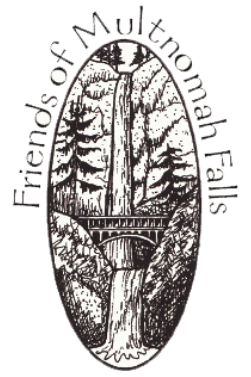


FOCUS ON THE FALLS



Summer 2010 Issue

Join Us for the FOMF Volunteer Picnic Sunday July 25, 2010 - 4 pm Social - 5 pm Dinner

Picnic Coordinator, Mindy Brown, will be providing smoked ribs and chicken and also making killer baked beans. We will have a social hour starting at 4 pm and dinner will be at 5 pm, so that all the Rangers and volunteers can be there when we serve.

Please bring a dish to share - salads, fruit, desserts, vegetables cold or hot - surprise us!!

Whoever brings a dish most likely to have been served the year that the Benson Bridge was built could be a winner!!

Do you have a cribbage board, or do you have the talent to make a word scramble? Mindy could use some help with the social hour. It's good way to get to know the other volunteers out of the "office." We'll have a few challenges and lots of fun!

Mindy's phone number is 503-661-1161.

Let's have the best Picnic we've ever had. Mindy says the ribs will be smoking when you get there. And don't forget, it's the Annual Volunteer Photograph - so be there!!



Annual Volunteer Photo - 2009

**Picnic Shelter at Guy W. Talbot Park
below Latourell Falls in
the town of Latourell -->**



FOCUS ON THE FALLS

Friends of Multnomah Falls Summer Issue 2010

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

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(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 Pedersen

Summer is almost upon us and with it comes many exciting new changes this year. Those of you whom have volunteered recently are aware Dylan Lerch, the new Acting Site Manager, has come back to work a few months earlier this season. Dylan was able to accomplish this by means of online course work he is taking to finish out the school year. This has been a tremendous asset which has afforded us more flexibility and better coverage during our day to day operations here at the falls. Thanks Dylan for your commitment to the Forest Service and your dedication to the work we do here at Multnomah Falls.

Another addition to the interpretive programming we will be offer this year will be the soon to be unveiled "Nature Cart". We have been working on this for the past several months. It will consist of a portable cart that Forest Service staff and interested volunteers can use to engage the visiting public seated throughout the plaza area. The cart will have a nice cover displaying the Forest Service and Friends of Multnomah Falls logos. Hidden inside will be items similar to those we have in the discovery drawers. These items will be used to teach individuals and groups about the many wild and amazing creatures found throughout the area. Currently Dylan and I have been assisting Mary Ellen, a new FOMF volunteer, and Billie Anger, FOMF board member to come up with text, pictures and information that will accompany these items. Similar information cards will also be made up for the items found in the discovery drawers. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these new interpretive tools.

Also currently in the works is the construction of a new beautiful stone bench that will be installed along the trail just after Benson Bridge. The location of the bench is due to its outstanding view and the need to retain the hillside behind it that is eroding away. The bench will have a stone carved with the Friends of Multnomah Falls name that will be inset in the back support. This will stand as a monument to the continued dedication of the Friends of Multnomah Falls volunteer group as well as allowing visitors a place to sit and rest while they take in the beauty of the falls, the Columbia River and Multnomah Falls Lodge.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. It is your efforts and involvement that help to make the work we do both successful and enjoyable. We wish you all the best during the busy summer months to come!

LATE BREAKING NEWS IN FROM AARON!!!

My arrival in May 2005 as the Site Manager of Multnomah Falls seems only yesterday. I greatly appreciate the warm welcome and continued support the Friends of Multnomah Falls members have always shown towards me and my "big ideas". I am proud of all the great many things we have accomplished together during this time.

Now the time has come for me to move on. I have recently accepted a promotion with the Forest Service as the Rec. Manager for the Zigzag and Clackamas Ranger Districts. I will be responsible for all the developed campgrounds and areas such as Bagby Hot Springs, as well as all the other non-developed recreation areas. I am excited about this new position and the challenges it will present. If you find yourself traveling through Estacada stop in at the District Office there and look me up. I would enjoy maintaining my relationship with the FOMF and will do my best to do so. Thanks for all you have done for me and the Forest Service during my time here. The friendships and memories I have made will never be forgotten.



Above Photo by Dylan Lerch

On June 2nd, 2010 Aaron Pedersen received a Letter of Commendation from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office for his participation in numerous rescues throughout the previous year. Aaron was honored alongside numerous deputies and other Sheriff's Office employees at the Multnomah County building in Portland, OR. In attendance along with the many family and friends were USFS Law Enforcement Captain Andy Coriell, Multnomah Falls Park Ranger Dylan Lerch, and Recreation Staff Officer Jen Kevil of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.



Photo by Teresa Kasner

MAXINE'S MESSAGE by Maxine Wilkins, President

Greetings all!! As the saying goes "Spring has spring" etc. And Summer is supposed to be just around the corner!!

Thanks to all who attended our Spring Refresher Training. Hope you all felt it was worth your while and hope you enjoyed Greg Archuletta and Greg Robinsins's presentations. I know I am looking forward to the completion of the wheel and the dedication that will follow. After Greg Robinson explained how difficult it is carving the basalt, we can certainly see why it is taking him considerable time to complete it.

I guess our next event will be our picnic on July 25th. Hope to see you all there. Thanks again for all you do to enhance our beautiful area.

She Who Watches - by Lorna Hewitt

Columbia Hills State Park (formerly Horse Thief Lake State Park) on the Washington side of the Gorge along SR 14 east of The Dalles, offers special opportunities of immersion into the beauty and mystique of Native American rock art, including the well known "She Who Watches," a combination pictograph and petroglyph. Pictograph is defined as painting on rock, while a petroglyph denotes carving or removing part of the rock in some manner to create a design or figure.

Deep shadows from passing clouds roll slowly over creviced slopes where the contours of sueded hills touch clear blue skies. A moving life is created amidst the ancient stillness. Is it, perhaps, a haunting in the mirror of reflection along the shores of the vibrant cultures that tread upon these lands over thousands of years, celebrating life and praising their existence in song and story on long ago, starlit nights?



Photo by Lorna Hewitt

Dancing flames from riverside fires cast shadows upon basalt cliffs. Flashing images of demons, deities, and dream-like figures in the illuminated darkness give rise to the creative and imaginative instincts so deeply engraved in the human psyche.

Speaking to us of these lives are remnants of rock art in the form of petroglyphs and pictographs, many salvaged from the rising waters of Bonneville and The Dalles dams. Numerous art rocks are publicly displayed along the walkway at the park, and others are available for public viewing by guided-tour appointments only, including "She Who Watches." The area is considered as a religious site - the visual touch of memories not to be forgotten.

Permission to publish my picture of "She Who Watches" given May 11, 2010 by:

Mr. Johnson Meninick, Yakima Nation

Cultural Resources Dept.

PO Box 151, Toppenish, WA 98948

(509) 865-5121

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:

☐ \$15 Individual

☐ \$100 Supporting

☐ \$500 Benefactor

☐ \$20 Family

☐ \$250 Sustaining

☐ \$1000 Lifetime

☐ \$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

NEW BOARD MEMBER - PHYLLIS SIEBKEN

Originally from the Midwest, I was born and spent the majority of my life in or around Omaha, Nebraska. For years, I often thought how wonderful it would be to sit on the other side of an information desk when I would visit a tourist attraction during my annual visit to the Pacific Northwest. In 2003 I moved to Oregon and the summer of 2005 I began volunteering at Multnomah Falls. I work for one of Portland's major health systems.

The two Sunday mornings a month I try to squeeze into my schedule to work at the Falls is a welcome respite from an otherwise busy and hectic routine. I just can't say I've ever met someone in the Visitor Center who was in a bad mood. Whenever I am working at the Falls or attending a volunteer function like the annual meeting, picnic or field trip, I always feel fortunate and grateful to be living my dream.



I have a son in Iowa who has 3 grown children and a son in Nebraska who has a 16 year old daughter. I have a mini dachshund, Hans, and a long-haired black cat, Furby.

During the spring and summer months I am a host parent for Japanese foreign exchange students who come to Oregon for short-term English programs at PSU ranging from 1 week to 1 month.

A LITTLE MOUSE STORY BY KATHY COLLINS

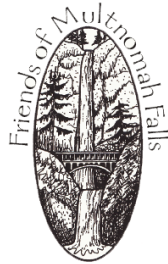
As Carl & Kathy were greeting visitors on their usual Thursday, a group of very inquisitive ladies entered the center. They asked questions and talked about the displays. Carl informed them that the drawers around the console contained many interesting items which they could touch and hold. One woman opened the drawer which contained the snake skin. Carl continued, "That's right, you can pick it up. Anything in there you can touch!" She looked at him funny and said, "You are kidding, right?" "No", Carl replied. "Everything in the drawers can be held and touched", he continued. This time all the ladies looked at him and again said, "You ARE kidding?!" Carl and Kathy looked puzzled. They said the skin is moving. By that time Dylan had come out of his office area. We all said, "You are kidding!" One lady again emphatically said she was not. She told us that "it was moving, there was a mouse in it". Dylan hurried out to look in the drawer followed by Carl and Kathy. Sure enough a little mouse came out from under the snake skin. Kathy reached down to pick it up by the tail but the mouse scurried out the drawer & under the console for the rest of the morning.

So, no kidding, you can touch everything in the drawers, alive or dead! Never a dull moment at the visitors center!



FOCUS on the FALLS

Teresa Kasner, Editor
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Troutdale OR 97060



Please e-mail Ron & Katie Goodwin at ron.katie.pdx@juno.com if you want to receive future newsletters via e-mail to save printing and postage for FOMF.

NOTE:

Your Membership is Important in our Mission! Contact Denise Hawke our new Membership Chair at FOMFMembership@gmail.com