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

Design: Kathy Fors and Kathleen Knauhas | To the Point Collaborative
Editor: Betsy Toll | Lumin Creative PDX
Published March 2023

I once believed the branches of my family tree prospered primarily through grit and resilience. This belief began with my great-great-grandfather, Patrick Gorman. Born in Ireland when the Irish were subjugated by the British, Patrick and his family were oppressed in every sense of the word. In time, he moved to America, where his offspring struggled but survived. Patrick’s grandson—my grandfather—started college but dropped out to enlist in the military during the First World War. A generation later, my dad, a Korean War vet, eventually earned the Gorman family’s first college degree, thanks to the GI Bill.

But along with grit and resilience, another branch of our family tree also grew: privilege. Great-great-grandfather Patrick himself became a member of the oppressor class when he bought a land claim on lands originally held by Michigan’s Ottawa, Ojibwe, Wyandot, and Potawatomi tribes. My dad saw the GI Bill as a gift for all veterans, but in reality, millions of Black, Latino, and Native American veterans were denied GI benefits under the guise of states’ rights.

I’ve worked hard to get where I am, but for every wall I’ve climbed, I have also walked invisible red carpets. I’ve worked hard to get where I am, but for every wall I’ve climbed, I have also walked invisible red carpets. I’ve worked hard to get where I am, but for every wall I’ve climbed, I have also walked invisible red carpets.

Kevin Gorman, Executive Director
Step by Step, Gorge Towns to Trails Forges New Connections

Renée Tkach, Gorge Towns to Trails Manager

In 2011, Friends of the Columbia Gorge launched the biggest recreation initiative in its history, Gorge Towns to Trails, with the ambition of creating a 200-mile loop trail network connecting communities with recreation, promoting alternative transportation options, and creating contiguous parcels of protected lands that benefit wildlife. It also would serve as an innovative tool to disperse congestion at popular trailheads and introduce people to spectacular but less visited areas of the Gorge.

The Gorge Towns to Trails concept stems from the National Scenic Area Management Plan established in 1986, including the goal to establish a loop trail that links Gorge communities. Over the last 37 years, more than 40,000 acres of public lands have been acquired in the Gorge by a multitude of entities, providing an opportunity to establish contiguous public lands; protect native plants, wildlife, and scenic views; and piece together a corridor for a connected trail system. In addition, Friends’ Land Trust has acquired more than 1,600 acres since 2009—including properties adjacent to the towns of Lyle, Washington, and Mosier and The Dalles in Oregon—creating two hiking trails open to the public.

On the horizon

Since 2011, Friends has opened two new popular hiking trails in the Gorge. One connects Mosier, Oregon, to Friends’ Mosier Plateau Preserve, while across the river above Lyle, the other expands on the existing Lyle Orchard Trail to include two new loops for hikers to explore the eastern Gorge. This process took over seven years of planning, permitting, and community engagement, to develop trails that not only honor Indigenous peoples, the land, vegetation, and wildlife, but that also provide safe, sustainable recreation opportunities that will last for generations through ongoing stewardship.

Over the past five years, Friends has been working with the City of The Dalles, The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum, Wasco County, and other local stakeholders to create an exciting new trail connection on the Mount Ulica Preserve, to connect to The Dalles Riverfront Trail and the museum. This proposal is nearing the final phases of county approval to begin building the newest trail in the Gorge, another vital link in the vision for Gorge Towns to Trails.

Additionally, Friends is working with the U.S. Forest Service to finalize a feasibility study to analyze the public lands between Mosier and The Dalles as a potential corridor for a recreation trail system. With over 95 percent of the public lands in place to host trail access, the time is right to engage residents and stakeholders to identify the obstacles and opportunities, address existing safety and congestion issues, and envision not just a trail but a sustainable, well-planned path to the future.

Seeing the need

Passing through the Memaloose Hills area just east of Mosier, it’s not uncommon to encounter cars parked for a mile down the Historic Columbia River Highway in each direction, with vehicles over the fog line and hikers all over the roadway. No one would guess, from the number of cars and pedestrians in this area, that the Memaloose Hills trails were not planned and are not currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service. In reality, this area became a draw because the beauty of the springtime wildflower show attracts so many people year after year that a meandering, inefficient and occasionally unsafe trail gradually emerged, with no parking or services.

Memaloose Hills isn’t the only place where unplanned footpaths and unmanaged trailheads are impacting safety, vegetation, and ecological conditions. It’s happening all over the Gorge, and the problems these situations raise are all too easy to see and understand, from traffic to trash. Good trails are carefully planned and well-managed systems that account for sensitive species, cultural resources, and scenic views. With the ever-growing demand for access onto public lands, it is vitally important now to identify where new trails could be hosted, creating sustainable connections as part of a master plan for generations to come.

Moving forward together

Before joining Friends’ staff in 2007 to work on the Cape Horn Trail project, and later, on Gorge Towns to Trails, I had never given much thought to what it took to create a trail. I mistakenly assumed it was a quick and simple process, and that our public agencies had all the time and money they needed to build and maintain the outdoor recreation opportunities that we typically take for granted.

I’ve since learned through hard work and experience that quality trails don’t just happen overnight; they take decades of planning, public engagement, and hard work in the field, with a lifetime of care and stewarding to follow. That’s the promise of Gorge Towns to Trails.

A great trail is a piece of living art, and these unique, complex, and beautiful creations would not be possible without the vision, effort, and accomplishments of our team at Friends, the passion and commitment from our myriad partners in business, government, and community; and the tremendous support of our members like you.
Common camas (Camassia quamash) is a beautiful bluish-purple flower that grows in the central and eastern Columbia Gorge on open slopes and grassy meadows that are seasonally moist.

Camas species are culturally significant to Indigenous people across western North America, and camas meadows have been cultivated for thousands of years for food and trade. Camas plants were prolific in the times before European contact, but they have diminished significantly due to development and agriculture. The stewardship and protection of camas continue to be important to tribal peoples today.

Common camas is visited by many different types of pollinators, including native bees, beetles, flies, butterflies, and moths. It’s wonderful to sit quietly and watch pollinators visit camas and other flowers. Any time between sunrise and sundown, a patient observer may see a wide range of pollinator species and behaviors. But if you’re watching quietly at dusk, an unusual evening visitor may surprise you: the Hemaris thysbe, commonly called the hummingbird clearwing moth.

The hummingbird clearwing moth, with a 4” to 5” wingspan, has a distinctive appearance. This unusual pollinator sports a stout, fur-covered body, with clear wings that resemble finely paned windows framed in reddish fur. With their fluttering wings and hovering movement, their furry bodies seem to mimic hummingbirds.

Defrost With Us!

Friends’ Spring Programming

Are you ready for sunlight? Do you feel the need to enjoy a good stretch outside? Is your soul excited to smell the sweet aroma of wildflowers throughout the Gorge? Well, this spring is the perfect time to get outside with Friends and defrost with us as we hit the trails on guided outings or get our hands dirty with stewardship.

Hands-on stewardship

One easy way to give back to the Gorge is by participating as a volunteer in Friends’ stewardship efforts. With our partners, we will be organizing monthly work parties to tackle weeds including herb Robert, teasel, Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and Scotch broom at 12 public land sites, in collaboration with Washington State Parks, Oregon State Parks, and the U.S. Forest Service.

The season kicked off with native tree plantings in late winter and we’re shifting to focus on invasive weed removal in spring. Events will be posted on our website throughout the spring months, so keep an eye on our stewardship calendar at gorgefriends.org/volunteerstewardship. And sign up for our Stewardship eNews list to receive updates on all the upcoming projects and opportunities.

Can’t make it to a work party? No problem! You can still pitch in by brushing off your boots before and after you hit the trail. Cleaning your boots is a simple way to prevent those tenacious invasive weed seeds from spreading further along Gorge trails.

Friends’ outings are for everyone

There is no better feeling than spring arriving and knowing that a Friends guided outing is waiting for you. Join us this spring as we admire the Gorge’s wildflower displays, hike through refreshing forests, ride our bikes through lovely canyons, and so much more! With guided outings, we look to offer events that pique your interests whether it’s getting our hearts pumping with a physical activity, or tuning into mindfulness and connecting with the Gorge through our senses, art, or food.

We’ll roll out these outings through the spring and summer months, so visit our event calendar at gorgefriends.org/calendar. Details and registration for these and other events will be updated frequently, so keep checking in!
Two years ago, 21 land trusts across Oregon, from Brookings to Enterprise, began contemplating how to incorporate tribal perspectives into their work protecting Northwest ecosystems and landscapes. As a member of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has been an active participant in the Oregon Land Justice Project, an initiative that will shape our work for years and decades to come.

The ultimate goal of the Oregon Land Justice Project is to restore access and ownership of lands to the Indigenous people who have occupied and stewarded the lands for countless generations.

The past is present

The history of Native American tribes in the Columbia Gorge is fraught with injustice. Living for centuries along the Columbia River—the only sea-level corridor through the Cascade Mountains and home to what was considered North America’s greatest fishery, Celilo Falls—Native Americans enjoyed stable communities and dynamic economies prior to first contact with Europeans. Many of us grew up with the idea that unspoiled nature free of human interference is “nature” that people merely visit, such as national parks is the ultimate goal of conservation. But nearly every national park in America was established by removing Native Americans from the landscapes they and their ancestors had managed for generations. Only after their removal were the lands declared pristine places that humans should merely visit.

Yet even now, Indigenous communities in the Gorge and on reservations find themselves on the outside looking in. The Oregon Land Justice Project has brought together more than 160 conservation staff and board members to address this inequity. Land trusts are opening lands for fishing, hunting, and gathering, and discussing repatriation of land to the region’s Indigenous communities.

Beyond the Gorge

Further east, the Wallowa Land Trust, Nez Percé Wallowa Homeland, and The Nature Conservancy are in their fourth year of facilitating traditional root gathering in Wallowa County. The goal of this Indigenous-led program is to increase tribal access to privately owned lands for the gathering of first foods and medicines. Wallowa Land Trust provides food, lodging, and mileage costs for tribal members to return to land from which Chief Joseph and the Nez Percé people were driven nearly 150 years ago. In 2022, more than 100 Nez Percé, Umatilla, Cayuse, and Walla Walla tribal members came from all over Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to participate.

The tribes’ continuous defiant presence despite violence and injustice gave them a voice when the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act was passed in 1986. The legislation calls for the protection of cultural resources and requires consultation with the four Columbia River Treaty Tribes: Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla, and Nez Percé.

The Treaty Tribes have been consistent conservation advocates in the 37 years since the Scenic Act was passed, and in recent years have been instrumental in limiting the number of coal and oil trains transporting fuels through the Gorge. Today, three tribal members serve on the Columbia River Gorge Commission. Chair Carina Miller and Vice Chair Pah-tu Pitt are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and Jerry Meninick is a Yakama tribal member.

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Friends is embedding tribal perspectives into its projects and decision making. Staff are working with tribal members to place Indigenous stories, history, and art in the interpretive signage planned for public trails. Friends is initiating a cross-boundary stewardship project in the eastern Gorge with the Yakama Nation. With our land trust preserves, we are working to increase Indigenous access and ownership of land in the Gorge.

Our shared history and future

At the heart of all of this work is recognition and support for tribal sovereignty. Native American Tribes recognized by the federal government are sovereign nations within the United States. Through treaties, many tribes have maintained hunting, fishing, and gathering rights on lands and waters once ceded to the federal government. The federal government is obligated to ensure those rights are upheld, including maintaining the health and viability of the Pacific Northwest salmon.

These treaties, and the tireless efforts of both treaty and non-treaty tribes to uphold and defend their sovereignty, provide tribes with a voice in policy, legal, regulatory, and legislative discussions—for example, it was the likely violation of treaty rights due to fishing impacts that halted the construction of numerous coal and oil terminals throughout the Northwest.

Many of us grew up with the idea that unspoiled nature free of human interference is “nature” that people merely visit, such as national parks is the ultimate goal of conservation. But nearly every national park in America was established by removing Native Americans from the landscapes they and their ancestors had managed for generations. Only after their removal were the lands declared pristine places that humans should merely visit.

For thousands of years, the Columbia Gorge has been a place of people thriving amid stunning landscapes and unique habitats. People will always be part of Gorge conservation. No new project alone can resolve the injustices inflicted on Native tribes for centuries, but the Oregon Land Justice Project is an important step toward healing old wounds.

Continued >
Climate Change Action Plan Victory

Denise López, Conservation Organizer

After a year of working with Gorge community leaders and others to develop the Gorge-wide Climate Change Action Plan, or CCAP—including representing Friends on the initial steering committee and engaging with the Columbia River Gorge Commission staff—we were thrilled when the commission officially adopted the plan during its December meeting. The unanimous vote was accompanied by several passionate comments from commissioners and the public on the importance of climate work.

Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) focuses on ensuring that the policy guidelines set in the CCAP translate to regulations that can be enforced through the Management Plan. We will also support the Gorge Commission as they seek the funds to add a full-time position dedicated to the implementation of this climate plan.

Tackling the development of the CCAP collaboratively created new relationships and strengthened existing connections with our core partners. This bodes well as we move to execute the plan, as these partnerships will be essential to our success in continuing to protect the lands and communities of the Columbia Gorge.

Tackling the development of the CCAP will require a collaborative approach to ensure that the policy guidelines set in the CCAP translate to regulations that can be enforced through the Management Plan. We will also support the Gorge Commission as they seek the funds to add a full-time position dedicated to the implementation of this climate plan.

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Giving for the Gorge

A win for business and for Oregon

Elizabeth Brooke-Willbanks, Development Manager

Today, less than 3 percent of global philanthropy goes toward supporting conservation work by organizations like Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Luckily for us, support for Friends’ Gorge protection work comes from an array of donors.

In 2015, Tempercraft, a local Oregon company, wanted to include giving back to their community as part of their core values. Their product was a vacuum-insulated stainless steel drinkware, so choosing the Clean Water Fund seemed like the obvious choice. But they wanted to make an impact locally as well, and since hiking the Gorge was one of his favorite things to do, Bob Johnson, manager of Tempercraft in Canby, suggested to his team that they donate to Friends. After some research and debate, the Tempercraft team unanimously agreed to support our organization, and support us they did!

In 2018, Tempercraft made its first donation to Friends. Tempercraft is a member of 1% for the Planet, a global collective that inspires businesses to support environmental solutions. To be a member, companies are required to annually certify they have donated the equivalent of 1% of their total revenue to an approved nonprofit such as Friends.

Bob Johnson hikes somewhere in the Gorge at least once a month. His favorite place is Dog Mountain, a trail he recently hiked in the snow. Thanks to the abundance of beautiful hikes like Dog Mountain, he believes there is no place else in the world like the Columbia Gorge.

One of the challenges Friends faces is having consistent, reliable donations to fund our work. When a company commits to a yearly donation, it allows Friends to make work plans based on knowing those resources will be there. Like “Best Friends,” our monthly donor program, annual donations from Tempercraft help Friends steward the Gorge, protect it from land-use violations, and restore habitats for Gorge wildlife.

Tempercraft drinkware is guaranteed for life, and customizable. Keep an eye out for them at gorgefriends.org/shop later this spring. They’re the perfect item to have with you on your next outing to the Gorge.

We are very grateful to Tempercraft for their ongoing support of Friends and their commitment to supporting environmental protections in the Columbia Gorge.
Welcome to Friends

Friends added two new members to the board of directors in October 2022. Our board brings together a wide range of interests, skills, and knowledge that intersect the mission and vision of our organization.

Board of Directors

An outdoor adventure athlete with a passion for land conservation, Barbara Nelson joined Friends’ board in 2023, adding to her ongoing decade-long service as a Friends’ land trust trustee. With a background in commercial real estate, Barbara brings a wide breadth of real estate expertise to Friends—a skillset that will be invaluable as Friends accelerates its efforts to secure key properties across the Gorge. Barbara was instrumental in helping Friends secure the Catherine Creek property.

A resident of Hood River, Barbara and her husband Chris have been exploring the Gorge since moving to Oregon in 1999. Her interests include trail running, mountain biking, gravel racing, skiing, paddleboarding, and kayaking.

Gary Kahn first discovered the beauty of the Columbia Gorge while a student at the University of Oregon School of Law, where he focused on environmental law.

After law school, Gary was an attorney for the U.S. Forest Service for six years, where he worked on National Scenic Area issues. His strong commitment to the protection of wild and scenic lands led him to more than three decades representing Friends and other groups in litigation and other matters. He has also served on the boards of directors of other environmental organizations.

Now retired, Gary serves as president of B’nai Brith Camp LLC, which operates overnight and day camps throughout the state, as well as year-round youth programming. Joining Friends’ board is another way to give back to the community and an area he loves.

In December, we brought two new department directors on staff and they are quickly learning Friends’ systems, our partners, and the complexities of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area that we strive to protect, preserve, and steward. They each bring their own unique styles, insights, and expertise to the leadership team.

Staff Directors

Rudy Salakory joined Friends of the Columbia Gorge as our conservation director. Rudy has lived, worked, and played in the Pacific Northwest all his life. He comes to Friends after 14 years of developing and managing a habitat restoration and conservation program for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, where he worked to develop relationships and coalitions to address problems and develop solutions that no single entity could perform on its own.

Rudy also volunteers his time to other conservation and advocacy groups along the Columbia River. He currently serves on the boards of Columbia Riverkeeper, Columbia Land Trust, and the Technical Advisory Committee of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.

When he isn’t working, Rudy enjoys hiking, kayaking, traveling, and camping with his darling Geraldene. He also delights in spending as much time as he can get with his grandchildren.

Tim Dobyns, Friends’ new communications and engagement director, first came to appreciate the majesty of the Gorge in 2007 on a trip with his parents, where they hiked and tried kiteboarding in Hood River. He returned to Oregon in 2010 for his MBA at the University of Oregon, adding to his BA in International Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Tim finally made the Pacific Northwest his permanent home during the pandemic.

Tim comes to Friends with a wide array of experience in communications and marketing, including in human rights, sports, higher ed, and conservation. Most recently, he was the communications director for Galápagos Conservancy. His experience with strategic communications, media relations, multi-platform storytelling, and social and digital marketing will enhance Friends’ presence in the region. Tim excels at leveraging powerful writing and visual media to tell stories that educate, engage, and inspire.

In his free time Tim can be found playing golf, pickleball, and basketball, and exploring Portland and the Gorge with his wife and daughter.

When the Hard Work Begins

Last year, Friends released the short film “When the Hard Work Begins,” the story of how Friends’ legal team and community activists worked together to help shut down illegal mining activities at a gravel quarry near the gateway to the National Scenic Area. A major presence in the film is Buck Parker. A Columbia Gorge native and member of Friends’ Board of Directors, who frames the narrative with reflections on the Gorge’s special qualities and the need to protect them.

Filmmaker Brady Holden had a trove of unused footage from his interview with Buck, and created a two-minute companion featurette, “Meet Buck Parker.” The video touches on Buck’s 30-plus-year career in the environmental movement, and offers insights from a lifetime of deep connection with the Gorge.

Update on the gravel mine issue: In January 2023, the Washington Court of Appeals heard arguments in an appeal brought by the owner and operator of the gravel mine, despite having lost twice in earlier decisions, in 2019 and 2021. A ruling by the appeals court on this latest challenge is expected this spring.

View the film at gorgefriends.org/buckparker, or aim your smartphone camera at this QR code.

Watch the mini-feature Meet Buck Parker here.
Tribute Gifts
November 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023

IN HONOR
In honor of Debbie Asakawa
Jack Hollis and Stonny Norman
In honor of Wes Ayers
Kelly R. Patton
In honor of Holly Bard
Mary Denison
In honor of Andrea and Troy Beall
Karen Davis Beall
In honor of Bill Bigelow
Linda Christensen
In honor of Stephen E. Blackman
Janet Metzger
In honor of Mona Jonney Brett
Susan B. Campbell
In honor of Joyce Carter
John and Dawn Harrison
In honor of Chris and Karlie
Dawn Geoppinger
In honor of Donald and Shirley Clark
Sandra Hobbs Morey
In honor of Jim and Leslie Clute
Matthew Clute
In honor of Holly O. Coit
Susan Cott
In honor of Bob Cole
Michael Boston and Betsy Knick Boston
In honor of Barbara Bruch Connelly and Bruce Connelly
Katie Schueler
In honor of Jane Corboy and John Ragus
Annabelle Corboy
In honor of Jasper Cromie and Family
A. J. Simon
In honor of Catherine Darby
Jeanne Ann Darby
In honor of Lynda and Roger Decker
Carol and Jon Leach
In honor of Plaischette Fontanet, Fernanda Gwinner, and Annie Munch
Jeanie Nguyen and Taylor Elliott
In honor of Peggy Fujita
Kimberly Allen
Shannon Asaria
In honor of Kate Gutchis and Colleen Regaldo
Elizabeth Foster
In honor of Melissa Gonzalez
Betsy Toll
In honor of Fernanda Gwinner
Victoria and Russell Deutschman
Lisa Steenson
In honor of Dawn and John Harrison
Linda Enders
In honor of Brian and Lisa Huesner
Dawn Geoppinger

IN MEMORY
In memory of Gail Ackerman
Charles McEvins
In memory of Tovey Barron
The Tovey Barron Charitable Fund
In memory of Jim Bergstrom
Rafael Bergstrom
In memory of Mona Brett
William Williams
In memory of Joyce Carter
Maria N. Maribona
In memory of Shirley Clark
Donald Clark
In memory of Sandy Cohen
K. Molisbery
In memory of Barbara Bruch Connelly
John and Susan Connelly
In memory of Donna Enz
Carlton Olson
In memory of Greg Evans-Weber
Jaci and Jeffrey Evans
In memory of Linda Fugua-Anderson
Susan Kirk
Jeanette Kloos
Claudia Sanzone
In memory of Georgia Goldmark
Jen Lovejoy
In memory of Donald Gondthier
Diane Gondthier
In memory of Ron Gordon
Maxine Gordon
In memory of Betty Griffiths
Robert Griffiths
In memory of Cecily Jacobsen
Lawrence Jacobsen
In memory of Arni Kvarern
Kathleen McAllister
In memory of David J. Lifton
Beverly Wong
In memory of Sandy Matthews
Russell and Tanya McDonald
In memory of Nancie McGraw
Marie Hail
In memory of Nancie McGraw and
John Reynolds
Phylia Reynolds
In memory of Hannah May and Pete Van Metre
Patricia Toccalino
In memory of Barbara and Gordon Miller
Dawn Dariels and Mark Miller
In memory of Doug Miller
Deanna Miller
In memory of Mark Miller
Maureen Esser
In memory of Joyce Murphy
Dixie and Sadee Zee
In memory of Edith E. Parker
Michael Olds
In memory of Arnold Pickard
Ruby Appler
In memory of John Robertson
Nicolle Aue
In memory of Dale B. Russell
Nicolle Aue
In memory of Nancy Russell
Charles McEvins
Brad Zazzolini
In memory of Dean Shapiro
Art Shapiro
In memory of Arne and Joyce Skedsvold
Kari Skedsvold
In memory of Monica and Sheila Smith
Rita Smith Kingen
In memory of Bob Stacey
Ann Abernathy and William McClelland
In memory of Janice Staver
Jennifer Hohenlohe
In memory of Neil Suterland
Lori LaDuke
In memory of Debra Watkins
Curt Gray and Anne Michals
In memory of D. A. Wiley
Lucilia Duarte
Ivy Zellmer
In memory of Matthew Winthrop
Anne Marie and Jim Charnholm
Tom Nelson and Peggie Schwarz
Amy Windrop
Anne and Kevin Winthrop

Plan Your Gorge Fun Now
If you plan to visit Gorge waterfalls in the coming months, you’ll find unrestricted access to the Historic Columbia River Highway east of Corbett. Last year’s timed-use pilot program for the “waterfall corridor” has not been renewed for 2023.

Multnomah Falls is one of the most-visited scenic destinations in Oregon—so popular that since 2018 the U.S. Forest Service has had a timed-permit parking system for the Multnomah Falls Parking Area off Interstate 84. Low-cost advance permits will be required there this year as usual. For details on getting your permit, visit recreation.gov.

If you would like to avoid Gorge congestion, consider leaving your car at home. Transit-to-trailhead transportation options, schedules, fares, routes, and additional trip information can be found at columbiagorgecarfree.com.

Multnomah Falls below the Benson Bridge. Photo: Ana K. Kaplan

Lower Panther Creek Falls, north of Carson, Washington. Photo: Jeremiah Leipold
2023 Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Sunday, April 30 | 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Columbia Gorge Conference Center, Hood River, OR

Information fair and socializing in the lobby beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Join us on the banks of the Columbia River at the Columbia Gorge Conference Center in Hood River as we gather for our first in-person annual meeting since 2019.

So much has happened just this past year. The Gorge Commission adopted the first-ever Climate Action Plan and the Zimmerly mine continues to be litigated. Land stewardship carries on Gorge-wide, and Friends’ land trust purchased additional Gorge lands for protection.

We look forward to celebrating these wins with our community and sharing details of how you can help protect, preserve, and steward the Gorge in the coming year.

Register soon!
Registration closes at midnight on April 17. Visit gorgefriends.org/annualmeeting for details and registration, or scan the QR code below. If you can’t be there in person, join by livestream! We recognize that the pandemic is still impacting our communities and want to make this meeting as accessible as possible. Registration is required for livestreaming.

Members: $40 per person
Non-Member Special: $60 per person (The non-member special includes a year-long membership to Friends)

P.S. Join us for a FREE Legacy Planning Seminar 11 a.m. – Noon
The Hood River Waterfront, where Friends will hold the annual meeting. Photo: Tushar Koley