
Focus on the Falls



FALL 2022

ANNUAL MEETING

November 14th 2022 Noon Arrival
Heidi's Restaurant 1230 NE
Cleveland St. Gresham

Agenda: Volunteer Awards, Business and
Election of Board Members and Officers

The Nominating Committee consisting of Billie Anger (chair), Flora Huber and Diana Karabut recommend the following for FOMF 2023 officers, President Steve Vanier, Vice President Dave Mysinger, Secretary Russ Williams, Treasurer Jim Geisler; for Member at Large (2 yrs.) Flora Huber. Continuing members are Katie Goodwin, Jerry King and Karen Stefonek. We appreciate those who took the time to respond to the Nominating Committee Survey.



FOMF President's Message – by Steve Vanier

You are the reason we exist. As your new volunteer President, my job has been made so much easier by your dedication to service. Chris Meinicke contacted me to volunteer in 2015. The past 5 years have been extraordinary for both myself and FOMF.

Your determination to remain flexible and your cooperative spirit has helped all our past presidents, FS personnel and now myself. The Multnomah Falls Lodge management and staff have also been helpful to our volunteers providing a needed place to eat, place to park or a ride to the Lodge on their shuttle van. We are blessed with their partnership. The Federal and Oregon State agencies charged with administering Multnomah Falls and its surrounds, have had many challenges too, such as providing safety on the roads, traffic flow, trails and parking lots. They did a great job despite all the challenges with limited budgets.

Your accomplishments and service inspire me. We, "Friends of Multnomah Falls" are a diverse mix, which is most apt, as we serve a diverse clientele. Among our members are direct descendants of Oregon and Washington pioneers, Native Americans and First-Generation Americans. We are America. The bulk of us are retired from careers but not retired from life. We extend ourselves into the world, giving of our experiences, our love of the outdoors and our love of Multnomah Falls. It's so much fun, I feel a bit guilty about writing so much about ourselves. We do not **have to** do this; we **get to** do this. Wow!

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for letting your own lights shine in support of our mission: ". . . preserving and enhancing the unique natural, scenic and historic qualities of Multnomah Falls while providing a memorable experience for our visitors."



We have many people comment on the Osprey Display in the Visitor Center. Most of the Ospreys have migrated separately south to Mexico and Central America. There are many species of hawks and eagles but only one of the Osprey. Another unusual item is that the youngsters look like dad and mom who is little larger.

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

Board of Directors 2022

President
Steve Vanier

Vice President
Dave Mysinger pro tem

Secretary
Katie Goodwin pro tem

Treasurer
Jim Geisler

Board Members

Jim Geisler
Katie Goodwin
Flora Huber
Jerry King
Dave Mysinger
Karen Stefonek
Russ Williams

Ex Officio USFS
Josh Daker

Multnomah Falls Lodge Co.
Jill Willis (Ex Officio)

Newsletter editor
Ron Goodwin

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



This season has had its challenges and we overcame them in strides. One of the greatest successes was that we were finally able to open to full status after closing back in March 2020. We welcomed visitors in to peruse our displays and obtain area information to make their trip memorable for years to come. Opening had obstacles of its own with getting back in the groove of operating and staffing. There were challenges of a new permit system, different from the year before and a bit more complex. We all adapted to this change and helped the public do the same, some may not have liked it as much but we had many folks appreciate the less crowded experience. I heard that our ability to converse with the public on site improved compared to past years resulting in more in-depth interactions with visitors. While we are unsure of what next year will give us, we should take the time to enjoy the slower season because just around the corner will be Spring and the ramping up of visitation again. I appreciate all the adapting and patience you all had with what the summer season gave us.

MULTNOMAH FALLS LODGE by Jill Willis

Operating the Multnomah Falls Lodge has been challenging since the pandemic began, but thankfully



we have started to see things return to normal as our restaurant has stayed busy over the summer, and will return to a roaring fire in the Great Room’s stone fireplace with a new menu for the winter. We also enjoyed an increase in foot traffic this summer, and we were able to accommodate visitors in the Gift Shop and Concession areas. It always seems like everyone wants an ice cream cone.

As the Concessionaire at Multnomah Falls for three generations, we take our role as responsible stewards of the Historic Lodge seriously, in the past few months we have replaced the gutters on the Lodge. As well as some areas of decay. We have had the roof cleaned and sealed and purchased new walnut tables and chairs in the restaurant. We have also done a complete remodel of the bar-lounge area using reclaimed wood from the Northwest and the largest slab of burlled walnut in the Northwest as our bar top.

Rick Buck has been keeping busy enjoying semi-retirement. He has been finding time to golf and tinkering with his classic cars.

(Jill Willis is Secretary & Chief Operating Officer of Multnomah Falls Company.)

The **Mitchell Tunnel** is moving along and scheduled to be completed next year. They have drilled through and the 5 adits or viewing side windows have been completed. The walls have been covered with colored shotcrete which will be the lining for the tunnel. This process was invented in 1907 in Norway to line tunnels by firing a type of cement on a surface such as swimming pools or road cuts. The tunnel is 17’ wide for the 12’ wide trail with 2’



MISCELLANEOUS

This year 663,000 **Sockeye Salmon** passed through Bonneville Dam. This was 50,000 more than the record passage in 2014. Most have been heading 740 miles upriver to the Okanogan River in British Columbia where the First Nation People have a hatchery program that produces over 8 million eggs a year and over 600,000 made this journey because of the good ocean conditions as young going out to the ocean and returning.



This year a large number 736 returned the 900 miles to name sake Redfish Lake in Idaho at 6,500' with 59 being captured for the hatchery program. This is 30 years after 1992 when only Lonesome Larry made the journey as opposed to the 25,000+

numbers that made it in the late 1800's.

ONLY FOUR ARE LEFT



Last year one of the founding members of the Friends of Multnomah Falls passed. **Teresa Kasner** of Corbett answered the call of the Forest Service in 1989 to an ad in the newspaper asking for help from the public to help with visitor services at Multnomah Falls. About 12 of us met with Rangers Doris Tai and Stan Hinatsu to see what we could do. Since Teresa was already on the board at Vista House, she suggested we become a 501(c)(3) which we did along with Rick Buck manager of Multnomah Falls Lodge Company. Then came the 1991 Multnomah Falls Fire that burned 1,400 acres from Multnomah Creek west to Bridal Veil. We had no money but a lot of people from Portland

wanted to help rebuild the trails. Teresa designed a t-shirt that we sold to make money so we could design and print maps and have a budget to get vests, badges, training and printing updated highway and trail maps.

Teresa became executive director at Vista House, president of the State Daughters of the American Revolution, Portland Women's Forum and later president of the FOMF. While volunteering with us her artistic talents were put to good use designing the FOMF pin, MF brochures, posters and the Historic Highway 30 sign you see along the highway. Her other big talent was arranging celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the MF Lodge and the 100th anniversary of the Historic Highway at Multnomah Falls. Then when a newsletter editor was needed. she stepped up and later the website. She also arranged the stern wheeler cruises and bus trips for training. The Scenic Area approved us placing Teresa's favorite plant a rhododendron and a marker in the flower bed in front of the Visitor Center. The last four original members are Rick Buck, Hal Meyerdierk, Bonnie Jepsen* and Ron Goodwin*. (*Still active volunteers).

One of our faithful Monday volunteers, **Ray Witter** passed away in September. He just loved to volunteer with his friend Kent Meyer (Vancouver residents) and they made a great pair. Ray was one of the rare fellows who hiked all the trails in the Gorge no matter what the weather and supplied visitors with good choices of places to go. Ray started in 2017 after Kent told him how much fun it was. As his wife Bunny says "he is at peace now hiking the trails of heaven and greeting friends and family". She sent a memorial gift of a Lifetime membership to the FOMF. Mondays are not the same without him in the Visitor Center.

In case someone wants to know why **Oneonta Falls** is closed indefinitely, Scott Burns, the Portland State University Geologist who specializes in landslide, soils and the Columbia River Gorge has a good answer. After a wildfire goes through an area and kills the trees the roots are often burned too but after 3 to 8 years the roots start to deteriorate to the point where they no longer hold the rocks. This is especially true in the Gorge where we have so many steep slopes and trails. The Pacific Crest Trail Association trail crew clearing Horsetail trail after the fire, looked in at Oneonta and there were many rocks and trees down in the creek. It was not safe to go into even with hard hats so to keep people safe, it is closed. There are many endemic plant species in there that also need to be protected.

One visitor wanted to know where the name **Bull Run** came from. *Oregon Geographic Names* has that in the 1880's pioneers brought cattle to the area and some escaped from the immigrants in that vicinity and ran wild for a number of years We do have a good reference library and internet access to answer questions.

When the **Friends of Multnomah Falls** first started in 1990, we had only a few volunteers and with our new vests one person would be on the lower viewing platform and another in a little building where the outdoor restaurant seating is today. This is where we handed out maps and some brochures that the FS had supplied with a few small displays as there was only room for the volunteer and about 4 people. Most of the first volunteers were still working so came out on a weekend. Then in 1994 the Lodge was remodeled on the inside (the outside of a Historic Building cannot be changed). The men's restroom entrance was through that tall door at the back of the Visitor Center and the women's through the short employee entrance. There were a total of 4 stalls for the women. That meant changes had to be made. The 1991 Multnomah Falls Fire brought a lot of interest in helping at Multnomah Falls and over 200 people answered the call for people to do volunteer trail work. The FS and the Mazama trail workers put many to work especially on the Wahkeena Trail. Of course, the next change came in 1995 when the 400-ton rock fell and took out the handicap trail which was down by the creek where the lower plaza outdoor seating is now. The FS had to do a lot of engineering to design a trail at least to the lower viewing platform that would be ADA compliant. Removing this creekside trail was fortunate as the Fish and Wildlife department was classifying the coho salmon in the creek as protected.



Corbett Fire has responded to many rescues of people spraining ankles, being disorientated or falling up the trail. This is where having switch back numbers comes in handy to know how far up they are needing help. Corbett Fire this summer came out with a new motorized tote with caterpillar type tracks to carry their gear up the trail. In the past they would have to carry all their gear and by the time they got there they were not able to function as well as they would like. They still use the one-wheel cart to bring injured people down which takes about 5 people as they navigate past people on the trail and hold on going downhill. AMR responds to the 911 call but the specialized (RAT - Reach and Treat Team) crew that goes above the Benson Bridge comes from Sandy so takes time to arrive. Then Multnomah County Sheriff deputies arrive as they are the ones in charge of rescues in the Gorge. The Waterfall Corridor Permit system this summer made it easier for them to access the Lodge.

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. 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.

We have a new **web site** at friendsofmultnomahfalls.org. Karen Stefonek (stefonek@comcast.net) is the contact for placing items on the Group Facebook page and Billie Anger (b.anger@comcast.net) is the contact for placing items on our website.



We had a very successful Volunteer Picnic at Guy Talbot State Park again this year. The FS was represented by our Site Manager, Seasonals and the new Columbia River Gorge NSA Forest Supervisor Donna Mickley who comes from Siskiyou National Forest in Southern Oregon to help steward our public lands and work with communities in the Gorge.

FRIENDS of MULTNOMAH FALLS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewing Member FOMF is a 100% volunteer, private, non-profit, 501-c-3 tax-exempt organization.

\$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: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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