FOCUS on the FALLS

SPRING 2014 Issue



Join Us for the FOMF Annual Interpretive Volunteer Training Workshop March 15, 2014

At Crestview Manor/Camp Crestview Conference Center in 1601 NE Crestview Lane - Corbett, Oregon



9:30 am - Arrival & Registration

10:00 am - Workshop Welcome - Teresa Kasner, FOMF President

10:05 am - Geology of the Col. Gorge - Carl Collins & Wally Green

10:55 am - Early Native American activity at MF - Flora Huber

11:20 am - Flowers and Plants of MF - Katie Goodwin

Noon - Luncheon in Dining Hall (Lunch provided by FOMF)

1 pm - Beth Kennedy, USFS-NSA

1:30 pm - More FOMF info and Sharing by the Volunteers

2 pm - Workshop Ends

Photos of Camp Crestview by Teresa Kasner Above L. - The Dining Hall | Bottom L.- The Lodge | Bottom R - The Great Hall





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Friends of Multnomah Falls Spring Issue 2014

http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org

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Teresa Kasner

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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."

WELCOME NEW SITE MANAGER - Matt Ramich

The new site manager for the USFS will begin his new job on May 21st. Be sure to welcome him when you see him!

Matt Ramich, 24, grew up in East Washington in the small town of Curlew. He reports that his high school was small, his graduating class only numbering 22 students.

He is finishing his Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture. In 2008-2009, Matt became involved with the USFS and Multnomah Falls while working in the STEP Program. (Student Temporary Employment Program.)

Matt says that he loves working outdoors and caring for the land - and enjoys working with people and interagency relationships.



He will be moving to Hood River as soon as his schooling ends and will jump right into this exciting new position!

Interviewed by and article written by newsletter editor, Teresa Kasner

The Friends of Multnomah Falls bid farewell to Nicole LaGioia as she moves on to a new position with the USFS in Lakeview, Southern Oregon. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. Nicole was the Site Manager for Multnomah Falls for 3 years.

FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Teresa Kasner

Spring begins on March 20th, I'm ready for it, are you? With our Interpretive Volunteer Training Workshop on March 15th, it should be very lovely weather at Camp Crestview! If you are an existing volunteer and you plan to attend, please RSVP to me if you have not done so already at teresa@friendsofmultnomahfalls.org - if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Recruiter - Chris Meinicke at chris.meinicke@frontier.com or phone 503-645-3124.

I'm very excited about our Interpretive Volunteer Bus Tour this year - we're going to be going on the Mt. Hood Loop with a visit to the famous Timberline Lodge - where we'll have lunch and then be given a historical tour of the lodge. I can't wait to learn more of the lodge, I've visited many times but have never had the guided tour where we'll learn the secrets of this national treasure. Again, I need an RSVP if you are an existing volunteer - you may bring an guest but they will need to pay for their fare and lunch.

Are you geared up for the big season of lots of visitors to the falls? And we are hearing positive things about the Benson Bridge being fixed before the big summer rush. Let's all hope for a quick



repair so people can enjoy the falls at it's finest soon. Mother Nature sure threw us a curve ball with that rock flying down onto the bridge, didn't she?

If you aren't a current member of FOMF, please consider doing so with the membership form in this newsletter. If you like and support FOMF, you can help us with such projects as printing more maps, brochures and all the other wonderful projects this group accomplishes!

See you at the Falls!

PIKAS - SURVIVAL OF A HABITAT SPECIALIST by Katie Goodwin



Pikas are cute, cuddly looking members of the rabbit family, but survival in a warming world may require "plastic behavior" with regard to foraging preferences.

Just published in the Journal of Mammalogy is the most recent research data by Johanna Varner and M. Denise Dearing regarding pikas and their struggle for survival as their traditional habitats increase to a warmer temperature. Unable to survive in temperature over 78 degrees F. one might choose to go higher as has occurred in the Rockies but what about food? Or if moving higher is not an option? Because they live at a very low elevation in the Columbia River Gorge and seem to be doing well Varner has been using the area to seek out some answers.

Gorge pikas live in rock slides where many holes enable them to escape from predators and provide cool respite year round. They also store greens collected and dried as they foraged for fresh plant material within the slides. But more recent studies have revealed that up to 60% of their diet consists of moss which most animals shun because it fibrous and low in nutrition. However, pikas ingest moss, excrete what are known as caecals of poop which are now pellets of protein six times the original plant matter providing much sustenance when reingested.

VOLUNTEER REMINDERS by Aileen Ashley

While it is great to enjoy visiting with your co-volunteer, when visitors walk in, acknowledge them with a warm friendly greeting, and put the conversation with your co-worker on hold.

Engage the visitors in conversation when they ask a question. Don't just hand them a brochure.

Volunteers who work the afternoon shift, be sure to go through the steps on the check-list and sign that you have done that so the next morning shift volunteers can validate the checklist. Too often the proper closing procedures are not followed which leaves the visitor center vulnerable.

FIRST AID SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM by Sharon Quade

Any volunteers who are actively serving the Visitor Center may apply for a \$50.00 scholarship for First Aid training. The funds are awarded upon complete of the course for up to 5 volunteers for 2014. Contact Sharon Quade at 360-521-9473 or squade02@yahoo.mail for more information and names of possible classes options.

TERM LIMITS FOR BOARD by Billie Anger

At the Annual Meeting the Nominating Committee asked that the FOMF members consider term limits for the Board of Directors. Most of us may never have given much thought to the topic. One benefit of term limits is that it might help with recruitment because the term is not indefinite. Serving on a board does require time, commitment, and energy. Prospective Board members may be more likely to agree to serve if they know the office has a time-limited appointment.

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:						
□ \$15	Individual	□ \$100	Supporting		□ \$500	Benefactor
□ \$20	Family	□ \$250	Sustaining		□ \$1000	Lifetime
□ \$50	Contributing					
Make checks payable to: Friends of Multnomah Falls, and fill out the information below.						
Name:				Phone:		
Address:			_Email Address	s:		
City:			_State:	Zip:		

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

NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOIN THE TEAM!



New FOMF board member, Carl Collins, is no stranger to the Gorge area. After spending his youth hiking various Gorge trails, he spent 30 years teaching in the Reynolds School District trying to instill in his students that same love of the beauty of nature. Carl led his family on many Gorge hikes and often family trips turned into his "narrated view" of the geology

and biology of the area. Students benefited from the many field trips along the scenic area during which Carl would point out historic and interesting spots.

Carl originally began volunteering at the Visitor's Center in 2004 - 06, only interrupting his service when he and his wife moved to Taiwan for three years. Upon arriving back in the US in 2009, Carl resumed his volunteer service. Like other volunteers, Carl enjoys meeting people and helping them plan great "adventures" in the Gorge area.

Hank Bennett first saw the Gorge as a boy of 6 when his family moved here in 1948. His father remarked that the road was an "engineering marvel".

Over the last 66 years he has learned quite a bit more about the Historic Columbia River Highway and the Gorge as a whole. Hank's



major hiking days are now behind him, and include a hike in the Grand Canyon at 16. More recently he has hiked the Dog Mountain Trail, the trail to the top of Multnomah Falls, Horsetail Falls, Ponytail Falls and Triple Falls trail.

Hank began volunteering in 2009. He tells visitors about the great floods of the Gorge during the most recent Ice Age. His most memorable question asked was when a visitor asked him "Where is the Columbia River Gorge?" The lady looked surprised when he said she was standing in the middle of it! Hank is looking forward to the next interesting question he gets from a visitor!

FOMF NEW VOLUNTEER RECRUITER - Chris Meinicke

Anyone showing interest in becoming a volunteer should contact Chris Meinicke, at 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! :-)

A hearty THANK YOU to Aileen Ashley for her many years of dedicated service as the Volunteer Recruiter!

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Teresa Kasner, Editor PO Box 426 Troutdale OR 97060



Don't forget to e-mail Teresa Kasner at Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org if you want to receive future newsletters via PDF on the website to save printing and postage for FOMF.

GOOD NEWS! A total of 1,786,741 salmon and steelhead went through Bonneville Dam in 2013 which is above the 1,346,665 10 year average.

Multnomah Falls had only 1/2 of the rainfall (57") in 2013 as we had in 2012 but the water keeps falling.