

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Spring 2015 Newsletter

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Spring/Summer
Hike Brochure

Insert

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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EDITOR: BETSY TOLL / LUMIN CREATIVE SERVICES

PORTLAND OFFICE: 522 SW FIFTH AVENUE, #720,
PORTLAND, OR 97204 (503) 241-3762

HOOD RIVER OFFICE: 205 OAK STREET, SUITE 17,
HOOD RIVER, OR 97031 (541) 386-5268

WASHOUGAL OFFICE: 1887 MAIN ST., SUITE 202,
WASHOUGAL, WA 98671 (360) 334-3180



Link to us on Twitter and Facebook
from our website: www.gorgefriends.org

A mile-long oil train near Dog Mountain. Photo: Jozsef Urmos / panojoe.ursos.net



Take Action!

Oil Terminals Threaten the Gorge

Construction of new oil-by-rail terminals in the Northwest poses a direct threat to the Columbia River Gorge and its communities. Friends and our allies are determined to block the approval of new oil terminals and to require safer transport of oil arriving at existing terminals.

If you live in Washington, contact your legislators and urge them to support oil transport safety legislation. HB 1449 and its companion, SB 5087, are being considered in Olympia right now.

These bills would improve public safety by increasing access to oil train information and would also require companies to implement proven oil spill prevention measures. Further, they would require oil companies and carriers to pay the full costs of cleaning up oil spills, and require them to foot the bill for increased spill prevention, preparedness, and emergency response.

If you don't have your state legislator's contact information, you can direct comments to them online from our website, at www.GorgeFriends.org/OilTrainSafety.

The most timely, effective way to take action for the Gorge is through our Email Action Alerts. Subscribe at www.gorgefriends.org/subscribe, or call Ryan at 971-634-2034.

Citizen Action Makes the Difference! www.senate.gov or www.house.gov
Your voice is vital to Gorge protection. Let Congress hear from you.

Oregon

Sen. Ron Wyden, (202) 224-5244
www.wyden.senate.gov/contact

Sen. Jeff Merkley, (202) 224-3753
www.merkley.senate.gov/contact

Rep. Earl Blumenauer, (202) 225-4811
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, (202) 225-0855
Rep. Greg Walden, (202) 225-6730
Rep. Peter DeFazio, (202) 225-6416
Rep. Kurt Schrader, (202) 225-5711

Washington

Sen. Patty Murray, (202) 224-2621
www.murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm

Sen. Maria Cantwell, (202) 224-3441
www.cantwell.senate.gov/public

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, (202) 225-3536
Rep. Derek Kilmer, (202) 225-5916
Rep. Doc Hastings, (202) 225-5816
Rep. Suzan DelBene, (202) 225-6311

Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to www.house.gov/writerep

Cover: Spring sunset from Dalles Mountain. Photo: Michael Horodyski / 500px.com/mjhpxd

Director's Letter

When I was ten years old, I was obsessed with U.S. presidents and determined to go to Harvard – the school of the Adamses, the Roosevelts, and John F. Kennedy. I somehow figured out the cost of tuition, which, to my ever-practical father, seemed astronomical. The Harvard discussion quickly ended and I went on with my life.

But life is circular and Harvard re-emerged last summer when I had the opportunity to participate in an executive leadership program at their Kennedy School of Government. The program gathers non-profit and government leaders to take on a “personal challenge,” a measurable, achievable, and transformational challenge to their organizations over an 18-month period. In October, I joined 49 other leaders from around the country and even Great Britain to begin our journeys.

The program forced me to step back and think: what exactly is measurable, achievable, and transformational for Friends of the Columbia Gorge in an 18-month period? My reflection led me to *Gorge Towns to Trails*, our vision for creating a loop-trail system around the Gorge that connects communities and spectacular natural destinations. When complete, this extensive trail network will provide a European-style trekking opportunity unparalleled in the United States.

Gorge Towns to Trails will certainly not be completed in 18 months. One town-to-trail segment has been completed and another is in progress. We now need to move beyond the vision's infancy and build a sense of inevitability, where large land connections are secured and businesses and communities not only support but take ownership of the project. This is no small challenge –



Photo: Michael Horodyski / 500px.com/mhpx

the concept faces obstacles from some government agencies and local residents, but far more elected officials, agencies, businesses, and communities support the vision.

As I thought about the obstacles I would face, I listened to one professor talk about leaving Harvard fifty years ago as a student to pursue his own challenge – joining the Freedom Riders in Mississippi. Later, he worked with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, and eventually, his journey led full circle, back to Harvard, to inspire a new generation of leaders.

Sometimes it takes a place like Harvard to put your challenges into perspective. Eighteen months will go quickly, but working together, we can create something as timeless and inspiring as the Columbia Gorge itself.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Gorman".

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org

View from the Mosier Plateau.

Photo: Joe Leitschuh

*Friends of the
Columbia Gorge
works to ensure that the
beautiful and wild Columbia
Gorge remains a place apart,
an unspoiled treasure
for generations
to come.*



Gorge Communities Fight Fuel Train Dangers

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

Communities along the Columbia River are uniting in opposition to increases in oil and coal transport through the Columbia River Gorge. Friends of the Columbia Gorge supports their commitment to protecting the Gorge from the escalating dangers of these shipments.

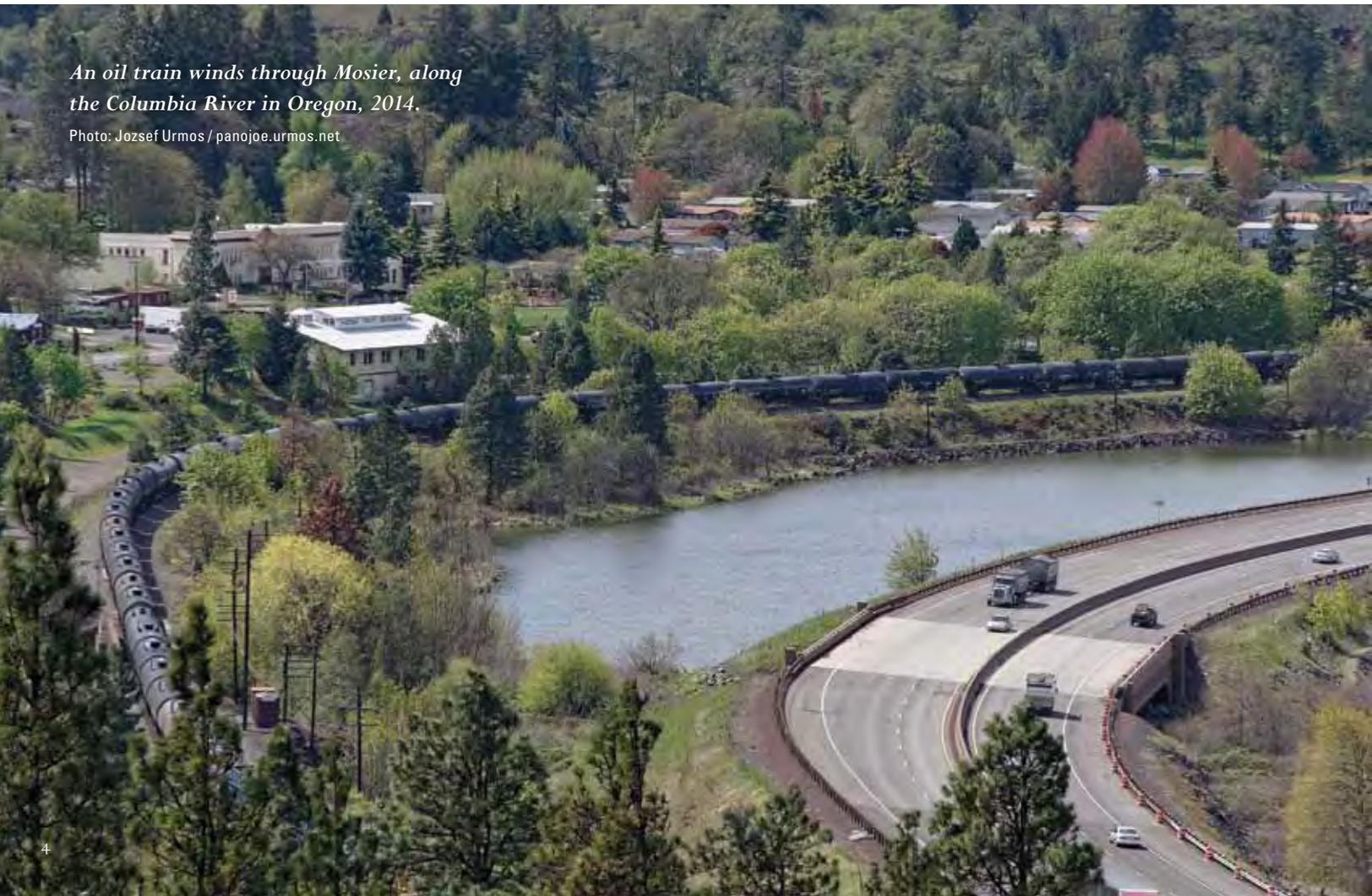
The dramatic increase in fossil fuel transport through the Gorge presents

significant dangers to Gorge communities, with shipment of hundreds of millions of gallons of highly flammable Bakken oil in rail cars proven to be unsafe, leading local governments to weigh in against oil and coal shipments. Tribal nations are engaged as well, asserting historic treaty rights and urging the denial of permits that would allow development of new coal and oil-by-rail terminals.

In response, community and tribal leaders, businesses, and conservationists have united as never before to protect communities from the dangers of fossil fuel transport. This growing solidarity is part of the emerging “thin green line” in the Northwest fighting coal and oil companies’ plans to transport massive amounts of fossil fuels through the Columbia River Gorge.

An oil train winds through Mosier, along the Columbia River in Oregon, 2014.

Photo: Jozsef Urmos / panojoe.ursos.net



The Background

In the past five years, six coal terminals and ten oil terminals have been proposed in the Northwest. All would require transport of these fuels through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and its communities. Determined grassroots opposition since 2012 has cut the number of current coal export terminal proposals to two, with the largest still pending. Fuel industry data identifies the Gorge as the most economical and most likely route. If the remaining proposals are approved, forty loaded oil and coal trains per day would thunder along the Columbia River, converting the Gorge into a fossil fuel superhighway.

Coal and oil trains in the Gorge were rare until recently. But since 2008, transport of Powder River Basin coal increased through the Northwest, and Gorge residents have reported increases in open-car coal train traffic and increased coal pollution along the tracks and in the river. Tribes and community leaders began to grasp the danger presented by this unprecedented increase in coal train traffic and the disruptive effect these export proposals would have on the Gorge economy and quality of life.

In November 2011, the Dallesport Community Council began raising concerns and opposition to increased coal trains through the Gorge. Tribal governments throughout the region raised concerns over the impacts of coal transport on their sovereign treaty rights. As awareness of the projects grew, other communities followed suit. Local governments in Mosier, Hood River, The Dalles, Stevenson, North Bonneville, Port of Skamania, Washougal, and Camas passed resolutions and wrote letters of concern to regulatory agencies and elected officials.

Oil-by Rail

The first oil unit train passed through the Gorge in September 2012, a harbinger of a massive change in oil economics in the



Gorge residents traveled to Olympia in February to demand that Washington legislators pass stronger laws to protect communities from oil trains.

Photo: Megan Jenny / Sierra Club

United States as the oil boom in North Dakota's Bakken oil fields resulted in oil pipelines-on-rails throughout the country. Soon after, two to three unit trains, each a mile long and transporting a combined three million gallons of highly volatile oil, passed through the Gorge every day.

In 2013, disaster struck at Lac Mégantic, Quebec, where an oil train carrying Bakken oil derailed and exploded in the town. Forty-seven people died in the blaze that destroyed most of the downtown area. A string of catastrophic oil train accidents and fires followed on various lines across the United States.

Fighting Back

In the Gorge, Friends worked with local emergency responders and elected officials to grasp the implications of the threats these proposals pose to Gorge communities, and the limited capacity of area emergency services to respond to an oil train accident in the Columbia Gorge. We also helped organize "Don't SpOIL the Gorge" forums to educate communities and participated in informational meetings sponsored by local governments and community leaders.

More and more local governments are calling on state and federal leaders to protect communities from coal and oil trains. In December 2014, the City of Stevenson adopted a resolution opposing crude oil transport through the Columbia River Gorge. As Stevenson Mayor Frank Cox stated:

"Stevenson, in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, is threatened by both coal and oil train traffic which could increase by up to fifty-seven trains daily. The risk to public safety and health motivated City Council to join with over twenty other communities up and down the rail line which have passed similar resolutions or sent letters to their governors and local representatives, expressing their concerns over plans for a large increase in oil and coal train traffic through their communities."

The Columbia River Gorge must not be turned into a fossil fuel pipeline for the coal and oil industry. Friends is committed to working with local governments, Tribes, the Columbia River Gorge Commission, businesses, Gorge residents, and environmental groups to protect the Columbia River Gorge from this threat. ■

Review of Proposed Vancouver Oil Terminal Begins

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

On January 20, the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council voted to begin adjudicative proceedings for reviewing a massive oil-by-rail terminal proposed in Vancouver, Washington. Friends of the Columbia Gorge plans to participate in the council's adjudication and urge denial of the project.

Tesoro and Savage propose to build the Vancouver Energy oil terminal on the banks of the Columbia River at the Port of Vancouver. The terminal would transfer an average of 360,000 barrels of oil per day from trains to barges. To get to the terminal, all of the oil would be transported by train through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in rail cars that rupture in accidents with speeds as low as 25 miles per hour.

Currently, an average of nineteen fully loaded unit oil trains pass through

the Washington side of the Scenic Area each week. If the proposed terminal in Vancouver is built, that number would triple overnight. An analysis by *The Columbian* newspaper concluded that the proposed facility would handle more oil per day than any other oil-by-rail terminal in the country.

Much of the oil at the facility would likely come from the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota, and possibly from the Athabasca tar sands of Alberta, Canada. Bakken crude oil contains higher levels of lighter hydrocarbons, which have a tendency to become gaseous and are more easily flammable than traditional heavy crude oil. Alberta tar sands crude, although less flammable, is more difficult to clean up when spilled, especially in aquatic environments, because it is heavier and can sink to the bottom.

A spill of crude oil in the Columbia River Gorge would endanger Gorge residents and wreak devastating, lasting harm on the Columbia River, its fish populations, and the Gorge's aquatic ecosystem.

Friends and other conservation organizations will formally intervene in the energy siting council's adjudication. We will be represented by the nationwide environmental law firm Earthjustice and the Seattle law firm Bricklin & Newman, LLP.

After hearing from all parties, the siting council will make a recommendation to Washington Governor Jay Inslee, who will make the ultimate decision.

Friends will urge the siting council and Governor Inslee to reject the Vancouver Energy proposal. The National Scenic Area should not be turned into a toxic and dangerous fossil fuel pipeline on wheels. ■

Officials in Stevenson, Washington, and other Gorge communities have grave concerns about oil transport dangers.

Photo: Courtesy of Casey Roeder.





Union Pacific Proposes Rail Expansion

Rick Till, Conservation Legal Advocate, rick@gorgefriends.org

Union Pacific Railroad is proposing construction of a second railroad track along the Columbia River through Mosier, Oregon. The company has stated that an existing siding is a major bottleneck and adding a five-mile siding will reduce delays and increase the number of trains traveling through the Gorge. Roughly seven more trains a day could pass on the Union Pacific line, an increase of approximately 25 percent.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our allies are concerned that the proposed expansion would facilitate transport of coal and oil through the Gorge, increasing the risk of a major accident and oil spill.

Union Pacific claims the double track is needed regardless of demand from oil companies. However, Union Pacific has previously stated it was not aware of any

plans to transport crude oil on its tracks in the Gorge – just one week before a unit train of crude oil was photographed on the Union Pacific tracks in Mosier (see pages 4-5).

The purported unpredictability of whether and when crude oil might travel on the proposed double track raises substantial public safety concerns. The State of Oregon and local emergency responders do not have capacity to respond to an oil train derailment, and the nearest cache of hazardous material response equipment is in Troutdale, Oregon, some fifty miles through the Gorge west of Mosier.

East of Mosier, the proposed double track would cross through Memaloose State Park and the Rowena Special Management Area, and to the west, it would pass through an Open Space zone.

Construction would require 1.62 acres of fill in wetlands and in the Columbia River, and the potential for adverse impacts to the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources of the National Scenic Area is significant.

Union Pacific is required to obtain permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with review from the Forest Service, and a National Scenic Area land use permit from Wasco County. Because of the public safety risk and potential impacts to the National Scenic Area, Friends is advocating for preparation of an environmental impact statement that would fully disclose the environmental impacts of the project. With our allies, we will closely monitor this process to ensure that Columbia Gorge resources and communities are protected. ■

Stewarding our Lands



Stewardship Coordinator

Sara Woods and a friend.

Photo: Alan Tomaszewski

safe and responsible recreational uses, trail maintenance, erosion control, and vegetation management are all necessary.

Fortunately, the YARG Foundation, established by the late John Gray, a former Friends' member, recognizes the importance of land stewardship and has stepped up to address this issue. In 2012, they funded our efforts to create comprehensive land management plans for most of our properties. Then last December, they funded a three-year grant to enable us to hire a stewardship staff person.

After interviewing several impressive candidates, we were thrilled to hire Sara Woods as our first stewardship coordinator. Sara works out of our Hood River office and is our fourth Gorge-based staff member.

Prior to joining Friends, Sara worked in the natural resource field for over a decade, most recently with the U.S. Forest Service's Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area office in Hood River. With an associates degree in Ecology and a bachelor's in Environmental Science, she settled in the Gorge in 2003 and completed her master's degree in Environmental Management at Portland State University.

As stewardship coordinator, Sara will take the lead on stewardship and restoration of Friends' Land Trust properties and will lead several of the stewardship events listed in the enclosed spring hiking brochure. Please join her at one of the events and help us preserve these beautiful properties! ■

Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager, kate@gorgefriends.org

Anyone who has bought a beautiful piece of property knows the feeling of exhilaration in purchasing it, soon followed by the crashing reality of owning it!

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trusts owns nearly 1,000 acres, from invasively-challenged oak woodlands in Washougal, Washington, to a scenic high desert bluff above Celilo, Oregon. Each property requires a different level

of care and attention, and with each new acquisition over the years, the responsibility of stewardship of these lands has grown larger.

Undeveloped land is often presumed to be pristine and low maintenance, but that's not always the case. Invasive species spread from adjacent properties and arrive on vectors including vehicles, streams, hiking boots, birds, and wildlife, and can threaten the viability of native plant communities and dependent wildlife. For Friends, in order to protect the health of the lands we own and ensure

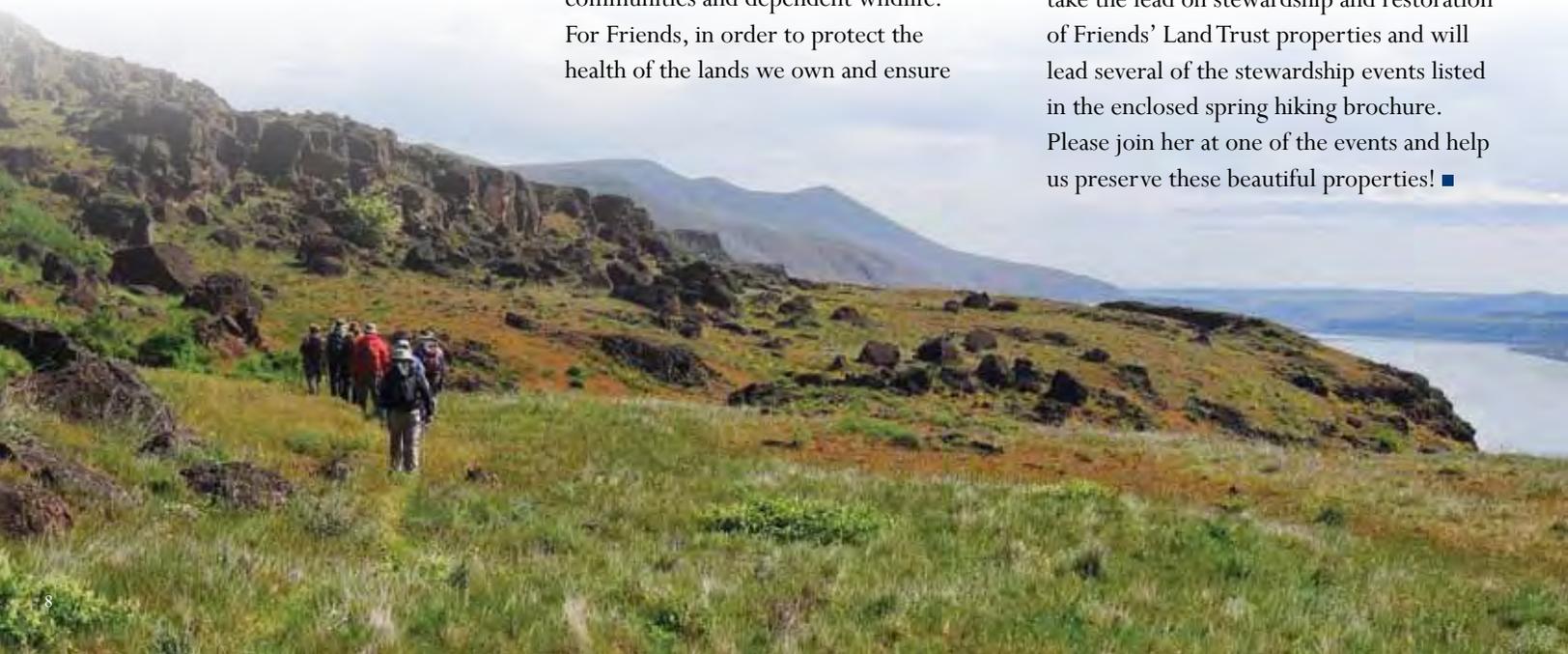


Photo: Michael Horodyski / 500px.com/mjhpxd



Sherri Irish and Larry Keister at the Volunteer Celebration.

Volunteers of the Year: Sherri Irish & Larry Keister

Volunteers have been the backbone of Friends' success for thirty-five years, with hundreds of individuals lending time and energy to this organization annually. This year, two individuals' efforts stand out, earning Volunteer of the Year titles for 2014. We salute long-time members Larry Keister and Sherri Irish for their tireless commitment in numerous ways to Friends. Thanks to Sherri and Larry for their exceptional support! ■

35th Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Sunday, April 12, 12 noon – 2:30 pm
Skamania Lodge, WA

Join us at beautiful Skamania Lodge in Stevenson for a pre-luncheon workshop on legacy giving, a scrumptious lunch of southwestern chipotle chicken salad, engaging reports and updates from Friends staff, post-luncheon hikes, and more. Event details and registration at: www.gorgefriends.org/annualmeeting. ■



Photo: Courtesy Skamania Lodge



35 & Gorgeous!

For 35 years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has been protecting the natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic resources of the Gorge. And we encourage support for the 13 Gorge

communities, to keep them vibrant and economically healthy. Details for this year's hike challenge, 35 & Gorgeous, are online at www.gorgefriends.org/35andgorgeous, along with Gorge stories, conservation history, and everything you need to meet the challenge. ■

Two Play & Stay Weekends

Our Play & Stay program has a fantastic new look this year. We're offering two unique Gorge vacation packages, where a single price includes weekend activities, a guide, lodging, transportation, and meals. All you do is register and show up – we take care of everything else.

Choose from two weekends: April 10–12 or May 15–17. A Friends staff member will be your guide to places in the Gorge you've never seen, sharing history and stories about the Gorge you won't hear anywhere else. Details, pricing, and registration at www.gorgefriends.org/playandstay. ■

NEW: Early Hike Registration for Members

Good news! Members can now register early for all Friends spring and summer hikes. Member registration opens Monday, March 2, for the 68 outings listed in the enclosed hike brochure. General registration opens March 6. ■

Kate Harbour, Membership Coordinator
kateh@gorgefriends.org



Photo: Betsy Toll

Thank you!

Thank you so much to everyone who supported Friends in 2014. We're so grateful to be starting this year prepared to meet any new challenges and opportunities that come up.

A special thanks to the 405 Gorge-lovers who supported us through the *Willamette Week Give!Guide*. You helped us finish fifth out of 136 non-profits and raise \$74,000 for Gorge protection (including \$32,000 in matching gifts). This year is off to a great start, thanks to you! ■

A Passion for the Gorge

Jim O'Rourke has been hooked on the Gorge since 1972, and he has also been Friends' next door neighbor for many years, at our Portland office. When Jim joined Friends, he decided to share his passion for the Gorge by leading and shepherding some of our most challenging hikes. And this year, through his practice, James F. O'Rourke Jr. and Associates, Jim made a special gift to sponsor our hiking program.

Jim's contagious spirit and generous gift will inspire hikers new and old to explore the Columbia Gorge with Friends. Thank you, Jim!

Gift Planning Seminar

If you're considering leaving Friends a legacy gift to protect the Gorge, come to our seminar on Sunday April 12, at Skamania Lodge. Guest speaker Phil Jones, of Duffy Kekel LLP, is an estate-planning expert and Gorge enthusiast who will outline the ins and outs of the most important aspects of gift planning. Join us from 11:00 to noon, just prior to the Annual Meeting. ■

Special Gifts

October 23, 2014 - January 29, 2015

IN HONOR OF DEBBIE ASAKAWA
STORRY NORMAN AND JACK HOLLIS
LINDA LEYVA
KAYLEEN SHIIBA
LAURIE TURNEY

IN HONOR OF ROBIN BALMER
ANDY AND PAT BALMER

IN HONOR OF KELLY BANKES
MOTOKO TAMURA

IN HONOR OF MARC BETTS
KARL SCHULZ

IN HONOR OF DOMINO AND BRITT
FRANCINE AND DAN STORZBACH

IN HONOR OF CHARLES AND
CAROL BRUNNER
MIYOKO BRUNNER

IN HONOR OF BRYAN BURCH
DAVID POLLOCK

IN HONOR OF PHYLLIS CLAUSEN
ANDREW REID

IN HONOR OF KEN AND FELICE DENIS
BILL AND CATHIE DANIELS
BETSY TOLL

IN HONOR OF ELLEN DITTEBRANDT
PAMELA BORGMAN

IN HONOR OF PATSY EDWARDS
MR. ALAN EDWARDS

IN HONOR OF
PORTLAND DIGS REAL ESTATE
CHRIS HOLDEN

IN HONOR OF NOBI AZUMANO
AND BRYAN GARVIN
ELISA DOZONO AND TOM TURNER

IN HONOR OF EMMA AND
WARREN HAMEL
ALISON GILBERT

IN HONOR OF DONNA, BONNIE,
AND DARCY HENDERSON
DR. HEATHER HENDERSON
AND DAVE DONIELSON

IN HONOR OF JEAN P. HUNT
PARIS HUNT

IN HONOR OF THE GUESTS
OF THE CHEROKEE ROSE INN
SANDRA MILLER

IN HONOR OF LEE JENKINS
LINDA KREMIN

IN HONOR OF LISA HANSEN
AND PATRICK LEE
ALEXANDRA FRYE

IN HONOR OF
HEATHER DORFMAN MARTINEZ
DANA SMALL

IN HONOR OF ZOFIA MATHEWS
CORY MATHEWS

IN HONOR OF JUDITH MAULE
AMY MAULE

IN HONOR OF RICHARD E. MEYER
ANNE STALNAKER

IN HONOR OF DANA AND MICHAEL MILLS
NORMA AND ARNOLD ZACK

IN HONOR OF JACK MILLS
PATRICIA KUBALA & JOHN MILLS

IN HONOR OF THE NARVER FAMILY
COLIN NARVER

IN HONOR OF GENE NELSON
REBECCA BOWEN
AND REBECCA NELSON

IN HONOR OF MAURINE NEUBERGER
MS. ANN GOODSSELL

IN HONOR OF
AMELLE OBENG AND HER FAMILY
DARYL AND WALLACE WILSON

IN HONOR OF EDITH PARKER
DONALD LARSON

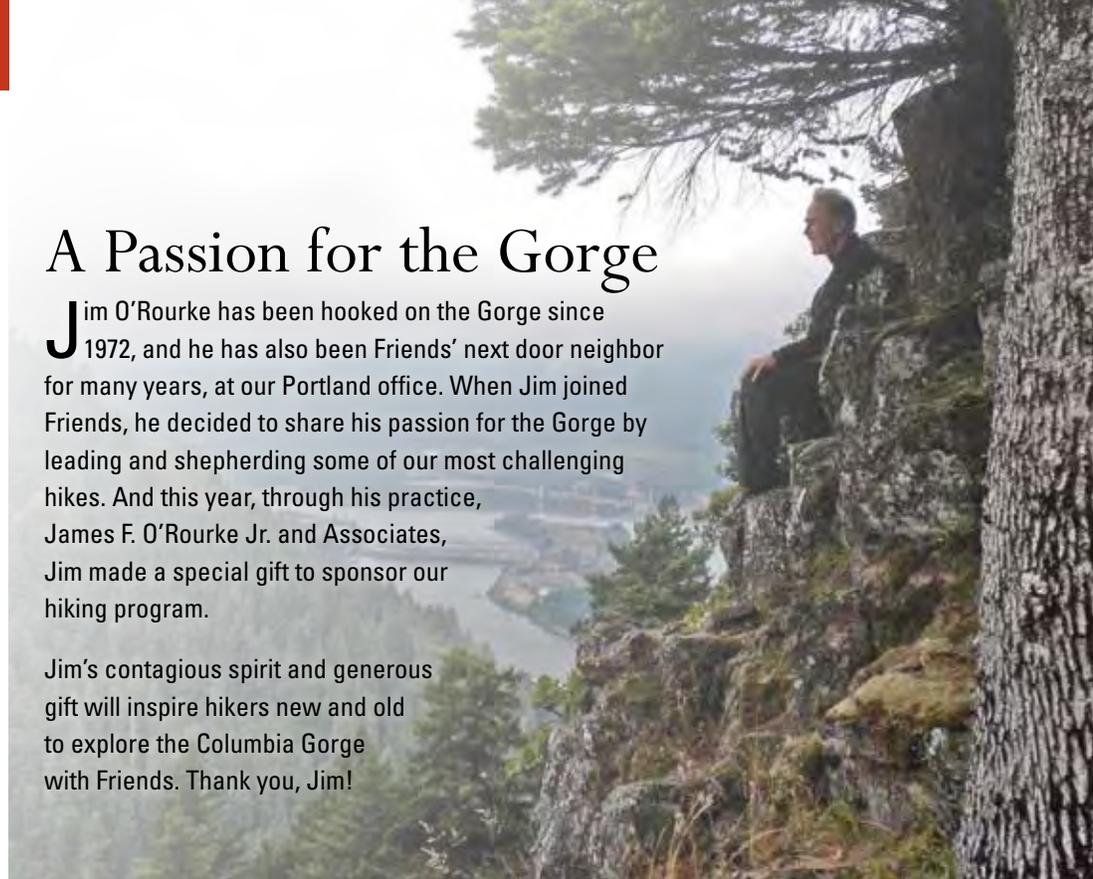
IN HONOR OF ANNE PHILIPSBORN
DIANA STOTZ

IN HONOR OF JACQUELINE PICKERING
KAREN PICKERING

IN HONOR OF BILL POOL
LIANE OWEN

IN HONOR OF BOB RINEER
NANCY AND KEMPTON HICKS

IN HONOR OF MIKE
AND NANCY ROBINSON
AMANDA ROBINSON



Featured Hike: Wild on the Pacific Crest Trail

Kate Lindberg, Outreach Assistant, katel@gorgefriends.org

Last December, the film *Wild* – based on the novel by Portland author Cheryl Strayed – became an overnight hit. *Wild* portrays Strayed’s journey hiking the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, or PCT, to reclaim her life. She hiked 1,100 miles of the trail, ending her trek at the Bridge of the Gods in Cascade Locks.

The PCT stretches 2,663 miles from southern California to the Canadian border, through challenging and scenic terrain, including eighteen miles in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. The beautiful hikes on the PCT suggested here are sure to leave you *Wild*-inspired!

Dry Creek Falls, OR (4.4 miles, 700-ft elev. gain)

Gillette Lake, WA (5.4 miles, 648-ft. elev. gain)

Greenleaf Overlook, WA (8.8 miles, 800-ft elev. gain).

Details are at www.gorgefriends.org/planyourownhike. Check our enclosed hiking brochure to join Friends on the PCT. Dates are March 28 at Dry Creek Falls, June 12 to Greenleaf Peak, June 28 on the PCT in the Gorge, and July 5 at Grassy Knoll. ■



The Pacific Crest Trail in the Gorge.

Photo: Debbie Asakawa

IN HONOR OF PEYTON CHAPMAN
AND AUBREY RUSSELL
DAVID POLLOCK

IN HONOR OF
TOM AND NANCY SCHAUMBERG
DAVID ANDERSON

IN HONOR OF LENORA SHER
JEFFREY SHER AND MARIAH ACTON

IN HONOR OF SYLVIA STOLZBERG
KAREN STOLZBERG AND BARRY LAVINE

IN HONOR OF GLEN STREAM
JULIE STREAM AND CRAIG NELSON

IN HONOR OF KELLY SWEENEY
DON AND DIANA HARRISON

IN HONOR OF
MARY AND WALDO TAYLOR
CLARA FOGED AND MR. JOHN TAYLOR

IN HONOR OF
HAL AND BARBARA TYLER
DAVID TYLER

IN HONOR OF MARJORIE WOLFE
KIRKE WOLFE AND MARGARET GUNN

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN AND SARAH ANDERSON
PEGGY ANDERSON

IN MEMORY OF BETTY BONHAM
CAROL AND JON LESCH

IN MEMORY OF VIC CLAUSEN
PHYLLIS CLAUSEN

IN MEMORY OF NEIL FARNHAM
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IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM GEROULD
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MARSHALL HIERONIMUS
JOSEPHINE AND PETER POPE

IN MEMORY OF RUSS JOLLEY
BETSY TOLL

IN MEMORY OF ALICE CHRISTENSEN LAFKY
SANDRA CARLSON

IN MEMORY OF KATE LINDE
THE STAFF OF JEMTEGAARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

IN MEMORY OF MARSHA LIVINGSTON
MARY HIRSCH
PHYLLIS REYNOLDS
JOANN ROBISON CORNELIUS
KIM KOVALIK
CHRISTINE B. MARSHALL
BETSY SMITH

IN MEMORY OF JACK MILLS
AMIE ABBOTT AND MICHAEL MILLS

IN MEMORY OF TOM PARKER
ELIZABETH BELLES

IN MEMORY OF LAURIE RAHR
THE RAHR FOUNDATION

IN MEMORY OF DEE REAL
MARY MORGAN

IN MEMORY OF NANCY RUSSELL
PHYLLIS CLAUSEN
ROBERT M. DIEFFENBACH
DENNIS M. GOLIK

IN MEMORY OF NANCY AND
BRUCE RUSSELL
JAN AND LOUISE LEININGER

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN DALE B. RUSSELL
NICOLE AUE
JAMES AND CHERYL RUSSELL

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD L STRATTON
JIM STRATTON

IN MEMORY OF NEIL SUTHERLAND
LORI LADUKE

IN MEMORY OF IAIN THOMSON
KEITH, HELEN AND ERIC HERZOG
KRISTEN THOMSON

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW WINTHROP
ANNE CHARNHOLM
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P.O. Box 40820
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Know Your Gorge

100 Years of Protected Gorge Waterfalls

This year marks the one-hundredth anniversary of multiple historic events that have protected the natural beauty and resources of the Columbia Gorge. On February 9, 1915, the Oregon legislature passed a law entitled “An Act: To preserve the scenic beauty of certain waterfalls and streams in view of, or near the Columbia River Highway.”

This forward-thinking legislation, enacted during the construction of the scenic Columbia River Highway, was designed to permanently protect Gorge waterfalls and streams for their scenic beauty. The Act listed twenty-three Gorge waterfalls and streams and clearly withdrew them from appropriation, diversion, or interruption “for any purpose whatsoever.”

The 1915 act is celebrated by historians and legal scholars alike as the first legislative act in Oregon – and one of the first in the country – that specifically preserved in-stream water rights for non-consumptive purposes.

In the century since it passed, the law has been amended to add more Gorge streams and waterfalls. The statute, ORS 538.200, is still on the books today, ensuring protection of thirty-one waterfalls and streams in the Columbia Gorge. ■



Elowah Falls, protected since 1915.

Photo: Warren Morgan