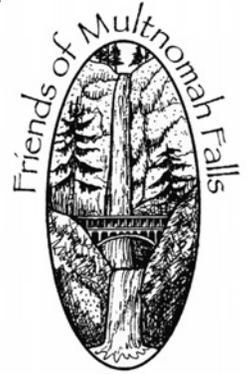


FOCUS on the FALLS



🌿 SPRING 2020 Issue 🌿

THE FOMF ANNUAL INTERPRETIVE VOLUNTEER TRAINING WORKSHOP

March 21st, 2020 - 9:30 am - 1:00 pm
McMenamins Edgefield Ballroom
2126 SW Halsey St, Troutdale, OR 97060

AGENDA

- 9:30 Meet & Greet - Coffee and Bagels
- 10:00 Welcome - Kathy Collins, President FOMF
- 10:05 Guest Speaker - Jennifer Karson Engum, Cultural Anthropologist and NAGPRA Coordinator for the Confederated Tribes, Umatilla Indian Reservation
- 11:00 Break
- 11:10 Forest Service Presentation
- 12:00 Lunch - Salad and Deli Sandwiches
- 12:35 Wrap-Up - Kathy Collins Q & A
- 1:00 Dismiss

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

Are you a member of the Friends of Multnomah Falls? Would you like to be? There is a membership form on the back of this issue, we'd love to have you as part of our support team!

Won't you consider becoming a valued part of our group?



REMEMBER! Many Interpretive Volunteers are members of FOMF - but it's not required to be a member to be a volunteer in the Visitors Center in the Lodge.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2019



Dave Mysinger

Each year we honor one of our volunteers for going above and beyond by giving of their time and energy on behalf of the Friends of Multnomah Falls.

Our 2019 honoree is Dave Mysinger who is helpful at the Visitors Center. His projects include things such as the white board that shows what is open & closed, coordinated the desk adjustment, including moving the brochures out and back in, deep cleaning at the center, is helpful to others, has taken on the responsibility of the phone message recording informing volunteers if the center is open or closed. He attended meetings with ODOT and advocated for a traffic flagger, is dependable and loves the work of FOMF. He added pictures of all the major falls on the counter. Just a small sampling of all he does for the Friends of Multnomah Falls. Thank you Dave!

DID YOU KNOW...

Each year the Friends of Multnomah Falls Members and Volunteers meet at the Annual Meeting and dinner in November, during which members elect the board and volunteers are honored for their years of service. This past year the Visitor's Center was closed due to a Government shut down and snow days for a total of 26 days.

The volunteer hours for this last Fiscal Year. Visitor Center - 4,361 and total hours, VC, travel, and other hours from meetings and other activities - 9,481. There are 60 active volunteers to staff the Visitor Center 363 days a year. Many thanks to Billie Anger for doing the final calendar each month.

FOCUS ON THE FALLS

Friends of Multnomah Falls SPRING Issue 2020

PO Box 426 | Troutdale OR 97060
<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

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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 Zev Gabai

Hello fantastic Friends of Multnomah Falls! I hope you're staying warm and dry! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone who works so hard everyday for the Falls. It is a welcome respite from being a Firefighter on a fire engine in Cascade Locks. I felt immediately welcomed by our hard-working volunteers.



This winter has been busy. We had a successful 2019 Salmon Festival thanks to the hard work and dedication of Katie and Ron Goodwin. There was a big crowd, interesting booths, button-making and even the salmon showed up! I've devoted a lot of time to maintaining the Wahkeena Trail Loop and Horsetail Falls and Multnomah Falls areas, especially the Sandy River Delta facilities, ensuring they are clean and refreshed. This includes cleaning up debris and reorganizing the parking area. Big thanks to Terry Hill and Chris Birch for precisely measuring the Multnomah Falls-Wahkeena Loop to ensure we give accurate information to our visitors. The Eagle Creek Trail will most likely open up sometime in the Spring. This is one of our most popular hikes and we're so excited to get people back on it.

Additionally, we've been working on projects in the Visitor Center. A goal of mine has been to think about how we can be more sustainable with paper we use and still serve our visitors well. I've reorganized the brochures and I'm doing my best to find the most effective way to display them, while highlighting our loop map. Big thank you to Dave Mysinger for helping keep the center running smoothly and holding down the fort on the weekends. As I wrap up my service here I want to thank everyone for your hard work and warm support. I'm confident the next Site Manager will be excited to continue our work. See you on the trail!

"In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir

FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Kathy Collins

In November, we held the FOMF Annual Meeting for Members and Volunteers. Thanks to Multnomah Falls Lodge, Co. for treating us to dinner. This is my favorite time to get together. I began volunteering in 2009 so this was my 10th year. I enjoy the company of the volunteers and members. I love hearing your stories. I love hearing how you helped someone or had a funny question asked. I love honoring people who have served for 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25 years. I have so much respect for this organization of people who give of their time unselfishly, adapt to the many changes that we have due to the weather or closures or changes in FS staff or many other issues. I have respect for those volunteers who also serve with other local organizations who promote the history and health of The Gorge as well as those who actually get out on the trails to do repair work.

This year was a very special to me. The FOMF organization got to recognize 4 people who have been with FOMF from the start 30 years ago. Very few people in today's world stay with the same job for 30 years, let alone volunteer at the same place for 30 years. This year we honored Rick Buck, Ron Goodwin, Bonnie Jepsen and Teresa Kasner for their dedication and contribution to the FOMF mission. It was my honor to give each a pin and a gift as a token of 30 years of appreciation for all their service.



I envision the next 30 years as a time when we welcome new volunteers to our FOMF family which will continue our mission to promote a love of the area as well as being great ambassadors welcoming people from all over the world. I encourage each one of you to give a special invitation to someone you know who might also enjoy being at The Falls. Our Annual Interpretive Training will be March 21st. I challenge each one of you to ask and bring someone! See you again on March 21st!

TRAIL DISTANCE MEASURING PROJECT

By Terry Hill

Chris Birch, Jerry King and I are working on more precise measurement distances for the Multnomah Falls to Wahkeenah Loop. We are using professional mechanical measuring wheels to physically measure the main loop trail and each of the 13 separate trail segments. Distances are measured in 12" increments, which vary upwards of 2% on uneven trail surfaces.

For example, our first full loop measurement (clockwise) put the trail's distance at 5.044 miles, but our second full loop measurement (completed counterclockwise) puts the distance at 5.151 miles. We will recheck these measures again when the weather improves, but it is accurate to tell visitors that the loop trail is about 5.0 miles long. The small differences in distance reflect how a hiker (or a mechanical wheel) navigates streams, washouts, debris and fallen trees. In other words, a trail's true distance depends on how the trail is hiked. Because of these variables there can never be a single, precise total distance, not even for the same hiker on the same trail. This also explains why many different mileage distances for the Loop Trail are cited on the internet and in hiking books. Nevertheless, any person hiking the Loop Trail will walk approximately 5.0 miles.

The two photos are of Terry Hill and Chris Birch. These were taken on January 25th and it was our third measuring-only hike. We are using the Pacific Crest Trail's distance measuring wheel, but we will also use a mechanical wheel from ODOT to cross-check our numbers.



We decided to measure the Loop Trail, because an internet search on the loop trail shows many different distances. Here are some examples:



- Outdoor Project: 4.3 miles
- All Trails: 4.7 miles
- NWHiker: 4.8 miles
- Oregon Hikers: 4.9
- Friends of the CRG: 5.4 miles
- Hikespeak: 6.5

As you can see above, giving visitors an accurate answer for the distance of the Loop Trail can be confusing. Last week we met a hiker on the trail who said his GPS measured the trail at 7.3 miles!

In order to clear the confusion, we decided to measure the total length of the loop trail with a mechanical wheel. Jerry King is retired from ODOT so he volunteered to help with this project, and use a measuring tool from ODOT - a mechanical measuring wheel. We also have access the Pacific Crest Trail's measuring wheel and are using both tools to physically measure the trail. Measurements are being double-and triple-checked so our numbers are reasonably accurate.

Another reason for the project: we have minor confusion with the distances for each of the 13 trail segments. The numbers do not match, although they are accurate enough to be useful. When added together the total is 4.5 miles, which is a half-mile short. Originally these calculations were added as an educated guess by experienced hikers, and they can be used effectively to hike the trail. The Visitors Center map does not need to be changed, but it's helpful to know these distances are general references and not precise measurements.

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"/> \$20 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 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

PIKA RECOVERY AT MULTNOMAH FALLS AFTER THE EAGLE CREEK FIRE



Oregon pikas are a resilient little animal. The pint-sized mammals, known for their distinctive shrill chirp, were hit hard by the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire, which burned much of the Columbia River Gorge pika habitat. But they are making a remarkable recovery.

The pika, an éclair-sized, unrelentingly cute cousin of the rabbit, is disappearing as its alpine habitat heats up, prompting a rush to understand how climate change affects the species across its range.

Last year, volunteers counted pikas in 18 of the 45 gorge sites surveyed. This year, volunteers found pikas at 45 of the 52 sites surveyed, according to a release from the Oregon Zoo Cascade Pika Watch program.

"We still aren't seeing numbers as high as before the fire, but things are definitely looking up," Amanda Greenvoss, who coordinates the zoo's pika watch program, said in a statement. "This is great news for our pika population."

Pikas in the U.S. are often found in high-elevation mountain habitats, which makes the pika population in the gorge—a relatively low elevation—of particular interest. This year, 155 volunteers spent around 1,620 hours tracking the "fluffy, potato-sized mammals," the zoo wrote.

"Due to their small size and their ability to blend in with their rocky habitat," Greenvoss said, "pikas can be really tricky to see - especially if you don't know what to look for." The zoo's five-year-old Cascade Pika Watch program operates thanks to a \$24,100 U.S. Forest Service Citizen Science grant, which helps fund pika habitat and population data collection.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Directors welcome Kent Meyer and Steve Vanier to the board. We also welcome back returning board members Katie Goodwin and Carl Collins. Our board is a "working" board and our members do a lot for the Friends of Multnomah Falls!

FOMF VOLUNTEER RECRUITER - Chris Meinicke

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please 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, 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!

Please e-mail Teresa Kasner Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org to receive future newsletters via PDF attached to an email - to save printing and postage for FOMF.