Executive Director’s Report

February and March of 1986 may well be remembered in future years as months which were decisive for the Columbia River Gorge. Whether these months are remembered favorably or as periods of lost opportunity depends primarily upon Oregon's and Washington's Congressional delegations and upon the citizens of the Pacific Northwest.

National Scenic Area Legislation

February brought an end to a two-year hiatus in the introduction of Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area bills with a flurry of bills. Four Gorge bills are currently pending in Congress. The protection offered by the bills ranges in strength from a deficient Senate bill (S 2055) co-sponsored by the four Washington and Oregon Senators (and introduced in the House as HR 4161 by Representatives Wyden and Morrison) to a strong House bill (HR 4114) introduced by Congressmen Lowry and Weaver. Positioned between these bills is another bill (HR 4221 — formerly HR 4134), introduced by Oregon Representative Les AuCoin and Washington Representative Don Bonker, and co-sponsored by Washington Representatives Swift and Dicks.

HR 4221 (also known as the “AuCoin/Bonker” bill) has the best chance of passing Congress precisely because it is located in the center of the political spectrum. More importantly, unlike S 2055, HR 4221 has popular support because it will protect the Gorge.

HR 4221 is patterned after S 2055's two-tiered management approach which creates a bi-state commission to oversee the majority of Gorge lands, but places the most environmentally and scenically critical lands under U.S. Forest Service management. HR 4221, however, corrects several crucial flaws contained in S 2055. For instance, unlike S 2055, the AuCoin/Bonker bill:

- makes enforcement of the legislation mandatory, not discretionary;
- contains legislative standards for development which are at least as strong as those presently enacted by the local Gorge counties and the States' Gorge Commissions; and
- provides a meaningful role for U.S. Forest Service input into the management plan for the National Scenic Area.

Although further amendments will be sought, HR 4221 has the appreciative support of Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the national conservation organizations. Please call or write either of the Friends'
Executive Director's Report
Continued from page 1

offices for a more detailed comparison of the bills.

Congressional Action
March also brought considerable Congressional action regarding the Gorge. Congressman Morrison held two informal hearings on Gorge legislation in Stevenson and Lyle, and Congressman Bob Smith held similar hearings in Cascade Locks, Hood River and The Dalles. One extremely interesting fact which emerged at Congressman Smith’s hearings was a poll done by Oregon State Representative Wayne Fawbush, much of whose district includes the Gorge. Ninety-three percent of the respondents to our poll felt that the scenic value of the Gorge should be protected. In this poll the most heavily supported protective alternative out of four suggested was, by far, the National Scenic Area alternative.

Also in March, Minnesota Congressman Bruce Vento, chairman of the important House Subcommittee on National Parks, and Oregon Representative Jim Weaver toured the Gorge by helicopter. At a press conference after the tour, both Congressmen commented on the national significance of the Gorge and the need for strong legislation.

June 17, 1986 is the date set for the hearing on S 2055 to be held before the Energy and Natural Resources committee in Washington D.C. Both Oregon Senators have pledged to upgrade S 2055 in committee, and the Washington Senators have stated that further refinements are expected. Meanwhile, in the House, Congressmen Bonker, AuCoin and Weaver have publicly called on the Interior Committee to hold Washington, D.C. hearings quickly.

Clark County Doorhanging Project
On April 12, in an unprecedented operation, over 500 volunteers (organized by the Friends and a dozen other organizations) placed 40,000 leaflets on the explained the weaknesses in the Senate bill and encouraged Clark County residents to contact their Senators and urge them to strengthen S 2055. Protection of the Columbia Gorge has always been a priority for Clark County residents, and their response to the doorhangers was overwhelming and gratifying.

Gorge Developments
Unfortunately, while legislation is being drawn out, development activity in critical areas of the Gorge is proceeding. Oregon’s Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) approved a Port of Hood River proposal to build an interpretive center and conference facility on tiny Wells Island, which is home to the eighth largest Great Blue Heron rookery and the third largest Canada Goose nesting site on the three hundred miles of Columbia River from McNary Dam to the Pacific Ocean.

Conservationists are particularly worried about the current proposal in light of Wells Island’s recent history: In 1979 LCDC rejected an attempt by the City of Hood River to annex the island and rezone it for light industrial use; a similar attempt was also rejected in 1981 by LCDC, which ordered the island removed from the City’s urban growth boundary; finally, in 1983 Wells Island was purchased by the Port of Hood River from the former president of the Port Commission for double its appraised value. Many believe the very high purchase price necessitated the Port’s recent proposal and may lead to a less compatible — but more profitable — proposal in the future.

This April, the Oregon Gorge Commission, 1000 Friends of Oregon, the Portland Audubon Society and Friends of the Columbia Gorge filed an appeal to reverse LCDC’s decision.

A proposal is also pending before Wasco County to modify the zoning for Rowena to increase the permissible population density, facilitate commercial development, and entirely remove Wasco County’s Gorge overlay standards for this particular area. The Friends has testified in opposition to these changes and is particularly concerned about the removal of the overlay.

This spring also has brought welcome news with respect to several development proposals. The long-standing proposal by the Port of Camas/Washougal to expand its industrial activities into the Steigerwald Lake wetlands has finally been resolved — to the satisfaction of all parties — by the purchase of a large portion of the wetlands for management as a refuge by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The protection of Steigerwald Lake was ultimately made possible by an interim purchase by the Trust for Public Land and the dedicated work of Senator Mark Hatfield and Congressman Les AuCoin in securing the necessary funds for acquisition. The help of Brian Boyle, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands, was also a vital factor in securing the refuge.

In February, the Washington Shorelines Hearings Board decided in favor of the Friends in its appeal of Skamania County’s issuance of a shorelines permit for the Jung subdivision. The comprehensive decision upheld the Friends’ suit in every major aspect. The proponents of the subdivision, which would have included 83 lots on a 78-acre parcel with 2200 feet of Columbia River waterfront, extensive filling of wetlands and the dredging of a three-acre deepwater marina, have appealed the Board’s decision.

If February and March are eventually seen as a watershed in the half-century struggle to bring needed protection to the Columbia River Gorge, then each one of us must become involved. Please write or telephone your Congressmen today and express support for strong Gorge legislation. Future generations deserve nothing less.

— Bowen B.
In our Winter 1986 FOCG Newsletter, we wrote about Henry J. Biddle and his work in establishing parks at Mt. Zion (Biddle Butte), Beacon Rock, and Hamilton Mountain. The pursuit of additional information on Biddle took us to Eugene where his collected papers are housed in the Special Collections Division of the University of Oregon Library.

In the earlier article, we also mentioned Biddle's love of botany and that his interest in plants was triggered by his finding *Penstemon rupicola*, a strikingly beautiful crimson penstemon, growing in Beacon Rock. In Eugene there is a lovely watercolor illustration of that flower, painted by Biddle, among the 21 drawings and paintings of western wildflowers in the collection.

On November 9, 1919, well established on his farm to the east of Vancouver, Washington, Mr. Henry J. Biddle wrote to his sister, Lydia:

"Mona will perhaps be interested in knowing that I have pursued the study of Botany quite vigorously the last three Summers."

"Vigorously" is certainly the right word to describe the unrestrained enthusiasm and dedication revealed in a 1915 copy of Charles V. Piper's *Flora of the Northwest Coast*, full of pressed flowers and annotations, and in Biddle's "Notes on Wild Flowers," a typed looseleaf volume among the Biddle papers. There were trips all through the Columbia Gorge and other areas and list after list of plants found and identified, starting with his first observation on February 16, 1920, "The pussy willows are now in bloom," and continuing until August 25, 1928 at the mouth of the Washougal River, a month before his death on September 27. In the Gorge there are lists from Oneonta Gorge, Beacon Rock, Rowena Point, Dalles, the Deschutes mouth, Mosier, Spedis, Hamilton Mountain, and Multnomah Falls. In working on his botany Biddle benefited from the amiable comradeship of Martin W. Gorman, a fellow Mazama, who was considered in his lifetime the outstanding authority on plant life of the Pacific coast. Biddle recognized that the Gorge had been very well explored for plants and was not disappointed that he didn't discover anything new in his Gorge rambles with Gorman. It is clear that the mastery of plant names and the joy of the outings were his primary motivation. The following is from the 1919 letter to his sister:

"I never took any interest in particular in garden flowers, nor could I ever remember their names, but since I have taken up the study of the native plants here I can recognize about 150 species, and can recall the Botanical names of most of them. Hamilton Mountain, up which my latest trail is being built, is one of the most wonderful natural flower gardens in the world, and this has, of course, been a great stimulus in making me want to identify the plants that grow there... This park-like expanse is covered from April until the end of June with a succession of the most beautiful wild flowers growing in such profusion that they form solid masses of color."

In his "Notes on Wild Flowers," May 18, 1924, Biddle lists seventy-five species from Hamilton:

"Of these seventy-five species I have given names to all except one parsley."

The outings with Martin Gorman continued until 1926 when the following note appears after a list from a June 22 trip with Gorman in the area of Bingen (*Coreopsis atkinsoniana* was in bloom):

"This was the last trip I took with M. W. Gorman. He died October 7. I had counted on his identifying many of the species noted on this trip and the previous trip with him."

As a tribute to his plant-loving colleague, Biddle includes a quote from
Joys of Botany

James Russell Lowell in the “Wild Flower Notebook.” It is, in part:

The wisest man could ask no more of fate
Than to be simple, modest, manly, true.
Nothing to count in world, or church, or state,
But inwardly in secret to be great.

Biddle continued identifying plants both in Oregon and Washington and at his winter home in Palm Springs until his death near Lakeview, Oregon while on a hunting trip in the fall of 1928.

His botanical adventures are memorialized in *Lupinus biddlei* from Harney and Malheur Counties. It is listed in Morton E. Peck’s *Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon*.

In our fall issue we will discuss Biddle’s activities in history and archeology.

— Nancy N. Russell

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Vancouver Volunteers ‘Doorhang’:
40,000 Residents Meet The Gorge

Early in the morning of Saturday, April 12, 1986, over 300 enthusiastic volunteers turned out at Vancouver’s Leupke Center to embark on the most successful grassroots campaign in the history of Clark County. After receiving instructions and some light refreshments, the volunteers set forth to inform their Clark County friends and neighbors that if they cared about the Columbia Gorge, now was the time to act. This was not a dootbelling event but a doorknocking event. A flyer asking Clark County residents to tell Senators Evans and Gorton to get behind strongly protective Gorge legislation was hung on 30,000 doorknobs in the county.

The flyers requested citizens to:
1. Support strong legislation such as Representative Don Bonker’s bill (HR 4221).
2. Pass the bill this year.

Since the flyers were hung on doorknobs in the early hours, personal contacts weren’t frequent, but the people who were encountered responded favorably. An attorney/volunteer returned with the story of an encounter with an elderly lady who opened her door with a large frown on her face, saying, “I suppose you’re one of those environmentalists!” The attorney responded by saying he guessed he was if favoring Gorge protection made it so. Upon hearing this, the woman exclaimed, “Good, we need a lot more of you in this world of ours!”

There was a constant flow of TV crews, reporters, and telephone interviews, all of which resulted in extensive newspaper articles and prime time TV coverage in both Seattle and Portland.

Seldom do any of us go out as individuals and truly touch another person’s life; but that is what happened with the Gorge doorknocking. Those of us in Vancouver applaud the support and help of the entire environmental community for giving up a Saturday morning to call on fellow neighbors.

— David L. Cannard
Vancouver, Washington
Co-chair, FOCG

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Scene Near Rooster Rock

Thru a veil of soft, misty green,
Grey, moss-punctuated bark
Stands, handsomely cast,
In a warm chartreuse.
A corridor of cottonwoods,
Leaves invitingly
Within the bosom
Of a mighty Gorge.

— Peter Kendall
The Grand Old House at Bingen: Bed 'n Breakfast with Style

Bingen, Washington  509/493-2838

Greg & Cyndy deBruler, Proprietors

Set aside backpacks and basalt, restrain Nikes and Nancy, and think creature comfort. Consider The Grand Old House, circa 1860, Bingen, Washington. Refurbished and restored by young innkeepers, Greg and Cyndy deBruler, this delightful Bed 'n Breakfast with accompanying fine dining proudly shares seven spacious bedrooms with appreciative Columbia Gorge travelers (full modern baths and additional shower room down the hall).

My husband, Pat, won a night's lodging at THE GRAND OLD HOUSE at the Winter Picnic, a luck of the draw for the Irish ticket picker, courtesy of the deBrulers. I was simply his compadre.

Throughout the house there are flowers everywhere, and music, and Victorian wallpaper, and tall, slender windows with wide woodwork. Built by the first white settlers in the area to replace the original homestead that had been burned to the ground by Yakima Indians, The Grand Old House is celebrating its 125th birthday.

Mary & Erastus Joslyn were the original owners. The Joslys raised fruit and vegetables that were sold in the gold mining boom towns of Oregon and Idaho, and in the fledgling town of Portland. At first the only contact with the outside world was through the sternwheeler river boats, but later the railroads, and then the highways moved into the area. Joslyn named the White Salmon River and the Klickitat Indians, as well as teaching local Indians, holding Sunday worship for them, and allowing travelers passing by a free room for the night. They eventually left the area to move to Colorado.

The second owners were the Suksdorfs, a prominent local German family that named the town of Bingen. A portrait of Frederick Suksdorf still hangs in the office. After the Suksdorfs, a series of other families lived in the house. The Dickeys had the house for perhaps the longest time period, over 30 years, finally selling out to the Smiths.

From 1979 to 1981, the house was host to a restaurant called The Joslyn House, but the upstairs remained a private residence until Seattleites Greg and Cyndy deBruler saw the promise in the structure of the house and the strength of the winds of the Gorge. They are windsurfers and, in talking with them, you have the feeling that this historic old structure may be secondary to their love of the winds and the waters of the Gorge.

Breakfast is included in your room tab — $40 to $55 — summer rates; a bit less in winter months. Innkeepers deBruler are in residence during the wintertime, but move out in the summer to allow one more room for guests. Eighteen-month old Nicole converses with "peoples," then scurries back to busy parents who cook and serve a deliciously enormous breakfast, book guests, carry thick teal and rose-colored towels to a linen closet at the head of the stairs, and transmit windsurfing information internationally.

Evening dining arrangements are prepared and served by Jim and Cathy Spence. It is an eclectic menu offering Greek Spanakopita, Fettucine Celilo, Baja Prawns, Escargor Clementine, and a fabulous Hook In and Hang On — the House Chef's catch-of-the-day. Nighttime dining is open to the public. An entree dubbed "Gorge Out" arrives to fulfill your barbecued chicken and ribs fantasy and qualifies as survival and revival food for the over ten-mile hiker. The full service dining room offers domestic and European wines and encourages the local wines from Mont Elise Winery in Bingen and the Charles Hooper Family Vineyard in Husum, Washington.

Knowing that you have only 15 stairs and a few short waltz steps to your bedroom above allows you a glass or two of Cabernet around the fireplace, and the recitation of The Shooting of Dan McGrew with a fellow guest from Albany, New York.

The food and wine, an old armoire and comfy bed, the smell of lilacs, the quiet, and above all — the natural style of the deBrulers — make The Grand Old House a charming and recommended friend along the Columbia Gorge.

In our fall newsletter, we'll review Williams House, a Bed 'n Breakfast in The Dalles, Oregon. Like innkeepers deBruler, Don and Barbara Williams donated their hospitality to a lucky winner at the Winter Picnic.

— Andy Dignan
Editor and Compade
The Joys of Botany
Henry J. Biddle (1862-1928)
Part 2

In our Winter 1986 FOCG Newsletter, we wrote about Henry J. Biddle and his work in establishing parks at Mt. Zion (Biddle Butte), Beacon Rock, and Hamilton Mountain. The pursuit of additional information on Biddle took us to Eugene where his collected papers are housed in the Special Collections Division of the University of Oregon Library.

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As a tribute to his plant-loving colleague, Biddle includes a quote from
Governors, Senators and Representatives Will Make the Difference —
Be Informed and Contact

OREGON
The Honorable Victor Atiyeh
State Capitol, Room 160
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-3109

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The Honorable Ron Wyden
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FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE
Spring 1986 Newsletter

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Please join us!
All contributions are tax deductible.
Make checks payable to Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

☐ $15 Individual Membership
☐ $25 Family Membership
☐ $100 Family Membership*
☐ $250 Family Membership*
☐ $100 Organizational Membership
☐ I want to volunteer.
☐ I am considering a bequest; please send information.
☐ My group is interested in your slide show.
☐ $10 Friends of the Gorge T-Shirt

Size

☐ $8 Poster: Moon Rising Behind Crown Point, by Gary Braasch

*Includes a poster, calendar, or T-shirt. Please indicate your choice.

Name ___________________________
Address _________________________
City _____________________________
State ___________ Zip _____________
Telephone ( ) ___________________

Friends of the Columbia Gorge
519 SW Third Ave., #810
Portland, Oregon 97204

Statement of Purpose
Friends of the Columbia Gorge was founded in November 1980 as an educational, public interest group to work for planning and permanent resource protection of one of the world's most beautiful and historic areas — the Columbia River Gorge.

Our objectives are to preserve the open space of the Gorge, to focus future development within incorporated cities and their urban growth boundaries, and to provide for a single, uniform management plan for the whole Gorge.

Address correction requested
CALENDAR of EVENTS
May — September, 1986
(Listed chronologically)

MAY

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Event: Columbia Gorge Historic Home Tour
View Point Inn, Jacobson Mansion, Menucha and Maxwell House
When: May 18, 1986 • Sun., Noon-6 p.m.
*Event occurred previous to press time but consider this for next year and visit two Troutdale museums open during summer months, 1-4 p.m.
The Rail Depot, 473 E. Columbia Street, Troutdale, Oregon
Harlow House, 726 E. Columbia Street, Troutdale, Oregon
For further information, call Sam Cox, 503/665-9086

THE DALLES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Event: Sternwheeler Weekend
A celebration of the opening of Riverfront Park. The sternwheeler, Columbia Gorge, will have short excursion rides.

Where: Riverfront Park, The Dalles, Oregon
When: Memorial Weekend, May 24, 25 • Sat., Sun.
For further information, contact Rosalind Carmack, 503/296-2231.

LYLE AREA
Event: 19th Annual Lyle Pioneer Days
Where: Lyle, Washington
When: May 24, 25 • Sat., Sun.
For details, call 509/365-2713.

WINDSURFING
Event: Memorial Day Weekend Gorge Races
Where: The Dalles, Oregon
When: May 24, through 26 • Sat. through Mon.
Call for further information: 503/298-8796

JUNE

WINDSURFING
Event: Vancouver Lake Championship, Series #1
Where: Vancouver Lake, Washington
When: June 1 • Sun.
Call for details: 503/386-3787

HOOD RIVER
Event: Indian Basket-Making
Yakima and Klickitat Tribes
Where: Hood River Port Marina Park Museum, Hood River, Oregon
When: June 1 • Sun.

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE
Event: Fund Raiser — Seattle
See full details in report from Kristine Simenstad-Mackin, Associate Director, FOCG — Seattle, Washington
Where: Seattle, Washington
When: June 7 • Sat. — 7:30 p.m.

OREGON WHEAT GROWERS’ LEAGUE
Event: Junior Livestock Show
Where: Wasco County Fairgrounds, Tygh Valley, Oregon
When: June 8 through 11 • Sun. through Thurs.
Additional information: 503/298-1016

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE
Event: Sixth Annual Hiking Weekend
When: June 14, 15 • Sat., Sun.
Full details are being mailed separately to the membership.

Event: Senate Hearings on S 2055
Where: Washington, D.C.
When: June 17 • Tues.
Call FOCG offices for details: 503/241-3762 - 206/622-4590

WHITE SALMON
Event: “Be with a Book” summer series
Where: White Salmon, Washington (Library)
When: June 18 • Wed., 11:30 a.m.

1986 SHORT COURSE ON THE COLUMBIA
Event: The Columbia Gorge, A Unique American Treasure
Instructors, Jeff Breckel, Dan Guthrie, Raymond Cocoran, Phil Crawford, Mike Spranger
Where: Vancouver, Washington
When: June 21, 22 • Fri., Sat.
This is a course offered through Western Washington University. One or two credit hours can be earned at a cost of $34 per credit.
For further information, contact: Washington Sea Grant, 3716 Brooklyn Ave., N.E., Seattle, WA 98105, 206/543-6600
JUNE (continued)

WINDSURFING
Event: Rhonda Smith High Performance Clinic
Where: Hood River, Oregon
When: June 21, 22 • Sat., Sun.
For further information call 503/942-3677

Event: 4th Annual Hood River High Wind Classic
Where: Hood River, Oregon
When: June 21, 22 • Sat., Sun.
Call for details: 503/386-5787

Event: High Wind Classic
Where: Hood River Marina, Hood River, Oregon
When: June 28, 29 • Sat., Sun.
For further information call 503/386-5787

STEWENSON, WASHINGTHON
Event: "Hero of a Thousand Faces"
Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre presentation
Where: Stevenson, Washington Library Gallery
When: June 24 • Tues. — 7:30 p.m.

CORBETT, OREGON
Event: Pacific Northwest Danish Cultural Conference
Danish music, lectures, dialogue
Where: Menucha Retreat
When: June 27 through 29 • Fri. through Sun.
Call for details: 503/998-8288. Modest fee.

JULY

MARYHILL'S RUSSIAN ICONS
Event: Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Museum to Queen Marie of Roumania
Dr. A. Dean McKenzie, Professor of Art History, U of O
Where: Maryhill Museum of Art, Goldendale, Washington
When: July 1 — Tues., 7:30 p.m.
For further information call 509/773-4792 or 773-3733

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS
Event: 4th of July Celebration and Fireworks
Where: Hood River, Oregon
When: To be announced
Event: 4th of July Community Celebration & Fireworks
Where: Sorosis Park, The Dalles, Oregon
When: See above
Event: Columbia Gorge Pro-Am Speed Slalom
Where: Hood River, Oregon
When: July 11-20 • Thurs. through 10 days to following Sunday, Please contact P.O. Box 759, Hood River, OR 97031 for details.

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE
Event: Picnic at The Shire
When: A free summer picnic will be held at John Yeon's nature preserve across from Multnomah Falls. Pack your picnic baskets, bring swim suits plus special guests. Details to be mailed to all members
When: July 13 • Sun. — 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

THE DALLES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Event: Fort Dalles Days and Rodeo
Where: The Dalles, Oregon — Rodeo grounds
When: July 17 through 20 • Thurs. through Sun.
Event: Chili Cook-off
Where: Rodeo Grounds, The Dalles, Oregon
When: July 19, Sat., Noon to 5 p.m.
No entry fee but registration required.
Call 503/296-2231. Deadline: June 30, 1986

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE
Event: Neighborfair
Sign up to volunteer for our FOCG booth. Call 503/241-3762
Where: Portland, Waterfront Park
When: July 20 • Sun.

WINDSURFING
Event: Stroh's ABA Stolichnaya Pro-Am
Where: Hood River, Oregon
When: July 23 through 27 • Wed. through Sun.
Call 415/864-2070 for details

HOOD RIVER COUNTY FAIR
Event: Hood River County Fair
Where: Hood River, Oregon — Fair Grounds
When: July 23 through 26 • Wed. through Sat.

WINDSURFING
Event: Betty Birrell High Performance Clinic
Where: Hood River, Oregon
When: July 30 through August 1 • Wed. through Fri.
Preregistration required. Call 604/294-0044
AUGUST

WASCO COUNTY EVENTS
Event: Dufur Threshing Bee
Where: Dufur, Oregon (Oregon Hwy #197 due S. approx. 16 miles from The Dalles.)
When: Aug. 9, 10 • Sat., Sun.
For details call 503/467-2503

MARYHILL MUSEUM OF ART
Event: Village Roumania at the Time of Queen Marie
Dr. Joe Marrant, Professor of Anthropology, Linfield College
Where: Maryhill Museum, Goldendale, Washington
When: Aug. 19 • Tues. — 7:30 p.m.
Additional details: 509/773-4792 or 773-3733

CLARK COUNTY FAIR — FOGC Booth
Event: Clark County Fair
Where: Vancouver, Washington — Fair Grounds
When: Aug. 3 through 7 • Sun. through Thurs.
Volunteers needed: Call Arnie or Mary Dyer, 206/695-5506

WINDSURFING
Event: Vancouver Lake Championship, Series #3
Where: Vancouver Lake, Washington
When: Aug. 10 • Sun.
Call 206/573-1212 or 503/285-2088.

WASCO COUNTY EVENTS
Event: Wasco County Fair
Where: Tygh Valley, Oregon
When: Aug. 25 through 31 • Mon. through Sun.

SEPTEMBER

AQUATICS
Event: Columbia River Cross Channel Swim
Where: Hood River Marina, Hood River, Oregon
When: Sept. 1, Mon. (Labor Day)
Call 503/386-2000 for additional information.

THE DALLES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Event: Fall Festival.
Drama presentation, craft market, Victorian home tour
Where: The Dalles, Oregon
When: October 4, 5 • Sat., Sun.
Call Rosalind Carmack 503/296-2231 for further information.

OCTOBER

Too late for itemization on calendar, but please make note of excellent programs by City of Portland, Parks and Recreation, 503/796-9132 and Clark County Parks and Recreation, 206/699-2467. Call for brochures detailing great activities.

If you have knowledge of events appropriate for the Calendar or are familiar with an association or group who should be included, please send details to: Friends of the Columbia Gorge Newsletter, Attn: Andy Dignan, 519 S. W. Third Avenue, #810, Portland, Oregon 97204.

The GORGE Goes To Expo:
Oregon: A regional display, showcasing the Portland, Mt. Hood and Columbia Gorge areas, is seen daily in the permanent Oregon Exhibit at Expo ’86.

WASHINGTON: The combined counties of Clark, Klickitat and Skamania are honored collectively on June 1, 2 and 3. Residents of the counties will be special hosts on these days.
When Visitors Come, It's Time To Go —
On the Perfect One-Day Gorge Tour

The Columbia River Gorge is high on everyone’s list when it comes to entertaining summer visitors from afar. However, sometimes it’s a puzzlement to plan a tour that fits comfortably into a single day and gets past Multnomah Falls and Bonneville Dam. You will never hear me brag about my cooking, but I can cook up a tour. Here’s one for your next summer visitors.

We’ll go from west to east and return, since most visitors arrive at the Portland Airport which is west of the Columbia Gorge. From the metropolitan area, follow all signs saying I-84 East, The Dalles. Fifteen minutes from Portland on Interstate 84, you will enter the Columbia Gorge after passing over the Sandy River. Continue east on I-84 to the Corbett Exit #22. Climb up the Corbett hill to the intersection with old Highway 30 (Scenic Highway) and proceed east 1.6 miles to Women’s Forum State Park.

Continue east on the Scenic Highway to Vista House on Crown Point. Rest rooms available here.

Enjoy a marvelous stretch of the Scenic Highway east of Crown Point as you drop down to 240 foot Latourelle Falls. There is ample parking; rest rooms are on the north side of the road. Take a very short walk uphill to a vantage point overlooking the waterfall or walk down to the pool at its base.

Continue east. After passing over the next bridge, park at Shepperd’s Dell State Park. It is here that you will see all the reasons why the 1915 Scenic Highway is the only 20th century highway on the National Register of Historic Places — the stonework, the soaring arch of the bridge, the graceful railings, the views from the bridge itself.

Proceed to Wahkeena Falls. Parking and rest rooms available. Take a look at the stone footbridge; it’s only a short walk up to it.

Next point to the east is Multnomah Falls. We know it’s great, but it is often crowded, and this tour isn’t going to stop there.

Head for Oneonta Gorge to the east. As you approach Oneonta Creek, get in the right lane and go over the old bridge (there used to be a tunnel directly ahead). As you face Oneonta Gorge, on your right are stairs to the creek bed.

Next stop, Horsetail Falls, where the Forest Service has done great things with the stone from old Rocky Butte Jail. The falls is so close you can feel the spray.

Just beyond Horsetail Falls you’ll see Ainsworth State Park and then an intersection to take you back to I-84 eastbound. Follow the signs to Hood River.

You will pass Bonneville Dam and then Eagle Creek. Slow down going past Eagle Creek to see the beautiful stone-faced Eagle Creek Bridge on the Scenic Highway.

Exit at Cascade Locks if you’re picnicking and it’s time for lunch. Heading east, proceed through the small town and turn left at the Cascade Locks National Historic Site. There is much to see here around the old lock system. Picnic tables and rest rooms available.

Leaving the Historic Site, turn left (east) on old Highway 30 for a mile and easy return to I-84 eastbound.

Bypass Hood River and head for Exit #69 six miles past Hood River to pick up old Highway 30 again. The sign says, “Mosier/Scenic Loop.” This road takes you up to Rowena Crest Viewpoint on the Rowena Plateau for great views of the Eastern Gorge.

Proceed east to the viewpoint before descending the plateau to Rowena, Oregon. At the Rowena intersection on I-84 you have come 64 miles from where you entered the Gorge at the Sandy River.

Proceed west to Hood River. Take Hood River Exit 64 and cross over to Washington (toll 50 cents) for a leisurely drive back to the west on Washington Highway 14 enjoying views of both states from the Washington perspective.

Six miles west of the Bridge of the Gods look for Beacon Rock on your left. Restrooms available here.

Continue west on Highway 14 eight miles to the Cape Horn cliffs, the high point (literally) of the Washington drive. Pull over to the side of the road here for superb views to the east. Then, proceeding west, drop gradually down to the river level. As you approach Washougal, Washington, much of the flood plain on your left was recently purchased by the Corps of Engineers for a wildlife refuge. The Gorge boundary is at Gibbons Creek, east of Washougal.

Keep your tour flexible. There is a lot less rain east of Hood River, so on rainy days keep your stops short in the west and linger a while on the Rowena Plateau. Rain or shine, the Gorge is gorgeous, and your guests will be smiling all the way home.

— Nancy N. Russell