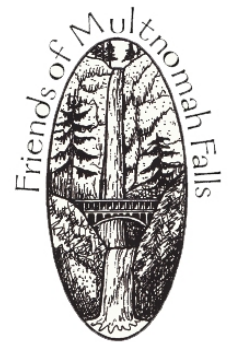


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# Focus on the Falls

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## SUMMER 2024

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### *FOMF ANNUAL PICNIC*

*July 21, 2024 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 [stefonk@comcast.net](mailto:stefonk@comcast.net) or text 503-367-2836 if you have not already done so.



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

As we partake in another summer season at Multnomah Falls, the visitation ramps up and we see more families on site and in the visitor center. It has been an enlightening experience for me as president, as leadership changes to some degree every changing of the guard. My relationship with Forest Service personnel, the executive board and volunteers as a whole have been mostly positive. And I strive to always make them better.

Though a ways away, the falls and winter seasons will be here before we know it. With that, more new visitation challenges will occur with the closing of the west viaduct on the historic highway for several months. But as always, visitors will find a way to come to visit Multnomah Fall, and the rest of the waterfall corridor.

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### **Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Deputy Forest Supervisor Nicolas Granum**

As a new Deputy Forest Supervisor in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, I am quickly learning that this special place is increasingly complex and everything that passes through has its own impact. Since I grew up in the Portland area, I often told people: I'm just passing through the Gorge! I would use this phrase when I was on my way to or returning from Central and Eastern Oregon, a long road trip across the country, visiting the Maryhill Museum and the Stonehenge, or even just taking the long way to Timberline Lodge through the Hood River Valley. However, now that I'm working and living here, I'm lucky enough to not just be passing through and it has given me a unique opportunity to reflect.

Readers of this newsletter are likely aware that millions of people visit, or pass by Multnomah Falls, along with other destinations in the Gorge every year. Also, that every drop of water coming over the falls has a dramatic journey before and after this point, and will have its own part reshaping the landscape takes in the future. That said, it is also important to acknowledge that since time immemorial, indigenous people have come to live, hunt, fish, gather, and trade in this amazing place. Even though increased development and visitation continues to put enormous pressure on those traditional practices, they continue to this day and these activities are rights codified in treaties signed into law nearly 175 years ago. My role in the Federal government also stewardship of these special lands. That is often easier said than done, but I try to remain aware that everything that passes through has an impact on what this place will look like for all the people that come after us. In more recent times, as the historic Columbia River Highway re-emerges as

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Friends of Multnomah  
Falls  
PO Box 426 Troutdale OR  
97060

friendsofmultnomahfalls.org

### Board of Directors 2024

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Monthly Calendar Coordinator  
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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.”*  
A new record number of

Continued from page 1

highways in a car or truck, people still come by boat some by bicycle, and some even by plane or on foot, and every

one of these pathways has an impact. means I must take an active role in ensuring meaningful co-,

Despite all these enormous pressures and competing priorities, I've also realized how grateful I am for our colleagues, friends, partners; Forest Service staff and volunteers alike, who are helping keep things running smoothly, whether for a few days, weeks, months, or many, many years. Ultimately, even though every one of us is just passing through, I hope each of us has an opportunity to pause and reflect!

### CRGNSA NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST

#### REPORT by Lily Carey

Happy summer friends,

Time has flown by since the last newsletter. Among all of the outreach our Interpretive Team is doing, we are getting closer to a finished design for the new Multnomah Falls Visitor Center.

Big updates to the design are the inclusion of a panel for the Indigenous History and Perspective, we are working with the four treaty tribes on creating this panel and are very excited for the finished product. We are also working to develop some method of providing translations of the exhibits in many different languages. This will provide our visitors the opportunity to learn in their native tongue and to make them feel even more at home.

We are also looking forward to fall of 2025 to the 100th anniversary of the opening of Multnomah Falls Lodge. Plans are starting to form on how best to celebrate this momentous occasion but be on the lookout for opportunities for some fun engagements.

Thank you for all you do and here's to a smooth rest of the summer!



### USFS SITE MANAGER REPORT by Josh Daker

Summer is here and so are our visitors! We have a full crew of three seasonal staff this year to interact with the public in assorted ways. They'll help around the Visitor Center, rove the trails, staff events and help with in other program areas. Say hi to **Angie, Tim** and **Sierra** when you see them and please make them feel welcome.

As the area dries out our trail crew is more able to get the Wahkeena trail around Fairy Falls and high above Multnomah Falls, the Larch Mountain junction with Wahkeena fixed. Multnomah Falls Lodge updates and maintenance has moved along, however a lull in progress will happen over the summer to minimize impact to the concessionaire and the visitor experience. Thank you all for being flexible with the work that has happened this winter with the dates moving on abrupt notice. As we look forward to next year, there will be a big birthday for the Lodge, more updates to the Lodge and of course first time visitors.

Big this this year is we're lucky to be celebrating Smokey Bear's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.



### CRGNSA RECREATION COORDINATOR by Edan Lira

When I came to work at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area from a reforestation job on the Mt. Hood National Forest in 2003, it was certainly eye-opening. After working in the woods, mostly alone for 15 years, it did not take long after arriving in the Gorge to notice that there are people here! Lots of them, everywhere, doing all kinds of things, legal (and not-so-much at times!), and both numbers, as you all know, is forever-increasing. Every new movie filmed here, magazine article, new

internet-posting, ad campaign, and word of mouth comment makes this unique area visible to more people. As one example, we noticed a surge in visitors to the Bridge of the Gods after the 2014 movie “Wild” was released. We are seeing new recreation activities each year...kite-boarding, geocaching, “winging,” slacklining, canyoneering, e-biking, and more.

Every new person and new recreation activity brings new opportunities-and challenges. On top of that, we are one of the few Forest Service units to be adding recreation sites and trail miles. Since I’ve been here, Sandy River Delta parking lot, BZ Corner Launch site, Balfour-Klickitat day use area, and Lyle Trailhead have been developed. Klickitat Milepost, the Cascade Locks mountain bike trailhead, and the Cape Horn Gorge Accessibility Project will add to our increasing list of recreation opportunities. On the trails side, Cape Horn trail, The Klickitat Trail, Cascade Locks bike trails have all been developed since 2003, and emerging trails like Mosier to The Dalles, will all add to the miles of trails traversing dry desert land, pine-oak woodlands, and rain forests. This does not include all the additions that State Parks and ODOT are making, like the new bike path.

With a wonderful contingent of volunteer groups, each with a specific passion, a significant amount of work is being accomplished. From FOMF, to Washington Trails Association, Pacific Crest Trails Association, Friends of Sandy River Delta, Cape Horn Conservancy, Trailkeepers of Oregon, Klickitat Trail Conservancy, and many more, the weight has lifted just that much more. The list of projects, aging infrastructure and new (and old!) challenges will keep us busy for years to come. Thankfully, in addition to volunteers and other partners, the Forest Service staff has been growing to help meet these challenges. There have been a lot of new employees in the last 4 years with plenty of fresh energy and ideas being brought to the table. We have a great team internally on this Forest Service unit with so many people crossing their traditional boundaries to help other areas and volunteers play a key part in that teamwork. We could not face all these challenges and greet all the opportunities without you!

Thanks to each of you.

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### Friends of Multnomah Falls Scheduler Profile by Shawn Tolman



**Flora Huber** asked me in 2023 if I wanted to be a volunteer and because my wife had died in August of 2022 and I was hiking a lot with my children because Nature is my best healer. I told her I would volunteer. A good move for me. So I trained with Flora and **Chris Meinicke** on March 12, 2023 and have worked with many other volunteer after that.

I found that I really enjoyed Volunteering talking with people from all over our country and other countries. I still enjoy Volunteering today and will keep Volunteering for a long as I possible, helping people where ever I can. (Shawn has stepped up to do the Thursday scheduling.)

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### 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. This was the only highway from Portland to The Dalles

so was used by trucks, buses and cars until the interstate highway was constructed in the 1950’s. This photo shows the worn supports. Respecting the UPRR tracks complicate access for repairs too.

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Another event happening this Fall is the opening of the Mitchell Point Tunnel at exit 58 with the 5 arched windows offering views unseen for 70 years.. Construction began in 2021. The opening will create a safe and enjoyable connection on either side of Mitchell Point for bikers and pedestrians.



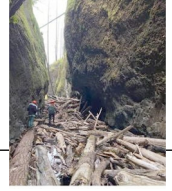
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### TRIVIA



**Herman** the prehistoric bottom feeding white sturgeon, last month celebrated his approximate 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in his “home” since 1998. There have been many Hermans and the first mention was in 1925 at the Roaring River Fish Hatchery where the manager in 1932 took him to the State Fair; after 50 years he was too big. In 1983 he was “sturgeon-napped.” Another one was stabbed at Bonneville when home was a shallow pond where smaller ones now live. Our current Herman has several large friends in his newer pond so you might have to wait for him to pass by the underwater window.

In case you wonder why the label on Oneonta Falls is closed indefinitely, this USFS picture might give you an answer. The first log jam happened after the '91 Fire and then after the Eagle Creek Fire the dam got higher and blocked the logs seen here that floated down the stream. Rocks and trees continue to fall and the stream is still running under the logs. Not the same place.



**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.

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

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