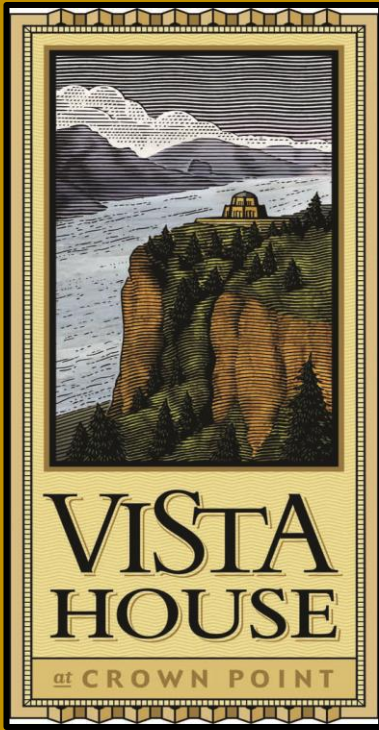


VISTA HOUSE VIEWS

FRIENDS OF VISTA HOUSE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023



The Views will present articles on the Vista House (VH), Columbia Gorge, and surrounding scenic sites, with historical narratives and present-day events. This newsletter includes:

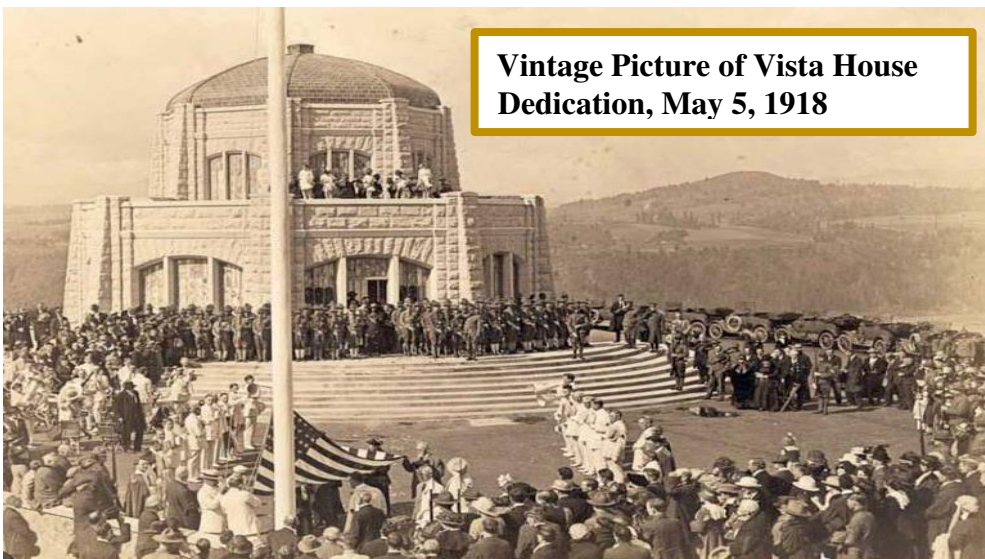
- Vintage Pictures of VH
- VH Volunteer Stories
- Columbia Gorge Wildflowers
- Summit Filling Station history
- Photographing local waterfalls
- Oregon State Park Corner



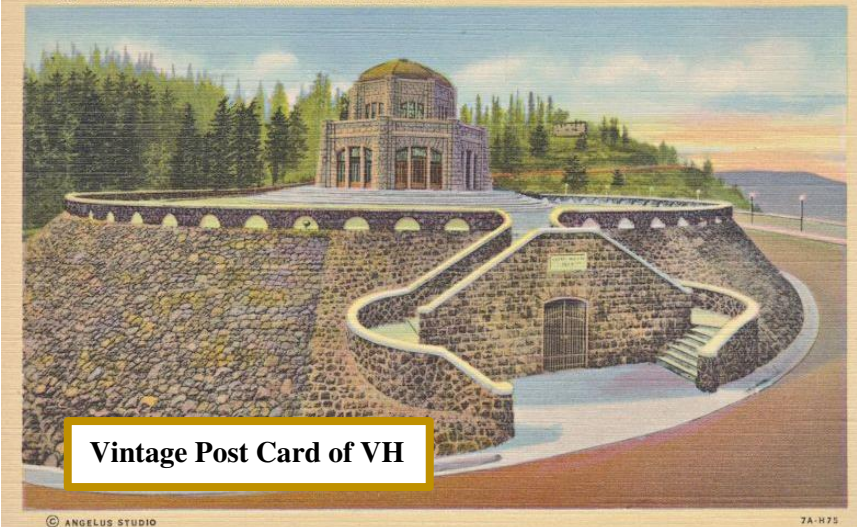
Poem on a VH Pillar:

“So prodigal has nature
been with us;
so lavishly
has she spread her feasts
at our banquet table.
We have been apt to feel
that these glories
would be never ending.”
~~ Governor Olcott’s 1921
message to the legislature

Vintage Picture of Vista House
Dedication, May 5, 1918



859 VISTA HOUSE, COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY, OREGON



Vintage Post Card of VH

VISTA HOUSE HOURS

Hours can be flexible depending on various factors

For the most up-to-date information check:

Our Website:
VistaHouse.com

Our Facebook Page
[Friends of Vista House](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfVistaHouse)

Gift Shop/Café have same hours as VH.

Vista House Volunteer Stories: Best Day Ever, by Linda Traxler.

I DO love volunteering at the Vista House and always enjoy my time greeting our visitors. Following are two delightful stories I want to share:

1st Delight: On Monday, November 27, I went to the Vista House for my volunteer time. A good-sized group of young people came in. As I looked at them, I thought, “singers”? I asked if they were, and one of the young men responded, “ya, we sing!” They were visitors from Ukraine and were traveling from a Seattle conference and heading to Sacramento. They decided to stop at the Vista House on the way and graced us with singing “Prayer for Ukraine”, their national anthem. The acoustics in the rotunda were excellent, and we were thrilled to be able to listen to these wonderful young people. One spoke English saying, they were refugees, with no reason to return to their own country. They were working on getting visas so they could find work here in the USA. My wish for them is it will work out. Note: Listen to them sing in a video posted on our Facebook page: “Friends of Vista House”. [Prayer for Ukraine](#)



2nd Delight: A couple from India came in and shared the pictures they had taken at Multnomah Falls. Their photos were “gender reveal” pictures (It is going to be a baby boy). I saw the blue balloon and confetti in the photo. Multnomah Falls made a great background! Another visitor took pictures, as their own family members had not been able to make it. I was one of the first ones to congratulate them on their exciting news.

Who Doesn’t Like Wildflowers? by Bev Law

Many wildflowers grow along the roadside area near Vista House. One of my favorites is the bright pink Everlasting Pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*) or commonly known as sweet pea. Among the bright pink ones are a few white everlasting peas. Just one stem looks like a whole bouquet. They do spread and will take over an area, but their beauty is so treasured. They can be spotted about mid-July near the east Vista House parking lot, and at the Y on the highway and Larch Mt. Road.

Another beautiful wildflower is the purple Larkspur (*Delphinium trollifolium*), which blooms in late spring. It can be seen along the sides of the scenic highway and at Crown Point. Note: The flower is poisonous.

There is a handy “Guide to Common Native Species of Oregon’s Cascade Range” for sale in the Vista House gift shop. The wildflowers are listed by color. Also, there is comprehensive field guide titled: “Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge” by Russ Jolley. The book has blank pages for notes. Of the 800 different wildflowers in the Columbia River Gorge, see how many you can locate and write down.



Everlasting Pea (Sweet Pea)

Larkspur at Crown Point – Mid May



Summit Filling Station - History

By Ben Carscallen, Vista House Volunteer

This article is about The Summit Filling Station (1914-1972) which was one of the many businesses that sprouted up during the early years of the Columbia River Highway. Today nothing is left of the establishment besides a gravel pullout along the highway, and a view over Rooster Rock and Columbia Gorge.

Summit Filling Station:

After the Columbia River Highway had made its way through dozens of small towns and communities across east Multnomah County and beyond, small businesses, gas stations, roadhouses, and souvenir shops popped up along the route. One notable business was the “Summit Filling Station.” Also known as Summit Service Station and Garage, and The Summit.

The highest elevation point along the Columbia River Highway is at milestone 22, half-way between Chanticleer Point and the Larch Mountain Road, just past Knieriem Road, hence the name “The Summit.” The business started out with a single structure, which was built in May 1914 by Frank Knieriem and Earnest Graf for the Nelson Ross family. A year later, Nelson Ross added the filling station, and a small garage to service the increased automobile traffic. Later the service station was operated by the Latourell’s, as a branch of the Latourell Motors Co. in Gresham. Nelson operated a small ice cream parlor however soon coffee and light lunches were added to the menu. A spectacular view of the Columbia Gorge was offered to visitors. Between 1923 and 1927 the business changed hands from O.K. Patterson to C. Hicks, and then to James W. Ross (Nelson’s son). At one time meals were served by Laura Ross, Nelson’s granddaughter.

Early History of Nelson Ross and Family:

Nelson Ross was a veteran of the Civil War, where he served with honor, leaving his wife and six children to take care of themselves while he served in the infantry. He was with General Sherman on his march through Georgia, and he told many interesting stories of his war experiences. The Ross family came from Michigan, where the family home was near the present city of Detroit.

During the Civil War reconstruction (1865 to 1877), conditions were very difficult and the promise of free land in Oregon was tempting. As it was at this time, the Ross family got the Oregon fever. Around 1876, Nelson Ross and his wife came to Oregon bringing their large family, which consisted of Dewitt C. and Daniel W (twins), George, William, Hannah, and James. There were three older children, who already had moved away from home: Henry, Amanda, and Josephine.



Summit Filling Station on Columbia River Hwy. Circa 1916



Summit House and Filling Station looking West, Courtesy of CPCHS.

When they first reached Oregon, they spent time in Portland. The twins were then about 18. They settled on the mountain above the Columbia River, now called Crown Point. With brave hearts and hands, they began by clearing the land. This was the first hurdle before a home and farming were possible. The older boys of the family and their father began the tasks cutting down trees, digging stumps, and burning logs so the fields could be cultivated. Around 1877, the Ross family moved into their home on Crown Point.

Later Years of Nelson Ross and his wife:

Nelson Ross worked hard and became stooped from heavy labor. As he grew old and unable to work the land, the family moved to Fairview. There he spent his time reading the newspaper, histories, and reliving his war days. He told many interesting stories of these times and historical events. The old folks finally went to live with their daughter, Hannah (Ross) Vincent. Mr. Ross died at St. Johns when he was 86 years old.

Nelson Ross married his wife at the age of 19. She had smallpox when she was a young girl, so her face was left badly pitted. She was a tiny person but accomplished as much as anyone. She told of her early days on the new land and all the hard work. She lived to be 94 years old, dying in 1925.

Summit Filling Station - continued history

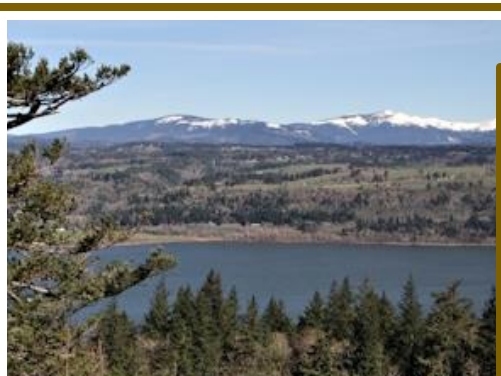
According to a local resident, Mrs. Hammer took over the lunch bar/establishment after Palmer Sawmill closed down in 1936. When Mrs. Hammer operated the lunch bar, loggers would frequent the joint after coming down off of Larch Mountain. The loggers had metal spikes in the bottoms of their boots, so she placed cedar shake shingles next to the front door. The loggers would take one step into the place, stomp on two shingles, and then continue shuffling towards the counter. This would protect the wooden floors from getting ripped up by the foot traffic.

Over the years, she created a great reputation in the area for her famous homemade chili. “Good snacks”, beer, mountain bars, and ice cream were items locals remember purchasing from her place. Not only was Mrs. Hammer’s homemade chili a popular dish, but her homemade pie were a hit among locals. One mentioned: “Mrs. Hammer served excellent pie, although the Bridal Veil Motel also had good pie.”

The building sat just barely between the road and the steep hillside behind it which makes one local resident’s comment fitting, “It felt like you were going to fall into the gorge, the lunch bar looked right out the backside.”

The Hammer’s ran the lunch bar until the late 1960s or early 1970s. According to John Leamy, former Corbett resident, “The state bought the property from Mrs. Hammer in about 1972. My brother Pat and I bought the building from the state for a dollar and tore it down.” About a decade later, around 1983, Mrs. Hammer had passed away. The Summit is available to the public with views of Washington and Columbia River.

See Page 11 for a map to this site



From The Summit viewpoint, see Steigerwald Lake, WA, and much more. @ Lyn Topinka 2016

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

[Friends of Vista House](#)

History, stories, and more. Share comments and photos from your visit. Send to:

director@vistahouse.com

We would love to hear from you.



Photographing Columbia Gorge Waterfalls

By Daniel Rappaport, Vista House Volunteer

The Columbia Gorge boasts the highest concentration of waterfalls in the country. Many, such as Multnomah Falls, are accessible from the parking lot, and memorable images created by stepping out of the car and pointing your phone camera. These images, often include loved ones, capture our enjoyment of the beauty of nature. However, what if we want to go a bit further, and allow nature to tell her own story; what if we want to create art? With a bit of preparation, some not-too-specialized gear and some walking, everyone can create wall-worthy art.

Part I, Getting Started (this newsletter) will cover basics of nature photography as it applies to waterfalls, and how to get started with your camera. **Part II, Composition** (Summer 2023 newsletter) will apply to any camera, including cell phones. In fact, some aspects of composition are easier with a cell phone!

Getting Started

The first thing most people think of when approaching nature photography is prohibitively expensive gear. This is not necessarily so. Entry level DSLRs or mirrorless cameras will do just fine. As said many times, **the best camera for creating images is the one you have. The only hard and fast rule is “be there.”**

Modern cameras will take a well exposed and focused picture without particular input from the photographer. Cell phone cameras excel at this. For some aspects of waterfall photography, it helps to have a camera that allows control over the three basic exposure variables:

- 1) Time of exposure,
- 2) Aperture - the amount of light the camera allows through the lens and
- 3) ISO - the sensitivity of the sensor or film.

How should you set these for waterfall photography? Since the amount of light available can be wildly different depending upon the time of day and amount of shade, the answer is not a simple one, but it can be simplified. Following are some specific details to assist the photographer.

First, Time of Exposure. Since you are photographing a moving object, you need to decide whether to capture an instant or a period of flow. Any exposure longer than a tiny fraction of a second will introduce blur from camera shake. I recommend a tripod for waterfall photography; a small inexpensive one will do just fine and is easier to carry on your daypack. The most pleasing water flow capture, to my eye, is at about 0.3 seconds. This duration provides a sense of flow and structure to the water. A longer duration creates a silkier appearance. Play with this to see what pleases you.

McCord Creek



This image of an unnamed cascade along McCord Creek which requires some off-trail bushwhacking.

Oneonta Falls



This image was taken around noon, the only time sunlight penetrated the canyon. Perfect light is not always the classic morning or late afternoon “golden hours”.

“The waterfall is nature’s laughter”. Unknown

Second, Aperture Size. Aperture size determines how much of the image will be in perfect focus, the depth of field. Early in my photography life I fixated on depth of field. For most waterfall photography: put the camera in aperture priority (Av on the top dial for most cameras), stick to f16, focus on the waterfall, and not worry about it. Most cameras have an exposure compensation meter which, once set, should read close to zero. This is where the ability of a modern digital sensor camera, to vary the ISO setting on the spot, is handy.

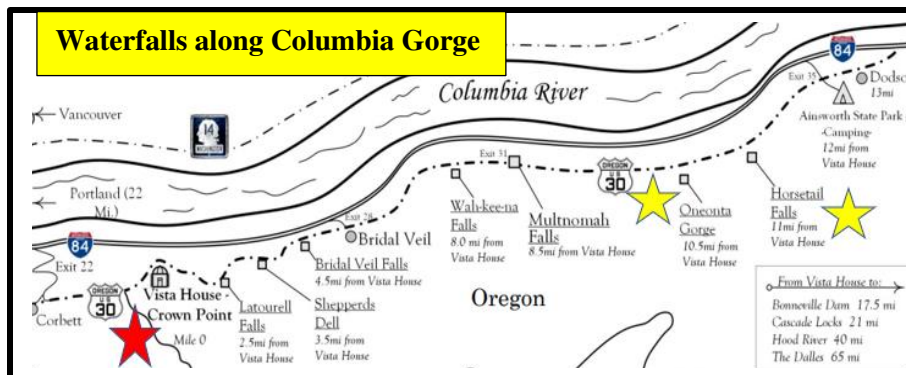
Third, ISO Setting: Once “time and aperture” is decided, play with the ISO setting until the exposure compensation meter (in the viewfinder) says go (zero). Your camera will have a dial that allows you to choose P (program mode), Tv (time mode) Av (aperture mode) or M (manual). Set it to Av and put the aperture at f16. The camera exposure compensation might then (for example) be minus 2 when the time of exposure is 0.3 seconds. In this example, to get an adequate exposure, you would need to increase the ISO number on your camera’s dial. Once you have become familiar with your camera, this will be second nature.

Last of all: comments on lenses and filters. Most cameras, including newer cell phones, come with zoom lens, so start with what you have. The choice to zoom wide or narrow is your decision for composition. Further, I recommend the use of a polarizing filter. Water images look better when glare off the water is reduced or eliminated. A UV filter when you’re not using a polarizer is a good idea just to protect the lens.

Look forward to Part II, Composition in Summer 2023 newsletter. Please post your waterfall or nature photos on our Facebook page: Friends of Vista House.

Photos taken by Daniel Rappaport. Daniel is a retired pediatrician who lives in Corbett. He’s spent much of his free time over the past 40 years hiking and photographing in the Columbia Gorge. His work can be seen at <https://rappaportda.zenfolio.com/>

Tidbit: The Vista House on Crown Point marks the beginning of the "Waterfall Corridor" which features eight waterfalls along the historic highway, including Multnomah Falls.



The flow of the stream captured at 0.3 seconds exposure competes with the falls for the viewer's interest at Dry Creek Falls.



Water images, including waterfalls, is all about flow. Horsetail Falls in winter.

See Page 10/11 for maps to the four waterfalls.

Vista House Library is Open!

Located at 27046 SE Stark Street, Troutdale, OR 9706. Hours are flexible Mon – Fri. Please call or email before coming - Phone: (503) 705-5965 or email director@vistahouse.com.

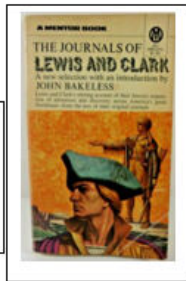
Peggie Guzman, Vista House Librarian, says: “Come visit us and see all you can learn, be entertained by, or just look at pictures of Vista House, Columbia Gorge, or of the beautiful state or Oregon!” Happy reading and learning.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

- How long can you check out books? There are no due dates, however you have a reasonable amount of time as others will want to use the book.
- How many books can you check out? There is no limit however again be reasonable.
- Book are alphabetical by title, with fiction and nonfiction books mixed.
- A check out notebook is on the cabinet for you to sign out what you want.

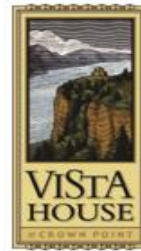
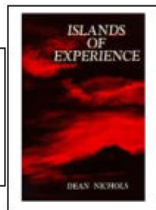
Vista House Librarian Suggestions:

The Journals of Lewis and Clark, a New Selection with an Introduction by John Bakeless (1964) If you have not read the Journals of Lewis and Clark in their entirety, try this paperback "selections" of the journey. It's an older version, but worth the read. The actual words of Lewis and Clark are the best way to get the real story!



Jump off Creek by Molly Gloss. One of my favorite authors. This is a wonderful story of a woman pioneering alone in the wilderness of Eastern Oregon. When she reached the cabin, she had purchased, sight unseen, it was occupied by claim jumpers and in horrible repair. A good view of just what it takes to survive as a pioneer. This made me admire our pioneers even more. Rugged and realistic.

Islands of Experience by Dean Nichols. A book of poetry by tugboat captain, Mr. Nichols. He captained tugboats in the Pacific Northwest. The poems are mostly about Alaska, but any view from a tugboat is extraordinary.



**Vista House Views
Friends of the Vista House**
Published Semi-Annually

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Elections held in March

Executive Director
director@vistahouse.com

Volunteer Opportunities:
Volunteer@vistahouse.com

Newsletter Editor:
Linda J Holden
Lholden627@yahoo.com

Interested in Volunteering?



Do you want to meet lots of people, have special skills, or share in Oregon's history? If so, join our fantastic group - Friends of Vista House (FOVH) volunteers. This group makes Vista House a memorable place to visit and work.

Think of joining us in 2023 and help support Oregon's most beloved and cherished icon.

Volunteer training will be on March 30 or April 8 from 10 AM-Noon. Snacks will be provided.

Details are available upon request: email Volunteer@vistahouse.com or call (503) 344-1368.



Oregon State Parks Corner

Without the Vista House volunteer's commitment of time and energy, Oregon State Parks could not keep the Vista House open to the public. As one of the most iconic buildings in Oregon, Vista House is a testament to the "power of place". Vista House on Crown Point symbolizes the beauty of the Columbia Gorge, and Oregon Parks is proud to partner with Friends of Vista House to provide access to this unique treasure. For more information visit: [Crown Point – Vista House](#)



Vista House on Crown Point Winter @Mitch_Schreiber

The mission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. Visit the OPRD website and see the resources available to you and your family: stateparks.oregon.gov



David Spangler | Park Manager, and Miranda Mendoza, Park Ranger 3

Tidbit: Millions of people drive along I-84 through the Columbia River Gorge and zip right below the famous building atop a cliff near Exit 22. This rocky promontory perched 693 feet above the Columbia River is Crown Point State Scenic Corridor, and the building is Vista House.

Tidbit: Save the date: Vista House will be 105 years old on Friday, May 5, 2023.

Benefits to Friends of Vista House: Link your Fred Meyer Loyalty account to Friends of Vista House, and for every purchase, **Fred Meyer (FM)** will donate to the Friends of Vista House. If you don't have a FM account, you can create one at FredMeyer.com. Then go to My Account -> Community Rewards -> search for "Friends of Vista House" -> Select.



Participants must swipe their FM rewards card or use the phone number related to their FM rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count. Note: Your FM rewards card or registered phone number is linked to the FM loyalty account. Thank you for supporting Friends of Vista House.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE vistahouse.com

New features are continually added.

- See spectacular pictures of the **Vista House (VH)** and gorge at each section.
- Log on and you will immediately see when and if the VH is open.
- Learn interesting historic information on the VH.
- Check Weather Watch for real time updates on temperature and wind at the VH.
- Learn about volunteer opportunities with Friends of VH.
- Make a secure donation.

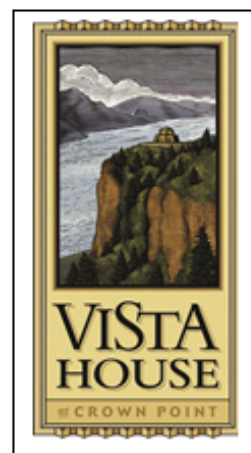
Help support Friends of Vista House (FOVH)

FOVH volunteers contribute thousands of hours annually welcoming visitors and telling the history of the Vista House and its place in Oregon history. FOVH works in partnership with Oregon Parks & Recreation Department to provide educational and interpretive services to the public, and help improve, restore, and maintain Vista House for all to enjoy for generations to come. FOVH is a private non-profit organization with tax exempt status 501(c)(3).

“Help support Oregon's most beloved and cherished icon”.

Your tax-deductible contributions support FOVH educational and volunteer services for Vista House.

Donations can be made by check, credit card, and/or to make a secure donation on-line go to: vistahouse.com.



For check or credit card complete the form below:

Today's Date: _____

____ One time Donation: _____

____ Annual Donation: _____

____ Monthly via credit card: \$ _____ (example \$15.00)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

VISA ~ Mastercard ~ Am Ex: Amount: \$ _____

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: (mm/yy) _____

Security Code (xxx): _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Make out check to: **Friends of Vista House**

Mail form w/check or credit card information to: **Friends of Vista House,
PO Box 204,
Corbett, OR 97019**

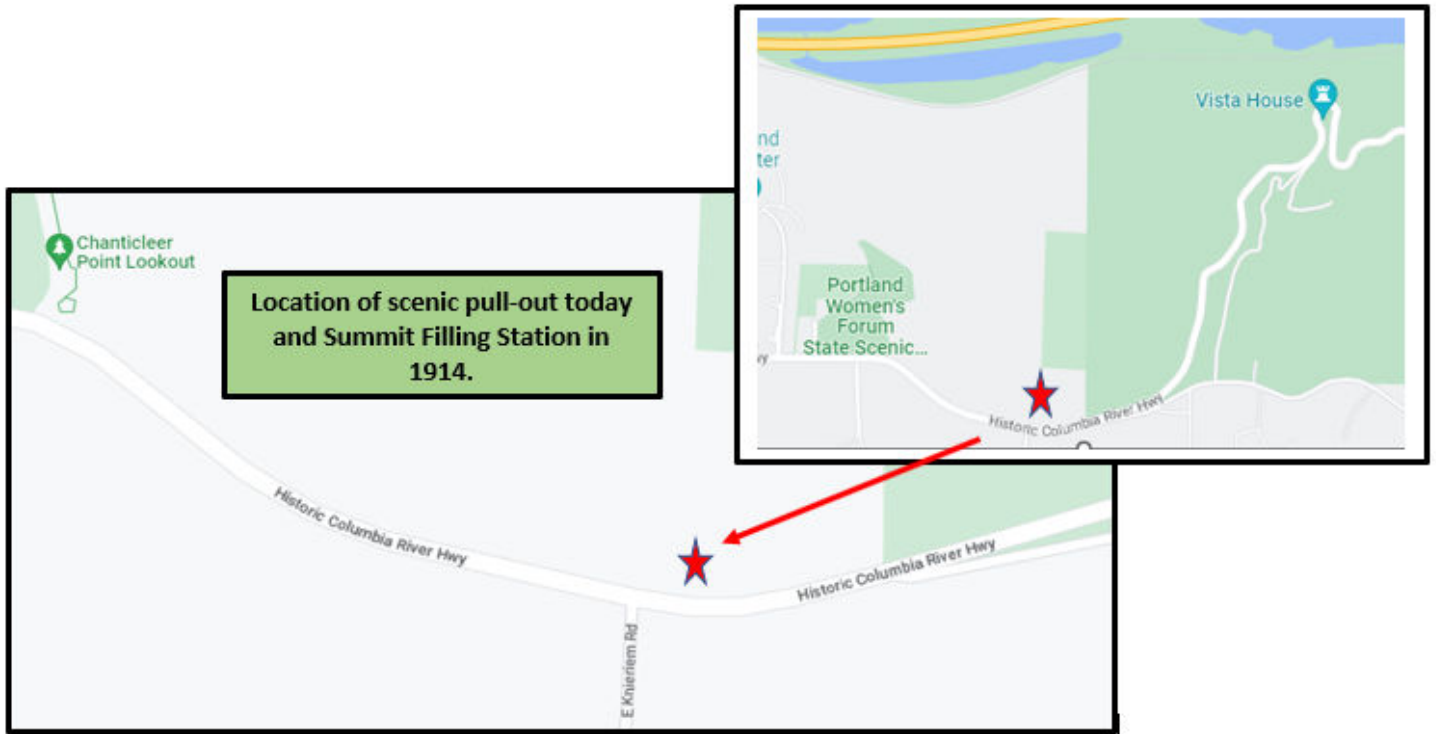
Interested in Volunteering: Call (503) 344-1368 or email: volunteer@vistahouse.com

Follow us on Facebook: Friends of Vista House

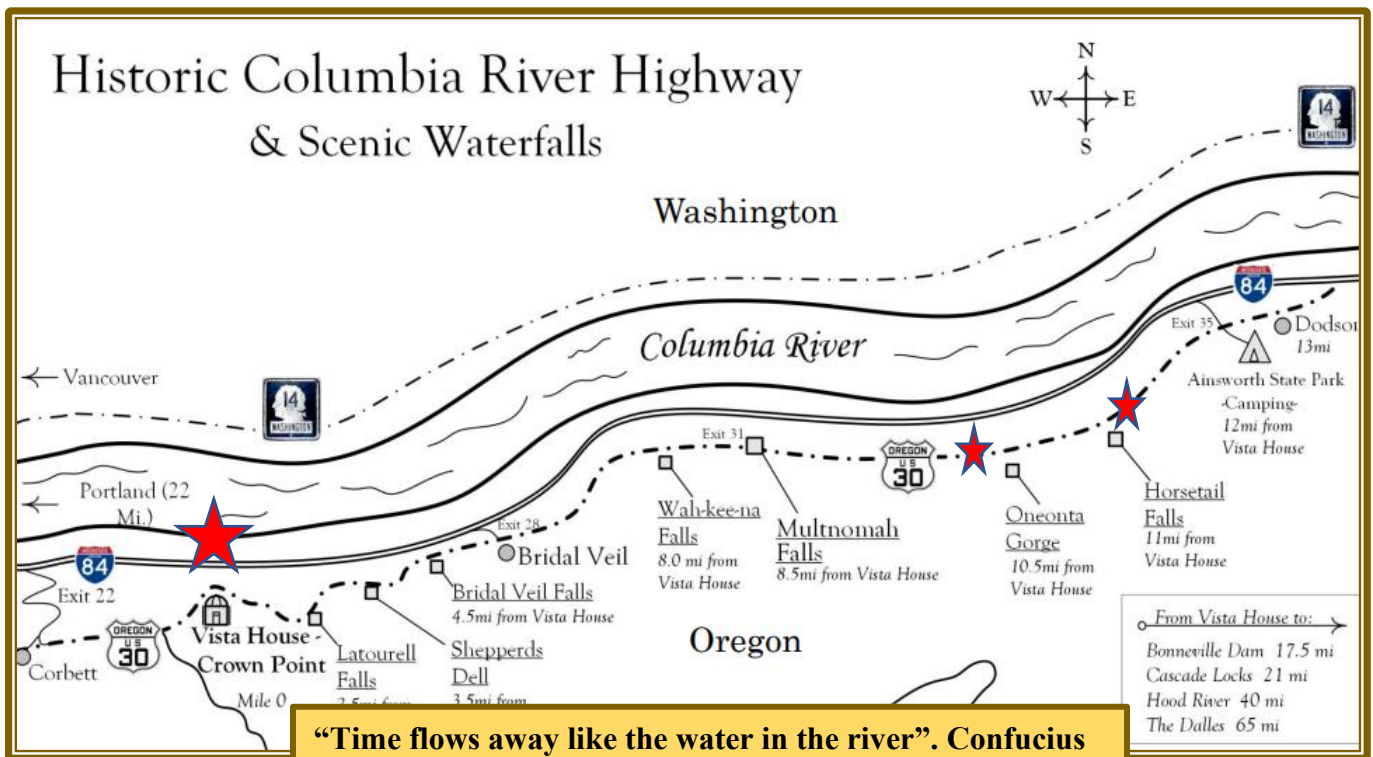
To be removed from our mailing list, send email to director@vistahouse.com.

Summit Filling Station – History – Article on Page 3 & 4

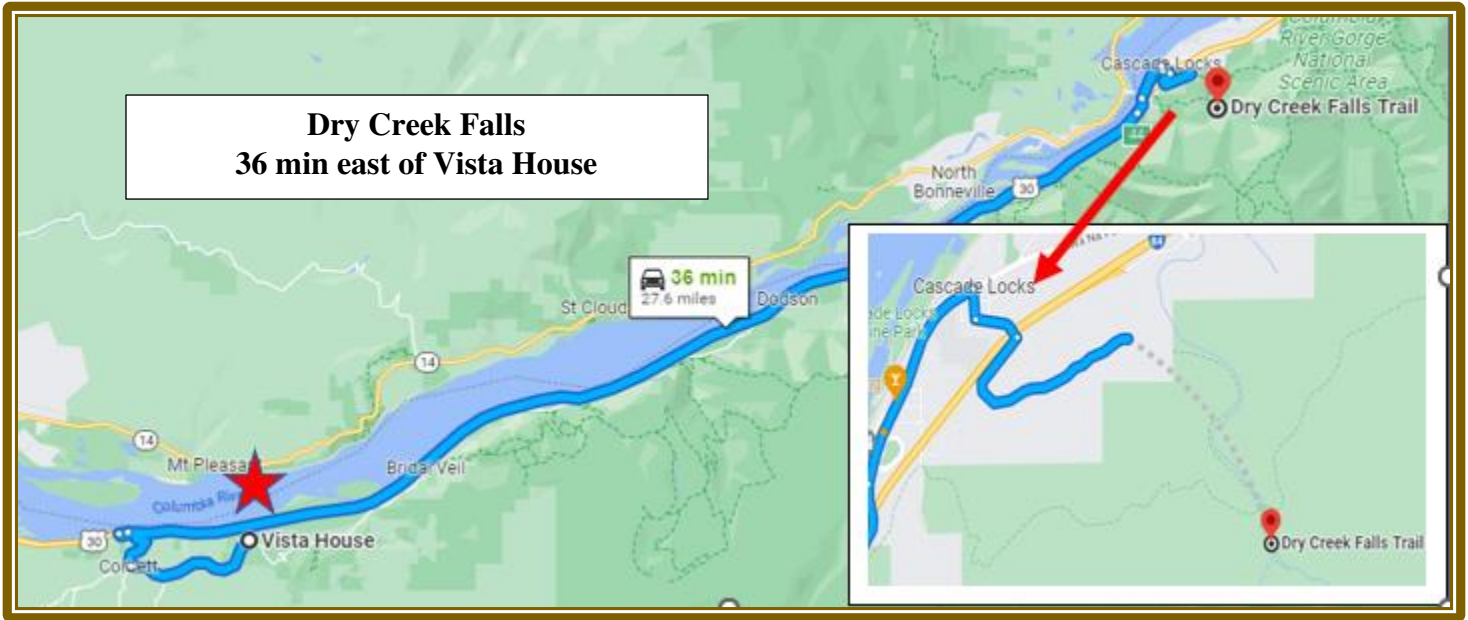
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Photographing Columbia Gorge Waterfalls – Article on Page 5-6



Photographing Columbia Gorge Waterfalls – Article on Page 5-6



“Waterfalls – always on the move”. Unknown