

WINDS IN THE GORGE Autumn Issue, 1983

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In early August, Columbia River Gorge legislation drafted by the Oregon and Washington governors was introduced into Congress by Senators Hatfield, Gorton, and Jackson and by all Washington and Oregon Representatives, with the exception of Rep. Denny Smith. The Senators introduced the Governors' legislation "by request", which often indicates less than wholehearted support.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge believes the introduction of the Governors' bill represents progress, particularly because it brings the Washington delegation firmly aboard with respect to federal legislation to protect the Gorge.

However, the bill must be kept in perspective. It represents only a beginning; as it is presently drafted, the bill would not protect the Gorge.

This is primarily because the Governors' bill has removed any significant federal or national role from Gorge management. Of the fourteen voting Commission members who are charged with creating a management plan and actually managing the Gorge, at the very least ten will be from the local Gorge counties. All fourteen may be from these counties.

Unfortunately, the Governors' bill provides no assurance that the Commission members will possess the technical knowledge or even the inclination to draft a sophisticated, detailed management plan, which is required for the Gorge.

The Forest Service, however, possesses the requisite experience, skills and resources to protect the Gorge. Moreover, it is only fair to grant the federal government an equal role (with local and state governments) in Gorge management, since it is the largest landowner in the Gorge, and is required to pay the full costs of any Gorge legislation.

The Governors' bill contains other substantial flaws, including:

- -the failure to pre-designate critical lands;
- -a blanket exemption from regulation of all commercial forest activities on forestry lands;
- -the failure to give the Gorge a national designation, such as the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, to promote tourism;
- -the failure to exempt incorporated areas from regulation;
- -and an unrealistically short 60-day deadline--during the interim period before acceptance of a management plan--for Commission rejection of unsuitable development proposals.

Legislative Update (continued)

Friends of the Columbia Gorge continues to give its full support to the only legislation which will protect the Gorge: S. 627/H.R. 1747, introduced earlier this year by Senators Packwood and Hatfield, and Representatives Weaver and AuCoin. This legislation continues to receive the support of its sponsors, particularly Senator Packwood, who has been especially energetic on its behalf. Nevertheless, FOCG will work with the sponsors of the Governors' bill to improve that legislation.

Bowen Blair Executive Director

IN SEATTLE

On behalf of the Seattle office of FOCG I want to thank all of the members who have continued their support and written letters to the Congressional delegation in support of S.627/H.R. 1747.

The big fall project for the Friends' office is to raise funds for a much-needed lobbyist in Washington, D.C. to ensure that our legislation has the proper backing. Our goal is \$15,000, and plans are in the works for events to raise the money. Gretchen Hull, an Associate Sponsor of the Friends, has contributed much of her time and effort to raise the funds. Our thanks go, also, to her finance committee.

Again, we realize that our greatest strength is our members.

The Seattle office and the Puget Sound area welcome new members. We also have T-shirts, records, posters and calendars. Come in and visit or call to get an update on the latest happenings in the Gorge.

Kristine Simenstad Associate Director, Seattle Office

This is your chance . . .

to help us cut our costs and keep the Friends highly effective.

With all the action and activity in our offices, we need all the support we can get from volunteers. This is an opportunity to take on as much or as little responsibility as you like; a short or a long term project may be just the thing, maybe answering phones, maybe just now and again.

We'd love to have <u>you</u> on a steady basis, most of all, whether one day a week, a month, several hours a week... so we are able to plan ahead, know how much we can do and still do it well.

If you are willing to take on a special responsibility, or project, we guarantee you an excellent experience that will stand you in good stead for future work.

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE "WINDS IN THE GORGE"

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Editor......Sally Russell
Contributing writers:
Janet Smith
Nancy Russell
Bowen Blair
Phyllis Clausen
Kristine Simenstad

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is a nonprofit educational corporation dedicated to preserving the scenic, historic, and economic resources of the Columbia River Gorge for future generations.

PORTLAND office: 519 SW 3rd Ave., #303 (503) 241-3762 Portland, OR 97204 VANCOUVER office: 1306 Main St. (206) 694-6717 Vancouver, WA 98660 SEATTLE office: 2021 3rd Ave. (206) 622-4590 Seattle, WA 98121

SPEND A DAY IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE WITH NANCY RUSSELL??!!!

So many people have expressed an interest in spending a day with Nancy, we decided to make it possible. On Sunday, September 25, Nancy Russell, Cochairperson of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, expert on the history, plants and geology of the Gorge, will be giving an all day bus tour through the Columbia Gorge.

A chartered tour bus will leave Portland's Lloyd Center parking lot at SE 17th and Multnomah 8:30am and travel up the Oregon side of the Gorge. You'll stop for lunch at the Hood River Charburger. The tour will eventually return along the Washington side and include a stop at John Yeon's beautiful property directly across from Multnomah Falls. There will be several stops along the way, with short walks.

We guarantee this will be an extraordinary day for all who participate. Send in your deposit right away with the form included in this newsletter. Space is limited to 45 persons. Please call any of our offices if you have further questions.

Columbia Gorge Exhibit

Seeing the superb exhibit, "Passage Through Time: The Columbia River Gorge," now on view at the Oregon Historical Society, is a must for all Friends of the Columbia Gorge. The exhibition which opened on August 18 and continues until November 19, 1983, displays paintings and photographs that are both lovely to view and a most important historic record of the ever-changing Gorge landscape. Among the photographers represented are Carleton E. Watkins, Benjamin E. Gifford, Lily E. White, Fred A. Kiser and Edward S. Curtis. The exhibit labels are rich in historic information. This is an opportunity to learn.

"Passage Through Time" is officially dedicated to John Yeon, Associate Sponsor of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, dedicated conservationist, and longtime advocate of meaningful protection for the Gorge. Indeed, much time has passed since John authored the 1937 report, "Conservation and Development of Scenic and Recreational Resources of the Columbia Gorge," for the Pacific Northwest Regional Planning Commission. If the recommendations of that report had been implemented there would be no management crisis in the Gorge today.

In a statement of dedication to Mr. Yeon, Thomas Vaughan, Executive Director, O.H.S., notes, "He has been a public persuader and, through personal example, he has allied himself with our deepest obligations to those generations which will succeed ours. John Yeon has conceived it to be his duty. . . to serve at what Nabokov called the 'highest terraces of consciousness.' It has not been easy."

It is never easy to be a visionary and to steer a steady course for so long a time. We offer John Yeon our congratulations on the role he has played in Columbia River Gorge protection.

Put a visit to the Oregon Historical Society on your calendar right now, 1230 S. W. Park Ave., Portland. You won't want to miss this show.

THREATS TO THE GORGE

Because of the upturn in the economy, or because developers are trying to act before federal legislation is enacted, there has been a noticeable increase in developmental pressure in the Gorge.

On August 9, the Skamania County Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of Colonel George Rizor's 21-lot subdivision directly across the river from Multnomah Falls. It is expected that the County Commissioners will give final approval to the subdivision later this month.

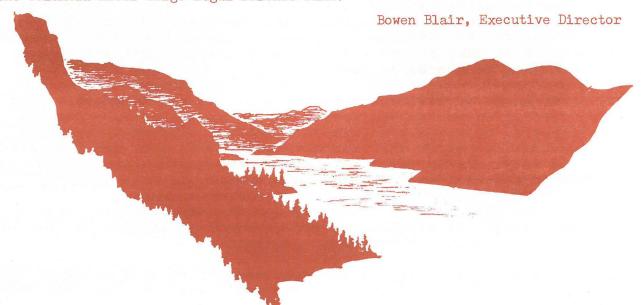
Also, in Skamania County, adjacent to Skamania Landing, plans have been unveiled by the Elisabeth Roane Jung Land Trust to create a 78-lot subdivision on 70 acres bordering the Columbia River. These plans include the dredging of a deep water harbor and extensive filling (approximately 165,000 cubic yards) of wetlands. Each home would have its own septic tank.

In eastern Clark County, the Port of Camas/Washougal is embarking upon an ambitious development program which would have drastic effects upon wetlands in the Columbia Gorge, especially in the Steigerwald Lake area.

Other threats, too numerous to list here, seem to surface on a daily basis. These include the construction of a private small-scale hydroelectric facility (partially on public lands) which would have adverse effects upon a beautiful Gorge waterfall; the dumping of lock spoils on pristine areas, including wetlands, by the Army Corps of Engineers; continuing poor forestry practices by private landowners; and additional subdivisions.

Primarily to combat the surge in recent subdivision proposals in Skamania County, the Oregon and Washington Gorge Commissions recently took an unprecedented step and asked Skamania County to declare a moratorium on development in unincorporated areas in the county. It is unlikely the County Commissioners will do so.

On a related front, a coalition of conservation groups, representing some five million members, including the Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Columbia Gorge Coalition, and Friends of the Columbia Gorge, have formed the Columbia River Gorge Legal Defense Fund (CRGLDF). The purpose of this fund is to stop incompatible developments in the Gorge through litigation. When comprehensive federal legislation is enacted which will protect the Gorge, the CRGLDF will no longer be needed. Until that time, however, temporary interim protection is essential and will be provided by the Columbia River Gorge Legal Defense Fund.



Scenic Highway Nomination to National Register

In the spring of 1981 the Historic Preservation League of Oregon initiated a survey of the Old Columbia River Highway in the Columbia Gorge under contract with the National Park Service. This completed survey formed the basis for the proposed nomination of the Scenic Highway to the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Office.

A Draft Nomination was sent to Friends of the Columbia Gorge for review and Associate Sponsor John Yeon and Nancy Russell carefully reviewed the draft and submitted extensive comments on various aspects of the proposal.

Yeon and Russell represented the Friends at a Highway Department informational meeting in Hood River on August 9, and Mrs. Russell appeared in Salem on August 29 before the State Advisory committee on Historic Preservation to recommend favorably on the nomination, to offer comments, and to respond to questions from the Advisory Committee. The formation provided by John Yeon was particularly valuable in assisting the committee.

The State Advisory Committee recommended favorably on the nomination. It looks as if very soon we will have a National Historic District extending the length of the Scenic Highway from the



Cascade Gentian

the length of the Scenic Highway from the Sandy River to The Dalles.

Sharr Prohaska, President, and the Historic Preservation League of Oregon are to be congratulated for their strong leadership in bringing about this nomination. The designation of the Old Highway as a National Historic Place has potential for added protection for this most significant Oregon historic resource.

IT ALL ADDS UP

On August 26th and 27th, FOCG Secretary Phyllis Clausen organized a greatly successful garage sale for FOCG in Vancouver. With approximately 30 families donating items and 10 people working morning or afternoon shifts, the sale netted over \$600.

The sale gave focus to the need for Gorge protection, enabled exceedingly busy neighbors to gather and discuss family and neighborhood activities, and forced donors to clear garages and closets of long-forgotten items.

"Maybe you don't think of a garage sale as something to make your spirits soar, but that's the best way to express my reaction because many good things came together during the effort," stated Phyllis. "A garage sale can be community-wide or just a neighborhood project. It can sell any type of object and that's what is so great about it - it's as individual as the person who thinks it up."

Phyllis deserves special thanks for her great efforts. Please contact any FOCG office for information about holding your own garage sale.

- 7 days/ week Bonneville Dam Visitor Center. Hourly tours (power generators can be viewed on Washington side). Audio-visual programs. Fall and winter hours, 9-5.
- September 10,11 John Strong Circus, The Dalles. Last of the old-time tent circuses. West 6th Street. Performances 2 & 4 pm.
- September 11 Bike ride to Wahkeena Falls and Oneonta Gorge. \$5.00 includes lunch. Meet at Lewis and Clark State Park 9am. Portland Bureau of Parks. (503) 248-4018
- September 17 River City Rendezvous, The Dalles. Apple-peeling contest, chili, cookoff, other games, entertainment and music. 9pm to 2am. Benefit for St. Mary's Academy, The Dalles.
- September 17 Maryhill & Stonehenge Bus Trip. Returns through Goldendale and by the Klickitat River. \$17.75 and pre-registration required. Portland Bureau of Parks. (503) 248-4018.
- September 24 The "Columbia Gorge", brand new 120 foot sternwheeler will make her maiden voyage from Hood River to Cascade Locks.
- September 25 Nancy Russell gives all day tour of the Columbia
 Gorge. Leave Portland 8:30am, return 4:30pm. Pre-registration
 required. \$50 per person. See in this newsletter for more info.
- September 27 Two superb Gorge films. Portland Art Museum, Berg-Swann Auditorium. The Columbia Gorge: A Natural History and "The Columbia Gorge: Who is Watching?". 7:30pm. Free admission.
- October 15

 Harvest Festival, Hood River. Parade, farmer's market, crafts, exhibits, entertainment. Maps of area fruit stands available.
- November 30 Nesmith Point Hike. Meet in Portland, SE 17th & Multnomah Streets, 8 am. 75¢ & pre-registration. Ptld. Pk. Bureau.

An International Perspective

Last June 5 Nancy Russell traveled to Germany to represent Friends of the Gorge at an international conference, "New Directions for Conservation of Parks," attended by leaders of major preservation groups in Europe, Canada, and the USA, as well as individuals from Poland and Romania. The U.S. delegation was led by Paul Pritchard of the National Parks and Conservation Association, Washington, D.C.. The "new directions" favored by these leaders is embodied in the concept favored by FOCG for

the preservation of the Columbia Gorge: a cooperative effort of federal, state and local governments to establish a Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

A featured presentation on the Columbia River Gorge during the conference resulted in the Gorge being cited in the Conference Resolutions as one of four areas in Europe and North America "that should be part of the protected area system."

> Nancy Russell Co-chairperson

Get Ahead of the Game!!! And put some gifts aside now for the holidays...

Two of the posters are from photographs by Ray Atkeson: one depicts winter at Crown Point and the other summer farmlands as viewed from Cape Horn.

A third poster from a photograph by Gary Braasch depicts the moon rising behind Crown Point.

Buy a few and give them to people whom you know love the Gorge.

"The Columbia Gorge. Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow?"

Books ***********************
We also have Jack Grauer's indispensable book, Columbia River Gorge: An Enjoyment Guide. This is the most complete collection of trail maps for the Gorge available today.

The Native Plant Society of Oregon's book Survey of Wildflowers and Flowering Shrubs of the Columbia Gorge is a technical listing.

A beautiful and interesting book titled Bridge of the Gods, Mountains of Fire by Chuck Williams is offered through our office.

Coloring Book ******************

Columbia River Gorge Coloring Book is a very well done book -- 32 pages full of the creatures and plants that live in the Gorge.

| | ORD | ER FORM | | | CHARLES SHOW | | |
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| Bumper stickers | 1.00 | | -3 | | | | |
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1984 COLUMBIA GORGE CALENDAR AVAILABLE

For several years we have thought it would be wonderful to assemble the most striking photographs of the Gorge in a Columbia Gorge calendar. This year, Mr. Ted Paul, President of Beautiful America Publishing Company, has made it happen. In cooperation with Friends of the Columbia Gorge, he has published a smashing calendar, "The Beautiful Columbia Gorge - 1984".

Four of the most talented photographers of the Northwest are featured: Ray Atkeson, Gary Braasch, Craig Collins and Steve Terrill. This is a $12\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ wall appointment calendar, the kind most of us like to use. It is now available at FOCG offices in Vancouver, Portland and Seattle. You'll also find an order form in this newsletter. Plan ahead and buy these calendars while they're available...

...And if you know of stores in your neighborhood that would like to sell the calendars, or businesses that would like to give gorgeous calendars as Christmas gifts, please let us know. Retail price is \$5.95. Wholesale rates are also available.



FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

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