

FOCUS ON THE FALLS



Summer 2011 Issue

Join Us for the Annual FOMF Interpretive Volunteer Picnic at Guy W. Talbot State Park Sunday July 31, 2011 4 pm Social - 5 pm Dinner

Did you know...

...that a new stonework bench has been built above the Benson bridge by Gabriel Weiss, including repairing stone work along the trail at a total cost of \$6,500? Also, all the lighting in the Visitors Center has been changed to energy efficient LED's and upgraded the lighting on some displays at a cost of \$4,418.87. These are partnership projects funded by FOMF memberships and donations given by those enjoying the Visitors Center.

We will be BBQing hamburgers & hot dogs and providing drinks. There will have a social hour starting at 4 pm, please bring photos you've taken at the falls to show. Dinner will be at 5 pm, so that the USFS staff and FOMF Volunteers may attend.

Please bring a dish to share - salads, fruit, desserts, vegetables cold or hot - surprise us!! The park is located in the tiny town of Latourell below the waterfall of the same name.

And don't forget, we'll be taking the Annual Volunteer Photograph - so be there!!



Group photo of the volunteers in the park at the picnic - 2010



INTERPRETIVE VOLUNTEER FAMILIARIZATION BUS TOUR OF THE GORGE - 2011

36 Volunteers participated in the "Fam Tour" this year. We boarded the bus at the Troutdale Factory Stores and headed into the Columbia River Gorge towards Cascade Locks where we crossed the Bridge of the Gods. We were the guests of honor at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center at Stevenson and enjoyed a wonderful hour learning more about the area and watching an informative video. We headed East on Hwy 14 in Washington and crossed back over the Columbia River at Hood River and arrived at the historic Columbia Gorge Hotel for a wonderful lunch, then a tour of the building and grounds. After boarding the bus we showed our volunteers how to direct people to Panorama Point - visibility that day wasn't as hoped, but it is a great place to send people on a good day! A GREAT day for FOMF!

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Friends of Multnomah Falls Summer Issue 2011

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

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Our Mission Statement:

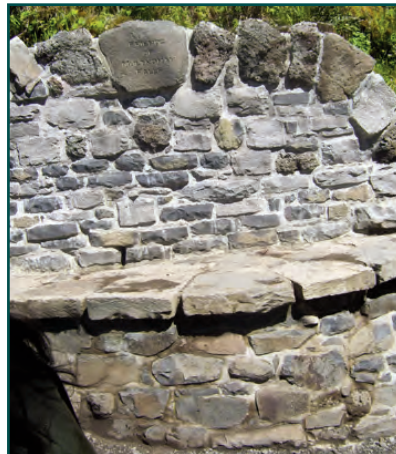
"The Friends of Multnomah Falls are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the unique natural, scenic and historic qualities of Multnomah Falls while providing a memorable experience for our visitors."

MULTNOMAH FALLS USFS REPORT

By Nicole Lund

Hello Friends of Multnomah Falls volunteers and members. Summer is here! It has been a long, wet spring but we are now in full swing here at the falls. The summer seasonals have been starting throughout the month of June and are very excited to get into the interpretive programs. By the first week of July, we should be fully staffed, trained, and ready for the crowds. The summer visitor hours will be from 8 AM to 6:30 PM with the Forest Service staff covering the extended hours.

There are lots of events throughout the summer that I would like to encourage the Friends to participate in. Our main event for the summer is Kid's Day on August 6th. This event



is replacing the Fall's Family Day and should be a day full of educational activities for kids of all ages. If you would like to volunteer for this or any other event, please let me know, as this is separate from the visitor center shifts. There is a full calendar of events posted in the visitor center.

Gabriel Weiss has completed the sitting bench above the Benson Bridge. The bench looks great, so if you are able, please take a look at it next time you are out at the Falls.

(Continued on last page with another photo)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Teresa Kasner

Greetings all! Has Summer finally arrived? I hope so! Our organization has been very active in the last few months! We had our Interpretive Volunteer Training Session at a local historic building - the Corbett Grange Hall in Corbett. It was very well attended and I think we all learned new things. Thanks to all who helped plan the event and brought refreshments - and to Nicole Lund, the USFS Site Manager - for her part in the training.

We had an exciting visitor at the Falls a few weeks ago - it was my regular day to volunteer so I was there when Vanna White came to shoot some promo commercials. There were a lot of film crew, lights, cameras and action that day! I even got a photo with Vanna and she was very nice.

We've been having our board meetings right along. We have a very dedicated group working for this organization!!



We had 36 volunteers go on a bus tour, as you read on the front page. We learned a lot that day, with 5 of us taking turns with the microphone, telling things we know about the gorge. Thanks to Jeanette Kloos, Charlie White, Ron Goodwin, myself... and the bus driver!!

This week we're taking 13 volunteers on a free cruise on the Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge and soon a free trip on the Mt. Hood Railroad - both are interpretive training trips.

Let's enjoy this summer!! See you at the Falls!

WHAT IS THAT BLUE “CARDINAL” SEEN AT MULTNOMAH FALLS?

by Ron Goodwin

People ask about the blue bird which is not the true Blue Jay but the Steller’s Jay. As soon as you ask if it is noisy and has a top-not and they say yes, then you have the correct bird. They like to be around people since we often leave some crumbs around the picnic tables. They can be bold like most jays and but do not eat out of your hand like the Gray Jay higher up in the mountains. Nearly a foot tall, this bird is usually found in the lowlands and foothills away from the city and in the dense coniferous and evergreen hardwood forests.



In the city we have the Scrub Jay which is also noisy but does not have the crest. Once you have heard the Steller’s Jay call, you can easily recognize it without ever seeing him. It is almost impossible to sneak up on one as they announce the movement of people and any animal coming near them. He stands erect with the dark blue/black upper parts and medium blue lower parts and wings as he hops from branch to branch. There is some barring on the wings and tail. Their flight is upward and then gliding for a short distance and then flying again. If he was red, it would be a Cardinal which has not yet made it to Oregon.

STERNWHEELER CRUISE FOR FOMF INTERPRETRIVE VOLUNTEERS

by Teresa Kasner

The Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge offers a familiarization tour for volunteers that work at gorge attractions and visitors facilities. I arranged for this free cruise 25 years ago while working as Executive Director of the Friends of Vista House. Sally King, the Volunteer Coordinator for the FOVH has organized this trip over the years for the Volunteers at Vista House and has welcomed the Volunteers at Multnomah Falls to join in. I’m happy that this trip is still available for our volunteers. 13 of us boarded the Sternwheeler on Thursday June 16th at 12:30 pm and cruised the Columbia above Bonneville Dam from 1 to 2 pm. We’ll also be invited to join the FOVH volunteers for a trip on the Mt. Hood Railroad soon. If you aren’t a volunteer now, let us know if you’re interested in becoming a part of our “TEAM”!!



INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER!



We'd like to introduce our newest FOMF Board Member - Twila Mysinger. Twila has been a volunteer since 2008 and joined the Board in January of this year. Twila has lived in Oregon for most of her life and in Corbett since 1977. She is retired from Kaiser Permanente, where she managed computer programmers.

Twila is also an active volunteer at the Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society. Twila often has weekend shifts at the Visitor Center, and you may also know her husband, Dave, who is a Forest Service volunteer.

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
- \$20 Family
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Supporting
- \$250 Sustaining
- \$500 Benefactor
- \$1000 Lifetime

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 CONTACT INFO
by Aileen Ashley

Anyone showing interest in becoming a volunteer should contact Aileen Ashley, at aileen.ashley@comcast.net or phone 503-697-6598.

RECENT DONATIONS
by Twila Mysinger

We'd like to thank three organizations for their recent donations to the Visitor Center:

Tri-Met Lost & Found donated umbrellas to our "Loaner Umbrella" program. We can now retire some of the umbrellas that have seen better days!

Green Dog Pet Supply donated dog leashes to our "Loaner Leash" program. If you are hiking the Wahkeena Loop, feel free to stop in and borrow a leash in case you meet a dog on the trail that left his/hers at home.

Earth Centric donated "doggie pick up bags", which are in a portable dispenser out on the plaza.

We appreciate these donations and thank Tri-Met, Green Dog Pet Supply and Earth Centric for their generosity.



(Continued from Nicole's USFS Report)

I also wanted to update you all on the progress of the Grand Ronde artwork that is planned for the lower plaza. As of the time I am writing this, the project is on hold pending the proper approvals from the Forest Service. I am still hopeful that this project will be completed this year, but the project is out of my hands at the moment. If you have any questions or concerns about this, or anything else happening at the Falls, please feel free to give me a call.

The flowers are blooming, the sun is shining, and the weather is finally warm enough to open the doors. It should be an exciting summer here at Multnomah Falls. I am so excited and I hope you are too.

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Teresa Kasner, Editor
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Don't forget to e-mail Teresa Kasner at Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org if you want to receive future newsletters via e-mail to save printing and postage for FOMF.

NOTE:

We'd love to have you become a MEMBER of the Friends of Multnomah Falls! :-)