



FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

October 5, 2005

For more info:

Executive Director Kevin Gorman, 503 241-3762, x.104 or [kevin@gorgefriends.org](mailto:kevin@gorgefriends.org)

Outreach Coordinator Betsy Toll, ext. 104 or [betsy@gorgefriends.org](mailto:betsy@gorgefriends.org)

## Hikes/events retrace Lewis and Clark's 13-day adventure in the Columbia Gorge

*Friends of the Columbia Gorge offers the only series of Lewis and Clark Bicentennial activities spanning the full length of the Columbia Gorge*

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is providing a unique opportunity October 22 through November 3 to retrace Lewis and Clark's downstream journey through the Columbia Gorge. A series of ten hikes and events that span from the Deschutes to the Sandy River will track Lewis and Clark's passage downriver 200 years after they arrived in this region. This is the only series of Lewis and Clark Bicentennial activities that span the full length of the Columbia Gorge.

The events include four public hikes, two members-only hikes (call Friends at 503-241-3762 to join) and four additional public events to hear of Lewis and Clark's adventures, focus the magnificent California Condors that flew above the Gorge, and learn more about the indigenous cultures that were long-established before Corps of Discovery arrived in fall of 1805.

"The downstream journey through the Gorge was incredibly significant for Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery Expedition," said Kevin Gorman, executive director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge. "It was in the Gorge where Lewis and Clark could first figuratively 'taste' the Pacific. They spotted seals near present-day The Dalles, saw a Native American wearing a sailor's jacket, and they noted the tidal influence of the ocean at Beacon Rock. The Gorge was the beginning of the end of the Corps' journey to the Pacific."

Friends' series of Lewis and Clark activities includes:

- A presentation by Lewis and Clark expert Ken Karsmizki at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles, on the Corps' entry into the Gorge;
- A talk by maverick Corps of Discovery historian Roger Wendlick at the Dog River Coffee Company in Hood River, OR
- Special presentations on "Condors in the Gorge" and "The People of the Gorge" at the Columbia Gorge Interpretative Center in Stevenson, WA. Proceeds will benefit Yakama Nation cultural activities, the Oregon Zoo Condor breeding program, and school arts programs in Skamania County;
- A hike up Beacon Rock with a descendent of Henry Biddle, who purchased Beacon Rock in 1915, effectively protecting it from being quarried for a jetty in Astoria, and then built the trail to the top;

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has produced a special brochure describing each of these events, as well as a beautiful poster. For a full schedule of events and an online PDF of the brochure visit [www.gorgefriends.org](http://www.gorgefriends.org)