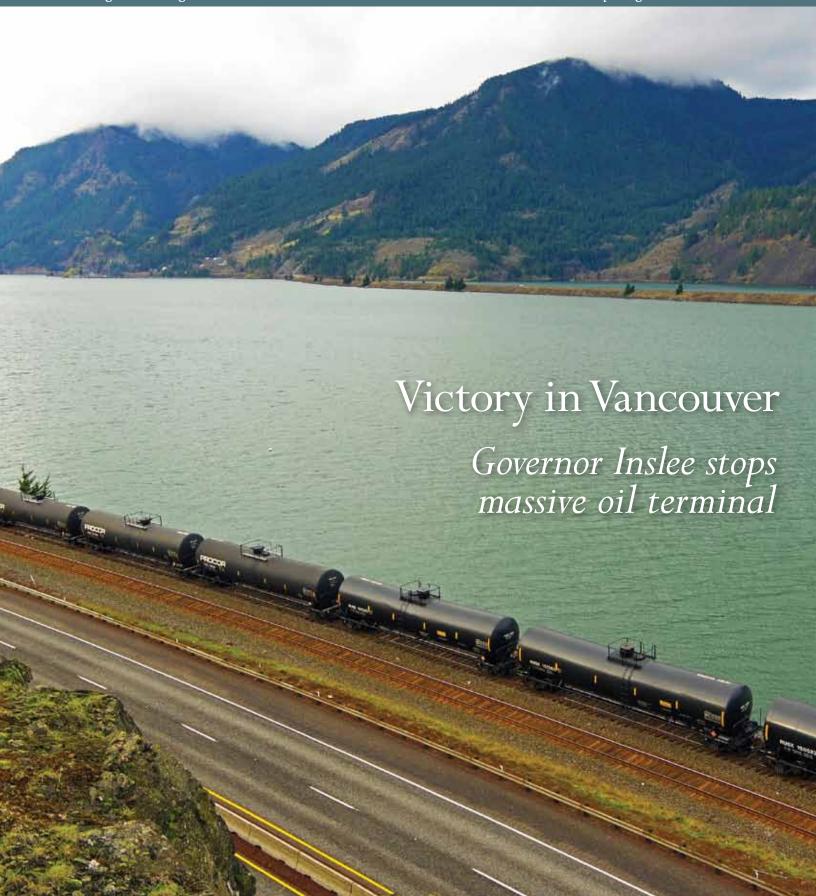
Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Spring 2018 Newsletter



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Founder Nancy Russell, 1932-2008

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Published February 2018

Publications:

Paige Unangst

Sara Woods*

Sandy Wright

Newsletter Design: Kathy Fors and Kathleen Krushas / To the Point Collaborative Editor: Betsy Toll / Lumin Creative Services

Portland Office:

333 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 300, Portland, OR 97204 503-241-3762

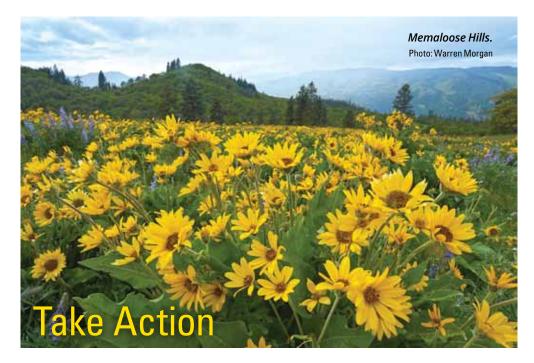
Hood River Office:

205 Oak St., Suite 17, Hood River, OR 97031 541-386-5268

Washougal Office:

887 Main St., Suite 202, Washougal, WA 98671 360-334-3180





Comment Now on Management Plan Review

The Columbia River Gorge is a world-renowned scenic treasure that has been protected since 1986 as a federally designated National Scenic Area. Last spring we notified our members that the Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service were starting their review of their Management Plan and were seeking public comment. This spring they continue to ask for your involvement as they refine their review and develop possible revisions to the Management Plan.

The Scenic Area Act requires the Management Plan to be reviewed every ten years to see if revisions are needed, yet only one review has been completed to date,

and that was 14 years ago. Many issues that the public raised during that earlier review process still haven't been addressed, well over a decade later. This means outdated guidelines continue to be implemented as development in the Gorge presses on. One key issue is the Management Plan's failure to mention – let alone address - the impacts of climate change on the exceptional scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources of the Columbia River Gorge.

The Gorge Commission and Forest Service need to hear from you! For a detailed fact sheet and to send comments in support of long-term protection for the Gorge, visit gorgefriends.org/planreview.

Stay Connected with Friends

Action Alerts: Stay updated on conservation threats to the Gorge and

how to take action.

Hiking e-news: Receive biweekly updates on Friends' guided outings,

> stewardship work party announcements, trail alerts, suggested seasonal hikes, and other hiking-related news.

Monthly e-news: Keep updated on Friends' work, upcoming events and

news, volunteer efforts, ways to get involved, and more.



gorgefriends.org/subscribe





Director's Letter

e are not the same organization we were last fall.

The Eagle Creek fire last September changed everything. It impacted the land, communities, and the psyches of millions of people. It also altered the course of our work.

Before the fire, our membership stood at 6,000 members. Today we are close to 8,600 members, a 40 percent increase. This means that about one-third of you are reading our newsletter for the first time. Whether you are new or a long-time member, here are three things to know about Friends of the Columbia Gorge that will never change:

Our North Star is a woman who refused to take "no" for an answer:
You'll hear about our founder, Nancy
Russell, often in our communications.
Nancy was a force of nature in hiking boots.
She passed away a decade ago, but her perseverance and passion carry on in our staff and board members.

Our key to success is having a big toolbox: Many conservation organizations focus on specific issues using specific tools. We focus on a place. As a result, we employ many tools – advocacy, litigation, land acquisition, education, stewardship, among others – using a range of approaches to take on critical issues and protect the Gorge. Our model is highly unusual but effective.

Your membership is a hands-on experience: I believe the reason our members stay with Friends year after year and decade after decade is we provide so many opportunities for members to protect, explore, and enjoy the Gorge. We offer more than 100 chances every year to hike trails, pull weeds, and even taste local wines and beers. Once you've experienced a Friends event, you'll be hooked.

The Eagle Creek fire was a tragedy, but I've been amazed by the depth of caring people display to protect, restore, and love this place. I'm reminded of this with every



Kevin Gorman and former Friends board member Cynthia Winter, at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center.

thank-you letter I sign. I'm reminded as we launch new programs and hire staff to build a volunteer program to help the burned areas recover. And I'm reminded when so many people share how they expect Friends to step up to a new level of leadership in the coming year to protect and restore this landscape.

We are not the same organization we were last fall. Because of you, we are bigger, stronger, and hopefully better.

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director kevin@gorgefriends.org

Lan D. Dum





Risks to communities and the Columbia River too great

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

In late January, Washington Governor Jay Inslee rejected the Tesoro-Savage proposal to build the nation's largest oil-by-rail terminal along the shores of the Columbia River. The decision came weeks after the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) voted unanimously to recommend denial of the terminal.

The governor's rejection letter cited several major concerns identified by EFSEC that warranted denial of the project. These include seismic conditions at the site presenting a potentially catastrophic risk to the public; threats of an oil spill in the Columbia River and damage to water quality, wetlands, and fish habitat; and the risks of fire and explosion at the facility endangering workers and the surrounding community.

 $\label{eq:continuous} The \ efforts \ of \ Friends \ of \ the \ Columbia \\ Gorge-in \ partnership \ with \ regional$

conservation groups, tribal nations, and local grassroots advocates — were essential in securing the denial of this irresponsible oil-by-rail project.

Largest U.S. oil-by-rail terminal

In 2013, the Tesoro (now known as Andeavor) and Savage corporations proposed to build the largest crude oil rail terminal in America at a site owned by the Port of Vancouver on the banks of the Columbia River. Designed to store oil on site and transfer crude to oceangoing vessels destined for California and Asia, the proposed terminal would have the capacity to handle 360,000 barrels per day. The terminal would pose significant environmental and safety risks to the region, with millions of gallons of dangerous Bakken oil transported by rail through the Columbia River Gorge daily.

Broad coalition united against proposal

Friends and key allies built a broad and diverse coalition of grassroots advocates from across the Pacific Northwest to speak out against the oil terminal and similar projects. The Stand Up to Oil coalition enabled the conservation community and our allies to pool resources and work together. As a result, we were able to convince decision-makers to protect the Columbia River Gorge from the threat of oil spills, train derailments, and fires.

More than one million citizens signed petitions, attended hearings, or provided written comments against the oil terminal. Municipalities from Vancouver to Spokane went on record opposing the project. Tribal nations united to defend their treaty rights and protect the Columbia River. And firefighters from across the region testified that the risks to communities and emergency responders were too great to bear.



66 Unless someone like you cares an awful lot, it's not going to get better. It's not. 99

- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

In early 2015, Friends and our conservation allies - principally represented by Earthjustice – intervened in the formal legal process for the Tesoro-Savage oil terminal and retained a team of experts to provide the factual basis for denial of the project. The team included energy regulation and economics experts, an oil spill expert, a land use planner, a rail and hazardous materials expert, an air quality scientist, and a noted professor and civil engineer with expertise in seismic hazards. Their combined testimonies were crucial in persuading EFSEC officials and the governor. We also retained special counsel for legal arguments related to land use law. Those efforts came with a substantial cost, but were essential to effective participation in a prolonged legal process against an extremely well-funded opponent with nearly unlimited resources.

Our coalition joined forces with tribal nations, business interests, the longshore union, local governments, and state agencies in opposition to the project. These entities provided additional experts and legal arguments during the adjudication.

Risks outweigh benefits

This full-court press paid off when EFSEC released the final environmental impacts statement for the project last November, finding a broad range of significant adverse impacts that could not be adequately mitigated. In a final vote in December, the EFSEC council unanimously recommended denial of the project, finding that Tesoro-Savage had failed to meet the burden of proving the project produced "a net benefit after balancing the need for abundant energy at a reasonable cost with the impact to the broad public interest." The EFSEC final order and recommendation to the governor detailed the risks and dangers if the project were to move forward.

Using the U.S. Department of Transportation's national risk analysis, EFSEC found that the proposed Tesoro-Savage oil terminal could result in a catastrophic event every 8-9 years along the entire rail route, costing \$1.15 billion and resulting in 49 deaths. The proposal also would significantly increase traffic on aging regional rail infrastructure. EFSEC's own analysis found that the terminal would have increased overall rail traffic in Washington by 29 percent and crude oil train traffic through the Columbia River Gorge by as much as 283 to 430 percent. With Tesoro's documented record of violating pollution laws and disregarding workers' safety, the risks of the Vancouver oil terminal proposal were clear.

Voters opposed the terminal

The oil terminal debate resulted in remaking the composition of the Port of Vancouver Commission. In 2013, the three-member commission unanimously supported granting a lease to Tesoro-Savage for the oil terminal. But voters in the port district opposed the project and elected two new commissioners who opposed the terminal to the port commission. In their first meeting together in 2018, the commission voted unanimously to end the lease for the project on March 31, 2018.

At a time when policymakers inside the Washington D.C. beltway seem more out of touch than ever, this winter's remarkable victories in the fight against a reckless oil-by-rail project are proof that good old-fashioned organizing and grassroots advocacy still work.

As Dr. Seuss said so aptly in *The Lorax*, "Unless someone like you cares an awful lot, it's not going to get better. It's not." Together, we're proving that we care an awful lot and it's getting better – a whole lot better. ■







Friends Protects Prime Gorge Farmland from Development Scheme

Nathan Baker, Senior Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

griculture in the Columbia River Gorge supports the regional economy, employs Gorge residents, and helps preserve the Gorge's rural character. However, the Gorge's agricultural lands are under constant threat of conversion to nonagricultural uses like residential development. Over time, farmlands can be carved up into smaller ownerships, developed with dwellings and accessory buildings, and taken out of agricultural production.

In 1986, Congress specified in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act that agricultural lands in the Gorge must be designated through zoning and must be protected and enhanced for agricultural uses. These important statutory protections have helped stem the tide of conversion of agricultural lands, but the threats remain.

Friends recently helped protect prime farmland in the Gorge by filing and litigating two land use appeals in Clark County, Washington. In 2015, a 111-acre former dairy farm was divided into three separate ownerships. The new owners live in China, but caretakers manage the three parcels collectively as a single farm.

In 2016, the landowners' attorney filed three land use applications, each seeking to build an approximately 5,000-square-foot dwelling on the farm. When Clark County approved two of the applications, Friends appealed to the Clark County Land Use Hearing Examiner. (The third application remains pending.)

To receive approval for a new farm dwelling, an applicant must show that a resident of the dwelling will be principally engaged in farming on the property and that the farm produces at least \$40,000 annually in gross income from agriculture. In this case, the landowners proposed a novel approach: they would build three large houses on the Clark County farm and move there to produce and sell embryos

from high-end Wagyu cows for transfer to surrogate cows. Yet the landowners have no experience in agricultural work – let alone in producing Wagyu embryos.

Ultimately, the hearing examiner rejected the proposed dwellings for three reasons. First, the landowners failed to demonstrate that each smaller parcel will produce \$40,000 annually, particularly given the landowners' lack of experience in bovine embryo production. Second, they failed to show that the large proposed dwellings would be compatible with existing dwellings in the vicinity. Finally, they failed to demonstrate access to sufficient water sources to support the proposed uses.

By filing and litigating these appeals, Friends succeeded in protecting agricultural lands for agricultural use, just as Congress intended more than thirty years ago by passing the Scenic Area Act into law.

the Wonder

Preserving Oregon White Oak

Sandy Wright, Development Director, sandy@gorgefriends.org

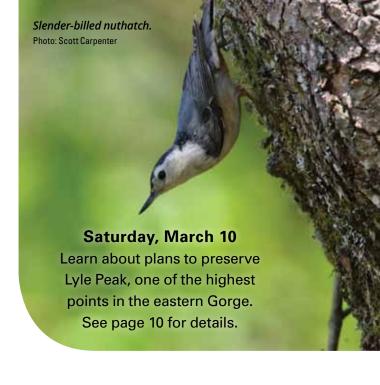
he Oregon white oak is like the fast-food restaurant of the forest ecosystem. A single tree can produce thousands of acorns in one season. These easy-to-find, neatly packaged food sources are relied upon by many species all winter.

Unfortunately, Oregon white oak habitat has declined across Washington, Oregon, and California due to human activity. More than 200 vertebrate species use Washington's oak woodlands, and as these trees have been lost, so have the species that depend on them for food, shelter, shade, and nesting materials.

Two properties in the *Preserve the Wonder* campaign will protect these special trees in two different parts of the Gorge.

The **Upland Oaks** property is a lovely oak savannah above the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Washington. Preserving this property and its large stand of Oregon white oaks is especially valuable for birds that migrate through the Pacific flyway. Just as the wetlands of the Steigerwald Refuge offer a resting place for waterfowl, Upland Oaks provides a place for the upland bird species.

Lyle Peak is a beautiful oak-covered hillside above Friends' 550-acre Lyle Cherry Orchard property. It lies adjacent to Washington state land that is managed to protect the threatened western gray squirrel, which inhabits the oak-dappled Lyle slopes, including the 25-acre Lyle Peak.



Not only birds and squirrels will benefit from the purchase of these properties. Area residents and visitors from all over visit the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge to view the more than 200 species of bird that pass through as they migrate south. If you're a birder, your heart will race when you spot one of the rare species, like the slender-billed nuthatch that uses the upland oak trees for habitat.

Over at Lyle Peak, plans are in the works for a trail that will connect with

the existing trail on the Lyle Cherry Orchard, as well as linking to trails on adjacent Washington state land. Nature lovers who need a quiet escape from the hustle of our modern world will get a little refuge too!

You can help preserve these two special properties by making a donation to *Preserve the Wonder*. For information, visit **PreserveTheWonder.com** or contact Development Officer Pam Davee at 971-634-2036, or pam@gorgefriends.org.



Young birders at Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge. Photo: Sam Dumont



New Faces at Friends

riends is thrilled to welcome our three newest board members, who will each serve a three-year term on our 19-member Board of Directors.

The board brings together a wide array of interests and skills that intersect the mission and vision of our organization.

Joining the board, Annie Munch brings her background in the field of architecture and landscape design. In addition to serving on Friends' *Preserve the Wonder* campaign committee, Annie is engaged in numerous philanthropic activities in Portland, and has also served on the boards of Chamber Music Northwest, the Junior League of Portland, and the Oregon Historical Society.

Columbia Gorge resident Wes Hickey is the owner Lone Wolf Investments and led

the construction of Washougal Town Square, an ambitious, multimillion-dollar revitalization effort. Wes brings to the board his entrepreneurial vision, financial expertise, and a deep interest in balancing community and sustainable development.

Attorney Buck Parker is a native of Hood River. Buck comes to Friends' board after retiring from a long and notable career with Earthjustice, the nation's leading nonprofit environmental law organization. A lifelong advocate for the environment, Buck served as Earthjustice's executive director from 1997 to 2008 and helped establish the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense.



Join Friends this spring and summer, along with the Mount Hood and Columbia River Gorge Regional Tourism Alliance and the U.S. Forest Service, to educate hikers at popular trailheads throughout the Gorge and Mount Hood. We're looking for out-going volunteers to answer hiking and fire-related questions, promote responsible hiker ethics, such as "leave no trace," and highlight Ready, Set, Gorge.

Learn more:

gorgefriends.org/ ambassador

Photos: Annie Munch and Wes Hickey by Stan Hall. Buck Parker, courtesy of Earthjustice.





Annie Munch Wes Hickey

SPRING & SUMMER 2018

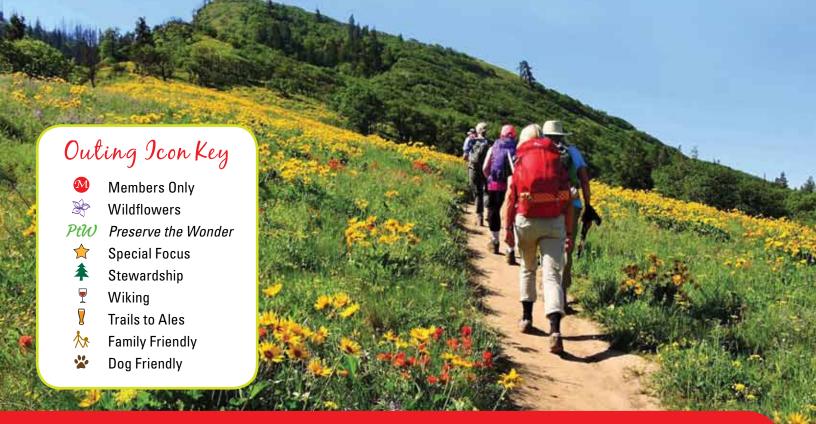
Hikes, Outings, Events & Stewardship

New Places and Possibilities

This season, our guided hikes and outings will focus on the beauty and the less-traveled areas of the Gorge in eastern Oregon and Washington. In Oregon, 135 miles of trails remain closed in the western Gorge due to the Eagle Creek fire. Friends is also putting an emphasis on stewardship this year and will be rolling out a series of work parties and trainings in the burned area (see page 14 for details) with our *Gorge Trails Recovery Team* partners. Make this the year that you lend a hand and give back to this treasured landscape that we all love.

Exclusive
Members-Only
Registration
is open now!

General registration begins March 5.



MARCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

PtW I Lyle Cherry Orchard and Lyle Peak, WA

Strenuous: 7 miles, 1,400-ft elev. gain

Field Representative Peter Cornelison will lead us to early spring wildflowers and panoramic Gorge views at Friends' land trust property. We'll learn about the adjacent *Preserve the Wonder* Lyle Peak property and more. Later, we'll continue our conversations nearby over wine tasting at a nearby winery (optional).

SUNDAY, MARCH 11 Ptw Preserve the Wonder at Steigerwald Shores, WA

Easy: 3.8 miles, no elev. gain

Walk with board members to Steigerwald Shores, a 160-acre parcel adjacent to Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Learn how our *Preserve the Wonder* campaign will help make a major restoration of this refuge possible.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17 PCT to Gillette Lake and Greenleaf Overlook, WA

Strenuous: 7.8 miles, 1,000-ft elev. gain

Hike with leader Sharon Ross on a section of the Pacific Crest Trail through a forest with various ages of logged areas amid healthy standing trees. Greenleaf Overlook offers views of the Columbia River.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18 Hamilton Mountain, WA

Strenuous: 9.4 miles, 2,100-ft elev. gain

Follow leader Ruth Johnson on this challenging hike through lush forest to find early spring wildflowers and great Gorge views.

SAT. – SUN., MARCH 24-25

Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Training Beacon Rock State Park, WA

Learn how to treat an injury or illness in the backcountry where help is delayed. This is a 16-hr, interactive class with the option for CPR certification. Fee: \$145 WFA only; \$175 WFA + CPR.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

Easy/Moderate: 2-3 miles, little elev. gain

Join Executive Director Kevin Gorman for special access to this scenic land trust property not open to the public. Hear *Gorge Towns to Trails* updates, learn about Friends' fire recovery efforts, and search for early wildflowers. After, we'll enjoy an optional wine tasting nearby.

APRIL

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

🚖 Lyle Cherry Orchard Wildlife, WA

Moderate: 4 miles, 900-ft elev. gain

Wildlife biologist Bill Weiler will lead us up to the Lyle Cherry Orchard and neighboring Washington DNR land, pointing out threatened western gray squirrels, pileated woodpeckers, and other wildlife.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

🐠 👺 路 Hardy Ridge Loop, WA

Strenuous: 7-8 miles, 2,000-ft elev gain

Hike with guidebook author Craig Romano on this peaceful, quieter trail high above Beacon Rock. Showy flowers line this somewhat-rugged trail, and the views are outstanding. Leashed dogs are welcome.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

Wildflowers at Catherine Creek and Klickitat Trail, WA

Easy/Moderate: 5 miles, 150-ft elev. gain
Walk with Klickitat Trail Conservancy
(KTC) board members Barbara Robinson
and Steven Woolpert to learn about
wildflowers galore in the eastern Gorge.
This is a must-do spring outing in
partnership with KTC!

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

🚳 🎓 Deschutes River Ecology, OR

Moderate: 4-5 miles, little elev. gain

This leisurely walk on the Deschutes River Trail with naturalist Ralph Thomas Rogers features riparian ecology, emphasizing birds, plants and butterflies. The return hike offers great views of the river from a slightly higher elevation.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Easy: 2.5 miles, 500-ft elev. gain

Join environmental educator Roland Begin to hike in one of the most geologically fascinating areas in the Columbia River Gorge. We'll identify plants and their ethnobotanical uses, and we'll discuss the role of fire in forest ecology.

General Information

- Space is limited, so as a courtesy to others, please register only if you're sure you will attend.
- We encourage you to sign up on the wait list.
 We'll try our best to accommodate everyone who wants to hike with Friends.
- Carpool information and outing-specific details will be emailed upon registration.
- Children are welcome with a parent or guardian on hikes appropriate for their age and ability.

All photos, pages 9-14: Debbie Asakawa

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

👺 🏿 Mosier Plateau, OR

Moderate: 3.5 miles, 600-ft elev. gain

Take in panoramic views and wildflowers at the peak of the bloom, on the bluff above Mosier. Friends' former Land Trust Manager Kate McBride will share the history and future plans for this property and the trail. Later, we'll head to a nearby eatery for lunch (optional).

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

🚳 🌟 🏿 Two Botanical Walks at Rowena Plateau, OR

Easy: 1-2 miles, little elev. gain

Naturopathic physician Daivati Bharadvaj will share historical and modern medicinal uses of Gorge plants, stopping to identify and discuss many plants on this wildflower plateau. Later, stop at a nearby eatery for food and beverages (optional). Choose a morning or early afternoon outing.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

$extcolor{left}{\mathcal{R}} \mathcal{P} t \mathcal{W}$ Catherine Creek to Coyote Meadow, WA

Expert: 10.4 miles, 1,900-ft elev. gain

Join wildflower enthusiast Paul Freeman in a quest to identify 50 wildflower species on this challenging hike over semi-rugged terrain to outstanding Gorge views. Board member Debbie Asakawa will show us why the Coyote Meadow parcel is an important part of the Preserve the Wonder campaign.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

Crawford Oaks Loop, WA Moderate: 9 miles, 1,300-ft elev. gain

Find eastern-Gorge sunshine and wildflowers at their peak on this trail to Dalles Mountain Ranch. Listen for meadowlarks and watch for wildlife on a faster-paced walk with leader Kim Owen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

A Earth Walk with Mindfulness on the Klickitat Trail, WA

Easy: 2-3 miles, little elev. gain

Enjoy a peaceful opportunity to connect deeply with nature, health, and yourself on this quiet walk with Klickitat Trail Conservancy board member Steven Woolpert. Mindful walking in nature brings its beauty and healing power into mind, body, and spirit.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

🔆 🎓 Deschutes River Trail to Ferry Springs, OR

Moderate: 5 miles, 500-ft elev. gain

We'll enjoy sweeping views and learn about desert wildflowers and geology from leader Ross Edginton. This loop trail starts out along the Deschutes River, then climbs to the upper trail to Ferry Springs.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

👺 🎓 Waterfalls and Wildflowers at Latourell Falls, OR

Easy: 2.4 miles, 520-ft elev. gain

Join Oregon State Park Ranger Miranda Mendoza to hike through the "mist zone" at Latourell Falls. We'll visit two beautiful waterfalls on this loop hike, pausing as we go to learn the park's history and enjoy early wildflowers.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

Kayak from Mayer State Park to Mosier, OR Experienced paddlers only

This 8-mile paddle trip with Field Representative Peter Cornelison passes Memaloose Island, rocky shorelines, and sandy beaches. All participants to supply their own gear. Experienced kayakers and whitewater canoers only.

MAY

TUESDAY, MAY 1



McCall Point, OR

Moderate: 5 miles, 1,070-ft elev. gain

Climb high with Outdoor Programs Coordinator Kate Lindberg and naturalist Ralph Thomas Rogers at this wildflower paradise. We'll travel this semi-rugged trail for sweeping views of the Gorge on May Day.

THURSDAY, MAY 3

🐎 🎓 Historic Homestead Tour at Columbia Hills, WA

Easy: 3 miles, modest/steady elev. gain

Author and interpretive guide Judy Bentley will uncover the rich history of former homesteads along the Crawford Oaks trail as spring wildflowers carpet this section of Columbia Hills State Park.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

38th Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA gorgefriends.org/annualmeeting

Caretakers of the Gorge

Whether hiking with Friends or on your own, we're all caretakers of the Gorge. We encourage everyone to hike responsibly by staying on the trail, using a trailhead boot brush, and carrying out your trash. Please leave no traces; take only memories - and photos!

FRIDAY, MAY 4

M Camas Lily Fields at Round Lake and Lacamas Falls, WA

Moderate: 4 miles, 300-ft elev. gain

Follow leader Jim Daly to discover the abundant blue blooms at the Camas Fields during peak season. We'll start at Round Lake and return via Lacamas Falls and Creek.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Mardy Ridge Loop, WA

Strenuous: 9 miles, 2,500-ft elev. gain

Enjoy a steady climb through beautiful forests with leader Sharon Ross to the saddle behind Hamilton Mountain. Gorgeous views await at the summit.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Tamily Hike and Nature Hunt

Easy: less than 2 miles, 200-ft elev. gain

Join author and educator Wendy Gorton for a "nature hunt" featuring a scavenger card to help us identify plants, animals, bugs and geological features. One lucky hiker will win a copy of Wendy's 50 Hikes with Kids guidebook. Exact location will depend on trail conditions and will be announced later.

SUNDAY, MAY 6

Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge, WA

Easy: 3 miles, 100-ft elev. gain

Learn about the natural ecology and management of this national wildlife refuge on a slow-paced hike on the Willard Springs Trail with naturalist Ralph Thomas Rogers.

SUNDAY, MAY 6

Full-Day Whitewater Rafting Klickitat River, WA

This late-spring whitewater rafting adventure with Wet Planet passes thick pine forests, basalt-lined canyons, and oak woodlands.

\$90 fee includes lunch and gear.

THURSDAY, MAY 10

👺 🝷 Coyote Wall and Labyrinth, WA

Strenuous: 6 miles, 1,500 elev. gain

Leader Annette Hadaway will lead us up to Coyote Wall for sweeping river views, weekday beauty, and solitude. Later, we'll stop at a nearby winery for wine tasting and continued conversation (optional).

FRIDAY, MAY 11

Mar II

✓ ★ Hamilton Mountain, WA Strenuous: 9.4 miles, 2,100-ft elev. gain

Follow leader Sharon Ross along this

challenging trail that has everything: waterfalls, cliffs, deep forests, and stunning views of the Gorge.

FRIDAY, MAY 11

💸 🍷 Crawford Oaks Loop, WA

Strenuous: 7 miles, 1,060-elev. gain

Join leader Kristin Price when lush wildflowers are at their peak on the meandering Crawford Oaks trail to Dalles Mountain Ranch. We'll look for wildlife and listen for meadowlarks. After, enjoy optional wine tasting nearby.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

Two easy walks: 2.5 miles, little elev. gain

Visit ancient petroglyphs and rock images, including *She Who Watches*, with Washington State Park Tour Guide Chon Clayton and hike leader Jim Chase. Then we'll head to Dancing Rock land trust property to view traces of ice age floods. Later, enjoy optional wine tasting.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

★ Fort Cascades National Historical Site, WA

Easy: less than 2 miles, no elev. gain

Join environmental educator Roland Begin for an educational walk to uncover the rich cultural history of this area, learning the ethnobotanical uses of native plants as we go. We'll also spend time discussing the role of fire in forest ecology.

Stay Updated

Throughout the season we'll be adding stewardship work parties. Sign up for our Hiking Enews to receive these announcements, along with openings for outings, best bets for seasonal hikes, trail alerts and more:

gorgefriends.org/subscribe.

SUNDAY, MAY 13

Swale Canyon Bike Ride, WA

Strenuous: 28 miles, 1,000-ft elev. gain

Ride the old railbed along Swale Creek with Field Representative Peter Cornelison. This is a great one-way ride from Harms Road to Lyle. We'll cross some rough railroad rock as we take in great views of massive rocks, arid landscape, and wildlife habitat. *Involves* a car shuttle.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Moderate: 3.4 miles, 700-ft. elev. gain

Discover magnificent, multi-tiered Falls Creek Falls with leader Jane Garbisch. We'll follow the trail's gentle ascent along a cascading creek to the 200-ft high falls. Then we'll explore the hanging gardens and moss-coated beauty of Panther Creek Falls nearby.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

★ Watercolor Workshop at Beacon Rock State Park, WA

The natural surroundings will be our artistic inspiration on this day-long watercolor exploration with artist Heather Brunelle. Supply list provided upon registration. *Limited to 10 participants.* \$20 fee.

SAT - SUN, MAY 19 - 20

Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Training Beacon Rock State Park, WA

Learn how to treat an injury or illness in the backcountry where help is delayed. This is a 16-hr, interactive class with the option for CPR certification. Fee: \$145 WFA only; \$175 WFA + CPR.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Two easy walks: 2.5 miles, little elev. gain

Explore culturally treasured Yakama Nation lands with leader Judy Todd on this two-part mindful-awareness outing. We'll quietly visit *She Who Watches* and other petroglyphs before going to nearby Horsethief Butte, reflecting on the deeper cultural story relative to climate change, culture, and the intersectionality of our lives today.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

Seven Streams Loop, OR

Expert: 11.5 miles, 2,200-ft elev. gain

This full-day hike with leader Paul Freeman takes us up a multi-use, forested trail to expansive 360-degree views of the Gorge, Hood River Valley and several mountain peaks. Good chance to see rainbows if there's any precipitation.

SUNDAY MAY 27

🛞 🌟 Whistling Ridge, WA

Strenuous: 8 miles, 2,200-ft elev. gain

Hike with Friends Senior Staff Attorney Nathan Baker on this "forgotten trail" across a scenic ridge whose name is shared with the neighboring proposed wind energy project. Learn the current status of this controversial project as you take in great views at the summit of Nestor Peak.

TUESDAY, MAY 29

March 19 Dog Mountain, WA

Strenuous: 6.9 miles, 2,820-ft elev. gain

Climb slopes covered with wildflowers with lead Karl Kratzer, surrounded by panoramic Gorge views. Stunning beauty and greater solitude are featured on this weekday hike.

JUNE

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

Hamilton Mountain, WA

Strenuous: 9.4 miles, 2,100-ft elev. gain

Enjoy lush forest shade on this challenging hike with leader Ruth Johnson to an iconic Gorge peak. We'll get a close-up look at towering basalt cliffs as we climb high to take in Hamilton's panoramic Gorge views.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

★ Sandy River Delta Evening Walk, OR

Easy: 3-4 miles, little elev. gain

Learn about the collaborative restoration efforts of Confluence, Sandy River Basin Watershed Council, Friends of the Sandy River Delta, and others to preserve this multiuse area. We'll visit renowned architect Maya Lin's Bird Blind and see the results of the largest deciduous forest habitat restoration project in the Pacific Northwest.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7



Strenuous: 7 miles, 1,820-ft. elev. gain

Beat the crowds in search of lush wildflowers during peak bloom on this fast-paced, very early morning hike with Field Representative Peter Cornelison.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

☆ Ice Age Floods Tour

Driving tour with short walks

Join Jim Chase for this informative geology tour on both sides of the Columbia. This driving tour includes numerous stops and short hikes to learn about the Gorge's geology and view remnants of the Ice Age Floods. \$40 fee includes lunch and chartered transportation.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Mosier Plateau, OR

Moderate: 3.5 miles, 600-ft elev. gain

Celebrate National Get Outdoors Day with a walk on Friends' Mosier Plateau land trust property with Outreach Manager Maegan Jossy. Later, we'll continue our conversations over wine tasting nearby (optional).

SATURDAY, JUNE 9



Strenuous: 8-9 miles, 2,100-ft elev. gain

Lush forest will shade us as we climb up to stunning views with leader Paul Freeman. Thanks to the removal of the Condit Dam seven years ago, we'll be able to see the White Salmon River flowing back in its natural path and discover a wildflower meadow that had been hidden under a formerly dammed lake.

Play & Stay

Step beyond day hikes for a weekend getaway to more deeply appreciate what Gorge communities have to offer. Scenic guided hikes, discounted lodging, meals, evening presentations, and more are all part of your all-inclusive package.

Details and reservations at gorgefriends.org/playandstay

2018 Play & Stay Weekends

Wildflowers and Wine

Dufur, OR | April 27 - 29

Heart of the Gorge Tour

Cascade Locks, OR | May 19 - 20

Foliage & Fall Wine

Lyle, WA | Oct. 12 - 14



M Rell Creek Ecology, OR

Moderate: 5-6 miles, 1,000-ft elev. gain

Learn the characteristics and ecology of ancient forests on a slow-paced hike through a majestic old-growth fir forest with naturalist Ralph Thomas Rogers.

Access to this trail depends on reopening of the fire-closure area; it's possible it will not be open for hiking by June.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

☆ Hike 'n' Stitch Outing on the Cape Horn Upper Trail, WA

Moderate: 5 miles, 1,000-ft elev. gain

Join Outdoor Programs Coordinator Kate Lindberg and designer-illustrator Amy Frazer for a unique art-hike opportunity. We'll hike to panoramic views at the Nancy Russell Overlook where we'll have an introductory lesson in embroidery. \$20 fee for embroidery patch kit to keep.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30



Strenuous: 7.9 miles, 1,950-ft elev. gain

Follow leader Jim Chase along a ridge carpeted with wildflowers, through a lush forest to an icy spring. We'll enjoy great Gorge views and an overlook of Big Lava Bed. *This trail is very steep in sections.*

JULY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4



Strenuous: 9.0 miles, 1,500-ft elev. gain

Spend the 4th of July with leader Jim Chase near Silver Star Mountain. We'll hike through an enchanted forest and fields of wildflowers to a 360-degree mountain view. This trail includes a non-technical scramble to the summit and is steep in sections.

MONDAY, JULY 16

Trail Run in the Gorge

Moderate: distance TBD

Staff attorney Steve McCoy will take us on a trail run to start the week. The exact location is yet to be determined, but we'll be looking for lush forest cover to keep us cool, along with beautiful Gorge views. All running paces are welcome.

FRIDAY, JULY 20

Cape Horn Loop, WA

Moderate: 8.3 miles, 1,500-ft elev. gain

Learn the full story of Cape Horn, from the threat of a planned subdivision to a scenic public trail, as we hike to breathtaking viewpoints and scenic overlooks with Executive Director Kevin Gorman.

SUNDAY, JULY 22

Full-Day White Salmon River Rafting, WA

This Wild and Scenic White Salmon River full-day raft trip guided by Wet Planet takes us through the canyons formed by the previous lake and the historical site of Condit Dam. This is a great opportunity to see the newly formed, spectacular Narrows Canyon.

\$135 fee includes lunch and gear.

OUR HIKING PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY



SUNDAY, JULY 15
38th Annual Summer Picnic in Paradise

Thunder Island, Cascade Locks, OR gorgefriends.org/picnic

JFOLAW.COM



SUNDAY, MARCH 11

♣ Spring Cleaning at Memaloose Overlook, OR

Kick off the 2018 season with Oregon State Parks and Trailkeepers of Oregon, helping with trail clean-up! We'll begin re-beautifying this well-loved area known for its wildflowers and views by removing trash from a section of trail that over the years has become an unofficial dump site.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

★ Vista View Property Cleanup, WA

Help remove wood debris from the hay fields at this working farm that is one of Friends' land trust properties. We'll also work to clean up the road shoulders and mend some fencing.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

★ Teasel Rosette Removal at Mosier Plateau, OR

We'll be working on the Mosier Plateau land trust property to combat more of this invasive plant in preparation for planting native camas.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

★ Coyote Meadows Property Cleanup, WA

Visit this recently acquired *Preserve* the Wonder property adjacent to Catherine Creek to help remove metal, trash, and debris that has accumulated over the years.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7 THURSDAY, APRIL 12 THURSDAY, APRIL 19

★ Fence Removal at Lyle Peak, WA

Help pull sections of an old fence down on this newly acquired *Preserve the Wonder* property to help wildlife move freely around Lyle Cherry Orchard.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Boot Brush Kick-Off Days: Mosier Plateau, OR and Lyle Cherry Orchard, WA

Spend a day promoting the boot brush stations at Lyle Cherry Orchard and Mosier Plateau trailheads. We'll demonstrate to hikers how to properly use a boot brush and why they're so important to reduce the spread of noxious weeds.

THURSDAY, MAY 24

♣ Native Seed Collection at Mosier Plateau, OR

Enjoy the view from Mosier Plateau Land Trust Property while collecting native balsamroot seeds to use for future restoration work on site.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1 THURSDAY, JUNE 7

▲ Invasive Species Training Hikes, WA Balfour-Klickitat Trail (June 1) Beacon Rock State Park (June 7)

Join Gorge-area Weed Managers for an informational hike to learn about invasive plants that threaten Gorge habitats. We'll learn how to identify common Gorge weeds and report them via smartphone apps. We'll also spend time pulling invasive plants as we go.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21 SATURDAY, JUNE 23

Yellow Starthistle Pull Party at Lyle Cherry Orchard, WA

Join us on Summer Solstice in the fight against yellow starthistle, an extremely invasive plant that is taking over Lyle Cherry Orchard. We'll need as many gloved-hands as possible for these events!

Join the Gorge Trails Recovery Team

riends is putting an emphasis on stewardship this year, and we'll be rolling out a series of additional work parties and trainings in the burned area with our *Gorge Trails Recovery Team* partners.

Make this the year that you lend-ahand and give back to this treasured landscape that we all love.

Sign up now to be notified when we announce the schedule at gorgefriends.org/firestewardship.

Fire Sparks Community Forums, "After the Smoke Clears"

Events draw more than 1,000 people

Burt Edwards, Communications Director, burt@gorgefriends.org

he Eagle Creek fire riveted the attention of millions across the Pacific Northwest within hours of igniting. Fanned by social media and TV coverage, the news rapidly spread in scope and intensity to capture the national spotlight. Discussions on the anger, fear, anxiety, grief, and distress so many felt in response to the fire quickly filled the airwaves, papers, and Facebook newsfeeds.

Within days after the fire started, leaders from regional conservations groups - including the CRAG Law Center, Oregon Wild, Bark, and Friends of the Columbia Gorge – gathered to discuss ways to keep public discourse about the fire focused and constructive. The public needed to hear directly from forest ecologists and other scientists about the fire's potential lasting impacts on Gorge forests and wildlife, so the ad hoc group hatched a plan for a series of educational community forums. Starting in November, they would explore ways to help Gorge forests naturally rebound and increase resilience for the land, communities, and trails in the Columbia River Gorge.

Under the banner of "After the Smoke Clears," the fire forum series was a combined effort to reach the collective membership of conservation groups and encourage support from local co-sponsors such as the Hood River Valley Residents Committee. Forum organizers utilized a cooperative outreach strategy to engage

the public in ongoing policy debates over how we can better protect and steward the Gorge.

The series kicked off on November 15 with a packed forum at Portland's Revolution Hall, followed by programs at McMenamins Edgefield in Troutdale and the Bowe Theater in Hood River.

Featured speakers at the forums included noted forest ecologists Dominick DellaSala of Geos Institute, Lisa Ellsworth of Oregon State University, and University of Washington's Jerry Franklin, known to many in the forest ecology community as "the father of new forestry." In addition to experts, Gorge residents Glen Mackey, president of the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of

Commerce, Terry Brigham of Brigham Fish Market, and Caroline Park of Thunder Island Brewing in Cascade Locks helped ground the discussion in experiences and insights from those most directly impacted by the Eagle Creek fire.

More than 1,000 people attended the Fire Forum series, and perspectives from DellaSala, Ellis, and Franklin were featured in related news coverage. The public's passion for protecting the Gorge astonished even seasoned organizers, and the thirst for knowledge about post-fire recovery of the forest and trail systems made it clear that the commitment to protecting the Columbia Gorge will stay strong long after the Eagle Creek fire has finally burned out. ■





Kevin Gorman, Executive Director, kevin@gorgefriends.org

hirteen years ago this spring,
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
hired the first employee for our
newly created land trust. That employee
was Kate McBride, a fourth-generation
Gorge resident whose quiet demeanor hid a
steely determination to preserve the place
her parents, grandparents, and greatgrandparents cherished. Kate retired as our
land trust manager in December.

Kate's first assignment was overseeing the just-purchased Cleveland property, now the site of the Nancy Russell Overlook at Cape Horn. This involved removing the 5,500-square-foot house and selling the land to the U.S. Forest Service. During her tenure, Kate negotiated 27 acquisitions and donations totaling more than 1,400 acres. Kate now looks forward to the life enjoyed by many Gorge retirees — spending time

with her grandchild and kite sailing in the Gorge and Baja.

Friends also bid farewell to Kyle Broeckel, who moved to Montana in January. Kyle maintained our membership database and answered member questions on a wide array of issues. Both Kyle and Kate will be helping Friends during the transition in parttime positions.

With Kate and Kyle's departures, three new faces have been added to Friends' lineup. Dan Bell joins us as our new land trust director. Dan previously worked at the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and the Nature Conservancy, and also served as board president for the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts. Dan will oversee all aspects of the land trust, including strategic direction.

Libby Martin, our new development assistant, will help manage everything that

keeps Friends' fundraising running smoothly. Born and raised in Oregon, Libby attended the University of Rochester in New York, studying anthropology and public health and studied international health and development at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. Libby previously worked as a development consultant with non-profit organizations.

In response to the Eagle Creek fire, Friends has hired Mika Barrett as our stewardship volunteer coordinator. Mika most recently worked for REI and has served in human resources for several organizations. Mika will work with the 2,000 people who have signed up to volunteer since the fire and will work to minimize the spread of invasive weeds into the burned areas. She'll also support stewardship work on our land trust properties and coordinate with the *Gorge*

Trails Recovery Team to rebuild burned trail systems.

Please join us in thanking Kate and Kyle for their service, and welcoming Dan, Libby, and Mika.

Photo: Michael Horodyski



Kate McBride

Photo: Stan Hall



Dan Bell

Photo: Stan Hall





Libby Martin Mika Barrett

MEMBERS IN ACTION

A Bird's-Eye View of Legacy

Kate Harbour, Membership Coordinator, kateh@gorgefriends.org

el Hinton's reverence for the outdoors represents a unique perspective. After graduating from Oregon State University, Mel became a Navy pilot and after leaving the service, he flew for the airlines for 27 years, while living in San Diego. From the sky, he saw how humans were shaping the environment. Seeing the Great Plains consumed by agriculture and the polluted

waters of the Mississippi River pouring into the Gulf of Mexico left a strong impression on him. Those views from the cockpit solidified his environmental ethic.

Mel became active in San Diego environmental efforts when he retired in 2000. For years he was very involved with the San Diego Audubon Society, serving as



Friends member Mel Hinton with his grandsons at Lacamas Lake, near Camas, WA.

chapter president, vice president, and treasurer over several years.

In 2012, Mel returned to the Pacific Northwest after his wife passed away. He settled in Vancouver and joined a men's hiking group, where he quickly found camaraderie and a shared love of the outdoors on their weekly hikes. In no time, Mel had hiked nearly every

trail in the Gorge, and when an old friend and hike leader introduced him to Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the mission to protect the Gorge and educate the public immediately spoke to him.

Mel decided to include Friends in his estate plans because he doesn't want to see the Columbia Gorge suffer the same fate as so many

of the places he saw in his career. He hopes that the Gorge will be preserved for future generations, and that people will continue to learn about these special places — an effort he carries on by taking his grandchildren to his favorite trails and waterfalls.

Thank you, Mel, for investing in the Gorge for future generations! \blacksquare



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