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# FOCUS on the FALLS

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## 🍂 FALL 2019 Issue 🍂

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### Join Us for the FOMF Annual Meeting

November 18, 2019  
Multnomah Falls Restaurant  
Arrival at 4:15

Business Meeting at 4:30 pm  
Dinner at 5:30 pm

Election of Board Members & Officers  
Volunteer Recognition and Awards  
(This meeting is for FOMF paid Members & Volunteers)

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2020

The Nominating Committee consisted of Billie Anger (chair), Terry Hill, Flora Huber, Diana Karabut, Kathleen McIntire and Dolie & Lynn Rasmussen.

They have recommended for the FOMF 2020 Board the following slate of candidates to be voted in for a two year term: Dayle Kasner, Flora Huber, and Kathy Collins. Also to be voted in for a two year term and new to the Board are Denise Hawke, Kent Meyer, and Steve Vanier. In addition to be voted in for a two year period and returning to the Board is Carl Collins and Katie Goodwin.

Board members who will be continuing into their second year are John Buddeau, Teresa Kasner, and Maxine Wilkins

We appreciate those who took the time to respond to the Nominating Committee Survey. One helpful response which the Board adopted for the coming year is changing the evening Board meetings to daytime. We thank these individuals who serve to fulfill the mission of the organization.

The Executive Board voted for one term:

Kathy Collins	President
Kent Meyer	Vice-President
Denise Hawke	Secretary
Dayle Kasner	Treasurer



Did you know? FOMF Volunteers are encouraged to become a member of the organization - but it is not required to do so to be a volunteer.

### TRAFFIC RELIEF AT MULTNOMAH FALLS by Kathy Collins

On the left is the picture of Maria who started directing traffic on July 4th, Friday - Monday to keep traffic moving by the crosswalk. She always had a smile and performed a great job in a difficult position. Her help really made the situation so much better for all concerned!

Conversations between ODOT, USFS, the Multnomah Lodge Co. management, Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept. and FOMF began in February 2019. All parties agreed that the 2019 summer traffic would be problematic. Due to the Eagle Creek Fire of 2017, the HCRH had been closed during the summer of 2018. This summer would be our first test of real congestion because the HCRH would be open but a large portion of parking spaces would not be available due to the dangers of falling rocks. The interested parties knew this meant huge traffic back-ups. Because the Lodge management and FOMF deal directly each day with frustrated visitors who wait in long traffic lines to park, we urged ODOT and the USFS to develop a plan to ease the expected congestion.

The only workable solution to ease the flow of traffic was to hire a flagger who could keep traffic moving in front of the lodge. Meetings, phone calls, emails, letters and even calls to elected officials continued each month until a decision by ODOT was made to hire a flagger starting July 2nd thru Labor Day on Fridays thru Mondays only. Although this has not solved the problem, it has alleviated the traffic issue on busy summer weekends. Discussions and planning for next summer are already underway.

# FOCUS ON THE FALLS

## Friends of Multnomah Falls FALL Issue 2019

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

### Newsletter Editor & Website Administrator

Teresa Kasner

## Board of Directors 2018

**President**  
Kathy Collins

**Vice-President**  
John Buddeau

**Secretary**  
Denise Hawke

**Treasurer**  
Dayle Kasner

### Board Members

Flora Huber  
Teresa Kasner  
Maxine Wilkins

Matt Ramich  
(Ex-Officio USFS)

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

Good morning, good afternoon, or good evening to you. Wherever you are while reading the Fall issue of the newsletter, I hope you are well. First off, it is good to be back from my four month detail. While up on the Mt. Hood, I supervised two seasonals and all three of us took care of the eastern side of the mountain (Barlow and Hood River Ranger District). Constantly taking care of restrooms and collecting money with the occasional abandoned campfire, we chugged through summer. Along with those duties, I oversaw two campground concessionaire permits, wrote a visual analysis document for a project involving the release of huckleberries with the economic driver of a timber sale and met so many great people. It was a wonderful experience.



Here at Multnomah Falls, I know Alyssa did an exceptional job keeping this place going, training the new seasonal employees and working with all of the interpretive volunteers. Another big help was having flaggers directing traffic. I think we all know and agree that this is something we should consistently have in the summertime, if not until the end of September instead of Labor Day. Safe to say, I think we overall had a great, cool, and non-smokey summer (with the exception of Smokey's 75th birthday celebration).

Looking ahead at the time I am writing this column, Virgil and Sienna's last day was September 28th. I am really glad I got to work with these two. Both have been great rangers to have had at Multnomah and showed a really strong work ethic. Hopefully some of you were able to say good-bye to them at some point. Maybe they will return next year, depending on if they find permanent jobs someplace else. Moving into November, we will have our annual Salmon Festival celebration on Sunday, November 3rd from about 10 to 4. Also, there is the annual FOMF meeting, that I am sure Kathy will remind us all about as we get closer to the date. I think that is it for now. Keep up the good work and may Multnomah Falls keep spirits high as well as inspire our visitors.

## FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Kathy Collins

Fall is my favorite season of the year. And, fall in the Columbia River Gorge is nature's gift of color. The bright orange, intense yellow and fiery red leaves of deciduous trees give the deep green ever-green trees depth and royalty. Love it!

When visitor's come to the Visitor's Center on clear days in the fall, I direct as many as I can, to Larch Mountain for the spectacular 5 mountain view. On any day, I will encourage visitor's to enjoy the vistas of colors from numerous spots. This is also the perfect time of year that our FOMF volunteers welcome fewer visitors which allows us to answer a few extra questions when needed.



Many tourists that come during this season do not have school age children so they want to know about sights to visit that may be less about hiking or family outings and more about encompassing the many places to stop, gaze and photograph.

The FOMF volunteers have really shined this summer, addressing the many parking/traffic issues at The Falls while still being upbeat matching visitors with just the right trail to hike.

Thank you, again, FOMF volunteers, for your flexibility to work through these challenges while still promoting our love of The Gorge. You are truly great ambassadors!



## FOMF VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC 2019



The FOMF Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was held on the last Sunday of July. Everyone that attended thoroughly enjoyed the venue at the lovely and air conditioned Pavilion at Cascade Locks Marine Park.

Thank you to those who made the trek to join the group on this fun annual event. The board would like to use this facility next year, we hope you'll join us next year, we'd like you to be in our annual photo of the group!

## FOMF VOLUNTEER RECRUITING

by Chris Meinicke

I've been spending time in the gorge since I was a kid. My father even took my brother and I to see Celilo Falls one last time before it was flooded by The Dalles Dam in 1957. I still have the pictures I took that day with my Brownie Camera. I had always planned to volunteer in the Columbia River Gorge when I retired. I contacted both Vista House and Friends of Multnomah Falls upon retirement and received a response from Friends of Multnomah Falls.

I started volunteering in the fall of 2008 and it is still my favorite volunteer position. I love sharing what I know about the gorge, places to hike, places to explore and visit plus the history of Lewis and Clark's journey in the gorge and journey of the Oregon Pioneers.

I took over the position of Volunteer recruiter in 2015. Being a volunteer is a challenge and there is a lot to learn, but most important we need volunteers who really love the gorge. Many of our volunteer recruits are referred to us by current volunteers who might also be involved in trail building for PCT, members of hiking groups or people who live in the gorge area.

I have had the U.S. Forest Service and Friends of the Columbia River Gorge put a ad for Multnomah Falls Volunteers on their Facebook page. We are always looking for new volunteers.



The McGehee Family brought their children to the Visitors Center and enjoyed the antlers and horns on display in the drawers.

Photo by  
Teresa Kasner



Chris (center) with USFS Personnel - L. Sammy Uttke - Heather Jackson

## 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



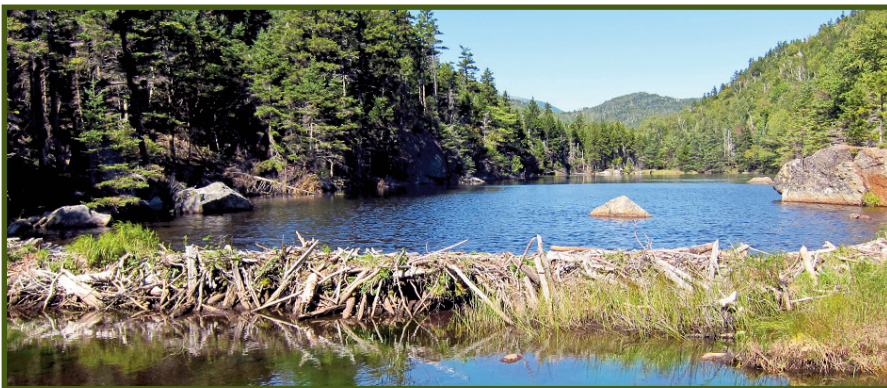
## BUSY BEAVERS AT WORK IN MULTNOMAH FALLS CREEK



There is a busy beaver at work just over the northside of the little footbridge that we walk over when we come through the tunnel from the I-84 parking lot.

It has snagged many small trees and the small trunks are now visible. Virgil Newberry, USFS Summer Staff said that he followed the little guy around the corner towards Wahkeena and sent a few pictures of the trees.

Katie Santini, a CRGNSA biologist stopped by that day and confirmed that it was a beaver doing the work. We're not sure if the beaver is making a dam or just eating the bark from the branches, maybe a little of both. Virgil went looking for the dam, but didn't find it, and doubts that it would block the salmon from making their way upstream.



Top:  
Photo of trees cut by a beaver in Multnomah Creek by Virgil Newberry, USFS staff.

Center-left:  
Beaver

Center-Right:  
Depiction of Beaver dams and lodge.

Bottom:  
Photo of beaver dam.

## FOMF VOLUNTEER RECRUITER - Chris Meinicke

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please 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, 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](mailto:Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org) to receive future newsletters via PDF attached to an email - to save printing and postage for FOMF.