

## New Gorge Office Making Progress

*Efforts include promoting recreational opportunities in the Gorge*

Friends' new Hood River office and field organizer are well on the way toward realizing a long-time, major goal of the organization: form partnerships with local communities and organizations to work on projects that benefit the Gorge and communities within the Gorge.

We are currently working with the Columbia Gorge Recreation Coalition to secure congressional funding for four proposed recreation sites: Viento State Park, Spring Creek Hatchery, Mosier Waterfront and West Mayer State Park.

### What You Can Do

*Oregon residents:* Write Congressmen Greg Walden and Earl Blumenauer and Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith. Thank them for supporting the four proposed recreation sites in the Gorge and request that they encourage Senator Gorton to support the Oregon sites in

*(continued on page 5)*

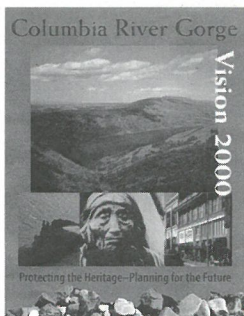
**INSIDE**

**Special Insert:  
Gorge Hiking Guide  
Gorge Games...page 3**

## "support livable communities" Spotlight on Mosier

by Tiffany Newton, Field Organizer

*This is the first in a series of periodic updates focusing on the work of the Vision 2000 coalition campaign.*

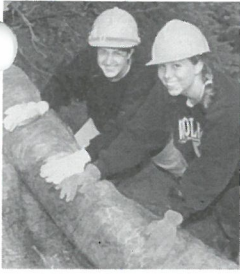


*Residents of Mosier bring new meaning to the term "community service."*

Nestled into the one of the most beautiful spots in the National Scenic Area is a town with a group of volunteers so committed to their community they could serve as a model for community organizing.

Residents of Mosier bring new meaning to the term "community service." In addition to the daily tasks necessary to keep a town running, citizen volunteers are responsible for the Mosier 20/20 Project—the long-term planning vision for the community. *(continued on page 5)*

*Above: Mosier circa early 1900s, though the view hasn't changed much since (except for I-84).  
photo: OrHi16533*



## Citizen Involvement Update

# Friends Outreach & Volunteer Happenings

by Becky Douglas, Volunteer Coordinator

### Gorge Watch

Concerned about the litter and safety problems in Gorge parks? Volunteer with Oregon State Police and Parks to:

- Protect and preserve the Gorge;
- Be the eyes and ears of the Gorge; and
- Increase the safety of well-loved and visited places.

You will be provided with training and position materials and equipment.

Please contact Sergeant Craig George with the Oregon State Police at 503-731-3020 x292 or [craig.george@state.or.us](mailto:craig.george@state.or.us) for more information and an application. ■

### Friends' Speakers Bureau

Spring is a time when many people begin to rediscover the miracles of the Gorge, with its melt-water falls and vibrant wildflowers. As our connection to the Gorge grows deeper, so does the need to share this with others. An excellent way to do this is through Friends' Speakers Bureau.

We are looking for venues — including service, church, community, and work organizations — to present our dynamic slide-show and to reach out to interested Gorge fans. To deepen your advocacy for the Gorge, join Friends in becoming a trained speaker. ■

### Volunteer Opportunities

June 3: Restoration Project at Discovery Center

June 6: Office Work Party

June 7 and 13: Shepherd Training

June 16, 17, 18: Gorge Hiking Weekend

July 1: Restoration Work Party at Discovery Center

July 8-15: Gorge Games

July 23: Mosier Twin Tunnels Opening

To volunteer, to provide venue ideas for the speakers bureau, for speaker training, or for more information, contact Becky: [becky@gorgefriends.org](mailto:becky@gorgefriends.org) or (503) 241-3762 x107. ■



Up on the hill on the Lyle Cherry Orchard Hike. Hikers enjoy Friends April 1 outing. photo © Ken Denis

## Friends of the Columbia Gorge

522 SW Fifth Avenue, #820

Portland, Oregon 97204

(503) 241-3762

[www.gorgefriends.org](http://www.gorgefriends.org)

### Mission Statement

*Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.*

*We fulfill this mission by ensuring strict implementation of the National Scenic Area Act; promoting responsible stewardship of Gorge lands and waters; encouraging public ownership of sensitive areas; educating the public about the unique natural values of the Columbia River Gorge and the importance of preserving those values; and working with groups and individuals to accomplish mutual preservation goals.*

—Adopted November 20, 1997

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*Newsletter Editor:* Kathryn Armstrong

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# Gorge Games

## Events provide abundant opportunities for involvement

by Becky Douglas, Volunteer Coordinator

Get out your gear — July 8-15, 2000, the Subaru Gorge Games return with a variety of Olympic-style and outdoor-adventure competitions. Friends of the Columbia Gorge will help spearhead the excitement. Through a unique partnership with the Gorge Games, Friends will recruit volunteers for the games and coordinate the Volunteer Booth at the event headquarters.

The world's leading outdoor adventure athletes will be competing alongside "weekend warriors" in various events, including mountain biking, kayaking, 49-er sailing, windsurfing, outrigger canoeing, climbing, kite-boarding and an off-road triathlon.

Athletes and spectators will also be treated to a week of exciting concerts, outdoor-adventure sport clinics and a kids' program. The events are spread throughout the Gorge communities and will be



*The Gorge games will take place in water, through the air, and on the trail.*

*photos courtesy of the Gorge Games*



taking place in water, through the air, and on the trail.

The Event Headquarters will be the central hub for both athletes and spectators. With thousands of visitors from near and far, the Gorge Games are a terrific opportunity for Friends to share with fellow Gorge enthusiasts the magic of the region. The Games are also a great



opportunity to demonstrate how

Friends' vigorous protection efforts ensure that the Gorge remains a natural wonder for everyone to enjoy.

There are many ways to support the Gorge Games, and to assist

with strengthening Friends' outreach efforts:

- Team Leader: a great opportunity for those who like to work with people and help things run smoothly.
- Volunteer at a specific event: options include registering athletes, timing events, venue set-up, medical volunteer, and parking coordinators.
- Headquarters: help represent Friends and provide information about volunteer activities.

There is no experience necessary to volunteer, only a passion for the Gorge, a desire to support Friends and to enjoy a day in the sun. In return, volunteers will receive a T-shirt, lunch, an appreciation gift and unparalleled memories. Tell your friends and family!

If you are interested in volunteering for the Gorge Games contact Becky: [becky@gorgefriends.org](mailto:becky@gorgefriends.org) or (503) 241-3762 x 107. ■





## Conservation and Legal Program Highlights

# In the courts and in the field...

by Michael Lang, Conservation Director and Beth Englander, Staff Attorney

### Ross Island Sand & Gravel could mine the Gorge

Ross Island Sand and Gravel (RISG) is seeking approval for a mining operation on a 40-acre site in the urban area of Dallesport, Washington. The project is part of a long-term plan for the company to establish a several-hundred-acre mining operation in the Gorge and to end mining within the Willamette River in Portland.

Local residents and several state agencies are concerned about the likely environmental risks posed by this

and other proposed mining

operations. For example, nearby Spearfish Lake is important habitat for migratory waterfowl, fish and other aquatic creatures; Western Pond Turtles, listed as a threatened species in Washington, can be found in the area; Long-billed Curlews have been observed in the area during their breeding season. Other concerns include possible threats to water quality, air quality, water availability and cultural resources.

Though RISG says it is committed to addressing environmental concerns, it does not want to prepare an environmental impact statement. However, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has requested an environmental impact statement so that the public has an opportunity to carefully assess how a mining operation could affect natural and public resources. ■

### Public/private land swap could result in quarry

Does the National Scenic Area need more rock quarries? The Forest Service seems to think so — it's planning to trade away public land in the Scenic Area for the purpose of creating a mining district near the Pacific Crest Trail in Skamania County, Washington. The pending land deal involves 80 acres of public land and 15 acres of land currently owned by a timber company.

#### Write a letter today!

Friends of the Columbia Gorge opposes trading public land in the National Scenic Area to private interests, particularly for the purposes of logging and mining.

Contact Art Carroll, USFS National Scenic Area, 902 Wasco Ave., Suite 200, Hood River, OR 97031, (fax) (541)386-1916.

For more information contact Michael Lang, (503) 241-3762 x105, or michael@gorgefriends.org ■

### Protecting the Gorge from Illegal Logging

Friends and the U.S. Forest Service teamed up to prevent large clearcuts in the Special Management Area (SMA), near Dog Mountain. In March, a Washington Court judge ruled that the Seeder Tree Company's land must stay in the SMA (where logging is strictly regulated) and did not convert to General Man-

*(continued on page 5)*

*Left: Balsamroot and lupine sit on a proposed mining site for Ross Island Sand & Gravel. The site would expand from 40 acres to approximately 650 acres over the next 20 years.*

*photo: Kevin Gorman*

*Friends has requested an environmental impact statement so that the public has an opportunity to carefully assess how a mining operation could affect natural and public resources.*



## Conservation and Legal Program Highlights

(continued from page 4)

agement Area status (where regulations are more lax).

For more information about Friends' legal activities contact Beth Englander: (503) 241-3762 x101, or [beth@gorgefriends.org](mailto:beth@gorgefriends.org) ■

## Air Quality Update

*Decision calls for improvements to Gorge's air quality*

In May, the Gorge Commission approved a modified amendment to the National Scenic Area Management Plan that would remove requirements for a Class One airshed, but requires a comprehensive pollution-reduction strategy for the Gorge. The strategy goes beyond the Class One designation by requiring the enhancement of air quality rather than just limiting degradation. This strategy is required to address all sources of air pollution including mobile, area and stationary sources. ■



*I-84 removed much of Mosier's waterfront possibilities, but residents plan to restore the waterfront with native plants and promote appropriate development.* photo: Kevin Gorman



*This gravel pit abuts a state park, a steelhead-bearing stream and is located in the urban area of Mosier. The town wants it shut down and turned into a public amphitheater.*

## Spotlight on Mosier

(continued from page 1)

A stroll through town provides countless examples of the community's commitment to Mosier's future. Upon entering town there is a sign welcoming visitors to Mosier — the sign design, construction, renovation and installation were completed by volunteers. Heading toward the center of town, you pass the Mosier Library, open only one day a week for two hours a year ago, now open five days a week — again, due to volunteer efforts.

Finally, you come to the Mosier Creek Falls; this piece of property is the center of Mosier's newest crusade and, in pure Mosier fashion, the community is moving forward full steam ahead. When the property recently became available for sale,

residents began working toward a way for the city to purchase the land and turn it into a city park.

Mosier is a unique example of a town within the National Scenic Area that is working

together as a community to flourish under the Scenic Act. This community has been working together for many years on projects that will

enhance the community as a whole. Because of this commitment, the Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 Campaign is focusing some of its efforts on Mosier.

As a first step toward realizing some of the community's goals, we're creating promotional materials about the projects and vision of Mosier. Further, a letter-writing campaign is under way, the goal of which is to persuade members of Congress to support funding for the Mosier Waterfront project during the fiscal year 2001 appropriations cycle.

While the Columbia River Gorge is inspiring to all who visit this spectacular place, it is equally, if not more, inspiring to find a group of people who are so committed to their Gorge community. ■

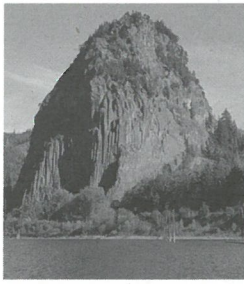
## New Office

(continued from page 1)

in addition to the Washington sites.

*Washington residents:* Write Congressman Brian Baird and Senator Patty Murray. Thank them for supporting the four proposed recreation sites in the Gorge and request that they encourage Senator Gorton to support the Oregon sites as well as the Washington sites. Write Senator Slade Gorton; thank him for supporting the proposed Washington projects and encourage him to support the Oregon projects.

Sample letters and more information are available at [www.gorgefriends.org](http://www.gorgefriends.org), or contact Tiffany: [tiffany@gorgefriends.org](mailto:tiffany@gorgefriends.org) or (541) 386-5268. ■



## Funding Gorge Protection

# Development Director's Report

by Jane Haley

## Annual Meeting Draws Crowd

**M**ore than 160 people came out to the Columbia Gorge Hotel in Hood River on March 12th to enjoy the Gorge while attending Friends' Annual Meeting. Over lunch, guests were treated to readings and local Gorge lore by author Craig Lesley.

Lesley read from his books, "Winterkill" and "River Song;" he also talked about his upbringing in Eastern Oregon among many of the hardscrabble folk that provide the grist for his stories.

Friends' Chair Emerita Nancy Russell presented an Appreciation Award to former-Board Treasurer

Mike Ryan for his many years of service to the organization and to the Gorge.

Executive Director Kevin Gorman outlined the issues and opportunities facing the Gorge over the next few years; issues of concern to the organization include air quality, the development of a new park at Cape Horn, and the need to continually monitor attempts to develop the Gorge and cripple the



Act that protects it. By the end of the day everyone left feeling closer to the Gorge and up-to-date on the issues. ■

*Above: Capacity crowd at the Annual Meeting.*



*Author Craig Lesley treated guests to readings.*



## Summer Picnic Promises Fun for the Whole Family

This year's Annual Picnic, scheduled for Sunday, July 23, promises to be one of the best Gorge events of the year. In addition to a wonderful potluck picnic hosted by the Mosier House Bed and Breakfast, members will have opportunities to tour the grand opening of the Mosier Twin Tunnels on the Historic Columbia River Highway. The new six-mile stretch of the old highway is closed to motor vehicles, so plan to walk, run or bike with friends and family and to hike to a special waterfall and swimming hole treasured by Mosier residents.

Mark your calendars and plan to come out and spend a wonderful July day in the Gorge. ■



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Up on the hill on the Lyle Cherry Orchard Hike. Hikers enjoy Friends April 1 outing. photo © Ken Denis

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## Know Your Gorge Wahclella Falls Hike: Short, Beautiful, Unknown

This may not fall into the "unknown" category for many Gorge hikers, but it's amazing that more people don't check out this gem.

An ideal spot for taking kids or out-of-towners who are not accustomed to grueling hikes, this 2-mile, round-trip jaunt follows Tanner Creek, and becomes a narrow canyon with water dripping down from the slopes above. The area's heavy rainfall makes everything green, rich and lush — even in the summer. As you reach the end of the trail and Wahclella Falls, the canyon opens up and there are numerous spots to stop for lunch and enjoy the water.

From the trailhead, you can also access part of the Historic Columbia River Highway, which is open to hikers and bikers but closed to automobiles.

*Directions:* From I-84 east or west, take the Mile 40 exit (Bonneville Dam) and turn south, away from the river. Park in the designated trailhead area. Trailhead pass required. ■

*A hiker absorbs the beauty of Wahclella Falls.*  
photo © Ken Denis

