

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

FALL 1985

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A consensus between Oregon and Washington Senators regarding federal Gorge legislation is extremely close to being reached. Whether that consensus will be sufficiently strong to protect the area or will be yet another failed attempt depends on what the Senators hear from their constituents *in the next three weeks*.

I urge each one of our members to call or write their Senators as soon as possible — even if you have never contacted your Senators' offices before — if you care about the future of the Gorge.

Senator Evans has recently floated a two-tiered management proposal for the Gorge. Unfortunately, that proposal leaves management over approximately half of the Gorge to a twelve-member Lake Tahoe-type commission, half of whose members would be appointed by the local county commissions. The other half of the Gorge — most of which is already in public ownership — would be managed by the U.S. Forest Service, which also would have the authority to accept or reject the commission's management plan.

As disappointing as that proposal is, we believe a workable bill could be achieved with several modifications, including:

- the assurance that specific and strongly protective criteria are provided in the legislation to establish standards for the management plan;
- the establishment of an enforcement mechanism to ensure Commission compliance with its management plan;
- the establishment of strong interim protection (before acceptance of a management plan);
- the establishment of a strong role for the National Park Service in the Gorge — particularly with respect to the creation of a management plan; and
- protection for Gorge tributaries.

Probably the two most important Senators to contact, because of their interest and flexibility, are Washington's Slade Gorton and Oregon's Mark Hatfield. Oregon's Senator Bob Packwood continues to lead the fight for the strongest possible protection.

If you live in Washington, please contact Senator Gorton:

Slade Gorton
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(Wash. D.C. phone: (202) 224-2621)
(Seattle phone: (206) 442-5545)

Senator Gorton, who will stand for reelection next year, has expressed an interest in protecting the Gorge, but has *not* heard enough from his constituents.

If you are an Oregon resident, please contact Senator Mark Hatfield:

Mark Hatfield
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(Wash. D.C. phone: (202) 224-3753)
(Portland phone: (503) 221-3386)

Senator Hatfield has been a strong Gorge supporter from the beginning but also must hear from his constituents at this crucial time.

Please call or write today! Rest assured, opponents to any protection for the Gorge will be contacting the Senators! Your calls and letters *will* make the difference between having a bill which will protect the Gorge and a bill which will not — in which case our organization will stand ready to defeat such a bill.

While legislative discussions have been continuing, Senator Hatfield and Representative Les AuCoin have been playing extremely important roles in providing money for the acquisition of critical Gorge lands. Senator Hatfield, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Representative AuCoin, as an influential member of the House Interior Appropriations subcommittee, have been very effective in directing much sought-after acquisition funds to the Gorge.

Of course, during the legislative discussions and appropriation actions, development efforts have been continuing unabatedly. The Shorelines Hearings Board has not yet ruled on the Friends' appeal of the 83 lot Jung subdivision on Skamania County wetlands, and the Port of Hood River is moving forward with its plans to develop Wells Island — one of the most important habitat areas in the entire Columbia River Gorge. Meanwhile, short plats, residential construction on scenic overlooks and new mobile homes sprout daily in the Gorge.

Clark County Fair

Dedicated volunteers deserve unlimited thanks for their contributions of time and enthusiasm to the FOCG booth at the Clark County Fair August 3-11.

Forty-three workers filled 54 shifts of 4 or 5-hour length. For many this was the second or third year of Friends' booth service, and most felt that public awareness of Gorge preservation efforts and support for strong federal legislation is rapidly increasing. Hundreds of fairgoers eagerly signed mini-petitions to Washington's Governor Gardner and Senators Gorton and Evans calling for their strong leadership in Gorge preservation efforts.

*Dona King
Chairman — Clark County Fair*

Thanks Les

In July, Congressman Les AuCoin earmarked one million dollars in the most recent House Appropriations Bill for the Forest Service to acquire Columbia Gorge inholdings in both the Mt. Hood and the Gifford Pinchot National Forests.

We are most appreciative of Congressman AuCoin's continuing support both of the proposed National Scenic Area and in regard to appropriations.

Calendars!!!

The brand new Gorge calendars are ready for you to order. The price is \$8.95 plus \$1.55 for postage and handling. Hurry and order them for yourself and friends.



Seattle News

The biggest news in the Seattle office was a very strong editorial in the Seattle PI on September 7, 1985, urging Senators Evans and Gorton to join Seattle Mayor Royer and Governor Gardner on the Gorge preservation bandwagon. Charles Royer, along with Bryce Seidl, Mayor of Vancouver, and Portland Mayor Bud Clark all proclaimed their support for the preservation of the Columbia River Gorge and issued proclamations declaring September 7 COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE SUPPORT DAY.

Nancy Russell, our chairperson, will be in Seattle on October 10th speaking on the historical aspects of the Columbia Gorge for the National Trust's 39th National Preservation Conference. She will be speaking from 3:45 to 5:15 at the Westin Hotel.

Membership is growing fast in the Washington area. Thank you for your continued support and efforts on behalf of the preservation of the Columbia River Gorge.

*Kristine Simenstad-Mackin
Associate Director Seattle*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL 1985

September 3 through October 6

— Washington State University, Pullman, Museum of Art exhibit: *Wild Beauty: Photographs of the Columbia River Gorge, 1865-1915*; and "The Columbia River Gorge: Who Is Watching?" multimedia slide show.

September through November

15 — Maryhill Museum, *Cowboys and Indians: Paintings of the American West*. Other activities are planned to accompany the exhibit. Phone (509) 773-4792.

September 28 — Fall Hikes sponsored by Friends of the Columbia Gorge begin!! See schedule attached.

September 29 — Catherine Creek Celebration Columbia Gorge Coalition Pot Luck, Bluegrass music. Phone (509) 773-4792.

October 4, 5, 6 — The Dalles Fall Festival 85 Triathlon, stage production and more. For details, The Dalles Chamber of Commerce, (503) 296-2231.

October 12 & 13 — Hood River Fall Festival celebrates the harvest: fresh pears, apples, honey, crafts, and much more. Canary Square in Hood River.

October — Audubon Society Classes begin: wildlife study, nature photography, etc. Advanced registration required (503) 292-6855 for information.

November 6 — *ATTILA*, film premiere: the life and triumphs of George Attla, Athapascan Indian, southeast Alaska. The success of *Chariots of Fire* in the land of *Never Cry Wolf*. Eastgate Theater at 7:00 PM, sponsored by the Portland Audubon Society.

November 5 — Maryhill Museum closes for the new season.

December 7 & 8 — Audubon Society Bird Seed Day sales at Audubon House.

December 7 & 8 — Audubon Society's Arts and Crafts Fair, (503) 292-6855.

December — Columbia Gorge Coalition Book — Signing Fair. Date to be announced.

Friends of the Col



Multnomah Falls.

Courtesy of Mazamas.

SEPTEMBER 28 (Sat.)

Ramona Falls (Ore.) West side of Mt. Hood, along the Sandy River. Four miles round trip. An easy and fun hike. Approx. 3 hours.

Audubon Society of Vancouver, Wa.: Craig and Carol Peterson (206) 892-2886. Meet 8 AM at the Vancouver Library, Mill Plain, to carpool. Meet at 9 AM at the Ramona Falls Trailhead.

SEPTEMBER 29 (Sun.)

Ruckel Creek Trail (Ore.) A steep and challenging 5.5 mile round trip through pleasant woods and rocky area with prehistoric Indian Pits. Hike up to spectacular meadows. Elevation gain 2,100 feet.

Dr. Bob Miller (503) 297-1601. Meet 7:45 AM at the Vancouver Library to carpool or 8:30 a.m. at DMV.*

OCTOBER 5 (Sat.)

Angels Rest (Ore.) A steady climb of 1600 feet to a rocky outcropping with outstanding views. Hike 5 miles.

Chemeketans: Gene Williams (503) 364-2401. Meet at DMV at 8:30 AM or the Angels Rest trailhead at 9 AM.

OCTOBER 6 (Sun.)

Latourell Falls (Ore.) Switchback trails, wooden footbridges, several waterfalls, and columnar basalt towers enhance this delightful hike.

Mt. Saint Helens Club: Mary Ellen Covert (206) 425-1668. Meet at the Longview Public Library at 8 AM or the Latourell Parking area on the Old Scenic Highway at 9:30 AM.

OCTOBER 12 (Sat.)

Catherine Creek (Wash.) A very special hike with herpetologists Chip Rahr and Al St. John in search of some of the most beautiful and elusive of the Gorge's reptiles. You will be passing through transition

Columbia Gorge

FALL HIKES September 28 to November 11

Douglas Fir forest to oak savanna and visit a breathtaking natural stone arch. Bring long pants, boots, binoculars and cameras.

Chip Rahr (503) 227-4862. Meet at 10 AM at the Hood River Inn parking lot, Exit 64 at Hood River off I-84, eastbound.

OCTOBER 13 (Sun.)

Oneonta Loop (Ore.) An easy to moderate hike of 3 miles. There will be frequent stops to view plants and animals; so bring your binoculars and camera.

Portland Audubon Society: Mike Houck (503) 292-6855. Meet at 11 AM across from the sign stating Oneonta Trail. Eastbound, take Bridal Veil exit off I-84, proceed on Scenic Highway 2.0 miles east of Multnomah Falls. Westbound, go 1.8 miles west of Ainsworth Park exit 35. Carpool from Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife parking lot, SW 6th and Mill St. at 10:00 AM.

OCTOBER 13 (Sun.)

Tunnel Falls (Ore.) This 12 mile round trip, 1,080' elevation gain hike will traverse the steep bluff above Eagle Creek. Metlako Falls, Punch Bowl Falls, and Tunnel Falls will be viewed during this moderately strenuous hike.

Sierra Club, Loo-Wit group: Cynthia Hovezak (206) 837-3323. Meet at 8 AM at Eagle Creek trailhead. Eastbound, Exit 41 on I-85. Westbound, take the Bonneville Exit.

OCTOBER 13 (Sun.)

Hamilton Mountain (Wash.) Very scenic trail featuring Pool of the Winds at Rodney Falls and spectacular views. Elevation gain, 2,400 feet, 8 miles round trip.

Vancouver Audubon Society: Carol Peterson (206) 892-2886. Meet at 8 AM at the Vancouver library or 7:30 AM at the Lloyd Center open parking lot, N.E. 17th and Multnomah, Portland.

OCTOBER 19 (Sat.)

Table Mountain (Wash.) A rugged hike to the flat-topped 3,420 foot summit. Rewarding view of many fascinating features of the Gorge and all the surrounding glaciated peaks. Walking stick recommended. Round trip 9 miles.

USFS. Wind River, WA.: John Forsberg (509) 427-5645. Meet at the Vancouver Library at 7:30 AM, or the Wash. side of the Bridge of the Gods at 8:30 AM.

OCTOBER 20 (Sun.)

Wahkeena Falls (Ore.) Perdition Trail Loop. A moderate 6.5 mile hike with side trips to various falls and viewpoints. 2200' elevation.

Mazamas: Virgil Velene (503) 664-1369. Meet at 8 AM at DMV* or 8:45 AM at Multnomah Lodge.

OCTOBER 26 (Sat.)

Horsetail Falls-Oneonta Loop (Ore.) A delightful hike up east bank of Oneonta Gorge. An idyllic spot near Triple Falls, 4 miles total.

Upward Trails Christian Wilderness Group: Mike Mann (503) 663-4432. Meet at Horsetail Falls parking lot at 9 AM. Carpool at DMV* at 8:00 AM.

NOVEMBER 2 (Sat.)

Dog Mountain (Wash.) Beautiful slopes a reward to those who climb this steep trail with 2,400 feet elevation gain. Remarkable Gorge views, 6 miles round trip.

USFS Wind River Ranger District: Joe Koshko (509) 427-5645. Meet at Dog Mountain, Wash. trailhead, Highway 14, 12 miles east of Bridge of the Gods, mile post 53.8. Carpool at DMV*, 8:45 AM.

NOVEMBER 3 (Sun.)

Hamilton Mountain (Wash.) Very scenic trail with glorious views of the Gorge and beautiful waterfalls

along the trail. 8 miles round trip with 2,400 foot elevation gain. Lug-soled boots and warm clothing recommended.

Sierra Club, Columbia Group: Ron Kinder (503) 638-4095. Meet at the Vancouver Library** at 8:30 AM or Beacon Rock 10 AM.

NOVEMBER 9 (Sat.)

Oneonta-Bell Creek-Horsetail Creek (Ore.) Bushwhack through heavy brush and old growth blowdown in the three mile Bell Creek loop scheduled to be built in 1986. Learn the basics of new trail layout and construction. Appropriate dress and conditioning a *must*. 11 miles total.

Meet 8:00 AM at Oneonta trailhead at Scenic Highway. Car shuttle to Larch Mountain picnic area. Roger Bell-USFS, Troutdale (503) 695-2800 (EU).

NOVEMBER 10 (Sun.)

Hamilton Mountain (Wash.) A moderately strenuous hike of 8 miles and an elevation gain of 2400'. The trail leads up to Rodney Falls, then along the northern ridgetop to an outstanding view of the Gorge. Lug-soled boots and warm clothing suggested.

John Neal, American Alpine Club (206) 246-7084. Meet at the DMV* at 8 AM, or The Charburger at 9 AM, Cascade Locks, Oregon.

NOVEMBER 23 (Sat.)

Eagle Creek (Ore.) A beautiful 6.8 mile round-trip hike with waterfalls and deep pools.

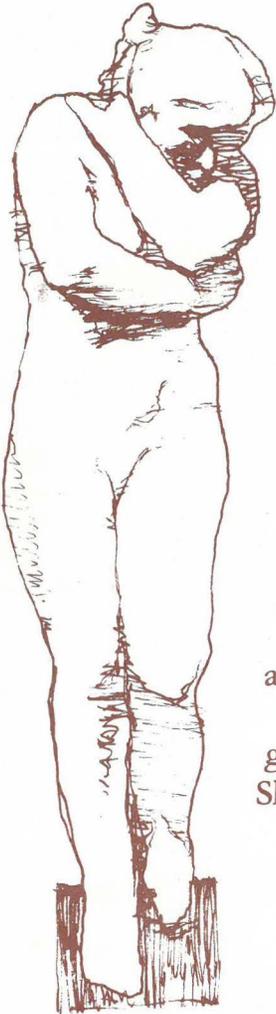
Vancouver Parks and Recreation (206) 696-8236. A small charge will be required. Please call VP&R for details.

*Department of Motor Vehicles parking lot, N.E. 60th and Glisan, Portland is a preferred carpooling location.

**Vancouver Library, the corner of Mill Plain and Fort Vancouver Highway.

Please feel free to call your hiking leaders for more information. All hikers should bring their own lunches.

The Range of Art



It is early morning in the northwest where the great wet cover of fall permits occasional ray-like wedges of lemon and amber in a mist of sky. A cup of tea steams on the window ledge. This weather front has pushed north on the inside of the Cascades, then up and over the mountains to drop its rain on the west slopes. Yet, just outside of Hood River, forty-five miles east, the sun could be shining.

Yesterday it was, when I drove through the Columbia River Gorge and crossed the Bridge of the Gods — the destination Maryhill Museum on the Washington side of the river. A small collection of Auguste Rodin sculptures is part of the exhibit. I visit them often.

In anticipation of the museum there is a transformation: here is where the human spirit brags and is not crushed. Here is where people have attempted to save what is best.

Part of the change is due to Maryhill Museum's view, sitting as it does on a treeless terrace above the Gorge. The view south is impaired only by one's own sense of horizon. The hills north of the building sink and rise like a tangle of giant fleshy thighs. Georgia O'Keeffe painted a similar scene, *Red Hills Grey Sky*. She could have painted it here in the first moment of daybreak, her paint box askew, the tubes of unnecessary color fallen amidst the dry bunchgrass.

I am possessive of this place, as if the land and the sky are mine. And it is Eve, the Maryhill Eve, that encourages and befriends me. I pay at the entrance and hurry upstairs.

This Eve is the working plaster Rodin planned for his *Gates of Hell*, a monumental work unfinished in his lifetime.

She is slightly larger than life, 7'x2'x2½'. Eve's arms, stomach, hips, and part of her back and legs are marked with tiny X's. The museum brochure assures us that they are reference points for a system of transposing the sculpture to a marble version.

The model for Eve was an Italian, "... a particularly beautiful model with full and elastic muscle." After Rodin noticed the body dimensions were growing larger at each sculpturing session, the model admitted she was pregnant and left before the sessions were complete.

Others have given Rodin's Eve meaning by suggesting the slight fullness between the hips and groin make her the "Mother of Humanity." But what did she think about during the tedious hours of holding one pose? She was probably not included in the studio conversations. Perhaps she was thinking about a personal dilemma; she could have been desperate. There is really no way of knowing how she felt; it was 1881 when the study was made. It was just a part of life; she went away, her name unknown.

A few years ago someone decided the *Maryhill Eve* needed protection so she is in a plexiglass case. The case stands away from the wall, permitting the viewer to see front, both sides, and the back.

Her arms wrap around her body; the right hand reaches to where her back curves, slightly above the hip. The left arm reaches up to the right side of her face forming a "v" for her head to bow into. Her left palm is turned outward as if to motion us. What — stay back! I'm not sure. The shoulder, neck and head fall forward. The chin and mouth are partially hidden by her raised arm. The face is our face — a mother's, a daughter's, a sister's, a friend's; the face belongs to any woman.

Mary E. Soden

Footnote to History: Flying the Gorge

The year was 1927. In the early afternoon of September 12th at Cascade Locks, Oregon, the toll gate keeper on the Bridge of the Gods glanced upriver and saw a small plane approaching low over the water. Apparently, he was planning to fly under the bridge. But between the bridge and the plane were three high tension lines stretched across the river, unmarked, almost invisible. The keeper watched in growing horror as the plane came on, then saw it rise lightly over the wires, dip under the bridge and, rising gracefully over the rapids, disappear downriver. He had seen "Lindy" taking a short sight-seeing detour on his way from Seattle to Portland. Minutes later, right on time, Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh landed at Swan Island Airport in Portland to a welcome befitting the great American hero of the times.

And what a welcome! All stops were out. Businesses closed at noon, and schools recessed for the day. Mayor George Baker of Portland and Oregon Governor Isaac Patterson headed an official welcoming committee of 400 at Swan Island waving handkerchiefs and shouting, "Lindbergh, Lindbergh, Lindbergh," as he "landed like a feather." Julius Meier's yacht, *Grace*, took the "lone eagle" to the Battleship Oregon where a parade to Multnomah Stadium commenced. Crowds lined the parade route to the stadium where 10,000 citizens waited. Less than four months had passed since May 20th when Lindbergh had left Roosevelt Field, Long Island, for his thirty-six and one-half hour flight to Paris. Lindbergh fever was clearly at its peak.

Our Gorge oldtimer, Tex Sloat, remembers those days when pilots were heroes and Varney Air Lines flew the mail through the Gorge in 40-A Boeing mail planes. Sloat's report follows:

The Varney pilots were mountain fliers, flying by the seat of their pants over what was called the most dangerous air mail route in the world, The Columbia Gorge. During the winter the weather would often sock in and visibility would be zero. In fact there was a story that the mail plane had scoured the Gorge out a little deeper. On a given winter night the residents of Hood River would hear the drone of a mail plane and would go outside to listen, fearfully knowing that Mt. Defiance was nearby and almost a mile high.

A short wave radio listener might hear the following conversation from the pilot talking to his base in Portland, "I believe I am over Hood River." The dispatcher would reply, "You are over Hood River, and we will light up the bar." Several people would rush to their autos and drive to the sand bar at the mouth of Hood River



*Col. Charles F. Lindbergh landed at Swan Island.
September 14, 1927* *Port of Portland Photo.*

and line up their headlights to provide a landing path of sorts. With no instruments other than a compass, the plane would roll to a stop on the long sand bar. It might be Joe Taff, the youngest licensed airmail pilot, in his early twenties. Removing his "Teddy Bear" flying togs and other layers of clothing, he would hand his 45 Colt automatic to someone who would stay with the mail all night while he got some rest. Postal regulations required an armed guard at all times.

With the dawn the mail would be on its way to Portland.

Sixty years later it's a lot safer. The planes have grown bigger, but the heroes have grown smaller since that September day in 1927 when Charles Lindbergh swept under the Bridge of the Gods and passed out of sight over the Cascade rapids with the grace of a butterfly.

Nancy Russell, with thanks to Tex Sloat

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Winds of the Gorge

Fall, 1985

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