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Dates to Remember

June 16	SciEd Tuesday
June 26	Nordic Walking Potluck
June 27	July Bulletin Deadline
July 1	Board Meeting

Complete current schedules at:

www.obsidians.org or

Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

Summer Schedule

There is no potluck in July and August and no Board meeting in August. The July/August Bulletin will go in the mail July 8. There is not a separate August Bulletin. Any Bulletin submittals that pertain to August and early September activities need to arrive by June 27, the July Bulletin deadline.

A Taste of New Wilderness

Story and Photos by Chris Stockdale

SPRING BASIN AND THE BADLANDS are two Oregon areas recently designated as Wilderness when President Obama signed the 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act on March 30. Thanks to the efforts of numerous organizations and congressional support of Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, as well as Representative Greg Walden, these spectacular parts of Oregon will now be preserved for generations to come.



John Day River valley, Spring Basin

Just a 4-hour drive away from Eugene, Spring Basin is located above the John Day River near the Clarno Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The best way to go is via Madras and then heading east to Antelope (the former domain of the Rajneesh cult followers). A spectacular part of the journey, once you have left Antelope and have driven a few miles up to the top of a ridge is the incredible view of hundreds of hills and deep valleys stretching into the distance.

COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 8,600 ACRES of rolling hills filled with numerous wildflowers in spring, sage brush, native bunchgrass and western junipers, Spring Basin provides habitat for wildlife such as snakes, bobcats, coyotes, cougar, mule deer and elk. It is also a great area for bird watching, as it is frequented by birds such as golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, meadowlarks, chukar and bluebirds.

At the beginning of May, I was fortunate enough to visit and hike in both of these new wilderness areas. My time in the Spring Basin Wilderness was in the company of others from the High Desert Committee of the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. We stayed at the OMSI Hancock Field Station camp where, although accommodated

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Obsidians Promoting the Obsidians



Celebrity Award winner Jim Pierce as he appeared on KVAL

THIS YEAR'S **OBSIDIAN CELEBRITY AWARD** goes to our very own Jim Pierce for his star performance in a news story about hiking. He was on KVAL News on May 11 in a clip titled *Undiscovered Oregon: Brice Creek Trail*. Wearing his Obsidian shirt and carrying his pack with Obsidian patches, Jim guided Laura Rillos to Trestle Creek Falls. If you would like to watch a replay, there is a link on our website or:

www.kval.com/news/local/44751212.html

Jim pulled off another featured performance when his hike to the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River was featured in the *Register Guard's* magazine insert, *Discovery – A Guide to Recreation from the Coast to the Cascades, 2009 edition*. Jim must have talked a bit about the Obsidians and the reporter, Nate Traylor, put it all together just right. The article was very complimentary on noting the variety of Obsidian activities with a focus on climb school, summer camp, bus trips, and potlucks. Nate's comment, "Biking, hiking, skiing, and kayaking: The Obsidians do it all" could not have been better said. The color photo of the 15 smiling hikers sent a welcome invitation to anyone interested in hiking with us this summer. Jim, Summer Trip Chair, would smile even more if a few more mem-

bers would sign up to lead a trip.

In the same insert, the article, "High Cascades Lava Trails Ooze with Raw Beauty" by Chris Cunningham includes an interview with Dan Christensen. Dan offers common sense tips for hiking on lava flows such as needing to pay attention to temperature, have plenty of water, sunglasses, and stay on the trail. Both Dan and Chris are Obsidian members.

Elle Weaver, Publicity Chair

Welcome!

New Members

SOJAK, DARKO (Active)
4105 Eddystone Pl., Eugene 97404
525-1124 darchey@comcast.net

Reinstated Members

BARBER, BRIAN (A)
1950 Parkside Drive, Eugene, OR
97403
684-8743 brikatbarber@comcast.net

OBSIDIANS, INC

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President - Jim Duncan

Vice President - Jim Pierce

Secretary - Laurie Funkhouser

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Wayne Deeter Larry Huff

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Barb Revere

Board meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, except August, at the Obsidian lodge.

Committee Chairpersons

Byways-By-Bus..... Liz Reanier
Climbs Larry Huff
Concessions Kathleen Floyd
Conservation..... Pat Bitner
Entertainment Laurie Funkhouser
Extended Trips Jim Duncan
Finance Stewart Hoeg
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Safety..... Sue Sullivan
Science & Education Joella Ewing
Summer Camp..... Lana Lindstrom
Summer Trips..... Jim Pierce
Trail Maintenance..... Peter Green
Winter Trips Paul Flashenberg
Youth.....

The **OBSIDIAN** *Bulletin*

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Deadline

for July 2009 Bulletin

Saturday, June 27, 2009

Assembly/Mailing Team

For May Bulletin

Assembly & Mail Manager Lou Maenz
Call Manager Vera Woolley
Assembly Team ... Vi Johnson, John & Lenore McManigal, Barb Revere, Janet & Richard Speelman

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff Jean Coberly, Bea Fontana, Janet & John Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, Barb Revere, Beth Roy
Copy Editors.... Jean Coberly & Beth Roy
Graphics, Design & Desktop Publishing Stewart Hoeg & John Jacobsen

Ewart Baldwin ~ 1915 - 2009

EWART DIED ON MAY 2ND, 2009, two weeks short of his 94th birthday, from congestive heart failure and complications of aging.

He was born May 17, 1915 to Augusta and Charles Baldwin, the third of their four children. He was born in a log cabin surrounded by a foot of snow in the foothills of the Blue Mountains south of Pomeroy in southeastern Washington. He graduated from high school in Pomeroy and attended Washington State College where he received a BS and MS in geology. He worked in his family's saw mill and as a copper miner while attending college in the west. In 1940, he headed out to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he worked toward his PhD in geology. While at Cornell, chance brought him together with Margaret Maxwell, an Oregon State graduate, whom he had met briefly when both attended a church camp on the Olympic Peninsula in 1938. They married in October of 1942 and Ewart received his PhD in geology and Margaret completed her work toward an MS in Home Economics. They returned to the west where Ewart took a job with the State of Oregon Department of Geology in 1943, mapping the Coos Bay area coal resources to aid the war effort. He came to the University of Oregon in 1947, teaching a variety of courses related to geology, including paleontology and stratigraphy, until he retired in 1980.

His usual year included teaching three quarters at the U of O followed by a summer working for the United States Geologic Survey, mapping the stratigraphy of southwestern Oregon. This job involved driving back roads and walking up stream beds, looking for places where the sedimentary rock beds were exposed so that he could record the angle and di-



rection of the beds.

Ewart wrote many papers and books, the best known being his *Geology of Oregon* (1959), which he used as a textbook in some of his classes. Not having had enough of a good thing, he taught geology after retirement from the U of O at Whitman College in Walla Walla for a year and a half.

Ewart and Margaret's passion was travel. They went around the world many times as tourists and also with Ewart working as a professor on College Campus Afloat ships. One of the things he loved about geology was taking students on field trips. Ewart corresponded with and heard from former students all through his life. His favorite

form of travel in later years was taking bus trips throughout the west with the Obsidians, telling fellow riders about the history, geography and geology of the scenes outside the bus windows. He was a good friend with a talent for connecting, listening and remembering. He will be missed. His wife Margaret died in 2002. He is survived by his sons: Don (Verna) of Springfield and Neil (Rosemary) of Walnut Creek, and his grandsons: Alan of San Jose and McKenzie of Springfield. - *Register Guard*, May 9, 2009.

Ewart, "Chief Talking Rocks", joined the Obsidians in 1968 and was a life member and president in 1977. He completed 82 hikes, summited 8 peaks, attended 8 summer camps and went on 132 bus trips. "Active on the Bus Trips Committee since 1972, he is one reason our trips are so special," says Liz Reanier, Bus Committee Chair. "Ewart lectures on geology and history wherever we travel. Whether it's the Missoula floods or how a valley or river is formed, he makes it come alive." *Obsidian Bulletin*, May 2005

Remembering Ewart

By Ray Jensen

Editor's Note: Ray Jensen is a former Obsidian Bus Committee Chair who has scouted and led many bus trips, often with Ewart.

DURING THE PAST TWENTY YEARS Ewart and I travelled throughout the Northwest, often over back roads, scouting for Obsidian bus trips. In his home territory, the Palouse country of eastern Washington, we took one of his famous short cuts over Tucannon Pass, a sort of goat trail taken by Lewis and Clark and not heavily travelled since.

In the Upper Clearwater River region in Central Idaho, we began at Weippe Prairie, also important to Lewis and Clark, and headed for Montana. A sign read: "100 miles to

Superior, MT Road open." For the next five hours I saw lots of dusty roads and a couple of pickups – but Ewart said the scenery was awesome.

On another occasion we reached Lemhi Pass, where Lewis and Clark crossed the Continental Divide. But the unimproved access through a private ranch was not suitable for a bus. The next year we took the bus over nearby Bannock Pass as a substitute.

Returning from the Kalmiopsis (Vulcan Peak) Ewart knew of a back road from Humbug State Park, over the hill to the Elk River. This route was more than bad – and became

(Continued on page 7)

A 2nd Pisgah?, Butte Pictures, & Powder Puff Derby

IN MAY WHILE VISITING HIS SON IN VERMONT, **Dan Christensen** hiked a second Mt. Pisgah. Would he be the first Obsidian to hike up two Mt. Pisgahs? I didn't know the answer, but I did look up Mount Pisgah on Wikipedia. The Vermont Mt. Pisgah is located on the east side of Lake Willoughby with an almost mirror reflection of itself on the other side of the lake, which is known as Mount Hor. Together the two mountains are known as "Willoughby Notch." The elevation gain is 1590 ft. to the 2751 ft. summit where there are spectacular lake and mountain views. Oregon's Mt. Pisgah has an elevation gain of 1060 ft up to the 1531 ft. summit. Oregon's Mt. Pisgah was named after the biblical Mount Pisgah, the mountain from which Moses saw the Promised Land for the first time. In Hebrew, Pisgah means a high place or cleft.

There are at least three more Mount Pisgahs in the United States: Mount Pisgah (Massachusetts), in the town of Northborough, Mount Pisgah (Pennsylvania), in the Endless Mountains and Mount Pisgah (North Carolina), along the Blue Ridge Parkway. There is also a Mount Pisgah in the South Shetland Islands in Antarctica. So let us know if you have hiked another Mt. Pisgah. Sorry, there is no award for this feat.

THE LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS would like copies of photos taken of Spencer Butte before 1970. They prefer photos that would show people hiking or on the summit or views from the summit. Contact Jeff Krueger at jkrueger@lcog.org if you have photos to share. Jeff sent me a circa 1900 photo of the grassy ridge summit not yet eroded with trails and with less poison oak than today (see photos on next page). The May 12, 1877 *Eugene City Guard* had an article on Professor Condon's class trip by buggies, horseback, lumber wagons, and on foot to the base of the butte and the struggle up the steep ascent. The first official Obsidian trip to Spencer Butte was reported in the club newsletter, Volume II, Number 1. November 1937: "Bright moonlight lured sixteen Obsidians up the south side of Spencer's Butte on the evening of October 20 for a wiener roast. Cars left Eugene at seven-thirty and by nine the crowd had scaled the peak and was gathered round a bonfire. With wieners, buns, cider and song, the crowd made merry; and "Let's do it again" was heard on all sides."

LEIF BURTON WILL GRADUATE IN JUNE with a degree in sociology from the U of O. His first summer camp was at North Cascades in 2001 where he was in charge of dishwashing. He attended several summer camps where he was the prep cook for the camp cook, his father, Donald Burton. Congratulations, Leif.

THE MAY ISSUE OF THE CHEMEKETAN NEWSLETTER had a memorial article about **Marge Beaman** (1927-2009). I met Marge, Blanch Bailey (her mother) and Natalie Morgan (her sister) at a Princess meeting at the lodge in 1982. The joyous trio shared memories of their climbs of the Three Sisters and sang Obsidian camp songs. Marge's first activity with the Obsidians was the 1949 Summer Camp. She and her husband moved to Salem in 1962 where they became active in the

Chemeketan outdoor club. Natalie and her husband, Boyd, are current Obsidian members.

"SHIRLEY FROYD – Artist and Former Powder Puff Derby Winner" was the title of the feature article in the May issue of *Northwest Senior and Boomer News*. The reporter, Janice Dresser, captures the many facets of Shirley's life. My favorite is: "When the 82-year-old isn't riding her bicycle or hiking with the Obsidians or driving to the gym or to Mt. Pisgah where she volunteers, she walks the quarter mile down the steep gravel road to her mailbox for the exercise." The Powder Puff Derby refers to a competition in 1952 when Shirley and her co-pilot flew their Cessna from California to New Jersey.

It is a fascinating article, and I will post it in the Scherer Room in the lodge by her watercolor painting, *McKenzie River*. There is another painting by Shirley in the lodge but you will have to hunt for that one.

Shirley is well known for her watercolor paintings. Last year, Shirley was one of the six 2008 Honorees for the "Older Americans Active in the Arts." Shirley was a child when she took a class at the Chicago Art Institute. She received an MBA in Commercial Aviation at USC and then earned her living as a flight and ground school instructor at airports and colleges. She also completed an MA in Fine Arts at Cal State. She is a member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon.

Shirley has been an Obsidian since 1982 and has gone on 167 trips and led 50 trips. She is on the Membership Committee and is the "go to" person for nametags. She has been a greeter at the potlucks for many years. She is one of the Friends of Buford Park Monday Morning Regulars who help tear out invasive plants.

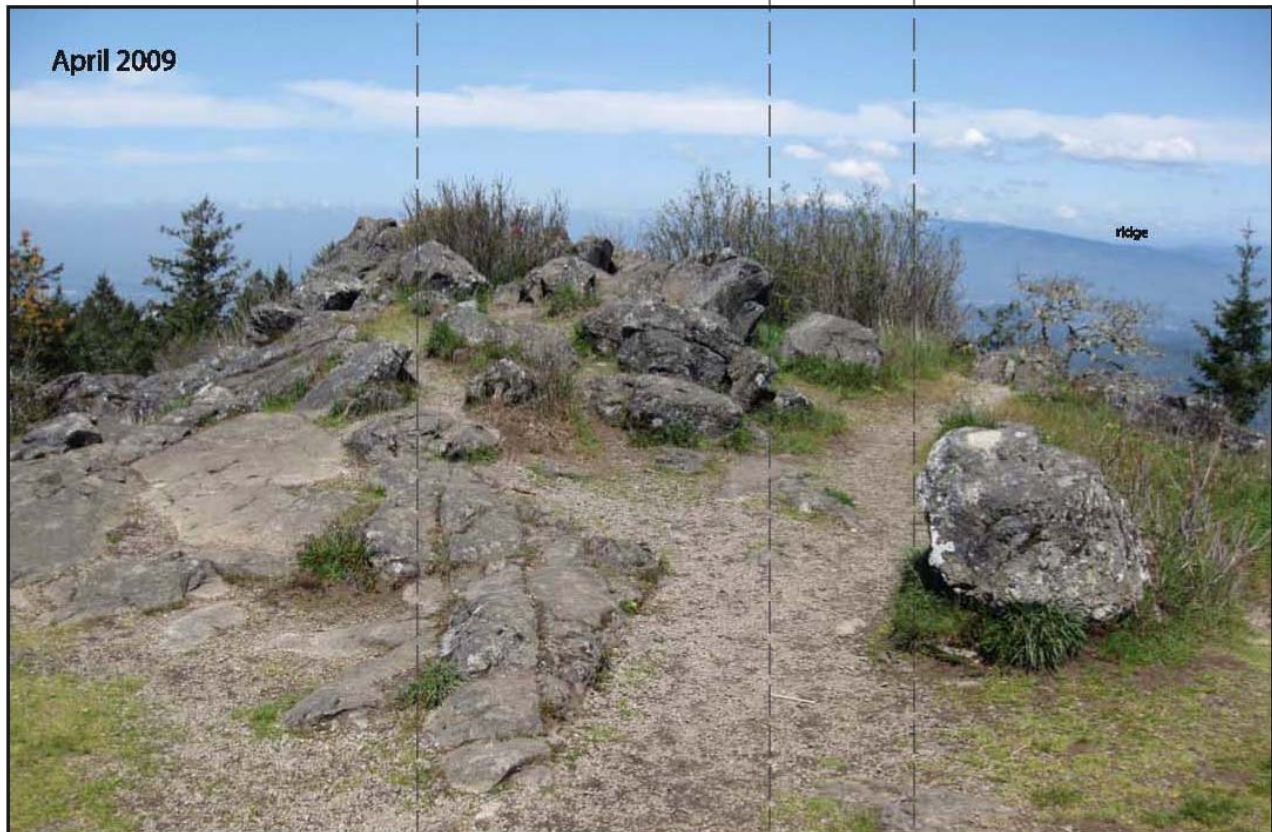
Book Recommendations

Ed Lichtenstein recommends the book, *The Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner, an NPR reporter. The author examines 'happiness' or 'subjective well being' in various, mostly happy, countries he visits, giving a chapter per country including: Thailand, Bhutan, Iceland, Holland, Moldavia (a very unhappy place). Ed said that you get a layperson's summary of some of the new research on happiness and that you can compare Weiner's take on countries to your own experience. The Eugene Public Library has several copies of Weiner's book.

Barb Revere recommends *The Willamette River Field Guide* by Travis Williams, which is available in paperback. It covers the earliest inhabitants' connections between rivers and towns, wildlife, geography, and ecology. Color photographs and historical photographs help tell the story of the 200-mile river. The guide will appeal to those standing on the riverbank as well as to those floating down the river.

The spring edition of FWOC (Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs) newsletter has a review of *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How it Can Renew America* by Thomas L. Friedman. It offers a "deeper grasp of energy issues on a broader global level."

Spencer Butte Summit (looking north from saddle)



JEFF KRUEGER OF THE LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS sent these interesting summit view comparisons of Spencer Butte - see Janet's Jottings on previous page for the rest of the story.

New Wilderness

(Continued from page 1)

tions are fairly basic, we enjoyed meals prepared by a young and friendly staff.



Path inside Flat Iron Rock in the Badlands

Trails in this new wilderness are old jeep tracks, although it is possible to hike off-trail cross-country as the terrain is wide open. Our group of 12 hiked up a gulch that leads to the main ridge of Spring Basin. We explored several different tracks and were delighted to find many hedgehog cacti in full bloom. Other flowers were blooming, and the scent of damp junipers was almost overpowering. The views from the top were stunning, encompassing the John Day River valley (with obvious irrigated farm areas), as well as a panorama of the hills and valleys and distant snow-capped mountains. The one drawback we encountered was areas of “gumbo,” incredibly sticky red mud that within minutes weighs your boots down with literally pounds of the stuff that is hard to shake off. We had had rain the night before, just enough to mix the gumbo to its stickiest consistency.

ALTHOUGH OUR TOTAL MILEAGE for the day was probably no more than 4 or so, we covered enough ground to get a feeling for what this beautiful new area has to offer. While up there, I spotted routes that I want to hike in the future and think that they would appeal to many of my fellow Obsidians. Stay tuned as I’m planning a 3-night trip back here next May, once I can get information on accommodations at Camp Hancock and available dates. (My Sierra Club trip cost \$75, which included 2 nights in a double-occupancy wooden A-frame, two breakfasts, one dinner and fixings for 2 lunches.)

Thanks to heavy rains on Saturday night, we opted not to do the planned hike on Sunday morning as none of us wished to encounter more

gumbo; instead, we spent a delightful hour or so exploring the Clarno Unit of the Fossil Beds.

Unfortunately the weather deteriorated further, but I was able to hike the next day in the Badlands Wilderness just 20 miles east of Bend with a friend who was very active in helping to get this area included in the Wilderness Bill. Although the threatening rain held off until we got back to the car, it was cloudy and so none of the promised views of the Sisters materialized. This is a 46-square-mile area of lava lands, dotted with ancient junipers twisted into every shape imaginable. We walked to Flat Iron Rock, along a trail (more like an old road) that wound through the junipers and outcroppings of strangely shaped lava blocks. Flat Iron Rock is itself an enormous outcrop of lava with trails within its interior. As Bill Sullivan says, this rock resembles a castle with ramparts and natural windows that look out over the surrounding area. Although we saw no wildlife, the Badlands are home to mule deer, lizards and coyotes, as well as bats that inhabit the lava tubes. Besides the junipers, the terrain is dotted with sagebrush, and in the spring, a wide variety of flowers.

THIS IS NOT A PLACE TO HIKE in the summer unless you go really early in the morning since it is a heat trap. You need to carry lots of water and use plenty of sun protection such as hats, long-sleeve shirts and sun block.

If you would like more information on these places as well as other Oregon wilderness areas that are either established or new, check out Bill Sullivan’s latest book *Atlas of Oregon Wilderness*. His timing for publication was perfect as he was able to include these newly designated wildernesses in the book. It is lavishly illustrated with color photos and is a great resource for those who want to explore more of what this state has to offer.



Hedgehog cactus in the Spring Basin



HOW DO YOU DEFINE CONSERVATION?

By Pat Bitner, Conservation Chair

con-ser-va-tion (kan(t)-sur-'va-shun) noun 1, A careful preservation and protection of something; especially: planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect. (*Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*)

IF A RELATIVELY NEW MEMBER ASKED you how are Obsidians involved in conservation how would you respond? Is it basically just trail maintenance or can we define it as something more?

In my mind, conservation involves our best efforts to preserve and conserve the earth and its inhabitants: animal, vegetable and human. There are the obvious conservation projects, such as preserving wilderness like the Wassen Creek Devils' Staircase area and the McKenzie River Trust's restoration of the Willamette's historic riverine wetlands at Green Island. Protecting pristine Waldo Lake's serenity from the noise and fumes from gasoline engines is another of the myriad examples of Oregon efforts to conserve the natural environment.

Expanding from the obvious, we should include recycling as part of our conservation efforts along with conserving the use of energy, electrical, and petrochemical products. It includes converting that expanse of green lawn to plants which require no watering, or, following the example of the First Family - putting in a veggie garden! Conservation begins at home, with each individual who cares about the quality of life on this planet.

Conservation: Looking beyond our immediate desires to the legacy we will leave our grandchildren.



Remembering Ewart

(Continued from page 3)

worse with potholes and mud. I stopped at the brink of a large muddy pool and determined my Subaru would be swallowed up. So we retreated to Route 101 and Ewart said more than once, "If we had just gotten over that last obstacle, we would have reached the destination." Mission not accomplished.

In April 1995, Glenn Meares and Gene Thaxton rode with us for four days into southeast Oregon, visiting Fort Rock, Hole in the Ground, Hart Mountain, The Steens, Diamond Crater, Leslie Gulch, the Painted Hills and more. The highlight was remote Jordan Craters volcanic field, some 25 miles on a rough road with three parallel ruts. Ewart was on a geologic cloud nine in this expanse, examining every crevasse and rock. The storm clouds were visible and it took considerable persuasion to get Ewart to leave. Back on pavement, a trucker could not believe our messy car had been to Jordan Craters.

In the mid 1980's Ewart had mapped the Dallas-Valselt Quadrangle; he thought we should see Warnick Falls, which he had located deep in the Coast Range. The system of BLM and private roads was confusing, but in fact we became lost. After many decades the new second growth forest had changed familiar landmarks. Finally Warnick Falls suddenly appeared in a canyon. Ewart allowed that someone had moved the falls. Harvey Speck and John McManigal were quiet witnesses to all this.

Lastly, we traveled to the Doerner fir, the champion Douglas fir in Oregon. Ewart directed us to a side road and we soon met a pickup with two guys in camouflage suits and painted faces. I thought they were Oregon Militia or maybe we were in a scene from the movie, *Deliverance*. But they were responsible, friendly bow and arrow elk hunters and directed us to our destination.

Ewart was a delightful travel companion. He knew the territory and had friends and acquaintances everywhere. His many stories were colorful and educational, sometimes repeated. These field trips were the very best. Thanks, Ewart, for these wonderful memories.

BOARD NOTES

June 3, 2009

By Laurie Funkhouser, Secretary

President Jim Duncan called meeting to order. Board present: Laurie Funkhouser, Jim Pierce, Marshall Kandell, Barb Revere, Wayne Deeter, Larry Huff, and Stewart Hoeg. Others: Paul Flashenberg, John Jacobsen, Lenore McManigal, Elle Weaver, Joella Ewing, Lana Lindstrom, and Sue Sullivan.

Treasurer's Report: APPROVAL payment of bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Increase Concession Budget: APPROVED motion to increase the Concession Committee Budget overage by \$500.00 due to purchases of more stock.

Membership Committee (Barb Revere): Board APPROVED the applications of one new member. One reinstated member.

Trail Maintenance will be meeting in the late afternoons from 5:30 - 8:00pm on the last Wednesday of the month throughout the summer.

Safety and Summer Camp: Putting together "medical packets" for purchase by members containing individually packaged pain relievers, etc. made up of overstock supplies.

Summer Trips (Jim Pierce): We had 18 trips in May. There were 14 hikes and 4 bike trips. The excellent Leader Training Workshop was held May 7. There were 22 attendees, including 6-8 new leaders.

Winter Trips (Paul Flashenberg): Final report: there were 53 trips on the schedule, all completed.

Climbs (Larry Huff): Three climbs in May, twenty four participated. Fourteen members and ten nonmembers.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Have almost reached our maximum of 75 campers for the 2009 Lassen.

Extended Trips (Jim Duncan): Two extended trips took place in May, both fully subscribed and highly successful: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge led by Marianne Camp, May 8 - 10: 13 members 4 nonmembers and Columbia

Gorge/Menucha led by Lana Lindstrom, May 27 - 29: 17 members, 1 nonmember.

Conservation (Pat Bitner): Margot Fetz is finalizing her Jun. 27 hikes at Ten Mile Creek Audubon and McKenzie River Trust sanctuaries.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): The May 15, 2009 potluck had 65 attendees, including 44 coming to the potluck.

Science and Education (Joella Ewing): Seven people attended the May SciEd about river health and maintenance. Amphibian hike for May 31 cancelled due to no sign ups. Must reevaluate SciEd: Number of meetings per year, types of topics, merging with Conservation.

Membership (Barb Revere): Active Members 469; Associate Members 35; Honorary Members 3; Junior Members 12; Life Members 19; Total Members 538.

Publicity (Elle Weaver): The committee thanks Jim Pierce for highlighting the Obsidians in the Register-Guard's annual Discovery Magazine. Chris Cunningham's article on the High Cascades lava trails included hiking advice from Dan Christensen. Jim was also featured in a news segment following a hike with a KVAL reporter along nearby Brice Creek.

Concessions (Kathleen Floyd): May: No Revenue. \$1036 Expenses. Asked the board to increase the concessions budget to purchase insulated lunch bags, which would be offered at summer camp. The cost would be around \$260.00. Will be updating photos of the merchandise for the website.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All trip reports have been recorded and are up to date.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): A grounds work party was held prior to the May Potluck. Pat Adams and Sam Tracer continue to down, buck and split the firs. Sold another half cord of wood. Got back to working on the rock stair to the rear of the Lodge which is currently usable but not finished.

Safety (Sue Sullivan): The update of all

first aid kits has been completed. The interview of a restricted person was completed, and a summary with recommendation to the board was submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Ad hoc Restriction Consideration Committee: Sue Sullivan presented the report from the Safety Committee concluding with a recommendation. The Board APPROVED (1 opposed; 6 approved) the Committee's recommendation of restricting the participant to urban hikes. A letter to the participant will be sent with the decision as well as understanding that this restriction is not permanent. Leaders will be notified of the alteration.

Nominating Committee for New Board Members: Lana Lindstrom, Janet Jacobsen, Lenore McManigal, Dan Christensen, Wayne Deeter formed the Committee. The considerations for new board members included: commitment, involvement, historical perspective, communication skills, committee involvement, etc. The nominees are: Elle Weaver, Kathy Hoeg and Lyn Gilman-Garrick. The Board ACCEPTED the nominations. Laurie Funkhouser, Jim Duncan and Barb Revere will be ending their terms.

East Ridgeline Trail Community Task Team (John Jacobsen): See the article on following Page.

NEW BUSINESS

Representative at the FWOC Annual Meeting: Traditionally the Obsidians have had a representative at the FWOC Annual Meeting scheduled for August 28 -30 in Spokane, Washington. Postponed further discussion regarding a potential representative will be addressed at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A public workshop regarding the Willamette River is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2009 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the EWEB Training Center.

EMR is developing a class for next year to provide advance leadership training for climbers as a joint effort with Obsidians.

Even More Ridgeline Trail!

By John Jacobsen

THE CITY OF EUGENE Parks and Open Space Division requested that the Obsidians provide a representative for the East Ridgeline Community Task Team. The role of the Task Team will be to provide engaged, informed and focused feedback to city staff by key community organizations with a particular interest in the Ridgeline Park. In turn, the Obsidian Board of Directors, at their May meeting, asked me to represent the club on the Task Team.

The City of Eugene is currently developing a master plan for a large segment of the Ridgeline Park system. In 2008, using funding from the 2006 Parks and Open Space Bond, they purchased 200 acres of land in Southeast Eugene from Arlie & Company for expansion of the Ridgeline Park. This very significant acquisition will enable the existing 12-mile long Ridgeline Trail to extend another several miles eastward to Lane Community College.

Additionally, Arlie & Co. made a commitment to the city that they would donate \$600,000 for improvement of this newly acquired open space upon completion of a Master Plan. This donation will then be made available to fund development, restoration, management, and maintenance priorities as identified in the master plan. A requirement of the purchase agreement is that the master plan be completed by July 1, 2010. In recognition of this significant gift, the City has committed upon receipt of the donation, to name the segment of the Ridgeline Trail through the property as the "Suzanne Arlie Ridgeline Trail Corridor".

ON FRIDAY, MAY 29, we had the first meeting of the task team at which we introduced ourselves, told one another about the organizations/interests that we represent, and learned more about the project. I had assumed that the primary thrust of the 200-acre addition to the Ridgeline Park would be to simply extend the Ridgeline Trail, but soon learned that the possibilities for development are much more than that. Teresa Bishow, Arlie & Co representative, indicated that while they are open to all ideas, they hoped that there could be multiple uses incorporated into the development, in some ways like Hendricks Park where there are both developed areas as well as areas left in a more pristine state.



Photo by Teresa Bishow, Arlie and Company
Enjoying the newly acquired Ridgeline Park acreage.

Other organizations on the task team include Eugene Disc Golf Club, Eugene Parks Foundation, Lane County Audubon Society, Lane County Mountain Bike Association, Native Plant Society of Oregon (Emerald Chapter), Lane Community College, and the City of Eugene, a list which hints at the diversity of the ideas that likely will be brought forth. In addition to development, interests discussed included habitat restoration, preservation and enhancement of native plants and wildlife, trail usage, a disc golf facility and access needs.

DURING JUNE, task team members will make site visits to the 200-acre area. On June 29th there will be a public workshop (see the announcement below) where you can learn more and offer your thoughts. Or, feel free to contact me to discuss this project or offer input: 541-343-8030 or johnwjacobsen@comcast.net. This is an exciting addition to Eugene's already incredible urban outdoor opportunities.

Public Workshop Ridgeline Park Master Plan Development

THE FIRST OF SEVERAL PUBLIC WORKSHOPS to develop a master plan for a 200-acre parcel of the Ridgeline Park is scheduled for Monday, June 29th, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard St, Eugene. A short presentation at 6 will be followed by an opportunity to provide input on trails, recreation, habitat and other topics.

Mark your calendars, and check the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space web page for updates: www.eugene-or.gov/parks

For more information contact:

Philip Richardson, Landscape Architect
City of Eugene, Parks and Open Space Division
philip.s.richardson@ci.eugene.or.us

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Bike Trips

McKenzie View/Bottom Loop

May 10, 2009

Leader: Guy Strahon

31 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

ON A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY three Obsidians went on a nice 31-mile bicycle ride. George Jobanek, Judy Terry and Guy Strahon (leader) left Bertha Holt Elementary School and crossed over I-5 on the new bicycle bridge. We then went out Game Farm Road to McKenzie View. And what a view: beautiful flowers, blue sky, great river and very few cars. We ate lunch in Coburg at the Wind-up Bird House Restaurant and then rode the Bottom Loop. A lovely day of riding was enjoyed by members George Jobanek, Guy Strahon and Judith Terry.

Marcola/Brownsville Loop

May 16, 2009

Leader: Sharon Ritchie and Lyn Gilman-Garrick

63 miles, 500 ft. (Difficult)

MOTHER NATURE CERTAINLY PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS TODAY - what an incredibly perfect day for a bike ride. We passed by forests, creeks, rivers, rolling meadows as far as the eye could see, and small towns. The last thing I saw were lambs "gamboling" in grass taller than the lambs. The way their heads kept popping up above the grass, it was though they had bed-springs on their feet. My most sincere appreciation to my co-leader, Lyn Gilman-Garrick. Without her, this ride just wouldn't have happened. Also thanks go to a great group of people who dared to join us on this rather long adventure (63 miles!): Paul Garrick, Barb Bruns, George Jobanek, Darrell McBee, Royal Murdock, Bill Aspegren, Joyce Sanders, Stewart Hoeg and Pam Morris - all members.



Hikes

Finley Wildlife Refuge

April 4, 2009

Leader: Rick Ahrens

3 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

OUR BIRDING GROUP enjoyed the annual Finley Wildlife Refuge hike in search of dusky Canada geese. These specific Canada geese have limited summer and winter ranges. As they spend their winters in the Willamette Valley, the refuge was designed to provide sufficient food and a safe winter sanctuary. The geese then return to nest along Alaska's Copper River Delta.

McFadden Marsh was our first stop followed by the Mill Pond Loop. Along the way we enjoyed the sprinkling of wildflowers. Members: Rick Ahrens, Denise Butler, Pat Esch, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Sachiko Iwasaki, Ray Jensen, Margaret Prentice, Rich Romm and Chris Shuraleff; nonmembers: Kyla Bussey, Jerry Hawn and Mary Mori.

Hendricks Park

April 28, 2009

Leader: Marshall Kandell

3 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

DESPITE SOME CONFUSION ON THE SCHEDULE and a chilly, drippy morning, six of us set out to try and not get lost in Hendricks Park. We only partially succeeded. Once again, the official park trail map left a few things to be desired. Getting lost in Hendricks Park, however, can still be a pleasure...especially when the wildflowers are blooming. With Joan Abel assisting mightily with the navigation and Margaret Prentice spotting (and identifying!) the wildflowers, we were in good hands. Margaret says we saw trillium (some turning pink with age), fringe cup, false Solomon's seal, a small field filled with blue camas, fairy bells, oxalis (looking like a shamrock), bleeding hearts, shooting stars and a fritillary. The false Solomon's seal exuded a heady perfume, while another odd flower was nicknamed old lady's dish rag for its rather unpleasant aroma. Also on the hike were Yuan Hopkins, Marshall Kandell and nonmembers Ruth Frantz (of Dayton, OH, in town visiting her daughter) and Kathy Koelling. Some said the distance hiked was closer to 2 to 2 1/2 miles. A tour of the rhody gardens afterwards probably counts toward the estimated total. Members: Joan Abel, Yuan Hopkins, Marshall Kandell and Margaret Prentice; nonmembers: Ruth Frantz and Kathy Koelling.

Little North Santiam

April 28, 2009

Leader: Dan Christensen

9 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

WATERFALLS, A RUSHING RIVER containing deep green pools plus an interesting rock column, heavy forest canopy, flower displays of trillium, fawn lilies and calypso orchids and a steady, light rain were all present on this moderate hike. Henline Falls is an especially attractive waterfall spilling into the river off of Henline Mountain across the river from the trail. This outing marked my annual spring Obsidian trek into the North Santiam River drainage. Further upriver the better known but no more beautiful Opal Creek empties into the North Santiam. The trail follows the North Santiam, sometimes just above the river and other times out of sight. Nearly all of the elevation gain occurs in crossing a ridge which bisects the trail. Otherwise, the trail is largely flat, winding through a beautiful Douglas fir/hemlock forest with lots of ferns and moss in abundance. The trail is in excellent condition with footbridges across all but one of the feeder streams. Our "rain-slickered" group of five, including Obsidians Janet Jacobsen and Lamonte Smith (making return trips), myself, and first timers (nonmembers) Lisa Corbett and Debbie Kreuzpeintner had a wonderful day together!

Ridgeline Trail

May 1, 2009

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

6.2 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A WARM, SUNNY DAY for the five of us starting up the Ridgeline Trail at 9:15. We enjoyed the copious displays of calypso, the pink pollinated trillium, fading fawn lilies, and shooting stars. By noon, we were enjoying our snacks while sitting at the bench on the top of Mt. Baldy. Thanks to John Jacobsen who chauffeured the car shuttle. Members: Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Barb Revere, Susan Sanazaro and Eleanor Wilkerson.

Old Baldy/Coburg Hills

May 2, 2009

Leader: Gary Kirk

6 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

IF YOU DECIDE TO LEAD A HIKE IN MAY OR JUNE when the wildflowers are the most active, you take a chance on rain. So while it looked promising as we drove out McKenzie View road to park, you never know. Soon our eager group was assembled, heard the short talk about the special permission to hike, and our responsibility to respect the area and not bring up others. We headed up McKenzie View Road to the gate that leads up to The East Caves, went over the gate and up to view the cliffs where a lot of rock climbing has been done. Going slowly up the trail of many steps, through the climbing rock area, we made it to the large moss/grass overlook to view the valley and the healing power of the RiverBend Hospital. The weather was looking better, the pollen count was down, and we were heading upward. Then Oregon mist started, followed by drips, falling fog, liquid sunshine, heavy dew, drizzle, sprinkles, sun, real rain, streaks of sun, precipitation, all in all a typical Oregon spring day. But the happy hikers wandered through the wet grass with smiles, and with positive comments about the views all around us. The hike is about 25% cross-country, consisting of deer trails, cow trails, man-made trails, and even a stretch of the old Coburg-Marcola Wagon Road which has been graveled. We reached the steep part of the hike, had a short lesson about the "rest step," and then slowly headed toward the summit of Old Baldy. Problem was, the low clouds had also headed toward the summit. With no views, slight rain, and a bit of a breeze, we wandered off to the north into the old growth firs and found a nice spot for lunch. I was sorry we missed the views, because so many places the Obsidians hike to are normally visible from the top. After lunch we headed on down through the Butterfly Flyway, which the Nature Conservancy has made by removing some of the young firs, and which is also part of the Oak Savannah restoration efforts. Then we went down into the large wetland meadow below, angling over to a new way to return to where we parked. While I knew where I was, I had not ever been this way before, so it was basically "pick the easiest way to go." We did cross one creek four times, but at no time did I hear any mutiny muttering behind. What a super group of hikers to lead. We ended up on the lower trail, and then went up the trail and over to a nice outlook clearing for some views. After that it was down to "The Whale," a very large rock where hundreds of Obsidians used to learn the fundamentals of rock climbing every spring. Then we followed the trail down though Buck Pasture to finish at the parking area. Tom Happy reported that the count was right, so nobody fell into the creek. I thanked one and all for making the hike a fun one, and soon everyone was heading down to the

McKenzie View Road and home. I locked the gate, and turned toward my pickup which was parked across the road. I almost did not make it to the pickup, as I did not have a life vest on. The gully washer of all gully washers opened up, and so I jumped into the pickup and waited it out, because I knew my wipers could not keep up with it. Sure glad it had waited until we had completed the hike. Members: Joan Abel, Brian Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Carolyn Higgins, Cork Higgins, Stewart Hoeg, Gary Kirk and Moshe Rapaport; nonmembers: Neil Cawood, Alan Cohn, Tom Happy, James Kiley and Lauren Tuchmon.

Elijah Bristow State Park

May 3, 2009

Leader: Barb Revere

6 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

THIS EVENING WALK UNDER THREATENING SKIES was a winner: very close to town, varied terrain, dry until the last 15 minutes, and the trail hugs the beautiful Middle Fork of the Willamette River. The flowers are plentiful near the waterways, but scarce in the meadows. We had to content ourselves with a huge field of blue camas on the side of the highway near Pleasant Hill. After starting on the Elk Trail, we did about three miles of the River Trail, then stood at a trail junction trying to decide if we would go on towards Dexter Dam, or return. The clouds burst overhead and we returned to the cars. The rain slowed to the usual Willamette Valley soft drizzle and all wanted more hiking, so we took the Turtle Trail and found it was the loveliest little trail in Bristow. It follows a backwater area and we found a big pond of yellow lily pads that was stunning in the now calm evening. There were no frogs or turtles; they, with the birds, were waiting for sun. We were out of the park by 7:15 pm, a quarter of an hour ahead of the 7:30 pm closing. This is a nice place for a spur-of-the-moment stroll, and one of the State Park system's no-fee parks. In wet weather, expect some mud wallows -- this park accommodates hikers, bikes and horses. The water was high due to recent rains and portions were under water and had to be hopped. My thanks go to Joanne Ledet for driving and to Pat Esch for helping me pick up trash, scarce though it was. Members: Pat Esch, Joanne Ledet, Lou Maenz, Moshe Rapaport, Barb Revere and Ruth Romoser.

Spencer Butte

May 5, 2009

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

6.4 miles, 1,800 ft. (Moderate)

THE FORECAST FOR SHOWERS WAS ACCURATE! We enjoyed blooming dogwood trees and the sounds of rippling water on the Amazon Headwaters Trail. The fairy bells, bleeding hearts, and shooting stars upstaged the fading trillium, fawn lilies, and calypsos. Thanks to Pat Esch, Lynne Moody, and Ruth Romoser who made the wet 3 ½ hour hike so enjoyable. Members: Pat Esch, Janet Jacobsen, Lynne Moody and Ruth Romoser.

Trestle Creek Falls

May 9, 2009

Leader: Judith Terry

3.7 miles, 1,000 ft. (Easy)

TRESTLE CREEK FALLS was hiked by Nate Thompson, Lauren Tuarman, Guy Strahon, and Judith Terry (leader). We parked at Lund Park and hiked the steeper switchback section of the loop

first. The falls were abundant with water on this lovely warm day, but there were very few wildflowers. Lunch was enjoyed approximately 30 minutes after viewing the falls at benches that had been constructed. Then we hiked the final portion of the loop and back to the car. Members: Guy Strahon and Judith Terry; nonmembers: Nate Thompson and Lauren Tuarman.

North Bank Deer Preserve

May 10, 2009

Leader: Chris Stockdale

Photographer: Jim Pierce

8 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

GORGEOUS WEATHER, COLORFUL WILDFLOWERS, wonderful scenery and a congenial group of hikers—what more could an Obsidian want? Six members had that experience on Sunday, May 10, when they headed for the North Bank Deer Preserve just north of Roseburg. Following old jeep trails the whole way, the route starts uphill through an oak forest (with plenty of the poison variety) and then leads into open meadows with views back to the North Umpqua and up to the ridgeline. Even when the ridgeline is reached, hiking gets no easier since there are still plenty more steep hills to climb and descend. Lunch was at a great viewpoint, overlooking the river and the North Umpqua basin. From there we continued along the ridge before heading back down through woods with thousands of wild iris and a magnificent old madrone tree. Some of the trails are now sporting brand-new trail signs, although not at the junctions where it is really easy to go wrong. Obsidians Lynda Christiansen, Paul Flashenberg, Janet Jacobsen, Sue Meyers, and Daphne James joined leader Chris Stockdale on this hike.

Belknap Resort/McKenzie River Trail

May 12, 2009

Leader: Barb Revere

8 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY! But it didn't -- and so we had to enjoy it: while we bused up the highway; while we walked; while we ate lunch; while we soaked in the luxurious warm water; while we toured the gardens and while we rushed back to the ranger station and the bus ride home. Mother Nature dealt precious few portions of sunshine for our trip. We had a grand time anyway. My thanks to good friend and good sport Nancy Whitfield for coming on the trip. Members: Barb Revere and Nancy Whitfield.

Heceta Head Lighthouse

May 16, 2009

Leader: Pat Soussan

7 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

THE WEATHER FOR OUR HECETA HEAD HIKE could not have been more perfect: sunshine and blue skies were with us all day.



Hiking the ridges of the North Bank Deer Preserve

Our group of 11 enthusiastic and congenial hikers left Washburne State Park and crossed Highway 101 to walk the forested China Creek Trail. The Heceta Head Trail offered outstanding views of the coastline to the north and were admired by everyone. Our lunch stop at Heceta Head Lighthouse gave us views south and everyone found a sunny spot to relax and eat their lunch. The last leg of our hike was the 2-mile walk along the beach back to our cars. The wide, open expanse of sandy beach was quite a contrast to our first leg of the trip in the forest. There was no need for a single line of hikers but instead we could all spread out under the cloudless sky. The participants, including seven Obsidian members Sue Meyers, Lamonte Smith, Julie Dorland, Peggy Windle, Cork and Carolyn Higgins and Moshe Rapaport; and visiting California nonmembers Matt McBride, Geri Thomas and Jim McLaughlin, really enjoyed the cool, green, moss-covered forest.

CASA Walk

May 16, 2009

Leader: Jane Allen

5 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

ON A BRIGHT SUNNY MORNING, we met at Marist High School for the annual CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) fundraiser run/walk event. Positioned on the track, we waited for the signal to start. The runners took off first, followed by the walkers as we headed out to the Willamette River bike path. The path was crowded at first. We took a moderate pace, squeezing around the slower walkers. The crowding lessened after the one-mile mark where many turned around to head back to the school. Along the way, we saw many wild lupines and geese with their little broods. We passed by the turtle pond but saw no turtles. Margaret noted that the logs which turtles occupy were still submerged in high water. There were fewer and fewer walkers as

we continued, but attendants were posted at many points to guide us in the right direction. We crossed the river to loop in the direction of the Owosso footbridge, then circled back towards the school. As we neared the track, it appeared deserted and we considered we might be the tail end of the procession. Nevertheless, when we reached the official finish line, our names were announced on the loudspeaker celebrating our return. We were then provided with some very nice refreshments. Our champions for children included members Margaret Prentice, Sharon Duncan, Jim Duncan (who is an active special advocate), and Jane Allen, trip leader.

Brice Creek

May 17, 2009

Leader: Joanne Ledet

8.5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

WE HAD AN ABSOLUTELY PERFECT DAY for hiking the 8.5-mile trail along Brice Creek. The sky was clear blue, the temperature ideal, and the rushing water was sparkling like diamonds. The hike started at the upper trailhead and after a steep one-mile climb we arrived at the Upper Trestle Creek Falls. We paused to enjoy the beauty of the falls before walking behind the falls and continuing with our hike. We stopped for lunch on a rock outcropping beside the creek. For lunchtime entertainment we enjoyed watching the fascination some small blue butterflies had with Moshe's hat. After lunch some of us chose to take a short hike to Lower Trestle Creek Falls. We were able to cross the creek on trees that had fallen during the winter and walk close to the base of the falls, something I had not done before. We all continued down the trail, enjoying the remaining wildflowers as we walked. We were surprised to see a patch of fawn lilies still in bloom, and were also rewarded with sightings of trillium, bleeding hearts, fairy slippers, and white iris. After shuttling our cars and driving back to Eugene, we arrived at South Eugene H.S. parking lot at 5 pm. Enjoying a great hike were members Daniele Delaby, Yuan Hopkins, Joanne Ledet, Judy Ness, Moshe Rapaport, Barbara Schomaker, Eleanor Wilkerson, Sue Wolling, and former member David Compton.

Horse Rock

May 21, 2009

Leader and Photographer: Lana Lindstrom

4 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

CARPETS OF COLORFUL FLOWERS - rosy plectritis, monkeyflowers, delphinium, shooting stars, calypso orchids, fawn lilies, fleabane and many, many more make this Coburg Hills hike a feast for the eyes. And the weather and company were perfect. Enjoying a spectacular day were members Walt Dolliver, Pat Esch, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Yuan Hopkins, Sandra Larsen, Lana Lindstrom, Sue Meyers, Anne Mont-

gomery, Margaret Prentice, Bonnie Richman, and Eleanor Wilkerson; and nonmembers Kathy Koelling and Darko Sojak.



SciEd Tuesday

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

May 20, 2009

Presented by: Eric Moberly

Reviewed by: By Joella Ewing

THE OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT (ODFW) is involved in riparian restoration and, in some cases, more expensive in-stream restoration in the Upper Willamette Basin to protect and enhance native fish populations. The Cougar Reservoir temperature control tower is an extreme example of measures used to restore endangered fish species.

Dams in this area are too high for fish migration; staff and volunteers must transport fish upstream around dams for spawning and then downstream of the dams for wild runs to the ocean where the young mature before returning to spawn. These efforts have reestablished bull trout in the Middle Fork of the Willamette.

Volunteers are always welcome to join May's SciEd presenter, ODFW biologist Eric Moberly, in collecting information in fish surveys, trapping fish for transport, habitat surveys, riparian restoration, high lakes stocking and more. Call the ODFW at 726-3515 for more information.



A beautiful day at Horse Rock



Climbs

Diamond Peak Ski-Climb

May 16, 2009

Leader: Brian Hamilton Photo: Roy McCormick

6.5 miles, 4,060 ft. (A)

THIS TRIP BEGAN WITH THE PLEASANT SURPRISE of discovering that we could drive to within a couple hundred yards of the Pioneer Gulch trailhead before being stopped by lingering snow banks. We strapped our skis onto our packs and started hiking through the forest at 7:45. We were able to skin up and begin skiing after hiking almost a mile. The sky was clear and the air temperature climbed from 55 degrees to almost 80, so a few stops were necessary to shed layers of clothing. This was the kind of day where sun reflecting off the snow found any spots of exposed skin that we missed with sunscreen and a few of us wished we had brought more than the recommended two liters of water! One climber was feeling under the weather, so he stopped in some shade on the ridge at 7,400 feet elevation below the false summit. Fortunately, he was in a good position to see the open bowl above and watch the rest of us descend from the top. Several climbers selected their downhill run about halfway between the false summit and true summit, while Dave, Megan,

and Brian continued ascending the remaining 300 feet to begin their descent. Skiing the open slopes was a blast! The snow was a good “spring corn,” but it changed to “mashed potatoes” the lower we got. After meeting up on the southwest ridge, we followed the “buddy system” for the descent through the trees. Those with similar skiing skills paired up so that we could keep track of each other as we carved down the slopes, or in the case of less experienced skiers, traversed back-and-forth, trying to stay out of tree wells. We made it back to the trailhead by 5:30, looking forward to the next time! Climbers were nonmember Terry Kneen and Obsidians Chrissy Anderson, Megan Henning, Roy McCormick, Gordon Sayre, Dave Jensen, Larry Huff (assistant leader), and Brian Hamilton (leader.)



Peter, Monica, Matt, Janet & Jason building barriers.



Trail Maintenance

Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance

May 27, 2009

Leader: Peter Green Photo: Christer Labrecque

IT WAS A GORGEOUS EVENING to meet up with enthusiastic people to help build two fence sections on the steep Spencer Butte Trail. Everyone got to help carry the fence posts up to the first eroded cut. We used the powered wheel barrows to carry the gravel. With some digging, shoveling, and pounding, the fences soon defined the “real” trail. The next step was to haul old branches and logs to cover the eroded area. At 8:00 pm we started down the trail with high hopes that our work would stand the test of the hikers who storm the butte. First timer David Lawrence, a U of O student, said it was lots of fun to be outdoors working on such a worthwhile project. Other volunteers were Matt Bell, Peter Green and his wife Monica, Janet Jacobsen, Katie O’Neal along with city staff members Jason Morrow and Christer Labrecque. The next Trail Maintenance will probably be the last Wednesday in June from 5:30-8:00. Members: Matt Bell, Peter Green and Janet Jacobsen; nonmembers: Monica Green, Christer Labrecque, David Lawrence, Jason Morrow and Katie O’Neal.

Extended Trips:

Malheur: For the Birds

Story by Marianne Camp and Photos by Beth Kodama

I AM ALWAYS AMAZED at the beauty that exists in Oregon. If you have never been to eastern Oregon you must put it on your short list of places to visit. The Malheur National Refuge in the spring holds many wonders. We are very fortunate to have it so close to home.

This year's trip was attended by 17 people. Some had never been to this area and others had never stayed at the Frenchglen Hotel. I was told by one member that she had wanted to do this trip for over 30 years. What fun it was to share this first time experience together.

The weather was absolutely beautiful. How lucky we felt to have a sunny warm weekend. With Rick Ahrens as our resident naturalist there were approximately 100 species of birds sighted and numerous unconfirmed sightings of a river otter. My personal favorite was the golden eagle sitting on her nest. Some in the group felt that since it was Mother's Day it was probably the male as he was letting her have the day off.

The weekend started on Friday with each car load traveling on their separate journeys. We met that evening for dinner at the hotel and enjoyed good food and pleasant company. An evening walk afterwards was enjoyed by all. Just



imagine the full moon rising over the snow covered Steens Mountain and you'll have an idea of what we experienced.

Saturday was spent along the central road, stopping at various ponds along the way. Lunch at Benson Ponds provided shade trees and a little baby horned owl resting in its nest. The adult horned owl was not far away. We observed an oriole on the same branch as the great horned owl. Size did not seem to matter to the oriole as it was staring at the owl like it was saying "don't mess with me". We saw numerous baby owls as it was early enough in the spring to see them in their nests. One such sitting was only a short walk from the hotel.

Sunday was a shared breakfast and farewell to all as each car set out on its separate trip home. Thanks to all in the group who contributed to a wonderful weekend. Members: Ken and Beth Kodama, Jim and Sharon Duncan, Elle Weaver, Pat Adams, Ethel Weltman, Pat Soussan, Beth Roy, Julie Dorland, Pat Bitner, Rick Ahrens and Marianne Camp. Non-members: Donald Burton, Richard Marcus, David Webb and Mary Moffit.



UPCOMING

Conservation Committee:

Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary - Special Hikes - June 27

AS A FOLLOW UP TO THE SCI^{ED} TUESDAY program about McKenzie River Trust projects, Margot Fetz and the conservation committee have arranged for two hikes in coastal areas described in Joe Molle's April 21 presentation. Obsidians will have a rare opportunity to walk the restoration site at the Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary on June 27 when two Obsidian Conservation hikes will be led by Paul Engelmeyer, Audubon's Sanctuary manager and a McKenzie trust representative. Neither property is usually open to the public.

Carpools for both hikes will leave from Lowe's parking lot on West 11th in Eugene at 8 a.m. Both hikes start from the Cape Perpetua Visitor Information Center, where Paul will introduce the properties. At the Ten Mile area Paul will show us the research and restoration projects, and we'll see some beautiful old growth forests. The shorter walk is the Ten Mile Interpretive Trail, which is one mile with no elevation gain. People signed up for this hike will then be free to visit the beach, take other short hikes, or return to Eugene. The longer hike is Gwynn Creek, which is six miles with 1000 ft. elevation gain.



Upcoming Bus Trips

REMNANTS OF THE AURORA COLONY

Date: Tuesday, June 23

Leaders: Mary Ellen West, Liz Reanier

Cost: \$38 - Members, \$40 - Non-Members

Reservations & checks to Verna Kocken - 736-5180

AURORA IS THE SITE OF THE AURORA COLONY which was founded by Dr. Wilhelm Keil, who moved from Bothel, Missouri to Oregon in the 1850's to establish a Christian community. There are many buildings, a cabin, a barn, a garden and an ox barn. Bring a sack lunch. We will stop at Bauman Farms (circa 1896) in Woodburn on the way home.

ST. PAUL RODEO

Date: Saturday, July 4, 2009

Leaders: Barbara and Paul Beard

Cost: \$45 - members, \$47 - non-members

Reservations & checks to: Verna Kocken, 736-5180

MAKE THIS 4TH OF JULY ONE TO REMEMBER at one of the best rodeos in Oregon. Share in the fanfare of flags flying, cowboys and cowgirls, bull riding, bronco horses, a great BBQ and grandstand seats in the shade. Loading starts at 9am at Shopko, leave at 9:30. Lunch is on your own at the rodeo.

NEWBURG AND HERBERT HOOVER HOME

Date: Thursday, August 27

Leaders: Verna Kocken, Liz Reanier

Cost: \$38 members, \$40 Non-members

Reservations & checks to Barbara Flanders 747-9803

LET'S VISIT NEWBURG. Leave from Shopko at 8am, then stop at Bellfountain Park for a coffee break. We then visit the Lafayette Schoolhouse Antique Mall. On to Camp Tillicum for lunch. Camp Tillicum is sponsored by George Fox Uni-



FWOC

77th Annual Conference

Conservation Challenges &
Opportunities in An Uncertain Economy
Spokane, Washington, August 28-30, 2009

THE HOBNAILERS, THE SPOKANE HIKING CLUB, will host the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs annual conference. The meeting site is the Japanese Cultural Center, situated on the 90-acre forested grounds of historic Fort Wright. The Centennial Trail transveres the property. Conservation presentations will include the Centennial Trail, Northwest Inland Land Trust, Conservation Futures project, water issues in the Columbia River basin and funding for national parks, monuments, forest and wilderness. The conference package is \$100.00 for 3 meals, social hours and lodging in two person rooms. Conference package without lodging is \$50.00. See the website www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org for more information and for the registration form. Shirley Cameron has been the Obsidian representative at many of these conferences. If you have other questions, contact her at 942-5470.

versity and is used in part as an Elderhostel. There we can see the local school house which is celebrating its 100th year. Then to George Fox University for a tour of the campus to learn the history of this Quaker settlement. We will proceed to the Dr. Henry J. Minthorn House, Herbert Hoover's home for several years.

Hike, Bike...and Eat!

Mon., June 15 – Tamolitch Pool—Sahalie Falls – Hike, moderate. This shuttle hike starts at Trailbridge Reservoir and tracks along the upper McKenzie River to Sahalie Falls. In-between you'll view the Turquoise Pool and dry Tamolitch Falls, the underground river bed, and Carmen Dam and Reservoir. Jim Pierce leads this hike along a most spectacular section of river! 7.5mi., 900ft.

Thurs., June 18 – Mary's Peak – Hike, moderate. Leader Dan Christensen hikes up the north side of this landmark and highest peak in the Coast Range. On a clear day, the view on top includes: to the east, most of the Oregon Cascade range, and to the west, the shining Pacific Ocean. A similar hike is led Sat., Jun. 27, by Robert Smythe.

Sat., June 20 – Cone Peak Meadows/Iron Mt., Hike, moderate. A fearsome climb if done by the older, 2-mile direct route, but leaders Jen Barnes and Karla Rusow plan to start at Tombstone trailhead and pass through Cone Peak Meadows, which has lovely wildflowers this time of year. You'll then wind around the north side of Iron Mt. and up (Sorry, there's no escaping those switchbacks!) to the old lookout station. From there you get breathtaking views of the Old Cascades Wilderness before descending through wildflowers again, to your cars. 6mi., 1900ft. Also see Sun., Jun. 28, same/similar hike led by Becky Lipton.

Sat., June 20 – Rosary Lakes – Hike, easy. This hike goes north on the PCT at Willamette Pass and climbs to a string of three lakes, sparkling in their valleys, at the foot of Maiden Peak. Views of Diamond Peak and Odell Lake await you on this trip led by Sandra Larsen. 5.4 mi., 600ft.

Sun., June 21 – Dog Mountain, Hike, difficult. This is perhaps the penultimate wildflower hike, but the trip also has grand views of the Columbia Gorge and surrounding country. Views, flowers and sense of accomplishment are all well worth the effort. Leader Becky Lipton will lead a loop hike and hikers should be prepared for steep, open country. 6mi., 3000ft. Do the math, it's three *Pisgahs*.

Wed., June 24 – Roads End – Walk, easy. Barbara and Paul Beard lead this coastal ramble at the lowest tide of the season for best tide-pool viewing. Barbara and Paul live on the coast and participants organize themselves here in Eugene and make their way to the coast to rendezvous at the trailhead. For details, see the sign-up sheet. 2.8mi.

Thurs., June 25 – Clear Lake – Hike, moderate. This hike is on everyone's favorites list and with good reason. The wildflowers are plentiful and Cascade views are spectacular. The lake and Big Spring reflect the most awesome blues and greens, and offer great spots to pause for a few moments to contemplate nature at its finest. Best of all, the lodge is open

for pre- and post-hike coffee, pie or ice cream. 7.5mi., 300ft.

Thurs., July 2 – Walk, Wine and Dine – Evening Hike, easy. For one of the most popular in-town hikes, leader Joanne Ledet takes you touring around the southwest hills of Eugene, winding up at the popular Koho Bistro for a delightful dinner and drinks (your treat!). The walk is a mix of greenway paths, parks, school grounds and neighborhood sidewalks. 4mi., 400ft.

Sun., July 5 – Horsepasture Mountain – Hike, easy. The trail is short and steep and hikers often wish for weed-whackers along the first mile, but the flowers and views are matchless from the gently sloping summit meadow. Rated easy, the trail earns one *Pisgah*. Join me on this, one of my favorite hikes. 2.7mi., 900ft.

Sun., July 5 – McKenzie View Loop – Bike, moderate. Been itchin' to try a bike ride with the Obsidians? Here's a close-to-home bicycle ramble, north of Springfield and eastward cycling back via Old Mohawk and Hayden Bridge Roads. Doug Nelson leads the trip. 30mi., 100ft.

Thurs., July 9 – Lowder Mountain – Hike, moderate. A favorite for wildflower lovers, this hike is southeast of Cougar Dam. The hike climbs steadily upward through countless south-facing meadows that bloom continuously from snowmelt to late summer. The view from the top is east, over sheer rocky cliffs facing the Three Sisters. Diane Jeffcott leads this hike. 6mi., 800ft.

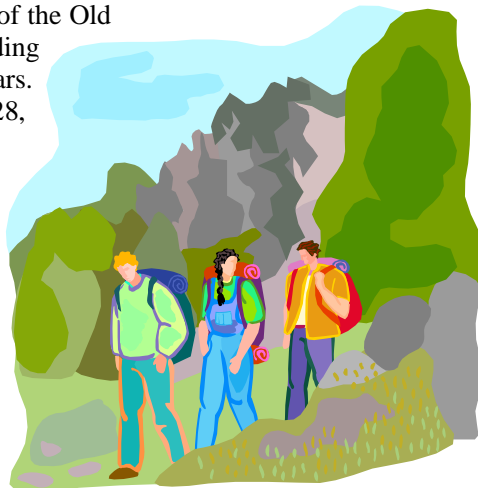
Sat., July 11 – Olallie Mountain – Hike, moderate. A favorite spot to see Cascade wildflower blooms and views, this hike travels to an old lookout. The trail takes off from Pat Saddle and climbs gradually through mixed forest, summitting to breathtaking views -- Cascades surround! Led by Sam

Miller. Note: water crossing. 7.2mi., 1200ft.

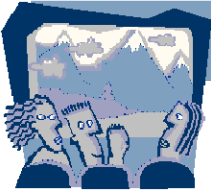
Sat., July 11 – Cottage Grove/Lorane – Bike, difficult. Take the scenic route to Cottage Grove via the Lorane Valley, with leaders Lyn Gilman-Garrick and Sharon Ritchie. The scenery is beautiful as you pass through rolling countryside, farms and woodlands. 43mi., 1000ft.

Sun., July 12 – Three Pyramids – Hike, moderate. A hike up to Middle Pyramid, but the other two pyramids will be on view, along with Mt. Jefferson to the north and the Sisters to the south. We hike through old growth fir and will see many delightful wildflowers. Please join me on this trip in the Old Cascades. 4mi., 1800ft.

Sat., July 18 – Browder Ridge – Hike, difficult. Leader Brian Hamilton plans to lead this as a 'through hike' with car shuttle. Great wildflower rock garden, beautiful views and a satisfying climb. Some scrambling may be necessary near the summit. 9mi., 2100ft.



AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

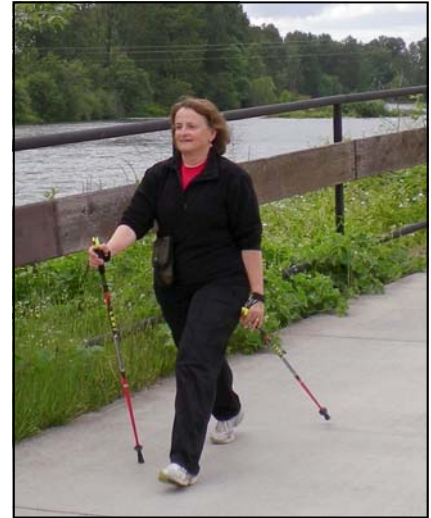
Friday June 26:

Nordic Walking



LOOKING TO GET THE MOST OF every hike? At the June 26th potluck, Dan and Barbara Gleason will introduce us to the proper use of poles when Nordic walking. The technique "burns up to 400 calories/hour, reduces knee and lower joint loads, improves posture and strengthens the upper body."

Laurie Funkhouser, Entertainment Chair



June Potluck
Friday, June 26, 2009
Obsidian Lodge
Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Program, 7:30

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with plates, utensils and cups... plus \$1 to help cover club expenses.

Treasures of California

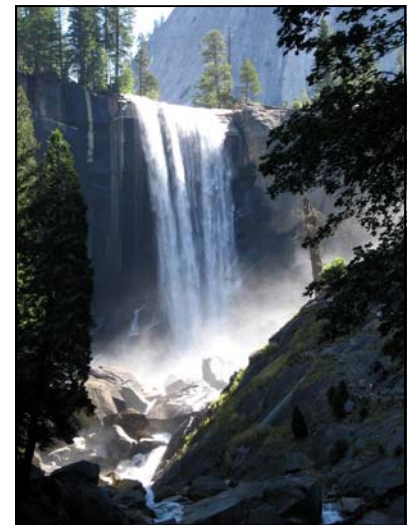
SciEd Tuesday June 16:



JIM PIERCE'S 17-DAY romp through the wondrous scenic treasures of California is summarized in an hour of pictures. Jim promises little talk and lots of slides. Visit the plants and geology of these fascinating places: Burney Falls, Lassen Park, Lake Tahoe, High Sierras, Mono Lake, Devil's Post Pile, Bristle Cone Pines, Death Valley, Mount Whitney, and the different parts of Yosemite Park.

Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m. is the time. The Obsidian Lodge is the place.

Joella Ewing, Science & Education Chair



Trail Maintenance



FOR THE REST OF THE SUMMER and early fall, Trail Maintenance will be on Wednesdays from 5:30-8:00. The chair of the committee, Peter Green, is working with Open Space staff to set the dates. He hopes that the last Wednesday of the month is selected. Fence building and other interesting projects are in the planning stages. If interested, please email trails@obsidians.org to get on Peter's updates of future work parties.

Peter Green, Trail Maintenance Chair



Summer Trip Leaders!

NOW THAT SUMMER IS STARTING to arrive, we are looking for a few good leaders to add more outings to the Summer Trips schedule.

Please look over your schedule and add your favorite outing to the calendar.

Email your thoughts to summertrips@obsidians.org or call Jim Pierce at 344-1775.

Your outings are what make our club so special.

Thanks!

Jim Pierce, Summer Trips Chair



Obsidians Night Emerald's Baseball

PROBABLY OUR LAST CHANCE to enjoy historic Civic Stadium. Another night of good baseball and good food (hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, watermelon), good drinks (soft drinks, beer), and good company--other club members.

When: August 6, Thursday night.

Cost: \$19; includes ticket, food/drink, and the \$1 trip fee.

How: Sign up at the YMCA - usual place. But then you must mail your \$19 fee, by July 15 to:

Ed Lichtenstein, 3385 Bardell Ave, Eugene, 97401

683-0688 or annpl@comcast.net

Checks: Payable to Ed Lichtenstein (not to the Obsidians).

Ed Lichtenstein, Obsidian Baseball Coordinator

Obsidian Calendar

June

- 14 Sun – **Wolf Creek**—Clay Creek, Bike, D, Ritchie 342-8435
- 15 Mon – **Tamolitch Pool**—Sahalie Falls, M, J.Pierce. 344-1775
- 16 Tue – **California Scenery**—Pierce..... **SciEd Tues**
- 18 Thu – **Mary's Peak**, 8m 2000' M, D.Christensen..... 343-8941
- 19 Fri – **Sahalie/Koosah/Clear Lake**, E, Cunningham... 344-0486
- 20 Sat – **Cone Peak Mdws**—Iron Mtn, M, K.Rusow 744-7990
- 20 Sat – **Rosary Lake**, 5.4m 600' E, S.Larsen..... 687-2589
- 20-21 Sat-Sun –**Middle Sister**, Climb, Deeter..... 954-0924
- 21 Sun –**Dog Mountain**, 6 m 3000' D, Lipton 736-7498
- 23 Tue – **Aurora Colony**, Bus, V.Kocken..... 736-5180
- 24 Wed – **Roads End**, 2.8m E, B. & P.Beard..... 541-994-2337
- 25 Thu – **Clear Lake**, 7.5 m M, D. Delaby..... 688-4978
- 26 Fri – **Nordic Walking**—Gleason..... **Potluck**
- 27 Sat – **Mary's Peak**, 6.5m 1500' M, R. Smythe 757-6357
- 27 Sat – **Cottage Grove – The Cottage**, Bike, M, Hoeg 484-6196
- 27 Sat –**Galleries & Hobbit Trail**, 1 m E, Hovis..... 345-7788
- 27 Sat – **Tenmile area**, 1.5 m E, P. Bitner 485-3971
- 27 Sat – **Tenmile area**, 6.0 m M, M. Fetz..... 687-0733
- 28 Sun – **Iron Mtn**—**Cone Peak Mdws**, M, Lipton 736-7498
- 30 Sat – **Ridgeline Trail**, 6.2m 900' M, J.Jacobsen 343-8030

July

- 1 Wed – **Cape Mountain**, 7.6m 1400' M, P.Flashenberg 461-1977
- 2 Thu – **Walk, Wine and Dine**, 4m 400' E, J.Ledet..... 683-2603
- 3 Fri – **Sculpture Walk**, 2m 900' E, J.Jacobsen 343-8030
- 4-5 Sat-Sun – **Mt. Adams**, Climb, L.Huff 868-5391
- 4-5 Sat-Sun – **North Sister**, Climb, W.Deeter..... 954-0924
- 4 Sat – **St. Paul Rodeo**, Bus, V.Kocken 736-5180
- 5 Sun – **Horsepasture Mountain**, 3m 900' M, Revere.... 543-3514
- 5 Sun – **McKenzie View**, Bike 30m 100' M, D.Nelson ... 736-6076
- 7 Tue – **McKenzie Bridge**—**Belknap**, M, Revere 543-3514
- 9 Thu – **Lowder Mountain**, 6m 800' M, D.Jeffcott..... 344-6447
- 11 Sat – **Cottage Grove**—**Lorane**, Bike 43m D, Ritchie 342-8435
- 11 Sat – **Olallie Mountain**, 7.2m 1200' M, S.Miller 484-4586
- 12 Sun – **Bunchgrass Ridge**, 10m 1000' D, Stockdale 767-3668
- 12-14 Sun-Tue – **Mt. Jefferson**, Climb, W.Deeter 954-0924
- 12 Sun – **Three Pyramids**, 4m 1800' M, B.Revere 543-3514
- 18 Sat – **Browder Ridge**, 9m 2100' M, B.Hamilton 343-6550
- 20-26 Mon-Sun – **Summer Camp** -**Lassen**, Lindstrom .. 683-1409
- 25 Sat – **Collier Cone**, 14m 2700' D, B.Hoyland..... 338-9881
- 26 Sun – **Crescent Mountain**, 8.8m 2200' M, Revere..... 543-3514

Classifieds

For Rent

Vacation on the McKenzie: modern 3br cabin, available by week, or weekend, call Ralph at 822-3736.

For Sale

WOOD - Green fir, cut and split at the Obsidian Lodge. You haul. \$120/cord. Contact John Jacobsen, Grounds Chair at 343-8030 or johnwjacobsen@comcast.net



Hikers in cave on May 2nd Mt Baldy hike - See trip report on Page 11 - Photo by Gary Kirk

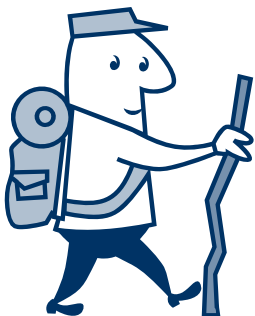


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June 2009