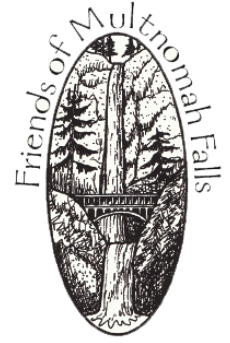


---

# Focus on the Falls

---



---

## SPRING 2024

---

### INTERPRETIVE VOLUNTEER TRAINING WORKSHOP

Corbett Fire Hall Saturday March 30th starting at 9:30am. Two outside speakers: Scott Burns PSU geology professor on geology in our area and Terra Lingley with ODOT will give updates on E-bikes. Updated Visitor Center information and door prizes .

January 2024



---

### FOMF President's Message – by Dave Mysinger



As I enter my 23<sup>rd</sup> year as volunteer here in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, I've seen significant changes through the years; both as a volunteer for several agencies, and a part-time seasonal employee with the U.S. Forest Service. Changes inflicted by the devastating 2017 Eagle Creek Fire, the Covid years and the added congestion of the steady increase in visitation over the past decade are among the most memorable events.

However, our volunteer group continues to deal admirably with all the changes and challenges, past and present. I look forward to the upcoming season, and the satisfaction of being part of a great group of dedicated volunteers, and being board president of the Friends of Multnomah Falls. Our partnerships with Forest Service, Multnomah Falls Lodge and other agencies are what I will strive to make better and ongoing.

---

### Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Forest Supervisor

by Donna Mickley



Greetings! I have the honor of serving as the Forest Supervisor for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA). What a special place I've been entrusted to manage and protect! And there is no site more grand than Multnomah Falls, the most visited natural recreation site in the Pacific Northwest.

As the lead US Forest Service administrator, I provide oversight for a wide array of forest management programs including natural resources, recreation, wildfire suppression, prevention, and fuels treatment, and special use management. The CRGNSA staff ensure all these activities occur with the mindset of protecting the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia Gorge.

The US Forest Service unit within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area has 73 permanent employees and hires an additional 15-20 temporary workers every summer. I see my role as one of fostering relationships, investing in people, and ensuring an inclusive work environment whether it is within our internal USFS programs or coordinating with other federal, state, tribal, local agencies, landowners, partners, and communities. It is also my responsibility to strengthen co-stewardship with Tribal Nations that have managed these sacred lands since time immemorial.

Another one of my roles is to serve as a member of The Columbia River Gorge Commission. The Forest Supervisor is appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture as the thirteenth non-voting member of the Gorge Commission. As directed by the CRGNSA Act, the Commission's mission is to establish, implement and enforce policies and programs that protect and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Columbia River Gorge, and to support the economy of the area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and allowing economic

continued on page 2

---

Friends of Multnomah  
Falls  
PO Box 426 Troutdale OR  
97060

friendsofmultnomahfalls.org

---

**Board of Directors 2024**

President  
Dave Mysinger

Vice President  
Billie Anger

Secretary  
Russ Williams

Treasurer  
Jim Geisler

**Board Members**

Mitch Auerbach  
Katie Goodwin  
Sam Goodwin  
Flora Huber  
Jerry King  
Karen Stefonek

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.”*

development consistent with resource protection. (Continued from page 1)

Much of what I do revolves around collaboration and fostering public and private partnerships. The US Forest Service could not fulfill its mission of “sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations” without the help of citizens, volunteers, and partner organizations. Our long-standing partnership with Friends of the Multnomah Falls is an exemplary example of how these partnerships can deliver tangible benefits like visitor services to over 2 million people!

After 35 years working for the US Forest Service in a variety of management positions, I am delighted to serve in the role of Forest Supervisor and call the Columbia River Gorge “home.”

**CRGNSA NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST REPORT by Lily Carey**

Just like the plants that are starting to peak above the cool soil, the visitors are coming back in full force. Spring must be here; not just at Multnomah Falls but all over the National Scenic Area! Winter came and went by very quickly but not without a number of dramatic weather episodes and exciting updates to projects. The Multnomah Falls Renovation projects, both lodge upgrades and Visitor Center re-do, are moving along with some on the ground work being planned and executed. The electrical system will be getting an upgrade this spring and the rest of the lodge renovations will be moving forward in a phased process, stay tuned for updates! The design of the Visitor Center exhibits is almost at 75% design completion. We are currently still looking for any historical photos that FOMF volunteers would be willing to share for use on a tablet that will be part of the new interpretive exhibits. If you have any photos, please reach out to Josh Daker. As of now, no physical work is planned for the Visitor Center this season, so business as usual.

This year has seen many staffing changes and additions to our team. Josh Daker is back to his position after completing a wonderful promotional detail position up on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest last summer. Stephen Elgart, Recreation Staff Officer, has been moving many large scale projects forward as he celebrates his first year on the CRGNSA. Beth Kennedy moved on to a new position within our office, Business Operations, where she is working on workforce development, hiring and local career recruitment. I (Lily Carey) have accepted the permanent position of Interpretive Specialist (Beth Kennedy’s old position) and look forward to continuing the great interpretive and educational work throughout the CRGNSA.

Lastly, the CRGNSA has welcomed our new Deputy Forest Supervisor, **Nic Granum**. Granum is an experienced leader coming to the CRGNSA from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), where he was a Section Chief with Public Assistance Regional Operations in Region 10 (in the Seattle area). During his time at FEMA, he has worked with various Federal response and recovery programs for disasters from Alaska to the Caribbean. Most recently he has been supporting joint state/FEMA preliminary damage assessments as the region begins recovery efforts from last month’s ice storm. Granum has a master’s degree in public administration and a BS in Geography from Portland State University, and proudly served in the United States Peace Corps in South Africa. Happy Spring, hope you get to see some wildflowers in the sun soon!

---

**USFS SITE MANAGER REPORT by Josh Daker**

This winter has a milder temper than the last few but gave a good temper tantrum down low. It shut down operations for seemed like a long time while it was working was happening but will fade in the memory as Spring approaches. Speaking of Spring, it’s on the way.



That means bulbs and training plus sun and warm breezes. Bees buzzing and electric energies as we ramp up towards another season of high visitation. Visitors seem properly poised for permits, parking and panoramic picturesque nature. Calls on how to visit are “I can’t get permits” should be a good sign that people are figuring what to do. We’re here to help people that know and might need more to have a good time. Thank you to the past, present and future volunteers for putting in the hard work.

Things are always happening, probably more than I’ll be able to remember to talk about here. The Lodge upgrades are working through their procedures as it can. Weather hasn’t helped keep tasks on time, but they’ll get done. Visitor Center design is looking good. Benson Bridge is 110 years old this year and the Lodge turns 100 years old next year. Celebration talks are underway for the grand birthday of the Lodge.

---

## MULTNOMAH FALLS LODGE REPORT by Jill Willis

We do not have too much going on but we are gearing up for Spring Break! The electrical project is off to a challenging start, we are adapting to frequent power outages while they are doing the panel work so that may be something the FOMF knows how to deal with when that happens—battery lanterns, etc.. They are still determining what the timeline will be for the project as they are having hiccups with the generator. I will let you know when I have more info. Hopefully espresso cart will be back up and running by Spring Break.

The next big event in the restaurant will be the Easter Brunch and Dinner Buffet. We will have the flier for that out shortly.

---

## Friends of Multnomah Falls Board Profile by Jerry King

I was fortunate enough to be born in Clackamas County and to grow up with a family who loved to camp. Graduated from Gladstone H.S. and Oregon State University in civil engineering and business. I had summer jobs with ODOT in Burns, Indian Health Service, U.S. Forest Service (Malheur NF) and then as a Licensed land surveyor with the Cities of Hillsboro and Lake Oswego.



While in college I got involved with climbing and have climbed many of the higher peaks including 11 times to the summit of Mt. Hood. After the process of raising six children with wife Nancy I found another avocation Search and Rescue (SAR) using my familiarity with the Mt. Hood area, love of maps and navigation provided the adrenaline dose after being awakened at 3am will supply. In the past 11 years I’ve been involved in over 380 missions-many small but several were life changing.

Today my family enjoys the privilege of owning a 1924 USFS lease cabin near Rhododendron which we escape to often on hot summer days. We find ourselves working at Camp Fire Camp Namanu on the Sandy River on a weekly basis and at Multnomah Falls, where I love playing “tour guide” about twice a month since 2017.

---

## ODOT REPORT FOR MULTNOMAH FALLS

The project description is that the two 100 year-old elevated roadways that provide access to Multnomah Falls require repairs to continue providing access to one of Oregon’s most iconic sites. The elevated roadways are called viaducts which carry vehicles and bicycles to the falls and Lodge on the Historic Columbia River Highway. The west viaduct will be closed in the Fall of 2024 through Spring 2025. The east viaduct will be closed the Fall of 2025 through Spring 2026.

---

## VOLUNTEER CORNER



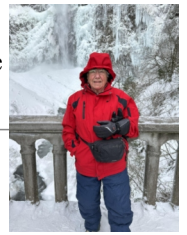
This family came into the Visitor Center just before Christmas to enjoy the Falls, interact with the volunteers and eat in the restaurant. cm

Early in February a wallet was turned in by a Good Samaritan. It was loaded with important cards and looked like the owner would need it back. I called around (Kaiser, Naval Recruiter, banks, etc.) and none would help me. As a last thought I called Costco Membership, explained their members lost card and suggested they call him and have him call the Visitor Center and ask for me. Five minutes later the phone rings and the owner, a Seattle resident, was still in Portland. He was a happy tourist, and it was the highlight of my day to see it end well for this person. He was clearly a responsible adult and happy to have the wallet back. Hats off to Costco Membership Services for making a successful contact. Th

## TRIVIA

Thunder Island was carved out of the mainland in 1890 to build Cascade Locks and Canal. This provided safe passage around the rapids for ships traveling up and down the Columbia. The sounds of the rapids sounded like thunder so its name.

The Friends of Multnomah Falls volunteer of the year is Flora Huber who has been a volunteer since 1998, a scheduler, on the board, a committee member and a good voice for the Friends.



### WEB SITE AND FACEBOOK

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

### 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. After 16 hours of volunteering you earn a Northwest Forest pass from the USFS. 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@outlook.com](mailto:chris.meinicke@outlook.com) or 503-645-3124), for more details.

### FRIENDS OF MULTNOMAH 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

