

FOCUS on the FALLS

🌿 SUMMER 2018 Issue 🌿



FOMF ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Sunday July 29, 2018
Cascade Locks Marine Park Pavilion

4 pm - Arrival & Social
4:45 - Annual Group Photo
5 pm - Potluck Dinner

Please bring your favorite potluck dish to share - salad, hot dish or dessert. Cold drinks and the main dish will be provided by FOMF.

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



Pavilion near the
Cascade Locks
Sternwheeler
Building

Right:
Pavilion Interior

Below:
Volunteer Picnic Group
Photo - 2017



GORGE TRAILS UPDATE

By Matt Ramich



Trail Crew at work by Terry Hill

WHEN WILL THE TRAILS OPEN?

The trails are loosely scheduled to open on the following schedule:

East of Cascade Locks – Around springtime to early summer

West of Multnomah Falls, which includes Larch Mountain, Wahkeena, and Angel's Rest – Sometime this Fall

Between Cascade Locks and Multnomah Falls – Uncertain at this point in time when these trails will open, especially the Eagle Creek area, because of being where the core part of the fire burned.

The take home message is some of these trails, beloved and hiked many times by many people, may take several years to be repaired and then open for the public to enjoy again. Mother nature works on a very slow time scale and we must respect that. There are many other trails worth exploring, especially to the north, located on the Washington State side of the Gorge.

PLAN OF ACTION

The Eagle Creek Fire left behind various hazards that need to be mitigated before trails can even begin to be worked on by volunteers and trail crews. These hazards include standing dead trees and limbs or "widow makers", loosened boulders of varying sizes that are no longer held in place by ground cover, and the chance of landslides or debris flows to occur with soils being exposed to our very prolonged season of wet weather we normally have in this region.

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Friends of Multnomah Falls SUMMER Issue 2018

<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."

USFS SITE MANAGER REPORT - by Matt Ramich

Good morning, good afternoon or good evening to you. Wherever you are while reading this issue, I hope you are well. I would like to begin with the fact that after the conclusion of Memorial Day weekend, I will have served at Multnomah Falls now for four years. Let me tell you, I have learned and grown quite a lot!!! Yes, we have all gone through some struggles, especially more recently with the Eagle Creek Fire, but we have all done very well getting through all of it together. This makes me very happy to say. Thank you all for your outstanding cooperation with the Forest Service and of course, your dedication to Multnomah Falls. Before I go any further, I would like to take a moment to thank any past, present, or potentially future veterans who have done so much to keep our country safe. It truly makes me proud to be an American.



Something exciting on the horizon is the completion of the Shady Creek Bridge! It looks like within a month's time, people will be able to travel up the paved trail, see the new rock catchment fence installation, walk across a very sturdy and well-crafted Shady Creek Bridge, and finish their journey on the now 104 year old Benson Bridge. Everyone better get their iconic Multnomah Falls and Benson Bridge picture with no people soon because once people get up there, no telling what time of day you would be able to snap a picture without people.

Another exciting occurrence is a brand new electronic brochure kiosk! Preparations have been made and a few materials bought, now we're waiting for it to be delivered. Once installed, visitors will be able to get the brochures we offer electronically delivered to their phone or tablet. This will help cut down on waste and maybe free up the desk a little for volunteers to answer more in-depth questions. We will still offer brochures for folks who like having a hard copy, but maybe there won't be as many people asking for those once they see what the kiosk can provide. Carl is planning to have the main contact, Matt Preston, scheduled to train any volunteers interested in learning about this new interpretative device. Seems I have run out of space for any more words, so 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 April, most of the FOMF volunteers attended the annual informational and training workshop. Both the Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Transportation, (ODOT), representatives gave presentations that were invaluable as we prepare for the coming summer which will be full of new challenges due to last September's destructive fire. Again, the FOMF volunteers showed their commitment to providing the best possible information for all the soon-to-come visitors. Much planning and preparation has been given to some inevitable challenges ahead such as where to direct people who want to experience hiking, camping and outdoor adventures. Our organization is also aware that parking is going to be really limited for visitors so we have partnered with the

Lodge's shuttle service located at Rooster Rock which may allow for a few more parking spots so that people can visit the falls area. In an effort to update the way we provide information for visitors, we have planned to have a new internet kiosk installed at the center. This kiosk will also be a way that visitors can select trail info as well as places of interest to visit.



I want to thank each and every volunteer who has been willing to be so flexible and eager to face the necessary challenges ahead. Perhaps, as much as any organization, you are the "frontline" people to our gorge visitors and, therefore, you have become the source of important information and directions which will enhance their vacation experience. Thank you for this dedication and thank you for being such great ambassadors helping people to love the Columbia River Gorge, too!



IN MEMORIAM - Jim Jensen

Jim was born in Inglewood, California. He served in the US Army from 1966 until 1967 in Army Communications. Jim worked in corporate credit management during most of his career.

Jim's was a life of service and devotion to the community. He was a member of the Gresham Jaycees, the Optimist Club of Gresham, the Friends of Multnomah Falls, and the Gresham Elks Club. He served on the Troutdale Budget Committee for 30 years and was voted Troutdale's Citizen of the Year in 2010. From 1999 to 2000, Jim served as Governor of the Pacific Northwest District of Optimist International and held many positions in his local club over the years. He volunteered innumerable hours at Multnomah Falls in the Visitors Center, sharing his vast knowledge of Oregon with people from all over the world.

Equally faithful to honoring his brethren, Jim proudly rode his Honda Silverwing with the Patriot Guard Riders, escorting the fallen military to their final resting places in various Pacific Northwest locations

Jim was interred at Willamette National Cemetery. Donations in Jim's name may be sent to The Friends of Multnomah Falls, Optimist International, or the Multnomah County Animal Shelter.

(Continued from Page 1 - Matt Ramich)

Once these hazards have been taken care of or lessened, Forest Service trail crews and associated volunteer trail workers, such as Pacific Crest Trail Association, Trail Keepers of Oregon, Washington Trail Association, and Northwest Youth Corps can begin to reform the destroyed trails. Some trails may need to be rerouted, but before this can occur, the proposed new route would have to go through a public comment period. It is worth noting that these volunteer trail crews members will have gone through several classes and information sessions before working in the burned area as well as led by experienced trail work leaders. Safety, especially in a burned and hazardous work environment, is very important. We want everyone to go home after a good day's work.

UPDATES?

If the public wants up to date information on the happenings of the Eagle Creek Fire recovery effort or when trails will become open, going to bit.ly/eaglecreek-firesponse is a good start. Calling the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area office up in Hood River is another way to get updates. Their number is 541-308-1700. Finally watching for news releases from the Scenic Area or local newspapers/news channels are timeless resources that we shouldn't forget about.



Trail Crew at Work -
Photo by Terry Hill

Sign on Trail - Burned in Eagle
Creek Fire - Photo by Terry Hill



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



AN EMAIL FROM CHINA

To whom might be concerned,

I'm a visitor from Beijing, China. I had been to the Multnomah Falls on 14th Feb with my mum. And we had a wonderful time there.

We were chatting with a great old lady and old gentleman, they told us a lot of stories about the Falls. In the end, we took a picture with them. It's shame that I forgot to ask their name, if anyone who knows about them and is reading this email, tell them my name is Chen Zhang, and we're heading to my country. See them October.

Thx a lot, have a good day to you. Zhang



Above:
Trail Crew at work

Left:
Trail covered in rock
fall debris - before
clearing by crew

Photos by Terry Hill

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!

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Teresa Kasner, Editor
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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.



Deer spotted on trail - Photo by Terry Hill