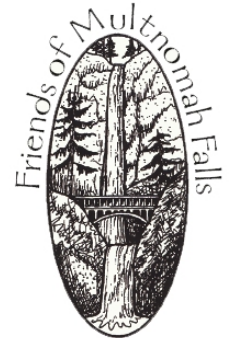


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# Focus on the Falls

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## SUMMER 2023

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### *FOMF ANNUAL PICNIC* *July 16, 2023 1pm*

All active, retired volunteers, members or those thinking of joining, spouses, companions, etc. are welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to visit with the other volunteers who often have different days.

Place: Robbins Island Picnic Area Bonneville Dam just past the locks at exit 40 on I-84.

Main entree and beverages will be provided by the FOMF.

Please bring your own plates and dinnerware, cup and napkin.

If your last name starts with A - H bring a desert to share.

If your last name starts with I – Z bring a salad or vegetable to share.

RSVP to Karen at [stefonek@comcast.net](mailto:stefonek@comcast.net) if you have not already done so.



### **FOMF President's Message – by Steve Vanier**

These past few months have been significant for our organization. In a very brief span of time, we have been shocked and saddened to record the untimely passage of three of our long-tune volunteers and dear friends, Maxine Wilkins, Henry “Hank” Bennett and Judith Scott. They will be missed by us all. They served long and well, and we send our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

We have also been happily blessed with several new recruits, Dan and Beth Austin, David Coates, Lena Johnson and Georgeie Reynolds, all of them just signed on this past month or so. Thanks for joining up, and we look forward to getting to know each of you. Our annual summer picnic, free to all members and volunteers, is coming up shortly, and will be a great forum to have you new recruits meet the rest of the gang. Read elsewhere in this Newsletter for all details of our picnic. Let's all plan to gather and have some fun!

The parking for volunteers has worked with 2 spots reserved 9:45 to 10am in the Lodge lot with our parking permit shown. Sasquatch had the Lodge lot re-stripped at a 60 degree angle so it is easier to back out. There is also the Sasquatch shuttle from Bridal Veil where you can park also with the parking permit. Since we start our shifts by 10 am, the I-84 lot is available and wearing your vest allows you to pass the permit check at the tunnel.

I will step back from my responsibilities in the next few months as board president, as my wife Kathie and I explore a new chapter in our lives. We bought a second home in Las Vegas area so we can winter in a warmer drier climate and come back to our home base in Portland when the weather is warmer here. I will remain an active volunteer when we are in Oregon, but I cannot effectively lead our group from a distance for 6 months of the year. Our Board is strong, has lots of experience among the 7 remaining members, and I am confident you will be well served after I step down.

It has been my pleasure to serve you as your President.



This year in early June the Bridgelip suckers returned to Multnomah Creek to spawn as they live in the deep water of the Columbia River and return there after spawning. Many people commented on seeing them and the Salmon board at the end of the pedestrian bridge has their story. Very little is known about them as they have not been studied according to the web sites. RG

Friends of Multnomah Falls  
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97060  
friendsofmultnomahfalls.org

**Board of Directors 2023**

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Steve Vanier

Vice President  
Dave Mysinger

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**Board Members**

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Russ Williams

Ex Officio USFS Josh  
Daker

Multnomah Falls Lodge Co.  
Jill Willis (Ex Officio)

Newsletter editor  
Ron Goodwin  
ron.katie.pdx@juno.com

**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.”*

**CRGNSA RECREATION STAFF OFFICER** by Stephen Elgart



Stephen Elgart joins the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area as the Recreation Staff Officer from California where he was a District Recreation Staff Officer with Sequoia National Forest. At Sequoia he directed the Recreation, Off Highway Vehicle, Volunteer Services, and Special Uses Permit departments. Stephen oversaw the management of nearly 700,000 acres of property including a Wild and Scenic River, 4 Wilderness areas, and portions of the Pacific Crest Trail.

The major duties of the recreation staff officer are to provide technical support for long-range recreation/resource management planning, analyze and recommend priorities and objectives of the Forest when it comes to recreation, drafting policies, and uphold the scenic, cultural, and natural resources highlighted in the National Scenic Act.

As any role with the Forest Service the Staff officer position does not come without its challenges. Some of the Major issues Stephen has been dealing with since taking over for Stan Hinatsu have been evaluating the impacts to the cultural and natural resources, analyzing the agencies capacity to deal with the demand of use in the area, and collaborating with a number of partners to incorporate decisions that impact the use of the area.

Before that he worked for the Army Corps of Engineers as a Natural Resource Specialist in Boston Massachusetts. At the Corps, he was an active member of the Visitor Assistance Team, Interpretive Services team, and a graduate of the two-year Leadership Development Program. Stephen was recognized for his continued service during the Covid-19 pandemic, working to keep dam and park activities functional and safe. His experience comes from a varied background, which includes volunteer work at the State Park level, a number of positions with the National Park Service, and two districts controlling four dams with the Army Corps.

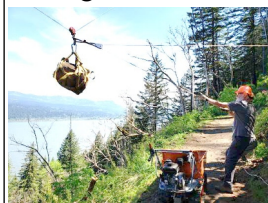
He spent his childhood through college years in New Jersey where he adopted his love for history and the outdoors. His first job was working at a local nature preserve, tending to animals and leading interpretive tours. He attended Brookdale Community College, where he received an Associate's Degree in Education and then completed his Bachelor's Degree majoring in History with a minor in English Literature from Rutgers University. After college, Stephen worked at a bank and managed a gourmet health food restaurant all while volunteering for a local park which helped him cement his desire to enter the profession. He obtained his first park position the same year he enrolled at Slippery Rock University where he graduated with a Master's of Science Degree in Park and Resource Management.

**USFS SITE MANAGER REPORT** by Josh Daker

Summer is here and so are our visitors eager to visit the falls and our other trail systems. Volunteers are the pivotal point for our folks visiting and having a good time or an *amazing* time. That's what y'all do for them, regardless is its their first time or hundredth. At the information desk we must keep up to date on current flower status, trail conditions, transit services and what fish are in the creek. No small task to maintain. Thank you for all your help.



Our big Multnomah Falls trail project is still working its way toward completion. Large rocks were cradled and gently lifted with the erecting of a high line. Climbers made their way up two trees along the trail to set rigging points effectively making a crane in the woods. The tenderly touched the bed of a mechanical tote that moved them uphill to the big hole for final placement in their new home.



The work continues.

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## NEW MEMBERS

**Beth and Dan Austin** have been Trail Head Ambassadors in the past and enjoyed it. They both volunteer in other areas such as SMART program and Hopewell House Hospice.

**David Coates** worked at Precision Cast Parts in various management positions. He enjoys hiking and other outdoor activities.

**Georgeie Reynolds** is an Archaeologist and has worked with the U.S. Corps of Engineers and for the last 10 years as the Senior Tribal Liaison for the Corps. She enjoys hiking.

**Lena Johnson** is a senior at St. Mary's Academy. She has volunteered as a camp counselor and through the Forest Park Conservancy doing trail maintenance. She is interested in conservation work specifically in the Pacific Northwest.

Welcome to the Friends of Multnomah Falls at the Number One Natural Attraction in Oregon. CM

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## FAREWELL TO THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED

In the last 2 month we have lost three longtime volunteers. **Maxine Wilkins** who joined in 1994 has held many positions in the Friends of Multnomah Falls from being on the board, many committees and continuing until recently as a member who just loved being at the Visitor Center. One of her main aims was to be the grandmother to all the rangers we have had on site. She has her own daughter and niece but not like the ones at the Falls. Maxine would not use her computer but did watch sports on TV until late at night. She was Volunteer of the Year in 2000 as she put in many shifts each month as well as keeping us on tract with the by-laws.

She grew up in Chugwater, Wyoming which is the home to Chugwater Chili for which you can buy online. We would not go to her home for a committee meeting unless she had the chili and cornbread. Maxine and husband Max who was a charter member of the FOMF, lived and worked in the David Douglas school district. This is why many of the early volunteers were David Douglas teachers as both Max and I encouraged them to become members and there are just a couple of us left.

One volunteer who could be counted on to fill in any time, any day was **Hank Bennett** who joined us in 2009. In fiscal year 2018-19 he put in 87 shifts in the Visitor Center. Years ago he saw that we did not have any white scratch pads for visitors to ink their passport and scenic area stamps so he bought a box along with many ball point pens for us to use. Hank lived in Seattle where he did a lot of climbing and hiking before moving to Chicago. His experiences made him a valuable asset in the Visitor Center

Another volunteer who just passed is **Judith Scott** started volunteering in 2012. She also volunteered at Vista House along with our charter member **Bonnie Jepsen**. They always came together to the Visitor Center once a month on a Monday. Judith was a world traveler, former English teacher and avid historian at Gresham Historical Society.

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## VOLUNTEER CORNER

Tourists from Vancouver, BC with International Cats traveling with their feline friends. How many cats do we see traveling in packs JK

On our desk is the sculptured pin designed by **Teresa Kasner** one of our original volunteers who also designed the Historic Columbia River Highway sign you see along the highway. Real pin collectors of which there are many come in and look at it and then ask if we have any more pins. We send them to the gift shop and then they come back in to put in their \$5 donation for this one. KG



One day a 12 year old boy came in with his aunt from Nepal and said his name was Tenzing Sherpa and was the grandson of Tenzing Norgay who in 1953 led Edmund Hillary to the summit of Mt. Everest on its first ascent. RG

A new finding is that there is now a Ninth Hawaiian Island which is Las Vegas, Nevada where retired Hawaiians go to live as it is too expensive to live in Hawaii. In 1974 a Hawaiian built the CAL Hotel in Las Vegas to encourage Hawaiians to come and visit. Now Las Vegas has the second largest number of restaurants, stores and Hawaiians outside of Honolulu. Yes, you can get your musubi for lunch with the spam, rice and sea weed. RG

Herman the Sturgeon just celebrated his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Bonneville Dam Fish Hatchery. KS

## WEB SITE AND FACEBOOK

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

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**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](mailto:chris.meinicke@frontier.com) or 503-645-3124), for more details.

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**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

Friends of Multnomah Falls  
P.O. Box 426  
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