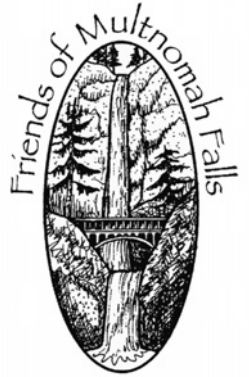


# FOCUS on the FALLS



🌿 SUMMER 2019 Issue 🌿

## FOMF ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Sunday July 28, 2019  
Cascade Locks Marine Park Pavilion  
The facility is air-conditioned

Fantastic Door Prizes!  
Best Decorated Table Setting Contest!  
BBQ Hamburgers & Hotdogs!  
Old-Fashioned Potluck Dishes!

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

Please bring your favorite potluck dish to share - If your last name begins with A - H - bring a dessert  
If your last name begins with J - Z - bring a salad or vegetable dish. Cold drinks and the main dish will be provided by FOMF.

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



Pavilion near the Cascade Locks Sternwheeler Building



Air Conditioned Pavilion Interior



Volunteer Picnic Group Photo - 2018



Don't Miss the Picnic  
or you'll miss the  
2019 Annual Photo!!

# FOCUS ON THE FALLS

## Friends of Multnomah Falls SUMMER Issue 2019

PO Box 426 | Troutdale OR 97060  
<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

### Newsletter Editor & Website Administrator

Teresa Kasner

## Board of Directors 2019

**President**  
Kathy Collins

**Vice-President**  
John Buddeau

**Secretary**  
Denise Hawke

**Treasurer**  
Dayle Kasner

**Board Members**  
Flora Huber  
Teresa Kasner  
Maxine Wilkins

Alyssa Thornburg  
(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 Alyssa Thornburg

A quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin proclaims, "You may delay, but time will not", which is fitting as I search for where the last month went. I've had the opportunity to work with most volunteers, but officially, my name is Alyssa Thornburg and I am detailed as the On-Site Manager of Multnomah Falls through mid-August while Matt Ramich takes on new challenges in his temporary promotion as Mt Hood National Forest's Dispersed and Developed Recreation Manager.



In a nutshell, I am passionate about education and the outdoors! Hailing from the caveman country of Grants Pass, I graduated from the University of Portland and worked in nonprofit education before transitioning to the US Forest Service. Having been in the Scenic Area for over two years, I am well acquainted with the fast pace of this place.

I would characterize these past few weeks as pure dynamism, with new faces, shifting trail statuses, transitioning seasons and continual change of the landscape itself. I am humbled by the power of nature, both in the abundant plant regeneration in burned areas around the falls, as well as the Gorge's ancient geologic processes that carry on, wholly unsympathetic and unaware of our hopes to hike our beloved trails again!

New faces are abundant in the visitor center. We welcome Sienna Gaskins and Virgil Newberry, our seasonal rangers for the summer. Both homegrown Oregonians from Salem and Tygh Valley respectively, we welcome their local knowledge, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn and serve our public.

Moving at warp speed into high season, I want to express my deep gratitude for your ongoing commitment to Multnomah Falls and the Forest Service. Despite challenges with congestion and closures, there are profound moments of joy every day. It is my priority to provide clear communication, timely updates, and staff availability to support you. In turn, we appreciate your patience as we get up to speed with education programs and always improving our visitor services.

Happy Trails, Alyssa

## FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Kathy Collins

This summer our FOMF volunteers are prepared for the onslaught of visitors to the Falls area. Last year the Historic Highway 30, also known as the HCRH (Historic Columbia River Highway), was closed to traffic due to the damage caused by the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire. The highway is now open. This will be the first summer that the Falls area will be dealing with increasing visitors while also experiencing greatly reduced parking spaces on the HCRH due to parking space closures that are still unsafe because of the threat of falling rock slides caused from the fire.

As volunteers, we are often in both the regular position of helping all visitors enjoy the beautiful Columbia River Gorge and are now in the position of hearing constant complaints from visitors concerning traffic or parking issues. I commend our volunteers for continuing to learn which trails are open, which trails are closed and where families can go for a day of exploring. More than half our group met this past March to also learn about Search & Rescue issues in addition to trail conditions.

Recruiting new volunteers is an on-going challenge as we strive to serve the public with a full staff each day of the year except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The service that FOMF volunteers offer is invaluable to the entire area of The Gorge as well as a tremendous savings to taxpayers and allows the Forest Service to cover more outside areas where they are needed.

I encourage our organization to continue with your excellence of service helping all visitors appreciate and enjoy the beauty that we call our "second home". Thank you for all you do!







## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER & SECRETARY

We'd like to introduce the new Member and Secretary of the FOMF Board, Denise Hawke. She has been involved with the Friends for many years. She began volunteering in the Visitors Center in 2007 and served in the past as Membership Chair.

In January of 2018 Denise accepted the Day Scheduler position for Thursdays and has in fact trained many new volunteers to get them started.

Denise is the sister of board member and "Focus on the Falls" newsletter Editor Teresa Kasner, and helps by proofreading the tri-annual issues and mails out hard copies to those without email.

Denise accepted the board and secretary position in mid-2019 when the person who had previously held the position stepped down due to health issues. We welcome Denise on the board. She has always been involved, upbeat and helpful.

## HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY SIGN STORY - By Teresa Kasner



One of my proudest achievements while living, working and volunteering in the Columbia River Gorge was designing the Historic Columbia River Highway road sign. Here is my story.

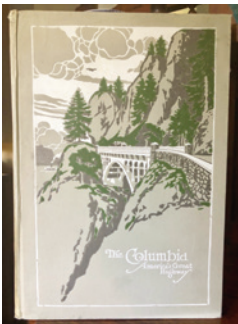
I served on the Historic Columbia River Highway Citizen's Advisory Committee in the mid-1980s led by Jeanette Kloos, ODOT. One of the discussion points of the group was that the road deserved it's own sign so travelers would know they were tracing history as they drive the roadway. I volunteered to sketch up something and used as my inspiration the cover of the book by Samuel Lancaster, "The Columbia - America's Greatest Highway" 1915.

I got out my sketchbook and used pen and ink to draw what I felt would be an easy to read sign. I used a keystone shape to do my design. On the cover of the book the rock wall wasn't represented very well so in my drawing I brought the wall curving into view which also showed the roadway well. The design was embraced by the advisory committee members.

The next thing I knew, I was testifying for it's adoption in front of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, the Multnomah County Commission and finally the Oregon Department of Transportation Commission. I gave an impassioned speech to them all and lo and behold, each commission approved the idea and soon ODOT printed up the signs and installed them from Troutdale to The Dalles! I must tell you my heart swells each time I pass one by.

I was one of the founding members of the Friends of Multnomah Falls and served as President of the group in the early days. I got re-involved in 2004 and served 4 years as FOMF president 2011-2014 and am a current board member, volunteer, newsletter editor and webmaster.

I am so proud to be an involved member of this great organization and historic place.



Teresa with the HCRH sign - the design inspired by the cover of -

"The Columbia America's Great Highway through the Cascade Mountains to the Sea"

by Samuel Lancaster 1915

## 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

## HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY - By Kathy Collins

The HCRH between exit 28 and exit 35 was closed last year due the devastation that the Eagle Creek Fire had caused to the area along the highway. Thousands of visitors to the falls area were limited to parking at exit 31 parking lot in order to visit Multnomah Falls and they could only hike up to the Benson Bridge as well.

Our FOMF volunteers were challenged to give out options for hiking on both the Oregon and Washington side of the Columbia River as well as giving visitor's other options like visiting some of the interesting interpretive centers along the river. This year, the HCRH has reopened but that has brought even more challenges.

Much of the parking area has been blocked due to the danger of falling rocks so more people will be pouring into even less parking spaces. More than any other group, our volunteers must deal with the phone calls and in person complaints from motorists of the traffic jams and lack of parking access. FOMF has been preparing for this onslaught of tourists who will need help and options to enjoy the area.

---

### WATERFALL WEDDING



Heather Pruitt worked as a USFS Park Ranger last Summer and the Friends of Multnomah Falls Volunteers really enjoyed her positive attitude and go-getter work ethic.

Although Heather is no longer working at the Falls, we are happy to share with you her marriage to Thomas Jackson on May 10th, 2019 at 5 pm at Horsetail Falls.

She is an Oregon native and loved the gorge her entire life. When she was younger she came to hike at the falls and there were some crews working on the trail. She thought "what an awesome job to have, I want to do this". She and Thomas met when she was searching for a hiking partner. They met, hiked and have been together ever since.

Their favorite hike is to Triple Falls and they had so many memories there it seemed a fitting place to be married.

On the big day Heather got caught in a massive traffic jam on the way to the ceremony and the person who was to perform the marriage had to leave for another commitment. Matt Ramich, USFS Site Manager when Heather worked at the Falls offered to perform the ceremony and did a wonderful job. They met with someone after the marriage ceremony to make it official. :-)

The photo on the bottom right are FOMF members who attended the ceremony, Joanne & Dan Tennant, Collins, Chris Meinicke and Carl & Kathy with Matt Ramich & Sam.



---

### FOMF VOLUNTEER RECRUITER - Chris Meinicke

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Chris Meinicke at [chris.meinicke@frontier.com](mailto: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, the Volunteer Picnic in July and the Annual Meeting in November! If you've thought of giving it a try, we'd love to have you on the FOMF team!

Please e-mail Teresa Kasner [Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org](mailto:Teresa@FriendsofMultnomahFalls.org) to receive future newsletters via PDF attached to an email - to save printing and postage for FOMF.