

# FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

## WINTER 1991 NEWSLETTER

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

Telephone: (503) 241-3762

### *Letter From the Executive Director*

*Dear Friends of the Columbia Gorge,*

*As I begin my first year as Executive Director, I look forward to a challenging 1991. This coming year promises to be the most important year of all in our efforts to protect the Gorge. The completion of the final Gorge management plan this spring will set the decisive tone for future Gorge protection and development. Our voices and commitment continue to be an essential force in the formation and implementation of a responsive and effective management plan.*

*This commitment and determination is what connects us to those who have lived their lives in the Gorge. It is the common thread that has assured the survival of the often-threatened Native American cultures; that guided Lewis and Clark through the most difficult rapids of the great river; and that brought the pioneers through the forbidding Cascades. Their determination and capacity for endurance is shared by the members of Friends of the Columbia Gorge. The past ten years have tested each of you, and you have shown the same strengths.*

*I appreciate the dedication of each of you to the goals of Friends of the Columbia Gorge. We are blessed with a strong and capable Board of Directors, whose leadership and direction will be crucial in the coming years. I look forward to working with both your Board and you, the membership, in the New Year. Together we will make a difference.*

*The happiest of New Year's to you and your families.*

*Paulette Carter Barte*

### **Gorge Management Plan Reaches Final Stages**

Three years in the making, the permanent management plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area nears completion. The plan contains the results of resource inventories of the Gorge, proposed land use designations, and management direction to protect and enhance scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources while encouraging compatible economic development within the urban areas. The policies of this plan are a culmination of input from public comments, "Key Contact Meetings" held throughout the first half of 1990, written public comment, technical experts, state and federal agencies, Indian tribal governments and others.

*Continued on page 2.*

### **New Executive Director**

#### **Editor's Note:**

**Paulette Carter Barte** was hired by Friends of the Columbia Gorge as their new Executive Director in November. Paulette has a Masters Degree in Business and Communications from the University of Idaho and is also a graduate of the University of Oregon. Paulette has many years



experience as a marketing professional, specializing in nonprofit organizations and small business development. She is married to Larry K. Barte, Athletic Director at Blue Mountain Community College, and has two sons, Terrill, a freshman archeology major at Beloit College, Wisconsin, and Carter, a ninth grader at Pendleton Junior High. She and her family are frequent travellers through the Gorge.

## Draft Plan, continued from page 1.

We appreciate the hard work and effort of the Columbia River Gorge Commission and staff, and the U.S. Forest Service. We believe the draft plan will do a great deal to protect the sensitive resources of the Gorge; however, there are areas in the plan where improvements are needed.

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### *This is a critical time to let the Forest Service and the Commission know your concerns.*

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On October 15, 1990, the U.S. Forest Service released its draft management plan for the Special Management Areas (SMAs). The SMAs are those lands deemed most sensitive by the Gorge Act. The SMA plan contains proposed land use designations and management direction for 112,300 acres. FOCG prepared three "Action Alerts" dealing with specific issues in this plan. Highlights of these "Action Alerts" are enclosed in this newsletter to provide you with needed information to comment on this draft plan.

The completed draft for the General Management Areas (GMAs) is expected shortly from the Columbia River Gorge Commission as we go to print. The plan will contain proposed management direction for 144,700 acres comprising the GMA. Land use designations for residential, commercial, agricultural, forest, recreation, and open space will also be included.

Allowable uses and management direction within each land use designation will be specified. In addition, it appears as if two rural centers will be established: Corbett in Multnomah County and Skamania in Skamania County. Higher density residential and limited commercial uses will be allowed within these rural centers.

When combined with the Forest Service prepared SMA management plan, the Commission plan will comprise the final management plan for the entire National Scenic Area. The completed plan which will guide management in the Gorge for up to ten years is expected to be finalized in early spring. This is a critical time to let the Gorge Commission and the Forest Service know your concerns. The Forest Service is soliciting comments through January 31, and the Commission will accept comments through February 15, 1991.

## FOCG RECOGNIZES SENATOR HATFIELD'S WORK FOR GORGE PROTECTION

Friends of the Columbia Gorge recently presented Senator Mark O. Hatfield with a Ron Cronin print of Tanner Creek Falls thanking him for his past and continuing work on behalf of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Senator Hatfield played a key role in passage of the Gorge Act in 1986. He has been instrumental in securing monies for land acquisition, now totalling approximately 8,000 acres protected under public ownership.



*From left to right are Chairman; Debbie Craig, Land Use Counsel; Gary Kahn, Chairman Emeritus; Nancy Russell, and Senator Hatfield.*

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During the month of January there will be a series of workshops and a public hearing. See schedule below. Friends of the Columbia Gorge will attend these workshops and the public hearing to provide information, answer questions, and address concerns. Additional "Action Alerts" addressing GMA concerns will be prepared and made available during the comment period. More information can be obtained by contacting our office, 241-3762.

*We urge you to attend the workshops, write letters and/or testify at the public hearing to help convince the U.S. Forest Service and the Columbia River Gorge Commission of necessary changes.*

## Public Workshops Schedule

Workshops will be unstructured with presentations by planners from 7-8 p.m., remaining time is allocated for map review, questions, and comments. Both Commission and Forest Service staff will be present.

Workshops will be:

**Jan. 7 -Klickitat County**, 4-9 p.m.; Park Center, 170 NW Lincoln St., White Salmon

**Jan. 8 -Clark County**, 4-9 p.m.; Clark Public Utilities auditorium, 89 'C' St, Camas

**Jan. 10 -Hood River County**, 4-9 p.m.; Waucoma Center auditorium, 902 Wasco St., Hood River

**Jan. 15 -Portland**, 4-9 p.m.; BPA rates hearing room, 905 NE Holiday St., Second Floor, Portland

**Jan. 16 -Wasco County**, 4-9 p.m.; The Dalles Junior High, The Dalles

**Jan. 17 -Skamania County**, 4-9 p.m.; Rock Creek Recreation Center, Second Street Extension, Stevenson

**Jan. 22 -Multnomah County**, 4-9 p.m.; Corbett Middle School, Multi-purpose Building, Crown Point Highway, Corbett

Public hearing will be:

**Jan. 24 -White Salmon, WA.**, 1-5 and 7-10 p.m.; Park Center Auditorium, 170 NW Lincoln St.

For workshop information or copies of the draft plan contact the Columbia River Gorge Commission (509) 493-3323

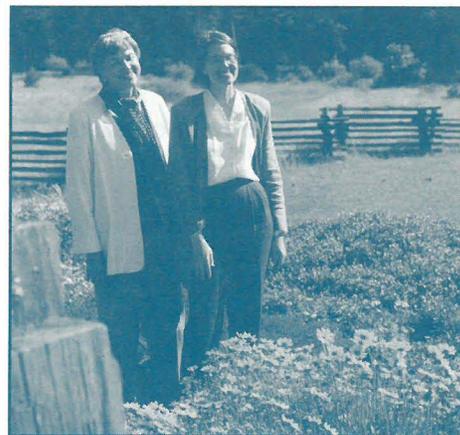
## FOCG Executive Director Leaves to Pursue Writing Career

After three and a half years with Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Margaret Donsbach has resigned her position as Executive Director. As of November, 1990, she left the Friends to devote full time to working on a novel about Arthurian England.

Margaret came to FOCG from the San Francisco Bay area in April 1987 as Director of Development, instituting a new era of professionalism in grant writing and membership solicitation for our organization. She brought with her marvelous writing skills and a breadth of fundraising experience.

In December of 1988, with the departure of the then Executive Director, Margaret assumed responsibility of Executive Director of FOCG. This was an especially challenging time because of the lawsuits filed against our organization. We owe much to Margaret Donsbach for sticking with us and bringing us through that painful period with all internal problems solved, while continuing unabated our essential day-to-day work to preserve the Columbia Gorge.

For her hard work in shepherding us through the challenges of the past three years, we toss Margaret a large bouquet of Gorge wildflowers with our heartfelt thanks and our wishes for great success in her writing career.



Margaret Donsbach (right) with her mother Roberta Donsbach at FOCG Board Retreat at Kate and Jack Mills' home Mt. Hood, June 30, 1990

*"At a distance of two miles we reached the lower end of this rocky island (Miller's) where were eight huts of Indian." -Lewis & Clark, October, 1805*

### FOCG PLANS A MILLER ISLAND ADVENTURE

Miller Island, located off the mouth of the Deschutes River, is the site of some of the best and most extensive evidence of prehistoric Native American habitation in the Columbia Gorge. A 1924 expedition by the University of California Department of Anthropology, sponsored by Henry J. Biddle, found numerous artifacts dating from early as 700 AD. This largest island in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area is a critical nesting habitat area for golden eagles, great blue heron and ring billed gulls.

Mike Gehrman of Hood River will take us over to the island in a replica Kwakiutl Indian canoe on Sunday, April 21, the height of wildflower bloom. Mike Boynton, U.S. Forest Service Archeologist, will lead us in a short guided tour across the island. At this time we are waiting for final approval for this outing from the U.S. Forest Service. However, to give our members adequate notice of this opportunity we felt it important to include details in this newsletter.

We will leave the Deschutes River Heritage Landing at 10:00 a.m. sharp, so plan to arrive at 9:30 a.m.. Allow two hours travel time from Portland. We will return between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$35.00. Please call our office to register NOW, 241-3762, as space is limited.

Bring warm clothes, water bottle, brown bag lunch, binoculars, and a camera. We'll all have a great time exploring!



View of beautiful Miller Island

### Gorge Commission Selects Conference Center

The Columbia River Gorge Commission selected Stevenson for the Scenic Area conference center. The National Scenic Area Act authorized \$5 million in federal funds for both a conference center and an interpretive center being planned in The Dalles.

The center, a joint project of Skamania County and Salishan Lodge, consists of a 180 room lodge, a golf course, tennis courts, spa/swimming pool and hiking trails.

Earlier, after an all day hearing, the Commission was deadlocked 6-6 between the Stevenson site and a site in Bingen in Klickitat County. After the deadlock, a special panel of three conference center experts was convened by the Commission to rate the two projects. The panel narrowly favored Stevenson and the Commission followed the panel's lead. Ground breaking is planned for 1991.

#### CORRECTION

In the Fall 1990 Newsletter we gave incorrect information on the ownership of Pierce Ranch. Pierce Ranch, a wetland on the Washington side of the Gorge west of Bonneville, is now owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is being managed as a National Wildlife Refuge. The Nature Conservancy owns and manages Pierce Island, an island in the Columbia River not far from Pierce Ranch.

## GORGE OLD-TIMER'S CORNER

### Memories of Mitchell Point Tunnel

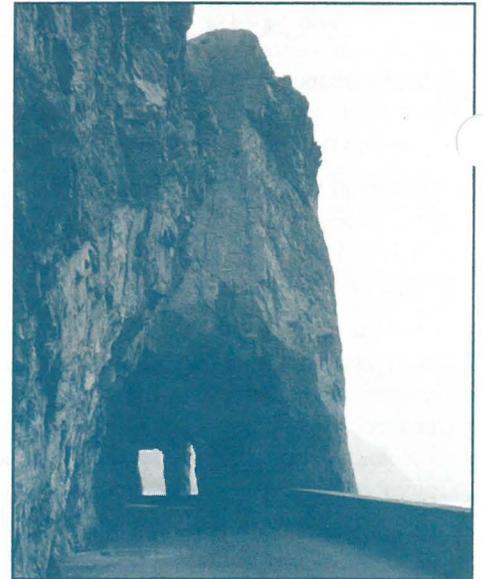
Our featured "Old-Timer" this month is Marjorie Elloitt Bevin of Eastsound, Washington whose father, John A. Elliott, supervised the construction of the Columbia River Highway from the Multnomah County line eastward. In the following article she relates her father's experiences concerning the building of the Mitchell Point Tunnel.

By far the most challenging experience had been the eight months during 1915 at Mitchell Point, the prominent cliff defiantly blocking the way between the Cascade range and the edge of the Columbia River. As an engineering student at the University of Washington, my father had seen pictures of the Axenstrasse in Switzerland. The road built in 1862 was famous for a scenic tunnel with four windows looking out at Lake Uri and the town of Fluellen with the Alps towering above. The windows were separated by masonry faced with stone. Confronted by Mitchell Point, my father immediately envisioned such a tunnel, and after exhaustive geological surveys, was convinced an entire tunnel

could be hewn from the cliff just as it was, with five windows and no artificial construction.

His dream met with vehement opposition. A tunnel was denounced as both impractical and dangerous. Contractors swore the project was impossible, predicting that if undertaken, it would never be completed. Samuel Lancaster, acting as consulting engineer for the highway, however, was not a detractor. Support also came from H. L. Bowlby, serving in the newly created position of State Highway Engineer.

My father's 1929 thesis for his degree in Civil Engineering details construction of the tunnel. The Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company operated daily at the base of the cliff and rails and wires had to be protected. Men swung from ropes anchored at the top of the cliff to cut transit set-ups in the rock and facilitate chainwork. Geologic checks were made daily. The only accident in the entire project resulted from a failed blast that

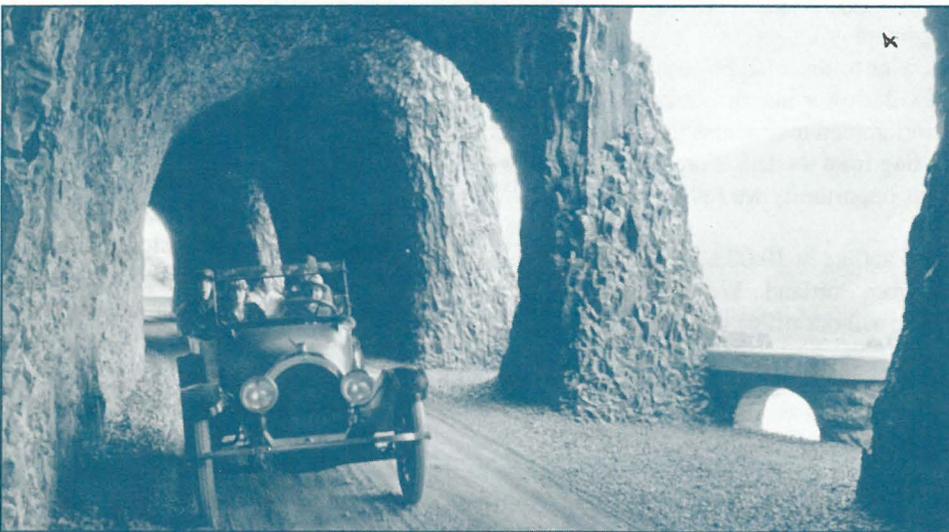


*The tunnel on the Axenstrasse near Lucerne, Switzerland, as photographed by the author in 1971. Although the broad main highway now by-passes the tunnel, it is still intact and it is said that thousands of tourists walk through it each year.*

went off belatedly hurling a man 140 feet into the air, with serious but no fatal injuries.

In his writings after the completion of highway, Mr. Lancaster stated that the tunnel "may well be considered among the most wonderful pieces of highway construction in the civilized world."

I was teaching in a Colorado college when news reached us that the Mitchell Point tunnel had been sealed off as a potential hazard to a newly constructed freeway. Richard Kliese writing for the OREGONIAN in March 1954 made the following comment: "Man himself may be destroyed, the freeway, too, may come to naught, but the spirit of Mitchell Point Tunnel may forever hear the zing of treaded tires and the echoed exclamations of delight at the scenery each rock-bound window brought to view." In 1965 the tunnel was blasted off the cliff.



*The Tunnel of many Vistas, at Mitchell Point, on Columbia River Highway. Oregon Historical Society*

### *Here's How You Can Help*

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge Newsletter invites your input. If you are privy to timely and interesting information concerning Gorge matters, if you have some history to share, or you have comments, suggestions, or announcements you'd like to make, let us know by sending us your article, letter, announcement, etc. We would like to encourage broader participation in the newsletter, so let us know what you're thinking and send in items that you feel inspired to write. A new feature beginning with this newsletter, is "What's Happening in the Gorge", a Gorge calendar of events. If you know of any upcoming events that we should include, send us a note with a brief description of the event along with the scheduled date so that we can let everyone know what's happening in the Gorge. Please see the following page for other opportunities to get involved.

*-Continued on page 5.*

## Feature Hike of the Quarter

With Don & Roberta Lowe

### Mitchell Point

Each season the Gorge offers many special charms in addition to its year around allure. From late fall through early spring, when mountain trails are snow-covered, hikers can explore its lower elevation routes and, while doing so, have views of many waterfalls that during summer are obscured by foliage. A caveat: In a "normal" year, the Gorge is going to have periods when the trails--not to mention the highways--are icy and, with significant exposure on so many of the routes, therefore dangerous. So, if you plan to visit the area, pay attention to weather conditions.

One feature the western end of the Oregon side isn't blessed with in the winter is sun. In the past when you wanted rays, you had to climb Hamilton or Dog Mountains on the Washington side. However, thanks to the trail building of Ken Lantz of Clackamas, you can now enjoy sun on the Oregon side atop the rocky spine of Mitchell Point. A leisurely pace will put you on the summit in about 45 minutes to an hour. Because of the superb view, this climb is best done in a pleasant, calm day. Wear shoes with treads and note that, although the south side of the summit area is not so narrow as to be dangerous, it is recommended for people who are bothered by exposure, or for children. However, the north side of the summit ridge should only be approached by the skilled rock climbers.

Drive east on I-84 for 0.4 mile beyond the 58 mile post to an unsigned exit. At the end of the exit turn right and then left and head about 100 feet to the parking area for Lausmann Park. To return west bound after the hike, continue east on I-84 to Exit 62. Approaching from the east, proceed on I-84 to Viento Park exit near the 56 mile post and then travel east 2.5 miles.

Walk up the mossy road from the south side of the picnic area, stay left where a spur heads to toilets, continue several hundred feet to the end of the road and look for the unsigned trail heading off on the left. Begin winding up through a mixture of conifers and oaks. A less welcome plant is poison oak. The leaves aren't out now, but people extremely sensitive to it should still be careful about sitting down along the trail, crashing through the underbrush, etc.. Look for surveyor's tape on trees at switchbacks and especially note one turn to the right so you don't continue straight on a side path on the return. Near the saddle go under the power lines, loop back to the left under them again and make the final climb along the crest.

## FOCG WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Julia Ferreira** of Lake Oswego, brings miles of hiking experience to the Friends. Julia has chaired our Hiking Weekend for five years. She founded and directed the hiking program for the Lake Oswego Recreation Department seven years ago. She has chaired the Mazama Trail Trips Committee for two years and lead the Wednesday hikes for Portland Parks and Recreation for three years. In addition she directed the Daytrippers of Tryon Creek State Park for seven years.



True joy for Julia is finding new trails. Mitchell Point, Weldon Wagon Trail and Archer Mountain, all located within the Columbia River Gorge, are her 1990 joyful discoveries.

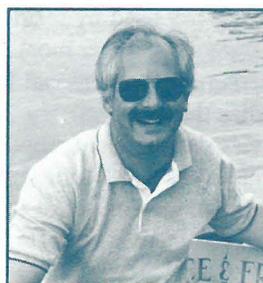
She and her husband, Dick, a Far West Federal banker, enjoy hiking with their six grandchildren who also live in the area.

**Sam Johnson** offers diverse talents to the Friends. He taught Ecology and Biophysics at Clark University in Massachusetts before moving west to head the science staff for the California Nature Conservancy. He later directed the Portland field office for the Conservancy.

He has served on the staff at Oregon Historical Society as a Special Project Coordinator and Director of Development. Starting in January 1991, he will serve as Director of the new Deferred Giving Program at Oregon Health Science University.

Wooden boat building and historic home preservation capture his free moments.

Sam and his wife, Susie, a Beaverton school librarian, live in Portland.



### Volunteers, continued from page 4.

Our Newsletter is one area where volunteers are vitally important in protecting the Columbia River Gorge. Listed below are some additional jobs and programs where people can become active participants. Please check those activities where you have interest and we will contact you as soon as possible. The talents and special interests of our membership enable us to be a strong voice in the preservation of the Gorge.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

- | Newsletter                | Office work   | Special Projects            |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| — writing, editing        | — typing      | — Annual Hiking Weekend     |
| — illustration            | — filing      | — educational presentations |
| — graphic design & layout | — mailings    | — Annual Meeting            |
| — photography             | — data entree | — field trips & outings     |

- Conservation**
- telephone trees
  - attend public workshops
  - letter writing

Please return form to Tamra Lisy,  
FOCG, 319 SW Washington, #301  
Portland, OR 97204 241-3762

# HELP SAVE SQUALLY POINT

Squally Point, one of the last remaining dune areas in the Gorge, is being eyed by Governor Goldschmidt and the Forest Service for development of another windsurfing park. This is despite the fact that three other windsurfing parks already exist within eight miles of the site.

This fragile and unique ecosystem is targeted in the Forest Service's Draft Management Plan for Zone IV Recreational Development Intensity, with use projected at up to 1,000 people per day. Such use would severely degrade the area. FOCG and other organizations oppose the scale of the proposed development.

Squally Point is located on the Columbia River three miles west of The Dalles. It encompasses a 3/4 mile stretch of sand beach surrounded by trees and brush which are used by bald eagles, osprey, and other raptors. Great blue heron, Canada geese, and other water and shore birds use the area as well. The area is used extensively by Native Americans, who fish there from platforms and with nets in the river.

Much of the area targeted for high-intensity windsurfing use is also proposed as a Natural Heritage site. A small but valuable wetland lies here as well. Squally Point is becoming increasingly critical for wildlife habitat due to increased use by people of other shoreline areas.

The dune plant community at Squally Point is unique and special. Sand-dune broomrape, slender evening primrose, and hoary aster, to name a few, can be found there. The Native Plant Society of Oregon decried the plan as having "disastrous effects" on the fragile dune plant community.

To the south of Squally Point, across the freeway, lies an area

of irrigated farmland known by locals as the Onion Patch. Tooley Lake is located there. The land surrounding the lake may be more accurately termed a wetland. The Corps of Engineers has an easement to flood it when necessary. It was last flooded in 1983. Tooley Lake is one of the few places where wildlife have access to water without having to cross the freeway, causing an unusually large number of animals to frequent the immediate area. Deer, fox, racoon, and even cougar have been sighted near the lake. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife has stated in written opposition, "The area is heavily used by resident wildlife, especially geese and osprey during the summer months and by bald eagles in the winter. Development to Recreational Intensity Class IV standards would jeopardize that use."

The Forest Service development proposal would turn the land near Tooley Lake into a parking lot for windsurfers with a tunnel under the freeway allowing them access to the beach. Under the Zone IV designation, commercial recreational development could be allowed as well.

Originally, in the draft land use designations, the Tooley Lake

area had been designated by the Forest Service as Zone II, (low intensity). Under a barrage of political pressure, this land was re-zoned IV, (highest intensity), and Squally Point was essentially adopted into the Draft Management Plan.

Interestingly, the Forest Service endorsed the plan and re-zoned the Tooley Lake area without studying the possible adverse impact of such a designation, in apparent violation of the National Scenic Area Act and of their own Draft Management Plan. Now Governor Goldschmidt appears to seek preliminary approval of the \$3,000,000.00 to \$7,000,000.00 park before his term in office ends in January.

FOCG has vigorously opposed the zoning and the development plan, both in writing and with verbal testimony. At a recent meeting, held after a one-day preliminary "feasibility study" of the proposal, the Governor's office, the Forest Service, and Oregon State Parks staff heard the plan denounced by FOCG Land Use Counsel Kristen Pecknold and by board member Sherry Grove.

The meeting's most outspoken opponents of the plan were the representatives of the Yakima, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Wasco people who had come to Hood River from long distances to be heard. They object to the plan because they feel their treaty rights will be jeopardized by recreational development of the land. Their concerns go beyond fishing rights to many religious and cultural reasons why this land is special to them and should not be developed. There may also be archeological artifacts on the higher

ground, and a multire-source investigation needs to be done.

Clearly this plan is an environmental, cultural, and financial mistake that violates the National Scenic Area Act. It needs to be stopped now. Members are urged to write Governor Goldschmidt and the Forest Service.

**FOCG will support a "Wildlife Viewing Area" at**

**Tooley Lake (Level I or II intensity). We will also support limited windsurfing access to the beach via shuttle from the nearby Gorge Interpretive Center--if details of egress from I-84 to access the beach can be worked out and if the plant, scenic, wildlife, and the Native American values can be fully protected.**

## *Where to write:*

Mr. Jim Hulbert  
U.S. Forest Service  
902 Wasco Ave., Suite 200  
Hood River, Oregon 97031

Governor Neil Goldschmidt  
254 State Capitol Building  
Salem, Oregon 97310



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GORGE

## January

**Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan Workshops**  
See schedule on page 2.

Jan. 9 -Columbia Gorge Audubon Society Membership Mtg. All interested people welcome. Care Corner, Hood River. Program: "Into Darkest Borneo" -dramatic video on the forests of Borneo and the conservation efforts under way. Rated excellent!

Skamania County Museum  
Special showing of old toys dating from 1860-1940. Museum open noon - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., 509/427-5141

If you know of upcoming events that we should include, send us a note with a brief description and the date, and we can let everyone know. FOCG, 319 SW Washington, #301, Portland, OR 97204 503/241-3762.

## February

The Dalles Art Center, Old Carnegie Library, 220 East 4th. Open Tues. through Sat., 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Sun., noon - 4:00 p.m., call for details, 503/296-4759.

Feb. 13 -Columbia Gorge Audubon Society Membership Mtg. All welcome. Care Corner, Hood River, 7:00 p.m., contact person -Laurie Smith, 503/386-6396.

## March

March 7 -**Friends of the Columbia Gorge Annual Membership Meeting**, time and location to be announced.

March 13 -Columbia Gorge Audubon Membership Mtg. All welcome. Care Corner, Hood River, 7:00 p.m.

Maryhill Museum reopens its season, call for times and details, 509/773-3733.



## Spring Series of Sensationally Scenic Saturdays

For ten years we've been working hard saving the Gorge. Now, let's take some Saturdays off for savoring the Gorge. Friends of the Columbia Gorge is proud to announce a series of eleven day hikes. All hikes will be free of charge and carpools will be available from central points in Portland. Listed below we've given you a taste of where we'll be going. So mark your calendar now and in February we will send members of FOCG the complete Spring Series handout. For more information contact FOCG at 241-3762.

**Hike Coordinator, Julia Ferreira**

**March 30. Catherine Creek West.** Helen Running and Myrtle Alex, trail enthusiasts, will lead us up the west canyon of Catherine Creek to wild flower-studded open country with spectacular rock palisades, stone works, and a natural arch. Hike 8 miles with 1,000-foot elevation gain.

**April 6. Lyle Cherry Orchard.** Nancy Russell, FOCG Chairman Emeritus.

**April 13. Tom McCall Preserve.** Barbara Robinson, who put together this whole acquisition, will lead.

**April 20. Archer Mountain Work Party.** Celebrate Earth Day by developing a new trail on this western Gorge landmark.

**April 27. Starvation, Warren, & McCord Creeks.** Nancy Russell, wildflower expert.

**May 4. Hood River Mountain Meadow.** Jerry Igo, Mid-Columbia Native Plant Society expert.

**May 11. Mitchell Point Loop.** Elinor Levin, Mazama pathfinder and conservationist.

**May 18. Nesika Loop.** Mary Mason, Trails Clubber and Tryon Creek Park guide.

**May 25. Dog Mountain.** Tim Hibbitts, political pundit and Gorge lover.

**June 1. Angel's Rest Via Wahkeena Falls.** Jean Siddall, rare and endangered plant expert.

**June 8. Hamilton Mountain.** Debbie Craig, FOCG Chair

**June 15-16. 11th Annual Gorge Hiking Weekend.** Brochures available May 15th.

## 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.

### Staff

Paulette Carter Bartee  
*Executive Director*  
Gary K. Kahn  
Kristen Pecknold  
*Land Use Counsel*  
Tamra Lisy  
*Education Outreach Coordinator*  
Helen Ehelebe  
*Bookkeeper/Office Assistant*  
Marna Moore  
*Receptionist/Clerk*

### Board of Directors

Debbie Craig, *Chairman*  
Nancy N. Russell, *Chairman Emeritus*  
Michael P. Ryan, *Treasurer*  
Jeanne Norton, *Secretary*  
Michael Adler  
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Kate McCarthy  
Nancie McGraw  
Sandra Mershon  
Kate Mills  
Yvonne Montchalin  
Mary Vranizan  
Christina Wilson

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Debbie Craig  
Marjorie Elliott Bevlin  
Julia Ferriera  
Sherry Grove  
Gary Kahn  
Tamra Lisy  
Don and Roberta Lowe  
Sandra Mershon  
Nancy Russell

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## Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Friends of the Columbia Gorge thanks the following people who have made memorial contributions since the date of our last newsletter:

In memory of Amelia Kuitert  
by  
James and Marie Porter

In memory of John Christiansen  
by  
Richard and Helen Ehelebe                      Sam and Vera Springer

In memory of Melvin Replogle  
by  
Joyce F. Jordan                      John P. Spiegel, M.D.  
Irene Elliott                      Dr. David G. Gill  
David and Marcella Kelly                      Linda Dorfman  
Virginia Denton                      Marty Wyngaarden Kraus  
Gunnar and Rosemary Dybwad                      Ralph E. and Edith McMullen  
Mrs. Nellie Kasper                      Joel Cohen and Barbara Wakefield

The Barbara Pooley Wilson Memorial Fund  
by  
Lady McDonald                      Hope and Peter Garrett  
Don and Emilie Frisbie                      Mr. and Mrs. Peter Pope  
Dr. and Mrs. Millard Ickes                      Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Meigs  
Kenneth and Virginia Swan                      Constance Morrow Morgan  
Mrs. William Feldenheimer                      John and Nancy Wagonaar  
Peter J. Kendall                      Peter and Jill McDonald

# Friends of the Columbia Gorge

## ***ACTION ALERT***

In October the U.S. Forest Service released the Draft Management Plan for the Special Management Areas of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. The quality of the final plan will be critically important in assuring sound protection for the most scenically and environmentally sensitive lands in the Gorge.

You have an opportunity to express your views to the Forest Service before they make the final revisions in the plan and adopt the completed plan in March 1991. The deadline for submitting your comments is January 31, 1991.

Listed below is a summary of our main concerns. For more extensive comments, position papers, and information contact our office, 241-3762.

### **Summary and Highlights**

Friends of the Columbia Gorge supports the following aspects of the draft plan. The Forest Service should be urged to keep these provisions in the final plan.

**\*The Forest Service will prohibit clearcutting on federal land in the SMA. We applaud this measure which will protect scenic and natural resources.**

**\*The protection policies afforded natural resources are very good. Initially, many sensitive areas are designed open space, which limits structural development; no alteration or destruction of wetlands are permitted. Most new developments must first be evaluated by a natural resource specialist to determine if there will be any adverse effects. This will go a long way toward protecting natural resources.**

The following aspects of the draft plan should be changed to assure adequate protection for the important resources and extraordinary beauty of the Gorge.

**\*The Forest Service should develop criteria and standards for counties to use in reviewing agriculture and forest management plans, by which they can determine whether a dwelling is necessary in maintaining the resource lands.**

**\*The same forest practice rules should be applied to non-federal forest lands as federal forest lands which would include prohibition of clearcutting and protection of biodiversity.**

**\*The allowance of dwellings on agricultural lands should be based on the necessity to manage the parcel for farming or ranching purposes. This should apply to all parcels, not just those between 40 - 80 acres.**

**\*The Forest Service will require new developments to be compatible with the landscape settings in which the development is located. Five landscape settings have been identified - wildlands, woodlands, riverbottom, pastoral, and rural. Additional landscapes are necessary. At present the categories are too broad and, through management, will encourage degradation of existing landscape settings.**

## Summary and Highlights, continued

\*Concerning lands visible from Key Viewing Areas, the Forest Service should develop standards and specifics for the counties to use in determining the adverse affects of developments on the scenic resources.

\*The Forest Service should designate Rowena Dell and Latourell areas as something other than residential and treat the existing uses as nonconforming. Rather than treat the entire area as having vested rights for subsequent development, the Forest Service should apply its vested rights test to each individual land owner to determine if the vested rights exist.

\*We are concerned that none of the 52 proposed recreation sites, included in the Recreation Development Plan, have undergone a compatibility determination. In a compatibility determination, the Forest Service would conduct an analysis of the potential site to determine if there is potential adverse impact on the other resources.

\*While F.O.C.G. is an avid supporter of additional hiking trails and other recreation development, we are concerned that the number of projects proposed by the Forest Service will necessarily result in adverse impacts on the other resources of the National Scenic Area.

### Specific recreation proposals of concern:

**Skamania Composite** -The Skamania Composite consists of three potential developed sites and a recently created National Wildlife Refuge, all in Washington. The three potential sites are the St. Cloud, Yung, and Doetsch properties near the newly created Franz Lake National Wildlife Refuge, which provides homes for hundreds of tundra swans in the winter. The Forest Service proposes large recreation sites handling as many as 1,500 people at one time. Because of the river access, it is likely that significant cultural resources are present, which would be adversely affected by large scale development. We urge the Forest Service to scale its proposal down for the Skamania Composite.

**Squally Point** -Squally Point, one of the last remaining dune areas in the Gorge, is located on the Columbia River three miles west of The Dalles. The Forest Service's proposal is for a large recreational facility to provide opportunities for windsurfing, swimming, boating, picnicking, hiking, and interpretation. The facility is intended to serve 1,000 people at one time. This area is an important area for Native Americans and wildlife, and contains natural and cultural resources. We believe this is an inappropriate development since it will serve a limited portion of the recreation public, and adversely affect other resources. Please see F.O.C.G. newsletter article, "Help Save Squally Point", for more information.

*Please send your comments to:*

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*We would also appreciate a copy of your comments for our files. Please send to:*

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