Accomplishments & Milestones 2003
By Kevin Gorman, Executive Director, kevin@gorgefriends.org

The rebirth of the Klickitat Trail
The “comeback of the year” award goes to the Klickitat Trail. The 31-mile scenic rail bed seemed destined to non-use due to a handful of local landowners and a hostile county commission. Residents organized peaceful trail hikes in late 2002 and in 2003 Friends helped launch the Klickitat Trail Conservancy, which now boast more than 200 members, most of whom are local residents. With local backing, the U.S. Forest Service agreed to manage half the trail and Washington State Parks and Klickitat Trail Conservancy are discussing management of the other half. The Goldendale Sentinel now lists the trail as one of Klickitat County’s Ten Best Attractions even though the county commission continues to oppose it.

Nearly 800 acres purchased for public protection
The Forest Service continued its strong pace of land acquisition, acquiring 784 acres of land in 2003. The gem of the acquisitions was the 108-acre property along Major Creek. The land is a likely Lewis & Clark campsite. Forest Service efforts ended on a discouraging note, as they ran out of funds and expect only $1 million for acquisition in the coming year.

Removing the top story ends the story of the Bea House
The five-year saga of the Bea House came to a close in May as the Beas, the Gorge Commission and Skamania County reached an agreement to remove the top-story of the house and plant a buffer of trees to lessen its visibility. In exchange, the County and the Commission agreed to pay the Beas $300,000 for the work. Friends was part of the earlier settlement discussion, but left when given a “take it or leave it” offer that included a 26-foot addition to the house in full view of the Columbia River and I-84. As a result of our walking away from the settlement discussions and threatening legal action, the parties reconsidered and placed the addition to the house to the north, and out of sight.

Friends’ members and major donors remain steadfast
As the economy continued to sputter, Friends continued to find generous support from our membership. Our major donor giving exceeded projections by over 20% and we had increases in new member and special appeal gifts. Thanks to everyone who gave us the resources to take on the many challenges facing the magnificent Columbia River Gorge.
Challenges & Accomplishments in 2003

CONSERVATION & LEGAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

By Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org, & Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney, nathan@gorgefriends.org

Watchdogs of the Gorge
In 2003, Friends of the Columbia Gorge maintained our watchdog role by commenting on every application for development in the National Scenic Area, reviewing more than 275 land use decisions, and filing appeals when necessary. Friends successfully appealed a Skamania County decision that illegally subdivided Open Space land. By filing a legal brief with the Oregon Court of Appeals, Friends helped protect Native American cultural resources from a harmful mining proposal. And Friends joined the Hood River community in opposing a 186,000-square-foot Wal-Mart “superstore,” which was denied by the county commissioners.

Protecting Forest Resources
The rate of logging in the National Scenic Area exploded in 2003, especially on private land. Friends helped stem the tide with two important victories in Skamania and Clark Counties. In one appeal, Friends successfully blocked a forest clearcut even as the chainsaws were buzzing. A superior court judge enjoined the clearcut and ruled that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had unlawfully interpreted Gorge protection rules to create a loophole that did not exist. In the second victory, Friends convinced the DNR to deny a proposed clearcut because the landowner had concealed plans to construct a road for future residential development on the cleared land.

Bea Case Resolved
Friends continued our participation in settlement discussions involving the infamous Bea house. Although Friends did not endorse the final settlement agreement, our involvement led to a much better settlement than would otherwise have been approved by Skamania County and the Gorge Commission. The settlement reduced the visible surface area of the house and required substantial measures to better screen the house from key viewing areas.

Fighting Sprawl and Maintaining Strong Protection
In 2003 the Gorge Commission and Forest Service reviewed the National Scenic Area Management Plan and proposed revisions to policies and guidelines that protect the scenic beauty, natural heritage and cultural resources in the Gorge from the detrimental effects of new land uses and developments. Friends recruited thousands of citizens to write letters or provide testimony in favor of strengthening Gorge protection and opposing weaker Gorge protection standards. The results are mixed, but Friends and our allies have been able to derail efforts to significantly weaken Gorge protection. Management Plan review and revision will continue in 2004.
Friends’ Outdoor Programs
Our 2003 hiking program offered 57 spring outings and 10 hikes in autumn. More than 1500 outdoor enthusiasts had the chance to hike, explore, and enjoy the treasure that is the Columbia Gorge.

Our hiking program was supported by 40 volunteer hike leaders from 20 other outdoor organizations, and 72 volunteer hike shepherds, providing great outdoor recreation and education, as well as fun volunteer opportunities, for Gorge lovers.

Stewardship in the Gorge
In 2003, nearly 200 volunteers participated in 13 stewardship workdays with Friends at Bridal Veil State Park. Volunteers ranged from kindergarten children to senior citizens, rooting out blackberry and ivy, and planting native species. Dedicated volunteers even hauled water to new plants in the driest months of summer.

Gorge Activism
Our email listserv sent 32 posts to hundreds of activists in 2003, generating 900 letters, phone calls and comments to elected officials, the Forest Service and the Gorge Commission. More than 100 individuals showed up at hearings and meetings. Activists urged stronger protections for Gorge landscapes, natural habitat, recreation opportunities, and cultural resources.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

OUTREACH

By Tiffany Kenslow, Field Organizer, tiffany@gorgefriends.org

1,700 Acres of Critical Land Purchased to Date
The U.S. Forest Service continues to make strides in land acquisition in the Gorge. In 2003, close to 800 acres were purchased in the National Scenic Area. Combined with approximately 900 acres purchased in 2002, in this two-year period the Forest Service has purchased over 1,700 acres for open space, natural habitat, and recreational use.

Even as the Forest Service moves forward to purchase critical lands, the biggest challenge continues to be the lack of federal funding. The Forest Service expects to receive only $1 million in 2004 for Gorge land acquisition, despite their indications that $15 million is needed to adequately protect the landscapes.

Many of the lands that have been offered to the Forest Service are fast approaching their three-year deadline. If the Forest Service has not made offers by the deadline, zoning will become less restrictive, and more development will result.

Given this short time-line and the lack of federal funding, 2004 will be a critical year for Gorge land acquisition.

A Vision for the Gorge
This year, Friends’ Board of Directors created a vision statement expressing our long-term hopes, goals, and vision for the Columbia Gorge. In years to come, the defining phrase of that vision will become familiar to Gorge lovers everywhere:

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.

The full vision document will be included in our spring newsletter in May. It is also available on our website at www.gorgefriends.org.
Fundraising Year in Review
By Jane Haley-Harris, Development Director, jane@gorgefriends.org

Next to the Gorge, our members are our strongest asset. In 2003, contributions and gifts from Friends’ members came in 11% higher than projected, including bequests and gifts to the endowment. And our membership grew by 371 new members this year.

Much of this success was due to a strategic decision to enhance our grassroots organizing and membership programs by working together to create events, outings and opportunities for public activism that better engage our members. Restoration projects, an expanded hiking program that includes member only hikes, and an effort to hold a number of small events in local communities have all helped us exceed our goals this year for membership development. This is particularly important during a time when foundation giving is down and many groups with less vigorous pubic support are struggling.

Our sincere thanks to each and every member who made Gorge protections a priority in 2003.

2003 Foundation Support

Our sincere thanks to:
- Bullitt Foundation
- Clark Foundation
- Collins Foundation
- Jackson Foundation
- Jubitz Family Foundation
- Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation
- McGraw Family Foundation
- Meyer Memorial Trust
- Oregon Community Foundation
- Philip S. Harper Foundation
- Portland Garden Club
- Ralph & Adolf Jacobs Foundation
- Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust

Our thanks to the following companies:
- Benjamin Moore & Co
- Boeing Gift Matching Program
- Buffalo Exchange
- Cameron Winery
- Campaign Communication Solutions, Inc
- Custom Stamping & Manufacturing
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Gerber Associates
- Gorge Networks, Inc
- Grainger
- Gresham Optical
- Lindblad Special Expeditions Inc.
- Merrill Lynch
- Miller Nash LLP
- Nike Inc. Corporate Division
- ODS Health Plans
- Oregon Roadside Council
- Portland General Electric
- Sun Microsystems Inc
- US Bancorp
- Wanke Cascade

In-Kind Donations

Recreation & Member Programs
- Clif Bar
- Flerchinger Winery
- Holstein’s Coffee Company
- Hood River Bagel Company
- REI

Legal & Conservation Services
- Dona Hippert – Legal Research & Analysis
- Josh Hodes – Legal Research & Analysis
- Robert G. Hoffman – Land Use Planning
- Michael Lynch – Legal Research & Analysis
- Liz PiRe – Legal Analysis

Computer & Office
- Joe Eachart – Technical Support
- Karen Foster – Photo Archives
- Priscilla Hall – Office Assistance
- Bozena Holloway – Office Assistance
- Jean Inglis – Office Assistance
- Diana Karabut – Computer Support
- Alain MacKinnon – Database support
- Jeanne Norton – Office Assistance
- Claire Puchy – Computer Support
- Elda Slack – Office Assistance

Photography
- Ken Denis – Photography
- James Holloway – Photography
- Diana Karabut – Photography, framing
- Darryl Lloyd – Photography
- Joe Urmos – Photography

photo: Darlene Newman
Thank you for making Columbia River Gorge protection a reality.

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Angel's Rest
$10,000-$24,999
Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation
Lenoey Jensen
Nancy & Bruce Russell
Howard Storch

Thor's Height
$5,000-$9,999
Jubitz Family Foundation
McGraw Family Foundation
Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust
Betsy Bonham
Ed & Debbie Craig
Ed Caswell
Ames B. Hendrickson
Arthur & Trudy Hetherington
Tracie Lynne-Freni
Thomas Freni
Norm L. Yeon

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Conservator
$1,000-$2,499
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Jackson Foundation
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Merrill Lynch
Portland Garden Club
Gail Ackerman
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Gorham Babson
Stephen & Melissa Babson

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Ed & Mary Vianzan
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Pat & Macy Wall
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Robert Wilson
Charles & Barbara Wright

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$500-$999
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Columbia River Volkssport Club
Custom Stamping & Manufacturing
Weston Cascade
Marjorie Belluschik
C M & Mabel Bishop
Marilyn Couch & David Axelrod
Carol Ann Curthoys

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 Marshal Livingston
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Jean & John Thorpe
Fran & John Van Schlegel
Helen Wall
Patricia Wheeler
Clayton & Ann Willhite
Shepard & Marguerite Wilson

Trailblazer
$250-$499
Hooter Fund II of The Oregon Community Foundation
ODS Health Plans
Sun Microsystems Inc
Roger Aumann
Susan Barthel
Lester & Heather Baskin
Chester & Marion L Beals
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Dr. J. Bruce Bell
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William & Mary Black
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Sonia & David Krummel
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Missy Ryan
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Reynaldo San Antonio
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Merrill & Bill Savery
Jill Schwie & David Jursik
Laurence & Pat Serrurier

Holly Silver
Anne-Marie Slater
Dick Springer
Julie Sterling
Richard Stiggins & Nancy Bridgeford
Edward & Rosalie Tang
Donald & Carol Templeton
Columbia-Willamette
Columbia River Gorge

Guide
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Buffalo Exchange
Cameron Winery
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Nathan Baker
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Susanne Foster
Kenton Fong & Ting Leung
B. David & Paula Duford
Barbara De La Fuente
Jerry & Marilyn Franklin
Daisy Franzini
Gregory Fredricks
James Freeman Jr.
Sharon G."Kiki" Goddard
Space to include these
Steve & Mary Good source
Living Lightly

donate in this Annual Report
Thank you from our staff!

> FINANCES

### Statement of Financial Position*

**12/31/2003**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
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**TOTAL ASSETS** $728,642

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<th>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS:</th>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** $728,642

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2003**

**REVENUE:**

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**TOTAL REVENUE** $606,069

**PROGRAM EXPENSES:**

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**TOTAL EXPENSES** $622,790

*This is an unaudited financial statement. Friends undergoes an annual independent audit of its financial statements, but it is not completed until after this publication is printed.