

FRIENDS ^{OF} THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Winter 2020



Timeless Beauty
at Catherine Creek

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

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Founded in 1980, Friends of the Columbia Gorge is the only conservation organization entirely dedicated to protecting, preserving, and stewarding the Columbia Gorge for future generations.

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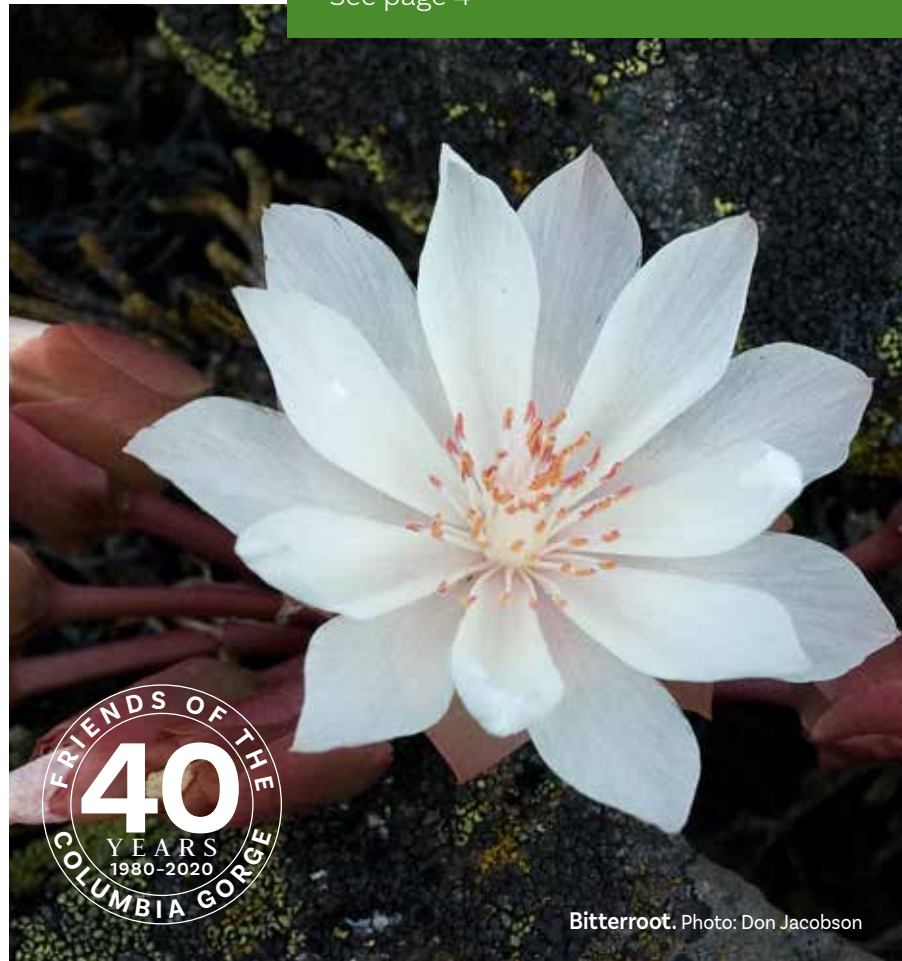
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A Diamond in the Rough at Catherine Creek

See page 4



Bitterroot. Photo: Don Jacobson

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Cover: A view to the west from Catherine Creek. Photo: Stan Hall

Director's Letter

In Friends' 40th anniversary year, it's hard for me not to reminisce about our founder Nancy Russell and the ten years I worked with her. Nancy especially loved the landscape east of Hood River and White Salmon, where oak and ponderosa pine forests mingle with wildflowers and jutting basalt formations. As a conservation buyer, more than 80 percent of the land she personally acquired lay in this area.

Pre-eminent within this landscape is the recreation area called Catherine Creek. Every time Nancy and I visited there, she would educate me about what made the area so special. The long slopes of the former cattle ranch provide dramatic views to the south, east, and west, but one feature that most ranchers and farmers consider a detriment—poor, shallow soil—makes Catherine Creek unique. The Ice Age floods that pushed massive amounts of rich soil down into the Willamette Valley scoured Catherine Creek clean. Grasses that thrive in good soil struggle at Catherine Creek, but native wildflowers flourish and outcompete the grasses. As a result, Catherine Creek boasts the greatest abundance of wildflower species in the Columbia Gorge.



Friends founder Nancy Russell in 1996 at Memaloose Hills.
Photo: Aubrey Russell



Executive Director Kevin Gorman, taken onsite at Friends' new property at Catherine Creek. Photo: Debbie Asakawa

Almost the entirety of Catherine Creek is now public land, but Nancy viewed a remaining 4-acre private holding as “the one that got away.” For two decades now, the property has been in violation of Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area rules, and its owners have shown little interest in complying. Soon after Nancy passed away, in 2008, Friends' staff and board developed a priority acquisition list for our land trust, identifying 15 high-priority properties. That 4-acre parcel has been at the top of our list ever since. When it finally went on the market this past June, we jumped into action.

This fall, on September 21, we successfully purchased the property (see details on page 4). As its new owners, we've begun cleaning it up, removing outbuildings, and working with members of the public and adjacent land managers to determine how that property can best serve the outstanding habitat of the Catherine Creek recreation area. I can't wait to see what it will become.

One Friends member who lives near Catherine Creek joined Nancy there in 2008, shortly before she died. She told me that Nancy's last words to her that day were, “Please protect this place.” I'm confident that somewhere Nancy is smiling because, for Friends' 40th anniversary, we finally got the one that got away.

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org



A Diamond in the Rough at Catherine Creek

Dan Bell, Land Trust Director

In over twenty years of working with land trusts, it has happened to me only a handful of times: getting the opportunity to protect a piece of property that is both critically important and potentially transformative. More often than not, these properties have been targets of conservation for decades, then suddenly they become an opportunity when they go on the open market. You only get one chance, or the property may go to another buyer and never be conserved.

As I walked the Catherine Creek trail over Memorial Day weekend, I knew this was another of those rare opportunities. Along the trail, I could easily see the newly listed Gorge property from every direction, and looking at a map, it was easy to understand why this 4-acre parcel at the Catherine Creek trailhead had become a top priority. After all, Catherine Creek encompasses one of the most visible landscapes in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, easily viewed from iconic places such as the Memaloose Overlook and the Historic Columbia River Highway.

But to see this particular parcel up close, on the ground, was different. It was a diamond in the rough, and seeing its potential took a different kind of vision—you needed to see beyond what was there. And we did. After weeks of intense analysis,

consultation, and negotiations, this fall Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust acquired this 4-acre scenic jewel—one of the last private properties within the 4,000-acre Catherine Creek Recreation Area—to ensure its permanent protection.

Grabbing the opportunity

Located eight miles east of Hood River, across the bridge in Washington, the Catherine Creek Recreation Area is one of the premier places in the eastern Gorge for early spring wildflower viewing. With an easy grade, a paved trail, and stunning Gorge views, it's a popular and accessible recreation site. But property acquisitions are rarely easy for any land trust.

When this opportunity presented itself to Friends, we had to move decisively and quickly. Within weeks

we had put in place the tools needed to approach the sellers and develop an acceptable offer. Through challenging negotiations, we always came back to our vision. If we could get this done, it could provide impact and leverage far beyond the property boundaries, much as our Steigerwald Shores purchase has enabled the largest floodplain restoration project ever on the lower Columbia River. This property at Catherine Creek could also have a transformative impact, and we knew it.

The big picture: restoration and conservation

Summer flew by, and by the time October rolled around, we had covered a lot of ground. Negotiations and final property inspections were over. The previous landowners had moved the last of their equipment and material off the land, and Friends' Land Trust had secured the property. For the first time in more than a decade, the land's full potential started to show. It was no longer a personal enclave tucked within one of the Gorge's premier scenic treasures. Now it was a blank canvas for conservation and recreation. We had accomplished the first critical step to set the stage for something better.

For more than a decade, the Columbia River Gorge Commission and U.S. Forest Service had expressed concerns about Scenic Area violations on the property—many stemming from a 2003 land-use decision that approved a replacement dwelling. Friends' land trust is committed to fulfilling these conditions of approval to bring the property into full compliance with the National Scenic Area Act. In the coming months, we will begin to remove unpermitted outbuildings, plant screening vegetation, and reduce the visual impact of the property.

But there is so much more to the picture. The Catherine Creek acquisition provides a unique opportunity for Friends to engage in a dialogue and

With insights and perspectives from new voices, we hope to create a community resource to benefit all.

discussion on how to enhance access to one of the Columbia Gorge's most popular and scenic recreation areas. Now in our ownership, the purchase allows planning and stewardship activities to improve current trails and return native plant cover to the property, enhancing the scenery while creating additional habitat for native birds and pollinators.

Creating a community vision

This purchase also catalyzes conversations with new voices focused on making the Gorge safer and more accessible for all. As just one example, there are opportunities to enhance connections to the adjacent ADA-accessible trail. With rugged, steep terrain in much of the Gorge, spaces where those with mobility challenges can enjoy the majestic scenery or spring wildflowers are too rare. We embrace the opportunity to learn from this community and consider improvements that enhance their experience.

In the coming years, we look forward to hearing from our longstanding partners, and also to building relationships with and listening to new ones. With insights and perspectives from new voices, we hope to create a community resource to benefit all. It is time to let our vision give way to a shared vision.

It will take some time to know what the future of the property holds—years, or even decades. But one thing is certain, it will truly be something for all of us to see. ■

Helping Allies in a Water Crisis



conservation organizations to support immediate action to help the people of Warm Springs manage a devastating water emergency—one that is hitting doubly hard during the coronavirus pandemic. The Warm Springs Tribes have been leaders in conservation and environmental advocacy, both before and since our organizations came into existence. Many successes have grown from the Tribes' foundations of

stewardship. By collectively raising our voices, we can bring attention and assistance to a crucial problem that is getting lost in the blizzard of political discourse.

Our goals are simple and two-fold: strengthen available financial resources to meet immediate, emergency health needs, and advocate for policy solutions that will enable the people of Warm Springs to restore access and infrastructure for clean water. Our efforts build upon the innovative work last year by Tribal leaders, the Warm Springs Community Action Team, and the MRG Foundation in creating The Chúush Fund—an inventive financing tool allowing both the public and institutional funders to directly assist the people of Warm Springs in confronting this crisis.

Access to clean drinking water is essential to healthy, vibrant communities. It's a basic human right that all who live in the Pacific Northwest should equally enjoy. By working creatively and collectively, we can support the people of Warm Springs in meeting immediate community water needs and building a new, more resilient water infrastructure for their future. ■

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director

When I was just a few years out of college in the late 1980s, I lived in Flint, Michigan. Flint was already in deep decline from its economic peak in the 1950s, but it wasn't yet infamous for its undrinkable water. The ongoing tragedy of Flint may seem light-years away from our water-rich Pacific Northwest, but we need look no further than the community of Warm Springs to recognize that a water crisis of Flint proportions is occurring very close to home.

The people of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs—the largest Indian reservation in the state of Oregon—are now in the second year of a devastating water crisis due to a series of pressure breaks in key community water lines. More than 60 percent of Warm Springs residents do not have regular, consistent access to clean water for personal and domestic use.

This injustice is playing out as most of us, just an hour or two away, consider fresh, clean water an unspoken right. That's why Friends is joining with other regional

From left: Dorothea Thurby, Britany Archer, and Johnson Bill refill empty bottles for a local resident while working at the Warm Springs Reservation water distribution site. Photo: Ryan Brennecke, Bend Bulletin

Turtles Return TO THE Wild

Sara Woods, Land Stewardship Coordinator

This summer Friends embarked on its second, ever, turtle release at our Turtle Haven preserve. The western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*, which is a Washington-state endangered species) has had a team of biologists, zoologists, conservationists, and land managers working together to help improve population numbers and habitat for decades. Over the past several years, I've worked with our partners on a variety of projects from habitat restoration to public education for this imperiled species. But something felt different this year.

In July, Friends and partners gathered at our preserve to welcome home almost two-dozen Oregon Zoo-reared baby turtles. Yes, the feelings of difference certainly were due in part to COVID safety restrictions that required mask-wearing and a limited group size—obvious changes this year. But even so, something at Turtle Haven was different.

As we unloaded the turtles from the zoo's van, I quickly realized that this year was different because there were more turtles than people at the release! The turtle-



to-human ratio was high, 23:10. And it felt good to be outnumbered: it felt intimate, it felt up close, even cozy. Representatives of the partner organizations had the opportunity to really meet our new resident pond turtles. We took the time to admire their tiny shells, inspect their dainty feet, and look into their eyes. This is how it should be. After all, these turtles will be living at Turtle Haven for another 50-plus years.

This will be the last turtle release at Turtle Haven for a couple of years. The Oregon Zoo's Head Start captive-rearing program has been running for more than 30 years and, in collaboration with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), is responsible for rearing and releasing over 1,500 western pond turtles back into the wild. But there are no baby turtles at the zoo this year, because WDFW experts ordinarily begin collecting turtles in spring, which this year was right when people were required to stay home due to the coronavirus pandemic. This is a setback, but we are all determined to push ahead.

I look forward to working with our partners to find, rear, and release pond turtles on our preserve in the future. But one difference that I hope remains from this year is the closeness with our partners.

The smaller group in July highlighted the tangible synergy among all of us. It underscored that together we are greater than the sum of our individual organizations and agencies. We need each other to do this work. Even though we all kept a 6-foot distance that July day, our camaraderie was abundant and our partnership is now even stronger. ■

Above: Kiara McAdams, seasonal Forest Service employee.

Left: Ready to go. Photos: Richard Kobell



Sweeping Changes Approved for Gorge Protections

Updates address climate change, wetlands, salmon streams, and urban sprawl



Michael Lang, Conservation Director

In October, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan was revised in ways that should improve protection of this nationally significant landscape. While modest from the perspective of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the plan revisions are the most extensive policy changes that the Columbia River Gorge

Commission has passed since the original Management Plan was adopted in 1991. The updated plan now must be submitted to the secretary of agriculture in Washington, D.C., for concurrence, a process that could take several more months.

The revised plan, adopted by the Gorge Commission on a 9-2 vote, includes provisions that require development of a climate action plan; apply strong policies limiting urban

expansion; prohibit the destruction of wetlands; double the size of protective stream buffers for critical salmon habitat; improve development standards to protect scenic views; limit new dwellings in forest zones to reduce fire risks; improve standards protecting agricultural lands; expand mining restrictions; and require the development of an equity lens to guide future decision-making.

Friends appreciates the progress made by the Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service in updating the Management Plan to meet the challenges of climate change, diminishing salmon habitat, and development pressure. We recognize, however, that many of these revisions were only included because thousands of citizens, including many Gorge residents, persistently advocated for better protections for this national scenic treasure. For example, climate change and salmon habitat protection were not priorities for the Gorge Commission when the agencies began reviewing the plan in 2016, even though the science clearly supported stronger policies. The agencies responded when the public, including youth climate activists, demanded change.

Highlights of the revised plan include:

Climate: The Gorge Commission voted to include a new chapter in the Management Plan devoted to climate change and to require development of a climate action plan. However, the Gorge Commission did not include a timeline for adoption of the climate action plan. Friends advocated for a 1-year timeline.

Salmon: Protective buffers around cold-water refuge streams for salmon have been expanded from 100 feet to 200 feet. Affected streams identified by the Environmental Protection Agency include the Sandy River, Hood River, and Deschutes River in Oregon, and the Wind River, Little White Salmon River, White Salmon River, and Klickitat River in Washington. Friends supported 200-foot buffers to limit development around all salmon streams. Requirements for 200-foot buffers have been in place in the Gorge's Special Management Areas (SMAs) since 1992, but critical salmon habitat in the Gorge also exists outside of SMA boundaries.

Wetlands Protected: The destruction of wetlands for development is now prohibited in General Management

Areas (GMAs) under a “no loss” of wetlands policy. New development must avoid impacts to wetlands and their buffers. The Scenic Area Act requires protection of all natural resources regardless of their location in the GMA or SMA, and these policies have been in place for SMAs since 1992.

Urban Boundary Expansion Capped: The Scenic Area Act only allows minor revisions to urban area boundaries in the 13 designated urban areas in the Gorge. New policies will require regional analysis of buildable urban lands and place hard caps on the amount of land that can be added into urban area boundaries. The City of The Dalles opposed these policies, claiming they would inhibit economic growth. However, recent studies commissioned by the city show they have at least a 47-year supply of buildable residential land and a more than 20-year supply of industrial land. Gorge-wide, a large surplus of vacant land is set aside for urban development. Friends advocated for even stronger limits, but we recognize that the revisions that were adopted will improve implementation of the Scenic Area Act.

Forest Dwellings Limited: Recognizing the increased frequency and intensity of fires due to climate change, new dwellings in large scale forest zones will be prohibited to help reduce the risks of fire and protect forests, human lives, and property.

Agricultural Land Protected: To prevent the conversion of agricultural lands to residential uses, stricter standards adopted for new dwellings in farmland will require proof of commercial-scale agricultural production before approval.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: A new chapter was added to the Management Plan, recognizing the history of systemic racism in the region and requiring development of an equity plan to guide future decisions and ensure a more diverse makeup of the Gorge Commission.

Friends salutes our members, allies, and Gorge supporters who have tirelessly advocated for improvements to the protection of the Columbia Gorge. Their commitment was key to the progress made in the Management Plan review. Going forward, if legal challenges to the revised plan are filed, Friends will meet the challenges and vigorously defend the updated protections in court. ■



Fall Changes

Along with the weather and the

Paige Unangst, Finance Director



Photo: Vince Ready

Vince Ready first served on Friends' board of directors from 2013 to 2019, bringing a wealth of marketing and brand development experience, and we're delighted to welcome him back this fall. In the early 1990s, Vince discovered

the Gorge as a windsurfer and became a Friends member in 1995. He moved to Hood River in 2009, and as the owner of Lasting Light Photography, he has served as a Friends photo contest judge and also advises the organization on marketing and social media strategies.



Photo: Stan Hall

We are excited to welcome **Melissa Gonzalez** as the newest member of Friends' public engagement team. A passionate birder and certified interpretive guide, Melissa joined our team in September as outdoor programs and

communications specialist. Most recently, she served as a training specialist with the Florida Park Service, where she assisted 33 state parks with training, interpretation, and communication needs. Melissa moderated web content for all District 3 parks and developed Spanish language materials to support the parks' COVID-19 communications.



Improvements and Partnership at Beacon Rock

Renee Tkach, Gorge Towns to Trails manager

Late in 2019, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust worked to acquire a critical parcel adjacent to Beacon Rock State Park. The acquisition secured land that will enable Washington State Parks to renovate the main park entrance at Beacon Rock and make essential improvements for traffic and visitor safety. The current entrance area, off Washington State Route 14, was designed and built in the 1930s. Not surprisingly, the park has seen an enormous increase in visitation since then, matched by a dramatic increase in traffic on the two-lane highway.

Our partnership with Washington State Parks demonstrates the cooperative relationships that make Friends successful across the Gorge as we work to improve both safety and responsible access to the iconic recreation experiences in the Gorge. We look forward to our continued partnerships that can make big projects possible.

Stormy skies above Beacon Rock. Photo: Kenji Sugahara

autumn foliage, fall brings some changes to Friends.



Photo: Stan Hall

Huge thanks are due this fall to **Coila Ash**. Hired in January in a temporary role as a hike program associate, Coila continued in that job while helping in numerous ways with our brand rollout and other projects. What started

as a 12-week position early this year extended to almost ten months and concluded when Melissa came on board. Coila's versatility and willingness to adapt to the changes that COVID-19 brought to the organization have been a boon for us. She plans to resume her volunteer status with Friends, and we hope to see her on the trails soon.



Photo: Brandon Davis

Sophia Aepfelbacher joined Friends in the fall of 2018 as our membership coordinator. While exploring professional development, an opportunity to take a class at Portland State University led to admission to attend graduate school full-time

with full funding. We are delighted for Sophia, who will continue with Friends through December as our philanthropy communications coordinator, assisting with year-end fundraising appeals. In this new role, she will develop materials for communications with donors, newsletter articles, and weekly emails, as well as help train the new membership coordinator.



Full Circle

Former Earthjustice executive director comes home to the Gorge

Buck Parker, vice chair of Friends of the Columbia Gorge

I grew up in Hood River in the 1950s and '60s, and while that was decades before it would become a National Scenic Area, the Columbia Gorge nurtured my love of nature. As an adult, I spent most of my working life in San Francisco with Earthjustice, the largest nonprofit environmental law firm in the world. My career exposed me to a broad range of environmental issues, from the battles over oil drilling in the Arctic to preservation of the Amazon rainforest, as well as our own old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest. When I retired, though, I knew the Gorge was where I wanted to be, and for the last six years my wife and I have lived in the Hood River Valley.

But the Gorge has changed in the seven decades I've known it. It has become a fossil fuel corridor, threatening its rivers and the safety of Gorge communities. Salmon and other native fish are on the verge of extinction, and climate change is magnifying the danger of wildfires.

When I returned to Hood River, I wanted to continue working on local conservation issues that have national consequences. That's what drew me to an

opportunity to serve on the board of directors at Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Over the past 40 years, Friends has grown from a small, scrappy environmental advocacy group to a larger, scrappy conservation group that fights in the policy arena, preserves and stewards Gorge lands, and annually introduces hundreds of children to the Gorge's wonders. I'm happy that Friends is as zealous as ever in its protection of the Gorge. I'm even happier that it now partners creatively with other conservation groups and community activists to broaden its reach and impact. That includes launching a new diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice initiative.

As I learned first-hand from over 50 years of working in the conservation community, the future of special places like the Gorge can't be left to chance. A combination of creative advocacy, bold leadership, and dynamic public partnerships will be critical to preserving the Columbia Gorge for future generations. And I'm pleased to bring my experience to ensuring that Friends remains committed to that fight and protecting the Gorge—my home and a place unlike any other on Earth. ■

Gorge Protectors with Deep Roots: **Rick Ray and Anne Philipsborn**

Pam Davee, Director of Philanthropy

When Rick Ray first became a Friends member in 1982, he could never have imagined that it was just the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship.

Now, with the benefit of hindsight, it seems like Rick and Friends were an inevitable pairing.

In 1987, Rick moved to the Columbia Gorge, where his passion for land protection—as well as his youth and valuable nonprofit experience—was mentioned to Friends founder Nancy Russell. She asked Rick to join the board in 1993 and, over the subsequent years, Rick made his mark on the fledgling organization.

Rick considers his greatest contribution to be his role in hiring Friends' current Executive Director, Kevin Gorman. But if hiring Kevin was Rick's greatest contribution to Friends, Friends' greatest contribution to Rick was giving him the opportunity to get to know his future wife, Anne.

Anne Philipsborn was enthusiastically making her way through Friends' spring wildflower hike series when she met Rick. The two soon discovered more than just a variety of beautiful flowers. Over the course of a guided hike, they learned that they had grown up in the same Chicago neighborhood, knew many of the same families, and even shared some of the same teachers.

Today, Rick and Anne call the Gorge home and both have played integral roles in making Friends the organization that it is. Anne has become deeply committed to their community noting, "It is striking how deeply I have fallen in love with the Gorge. It has given me a strong sense of place which continues to deepen and strengthen."



Anne Philipsborn and Rick Ray. Photo: Rick Ray

One of the most meaningful decisions Rick and Anne have made recently is to include Friends in their estate plan. As Anne puts it, "I want future generations to feel the special connection to the Gorge that we do. To hear the frogs and owls at night are just some of the Gorge's beautiful pieces." Rick agrees, "Leaving a gift to Friends is to a specific local place, it feels very relatable."

Looking ahead to the next 40 years, Rick and Anne are particularly concerned about the harmful effects of irresponsible development and congestion. By including Friends in their estate plans, they hope to protect the Gorge from these and other threats for generations to come.

We are proud to know these exceptional people and grateful for their longstanding commitment to Gorge protection work! ■

Special Gifts

August 1 through October 31, 2020

IN HONOR

In honor of Debbie Asakawa

Kris Elliott
Jocelyn and Lou Libby

In honor of Stephen Blackman

Janet Metzger

In honor of Ivan and Louise Donaldson

Greg Donaldson

In honor of Gwen Farnham

Andrew Franklin

In honor of Pleschette Fontenet

Anne and Ernest Munch

In honor of Sister Irene

Dennis Lundberg

In honor of Debbie Hess

Mary Rardin

In honor of Marissa Johnson

Janna Johnson

In honor of Tresa Kowats

Alex and Jessica Triplett

In honor of Hollie Lindauer

Susan Lindauer and
Chris Maloney

In honor of Janet McLennen

Robert Weil

IN MEMORY

In memory of Bea Alley

Rick Allen

In memory of Argos

Bob Staver

In memory of Kris Beam

David and Louise Adams

Ruth Beam

Karen Frantz and

Richard Strauss

Lisa Hetzler

Stuart McDougall

Deborah Melville

Elizabeth Petersen

Julie Simmonds

Cheryl and Rob Sirvaitis

Susan Sweeney

In memory of Dana Bradfish

Norma Bradfish

In memory of Sandy Cohen

Ken Molsberry

In memory of Michael Dale

Priscilla and Thomas Turner

In memory of

Judi Brooke Elman

Mark Elman

In memory of Helen Farrenkopf

Marylyn Mayhew

OPAPEC

In memory of Paul Fasel

Kathryn and Mauricio Lozada

Julie Mall

Sue Mall

Cindy Ramzy

In memory of Joseph Fontenet

Anne and Ernest Munch

In memory of Susan Hammer

Stephen Chipps and

Laura Sherrill

Beth deHamel

Rebecca and Scott Demorest

James and Anne Holtz

Craig and Y. Lynne Johnston

Charles McGinnis

Marjory and Mark Morford

Anne and Ernest Munch

Barbara Nay

Gov. Barbara Roberts and

Don Nelson

Mark Rudy

Meredith and William Savery

Rebecca and Scott Sonniksen

Ann and Tom Usher

Christine and David Vernier

Carolyn and Martin Winch

In memory of Erika Heider

Ralph and Sarah Newitter

In memory of Lainye Heiles

Wendy Bear

Mark Bohn

Jay Cabrales

Sara Cohen

Anthony Corona

David Fuks

Shelley Griffith

Linda Hulbert and Kent Rissman

Rachel and Joseph Lafo

Michael Morin

Raisa Premysler

Norma Reich

Aidan, John, and Kathi Sleavin

Deborah Thomas

Mary Westin

In memory of Patrick Lee

Susan and Allan Abravanel

Lisa Hansen

In memory of John Lewis

Suzanne and Zan Strausz

In memory of Dennis McCarthy

Ann McCarthy

In memory of Kate McCarthy

Maria Hein and Kermit McCarthy

In memory of Hall Newbegin

Ronald and Lee Ragen

In memory of Cathy Palmer

Leigh Knox

In memory of

Frances Drake Palmer

John and Nancy Palmer

In memory of Bill Rovin

Victoria Cummings

In memory of Nancy Russell

Barbara Robinson

In memory of Rita Van Deene

Gerard Van Deene

In memory of Michael Wells

Julie Lawrence

In memory of

Shep, Babs, and Peter Wilson

Lyndon Wilson

In memory of

Matthew Winthrop

John La Vallee

In memory of Colin Zylka

Faye Flesia

Rhonda Kasianowicz

Radio Amateurs of the Gorge





Picturing Protection

Friends of the Columbia Gorge 6th Annual Photo Contest

For Pacific Northwest photographers, the upcoming 35th anniversary of the passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act is an opportunity to capture what decades of Gorge protection have produced. There's what you don't see—like sprawling development, large-scale clear cuts, and expanded fossil-fuel transport—and what you do see: astonishing landscapes, vibrant communities, diverse flora and fauna, and more. The result inspires photographers the world over.

Enter your finest Gorge images in Friends' 6th annual photo contest, sponsored by Pro Photo Supply. Submissions are being accepted now through midnight on December 31. For contest categories, prizes, guidelines, and rules, visit gorgefriends.org/photocontest.

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

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Looking east from Sherrard Point on Larch Mountain.

Photo: Matthew Smith

The best year-end gifts make a difference in the lives of others.

From advocacy to education, legal work to stewardship, and even purchasing land, our members make it all possible. We invite you to include Friends in your gift-giving plans for this season.

We're honored to be part of Willamette Week's Give!Guide again this year. Make a donation before midnight on December 31 at giveguide.org, to win prizes and take advantage of matching funds that will double your impact on Gorge protection!

