

- DEFENDING THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND: A LIFELINE FOR PUBLIC LANDS
- POLICY WINS, BUDGET CUTS, AND WHAT COMES NEXT IN SALEM AND OLYMPIA
- TOGETHER FOR THE GORGE: HOW YOU CAN HELP FAMILIES REBUILD AFTER WILDFIRES

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FRIENDS' LAND TRUST AT 20

How a bold idea (and a surprise bequest from Norman Yeon) sparked a lasting legacy of protecting the wild, scenic, and iconic landscapes of the Columbia Gorge.

PASSAGES



“History doesn’t repeat itself, but it does rhyme.” - Mark Twain

Dear Friends,

I thought of Mr. Twain this summer as the ill-conceived proposal to sell off large swaths of federal land was working its way through Congress. While many saw this move as unprecedented, it really wasn’t. In my first years as executive director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the George W. Bush administration proposed selling “surplus” U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands. The idea was quickly snuffed out by an outraged public and particularly western Republicans who loved to hunt and fish on those lands.

Fast forward 25 years and a much larger, more audacious proposal to sell off USFS and Bureau of Land Management lands emerged. This proposal seemed to have more juice behind it as tearing down parts of the federal government were clearly in motion. The proposal’s champion, Senator Mike Lee (R-UT), greatly expanded on the idea of federal land sell-offs, including Gorge lands such as Eagle Creek and Dog Mountain. Lee couched his proposal in terms of solving the nation’s housing crisis but made no guarantees that any sold-off lands would be restricted to housing. The result would have been a free-for-all Wild West in our beautiful, wild, West.

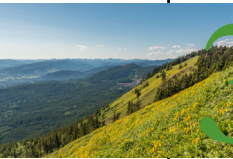
Politics and partisanship have changed immensely in 25 years, but one thing hasn’t: the public’s love of its public lands. People came out of the woodwork, including more than 4,000 Friends supporters who submitted comments to their legislators, to beat down this awful idea. Tribes, hikers, kayakers, anglers, hunters, people of all political persuasions from throughout the West descended on western Senators’ offices and within days Senator Lee was backpedaling and eventually gave up.

In a country so divided, so partisan, it is invigorating to see so many people unite to support keeping public lands public. We are in uncertain times where the rules change weekly, but we should never forget that the voices of thousands of citizens can still rise up and push back the worst impulses of our elected officials.

Kevin

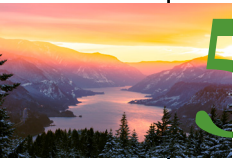
Kevin Gorman, Executive Director

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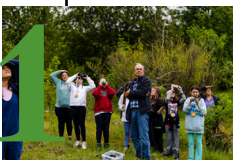
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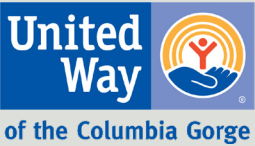
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Photos, top to bottom: Dog Mountain, Dzmitry Lebedzeu; Columbia River from White Salmon, Paloma Ayala; Fog over the river, Friends’ archives; Lyle Cherry Orchard, Nicole Mark; Mosier Creek Falls, Gary Gillard; Kids looking through binoculars, Monique Trevett

UNITED WAY OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE AND FRIENDS PARTNER TO SUPPORT ROWENA AND BURDOIN FIRE RECOVERY

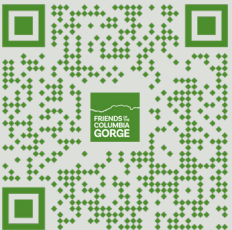
DONATE NOW TO SUPPORT GORGE COMMUNITIES.
100% OF EVERY DOLLAR GOES TOWARD RELIEF EFFORTS.



This summer, two devastating wildfires—the Rowena Fire in Oregon and the Burdoin Fire in Washington—left more than 70 families without homes and scarred thousands of acres across the Gorge. In response, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has joined forces with United Way of the Columbia Gorge to contribute to a relief fund that will provide long-term recovery support for the impacted families. Working with trusted local partners on both sides of the river, **100% of every dollar you donate will go directly to housing and other essential needs as families rebuild their homes and their lives.**

Friends is best known for protecting the Gorge’s landscapes, wildlife, and trails, but when our neighbors are in crisis, we must step up for people too. After the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire, Friends’ supporters gave generously to support first responders. **Now, we’re once again asking our community to rally together.** You can choose to direct your gift to Rowena Fire recovery, Burdoin Fire recovery, or the area of greatest need. No matter how much you give, your support will make a real difference in helping Gorge families recover and rebuild.

Learn more and make your donation now at gorgefriends.org/wildfirerecovery or by clicking the QR code.



DEFENDING THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

by Renée Tkach, Conservation Director, and Ryan Ruggiero, Land Trust Director

THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF), established by Congress in 1964, has played a critical role in protecting the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Funded by revenue from offshore oil and gas leasing—not taxpayer dollars—LWCF supports acquisition of public lands, state and local park development, and recreation access across the U.S.

Since then, tens of thousands of acres have been permanently protected in the Gorge thanks to LWCF funding. This includes USFS purchases of scenic lands threatened by development, protection of wildlife habitat, cultural sites, and watersheds, and the buffering of public trails and viewpoints from encroaching development. Notable protected sites include Dog Mountain, Larch Mountain, Catherine Creek, Cape Horn, Steigerwald, and many others.

Nationally, LWCF has funded over 45,000 projects, including at least one in every U.S. county. In 2020, passage of the Great American Outdoors Act guaranteed full, permanent LWCF funding at \$900 million annually, ensuring continued investment in land conservation and recreation access, including in the Gorge. But President Trump’s 2026 budget included a dangerous proposal that would have allowed Congress to siphon LWCF dollars toward unrelated purposes like deferred maintenance and timber production. This would have devastated one of the nation’s most effective tools for conserving public lands, expanding recreation access, and preserving cultural and natural resources. Thanks to public pushback and conservation champions in Congress, that provision was removed. Secretarial Order 3442 (SO 3442), issued on September 4, abandoned the proposal to divert funds entirely.

Unfortunately, SO 3442 still poses significant threats to LWCF. The order revives previously rejected restrictions, such as granting state and local governments veto power over real estate transactions involving federal lands in their

area, an unprecedented step that will take away private landowners’ rights to sell to the buyer of their choosing. It also prohibits partnerships with nonprofit land trusts on certain projects. The order also allows states to use LWCF State and Local Assistance funds to purchase federal public lands. This reverses long-standing policy and could force states to “buy back” lands that are already protected for the public, turning LWCF from a conservation tool into a mechanism for federal land selloffs.

Importantly, SO 3442 applies only to Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management) and does not affect USFS, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). That means Friends’ work in the Gorge is not directly impacted—for now. But the strength of LWCF is that projects develop at the local level, where they are needed most and where there are willing sellers at any given time. If there is no opposition to these restrictions, USDA officials could see an opportunity to implement similar rules that would apply to USFS lands. Were that to happen, the impact on the Gorge would be devastating. Gorge counties would then have the power to prevent land trusts from selling land to federal agencies, effectively giving local politicians veto power over conservation projects.

While Friends and our allies are relieved that deferred maintenance and timber production no longer threaten to wipe out the purpose of LWCF’s funding, these restrictions must still be challenged to protect the program’s future and ensure its full toolbox remains available for conservation nationwide.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT FRIENDS?

LWCF has been foundational to the National Scenic Area’s success. Since 1986, it has enabled strategic land acquisitions, expanded outdoor access, and protected the Gorge’s unique heritage—all without relying on taxpayer funding. Its continued support is essential to sustaining the Gorge for generations to come.

Friends has been instrumental in building the public lands base in the Gorge. With donor support and in partnership with public agencies, Friends acts to acquire high-priority properties, often years before public agencies would be able to. We’ve held these properties, in some cases for many years, until public acquisition could be completed. It’s a slow process, but one that has proven effective in consolidating public ownership and ensuring long-term protection.

Our most important federal partner in this work is the U.S. Forest Service. LWCF is the primary source of federal funds that USFS uses to purchase properties from Friends. To date, Friends has sold seven and donated two properties to USFS. We currently own five more properties that were acquired with the expectation that USFS would eventually purchase them—presumably with LWCF funds.

That strategy is not immediately threatened by SO 3442, since the order applies only to DOI lands. But the precedent set is concerning. If the USDA were to follow DOI’s lead for USFS lands, these restrictions would jeopardize decades of conservation progress in the Gorge. That is why Friends will continue to work with grassroots advocates and Congressional allies to defend LWCF and oppose harmful changes wherever and whenever they emerge.

In September, Friends’ Advocacy & Conservation team traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Senate and Congressional offices to advocate for protecting LWCF. This was a key opportunity to sound the alarm on the damaging impact SO 3442 will have on LWCF programs and emphasize the need for resistance to prevent similar policies from being enacted at USFS. These meetings were very productive and gave Congressional staff a look into the types of conservation and recreation projects that would be at stake under SO 3442. Friends will continue to strengthen these relationships with our elected officials to defend LWCF.

Contact your Senators and Representatives today and urge them to defend LWCF’s full funding and purpose. Ask them to oppose the harmful provisions in SO 3442 and ensure LWCF remains focused on expanding public access, conserving habitat, and protecting our public lands for future generations.

Visit gorgefriends.org/defendLWCF or scan the QR code below to contact your legislators and make your voice heard.



Dog Mountain, Catherine Creek, and Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge are just a few of the dozens of conservation projects in the Gorge that have been made possible by LWCF. Photos by John Williams (Dog Mountain, bottom), Robby Miller (Catherine Creek, bottom left), and Kate Green (Steigerwald, right).



LWCF PROJECTS: Click the QR code to explore an interactive map of LWCF projects across the U.S., including dozens in the Columbia Gorge.



LEGISLATIVE WINS AND CHALLENGES IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

by Renée Tkach, Conservation Director; Madison Kenney, Advocacy & Policy Coordinator; and Steve McCoy, Staff Attorney

DURING THE OREGON AND WASHINGTON legislative sessions, Friends staff spent time in Salem and Olympia advocating for policies that support Gorge conservation. While we didn’t reach the desired outcome on every issue, we still found the legislative sessions in Oregon and Washington to have been largely successful.

OREGON LEGISLATURE TOP PRIORITIES

SB 179 – Recreational Immunity (Passed): This law shields local governments and private landowners from liability when they open land to the public for free recreation. Entering the legislative session, there was a temporary version of this law with a sunset date in January 2026. Friends worked closely with the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts and the Oregon Trails Coalition before and during the session to achieve permanent protections.

Recreational immunity is critical to our work. In Oregon, our Mosier Plateau preserve has public trails, and future trail connections—such as the Mosier-to-The Dalles segment of our Gorge Towns to Trails project—will cross our Mt. Ulka preserve and private lands via easements. Protecting landowners from liability is essential to making these connections.

SB 5508 – Gorge Commission Budget (Passed): Following Washington’s 25% budget cut for the bi-state Columbia River Gorge Commission, Oregon’s Joint Committee on Ways & Means was forced to match the funding reduction. The bill passed both chambers without major obstacles. During committee hearings, several Oregon legislators expressed disappointment in Washington’s cuts and affirmed Oregon’s continued commitment to the Commission’s mission.

SB 80 – Gorge Air Quality & CAFO Moratorium (Failed): As a member of the Stand Up to Factory

Farms (SUFF) coalition, Friends advocated for SB 80, which would have placed a moratorium on new or expanding confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in Oregon’s three Groundwater Management Areas, including the Lower Umatilla Basin near Boardman, Oregon. CAFOs in this region are a major source of nitrate contamination and air emissions that can impact the Gorge. Friends participated in a lobby day, met with legislators and the Governor’s office, and submitted testimony. Unfortunately, the bill did not advance out of committee.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT

HB 3546 – “POWER” Act (Passed): Friends supported this bill to hold major energy users—such as data centers and crypto mining operations—accountable for infrastructure costs, rather than shifting those costs to residential customers. With the growing footprint of energy-intensive industries along the Columbia River, this is a key issue for the Gorge.

HB 2347 – Tribal Housing Support (Passed): We backed this bill empowering the Department of Land Conservation and Development to assist federally recognized tribes in building housing on tribal lands, helping address urgent housing needs in tribal communities.

HB 2384 – Tank Railroad Car Fee Extension (Passed): Friends supported this bill to extend the tank rail car contingency planning and cleanup fee. Friends played a leading role in getting these fees established in prior years to hold rail companies accountable for the risks of oil train derailments in the Gorge.

Land Use Defense (Successfully Opposed): Friends opposed several bills that would have undermined Oregon’s land use planning system by encouraging urban sprawl. While not directly affecting the Scenic Area, weakening Oregon’s planning framework would increase political pressure on the Gorge Commission to allow similar sprawl in the Scenic Area Management Plan.

WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE

Following sustained advocacy from Friends and our supporters, the Washington Legislature ultimately reversed course on its proposed deep cuts to the Columbia River Gorge Commission. While the final budget included a 25% reduction in funding, this was a marked improvement over initial drafts, which had proposed slashing the budget by more than half.

Saving the Gorge Commission’s funding required swift and coordinated action. After learning of the proposed cuts, Friends launched an all-hands-on-deck advocacy campaign, mobilizing thousands of supporters, engaging local governments, and earning strong support from Oregon legislators who defended the integrity of the bi-state compact. Our legal and policy staff testified before the Washington Senate Ways & Means Committee and met directly with lawmakers to underscore the risk these cuts posed to the Gorge’s long-term protection. These efforts were

instrumental in securing the final partial restoration. Another major win came with the preservation of Climate Commitment Act (CCA) funding in the final budget. CCA dollars remain dedicated to their intended purpose—cutting greenhouse gas emissions and investing in climate solutions. The Gorge Commission will receive \$138,000 from the CCA to support its climate change work, providing a much-needed infusion of resources for this urgent priority.

LOOKING AHEAD

Friends will be back in Olympia and Salem in 2026, when both states hold short legislative sessions. We’ll also be ready to return to the Capitol if special sessions are called to address budget gaps. With continued advocacy and support from our members, we’ll keep fighting for strong, forward-looking policies that protect the Columbia River Gorge for generations to come.

ELEVATING THE GORGE IN WASHINGTON STATE POLITICS

As the Washington legislative session wrapped up, the near-defunding of the Columbia River Gorge Commission served as a clear wake-up call: Friends of the Columbia Gorge has more work to do in Olympia.

When an amendment proposing to eliminate funding for the Commission was introduced in the House Appropriations Committee, not a single legislator spoke up in defense or voted no during the voice vote.

This moment underscores the need to deepen awareness among Washington lawmakers—not just about the Gorge Commission, but about the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area itself.

Why is the National Scenic Area more well-known in Oregon than in Washington? Proximity plays a big role. The Portland metro area, Oregon’s largest population center, sits on the doorstep of the Gorge, making it a popular destination for day hikes and weekend escapes. In contrast, Washington’s major population centers in the Seattle-Tacoma region are over three hours away. Many residents in those areas turn instead to

nearby outdoor treasures like Mt. Rainier, the Olympics, and Puget Sound for their day hikes and outdoor recreation.

During recent conversations with staff in Olympia, some legislators even confused the Columbia River Gorge with the Gorge Amphitheater in George, Washington—a reminder of how much education remains to be done.

How will we remedy this? Our Advocacy & Conservation team will continue to spend time in Olympia during legislative sessions and during Committee Assembly Days when the legislature is not in session. However, simply having a presence in Olympia won’t be enough to generate true support for this region from the legislators. This will take a dedicated outreach strategy to have meaningful conversations with legislators.

In the coming months, we plan to invite legislators and their staff out to the Columbia River Gorge for guided tours—giving them the chance to experience firsthand what makes this landscape so extraordinary and why it deserves strong, informed advocacy.

Share the Wonder isn't just a campaign name, It's a promise to protect the Columbia Gorge for all, now and into the future. Together, we can restore iconic places like Cape Horn and Catherine Creek, protect new landscapes, and build connections through our Gorge Towns to Trails vision.

By supporting the campaign, you join a community committed to preserving the Gorge's beauty and legacy. Let's shape the future of Gorge conservation, together.

Make a gift today to help keep the Gorge wild, wondrous, and welcoming to all.

Explore the campaign, learn more about ways to give, and make your contribution by visiting sharethewonder.gorgefriends.org or by clicking the QR code.



TRIBUTE GIFTS

April 12 - August 5, 2025

In Honor of Adrian Klein
Nature Photography Classes

In Honor of Alexa and Mitchell Estes
Ann S. Hefter

In Honor of Ann McCarthy
Meghan Hook

In Honor of Ashley Henry
Holly Knight

In Honor of Barbara Robinson
Ann Littlewood

In Honor of Bill Jennings
Barbara Bowers

In Honor of Debbie Asakawa
Denise E. Kleim

In Honor of Elizabeth Coleman and Joel Hamlik
Mochelle Popperl

In Honor of Ivan and Louise Donaldson
Greg Donaldson

In Honor of James E. Dotter (Bopaw)
Caroline Dotter

In Honor of John Harrison
Cathy Prentice

In Honor of Marna Moore
Barb Streefer

In Honor of Nancy Russell, Kevin Gorman, Friends, etc.
Al Jubitz

In Honor of Nathan Baker--Happy Birthday
David McDonald

In Honor of Pam Davee
Elizabeth Brooke-Willbanks

In Honor of The Broliar family
Susan LaTourette

In Memory of Barbara Holder
Lehman Holder

In Memory of Bill Florine
Katherine Florine
Gordon Bookless
Pamela Leeding

In Memory of Careen Faulkner
Jill Wert

In Memory of Dan Bell
Kenneth Popper

In Memory of Danielle Scarfuto
Deborah Samuels

In Memory of Dick Springer
Jan Coulton

In Memory of Dorothy Cronin Schoonmaker
Megan McMorran
Polly P. Wood
Elizabeth Malarkey Brooke
Anne Holtz
Wallace Preble
Arthur C. Spencer

In Memory of Everett Greer
Tim Hohl

In Memory of Honey Frosting
Vicki Bruno

In Memory of John Harrison
Marian Cassidy
Mary Chandler
Jerry Eckstein
Peter Fels

In Memory of John Harrison and Oliver Dalton
Thomas Rousseau

In Memory of Kathleen Parry
John Perry

In Memory of KMF
Morgan Lerchenmuller

In Memory of Lynette Sahnaw
Jeffrey Jones

In Memory of Mark McLean
Kathy Mclean

In Memory of Mary Fitzpatrick
Kathleen Fitzpatrick

In Memory of Paul Metzger
Julie Blackman

In Memory of Robert Holmes
Normandie Holmes

In Memory of Sean Janeway
Lorraine Janeway

In Memory of Shirley Becker
Debbie Schneider

Protecting Our Wild Places: The Friends Community Rises to the Challenge

Every page of this magazine is a snapshot of how your care and action are shaping the Gorge's future: healthy forests, turtles reclaiming safe habitat, and adding trail access where junkyards once stood. What moves me most is that all of this is shared stewardship—a community choosing to care for these lands now and for those who will come after us.

This summer, we all worried as wildfires burned through the Gorge, causing evacuations and affecting homes, communities, wildlife, and wildlands. One of the signature preserves of Share the Wonder, Heartleaf Bluffs, was affected (more information in the sidebar). Alashik, another preserve purchased through the campaign, was spared from wildfires and is still a refuge for wildlife. It's meadows, forests, ponds, streams, and even beaver lodges (which I've glimpsed from afar but hope to catch in action soon) still have their rhythm.

Thanks to so many of you, we have reached a remarkable milestone, with \$6 million raised toward our \$6.6 million goal—**more than 90% of the way there**. More Gorge landscapes are now protected, restored, and connected. As we enter this sunset phase of the campaign, it is a moment to celebrate what has been accomplished and look ahead to finishing strong. Completing this stretch will take all of us working together, ensuring that Heartleaf Bluffs, Alashik, and other irreplaceable lands continue to thrive and that the campaign's goals of trails, restored habitat, and resilient wildlands are secured for the future.

If you'd like to help with this campaign's final switchback before the summit, you can give using the QR code on the right or at sharethewonder.gorgefriends.org. More details on what's ahead will follow soon. Your support helps write the next chapter of the Gorge's story.



Lori Warner
Director of Philanthropy

HEARTLEAF BLUFFS UPDATE

On our first visit to Heartleaf Bluffs since the fire, we saw evidence of both the speed of the burn and the land's resilience: green shoots emerging, oaks still standing with green canopies, and roots appearing steady underneath singed pasture grasses. These are early signs of hope, a reminder that these lands endure because of your care, vision, and the way this community comes together for the Gorge. Protecting Heartleaf Bluffs was only possible with your commitment, and now we can continue to care for it together as it recovers.

This is why we launched Share the Wonder: to protect, restore, and strengthen Gorge landscapes so they can withstand challenges like fire and remain places of wonder.



Although flames swept across the entirety of Heartleaf Bluffs (top right), firefighters contained the blaze (top left) before it could kill the oak forest canopy. Today, the canopy remains largely intact (bottom left), and signs of new growth are already emerging (bottom right). Photos by Monique Trevett.



by Lori Warner, Director of Philanthropy, and Fernanda Gwinner, Philanthropy Engagement Manager

We always love it when **Gayle Rothrock** is around. She’s full of stories, wisdom, and the kind of historical tidbits that make you see the Gorge—and the world—a little differently. Sometimes something she says stays with you for days. We asked her to sit down with us to capture a bit of that magic on the record. Of course, nothing on paper can truly match the real thing.

Gayle has supported Friends for over 30 years. She’s a longtime donor and deeply engaged in the work of protecting the Gorge. As a donor-powered organization, we’re shaped by people like Gayle: those who show up again and again to care for this extraordinary place.

And with the Columbia River Gorge Commission taking up big questions about the future, it felt like the perfect time to share a conversation with someone who helped shape its early days.

Dick Benner, who served as executive director of the Gorge Commission while Gayle was a commissioner, said:

“Gayle was appointed to the Columbia Gorge Commission at its inception (1987) by the governor of Washington, when I served as Executive Director at the commission. She understood the challenges facing the commission and the new National Scenic Area and was keenly attuned to the politics of Washington. She was very articulate and often persuaded commission members - not just those from Washington - to support her position on key issues.”

- **Lori Warner and Fernanda Gwinner**

A LIFETIME WITH THE GORGE

Q: What sparked your love for the Columbia River Gorge?

I’ve cared about the Gorge since I was a little girl. My dad used to take me on drives in the late 1940s and early ’50s, up one side of the river, down the other. Those trips were magical, full of roadside stops for coffee and pie, and they showed me how Oregon and Washington are caretakers of this incredible place.

Q: What was it like being a child on those drives?

I remember sitting in the backseat of our old Dodge, watching the river and landscape go by. Sometimes we only made it to the Hood River Bridge, other times all the way to Maryhill. We’d always stop at little cafés: my dad for the coffee, me for the pie.

Q: Do you have a favorite spot in the Gorge?

Honestly, it’s hard to pick just one. Because I first experienced it as a child, almost everything feels special. But I’ve always been drawn to the wonder of waterfalls and the tunnels near Mitchell Point and Mosier, with their scenic-view windows along the old historic highway. If I had to choose something symbolic, it might still be the backseat of that old Dodge—that’s where the connection began.

Q: Are there any moments from those trips that stand out in your memory?

One that always stayed with me was the magical house with quirky washrooms in the basement, perched high with sweeping views—Vista House—something a kid doesn’t forget. And I loved the stop we’d often make at Multnomah Falls Lodge. I also remember the tunnels along the Washington side and hearing the story of how Oregon stepped in to protect Beacon Rock when Washington considered letting it be blown up for rubble. Even then, it struck me how complicated it is to care for this shared region.



Shown here at Friends’ 2025 Annual Meeting, Gayle Rothrock (right) has been a fixture of the Friends community since becoming a member in 1994. Photo by Monique Trevett.

Q: Did those early experiences influence your later involvement with the Gorge?

Absolutely. Those drives gave me a deep appreciation for the Gorge as a unique sub-region—one landscape, two states. I learned early to recognize the differences between Oregon and Washington and to see how both contribute to caring for the Gorge. That perspective shaped how I approached my role on the Gorge Commission.

Q: What was meaningful to you about serving on the Gorge Commission?

It gave me a way to give back to a place that had shaped me. And it challenged me to help navigate the balance between protecting the land and honoring the needs and identities of both states. That’s not always easy, but it’s essential.

Q: Were there challenges balancing your passion for the Gorge with your public service work?

Yes, especially in Washington, where quasi-judicial roles require a high level of neutrality. I had to be very careful about affiliations. I kept my membership with Washington Women but otherwise stepped back from organizations I cared about. It was hard to feel so connected but have to stay quiet about it.

Q: So how did you stay connected when you couldn’t be publicly affiliated?

I reminded myself that I could still care, and that there were other ways to show it. Supporting the organizations working to protect the Gorge became my quiet way of staying involved. You don’t stop caring just because you can’t be visible.

Q: You mentioned challenges on the Gorge Commission. What was the hardest part?

The pushback from counties that saw regulation as a threat. There were even personal risks: snakes in mailboxes, slashed tires after hearings. But I believed in meeting people where they were. I’d sit in cafés in Klickitat or Skamania, letting folks vent over coffee. “*People wanted to be heard,*” I’d remind myself. “*I wasn’t purple or fanged; I was just someone who cared.*” You can’t protect a place without understanding the people who call it home.

Q: You’ve supported conservation in the Gorge for years. What motivates that ongoing commitment?

I think a lot of people out there are just looking—really looking—for something positive to support. For me, protecting the Gorge has always felt like one of the most worthwhile things a person could do.

Q: Do you think first experiences—like your childhood visits—can shape a lifelong connection to the Gorge?

Absolutely. When your first experience of a place is wrapped in wonder, the way it was for me, it stays with you. That sense of awe and discovery can shape how you choose to care for that place your whole life.

Q: You mentioned pie. What’s your favorite kind?

Berry pies—blackberry, boysenberry, marionberry. We’re lucky in this region; the berries are unbeatable.

Q: Any final thoughts about the Gorge?

Just that it’s one of the greatest treasures we have—and that caring for it isn’t just about laws or policies. It’s about memory, emotion, and belonging. For me, it all goes back to those drives with my dad and the feeling that this place was—and still is—home.



GRAND PRIZE WINNER

THE GORGE’S NATURAL FORM (ROWENA CREST)

PALOMA AYALA, HOOD RIVER, OR



Paloma Ayala, a landscape photographer based in Hood River, Oregon, is the grand prize winner of “GorgeGram: Framed in Beauty,” Friends’ tenth-annual photo contest. Ayala’s winning image, titled “The Gorge’s Natural Form,” was captured on October 26, 2024, at Rowena Crest near Tom McCall Preserve using a drone launched outside the preserve boundaries.

“I’ve always admired the canyons leading to Rowena Crest,” said Ayala. “I enjoy taking pictures from above to show the wide shadows and unique shapes of the land. In this photo, I wanted to highlight the beauty of the cliffs and the importance of protecting these wild, open spaces that remain free of signs of human development. These areas offer a peaceful escape and a place to connect with nature.”

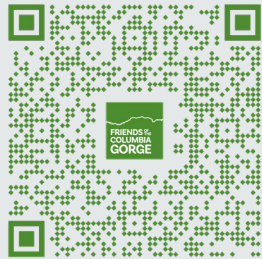
While a neighborhood and tennis court can be seen near the top left edge of the frame, Ayala notes that the contrast between developed and undeveloped land underscores the need to preserve the Gorge’s natural areas so future generations can experience their beauty and tranquility.



GRAND PRIZE WINNER: The Gorge’s Natural Form, by Paloma Ayala. Image captured via drone on October 26, 2024.



FULL GALLERY: To view full-size versions of all prize-winning and honorable mention photos, visit gorgefriends.org/photocontest or click the QR code below.



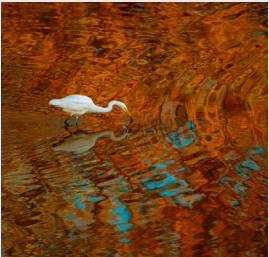
ACTION/ADVENTURE
RICHARD HALLMAN



CULTURE & COMMUNITY
STEPHAN ILIE



FRIENDS' STAFF PICK
STEPHEN DATNOFF



SCENIC EASTERN GORGE
JOHN WILLIAMS



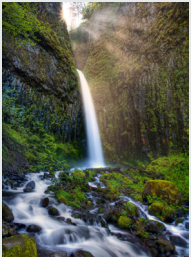
SCENIC WESTERN GORGE
JOHN WILLIAMS



STORMS & CLOUDS
STEPHAN ILIE



WATERFALLS
DANIEL RAPPAPORT



WILDLIFE
JAKE WOODARD



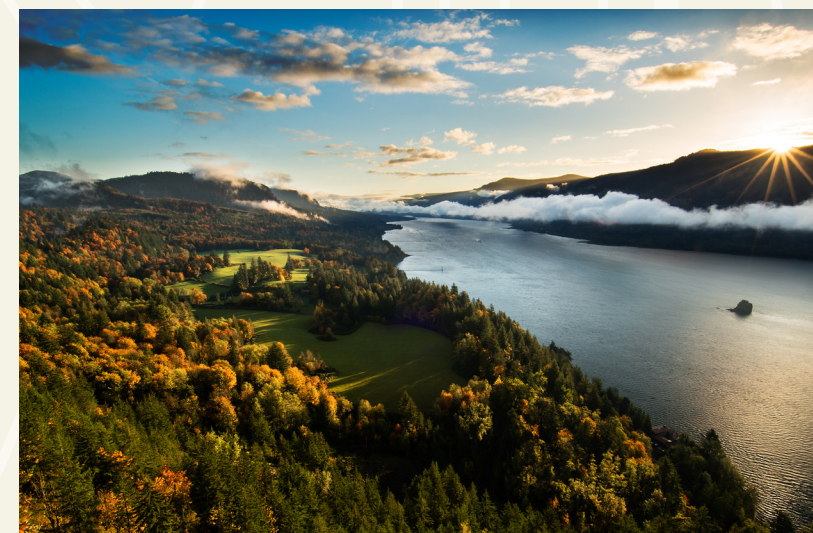


FRIENDS' LAND TRUST *at* 20

Since its founding in 2005, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust has permanently protected over 1,300 acres across the Columbia River Gorge.



From wildflower-covered plateaus to oak woodlands and basalt cliffs, these places protect habitat, preserve scenic beauty, and expand public access to nature.



By working with private landowners, partners, and Gorge communities, Friends' Land Trust is ensuring that the Gorge's special places will be protected forever.

BUILDING OUR LAND TRUST’S LEGACY OF CONSERVATION IN THE GORGE

Text by Kevin Gorman, Executive Director &
Ryan Ruggiero, Land Trust Director

AS WE APPROACH THE 20TH anniversary of Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust this fall, it’s worth stepping back and acknowledging what an audacious move it was for a conservation advocacy organization to create a land trust and just how the land trust has shaped the Columbia Gorge in those two decades since.

Today, our land trust owns 19 preserves totaling 1,313 acres. Some, such as Mosier Plateau and Lyle Cherry Orchard, are iconic public recreation areas. Other preserves are focused on protecting habitat for plants and wildlife. And some were purchased to ensure scenic landscapes remain undeveloped.

The decision to create a land trust two decades ago was, to say the least, unconventional. The genesis came from Friends’ founder Nancy Russell as she took on the role of a conservation buyer in the early 1990s, purchasing properties other land trusts deemed too controversial or financially challenging. When Nancy was diagnosed with ALS in 2004, the organization not only recognized the importance of continuing her work but also ensuring her lands remained protected.

However, in the early 2000s, conservation advocacy organizations and land trusts did not mix. Land trusts were generally apolitical and steered clear of environmental lobbying, and most advocacy organizations didn’t work with private landowners or understand the ins and outs of real estate. But Friends staff worked with landowners interested in selling their lands to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) years before we launched the land trust.

Kate McBride, hired in 2006 as the land trust’s first staff member, shared that “the land trust has been such a positive force for the organization. Becoming a Gorge landowner and caring for the land gave Friends a level of local credibility it hadn’t had before.”

Then, on Groundhog Day 2004, Friends received a surprise \$4.5 million unrestricted bequest from Norman Yeon—roughly seven times our annual budget at the time (*click the QR code on the right to read the full story*).

That gift triggered a rapid internal pivot: within 18 months, we launched Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust as a separate entity, hired our first staff, and acquired our first preserve, a four-acre parcel that became the Nancy Russell Overlook on Cape Horn Trail. Together with Nancy’s concurrent ALS diagnosis, these events galvanized our transition from advocacy into land stewardship.

Today, the land trust is a profoundly different organization. We’ve grown from a single staff person into a five-person team covering land stewardship, stewardship volunteers, regional collaboration, and strategic land investment. We’ve acquired, held, and transferred key inholdings and recreation access points to our public partners (582 acres to date). Over the past 20 years, the land trust has acquired 43 properties totaling 1,775 acres, far exceeding early projections.

Heartleaf Bluffs, one of our most beloved recent acquisitions, stands as a powerful example of community-supported conservation. When this ecologically sensitive property was at risk of becoming multi-million-dollar homesites or a large commercial zipline park, our supporters stepped



Alashik Preserve (left) and Heartleaf Bluffs (right) showcase two very different yet valuable landscapes in our land trust’s growing portfolio of protected lands. Alashik spans 120 acres of stream channels, wetlands, ponds and forest, while 105-acre Heartleaf Bluffs protects rare bluff habitat and mixed oak-pine forests. Photos by Monique Trevett (Alashik Preserve) and Paloma Ayala (Heartleaf Bluffs).

up. Their generosity, through our Share the Wonder capital campaign, allowed us to purchase and protect it, ensuring that its wildflower meadows, mature forests, and sweeping views remain undeveloped and open for future restoration.

In Skamania County, Friends has emerged as a regional leader in recovering northwestern pond turtles from decades of habitat loss and predation by invasive bullfrogs. Two of our preserves—Turtle Haven and the newly acquired 120-acre Aláshik Preserve—are now keystone sites for this species’ recovery. Alashik’s wetlands, ponds, stream channels, and forested terrain provide some of the most productive turtle habitat in the region, and its protection (secured in collaboration with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, USFS, and the Oregon Zoo) prevented logging and mineral extraction that would have damaged this delicate ecosystem. Together, these preserves offer safe habitat and a base for hands-on conservation work by our land trust team and partners.

At Steigerwald, our acquisition of Steigerwald Shores facilitated the Steigerwald Reconnection Project, the largest salmon habitat restoration in the history of the Gorge, reconnecting Gibbons Creek to its historic Columbia River floodplain and rewilding riparian ecosystems across hundreds of acres.

As our land trust has grown, so has our commitment to stewarding the land with community involvement.

Today, dozens of volunteer stewardship work parties take place across our preserves each year, engaging hundreds of people in habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and climate resilience projects. These efforts not only restore ecological function, they also foster deeper connections between people and the Gorge landscapes they help protect.

One of our most ambitious restoration efforts is currently underway at Cape Horn, where Friends is working to restore more than 100 acres of degraded habitat into a resilient, diverse ecosystem. Long known for its iconic viewpoints and significance to Friends’ history, Cape Horn is now the focus of a vision to bring back native species and reestablish ecological balance in the face of climate change. With support from Share the Wonder and ongoing volunteer engagement, this effort represents a model for what long-term stewardship can look like.

We have also established our role in leading the Gorge Towns to Trails initiative, deepened relationships with Tribal nations, and this year are embarking on a new conservation vision that will guide our work over the coming decade.

It’s an exciting time, and the next 20 years hold plenty of opportunity. And thanks to the ongoing, generous support of our donors and supporters, we continue to think big and broaden the ways in which the land trust can support long-term protection of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

20 YEARS OF IMPACT: FRIENDS' LAND TRUST'S TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS



HEARTLEAF BLUFFS PROTECTED

When development threatened Heartleaf Bluffs' wildflower meadows and pristine oak forests, Friends acted quickly to close the largest acquisition in the history of our land trust. Now permanently protected, this scenic bluff across from Tom McCall Preserve will remain undeveloped, preserving its sweeping vistas and wildlife habitat for future generations.



TURTLE HAVEN & ALASHÍK RESTORE RARE TURTLES

Through two strategic acquisitions and over a decade of hands-on stewardship, Friends has created sanctuaries for endangered northwestern pond turtles. Turtle Haven and Aláshik Preserve now anchor efforts to restore habitat, control invasive bullfrogs, and boost turtle populations in one of the Gorge's most significant wildlife success stories.



CAPE HORN TRAIL COMES TO LIFE

Two key acquisitions by Friends enabled the Cape Horn Trail's completion, unlocking public access to one of the Gorge's most breathtaking viewpoints. These properties protect cliffs, forests, and wildflower meadows, creating a scenic loop that blends recreation, habitat protection, and the rich history of Friends' early conservation work.



LYLE CHERRY ORCHARD TRAIL EXPANSION AND BILINGUAL INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Friends' Lyle Cherry Orchard Preserve now boasts new loop trails and interpretive bilingual signage, improving the hiker experience while protecting sensitive habitat. These enhancements guide visitors through wildflower meadows, basalt cliffs, and sweeping Gorge views, helping to deepen connections to the land while improving trail flow and dispersing foot traffic across the preserve.



MOSIER PLATEAU BECOMES AN ICONIC WILDFLOWER DESTINATION

Friends' creation of the Mosier Plateau Trail transformed a hillside above Mosier into a beloved public treasure. This 3.5-mile loop showcases spring wildflowers, Columbia River views, and the Mosier Creek Falls overlook, protecting sensitive habitat while welcoming thousands of hikers each year to enjoy the beauty of the Gorge in bloom.



STEIGERWALD SHORES ENABLES SALMON RESTORATION

Friends' purchase of Steigerwald Shores paved the way for the largest salmon habitat restoration project in the Gorge, the Steigerwald Reconnection Project. This transformative effort reconnected Gibbons Creek to its historic Columbia River floodplain and riparian habitat across hundreds of acres, improving fish passage, enhancing wetlands, and restoring ecological balance along a vital stretch of the lower Columbia River.

SMALL TRAIL, BIG LEGACY: POVEY FAMILY DONATES EASEMENT AT MOSIER PLATEAU

by Nick Kraemer, Senior Planner

Friends of the Columbia Gorge continues to lead in protecting the Gorge's natural beauty while deepening connections with local communities. A recent milestone in this effort is the finalization of a trail easement linking Mosier's Pocket Park to the scenic Mosier Plateau Preserve—a project years in the making.

The Pocket Park and popular swimming hole above Mosier Creek Falls have long served as a summer refuge in this dry part of the Gorge. But the area included a mix of city-owned and private lands, creating access conflicts.



Sunrise at Mosier Plateau. Photo by Cate Hotchkiss.

In the early 2000s, local landowners David and LaVonne Povey donated 3.82 acres—including part of Mosier Creek Falls—to the City of Mosier for public use. David Povey, former head of the urban and regional planning department at the University of Oregon, had a deep understanding of balancing recreation and conservation. His legacy includes leading a 1987 study on the economics of windsurfing in the Gorge, which helped inform the original Recreation Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. He also founded the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) program, which embeds graduate students in rural communities to build local capacity.

Following the Poveys' donation, Pocket Park trails were formalized, but they deadended at the falls. In 2007, Friends acquired Mosier Plateau from the Russell family, and dreams of a trail connection to the plateau began to take shape. This vision would later inspire Friends' Gorge Towns to Trails initiative.

In 2009, Friends Land Trust Manager Kate McBride approached the Poveys about a connector trail across their land. They agreed to a trail license, and Friends secured development permits to build the connection, thanks to collaboration between the Poveys, Friends, and the City of Mosier.



Upper Mosier Creek Falls. Photo by Cate Hotchkiss.

Now used daily by residents, visitors, and Mosier Community School students, the Mosier trail is a powerful example of community-driven conservation.

After the Poveys passed away, their children, Zach Povey and Kari Boss, generously donated the trail license area as a permanent easement to protect the connection in perpetuity. Friends Senior Planner Nick Kraemer, a RARE program alum himself, worked with the Povey family to finalize the survey and recording. While the easement covers just 150 feet of trail, it symbolizes the power of partnerships in preserving access to cherished places. Friends is deeply grateful to the Povey family for their enduring contribution.

INSPIRED! II

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2025
301 GALLERY
HOOD RIVER, OREGON

ART MEETS CONSERVATION IN THE COLUMBIA GORGE

This August and September, the Columbia River Gorge comes to life on canvas, in clay, and through the creative visions of more than 20 local and regional artists. INSPIRED! II, a collaborative exhibition between Hood River's 301 Gallery and Friends of the Columbia Gorge, celebrates the powerful intersection of art and conservation.

Each piece in the show was created in response to time spent exploring public lands in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The works capture the wonder of waterfalls, wildflower meadows, basalt cliffs, wildlife, and other natural spaces in the Gorge. From sweeping landscapes to intimate studies, the paintings, ceramics, and sculptures on display reflect each artist's personal connections to the Gorge.

INSPIRED! II is on view at 301 Gallery in downtown Hood River throughout August and September.

Click the QR code below to access a series of behind-the-scenes videos, offering a closer look at the creative process of six of the artists.



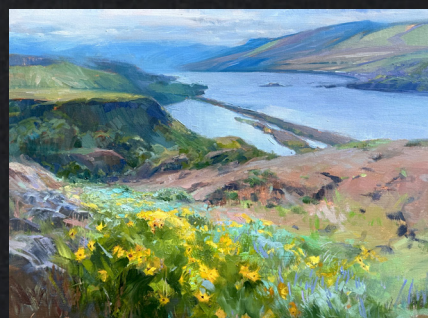
Artwork by Michael Orwick.



Artwork by Aimee Erickson.



Artwork by Thomas Kitts.



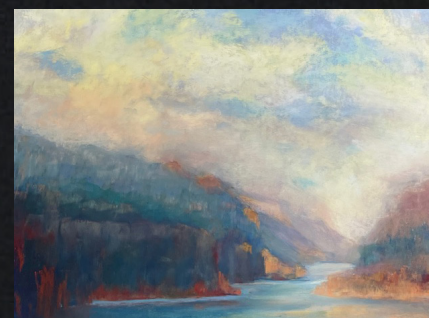
Artwork by Elo Wobig.



Artwork by Celeste Bergin.



Artwork by Allie Yacina.



Artwork by Christine Knowles.



SUMMERFEST 2025: A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION IN THE GORGE

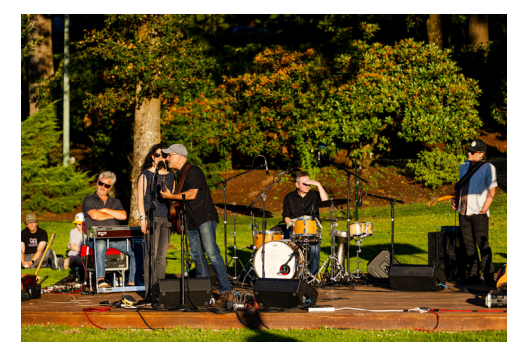
On a warm summer evening at Cascade Locks Marine Park, more than 500 people came together for Gorge Summerfest 2025, and what a night it was! With beautiful river views, live music, good food, and great company, the event was a celebration of the place we love and the community working to protect it.

The music lineup didn't disappoint. Washougal-based pop-rock artist Matt Chaffee kicked things off, followed by an unforgettable set from the renowned Tony Furtado & Stephanie Schneiderman Quintet. One of the most memorable moments came from Yakama Nation member John Washines, who treated the crowd to a set of intertribal drum songs and offered samples of wild salmon.

Guests explored booths from local Indigenous artists and conservation partners, while food trucks and local brews from Gorges Beer Co. and Thunder Island Brewing kept the good vibes going strong.

We're so grateful to everyone who helped make Summerfest happen: our volunteers, vendors, musicians, and event sponsor OnPoint Community Credit Union. And to our members and donors: thank you! Your support creates space for moments like this, where joy, purpose, and community come together in one special event.

If you joined us, we hope it was a night to remember! If you couldn't make it, we hope to see you in 2026. Click the QR code to view a photo gallery and relive the event or see what you missed.



A SEASON OF DISCOVERY: MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVENTURES IN THE COLUMBIA GORGE

by Kenzie Hammond, Youth & Community Education Specialist

THE GREAT GORGE WAHOO! 8TH GRADE (WESTERN GORGE):

Thank you to longtime Friends board member Carrie Nobles for the generous gift that makes this annual trip possible, and to all the educators who worked with the eighth-grade students of St. Andrew Nativity School.

On May 20, 2025, Friends took the eighth-grade class from St. Andrew Nativity School on a field trip exploring the Western Gorge. Having spent time with this group the previous year when they were in seventh grade, it was a treat to have the opportunity to reconnect and share another day of discovery in the Columbia Gorge. The students had fond memories of their previous visit and were excited for a new round of adventures. Our day began at Vista House at Crown Point—a tradition for eighth grade. Kevin Price, former region



Eighth-grade students from St. Andrew Nativity School participated in a macroinvertebrates station with environmental educator Jayson Moorman (top left), games to illustrate the life cycle of a salmon including tug of war (bottom left), and a tour of Vista House with Friends' board member Kevin Price (right). Photos by Monique Trevett.



manager with Oregon State Parks and current Friends board member, welcomed the students with stories about the history of Vista House and the surrounding area. He spoke about his career in park management and the critical role public lands play in our communities, helping students reflect on why these places matter.

Next, we headed to Benson State Recreation Area where students participated in two hands-on learning stations. Jayson Moorman, a local environmental educator, led an exploration of macroinvertebrates, while Hood River photographer Paloma Ayala guided a session on cellphone photography. After the rotations, students enjoyed lunch by the lake.

We then stopped at Multnomah Falls. Despite its proximity to their school, many students had never visited, and it quickly became one of the day's most memorable experiences. From there, we continued to Bonneville Lock & Dam, where a ranger from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers led a private tour of the powerhouse and fish ladders. To close out the day, students met with salmon biologist Elise Olk from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, who led them through a high-energy "Salmon vs. Dam" obstacle course—blending science and movement in a way that kept everyone engaged and active.

It was a beautiful day of learning, laughter, and adventure. The students were curious and enthusiastic, making it a truly memorable experience for all involved.

EXPLORE THE GORGE 6TH GRADE (BEACON ROCK STATE PARK & HAMILTON MOUNTAIN):

A special thank you to our longtime donor and friend Phyllis Clausen, who passed away last year at the age of 99, for her commitment to fund this annual program, and to all our guest educators who make this program so special.

On May 29 and 30 and again on June 4, 5, and 6, we hosted our largest education event of the year. Over five days, we engaged more than 200 sixth-grade students from Washougal's Jemtegaard and Canyon Creek Middle Schools in a wide array of educational activities. Students were split between two locations within the Beacon Rock State Park system: Hamilton Mountain and the Doetsch Day-Use Area. At each site, they rotated through a variety of interactive learning stations.

At Hamilton Mountain, students explored:

- Herpetology with Washington State University Early Childhood Education student Jayna Duncan
- Pika walks with Cascade Pika Watch volunteer Linda Steider and Washington State Parks Ranger Ryan Reynolds
- Wilderness survival with Johnson Creek Watershed Council Outreach and Riparian Specialist Sima Seumalo
- Watercolor painting with Lewis and Clark School graduate student Sandra Fachiol



Sixth-grade students identified birds with wildlife biologist Bill Weiler (top), looked for pikas with Cascade Pika Watch volunteer Linda Steider, (middle) and learned wilderness survival skills (bottom). Photos by Monique Trevett.

At Doetsch Day-Use Area, stations included:

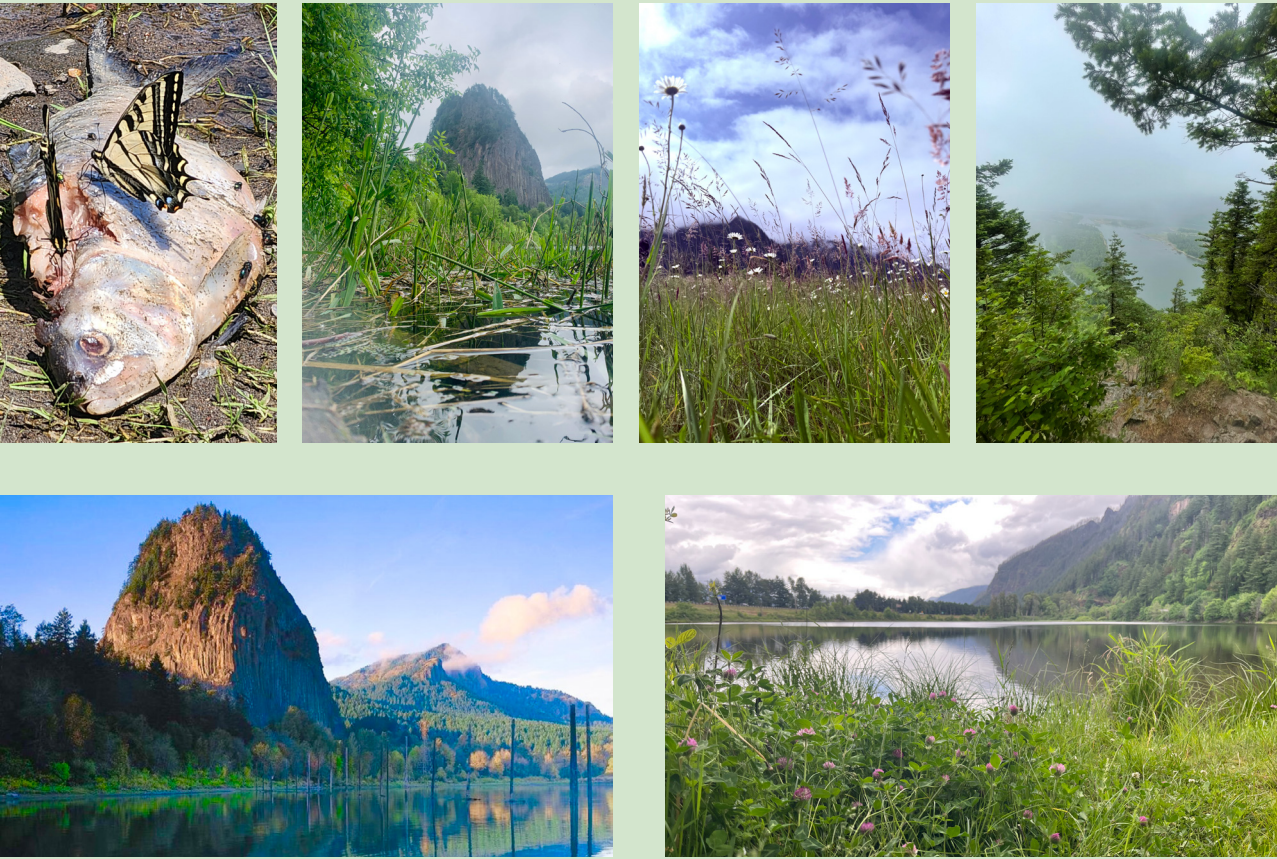
- Macroinvertebrates with environmental educator Jayson Moorman
- Birding 101 with wildlife biologist Bill Weiler
- Cellphone photography with Columbia Gorge photographer Paloma Ayala
- Geology with Oregon State Parks Ranger Miranda Mendoza and Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum educator Nick Copeland

This event was a truly collaborative effort. New this year, each student received their own Gorge Field Guide (*see images on right*), featuring local ID resources for birds, fish, mammals, and common plants—tools they can use on future outdoor adventures. Each year, this program deepens students’ sense of wonder and connection to place, fostering empathy and understanding for the wildlife and ecosystems that make the Gorge so special.



♥ STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY FAVORITES ♥

We asked students from our youth programs to submit their favorite photos they took at the nature photography station, led by Paloma Ayala. Check out some of our favorites below.



Three river otters. Photo by Duncan McClure.

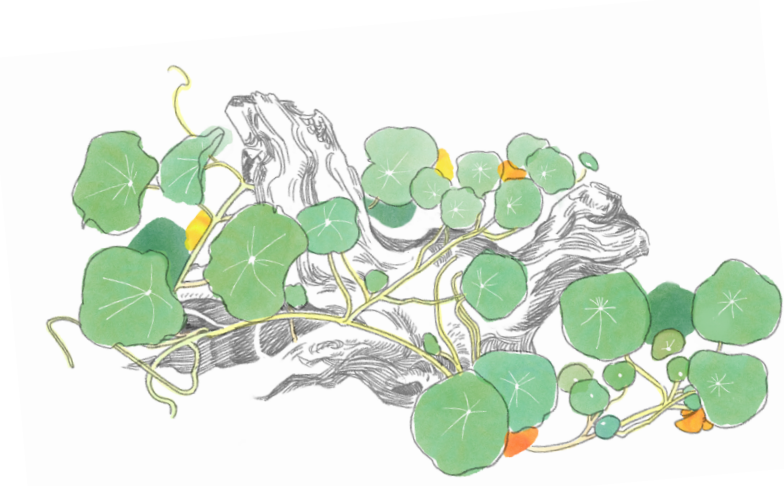
by Kenzie Hammond, Youth & Community Education Specialist

As you enjoy the water this summer, take a closer look at the river—you might get lucky and see a local river otter (*Lontra canadensis*). While these aquatic mammals are widespread in the Columbia Gorge, spotting them can be quite uncommon! They utilize a wide variety of aquatic habitats—from rivers, streams, and wetlands to ponds, bays, and sloughs—but avoid polluted waterways when possible.

River otters are opportunistic feeders, but most of their diet consists of 4–6” slow-moving fish such as carp and suckers. They use their strong sense of smell to move toward areas with high concentrations of fish populations. River otters are also known to eat amphibians, crayfish, small mammals, and beetles.

During the winter or other weather extremes, otters will use den sites lined with small sticks and vegetation, located on the water’s edge to allow for easy access. These den sites are also used to give birth and care for their young. Male river otters live a solitary lifestyle, while females will utilize the den to raise their offspring until they are old enough to take care of themselves.

River otters have a lengthy gestation period of 285–375 days due to delayed implantation of fertilized eggs. In the spring, the female otter will have between two and four pups, and by the fall, they will go off on their own to establish their own territories. River otters live, on average, 8–15 years in the wild, and in captivity, they can live upwards of 20 years! While river otters are of least concern under the Endangered Species Act, their biggest threats include habitat loss and pollution.



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

AKI RUIZ



Gorge Guardians campaign poster artwork by Aki Ruiz

Aki Ruiz is a multidisciplinary illustrator based in Portland, Oregon. Over the past few years, he's collaborated with Friends of the Columbia Gorge on a variety of projects, including eye-catching posters for the forthcoming Gorge Guardians campaign, visuals for Gorge Summerfest, and designs for bandanas and pins. He also illustrated the Gorge Guide, a field guide used as a hands-on tool in our youth education programs (examples on page 23).

Outside of client work, Aki enjoys figure drawing, studying light and plants, and plein air painting around Portland. His creative process is driven by curiosity, where every project is an opportunity to learn, experiment, and grow.

Start your own artistic journey with Aki's brief guide on how to keep a field journal on the right.

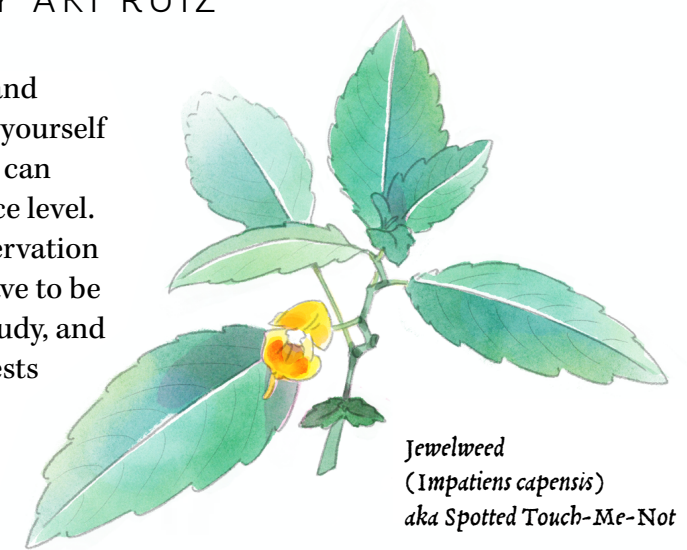
Find more of Aki's work at akiruiiz.com.



KEEPING A FIELD JOURNAL

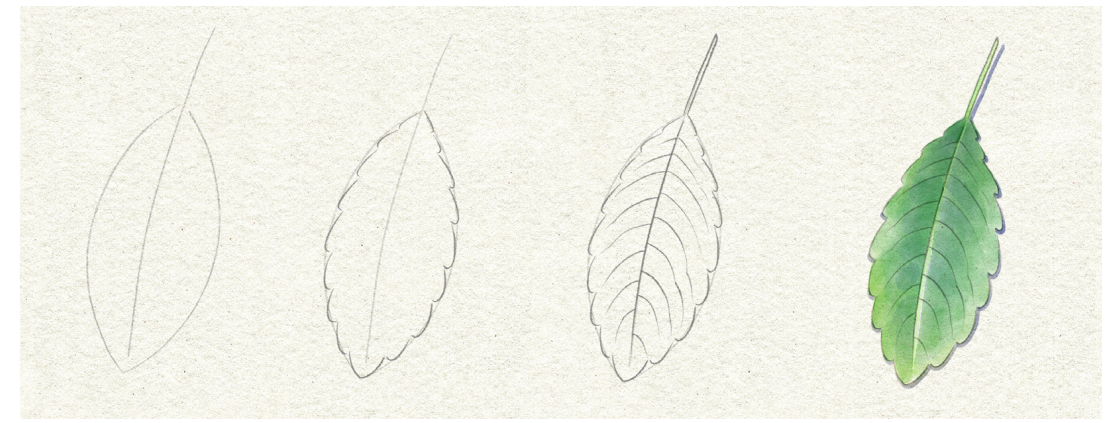
A SHORT BEGINNER'S GUIDE BY AKI RUIZ

Field journals can be a powerful tool for observing and understanding the world around us. Don't consider yourself an artist? No worries! Drawing is a skill that anyone can develop with practice, regardless of age or experience level. In this short guide, you'll learn how to use your observation skills to record what you see. Your sketches don't have to be perfect. The goal is to use your journal to explore, study, and connect with the natural world. Explore what interests you: birds, trees, flowers, clouds, insects, etc. Take notes, ask questions, and use whatever tools you have on hand. Let's look at an example together.



Jewelweed
(*Impatiens capensis*)
aka Spotted Touch-Me-Not

Drawing from observation



GATHER REFERENCE Observe your subject closely and list key attributes. What do you notice? For example: yellow-green, jagged edges, thin, straight stem that tapers at tip, ovoid shape with pointed ends	SKETCH Start with basic shapes to establish proportions and lay the foundation for later details. Sketch lightly. Above, I've noted the placement of the main vein and overall shape. You can use a ruler for accurate measurements.	OBSERVE Time to build upon our foundation. Observe that the edges of this leaf have rounded, serrate lobes (jagged edges). Count the lobes on each side and record your findings. All of these details together can be used to identify the plant.	ADD DETAIL Another key detail is the leaf's pinnate venation (veins branching from a central vein, resembling a feather). Some details can be hard to see in photos, so drawing from life is important. You can make more accurate observations.	COLOR Adding color can help capture even more information about your subject. Color can reveal the season, health, or other environmental changes. While not required, color often adds valuable context. Note the name of your subject in your journal.
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Your first attempts might not turn out as you imagined – and that's okay! As Chuck Jones famously said, "Every artist has thousands of bad drawings in them and the only way to get rid of them is to draw them out." So make a bunch of bad drawings, ask lots of silly questions, and seek answers. The goal is not perfect realism – it's to understand what you are observing. Enjoy the journey!

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Thank you for joining us to protect the Columbia Gorge.
We're honored to have you on our team. Your support makes our work possible.

- To donate by phone or connect with our philanthropy team to learn more about ways to give to our Share the Wonder campaign, including stocks, QCD gifts, or donor-advised funds, call **503.241.3762**.
- Please address mailed donations to: Friends of the Columbia Gorge, 123 NE 3rd Ave., Suite 108, Portland, OR 97232, with checks payable to "Friends of the Columbia Gorge."
- Give now or make a donation pledge online on Friends' secure website at sharethewonder.gorgefriends.org/give or by clicking the QR code on the right.
- Credit card gifts: Friends accepts Visa, Mastercard, and American Express. Make one-time gifts or schedule monthly installments.



Waiting for the sunrise in the Gorge. Photo by Jeremiah Leibold.

There are many ways to include Friends of the Columbia Gorge in your legacy plans. When you include Friends in your will or estate plan, you're making an investment in the future of the Gorge's wondrous and wild living places for generations to come.

We would be happy to talk with you about the Norman Yeon Legacy Circle or other gift planning options.
Call **503-241-3762** or email Lori Warner at giftplanning@gorgefriends.org.



Passages is a triannual magazine produced for members of Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

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. Friends has offices in Portland and Hood River, Oregon, and Washougal, Washington. Visit gorgefriends.org to learn more. Send inquiries to info@gorgefriends.org or call 503.241.3762.

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