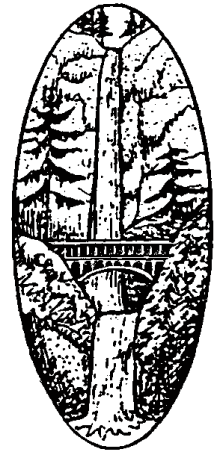


FOCUS on the FALLS



Summer 2006 Issue

FRIENDS OF MULTNOMAH FALLS PICNIC



Sunday, July 30, 2006 - 5 pm

LOCATION - RED SUNSET PARK, GRESHAM

Red Sunset Park is a 14.18 acre community park located at 2403 NE Red Sunset Dr. off of Hogan Road between Stark & Division.

Directions: 1st traffic light south of Stark on 242nd - or the 1st light north of Division on Hogan RD - turn west into the park.

Picnic fare provided by FOMF and Multnomah Falls Lodge Co. Virginia Gehrke will be calling you for your potluck contribution. Spouses are welcome, why don't you plan to come and get to know the other volunteers and board members. Have some fun and make new friends!

NEW PIN AVAILABLE - BY THE FRIENDS OF MULTNOMAH FALLS

Board Member Teresa Kasner designed the new pin for the friends group using the oval artwork that is the logo for FOMF which was created by Teresa in the early years of the friends group.

There is a "donation kit" available at the information counter and the pins are available for a donation of \$5. Some volunteers may elect not to have the pins on the counter. Those that do, please get the pins up on the counter while you are volunteering and keep a running total of sales during your shift - the cash goes right into the donation box. That's it! Easy!

The pin is a beautiful antique bronze with a nice forest green enamel frame. The funds raised by the donations for the pins will help pay for the projects of the Friends of Multnomah Falls, such as brochures, signage, etc.



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Friends of Multnomah Falls
Volume 1, No. 1

Summer Issue 2006

<http://multnomahfallsfriends.org>

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Multnomah Falls Lodge Company

SUCCESSFUL FATHER'S DAY EVENT

By Maxine Wilkins, Vice President

The June 17th and 18th event went smoothly thanks to all of our volunteers who helped and the monumental job Aaron did in arranging all the activities. There were 12 diverse groups with interests for the adults and activities for the children. One of the father's remarked to me that his two girls had been looking forward to this since last year.

Multnomah Falls Lodge provided a great barbecue and strawberry shortcake, for those with a sweet tooth, for a nominal cost. Everyone was entertained by the group "Savantgarde Band" which includes Kristen Reese, one of our volunteers

Thanks to the Gorge Watch volunteers for watching over things on Saturday evening.

New Volunteers for 2006

Malinda Brown
Max Brown
Tien Dinh
Mary Dunham
Jim Jensen
Reza Kamali

Al Kempin
Trudi Kempin
Jeanette Kloos
Kyle Robbins
Peg Willis

INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBER - Hal White



I am a Portland area local graduating from Madison and Portland State. I have lived in Portland all my life with the exception of five years living and working in Queensland, Australia.

I have a sister, niece and other family members living on Whitbey Island, Washington. When I go up there to visit we usually end in a kayak on the waters and I usually end up looking like a Bonnie Best Boy tomato. Still, with the light completion and all, I spend time a lot of time outdoors.

Other interests are: backpacking, hiking, golf, gardening and exploring new places in the NW. I have been a volunteer for Multnomah Falls for seven years and truly enjoy the interaction with our visitors and helping them to enjoy their visit to the Columbia Gorge.

Other organizations I am associated with: Leach Botanical Gardens, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, and the online Portland Hiking Club as well as the Kidney Foundation Group.

US FOREST SERVICE UPDATE - By Aaron Pedersen

Even with the slower pace of winter and early spring, we have been going full steam ahead since last summer. A lot has been accomplished on site, both inside and outside the information center. We have finished up installing the new cabinets, TV, DVD, displays and painting the walls. We have also been offering new interpretive programs to the public.

There have been numerous Forest Service guided hikes in areas throughout the Gorge. The hikes have not always been as well attended as we have hoped, yet we have brought in some revenue and made some good connections with both the public and guest interpreters who have attended the hikes.

This spring has brought many school groups to the Falls for end of the year field trips. Both staff and I have taught programs on geology, human history, plants and animals, as well as site management issues and rules of conduct. This has fuelled some excitement for the programs we will continue to offer this summer.

A new and wonderful tool we have used for programs has been our long awaited interpretive signs. The Friends of Multnomah Falls contributed \$11,046 dollars of publicly donated funds toward the purchase and design of these signs. They are all currently installed in their individual place and look beautiful.

We have also reached another long overdue milestone with the completion of our new full color tri-fold brochure. It has been nearly 9 months since its inception! Lots of time and effort from the friends group has helped it to become the informative and well written piece it is. Remember that the brochure is now a working piece. In the future we will be able to easily make changes or add information. Put some thought into how you would like to see it look in the future and we can make it happen on the next print run.



Changes at the Information Desk

By Ron Goodwin



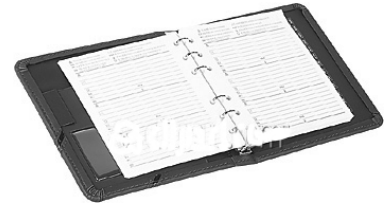
Advances at the front desk of the Visitor Center include the computer set up by U.S. Forest Service ranger Aaron Pedersen and the developer of NW Hiker software along with a weather station. Dennis Stilwell with his Virtual Hikes gave the Friends of Multnomah Falls the computer, wireless connections, flat panel monitor and software with connections to hikes, topographic maps, weather cams, national forests and many other options through the internet connection. We can now answer about any question that may come up from wildflowers to roads open at Crater Lake to what can be seen along most trails. If someone wants a topographic map of a hike we ask for a \$1 donation and print one off for them. Yes, we do have to pay for the printer cartridges and paper.

There is now a weather station on the shelf under the four seasons pictures with the rainfall, wind, temperature and a forecast for the next day that is usually accurate because of the barometric pressure changes. This will be really useful next winter and the east wind starts howling. Aaron placed the wind gauge on the pole between the railroad tracks and I-84. Maybe someday they will have one at the Vista House.

Aaron also found someone to program the DVD shown continuously on the new DVD player so that it will repeat automatically and maybe not burn out the players so quickly. The picture is on a new flat panel TV which now gives us more room in the office for moving about. We are now in the 21st Century.

We now have 50,000 new Multnomah Falls Brochures as the old tri-fold ran out. This has cost the Friends of Multnomah Falls \$11,224 for the printing and about \$1,200 for the design. At the cost of 26 cents each we will have to be more limiting on giving out free brochures with one per family and ask for a donation for more. There are two brochures, one winter and one summer so some people may want one free one and make a donation to get the winter version. We will have to get enough donations to be able to do the next printing in around 3 years if the present average 50 per day are handed out. Thanks to the volunteers in the Visitor Center we are getting more donations than in the past. The expenditures for the 5 new signs and brochures have used up most of the reserves we have accumulated over the last 15 years.

Calendar



July 29 - Aldrich Butte Hike - 10 am. 2.6 miles round trip, 860' gain, Moderate. Cost \$15 includes lunch. 503-695-2376

Aug. 26 & 27 - Celebrate Columbia Gorge Artists - *9 am - 4 pm Local artists will display their work
* Children's Activities Information 503-695-2376 x218

BELOW ARE CALENDAR DATES THAT REMAIN THE SAME EACH YEAR

Board meeting: Every third Monday of the month at Xavier Sheraton Hotel on NE 181st at 7:00 pm.

Interpretive Volunteer Training Date - The Second Saturday in March each year.

Speaker Date - The Third Tuesday in April each year. Multnomah Falls Lodge- 7:00 pm

Speaker Date - The Third Sunday in October each year.

October 15, 2006 - 3:00 pm- place and topic to be announced.

FOMF Picnic - July 30, 2006 - The Last Sunday of July each year. (SEE FRONT PAGE FOR INFO)

FOMF Annual Meeting at Multnomah Falls - November 13, 2006.

FOCUS on the FALLS



Teresa Kasner, Editor
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