

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Protecting the Gorge Since 1980

Summer 2007 Newsletter

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*Special Inserts:
Annual Report and Hike Brochure*

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LEGAL COUNSEL: GARY KAHN
NEWSLETTER DESIGN: KATHY FORS AND
KATHLEEN KRUSHAS (TO THE POINT PUBLICATIONS)
EDITOR: BETSY TOLL

PORTLAND OFFICE

522 SW FIFTH AVENUE, #720
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204
(503) 241-3762

GORGE OFFICE

205 OAK STREET, #17
HOOD RIVER, OREGON 97031
(541) 386-5268

www.gorgefriends.org



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Weigh in Now on Destination Resorts!

The Broughton Lumber Company continues to move forward with its proposal to build a huge 245-unit destination resort on the banks of the Columbia River, just west of White Salmon, Washington. The proposed urban-scale development would violate the National Scenic Area Act's requirements to site large-scale development within an existing urban area, in order to protect and enhance scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources in the Gorge (see pages 4-5).

The Columbia Gorge Commission is now moving forward with a plan

to change the Gorge-wide Management Plan with an amendment that could allow this unprecedented scale of development. Please take a moment to contact the Gorge Commission and tell them that large resorts don't belong in the National Scenic Area.

**Write to the Gorge Commission at:
Columbia Gorge Commission
P.O. Box 730
White Salmon, WA 98672**

Above photo: Windsurfers and kiteboarders crowd "The Hatch" launching area (at the right in this photo), just in front of the proposed Broughton resort development. Photo: Eric Sanford

Active citizen support makes the difference! Your actions for Gorge protection are crucial to our success. Contact your Senators and Representatives using the information below, or check www.senate.gov or www.house.gov for other offices.

Oregon

Sen. Gordon Smith, (202) 224-3753
<http://gsmith.senate.gov/public/>
Sen. Ron Wyden, (202) 224-5244
<http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/>
Rep. David Wu, (202) 225-0855
Rep. Earl Blumenauer, (202) 225-4811
Rep. Darlene Hooley, (202) 225-5711
Rep. Greg Walden, (202) 225-6730
Rep. Peter DeFazio, (202) 225-6416

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. Brian Baird, (202) 225-3536
Rep. Doc Hastings, (202) 225-5816
Rep. Norm Dicks, (202) 225-5916
Email your **Congressional Representative** by logging on to www.house.gov/writerep/

On the cover: The Seven Mile Hill ridgeline, on the right in this photo looking east from Tracy Hill, is targeted for massive wind tower development. Photo: ©James Holloway

Director's Letter

The three of us drove to what would have been the entrance of a 16-lot subdivision, sitting high along the rim of the Gorge 1,400 feet above the Columbia River. I talked about our founder Nancy Russell's successful effort to stop that subdivision more than 25 years ago, and explained that 15 of those 16 lots have been brought into public ownership. Then I outlined our current \$4 million fundraising effort to secure the 16th lot, along with the only other developed lot on the bluff.

Development Director Jane Harris mentioned that Nancy herself had pledged \$1 million to secure one of these two properties. The third person with us in the car, member Anthony Hovey of Seattle, looked thoughtfully at both of us. Then he said, "I'd like to match that."

With five simple words, Tony moved our Campaign for Cape Horn (see page 10) into its final stages. Those five words carried magnitude and no fanfare. Tony took responsibility to do something extraordinary to benefit the Columbia Gorge and to honor Nancy Russell.



Kevin Gorman addresses the Annual Picnic.
Photo: Angie Moore

A self-effacing man with a passion for the Columbia Gorge, Tony is a former mountaineer who at age 81 is still working and still hiking Dog Mountain. Having bagged numerous peaks throughout the Northwest, he finds the beauty of the Columbia Gorge unmatched.

He told us the gift came for three reasons: his love of the Gorge, his

deep respect for Nancy Russell's work and the legacy she is creating, and his appreciation for the organization's ability to accomplish a great deal on what he called "a shoestring budget." The last part is especially gratifying, as nonprofit organizations continually have to balance the need to expend resources to accomplish their goals with the need to maintain fiscal restraint.

We announced Tony's \$1 million gift at our Summer Picnic in July and Tony flew down from Seattle to join us. He spoke simply and eloquently about his reasons for the gift. He said his accountant encouraged him to wait until he died and leave the gift in his will. But, Tony told the crowd, that wouldn't do. He "selfishly" wants to see his gift in action. And he also wants to see the Campaign for Cape Horn completed in Nancy's lifetime, which is why he made his gift a matching contribution, to spur others to give.

None of which sounds very "selfish" to me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Gorman".

Kevin Gorman
Executive Director



Anthony Hovey speaks to Friends members about the Gorge at our Annual Picnic. Photo: Kevin Gorman

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.

As Development Pressure Grows, Gorge Citizens Push Back

By Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org

On the heels of the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, development pressure in the Gorge has risen to an unprecedented level that has many Gorge residents and Gorge lovers alarmed. As the region's population continues to grow and the Gorge is identified as a desirable place to develop or even exploit, we are more committed than ever to protecting this outstanding natural wonder for the benefit of generations to come.

Here is an overview of the current proposals presenting the greatest threats to the Gorge and the alternatives that Friends of the Columbia Gorge is supporting:

Residents of The Dalles fight to protect their quality of life.

UPC Wind Project: While wind power is an exciting renewable energy opportunity in the wheat fields of Oregon and Washington, wind developer UPC is one of two companies to propose siting more than a hundred 400-foot-high wind turbines along the boundaries of the National Scenic Area. At least 20 turbines in the UPC project would sit on the ridge of Seven Mile Hill. The towers would be visible for more than 30 miles along I-84 and WA SR-14 in the Scenic Area. Producing power for commercial purposes is defined as an industrial use, which is prohibited within the Scenic Area itself.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is assisting a group of Gorge citizens to ensure that the proposal follows all legal requirements for siting wind power generation facilities. This includes keeping the proposal outside the Scenic Area

boundary, avoiding negative impacts to scenic and natural resources, and protecting the property values and quality of life of local residents.

Major Expansion of The Dalles

Urban Area: The city of The Dalles is calling for an expansion of its urban area that would add 620 acres—about one square mile—to its urban growth boundary for future urban development, and set aside an additional 1,000 acres for future development. Most of the land under consideration lies within the National Scenic Area. The Scenic Area Act allows “minor revisions” to urban area boundaries, but prohibits major expansions of urban areas into the Scenic

Area. Additionally, there are literally thousands of acres of vacant land available for development across the river in the existing urban area of Dallesport, Washington.

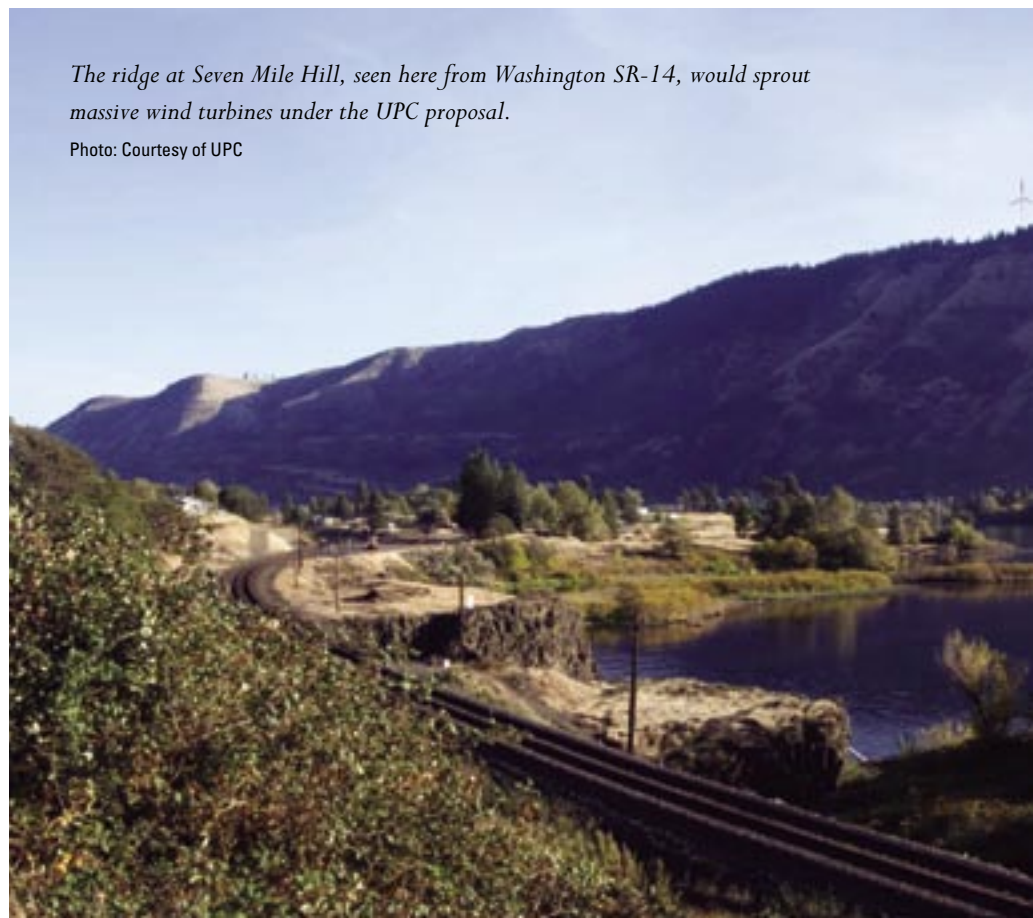
Friends is assisting local residents who oppose this urban expansion. We believe that future urban development needs to be directed to existing and under-utilized urban areas. So far 300 residents have signed petitions opposing urban expansion.

Broughton resort plan opposed by windsurfers, local residents, and tribal interests

Broughton Lumber Company's proposal for a destination resort within

The ridge at Seven Mile Hill, seen here from Washington SR-14, would sprout massive wind turbines under the UPC proposal.

Photo: Courtesy of UPC



the National Scenic Area is one of the largest development proposals in the 20-year history of the Scenic Area. There is general agreement that the old lumber mill adjacent to the Spring Creek Hatchery State Park and windsurfing site (“The Hatch”) should be redeveloped into a more compatible use. Friends and its allies are very concerned, however, that the proposed 245-unit condo and townhouse development, adjacent to a state park and the world-renowned windsurfing site, would be incompatible with Scenic Area standards. Gorge Tribes and Native American residents of the Gorge are very concerned that the development would harm cultural resources and violate treaty rights. *Check our Action Alert on page 2.*



This wetlands trail near The Dalles could be hemmed in by development if brought into The Dalles urban area, as proposed. Photo: Peter Cornelison



Approval of the Broughton project by the Gorge Commission would turn the National Scenic Area Act inside-out by approving urban scale development outside of designated urban areas. We are working to establish a public-private partnership that leads to redevelopment of the site in a manner that is rural in scale and provides overnight accommodations that serve the adjacent outdoor recreational uses, protects nearby public resources, and honors treaty rights.

Bid for Gorge casino enters its ninth year

It’s hard to imagine a more inappropriate development in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area than the casino resort proposed near Cascade Locks. The work of Friends and its allies, including

local residents, businesses, other tribes, and elected officials (special mention goes to Congressman Wu for his tireless efforts), have successfully slowed down this proposal. But unfortunately, the proposal has still not been withdrawn, and we remain collectively dedicated to doing everything possible to prevent the development of a major casino in the Gorge and all of the ills that would accompany it.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our allies support an on-reservation alternative that would increase revenue for the tribe, be fair to other tribes, protect the Gorge for future generations, and comply with state and federal law.

See the Conservation and Legal articles on pages 8-9 for more information.

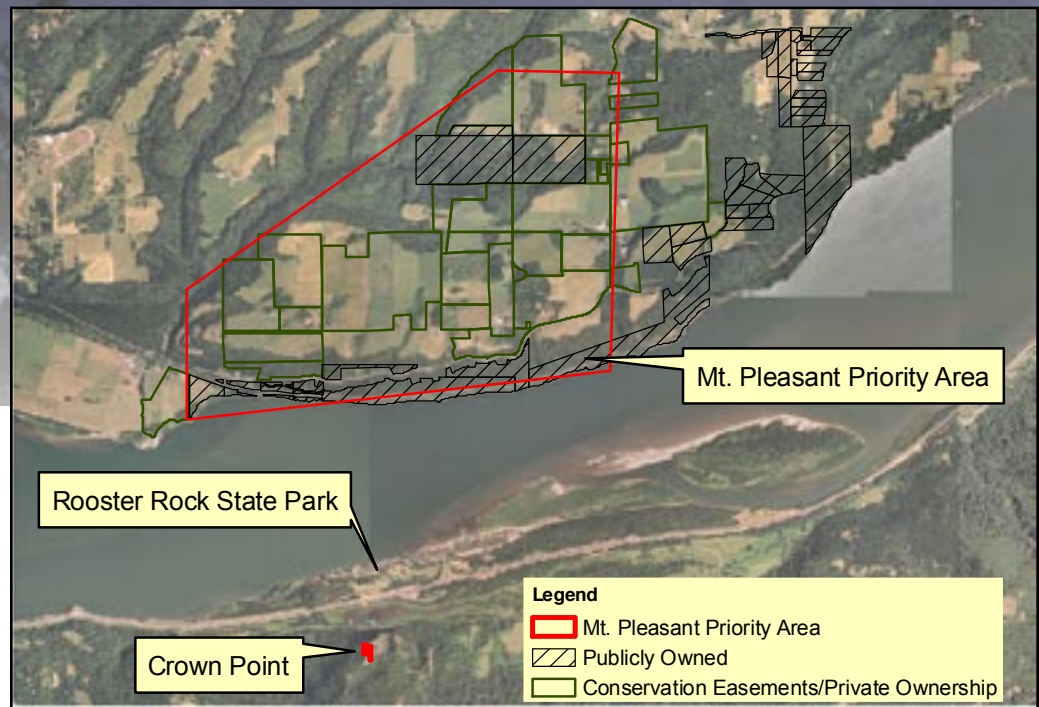
Protecting Farmlands Across From Vista House

Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager
kate@gorgefriends.org

Pastoral farmland at Mt. Pleasant, across the river from Vista House, is threatened by non-farm uses and development. Photo: Kate McBride

In creating our Land Trust, Friends of the Columbia Gorge's Board of Directors identified four "priority areas" to focus our acquisition efforts: Mt. Pleasant, Cape Horn, Burdoin Mountain, and Memaloose-to-The Dalles. Of the four, the Mt. Pleasant area is proving to be most challenging. Located seven miles east of Washougal, Mt. Pleasant is the priority area closest to the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region, with pastoral farmlands across the Columbia River from Crown Point.

Population growth and the appeal of living in beautiful rural landscapes are creating the urgent need to preserve these farmlands and open space for all to enjoy. Farm properties with small houses or no development are being purchased for development of larger, non-farm houses. Blending these large houses into the landscape is nearly impossible, and as new landowners are typically not farmers, the lands are not carefully tended. Sweeping fields and meadows easily become ridden with invasive plants or lay idle and overgrown.



Privately owned farmland in Washington across from Crown Point faces intense development pressure.

Map: Friends of the Columbia Gorge GIS (Kate McBride)

The U. S. Forest Service has purchased approximately 333 acres in the Mt. Pleasant area, but this only accounts for 14% of that land. Although the Forest Service also has conservation easements for more than half the property in this area, it is generally agreed that some of the easements were poorly written and protections are weak. Good easements allow for continued farm practices with tight restrictions for building sizes and placement. Friends' Land Trust is working to review the language in these easements to see where improvement is needed. In the

end, new conservation easements may be the most effective mechanism to allow continued farm use and also protect the scenic values on this landscape.

Without protection, we will likely see many more applications for "McMansion"-type developments, as population pressure grows in this part of the Gorge. Friends' Land Trust is working to preserve the Mt. Pleasant lands by acquisition and by working with landowners to create effective conservation easements through purchase or donation.

Hikes & Volunteers

Renee Tkach, Outdoor Programs Coordinator
renee@gorgefriends.org

Our spring hiking season provided Gorge lovers with 51 opportunities to get out on the trails. Some 650 hikers participated in our spring program, averaging a very comfortable 12 to 13 hikers on each hike. The fall schedule begins on September 9. Check out our fall brochure and plan to join us.

Trail Volunteers

Our hiking program would not be possible without the hike leaders and shepherds who volunteer to guide, educate, and provide participants with a positive and enriching experience in the Gorge. Their enthusiasm and knowledge on the trail help hikers connect to the importance of preserving the Gorge's natural beauty and rich history.

Business Friends

Bloomsbury of Kananka Creek Farm in Stevenson is one of a growing number of Gorge businesses that support Friends through business membership.

Bloomsbury owner Bonnie Johnson favors strong protections that make the Gorge a better place to work and live. Bloomsbury encourages a nurturing lifestyle by carrying Gorge-made soaps, bath salts, and beeswax candles along with great hiking books, hemp backpacks, organic gardening products, and beautiful floral arrangements.

Bloomsbury of Kananka Creek Farm, 240 SW 2nd Ave. at Russell, in Stevenson, WA. Online at www.bloomsburyshop.com.



Stewardship volunteers relish the view from Cape Horn during a lunch break. Photo: Aubrey Russell

Help Protect the Gorge!

Volunteers are needed! Current challenges facing the Gorge include proposals for a major expansion of The Dalles' urban area, a huge destination resort near Stevenson, and a massive mega-casino in Cascade Locks.

There's lots to do, and we need your help. Contact us today and we'll connect you with a fun, satisfying, and effective way to get active protecting this place we all love. In the Gorge contact Peter at (541) 386-5268 or peter@gorgefriends.org. In the Portland metro area call Kelley at (503) 241-3762 x110 or kelley@gorgefriends.org.

Left: Gorge business owners find Gorge protection good for businesses, like Bloomsbury of Kananka Creek Farm in Stevenson. Photo: Bonnie Johnson

Cape Horn Workdays

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust's Cleveland property at Cape Horn is looking better and better. Volunteers have removed hundreds of feet of cyclone fencing, along with non-native trees, shrubs and plants. But there's lots more to do. Two more workdays are scheduled, so grab your boots and gloves and join us!

**September 19 & October 17
 10:00 AM-3:00 PM**

For details and directions, please contact Renee (503) 241-3762 x103 or renee@gorgefriends.org.

Gorge Casino Faces New Hurdles

Kelley Beamer, Conservation Organizer, Kelley@gorgefriends.org

Gaming proponents have recently been handed setbacks that further dim their prospects for locating a casino in the Columbia River Gorge. On every level, odds are increasing against the development of a Las Vegas-sized casino complex in the heart of the Gorge.

Locally, Cascade Locks residents are facing a dilemma. A four-lane freeway interchange would be needed to accommodate the thousands of cars that would visit the casino each day. But the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) found the interchange proposal inconsistent with state and federal standards requiring three miles between highway interchanges within an urban area. To meet this requirement, at least two existing partial interchanges in Cascade Locks would be closed or consolidated for the new construction, forcing residents to drive

through casino congestion to get to and from their homes. The negative traffic implications for what is currently a quiet residential road, coupled with diminished access to downtown Cascade Locks, are generating more Casino opposition in the community.

More broadly, Oregonians are speaking out against a Gorge casino. In the past three months, Friends has received some 800 letters from individuals who feel the Columbia River Gorge is the wrong place for a 600,000-square-foot casino resort. These letters will be sent to the Department of Interior and become part of the public record demonstrating strong opposition to a Gorge casino.

Further, the federal Department of Interior, the decision-maker for casino proposals, does not support off-reservation casinos. In February 2007, a high-ranking Interior Department official sent a letter to the Warm Springs Tribe

warning that few off-reservation casinos would be approved in the future. That letter encouraged the Tribes to rethink their proposal and consider an on-reservation option.

The Gorge casino proposal is one of 31 off-reservation proposals currently stalled by the Department of Interior's understanding that off-reservation gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) was solely intended for very special circumstances where a tribe had no other options. Federal rules affecting off-reservation casino proposals are being rewritten to better implement the intent of Congress as laid out in IGRA.

As the climate becomes more challenging for approval of a Gorge casino, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced that it will again delay the release of a Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS). This study would examine the impacts a casino would have on Gorge resources and compare several alternative locations including an on-reservation alternative. This announcement marks the seventh delay of the DEIS, evidence of accumulating problems with the proposal.

While the Gorge casino proposal faces setback after setback, it is time to focus on a solution to this impasse that protects the Columbia Gorge, is fair to all Tribes, and is the right fit for Oregon. That solution is a new on-reservation casino along Highway 26 near the fastest-growing area in Oregon. A new on-reservation casino in Warm Springs would be fair to all Tribes in Oregon, would protect the Gorge, would be consistent with Oregon's policy of one casino per tribe located on the tribe's reservation, and would be consistent with IGRA and other applicable state and federal laws.



The Cascade Locks business area would be bypassed by proposed interchange alterations.

Map: Peter Cornelison

Massive casino development in Cascade Locks would have irreversible impacts on the Gorge.

Photo: © Chris Carvalho/Lensjoy.com



Measure 37 Update

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

In May, the Oregon Supreme Court upheld a Friends legal victory by declining to review a decision by the Oregon Court of Appeals that Measure 37 does not apply within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Measure 37 became state law in January 2005. The measure forces state and local governments to either compensate landowners for alleged reductions in property value caused by land use and environmental laws or to waive the laws, allowing harmful development to proceed.

Oregon courts have consistently held that the Gorge is protected by the

National Scenic Area Act and an interstate compact, both of which prevail over state law in the event of a conflict. The text of Measure 37 recognizes this legal principle and forbids claims challenging rules required by federal law.

The Oregon legislature has decided to place Measure 49 on the Oregon ballot this November. Measure 49 would modify the 2005 law created by Measure 37, correcting some of its most controversial problems. Friends recommends voting yes on Measure 49 (see sidebar). Friends has endorsed Measure 49 because it more clearly exempts the National Scenic Area and other federally protected areas.

Fix the flaws of
Measure 37:
Vote "YES on 49"
on Nov. 6!

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area may be off-limits to Measure 37 claims, but the rest of Oregon is still exposed to destructive development caused by Measure 37. This fall, you can help fix Measure 37. **Vote yes on special ballot Measure 49.**

Protect the places that make Oregon special! Contact the campaign today and find out how you can help.

www.yeson49.com

Yes on 49 Campaign: 503-288-5426

Cape Horn Campaign Receives \$1 Million

Jane Harris, Development Director, jane@gorgefriends.org

With one year gone and one more to go in the \$4 million Campaign for Cape Horn, Friends has received a \$1 million gift from long-time Seattle supporter Anthony Hovey. Hovey, a world-class mountain climber, has a deep appreciation of the Gorge and great admiration for Friends' founder Nancy Russell and the way she has put her personal wealth to work buying special lands in the Gorge to protect them for public enjoyment.

"I admire Nancy's work so much and want to see her vision for Cape Horn realized during her lifetime," Hovey remarked. "This effort is a great benefit to Washington state residents and everyone who loves this remarkable place."

Hovey is giving \$500,000 now and the other half of the gift when we have finished the campaign. With \$3.1 million now raised, we are now putting together

"This effort is a great benefit to Washington state residents and everyone who loves this remarkable place."

the strategy that will raise the remaining \$900,000 over the coming year.

Friends members and Board Chair Angie Moore (left) listen as Anthony Hovey (center) outlines his support for the Campaign for Cape Horn at the Annual Picnic. Photo: Ken Denis



Conservator Party Planned for Fall

Our annual major donor party will be held this year on Friday, October 12 at the home of Steven and Gayland Nance in Southwest Portland. Attendees will enjoy a catered garden party and hosted bar in one of Portland's premier gardens.

Steven and Gayland Nance's home and garden will be the setting for the October 12 Conservator Party. Photo: Gayland Nance

Members Take Advantage of New Tax Incentive

Friends members are taking advantage of a change in tax laws that allows donors aged 70½ or older to make cash gifts up to \$100,000 from IRA accounts without incurring income tax on the withdrawal.

The H.R. 4 Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows qualified charitable

distributions to be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. However, no federal income tax deduction is available. Only outright gifts from IRAs are eligible.

To take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to support the Gorge and save on your taxes, call Jane Harris at (503) 241-3762 x102.

Oneonta Creek is a hidden treasure in the Gorge.

Photo: Oliver Dalton



Featured Hike: *Oneonta Gorge*

Distance: Easy/moderate 2.7 miles, 440 ft. elev. gain

A hike up Oneonta Gorge makes a great late-summer escape. The Oneonta Trail (FS Trail #424) takes you ¼ mile up this slot canyon with to a hidden waterfall. To reach the waterfall, hikers must wade up Oneonta Creek, carved deep in the basaltic rock. Special care must be taken climbing over the log jam at the mouth to the access deeper parts of the canyon.

Oneonta Gorge receives 75 inches of rain annually (more than double Portland's rain) creating a botanical paradise in the damp, cool environs.

As you approach the trailhead, you may notice rehabilitation work on the tunnel that was once part of the Historic Columbia River Highway. The Oregon Department of Transportation began to uncover and restore Oneonta Tunnel in June 2006 and plans to reopen it this fall.

Directions: From I-84 eastbound take Exit 28 Bridal Veil. Follow the exit road to the stop sign at the Historic Highway; turn left and continue 5.2 miles to Oneonta trailhead. Or from From I-84 west or eastbound, take Exit 35 Scenic Highway and continue west 1.9 miles to Oneonta.

Special Gifts

April 18, 2007 – July 17, 2007

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH BOSSI, JR.
STEPHEN E. BOSSI

IN MEMORY OF VICTOR CLAUSEN
PATRICIA ARNOLD
DOROTHY MARTIN BURDICK
DONALD AND SUE CANNARD
PAUL AND LOUISE CLARE
PHYLLIS CLAUSEN
JANE HARRIS AND MICHAEL ALLEN
RACHEL M. HAYMON AND KEN C. MACDONALD
PHILIP M. AND GWEN P. PHIBBS
LAWRENCE B. AND PIA M. SUNDERLAND
SANDRA K. WALLSMITH

IN MEMORY OF URSEL AND MERLE NARVER
RACHEL DEBUSK

IN MEMORY OF ROY STOUT
JULIA AND RICHARD FERREIRA
ROBERT S. MILLER

IN MEMORY OF DORI BROWN
BRETT AND GWEN F. HYLAND

IN MEMORY OF DAVID HEDGE OLSON
JEANNE NORTON

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL BUSHNELL
LINDA AND JOHN PAINTER

IN MEMORY OF S. SHEPHERD WILSON
JAMES L. ROSENFELD

IN MEMORY OF OLIVER DALTON
TOM AND SANDRA ROUSSEAU

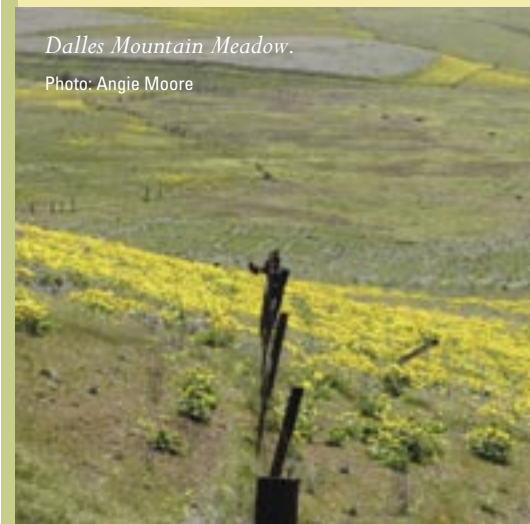
IN MEMORY OF VIRGIL SAUER
DEBBIE SAUER

IN MEMORY OF BRUCE RUSSELL
ED AND MARY VRANIZAN

IN HONOR OF NANCY RUSSELL
JAN AND LOUISE LEININGER
MARIE RIDDER
TOM AND SANDRA ROUSSEAU

Dalles Mountain Meadow.

Photo: Angie Moore



Know Your Gorge

Beacon Rock Day-Use Area

The newest park in the Columbia River Gorge is the beautiful day-use area at Beacon Rock State Park. The day-use area includes 230 acres of open space for picnicking, river access, and birdwatching, plus restricted-access wildlife habitat. The highlight is a new 1.1-mile-long, ADA-accessible interpretive loop trail that is perfect for a leisurely stroll in the shadow of the 848-foot-tall Beacon Rock, the largest monolith in the Pacific Northwest.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge worked closely with State Parks and other stakeholders on the design of the day-use area, which nestles the parking lot within existing trees in order to protect scenic resources.

Directions: From Portland, take I-84 East to Cascade Locks Exit 44 and cross the Columbia River on the Bridge of the Gods. Turn left onto WA SR-14 and continue west seven miles to Beacon Rock State Park. The new day-use area is on the left, one-half mile past Beacon Rock.



The new Beacon Rock Day-Use Area is perfect for families, picnics, and birding.

Photos: Nathan Baker



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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