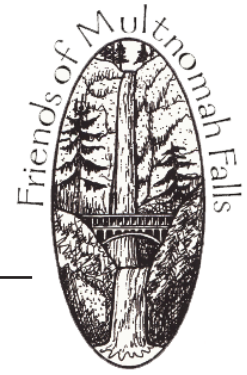


# FOCUS on the FALLS



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## Winter 2009 Issue

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### **Join Us for the FOMF Volunteer Refresher Training April 4th, 2009 - 9 am to Noon**

Greater Gresham Baptist Church - 3748 NE Division  
(South of Mt Hood CC, East on Division, on Right)

Join the Friends of Multnomah Falls for a refresher course on how to be a great volunteer. Learn new things and meet new volunteers. Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!



Photo by Christine Mermilliod - Dec 25, 2008



Photo by Teresa Kasner

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#### **MAXINE'S MESSAGE**

by Maxine Wilkins, President

Greetings to one and all. Here we are going into another new year and a change in your slate of officers. Thank you to the membership for bestowing the honor on me to act as your President. Thank you also to all the Board members for agreeing to stay on another year and Jim Jensen for assuming the Vice President position. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated.

I hope we can continue to move forward and further enhance our beautiful area. This task will be made easier with our wonderful cadre of volunteers. Words are inadequate in expressing our thanks to all of you who contribute in many ways--not always made as obvious to the public.

We have several committees that also serve to our betterment through out the year and would encourage anyone who would be interested in taking part to please contact me. Most of the committees meet once a year to perform those duties and are not on going.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Billie Anger for serving us as President these past years. Sometimes keeping us all on point is -- as the saying goes -- "like herding cats", but she always managed to do so and keep her cool. Thanks again Billie and we are grateful you are staying on the Board as your expertise will be very helpful!

Remember, our refresher training will be April 4th, 2009 and you are also welcome to attend our Board meetings, which are held every third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at Francis Xavier's restaurant on 181st one block North of Halsey.

All the best to everyone as we all continue our journey into this New Year!

# FOCUS ON THE FALLS

## Friends of Multnomah Falls Winter Issue 2009

<http://friendsofmultnomahfalls.org>

**Newsletter Editor &  
Website Administrator**  
Teresa Kasner

## Board of Directors 2009

**President**  
Maxine Wilkins

**Vice-President**  
Jim Jensen

**Secretary**  
Katie Goodwin

**Treasurer**  
Ron Goodwin

## Board Members

Aileen Ashley  
Flora Huber  
Teresa Kasner  
Sharon Quade  
Dan Tennant  
Joanne Tennant  
Ben Thompson  
Hal White

Aaron Pedersen  
(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 Pederson

Could spring truly be just around the corner? I know I am not alone when I say "I HOPE SO!" I love winter, don't get me wrong, it's just that this winter seemed to pack an extra powerful punch. It was full of the usual characteristics we have grown to expect, like cool temps, ice, snow and the bone chilling east winds. Numerous records were broken for unseasonably cold temps, sustained and powerful east winds and unbelievable snow accumulations. In fact, the Portland Metro area and surrounding east county broke long-standing records for number of consecutive days with snow and accumulation. This impacted all our lives in one way or another. It also impacted our trail systems, roadways and daily operations around Multnomah Falls Lodge.



Much work has been done to rectify the damage caused to the trails. Since October, numerous groups such as Multnomah County Alternative Service Crews, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Trail Keepers of Oregon and individuals worked diligently to maintain the lower elevation trails from Eagle Creek to Latourell Falls. Thousands of volunteer hours have been accumulated.

Spring will also bring the completion of the Information Center renovation. Currently all the remaining displays are in the final stages of production. The remaining items are the river illustration for the counter top (showing the Columbia before the dams when Native people still lived along its shores) and the Native American Display. Now its time to set our sights for the next big project here at the Falls. Stay tuned for the exciting details to come!

I am pleased to announce that Multnomah Falls will partner with Portland Parks and Recreation Environmental Education department to provide internships for a diverse group of urban teenagers. Between 2 and 4 teenagers will be working along side our seasoned staff during spring break starting March 23-27th. Feel free to get involved and make this experience for the youth one they will remember fondly. Thanks to everyone for all you do to make our operations here at Multnomah Falls successful as well as a wonderful place to work.

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## THE NORTHERN RIVER OTTER - By Ron Goodwin

Northern River Otters have been seen near Triple Falls this last Fall on Oneonta Creek by Aaron Pedersen. They are in the family that include badgers, mink, skunks, weasels and wolverines. River otters are found from Alaska to most of the United States along rivers and lakes where they can find their food source of fish, crayfish, birds, frogs, rodents, turtles and whatever is available and easiest to catch. Their large powerful webbed hind feet help propel them to catch prey with the mouth unlike the sea otter that uses its hands.

Their accelerated metabolism with endless energy requires them to hunt and feed frequently. Unlike the beavers and muskrats they barely make a ripple in the water and are active all year. River otters use whistles, buzzes and chirps to communicate, are territorial and have scent glands

to mark their area. An adult can be as long as five feet including their tail and weigh between ten and twenty pounds. On land they can run as fast as eighteen miles per hour.



To help catch insects or fish up from the bottom of the stream or lake, they may swim in circles creating a whirlpool to bring the food up. It is not unusual to see them sliding in mud or snow and repeating this action. River otters are found along many streams and lakes in Oregon but not often observed.



Photo by Teresa Kasner

## THE SPRING STILL RUNS - by SAM OAKLAND

PART TWO of Sam Oakland's story -- (if you missed the first part, read the Summer issue)

We puffed along the dirt roads on balloon tired bicycles towards Økland on the other side of the island. At the cemetery near the middle of the island we stopped for lunch and read the headstones. I did not know then that we had our own private cemetery near the family farm. We rode on towards Økland until we came to several men standing in the road. A huge milk can stood near them with the name Torbjørn Økland neatly chiseled into the steel.

"That's my uncle's name!" I cried out to my new friends. We approached the gathering and Bodil asked if Hr. Økland were about. One man stepped forward, I fumbled with the zipper of my anorak & fished out the passport saying: "Do you know this man? - He is my father." "Yes," my uncle replied, "He is my brother." We shook hands for the first time and Torbjørn said: "Welcome to Økland - I thought you might come some day -- how is your mother and sister? Coffee is ready, come to the house."

We walked to the farmhouse on the hillside for a celebration. Photos of me at age two and wedding photos of my parents hung on the wall. Photos I had never seen were shared with me. I settled in with my uncle and aunt for part of the summer. I slept in a wall bunk in the loft, the bed of my father and my grandfather before him. I lay awake quite late several nights looking up at the unpainted rough sawn boards that held up the slate roof, feeling quite smug about being there. I had come to the right place. I had found my family farm. I was home.

One day I woke early driven by a feeling I did not understand and crept down the stairs to the kitchen and my father's words came back to me - "We have running water in the house at home, it comes out of a rock, you will see it someday!" I went out the back door, down the stairs and slowly opened the heavy cellar door and there in the hillside was a small pool of clear water. Water dripped out of a rock and down into the hollow. "The spring is still running, it's just like he said it would be." It wasn't a dream, I was actually there and the "someday" for me had finally come. Best of all, I had really heard my father's voice when I was just a little child in another world far away, long ago.

### Boy Confronts Litterbug Teens!



A young hiker recently visited the information center and was hoping to say hello to Aaron. His mother recounted the story of the boy seeing some teenagers along the trail who were littering, he told the boys to stop and they ignored him. So they came down and reported them to Aaron. Aaron then went up to speak to the teens and ask them to clean up the litter. The boy and his mother came back to thank Aaron for sending him a package with a USFS patch, certificate and stuffed owl.

As editor of this newsletter, I was quick to snap a photo and ask for his story to share with you. Teresa Kasner

### New FOMF Pin Display

Special Thanks goes to Denise Hawke - who volunteered to find a new and improved display rack for our FOMF pins. She visited a company that specializes in store displays and found this great rack.

Teresa Kasner made a new sign, then sent the PDF to Denise and she laminated the sign for use on the display.

Last Thursday we set up the new rack and it is working very well.

Volunteers, would you please try to keep the rack full - THANKS!



## Friends of Multnomah Falls Membership Form

☐ Yes, I would like to become a Member      ☐ Renewing Member

FOMF is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Check a tax-deductible membership:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 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





### Bridal Veil Post Office

Do you need stamps? Please consider stopping by the little Post Office and buy your stamps when you are coming or going to volunteer or visit the falls. They need to sell stamps to be able to stay in business - please support this neat little historic building!

You will find the post office right after exiting I-84 at Bridal Veil, take the first driveway to the right - across from the Bridal Veil Church. The Postmaster enjoys visitors!

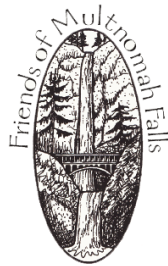
## New Interpretive Displays



Have you checked out the evolving displays in the information center? Above at top is a hand-carved cedar plank. Below is the new upgraded "Natural Wonders" display. Be sure and check it out soon!!

## FOCUS on the FALLS

**Teresa Kasner, Editor**  
**PO Box 426**  
**Troutdale OR 97060**



Please e-mail Ron & Katie Goodwin at [ron.katie.pdx@juno.com](mailto:ron.katie.pdx@juno.com) if you want to receive future news-letters via e-mail to save printing and postage for FOMF.

### NOTE:

It is estimated there will be a large number - as many as 300,000 - of Spring Chinook salmon this year.