

# FOCUS on the FALLS



🌿 SUMMER 2015 Issue 🌿

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS at MULTNOMAH FALLS

September 9, 2015 - 11:30 am - 1 pm at MF Lodge Plaza

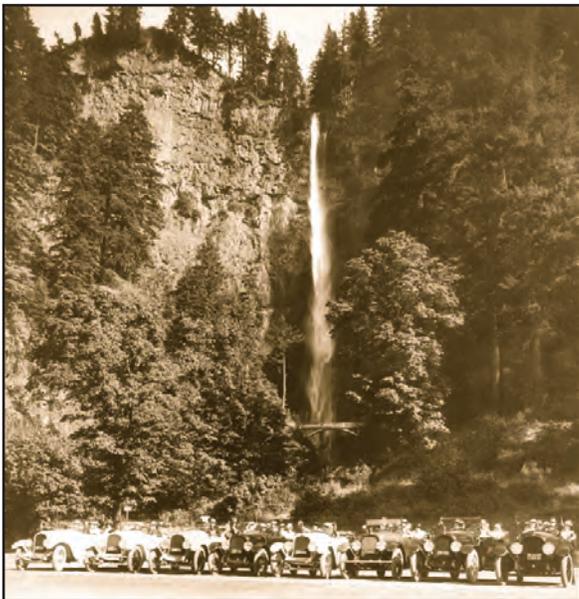


Photo Courtesy of Hal Meyerdierk's Collection

You are invited to join the FOMF, USFS & Multnomah Falls Lodge Co. to Celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary of the Dedication of Multnomah Falls that took place in 1915.

### "THEN & NOW" -- EVENT AGENDA

11:30 am - Hal Meyerdierk, MC - Welcome and Introductions  
"DAR Centennial Chorus" Open Event with National Anthem, Teresa Kasner  
Speakers - for "THEN" - Chet Benson, descendent of Simon Benson, Don Clark (Holman speech), Rick Buck (Lafayette's speech)  
Christine Meadows performs period songs accompanied by Mt. Hood Pops  
"NOW" - Matt Ramich introduces himself and Lynn Burditt, Area Mgr CRGNSA  
Hal M. tells the story of the FOMF - 25th Anniversary of FOMF - The End Reception for Participants in Falls Room - Courtesy Rick Buck & MFL Co.  
(Tickets for reception will be issued for Participants and Guests)

## FOMF Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Sunday July 26th, 2015

at Guy W. Talbot State Park in historic Latourell

4 pm - Arrival & Social - 4:45 - Annual Group Photo

5 pm - Potluck BBQ

Please bring your favorite picnic dish to share - salad, hot dish or dessert. Cold drinks and BBQ burgers and hotdogs will be provided by FOMF, plus all the "fixin's" such as buns, condiments, etc.

Please bring your own picnic basket with plates, napkins, cups and utensils and a fun tablecloth for the tables. We are "GREEN"!



2014 Picnic Group Photo by Teresa Kasner

# FOCUS ON THE FALLS

Friends of Multnomah Falls  
**SUMMER Issue 2015**

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

**Newsletter Editor &  
Website Administrator**

Teresa Kasner

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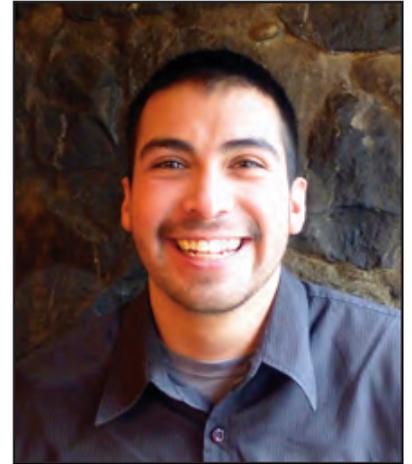
Rick Buck (Ex-Officio)  
Multnomah Falls Lodge Co.

### 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 there!! Seems it has been awhile since you last heard anything from the always ready, on-site manager, Mr. Matt Ramich. Things have definitely started to pick up at Multnomah Falls. But before I get into all these exciting happenings, I would first like to say that we are now, more or less, fully staffed with Forest Service employees. Many of you know that Jason Ligon has returned, but we also have Marcos Ramirez. Each has been a great help to me in regards to picking up trash, interpreting information to the public, and dealing with visitors that have negatively impacted this great place. Please, when you see either Jason and/or Marcos, welcome them as we all head into this 2015 summer season.



Now on to discussing the recent events that have taken place over the last few months here at the Falls. When driving east on the Historic Highway going east, you may have noticed large boulders on the shoulder just past Wahkeena. ODOT put these boulders there to discourage people from parking on the shoulder and

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## FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Sharon Quade

Thanks to volunteers Dollie & Lynn Rasmussen and Carl Collins who stepped up to the task of planning an outstanding volunteer interpretive training bus tour to The Dalles. This action-packed tour included on-site training at the USFS Discovery Center with a raptor show at 11 AM, and a visit to historical Ft. Dalles Museum. We are now equipped to be enthusiastic about suggesting both places to visitors.

Only ten years ago, a small group of volunteers worked only 2 days a week on the USFS days off. Their training was originally on how to open and close, turn on the lights, hand out some brochures, and answer questions. However, the value of the volunteers grew steadily and soon regular training workshops were developed and important material was added each year. At present, we are holding interpretive training workshops, interpretive bus tours, sternwheeler boat trips, \$50 scholarships for 1st Aid trainings, and one-to-one mentoring at the Visitor Center. Each volunteer is a valuable team member with shifts at the Visitor Center seven days a week and at the plaza each summer weekend. The board members and I thank all of you for your time and effort. Feel free to share your thoughts, ideas or areas of concern you may have that could improve our Interpretive Volunteer Training.

I'm hoping to see you at our annual picnic, Sunday, July 26th, at Guy Talbot State Park.



Sharon Quade & Smokey Bear by Ron Goodwin

# THE COLUMBIA - AN INTERNATIONAL WATERSHED

by Charlie White

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Bonneville Dam - Photo by Teresa Kasner

The Columbia River watershed is enormous – roughly the size of France at 260,462 square miles or about the size of two and three quarter Oregons. The river has greater discharge than any other river of the American continents into the Pacific Ocean, at an average of 265,000 cubic feet per second. And that's in

spite of over 4,700,000 cubic feet being taken from its flow every year for irrigation, a lot of which never gets back to the river. This non-returned water is in the vegetables that you and I eat or is lost through evaporation. Some comes back to the river polluted with chemicals used to enhance growth. Some comes back usable.

To complicate matters, the river starts in Canada, and if you look out at the river this week, over two thirds of that water rushing by is Canadian [207,000 cubic feet per second was pouring over the border on June 1]. We can argue a little about that foreign amount, as the Kootenay, in early June the largest contributor to the Columbia, flows into the United States before it goes back to Canada to join the Columbia. Does that make its water American?

One day back in May 1948 an incredible 470,000 feet per second poured from Canada into the United States as there were no Canadian dams to hold any water back. And there were only three on the American Columbia, two of which were run of the river with very little holding capacity. The result was the Memorial Day Vanport flood, wiping out Oregon's third largest city.

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creating even more congestion between Wahkeena and Multnomah. So far the boulders have worked well and are a great asset in managing traffic on the Historic Highway.

Some of you may have heard that a couple weekends ago, a man with a parachute jumped off from the top of the Falls, glided down to only get stuck in a tree, cut himself free, and walked off the site without being detected. It is pretty amazing he was able to do all that, and it is illegal. I hope in the future this type of thing will not occur.

Memorial Day weekend was very busy, especially on Sunday and Monday. There were many drivers lined up on the Historic Highway waiting for parking spots and freeway drivers were met with the freeway parking exit being closed much of the day. But no other dire events occurred during the weekend.

Keep up the good work and may Multnomah Falls keep spir- its high as well as inspire our visitors!

## 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:

- \$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 3) That flood resulted in added pressure to tame the wild river. The plans of the Army Corps of Engineers for dams in the American watershed had long been on the books, but Canada then had no facilities for holding back the water. It took several years, but in 1964 the USA and Canada finally signed the Columbia River Treaty to institute joint control over the river. The treaty created a US Entity and a Canadian Entity, and the staffs of each were to meet and carry out the provisions of the Treaty, which called for the construction of three storage dams in Canada and one in the United States (Libby) that would prevent floods. Actually an important factor in negotiation was that the added water control would also result in added electricity generation. The flood of 1964 (the last one to affect Oregon) confirmed to the treaty negotiators that their work was vital.



Fish ladder viewing window at Bonneville Dam - Photo by Teresa Kasner

By 1975 the dam building was complete and Canada had added the 15,500,000 acre feet of storage the treaty called for. By 1997 the arrangements concerning payment for dams and for the added electricity [and there was a lot] and deciding where the electricity would go were complete. The Entities continued their regular meetings managing the river – a model of international cooperation for the world. To significantly modify or leave the treaty requires a ten year notice – such was given in 2014. Thus those of us still around in 2024 will be able to see how the river is managed (or not managed) after new negotiations.

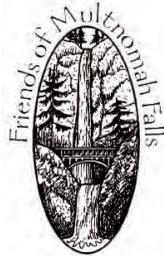
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## FOMF VOLUNTEER RECRUITER - Chris Meinicke

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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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.