

Legislature Restores Budget for Gorge Commission *Citizen involvement makes it happen*

by Michael Lang

Oregon and Washington legislators have restored funding for the Columbia River Gorge Commission, reversing the cuts imposed in 1997. The budget appropriation, possibly the largest ever for the bi-state Commission, passed through the Oregon Legislature in June with broad, bipartisan support.

Restoration of funding for the Gorge Commission could not have happened without the groundswell of public support for Gorge protection that has occurred in the last several months. Supporters from the

Gorge and in key legislative districts in Oregon and Washington contacted their legislators and urged them to cast their votes for Gorge protection.

In addition, Gorge Commissioners became much more active and strategic in advocating for a budget increase. Hood River, Multnomah and Wasco Counties called for restoring the budget for the Gorge Commission and sent representatives to Salem to testify. Tribal governments also weighed in heavily; both the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the

Umatilla Tribes testified in support of Governor Kitzhaber's requested budget. The cities of Hood River and Mosier went on record supporting the Governor's requested budget.

The resulting budget includes \$668,318 for Oregon's share of the bi-state agency's budget, which is a 42.7% increase in their Current Service Level.

The public should be concerned that \$100,000 of Oregon's portion of the total budget is appropriated to the Legislature's Emergency Board. Last year the Emergency

continued on page 7

"Judge Ladeley reaffirmed what other Gorge counties and landowners know: you can have your view, you just can't become the view."

Judge Upholds Gorge Commission's Decision on the Bea House

Ruling states that moving the house is an appropriate remedy

On Monday, July 26, a Washington Superior Court judge upheld the Columbia River Gorge Commission's order to move the controversial Bea House to a less visible site on the 20-acre property.

Judge Ladeley of the Washington Superior Court ruled that the Gorge Commission has the authority to overturn an illegal land-use decision and that both the County and the Beas violated numerous provisions of the National Scenic Area Act. The judge also deemed that moving the house is an appropriate remedy.

In his decision, Judge Ladeley stated that, while he had sympathy for the Beas, some of the problem is their own doing. He also stated that this case was not just an interpretation of the law on the Gorge Commission's authority, but also goes toward ensuring future protection of the Gorge. Judge Ladeley also found that the Gorge Commission acted in a reasonable timeframe once it became aware of the violations committed by Skamania County in allowing the

continued on page 3

INSIDE

Spring Wildflower Hikes
page 5

**Conservation
and Legal
Update**
page 4

**Volunteer
Outreach**
page 6



Executive Director's Letter

So close and yet so far.

The thought raced through my mind several times as I took a hike in June with 60 other Gorge enthusiasts during one of our Spring Wildflower Hikes. It was a hike into the future: on a trail that isn't quite yet a trail, over private lands that landowners want in public hands, and in an area short on recreation opportunities and long on drop-dead gorgeous vistas.

Less than half an hour from Portland and Vancouver on the Washington side of the Gorge, the proposed Washougal-to-Stevenson trail serenely winds through old-growth trees and pastoral meadows. It leads out to Pioneer Point, a spectacular vista on public land, but since it is surrounded by private land it is an inaccessible island. The purchase of these lands from willing sellers could provide much-needed breathing room for the western Gorge trails on the Oregon side.

So close and yet so far. Despite nearly unanimous support for the Pioneer Point trail concept, the project is not moving forward as quickly as we would hope. Some land is under negotiations for acquisition by the U.S. Forest Service, but other willing-seller properties, such as one that would offer a spur trail down to the riverfront, are not being considered. A few vocal, local dissenters have tried to kill the project. After years of pushing the trail concept, these delays

are eroding the enthusiasm and momentum of the trail's champions.

To counter the ebbing support, this project is now one of the primary focuses of the Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 Campaign, a coalition effort spearheaded by Friends of the Columbia Gorge. The Vision Campaign supports the good work already done and will work with the Forest Service and the local communities to ensure the Washougal-to-Stevenson Trail can become a reality.

Too often in our world, the best ideas and intentions get derailed due to resistance to change. But the fact is, change will come in one form or another. It is our job to ensure that the change that does occur will protect and benefit the Gorge for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Kevin Gorman
Executive Director

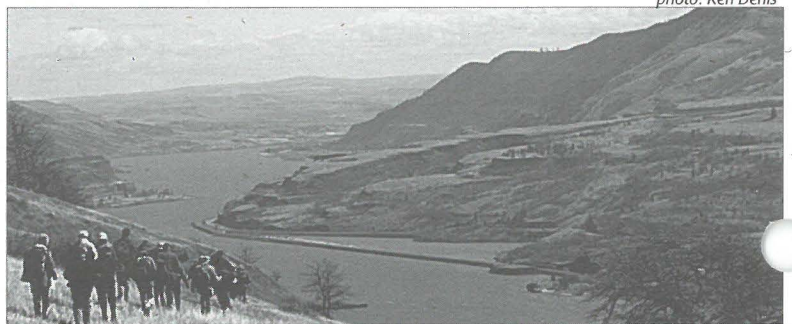


photo: Ken Denis

Recreation Projects Achieve Partial Support

Congressional funding supports increased recreational opportunities in the Gorge

An ambitious effort to increase recreational opportunities in the Columbia River Gorge should get a partial liftoff from Congress in the coming year. The Columbia Gorge Recreation Coalition's funding request of more than \$4 million for six projects has been allocated just over \$1 million from the Interior Appropriations Committee chaired by Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA). The Dalles Riverfront Trail (\$600,000 of the \$1.169 million requested) and the Drano Lake project (at the full \$551,000) were chosen for funding by the committee.

The Dalles Riverfront Trail, a planned nine-mile trail traversing the riverfront area of the city of The Dalles, has been a community-wide effort for several years.

Friends is hopeful that the Columbia Gorge Recreation Coalition will continue to build on the momentum gained during the past year, and that the Coalition will work to make these remaining recreation projects a reality. For more information or to get involved, contact Diane Barkhimer of the Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association, (541)386-9225. ■

Judge Upholds Gorge Commission's Decision on Bea House

(continued from front page)

construction and by the landowners in siting and building the house.

"This is a victory for Gorge protection," declares Friends' Executive Director Kevin Gorman. "Judge Ladeley reaffirmed what other Gorge counties and landowners know: you can have your view, you just can't become the view." Friends of the Columbia Gorge intervened in support of the Commission's order; the United States Attorney's office, Multnomah County and four Native American Tribes also submitted briefs supporting the Gorge Commission's authority.

This case represents one of the most important legal challenges to the Columbia River Gorge Commission's authority to protect the scenic beauty of the Gorge.

Skamania County and Brian and Jody Bea challenged the Commission's authority to carry out an enforcement action involving a county land use decision.

Last January, the Gorge Commission ruled that Skamania County violated the National Scenic Area Act by approving the construction of the house and accessory building on a highly visible bluff in the Columbia River Gorge. Compounding the problem, the Commission found that the Beas had violated numerous conditions of their permit. The county was ordered to reissue a new decision requiring the structures be moved to less visible locations on the property. The law requires new buildings to be located in areas where their visibility is minimized from key viewing areas.

"The decision makes it very clear that counties and developers can't hide behind illegal land-use decisions," said Michael Lang, conservation director for Friends of the Columbia Gorge. "This is a victory for the 600 other landowners who have built their homes in the National Scenic Area, followed the rules and helped to protect the Gorge."

While the Beas contend that they will appeal this decision to a higher level, Friends is still interested in working with all parties involved to move the house and minimize the financial burdens to the Beas. By accepting the help of others, the Beas could be in their home in a matter of months — and still live in one of the most beautiful spots on Earth. ■

Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000

Steering Committee prioritizes projects and goals

The Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 Campaign is in full swing as steering committee members have been meeting to consider projects to promote recreation, the protection of natural areas and economic development.

Serving on the Vision 2000 Steering Committee are:

Kim Burkland- Hood River, OR.

Program Director, Central Cascades Alliance.

Scott Chapman- Portland, OR. Volunteer, Sierra Club Columbia Group.

Dotty DeVaney- White Salmon, WA.

Kevin Gorman- Portland, OR. Executive Director, Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Dan Gunderson- Home Valley, WA. Wind River Watershed Council.

Iva Harmon- Mosier, OR. Community leader; member, Mosier City Council.

Jeff Hunter- Hood River, OR. Realtor.

Gay Jervoy- Mosier, OR. Member, Mosier 2020 project; member, Columbia River Gorge Recreation Coalition; board member, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, and Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association.

Keith Liggett- Stevenson, WA. Skiing journalist; owner, Timbers Lodge.

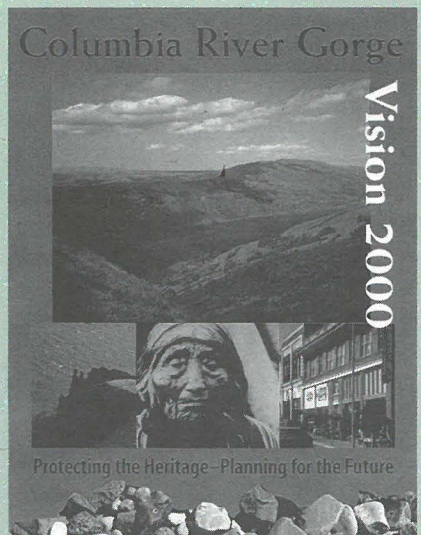
Guy Moser- The Dalles, OR. Retired computer software executive; board member, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; instructor, Columbia Gorge Community College's Small Business Development Center.

Andrea Rogers- Mosier, OR. Member, Mosier City Council; member, Mosier 2020 project.

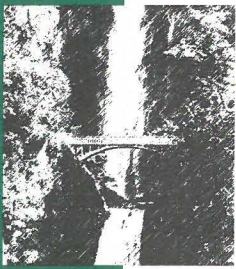
Bart Vervolet- Mosier, OR. Realtor; business owner; radio personality, Bart's Best Bets.

Campaign Manager

Arlene Burns- Mosier, OR. Field Organizer, Friends of the Columbia Gorge. ■



Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 is a coalition of concerned individuals, organizations and businesses, from both within and outside of the Gorge, who came together to take action on behalf of one of our greatest natural treasures — the Columbia River Gorge.



Conservation and Legal Program Highlights

In the courts and in the field...

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

Headway gained toward preventing mining operations from marring Gorge

As reported previously, Friends appealed a Skamania County decision that approved a new mining operation in the Scenic Area west of Stevenson, WA. Friends challenged this quarry application because the mining operation would be visible from key viewing areas in the Gorge and because the mining operation would take place in an area with sensitive wildlife habitat, including rare low elevation habitat for Pika.

Good news! Our appeal successfully stopped this mining operation for the time being. We were able secure a voluntary delay from both Skamania County and the quarry's owner, both of whom admitted that Skamania County's decision allowing the mining operation was made without the required background

materials that should have been submitted as part of the application. This issue may re-emerge if the quarry's owner submits all of the necessary information to Skamania County. Friends may have to pursue further legal action in the future in order to ensure the Gorge's natural and scenic resources are not adversely affected by quarries and mining operations. ■

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• Through various appeals and settlement negotiations, Friends has succeeded in decreasing the visibility of several structures in the National Scenic Area. Our negotiations with one landowner

resulted in significantly increased screening of a new house on the Columbia River in the Rowena area. Also, through our appeal of a Wasco County Planning Department decision, we were able to convince the Department to

require additional screening measures for a proposed garage in an area highly visible from such important viewing areas as the Historic Columbia River Highway and the Tom McCall Viewpoint.

• Another recent success story involves preventing an illegal conversion of agricultural land to residential land in Multnomah County. Friends convinced the Multnomah County hearings officer that the Scenic Act cannot be used to launder illegal uses into legal ones within the Scenic Area.

• Finally, we are preparing an appeal of a Skamania County Board of Adjustments decision that allows construction of a house in a highly scenic area (off Cook Underwood Rd.) with no conditions to reduce its visibility from key viewing areas. ■

Friends' legal program helped prevent the conversion of valuable agriculture land to residential land.

Preventing further inappropriate development

On other legal / conservation fronts:

For additional information regarding the work of Friends' Legal Program, please contact Friends' Staff Attorney Beth Englander, beth@gorgefriends.org.





Happy Hikers Enjoy Spring Wildflower Trips

552 hikers experienced Gorge-hiking at its peak

by Nancy Russell

Friends of the Columbia Gorge's Spring Wildflower hikes got off to a great start on March 20 when 52 hikers took to the Memaloose Hills Loop on a hike led by Aubrey Russell and Lester Baskin. Masses of Grass Widows filled the meadows; never have we hit these flowers more at their peak.

There were many peaks in the hike series this year. Peak altitude was Dog Mountain at 2,900-ft., reached by 31 stalwart hikers led by Tim Hibbitts. Peak attendance was set on the Cape Horn hike where 62 people climbed up and around Cape Horn with Dan Huntington on the final June 12 outing. Despite the wet Portland-Vancouver spring, we had tons of sunshine, with rain only on the April 10 Columbia Hills Hike led by Bill Daniels and Pat Bleakney. From our first hike on the east side, to the last one on the west side, it was a marvelous series. We had a total of 552 hikers on the 13 outings.

Friends' Spring Wildflower Hikes would not be possible without our hiking trails guru, Julia Ferriera, and the capable and fun hike leaders who lead the trips: the aforementioned, as well as Barbara Robinson, Ray Hayden, Russ Jolley, Ross Edginton, Ken Denis, Rick Ray, and Ken and Caroline Bailey. Thank you, hike-leaders!

More than 500 Hikers Turn out for 19th Annual Gorge Hiking Weekend

The weather cooperated magnificently toward assuring the success of Friends' 1999 Gorge Hiking Weekend June 19 and 20. The weekend included an extraordinary variety of options: 34 different events — from the lowlands of Steigerwald Lake to the 5,000 foot summit of Mt. Defiance, as well as horse trips and a bicycle excursion.

Forty two hikers turned out for the ever-popular Horsethief Lake State Park petroglyph tour with Julie Davis. Another very popular outing, with 39 participants, was the New Hanging Meadows Trail led by Russ Jolley and Carroll Dubuar. Richard Getgen's Grassy Pass trip attracted 32 hikers, and Billie Goodwin's trip to Dry Creek Falls and Thomas Friedmann's trip to Pool of the Winds each attracted 30.

Gifford Pinchot National Forest's Cheryl Mack scored a hit with the "Whistle Punk Loop" logging history, as did Bus Gibson with his "Larch Mountain Historic Logging Railroad" history hike. Hikers also enjoyed history on Ken Denis' trek from Toothrock to Cascade Locks on the recently-restored Historic Columbia River Highway, and during Mel Taylor's "Fort Cascades Loop" on the site of that historic fort near Bonneville Dam. Dick Thomas explored more history on the 1857 Portage Road around the Cascade Rapids at Toothrock and high above Bonneville Dam at Wauna Point, the location of the initial survey before construction of Bonneville Dam in 1937. So many more wonderful experiences and activities were shared on these hikes, we wish we had the space to list them all! Each trip had its own very special story and beautiful destination.

All of our seasoned, expert leaders did a fabulous job; we could not put on this event without them. Thanks to



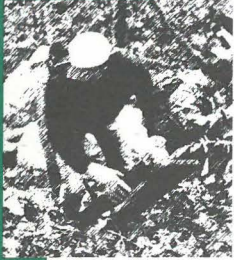
Where are the flowers?! Hikers enjoy Stacker Butte, 3,200 feet elevation in the Columbia Hills Preserve on April 10.
photo: Ken Denis

all of you leaders and to the wonderful outdoor groups that participated.

Richard Getgen and Julia Ferriera took the lead in planning and organizing this year's Gorge Hiking Weekend. Marilyn Holsinger designed the beautiful brochure and Ken Denis donated the great hiking photos.

This year's hiking brochure was funded with a grant from the Mazamas, Oregon's premier hiking club. Additionally, the Mazamas have pledged to fund our Year 2000, 20th Gorge Hiking Weekend, June 17-20, 2000. We are indeed grateful for the generosity of the Mazamas in funding the brochure and for participating in the Gorge Hiking Weekend for 20 years.

Richard Getgen, Julia Ferriera, and Nancy Russell are already thinking Year 2000, so if you have a great hike you would like to lead for the 2000 Spring Wildflower season or for the Year 2000 Hiking Weekend, call Julia at (503) 636-5520, or the Friends office, (503) 241-3762. ■



Citizen Involvement Update

Outreach & Volunteer Happenings

by Julee Wasserman

Citizen lobbyists key in legislative victory

Friends extends a sincere "Thank You" to all the members, volunteers and activists who participated in the tremendous effort to restore the Gorge Commission's funding. Citizen activists...

- participated in numerous phone banks;
- wrote, phoned, e-mailed and visited their state legislators;
- provided public testimony during hearings in Salem;
- attended letter writing parties;
- participated in Environmental Lobby Day in Salem;
- participated in Friends' speakers bureau, making more than 45 presentations. ■

E-mail for the Gorge

Become electronically active on behalf of Gorge protection. Send your e-mail address to Julee: julee@gorgefriends.org ■

Gorge Stewardship

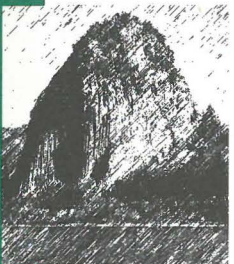
During July two groups of volunteers visited the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles, OR to pull non-native plants and help maintain the 17-acre grounds. Ten employees from Nike, Inc. participated as part of their volunteer "off-site" program; a week later Friends partnered with Hands on Portland and volunteers pulled weeds in 90 degree heat. Now that's commitment!

In early August Friends partnered with Friends of Trees, Hands on



Friends partnered with Oregon State Parks and Hands on Portland for a cleanup at Benson State Park on May 15.

Portland and the U.S. Forest Service to maintain more than 1,400 native trees that Friends' volunteers helped plant in the Sandy River Delta in December '98 and January '99. ■



From the Desk of Development Director, Jane Haley

Friend's Endowment Campaign off to a Great Start

What better way to ensure permanent protection of the Columbia River Gorge than with a gift that will remain in perpetuity? And a recent \$10,000 gift from one of our major donors has given Friends' Endowment Campaign just the start needed to get the campaign off the ground. The donor also benefits in this case, as the gift is one of appreciated stock and the donor can take a tax deduction for the full value of the gift.

Our goal for the Endowment Campaign is \$600,000 by the year 2002. Board Chair Dr. John Reynolds will help us reach this target by heading up board fundraising efforts for the endowment with a leadership gift of his own.

For a mature non-profit organization such as Friends of the Columbia Gorge, establishment of an endowment is a wise financial move. Gifts to the endowment will be invested with our money manager, Sigma Investment Management Company, and the interest, over time, will provide a significant part of the organization's operating budget. ■

Members Rise to the Challenge

The Bullitt Foundation has offered Friends a \$20,000 challenge grant – and our members are ensuring we're up to the challenge. For every dollar contributed in upgraded membership gifts, the Bullitt Foundation will match that gift, up to \$20,000. So far our members

have met the challenge with more than \$10,000 in upgraded membership gifts.

We extend a sincere thank you to the Bullitt Foundation and to everyone who has contributed toward meeting this exciting challenge. The ongoing generosity of our members has made it possible for Friends to take enormous steps forward over the past year, in protection efforts and through expanded advocacy, outreach, recreational and restoration projects in the Columbia River Gorge.

To discuss a gift to Friends' Endowment Campaign or with any other membership or development questions, please contact me at 503-241-3762, jane@gorgefriends.org ■

People, Places, Events...

New digs

Friends' office move is complete! We are happily ensconced at our new location: 522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 820. Our phone number and fax number remain the same: (503) 241-3762, fax (503) 241-3873. And don't forget the new e-mail addresses for staff: [first name, no brackets]@gorgefriends.org ■



Arlene Burns joins Friends as a Gorge-based field organizer.

New face for Friends in the Gorge

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has hired its first Gorge-based employee as an interim field organizer for the organization and the Columbia River Gorge Vision 2000 campaign.

Arlene Burns is a five-year resident of Mosier and a prime example of the new generation of Gorge residents. Arlene has served as a photojournalist for extreme sports, a motivational speaker and an outdoor industry consultant. She also worked as a stunt double and technical advisor to Meryl Streep in *The River Wild*. Closer to home, she is the vice president and secretary of the Mosier Scenic Highway Alliance and is the chair of the budget committee for the city of Mosier. For the Vision 2000 Campaign, Arlene will serve as the logistical support for the steering committee and work to keep the campaign on track and moving forward. She is expected to work with

the organization through October and assist the organization in finding a permanent organizer in the Gorge. ■

Major donor event at Dunthorpe Estate

This year's Conservator Party will take place Thursday, October 14th at the home of Bob Noyes. Friends' Conservators are members who contribute yearly at the \$1,000 level and above. Each year our major donors are thanked with a gathering hosted by Friends; we look forward to meeting with our donors this fall at Mr. Noyes' beautiful garden estate. Contact Development Director Jane Haley for more information, jane@gorgefriends.com ■

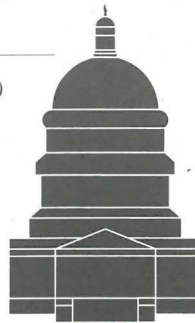
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Legislative Session

Board denied the Commission's request for funding even after significant progress had been made on resolving issues raised by the Legislature.

If the entire \$668,000 is allocated, in the next biennium the Gorge Commission will review the Management Plan (which implements the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act) to determine if it is achieving the Act's protections goals; if necessary, revision of the Plan will follow. The Gorge Commission is also expected to play a greater role in economic and recreational development and also improve the level of assistance provided to county planning departments and landowners.

The Oregon and Washington Legislatures should be applauded for taking the necessary steps to further Gorge protection through adequate funding of the Gorge Commission. Protecting this national treasure deserves no less. ■



Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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Portland, Oregon 97204
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info@gorgefriends.org

Mission Statement

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, and 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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Gorge Lore

WANTED: Gorge enthusiasts with unusual, quirky, interesting and/or compelling stories, facts, figures and/or knowledge about the Columbia River Gorge.

Do you fit this description? If so: Share your Gorge lore! Friends of the Columbia Gorge welcomes submissions for our Gorge Lore newsletter feature. More than 3,500 readers are eager to learn from you about what makes the Columbia River Gorge so special.

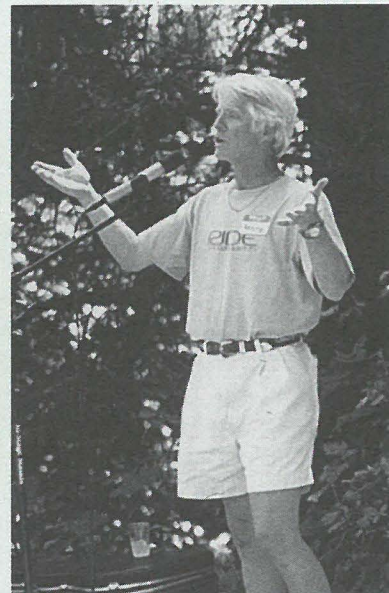
Know a little something about the Gorge not many others know? Share your Gorge Lore!

To share your Gorge Lore (with photos, if possible), contact Jane Haley at Friends of the Columbia Gorge: jane@gorgefriends.org

There is no place on earth like the Columbia River Gorge.



Friends' Summer Picnic



Friends Board Member North Cheatum welcomes all to the Friends' 20th annual summer picnic. This year's picnic took place on July 25th at North's Hood River organic farming operation, Apeasay Orchards.