Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board of Directors 2015-16

Debbie Asakawa  
Keith Brown  
Gary Bushman  
Pat Campbell  
Geoff Carr  
Jim Chase  
Gwen Farnham  
Maria Hall  
John Harrison  
Temple Lentz  
Eric Lichtenthaler  
Robert Matteri  
John Nelson  
Carrie Nobles  
Rick Ray  
Vince Ready  
Meredith Savery  
Kari Skedsvold  
Mark Waller  
Charlie Webster  
Polly Wood

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust 2015-16

Keith Brown  
Gary Bushman  
Pat Campbell  
Jim Chase  
Maria Hall  
Dustin Klinger  
Rob Matteri  
Barbara Nelson  
John Nelson  
Rick Ray  
Aubrey Russell

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Board of Directors

Front, from left: John Nelson, Keith Brown, Eric Lichtenthaler, Pat Campbell.

Middle, from left: Vince Ready, Meredith Savery, Debbie Asakawa, Gwen Farnham.

Back row, from left: John Harrison, Charlie Webster, Jim Chase.

Not pictured: Gary Bushman, Geoff Carr, Maria Hall, Temple Lentz, Robert Matteri, Carrie Nobles, Rick Ray, Kari Skedsvold, Mark Waller, Polly Wood.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Staff

Front, from left: Ryan Rittenhouse, Sara Woods, Sandy Wright, Kate Harbour, Maegan Jossy, Kate McBride.

Back row, from left: Renee Tkach, Steve McCoy, Nathan Baker, Stan Hall, Michael Lang, Paige Unangst, Kyle Brockel, Peter Cornelison, Pam Davee. Not pictured: Kevin Gorman, Kate Lindberg.
September 2016

Dear Friends,

For decades, savvy hikers trekking into known and unknown wild areas have used “ten essentials” as mini-insurance policies against unexpected problems. Those essentials – map, compass, sunglasses and sunscreen, extra clothing, flashlight, first-aid supplies, firestarter, matches, knife and extra food – are rarely needed, but when the need arises, they help avert disasters. A little advance preparation can make a life-saving difference.

Over the last five years, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and communities in the Gorge have created our own essentials list, not for hiking but for the risks presented by fossil-fuel transport. Witnessing the exponential increases in oil-train traffic nationwide and the proposals for more than a dozen coal and oil terminals in the Pacific Northwest, we knew the Columbia Gorge, as a main shipping route, would need to be prepared.

We also knew Friends couldn’t fight the fossil-fuel industry alone. So we dedicated ourselves to engaging Gorge communities, citizens, businesses, and elected officials, and to educating them on the inherent dangers of this volatile cargo moving through their towns. As more coal and oil trains rumbled through the Gorge, we talked with firefighters throughout the area, who began working together to coordinate plans for worst-case scenarios. Two members of our staff even ran for, and won, seats on the Hood River City Council, to have a voice in how their community is dealing with this issue.

These essentials were put to the test this year on June 3, when a 96-car oil train derailed and burst into flames in Mosier, Oregon. Local first responders performed heroically and citizens, Tribes, and elected officials leapt into action to hold the railroad accountable. Preparation made all the difference. The Mosier derailment – incredibly dangerous and discouraging in the moment – has become a symbol of grass-roots empowerment for communities across the country.

As you’ll see in the pages that follow, Friends accomplished an amazing amount of inspiring work in the past year. While most of it did not have the headline-grabbing danger and dramatic urgency of Mosier, everything we’ve done has benefited from the same principles and the “essential” preparation that is standard among wise, experienced hikers.

From left: Land Trust President John Nelson, Executive Director Kevin Gorman, Board of Directors Chair Eric Lichtenthaler.

Steep descent above the river. Photo: Debbie Asakawa
Conservation Advocacy and Legal Accomplishments

In the past year, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our allies made substantial progress in stopping the expansion of coal and oil transport through the Columbia River Gorge, including blocking the development of fossil fuel export terminals along the Columbia River and throughout the Pacific Northwest. We extend special thanks to Earthjustice for representing Friends in opposing some of these projects.

• **Crude Oil Rail Terminals:** A broad-based coalition of local governments, tribes, state agencies, businesses, and conservation groups including Friends actively opposed Tesoro’s Vancouver Energy terminal in a month-long hearing that began in June. A decision is expected in 2017.

Organized opposition from Friends and others in the Stand Up to Oil Coalition, tribes, and community leaders, in combination with market forces, resulted in the indefinite delay of two proposed terminals in Grays Harbor, Washington, and the closure of an existing crude oil terminal in Clatskanie, Oregon.

• **Coal Export Terminals:** In June, the Army Corps of Engineers denied a crucial permit for the massive Gateway Pacific Terminal in Cherry Point, Washington, based on the project’s violation of treaty rights held by the Lummi Nation with the United States. Friends and our allies in the Power Past Coal coalition actively opposed this terminal and supported the Lummi Nation’s treaty rights claims.

An Oregon judge denied all seven summary motions filed by coal interests backing the Coyote Island Terminal proposed on the Columbia River. The motions, filed in May and June, sought to overturn Oregon’s denial of this coal terminal. This sets the stage for a weeklong trial in November on the remaining issues. If approved, this terminal would transport 8.8 million tons of coal per year by barge through the Gorge, more than doubling barge traffic.

In May, more than 263,000 opponents commented on the Millennium Bulk coal export terminal draft environmental impact statement, setting a new state record for public comments. Friends and its allies expect a decision on this terminal in 2017.

• **Holding Coal Polluters Accountable:** Friends, Riverkeeper, the Sierra Club, and others continue efforts to get a federal court to enforce the Clean Water Act and order Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, or BNSF, to stop polluting the Columbia River and its tributaries with coal. A decision is expected in 2017. The law offices of Charlie Tebbutt and the Western Environmental Law Center are representing Friends and our associates in this matter.
Opposing Unnecessary and Harmful Energy Projects

- **Troutdale Energy Center**: After several years of public opposition and litigation led by Friends, the developers of the proposed Troutdale Energy Center finally pulled the plug, formally cancelling their plans for a 701-megawatt gas power plant only a few hundred feet from the mouth of the Sandy River. Friends’ victory against this controversial and unnecessary power plant helps protect the Gorge from harmful air pollution, noise, and visual blight at the western gateway to the Columbia River Gorge.

- **Industrial Wind Energy**: Friends continues to closely scrutinize industrial wind energy proposals and oppose projects that would harm Gorge scenery, wildlife, and communities. Friends is currently challenging the Whistling Ridge Energy Project in a federal court appeal, arguing that the environmental analysis for the project failed to consider alternatives and failed to analyze the project’s impacts to migratory birds and other wildlife. Friends also protected sensitive birds in the Columbia Hills Important Bird Area by monitoring the Windy Flats West project and ensuring through regular contact with Klickitat County that the land use permit for this project expired when the developer failed to complete construction within the required time period.

Land Use Watchdog for the Scenic Area

- **Enforcing Conservation Easements**: Friends helped stop an illegal development proposal in the Mount Pleasant landscape in western Skamania County by prevailing in three separate lawsuits brought by the landowner. Both the state and federal courts held that the landowner’s proposal violated Skamania County’s zoning requirements as well as a U.S. Forest Service conservation easement on the property, establishing useful precedent for other Scenic Area properties protected by federal conservation easements.

- **Supporting County Enforcement**: Friends supported Multnomah County enforcement of its Scenic Area rules in two separate appeals before the Columbia River Gorge Commission. One appeal involved unpermitted outdoor commercial events in the Corbett area, while the other involved more than 12,000 square feet of unpermitted buildings and an illegal commercial fish processing operation along the Columbia River shoreline in Dodson. Due to Friends’ opposition, both sets of landowners withdrew their appeals, allowing the county’s enforcement decisions to stand.

- **Holding Railroads Accountable**: For several years, Friends has led the opposition to Union Pacific’s proposed double-track railway through Mosier and adjacent Scenic Area lands. Increasing train capacity would have negative effects on air and water quality in the Gorge, impacting human health and the protected resources of the Scenic Area. Friends has drafted and submitted four rounds of comments containing dozens of reasons the proposal does not pass legal muster.
Friends launched *Gorge Towns to Trails* in 2011 as a vision for a trail system encircling the Gorge, linking communities to the natural wonders and incomparable beauty of this world-class landscape. Five years later, the vision has grown and gained traction in the Gorge as a community-driven project.

**Partners and Supporters**

Advancing *Gorge Towns to Trails* requires acquiring properties to connect land corridors and building trails, but the true lifeblood of the program is our partners and stakeholders’ commitment to building public and business support for the projects. Those partners and supporters include Gorge businesses, public agencies, elected officials, and other nonprofits.

**Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance**

A regional program this year led by Travel Oregon brought together 122 stakeholders to create a 15-year vision for sustainable tourism, more protection, and stronger communities. *Gorge Towns to Trails* was listed as a premiere project by the new Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance, a 25-member group representing chambers, businesses, agencies and nonprofits in the Gorge.

**Hood River to The Dalles**

Friends worked with *Gorge Towns to Trails* supporter and business owner Analemma Vineyards, and the City of Mosier worked with local land owners, developing the concept of a “wine trail.” This trail project could link local winery tasting rooms to Mosier, incorporating our Mosier Plateau Trail as part of the connection, to complete a trail corridor between Hood River and The Dalles.

**Washougal to Stevenson to Cascade Locks**

The Port of Camas-Washougal’s new one-mile Waterfront Trail broke ground this year for a paved riverfront trail that will eventually reach Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge. Friends worked closely with port staff on this project, and that partnership is an example of nonprofit and government entities collaborating toward a shared vision in support of local communities.

**Transit to Trailhead**

Friends worked with Skamania County, the U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Transportation, Western Federal Lands Program, and Mid-Columbia Economic Development District to coordinate the third year of the West End Transit (WET) bus service to nine Washington trailheads. The popular seasonal Dog Mountain Shuttle in Skamania County carried 1,667 riders, helping to reduce congestion at Dog Mountain.

In May 2016, ODOT launched the Columbia Gorge Express bus service to carry hikers and tourists to Multnomah Falls. Multiple partners including Friends provided input and outreach to help the new program get off to a strong start.

**1,975** WET Bus Riders  **1,667** Dog Mountain Shuttle Riders  **30K** Gorge Express Riders
Stewardship of our Land Trust Properties

From public trails to endangered turtle habitat to breath-taking viewpoints, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust owns over 1,000 acres of land. As one of the largest private landowners in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, we protect and preserve the ecological values and natural beauty of these lands for future generations.

**Curbing the Spread of Invasive Species**

This year, the Land Trust focused on managing invasive plants at two signature properties: the Lyle Cherry Orchard and Mosier Plateau.

With support from an REI grant for field work, volunteers at the Cherry Orchard pulled yellow starthistle, established best-practice test plots, and installed trailhead boot brushes. Staff and experts educated high school and university students on noxious weeds in the Gorge.

REI also supported the printing of *Worst Weeds of the Gorge*, a field guide created by Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program coordinator Emily Stevenson. We distributed the guides at our public Boot Brush Kickoff events, and more than 80 hikers pledged to use boot brushes whenever they hike in the Gorge.

In seven stewardship events at Mosier Plateau, volunteers pulled common teasel rosettes and seed heads, seeded native plants, did trailwork, installed boot brushes, and participated in education days with Mosier Charter School, teaching students, hikers, and the public about the importance of protecting native species from noxious weeds.

**Trail Connections and Wildlife Habitat Protection**

The Land Trust is working with three property owners to protect big-game corridors for deer and elk and to ensure habitat is protected for turtles, pika, and other small animals.

Volunteers improved big-game movement at Lyle Cherry Orchard by tearing down remnants of deer fencing that once protected the old orchard. We also installed 1.5 miles of big-game-friendly fencing at the upper and lower Mount Ulka properties, to separate our Land Trust property from a neighbor’s grazing cattle.

**LAND PROTECTED TO DATE**

| ACRES CONSERVED | 22 Sites | 1,272 Acres |
| TRANSFERRED TO PUBLIC AGENCIES | 5 Sites | 270 Acres |

**Upper Mount Ulka transfers to U. S. Forest Service**

Ownership of the 119-acre Mount Ulka viewpoint was transferred to the U.S. Forest Service last fall, increasing the potential trail connections along Seven Mile Hill west of The Dalles.

**LAND TRUST PROPERTY HOLDINGS**

| GORGE-WIDE | 17 Sites | 1,002 Acres |
| EASTERN GORGE | 9 Sites | 750 Acres |
| WESTERN GORGE | 8 Sites | 252 Acres |
Friends of the Columbia Gorge engages the passion of our members and other Gorge enthusiasts in many ways for Gorge protection. In the past year, hundreds of volunteers brought their skills and talents into play, and together they contributed nearly 3,000 hours of time, effort, and expertise to protect this incomparable place we all love.

Volunteers

Thank you to these amazing volunteers!

The individuals listed above pitched in in a variety of ways between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, and many people engaged in multiple tasks during the year to protect the Gorge. Our sincere thanks to everyone. We couldn’t possibly have accomplished so much for the Gorge without you!
Donors Make the Difference

**Thank you!**

Our members are our greatest asset, and we are grateful for a broad base of support from people in Oregon and Washington, and as far away as Florida, Vermont, and Texas. Annual membership gifts provide the major portion of our funding and make all the work you see in this Annual Report possible. Thank you to all our members for continuing to provide protection for this special place.

This year, some members aspired to do even more for the Gorge and directed special gifts to projects that aligned with their values and philanthropic goals. Their passion and generosity made it possible to hire extra legal support in our battle against coal and oil, endow our Conservation Director position, and help purchase threatened lands in the Gorge. We are extremely grateful for these generous “above and beyond” gifts that make our efforts to protect the Gorge even more effective.

### Membership in 2015-16

- 93 Legacy Circle Members
- 168 Monthly “Best Friends”
- 729 New Members
- 1,022 Members for 15+ Years
- 5,762 Friends Members

The **Norman Yeon Legacy Circle** is a group of individuals with exceptional foresight who know that if there is to be a beautiful Columbia Gorge for coming generations, there will always need to be a group that is dedicated to its protection. Thirty-seven additional donors joined the visionaries in our Norman Yeon Legacy Circle this year.

#### Norman Yeon Legacy Circle members

- Leslie Joan Allen Bancroft
- Debbie and Steve Asakawa
- Carole Beaucerl
- Day Bennett
- Linda Besant and Martha Goetsch
- Lydie Boyer
- Charles Brasher and Betty Lewis
- Linda and Jim Browning
- Patsy Bruggere
- David and Kim Bruneau
- Gary and Laurel Bushman
- Pat and Joe Campbell
- Geoff and Laurie Carr
- Raccur Casiato and Paul Freeman
- Dr. Frances Chapple
- North Cheatham
- Babetta D. Chiarito and James M. Marquard
- Tom Keffer and Lee Christie
- Merle Clifton
- Becky Copeland and Bruce Copeland
- Mary Daly and Benjamin Ward
- Bob and Pam Davie
- Mary Dickson
- Sheila Dooley and Phil Swaim
- Carole Douglass and Bill Pressly
- Joan Durgin
- Cathy Edelman
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- David J. Pollock
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- Dr. William “Si” Simonson
- Beverly Spens
- Joan Stevens
- Robert Strebin
- Clista Taylor
- Robert and Mary Ann Teague
- David and Linda Tozer
- R. Lee Underwood III and Christine Underwood
- Daniel Webb
- Edyth Willard
- Cynthia and Brian Winter
- Barbara H. Wolman
- Sandy Wright

Sixteen additional Norman Yeon Legacy Circle donors choose to remain anonymous.

This year we received the estate contribution from our Norman Yeon Legacy Circle member Lois McCarthy. We’re deeply grateful for this legacy gift that Lois left to help ensure enduring protection of the beautiful and wild Columbia Gorge.
Our Donors

Guardians of the Gorge

Gifts of $1,000,000+
The Fund for Second Nature

Gifts of $500,000+
Anonymous

Mount Defiance
$50,000 - $100,000+
Nathan and Elaine Ballou
Climate Solutions

Table Mountain
$25,000 - $49,999
Bullitt Foundation
Rainforth Foundation

Angel’s Rest
$10,000 - $24,999
Bill and Beatrice Booth
Williamford Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation
Burch-Safford Foundation
Pat and Jan Campbell
Debbie and Edmund Campbell

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Conservators of the Gorge

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Susan Masta and Joy Whight
Sandy Wright
Diane and Abe Zee

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Sara Newlands
Elizabeth Noyes
Carlson Olson
Jack O’Neil
Margaret Ormeze
Bruce Moorehead and Denise Pare-Moorehead

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Eleanor and Peter Van Alderwerelt
Carole Alexander
F. Gordon Allison
Yi Liang Apperson
Sharon L. Baker
Susan Masta and Joy Whight
Sandy Wright
Diane and Abe Zee

Washougal twilight. Photo Mitch Hammontree

Thank you!

Karen and Peter Peruozz
John Cunningham and Mary Beth Pinson
Jack and Nancy Platner
Brenda Playford
Candice Guth and David Pogel
Gordon Noraise and Susan Popp
Sahra Kahntoomila
Steven Ratg
Phyllis Redman
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Alex and Clare Vanderhaar
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and Jennifer Waters
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Dr. John Taylor and Barbara West
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Pat Welly and Merrill Weyerhauser
Benjamin and Elaine Whiteley
Maureen Whitman
Kathryn and Thomas Whittaker
Alan Wilcox
Cheryl Wilson and Dr. Reed Wilson
Jean and Rob Wilson
Susan Masta and Joy Whight
Sandy Wright
Diane and Abe Zee

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We appreciate our Business Members and encourage our members to support them.

54°40' Brewing Company
Anima Wines
Cameron Winery
Capeshornland.com
Cascade Accupacent Center LLC
Coble Hand Hammered Copper
Columbia Gorge Winegrowers Association
Columbia River Inn
Doomsday Brewing Company
Elevate Career Services/ Provider Service Group
Environmental Paper & Print, Inc
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Freebridge Brewing
Grove View Bed and Breakfast
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Hood River Hotel
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Partners in Community Care Management
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Port of Camas-Washougal
Portland Eye Care
Sakai Dentists
Saloons Pub & Fire Cafe & Bar
Tesla Electric Co.
The Lyle Hotel
Thunder Island Brewing Company
To The Point Publications
TreeSong Nature Awareness and Retreat Center
Volcano Lands Nature Tours
Wind River Publishing
Weber & Wilson
Wenatchee
West End Market
Whidbey Island Classic
Wine Club
Wine Tours
Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust’s financial position remained strong this year, reflected by net assets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 rising to $18.4 million from $14.8 million one year earlier. A gift to endow our Conservation Director position (details to come in our next newsletter) made up the largest portion of the increase.

Consolidated results in fiscal year 2015-16 operating expenses were $1.92 million, an increase of 3.5% from $1.85 million one year ago, while operating income decreased from $1.46 million to $1.38 million, the decrease is in part a result of a multiyear grant recorded in fiscal year 2014-15. The shortfall between income and expenses was made up from a staged release of funds from an unrestricted bequest and an annual draw of no more than 5% from our endowments.

Although some lands owned by the land trust are eligible for property tax exemption, we paid nearly $50,000 in property taxes last year to support local communities and schools.

Our $3.44 million endowments include: the Marjorie Abramowitz Fund for land trust activities, the Vic Clausen Fund for outdoor youth, the Conservation Director Endowment, along with the Mary D. & Thomas W. Holman Fund, the Nancy Russell Fund, and the Barbara Pooley Wilson Fund for general operations. A gift totalling $2 million that is pledged to the endowment is due by 2018.

Endowment funds are managed by Ferguson Wellman Capital Management and monitored by our board finance committee.

Friends’ board engages Kern & Thompson to perform an independent annual audit. Fiscal year 2015-2016’s audit will be available on the website soon.
Friends of the Columbia Gorge

P.O. Box 40820
Portland, Oregon 97240-0820

Ruthton Point. Photo: Debbie Asakawa

Thank you!

These outstanding photographers capture the beauty of the Gorge in every season, its landscapes, communities, and the people who love it. Their generous contribution of photos this year have helped to inspire protection of this incomparable place.

Blaine Ackley  Debbie Asakawa  Paloma Ayala  Paul Corbit Brown  Lydie Boyer  John Carr  Chris Carvalho  Erin Carver  Karen Chandler  Jim Chase  Scott Christianson

Thank you!

And:
- Columbia Riverkeeper
- Google Earth
- Local Water Alliance
- Skamania Lodge

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE
Working to ensure that the beautiful and wild Columbia Gorge remains a place apart, an unspoiled treasure for generations to come.

Editor: Betsy Toll / LuminCreativePDX.com
Design: Kathy Fors and Kathleen Krushas / TothePointPublications.com
Printing by EnvironmentalPrint.com