Announcement of the Norman Yeon bequest: The son of the roadmaster of the Historic Columbia River Highway and brother of the man who prodded Nancy Russell to start Friends of the Columbia Gorge quietly left nearly half of his estate to Friends of the Columbia Gorge. The $4.3 million bequest is the largest conservation gift in Oregon history and is funding the launch of Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust as well as our endowment and special projects.

Launching the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust: Nearly two years in the making, Friends’ land trust kicked into gear in 2006 by hiring Hood River resident Kate McBride, purchasing the $1.5 million Cleveland property, the crown jewel of Cape Horn and launching the $4 million Campaign for Cape Horn. See pages 2 and 4 for more details.

Department of Interior frowns on Gorge casino: The Department of Interior dealt two setbacks to Gorge casino supporters in the past 18 months: first denying the Governor’s compact with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and more recently rejecting the scoping report submitted by the Tribes’ consultants, demanding that an on-reservation alternative be included in the list of options. The latest development is testimony to the growing concern over off-reservation casinos. Conservation Director Michael Lang traveled to Washington D.C. twice, once to testify before Senator John McCain’s Committee on Indian Affairs. See page 2 for more details.

Gorge Wilderness moves through the House: With heavy lifting done by Representatives Greg Walden (R) and Earl Blumenauer (D), a Wilderness bill including more than 22,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area moved through a House committee that has rejected nearly every Wilderness bill for past six years. Passage of a Senate companion bill could ensure greater protection for Gorge forests.

Securing $1.5 million for Forest Service purchases of critical lands: Despite drastic cuts to federal land acquisition budgets nationwide, Friends lobbied to secure $1.5 million for Forest Service purchases in the Columbia Gorge. We were especially gratified to receive the support of the entire Congressional delegation including Representatives Greg Walden (R-OR) and Doc Hastings (R-WA).
CONSERVATION & LEGAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2005-06 Accomplishments & Major Challenges

By Michael Lang, Conservation Director, michael@gorgefriends.org and Kate McBride, Land Trust Manager, kate@gorgefriends.org

Twenty years of Gorge protection!
The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act was passed into law on November 17, 1986. The Scenic Area Act has undoubtedly protected our beloved Gorge from urban sprawl and thoughtless resource extraction while expanding public lands to protect the scenic beauty of the Gorge, protect fish and wildlife habitat and create more parks and trails. But how well is the Scenic Area Act protecting the Gorge? In 2005-2006, Friends received funding to begin determining whether the Gorge is effectively protected under existing rules and what the impacts might be if protections are weakened.

Gorge receives funding to purchase and protect land: Friends’ intensive efforts to gain Congressional support for federal funds to protect land in the Columbia Gorge paid off when Congress passed, and the President signed, a bill containing $1.5 million for Forest Service land purchases in the Columbia Gorge.

Casino gets major setback: In a major victory for opponents of a Gorge casino, the U.S. Department of the Interior has declared that the Warm Springs Tribes’ casino application failed to meet federal environmental requirements and announced that the scoping report, the fundamental justification for the project, must be rewritten. This action casts the entire proposal in doubt and could require the Tribes to build their new casino on the 640,000-acre Warm Springs reservation.

Gorge/Mt. Hood Wilderness bill passes the House: The Columbia River Gorge stands as the major beneficiary in H.R. 5025, which would designate 78,000 acres of forest land within the Mt. Hood National Forest as wilderness. The Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy includes 22,000 acres of land within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area between Oneonta Creek and Hood River. Friends salutes Rep. Blumenauer (D-OR) and Rep. Walden (R-OR) for carefully negotiating and guiding the bill through treacherous waters in the House.

Spectacular view point purchase: The newly formed Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust began its first land purchase and purchase option with two magnificent view parcels on top of Cape Horn in Skamania County. Friends Land Trust intends to create an overlook to honor the efforts of Friends’ Founder Nancy Russell and her late husband Bruce. The acquisition of these properties will allow a public Cape Horn Trail along the bluff rim, so all can enjoy the stunning views from this area.

Memaloose trail easement: The Land Trust is working with Wasco County landowners to procure easements to open a wonderful new trail east of Memaloose State Park. The new route will enable hikers to bypass a difficult rock outcropping and dense poison oak. Our long-term goal is to link this section to a larger trail system traversing the Memaloose area.

Land inquiries welcome: Several landowners have contacted the Trust in recent months to inquire about selling or donating their property. We welcome inquiries regarding property both inside and outside the Gorge.
Volunteers 2005/06: Friends’ members and volunteers helped to keep Gorge protections strong in 2005/06. Our thanks to these active Gorge supporters, who lead hikes, conducted research, attended meetings, entered data, and helped in countless other ways in our Portland and Hood River offices.

Jeremy Allen  Donna Enz  Daniel Lichtenzvald  Pat Sims
Chelssy Allen  Mike Fink  Bev Linde  Sara Snyder
Patricia Anderson  Daniel Fling  Bob Lockett  Art Souther
Ted Anderson  Jarrod Fogle  Gail Lovell  Frances Spisak
Billie Anger  Jude Foster  Bob Lubach  Dick Springer
Frank Arnold  Nick Frank  Helen Lyman  Kathyayani
Randall Arthur  Thomas Friedmann  Jim Mahar  Srikanteswara
Caroline Bailey  Sarah Fry  Jon Magers  Shawn St. Michael
Ken Bailey  Melissa Fung  Marsha Mahon  Dale Stone
Carol Barnet  Jane Garbisch  Laura Mattie  Sam Sullivan
Megan Bechard  Michael Geffel  Gayle Mirkin  Mel Taylor
Ashlei Bickel  Richard Getgen  Dana Mirkin  Renee Tkach
Tawanna Bisson  Brian Gill  David Moen  Sian Troupe
Trenton Blair  Samuel Gomberg  Tyrus Monson  Frank Tucker
Craig Bowen  Katie Goodwin  Angie Moore  Gerry VanDeene
Jared Bowler  Ron Goodwin  Mary Moore  AliceVetter
Cathy Brandt  Dave Gorreta  Marna Moore  Dick Vetter
Tricia Bull  Phil Graham  Chris Morales  Sam Walker
Alan Burrell  Priscilla Hall  Ian Muridren  Roger Wendlick
Burt Burton  Bob Hansen  Roy Murrell  Hal White
Moona Cancino  Mike Harrison  Matt Nelson  Maxine Wilkins
Jim Carley  Ray Hayden  Darlene Nelson  Barbara Wilson
Joan Carter  Susan Healy  Matt Nelson  Sarah Wilson
Joyce Caudell  Velma Heckman  Orion Nessly  Noah Winchester
Ellen Chaffins  Bob Heitzman  Mitch Neuwarth  Jami Winston
Nanci Champlain  Jane Heitzman  Jeanne Norton  Toby Winston
Jim Clapp  Walt Hillemann  Rachel O’Grady  Adrienne Wolf-Lockett
Sue Coburn  Bo Holloway  Kristie Oh  Wendell Wood
Brian Conley  David Hoyle  Carlton Olson  Samantha Wright
Scott Cook  Daryl Hoyt  Mary Narey  Nick Wright
Carol Craig  Dan Huntington  Larry Jacobson  Joe Yuska
Cathy Crandall  Sherrir Irish  Lee Jalovec  Jeanne Norton
Cal Crandall  Scott Jackson  Jardon Jaramillo  Rachel O’Grady
Garrett Cudahy  Jane Jacobsen  Gay Jervey  Kristie Oh
Patricia Culver  Larry Jacobson  Dave Johnson  Robert Ray
Carol Ann Curthoys  Lee Jalovec  Russ Jolley  Joyce Reese
Katy Daily  Jardon Jaramillo  Matt Jones  Jeff Richard
Lou Daily  Gay Jervey  Dave Johnson  Barbara Robinson
Julie Davis  Betsy Porter  Stephanie Potter  Heather Rosenwinkel
Larmars Denegal  Dolores Porch  Pierre Provost  Cheryl Roth
Felice Denis  Betsy Porter  Stephanie Potter  Aubrey Russell
Ken Denis  Dolores Porch  Stephenie Potter  Krista Russo
Jim Denton  Aaron Pederson  Shane Phillips  Mary Ann Schmidt
Katharine Diack  Erick Plunkett  Eirik Plunkett  Leigh Schwarz
Spencer Dick  Brian Pope  Marie Neuwarth  Branden Scott
Laura Dickinson  Ian Murirden  Matt Nelson  Renee Scott
Esther Diez  Darlene Nelson  Matt Nelson  Kathy Shaver
Susan Dornfeld  Matt Nelson  Sarah Shier  Stephanie Sigmon
Wendy Dudelheim  David Hoyle  Darlene Nelson  Stephanie Sigmon
Jason Dumont  Daryl Hoyt  Matt Nelson  Stephanie Sigmon
Luke Dutton  Dan Huntington  Darlene Nelson  Stephanie Sigmon
Joe Harhart  Scott Jackson  Lee Jalovec  Mike Lichtevald
Ross Edginton  Larry Jacobson  Jardon Jaramillo  Steve Murrin
Elena Efoli  Lee Jalovec  Matt Jones  Lynne Murnen
Rebecca Elwood  Jardon Jaramillo  Matt Jones  Lynne Murden
Alicia Emel  Gay Jervey  Dave Johnson  Lynne Murden
IN KIND
DONATIONS:
Full Sail Brewery
Great Harvest Bakery
Phil Jones
New Seasons Markets
Peet’s Coffee
Perceptual Intent Design
Rick Ray
REI
Jay Sherrerd
Starbucks
Terry Toedtemeier
Walker Macy

Outdoor Programs

By Betsy Toll, Outreach Coordinator betsy@gorgefriends.org

Friends’ recreation program and stewardship efforts provide a valuable means for sharing our appreciation of the natural beauty and rich history of the Columbia Gorge. These programs encourage strong public support for Gorge protection.

- Our Fall 2005-Spring 2006 hiking program offered more than 80 opportunities for Friends members and the general public to explore the Columbia Gorge.
- We sponsored 10 stewardship workdays and developed new partnerships with the National Friends of the Forest and SOLV.
- Our Hikes and Recreation program drew 1,175 participants in 2005/06.
- 135 outdoor volunteers helped make the programs a great success.

Other 2005/06 highlights:

- Launched the Friends of the Columbia Gorge Hike Leader Training Program, with support from REI.
- Produced a Friends Ambassador training presentation for hike leaders and volunteers.
- Offered 10 special educational outings and events focused on Lewis and Clark’s historic 1805 journey through the Gorge.
- Doubled the number of subscribers on our email action list to 1,220 individuals.
- Updated and expanded the design of our publications to better serve our members.
Public Support for Gorge Protections Continues to Rise
Membership support this past fiscal year grew by more than 25% from $297,000 last year to $363,000 for the fiscal year ending in June of 2006. This does not include an additional $96,000 in bequests, $22,000 in memorial gifts, $7,000 in corporate contributions, $114,000 in gifts and pledges to the Land Trust, and $113,000 in foundation support.

Revenue from the Endowment and reserves provided approximately $136,000 in additional funding to cover a total budget of $847,500. The Endowment will sit at about $1.4 million thanks to a decision by the board of directors to allocate $1 million from the Yeo bequest to that fund. Our reserve account holds an additional $200,000.

Campaign for Cape Horn: In addition to our success in increasing public support for Gorge protections, Friends now is charged with raising significant support for land acquisition. The Land Trust arm of the organization announced a $4 million Campaign for Cape Horn to cover the costs of purchasing the Cleveland and Collins properties, restoring the landscapes to more natural conditions, and creating a viewpoint honoring our founder Nancy Russell. To date, we have received a total of $1.27 million in gifts and pledges for the project. With fundraising just getting under way, we are confident we will reach our goal by the end of 2008.
Thank you from our staff!
From left, Top row: Michael Lang, Nathan Baker, Rick Till; Middle row: Justin Carroll, Teckla Anderson, Jane Harris, Betsy Toll; Bottom row: Karen Hardigg, Kate McBride, Sarah Wilson, Kevin Gorman
(Not pictured: Peter Cornelison and Kelley Beamer)

**FINANCES**

FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6/30/06

Statement of Financial Position*

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<thead>
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<th>Assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Short-Term Investments</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:

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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,646,006</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** **$3,686,000**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE:

| Memberships                                    | $199,818 |
| Major Donors                                   | $183,487 |
| Special Appeals                                | $36,212  |
| Foundations                                    | $113,500 |
| Corporations                                   | $6,938   |
| Events                                         | $39,200  |
| Bequests                                       | $3,095,812 |
| Endowment Donations                            | $1,000   |
| Lands Program Donations                        | $15,377  |
| Interest and Capital Gains                     | $47,879  |
| Miscellaneous Income                           | $8,387   |
| **TOTAL REVENUE**                              | **$3,747,610** |

PROGRAM EXPENSES:

| Conservation                                   | $145,085 |
| Casino                                         | $133,125 |
| Legal                                          | $79,484  |
| Lobbying                                       | $37,024  |
| Land Trust                                     | $66,401  |
| Lewis & Clark Landscapes Project               | $27,222  |
| Parks & Trails                                 | $12,675  |
| Outreach & Outdoor Programs                    | $254,052 |
| Fundraising                                    | $86,726  |
| Administrative                                 | $67,946  |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES**                             | **$909,740** |

*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.