

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Winter 2022



Flowe
22

Resilience Flows Through It

WHO WE ARE

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Munch	Chair
Buck Parker*	Vice Chair
Geoff Carr	Secretary/Treasurer
John Baugher	David Michalek*
Joe Campbell	Patty Mizutani
Greg Delwiche	Barbara Nelson*
Shari Dunn	John Nelson*
Gwen Farnham	Carrie Nobles
Pleschette Fontenet	Lisa Berkson Platt
Donald H. Friedman	Kevin Price
Susie Greenebaum	Mia Prickett
John Harrison	Sarah Quist
Gary Kahn	Vince Ready*
Jen Lovejoy	

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – LAND TRUST

John Baugher	President
David Michalek*	Secretary/Treasurer
Natalie Edwards	Land Trust Advisor
Rick Ray*	Land Trust Advisor
Pat Campbell	Barbara Nelson*
D'na Walela Chase	John Nelson*
Greg Delwiche	Kevin Price
Dustin Klinger	Vince Ready*

ISSUE CONTRIBUTORS

Pam Davee	Director of Philanthropy
Melissa Gonzalez	Outdoor Programs and Communications Specialist
Kevin Gorman	Executive Director
Stan Hall	Digital Communications Manager
Cate Hotchkiss	Guest Contributor
Denise López	Conservation Organizer
Steve McCoy	Staff Attorney
Hank Shell	Law Clerk

*Gorge area residents

Production management: Elizabeth Brooke-Willbanks, Melissa Gonzalez, Kevin Gorman, Stan Hall

Design: Kathy Fors and Kathleen Krushas | To the Point Collaborative

Additional services: Athena Thomas

Editor: Betsy Toll | Lumin Creative PDX

Published November 2022



Friends of the Columbia Gorge has offices in Portland and Hood River, Oregon, and Washougal, Washington. Visit gorgefriends.org/contact for details, or call 503.241.3762. Send inquiries to info@gorgefriends.org or by mail to 123 NE 3rd Ave., Suite 108, Portland, OR 97232.



@GORGEFRIENDS

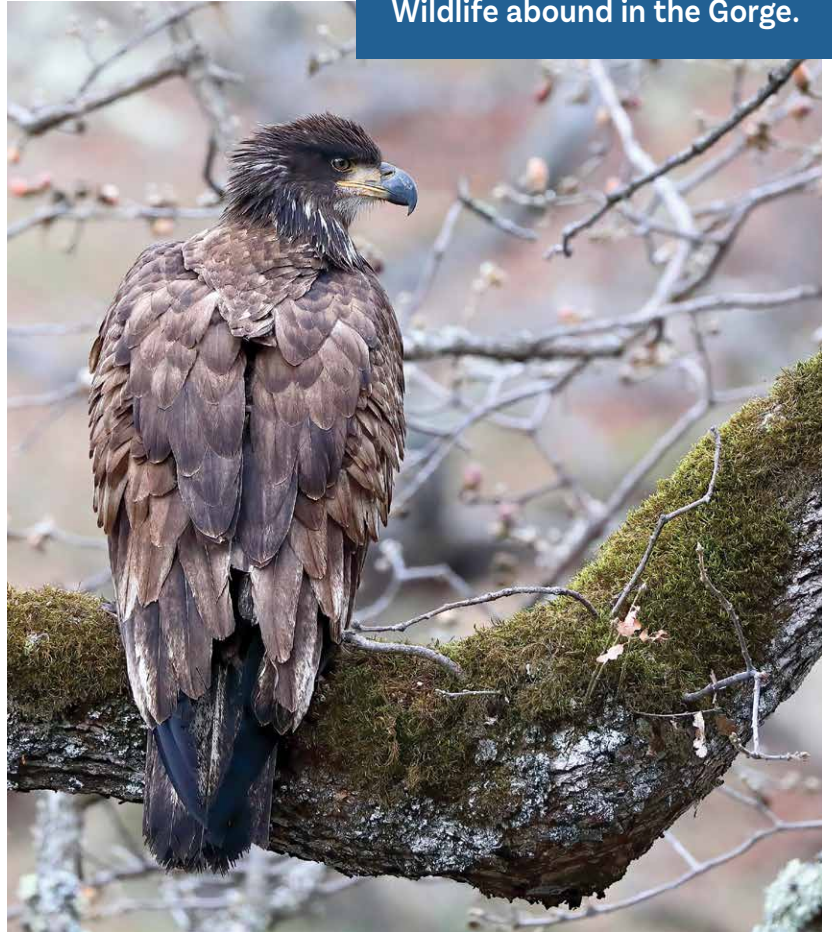
gorgefriends.org



Printed on FSC, 30% post-consumer recycled paper; ECF, with AQ coating.

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Wildlife abound in the Gorge.



Juvenile bald eagle above the Klickitat River. Photo: Bill Kirkland

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3 Director's Letter
- 4 Collaborating on Gorge Climate Work
- 6 Friends Battles Illegal Mining
- 7 Breaching the Lower Snake River Dams
- 8 Restoring Turtle Haven
- 10 *Plein Air in the Columbia Gorge 2022* Winners
- 11 Building Partnerships with Guided Outings
- 12 Treasures in High-Res: Friends' Photo Contest
- 13 Coming Together Again
- 14 A Shared Commitment to the Gorge
- 15 Tribute Gifts

Cover: *Westcliff Glow*. Artist: Janie Lowe, Grand Prize Winner, 2022 *Plein Air in the Columbia Gorge*

Director's Letter

Photo: Gritchelle Fallesgon



Last spring, our board asked me to write an organizational white paper on whether Friends of the Columbia Gorge should take a position on the proposed breaching of the Lower Snake River Dams. I am not an expert on salmon or the hydropower system, but the board

knows I have spent nearly three decades working on conservation issues and understand how to break down and explain complex environmental issues.

The question of whether to support breaching was complex for Friends, as the dams sit hundreds of miles from the National Scenic Area and are just a few of the numerous dams in the large Columbia Basin. The decision was also thorny because some of our board members had worked in the hydropower industry for years and see dams as critical to limiting climate impacts. But a fellow board member had been part of lawsuits calling for the removal of dams, and another is a tribal member whose family still fishes for Columbia River salmon.

I produced the paper, and the board ultimately voted to support breaching the dams. The reasoning is laid out on page 7. I was proud of our 22 board members for engaging

in a spirited, challenging conversation and coming out of it with a decision that made sense for the organization and that didn't split the board apart. It was a credit to all who participated in the discussion.

The decision also drove home a shift that has been occurring within the organization. For many years, Friends prided itself on focusing exclusively on issues occurring within the National Scenic Area boundary. But we don't really have the luxury of looking only within the Gorge anymore—our world is too interconnected. The Gorge is a passageway, a conduit, and what happens upstream or down from the National Scenic Area matters to the Gorge.

That's why we fought in the early 2000s to close the Boardman coal-fired power plant, which impacted air quality in the eastern Gorge despite sitting 60 miles outside the Scenic Area. It's why we challenged coal and oil terminals in Vancouver and Bellingham, Washington. And it's why today we support breaching these upstream dams. An activity may be located miles away from the Scenic Area, but its effects may not end there. If harmful impacts directly affect the Columbia Gorge, it is our responsibility to speak up.

Kevin Gorman

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director



Sunrise at Horsethief Butte. Photo: Jeremiah Leipold

Collaborating on Gorge Climate Work

Denise López, Conservation Organizer

Last March, the Columbia River Gorge Commission released a long-awaited paper: the first-ever draft Climate Change Action Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

In recent years, regional tribes, local communities, and Friends of the Columbia Gorge all encouraged the Gorge Commission to take this unprecedented step, and in 2020, the commission directed their staff to create a plan for responding to the challenges of climate change facing the Gorge. The Climate Change Action Plan is the result of that work.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the Gorge Commission share the goal of building greater climate resilience in the Gorge, and the two organizations used this opportunity to collaborate in ways they never had before. While Friends and the commission have not always agreed on how Gorge protection should be carried out, we felt alignment was possible and necessary for this undertaking to succeed.

Early steps

Commission staff took a positive initial step by asking Friends' Land Trust Director Dan Bell to serve on the advisory committee shaping the process for developing the Climate Change Action Plan. Bell agreed, bringing with him to the task a mapping tool created by The Nature Conservancy that ranks lands throughout the country according to their characteristics indicative of high climate resilience. This mapping has been critical for the land trust in determining which Gorge lands to prioritize for protective acquisition, and Gorge Commission staff embraced the value of mapping in creating the plan.

Friends advocated for stronger protections for lands deemed to have the highest climate resilience, such as protecting wetlands, oak woodlands, and Native American first foods, including camas, wapato, and even elk. A key concern is ensuring that resources and connections are created for frontline Gorge communities that experience the first, and worst, consequences of

The Hood River waterfront, aglow in fall.

Photo: Cate Hotchkiss





Camas is an indigenous first food in the Columbia Gorge.
Photo: Friends' archive

climate change. Friends also supports prohibiting the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in the Gorge, such as natural gas transmission and distribution. As part of ongoing work at Friends, we also advocated for regional transportation solutions to be included in the climate goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Crafting the plan

In June, Friends' team met with Gorge Commission staff at Friends' Catherine Creek preserve to discuss the draft action plan priorities. It was the first-of-its-kind meeting, with cross-team representation from Friends' land trust, legal, and conservation teams and a majority of the Gorge Commission staff. One of the central purposes that day was to strengthen existing relationships, discuss the authority of the Gorge Commission, and determine how our entities' different efforts can complement each other. We discussed the complexities of how land-use planning can enhance climate resilience (for example, by mandating wider stream buffers), and how agencies can support incentives for non-regulatory measures, such as expanding public transit in the Gorge.

In addition to recommendations for the Climate Change Action Plan, Friends participants worked to strengthen the High Climate Resilient Areas section of the plan with an appendix focused on climate resilience data specific to the Gorge. With Friends' strong community expertise, staff also engaged in improving the "inclusive and equitable climate actions" section of the plan. Friends' wide network includes community leaders and local groups, many of whom have never participated in Gorge Commission processes. We shared our connections and facilitated introductions to the Gorge Commission and what the National Scenic Area accomplishes. Bringing in members of often-overlooked communities, with their knowledge of what is most important to them regarding climate impacts, contributed to a plan that would address local concerns and be broadly supported.

With a foundation of mutual respect with Gorge Commission staff, Friends' team navigated points of disagreement that cropped up in the details of the Climate Change Action Plan. Following the last comment period, commission staff recommended their changes to the Gorge Commission—changes that Friends felt weakened what had been a strong, ambitious climate plan. Friends' team met with the commission staff again in October at Friends' Cape Horn Preserve to better understand the changes that will be included in the plan when it is finalized. Working together, our goal is to ensure that the final plan is one that we all strongly support and can be proud of in the months and years ahead.

Building for the future

Friends and community leaders are hopeful that the Gorge Commission will approve the Climate Action Plan at its upcoming December meeting. It would be a significant step forward, but more work lies ahead. The plan is still lacking details to achieve its goals and doesn't have the regulatory power of the commission's Management Plan. In the coming months and years, commission staff will determine how the Climate Change Action Plan can be migrated into the Management Plan. Meanwhile, the plan serves as a framework for Gorge partners to support one another and contribute to regional climate goals.

The collaboration of Friends' staff and Gorge Commission staff to build climate resilience is already yielding tangible results. We're proud of what has been accomplished by Gorge Commission staff, Friends members and activists, and the invaluable input from Gorge communities. Ongoing teamwork and skillful cooperation will be key as implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan takes place in the coming years. ■



An American pika, seen here near Beacon Rock. The species is highly vulnerable to climate change. Photo: Linda Steider



Friends Battles Illegal Mining

Hank Shell, Law Clerk

The Zimmerly property in Clark County, Washington—site of the largest and longest-running land use violation ever in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area—has reached a grim milestone: five years since the Nutter Corporation began illegally mining the site without required land use permits.

In late 2017, neighbors of the Zimmerly property reported to Friends of the Columbia Gorge that mining had begun on the property. Friends teamed up with the neighbors and filed appeals to the Columbia River Gorge Commission. The commission decided against the mine, and after two and a half years of unpermitted activity, the operation finally ceased, as a result of the appeals.

During that time, though, the mine was responsible for a litany of serious environmental and safety impacts to the surrounding community. Nearby residents recounted a nearly endless stream of overloaded mining trucks barreling past driveways where their children played. The mine also discharged polluted wastewater into ditches that flow into Gibbons Creek, a salmon-bearing stream that flows directly into Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

For more than three years, the mine’s owners have fought the Gorge Commission decision. First they appealed to state superior court, where they lost. They then appealed again to the Washington Court of Appeals, where oral argument will occur in 2023.

Even while Friends is still fighting their appeal, the mine’s owners and operators have opened multiple new battlefronts in an attempt to override the National Scenic Area protections against unpermitted mining.

In a federal court case, Zimmerly and Nutter sued each of the Gorge Commissioners individually and allege a spectrum of misconduct—including that the commissioners violated their civil rights by prohibiting them from mining without permits.

“It’s eerily similar to a SLAPP, a strategic lawsuit against public participation,” said Nathan Baker, Friends Senior Staff Attorney. “They’re trying to intimidate the Gorge Commissioners for just doing their jobs.”

The federal lawsuit also seeks to invalidate the decisions by the Gorge Commission and superior court that have blocked mining at the site for years. For that reason, among others, Friends has moved to intervene in the federal case. Zimmerly and Nutter vigorously oppose Friends’ participation in the lawsuit.

Friends has also successfully intervened in a third lawsuit that Zimmerly filed against the Gorge Commission in Washington state court, in which Zimmerly challenges mining-related revisions to the Gorge Management Plan. The parties argued this case on November 18. The court’s written decision is expected in the coming weeks. ■

The illegal Zimmerly mining operation impacts the surrounding community and nearby Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Photo: Friends’ archive

Breaching the Lower Snake River Dams

Steve McCoy, Staff Attorney

Last Spring, the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board of Directors voted to support the proposed breaching of the four Lower Snake River Dams. While these dams are hundreds of miles upstream of the Gorge, the dwindling salmon runs coming into the Gorge—as well as the tribal significance and recreation benefits that Snake River salmon provide—led Friends to support the proposal.

The four dams were built between 1957 and 1975 to provide 140 miles of flat water for barges between Pasco, Washington, and Lewiston, Idaho. At different times of the year, the dams also provide 2 percent to 13 percent of the region's power. However, they have drastically interfered with the salmon population that depends on the river.

Despite provisions for fish passage, the dams increase mortality for young salmon smolt heading downstream and adults returning upstream to spawn. The smolt navigate turbulent water caused by the turbines, and when compensating measures do not occur, as in low-water circumstances, smolt mortality can be as high as 15 percent at each dam.

Today, four of the 13 species of endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin traverse the Snake River. A 2017 study by the Fish Passage Center, a government-funded Columbia Basin research group, found that removal of the four Snake River dams would result in a two- to three-fold increase of salmon in the Snake River Basin.

With the dams removed, the Snake River would offer a 250-mile stretch of relatively undeveloped river habitat, in addition to the 500 miles of mostly forested, undeveloped river habitat along the tributaries of the Clearwater River and the Salmon River. It is estimated that these stretches provide 55 percent of the Columbia Basin fish habitat and 70 percent of the habitat available for Chinook salmon.



Coho salmon. Photo: Roger Tabor, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Salmon are vital cultural and economic resources for the Columbia River Treaty Tribes. One provision of the 1855 treaties guarantees that Tribes can harvest salmon at their usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations. This provision was ignored for years, but a series of legal decisions favoring tribal treaty rights established that the Treaty Tribes were guaranteed not only the right to fish, but also to the existence of fish in the Columbia River.

Downstream, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area legislation protects, among other things, the cultural resources of the Gorge and the treaty rights of the Tribes. Breaching the Lower Snake River Dams upholds those goals of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Finally, while hydropower is cleaner than coal and natural gas, the impact of the Lower Snake River Dams on endangered salmon and tribal treaty rights outweighs potential energy gains. Thus, Friends of the Columbia Gorge supports the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams. ■

Restoring Turtle Haven



Cate Hotchkiss, Guest Contributor

Turtle Haven is Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust’s 64-acre nature preserve near Stevenson, Washington. The property was once a homestead, where for nearly a century, people dumped old cars, boats, large appliances, and other junk. But amid the litter were pockets of splendor: seven natural ponds, lush wetlands, and a small population of endangered western pond turtles. Which is why, in 2015, the land trust purchased the property through Friends’ *Preserve the Wonder* campaign.

Since then, thanks to the diligent work of dozens of volunteers, Friends has made considerable progress toward cleaning up the land and restoring its native habitat to protect the turtles and other wildlife. Early efforts included manually removing rusty, corroded debris and other trash from the property via pickup trucks. But the heavier lifting—dismantling 11 dilapidated outbuildings and a house—would require hiring a contractor and obtaining permits from multiple agencies. As of last summer, eight of those structures have been removed, but not without challenges.

“You never know what will come up during the deconstruction process,” says Frances Fischer, Friends land trust coordinator. “For instance, we had to figure out how to provide new, safe homes for bats roosting in one of the barns.” The solution: a dozen bat boxes that were built and installed by a local Boy Scout Troop. Next year, contractors are scheduled to take down the remaining structures, including the house, which will require asbestos abatement. All of this demolition is in preparation for the land trust’s eventual transfer of Turtle Haven to the U.S. Forest Service, which owns hundreds of acres of public land surrounding the preserve.

Tending the land

Since Friends purchased the preserve, volunteers have focused on removing noxious, invasive weeds, especially thick, thorny Himalayan blackberry, which Friends Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Skelly notes had spread throughout the property and obstructed turtle travel between ponds.

“ *Turtles require you to sit still and observe.* —Sarah Skelly

As Skelly explains it:

We hired landscapers to mow down big fields of it, but around the ponds our land stewards had to cut back canes and dig up deep roots by hand, arduous work that has occurred month by month over time.

Through Friends’ Land Stewards program, volunteers adopt a site for a year or more. We provide a stewardship guide, and they visit the preserves on their own time for about four to six hours per month, when the weather cooperates. They have played a huge role in our progress at Turtle Haven.

Now, the land is finally ready for planting native vegetation such as bunchgrass, which grows in clumps, leaving space around it for turtles to trek. In early November, Friends hosted three volunteer work parties, each lasting four hours, with the goal of planting a total of 3,000 native grass plugs. Skelly says,

It’s ideal to plant and seed once the rains begin, but before the ground freezes, to help roots get established and not dehydrate. This is the fun part. Finally we get to place new roots in the ground, which will not only benefit turtles, but also birds and other wildlife, and promote biodiversity.



Magical habitat

For Skelly, the most rewarding aspect of the work comes in the quiet moments of simply watching the turtles.

She thinks of it this way:

Turtles require you to sit still and observe, because if you’re too noisy, they’ll pop off a log and into the water. After a while, you’ll start to notice all the other things happening in a pond ecosystem, like dragonflies darting and hovering, and a wide variety of birds fishing and singing. The entire scene is truly magical.

It’s hard to imagine that just 30 years ago, all that wonder was nearly lost when the pond turtles verged on extinction. But now, their future at Turtle Haven is looking up, just like them, single file on half-submerged logs, faces tilted skyward toward the sun. ■



Above: Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Skelly holds a blue wildrye grass plug, one of six native grass species planted on site.

Left: Stewardship Manager Sara Woods (left) works with volunteers to water each grass plug.

Photos: Cate Hotchkiss

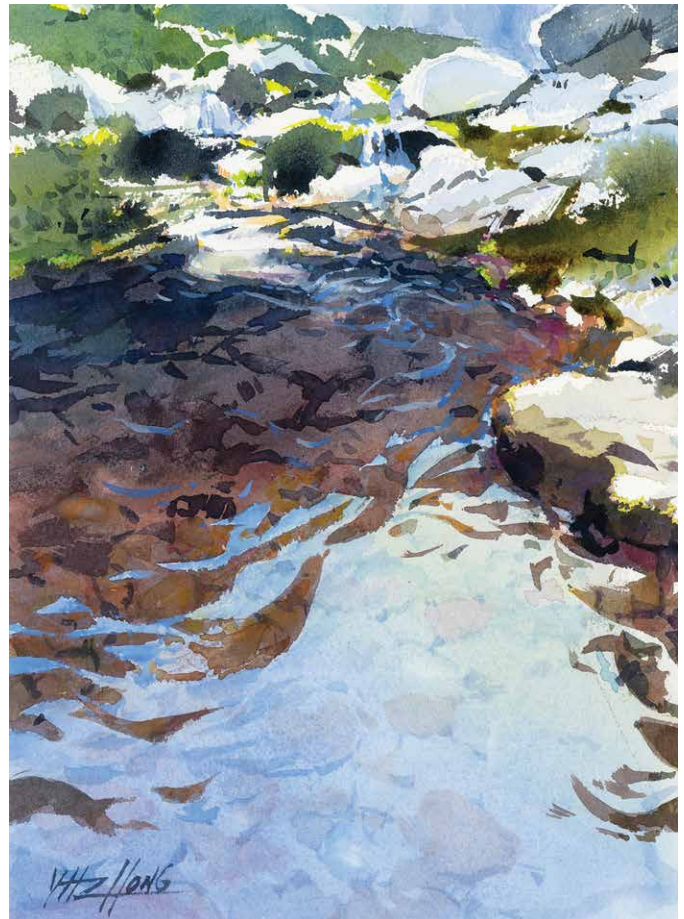
Plein Air in the Columbia Gorge 2022 Winners

Stan Hall, Digital Communications Manager

Janie Lowe, whose prize-winning painting is featured on our cover, is this year's grand prize winner of the Pacific Northwest Plein Air Contest in the Columbia Gorge, an annual artist paint-out, competition, and collaborative event, hosted by the Maryhill Museum of Art in Goldendale, Washington.

Lowe's oil painting, "Westcliff Glow," beautifully captures a summer sunset in the Gorge and left our judges in awe, reminiscing on the many sunsets that they have been lucky enough to witness in the Gorge.

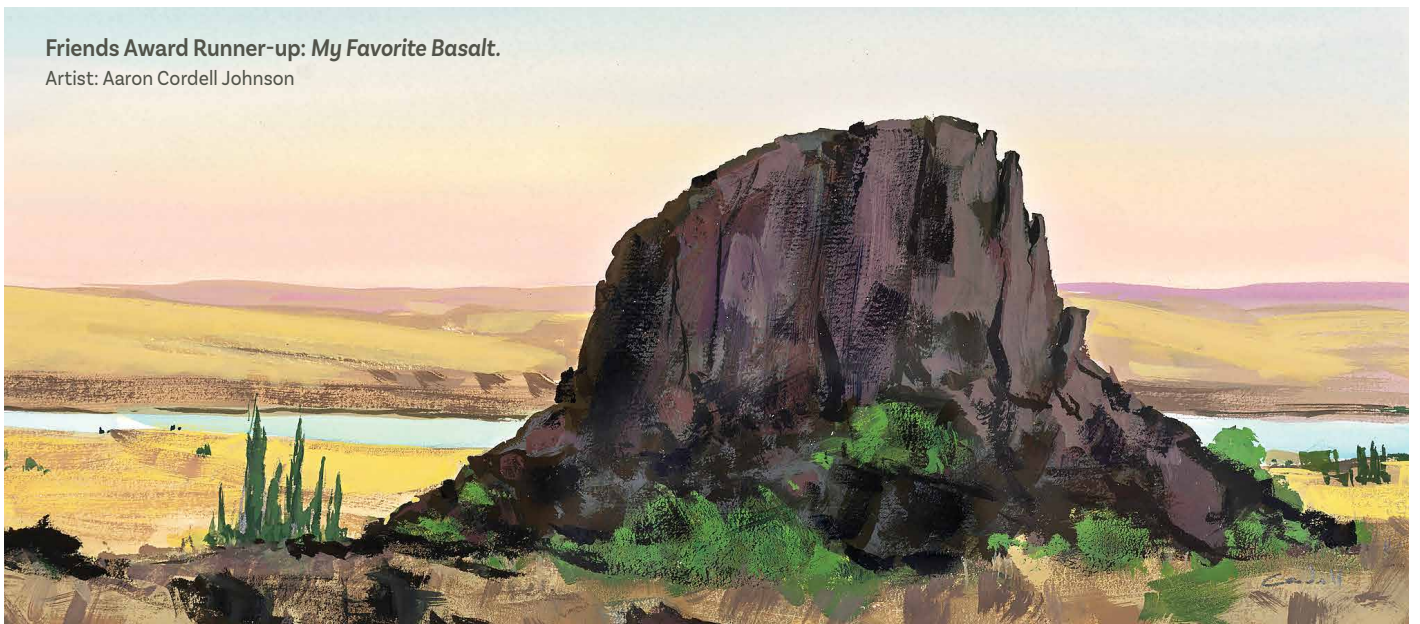
Additional winners included Aaron Cordell Johnson of Moscow, Idaho, who was selected as Friends Award runner-up for his gouache painting, "My Favorite Basalt," and Yong Hong Zhong of Lake Oswego, Oregon, second runner-up for his watercolor, "Shallow Waterhole." Celeste Bergin of Portland, Oregon, received honorable mention for her oil painting, "All That I Can Say," of Crown Point. ■



Friends Award 2nd Runner-up: *Shallow Waterhole*.
Artist: Yong Hong Zhong

“ I will never forget painting “Westcliff Glow.” It wasn't just plein air painting. It was adventure painting. —Janie Lowe

Friends Award Runner-up: *My Favorite Basalt*.
Artist: Aaron Cordell Johnson



For information on the upcoming PNW Plein Air 2023, see facebook.com/pnwpleinair.

Building Partnerships with Guided Outings

Melissa Gonzalez, Outdoor Programs and Communications Specialist

At Friends of the Columbia Gorge, staff always want to do more for the Gorge: more land conservation, more hikes, more stewardship. But for Friends and the rest of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic forced a pause, a slowing down. More suddenly became less, because it had to.

For Friends' outdoor programs, which includes our beloved hike program, this pause gave us time to reflect and analyze our past offerings. It created an opening to consider how we offer hikes and other guided outings that relate specifically to our new collaborative partners—communities and groups we hadn't fully engaged in the past.

In 2021, staff began looking toward the post-pandemic future, where we could get outside with Gorge communities again, and we realized we would need to rebalance our outdoor programming. Our vision was to resume our guided outings of the past, while also developing programming through new, sustainable community partnerships.

This year, staff was excited to relaunch our outdoor programs, but with a reduced number of guided outings for the public and Friends members. We began developing new collaborations with culturally specific community groups and organizations in the six scenic area counties,



Soaking in the beauty at Ponytail Falls with Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber staff.

which led to partnering together, and offering guided outings to their staff and community members. Looking ahead to 2023, we will continue strengthening the relationships we've made, and begin new partnerships with groups we haven't worked with yet.

Why are partnered outings with culturally specific community groups significant? For me personally, representation of people of color in the outdoors has been vital to my sense of well-being in outdoor spaces. I want to share the knowledge, courage, and empowerment I have acquired, so they too can love the outdoors and want to protect the Columbia Gorge. For Friends, offering partnered outings has meant sharing our resources and knowledge with community members who haven't had the access or privilege to enjoy the Gorge as most of our Friends community has always experienced.

Friends started leading hikes over 40 years ago to share the beauty of the Gorge with others who might not have experienced it. Today, the Columbia Gorge is well known, and most of Friends' community is very familiar with much that it has to offer. Offering partnered outings takes us back to our roots. It connects us with neighbors who may not have had opportunities yet to explore the Gorge and introduces them to the wonders we all treasure in this remarkable place. ■



Lunch along Duncan Creek was part of APANO's Nature Series.
Photos: Melissa Gonzalez

Treasures in High-Res

Friends' 8th Annual Photo Contest

Thanks to protection efforts by Friends of the Columbia Gorge and others who love this wild, wondrous place, you can keep coming back to photograph favorite Gorge vistas year after year, season after season, to get that perfect shot.

Whether you capture images with a DSLR with multiple lenses or a camera phone, you are invited to enter your finest Gorge shots in Friends' next annual photo contest, sponsored by Pro Photo Supply.

Submissions will be accepted from December 12 through midnight on February 12, 2023.

Categories include:

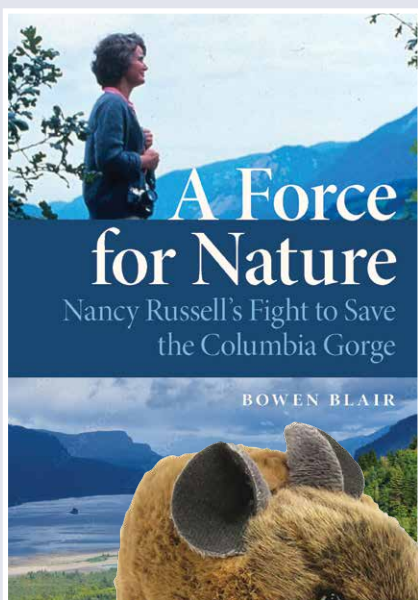
- Community & Culture
- Scenic Eastern Gorge
- Scenic Western Gorge
- Waterfalls
- Wildflowers & Other Flora
- Wildlife
- Youth Photographer

Visit gorgefriends.org/photocontest for contest guidelines, prizes, and rules.



"Spring rain at Crawford Oaks."

Photo: Christopher Baker, Scenic Eastern Gorge category winner, 7th Annual Photo Contest



Gift Shopping with Friends

Looking for the perfect, Gorge-themed holiday gift for a loved one? The Friends Shop is a great online place to start:

- **Brand new books:** *A Force for Nature*, the biography of Friends founder Nancy Russell by Bowen Blair, and *Natural History of the Columbia Gorge* by Robert Hogfoss.
- **They're back!** Our popular Pika Plushies are back just in time for the holidays—adopt one or more of these soft Gorge critters.
- **On the trail:** Show your love for Friends and the Gorge with hats, beanies, stickers, pins, and patches.
- **Guidebooks:** *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge* and *Curious Gorge*.

Your purchase helps support all we do to protect, preserve, and steward the Gorge. All orders are locally received and fulfilled in Portland by Patchmarks. Shop with Friends today at gorgefriends.org/shop.

Coming Together Again



After more than two years of online webinars and meetings, finding creative, virtual ways to connect with members and the public, Friends of the Columbia Gorge staff was eager to host in-person events again.

Gorge On Tap

In late August, the quarterly *Gorge On Tap* program resumed. These events bring Friends staff to communities around the Gorge for current conservation updates and to learn about upcoming recreation activities. *Gorge On Tap* evenings are fun opportunities for members and activists to gather and hear about Friends' current work and ways to get involved.

The first live post-pandemic event, on the last day of August, drew a crowd to Heathen Brewing in Vancouver. Discussion focused on climate activism and was presented in partnership with Vancouver's Alliance for Community Engagement, called ACE. Folks were happy to reconnect and enjoyed several rounds of Gorge trivia, and the lively evening confirmed Friends' intentions for more events that bring Gorge supporters together. Visit gorgefriends.org/takeaction to learn about upcoming *Gorge On Tap* events and sign up for Action Alerts.

An Evening with Friends

In September, Friends' Conservators and Guardians of the Gorge gathered at Amaterra Winery in Portland for *An Evening with Friends*, the organization's annual donor appreciation event. Conservators and Guardians are members who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to support our work.

Staff members described Friends' multifaceted approach to strengthen climate resilience, including policy work and community outreach, along with on-the-ground restoration underway at the land trust's Turtle Haven Preserve. The evening was a joyful celebration, as everyone delighted in the winery's beautiful view.

Visit gorgefriends.org/conservatorsguardians to learn more about Friends' Conservator and Guardians Giving Circles.

Volunteer and Activist Appreciation Picnic

Friends' accomplishments have always depended on committed volunteers—our programs couldn't happen without them. So in October, staff, volunteers, and activists met at the land trust's Cape Horn Preserve for a Volunteer and Activist Appreciation Picnic—the first one in person since 2019. Volunteers and activists from all programs joined to celebrate high above the river with games, raffle prizes, and enjoy delicious food from La Gula Mexican Food Truck, from Carson, Washington.

Many thanks to all our supporters, volunteers, activists, and Conservators and Guardians! ■

Above left: Attendees enjoy Friends' updates and discussion at *Gorge on Tap* in August. Photo: Denise López

Above right: Friends' Beacon Rock land stewards at the appreciation picnic. Photo: Melissa Gonzalez

A Shared Commitment to the Gorge

Pam Davee, Director of Philanthropy

Bob Gandolfi and Ron Bloodworth came to love the Columbia Gorge from very different experiences. Bob watched the National Scenic Area emerge in 1986, to protect a place he has now loved for well over 40 years. Ron was introduced to the Gorge just a few years after Bob, traveling along the Columbia River for work.

When Bob and Ron met, they spent time hiking in the Gorge together, sharing favorite places with friends and family, and exploring both sides from the forested west end to the arid stretches in the east. They reveled in the eastern Gorge's dramatic landscape and drier climate, and love the wineries on the hills above the river in Washington.

Through Bob's work at Portland Parks and Recreation, he met and admired Barbara Walker, a passionate advocate of parks, trails, and open spaces. Barbara was a colleague of Nancy Russell, founder of Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Bob naturally began to follow Nancy's efforts and became enamored of her work to protect the Gorge. He became a member, and when Ron learned there was a group that protected the Gorge, he wanted to be a part of it, too.

“ *Now more than ever, it is time to protect the Gorge.* —Ron Bloodworth

Ron recalls, “For me, the Gorge is such a beautiful place, I wanted to make sure it was protected. Friends was doing a great job, so I was proud to join in.”

Ron and Bob differ on what they consider Friends' most important work. Ron believes Friends' advocacy is the most critical, while Bob sees land acquisition and partnerships as essential. Ron “feel[s] comfort knowing that Friends is being a watchdog for the Gorge.” Bob



Bob Gandolfi and Ron Bloodworth. Photo courtesy of Bob Gandolfi and Ron Bloodworth

feels that the partnerships developed to support Gorge Towns to Trails and other programs, where Friends has made allies through collaboration, are crucial to Friends' success.

In the years that they both have been members, much has changed. As Ron says, “The planet is changing. With a growing population and climate change, now more than ever, it is time to protect the Gorge for future generations.”

We're so lucky that Ron and Bob have made Friends a part of their legacies, trusting Friends because of the decades of effective protection, preservation, and stewardship they've witnessed. They're confident that Friends will be here for decades to come, protecting the Gorge for future generations, focusing on climate resilience and land protections that will be welcoming to all. Thank you both so much, Bob and Ron. ■

Tribute Gifts

August 1 – October 31, 2022

IN HONOR

In honor of Debbie Asakawa
Kate Swabey

In honor of Leslie Joan Allen Bancroft
Beverly A. Bancroft

In honor of Jim Bergstrom
Maria Partido

In honor of Bowen Blair
Marie Hall

In honor of Richard P. Brenner
Donald and Shirley Clark

In honor of Pam Davee
David J. Pollock

In honor of Jerry Durgan
Mary Anne Stowell

In honor of Staff of Friends of Columbia Gorge
Margaret Chula and John Hall

In honor of Adam and Nicole Hart
Malorie Morrison

In honor of Nicole Haseltine
Jill Cartter
Delphine Eberhart

In honor of Heather Hendrixson
Don and Julie Hendrixson

In honor of Rita Jacobson
Kam and Anton Kimball

In honor of Michael Lang
Marna Moore

In honor of Buck Parker
Tina Castanares

In honor of Cindy Passannante
Diane and Richard Hohl

In honor of Helen Robinson
Kathleen Tack

In honor of Sandi and Tom Rousseau
Susan Albright and Mark Becker

In honor of Corinza Shantz
Marna Moore

In honor of Charlie Webster
Bill Lanfri

In honor of Arcia Wilson
Brandon and Fernanda Gwinner

IN MEMORY

In memory of Mehdi Akhavein
Roudi Akhavein

In memory of Elizabeth Katie Barker
Louis Barker

In memory of Thomas Barwick
Ann and Ken Zeman

In memory of Christina Mae Gevrez Brentano
Christopher Brentano

In memory of David Cannon
Joel Goldstein
Gail Povar

In memory of Sandy Cohen
Bruce and Diane Follansbee

In memory of Dan Eggleston
Ann Kloka

In memory of Shirley Rose Ely
Julie Noonan

In memory of Paul Fasel
Sue Mall

In memory of Mary Fax
Don Hall

In memory of James “Jay” Hill
Donald and Shirley Clark

In memory of Millard H. McClung
Arthur and Trudy Hetherington

In memory of Nancie McGraw
Cynthia Haruyama
Jean and Stephen Roth

In memory of Lila Mae Palmiter
Stephen Rallison and Sharon Stern

In memory of Philipp M. Phibbs
Phyllis Clausen

In memory of Joel Price
Kristen Krohn

In memory of Ernest C. Swigert
Sarah Dougher and Nate Overmeyer

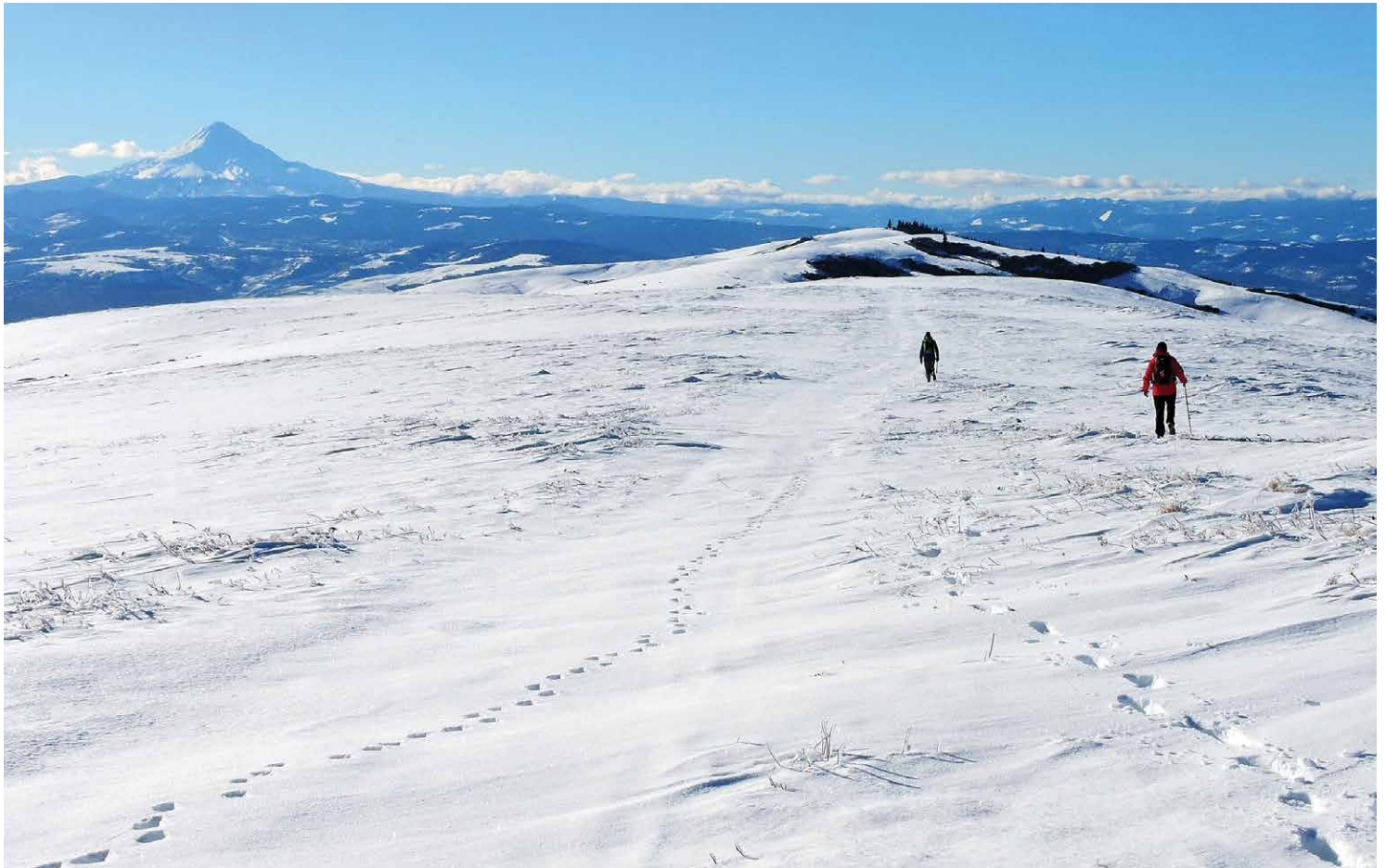
In memory of Michael Wells
Julie Lawrence

In memory of Matthew Winthrop
Howard and Jean Baumann

In memory of Ray Witter
Bunny Witter

In memory of Donald Frederick York
Donald and Shirley Clark

Winter at Stacker Butte in Columbia Hills State Park, Washington. Photo: Debbie Asakawa



FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

123 NE 3rd Avenue Suite 108, Portland, Oregon 97232

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 2623

gorgefriends.org |    @GORGEFRIENDS



WILLAMETTE WEEK'S

give
GUIDE

Willamette Week's Give!Guide is an annual effort to raise funds for local nonprofits, and Friends is honored to be part of it. A key goal of the campaign is to encourage people 35 and under to give back to the community and build a culture of active citizenship.

Give!Guide provides fun and exciting incentives to all donors. Visit GiveGuide.org before Dec. 31 to win prizes and take advantage of matching funds that will double your impact on Gorge protection.

Looking north from Silver Star Mountain,
Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington.

Photo: Justin Bernal

