

# Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Alliance

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*Running Fruit Ladders installation. Artist: John Maher.*

## First Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Discovery Month Set for May

*- Wildflower season and fruit orchards will be in high bloom, as artists, historians and institutions come together to celebrate one of the Pacific Northwest's natural and cultural wonders -*

**The Dalles, OR and White Salmon, WA (March 14, 2011)** – Some of the great arts, culture and heritage secrets of the Pacific Northwest will certainly be discovered this May, 2011 when the Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Alliance hosts the first **Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Discovery Month**.

The Columbia Gorge Arts and Culture Alliance today released its full line-up for the first Discovery Month:

- **The Third Annual River Peoples Cultural Exchange: Saturday, May 14, 2011**, 12-5 PM at Park Place in Lyle, Washington, on Hwy 14. The event is a collaborative effort of the residents of Lyle and Native Americans to share traditions, educate, build friendships and promote goodwill within our communities and region. Native artists perform drumming, dancing, and storytelling. Elders and tribal leader will relate their life wisdom, local history, and current challenges and successes. Participants are invited to join in dancing, create traditional Native American crafts, and purchase handmade Indian crafts and fry bread from local vendors. At 4:00 PM all are welcomed to feast on a traditional salmon dinner. The event is free but donations are welcome. [www.riverpeoplesculturalexchange.org](http://www.riverpeoplesculturalexchange.org)
- **Columbia Center for the Arts will feature live performance, art gallery show, music, film, adult & children's art classes.** [www.columbiaarts.org](http://www.columbiaarts.org).
- **Maryhill Museum of Art's new exhibit, "Process and Presence: Selections from the Museum of Contemporary Craft" will be on view March 15-July 4, 2011**, featuring 40 handmade objects from Portland's Museum of Contemporary Craft worked in clay, metal, wood and fiber. Among the artists featured are woodworker Sam Maloof, ceramicist Peter Voukos, jewelry artist Ramona Solberg, glass and ceramic artist Ray Grimm, and textile artist Judith Poxson Fawkes. [www.maryhillmuseum.org](http://www.maryhillmuseum.org)
- **David M. Cobb photography workshop, April 29 – May 2.** [www.dmcobbphoto.com](http://www.dmcobbphoto.com).

- **The Columbia Gorge Fiddle Contest is May 6-8**, drawing contestants from Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Idaho and California. One of the favorite contests in the Pacific Northwest and fully certified by the National Fiddle Contest & Festival in Weiser, Idaho, the contest draws over 110 contestants spanning age groups from Small Fry to Senior with additional Multi Instrumental Picking divisions for Junior's and Adult's. [www.ColumbiaGorgeFiddleContest.com](http://www.ColumbiaGorgeFiddleContest.com).
- **The History Museum of Hood River County will open its "Artful Artifacts: Museum Inspiration" exhibit** on May 6; running until July 1, 2010. The museum has chosen an artifact (a Victorian hair tress) and will showcase work by local artists inspired by the artifact. Museum info at <http://www.co.hood-river.or.us/museum>.
- **The Gorge Heritage Museum Plant and Garden Art Sale on Saturday, May 7, 2011** from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Located in Bingen, WA, the museum promotes the legacy of the Native peoples and immigrants who settled in the area, and will have a special 2011 exhibition on the 25th Anniversary of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Info: <http://community.gorge.net/ghmuseum>.
- **Inspirational Invitational: The Dalles Art Center will feature an invitational show of a variety of Gorge artists, including Gayle Weisfield and Doug Leash**, as they present work that goes in unexpected directions. [www.thedallesartcenter.org](http://www.thedallesartcenter.org)
- **Columbia Gorge National Discovery Center will feature** wildflower interpretive tours on the museum grounds with over 90 blooming species, and a native plant sale. Also a **Mother's Day Brunch & Native Plant Sale**, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM on May 8, and **"Day Hiking Columbia River Gorge"**, 1:00 PM, M.J. Murdock Theatre including a book signing and program with author Craig Romano on Saturday, May 14. [www.gorgediscovery.org](http://www.gorgediscovery.org).
- **Maryhill Museum's annual Founder's Day celebration on May 21** will feature a garden walk of the sculpture garden, a Family Fun Program ("Painting on Maps") and a slide/lecture "The Columbia River Highway: Its History, Decline, and Preservation". The Historic Columbia River Highway, known as the "KING OF ROADS", was the first scenic highway in the US. Speakers include: Robert Hadlow, PhD, Senior Historian, Oregon Department of Transportation; David Sell, retired from Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration and George Fekaris, a current employee of Western Federal Lands Highway Division. The Museum's Historic Loops Road will be open for driving this weekend (the first paved road in Washington state). [www.maryhillmuseum.org](http://www.maryhillmuseum.org).
- **Peter Marbach's photo essay book release and author's signing will be Tuesday, May 24** at the Columbia Center for the Arts in Hood River. Featuring photography by Marbach and text by Janet Cook, this stunning publication will commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the creation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, the first in the nation. The images and text will reflect on how the Scenic Area came to be, the successes and challenges of the first 25 years, and the vision for the future. The evening program includes a pre-event book signing starting at 6:30 and guest speakers including Kevin Gorman from Friends of the Gorge, and Jane Jacobsen, The Confluence Project Director and Chair of the 25th Anniversary Committee. [www.columbiaarts.org](http://www.columbiaarts.org)
- **The 16th Anniversary of the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum is Saturday, May 21, 11-4 PM.** in Stevenson, WA. Free to the public. It includes demos of traditional handcrafts, music and a speaker (TBA). [www.columbiagorge.org](http://www.columbiagorge.org)
- **The Inn of the White Salmon will have a show in their "Hallway Gallery" during the entire month of May**, and are working toward having a show opening during the month. [www.innofthewhitesalmon.com](http://www.innofthewhitesalmon.com)
- **1st Annual Columbia Gorge Wine and Pear Fest. May 21-22 at the Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum (WAAAM) museum in Hood River.** Raise your glasses, toast the Gorge and join us for this premier event held in the heart of wine and pear growing country celebrating local area products. Start off the weekend with friends and fun featuring Columbia Gorge area wineries, eateries, and artisans. Highlights include live music, wine tasting, great food, fruit exhibits and samples, and local artisans. All profits from the event will help fund the Rotary Club of Hood River Scholarship Program, funding scholarships to area youth for higher education. [www.WineandPearFest.com](http://www.WineandPearFest.com)
- **Lorang Fine Art and Soderberg Studios in Cascade Locks presents an Open Studio and Gallery event: May 28- 29.** Meet Brad Lorang and Heather Soderberg in their studios as seen on Oregon Art Beat, along with other artists demonstrating their work. Learn about bronze casting and see bronze being poured in the Soderberg Bronze Works studio. The featured art depicts the beauty of the Gorge from many artists as well as a bronze Heather Soderberg sculpture "Discovering the Gorge". Info: [www.lorangfineart.com](http://www.lorangfineart.com) or [www.heathersoderberg.com](http://www.heathersoderberg.com)

- **Columbia Gorge Orchestra Association** Sinfonietta has a pops concert scheduled for May and the VOCl choral group has a Mother's Day Concert. Info: <http://www.cgoaonline.org/seasonpreview.htm>.
- **Gorge Music Series presents Juni Fisher, 2009 Western Music Association Female Performer of the Year**, in a family-friendly Memorial Day concert, Monday, May 30 at Springhouse Cellars in Hood River. Juni will also lead a songwriting workshop from 2:30-4 PM, followed by Meet 'n' Greet Juni and a barbecue with food provided by Solstice of Bingen. The concert begins at 5 PM. For more information and to purchase tickets: [www.gorgemusicseries.com/juniFisher.html](http://www.gorgemusicseries.com/juniFisher.html).
- **May 14th AL STEWART (The Year of the Cat/ Time Passages/ On The Border and other mega-hits) presented by Skamania Performing Arts Foundation as part of the Stevenson Guest Artist Series.** Come see this Grammy nominated – Platinum selling recording artist in his only Portland area performance. 2011 is the Year of the Cat in the Vietnamese calendar, and here in the Columbia Gorge you can see AL STEWART with special guest Dave Nachmanoff in an intimate, acoustic evening at 8 PM, Saturday May 14th at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center in Stevenson, WA. Seating is limited so get your tickets now! 1-800-494-TIXS or [www.SkamaniaArts.org](http://www.SkamaniaArts.org)
- **White Salmon Artist Studios Open House.** Several White Salmon artists will open studios on Saturday afternoon, May 21, to exchange ideas and stimulate creative discussions with other artists and guests. Ceramics, woodworking, art glass, metal sculpture, painting and jewelry are just some of the featured media within a 5-mile radius of downtown White Salmon. This event is free to all so it's a great chance to discover many local secrets while exploring the unparalleled beauty of the Columbia Gorge area. <http://whitesalmonarts.org>.
- **Maryhill Museum of Art's Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit begins May 14th.** The museum has presented exhibitions of outdoor sculpture annually since 1996, providing Pacific Northwest sculptors with opportunities to display large-scale works in an outdoor setting. In 2011, several sculptors will exhibit works to complement the 10 that comprise the museum's permanent collection of outdoor sculpture. The sculptures will be installed throughout the museum's sculpture garden, including a new addition by Devin Laurence Field, which provides a dramatic backdrop for this unique outdoor art experience. Among the featured artists for 2011 are Daniel Duford, John Mayo and Joseph Warren. [www.maryhillmuseum.org](http://www.maryhillmuseum.org)
- **The Golden Art Gallery will have a Wild Flower Show** for the month of May open to all our artists. Its Second Thursday (May 12) Artist Reception will feature live music, great snacks and Wines of the Neighborhood. The event starts at 4 PM and runs until 7:30 PM, 103 Main Street, Goldendale, WA, 509-773-65100. [www.thegoldenartgallery.com](http://www.thegoldenartgallery.com)
- **Running Fruit Ladders installation:** While some people see roadsides only as a place to change a tire, Mosier, OR artist John Maher saw an opportunity to use art to promote small farms. "I thought a huge procession of brightly painted wooden orchard ladders, each 14 feet tall with the line stretching along major highways for ½ mile or more would get some attention," says John. "Not only would we be bringing something fun and exciting into peoples lives who are traveling, we would be promoting an important cause – small farms and locally grown food." The beautifully shaped wooden ladders are all mostly retired now, replaced for safety reasons by aluminum ladders in the orchards. This is a rare opportunity to see them in their best form yet. The installations will take place in Hood River in May, Mosier in June and The Dalles in July and are supported in part by Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers Association and the Oregon Arts Commission. [www.gorgeartists.org](http://www.gorgeartists.org)

Note: In conjunction with the installation of artist, John Maher's large-scale art, "Running Fruit Ladders" on Highway 35 in Hood River, The Gorge White House will be hosting a community celebration on Saturday, May 6, from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM. As part of the celebration of art and small family farms, area fruit growers will be providing guests with local juices and fruit. The Gorge White House is owned by fourth generation orchardist, Camille Hukari and has been a continuously operating farm since 1902. [www.thegorgewhitehouse.com](http://www.thegorgewhitehouse.com) or [www.gorgeartists.org](http://www.gorgeartists.org)

- **Gorge Open Studios Tour (weekend of May 14 & 15, 2011):** The centerpiece for Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Month, the fifth annual Gorge Open Studios features ceramic and fiber artists, painters, sculptors, jewelers, digital artists, photographers and furniture makers all showing their work in their homes and studios. Full color tour guides (\$15) with maps and area highlights will be available in the Gorge at Waucoma books and Columbia Center for the Arts in Hood River, The Dalles Art Center and Klindt's Booksellers in the Dalles, and Ten Speed Coffee in Mosier, OR. They can also be purchased in Portland Art Media and Frame Central Stores and the downtown Powells' Books Art Section. Info and ticket info at <http://gorgeartists.org>.

Many people outside the region are unaware that the 85-mile long Columbia Gorge area is chock full

of talented artists and cultural icons. There is a huge influence from its long history as the crossroads of commerce and trade for the region's Native American cultures, as a hub for American explorers and pioneers (the Lewis & Clark Expedition traveled through the Gorge), including Japanese, Chinese and Latino peoples who have played a critical role in modern development, and as a gateway to the vibrant Portland metropolitan area and Willamette Valley. There is also a huge and uniquely expressed influence from the present-day vibrant Portland art scene. And there is just about everything in between.

"This is a chance for non-residents to discover a treasure trove of fun, interesting and accessible arts and culture experiences, and to come spend a weekend or two this May in the Gorge," says Joanie Thomson, executive director of Columbia Center for the Arts in Hood River. "It's a chance for residents and organizations to share their favorite arts and culture activities with visitors and each other, and to get out and celebrate their amazing cultural riches."

Hotels, restaurants, wineries and shops on both sides of the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington will be participating in Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Discovery Month; each sharing what their secret tips are related to art, culture and heritage in the area. Residents with "Ask Me My Secret?" buttons will also share their favorite Gorge historical and artistic gems with visitors and each other.

The Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Alliance received grants from the Oregon and Washington State Arts Commissions in support of the "Discover The Secrets" celebration.

**EDITORS NOTE: For images related to Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Month visit <http://columbiagorgeartsandculture.com/media-images>.**

**About the Columbia Gorge Arts and Culture Alliance:** Formed in 2010 by Columbia Gorge culture and arts organizations, historians, artists and culture mavens, the CGACA promotes the Columbia Gorge as an arts and culture region and destination: A magnet that will draw local residents and visitors and benefit our economy. The CGACA focuses on the economic benefit of making the Columbia Gorge recognizable as an arts and culture region. Its goals are for culture and arts organizations and individuals to be recognized as being economically vital to the region, and to make them renewable and sustainable. For more information visit [www.columbiagorgeartsandculture.com](http://www.columbiagorgeartsandculture.com).