

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Spring 2013 Newsletter

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Fighting Coal

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Spring/Summer
Hikes!

Brochure Insert

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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



Take Action!

Citizens pack hearings to
oppose coal exports.

Photo: Peter Cornelison

This winter, Friends members and allies knocked it out of the park! We all got on the phone, showed up at events, posted emails, talked to reporters, and sent in comments. Ultimately, more than 9,000 people turned out at public hearings to say “NO” to turning the Columbia River Gorge into the nation’s coal chute.

On April 1, the state of Oregon will decide whether to issue a permit for the Morrow Pacific Project in Boardman. Governor Kitzhaber has demanded further study and review of these projects by the Corps of Engineers, but comprehensive studies are unlikely to be completed by that time.

Tell Governor Kitzhaber: Deny coal export in Oregon on April 1!

- **Send an email from www.gorgefriends.org.**
- **Call the Governor’s Citizen Representative: (503) 378-4582**
- **Mail a letter:**
Governor John Kitzhaber
Attn: Citizens’ Representative
160 State Capitol, 900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047
- **Tweet @GovKitz**

In Washington, tell Governor Inslee the Northwest must stand together against coal exports! (360) 902-4111.

Citizen Action Makes the Difference!

Your action to oppose coal shipments is crucial to our success. Visit our website and click “Protect the Gorge” to send your letter today.

www.gorgefriends.org

Oregon

- Sen. Ron Wyden**, (202) 224-5244
<http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/>
- Sen. Jeff Merkley**, (202) 224-3753
senator@merkley.senate.gov
- Rep. Earl Blumenauer**, (202) 225-4811
- Rep. Suzanne Bonamici**, (202) 225-0855
- Rep. Greg Walden**, (202) 225-6730
- Rep. Peter DeFazio**, (202) 225-6416
- Rep. Kurt Schrader**, (202) 225-5711

Washington

- Sen. Patty Murray**, (202) 224-2621
<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>
- Sen. Maria Cantwell**, (202) 224-3441
<http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/>
- Rep. Jamie Herrera Beutler**, (202) 225-3536
- Rep. Derek Kilmer**, (202) 225-5916
- Rep. Doc Hastings**, (202) 225-5816
- Rep. Suzan DelBene**, (202) 225-6311
- Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to www.house.gov/writerep/

Cover photo: Spring in the Columbia Gorge. Photo: Mark McConnell

Director's Letter

In early 2012, I addressed freshman students at Willamette University in Salem who were taking a class about the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. After my talk, a young Latina student began asking questions in a very earnest manner. I had no idea if she supported or opposed my points, but she clearly wanted to know more. I finally asked her, "Do you live in the Gorge?" That's when I got to know Martha Sonato.

Martha's family came to the Gorge from Mexico when she was eight. Her father found a job with a Hood River orchardist, and although he wasn't fully fluent in English, he impressed the orchardist and was hired



permanently. As the family settled into the community, Martha and her siblings were able to turn their attention to their studies. Martha quickly caught up with her peers and eventually received a full-ride academic scholarship to Willamette University. She is now in her second year, focusing on political science and environmental studies.

Martha and I stayed in touch, and last summer we created an internship for her to connect the Gorge's Latino community with our organization, as well as Columbia Riverkeeper and Hood River Valley Residents Committee. She led bilingual hikes and recruited participants by going on a popular Spanish talk radio program in Hood River.

Martha introduced community members to cascading waterfalls and beautiful vistas. At the same time, representatives from the participating organizations informed the Latino community about social, political, and economic issues affecting the Gorge.

Sonato led bilingual hikes for Friends last summer.

Photo: Kate McBride

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



Photo: Peter Cornelison

Following the events, Martha's enthusiasm and initiative persisted, as she went back on the radio and thanked the people who had come on the outings. This spring, Martha will lead two more hikes for us, April 27 and June 6, bringing members of her community and Friends members together in the Gorge.

Impressed by her passion and diligence, Friends asked Martha to join our board of directors and she accepted (*read about two other great new board members on page 7*). At 19, Martha is the youngest board member in our 33-year history, and her youth and energy are a refreshing addition. More important, though, her involvement is a critical step in diversifying who we are as an organization, and who we can reach in our work to protect the Gorge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Gorman". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
kevin@gorgefriends.org



Friends and Gorge Residents Turn Out to Oppose Coal Exports

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

Northwest residents mobilized in record numbers during 2012, in opposition to massive coal export proposals. Thousands of people attended hearings, wrote letters, and submitted written and oral comments, as agencies began to review two proposals to export coal to Asia through the Columbia River Gorge. A third proposal is scheduled for review in summer 2013.

In the final months of 2012, seven hearings were held regarding the Gateway Pacific Terminal project near Bellingham, Washington. The proposal would bring 48 million tons of Powder River Basin coal by rail through the Columbia Gorge each year, for export from Bellingham.

Thousands of concerned citizens from Bellingham to Spokane and Vancouver to Hood River have packed hearing rooms, demanding that all local, regional, and global impacts be

subject to a thorough environmental review, including the impacts that shipping this massive volume of coal in open-topped rail cars would have on the Columbia Gorge. Hundreds of Friends members and supporters attended these hearings to call for protection of Gorge resources and communities, and for an area-wide environmental impact statement. A draft EIS is expected in 2014, followed by more hearings and opportunities to comment.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our allies in the “Power Past Coal” coalition led this historic citizen effort to block coal exports. Thanks to our combined efforts – including everyone who took time to write a letter, send an email, or attend a hearing – not one coal export proposal was approved in 2012. This outstanding accomplishment affirms the power of citizen action to protect the health of our communities and our treasured natural landscapes.

Coal blowback

Coal companies’ efforts to double U.S. coal exports through the Columbia Gorge had the unintended consequence of unifying conservationists, communities, tribes, and elected officials against these proposals. We’ve banded together for good reason, especially for the Gorge: these proposals would bring no benefit to the Gorge economy or quality of life, but the harm to communities, public health, and the environment would be staggering.

If the coal industry’s proposals were approved, barge and train traffic would double in just a few years, polluting lands, air, and waterways with diesel emissions and coal dust. Railway crossings would be blocked by trains for hours every day, disrupting traffic, commerce, emergency services, recreation, and tourism. Agriculture, water quality, and forestry would be adversely affected near the tracks, as

At left: Nearly 800 people filled the room and raised their hands to oppose coal at a DEQ hearing in Portland.

Photo: Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, Columbia Riverkeeper

Our goal is to make sure that no additional coal will be exported through the Columbia Gorge.

would property value near the rail lines. Native American fishing rights would be infringed, and overall quality of life for Gorge residents would be diminished.

Beyond the Gorge, from Billings, Montana to Bellingham, Washington, communities are working together to slow the permitting of these projects, demanding rigorous environmental analyses to determine, avoid, or ensure mitigation for the local, regional, and global impacts of doubling U.S. coal exports.

Oregon response

Late last year, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) held three public meetings regarding Ambre Energy's Morrow Pacific project, to transport 8.8 million tons of coal by rail annually from the Powder River Basin to Boardman, Oregon. From Boardman, the coal would be shipped on barges to Port Westward, near St. Helens, Oregon, and then loaded

on huge ocean-going vessels bound for Asia. This project alone would double barge traffic on the Columbia River.

More than 800 people packed a DEQ hearing in Portland to express opposition to Ambre's proposal – the biggest public turnout in DEQ's history. Friends' supporters alone submitted 600 comments opposing these permits. Permit decisions are expected from state agencies this summer.

The Oregon Division of State Lands may issue a decision on a removal-and-fill permit application as early as April 1. Friends and other opponents have asked the state to deny the permits, or at least delay their decision until a complete environmental review clarifies the full environmental costs. The Army Corp of Engineers will wait to issue any permit until their environmental assessment for the Morrow Pacific project is completed in late 2013 or 2014. Opponents are calling for area-wide environmental impacts statements for all coal export

proposals, as well as an individual EIS for each one.

Ambre Energy has also proposed a second, much larger, export terminal for Longview, Washington, across the Columbia River from Port Westward. Environmental scoping on this project is scheduled for this summer.

Looking ahead

With our partners at Power Past Coal, Friends will double our efforts in 2013 to ensure that no coal export facilities are built this year or beyond. With the help of President Obama and leaders like Oregon's Senator Ron Wyden, chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, our goal is to make sure that no additional coal will be exported through the Columbia Gorge. Instead, we are calling on our elected officials to develop a coherent, responsible energy export policy that ensures the health of our communities, the economy, and the environment. ■



Thousands of open coal cars would threaten Gorge communities and natural areas every year.

Photo: Peter Cornelison

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

At right: White Salmon, Washington.

Photo: Lyn Topinka / columbiariverimages.com

U.S. Forest Service LWCF Acquisition List

Three of our land trust properties are included in the U.S. Forest Service's 2014 funding request, in a land acquisition package for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Cedar Falls, a parcel surrounded by public land north of North Bonneville; Memaloose Overlook, off Hwy 30 east of Mosier; and forty acres on Dell Road, also east of Mosier.

Stay tuned as funding is appropriated by the President's budget and Congress later this year. Proceeds from these acquisitions will be "recycled" to acquire more land for protection. ■



Volunteer Bryce Guske is building benches for Mosier Plateau.

Photo: Kate McBride

New Trail Amenities

Last May, a Washington couple who are long-time Friends members visited our land at Mosier Plateau. The profusion of blooming wildflowers inspired them to make a special gift so the magnificent view would be more accessible to the public, and to Mosier residents in particular. They envisioned enhancing the trail with benches, fences, and signage.

In December, volunteer Bryce Gyske asked what he could do to help Friends. His carpentry skills proved a perfect match for making the Mosier Plateau amenities, and Bryce has the benches ready to install as soon as weather permits. Visitors and volunteers on the Plateau this spring will be able to relax on benches on the lower loop and at the top view point. ■

Lend-a-hand Stewardship on Saturdays

Spring means the start of monthly stewardship activities for Friends, conveniently coinciding with the start of the wildflower season. Join us every month in Spring to lend a hand with invasive plant removal and trail building and maintenance. We'll clear teasel, knapweed, and tree limbs, and work on the new trail at Mosier Plateau, enjoying the views and wildflowers that surround us.

Saturday, March 16: Mosier Plateau with Land Trust Manager Kate McBride;

Saturday, April 20: Mosier Plateau with *Gorge Towns to Trails* Project Manager Renee Tkach;

Saturday, May 18: Mosier Plateau with Outdoor Programs Coordinator Maegan Jossy;

Saturday, June 15: Cedar Falls with Renee Tkach

Sunday, June 30: Balfour-Klickitat Park with USFS staff and volunteer Donna Enz.

Spring view from the Mosier Plateau. Photo: Maegan Jossy



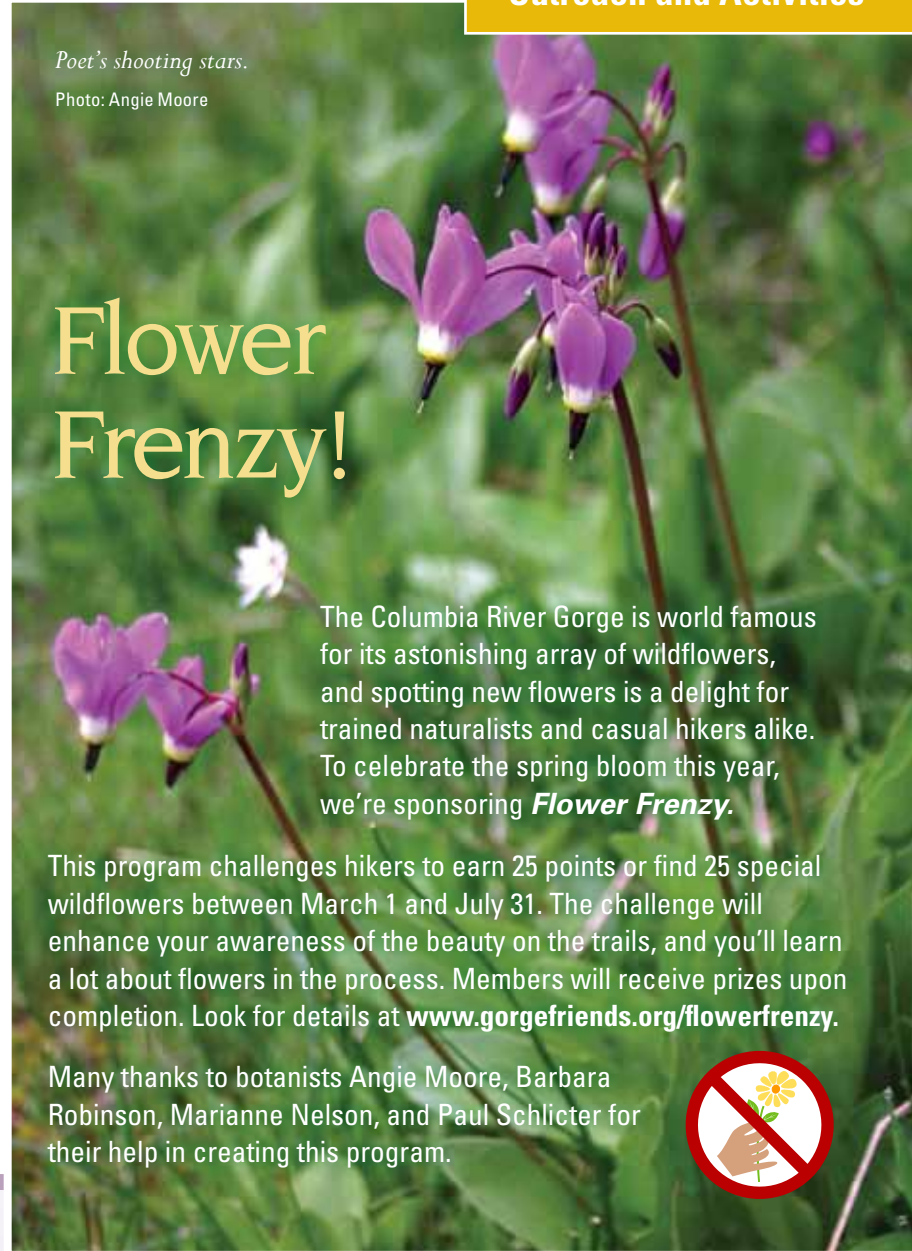


Play & Stay

This spring we're introducing *Play & Stay*, a new part of our *Gorge Towns to Trails* project. Five *Play & Stay* weekends with guided outings are in our hiking brochure.

The idea is that you'll have fun out on the trails, and then stay overnight, enjoying all the Gorge has to offer, including local businesses that support Gorge protection. Supporting local businesses and sustainable communities is an important part of protecting the Gorge, and all the businesses in this program are Friends members.

We've enjoyed building these partnerships and hope you'll check them out this spring. *Play & Stay* weekends are March 16-17, April 6-7, April 13-14, April 27-28, and May 31-June 2. Look for the purple dates in the hike brochure and plan a *Play & Stay* weekend outing in the Gorge. ■



Poet's shooting stars.

Photo: Angie Moore

Flower Frenzy!

The Columbia River Gorge is world famous for its astonishing array of wildflowers, and spotting new flowers is a delight for trained naturalists and casual hikers alike. To celebrate the spring bloom this year, we're sponsoring **Flower Frenzy**.

This program challenges hikers to earn 25 points or find 25 special wildflowers between March 1 and July 31. The challenge will enhance your awareness of the beauty on the trails, and you'll learn a lot about flowers in the process. Members will receive prizes upon completion. Look for details at www.gorgefriends.org/flowerfrenzy.

Many thanks to botanists Angie Moore, Barbara Robinson, Marianne Nelson, and Paul Schlieter for their help in creating this program.



New Leadership

This year, our board of directors welcomed three new members: Martha Sonato of Odell (see page 3), Vince Ready of Hood River, and Debbie Asakawa of Portland.

Vince is a longtime member and activist who works as a director at Owens Jones & Partners, a marketing and brand management firm. An avid hiker, he brings a diverse marketing, business and technology background to the board.

Debbie Asakawa is passionate about encouraging everyone to use, enjoy, and preserve the beauty that is right at our doorstep. Debbie leads Friends hikes in spring and fall, and she also started Trailmix, a year-round women's hiking group that has grown to more than 200 members.

We're delighted to welcome Vince, Debbie, and Martha to the board. The fresh perspectives, passions, and talents they each bring to Friends will keep us thriving! ■



Board members Vince Ready, left, and Debbie Asakawa, below.

Photos courtesy of subjects.





Coal Debris Plagues Gorge Residents

Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

While coal companies rush to get approval for a massive increase in coal exports through the Columbia Gorge (see page 4), Gorge residents report that coal is regularly blown off of open-top coal cars from existing coal trains, pelting anyone near the railroad tracks, creating hazards for drivers on Washington Highway 14, and polluting Gorge lands and waterways.

Many public recreation sites in the Gorge are near BNSF Railway tracks. Matt Ryan of Underwood, Washington is a frequent river recreationist who reports,

“It’s in my hair when I get home, you can hear the pieces pitter patter off the hood and top of my car, and see the chunks fall as the train goes by. This is not just dust. This flying debris is pea size and bigger, obviously raining down from every coal car for hundreds if not thousands of miles. How can they get away with this?”

Coal dust and debris can be hazardous to drivers where tracks run parallel to highways. Jeremy Bechtel of Skamania County recounted his frightening experience:

“I was driving back from a sales call, headed west on Highway 14 near Wind Mountain. On the train tracks paralleling the highway, approximately 15 feet from our vehicles, a coal train was keeping pace with us as we traveled westward. The train suddenly rounded a sharp

bend in the tracks, which exposed the railcars to a strong westerly wind. Coal from at least four of the railcars blew off the top of the cars and bombarded the line of vehicles I was in. Coal chunks as big as baseballs collided with my windshield. I was shaken by this incident and consider

Coal from passing trains blankets the lands along railways, as here at Columbia Hills State Park.

Photo: Peter Cornelison



“Coal chunks as big as baseballs collided with my windshield.”

– Jeremy Bechtel,
Skamania County resident

it the closest near-accident I have had in all my years of driving in the Columbia Gorge. For the sake of my family and my business, I do not want to see an increase of coal trains traveling through the Columbia Gorge.”

Jennifer Gulizia, a photographer in Hood River, was stunned when coal debris struck her and her car near the White Salmon River in Skamania County. She offered this account:

“I had just pulled up alongside the railroad tracks next to the White Salmon Bridge and climbed out of my car when a train started to pass. Immediately I was pelted with hundreds of large chunks of coal and at first I thought the train was kicking up rocks everywhere. As I ducked for cover behind my car and quickly climbed back inside the vehicle, I watched for several minutes as pellets of coal continued to build up on my car. When the train finally passed there was coal everywhere! I am appalled by this sight and cannot believe that they are allowed to transport coal through the Gorge like this.”

BNSF Railway has stated that from 500 to 2000 pounds of coal are lost from every coal car (not every train: every single car) in transit to the Northwest from Wyoming’s Powder River Basin. In 2010, the U.S. Department of Transportation ruled that coal dust is a “persistent ballast foulant,” causing destabilization of railroad tracks. BNSF requires the application of a dust suppressant to loaded coal cars, but the suppressant is clearly not effective.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our allies are currently investigating the extent of coal pollution in the Gorge and potential measures to eliminate it. ■

Skamania County Zoning Update

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

Within two months of Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Save Our Scenic Area (SOSA) bringing a lawsuit against Skamania County for failing

several years after the county’s statutory deadline. The court, however, chose to dismiss the remainder of Friends’ claims, concluding that it was too late to challenge the county’s delays in



Photo: Jozsef Urmos / panojoe.ursos.net

Skamania County has never zoned thousands of acres of privately owned land, including some of the lands in this photo, seen from Cook Hill.

to zone and protect thousands of acres of land, the Clark County Superior Court reached a decision. The lawsuit, filed in September 2012, challenges a Skamania County decision to lift a development moratorium from thousands of acres of unzoned land, the county’s failure to zone these lands, and the County’s failure to update its planning regulations to better protect sensitive fish and wildlife habitat and other important resources.

On November 9, 2012, the court issued an order requiring Skamania County to update its critical areas ordinance by December 1, 2013,

complying with state law and that the county’s recent decision to lift the moratorium did not require environmental review.

As a result of this ruling, several thousand acres of privately owned forest land and other resource lands remain unzoned. Moreover, Skamania County has no public plans to zone or otherwise protect these lands, which include the site of the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

Friends and SOSA have appealed the Superior Court’s decision to the Washington Court of Appeals. Briefing and arguments are expected to take place this spring and summer. ■

Sandy Wright, Development Director
sandy@gorgefriends.org



Save the Date!

Friends' Annual Meeting & Luncheon
Sunday, April 7
Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA
www.gorgefriends.org/annualmtg

Join us for a delicious lunch with Friends staff, board, and members. Better yet, make a *Play & Stay* weekend of it! Take a hike with Friends on Saturday at Columbia Hills and Horsethief Butte, or on Cascade Locks Trail, then stay at Skamania Lodge and join us for lunch on Sunday.

The Lodge is offering a great discount on accommodations (\$137, regularly \$179). Contact them for room reservations at 800-221-7117 and ask for the "Gorge Friends" rate.

Register for our Annual Meeting & Luncheon at www.gorgefriends.org/annualmtg

Nick and Kay Dodge's Legacy

Friends recently lost two stalwart members, Nick and Kay Dodge. Nick Dodge was a legendary mountain climber and served on our board in the mid 1990s. He and Kay were longtime members of our Conservators giving circle, and though health issues gradually limited Nick's involvement, Kay continued to be a steady presence at our events. Kay passed away in late 2011 and Nick in 2012.

Though the Dodges lived modestly, they left a significant gift from their estate to our organization. In coming months, we will share more information on how their generous legacy gift will be used to honor their commitment to Gorge protection.

If you would like to include Friends of the Columbia Gorge in your estate plans, please contact Development Director Sandy Wright at 503-241-3762 x102 or by email at sandy@gorgefriends.org. ■

Thanks for Stepping Up!

You helped us raise more than \$102,000 in the last eight weeks of 2012! Anyone who became a member or gave more than they did in 2011 got a Step Up match to help us reach our goal. More than 550 members "stepped up" their giving and helped us receive a \$50,000 challenge match. THANK YOU so much for your support! ■



Special Gifts

October 11, 2012 - January 15, 2013

IN HONOR OF DEBBIE ASAKAWA
VIRGINIA HERNDON
KAREN JOHNSON
THE MEMBERS OF TRAILMIX

IN HONOR OF MIKE AND JO BAYLEY
DIANA BAIRD

IN HONOR OF LAUREN BECKER
KRIS BECKER

IN HONOR OF MARIANNE BREVARD
MARY BREVARD

IN HONOR OF PAMELA CLINE
BENJAMIN CLINE

IN HONOR OF ROSS JOHN CURRY
SANDRA SIMS

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH D. DENMAN, M.D.
SUSAN DENMAN

IN HONOR OF HARRIET DHANAK
LYNN DHANAK

IN HONOR OF VASILIKI FARRIER
BENJAMIN CLINE

IN HONOR OF MICHELLE GIMBAL
SANDY SOMMER

IN HONOR OF KEVIN GORMAN
CAROL BEAMER
JUSTIN CARROLL

IN HONOR OF DOUG GULLEY
MONICA GULLEY

IN HONOR OF ROD HOECKER
ZACHARY EDMONSON

IN HONOR OF HOLLY
WILLIAM LINE

IN HONOR OF DARYL HOYT
KRISTA THIE

IN HONOR OF THE ICE AGE FLOODS
INSTITUTE
MARILYN STINNETT

IN HONOR OF LIHANN JONES
KRIS BECKER

IN HONOR OF THE MILLS FAMILY
NORMA ZACK

IN HONOR OF JACK MILLS
SHERRY MILLS

IN HONOR OF THE NELSON FAMILY
DAVID NELSON

Featured Hike: Spring Wildflowers!

Maegan Jossy, Outdoor Programs Coordinator
maegan@gorgefriends.org

The Columbia Gorge is home to more than 800 different varieties of flowers, with different species blooming in different places throughout the year. This past winter, three days before Christmas, a group of exuberant hikers discovered the first documented wildflower of the spring season – a salt-and-pepper (*lomatum piperi*), blooming near Coyote Wall. Then, in early January, a grass widow was spotted at Catherine Creek.

Early spring wildflowers put on a show during March and April at Catherine Creek, Memaloose, and Lyle Cherry Orchard. In May, purple lupine show off against yellow balsamroot on the slopes at Columbia Hills State Park and Rowena Plateau, then move west a few weeks later to Dog Mountain. Info on all these hikes can be found at www.gorgefriends.org/planyourownhike.

We're highlighting the Gorge's blooming abundance in our 2013 "Flower Frenzy" hike challenge. Look for flower locations and guided hikes in the Spring/Summer hiking brochure. Details to help you follow Gorge blooms from east to west are online at www.gorgefriends.org/flowerfrenzy. ■



Above, the first grass widow spotted in 2013, and at right, a very early salt-and-pepper *lomatum*.

Photos: top, Donna Enz; right, Susan Saul.

IN HONOR OF HENRY AND
MARJORIE RUBY

MEG RUBY

IN HONOR OF LAWRENCE AND
VELMA SHADBOLT

LARRY SHADBOLT

IN HONOR OF VERA SPRINGER
ANN GOODSSELL

IN HONOR OF MELANIE ST. JOHN
KERRY COBB

IN HONOR OF GLEN E. STREAM
JULIE STREAM

IN HONOR OF CAROL A. TAYLOR
NANCY LEPERA

IN HONOR OF THE DAVID TAYLOR FAMILY
MICHAEL TAYLOR

IN HONOR OF ROBERT WARREN
GREGORY MISARTI

IN MEMORY OF GAIL ACHTERMAN
CHRIS BECK
JOHN ENGLISH

IN MEMORY OF JOHN AND
SALLY ANDERSON
PEGGY ANDERSON

IN MEMORY OF EILEEN BECKER
DAVID BECKER

IN MEMORY OF JULIA BERKOWITZ
KAREN BERKOWITZ

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN BOOTH
CHRIS BECK

IN MEMORY OF BETTY BONHAM
CAROL LESCH

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL DALE
PRISCILLA TURNER

IN MEMORY OF CLIFFORD EBERHARDT
DOROTHY EBERHARDT

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT EDWARDS
ALAN EDWARDS

IN MEMORY OF LOLA AND
KOLA FELLMAN

ROBERT STREBIN

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL FUJIMOTO
EMILY RITCHIE

IN MEMORY OF RITA ANN GARVEY
BEN GARVEY

IN MEMORY OF NANCY GLENN-ROBERTS
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IN MEMORY OF JOHN GRAY
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MARIE HALL

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WALDO TAYLOR
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IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE WAGER
TED KLUMP

IN MEMORY OF MAX WILKINS
GORDON LEVITT

IN MEMORY OF MATT WINTHROP
JUDITH SCHULER
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Know Your Gorge *Rare and Beautiful*

With its dramatic cliffs and sweeping hillsides, diverse precipitation patterns and ecosystems, and stunning vistas in every direction, the Columbia River Gorge is one of the world's most magnificent natural treasures.

Many of our members are aware that the Columbia Gorge is also a flower enthusiast's paradise. More than 800 species of wildflowers flourish in the Gorge, and fifteen of these species are *endemic* to this place – they exist nowhere else on Earth.

The Gorge's endemic flowers are scattered throughout the landscape, and passionate flower buffs have been known to hike for days, hoping to spot a single specimen of a rare variety. But fortunately, you don't necessarily have to go to those lengths to find several unique beauties all in one place.

For a reliable hike to find these flowers, your best destination is the Elowah Falls and McCord Creek trail, home to five endemics: Columbia Kittentails (blooming in March), Smooth douglasia (March/April), Howell's Daisy (May), Columbia Gorge Daisy, (May), and Long-beard hawkweed (July).

Visit www.gorgefriends.org/flowerfrenzy for a full list of endemics, and join us at Elowah-McCord on March 30 (see hike brochure). ■



These endemic Columbia Gorge wildflowers can be found on the McCord Creek trail to Upper Elowah Falls:

- 1) Howell's Daisy
- 2) Columbia Kittentails
- 3) Long-beard Hawkweed
- 4) Smooth Douglasia
- 5) Columbia Gorge Daisy.

Photos: Angie Moore



Please don't pick wildflowers. Take only photos and memories!

Correction: Our Fall/Winter 2012 issue stated on page 12 that "the earliest documented use" of painted center lines on roads was on the Columbia River Highway. We have since learned that the earliest documented use of such lines was on a county road in Wayne County, Michigan, several years before lines were painted in the Gorge.