

We have a great post conference scheduled, limited to 100 attendees. The links below will further entice you!

Post Conference: The Columbia River Gorge; Convergence of Nature & Nurture

Two of Oregon's cutting edge plant nurseries, each offering brilliant garden displays, exceptional plants, and mail order, provide an engaging start to our Post Conference.

Cistus Nursery www.cistus.com

Joy Creek Nursery www.joycreek.com

Our itinerary includes Johnpaul Jones and Maya Lin's innovative "**Land Bridge**", the confluence of the Columbia River and the Klickitat Trail in Vancouver, Washington. The Land Bridge is the third of seven components within the "Confluence Project" along the Columbia River. The site reconnects the Columbia River with historic Fort Vancouver.

www.confluenceproject.org/project_sites/fort_vancouver/?PHPSESSID=0a4d541db8d307f9f79d07049bdbf385

Leaving the bustle of the Portland Metropolitan area we'll wind our way east through the magnificent **Columbia River Gorge** to Hood River. A natural wonder millions of years in the making, the Gorge was most recently shaped during the last ice age by a series of catastrophic floods from Lake Missoula. These stunning, deep canyons are a national, protected scenic area.

We will spend two nights in our destination, Hood River, one of Oregon's small towns. Hood River is in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge, at the base of Mt. Hood, Oregon's tallest peak. The fertile Hood River valley is famous for its pear and apple orchards.

Hood River itself has developed into one of the most active outdoor sports areas in the nation. It is often called the "windsurfing capital" of the world and attracts sports enthusiasts from all over the world.

We will dine a la 'plein air' at **Mount Hood Gardens** (www.mthoodgardens.com), a five acre nursery and landscape business owned by Marion McNew, APLD. Mount Hood Gardens is located on the south side of Hood River and includes a office, growing facilities and extensive, well-labeled, stock beds, as well as offering views of Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams.

Saturday we will visit:

Willow Ponds, a unique residential neighborhood on the west side of Hood River, which includes an existing, seasonal wetland stream winding its way through many of the properties and draining into a large, heavily vegetated bioswale. Natural, bermed plantings grace the street and are repeated throughout the development.

<http://www.willowponds.biz/concept.htm>

Sakura Ridge Farm and Lodge: Sakura Ridge is a working, organic pear and cherry orchard and beautiful Bed & Breakfast located in the foothills of Mt. Hood. Spectacular views and rustic elegance coupled with abundant gardens make this a memorable place. A large kitchen garden provides organic produce for guests and owners.

<http://www.sakuraridge.com/index.html>

The Shire: John Yeon Preserve for Landscape Studies: The Shire occupies a 75-acre waterfront site in Skamania County, Washington, in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge. It is directly across from Multnomah Falls. The Shire is a carefully designed and reconstructed naturalistic landscape with a sculpted lawn, a series of meadows, wetlands, vista points, river bays, and walking paths which John Yeon created over the past 30 years. He purchased the property in 1965 to protect it from possible industrial development.

A private garden outside of Carson: This contemporary, peaceful garden and acreage abuts the Pacific Crest Trail. The remote garden and manmade trout-spawning stream and pond blend in with nature's spectacular setting. Excellent stone work and extensive, natural plantings abound.

Saturday night offers an optional walking tour of Hood River's parks and gardens throughout its charming downtown area. They are all within a few blocks of each other, scattered among our choice of Hood River's many restaurants.

Sunday's relaxing journey back to Portland allows us to absorb the majestic Cascade Mountains. We will view spectacular vistas from Timberline Lodge (www.timberlinelodge.com/lodge-history/) on snow-capped Mt. Hood. Finally, we will discover the stillness of one of nature's greatest gifts: a lush, old growth forest.