

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

JANUARY-MARCH 1996 NEWSLETTER

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Telephone: (503) 241-3762

Positive Progress on Key Scenic Area Issues

At the closing of 1995 and the beginning of a new year, progress is made on several key issues in the National Scenic Area

Mosier Tunnels Project Moves Ahead

In November 1995, members of the Friends Board, Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee, Oregon State Parks, and Department of Transportation toured the Mosier Twin Tunnels. The eastern "twin" has been opened, revealing an "adit," or opening, with splendid views of the river. Work has been started on the western tunnel; land has been acquired for a trailhead near Mosier; and the roadway and rock walls have been restored to their original condition on the east end. It is very exciting to see this long-awaited project so well under way. ▲

Hood River County Land Trade Nears Completion

The Friends congratulate Hood River County, the U.S. Forest Service, and the State of Oregon for working through long, difficult negotiations to reach

an agreement that will benefit Gorge residents and visitors for years to come.

Under an exchange agreement reached late last year, about 365 acres of county land along the Historic Columbia River Highway, including the East Pit quarry, will be pro-

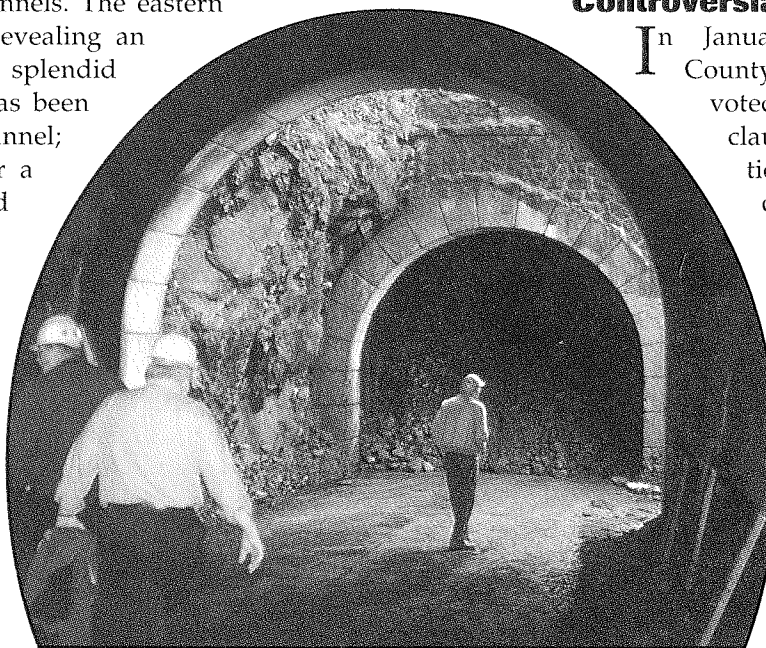
tected under U.S. Forest Service ownership. The exchange is expected to be completed early in 1996. ▲

Skamania County Repeals Controversial "Sunset Clause"

In January 1996, the Skamania County Board of Commissioners voted to repeal the "sunset clause" in the county's National Scenic Area land use ordinance. The "sunset clause", if not repealed, would have terminated the county's ordinance on January 15, 1996. As a result of the Board's action, the county will continue to administer the Scenic Area laws and issue development permits for Scenic Area lands. The Friends will dismiss its lawsuit that had challenged the sunset clause as inconsistent with the National Scenic Act.

"We are pleased that Skamania County chose local

control of the Scenic Area ordinance," said Friends executive director Lauri Aunan. "We hope the county will recognize the Scenic Act and ordinance as valuable tools to protect the rural way of life of Skamania County in the face of rapid population growth and development." ▲



The eastern "twin" has been opened, and work has begun to clear the western tunnel.

Photo by Jeanette Kloos

Executive Director's Letter



The work to protect the Gorge will not get easier in the years to come, but it must be done for our children and grandchildren and the generations to follow them.

Photo by
Nancy Russell

Fifteen years ago, the Friends of the Columbia Gorge came together with a vision for the future of the Columbia Gorge. After six years of hard work, and with support from many, many people and organizations, the spectacular landscapes of the Gorge gained increased protection through the creation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in 1986.

But that was just the beginning. The Columbia Gorge had already lost so much to development of dams, freeways, railroads, industry and growing cities. The newest challenge — rapid urban development at its gates — threatens even more loss. Eternal vigilance is the price of ensuring survival of the Gorge's remaining resources.

For example, efforts are now under way in Washington state to undermine protection of the National Scenic Area. This most recent attack targets the budget of the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission was created in order to protect the National Scenic Area — Gorge protection and enhancement is its sole purpose. In recent months the Commission has taken steps to halt destructive clearcuts in the Gorge (see story on page 5), and has committed to implementing a monitoring and evaluation program to determine if Gorge resources are adequately protected by current development guidelines. Without sufficient funding for these activities, the Gorge will be less protected.

Please take every opportunity to show your support for the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. Write a letter to the editor. Contact your county commissioners, your state legislators, governor and your senators and congressional representatives. It will take all of us working together to protect this magnificent resource for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Lauri Aunan

Lauri G. Aunan
Executive Director

Mission Statement

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural and cultural resources within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

We fulfill this mission by ensuring strict implementation of the National Scenic Area Act; promoting responsible stewardship of Gorge lands and waters; encouraging public ownership of sensitive areas; educating the public about the unique natural values of the Columbia River Gorge and the importance of preserving those values; and working with groups and individuals to accomplish mutual preservation goals.

—Adopted February 3, 1994

FOCG is proud to be a member of the Environmental Federation of Oregon. Protect the environment through payroll deduction.

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* *Gorge resident*

Newsletter Contributors

Contributors: Lauri Aunan, Julia Ferreira, Gary Kahn, Michael Lang, Kate Mills, Kristin Reese, Nancy Russell

Editor and Layout: Kathleen Krushas

Deadline for the April newsletter is March 25

A Voyage to Remember

Special Friends Cruise To Celebrate National Scenic Area's 10th Anniversary

by Kate Mills

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, the Friends of the Columbia Gorge has reserved Lindblad's Special Expeditions "Sea Bird" for the week of October 12-18, 1996.

On October 12, you will depart from Portland for the 400-mile journey up river to Clarkston, Idaho, exploring the Columbia, White Salmon, Snake and Palouse Rivers; visiting the Nez Perce Museum and Maryhill Museum; taking many guided field trips to bird preserves, historical sites, archaeological and geological wonders; riding the Mt. Hood Railroad; and touring the old Scenic Highway on segments not available before.

Tom McAllister, Lewis McArthur, Russ Jolley and Nancy Russell will be our guides on this made-to-order charter.

There are 74 spaces for adventurous Gorge lovers on this 150-foot, first-class ship known for its good crew and service. Prices range from \$1990 to \$2960 per person depending on cabin choice. No air fare — just get yourself to the Harbor Wall in Portland and help us celebrate the 10th Anniversary in a very special way. ▲



In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, the Friends invites you aboard Sven-Olof Lindblad's Special Expeditions "Sea Bird" for a week of exploring the wonders of the Gorge and the Columbia and Snake Rivers. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends. Reservations are being taken now!

Photo courtesy of Sven-Olof Lindblad's Special Expeditions

Friends Board member Kate Mills is organizing this adventure with the help of Nancy Russell. For more information, please call Kate Mills at (541) 352-7729.

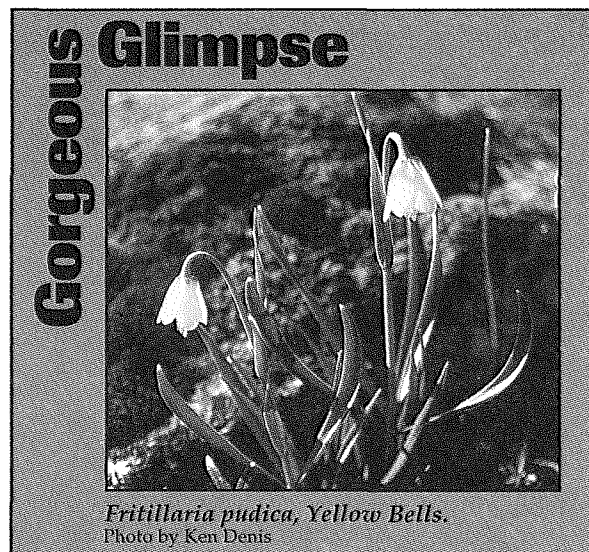
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Progress on Key Scenic Area Issues

Clark County Adopts Gorge Ordinance

In January, the Clark County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a county Gorge ordinance that would transfer administration of Gorge land use laws to the county, and amended the county's Growth Management Plan to remove portions of the Washougal Urban Growth Area from the Gorge. The ordinance now must be reviewed by the Gorge Commission to ensure consistency with the National Scenic Act and Management Plan.

"We are pleased that Clark County has joined the partnership to protect the Columbia Gorge for future generations," said Lauri Anan, executive director of the Friends. ▲



Fritillaria pudica, Yellow Bells.
Photo by Ken Denis

Gorge Watch

Citizen Involvement Update



Referendum 48 Defeated

In November, Washington voters turned down the most extreme anti-land use planning law — a law that threatened National Scenic Area protection. Unfortunately some Washington legislators and members of Congress continue to push for “special compensation” laws that would take from taxpayers and give to builders, developers, realtors and timber companies. Please contact state legislators, Senators and Congressional representatives to oppose these “takings from taxpayers.” ▲

Gorge Protection at Risk – Gorge Commission Funding Under Attack

Washington state Rep. Marc Boldt (R-17) is among those seeking to drastically cut funding for the Columbia River Gorge Commission. Any loss of funding for the Gorge Commission means less protection for the Gorge.

To find out what you can do, call Friends Outreach Coordinator Kristin Reese at (503) 241-3762. ▲

Gorge Commission Votes to Support Monitoring Program

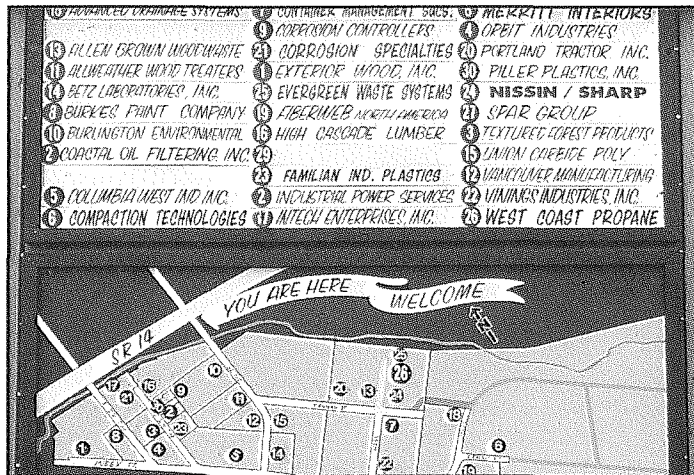
The Friends is concerned about efforts to weaken the land use laws for the National Scenic Area, and the lack of good information about whether the laws are working to protect Gorge resources. At a Gorge Commission hearing in January, the Friends urged the Commission to establish a monitoring program and gather good information

before beginning review and possible revision of Gorge land use laws. The Commission voted unanimously to make a monitoring program its highest priority and to base policy decisions on data to be gathered by a monitoring program. Funding is needed for this program, and the Friends will be working to help the Commission obtain funding. ▲

L. Ribe and his Winter Studio Class, which will provide computer simulations of development scenarios in the National Scenic Area. ▲

Washougal Appeals Ruling on Scenic Area

Last fall, a Washington state panel ruled that Clark County’s Growth Management Plan violates the Growth Management Act by planning urban development in the National Scenic Area. Clark County did not appeal the ruling and has revised its plan to remove the urban growth area from the Gorge. However, the City of Washougal has filed an appeal of the panel’s ruling. The Friends will participate in that appeal. ▲



Imagine dense industrial and urban residential development creeping further and further into the National Scenic Area. That is the goal of the City of Washougal, which has appealed the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board’s order to remove plans for urban growth from the National Scenic Area.

Photo by Lauri Aunan

Land Use Audit Update

The Friends welcomes Anthony Boutard as Project Manager for our Land Use Audit Project. Anthony has been staff Forester for 1000 Friends of Oregon and will bring valuable skills and experience to our project. Funded by grants from the Laird Norton Endowment Foundation, Northwest Fund for the Environment and the Herbert A. Templeton Foundation, the land use audit is researching development levels and trends in the National Scenic Area.

The Friends is also working with University of Oregon Professor Robert

Thanks to Morning Star Espresso and Delphinias for the donation of coffee and pastries to our recent 10th Anniversary meeting.

A special thank you to Ivy McLane, who has been helping with our Land Use Audit Project maps and database. ▲

Help Clean up the Gorge

Friends Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up is happening on Saturday, March 23. Meeting places are highlighted in the Gorge Calendar on the back cover. Bring a friend and help keep the Gorge beautiful! ▲

Underwood Bluff Clearcut Application Withdrawn

But Washington DNR Continues to Approve Forest Practices in Violation of the Scenic Act

Last year, the Washington Department of Natural Resources approved two clearcuts in the Gorge, one near Augspurgen Mountain on Special Management Area (SMA) land, the other on the Underwood Bluffs overlooking the Columbia River. Quick action had to be taken to avoid damage to Gorge resources.

The Friends worked to generate media attention through newspaper and television stories. At the same time, the Central Cascades Alliance, Columbia Gorge Commission, and U.S. Forest Service appealed the SMA clearcut to the Washington Forest Practices Appeal Board. Central Cascades Alliance and the Gorge Commission also filed suit in Skamania County to prevent the logging of Underwood Bluff.

As a result of the lawsuit and publicity, including a strong statement from Senator Mark Hatfield, the landowner withdrew the Underwood Bluff logging application. The landowner is pursuing plans to clearcut and develop four homesites below the bluff. The Friends is concerned



View of area proposed for 140-acre clearcut, from slopes of Augspurgen Mountain.

Photo by Michael Lang

that this development may damage sensitive wildlife habitat, adversely affect scenic resources and endanger the drinking water source for the community of Underwood. Adequate buffers and careful placement of the homesites is essential to avoid these potential adverse effects.

The Augspurgen Mountain case is scheduled for a hearing in February. The U.S. Forest Service has indicated interest in acquiring the property, and is discussing possible purchase with the landowner.

These crises are a result of the Washington DNR's continued approval of permits that violate the National Scenic Act. Recently, the DNR indicated that it plans to approve logging within the Catherine-Major Creek Open Space, again in violation of the law.

The Friends is working toward a political solution. As a result of the Friends' work, the Washington Forest Practices Board has scheduled a special two day meeting in May in the Columbia Gorge.

"Forest resources in the National Scenic Area are at risk because the Washington DNR refuses to comply with the law," said Michael Lang, Land Use and Forest Coordinator. "We hope that on the upcoming ten year anniversary of the National Scenic Act, the DNR will recognize the Columbia Gorge as a special place that deserves protection." ▲

Forest Service Proposal Threatens Catherine-Major Creek

After months of public meetings, the US Forest Service developed a management plan for the Catherine-Major Creek Open Space in the eastern Gorge. The plan reflected the overwhelming concern of participants to protect the unique wildflowers and other resources of this important area. To protect native plants from further destruction, the plan restricted entry to horses, which bring in non-native plant seeds and can damage the thin layer of soil in this area.

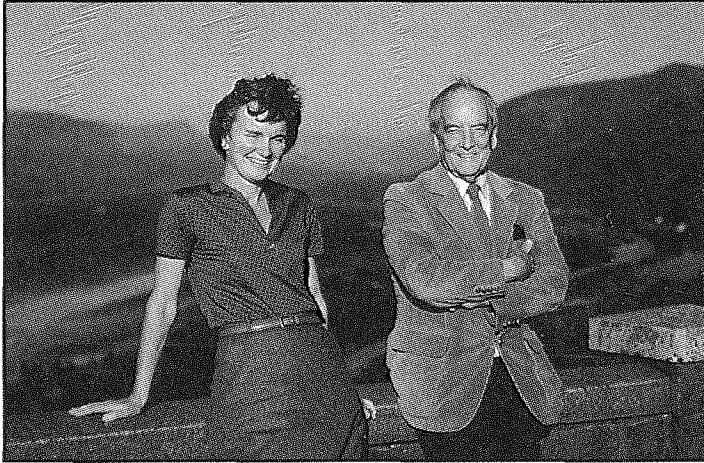
In a stunning turn of events, the Forest Service now plans to build a trail that will give horses access to this sensitive area. A "connector trail" linking State Road 1230 with county-owned Atwood Road would be available to all non-motorized uses, including horses.

This decision is directly contrary to the plan developed over more than one year of public involvement and agency research. Please contact the Forest Service to oppose making Catherine-Major Creek accessible to horses: Art Carroll, USFS, 902 Wasco St., Suite 200, Hood River OR 97031, (541) 386-2333. ▲

In the News...

The University of Oregon Receives John Yeon's Gorge Legacy

by Nancy N. Russell



Nancy Russell and John Yeon at Crown Point in October 1980.

Most of you will remember the many Friends of the Gorge summer picnics at John Yeon's beautiful property, The Shire, across from Multnomah Falls. A fateful meeting there with John on August 1, 1979, led directly to the formation of the Friends and the creation of the National Scenic Area that followed.

Many of you will also remember John Yeon. Son of a businessman who played a major role in Gorge history, John's special genius was in architecture and other fields relating to aesthetics. His efforts greatly benefitted Oregon and the Gorge over many years.

A sparkling and festive occasion on October 6, 1995, in the Crystal Room of the Benson Hotel marked the an-

nouncement by David Frohnmayer, President of the University of Oregon, that The Shire had been given to the School of Architecture and Allied Arts. The preserve will be used by the University for the study of Pacific Northwest landscape design, preservation, and management. Mr. Yeon died March 13, 1994.

Our thanks are very much deserved by the three estate trustees, James Gamwell, Richard Brown, and George Fleerlage, who arranged the University of Oregon's stewardship. ▲

Board News

Welcome to new Board member Spencer Biddle Dick, a Portland business man, great-grandson of Henry J. Biddle, who built the Beacon Rock trail. Spencer has inherited a great love of the Columbia Gorge and is an active Gorge hiker.

Founding Board member Phyllis Clausen resigned in January to pursue new frontiers, including travel with her husband, Victor. Jim Olmsted resigned late last year following a move to Eugene, Oregon. Mary Vranizan also has left the Board. Many, many thanks to Phyllis, Jim and Mary for their years of support.

In November, Richard Getgen was nominated to the Board. His nomination will be up for approval in February. Richard is past Chairman of the Mazamas Trail Trips Committee and was awarded the Mazamas' Hardesty Cup for outstanding leadership and service. He has hiked more than 7,000 miles of trails and hopes to reach 10,000 before the year 2000. He has led more than 200 trail trips for the Mazamas and every year leads a hike for the Friends Gorge Hiking Weekend. ▲

Thank You!

Friends of the Columbia Gorge thanks the following for their generous support in 1995.

Autzen Foundation • The Bullitt Foundation • Clark Foundation • Collins Foundation • Davis Foundation • Environmental Support Center • Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation • Jackson Foundation • Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation • Laird Norton Endowment Foundation • Morley Brothers Foundation • The Mountaineers Foundation • Nathan Family Charitable Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation • Northwest Fund for the Environment • Portland Garden Club • Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust • Herbert A. Templeton Foundation • True North Foundation • W. Alton Jones Foundation • Wilburforce Foundation • The Wilderness Society

Special thanks to our wonderful Conservators, and our many members. We couldn't do it without you! ▲

1996 Spring Wildflower Hikes

WHAT: A series of 11 day-hikes, sponsored by Friends of the Columbia Gorge, to follow the wildflower bloom as it unfolds in the Gorge. Participants should be in good physical condition. We are not intent on setting speed records; we prefer to promote awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the Columbia Gorge.

WHERE: Leave 8:00 a.m. from Gateway/99th Avenue Park & Ride, S.E. corner of parking lot. Exit 7 off I-84, turn immediately right onto NE 99th Avenue, Portland. Second meeting places for persons living outside the Portland area.

WHAT TO BRING: Lunch, water, rain gear, extra

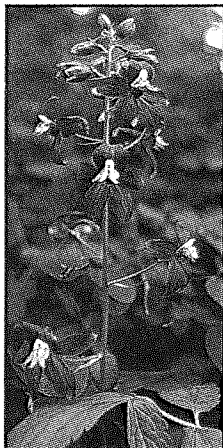


Photo by Lauri Aunan

clothing, insect repellent, camera, binoculars, first aid and personal items. No animals please.

WHAT TO WEAR: Long sleeves and long pants recommended. Sturdy hiking shoes, lug-soled and waterproof.

CAR POOLING: Will be arranged at Gateway/99th Avenue Park & Ride each Saturday. Donation to drivers of 5¢ per mile recommended. Bridge tolls (75¢ each way) shared.

GENERAL INFO: Prior sign-up not necessary. Hikes will not be cancelled because of rain. Participants accept responsibility for their own safety. All mileages are round trip. For more information, contact Friends of the Columbia Gorge at (503) 241-3762.

MARCH 30—CATHERINE CREEK

Wildflower experts Barbara Robinson, Nancy Russell, and Ray Hayden will lead exploration of Catherine Creek's wildflower meadows and oak woodlands. Hike 6 miles with 1,600 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place, 9:30 a.m.: Trailhead on Rd. 1230. Drive 5.9 miles east on Washington Hwy. 14 from Hood River Bridge; turn left onto County Rd. #1230 at Rowland Lake. Continue 1½ miles to gate on the left.

APRIL 6—LYLE CHERRY ORCHARD

Hood River resident Mimi Macht will lead us up a series of benches, gaining 1,000 feet in the first .75 mile, to the wind-swept plateau and deserted cherry orchard. 6-mile hike with 1,400 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place 9:30 a.m.: Milepost 77.4 on north side of Washington Hwy. 14, just east of the Lyle tunnels.

APRIL 13—DALLES MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Pat Bleakney, former owner of Dalles Mountain Ranch, will show us new routes and new views. Hike 7 miles with minimal elevation gain; 1,000 ft. elevation loss. Optional walk inside Horsethief Butte afterwards. Second meeting place, 9:45 a.m.: Horsethief Lake State Park day-use area. Exit 87 off I-84; then north in Washington on Hwy. 197 for 3 miles; then east on Hwy. 14 for 1½ miles.

APRIL 20—MEMALOOSE HILLS

Wildflower experts Russ Jolley and Nancy Russell will lead us to new views in the Memaloose-Rowena area. Hike 6 miles with 1,000 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place, 9:15 a.m.: Memaloose Rest Area, south side of I-84 eastbound, shortly after milepost 72.

APRIL 27—DESCHUTES RIVER TRAILS

Desert Trail Association's Ross and Jenna Edginton will lead us up to Ferry Springs for terrific views in a high desert setting; return along riverside trail. Hike 8 miles with 800 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place, 9:30 a.m.: Deschutes River State Park, east side of Deschutes River. Celilo Exit 97 off I-84, then 4 miles east.

MAY 4—MOSIER TUNNELS/TOM

McCALL POINT Friends Chairman Rick Ray will lead us to restoration work at the east end of the Mosier Tunnels and then to a wildflower display. Second meeting place, 9:15 a.m.: Junction of Scenic Highway and Rock Creek Road. Take Mosier Exit 69; continue toward Mosier. Take first left, Rock Creek Rd., and follow it for 0.6 mile to abandoned Scenic Highway on the right.

MAY 11—COLUMBIA HILLS PRESERVE

Gorge enthusiast Bill Daniels will lead us through the Natural Area Preserve to an oak grove and beyond to butte-top views which go on forever. Hike 6 miles with 1,500 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place, 9:45 a.m.: Horsethief Lake State Park day-use area. Exit 87 off I-84; then north in Washington on Hwy. 197 for 3 miles; then east on Hwy. 14 for 1½ miles.

MAY 18 — NESIKA LODGE

Trails Club of Oregon's Fay Akerson will lead us past the many falls of Multnomah Creek to the new lodge being built in the Multnomah Basin and lunch at Waespe Point. Hike 9 miles with 1,900 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place, 8:30 a.m.: Multnomah Falls Lodge drinking fountain.

MAY 25 — GRASSY PASS

Gorge trail builder Elinor Levin will lead us along the Cascade Crest Trail past a former lookout site on Grassy Knoll to an alpine-like setting with sweeping views of the east Gorge. Hike 7 miles with 1,500 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place, 9:15 a.m.: Trailhead parking lot on Washington Hwy. 14 about 12½ miles east of the Bridge of the Gods.

JUNE 1—DOG MOUNTAIN LOOP

Political pundit Tim Hibbits leads this classic Gorge hike with slopes of wildflowers in bloom and remarkable Gorge and Cascade views. Hike 8 miles with 2,900 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place, 9:15 a.m.: Trailhead parking lot on Washington Hwy. 14 12½ miles east of Bridge of the Gods.

JUNE 8—ALDRICH BUTTE

Gorge enthusiast Ray Hayden will lead us to an abandoned lookout site with superb mid-Gorge views; then down the Pacific Crest Trail past Gillette Lake and boulder-strewn woodlands below the Cascade Landslide. Hike 8½ miles with 1,500 ft. elevation gain. Second meeting place, 9:00 a.m.: Bonneville Trailhead 2 miles west of north end of Bridge of the Gods, north side of Hwy. 14 in Washington.

JUNE 15-16—

16th ANNUAL GORGE HIKING WEEKEND Brochure will be available from the Friends by May 15. ▲

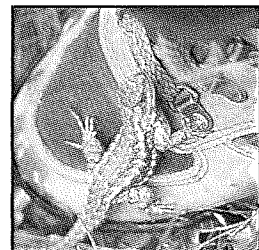


Photo by Gayle Hammond

Memorial Contributions

Friends of the Columbia Gorge wishes to thank the following people who have made memorial contributions since our last newsletter:

In Memory of Dona King

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge is saddened by the passing of Dona King, a former Board member from Vancouver, Washington. Dona's enthusiasm for the Columbia Gorge made a great difference to our work. We will miss her.

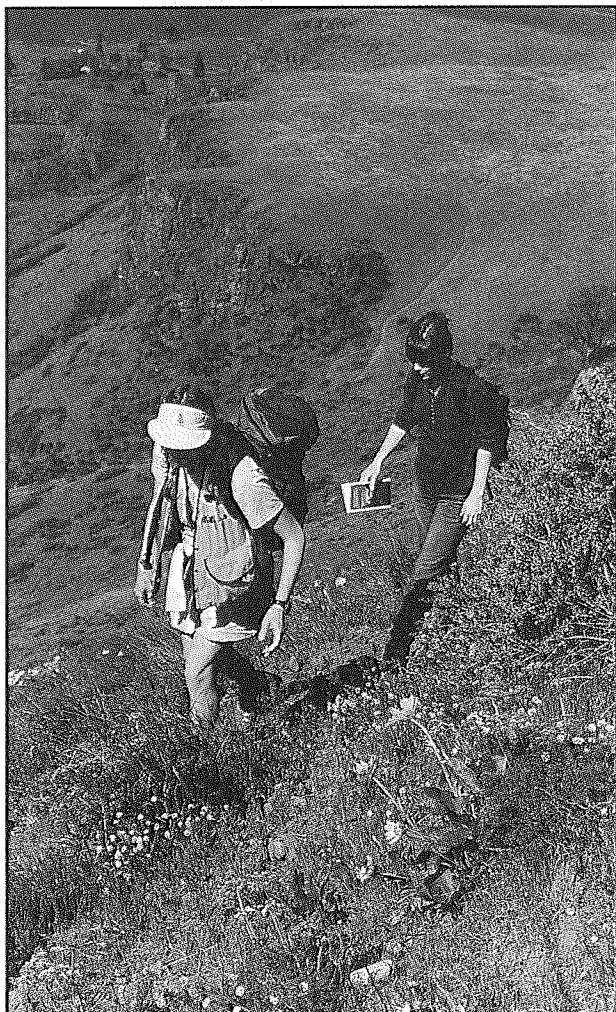
*Jane M. Young
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Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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Be sure to bring Russ Jolley's "Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge" on Friends spring wildflower hikes. For more information see page 7.

Photo by Lauri Aunan

GORGE CALENDAR

- February 13 & 27 **Gorge Commission Meeting***
Waucoma Center, Hood River, OR
- March 10 **Friends of the Columbia Gorge**
Annual Meeting, Skamania Lodge
- March 12 & 26 **Gorge Commission Meeting***
Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA
- March 23 **Friends Historic Highway Clean Up**
Meet at the Oregon Dept. of Transportation lot at NE 60th and Glisan at 8:00 a.m. to carpool to the site. You may also meet the crew at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot just east of Multnomah Falls Lodge (on the historic Columbia River Highway) to pick up vests and receive safety instructions from "Crew Chief" Ken Denis. It is always a lot of fun and a great way to participate in keeping the Gorge beautiful!
- March 30 **Friends Spring Wildflower Hikes**
Join us at Catherine Creek

* meetings subject to change due to weather and scheduling. Please call Kristin Reese, (503) 241-3762, or the Gorge Commission, (509) 493-3323.