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# FOCUS on the FALLS

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## SUMMER 2012 Issue

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### **The Annual FOMF Interpretive Volunteer Picnic at Guy W. Talbot State Park Sunday July 29, 2012 5 pm Social - 6:00 pm Dinner**



2011 Group Photo

We will be BBQing hamburgers & hot dogs and providing drinks. There will have a social hour starting at 5 pm. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm, so that the USFS staff and FOMF Volunteers may attend.

Please bring a dish to share - salads, fruit, vegetables cold or hot and desserts, - surprise us!! The park is located in the tiny town of Latourell below the waterfall of the same name.

And don't forget, we'll be taking the Annual Volunteer Photograph - so be there!!

The theme of the Picnic is "Going Green."

Last year we requested our volunteers to bring a picnic basket with re-useable plate, cups, silver ware. We again would like to do the same this year.

With that we are asking that each person write down on a sheet of paper a helpful hint that can be used at the Falls, at home, at work, anywhere to help preserve our environment.

The best suggestion will be awarded a prize.

\*The paper should be "used" on one side, hence re-cycled paper which would have been discarded.

\*Write in large print

\*Using a marker pen, write boldly

The suggestions will be posted on the columns around the shelter for everyone to see before a vote is taken.



2012 Sternwheeler Trip Group Photo

# FOCUS ON THE FALLS

## Friends of Multnomah Falls Summer Issue 2012

<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."*

## US FOREST SERVICE REPORT By Nicole LaGioia

Hello Friends of Multnomah Falls,

I believe it is safe to say that summer has officially arrived. I feel justified in saying this since on June 16th we broke the 2,000 visitors per day mark for the first time this year. So the busy season has officially begun. The summer staff has also arrived and the last will start on July 5th. This year we will have Maribel Vidal and Silvia Munoz as the Forest Service staff and starting July 5th we will host 4 Oregon Youth Conservation Corp employees. This will give us a good sized crew for the summer months. Starting July 1st, we will be expanding the visitor center hours to 9-6 weekdays and 8-6 on weekends.



Coming with summer is some good news. This is a statement from Lynn Burditt, Scenic Area Manager "My decision is to immediately construct a temporary trail reroute to provide access to the Overlook Platform during the busy summer season. This decision is based on the public health and safety concerns on this section of trail, high public use, approaching peak use period starting on 4th July holiday, and the ineffectiveness of the closure order."

This means that starting this week (June 18th) there will be some major trail work traffic on the trail, but the trail should be open to the platform by the end of the month. I will be working hard with the trail crew to complete this project.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Teresa Kasner

Summer is here, woohoo! It's so fun to volunteer in the Visitor Center during the summer when visitation is high! So many interesting visitors and it feels gratifying to help people plan the hikes and touring when they visit our beautiful Columbia River Gorge!

One of the things I'm proud of as FOMF President is to make volunteering a fun and fulfilling experience. Our volunteers do so much for us, they give of their time and energy - I am so thankful and grateful for what they do that I want to "Pay it Forward" and provide a lot of fun interpretive training opportunities for them. We had our Training Workshop at the Historic Auditorium at Bonneville Dam, a Bus Tour of the Gorge, a Cruise on the Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge, a trip on the Mt. Hood Railroad, a Picnic at Latourell and our Annual Meeting, with dinner provided by Multnomah Falls Co. We are a fun and active group!

I also am thankful to those of you who may not be able to volunteer, but who support the Friends by being a member of the group. For just \$15 you can help us with our mission to provide interpretive information to visitors to the Falls. Won't you consider cutting out that form in this newsletter right now and send in your membership?



Our next event will be the 2012 Interpretive Volunteer Picnic at Guy W. Talbot State Park at Latourell Falls. Our theme is "Going Green" and we're asking you to bring your own plates and eating utensils so we won't be adding to the landfill with disposable items. It's always fun to see what potluck items people bring and have time to chat with each other and enjoy the company of the "friends". See you there!

**Kind regards and thank you for all you do!**

**SCORPIONS AT THE FALLS**  
**by Ron Goodwin**

There have been sightings by visitors up by the Benson Bridge in the past of small scorpions, but were they true? Last year our summer ranger, Maribel Videl, spotted the small black one dead along the trail near the Falls. It was then glued to the piece of wood in the nature display case.



The ones you see here are a Northwest Forest Scorpion (Uroctonus mordax). Its habitat is rotten logs where it is damp and cool and it likes high humidity. They are shy and play dead when disturbed and then move away. Their venom is a 1 out of 5 and they usually use their pincers on prey such as spiders, etc. They take 2 years to mature and live 3 – 4 years and are said to be easy to keep. People have seen them in both a lighter and darker colors. They only grow to be 3 inches in size.

Check out the one in the display case and if you need something unusual to talk about, here it is.

**CANADIAN ARMY VISITS THE FALLS**  
**by Ron Goodwin**

A week after the trail was closed in May to the viewpoint a group of 10 Canadian Army men were going to go the Benson Bridge until they read the sign about the upper trail closure.

Three came in the Visitor Center and I asked them why they were not going to the bridge. One had read "the trail is closed". I asked who is in charge and they point to the soldier with the white officers hat. I called him in and asked him to read the closure notice.

He agreed that the trail to the bridge was open and I told them to double time it up to the bridge. Off they went and in a few minutes some returned and were standing by the highway waiting for the rest of the group. Just then the Canadian Pacific unit train heading back to Saskatchewan (potash cars) was passing and I said you guys just missed your train. They laughed and said they were from Nova Scotia and this train was not going there. I found out that they were in the USA to visit companies that make equipment for the Canadian Army. They were visiting Portland and now going to Los Angeles.

It is not easy to translate the closure notice for everyone to understand.

**In Memoriam - Al Kempin**

The Friends of Multnomah Falls want to recognize the passing in April of Al Kempin who volunteered with his wife Trudi on Thursdays for many years. Trudi did the volunteer scheduling for that day. The couple started in 2006 and were in the Visitor Center almost every Thursday until the Spring of 2010, when Al became too ill to volunteer. Trudi is having a bench placed at the top of the Falls along the trail in his memory.

Several Board Members have donated to the memorial bench project to help defray the cost of installation - if you'd like to help with the project, please send a check to the address at the bottom of the form below and note on the check that it is for this bench project.



**Donations for the Al Kempin Memorial Bench**

- Billie & Kent Anger
- Ron & Katie Goodwin
- Sharon Quade
- Teresa Kasner

**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
- \$20 Family
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Supporting
- \$250 Sustaining
- \$500 Benefactor
- \$1000 Lifetime

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 2, USFS report)

Along with the busy season comes an increase in the interpretive activities. Upcoming interpretive events include:

Bram Brata Steel Drum Band	July 11	12 PM (noon)
Kid's Day	August 4	10AM to 4PM
Friends of Historic Columbia River Hwy	August 18 & 19	10 AM to 5 PM
Multnomah Falls Lodge Art Show	August 25 & 26	TBD
Labor Day Digital Scavenger Hunt	September 3	11 AM to 4 PM
Multnomah Falls Lodge Art Show	Sept. 8 & 9	TBD

This year we are also having an FOMF volunteer help out at an informational table on the plaza during the weekends. This is a chance to increase visitor contacts and education. If you are interested in participating in the plaza information table or any interpretive event listed above, please contact me directly.

I hope you are all ready for the busy summer months and as always, let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

## **SPIFFING UP THE VISITOR CENTER**

Thanks to the generous donations of our visitors and the dues from memberships - we have been able to have some improvements made in the Visitor Center. Woodwork has been refinished, new sliding doors on brochure cabinets and new corner cabinet work will be done soon!

## **WELCOME NEW INTERPRETIVE VOLUNTEERS!**

Dollie and Lynn Rasmussen  
and John Buddeau

### **VOLUNTEER CONTACT INFO - by Aileen Ashley**

Anyone showing interest in becoming a volunteer should contact Aileen Ashley, at [aileen.ashley@comcast.net](mailto:aileen.ashley@comcast.net) or phone 503-697-6598. 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**



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.

### **NOTE:**

#### **"SAVE THE DATE"**

FOMF VOLUNTEER PICNIC  
July 29th Arrival at 5, Dinner at 6 pm

FOMF ANNUAL MEETING  
November 12, 2012