
Focus on the Falls



FALL 2024



ANNUAL MEETING November 18th 2024

Noon Arrival

Heidi's Restaurant 1230 NE Cleveland St. Gresham

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

The Nominating Committee consisting of Joanne Tennant (chair), Flora Huber, John Buddeau and Kathleen McIntire recommend the following for FOMF 2025 officers, President Dave Mysinger. Vice President Jerry King, Secretary Russ Williams, Treasurer Jim Geisler. Returning board members who are completing their two-year term: Karen Stefonek, Sam Goodwin, Mitch Auerbach, Jim Geisler, Russ Williams Jerry King and Dave Mysinger. Being voted on for another 2 year term is Katie Goodwin. We appreciate those who took the time to respond to the Nominating Committee Survey.

Business: Changes in FOMF By Laws

ARTICLE 1V: MEETINGS

A. An Annual meeting of the membership shall be held in November for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors, officers, establishing a budget and changing the Bylaws. Other meetings deemed necessary by the Board of Directors may be scheduled as required. A notice will be **emailed or mailed** to the membership post marked at least one week prior to the meeting date.

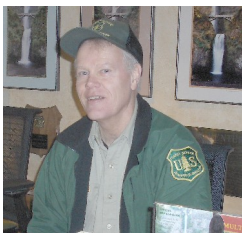
ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

C. Monthly meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held January through October. The Board of Directors shall, by resolution, set the time and place for meetings. **Meetings may be canceled or postponed by a simple majority of the Board.**

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

A. Prior to the Annual meeting of members and in adequate time to be included in (remove **the mailing of**) the notice to members of the Annual meeting, a slate of officers and board of director candidates shall be nominated by the members of the Annual meeting, a slate of officers and board of director candidates shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the President. Additional nominations from the floor for the board of directors shall be accepted during the Annual meeting.

FOMF President's Message – by Dave Mysinger



"Looking back at another long summer season at Multnomah Falls, it was a very rewarding time in terms of coverage from the Forest Service and our great group of volunteers. With three new seasonals, we never knew what to expect. But Angie, Tim and Sierra were an awesome trio, supporting us and extending visitor center hours beyond our normal 10-2 shifts. Sadly, none are expected back next season, but Sierra and her grandmother are now regular volunteers.

As we go into the "off season", we still expect heavy visitation on weekends and holidays, and when cruise ships bus their guests to our site. There really is no off season anymore at Multnomah Falls. I would like to thank my fellow board members and our daily schedulers, including calendar coordinator Karen Stefonek, for their hard work getting us through this past year. I look forward to seeing most of you at our annual meeting and luncheon on November 18th, at Heidi's in Gresham."

USFS SITE MANAGER REPORT by Josh Daker

The summer season has come to an abrupt end with October finally feeling normal. The second summer was nice, but we all need the rain. The season we had here at Multnomah Falls was a productive and quality time. With three seasonal staff members we were able to increase our engagement with the public inside the visitor center and out on the plaza, trails and other recreation sites. We were also able to assist other program areas which provides cross training and exposure to the other adventures our Agency provides. Regarding cross training, I've started a detail to our main office as a Recreation Management Specialist. I look forward to the training and skill building opportunity this provides.



Enjoy your fall and soon winter season as a time to relax and recover from the busy summer, you all deserve it.

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

Board of Directors 2024

President

Dave Mysinger

Vice President

Jerry King

Secretary

Russ Williams

Treasurer

Jim Geisler
zz

Board Members

Mitch Auerbach

Katie Goodwin

Sam Goodwin

Karen Stefonek

Ex Officio USFS Josh Daker

Multnomah Falls Lodge Co.

Jill Willis (Ex Officio)
zz

Monthly Calendar Coordinator

Karen Stefonek

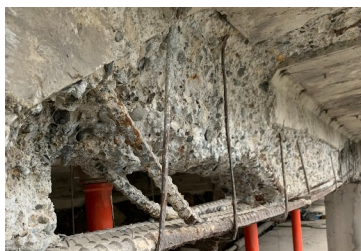
Newsletter editor

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.”



MULTNOMAH FALLS LODGE VICE PRESIDENT by Jill Willis

Now that the busy summer tourist season is winding down, Multnomah Falls Company is in the process of planning for several upcoming occasions at the historic Lodge. Our annual Holiday Lodge decorations will begin in mid-November, and our beautiful Noble Fir Christmas trees should be up in the Great Room and the Falls Room for visitors to enjoy the day after Thanksgiving.

In addition, this will be the second year of our “Breakfast with Santa” event. And because of last year’s success, we are hosting Santa on two Saturdays this year, December 14th and December 21st. Our restaurant will provide a Holiday Buffet for children and their families from 8:00 a.m. until Noon. Children will be able to sit on Santa’s lap and talk about their Christmas wishes.

Multnomah Falls Company is also busy with planning for the historic Lodge Centennial celebrations throughout the Spring and Summer months. We expect to host many special guests throughout the year to commemorate the historic Lodge turning 100 years old (1925-2025). We are lucky to have great input and direction on the Centennial celebration from the U.S. Forest Service. Exact dates for many of the Centennial celebrations and events will be announced soon.

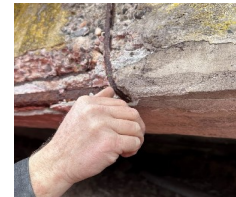
ODOT REGIONAL COMMITTEE AFFAIRS COORDINATOR BY Katelyn Jackson

Multnomah Falls Viaduct Repairs

The Historic Columbia River Highway is closed to all users until Memorial Day 2025 between Wahkeena and Multnomah Falls for the planned west restoration of a viaduct, or elevated roadway. Crews are removing the old asphalt decking and installing a new concrete surface to match the original 1914 design in color and texture; repairing the concrete railings; and repairing vertical columns, and horizontal support beams under the viaduct, which have cracks and exposed rebar, to improve stability and address erosion.

Currently, vehicles traveling eastbound can access destinations such as Vista House, Bridal Veil and Wahkeena Falls before reaching the closure. Eastbound vehicles are being turned around at the Wahkeena Falls Trailhead, just before reaching the Multnomah Falls. There is no access to Multnomah Falls by heading eastbound on the Historic Highway. Vehicles traveling westbound can access destinations such as Horsetail Falls and Ainsworth State Park before reaching the closure. Westbound vehicles are being turned around at the Multnomah Falls Lodge.

The Wahkeena-Multnomah Falls return trail #442 remains open to hikers. Access to Multnomah Falls via the I-84 parking lot at Exit 31 remains open between Memorial Day 2025 and October 2025, the Historic Highway will be open with periodic lane closures overnight. From October 2025 to Memorial Day 2026: The Historic Highway just east of Multnomah Falls closes to all users to repair the east viaduct. No access to Multnomah Falls by vehicles traveling westbound on the Historic Highway.



CRGNSA NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST REPORT

by Lily Carey

Happy Fall Friends! The Osprey and Turkey Vultures have flown the coop which means it is officially fall.

We had another busy summer at Multnomah Falls and in the rest of Scenic Area. Every year, we collect data from our unit and our partners to see how many people we connected with in the CRGNSA. This year we had a whopping 195,429 contacts! Thank you FOMF for your positivity, enthusiasm and work this summer as you engaged with a staggering percentage of that total number.

On the horizon, we have the continuing design process for the Visitor Center There still is no date set for any construction but we are hopeful that it will happen sometime in 2026, no guarantees though! The Whisky Creek Fire is still active though the rain in the last few weeks has helped to knock it down. As of now, the major closures are still in place with an opening on the Gorge 400 as the only update.

We look forward to another great year with you all! Hopefully we will have an uneventful winter with limited ice and a successful repair of the West Viaduct. See you at the Annual Lunch!





Friends of Multnomah Falls Scheduler Profile by Karen Stefonek

I grew up in Western Washington state in a family who loved the out of doors. We camped all over the Pacific Northwest, Western Canada and beyond. After college I worked here in Portland, then moved to Hawaii. In 1988 I moved back and settled in Corbett. Living in the Columbia River Gorge provides such an amazing opportunity to enjoy beautiful country every day, even when the East Wind is trying to blow us off the face of the earth. About 5 years ago, I asked the Friends of Multnomah Falls volunteers what it took to get involved. Those folks were most welcoming. After an orientation and some training, I was also behind the counter. This place is visited by folks from all points of the earth. How fun it is to share our love not only the Waterfall Corridor but also other highlights of Northern Oregon and SW Washington. We even get to help visitors plot their adventures. I support FOMF by participating as a volunteer, Board Member and Calendar Coordinator. It is so satisfying to meet people from around the world help them enjoy our beautiful Columbia River Gorge.



OBITUARY

A dedicated Multnomah Falls Volunteer, **Lynn Rasmussen**, passed away on October 8, 2024, at the age of 88 years. Lynn and his wife, **Dollie** started volunteering at the U.S. Forest Service’s Visitor center in 2012. They were Volunteers of the year in 2014. They retired from volunteering about 4 years ago. Lynn had lived in Hood River all his life, growing up on the family farm. He married Dollie Fernwick on August 4, 1955. Together they purchased the family farm in 1956.

Lynn was an active member on the Board for Friends of Multnomah Falls. He knew the Hood River Valley and the Columbia River Gorge so well he could always direct visitors to other interesting sites to visit while visiting the Gorge.

Lynn along with his wife, Dollie and others planned several field trips for Volunteers of Multnomah Falls to help acquaint the volunteers with other sites to see in the Gorge such as Ft. Vancouver, Maryhill Museum, the Discovery Center Museum in The Dalles and of course some of the farms listed in the Fruit Loop Brochure including their farm.



Lynn and his wife Dollie were instrumental in getting the farmers together in the Hood River Valley to produce the Fruit Look Brochure. It is a one of many brochures at the volunteer counter that we give out today to Multnomah Falls visitors. *(There is a brand new 2024 updated one at the VC now)* Lynn, consider himself a pretty good farmer and he was also a great story teller. He was a caring husband to Dollie, a devoted father to Janet Lee and David Rasmussen; a grandfather to five grandchildren and great grandfather to seven great grandchildren. Lynn was also very devoted to the Hood River Community always giving back to the community by volunteering for many organizations in the Hood River Valley. cm

VOLUNTEER OBSERVATIONS

Everyone is so happy to get meaningful information and that is why I volunteer at the Falls. “Where is the Gorge” is one of my favorite comments. Fh

I spoke with a couple from back East, Massachusetts if I remember correctly, traveling on a Columbia River cruise. They had never been west of the Mississippi River before and expressed their astonishment at the beauty in this part of the country. The ship was traveling down stream and they had been watching the change in the landscape. They expressed great satisfaction in their vacation choice. Ks

A family came in finding out that the salmon in all of the Great Lakes came from the Bonneville Dam Fish Hatchery and the eggs were shipped there starting in 1964. The son who just moved to The Dalles said he worked at FedEx and he picked up the eggs there many times as they were being shipped to different places. rg

TRIVIA

On the Visitor Centers large relief map you see is a notation on Skamania Island that says it was washed away in 2012. This island was over a mile long and covered with large cottonwood trees but the island was made up of sand that had settled in the Columbia where the river slowed below the Cascade rapids above where Bonneville Dam is today. The island washed away after the help of getting the small salmon down required larger flows of water through the dams and then the wake from more large boats on the river washed the sand away along with the trees. There are still river markers around the island as a low water it is just a little way below the surface. So if you get a question on what kind of fish are jumping there, is it actually water rippling from the wind and current.

WEB SITE AND FACEBOOK

We have new web site at friendsofmultnomahfalls.org contact **Jerry King** at (GeraldBKing@gmail.com) for placing items on our website. **Karen Stefonek** (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 or 503-645-3124), for more details. A welcome to our new volunteers this year, **Don Bryan, Christina De Luca, Sierra Hopking, Jeannie Thrasher and Heather Wise.**

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

