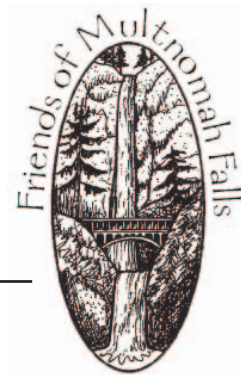


FOCUS on the FALLS



Fall 2009 Issue

Join Us for the FOMF Annual Meeting



**Monday November
16th 2009**

**Arrival and
“Meet & Greet”
at 4:30 pm**

**Buffet at 5 pm
Meeting to Follow**

BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS 2010

PRESIDENT: Maxine Wilkins (1)
VICE PRESIDENT: Jim Jensen (2)
SECRETARY: Katie Goodwin (2)
TREASURER: Ron Goodwin (2)

BOARD MEMBERS

Billie Anger (1)
Aileen Ashley (1)
Flora Huber (1)
Teresa Kasner (2)
Sharon Quade (1)
Phyllis Siebken (2)
Dan Tennant (2)
JoAnne Tennant (2)
Hal White (2)

Names with (2) need to be voted in for a two year term. Nominations from the floor may be made with prior consent from said nominee.

Election of Board Members & Officers Volunteer Recognition and Special Awards



Photo of the FOMF Board and Volunteers at 2009 picnic
at Guy Talbot State Park at Latourell Falls

FOCUS ON THE FALLS

Friends of Multnomah Falls Fall Issue 2009

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

**Newsletter Editor &
Website Administrator**
Teresa Kasner

Board of Directors 2009

President
Maxine Wilkins

Vice-President
Jim Jensen

Secretary
Katie Goodwin

Treasurer
Ron Goodwin

Board Members

Aileen Ashley
Flora Huber
Teresa Kasner
Sharon Quade
Dan Tennant
Joanne Tennant
Ben Thompson
Hal White

Aaron Pedersen
(Ex-Officio USFS)

Rick Buck (Ex-Officio)
Multnomah Falls Lodge Co.

Our Mission Statement:

"The Friends of Multnomah Falls are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the unique natural, scenic and historic qualities of Multnomah Falls while providing a memorable experience for our visitors."

MULTNOMAH FALLS USFS REPORT

By Aaron Pederson

Hints of red, yellow and orange have begun to kiss the leaves of vine maple, huckleberry and other leafbearing flora displaying their brilliant fall colors. The slower pace at the falls combined with this season's accompaniments such as; crisp cool nights, the low angle of the sun, the smell of woodsmoke in the air and the falling leaves on the ground create such a peaceful surreal feeling. I absolutely love it this time of year! It's a good time to reflect back on the crazy and extremely busy summer months that keep us all rushing from place to place attending to one thing or the other. It's interesting how easy it is to get wrapped up in our daily affairs during the summer's long, warm, sun filled days. Often when it's all over it's hard to imagine where all the time has gone.



Photo by Teresa Kasner

This summer season was filled with what seemed an unusually high volume of search & rescue/medical type emergencies. A good portion of these calls for help came directly to the FS staff here at Multnomah Falls. Often we found ourselves in the role of first responders aiding individuals as we made a hasty type response. It was not uncommon for us to reach stranded, lost or injured hikers well before any other medical personnel arrived on scene. Dylan, Gordon and Susy did a great job on many of these incidents with very little training. A couple different incidents we were involved with caught the attention of the NSA Leadership Team. It became very clear that we needed to be offering our seasonal staff additional specialized training in order for them to safely perform the duties of the job. I am excited to say, next Spring we will be sending our seasonal staff to some advanced medical and rope rescue training courses. The additional skill set and classes will be a great addition to the program. It has also given added incentive to bring back last seasons staff members for another tour of duty. Dylan, Gordon and Susy have all said they would like to return next summer. Yeah!

Recently I returned from another exciting, yet demanding, fire assignment with the Forest Service. This time I was called out as part of a 20 person hand crew. The crew consisted of many fulltime firefighters, as well as numerous individuals such as myself whom are FS employees asked to fight fire in addition to their regular duties. It is always interesting working on a crew like this. Many people you are working with for the first time and each person comes from a slightly different field or background. We were called to fight fire near Oakridge Oregon. (continued on last page)

MAXINE'S MESSAGE - by Maxine Wilkins, President

Greetings! Fall is here! Thanks to everyone for the great job you have done this year! We had to say a temporary goodbye to our wonderful summer staff -- what a GREAT bunch! Thanks to Dylan, Susy, Gordon, Lupe, Elvia, Maribell and Jeanne. We wish them all the best and hope to see them next summer.

While we say goodbye to one group we say hello to some newcomers and welcome back to others. The two new volunteers are Rachel Johnson and Henry "Hank" Bennett and our returning couple are Kathy and Carl Collins. We look forward to hearing from them.

I am sorry to report that two faithful volunteers won't be returning due to health issues. We wish Jerode Dean and Katie Baker all the best and hope that Jim McKeon will be able to return after recovery from heart surgery. Your spot is still open, Jim!

Speaking of connecting with friends and co-workers, Pat Sims, Keith Walker and I had a wonderful meeting with our former On-site Manager and friend Annette Thornberry. She is still living in Hawaii and working for the National Parks Bureau. It was great seeing her and sharing experiences with her as well as pictures. Thanks everyone!



Photo by Teresa Kasner

PREDICTING THE WEATHER - by Ron Goodwin

Everyone has seen the Banded Woollybear which has a dense cover of hairs over the body with a orange band in the middle and black at each end. This is the caterpillar of a moth with a 2 inch wingspan of mustard yellow with few, dark spots.

It is the caterpillar that we commonly see on the sidewalks, the ground and plants. They are easy to pick-up and great for kids to play with as they curl up, then open up to start crawling on about any surface. The folklore in predicting the weather is based on the size of the orange band. The less orange (more black) the colder the upcoming winter.

The caterpillars feed on herbs, such as nettles during fall and spring, over winter and complete their development in the spring. The adult moth is nocturnal and flies in midsummer.

They are found at lower elevations in woodlands and wet forests being widely distributed in western North America and particularly common west of the Cascade Mountains. From what I see this year, we will not have too severe of a winter.



UPDATES ON VISITOR CENTER PROJECTS - By Ron Goodwin

The projects are in their final stages as the outside placement of the cast bronze (650 pounds) plaque will be set in a stonework by Gabriel Weiss with carved basalt piece (7,000 pounds) by Greg Robinson who did the cast bronze last year. The placement will be on the plaza upslope from the coffee stand so that visitors coming back down from the falls will be able to enjoy it. It will also direct them into the Visitor Center to see the other new Native American exhibits.

So far we have spent over \$137,000 on the new displays and updates. Twila Mysinger applied for grants and received \$3,000 from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund for the Cast Bronze placement. The National Scenic Area is also contributing \$3,000 for this project. In 2007 we got \$50,000 each from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The remaining funds are derived from visitor donations.

The Friends are very proud of the new displays and get many good comments from local as well as out of the area visitors about them. None of this would be possible without the dedication of Site Manager Ranger Aaron Pedersen.

In the center display with the Salmon, Wildflowers/climate and topographic map are discovery drawers for children (of all ages) to tell the difference between horns (Bighorn Sheep and Pronghorn) and antlers (Mule Deer). They also can check out the molars on the black bear skull and pet the bobcat pelt.

(Continued on last page)

Friends of Multnomah Falls Membership Form

Yes, I would like to become a Member Renewing Member

FOMF is a 100% volunteer, private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Check a tax-deductible membership:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Lifetime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributing | | |

Make checks payable to: Friends of Multnomah Falls, and fill out the information below.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please send this application to: The Friends of Multnomah Falls, PO Box 426, Troutdale, Oregon 97060

(Continued from page 3)

Another project has been the reprinting of the Multnomah Falls brochure. The last of the first run of 50,000 copies were handed out this month after 39 months. The cost of \$9,880 for the 50,000 copies came solely from donations.

Rick Buck of the Multnomah Falls Lodge Co. was very generous in donating \$2,000 toward this printing. We were able to get a much better price this time than the first printing from the same company due to some competitive bidding from another print company.

All of this is made possible by the 60 dedicated non-paid volunteers who staff the Visitor Center year round. They contributed 4,055 hours in the Visitor Center and a grand total of 7,431 hours counting all activities to make the whole operation work. This is a lot of commitment and saves the U.S. Forest Service staff time and money because we are there.

(Continued from page 2)

Oakridge is located an hour to the east of Eugene in the Willamette National Forest. I had the privilege of working as a Squad Boss trainee on this assignment. In this role I was put in command of 7 individual firefighters during fire suppression and project work activities. I greatly enjoyed this role and gaining the additional qualifications that accompany such a position. The fire was burning actively when we first arrived. In fact, on a couple different occasions, we had to abandon our position on the fire line when the direction of the fire switched resulting in it making a significant run through the timber in our direction. Being that close to a raging fire is both awe inspiring and humbling at the same time. I don't know that our efforts to stop the blaze had much of an impact. When we first arrived the fire was around 300 acres. When we left it had burned well over 10,000 acres.

If you have never made it to this part of Oregon I suggest you go check it out. The forest had the highest concentration and most contiguous stands of old growth I have ever seen. In fact, I was informed by a member of the local district that in one drainage the average diameter of the fir was 50 inches. Yes 50 inches! Amazing. Also this forest had an extremely diverse canopy. Many endangered or rare species such as Pacific Yew and Digger Pine were common.

A big thanks once again to all the FOMF volunteers. You are the glue that keeps this place together.



GORGE FALLS FEST

Here are some photos of the fun time that was had at the Gorge Falls Fest this last summer.

Left - Ron & Katies daughter and grandchild. Center, Smoky Bear and several teens. Right, Teresa Kasner and Denise Hawke showing Teresa's old Trade Bead collection.



FOCUS on the FALLS

Teresa Kasner, Editor
PO Box 426
Troutdale OR 97060



Please e-mail Ron & Katie Goodwin at ron.katie.pdx@juno.com if you want to receive future news-letters via e-mail to save printing and postage for FOMF.

NOTE:

The Salmon are spawning in Multnomah Creek right now - take a drive out and enjoy viewing this activity!