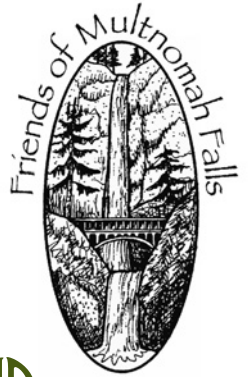


FOCUS on the FALLS



🍂 FALL~WINTER 2020~21 Issue 🍂

VISITOR'S CENTER FACES CHALLENGES AHEAD

The Visitor's Center at Multnomah Falls has been staffed solely by the US Forest Service since a limited reopening in July. The USFS Rangers placed a table across the open doorway in the VC and put a plexiglass shield on the table when greeting visitors. It would be impractical to greet visitors through an open doorway during the cold winter months. The summer visitor count was limited due to the pandemic. A parking reservation system for the I-84, managed by the lodge, also controlled the number of visitors who could come to the falls. Parking in front of the lodge was closed to give visitors a place to stand in line, 6 feet apart, in order to social distance while waiting their turn to view the falls on the lower plaza area. While FOMF often greeted 200 + visitors per hour on a busy day during summer months, the USFS reported that a busy day might only bring 100 people per day to the doorway.



Many factors face FOMF volunteers as the board plans for the future with a different "normal". Both the USFS and the FOMF consider everyone's health and safety as the top priority. The USFS is still contemplating whether to only open on weekends or 7 days a week during the winter months using only their paid staff. Because fewer people are visiting the falls, the need to "fully staff" the center, 2 shifts a day, 7 days a week, may not be a priority once the center is operational again. Our volunteers may be asked to just staff certain days each week or have one shift during the busiest part of the day. Future planning between the FOMF, the Lodge, the USFS and ODOT will all be dependent on the nation's health, parking limitations and actual staffing need.

The FOMF Board is committed to keeping communication with these interested parties open so that we can plan ahead for any possible return to service. All updates will be passed on to the volunteers/members as the board is informed by the USFS.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

Are you a member of the Friends of Multnomah Falls? Would you like to be? There is a membership form on the back of this issue, we'd love to have you as part of our support team!

Won't you consider becoming a valued part of our group?

	MEMBERSHIP CARD
	<u>Your Name HERE!</u> Member
	<u>Now is a good time!</u> Date of Membership
	<u>Teresa Kasner</u> Membership Chair

FOCUS ON THE FALLS

Friends of Multnomah Falls

FALL/WINTER Issue 2020-2021

PO Box 426 | Troutdale OR 97060

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

Newsletter Editor & Website Administrator

Teresa Kasner

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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."

USFS SITE MANAGER REPORT - by Josh Daker

Dear Friends of Multnomah Falls,

I have a lot to say. This year could take a whole volume of space with all the events that have happened and will continue to happen. We all have been through a lot this year and I want to thank all of you for your devotion and persistence. I am grateful to have such a dedicated volunteer team to work with and hope to meet more of you as time goes on. I hope that we can safely have you all volunteer soon.



While it's easy to focus on the negative, there are beneficial outcomes for us and ultimately the public. In the spring with the closures of recreation sites our trail crew grew to at least twice its normal size if not more some days, and projects that needed contracting out were able to get pushed through paving the way for reduced time to open iconic trails in the Gorge. We hope that near the end of the month or within December more trails will open, including the Eagle Creek, Wahclella Falls, Oneonta/Horsetail loop and Multnomah/Wahkeena Falls loop.

On our interpretive side one of the Field Rangers started the Virtual Ranger program to help get information out to the public. It is a wonderful way in this time of no in-person talks and events to increase public awareness of recreation sites, US Forest Service operations in the gorge and those bits of information that someone may overlook while out and about. These can be found on the CRGNSA Facebook site and the USFS YouTube page. I am pleased to say that she will be returning next spring to continue the Virtual Ranger videos.

Our year-round field staff has changed a little bit. Field Ranger Alyssa moved on to the Sequoia NF, but her vacant position was filled in October by Jay who worked with the regional office as a community engagement intern. We acquired Ben with ten years of experience as our Dev-rec Tech lead and our maintenance guy Andrew is back from his year down in South America. Our team is now full for year-round work to get done!

FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Kathy Collins

Over the past few years, our organization has endured a devastating fire, government shut-downs and dangerous road conditions. We always regrouped and returned to the Visitor's Center as soon as it reopened without skipping a beat. Each time, our schedulers continued to fill the month's calendar with two shifts a day. We could mobilize our volunteers with just a 24 hour notice.

Even monumental traffic jams or the crush of helping 200+ visitors per hour during hectic summer months did not slow our enthusiasm to help people. So, it's not surprising that when the Covid shutdown began last March, we continued scheduling all of our dedicated volunteers just like we did during any previous crisis. As weeks went by, it became clear that this was a national pandemic and that our temporary standby might drag on for a long time. We are in different times.

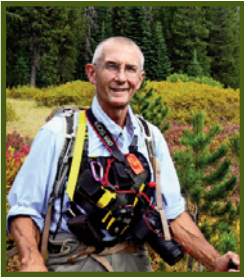


The USFS is still considering ways to safely open the center and protect our health. This will take time. Volunteering in the future may look different with fewer days or hours. I assure you that the Board of Directors is committed to your safety as well as the FOMF mission of educating the public about our beloved Falls & gorge.

I want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding. I look forward to seeing each of you again and enjoying our friendship with each other and answering visitor's many questions at the Visitors Center.

AWARDS COMMITTEE 2020 REPORT by Katie Goodwin, Committee Chair

This year, October 31, 2019-November 1, 2020 was cut short by COVID-19 but FOMF recognizes that our volunteers are eagerly awaiting their return to Multnomah Falls. Your Awards Committee: Katie Goodwin, Chair; John Buddeau; Ron Goodwin and Bonnie Jepsen have "met" by phone and email to determine our honorees and prepare to honor all our volunteers. All awards are being mailed this year. Those of you who were able to put in 16 hours of time are eligible for the Northwest Forest Pass as a thank you from the Forest Service-Columbia River National Scenic Area. We welcomed 6 new volunteers this year who will receive their one year FOMF pins. Frank Jahn and Steve Vanier are receiving 5 year "Volunteer Service Pins." Receiving 10 year "Volunteer Service Pins" are: Diana Karabut, Marcia Rush and Annette Russell. Collyn Baldwin is receiving her 15 year pin. Billie Anger and Kaye Darby are 20 year volunteers and Gareth Wilson has been with us 25 years. Lastly Katie Goodwin is receiving her 30 year pin. Those with 20+ years also will receive gift certificates.



Terry Hill

Our Awards Committee is also responsible for selecting special honorees recognizing service beyond the Visitor Center in many cases. All these recipients will receive gift cards this year. Our Special Merit Award goes to Chris Birch and Terry Hill for designing and installing directional signs for ALL the intersections on the Multnomah Falls – Wahkeena Loop. Hopefully this will help some "lost" people find their way. Charlie White is the recipient of our Enthusiasm Award as he is an inspiration to all who volunteer with him and our visitors. We have 3 long time volunteers who have also served as board members and on various committees who for reasons of relocating or health are no longer able to serve us: Aileen Ashley, Priscilla Hall and Maxine Wilkins. Our "hats off" to you three as you navigate new waters. Billie Anger is turning her volunteer coordinator position over to Steve Vanier

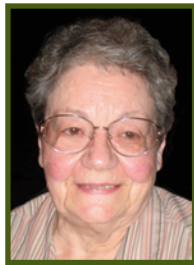


Chris Birch

regarding the coordination of the volunteer schedule and the production of it for all of us – thank you Billie for the many years you have served FOMF. Dollie Rasmussen is the volunteer with the most hours in the VC this short year so she also will receive a gift certificate.



Aileen Ashley



Maxine Wilkins



Charlie White



Billie Anger



Dollie Rasmussen

Lastly - we are honoring Kathy Collins, President, as our "Volunteer of the Year". Kathy has untiringly ushered FOMF through challenges the last 2 years. Volunteers have received her updates throughout our close-down. She has met with ODOT, USFS, Multnomah Falls Lodge Co., Corbett Fire District and Multnomah County Representatives regarding parking and safety issues along the Historic Highway; this year she has had numerous conversations with the Forest Service regarding what might be done to better serve our visitors. Even with health and/or injury issues she and Carl have faced she has always kept FOMF first and foremost on her mind. We are delighted to honor her with a gift certificate and once we're back in the center you will see the plaque with her name and picture on it.



Kathy Collins

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

30 YEAR PINS AWARDED to FOUR LONGTIME VOLUNTEERS



Ron Goodwin was one of the founding members of FOMF, was Treasurer for many years and also volunteers in the Visitors Center and on the trails.

Teresa Kasner helped craft the by-laws to create FOMF, is a founding member and a past President. She is the current newsletter editor and webmaster and serves on the board.



Bonnie Jepsen is one of the original founding members of FOMF, bringing her experience from the Friends of Vista House. She is a longtime Volunteer in the Visitors Center.

Katie Goodwin began as secretary of FOMF, she is a past president, works on garden beds and trails and volunteers in the visitors center and is a current board member.



Multnomah Falls During Covid-19 Safety Protocols

Photos Courtesy of Ron Goodwin

Top Left: One way traffic pattern, to maintain social distancing.



Top Right: Viewing platform Social distancing.



Bottom Left: Dining in the outdoors, tables separated by distance.

Bottom Right: Lower dining area with tables separated for safety.



FOMF VOLUNTEER RECRUITER - Chris Meinicke

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Chris Meinicke at chris.meinicke@frontier.com or phone 503-645-3124. Our volunteers enjoy a flexible schedule and lots of interesting and informative training opportunities! We have the Interpretive Volunteer Training Workshop, 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 to receive future newsletters via PDF attached to an email - to save printing and postage for FOMF.