and a tunnel that was filled with rubble and abandoned in 1966. There's a picture of the tunnel on page "Oneonta Gorge 2". That's how the pages are numbered—according to sights along the highway.

The guide also indicates where picnic areas and rest rooms are located—and even where to take pictures. At the end of the booklet is a short quiz on what you just read.

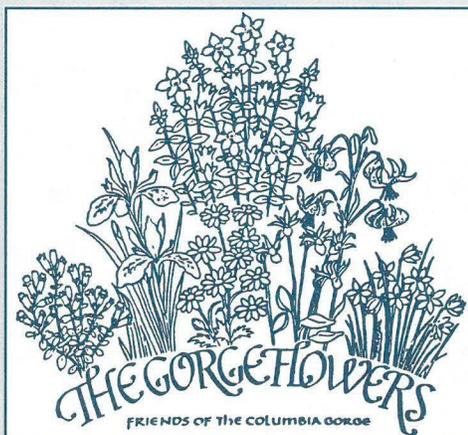
A very handy little guide, well recommended.



Friends of the Columbia Gorge t-shirts, sweatshirts, nightshirts and aprons make great gifts.

Buy now for the best selection, or wait until our next newsletter for a complete description.

*To order, call Marna Moore,
(503) 241-3762.*



Scenic Area Forest Practice Guidelines Delayed

By Michael Lang
Forest Project Coordinator

The Washington Forest Practices Board has requested a formal State Attorney General's opinion determining the state authority and obligation to implement Scenic Area forest protection guidelines. This action could delay implementation indefinitely and jeopardize forest resources in some of the most visible and ecologically sensitive forest land in the Gorge.

The National Scenic Area Management Plan, developed by the U.S. Forest Service and adopted by the Gorge Commission and the states of Oregon and Washington, established forest practice guidelines for the 34,000 acres of Special Management Area (SMA) forest land. The guidelines attempt to protect forest resources, such as scenic beauty and biodiversity, while still allowing for some timber harvest.

The Management Plan also directs either the states or the Gorge Commission to regulate forest practices on non-federal forest lands consistent with the protective guidelines contained in the Plan.

Since the completion and adoption of the Management Plan two years ago, no agency has accepted the authority to

regulate forest practices in the National Scenic Area Special Management Areas. This creates a hole in the Management Plan big enough for a fleet of logging trucks to drive through.

Currently, the Forest Service consults with landowners and attempts to condition the forest practice to be consistent with the Management Plan. Though the Forest Service has injunctive power

You can make a difference!

Write to Washington Governor **Mike Lowry** and the Forest Practice Board now and ask them to protect the forests in our national treasure by implementing Special Management Area Forest Practice Guidelines.

Two years have been more than enough time to implement the protective measures that Congress, the legislatures of Oregon and Washington, and the governors of both states legally committed themselves to. Write to:

The Honorable Mike Lowry
State Capitol, Olympia WA
98504-0002

Forest Practice Board
DNR-Forest Practice Division,
PO Box 47012
Olympia WA 98504-7012

and condemnation authority over private land, it lacks the regulatory authority to enforce the guidelines in the Management Plan.

The vast majority of non-federal forest land in the Scenic Area lies on the Washington side. Washington's Forest Practice Board and Department of Natural Resources clearly have the authority and arguably the legal obligation to implement these guidelines. What is lacking is the political will to do so.

Although some members of the Forest Practices Board are supportive, others seem to be content to sit on the fence and let the courts settle the issue. Regrettably, the Governor's office has not become directly involved in resolving this impasse.

Due to the lack of progress and the threat to forest resources that this represents, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has given the Forest Practice Board, the Gorge Commission and the Forest Service a 60-day notice that, unless one of the agencies undertakes regulation of SMA forest practices consistent the requirements of the Management Plan, it intends to file a declaratory judgement action in court seeking a determination as to which agency must regulate SMA forest practices. This will result in forcing one of the agencies to implement and enforce the regulations.

Friends Testifies Before Gorge Commission on Land Acquisition Policy

Friends' Chairman Emeritus **Nancy Russell** told the Columbia Gorge Commission in May that criteria it was recommending for use by the Forest Service for making land acquisition decisions in the Gorge are "too narrow" and restrictive.

Defending previous Forest Service land acquisitions, Russell said it is imperative that the Forest Service, recognizing its broader constituency, have "sensible and flexible" criteria to use to acquire lands of important public value. According to Russell, important waterfront properties, such as Yung Ranch near Beacon Rock State Park and St. Cloud Ranch, might not have been purchased if the proposed criteria were in effect.

The initial authorization by Congress for land acquisition within the National Scenic Area was \$40 million. Russell noted that a federally designated area can receive 10 percent of its original autho-

rization per year — \$4 million in the case of the Gorge — without additional Congressional authorization. Good criteria and a strong acquisition list will encourage funding so that key park and recre-

ational lands can be acquired, she said.

"With a sure and defensible general priority list, we will be in a strong position to receive additional funding on an orderly and regular basis," she testified.



Testifying on behalf of the Friends at a May 10 Gorge Commission hearing in The Dalles on the Forest Service's land acquisition policy are, l-r, Rick Ray, Board Chairman; Nancy Russell, Chairman Emeritus; and Bowen Blair Jr., Board member. Photo by Joe Walicki

Featured Hike

Herman Creek and Nick Eaton Ridge Trail Complex

With this issue, the Friends' newsletter will begin reprinting hikes from *The Mountaineers' book, Columbia River Gorge: A Complete Guide*, edited by Philip N. Jones. The hiking section was written by Joe Walicki, now Conservation Director for the Friends.

Difficulty: Easy to strenuous.

Child safety: Good.

Time: Herman Creek Camp, 3 hrs.; trails 406, 408, 437, 447, 7 hrs.

Distance: Herman Creek Camp, 3 mi., round trip; trails, 7 mi., round trip.

Elevation gain: Herman Creek Camp, 800 ft.; intersection of trails 408 and 437, 2,600 ft.

USGS map: Carson.

Viewpoints/attractions: Herman Creek Camp, Indian Point, view of Columbia.

Two worthwhile trips take off from the old Forest Service Work Center or Herman Creek Campground (closed in winter): an easy hike to the Herman Creek camp area, which includes a picnic area; and a more vigorous hike to an interesting geologic formation, Indian Point.

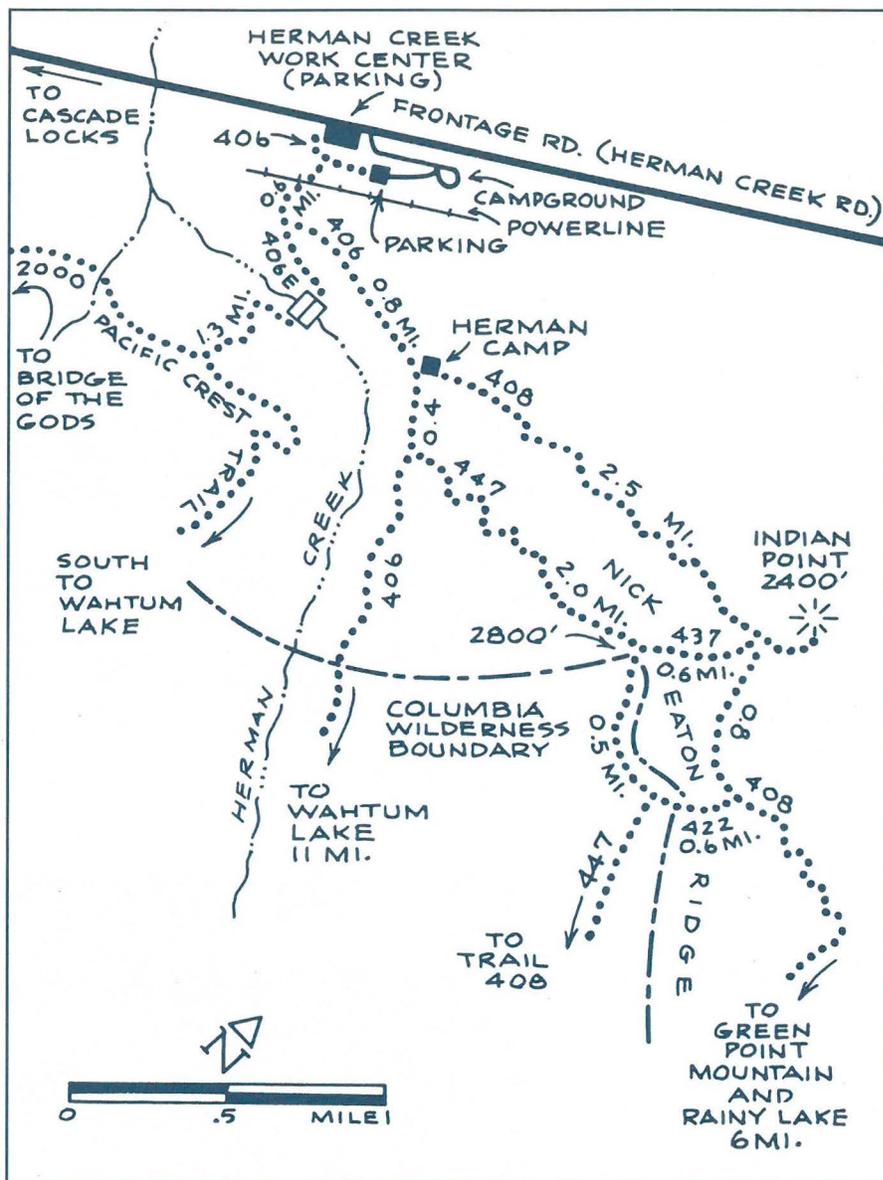
From I-84, exit at the weigh station, or from downtown Cascade Locks follow Forest Lane east. In either case, drive east past the fish hatchery to Herman Creek Work Center and the campground.

Follow Herman Creek Trail 406 uphill under a power line, along an old logging road, and eventually to the intersection of Gorton Creek Trail 408. Herman Creek Campground is located at this point, along with a spring flowing toward a creek. This is a good place for lunch.

To make this trip into a vigorous outing, follow Trail 408 uphill 2.5 miles, through a grove of old-growth fir to Trail 408C, which leads to the unique Indian Point landmark and viewpoint. Return via trails 437 and 447, enjoying a spectacular view of the Gorge and Columbia River as you descend to Herman Creek Trail.

Trail 408 continues 6 miles south to Green Point Mountain and Rainy Lake. Trail 406 continues south to the Pacific Crest Trail, which goes on 11.5 miles to Wahtum Lake.

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Volunteers: The People and Their Projects

Volunteers are at the heart of any non-profit organization and the Friends is no exception. In addition to our professional staff and our all-volunteer Board of Directors who put in many hours for the organization, a core group of volunteers performs a number of important tasks in or outside the office as the need arises.

Here are the dedicated volunteers and the projects they are working on:

Dave Cannard, Jr.: State Route 14 Master Plan and Clark County ordinance;

Ken Denis: Litter pick-up and photography;

Eddie Kahl: Route 14 rockfall miti-

gation plan;

Sherri Klinkenberg: Bingen Rock Quarry and forest practices;

Marlene Schmitt: Sandy River Delta;

Angela Truitt: Miscellaneous filing;

Holly Udd: Troutdale Gateway proposal.

A hearty "thank you" from the Board and staff for all of their time and energy on behalf of the Gorge.

If you would like to become involved in a conservation or office project, call **Marna Moore** or **Joe Walicki** at the Friend's office and they'll be glad to brief you on our volunteer needs.

Cleaning up STEBCO Quarry *Friends Helps with May 14 Dig-In Day*

By Ken Denis
Friends' Volunteer

Friends of the Columbia Gorge joined up with Adidas America and Oregon Mountain Community May 14 to clean up an illegal dump site at STEBCO Quarry in the Gorge. The local groups were brought together by *Backpacker Magazine*.

STEBCO Quarry is east of Bridal Veil. Used during the construction of the Historic Columbia River Highway, the area became a dump site in later years. For many years, the area sat untouched, but now the land is being transferred to the Oregon State Parks Department.

On May 14, 43 people gathered at Wahkeena picnic grounds ready to go to work. Along with the above-mentioned groups, several people from Adidas corporate neighbor, Jantzen Inc., joined in.

After a quick welcome and orientation, each volunteer was given a t-shirt and a goodie bag from Adidas and *Backpacker Magazine*. Then, we were all shuttled off to the site. A walk around the area told you there was lots to do.

Only a small portion of the quarry was used as a dump, but the garbage was incredible! Thousands of rusting beer cans, a dozen old appliances, glass, metal and other junk — even an old station wagon, cut in half! And scores of tires — one of which had a good-sized tree growing up through it.

Tires Led the Way

First out were the tires. These were hauled down and staged at an area above the highway. Next came bags of garbage, the old beer cans, tin cans, glass bottles and metal objects of unknown origin. All were bagged up and carried on wheelbarrows down to waiting trucks by the highway. Oregon State Parks kindly loaned the use of a truck and driver to haul garbage to a dumpster 1/2-mile away.

Do to a mostly unusable road down

to the dumpster, all the garbage had to be hauled out by hand. Heavy trucks could not reach the site. To be hauled out later were the station wagon, appliances, large sections of culvert and other heavy metal objects.

All morning long the garbage came down to the trucks. One large piece of the station wagon was seen making its way



Volunteers came upon tons of heavy debris during the Dig-In Day cleanup of STEBCO Quarry May 14. At a lunch break, below, many of the 43 volunteers take a well-deserved break.

Photos by Ken Denis



down the hill — the front-end, fenders and grill — and were carried to the truck, then stuffed into the dumpster.

A short lunch break was taken in the most appealing part of the STEBCO Quarry. The west end is an open, grassy meadow with wild flowers ringing the area. The opening allowed a view of the cliffs above, still showing scars from the Multnomah Falls' fire of 1991. A snack was supplied and people had a chance to relax and get to know each other.

40 Yards of Debris Bagged

Then, back to work. More bags were filled, carried or wheeled to the waiting trucks. By 2 p.m., the dumpster was full. Nothing more could be stuffed into the 40 cubic yard container.

In all, it amounted to 4.5 tons (8,960 pounds) of trash, plus about 100 tires which were hauled to a recycle center.

What next? The Friends' **Nancy Russell** led the "survivors" on a hike to Angels Rest — on a perfect afternoon for a hike to the top for the view. Larkspur and Iris put on a fine show along the way.

A great deal of thanks go to the following:

— The 43 hard-working volunteers;

— **Kevin Price** of Oregon State Parks, for loaning a truck and driver, **John Cowan**.

— Oregon Department of Transportation, for help and cooperation: **Pete Kaster**, Permits, and **Dan Gibson**, for signs, litter bags and opening the access road.

— Ege Sanitary Service of Troutdale, for the dumpster at a discounted rate.

— Metro, **Bob Martin**, for waiving the usual dumping fees of \$75 per ton.

— Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism, **Jan McGowan** for litter bags, supplies, direction and moral support.

— *Backpacker Magazine*, **Kate Dalhagen**, for getting the Friends involved in the project.

— Adidas America and its employees for wanting to work with the Friends, and for its donation of \$250 to defray costs.

— Oregon Mountain Community and **Morgan Bellar** for publicity.

— Friends of the Columbia Gorge: **Nancy Russell** for leading the hike to Angels Rest; **Ken Denis** for organizing the cleanup site; and **Bill Daniels** for his assistance.

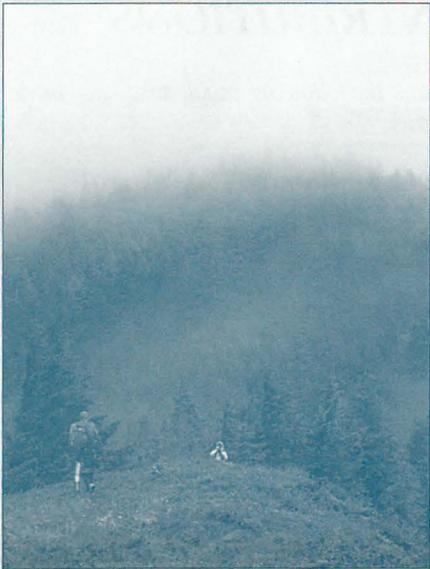
— **Dick Dickinson** of Hood River for use of his truck to haul trash.

June 18 Hiking Weekend a Gorge-ous Success!



Balsam Root, above, provided a trail-side attraction to hikers on Hiking Weekend, while others had their heads in the clouds, below, on the first half of the Augspurger Mountain/Cook Hill Hike.

Photos by Ken Denis



Hikers on the Augspurger Mountain/Cook Hill hike during Hiking Weekend were treated to exceptional views and great weather. Above are, l-r, Martha Smith, Charlotte Head, Sandy Siegner and Myrtle Alex.

Photo by Joe Walicki



Droplets of water glisten from the colorful blossoms of this Penstemon, found along the Augspurger Mountain hike.

Photo by Ken Denis

Columbia Gorge Notebook

Much is happening these days in the Gorge. Here's an update of work in progress that is being monitored by Friends of the Columbia Gorge:

Route 14 Master Plan: Studies are under way to arrive at a master plan for the approximately 75-mile stretch of State Route 14 on the Washington side of the Gorge. A draft vision statement and list of issues will be published soon by the Washington Department of Transportation. Public meetings are expected to be held later in the year.

Catherine Creek/Major Creek Land Use Plan: A one-day workshop is ex-

pected to be held in August or September on the Forest Service's land use plan for Catherine Creek and Major Creek — areas that have been in public ownership for some time, but have lacked plans for public use and access. One issue to be addressed is the problem of trespassing on private lands.

Sandy River Delta: Look for the Environmental Impact Statement to be released in the early fall.

Wild Rivers Funding: The hoped-for Congressional appropriation for land acquisition along the lower White Salmon River remains uncertain. The House bill

appropriated \$1,040,000 for the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River, but a Senate bill failed to appropriate any funds. The matter is now going to the Appropriations Conference Committee, which is expected to reach a decision before Labor Day.

If you are concerned about this appropriation, write to: U.S. Rep. Jolene Unsoeld (D-Wash.), 1527 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515, and/or to U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks (D-Wash), who serves on the Conference Committee, 2429 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

—Adopted February 3, 1994

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Michael Lang *Forest Project Coordinator*
Marna Moore *Receptionist/Clerk*
Kristen Pecknold *Land Use Counsel*
Joe Walicki *Conservation Director*
Michael Weeks *Land Use Intern*

*Gorge resident

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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 Helen Langille Carroll and Clyde Carroll

Elizabeth Langille Trimble

In memory of Karen Carlberg Carr

Lana Holman

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In honor of Bruce Russell's birthday

Ames B. Hendrickson

GORGE CALENDAR

- Aug. 9, 23 **Gorge Commission.**
Sept. 13, 27 Gorge Commission meetings are open to the public. They are usually held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at various towns in the Gorge. This is a good place to find out the details of how the National Scenic Area is managed. Call (509) 493-3323 for exact location and time.
Oct. 11, 25
- Aug. 21 **Tour of Historic Columbia Gorge Villa, Bridal Veil.**
This is the home of the Franciscan Sisters; \$25 includes champagne, barbecue and donation to Franciscan Montessori Earth School serving children 2-1/2 through 18. For more information, call Kathy Page at the Earth School, (503) 257-0722.
- Oct. 15 & 16 **Salmon Festival, Oxbow Park, Ore.**
Fun for the whole family; guided salmon viewing walks, exhibits, food, talks by Native Americans, hikes, music, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Oregon Trout, (503) 222-9091.