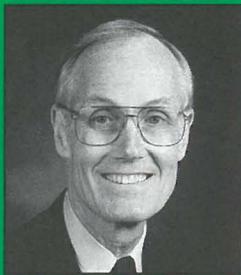


October 1997 Newsletter

## Senators Make Columbia Gorge Land Purchase Top Priority

*Friends, Landowners Join in Coalition*



Senators Slade Gorton (top) and Patty Murray are supporting purchase of important Gorge lands offered for sale by Gorge landowners. Public purchase of these lands will meet the needs of landowners and protect pastoral farm and forest lands across from Oregon's Crown Point, native wildflowers and geologic wonders of the Catherine Creek-Major Creek watershed, and forested stream corridors that provide habitat for native fish.



Below: This spectacular vista is planned to be the centerpiece of a new Gorge park in Washington state, linked by an extensive new trail system.

*"We want to continue our work with this partnership in the years ahead to ensure fairness to landowners and permanent protection for the Gorge's scenic beauty and wild places."*

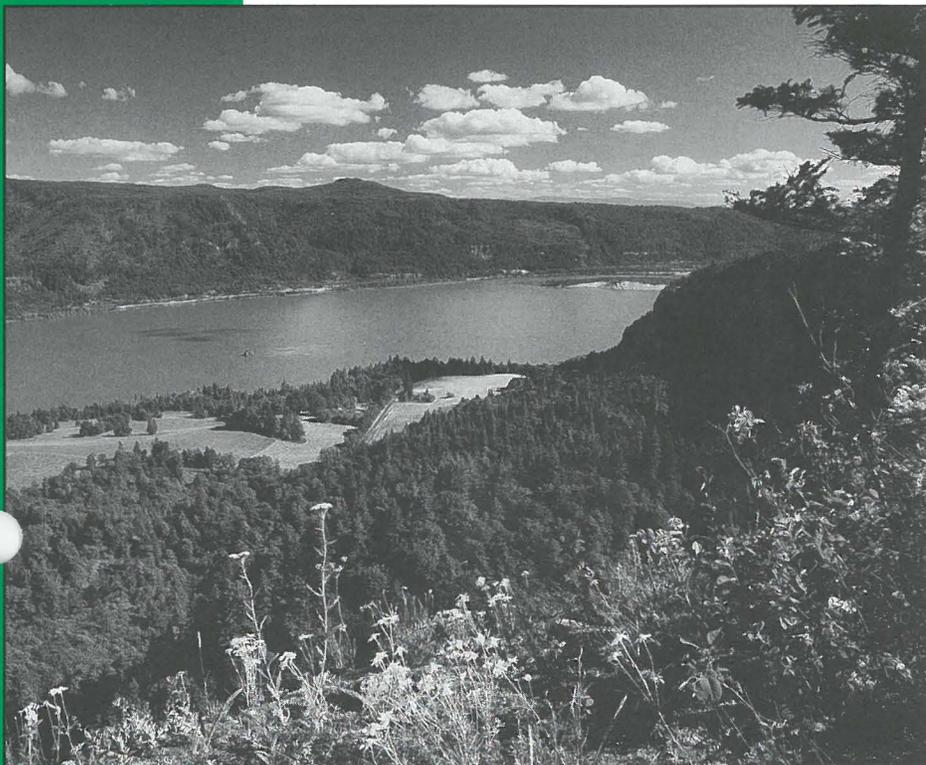
As this newsletter goes to press, it appears that landowners and landscapes in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area will benefit from an \$8 million appropriation proposed by Senator Slade Gorton and supported by Senators Patty Murray, Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden.

The funding, included by Gorton in the U.S. Forest Service's budget for fiscal year 1998, is to be used to acquire lands the Forest Service has determined are essential to protecting vistas and natural resources in the Scenic Area. The funding is supported by Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the Gorge Fair Deal Committee, a group of Gorge landowners.

Lauri Aunan, Executive Director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, noted the funding proposal has been supported by many members of the Northwest congressional delegation and urged these supporters to continue their efforts.

"The timing of this appropriation is critical. Delaying the identified land acquisition projects threatens the 10 years of work and \$40 million federal investment already made in the Scenic Area," said Aunan. "We applaud Senator Gorton's recognition of these important acquisitions."

The \$8 million will include protection for pastoral farm and forest lands directly across the Columbia River from Oregon's Crown Point, native wildflowers and geologic wonders of the Catherine Creek-Major Creek watershed just east of White



# Executive Director's Letter

**O**ur cover story in this issue highlights Senator Gorton's leadership for increased protection for Gorge lands and landowners. The Senator's strong support for this program is very good news, as is his support for funding payments to local governments, new trail construction, and new opportunities for economic development in Skamania County at the site of the old Forest Service Wind River Nursery.

Unfortunately, the news is not so good for another key part of Gorge protection. Despite strong efforts by the governors of Oregon and Washington, the state legislatures slashed the Gorge protection budget for the Gorge Commission by about 40% — a drastic cut. This funding was diverted to Gorge counties (see story on page 4).

Without adequate funding, the Gorge Commission will be unable to carry out its responsibilities to protect the Gorge from illegal development, clearcutting, and mining. The Commission will be unable to evaluate whether natural and cultural resources are being protected or lost. Without adequate information, the Commission will be unable to make policy changes or take initiatives that are need to improve both protection and the economy. The Commission will be unable to provide broader forums to improve communication and working relationships among the many local governments, state and federal agencies, and citizens concerned about the Gorge.

Without the Gorge Commission, it will fall to the Gorge counties — and their increased funding — to step forward to see that the scenic, natural, cultural and recreation resources of the Gorge are protected for future generations. How will the counties meet the challenge? Will the counties take this opportunity to weaken Gorge protection guidelines during review of the Gorge Management Plan, starting in 1998? Will the counties follow Gorge protection guidelines in approving development? Will the counties enforce violations of Gorge protection laws?

With the continued support of our members and supporters, Friends will be monitoring new developments and letting you know how they will affect the Gorge.

Sincerely,

*Lauri Aunan*

Lauri Aunan  
Executive Director

*Vanishing farmland. Farmhouses and fields are disappearing at the western end of the Columbia River Gorge, replaced by trophy homes and suburban sprawl as development pressure intensifies. Will Gorge counties take steps to protect remaining farm lands, forests and open spaces?*

*Photo by Lauri Aunan*



# Gorge Watch

## Citizen Involvement Update



### Volunteers Make Gorge Appreciation Week a Success

Sponsored with the generous support of PGE, Friends' second annual Gorge Appreciation Week included more than 200 volunteers from throughout the Gorge and Portland/Vancouver area.

Participating schools included Mosier Elementary, Corbett Middle School, Central Catholic High School and Klickitat Middle and High Schools. With help from the Forest Service, Oregon State Parks and the Mazamas, volunteers planted trees, placed habitat boxes for songbirds, removed ivy from trees and restored vegetation.

"People of all ages are willing to participate as stewards of our parks and trails," said Kristin Reese, Outreach Director for Friends of the Columbia Gorge. "It is a real joy to work with interested educators and community leaders to have a positive impact."

Our heartfelt appreciation to Brendan Eiswerth, volunteer project coordinator, and Carmen Johnson and Ken Denis our volunteer photographers. We look forward to next year's Gorge Appreciation Week with new partners and projects and even more volunteers. ■

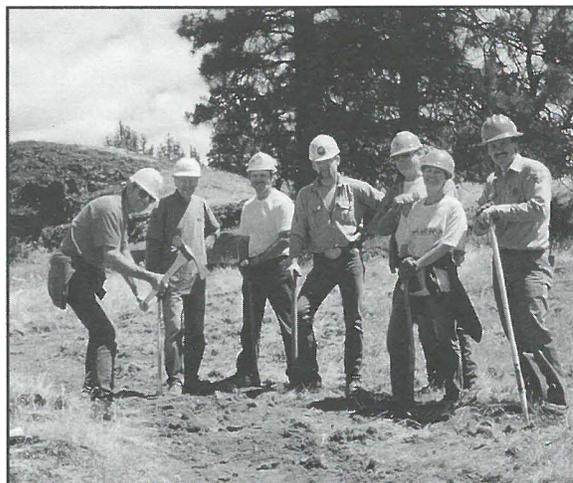
### Partnerships Build Catherine Creek Trail

by Kristin Reese

This spring, Friends teamed up with co-sponsors REI and the USDA Forest Service for a National Trails Day project. More than 100 volunteers helped build a "barrier free" trail at Catherine

Creek, Washington, to allow people of all abilities to enjoy the spectacular wildflowers and beautiful expansive views.

"It was wonderful to see ranchers and bankers and people from all walks of life participating side-by-side," said Marti Ebbert, outreach coordinator for REI and one of the organizers of the event, "Connecting People, Connecting Places is what National Trails Day is about for us."



The Back Country Horsemen joined Friends, REI, the Forest Service and many other volunteers to build a universal access trail on public land overlooking the

Many thanks to Friends members who gave their time and energy to be a part of the team. It was a great,



At Memaloose Park, Mosier Elementary School students pitch in to pull out invasive, non-native ivy, which can strangle trees and shrubs.

Photo by Ken Denis

productive day and your help really made a difference.

Please contact Friends of the Columbia Gorge for information about future trail projects. ■

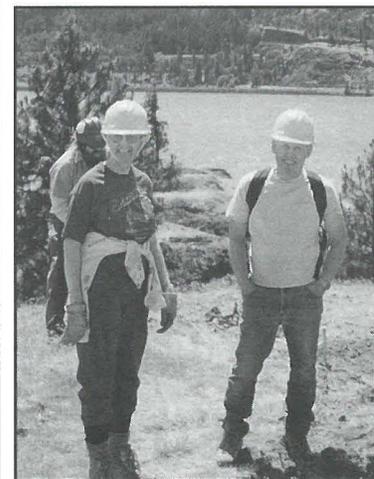


Photo by Kristin Reese

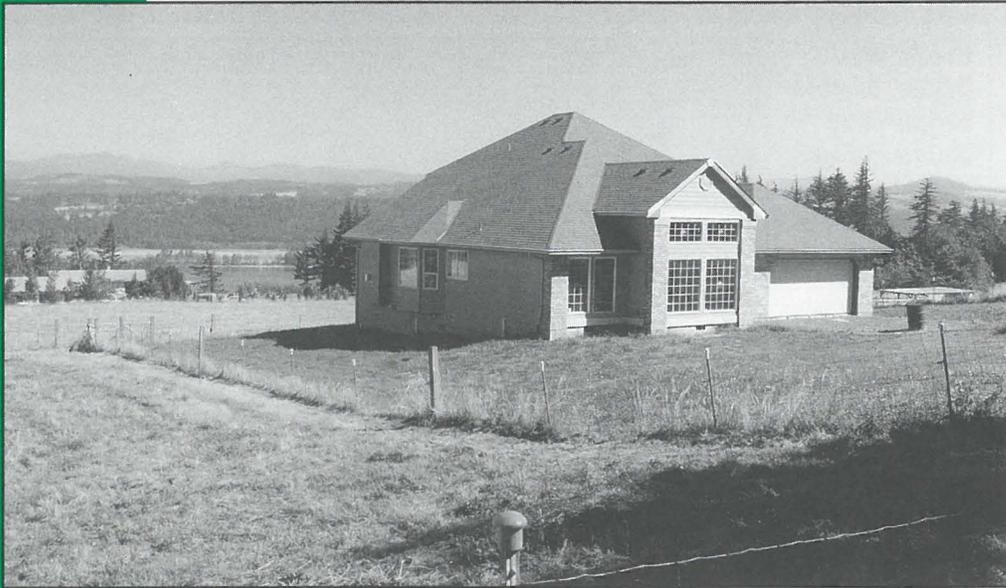
Friends members Connie and Mike Dana donned hard hats for the Catherine Creek trail-building project this spring.

continued on page 6

# Will Counties Protect the Columbia Gorge?

*State Legislatures Divert Gorge Protection Funding to Counties*

by Michael Lang



*The cumulative impacts from continued development affect scenic vistas, working farms and forests, wildlife habitat, and rivers and streams. This new development is one of many suburban dwellings recently built in Corbett. How will county governments respond to requests to allow even more subdivisions and development on sensitive Gorge lands?*

*Photo by Michael Lang*

Earlier this year, the Washington and Oregon legislatures slashed the Gorge protection budget of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, and diverted hundreds of thousands of dollars to Gorge counties. With its funding reduced, the Gorge Commission cut back its budget for enforcement of Gorge protection laws and weakened its environmental monitoring program.

At the same time, development — including unpermitted development — has accelerated in the Gorge. Since 1988, more than 1,000 new houses have been approved on rural lands in the National Scenic Area. Yet neither the Gorge Commission nor the counties have evaluated how this increasing development is affecting natural, scenic, cultural and recreation resources.

The development trends in the Gorge are cause for alarm. In 1996, Friends released a study, *The State of the Gorge 1996*, showing that growth and development of rural lands was occurring at more than double

the pace of growth in incorporated cities in the four Gorge counties. This trend is leading the Gorge to a future dominated by suburban sprawl, bedroom communities and paved-over farms and forests.

Part of the problem is lack of enforcement of current protection standards. In an attempt to balance Gorge protection and development, the Gorge Act allows new development in the Gorge to continue, under guidelines that seek to minimize damage to Gorge resources. For example, new development is required to be designed and built so that it blends into the landscape, instead of dominating the landscape. Gorge Act guidelines require developers to maintain undisturbed stream buffers to protect water quality and fish habitat.

Yet the balance between development and protection works only if developers comply with protection guidelines, and Gorge counties and the Gorge Commission enforce violations. Without compliance and enforcement, the framework for Gorge

protection begins to crumble.

Recent research conducted by Friends staff reveals disturbing patterns of land use, particularly at the west end of the Gorge located so close to the growing Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. In many cases, developers have failed to comply with the law, and the county governments have failed to enforce the law.

This pattern is becoming evident from Crown Point, one of the most visited viewing areas in the Columbia River Gorge. From this vista, visitors gaze over the Columbia River and the pastoral landscape of Mt. Pleasant and Cape Horn in Washington.

This fragile landscape is increasingly at risk. Recently, the Skamania County Planning Department approved new development on this landscape without following guidelines to protect sensitive resources and scenic views. To make matters worse, unpermitted developments are scattered across this significant landscape.

The Corbett area in eastern Multnomah County is also experiencing rapid development. Large trophy homes are being built on scenic land once zoned exclusively for agricultural use. Farm land — once protected under Oregon's land use laws — has been converted to development under weaker Gorge Act guidelines. Many new Corbett-area developments fail to meet guidelines for resource protection.

Continued violations of Gorge protection guidelines means loss of farm lands, forest lands, open spaces and scenic vistas in the Columbia River Gorge. With Gorge protection dollars diverted to Gorge counties, the counties will need to show they can do the

*continued on page 6*

# Conservator Party Attracts Friends' Major Donors

by Nancy Russell

On September 10 more than 50 Friends supporters gathered at the magnificent Columbia riverfront home of Kiki and Henry Hillman to enjoy our Annual Conservator Membership Party. The event was our most successful.

The Hillman residence is the former home of the Spencer Biddle family where Friends held a party on October 3, 1983, when Alice Biddle was still in residence. It is a very lovely home, and the Hillmans have retained all the charm of the place.

Following beer and wine cocktails donated by Jim Ellis of both Nor'Wester Beer and Willamette Valley Vineyards, and elegant food supplied by Charlie and Shirley Schubert, owners of the Beaverton Bakery, we gathered on the lawn to hear brief reports from Board Chairman John Reynolds and Executive Director Lauri Aunan.

To conclude the program, Jerry Igo of Mosier transformed himself into Hudson Bay Company man Ed Crate of Crate's Point and magically brought history alive for us.

We are grateful to Jeanne Norton for her volunteer catering, to John Marks the bartender, to Sheryl Acheson our greeter, to Helene Dick for flowers and hosting, to Marie Steinberg for her photos, and, most of all, we are grateful to the Hillmans for every helpful courtesy one can imagine. ■



Tori Hall (l) and hosts Henry Hillman and Kiki Hillman at the 1997 Conservators party.



"Ed Crate" arrives on the scene.

**Your bequest to Friends of the Columbia Gorge can Help Save the Gorge for the Next Generation**

**D**id you know that your will can be a simple and lasting way for you to support protection of the Columbia River Gorge? A bequest is one of the most forward-looking gifts you can give to Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Your thoughtful gift can help ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy and treasure the majesty and beauty of the Columbia River Gorge.

Please send information on ways to include Friends of the Columbia Gorge in my will.

I have included Friends of the Columbia Gorge in my will.

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

Address \_\_\_\_\_

---

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

---

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



Among the many guests: Standing: Marsha Livingstone, Michael Lang, Susan Grayson, Dave Cannard, Marilyn Deering, Tom Deering, Barbara Walker, Wendell Walker, Ernie Livingstone. Seated: Dede Killeen, Virginia Cannard, Edith Spady, Dorothy Burdick, Ed and Mary Vranizan.

# Land Purchase Top Priority

*continued from front cover*  
Salmon, Washington, and forested stream corridors which provide habitat for native fish. The funds are also earmarked to acquire 67 acres, including Pioneer Point high above Cape Horn offering unmatched vistas of Lower Cape Horn, the Cape Horn cliffs, Beacon Rock and Multnomah Falls.

The \$8 million was approved by the Senate. The House and Senate are expected to resolve their differences in the bill and send it to President Clinton for approval this fall.

The bill also includes funding for developing the first phases of a planned 45-mile trail from Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, across the top of Cape Horn, and on to Skamania Lodge.

The bill would also provide funding for payments to Gorge counties in lieu of property taxes, based on the value of lands purchased by the Forest Service under the National Scenic Area Act. A proposed exchange of land would also provide future economic opportunities for Skamania County and its residents.

"There are still thousands of acres that have been offered for sale by Gorge landowners, which need to be purchased to protect their special values," said Aunan. "We want to continue our work with this partnership in the years ahead to ensure fairness to landowners and permanent protection for the Gorge's scenic beauty and wild places."

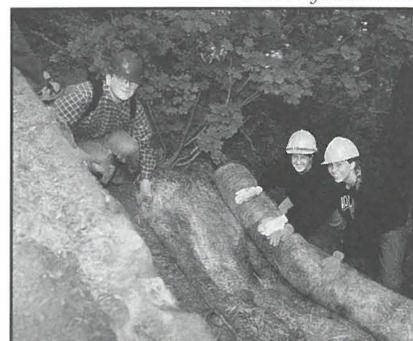
The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area was established with broad bipartisan support by Congress in 1986. During the past decade, the Forest Service has purchased more than 30,000 acres of land to provide public recreation and to protect critical habitat and scenic vistas. Senator Gorton was an original co-sponsor of the federal legislation establishing the Scenic Area. ■

## Will Counties Protect?

*continued from page 4*

job in protecting this national treasure. Will the counties ensure that developers follow the law? Will the counties follow protection guidelines in approving new developments? Will the counties evaluate whether Gorge resources are being protected or lost? Over the next year, Friends will be monitoring county actions and development approvals to determine whether the counties are protecting irreplaceable Gorge resources, or whether the counties are allowing the Gorge to be lost one piece at a time. ■

*Photo by Ken Denis*



*Teresa Hutchinson, Cece Dove and Chase Dubuck line the trails at Multnomah Falls to reduce off-trail foot traffic, which damages native plants and causes soil erosion.*

*continued from page 3*

## Gorge Watch

### Our Volunteers Know We Can't Do Without Them!

Thanks to our wonderful office volunteer Susan Wright who has been helping out on Friends' projects. Many thanks to our mailing party volunteers Roger & Helene Farnen, Cindy Humphreys, Ken & Felice Denis, Willow Houston, Loretta Johnston and Pat Sims. For staffing the Gorge Games table, thanks to Callie Jordan and Scott Chapman. ■

### A Call to Action

You have seen the articles and read the editorials about trouble in the Columbia Gorge. What is going on with the Gorge Commission? Attend a Gorge Commission meeting to find out. Meet the Gorge Commissioners and others who care about Columbia Gorge protection.

Meetings are generally held once a month. For a 1997-98 meeting schedule of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, contact Kristin at (503) 241-3762 or focg@teleport.com ■

### Membership Form

## Join Friends of the Columbia Gorge

- \$35 Family
- \$25 Individual
- \$15 Student/Senior
- Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES, I want to volunteer for the Gorge**

- Adopt-A-Highway Litter Pickups
- Habitat and Botanical Restoration
- Community Education
- Hiking Activities
- Attending Hearings
- Technical Support
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your membership coupon and contribution to:  
Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
P.O. Box 40820  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
(503) 241-3762

# Friends News...

## Board News

Friends welcomes Dale Grams to our board. Dale lives in the Mt. Pleasant area of Skamania County and is a volunteer for the local Fire Protection District. Friends' fearless hike leader Richard Getgen recently resigned from the board. Thanks to Richard for serving on the board and leading the Hiking Committee this year. ■

## Friends Web Page is Moving!

Thanks to Friends member and extraordinary volunteer Ken Sadler, Friends web site has been up and running. Now we are moving to: <http://www.focg.com/columbiagorge.html>

This site will be up and running in late October or early November. Look for updated reports on activities in the Columbia River Gorge, action alerts, issues forum, volunteer opportunities, and new and exciting photos. ■

## Friends Give 1902 Gifford Photo to Wasco Museum

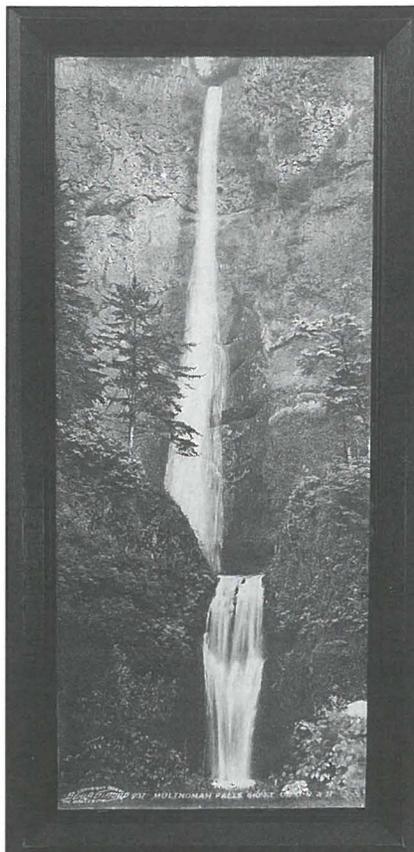
by Nancy Russell

In the early 1980s Friends of the Columbia Gorge was given a large antique framed photograph of Multnomah Falls taken in 1902 by famous Gorge photographer Benjamin A. Gifford (1859-1934). The photo is now on display at the reconstructed Gifford photographic studio in the Wasco County Historical museum.

We were delighted to make this important contribution to the complex at Crate's Point — the interpretive center authorized in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

Museum Director Dr. Carol A. Mortland expressed her appreciation: "This is a magnificent gift and a wonderful addition to the Discovery Center and Museum. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity."

Be sure to look for this photograph on your next visit to the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. ■



This photo of Multnomah Falls, The Dalles, 1902, by Benjamin A. Gifford will hang in the Wasco County Historical museum.

## New Book Explores History of Gorge Act

*Planning a New West: The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area*, by Carl Abbott, Sy Adler, and Margery Post Abbott, takes a look at creation of the National Scenic Area. "The book gives a good account of the history and politics around passage of the Gorge Act and development of the Management Plan," said Friends Executive Director Lauri Aunan, adding "but is weak on recent politics, and in its discussion of the future of the Columbia Gorge given the tremendous political and development pressure the Gorge faces."

Interested readers can contact the Oregon State University Press at (541) 737-3166, to find out where to obtain this book. ■



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Portland, Oregon 97204  
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E-mail: [focg@teleport.com](mailto:focg@teleport.com)  
<http://www.focg.com/columbiagorge.html>

## 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*

## Board of Directors

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\* Gorge residents

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*Outreach Director:* Kristin Reese  
*Legal Assistant:* Ivan Lieben  
\* Gorge resident

## Newsletter Contributors

*Contributors:* Lauri Aunan, Matt Burke, Ken Denis, Carmen Johnson, Michael Lang, Nancy Russell, Kristin Reese, Marie Steinberg

*Editor and Layout:* Kathleen Krushas

# Thank You

## For Your Special Contributions and Tributes

*In memory of John Eliot Allen*

Margaret Moss Allen  
James Holloway  
Deborah S. Snyder

*In memory of Jean Siddall*

James Holloway

*In memory of Marcia Marks*

John Reynolds

*In memory of*

*Nonie Vial McKenzie*

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. D. Peterson

*In memory of Donald McKinley*

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*In memory of*

*Genevieve S. Meyers*

Marian and Chester Beals

*In memory of Eleanor Moore*

Ann S. Tilden

*In memory of Irving Polonoff*

Jesalee Fosterlin  
M. T. Winch  
Marvin and Anita Witt

*In honor of the*

*50th Wedding Anniversary of  
Ernie and Marsha Livingstone  
John and Phyllis Reynolds*

*In honor of Marie Steinberg's  
birthday*

Marilyn Grunbaum

## Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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Portland, Oregon 97240-0820

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## Friends Wish List

Your donation of office equipment will greatly help our Gorge protection work!

- Laser printer or bubble jet printer that can handle a large work load. (When you upgrade your existing printer, think about donating your old printer to Friends!)

- Computer and monitor: 486 or preferably Pentium-133, 32 MB RAM, 1.2 GB HD. With increased staff and workload, another computer is greatly needed.

- Scanner: Twain-compliant (this works well with WP 6.1), color would be nice. We have programmable fax software that is not being used. A scanner would allow us to utilize this important tool for outreach programs.

- Programmable Plain-Paper Fax Machine.

Please call the office before donating any equipment. Thanks for helping to expand Friends capacity to increase our community building efforts. ■

Say it with Flowers this Holiday Season

## Friends Gorge Flowers



100% cotton T-shirts (S, M, L and XL)	\$12
Sweatshirts (S, M, L and XL)	\$24
Aprons	\$15
Large tote bags (18" x 19")	\$18
<i>Please add \$2 postage and handling for each item.</i>	

**For more information, call Nancy Russell at (503) 292-8518**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Items and sizes \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to: Friends of the Columbia Gorge, P.O. Box 40820, Portland, OR 97240-0820*