

FOCUS on the FALLS



🌿 SUMMER 2016 Issue 🌿

FOMF Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Sunday July 31st, 2016

at Guy W. Talbot State Park

in the historic town of Latourell

4 pm - Arrival & Social

4:45 - Annual Group Photo

5 pm - Potluck BBQ

Please bring your favorite potluck dish to share - salad, hot dish or dessert. Cold drinks, 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"**!



FOMF Volunteer Appreciation Picnic 2015 - Photo Courtesy of Kent Anger

BUILDING OF THE LARCH MOUNTAIN TRAIL - A NOBLE ENDEAVOR, by James Olsen



There's an excellent photo of the old log bridge over the lower falls hanging above the visitor sign-in desk. It was a viewing structure, and presumably was installed by the Union Pacific Railroad Company for its sightseeing excursion train clients, as the UPRR logo appears in the lower corners. This bridge disappeared in 1900.

As a replacement, Simon Benson contracted a bridge builder and bridge designer in 1914, and in 1915 the iconic bridge as we now know it was in place. The path to view the falls the ended at the bridge. But Samuel C. Lancaster, designer and overseer of the Columbia River Highway wasn't content with hat short path. He pictured a trail to Larch Mountain, and, on January 28th, 1915, presented a "lantern slide" depiction of the Columbia River Gorge scenic wonders to the Progressive Business Men's Club of Portland, and, as a trustee of the PMBC, asked the organization to consider building a trail from Multnomah Falls to Larch Mountain.

Now ask yourself, why would a club of citified take on such a task? The site is thirty miles away, reachable only by rail, and with some seemingly impossible terrain. However, Lancaster was an impressive man, and, as Charles Paul Keyser wrote in his treatise on the Founding of the Trails Club of Oregon, was a man "with plenty of presence; he had the touch."

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**Friends of Multnomah Falls
SUMMER Issue 2016**

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

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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."

USFS SITE MANAGER REPORT - by Matt Ramich

Howdy everyone!! Summer is upon us, but luckily we haven't lost our precipitation. Yes, there has been some really sunny and hot summer days. Still, the rain continues to fall. Let's hope this keeps happening. Here at Multnomah Falls, the rain has created perfect growing conditions for the local vegetation.

If you haven't already, take a look at the flower beds out in front of the lodge. Rick hired a great landscaper that spread bark dust that looks sharp. The flower bed behind the water fountain received three spirea shrubs, kinnikinnick groundcover, and a rhododendron shrub that all will look beautiful when they reach maturity. The fence surrounding these plantings was put in place to keep dogs and kids out as well as deter vandals from stealing them at night. Keep in mind this is a temporary fence.

I can't continue writing this article without mentioning our two great seasonals I have working with me at the Falls. We have our recurring seasonal Jason Ligons back again for his fourth season and our first timer, Jake Hastings, as our second seasonal. Be sure to welcome them both and make them feel comfortable as we all move into one of the busiest times of the year. You may see other rangers walking around the site. Those would most likely be our field rangers. Three of them, Emily Long, Chelsea Lester, and Marcos Ramirez, have come back for a second year. This year, the field ranger group has added one more member, Matt Bailey. I know I am excited about working with all these rangers. I mean who wouldn't be!

One last thing to mention. This year, ODOT is piloting a new bus system that goes from the Gateway District to Rooster Rock and on to Multnomah Falls. This bus will cost five dollars if a person gets on at the Gateway District. If you park at Rooster Rock and want to come to the Falls, the ride is free. Brochures about this system can be found in the brochure rack by the front doors. The bus operates only on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays. That's about it!! Keep up the good work and may Multnomah Falls keep spirits high as well as inspire our visitors.



FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Sharon Quade



Sharon & Smoky Bear by Ron Goodwin

A big thank you and hugs to all our volunteers who continue to volunteer more hours not only at the visitor center and the plaza, but also doing extra by helping with 100th anniversary of the Historic Columbia River Highway. Special thanks to the FOMF board and individuals who contributed so much to the success of the Interpretive Volunteer Training Workshop and Bus Tour!

On June 16 some of our interpretive volunteers boarded the Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge, relaxing on a paddle wheel riverboat docked at Cascade Locks. Seeing the Gorge from the river is so amazing, as you see river banks, mountains, the Bridge of the Gods, Bonneville Dam and historic fishing platforms still used by local native Americans today.

On the agenda also is the Annual Volunteer Picnic at Guy W. Talbot Park hosted by board members who reserved the picnic shelter for Sunday, July 31st. We will share good times, delicious picnic fare and visiting with each other and USFS staff picnicking under the cool shade trees. Some of you may remember that this park was first donated in 1929 by Guy W. Talbot and his family and was partly developed by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) between 1933 and 1935.

'Tis often said: "Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer." Thank You FOMF!

(Cont. from Page 1) Responding to Lancaster's persuasive plea, Henry R. Hayek, a printer by trade, moved that the PMBC immediately construct the trail. His motion carried unanimously, committing the 384 club members to the endeavor. Hayek's temerity earned him the chair of a six man Larch Mountain Trail committee. A more unified, dedicated, hard-working group could hardly be found. They met two or three nights a week from February through September, 1915. The committee:

Henry R. Hayek, Chair, James, Kerns, and Abbott Co., Printers and Lithographers.

Chester J. Hogue, Architect and Engineer. 1st. Vice President, PBMC.

G.F. Peek, President of Union Abstract Co.

Thomas A. Sherrard, Supervisor, Oregon National Forest (later became Mt. Hood National Forest) US Forest Service.

Jacob Kanzler, Secretary of Civic Bureau, Portland Chamber of Commerce; formerly Multnomah County Judge, Banker and later as Infantry Officer in the Argonne, France, WW I.

In 1915 as the trail was nearing completion, Lancaster wrote "The Larch Mountain Trail soon will be as well-known as the Bright Angel Trail in the Grand Canyon, or any of the famous trails in Yosemite, Rainier, and Yellowstone National Parks." Hyperbole? Regardless, today it seems as such, as countless hikers from afar seek information about that fabled trail from our volunteers in the Visitor Center. To accommodate the impact of these numbers, the first mile of the trail was widened and paved in 1968.

(EDITORS NOTE: This story will continue in the FALL Issue)

MEMORIES OF THE REDEDICATION OF THE HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY - JUNE 7, 2016



STERNWHEELER COLUMBIA GORGE

Each June the Sternwheeler treats our interpretive volunteers to a complimentary cruise in order to train those who serve behind the Information Desk so they may accurately inform people about what happens on the cruise. Left was the group in 2015, right was this year with the editor, her husband and grandsons.



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

INTRODUCING OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS

GLORIA DOUGLAS

Gloria lives in the area. She enjoys taking photographs in the gorge. She and her husband do a lot of hiking and were at the Falls recently when they stopped in the visitors center and asked about volunteering. Gloria has worked for 27 years as a public speaker, customer service representative and teacher.

DENNIS ELVEY

Dennis has only been in Oregon about a year but loves hiking and already trekked on many of the trails in the gorge. He is retired and is now getting involved in community activities. He has already helped at the Clackamas County Fair and enjoys working with people.

WELCOMING TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

LYNN RASMUSSEN

Lynn, a life-long Oregonian, was born in Hood River. He is recently retired, having sold Rasmussen Farms where he lived for 70 years. He and his wife Dollie celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this year. Lynn enjoys helping the visitors and suggesting areas of interest to those from around the world. As a new board member with many years in customer relations he hopes to have new ideas on ways to enhance the visitor's experiences in the gorge.



JOHN BUDDEAU

John began volunteering at the Falls in 2014. He has been a long time resident in Troutdale where he raised 2 sons and he has 6 grandchildren. John worked for years as a bus driver for TriMet in Portland, retiring only a few years ago. John also spent many years driving a church bus for his kid's youth group. He enjoys camping at the coast, hiking in the Gorge, spending time with grandchildren and loves to travel. He has made 3 trips to Asia and has recently returned from a trip to Hawaii. John loves to greet people at the Visitors Center and share information about the Gorge area.



FOMF 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!

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



Flower Girls and Daughters of the American Revolution Centennial Chorus pose with the Royal Rosarian Prime Minister Rick Saturn and his wife at the Rededication of the Historic Columbia River Highway on June 7, 2016 at Multnomah Falls. All Photos of the event courtesy of Teresa Kasner.