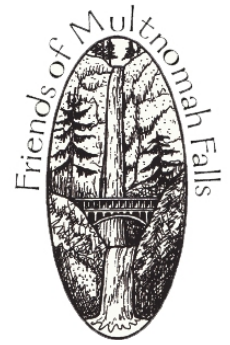


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# Focus on the Falls

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FALL 2023

## ANNUAL MEETING

November 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

Noon Arrival Heidi's Restaurant

1230 NE Cleveland St. Gresham

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

RSVP Billie Anger [b.anger@comcast.net](mailto:b.anger@comcast.net)

The Nominating Committee consisting of Billie Anger (chair), Flora Huber, John Buddeau and Kathleen McIntire recommend the following for FOMF 2023 officers: President Dave Mysinger, Vice President Billie Anger, Secretary Russ Williams, Treasurer Jim Geisler. Returning board members to be voted on for a two-year term: Jim Geisler, Russ Williams, Karen Stefonek, Jerry King, Dave Mysinger. New board members for a two-year term: Billie Anger, Sam Goodwin, Mitch Auerbach. Continuing members are Katie Goodwin and Flora Huber. We appreciate those who took the time to respond to the Nominating Committee Survey.



## FOMF President's Message – by Steve Vanier

With the feel of change in the air, I look back on the summer of 2023 as the first time that we had a “normal” summer crush of visitors, bringing with them a busy seasonal tempo and a spirit of excitement we have not had for many years. Hamstrung in one way or the other since 2017 with the Eagle Creek fire and the off-putting years of the COVID Pandemic, we lost ground, but this year, we got some of that back. It feels good.

New recruits Shawn Tolman, Dan and Beth Austin, David Coates, Kate Curry, Georgeie Reynolds and Matt Eaton inject new life into our group, and bring with them the promise of new ideas, new perspectives, and new energy we should all appreciate. Thanks for joining up, and let's all learn from each other the best way to move forward. Make life an adventure, give new ideas a chance to exist, and we can expand on what we have learned. For those who have given decades to this mission, humility and thankfulness should be the reward for the opportunity to serve. Experience alone does not automatically bestow wisdom.

As summer ends, fall colors, ripening fall fruits, and geese moving south herald the start of another chapter for each of us. For my wife Kathie and me, it's the start of a new adventure, as “snowbirds” migrating between Nevada and Oregon as the seasons compel us. I will step back from my duties as President and a Board member, but when we return next spring, my greatest desire is to continue as a volunteer; meeting visitors, listening to their stories, learning more about the falls, the gorge, and all the natural wonders.

Soon, our annual meeting will be held, so plan your calendars accordingly. We will again meet at Heidi's Restaurant in Gresham, at Noon on Monday November 13, 2023 for a luncheon followed by the business part of the meeting, where *members or active volunteers in good standing* will have an opportunity to vote on the coming year's budget, and a slate of candidates for our Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors have been my vital support and have guided me, a relative newcomer, through some interesting times. Thanks to each of you: Katie, Flora, Karen, Dave, Russ, Jim and Jerry. Thanks, too, to Ron Goodwin, Billie Anger, Chris Meinicke and to my immediate predecessors Carl and Kathy Collins, who have all contributed to any success I managed to achieve.

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

**Board of Directors 2023**

President  
Steve Vanier

Vice President  
Dave Mysinger

Secretary  
Russ Williams

Treasurer  
Jim Geisler

**Board Members**

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

Ex Officio USFS  
Josh Daker / Efeydi Monje

Multnomah Falls Lodge Co.  
Jill Willis (Ex Officio)

Newsletter editor  
Ron Goodwin  
[ron.katie.pdx@juno.com](mailto: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 INTERPRETIVE SPECIALIST** by Lily Carey



Lily Carey is temporarily filling the role of Interpretive Specialist for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area behind Beth Kennedy.

The major duties of the Interpretive Specialist are in broad terms to organize, coordinate, and implement the interpretive and visitor services programs for the CRGNSA. From supervising Field Ranger staff to coordinating new partnerships, this job is extremely varied and exciting. I coordinate community events throughout the gorge, produce educational videos for the public, develop and lead students through outdoor based curriculum year round, and assist the on site personnel at the falls.

I received a Bachelor's of Science in Biology with a focus on Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biodiversity from Western Washington University. I then began working with the raptor educator in different capacities continuing for the last decade.

I live in White Salmon with my partner Sam, where we try to get outside as often as possible. I am an avid naturalist and enjoy getting others excited about nature and merging my two passions: art and science. When I'm not at work, I like to garden and have various art & craft hobbies that keep me busy.

**USFS SITE MANAGER REPORT** by Josh Daker

Hello and happy Fall. Some of you have seen me a couple times in the past few months to come and train emergency hires and give some tidbits of information to your detailed Site Manager, Efeydi. One might ask what a 'detail' is. The straightforward answer is a temporary position usually 120 days, where someone fills in the role due to a vacancy. They are often a promotion, someone going up one or two grade levels. Details could also be lateral into a different position at the same grade level, think a GS 5 admin to a GS 5 trails or visa-versa. These opportunities allow folks to try out a position for a set amount of time which give them time to feel out the position and unit to see if they'd want to apply fully to that position if it became vacant. These opportunities can be out of the same unit as Lily is detailing into Beth's position, or they may be off unit to anywhere there's a Forest Service office. We had an employee detail down to Puerto Rico.



Details ultimately allow the person to grow and learn due to exposure to new units, high complexity/different positions. My detail opportunity was a promotion to Mt. Adams Ranger District out of Trout Lake as their Recreation Management Specialist supervising their developed rec crew and developed rec sites. As for what I've been doing while detailed has been filled with a bunch of stuff. Cleaning and fixing restrooms, fixing up historic cabins that we rent out, installing fee tubes, supervising paperwork tasks, coordinating with campground concessionaires, water system surveys and a lot more. Looking forward to see y'all in mid November.

**TEMPORARY SITE MANAGER** by Efeydi Perez

Thank you all for the warm welcome, for those that I have not met I am Efeydi Perez. I will be covering the Multnomah Falls site until early January. As winter comes to Multnomah Falls and the weather changes, it brings beautiful, picturesque change of Fall leaves. We need to remember to stay safe and wear appropriate gear for the day. To kindly remind visitors to check weather conditions before arriving, and to educate them about trail safety. I am highly impressed with the volunteer work you all do here and happy to work with everyone.

## HISTORIC HIGHWAY AT MULTNOMAH FALLS Katelyn Jackson ODOT

The two historic viaducts that carry traffic on the Historic Columbia River Highway on either side of Multnomah Falls are over 100 years old. Upcoming repairs will enable the viaducts to continue carrying traffic for years to come. We will repair the pavement on the surface, the railing and vertical supports to allow connecting us to Multnomah Falls into the future yet preserve the original architecture. The construction impacts are: West viaduct closure Fall 2024 – Spring 2025 and East viaduct closure Fall 2025 – Spring 2026. There will be designated turnaround areas when a viaduct is closed. When both are open, lane closures with flaggers directing traffic are allowed from 7 pm – 8 am Monday – Thursday nights. When a viaduct is closed, it will be closed to all users including people driving, walking and biking. Trails will remain open.

We encourage taking transit to Multnomah Falls during construction. If arriving by car use the I-84 parking lot.

### MISCELLANEOUS



To answer the question we get about the Columbia River. It has a drainage area of 258,000 square miles and is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest river in volume in the US. Its headwaters are in British Columbia at Canal Flats where it flows north for 200 miles before coming south for 1,270 miles from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. It pours more water into the Pacific Ocean than any other river in North America. The largest tributary is the Snake River starting in Yellowstone National Park. It drains from 7 states and one Canadian Province. Its first recorded sighting by a European was by Spanish explorer Heceta in 1775. It has more than 60 significant tributaries such as the Clark's Fork, Yakima and Willamette Rivers. The Columbia has tides 145 miles up to Bonneville Dam. The hand rail on the dam is 100' above sea level and the elevation at Grand Coulee is 1,200' which has no fish ladders stopping all salmon migration. The Columbia basin has 18 mainstream dams and 150 hydroelectric facilities.

Historically the basin was an important source of salmon for the many tribes that lived along the river. Five species of Pacific Salmon migrate up the river. At one time before the arrival of European settlers over 60 million Chinook, the most going up any river along the Pacific entered into the system.

### VOLUNTEER CORNER

This fiscal year ending on September 30 the volunteers put in 2,924 hours in the visitor center and counting all the extra hours from driving to the visitor center, administrative hours, we totaled 6,479 hours, information which was sent to the National Scenic Area for the USFS count. Eight volunteers had over 250 hours in the visitor center and 31 had over 16 hours which qualifies for the NW Forest Pass. rg



A lady came into the Visitor Center and talked about her father who had retired from the Forest Service in Montana. She talked about all the things the family did together when he was a ranger and how they liked to sing the "Smokey the Bear" song. I brought out my puppet and she had her two sisters come into the center and the three sang the whole song as the room full of visitors listened and applauded. Our only mistake was we did not record their singing. cm/rg

A new question from two deaf ladies which they wrote on a piece of paper; "Where is the nearest Sikh Temple? There are actually some in East Portland so wrote out the addresses and they were pleased. st

Have found out from people living in the Phoenix area that one of their hobbies is going out at night when it is cooler with a black light to spot scorpions that glow a fluorescent blue. Kg

### 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 or 503-645-3124), for more details or check out our web site.

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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  
Troutdale, OR 97060

