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# FOCUS on the FALLS

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🌿 SPRING 2015 Issue 🌿

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## Join Us for the FOMF Annual Interpretive Volunteer Training Workshop

March 14, 2015 - 9 am to 1 pm

At McMenamins Kennedy School in the Jordan Room  
5736 Northeast 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97211



### WORKSHOP AGENDA

- 8:45 am - Welcome, Registration and Breakfast Buffet
- 9:30 am - Workshop Begins, Overview of Agenda
- 9:45 am - Program Speaker Introduction - Peg Willis - Author of "Building of the Columbia River Highway. Q&A to follow.
- 11:00 am - Break and Snacks
- 11:20 - FOMF Business, Training Workshop & USFS Presentation
- 12:30 - Q&A, Announcements
- 1 pm - Workshop Ends

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### DAMS and ELECTRICITY - by Charlie White

Mankind has been using dams for power since time immemorial, and since September 30, 1882, for electricity. Dams concerned with electricity are of three types: 1. Run-of-the-river. 2. Water Storage. 3. Both.

The Columbia is one of the most harnessed rivers on earth, with 14 dams on its main stream and over 500 in the Columbia Watershed. The damming of the Columbia is relatively recent – the first one produced its first power in 1933. The first federal dam, Bonneville, sent its first power in 1938.

Oddly, the first two federal dams were not built primarily for electricity. Bonneville was to put unemployed to work, and Grand Coulee (1941) for irrigation. It was thought then that the Northwest could never use the electricity the two dams produced. How wrong that was.

The Oregon dams are all run-of-the-river, with only a little reserve for storage. But storage is needed for river management. An example: Hungry Horse Dam in Montana is primarily storage. It produces 428 megawatts on site, but because it is there controlling the release of water the 16 dams downstream produce over a million extra megawatts. The system is integrated; electric production at each is dependent upon the entire system.

### VOLUNTEER BUS TOUR

May 2, 2015 - 8:15 am

Dollie & Lynn Rasmussen, Guides

Cost - \$20 for Volunteers, \$30 guests

- 8:15 - Bus Arrives at Troutdale Factory Stores
- 8:30 - Depart Troutdale - **on time!**  
Will travel along 1-84 and exit at Mosier onto Historic Highway 30
- 10:15 - Arrive at Discovery Center  
The Dalles. Coffee available
- 12:15 - Lunch at Basalt Rock Cafe,  
Discovery Center
- 1:00 - Load bus, travel to Fort Dalles Museum  
and the Anderson Homestead (next door)
- 2:15 Load bus, drive through the Dalles and  
see historic buildings.
- 4:00 - Returning to Troutdale

# FOCUS ON THE FALLS

**Friends of Multnomah Falls  
SPRING Issue 2015**

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

**Newsletter Editor &  
Website Administrator**

Teresa Kasner

## **Board of Directors 2015**

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Joanne Tennant  
Charlie White

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(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 - by Matt Ramich**

Well hey!! Happy New Year to you all!! This is your on-site manager here at Multnomah Falls; I'm always ready to protect or guide the average visitor.

With winter here, a lot of changes to the landscape have occurred. Everything from landslides to icy trails has made certain days not the best for hiking.

At the beginning of the winter season, a large landslide knocked out the trail leading to Triple Falls. Several landslides have happened in this Triple Falls trail area before, so there is talk of a re-route. A re-route is a better option than putting more resources into reconstructing this section of trail that will probably erode again in the future. Many steps will need to be taken to achieve the full implementation of the re-route. Patience will have to be practiced. The Wahkeena trail-head, as of 1/10/15, looks like it could be opened fairly soon.

Looking at the pathways and plaza area, all the concrete seems to have been poured. There might be some masonry work to be done, but much of that process has been completed. I think everyone would agree it is going to be nice when the return trail is re-opened and people are able to hike the loop once again!

(Continued on page 3)



## **FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Sharon Quade**

Hello Friends, This greeting comes with thanks and gratitude for all of your excellent work and a shout-out of thanks to outgoing officers and board members Hank Bennett, Twila Mysinger, Phyllis Siebken, and Hal White. A special note of thanks to Teresa Kasner after finishing four excellent years as president and she has graciously agreed to continue as our Newsletter Editor and Website Administrator.

The new year began with board members Ron and Katie Goodwin, Kathy and Carl Collins, Dan and Joanne Tennant, Flora Huber, Teresa Kasner and myself who extend a warm welcome to the newly elected members, Dollie Rasmussen and Charlie White. Your service is greatly appreciated.

You will be happy to learn that plans are in the making for our annual Interpretive Volunteer Training at McMenamans – Kennedy School on Saturday, March 14, from 8:45 am to 1pm with FOMF training pointers and speaker Peg Willis, author of "Building the Columbia River Highway". Snacks and beverages will be provided. By the way, is the fun of volunteering at Multnomah Falls one of your best kept secrets? So many of us have expressed the good times we have volunteering, meeting people from around the state, the US & the world.



Photo by Ron Goodwin

Now is the time to canvas your community for new recruits, share your experiences, the fun activities we have through the year, and bring them to our training in March. See you then, Sharon.

# ARE THE SALMON DOING BETTER?

by Ron Goodwin



Photo by Ron Goodwin

The good news is that there was a record number of salmon in 2014 passing Bonneville Dam. since 1938 when the counts first started. This included 1,339,659 Chinook, 294,518 Coho and 614,179 sockeye. Much of this has been the result of improved water flows over the dams the last 4 years and good ocean conditions. Chinook and Coho eat a lot of sardines, anchovies and other small fish the last months in the ocean as they prepare to enter fresh water. The coastal buffet line was loaded again last year.

The bad news is that the return was only about 5 percent of the historic wild salmon that were in the Columbia before the Europeans started fishing for economic gains. They used large nets and fish wheels that furnished fish for the canneries to feed people all over the world.

Only 1,400 sockeye went up past 8 dams 900 miles to Redfish Lake in Idaho. Most of the sockeye passed 9 dams to Osoyoos Lake on the Okanogan River in British Columbia 615 miles up stream from the Pacific. This run is the result of better hatchery raising of fry, better spillage over the dams, better habitat along the way and good ocean conditions. The numbers are still way below historic levels but better than the last 76 years since dams were put in.

Another sockeye run that has been missing since 1961 is the run up the Deschutes River to Link Creek between Suttle and Blue Lakes. In 2014 30 made it to Round Butte Dam and were hauled past there to spawn in their historic beds.

The most unusual thing about the sockeye is that they mainly eat plankton which the sardines and anchovies also eat and they mainly spawn in lakes. Kokanee are land-locked sockeye that are found in many lakes in Oregon.

In case you are wondering how many pink salmon made it past Bonneville last year, it was 121 which is about average. This fish accounts for 75 percent of the canned salmon and in Alaska over 235 million pounds was harvested.

Good resources are *Salmon without Rivers* and *Salmon, People, and Place* by Jim Lichatowich where you can find out about how hatcheries have replaced many of our culturally important wild salmon. Hope to see you at the end of October into November to see the Coho spawning in Multnomah Creek and at our Salmon Festival.

(Continued from page 2) I have been given another project to implement, several bollards to prevent cars from using the pedestrian trail going underneath the train trestle and eventually to the I – 84 parking lot. Of course these bollards are going to be removable incase an emergency vehicle needs to use the trail as an access point for an emergency. This project should improve the aesthetics of the area, which I am going to be happy to see. That’s about it!! Keep up the good work and may Multnomah Falls keep spirits high as well as inspire our visitors.

## WANKEENA PROJECT UPDATE



The Wahkeena Recreation site remodel is about wrapped up and things are looking really nice! The railings will be added soon. I believe the contractor will keep the fencing up until those are installed. Sign installation and planting will occur sometime in the near future as well, most likely early spring. It is really nice to see this project coming together after all the work we put into it.

The site will be much more accessible to our visitors and blends in nicely with the rest of the Historic Columbia River Highway rock work. This is something we hope will endure generations of visitors to come.

Elizabeth R. Kennedy  
Natural Resource Interpretive Specialist  
Forest Service  
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

## 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 box to select your level of 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



## NEW BOARD MEMBER - Dollie Rasmussen

## NEW BOARD MEMBER - Charlie White



My arrival in the Columbia River Gorge was "on a dark and stormy night" in 1943, with my mother driving a Chevrolet coupe! I have lived in Hood River Valley since 1944.

My husband Lynn, who is also a volunteer with FOMF, and I have two children, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. This summer we will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary.

We have had Rasmussen Farms all of that time. Since we retired a few years ago, we have enjoyed volunteering, traveling and relaxation. We still enjoy living in our farmhouse on the property.

We really enjoy meeting all the interesting visitors to the Falls, especially the summer "fashion shows".



As a boy in northern Michigan, I had a bucket list of places I wanted to see. Multnomah Falls was on the list! On a trip in August, 1952, I saw the falls – as well as Celilo. I didn't dream I was coming back to stay, but I got a job at Portland State that September. Soon I discovered that tasty trout were in the Gorge streams; just had to hike up steep slopes to get them. What a wonderful place. I took others to see the beauty (and to a very few, the fishing holes) and that led to leading Gorge tours, which I did for over forty years.

Ten years after I retired a couple of students I had in the 1950s, the Goodwins, recruited me for Visitor Center Service. What a satisfying post that is. Now that my fishing (only catch and release now allowed) and strenuous hiking days are over – I'm hopeful I'll be able to continue at the Visitor Center for many years.

## 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!

### FOCUS on the FALLS

Teresa Kasner, Editor  
PO Box 426  
Troutdale OR 97060



Please send an e-mail to Teresa Kasner [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.

Check out the link below which will show you how busy the Multnomah Falls parking lot is at any time.

<http://new.tripcheck.com/Pages/RCMap.asp>