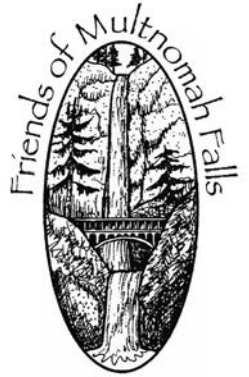

FOCUS on the FALLS

🍷 SUMMER 2017 Issue 🍷



FOMF Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Sunday July 30th, 2017

at Guy W. Talbot State Park
in the historic town of Latourell

4 pm - Arrival & Social

4:45 - Annual Group Photo

5 pm - Potluck BBQ

Please bring your favorite potluck dish to share - salad, hot dish or dessert. Cold drinks, BBQ burgers and hotdogs will be provided by FOMF, plus all the "fixin's" such as buns, condiments, etc.

Please bring your own picnic basket with plates, napkins, cups and utensils and a fun tablecloth for the tables. We are **"GREEN"**!



Annual Photo of Volunteers at the Picnic - 2016

TRAIL WORK VOLUNTEERS - by Terry Hill



Elowah Falls trail was closed by State Parks because of a large landslide. Many work crews are involved, including Trail Keepers of Oregon and the PCTA. Frank Jahn and Terry Hill are in this photo, but they might be too muddy to recognize. :-)

I was encouraged to get involved with the PCTA Mt Hood Chapter about four years ago by the Goodwins. They have been working trails for many years, Ron is certified with the USFS as a sawyer (bucking and chainsaw). I have learned a lot about trail maintenance over the last several years!

For starters, I'm convinced that all Oregon trails would become useless in short order if not for many dedicated and talented volunteers. Working within this community of people is a remarkable experience. PCTA volunteers are trained and supervised under USFS protocols. This ensures safety and engineering plans are consistent.

The partnership between the PCTA and the USFS helps keep trails like the Multnomah - Wahkeenah Loop in good condition, which is a tremendous benefit to the public. If they only knew how much work it took to keep these trails clear! Windfall, landslides, washouts, log jams, bogs, rockfall, poison oak, dry rot, ticks, etc. Every year brings new challenges with each storm, and trail work usually starts as soon as we have access. Saws must be sharpened, maintained, and stored, not to mention a ready inventory of shovels, picks, palaskis, rock bars, rakes, hammers, axes, pruners, winches, ropes, wire, hard hats, gloves, and much more. Seeing what these folks do is a real eye-opener!

(More photos and story on Page 3) Page 1

FOCUS ON THE FALLS

Friends of Multnomah Falls SUMMER Issue 2017

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

Newsletter Editor & Website Administrator

Teresa Kasner

Board of Directors 2017

President

Carl Collins

Vice-President

John Buddeau

Secretary

Katie Goodwin

Treasurer

Dayle Kasner

Board Members

Kathy Collins
Ron Goodwin
Flora Huber
Teresa Kasner
Sharon Quade
Dollie Rasmussen
Lynn Rasmussen

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

Alright then, summer is here! Although we are in Oregon. Rain is just as much a staple as having cereal in the morning. Anyway, we at the Falls are staying busy. One thing the winter left behind is a bunch of tree debris as well as a mixture of rocks and dirt.

With winter disappearing, the seasonal group is on board. Thankfully and just in time, they have been working hard to straighten things up. As you come into the visitor center, you might see Jason Lignons or Heather Pruitt. Say hello and make them feel comfortable as we will all be working closely for these summer months. My last seasonal, Dorian Curry, arrived May 1st. The time sure does fly. Going back to Jason and Heather, they have been working hard tidying up our couple of trailheads.



They also took it upon themselves to help Roger Buss, our Wahkeena camp host, clear tree limbs and make the grounds look more presentable. Hiking up certain trails, they have also done some scouting and fixed up the trails some. They are both settling in really well and I can't be happier with the amount of work they have already completed. Let's hope this lasts...lol!

The Gorge Express will run from May 26 through Sept. 24. Days of service: Friday through Sunday (plus federal holidays). Stops served: Gateway Transit Center, Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls. Departures from Gateway Transit Center: 12 per day. Departures from Rooster Rock State Park: Every 15-45 minutes.

This summer should be a good one. Remember to keep communicating with the Forest Service if trouble arises. We will do our best to facilitate. Keep up the good work and may Multnomah Falls keep spirits high as well as inspire our visitors.

FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Carl Collins

This past winter and spring have been challenging at the falls due to harsh weather conditions. We've had rain followed by wind followed by ice and then more rain. These conditions have caused lots of limbs and trees to cover the trails, making them impassable in some areas. Some of our own FOMF volunteers have joined area groups to help clear many of the more popular trails. Words cannot thank these hardy volunteers enough for their painstaking work out on the trails. Local search and rescue teams have been busy dealing with hikers when they hike on the wrong trail or become injured. These men and women that volunteer their time to walk into harms way while helping those that are in need of rescue are true heroes. As FOMF volunteers we have all seen this scenario too often during the past few months.

Despite the weather, more and more visitors continue to come to the falls. Our visitor counts continued pretty steady and are even up somewhat from past years. Only a fraction of the visitors who come to Multnomah Falls come into the Visitors Center. But, when they do, our volunteers try to be as courteous and helpful as possible. We are greeting more and more tourists from other countries which makes for a very interesting exchange of information. Volunteers continue to advise updates on trails, hand out maps and offer some alternative places to visit when trails are closed.



Carl Collins

The Falls area is going to be a busy place this summer. Our FOMF volunteers learned more about the area at the annual training meeting which was held in March and on the annual bus trip in early May. Traffic and parking will still be a huge challenge for our visitors this summer. We learned at the training meeting that ODOT will have a shuttle available again from Gateway and Rooster Rock. (Cont. on Page 4)

Hamilton Mountain. These photos show Ron Goodwin (at bottom) and Frank Jahn (at top right) working with the USFS. Frank Kahn is building water bars. Ron is instructing the class, as he has extensive experience and training in trail maintenance.



Thanks
to
Terry Hill
for all
photos
and
text!

This is a PCTA (Pacific Crest Trail Assoc.) Trail Crew, with Frank Jahn, front and center. We are clearing a snow route to Tish Creek, so construction crews can install the new bridge. FOMF includes at least 4 members who regularly work on Trail crews: Ron and Katie Goodwin, Frank Jahn and myself.



Right:
USFS Trail Crew
(Dawn Stender's
group) clearing
fallen old growth
from Wahclella
Falls Trail.



Right: Part of trail building
requires moving boulders.
In this photo an old culvert
is being restored by a com-
bination team of PCTA
members and employees
with Keen manufacturing.



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:

☐ \$20 Individual
☐ \$35 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

A WINTER TO REMEMBER

Below is the USFS Site Manager for Multnomah Falls - Matt Ramich. He and Terry Hill hiked to the back of Oneonta Gorge during our massive snow and ice storm this past winter. This is an image very rare to see, Oneonta Gorge Falls in a frozen state, but still running strong. This goes to show you we definitely have four seasons here in the Columbia River Gorge! :-)



(Cont. from page 2, Carl Collins) As in past summers, more rangers will be at the center to help with information and trail conditions. Our job as "Friends" is to share our love of the gorge with others telling them where they can go, and/or to take a hike. I want to wish all of you a great, safe summer as you continue to serve our country, state and gorge.



WELCOME A NEW VOLUNTEER

Randy Wilson lives in Vancouver, Washington. He was a school teacher for 28 yrs but also worked at Fred Meyer where he still works part-time. Randy enjoys hiking and cycling. It is a great addition to our team to have a cyclist as a volunteer. He is also interested in photography.,

Randy's volunteer work in the past includes serving at homeless shelters, at church and has participated in some volunteer trail repair work.

FOMF VOLUNTEER RECRUITER - Chris Meinicke

Anyone showing interest in becoming a volunteer should contact Chris Meinicke at 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!

FOCUS on the FALLS

Teresa Kasner, Editor
PO Box 426
Troutdale OR 97060

Please send an e-mail to Teresa Kasner Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org if you want to receive future newsletters via PDF attached to an email - to save printing and postage for FOMF.