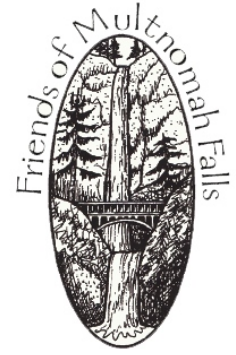
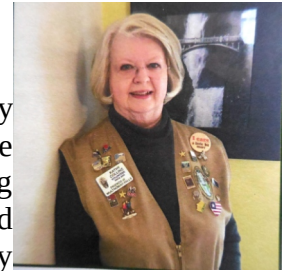

Focus on the Falls



SPRING 2022

FOMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Kathy Collins

Although the Gorge area, as well as the nation, has been facing extraordinary challenges due to the pandemic, the Friends of Multnomah Falls volunteers have continued their commitment to the organization's mission of enhancing memorable experiences for all visitors at the Falls area. Our 30 year old organization, even after various government shut downs, navigating many challenging winters, the 2017 fire and pandemic, continues to plan ahead to staff the Visitor Center at Multnomah Falls. This is an amazing group of volunteers.



I apologize to all Newsletter readers. In the late spring of 2021, our Newsletter editor and Media Specialist, Teresa Kasner, died suddenly. Her last issue of Focus on The Falls was published in the winter of 2021 just before her untimely death. It has taken the board some time to fill those important roles left by Teresa. Thank you for your understanding during the long delay in getting out a new newsletter.

The center itself will be remodeled with construction starting sometime later this year. Our volunteers have submitted many ideas to the FS planners who have designed the updated center with many of our suggestions in mind. The redesigned center will be more informational and functional for all. Both the FS and FOMF are anxious for this update.

I wanted to personally thank all of the FOMF volunteers who have been patient and faithful for these past difficult years. You have continued to be an encouragement to myself as well as each other. This organization loves The Gorge area and enjoys helping the many visitors who enter the Visitor's Center. Your endurance over the past year especially is to be commended. I want to thank all of you who feel that this is now the time to retire because your service to the wider community has been invaluable. You have enhanced the lives of many tourists over the years! I also want to thank those of you who are returning because you are extending the mission of FOMF. The FOMF board is working hard to make your service enjoyable and safe.

Save the Date - July 17th

The Annual All Volunteer Picnic will be held on July 17th, at Guy Talbot St. Park on the HCRH near Latourell Falls. New board member, Karen Stefonek, will be coordinating the picnic. Billie Anger will be helping as well. All volunteers and their families are invited. This is a great time for us to be together and just visit. More details will be sent through emails in June/July. Please mark your calendars.

Friends of Multnomah
Falls
PO Box 426 Troutdale OR
97060
friendsofmultnomahfalls.org

Board of Directors 2022

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Vice President

Calendar Coordinator

Steve Vanier (2)

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Flora Huber (2)

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Dave Mysinger (2)

Karen Stefonek (2)

Russ Williams (2)

Ex Officio USFS

Josh Daker

Multnomah Falls Lodge Co.
Rick Buck (Ex Officio)

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 Josh Daker



Preparations to open the Visitor's Center at Multnomah Falls are underway. Seasonal workers new to CRGNSA are Brittney and Lauren. Ariel is returning this summer from last year.

Our crew of 4 will staff the VC as well as hike the trails. All seasonal workers are working full shifts from this spring to early fall. The FS is looking forward to their partnership with FOMF as summer approaches.

The Lodge Company is operating Mon - Thur , 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sat - Sun 8 a.m - 8 p.m. The bar remodel is complete and ready for business.

Junction signs of the loop are still in place. The trail crew has been working on removing trees and slides. They came back through this week to log out the trail. Rangers and seasonal staff are receiving training, getting familiar with the site and interpretive information available. The season staff are contributing good ideas and resources to the center and the waterfall area.

NEW PARKING AND DRIVING RULES

To help facilitate a safer driving and parking corridor along the Historic Columbia River Highway, ODOT instituted a new visiting/parking permit system last summer. They also hired a daily traffic flagger stationed in front of the lodge to keep the flow of traffic from becoming such a bottleneck as in years past. Visitors could choose to park at the Bridal Veil exit 28 and take the Sasquatch Bus shuttle which has three options this year as shown on their web-site sasquatchshuttle.com. The option volunteers will use is the Multnomah Falls only one that leaves every 15 minutes from the exit 28 parking lot starting at 8:15 am and the last run leaves the lodge at 5 pm.



FOMF volunteers will need to show their volunteer parking pass and wear their vest for riding the Sasquatch shuttle and parking on the days that they volunteer. This option is only available on days that a volunteer is on duty. This summer, starting in June, a newer system will be in place. Visitors must again reserve a timed pass to visit Multnomah Falls through the website Recreation.gov in order to walk to the falls. In addition this summer, visitors must also reserve a timed pass to visit Multnomah Falls through the website Recreation.gov in order to walk to the falls. In addition this summer, visitors must also reserve a timed driving permit to drive on the Historic highway. Up to date information can be located on the Ready, Get Set, Gorge website as well.



The ospreys have returned to the Columbia River sites again this year. The males come back first to establish a nest site and waits for his mate to return. They do have separate vacations in Mexico and Guatemala. They then go a break off dead branches which are lighter weight to bring back to the site to repair the nest or build a new one.



New Newsletter Format

Meet our new editor of Focus on The Falls, Ron Goodwin. Ron, a charter member of FOMF, brings over 30 years of dedication to the organization. After the untimely death of our past editor, Teresa Kasner, the organization was left without a newsletter editor. Ron has stepped into the challenge. He will be using a different format for us to enjoy.

A special thank you goes to Ron for helping all our volunteers and supporters receive important information about the FOMF group and its mission. If you have something you would like to have included in a newsletter let him know at ron.katie.pdx@juno.com.

Visitor Center Reopens

Although the FS will be opening the Visitor Center at Multnomah Falls sometime in May, the FOMF volunteers will start their daily shifts May 27, 2022, greeting visitors from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At this writing, it is unclear if we will again be greeting visitors through an open doorway or inside the center behind a plexiglass shield. Either way, it will be good to return to the center doing what we all enjoy.



It should be noted that during the summer of 2021, FOMF volunteers staffed the Visitor Center by greeting visitors from behind a table and shield at the open doorways. While this was a challenge, our volunteers still were able to answer questions, give directions and direct visitors towards the best hikes in The Gorge. The center was closed down again last fall but will reopen for our volunteers on June 1st with one shift per day. Some of our volunteers are just not able to return but the many who plan to return are eagerly looking forward to this date!

New Board Faces Challenges and Future Plans

At the all volunteer dinner & meeting, held in November 2021, at McMenamins Edgefield in Troutdale, new board members for 2022 were selected. Kathy Collins will continue as President of the organization. Steve Vanier steps into the role as treasurer replacing retiring Dayle Kasner. Steve also serves as VP, replacing retiring Kent Meyer, and the calendar coordinator, replacing Billie Anger who is still active in FOMF. Collyn Baldwin was elected as secretary, replacing retiring Denise Hawke. Both Maxine Wilkins and John Buddeau also retired from the board. A special thank you goes to all board members who retired at the end of 2021. Their combined faithful service to the FOMF has helped the organization to be vital in serving the FS and the thousands of visitors over the years.

The new board members elected were Collyn Baldwin, Dee Conrad, Jim Geisler, Jerry King, Dave Mysinger, Karen Stefonek and Russ Williams. Katie Goodwin and Flora Huber joined Carl Collins as returning board members. President Kathy Collins states that the 2022 board is a good mixture seasoned board members as well as newer volunteers who may bring fresh new ideas to the organization. The Board Selection committee, chaired by Billie Anger, worked hard to present the new slate of members for election.

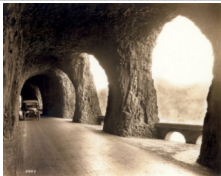
The greatest challenges facing the board in 2022 is the retention of present volunteers and the recruitment of new people. A new website will be finished soon which the board hopes will help to attract more people to the FOMF organization. Another challenge has been how to keep all volunteers healthy while at the center given the present continuing Covid restrictions. The board is working with the FS in this endeavor.

The board meets the third Monday of each month. If you have an issue that needs to be discussed by the board, please contact President Kathy Collins 5 days prior to their meeting.



Special Honors given to FOMF Volunteers

Many volunteers were recognized for their years of service at the November all member dinner and meeting. Reza Kamali and Jeannette Kloos received their 15 year pins. Dan Tennant joined the 20 year volunteers. Stan Loop, Kristin Reese and Charlie White all received their 25 year pins. Charlie White gave a short acceptance speech after being given his 25 year pin. Professor Emeritus Charlie taught history at Portland State University for 55 years. He was both Katie and my supervising teacher when we did our student teaching in 1964. He has led many groups through the Gorge and loves Multnomah Falls.



MITCHELL POINT TUNNEL

(ODOT file photo)

The iconic tunnel constructed in 1915 was 390' long with 5 arched windows and closed in 1953 because of the construction of I-84 and being too narrow for modern traffic. The final plans for the new tunnel includes a 655' length blasted through the basalt rock with 5 arched windows which will connect the western segments of the State Trail west of Hood River. The tunnel is scheduled to be completed in 2023 which is the last segment of the Historic Highway unfinished.

One of our FOMF volunteers Jeanette Kloos who retired from ODOT as the Scenic Area Coordinator whose dream of completing the 11 miles of the State Trail segment including the restoration of the Mosier Twin Tunnels and the trail connection to Cascade Locks was realized in 2000. (ODOT File photo)

NEW VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME

The Friends of Multnomah Falls organization is always looking for new volunteers who love The Gorge and enjoy meeting people. We offer our volunteers a flexible schedule and supportive training opportunities. Due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to host a spring training session this year. Volunteers and members look forward to the July 17th family picnic as a way of connecting with each other. The Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held in early November. If you would like to become a volunteer or want more information about the FOMF program, please contact FOMF Volunteer Recruiter, Chris Meinicke, (chris.meinicke@frontier.com or 503-645-3124), for more details.



New Volunteer

Portlander Ben Carscallen joins the FOMF organization this summer. Ben loves to hike in the gorge and says he is an historian, collector, hiker and photographer. Ben also volunteers for the Vista House. Welcome Ben! bcarscal@gmail.com.

FRIENDS of MULTNOMAH FALLS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewing Member FOMF is a 100% volunteer, private, non-profit, 501-c-3 tax-exempt organization. Check 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: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please send this application to: The Friends of Multnomah Falls, PO Box 426, Troutdale, Oregon 97060