Executive Director's Report

The past quarter has been a particularly successful period for advocates of protection for the Columbia River Gorge.

Public Support

In March, T.H. Research, Inc. released a public opinion survey which indicated widespread support in the Northwest for strong Gorge protection. The telephone survey contacted 750 registered voters (300 in the Puget Sound area; 300 in Oregon Congressman Ron Wyden's district; and 150 in Washington Congressman Sid Morrison's district) who were asked numerous, detailed questions.

Eighty-nine percent (89%) of the overall sample responded that protection of the Gorge from "development which primarily occurs in the natural, untouched areas of the Gorge, as opposed to development which occurs in the incorporated areas of the Gorge" was important to them.

The survey also measured voter attitudes towards two Columbia River Gorge bills presently pending before Congress: S. 627, the "Packwood/Hatfield bill," and H.R. 3853, the "Governors' bill," spearheaded by Congressman Wyden. Voters overall preferred the Packwood/Hatfield bill over the Governors' bill by a greater than three to one margin. This preference was most pronounced in Congressman Wyden's district and in the Puget Sound area, 74% to 20% and 74% to 19%, respectively.

Another indication of the widespread and firm support for Gorge protection arose in the Friends' membership recruitment drive launched this March. Twenty-five thousand membership recruitment letters were sent to Oregon and Washington citizens. The drive would have been successful if it had paid for itself and gained the Friends two hundred fifty new members. The results exceeded our most favorable expectations. Currently, the mailing has paid for itself more than three times over. Additionally, our membership has increased by more than seven hundred people, and currently stands at three thousand.

Gorge Developments

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has also played an important role in derailing several actions which would have adversely impacted the Gorge.

The State of Washington attempted to trade forty acres of Beacon Rock State Park- the only Washington State Park in the critical western part of the Gorge- to the Department of Transportation, which would have sold the forty acres to the highest bidder. The Friends, with the help of member Chris Shore, the Columbia Gorge Commissions and the Skamania County Commissioners, rallied public opposition to this action, which consequently was withdrawn from consideration.
HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT THE GORGE

1. Write or telephone your Senators and urge:
   a) that further Gorge hearings be scheduled as soon as possible, and
   b) that National Scenic Area legislation (S.627) and not the weak, compromise legislation introduced by the Governors (H.R.3853) be enacted. Senators Hatfield (Oregon) and Evans (Washington) are particularly important because they are members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee which has jurisdiction over the legislation. Please send copies of your letter to your Congressmen and Governor. Call your nearest FOG office, in Portland, Seattle or Vancouver if you need the pertinent phone numbers or addresses.

2. If you are an Oregon resident, please write or telephone Governor Atiyeh and express your preference that the State not locate the proposed Port of Entry adjacent to Lewis and Clark State Park. Governor Atiyeh has stated that Gorge protection is his "number one environmental priority."

In Remembrance

Contributions have been made to FOG by

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Plopper
Norman and Virginia Parsons
Michael Farthing
Shirley Farrington
ESCO Corporation
Washington Elementary Staff
    for Linn Paquet

Frances C. Torney
    for Walter D. Harrison

Henry D. Ellis
    for William Lawrence

Sharon Baker Zander
    for Michael C. Zander

Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Inc. Winds in the Gorge Spring Issue 1984

Editor: Sally Russell
Contributing writers: Bowen Blair
    Moira Larkins
    Phyllis Clausen
    Sally Russell
    Nancy Russell
    Kristine Simenstad

Staff: Bowen Blair, Executive Director
    Moira Larkins, Office Assistant, Portland
    Kristine Simenstad, Associate Director, Seattle
    Sally Russell, Associate Director, Portland
The State of Oregon, similarly, attempted last December to sell Hood River's Ruthton Park to the highest bidder. A resolution was recently reached between the State and the Hood River County Commissioners which guarantees protection for the park and for a nearby stretch of the Scenic Highway, which earlier had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hood River Commissioner Rodger Schock and Friends of Ruthton Park were instrumental to reaching this accord.

Another success was the purchase by The Nature Conservancy of Pierce Island, an extremely valuable wildlife site downriver from Bonneville Dam, which had been considered by the Army Corps of Engineers a primary fill site for the spoils from the new locks project.

Storm clouds, however, are appearing on the horizon. The Skamania County Planning Commission recently accepted a draft environmental impact statement for an 83 lot subdivision, consisting of half acre lots and requiring extensive filling of wetlands and the dredging of a deep water harbor for a large marina. The site is a few miles west of Beacon Rock and across the river from Horsetail Falls.

A developer is proceeding with his plans for a $5.5 million hydroelectric project on one hundred foot Gorton Creek Falls, one of nine unprotected waterfalls on the Oregon side of the Gorge.

The State of Oregon may locate a Port of Entry, with acres of cement, twenty-four hour lights and loud trucks next to Lewis and Clark State Park— the very portal of the western Gorge— even though more suitable sites exist within the urban growth boundaries of Troutdale and Gorge cities such as The Dalles, Hood River and Cascade Locks.

Legislation
Plans to industrialize wetlands and urbanize scenic vistas and ecologically valuable areas continue unchecked in the Columbia River Gorge. The hiatus period preceding enactment of legislation has encouraged development which would be controlled by the Packwood/Hatfield National Scenic Area legislation.

Enactment of this legislation is closer, yet not assured. Senators Packwood and Hatfield have secured forty-four cosponsors in the Senate— twenty-two democrats and twenty-two republicans— for their National Scenic Area legislation. Not one of those cosponsors, unfortunately, is Washington State Senators Evans or Gorton.

Until Senators Evans or Gorton endorses strong Gorge legislation, such legislation will probably not pass. The Washington Senators have insisted on further field hearings before the legislation can proceed, yet have not scheduled these hearings. Meanwhile, Congress prepares to adjourn for most of the summer and recess for election year campaigning in the first week of October, while developments in the Gorge continue unabated and threaten to destroy one of the Northwest's most valuable and majestic resources.
The move of our Vancouver office to its present location, 1703 Main Street gives us office space next to other non-profit organizations. These groups are quite an active and congenial bunch. In February, Cam Denney organized a wonderfully warm open house to acquaint S.W. Washington Friends with our new quarters. Nancy Russell, Dave Cannard, Alan Meron and Phyllis Clausen spoke about Columbia Gorge history, organizational aims and the importance of volunteer involvement to our preservation efforts. Among those who have donated their valuable time to Gorge matters are Ed Robertson, Ann Olwine, Pauline Mullins, Hazel Seavey, Clarke Mead, and Julie Robertson. The best thanks each of us can give to these generous volunteers is to work to ensure that our grandchildren will inherit an unspoiled Gorge. Two or three hours a week would be an enormous help. 694-6577 is the Vancouver office number. If no one is in the Gorge office when you call, just leave a message with the receptionist.

It is with real regret that we see our enthusiastic Cam Denney leave for a job in Seattle. She has been such a good link with volunteers. Always cheerful and appreciative of the Vancouver community and its people. Our best wishes to Cam. We feel sure she'll return to the Portland-Vancouver area before long. Hope so.

Looking ahead to August, the Friends will again have a booth at the Clark County Fair, which runs from August 6 to August 12. One day longer than in the past. Already we have begun to make plans for the booth. In May, we will be calling volunteers to ask them to work in pairs at one of the shifts during Fair week. Last year's booth tenders were pleased with the awareness of positive action needed for Gorge preservation. Phyllis Clausen

Seattle Office

The Seattle office would like to extend their thanks to the volunteer who have been helping out in the new Pioneer Square location of Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Leela Perez and Mary Woods have been helpful additions to the effort in the Puget Sound area. If you would like to volunteer for a couple of hours a week or some special project, just call our office, 622-4590, and ask for Kristine.

Within the next month, the Seattle office will be doing a major membership recruitment mailing. It is important to continue to build our Washington membership and increase the visibility of the effort to preserve the Columbia River Gorge. Although we have made much progress, there is a great deal more to be achieved in order to catch the attention of Senators Gorton and Evans.

The Washington membership can continue to support the educational and legislative efforts of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge by writing to Senators Gorton and Evans, as well your representative and Governor Spellman, asking them to support S. 627. Additionally, help spread the word by inviting people to your home for the evening, and ask one of the Friends over to show our slide show.

Thank you for your continued support. Drop by the office anytime you are in the Pioneer Square Area. Pioneer Building, 600 1st Avenue, Suite 102.

Kristine Simenstad
Associate Director

Transitions in office staffing merit a tribute.

Goodbye, good luck, and many thank yous go to Cameron Denney. Cameron has been with us for over a year and helped keep us glued together at some crucial moments. Her good spirits and outstanding organization will be missed.
Historic Preservation Magazine puts the Gorge on its Cover

I have toured the Gorge on some pretty terrible days, but none worse than March 29, 1983. It was one of Oregon's more liquid days. In driving wind and pouring rain I showed our beautiful Gorge to Mr. Jeff Colin, editor of Historic Preservation Magazine, published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. There were a hundred separate waterfalls, and the volume of water over such standards as Horsetail Falls impressed us with the savage power of nature. By the end of the day we were dripping and sodden.

However, something must have gone right with Mr. Colin, because, based on his visit, he decided he wanted to do an article for his magazine. And now, a year later, that article is off the presses.

Soon, 140,000 members of the National Trust will be exposed to the efforts of our hard-working organization. A beautiful dawn photograph of the Gorge by Portland photographer (and Friend of the Gorge) Steve Terrill, is on the cover. There is more Steve Terrill photography inside and an article by me which describes the cultural values and great beauty of the Gorge, the need for protection and the National Scenic Area legislation.

It is appropriate that the National Trust be interested in the Gorge since, as reported in last winter's newsletter, the old scenic Columbia Highway was added to the National Register of Historic Places in January. It was especially gratifying to me that the editor, Mr. Colin, wanted an article on the broadest aspects of the Columbia Gorge issue as well as on the highway designation.

Those of you who are not members of the National Trust may order this June 1984 issue of Historic Preservation with the Columbia Gorge on the cover for $2.50, prepaid, from:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Nancy N. Russell

Volunteers

Volunteers are our most important resource. If you have time, we would love to have your help in our efforts to educate people about and preserve the Columbia River Gorge.

There are many ways in which you can help. Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a card. Please complete it, even if you are a past or a current volunteer. Please include your skills and other relevant information so that we can match you with a project that you will enjoy.

Thank you. We can't wait to hear from you!
Senator Bob Packwood to speak
at Menucha Picnic on Memorial Day, May 28

Have you ever visited Menucha, the summer home of former Oregon Governor Julius Meier?

If you haven't, you have missed one of the great jewels of the Columbia Gorge in terms of the fine manor house designed by Herman Brookman in the early 20's and, more so, in terms of the natural splendor of the setting at the west end of the Columbia Gorge near Corbett, Oregon. According to Columbia Gorge lore, Governor Meier, who was active in promoting the Columbia River Highway, asked Sam Lancaster, the designing engineer for the highway, to pick out the most beautiful piece of property along the road for the location of his summer home. Lancaster exercised perfect judgement in selecting the magnificent promontory where Governor Meier built his home, Menucha, which is now owned by the First Presbyterian Church of Portland, and operated as a retreat and convention center.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, Friends of the Columbia Gorge is planning a picnic with Senator Bob Packwood as our guest. The hours are from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm. Bring your own picnic lunch. There will be a $1.00 a person charge for use of the estate; no charge for pre-school children.

Senator Packwood will arrive at noon and informally discuss the Gorge issue with our members. At approximately 1:00pm, the Senator will briefly address our group, shortly after which he must leave to attend previous commitments in Portland. We greatly appreciate the Senator's interest and devotion of time to this issue-- especially on a holiday-- so we hope people will arrive promptly at noon to meet with him.

There will be opportunities to explore the manor house and grounds, to take short walks on the estate, go jogging, play tennis, horseshoes, and volleyball, and to swim if the swimming pool is ready by that date. All ages are welcome. For the very young there is a swing and slide set. To add to our enjoyment, Scott J. Brown will join us to perform with song and guitar and we’ll have a sing-along, too.

In the morning, before coming to the Friends' picnic, you may wish to take a short hike, such as the Horsetail-Oneonta Creek Loop, the Elowah Falls Trail in Yeon State Park, or the Latourell Falls loop trail that climbs above spectacular Latourell Falls to the upper falls and them returns to the great bowl of the lower falls. These are easy and scenic hikes to fill out your day.

To get to Menucha from Portland, take I-84 east to the Corbett exit (#22). Turn south and continue one and 1/2 miles to Menucha's gate (on the left side). It is approximately 22 miles from the center of Portland. Coming from Seattle take the new I-205 exit north of Vancouver, Washington. Proceed south on I-205 across the Columbia and follow signs to The Dalles east on I-84. Take the Corbett exit (#22) and follow directions as from Portland.

Enjoy a lovely Memorial Day in the Gorge and let us know you are coming so we can have a rough estimate of the number expected. This is an opportunity, too, for us to thank Senator Bob Packwood for his strong, effective leadership in working to protect the Gorge.
The Poet's Spring

"May, with alle thy flores and thy grene,
Welcome be thou, faire, fresshe May."

The Canterbury Tales

So spoke Chaucer the poet, and so has May been often rightly praised by poets and plainer folk as well.

In May, at the lower elevations, the Columbia Gorge is a flower paradise. It's the peak of the blooming season. Anywhere you go on either side of the river, the cooler woods of Oregon or the sunnier slopes of Washington, you'll find lots of bloom. Let's go where "all thy flores" are.

Have you ever explored between Bingen and Lyle, Washington? It's an area worth seeing, with rare, interesting, and very showy plants.

About three and a half miles east of Bingen turn north off Washington Highway 14 at Rowland Lake to wind up the hill to a level about 500 feet above the Columbia. The road goes east for four miles or so before circling down along the west side of the Klickitat River and returning to the water level highway at Lyle, Washington.

Things start to get interesting here in late April with shooting stars, saxifrages, large headed clover, plagiobothrys (like white forget-me-nots), and fields of camas and buttercups. Around May 1, in the western part of the area, there are acres of Lewisia rediviva, the rock rose or bitterroot, named for Meriwether Lewis who first collected it in 1805. The flower looks like a white or pink water lily growing out of solid rock. Brodiaea howellii, blooms near it at the same time. On the grassy hillside sloping up on the north side of the highway there is a grand show of balsam root and lupine backed up by the Garry Oaks.

Halfway through the month look for Penstemon barrettiae growing out of the basalt cliffs as you climb up the hill from Rowland Lake. This rose-purple penstemon with neat gray-green foliage is one of the most gorgeous plants found anywhere in anybody's garden. It is a Columbia Gorge endemic plant, found only for a stretch of two miles on both sides of the river. You will also see large patches of Brodiaea congesta, an intense blue-purple, growing on the lower side of the road among the rocks and usually waving in the wind on its long stems. It is a member of the lily family and like so many members of the family, its root (bulb) was a source of food for the Indians, who knew it as "ookow". Among the rocks, too, you'll find great bright mounds of Oregon sunshine with blossoms so close you can't see any leaves. Large numbers of both plants and seeds of this splendid yellow daisy, Eriophyllum lanatum, were collected by David Douglas and sent to the London Horticultural Society in the 1820's. As a result this plant, as well as many other of our native species, is generally better known in England than in its native habitat.

In the last of May and on into June, as the terrain starts to dry out, you'll see large numbers of the blue harvest cluster-lily, Brodiaea coronaria, the rose-purple onion, Allium acuminatum, and the dark blue Delphinium burkei, an eight inch high larkspur.

Now is a good time to go looking...

"For winter's rains and ruins are over...
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins."

A. C. Swinburne

Nancy N. Russell
CALENDAR OF EVENTS: SPRING 1984

7 Dys/wk Bonneville Dam Visitor Centers in both OR and WA. Hourly tours (power generators can be viewed on WA Side.) A/V Program. Spring and summer, 10-6 daily.

MAY

May 1-30 Exhibit: "Columbia River Basketry Show". Columbia Art Gallery, Hood River, Oregon.

May 1 to June 23 Exhibit: "The Dalles: Ancient Fishing and Trade Center". Oregon High Desert Museum. Bend, OR.


May 19 Hike: Ruckel Creek Trail, Strenuous, Elev. gain 4000'. Leader Denver Seaman 639-5763. Meet 7:30 DMV or Eagle Creek Hatchery 8:30. Mazamas.


May 28 Join Senator Packwood for picnic and afternoon at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett, OR. See article in this issue for more information!

May 30 Hike: Stebbins Creek, 7 miles, Elev. gain 1000 ft. For further info. Contact: Portland Park Bureau 248-4018.

JUNE


June 2-7/26 Exhibit: "Art for Art's Sake". Musical Instruments Maryhill Museum.

June 2 Concert: Judson Baptist Orch. 7pm. Maryhill Museum.


June 3 Hike: Larch Mtn./Oneonta Gorge, Strenuous, Elev. gain 4000 Ft. Meet 8 am Mazama Clubrooms or Multnomah Falls Lodge. Driver donation $2.80. Mazamas.

June 6 Hike: Table Rock. 5 Miles/1300 ft gain. For further info. Contact: Portland Park Bureau 248-4018.


June 16-17 Fourth Annual Gorge Appreciation Days. Forty-three opportunities to explore the Columbia Gorge: Hiking, biking and strolling. Watch the mail for your flier!
June 16 Concert: "Magical Strings". Harp and hammer dulcimer. 7 pm. $3 fee. Maryhill Museum.

June 23-24 Class: "1984 Short Course On The Columbia Gorge". 2 day educational gorge tour: lectures, slides and field visits. Contact: Mike Spranger (206)696-6018.

July
July 7 Concert: "Portland Pro Musica". Baroque oboe, cello, harpsichord, viola de gamba and a base vocalist. 7 pm $3 fee. Maryhill Museum.

July 15,22,29 Columbia Gorge Arts Council is sponsoring a series of afternoon family concerts at Latourell Park. Call (503)248-0232 for further info.

July 21 Concert: "Cour des Miracles". Traditional French and Breton music. 7 pm. $3 fee. Maryhill Museum.

August
July 28 FOG Summer Picnic at "The Shire". Join the Friends once again at this beautiful spot. July 29 is the rain date. Check the article in this newsletter for details -- changes this year!


Aug. 11 Concert: "Brass Ensemble". Oregon Symphony members. 7pm. $3 fee. Maryhill Museum.

August 16 to Exhibit: "Wild Beauty", a collection of historic October 21 Gorge photos at the Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Center.

Aug 25 Concert: "Count Bardi Trio". Violin, harpsichord, and bassoon. 7pm. $3 fee. Maryhill Museum.

ENJOY THE COLUMBIA GORGE AND HAVE A SUNNY SUMMER!

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC

JULY 28

A DO IT YOURSELF PICNIC

Summer Picnic at "The Shire":
Saturday, July 28 Noon to 7pm

Bring all you need to be happy for a day at "The Shire": picnic lunch and dinner, drinks, volleyballs, swimsuits, lots of friends...

John Yeon has once again graciously offered FOGC the use of his incredibly beautiful property directly across from Multnomah Falls. This year will be a little different from the previous summer picnics -- come with everything you need for the day.

We'll provide the spot; you provide everything else. The charge is $5.00 a car.

If it rains, take a rain-check for the following day, Sunday, July 29.
Author Michael Frome speaks at Friends' Annual Meeting

Approximately 100 people attended FOCG's annual meeting on April 11th at the PGE/Willamette Center Conference Facilities on S.W. Salmon Street. We are indebted to PGE who let us use the auditorium and conference rooms as a public service.

The meeting itself proceeded with dispatch and ended in less than an hour, leaving plenty of time for libations and our potluck dinner, orchestrated by Jeanne Norton.

Our annual meeting program started with a sampling of songs sung by Scott J. Brown who has assisted Nancy Russell by bringing music to various FOCG programs and presentations over several years.

Former U.S. Senator from Oregon, Maurine Neuberger, introduced our speaker, Michael Frome, Visiting Associate Professor at the University of Idaho and distinguished author. Mr. Frome had dedicated his first book on the national forests, Whose Woods These Are, in memory of Dick Neuberger and Bernard De Voto and had interviewed Senator Maurine Neuberger during her Senate years.

Mr. Frome asked the question, "Who Speaks for Nature?", and proceeded to let us know, based on his broad experience, who does not speak for nature -- but who ought to. In his view, professional and elected people with natural resource responsibilities should advocate and assist in protection of special places like the Columbia Gorge. And, he said, they have in the past -- men such as Gifford Pinchot, Horace M. Albright, Newton Drury, and Stephen Mather. However, Frome said, agency people are subject to orders from above and to politics, and it is the grassroots efforts such as our own that make the difference by working against political expediency and for responsible natural resource protection.

Frome said that, historically, "Each new park came into being from public will and desire. Someone had a vision to make it come true." He described grassroot efforts as the "human machinery that stimulates and sustains the democratic system" and saw our effort to protect the Gorge as part of that democratic process.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is truly fortunate in having as a Friend a man of such broad experience and insights in natural resource issues as Michael Frome.
Suite for the Columbia Gorge

Those of you who have seen the multi-media slide show "The Columbia Gorge: Who is Watching?" will remember the beautiful music that was composed specifically for the show.

For those of you who have not, there is a double treat in store for you—the multi media slide show (ask to see it at the Bonneville Dam Visitors' Center in Oregon), and "Suite for the Columbia Gorge." The "cream" of the music composed for our slide show is "Suite for the Columbia Gorge;" it has been edited and expanded for an inspiring 30 minutes of music, interspersed with some narration. The "Suite" has been aired on several Portland area radio stations, and the response has been extremely favorable.

On the back of the album cover, next to the picture of the petroglyph of "She Who is Watching" Michael wrote an introduction to the album:

"With the music I hope to evoke the many moods of this natural wonder, touch the human elements involved and give a sense of hope to those who will enjoy and protect the Columbia River Gorge in the generations to come."

Welcome aboard!!

Our Spring 1984 membership drive brought us many new members. It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all. Ongoing members please watch your mailbox for your membership renewal notice. We hope that all of you will continue to keep informed of Gorge events. Also, please continue to write your Congressional representatives andyour governor. They need to know what you are thinking about the Columbia River Gorge.

Thank you all. Your participation as a member means Friends of the Columbia Gorge is an increasingly effective organization.

Oops... Invisible photographer: Gary Braasch.

On our membership recruitment card we failed to acknowledge Gary Braasch as the photographer who shot the "Moon Poster." We are indebted to Gary for his generosity in letting the Friends use this supremely beautiful photograph.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Help protect the Columbia Gorge by giving a Friends of the Columbia Gorge membership! We will thank you by sending you a 1985 Columbia River Gorge calendar. The new member will receive a letter announcing your gift, a membership card which will allow him/her discounts at certain establishments in the Gorge, a quarterly newsletter, and more.....

What better way to express your concern for the Gorge than to give someone a gift for today and tomorrow.

Please send a gift membership to: This gift is from:

__________________________________________

phone: ( ) __________________________

This gift is from:

__________________________________________

phone: ( ) __________________________
Friends of the Columbia Gorge offices:

Portland
519 SW Third Ave. #810
Portland, OR 97204

Seattle
600-First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 622-4590

Vancouver
1703 Main Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
(206) 694-6577

FRIENDS OF
THE COLUMBIA GORGE

519 SW Third Avenue, Suite 303 • Portland, Oregon 97204
Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City, State _______________________________ Zip ____________

My available time is:

- weekends
- weekdays
- evenings
- one-time projects

My special skills and interests are:

In the office I would like to work on:

- membership typing bookkeeping receptionist
- copying collating maintaining the press clips
- miscellaneous

At home I would like to do:

- mailings typing phoning

The special events that I would like to work on are:

- fundraiser hiking weekend Winter Picnic other

Just drop this card in the mail -- the postage is paid.

Thank you!!