

# FOCUS on the FALLS



## FALL 2014 Issue

### Join Us for the FOMF Annual Meeting

**November 17, 2014  
Multnomah Falls Lodge**

**Arrival at 4:30 pm  
Buffet at 5:00 pm  
Meeting to Follow**

#### AGENDA

**Election of Board Members & Officers  
Volunteer Recognition and Awards**

#### PROPOSED LIST OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2014 Nominating Committee was Billie Anger (chair), Dan & Joanne Tennant, Sharon Quade, Chris Meinicke and Terry Hill. The issue of term limits was deemed unnecessary, therefore, there will be no vote at the Annual Meeting. It is with the membership's suggestions that the Committee is downsizing the board from 13 to 11. Any nominations from the floor must be submitted thirty days prior to the meeting.

The Board slate for 2015

2014	2015	
Teresa Kasner (1)	Continuing	
Sharon Quade (2)	Continuing	President
Kathy Collins (2)	Continuing	
Flora Huber (2)	Continuing	
Ron Goodwin (1)	Continuing	Treasurer
Katie Goodwin (1)	Continuing	Secretary
Dan Tennant (1)	Continuing	
Joanne Tennant (1)	Continuing	
Carl Collins (2)	Continuing	Vice-President
Rasmussen, Dollie	New	
White, Charlie	New	

Board members who are retiring are Twila Mysinger, Hal White, Hank Bennett, and Phyllis Siebken. We thank them for their work and appreciate their time on the Board.



#### WAHKEENA FALLS PROJECT - by Beth Kennedy USFS-NSA

Have you noticed work being done at Wahkeena Falls? This is the scope of the project - please share this with others if asked. (Photo Courtesy of USFS)

- ☞ Reconstruct the existing trail at Wahkeena Falls to meet current ADA standards.
- ☞ Resurface new ADA trail and redesign the Wahkeena Falls viewing area to meet current ADA standards.
- ☞ Develop ADA parking on the south side of the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH) which would provide safe access to the ADA Trail and Wahkeena Falls viewing area.
- ☞ Develop a small entrance plaza at the east entrance to Return Trail #442 near Multnomah Falls to encourage use and safe access to Trail.
- ☞ Repair existing masonry wall and curbs in the Wahkeena site and HCRH parking area.
- ☞ Reinstall historic rotary wheel to the Wahkeena Recreation area. Placement would be on north side of HCRH within the picnic area.
- ☞ Strategic vegetation pruning and removal will occur to enhance the view of the Falls from both the viewing plaza and the Historic Columbia River Highway.
- ☞ Various invasive non-native plant species have become established in the planters around the viewing area. Portions of these planters have become denuded of vegetation due to trampling as well. These planters will be treated to control the invasive species and planted with native species to the area. Additionally, areas of the trail which have been abandoned will be rehabilitated and planted.

# FOCUS ON THE FALLS

## Friends of Multnomah Falls FALL Issue 2014

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

**Newsletter Editor &  
Website Administrator**  
Teresa Kasner

### Board of Directors 2014

**President**  
Teresa Kasner

**Vice-President**  
Sharon Quade

**Secretary**  
Katie Goodwin

**Treasurer**  
Ron Goodwin

### Board Members

Hank Bennett  
Carl Collins  
Kathy Collins  
Flora Huber  
Twila Mysinger  
Phyllis Siebken  
Dan Tennant  
Joanne Tennant  
Hal White

Matt Ramich  
(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."*

## USFS SITE MANAGER REPORT - Matt Ramich

Well hello there!! This is your Site Manager here at Multnomah Falls, the always ready for whatever could happen, Mr. Matt Ramich. Summer is finally winding down and with it, the amount of people coming to the Falls. I know I am going to miss the hustle and bustle of the summer months, but now I can start to focus on some projects I have been thinking about.

The main objective I hope some of these projects will accomplish is to help enhance the experience people get when arriving and looking around at the Falls next summer. One of these projects is to gather some information and pictures about the lodge, road, and bridge and create an interesting ranger talk that engages the public. With my knowledge about Adobe Photoshop and InDesign, I hope to create an interesting set of panels that tell the history of this very interesting and unique area. I am thinking I would do these ranger talks at least once a day, probably more in the afternoon.

Another idea I have is to either use GIS (Geographical Information System) or go out and gather field data to create a detailed map stating slope percentages for each trail. I would then categorize these trail percentages into easy, medium, and hard. Kind of like they do for ski trails at various mountains. Those are some ideas I have and if you have any that you think would be beneficial for the Falls, go ahead and email them to me. I will see what I can do. That's about it!! Keep up the good work and may Multnomah Falls keep spirits high as well as inspire our visitors.



## FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Teresa Kasner

Summer was busy, fast, fun, hot, and wonderful! It was a challenge, wasn't it? I called the Visitor's Center one day only to hear that the traffic conditions were causing problems. But now we're into Autumn and we can all relax and enjoy the slower, cooler pace.

We've been having trouble with door security in the Visitors Center - the board will be discussing better locking systems and see what we can do to help facilitate a better system. **Please stay diligent in double-checking the doors!**

This is my last few months to serve as your President. I've served for 4 years. I hope that I've done a good job for you, FOMF and the CRGNSA. I've worked really hard to make sure that our training sessions were well planned and held in interesting places in the gorge. I haven't missed one board meeting in 4 years - and all the subsequent agendas to be created and printed, president's reports to write and I've served on a LOT of the committees for FOMF. I will step down from some of them but will continue to serve on the board, do the newsletter and website. :-)

Do you have any good ideas on how to make our programs better? Are you interested in serving on the board? Would you like to chair or serve on a committee? Do you have ideas for articles for the newsletter or the website? Please do let me know.



I want to thank everyone who has helped make the FOMF a wonderful group over the last 4 years. Our volunteers in the Visitors Center, the hard working board members and everyone who has given of their time and energy to make the group spectacular!

*See you at the Falls!*

## THE OSPREY HAVE GONE SOUTH by Ron Goodwin



Being able to distinguish an osprey from the Bald Eagle can be challenging. Often times it can depend on the time of year. Most osprey nests are on man made objects such as the Coast Guard river markers. The osprey will return at the end of March to their former site, so if one thinks they have seen an osprey it was most likely a Bald Eagle after the end of September. One unusual site is on top of the large Douglas Fir at the exit of the Wahkeena picnic area. The Bald Eagles are here in great numbers in January from The Dalles Dam to the Klickitat River. Golden Eagles are on the other side of the Cascades, not here.

Osprey and Bald Eagles look similar sitting in trees. But the osprey has more white on its front but no large white tail. When fly-

ing the osprey has bent wings and beats them much faster while the eagle has straight powerful large wings which allows them to hover before diving. Another bird in the area is the Turkey vulture with straight wings but held in a shallow V while soaring. They also are moved by the wind like a kite. The only other bird in the area that resembles the osprey is a gull which can sit on the water while the osprey does not.

Some new information about the osprey is that the eggs taken out of the nests by the U.S. Geological Survey indicates that traces of toothpaste, soaps, etc are found in the osprey eggs. The lab in Windsor, Ontario, Canada does the testing and although pesticides are declining but pharmaceuticals and fire retardants are increasing. It takes a few years of testing to see what the results are in the fish. Instead of catching hundreds of fish, the eggs tell the same story.

The fish being caught by the osprey are mainly the pikeminnow and suckers that prey on young salmon. So the osprey helps us in this way as they do not have to be paid for each pikeminnow caught like the fisherman on the Columbia do. This year over 150,000 were caught by fisherman and the bounty is from \$4 - \$8 each.

The osprey was called a fish hawk before many birds were renamed. It is not a hawk or eagle, but is the only one of its species and found in every state and all continents except Antarctica. We have an excellent young one (actually two males put together) on display in the Visitor Center that were electrocuted at Bonneville in 1994 just before the Visitor Center was opened. The USGS also supplies us with a very good pamphlet on the Osprey in the Pacific Northwest. Most visitors have seen an osprey and many take pictures of ours with a rainbow trout in its talons.

## FALLS FLORA by Katie Goodwin



Licorice Fern East side of Multnomah Falls by Teresa Kasner

With fall we see more fruits than flowers in the gorge forest, though there may still be some fall asters; a small daisy-like flower with a yellow center and light purple rays. Visitors often ask about berries. The dark purple-blue clumps looking like huckleberries with holy-like leaves are Oregon Grape.

Another common question is about the "white" berries; these are snowberry bushes which remain all winter serving as food for birds. Neither berry is tasty to humans when raw, Oregon grape jam and syrup are found in many specialty stores.

Just coming into its glory is the licorice fern which loves to grow on the big-leaf maple tree trunks and on some rocks. Unlike other ferns the licorice fern dies back for the summer then suddenly appears with our shorter, cooler and wetter days of fall. It will thrive throughout the winter dying back in late spring.

Also in the gorge forest on the way to the Benson Bridge is the long thorned African barberry which serves as a barrier and discourages trail cutting between switchbacks. Thankfully it does not multiply in our setting.

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## 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

## HIKING LATOURELL FALLS - by Hal White

The Columbia Gorge offers hikes for all seasons. One of those hikes along the scenic highway that can draw one out of the "hiking hibernation" is Latourell Falls . It was named for the Postmaster of Rooster Rock in 1887- Joseph (Frenchy) Latourell. The property on which Latourell Falls is located was owned by Guy Talbot, who donated land to Oregon State Parks in 1929.

Latourell Falls is located 6 miles west of the Multnomah Falls Lodge. It is one which allows the visitors to remain in the car to view. The Falls is officially 249,' the third highest in the Columbia Gorge. Latourell has both an upper and lower Falls . The lower Falls crosses the picnic area the scenic highway and travels along Latourell Creek to Guy Talbot State Park below an attractive picnic area. The upper trail from the bridge loops to the left and travels in a 2.3 mile loop crossing several footbridges along the way past the upper Falls. Along the way one encounters: Western Redwood Cedar, Big leaf maple, maiden hair fern, candyflower, Cordalis, waterleaf and salmonberry in a lush green environment.

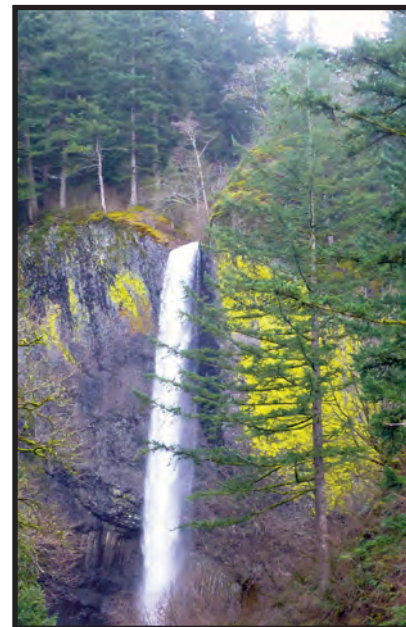


Photo by Teresa Kasner

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## FOMF VOLUNTEER RECRUITER - Chris Meinicke

Anyone showing interest in becoming a volunteer should contact Chris Meinicke, at [chris.meinicke@frontier.com](mailto:chris.meinicke@frontier.com) or phone 503-645-3124. Our volunteers enjoy a flexible schedule and lots of fun training opportunities! We have the Interpretive Volunteer Training Workshop in March, a Bus Tour in the Columbia River Gorge in the Spring, a complimentary Sternwheeler Cruise and Mt. Hood Railroad trip in June, the Volunteer Picnic in July and the Annual Meeting in November! If you've ever thought of giving it a try, we'd love to have you on the FOMF team! :-)

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**Teresa Kasner, Editor**  
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Don't forget to e-mail Teresa Kasner at [Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org](mailto:Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org) if you want to receive future newsletters via PDF on the website to save printing and postage for FOMF.

A record number of Sockeye passed Bonneville Dam this year (614,180) with most going up the Okanagan River into Canada. 1,477 reached Redfish Lake in Idaho. Great news!