

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Fall 2015 Newsletter

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Insert



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

FOUNDER NANCY RUSSELL, 1932-2008

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

Mount Hood, seen from upper Catherine Creek. Photo: Nick Wiltgen



Take Action!

Support Land and Water Conservation Fund

Help Friends ensure the success of *Pathways to the Pacific: The Columbia River*. In collaboration with federal agencies and other land trusts, we're urging Congressional support for this \$41 million federal effort that would purchase more than twenty-eight thousand acres between the John Day River and the Pacific Ocean to be protected. Funding for the program would come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). See page 6 for more information about the project.

The fifty-year-old legislation that created the Land and Water Conservation Fund sunsets on September 30, 2015.

With Washington Senator Maria Cantwell leading a bi-partisan Senate effort, Congress is working quickly to renew LWCF funding, but the legislation faces a strong challenge in the House.

Land and Water Conservation funding benefits outdoor recreation, conservation, and historic preservation activities. These projects contribute more than a trillion dollars annually to the United States' economy and support 9.4 million jobs.

Contact your local Congressman now (see below) and urge them to support renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. ■

Our Email Action Alerts provide the most timely, effective way to take action for the Gorge. Subscribe at www.gorgefriends.org/subscribe, or call Ryan at 971-634-2034.

Citizen Action Makes the Difference! www.senate.gov or www.house.gov
Your voice is vital to Gorge protection. Let Congress hear from you.

Oregon

Sen. Ron Wyden, 202-224-5244
www.wyden.senate.gov/contact

Sen. Jeff Merkley, 202-224-3753
www.merkley.senate.gov/contact

Rep. Earl Blumenauer, 202-225-4811
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, 202-225-0855
Rep. Greg Walden, 202-225-6730
Rep. Peter DeFazio, 202-225-6416
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www.murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm

Sen. Maria Cantwell, 202-224-3441
www.cantwell.senate.gov/public

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, 202-225-3536
Rep. Derek Kilmer, 202-225-5916
Rep. Dan Newhouse, 202-225-5816
Rep. Suzan DelBene, 202-225-6311

Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to www.house.gov/writerep

Cover: Elowah Falls in autumn. Photo: Greg Lief / liefphotos.com

Director's Letter

Last month I traveled to Montana to participate in a retreat sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance. The event focused on “resilience” for nonprofit executive directors dealing with the stress that nonprofit leadership brings. As the sun sank in the west each evening, we watched grizzlies mingle with cattle in the twilight.

But beauty aside, the not-so-beautiful realities of stress and burnout stuck with me.

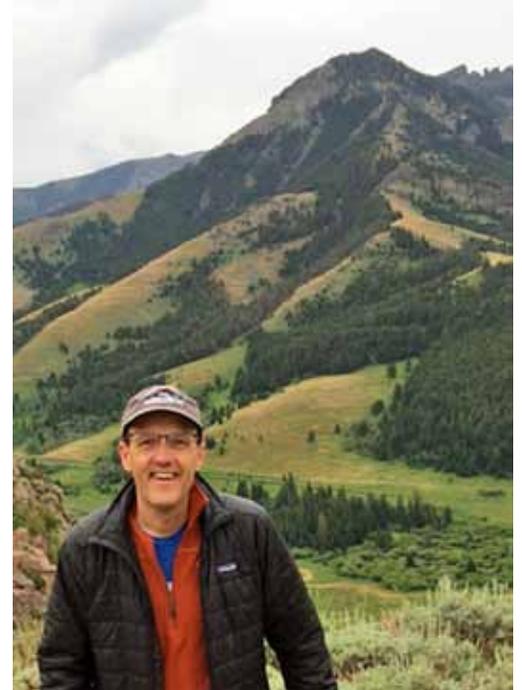
The average tenure for a nonprofit executive director in the United States is just four years, and nearly three-quarters of all executive directors are serving in that role for the first time. A full 80 percent of those first timers say they would never do it again. This is incredibly depressing news – running a nonprofit that addresses issues that inspire you should be a dream job. Dissatisfaction comes from the lack of clear missions for organizations, unengaged board of directors, not enough staff, long hours, low pay. The list goes on.

I've been remarkably fortunate to buck those trends. This month marks my seventeenth year as executive director at Friends, and three things have made this

organization a place to stay and grow. The first is the “product” and mission: the Gorge is a one-of-a-kind place offering endless discovery and wonder, and it easily deserves a lifetime's efforts to protect it. Second is our board, made up of passionate individuals who are committed to our mission and to supporting our staff with compensation, benefits, and opportunities for training and growth.

Finally, what makes this a great organization is you – our incredible members and supporters. When I meet members on a hike, at a hearing, or just out and about in the Gorge, your enthusiasm inspires and rejuvenates me.

The Montana retreat encouraged recognizing the physical signs of stress and applying “self care.” such as exercise, meditation, and balance with the other aspects of your life. I joked that coming from a large Irish Catholic family, “self care” sounded unseemly at best and sinful at worst. That made a good punchline, but it's a dangerous attitude that I need to adjust. How I care for myself seeps down to staff, board, and volunteers.



Kevin Gorman at the B Bar Ranch in Emigrant, Montana. Photo: Wendy Ninteman

Our facilitator mentioned that many “aspiring leaders” she works with don't want their bosses' jobs because of the stress they witness every day. I never want Friends' staff to feel that way.

So now is a good time for me to go on a family vacation. And turn off my phone.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Gorman".

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org

A view from Dancing Rock, near Dallesport in the eastern Gorge.

Photo: Michael Horodyski / 500px.com/mjhpdx

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.

Friends Victorious in Washington Supreme Court

Much of the Skamania County land seen here from Augspurger Mountain is currently unzoned.

Photo: Jozsef Urmos / panojoe.ursos.net

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

In June, the Washington Supreme Court ruled that Skamania County can be held accountable when it flouts state land use planning laws. The decision vindicated Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our ally Save Our Scenic Area (SOSA), who have maintained that Skamania County is in violation of state planning laws by failing to zone and protect more than fourteen thousand acres of nonfederal forest land from conversion to urban uses and industrial development. Most of these forest lands are adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Now Friends and SOSA can pursue our claims against the county for its violations of these laws.

It's hard to believe that a county would allow more than fourteen thousand acres of privately owned commercial timberlands to be completely unzoned and

unprotected for forestry uses. Skamania County's failure to zone these lands leaves them open to large-scale residential, industrial, and commercial development and other uses, without any zoning review. The massive landslide that claimed forty-three lives near Oso, Washington in 2014 demonstrated the tragic outcomes that can result when residential development and forestry uses are allowed in the same remote areas without proper planning. Formal protection of Skamania County forest land through appropriate zoning is imperative in order to ensure that it is reserved for forest purposes.

State planning laws

Forest land acreage is declining in Washington. Studies have estimated that non-federal timberland in western

Washington shrank by more than sixteen percent from 1988 to 2004, much of it converted from timberland to residential and urban uses.

In 1990, the state legislature enacted Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA), one of the goals of which is to curb the loss of timberlands. As a rural, "partial planning" county, Skamania is required by the GMA to designate commercial forest lands in order to best protect these lands for forest uses. The county is also required to periodically review and update these designations. Skamania was statutorily required to complete its first round of periodic review by December 1, 2008. Nearly seven years later, the county has failed to complete this review.

In addition, Washington's Planning Enabling Act (PEA) requires Skamania

to adopt zoning for all of its lands and to adopt development regulations consistent with its comprehensive plan. The county, however, has failed to adopt zoning or development regulations for more than fourteen thousand acres of privately owned forested land, leaving these lands vulnerable to incompatible uses.

Skamania County resistance

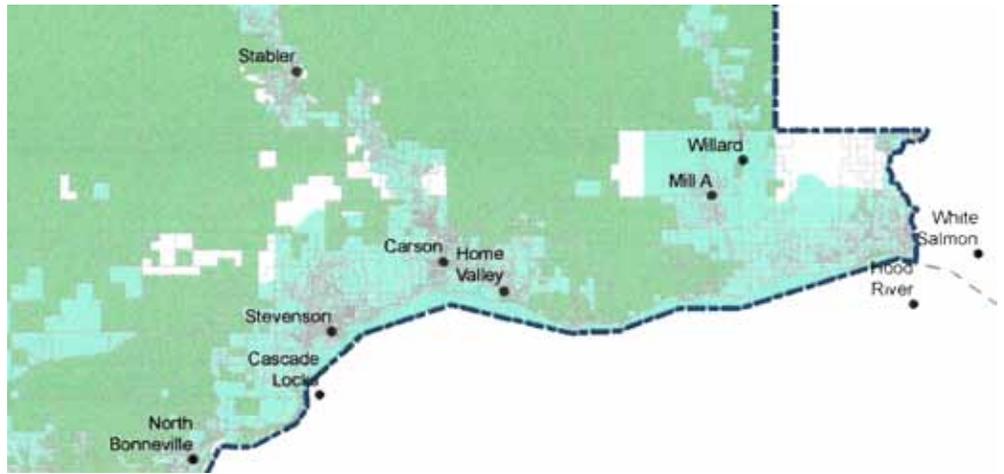
In 2007, Skamania County began a public process to adopt zoning and review its forest lands designations throughout the county, but in August 2012, the county abruptly reversed course. It abandoned its plans to zone the unzoned lands and revoked a development moratorium that had protected these lands while it was working to zone them. The county was already several years late in completing its periodic review as required by the GMA when a county commissioner publicly instructed the county's planning director to "kick it down the curb."

Alarmed by the county's abandonment of its legal obligations, Friends and SOSA promptly filed suit in Clark County Superior Court in September 2012, seeking a court order directing the county to comply with state law and finish the zoning and periodic review processes it had abandoned.

Skamania County, however, had other intentions. Rather than simply complete the planning processes required by state law, the county spent tens of thousands of dollars to vigorously challenge Friends' and SOSA's right to even file the suit. The county actually argued that the public should not have trusted the county's numerous promises over the years that it was working to complete its zoning and periodic review processes, and that Friends and SOSA should have filed our claims years earlier, at the beginning of these processes.

Victory in court

The state supreme court ultimately rejected the county's arguments and agreed with Friends and SOSA. The court



White areas indicate privately owned property not protected by zoning. Map created by Skamania County

held that when a partial planning county such as Skamania fails to comply with a mandatory deadline to take required action, citizens may bring a "failure-to-act" claim against the county at any point after that deadline has passed. This ruling establishes precedent for all partial planning counties throughout the state, including Klickitat, Skamania's neighbor to the east. The court concluded that Friends' and SOSA's claims under the GMA and PEA were timely filed.

Friends board member and Skamania County resident Keith Brown explained the importance of the decision by saying,

"We need zoning in place throughout Skamania County to protect the magnificent resources upon which

our economy and quality of life depend. The Growth Management Act has been in place for more than twenty-five years and it's time for Skamania County to comply with this common-sense law. The county's actions have opened the floodgates to unplanned development on thousands of acres of land. It is time for the floodgates to be closed."

On July 21, the supreme court remanded the case to the superior court, where Friends and SOSA will pursue our claims that Skamania County must formally protect its forest lands for forest uses and prohibit inconsistent uses through proper zoning. ■

Unzoned forest land in Skamania County is vulnerable to unsafe and inappropriate development.

Photo: Darryl Lloyd / longshadowphotos.com



Pathways to the Pacific

Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager, kate@gorgefriends.org

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust is collaborating with federal agencies and other land trusts to support *Pathways to the Pacific: The Columbia River*. *Pathways* is a \$41 million federal acquisition effort to bring more than twenty-eight thousand acres into public ownership between the John Day River and the Pacific Ocean.

Pathways is comprised of critical wildlife and recreational projects along the Columbia River and its key tributaries which were designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service,

the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service. Spanning both sides of the Columbia, *Pathways* ensures that wildlife habitat and recreational access are protected and enhanced for current and future generations. Supporting public land conservation and ensuring access to the outdoors for rural communities and cities alike, *Pathways* has garnered support from a diverse group of businesses, ports, cities, and nonprofit organizations.

Funding for *Pathways* land acquisition would come through the Land Water

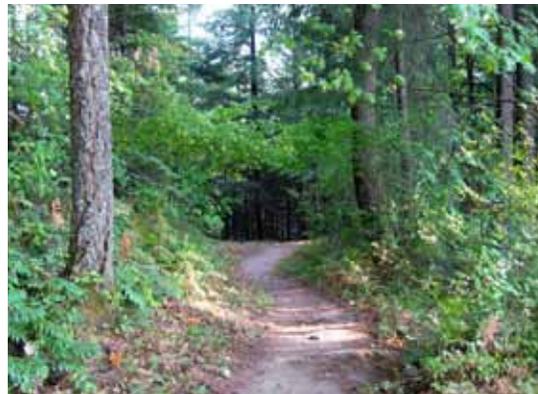
Conservation Fund. The Fund invests in local parks, trails, historic sites, and ball fields across the country and is responsible for preservation of places such as Catherine Creek, Cape Horn, and the restored sections of the Historic Columbia River Highway.

This is the fourth year that the *Pathways* proposal has been submitted for funding. Last year, the project placed eighth out of some forty proposals, of which four were funded. This year's application has made it through the pre-proposal phase and is now one of twelve proposals in the running for an award.

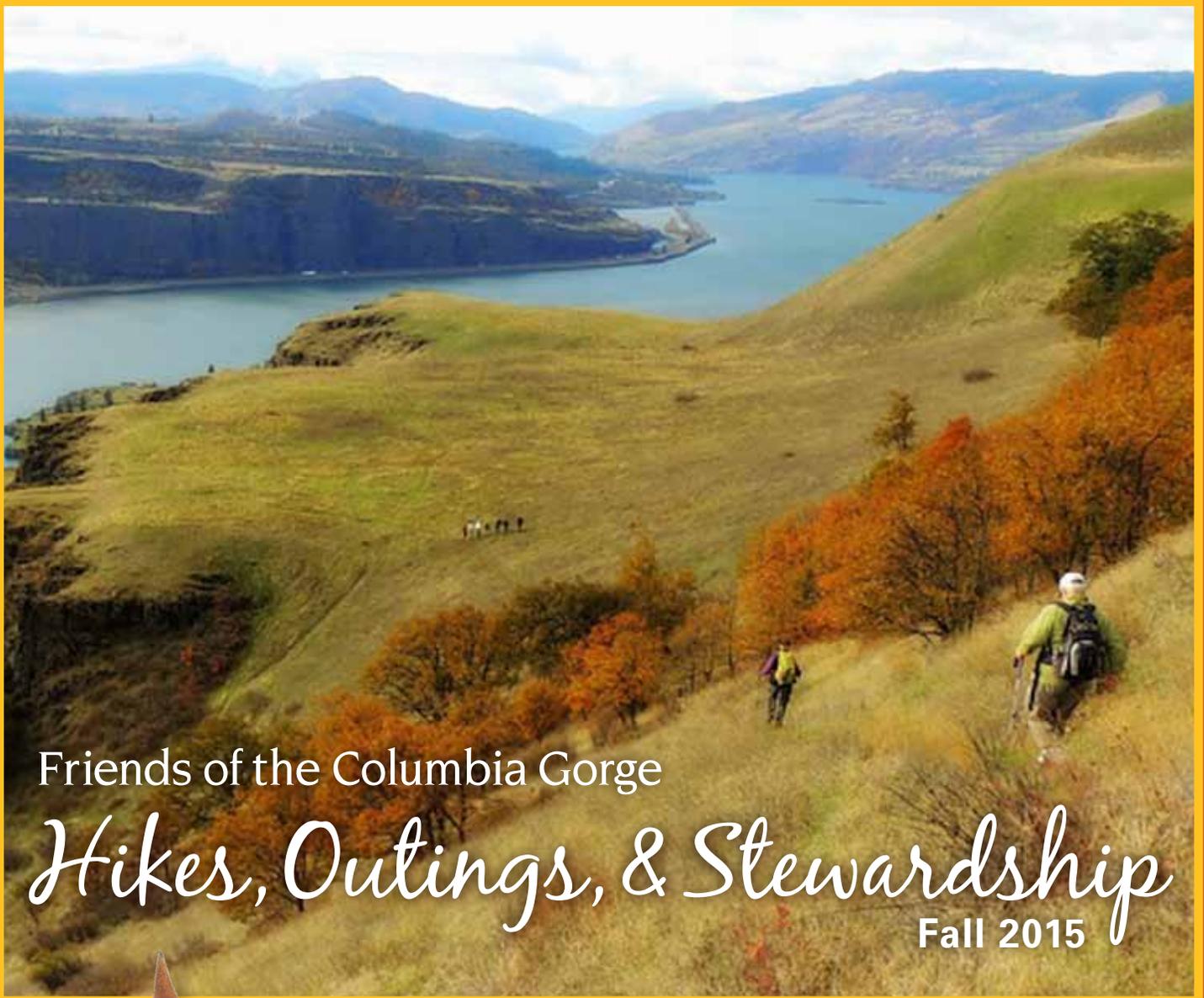
Up to five projects will receive funds. Several properties owned by our land trust are included in the proposal, as well as land owned by conservation buyers, such as Steigerwald Uplands, where we held our summer picnic (see page 7).

To learn how you can help the *Pathways* project succeed, see the "Take Action!" item on page 2. ■

Photos: Dan and Kathy Huntington



The Pathways project, if funded, could further protect parts of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Hikes, Outings, & Stewardship

Fall 2015

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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

Friends members enjoy
early registration for all our
hikes and outings!

Registration opens August 31
for Friends members only. General
registration begins September 4.

www.gorgefriends.org/hikes

Our hiking program is sponsored by
James F. O'Rourke Jr. and Associates



Fall Outings

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

35 ★ *Transit to Trailhead* Beacon Rock, WA

Easy: 2 miles, little elev. gain

Hike by bus! *Gorge Towns to Trails* Project Manager Renee Tkach will be our guide, taking the West End Transit bus to Beacon Rock to hike the new Rock to River trail while hearing about future trail connections.

M ★ *Mona Bell Hill and Tales of Toothrock, OR*

Easy: 2 miles, little elev. gain

Join John Harrison, author of *A Woman Alone*, to stroll a section of Sam Hill's Columbia River Highway and learn about Mona Bell, Hill's mistress and mother of his son. Later, we'll walk an old section of the Oregon Trail with Ranger Dorothy Brown-Kwaiser, learning the rich history of the area.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

35 *Bell Creek Old Growth Forest, OR* **Strenuous: 8.4 miles, 1,300-ft. elev. gain**

Take in early autumn colors on this seldom-visited trail. Leader Hal White will lead us through old growth forests and to the stunning 360-degree view from Sherrard Point.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

35 🌲 *Lend-a-Hand Stewardship Vista View, WA*

Join Stewardship Coordinator Sara Woods on this working farm site. We'll take down an old fence and clear ladder fuels on trees, as we enjoy incredible views from this property.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Nesmith Point, OR

Expert: 10.2 miles, 3,700-ft elev. gain

Enjoy a challenging climb with leader Annette Hadaway. This secluded trail leads to beautiful views of the Gorge.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

M 35 *Petroglyph Tour and Dalles Mountain Ranch, WA*

Easy: 2 miles, 500-ft elev. gain

Washington State Parks volunteer Lee Walker will share native lore as we visit "She Who Watches" and other petroglyphs. Later, we'll walk with Ranger James Day at the old Crawford Ranch and learn about early settlers and local wildlife.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

M 35 🍷 *Picnic & Botanical Talk* Catherine Creek, WA

Easy: 1 mile, 200-ft. elev. gain

On this easy walk to the natural rock arch, we'll picnic with botanist Pappy Corbitt and learn about medicinal native plants. Enjoy optional wine tasting later at a nearby winery. \$10 fee.

★ M *Pierce Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, WA* **Easy: 3 miles, little elev. gain**

Hike with birder Randy Fortish and Conservation Organizer Ryan Rittenhouse through oak woodlands, open fields, riparian forests, and wetlands. Learn about birds and refuge management on this easy hike.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

35 ★ *Gibbons Creek Bird Walk, WA* **Easy: 2.5 miles, no elevation gain**

Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards Dave Pinkernell and Will Niosi at the Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge will share cultural and natural history as we spot some of the 200+ bird species in the refuge. An optional post-hike lunch later at Our Bar in Washougal will follow.

35 🍷 *Mosier Plateau, OR*

Easy: 3.5 miles, 600-ft elev. gain

Enjoy panoramic views from the new trail above Mosier. Land Trust Manager Kate McBride will bring us up to date on background and plans for this land trust property and trail. Enjoy wine tasting later at a local winery. \$10 fee.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

M *Fishwheels of the Gorge, WA*

Difficult: 2 miles, no elev. gain (rocky shoreline)

Learn about the towering fishwheels along the river with Scott Cook, author of *Curious Gorge*. As we scramble across the talus shoreline, Scott will relate stories from the 1800s, when these wheels pulled thousands of fish from the river.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

M 35 *Larch Mountain Crater Loop Dog Hike, OR*

Moderate: 6 miles, 1,300-ft elev. gain

Follow leader Jean Akers up to the headwaters of Multnomah Creek, and complete the loop around Larch Mountain Crater. The view from Sherrard Point includes numerous volcanic Cascade peaks.

Fall 2015 Icon Key

- M Members Only
- 35 35 & Gorgeous
- ★ Special Focus
- 🌲 Stewardship
- 👨 Family Friendly
- 🍷 Trails to Ales Hike & Pub Visit
- 🍷 Wiking Hike & Wine Tasting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

★ 🍷 *Volcano Ridge Vineyard Walk and Wine Tasting, OR*

Easy: 2 miles, 600-ft elev. gain

Walk through stands of native white oak, ponderosa pine, and bunchgrass at Volcano Ridge Vineyard with owner and viticulture expert Alan Busacca and Outreach Assistant Kate Lindberg. We'll learn about the grape harvest and environmental protections and enjoy wine tasting. \$20 fee.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

M *Falls Creek Falls and Panther Creek Falls, WA*

Moderate: 3.4 miles, 650-ft. elev. gain

Leader Jane Garbisch will guide us along cascading Falls Creek to the 200-ft, multi-tiered waterfall, and a short side trip to Panther Creek Falls on our return.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

M 35 🍷 *Tom McCall Point, OR*

Moderate: 5 miles, 1,025-ft elev. gain

Follow Field Representative Peter Cornelison up to this beautiful point above the eastern Gorge and learn about our *Gorge Towns to Trails* program. Enjoy optional wine tasting later at Analemma Wines. \$10 fee.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

M ★ *Hardy Creek Dog Hike, WA*

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

Dogs are welcome on this hike with Jean Akers on this dog-friendly trail. Enjoy expansive views as we climb to the saddle behind Hamilton Mountain.

Register for all events at
www.gorgefriends.org/hikes

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Eagle Creek to High Bridge, OR

Moderate: 6.4 miles, 840-ft elev. gain

Enjoy autumn colors on this classic western Gorge hike with leader Billie Anger, as we pass numerous tumbling waterfalls in Eagle Creek Canyon. Enjoy an optional post-hike lunch later at Thunder Island Brewery.

Rooster Rock Kayak Tour, OR

Ranger Dorothy Brown-Kwaiser will lead this 2.5-hour paddle trip on the channel out to the Columbia River. Learn basic strokes and local history as you view the Gorge from river level. \$65 fee.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Deschutes River Bike Ride, OR

Moderate: 17 miles, 500-ft elev. gain

Ride with Field Representative Peter Cornelison on an old railroad bed along the Deschutes River. We'll learn local history and catch up on Gorge protection news. Enjoy optional wine tasting later at a nearby winery. \$10 fee.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Family Nature Walk

Fort Cascades Trail / Bonneville Dam, WA

Easy: 1.5 miles, little elev. gain

Join Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Jesse Brownlee and environmental educator Roland Begin for a family-friendly interpretive nature walk on the Fort Cascades trail and a tour of Bonneville Dam.

Conboy Lake

Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, WA

Easy: 3 miles, 100-elev. gain

Wildlife biologist Bill Weiler will lead two short hikes on the Willard Springs Loop Trail at the wildlife refuge, and a half-mile stroll at Trout Lake as we look for elk and Washington's rarest frog, and maybe even spot a Sasquatch or Bigfoot.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Wahclella Falls Kids Hike, OR

Easy: 1.8 miles, 300-ft. elev. gain

Mary Ann Schmidt and Conservation Organizer Ryan Rittenhouse will lead this family-friendly hike along Tanner Creek to Wahclella Falls to view salmon and their spawning grounds. An optional trip later to Eagle Creek to see more salmon.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Lend-a-Hand Stewardship

Lyle Cherry Orchard, WA

Help Stewardship Coordinator Sara Woods remove old fencing on land trust property. We'll hike ¾ mi. to the site, with 200-ft elev. gain.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Lyle Cherry Orchard, WA

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

Hike up oak woodland slopes with *Gorge Towns to Trails* Project Manager Renee Tkach on this land trust property. Learn about the pioneer cherry orchard, trail plans, and the Sam Hill convict road. Enjoy optional wine tasting later at nearby COR Cellars. \$10 fee.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Cape Horn Loop, WA

Moderate: 7 miles, 1,200-ft elev. gain

Autumn colors and stunning views from the Nancy Russell Overlook are highlights on this hike with Executive Director Kevin Gorman and Cape Horn Conservancy Board Members. Learn trail history and plans for its future.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Cascade Locks Kayak Tour, OR

Join Port of Cascade Locks Recreation Coordinator Mayah Frank for a half-day of easy river kayaking on the Columbia, exploring coves along the shoreline. Enjoy an optional lunch later at Thunder Island Brewery. \$65 fee.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Angels Rest, OR

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

Jane Garbisch and Conservation Organizer Ryan Rittenhouse will lead this hike up forested switchbacks and rocky talus trail sections to breathtaking views from high above the river.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Multnomah-Wahkeena

Falls Loop, OR

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

Follow Outreach Assistant Kate Lindberg on this well loved trail, enjoying fall colors as we pass seven cascading waterfalls.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Waterfall Photography Hike

Wahclella Falls, OR

Easy: 1.8 miles, 300-ft elev. gain

Bring your DSLR camera for this photography hike with photographer Tom Kloster. Tom will share slow-shutter waterfall photography techniques with beginning photographers, making frequent stops along the trail.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Latourell Falls, OR

Easy: 2.4 miles, 520-ft elev. gain

Leader Ross Edginton will be our guide on this outing to the lower and upper falls, sharing history of the town of Latourell and the Historic Columbia River Highway Bridge as we hike.

Lend-a-Hand Stewardship

Mosier Plateau, OR

Join Stewardship Coordinator Sara Woods to plant native seeds in eroded areas, to improve this trail that is a significant connector in the *Gorge Towns to Trails* project.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Lend-a-Hand Stewardship

Lyle Cherry Orchard, WA

Help Stewardship Coordinator Sara Woods remove old fencing from the old homestead on this land trust property, and learn about the recreation vision for this beautiful slope above Lyle.

Photo: Yathin Krishnappa

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

Bald Eagle Viewing

Balfour-Klickitat, WA

Easy: 1 mile, 170-ft. elev. gain

Our winter outing at the Klickitat River is a great opportunity to view bald eagles who nest near the river. Register now; date and details emailed in early January.



Hikes, Outings, & Stewardship

General Information

- Hike distances listed are round-trip.
- Please note difficulty levels when choosing hikes:

Easy: <3 miles, <700 ft. elev. gain

Moderate: <5 miles, <1,500 ft. elev. gain

Strenuous: <10 miles, <2,500 ft. elev. gain

Expert: >10 miles, >2,500 ft. elev. gain

- Our outings are very popular. As a courtesy to others, please only register if you are sure you will attend.
- Upon registration, you'll receive a confirmation email with details specific to your outing.
- Children are welcome with a parent or guardian; choose hikes appropriate for child's age and ability.

- Participants are responsible for their own safety.
- No pets, except where noted as dog-friendly hikes.
- Leave no traces, take only memories (and photos!).

Carpool Information

- All outings have carpools from Gateway Transit Center (NE Portland), usually between 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
- Suggested carpool donation is \$7-\$12 per rider, depending on the outing and distance.

Member Registration opens Aug. 31!

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



Our 2015 Hike Challenge, through October 31.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has been protecting the natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic resources of the Gorge for 35 years! And we encourage support for the 13 Gorge communities, to keep them thriving.

Visit www.gorgefriends.org/35andgorgeous for the list of challenge trails and activities, along with Gorge protection background and conservation history. Prizes will be awarded. As you enjoy the beauty of the Gorge, remember that 35 years of dedicated effort has been key to ensuring that the Gorge is still beautiful today!

Autumn colors above Elowah Falls. Photo: Cheryl Hill

If you take photos while you're out in the Gorge, submit your favorite shots to our photo contest, in any of these categories: Gorge Views, Waterfalls, Wildflowers, Your Gorge Life, and Selfies. Contest photos may win prizes! Learn more at www.gorgefriends.org/FriendsPhotoContest.

The Gorge Needs Best Friends!

Protect the Gorge trails you love *every month of the year* by becoming a monthly donor with a gift of \$10 or more. Keep your membership current, be a friend to the environment, and receive a FREE waterproof *National Geographic* Columbia Gorge trail map! Visit www.gorgefriends.org/bestfriends to start your monthly donation and receive your special gift.



Hike by Bus!

Nine trailheads and communities in Skamania County now have seasonal WET Bus connections to Vancouver and Portland. For \$4 per day, this weekend service continues through October 11.

We've made it super easy for you to enjoy transit-to-trailhead hikes, removing the guesswork of when and where to catch the bus. Check out our six WET Bus hike itineraries at www.gorgefriends.org/WETBus, and join us on a Friends WET Bus outing on Sept. 12.

Photo: Michael Horodyski / 500px.com/mjhpdx



Old time music from Whistlin' Rufus delighted the picnic crowd.

Maegan Jossy, Outreach Manager, maegan@gorgefriends.org

Picnic in Paradise under Shady Oaks

On a hot July day, more than 150 people found refuge in the cool shade of a lovely oak grove called Steigerwald Uplands, to enjoy Friends' 35th annual Picnic in Paradise. For the second year in a row, the picnic was set on this privately held conservation property a mile north of Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Picnic goers enjoyed a tasty potluck lunch featuring a great variety of pies, kids' activities, and the old-time string music of the Whistlin' Rufus band, while Friends staff and board members shared background about the picnic property and updates on current Gorge threats and opportunities. Thanks to all the attendees and volunteers who made this another memorable picnic! ■

Inspiring the Next Generation!

For the eighth year in a row, sixth-graders from the Washougal School District had the thrill of taking part in the *Explore the Gorge* Youth Outdoor Education Program, organized by Friends in June. Almost three hundred students spent a day hiking and learning about the natural history of the Gorge at Hamilton Mountain, Beacon Rock State Park, and Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge, building on students' sense of place to develop a land stewardship ethic.

Our goal is to educate youth and provide powerful memories that will inspire participants to support Gorge protection as adults. To volunteer in the 2016 program, contact Kate Lindberg at katel@gorgefriends.org. ■

Some of our 2015 Explore the Gorge program participants.

Photo: Michael Horodyski / 500px.com/mjhpdx



Members Enjoy Early Registration for Fall Outings

Registration opens on August 31 for Friends members only. General registration begins September 4. www.gorgefriends.org/hikes

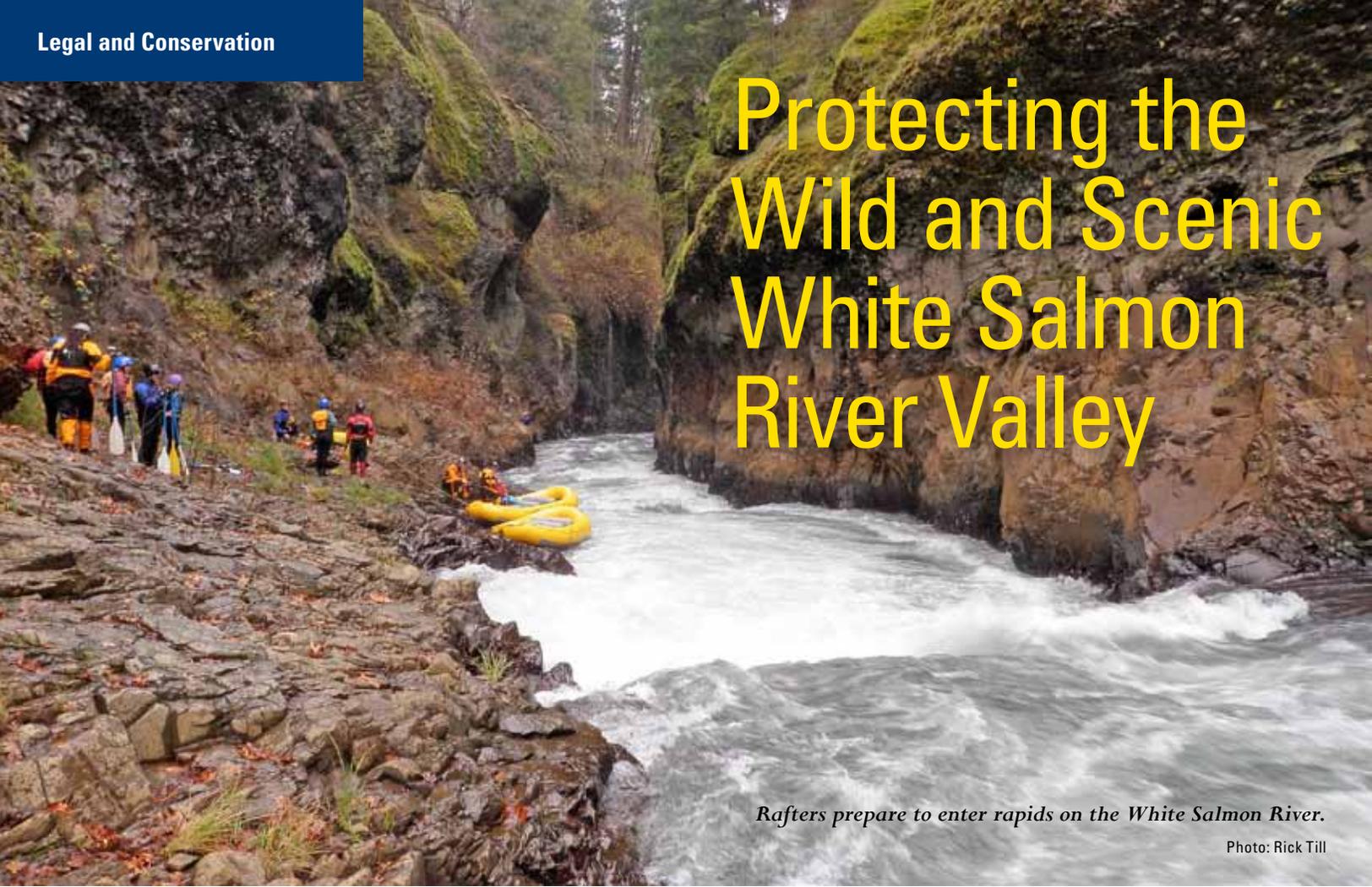
Mark Your Calendar for These Great Events

These Friends events will round out the year!

- Sat. Sept. 12** Hike Season Kicks Off (ends Nov. 4)
- Wed. Sept. 23** *Gorge on Tap* in The Dalles
- Thurs. Oct. 1** *An Evening with Friends* Conservator & Guardians Appreciation Event
- Wed. Oct. 21** Guest Speaker & Rain Exhibit at Center for the Arts in Hood River
- Tues. Nov. 17** *Gorge on Tap* in Portland

Check our calendar for all current events at www.gorgefriends.org/calendar.

Protecting the Wild and Scenic White Salmon River Valley



Rafters prepare to enter rapids on the White Salmon River.

Photo: Rick Till

Rick Till, Conservation Legal Advocate, rick@gorgefriends.org

In a positive move supporting scenic and environmental values, Klickitat County recently repealed a controversial zoning ordinance that would have allowed residential sprawl across roughly one

thousand acres of land along the Lower White Salmon Wild and Scenic River.

In 2013, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Friends of the White Salmon River successfully challenged the Husum/

BZ Corner Subarea Plan Update and Rezone in Clark County Superior Court. The court ruled that Klickitat County violated the State Environmental Policy Act by not preparing an environmental impact statement that fully disclosed the environmental impacts of the rezone. The county took that decision to the Washington Court of Appeals, which was deliberating on its decision when the county abruptly repealed the rezone in July and reinstated the prior Resource Land zoning.

The reinstated Resource Land zoning is not perfect, but it limits the amount of residential development that can occur along the White Salmon River and numerous small tributaries that provide critical cold water for spawning salmon and steelhead. Limiting residential sprawl also prevents



An aerial view of the White Salmon River Valley near Husum; outline denotes the temporarily rezoned area. Photo: Rick Till

Oil Trains Threaten the Columbia River Gorge

Friends challenges weak new safety rules

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

fragmentation of wildlife habitat and protects valuable farm and forest lands from incompatible land uses.

Since the removal of Condit Dam in 2011, salmon and steelhead have returned to historic habitat in the White Salmon River that had been blocked by the dam for a hundred years. The county's rezone would have allowed a significant increase in residential development and associated wells and septic systems along the most valuable river habitat above the former dam site.

In addition to its value as salmon habitat, the White Salmon is also an important recreational resource. Along with its challenging whitewater, the river provides a spectacular scenic experience that could have been degraded under the County's rezone. Several local outdoor businesses offer guided rafting trips that provide opportunities to safely explore the river while supporting the local economy. The White Salmon is a challenging whitewater river, so only experienced paddlers should explore the river without a professional guide.

Friends is pleased with Klickitat County's recent decision. The reinstated Resource Land zoning will better protect the Wild and Scenic White Salmon River. ■

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and six other environmental groups filed a lawsuit challenging new oil train safety rules adopted by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Friends is represented by Earthjustice in the litigation.

The final rules are intended to address the dramatic increase in rail transportation of crude oil that has resulted in numerous accidents, oil spills, and explosions, and forty-seven fatalities in the past three years. According to Sightline Institute, oil-by-rail has increased fifty-seven-fold in the United States since 2010. Nearly all of this oil – mostly highly flammable Bakken oil – is being transported in tank cars never intended for hazardous fuels.

Fifteen oil-by-rail terminals and refineries in the Northwest are either in the permitting stage, under construction, or currently operating. According to Sightline, if all of these facilities are built and operate at full capacity, they will service more than one hundred oil trains every week, with ninety to a hundred tank cars per train, each car holding thirty thousand gallons of crude oil. Most, if not all, of these oil trains would travel through the Columbia River Gorge.

Dangerous loopholes

The new DOT safety rules only apply to "high hazard flammable" trains, defined as trains carrying thirty-five or more oil tank cars. These high hazard trains are allowed to continue using unsafe DOT 111 and CPC 1232 railcars until 2025. New tank cars would be required to have side puncture thresholds of 12 mph and head puncture ratings of 18 mph. However, the final rules set speed limits for "high hazard" trains at 50 mph across the country and 40 mph in a few high hazard areas – several times higher than the puncture thresholds for new tank cars. Several recent oil train derailments that resulted in spills and explosions occurred at speeds below 40 mph. The new rules also gut public notification requirements currently in place to inform communities of oil-by-rail shipments.

Meanwhile, Friends and the Stand Up to Oil coalition continue to oppose the Tesoro Savage terminal proposed on the banks of the Columbia River in Vancouver, which would be the largest oil-by-rail terminal in the country. Stay tuned for more citizen opportunities to protect the Gorge from oil trains. ■



Millions of gallons of volatile crude oil pass through the Gorge regularly in unsafe tank cars. Photo: Randa Cleaves

Kate Harbour, Membership Coordinator
kateh@gorgefriends.org

Volunteer Reshapes *Explore the Gorge* Youth Program

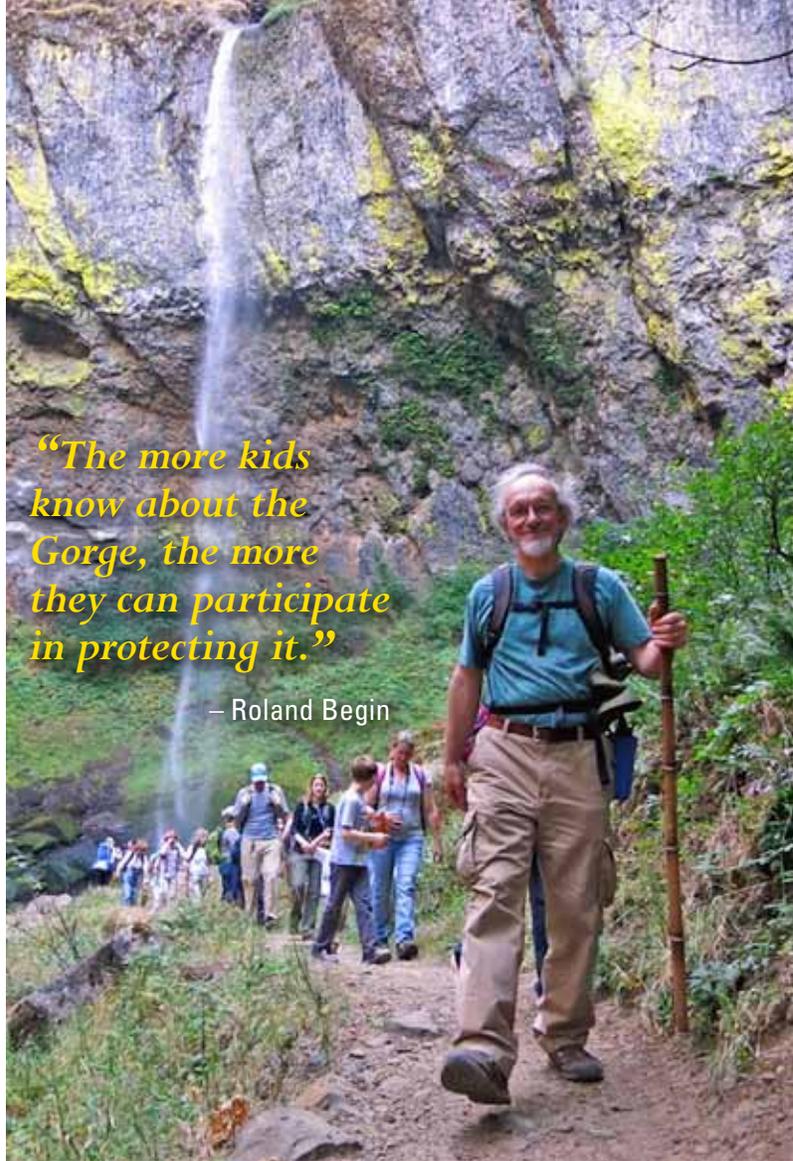
Getting 258 middle-schoolers to sit in silence for five minutes is no small feat – especially on a sunny day when summer vacation is only a few days away. But it happened at our *Explore the Gorge* program for Washougal school kids this past June. Students closed their eyes and listened intently, taking in all the sounds around them.

This magical moment was the result of careful planning by volunteer Roland Begin. Roland was new to Friends last year when he first volunteered for *Explore the Gorge*. Noticing how students’ attention wandered in the afternoon, he set out to

improve the program for the following spring. The “quiet observation” exercise was one of several new activities Roland designed to help the students stay immersed in the wonder of the Gorge for an entire day.

A retired educator, Roland now devotes his to time volunteering with youth, because that’s where he sees the greatest opportunities: “The more kids know about the Gorge, the more they can participate in protecting it.”

A huge thank you to Roland and all our youth program volunteers for inspiring our next generation of Gorge protectors! ■



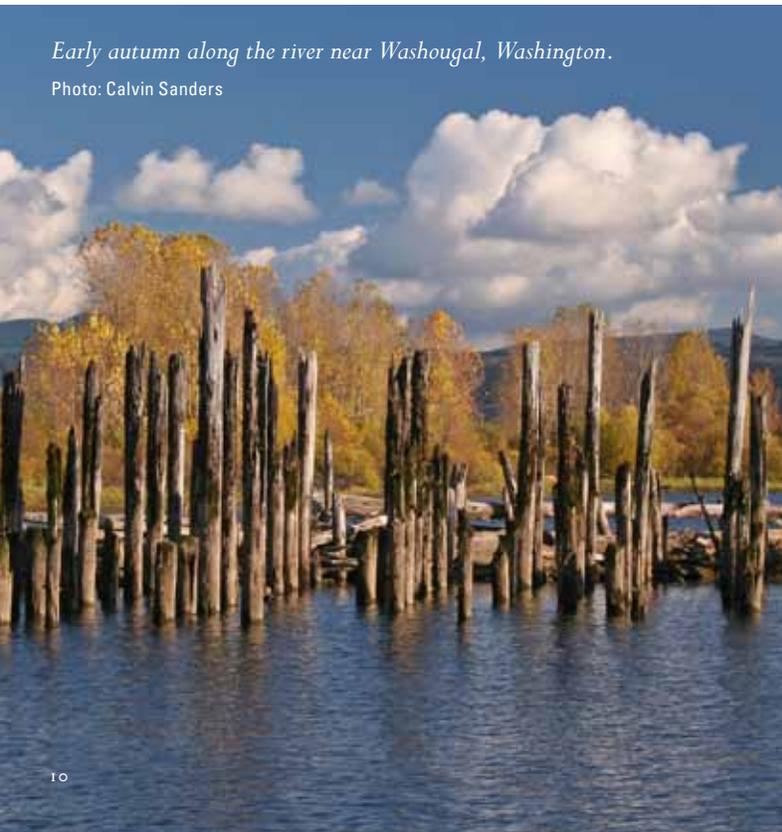
“The more kids know about the Gorge, the more they can participate in protecting it.”

– Roland Begin

Roland Begin leading a family hike in the Gorge. Photo: Mike Drewry

Early autumn along the river near Washougal, Washington.

Photo: Calvin Sanders



Creating a Legacy



Photo: Ramsay Weit

Kathleen McHarg has almost as many passions as there are wildflowers in the Gorge. A master gardener who supports community gardens, a world traveler who always seems to be between trips, and an active volunteer who writes grants for nonprofits, she is always engaged!

We met Kathleen because she’s an avid hiker and is passionate about fighting coal and oil trains. We were honored to learn that, with all her interests, Kathleen decided to leave her legacy here, in the Gorge, by including Friends in her estate plans. When asked why she decided to make such a generous gift, she responded simply, “Because I really do believe it’s a priceless treasure that needs as much protection as possible.”

Thanks to Kathleen, Friends will be able to continue our work to safeguard the Gorge for generations to come. To learn more about creating your own Gorge legacy, contact Pam Davee at pam@gorgefriends.org or 971-634-2036 or visit our website at www.gorgefriendslegacy.org. ■

Featured Outing:

So Many Hikes, Such Easy Access!

Renee Tkach, *Gorge Towns to Trails* Project Manager, renee@gorgefriends.org

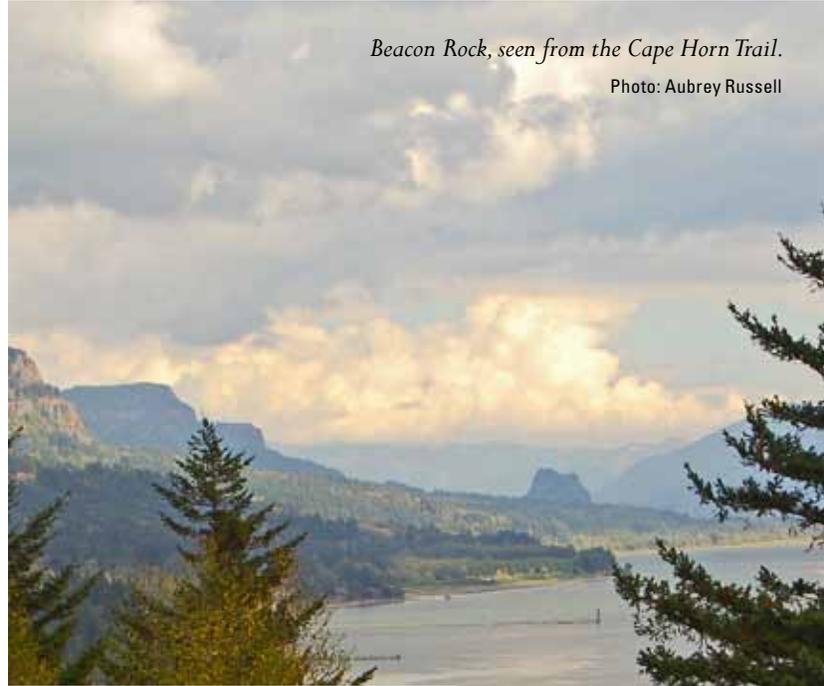
On many weekends, it seems like everyone is out enjoying the Columbia Gorge. This can mean a lot of cars on the road as well as a hassle finding safe, legal parking at some of the Gorge's most popular trailheads.

A solution? Don't drive! For just \$4 a day, the newly launched Skamania County WET (West End Transit) bus service helps you avoid parking problems, save gas money, and reduce your carbon footprint! This year, the WET Bus runs on weekends through October 11. Friends of the Columbia Gorge is a partner in this unique service, in keeping with our *Gorge Towns to Trails* goal of promoting sustainable recreation.

The WET Bus takes you to nine trailheads and communities in the heart of the Gorge, with connections to TriMet and C-TRAN for Portland and Vancouver riders. You can even bring your bike or dog! To help you get the most out of the WET Bus experience, Friends and partners have created bus/hike itineraries for the following destinations:

- Beacon Rock
- Cape Horn
- Dog Mountain
- Pacific Crest Trail (PCT)
- Sams Walker Trail
- PCT Backpacking: Timberline Lodge to Bridge of the Gods

Go to gorgefriends.org/WETBus to access schedules and itineraries. Please let us know about your WET Bus experience – and send photos!



Beacon Rock, seen from the Cape Horn Trail.

Photo: Aubrey Russell



Photo: Courtesy of Skamania County West End Transit

Special Gifts

April 31, 2015 – July 23, 2015

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL ANDERSON
KRISTIN ANDERSON

IN HONOR OF DEBBIE ASAKAWA
GERI BERG
KELLEY AND BROUGHTON BISHOP
JOHN AND BARBARA DEGENHARDT
SHIRLEY INGRAM
KELLYE JUST
SUZANNE McNALLY
CHRISTOPHER MURRAY
AND CARLA CHIOTTI
JOLETTE OWEN
ELLEN STEARNS
BARBARA WHITMORE

IN HONOR OF PETER FROTHINGHAM
GEORGE AND MARGO EARLEY

IN HONOR OF GIGI GREENSTADT
FRIENDS OF GIGI GREENSTADT

IN HONOR OF ANNIE HARTMAN
AND BRUCE PAULSON
AMANDA AND BENJAMIN COLLETT

IN HONOR OF ANN HUTCHINS
DICK KAISER

IN MEMORY OF
MARY LOUISE ALTSTADT
BROUGHTON AND MARY BISHOP

IN MEMORY OF MICHAELINE BARATTA
AARON BURCHFIELD

IN MEMORY OF VIC CLAUSEN
SIDNEY CLAUSEN AND ROBIN REXIUS

IN MEMORY OF OLIVER DALTON
SANDI AND TOM ROUSSEAU

IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY KELTNER
KATHY BARSHAW
BROUGHTON AND MARY BISHOP
C.M. AND MARY BISHOP
JOHN BISHOP

IN MEMORY OF JEAN LYNCH
VIRGINIA HERNDON

IN MEMORY OF
MARY LAURA MACGREGOR
BROUGHTON AND MARY BISHOP

IN MEMORY OF HANNAH MAY
MARGIE AND JERRY TUCKER

IN MEMORY OF BUDDY NOBLES
CARRIE NOBLES

IN MEMORY OF DON ORAZEM
MARGARET ORAZEM

IN MEMORY OF TOM PARKER
ELIZABETH BELLES

IN MEMORY OF NANCY RUSSELL
SANDI AND TOM ROUSSEAU
PATRICIA SCHLEUNING

IN MEMORY OF MARCO SCARPETTA
ALEX AND CLARE VONDERHAAR

IN MEMORY OF KJELL SPORSEEN
MARILYN PAULSON

IN MEMORY OF JANICE STAVER
JENNIFER HOHENLOHE

IN MEMORY OF JOHN K. VITAS
PAT TOWLE

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW WINTHROP
LORING AND MARGARET WINTHROP



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Know Your Gorge

Simon Benson's Legacy

This September marks a significant one-hundredth anniversary in Gorge protection. In September 1915, the City of Portland celebrated a remarkable gift made possible by timber baron and philanthropist Simon Benson. By making generous donations of land and providing additional financial support, Benson enabled the city to acquire hundreds of acres of Gorge lands, including Multnomah Falls, Wahkeena Falls, and the land that is now Benson State Recreational Area. In the late 1930s, the city deeded all of these lands to Oregon State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service.

Benson had had a hand in developing the lovely Columbia River Highway, and he anticipated that commercial development would follow, so he helped ensure public ownership of lands along the highway specifically to ensure their preservation for the public.

Benson's gifts were key to preserving what has become the most iconic spot along the Columbia River. Plunging 620 feet, the majestic, tiered Multnomah Falls is Oregon's most popular natural attraction, visited by 2.5 million people each year. The elegant footbridge above the lower cascade, built in 1914 at Benson's direction, bears his name today and is featured in countless photographs.

Simon Benson's forward-thinking conservation campaign was a landmark event for the Columbia Gorge. One hundred years ago, Benson not only influenced Oregon to invest in roads to accommodate automobiles, he also strongly promoted preservation of the Columbia Gorge so its natural wonders could be appreciated by all. ■



*The Benson Bridge
at Multnomah Falls.*

Photo: James Unkov