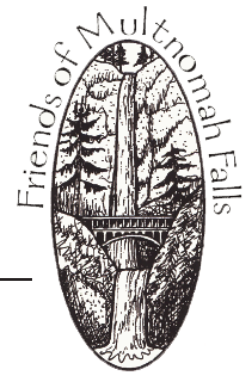


# FOCUS on the FALLS



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## Summer 2009 Issue

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### Join Us for the FOMF Picnic at Latourell Falls Guy W. Talbot Park Picnic Shelter

**Sunday, JULY 26th, 2009 - Begins at 4 - Dinner at 5 pm**



Our BBQ and picnic will again be held at Guy W. Talbot State Park in the village of Latourell across the Historic Highway from Latourell Falls.

The Talbot family used this property as a summer estate until 1929 when they donated it to the state. Today, it's a beautiful park for a picnic.



The tiny town of Latourell (pop. 12) borders the park on the north. A trail beneath the Historic Columbia River Highway bridge leads to Latourell Falls (250' tall).

FOMF provides drinks, hotdogs, hamburgers & condiments. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| * Appetizers (Chips, Veggie Platters, Wings, Dips)    | * Hot Dishes (Baked Beans, Casseroles, Meatballs, etc.)    |
| * Salads (Green, Potato, Pasta, Coleslaw, Bean, etc.) | * Fruits - Desserts (Cakes, Pies, Brownies, Cookies, etc.) |

\* NEW THIS YEAR! Prizes will be awarded for the BEST \* Appetizer \* Salad \* Hot Dish \* Dessert

Photos:

Above Left:  
Picnic shelter at Latourell.

Above Right:  
Latourell Falls.

Bottom Right:  
Photo of the "gang" at last  
year's picnic.



# FOCUS ON THE FALLS

## Friends of Multnomah Falls Summer Issue 2009

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

### Newsletter Editor & Website Administrator

Teresa Kasner

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Aaron Pedersen  
(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."*

## MULTNOMAH FALLS USFS REPORT

By Aaron Pederson

I was looking at my calendar recently and once again found myself in disbelief that summer is already here. I don't know why each year it seems to sneak up on me like this. During the rainy months the many visitors, trainings, meetings and the sunshine for that matter, seem so far away. Yet once again June is upon us and the schedule is filling up quickly.

Many of you have heard that the recent stimulus package signed into affect by President Barack Obama has turned the Forest Service budget completely around. One billion dollars has been injected into agency coffers slated for shovel ready projects and to create employment opportunities for the many Americans in need of employment during these tuff economic times. I am happy to say we will be witnessing first hand some of the positive affects this money will have here in the National Scenic Area as well as on site here at Multnomah Falls. Due to this legislation we have been able to add several new positions. This summer we will have a total of 11 Forest Service staff working out of the Information Center. 5 Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) and 4 Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP's). I would like to familiarize you with the four USFS STEP employees you will all be working with this summer.

- 1) Karen Elizondo - Worked on the OYCC crew at Mult. Falls last year. Originally from Hood River.
- 2) Suzi Valle - Worked for the Scenic Area biologists two summers ago. 3rd year student at OSU.
- 3) Gordon Levitt - Currently at U of O studying Political Science. Originally from The Dalles. Working knowledge of Spanish.
- 4) Dylan Lerch - From Hood River, proficient in Russian, lived in the Ukraine and taught English. Will be attending school at DePaul.

Please help me in welcoming these individuals to the site. I am anxious to work with all of them and have been re assured they are the cream of the crop. This is good news as the line of work here at the Falls demands it.

Thanks for all the hard work and dedication each of you demonstrate. Once again it's our time to shine, so fasten your seatbelts & hang on because its sure to be another wild & crazy summer.



## MAXINE'S MESSAGE

by Maxine Wilkins, President

Hello summer! Hope you are all enjoying the warm weather. It is unusual to not worry about rain until after the Rose Festival. We had a very successful training this March and thanks to one of our charter members, Hal Meyerdierk, we learned a lot of history about the area around the falls. Thank you Hal for coming back to see us and share all your information. Thanks also to Billie for contacting him to come to our training and make his presentation.



Photo by Teresa Kasner

I would like to remind all of you to contact me if you would be interested in serving on a committee this year. Most committees meet only once a year and it is an opportunity to participate in the procedures our organization uses and meet other members as well as the Board. Have a great summer and hope to see you at the picnic in July!!!



## THE OSPREY AS A SENTINEL - by Ron Goodwin

The Friends of Multnomah Falls are fortunate to have contact with Chuck Henny of the U.S. Geological Survey located in Corvallis, Oregon who has been monitoring the osprey for over 30 years. He has written 25 plus studies with many from the Pacific Northwest and has generously given us several thousand color brochures which we have placed by our excellent young male specimen.

The osprey is a logical candidate for a sentinel species for water contaminants because of several factors. These include its global distribution, top of the aquatic food web, ability to accumulate and its sensitivity to many contaminants, well known biological and natural history, tolerance of research activities, distribution at regular intervals along both fresh and salt waterways, long life span, use of the same nest and nesting on artificial structures that gives access to egg & blood/feather collection.

Ospreys are large enough to carry a relatively small 1.5 ounce satellite tracking device which now has a solar panel to recharge the battery for about three years. This information now shows the population is increasing since DDT was banned in 1972 in the U.S. Along the Willamette River there were 13 nesting pairs in 1977 and last year the numbers increased to 250 pairs.

Most of the nests are found on power poles, river markers and cell towers especially when platforms are placed for their use. Returning this year is the nesting pair 1/2 mile east on a river marker but we have a new nest at the top of a tall Douglas Fir at the entrance to the Wahkeena picnic area.

New information gathered last year from egg analyses shows a reduction in most contaminants in the Columbia and Willamette Rivers except for mercury which naturally occurs upstream from old gold and mercury mines. A new problem appears to be with pharmaceuticals and flame retardant chemicals not monitored ten years ago. Keep your eyes open for the osprey along the river as they only eat fish that they catch live.

## Plaza Flower Beds Clean-up

By Katie Goodwin

Thank you to the following volunteers who donned work gloves, picked up a tool or two or three to redeem the plaza flower beds from our gorge winter. Twila Mysinger, Kathleen Sweeney and her friend Debby, Chris Meinicke, Hal White, Flora Huber, Elda Slack, Denise Hawke, Ron and Katie Goodwin all removed weeds, trimmed back overgrown plants, planted pansies in front of the gift shop and spread barkdust during the two work parties. Aaron and Sam in addition to physically helping let us use the Forest Service truck to bring in one load of barkdust and disposed of all the debris we removed. June 1st we added tuberous begonias to the gift shop beds hoping they will provide the same color show as we enjoyed last year. After nearly twenty years we may have finally hit upon the best plant for shade and heavy, wet soil. Visitors are already offering positive comments so once again thank you for helping.

## New Displays in Visitors Center!

As you look around the Visitor Center at the updating of displays remember that this could not have happened without grants from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, donation again of \$2,000 from Rick Buck of the Multnomah Falls Lodge, Co. and countless thousands of small donations plus memberships that have helped pay the \$134,000+ cost of the displays.

We are now about 95% complete with only the challenge to fund the placement of the 650 pound 5.5 foot bronze casting of the Native American Spirit World on the plaza so the visitors can see it as they return from the lower falls viewing platform. As you can see your membership is important to help pay for the expenses to keep the Visitor Center up-to-date. Next is the printing of the color brochure which we give out upon request by 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 tax-deductible 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



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you willing to staff the information desk after 5 pm during the summer? Let us know!

Do you want to help out at Family Day?

Do you want to help with the Volunteer Picnic?

Are you interested in serving on the Board?

Would you like to help with the gardening "parties" at the Falls?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, give us a call or email us for more information.

Maxine Wilkins - 503-252-8248

Ron & Katie Goodwin - 503-761-4751

Billie Anger - b.anger@comcast.net

Teresa Kasner - FOMFNews@ByTeresa.com

## GORGE FALLS FEST June 27 & 28 - 10 am to 4 pm

The list of participants so far is as follows:

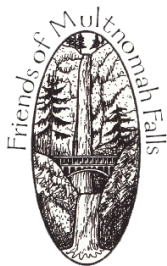
- \* Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway
- \* Friends of the Gorge
- \* Richard Brenen "Climate Change" talks
- \* Grand Ronde natural paints and wood carving
- \* Grand Ronde Canoe Family drumming, singing and canoe display
- \* David Moen Condor Research
- \* Antique Power Land
- \* Project Lifesaver
- \* Feral Cat Coalition
- \* Boy's and Girls Aid
- \* Folk Art Demonstrations

This years Gorge Falls Fest is sure to be the best yet. We have a plethora of new guest participants as well as many of our returning partners from years past. We will have demonstrations on native painting, wood carving, drumming, singing and other lost or dyeing traditions. The USFS will also have heavy involvement this year with the animal furs and skulls game, Smokey's Fire Wheel and guest appearances by Smokey himself.

Many other booths will have hands-on educational activities for the young ones and anyone wanting to become involved. Live music will be provided each day by FOMF volunteer Kristen Reese band Savant Guard. Their music can be described as Eclectic Folk Rock. The fun doesn't end their come out both days for this annual celebration and be amazed.

## FOCUS on the FALLS

**Teresa Kasner, Editor**  
**PO Box 426**  
**Troutdale OR 97060**



Please e-mail Ron & Katie Goodwin at [ron.katie.pdx@juno.com](mailto:ron.katie.pdx@juno.com) if you want to receive future news-letters via e-mail to save printing and postage for FOMF.

### NOTE:

Watch for the pica along the trail to the top of the falls.