

# FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

## SUMMER 1990 NEWSLETTER

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## FEDERAL COURT UPHOLDS NATIONAL SCENIC AREA ACT

On May 23, the Federal District Court ruled against Columbia Gorge United in their lawsuit challenging the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. The decision by Judge Owen M. Panner resoundingly upheld the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act and denied all of the claims for relief asked by Columbia Gorge United and the individual plaintiffs.

Columbia Gorge United is a nonprofit organization formed prior to passage of the National Scenic Area Act, for the purpose of opposing the Act. Most of its approximately 400 members are private landowners in the Gorge area. (Friends of the Columbia Gorge has about 1,400 members, of whom about 100 live in the Gorge area.) A number of individual plaintiffs, most of whom had applied to the Commission to develop their property and been denied, joined Columbia Gorge United in bringing the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was brought against the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (whose department has jurisdiction over the Forest Service) and the Columbia River Gorge Commis-

*continued on page 2*

## FOCG SCHEDULES PERMANENT MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOPS

This August, Friends of the Columbia Gorge will present workshops for members and others who are interested in encouraging the drafting of a permanent management plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area that carefully regulates land use in order to protect the Gorge's scenic, natural, cultural and recreational values. The purpose of the workshops will be to provide more background on the history, purpose and effect of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, the process of drafting and adopting the permanent management plan that will carry out the Act's goals, the Friends of the Columbia Gorge position on some of the key issues involved in drafting the plan, and how individual citizens can most effectively participate in the process. FOCG members who live in the Gorge counties and have participated in the key contact process have assisted in developing the workshop agendas.

In order to facilitate participation by residents of all of the Gorge counties, the workshop will be presented in various locations in the Gorge counties. At the beginning of the Gorge Commission's "key contact" meeting process, a number of Gorge residents told us that they supported protection of the area's extraordinary scenic beauty and many special resources, but that they were reluctant to attend meetings

*continued on page 2*

## *National Scenic Area Act Upheld,* *continued from page 1*

sion. Friends of the Columbia Gorge joined the lawsuit as an intervening party in order to protect the interests of our members in protecting the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Gorge. We were represented at no charge by experienced environmental attorneys with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund.

After addressing the numerous and often rather creative claims made by the plaintiffs, Judge Panter's decision concludes, "Congress, the Commission, and the counties acted within the authority of the United States Constitution, the law of the United States and the Oregon and Washington Constitutions and laws." In one portion of his opinion, Judge Panter cites a law review article by Bowen Blair, Jr., executive director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge from 1982 to 1988, discussing the significant scenic and cultural values of the Special Management Areas and the development pressure on those areas from private landowners.

The judge's written opinion also lays to rest the mistaken but oft-repeated notion that Gorge Commissioners who formerly served on the board of directors or were members of Friends of the Columbia Gorge are somehow biased and unfit to serve on the Commission. The opinion states, "Plaintiffs have not demonstrated any financial or personal stake the Commission members have in the outcome of the case and the Commission members are not biased just because they may have personal views."

Friends of the Columbia Gorge believes that, in fact, past service with our organization is an excellent background for a Gorge Commissioner. Board members who served during the years while the Friends actively assisted in providing testimony and background to Congress on the important values of the Gorge and the most effective means to protect them have special knowledge and understanding of the issues facing the Gorge. These people bring an extremely valuable perspective to the Gorge Commission.

Columbia Gorge United has indicated that it plans to appeal the decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. If appealed beyond that stage, the case could reach the U.S. Supreme Court. Friends of the Columbia Gorge will continue to be involved in any appeals of the case.



*Steigerwald Lake will benefit from a cooperative wetlands restoration project.*

## **GOOD NEWS FOR STEIGERWALD LAKE**

### **Wetlands to be Restored**

Steigerwald Lake, a Columbia Gorge wetland area just east of Washougal in Clark County, Washington, surprises people who see it for the first time today, because it is a lake without water in it most of the time. That was not always true. Until 1966, Steigerwald Lake and the area around it was a floodplain, supporting numerous wildlife species including the flock of tundra swans which now winters at Franz Lake.

In 1966, the area was diked as a flood control project. As part of the same project, Gibbons Creek, which once flowed into the Lake, was diverted to a tidebox/pumping station operated by the Port of Camas/Washougal. The lake disappeared, and a marsh took its place.

Many wildlife species are still found at the Steigerwald Lake area, although some exist in low numbers. Anadromous fish used Gibbons Creek before the flood control project, and coho salmon and steelhead still spawn in the creek despite obstructions at the creek's outlet. Cutthroat trout are still found in the creek, as well. Bird life abounds -- over 142 species inhabit the area either year-round or seasonally, including waterfowl, great blue herons and black-crown night herons, egrets, cranes, shorebirds, bulls, woodpeckers, doves, raptors, swallows and songbirds. Other wildlife seen or detected by sign in the area include bobcat, coyote, mink, muskrat, beaver, red fox, river otter, racoon, weasel and deer. But these animal populations ex-

ist in a sadly degraded form of their original habitat.

When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the second powerhouse at Bonneville Dam in the early 1980s, they were required by law to mitigate environmental impacts of the new powerhouse by acquiring and restoring another wetland area — Steigerwald Lake. Over 600 acres in the Steigerwald Lake area were purchased for restoration and management as a wildlife area, and are now owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In cooperation with USFWS and the Washington Department of Wildlife, the Corps is now planning the realignment of Gibbons Creek to direct its water back into the Steigerwald Lake area, creating 243 acres of wetlands and open water. Following the completion of the creek realignment and habitat restoration, the area will be managed as a National Wildlife Refuge.

The degradation of this wildlife-rich wetland area in 1966 was a mistake. Today, we know much more about the value of wetlands and other natural habitats, and the services they provide in supporting wildlife populations, purifying air and water, and absorbing and controlling floodwaters. Restoration of this habitat is a welcome step that will help to undo past damage. We will be watching with pleasure as the work to restore the area proceeds, and look forward to the return of Steigerwald Lake.

*Workshops, continued from page 1*

because they felt that they were too few to make a difference. We are happy to report that the past few months have proved otherwise!

Most of the recent key contact meetings have been well attended by Gorge residents who favor careful regulation of development and protection of the Gorge's special values. More than once, those who

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***Input from Gorge residents who are familiar with the resources in their counties ... helps the Gorge Commission set informed priorities ...***

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favor protection have significantly outnumbered those who would urge no limits on development in the Gorge. This is a major change from the early meetings, which were dominated by people who opposed the Act. To everyone who has taken the time to participate, thank you!

The Gorge Commissioners are listening. They are required by the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act to develop a management plan that will truly protect the Gorge's special values. When this goal receives the active support of those who live in the Gorge, it makes the Gorge Commission's job much easier. Input from Gorge residents who are famil-

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***Many Portland residents have asked us why the Gorge Commission has not held any key contact meetings in Portland.***

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iar with the resources in their counties also helps the Gorge Commission set informed priorities for protection.

A workshop will also be held for residents of the Portland metro area. Many Portland residents have asked us why the Gorge Commission has not held any key contact meetings in Portland. We encouraged them to do so, and were disappointed that they chose not to.

The Gorge is a national treasure, and those who live outside the Gorge can and should be involved in its protection. Since the Gorge is so close to Portland, it is a major asset to the city. Many Portlanders

visit it frequently, appreciate its natural qualities, and feel strongly about how protection should be accomplished. If you are one of those people, or if you live in the metropolitan area and want to be more involved in the permanent management plan drafting process, the Portland workshop is for you!

In short, anyone who wants to see the Gorge's beauty and resources protected through carefully limiting development and exploitation of Gorge lands is encouraged to attend one of these workshops. You need not be a member of Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Nor do you need to have served as a "key contact" in the past. It's still not too late to get involved in the process, or to simply learn more about how the Gorge can be protected through a sound permanent management plan.

Which workshop should you attend? Most people will want to attend the workshop in their own county. This provides the opportunity to meet and talk with other people in your area who feel as you do about the value of protecting the Gorge.

But you are free to attend any of the workshops, and if you have a conflict with the date on which the workshop in your area is scheduled, we urge you to attend one that is conveniently scheduled, no matter where the location.

There is no charge for the workshops, which are part of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Education Outreach Pro-

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***... anyone who wants to see the Gorge's beauty and resources protected through carefully limiting development and exploitation of Gorge lands is encouraged to attend ...***

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gram. This program has been funded in part by a generous grant from the David and Loa Mason Charitable Trust.

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## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

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Clark County Washington	Wednesday, August 15, 7:00 p.m. Clark County PUD, Camas/Washougal
Hood River County Oregon	Thursday, August 16, 7:00 p.m. Port Marina, Hood River
Portland Oregon	Monday, August 20, 7:00 p.m. World Trade Center S.W. First and Salmon, Portland
Klickitat County Washington	Tuesday, August 21, 7:00 p.m. Security Pacific Bank 73 N.E. Estes, White Salmon
Wasco County Oregon	Thursday, August 23, 7:00 p.m. Public Library, The Dalles
Multnomah County Oregon	Monday, August 27, 7:00 p.m. Corbett Middle School
Skamania County Washington	Wednesday, August 29, 7:00 p.m. County Courthouse Annex, Stevenson

## JACK GRAY TRANSPORT TRUCK SPILLS PCBs NEAR BEACON ROCK

On May 7, 1990, a Jack Gray Transport truck jackknifed after a near-collision with a pick-up truck on Washington Highway 14 near Woodward Creek just west of Beacon Rock. The truck was carrying a load of PCB-contaminated dirt which spilled on the highway. It was moving the dirt from a hazardous waste clean-up site in Washington to the Chem-Security landfill near Arlington, Oregon.

An editorial by Jim Price in the Skamania County Pioneer raised some important questions about the spill. "[W]hy was a convoy of five unmarked trucks carrying contaminated soil using the Washington side to get to Arlington? Why take a route of tight corners and a narrow road through an environmentally sensitive area, when there is a relatively straight, wide interstate right across the river?" We can only guess at the answers, but we do know that trucks travelling on Interstate 84 on the Oregon side of the Gorge are required to stop at a weigh station at Cascade Locks and are subject to penalties if they are found to be carrying overweight loads. There are no weigh stations on the Washington side of the Gorge.

*continued on page 10*

## BROUGHTON LANDING Questions Linger

The Gorge Commission has approved a scaled-down version of the Broughton Lumber Co. proposal for a windsurfing resort near the site of their old mill. Remarks made by Richard Benner, the Commission's executive director, in announcing the decision made it clear that the Gorge Commission considers this a special case, and not a signal that resort developments will be encouraged in other shoreline areas.

The site near Underwood, Washington, offers excellent river access and is appropriate for some level of recreational development. However, Friends of the Columbia Gorge opposed the original Broughton Landing proposal because of its size, the intensity of development proposed, and its commercial elements. The proposed retail shops have been eliminated and the number of condominiums to be built has been reduced. We remain concerned by the potential restaurant and the question of housing for resort employees.

Under our Mission Statement, it is a specific goal of Friends of the Columbia Gorge to "encourage compatible economic development within the urban areas" of the Gorge. This is an important purpose of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

Development of commercial operations outside the urban

*continued on page 10*

## WILDFLOWERS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER BOTTOMLAND

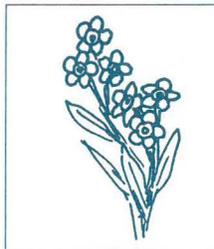
These native wildflowers are found only in Columbia River bottomland, including Rooster Rock State Park, where they are still hanging on despite the abuse described on page 5. They need wet conditions to thrive and are highly sensitive to disturbance from grazing.

*Physostegia parviflora*, purple dragon head, is a showy purple flower in the mint family. It blooms in late July at Franz Lake and Rooster Rock State Park. It is one of the more rare plants in the Gorge.

*Lysimachia ciliata*, fringed loosestrife, is in the primrose family. Its primrose-yellow flowers appear in late July and early August. While it is fairly abundant in the Gorge's low-lying wet lands, it can be seen to best advantage at Mirror Lake and Franz Lake.

*Lycopus uniflorus*, northern bugleweed, is one of the shyer wildflowers, with tiny white flowers that bloom close to the stem. It blooms in late July and early August at Rooster Rock State Park, Home Valley Park, and Beacon Rock Pond.

*Polygonum hydropiperoides*, water pepper, is in the buckwheat family and is relatively uncommon in the Gorge. Its white flowers are tiny but very pretty, blooming in a raceme held above the plant's narrow leaves. It blooms in mid-August and is best seen at Mirror Lake, Franz Lake, and Home Valley Park.



*Mysotis laxa*, small-flowered forget-me-not, is a native wetlands form of the more familiar, but introduced, garden forget-me-not. Both are in the borage family. In August, the little blue flowers are best seen at Mirror Lake, Rock Creek Lake and Horsethief Lake.

Information on these wildflowers is from Russ Jolley's *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge*, Oregon Historical Society Press, 1988. This delightful book contains over 700 color photographs, and offers many suggestions for wildflower walks in the Gorge. Directions for reaching all wildflower locations mentioned are included in a comprehensive appendix. Copies of the book are still available at \$19.95 (plus \$2.00 postage and handling) from Friends of the Columbia Gorge.



*This 1977 photograph by Russ Jolley shows what Rooster Rock State Park looked like before cattle were introduced. The plants in the foreground with leaves shaped like arrowheads are wapato.*

## CATTLE GRAZING DESPOILS ROOSTER ROCK STATE PARK WETLANDS

Rooster Rock State Park lies along the Oregon shore of the Columbia River just west of Sheperds Dell. Young Creek meanders through the park which also boasts riparian forest, native plants including wapato and some wildflowers found only in Columbia River bottomlands, and wildlife such as beavers, ducks, herons, and even an occasional bald eagle.

In a 1989 report to the Columbia River Gorge Commission, The Nature Conservancy stated that Rooster Rock State Park "is one of the two most important wetland complexes in the western portion of the Gorge."

Unfortunately, Oregon State Parks is "renting" a large area of this special park for commercial cattle grazing. Under the terms of the contract, however, the cattle owner pays nothing, even though the grazing was recently increased to over 150 head of cattle.

Native vegetation did not evolve with cattle and competes poorly with non-native grasses and weed plants when subjected to

grazing. Also, cows are much heavier than deer and most other native grazing animals. Their trampling compacts the soil and destroys its structure. Cattle feces foul wetlands and introduce non-native weed plants. By the end of each grazing season, Rooster Rock looks and smells more like a barnyard than a sensitive and beautiful wetland wildflower area.

In their 1989 report to the Gorge Commission, The Nature Conservancy stated, "Grazing continues to compromise the natural areas values of the site..." Their recommendation was to discontinue grazing on all lands in the park.

If the cattle are removed, the land would begin recovering immediately. Within two years after grazing is discontinued, most of the native vegetation would return. Furthermore, the unsightly fencing could be removed, and trails, boardwalks and seasonal bridges could be constructed so that the public could enjoy the wildlife and wildflowers without harming the sensitive wetland values of this special place.

We understand that, in response to concerns expressed by Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the Native Plant Society and others, Oregon States Parks is reconsidering the grazing program for Rooster Rock State Park.

One of their concerns appears to be control of blackberries; however, blackberries do not grow well in wetland soils or in the dense shade of the trees which line the riparian zone. A 1977 photograph taken before the grazing program shows no blackberry problem.

If you would like to see the cattle removed from Rooster Rock State Park, please write to Oregon State Parks and let them know your opinion. Address your letter to:

Mr. David Talbot  
Oregon State Parks  
525 Trade Street, SE  
Salem, Oregon 97310

## TWO YEARS AT WYETH: Part II

In Part I of Mrs. Chapman's girlhood story, we learned how she went with her family to live in the Gorge on a lake near Wyeth. Her parents kept a shop on the lakeshore, and her father built a community center for Wyeth, which also held part of the family's living quarters.

I went to second and third grade at the little one-room schoolhouse at Wyeth. That little schoolhouse still stood in Wyeth until Interstate 84 was built. One of my classmates remembers our teacher, Mrs. Rodwell, as "that mean red-headed teacher." She had to be very strict to teach so many children of different ages in one room. When she was teaching the children

in one age group, the others had to stay absolutely quiet so as not to distract those children from their lessons.

I thought our teacher was very good to me. Since my family lived on the outskirts of town, I lived farther from school than any of the other children. One time when the weather was bad, she invited me to come and stay with her for a week so that I would not have to walk so far in the ice and snow. I thought it was great fun to stay with her. I loved to read, and she had so many books at her house.

One winter, the weather was so bad that we went back to Portland to stay with a relative for a week or two until it got warmer. My tender-hearted father worried about the ducks in our lake, though. He went back to chop some holes in the ice to help them make it through the cold weather.

In other seasons, we had fog. Our car was a Mitchell with isinglass windows. One time, the fog was so thick that my mother had to get out and walk beside the car to let my father know how close he was to the side of the road.

In those days, cars did not move so fast. We kids had lots of fun walking along



Young Edna and her brother and sister play on the lake.



Edna's younger sister Lucy admires the sunken forest, now buried under the backwaters of Bonneville Dam, with Wind Mountain across the river.



Mrs. Rodwell and her class at the one-room schoolhouse at Wyeth. Edna Clark is the second from the left in the front row.

the rock walls of the Columbia River Gorge Highway without any fear of the traffic. Another thing that fascinated us was the Indian face on Wind Mountain. I suppose I made up stories about it to entertain my brother and sister. In those days, we did not have television or even radio, so we often told stories or read aloud for entertainment.

One night my mother had read David Copperfield to me before I went to sleep. Later in the night, my father, who slept down at the shop for security from the "hobos", was awakened by our little terrier barking furiously. He looked out the window and saw that the community center, including our bedrooms, was on fire. He ran up to awaken us and we all rushed out. My parents saved the sewing machine and a trunk. I ran out with the copy of David Copperfield. Those were the three things we saved from the fire. After that, we moved back to Portland. Our adventure in the country was over.

Interstate 84 was built right over the lake where we lived. I suppose they had to drain and fill most of the lake to build the highway.

The Indian face on Wind Mountain is still there, though. If you are coming from Hood River, you can see the profile with its definite forehead, nose and chin about halfway up the mountain.

*Adapted from a conversation with Mrs. Edna Chapman.*

# FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE SUMMER PICNIC TO FEATURE TOURS OF NEW PARKLANDS

The Annual Friends of the Columbia Gorge Summer Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. As usual, the picnic will be held at The Shire, a privately owned nature reserve on the north shore of the Columbia River near Prindle, Washington. The picnic is free of charge, and members are encouraged to bring their friends and family.

This is an opportunity that comes only once a year to Friends of the Columbia Gorge members and their guests. The Shire offers a magnificent sweep of picnic-perfect lawn nestled in the midst of a natural riparian area, which slopes down to the river shoreline for summer swimming. Across the river, Multnomah Falls can be seen spilling over the cliffs. One year, we were treated to the sight of a mother osprey tending her chicks.

For the first time this year, the picnic will also feature guided walking tours of nearby parks. Both tours will take place at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., starting from the parking area at The Shire.

## Pierce Refuge Birding Trip

Susan Cady, a board member from Skamania County, will lead a birding field trip at Pierce National Wildlife Refuge. Bring your binoculars for a special look at the birds of the lowlands in the western Gorge with an experienced trip leader who knows the area.

## St. Cloud Ranch History Walk

Marie H. Steinberg, whose uncle once owned and lived at St. Cloud Ranch, will lead a walk around this brand-new parkland recently acquired by the U.S. Forest Service for management as part of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Volunteers from Friends of the Columbia Gorge did a wonderful job clearing litter off the Ranch this past Earth Day, and it looks especially beautiful now. The Ranch's early days are part of the colorful history of the Gorge, and Mrs. Steinberg will share her family stories with us.

Bring a picnic lunch and your kites, beach balls, frisbees, swimsuits, suntan

lotion, beach umbrellas, and whatever else strikes your fancy for a Columbia Gorge picnic. Birders, don't forget your binoculars! Parents, don't forget the kids! It wouldn't dare rain, would it? But if it does, bring your wet weather gear. The walking tours will take place rain or shine.

## How to Get There

The Shire is about 29 miles east of Vancouver. Turn off on the south side of Washington Highway 14, just across from the Skamania County Shops between mileposts 28 and 28. Look for the gravel piles and chainlink fence on the north side of the road and turn off the highway to the south through a red gate. (Keep a sharp eye out; the gate is inconspicuous until you get close.) If you are coming from the east, be very careful in making your turn across the highway. If you are coming from the west, there is a gravel shoulder. After you come through the gate, proceed with caution as you cross the tracks of the Burlington Northern railroad, and then drive down to the parking area.



*Pierce Ranch is now a National Wildlife Refuge. Susan Cady will lead a special birding tour of the refuge for Friends of the Columbia Gorge members and guests at our annual Summer Picnic on Sunday, July 29.*



## FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE PATCHES AVAILABLE

Friends of the Columbia Gorge patches are available for people who enjoy wearing their hearts on their sleeves — or pockets or backpacks. The beautifully-embroidered 3-1/2" blue and green cloth patches show a classic Gorge scene and read "Friends of the Columbia Gorge." They cost \$3.50 each, plus \$.75 postage and handling (a total of \$4.25 for mail orders), and may be ordered from Friends of the Columbia Gorge using the coupon below.

## ENJOY A "GORGE" SUMMER AND SUPPORT THE FRIENDS

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has several items for sale to help you enjoy a summer in the Gorge, and to help us raise money to support our work.

### Columbia River Gorge Guided Tour

Two audio cassette tapes provide a one- or two-day tour of the Gorge, complete with Indian legends, Old Oregon Trail history, wildflower walks, dramatic tales of Ice Age floods, and tips on the best places to cool off on a hot day. Great gift for out-of-state visitors. Produced by Friends of the Columbia Gorge, 100% of sales proceeds benefit the organization. Special member's price: \$16.95.

### Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge Field Guide

Soft-cover book by Gorge wildflower expert Russ Jolley. Over 700 full-color photographs, with tips on when and where to go to find the Gorge's wildflowers in full bloom. \$19.95.

### Gorge Wildflowers T-Shirts

Two styles capture the colorful beauty and delicate forms of the Gorge's lovely native wildflowers. Mariposa design features mariposa lilies, camas, shooting star, dogtooth violet, bluebells and more. Gentian design features gentians, iris, penstemon, grass widows, tiger lilies and more. Multi-colors on white 100% cotton t-shirts, available in short sleeves (\$10.00), long sleeves (\$12.00), also cotton/poly fleece sweatshirt (\$24.00), and cook's apron (\$15.00).



*The Columbia River Gorge Guided Tour.*

## ORGANIZATION FORMING TO SUPPORT INTERPRETIVE CENTER

A new organization is being formed to support the development of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Interpretive Center and other Gorge-related issues. Citizens for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is based in The Dalles, but hopes to expand its scope to become a National Scenic Area wide non-profit organization. The cost to join as a charter member (renewable annually) is \$10.00.

This new citizens' organization is coordinating its work with the Forest Service, the Gorge Commission and Wasco County. It is expected to have a major impact on the planning of the National Scenic Area Interpretive Center at Crate's Point near The Dalles. We encourage members of Friends of the Columbia Gorge to join this organization and become actively involved in the planning for the Interpretive Center.

Please send me the following:

Item	How Many	Style	Size	Total

Postage and handling:  
\$2 first item, \$1 each additional; except \$.75 each for patches

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If charging by Mastercard\_\_ or Visa\_\_: Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# VOLUNTEERS LEND A HAND

## Earth Day Clean-Up

On Sunday, April 22, over 60 volunteers turned out at St. Cloud Ranch on the north side of the Gorge and cleaned it until it sparkled. In fact, so many volunteers turned out on this drizzly Earth Day that we were also able to dispatch crews to clean up Blue Lakes and Beacon Rock State Park, too. Special thanks go to our planning committee, Janet Van Swearingen, Susan Cady and Jim and Helen Running, and also to the U.S. Forest Service for providing equipment, insurance coverage, and complimentary Earth Day trees for the volunteers.

## Tenth Anniversary Hiking Weekend

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge Tenth Anniversary Hiking Weekend was the best ever, with an unprecedented variety of hikes and more participants than ever before. We thank all of our trip leaders, who are too numerous to list, and our planning committee, Julia Ferreira, James Reynolds, Nancy Russell, Jeanne Norton and Elva Michael.

## Office Move

On Saturday, April 21, Friends of the Columbia Gorge moved its offices downstairs to Suite 301 with the help of a great crew of volunteers. Thanks to Blair Csuti, Lacey Mills, Michael Mills, Cliff Moore, and Cliff Moore Jr., we astonished the building superintendent by completing the office move by 1:30 p.m.



*Julia Ferreira, Hiking Weekend Chairman, takes a well-deserved rest atop the summit of Archer Mountain to reflect on the Weekend's success.*

# MEMORIES WANTED!

## REMINISCENCES NEEDED FOR 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCENIC HIGHWAY

Did your grandfather, father, uncle, aunt or other honorable ancestor help with the building of the Old Columbia River Gorge Highway?

June 1991 will mark the 75th anniversary of the construction of this historic highway, the engineering marvel of its day and still a remarkably lovely road. The highway was dedicated in June 1916 as part of that year's Rose Festival. It was a remarkable achievement.

People from all walks of life helped build the highway. Portland businessmen raised funds. Portland schoolchildren collected pennies. Engineers developed a sensitive design that protected the beauty of the Gorge's "fern-clad coves" while never exceeding a maximum road grade of 5%. Burly young men from Serbia and Montenegro blasted through solid rock and graded the roadway smooth while their wives ran the cookhouse. Stone masons who learned their trade in Italy designed and built the lovely rockwork on bridges and safety barriers.

The 75th Anniversary Celebration for the highway will honor these people and their work. Special events for the celebration are being coordinated by the Historic Highway Citizens Advisory Committee, and they have asked Friends of the Columbia Gorge to help track down memories

and reminiscences of these people and how they built the highway.

If your relatives worked on the highway, or if you know of someone who did, please fill out the coupon on this page and return it to us. Their stories are a part of the Gorge's long and colorful history.

Yes, someone I know worked on the Columbia River Highway.

Worker's name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Type of Work:  Design  Planning  Political  
 Paving  Construction  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

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

Return to: Friends of the Columbia Gorge, P.O. Box 40820, Portland, OR 97240

Jack Gray Transport is the company which was awarded the contract to truck Portland's garbage through the Gorge to Arlington. Friends of the Columbia Gorge strenuously opposed that contract. With two alternative methods, barge and rail, which could have carried the load efficiently and safely, in one trip a day, using half the fuel and thereby generating half the pollution of the trucking method, we felt it was irresponsible for the Metro Council to send these trucks through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and others who testified against the trucking contract were not able to persuade the Metro Council to award the contract to a barge or rail company instead. Our protest to the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) urging them not to issue the operating permit needed in connection with the Metro contract was also unsuccessful, although the Commissioners expressed sympathy with our position.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge successfully opposed a series of attempts by the trucking company to obtain taxpayer-supported revenue bonds to finance its equipment purchases. We also opposed the company's proposed truck staging area in The Dalles, which we believe would have interfered with the quality of the planned Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Interpretive Center at Crates Point. After we filed an appeal with the Land Use Board of Appeals of Wasco County's decision to allow the staging area, Jack Gray Transport withdrew their request to use the site in The Dalles. They are currently using a staging area outside the Gorge, near Rufus.

The Metro contract, at least, does not involve hazardous waste. Less than two weeks before the May 7 PCB spill, we learned that Jack Gray Transport had filed an application before the Oregon PUC for a permit to transport hazardous waste in Oregon. The company is already transporting hazardous waste interstate between Washington and Oregon. The Oregon PUC has no jurisdiction over interstate shipments, but must issue a permit for authority before a company can operate inside the state.

We are alarmed at the prospect of the Gorge being used as a conduit for hazardous waste shipments by a trucking com-

pany of the Gorge drains the economic vitality from these existing communities and mars the rural and scenic qualities of the non-urban portions of the Gorge — the very attractions that bring vacationers to the Gorge and contribute to its economic well-being.

We understand that discussions are continuing between the Gorge Commission and Broughton Lumber Co. as the final design of the resort is worked out. We

have urged the Gorge Commission to assure that the restaurant is designed to serve resort customers only, and not to draw the general public away from restaurants which now exist or may in the future be developed in the urban areas. We have also urged the Gorge Commission to assure that arrangements for housing for resort employees will not result in an ever-widening circle of residential development around the resort.



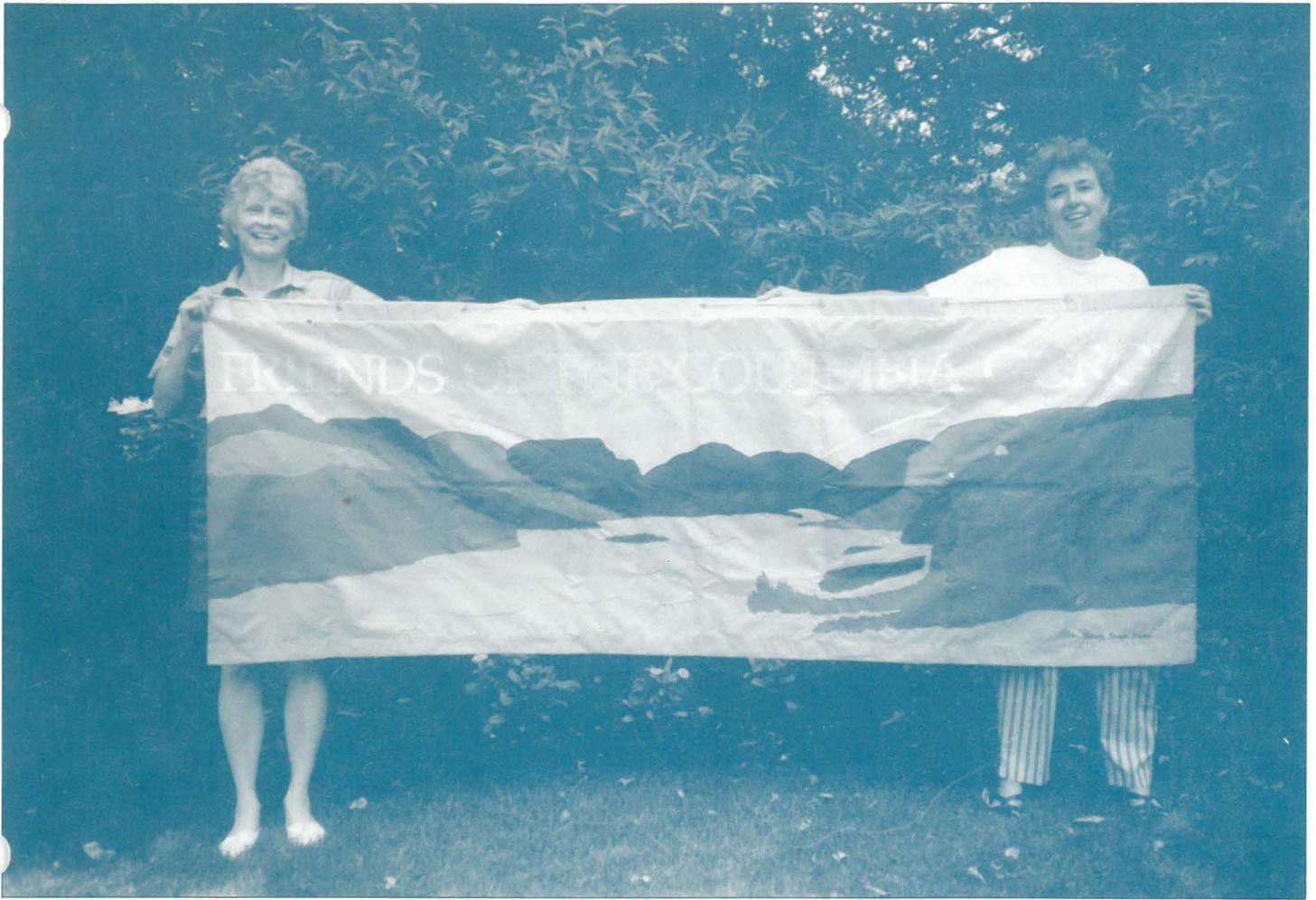
Site of the proposed Broughton Landing resort.

pany with Jack Gray Transport's poor safety record. New information obtained after the earlier PUC decision, through the Freedom of Information Act, shows that since 1983, the company's federal safety rating has been "satisfactory" for only a short period from April 1988 to June 1989. It started out as "unsatisfactory" in 1983, moved up to "conditional" in 1985, and is currently rated "conditional."

Why? The company has reported a high rate of accidents for the number of miles travelled, and it shows a high rate of violations of federal safety regulations. Through the Freedom of Information Act, we were able to obtain the company's inspection statistics for 1988. Of 271 inspections, 89% resulted in violations, with 53% of the inspections resulting in "out-of-service" violations, violations of such a

nature that the truck or driver was required to stay off the road until the violations were corrected. The total number of violations in 240 cases where violations were found was 1,044, an average of 4.35 violations for each inspection where a violation was found.

We have provided the PUC with this new information so that it can be considered in their decision on whether to issue a permit for this new hazardous waste transport application. We feel a company with this poor a safety record should not be transporting hazardous waste through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (or, in fact, anywhere). Two other trucking companies have protested the application. It appears that the matter will be heard and decided by the PUC sometime after October of this year.



*Sally Harding and Mary Vranizan show off the beautiful new banner donated by their company.*

## BANNER DONATED IN MEMORY OF SHARRON LANKTON

Mary Vranizan and Sally Harding of Banner Days have designed and produced a beautiful banner which they have donated to Friends of the Columbia Gorge in memory of Sharron Lankton. Mrs. Lankton served on the Friends' board from 1982 until her death this past February.

The blue and green banner is styled after the Columbia Gorge scene which Friends of the Columbia Gorge has adopted as its logo. That original pencil drawing by John Yeon has beautified our stationery and business cards for many years and appears on our newsletter masthead.

Members who attended our Hiking Weekend Rendezvous in June were able to enjoy the new banner's inaugural appearance. With all of the hiking trips, picnics and other events Friends of the Columbia Gorge sponsors, we will be able to put our new banner, which is as sturdy as it is lovely, to good use.

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of Sharron Lankton

by

Harvey and Constance Barragar  
Mr. and Mrs. Broughton H. Bishop

Helene Biddle Dick  
Sharnelle Fee

Bill and Shirley Gittelsohn  
Joan Grasley

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Hayes, Jr.  
David and Carolyn Krieger

David Mazza  
June Michos

Richard and Marilyn Portwood  
Tina Sabin

Linda Tester  
Pat and Macy Wall

Thomas K. Wheeler



## MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, cultural, historic and recreational values of the Columbia River Gorge, encourage compatible economic development within the urban areas, and educate people about the Gorge in order to gain the public support necessary for effective implementation of the National Scenic Area Act.

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Gary K. Kahn, Land Use Counsel  
Helen Ehelebe, Bookkeeper/Office Assistant  
Marna Moore, Receptionist/Clerk

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*Address correction requested*

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## LEGAL DEFENSE UPDATE

Another of the lawsuits filed against Friends of the Columbia Gorge in connection with the termination of employment of former executive director Brad Jones has been dismissed.

Previously, a lawsuit brought by former board member Linda Hopkins was dismissed, with the judge describing various allegations as "frivolous." Ms. Hopkins has appealed the decision. A second lawsuit, a Writ of Mandamus brought by Brad Jones seeking numerous documents, has now been dismissed. The third lawsuit, an action charging wrongful termination brought by Mr. Jones, is set for trial on October 8. The organization's attempts to settle that lawsuit have been unsuccessful.

Our petition to recover almost \$40,000 of legal fees required to defend the Hopkins lawsuit was denied, although the judge expressed sympathy for the organization's situation.

We are tremendously grateful for the generosity of the lawyers who have worked on these cases. Stephen F. Crew and Charles E. Corrigan of the law firm of O'Donnell, Ramis, Elliott and Crew, who represent the organization in the Hopkins and Writ of Mandamus cases, charged a fraction of the firm's usual rate and also worked many hours that were not billed. Michael A. Redden, who handled initial aspects of the cases before they reached the litigation stage, billed at a similar low rate and has charged off a major portion of his fees. (The organization was covered by insurance in connection with the wrongful termination suit, and the insurance company is covering the cost of our defense in that case.) This generosity has made it possible for the work of Friends of the Columbia Gorge to continue with undiminished vigor and effectiveness.