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### Dates to Remember

May 30	Potluck
May 31	Bulletin deadline
June 3	ExploraTalk
June 4	Board Meeting

Complete current schedules at:  
[www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org) or  
 Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

## Backpacking: Stretch Your Limits, Discover the Beauty!

*Becky Lipton*

**I**F YOU LOVE THE OUTDOORS AND CAMPING, YOU WILL LOVE BACKPACKING! Backpacking offers an opportunity to reach destinations that are unattainable in one day. Backpacking provides an opportunity to see how rich life can be with very few material possessions. It provides a sense of freedom and increased self confidence from the success of each day. Backpacking provides an opportunity for your inner self to slow down and enjoy the moment—the astonishing beauty of a meadow in bloom, the song of frogs and birds, the changing sun on the mountains at dusk, the glittering fullness of the night sky.

The Obsidians club offers six backpack trips in 2014. Come and join us!

Leaders! If you can offer another backpack trip this summer, email in your trip description and info to [summertrips@obsidians.org](mailto:summertrips@obsidians.org) soon. That way participants have time to plan their own schedule before signing up!

**May 30–June 1 Blacklock Point** Blacklock Point, located on the coast just north of Port Orford, offers breathtaking beauty. Backpack in 2.5 miles Friday. Day hike eight miles Saturday. Pack out Sunday. Base camp is close to the beach with dramatic cliffs, water falls, woods and pristine beaches.

**June 13–15 Trout Creek Mountains** Join guidebook author Bill Sullivan for this 16<sup>th</sup> annual Chemeketan-Obsidian joint backpack trip in the Trout Creek Mountains of southeastern Oregon. Start at Willow Creek Hot Springs, about 40 miles from Fields, Oregon, and bushwhack up oasis desert canyons looking for wildflowers and wildlife. On Friday and Saturday nights camp at the same location, so as to explore the upper reaches of the canyons without heavy backpacks on Saturday. On Sunday, hike back down to the cars.

**Aug 9–16 PCT-Mt Hood** Seven to eight day backpack trip heading north around Mt. Hood to the Columbia River on the Oregon Pacific Crest Trail. Details are still to be worked out regarding exact entry and exit points. Estimated PCT trail miles will be about 10 - 12 miles per day, or about 60 miles total, which should give time and energy for side trips, if desired. There will be a 4,000 ft. elevation descent in the last six miles of the trail when approaching the Columbia River.

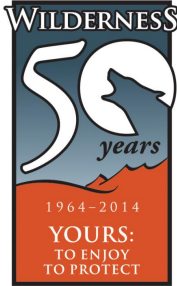
**Aug 30–Sept 1 Fall Creek to base of Broken Top** Backpack in four miles up the beautiful and tumbling Fall Creek, past huge lava flows and waterfalls. Then continue another 4.5 miles through the Green Lakes basin and double back to camp near a lake in an alpine meadow on the north side of Broken Top. Day hike next day up the shoulder of Broken Top and scramble down the boulder fields to Park Meadows or choose your own day hike. Pack out the third day.

**Sep 19–21 Hidden Lake (Waldo)** Backpack in 2.5 miles. Next day hike 8 mi., elevation gain 1,500 ft.

**Oct 3–5 South Waldo Shelter** Backpack in two easy miles to the South Waldo shelter. Next day hike eight miles with elevation gain 1,500 ft.

## Willamette National Forest Wilderness Challenge

**T**HE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT offers a challenge to Obsidians to explore wilderness trails in the eight wilderness areas in the Willamette National Forest.



Our schedule includes activities in seven of the WNF Wilderness areas: Opal Creek, Menagerie, Three Sisters, Waldo, Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington and Diamond Peak. The Middle Santiam Wilderness area is the missing piece. If your favorite wilderness hike is not on the schedule, consider leading it!

Let us know if you meet the challenge or perhaps create your own challenge for the 47 wilderness areas in Oregon. If you attend Summer Camp, you have several opportunities to hike in wilderness areas.

See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_U.S.\\_Wilderness\\_Areas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._Wilderness_Areas) for a list state by state.

### Summer Trips Committee

# Painters Needed!



**S**TEVE JOHNSON, CHAIR OF THE AD HOC CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, needs volunteers to help with the painting of the new storage building at the lodge. No painting experience is necessary but he will need people that are able to help move the scaffolding and climb up some fairly tall ladders. Steve said, "Painting the trim on the top side is going to be tricky. Because of the 18-foot height of the barn I'm going to need at least five people to commit to three consecutive days of dry weather to get it painted. When I see an available weekend I'll put out the word and again hope for volunteers so any help in finding people will be welcome."

If you need information and/or would like to be on Steve's email contact list, email him at [stevenj7675@gmail.com](mailto:stevenj7675@gmail.com).

### Welcome New Members

Cooper, Carla  
3356 Goose Cross Lane  
Eugene, OR 97404  
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## OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405  
Website: [www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

### Board of Directors

Matt Bell, President  
Don Colgan, Vice President  
Susan Wanser, Secretary  
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer  
Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Tom Musselwhite, Shellie Robertson & Elle Weaver

*Board meetings are held at 6 PM the first Wednesday of each month, except October when it is the Wednesday after the Annual Meeting, and no meeting in August.*

### Committee Chairpersons

Byways By Bus ..... Liz Reanier  
Climbs ..... Brian Hamilton  
Concessions ..... Patty MacAfee  
Conservation/SciEd ..... Joella Ewing  
Entertainment ..... Susan Wanser  
Extended Trips ..... Chris Stockdale  
Finance ..... Stewart Hoeg  
Librarian/Historian ..... Lenore McManigal  
Lodge Building ..... Doug Nelson  
Lodge Grounds ..... John Jacobsen  
Membership ..... Elle Weaver  
Online ..... Wayne Deeter  
Publications ..... Lou Maenz  
Publicity ..... Mary Hamilton  
Safety ..... Pat Esch  
Summer Camp ..... Lana Lindstrom  
Summer Trips ..... Tom Musselwhite  
Trail Maintenance ..... Matt Bell  
Winter Trips ..... Anne Bonine

### 74 OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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[bulletin@obsidians.org](mailto:bulletin@obsidians.org)

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**The Obsidian Bulletin**

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

### Deadline

for June 2014 Bulletin  
**Saturday, May 31, 2014**

### Assembly/Mailing Team

For April Bulletin

Assembly & Mail Manager - Lou Maenz  
Assembly Team - Tom Adameczyk, Don Baldwin, Clara Emlen, Joanne Ledet, John & Lenore McManigal and Margaret Prentice

### Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff - Bea Fontana, Joanne Ledet, Lou Maenz and Ethel Weltman  
Copy Editors - Ethel Weltman & Nancy White  
Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing - Stewart Hoeg

# Volunteers Keep Our Trails

**Chris Stockdale**

**A**S YOU HIKE ALONG ONE OF THE MANY BEAUTIFUL TRAILS in our national forests and wildernesses, give a thought to the people who keep that trail clear of downed trees, trim the encroaching brush back from the edge and repair needed portions of the tread, bridges, and other features. The Forest Service has very little money to apply to this kind of work so without a great cadre of eager volunteers, you would be hard pressed to find passable trails.

Some of you may know that a portion of the Fall Creek Trail has been closed for some time due to a major landslide. This spring Ron Robinson and members of his work group known as The Scorpions took it upon themselves to build an entirely new portion of the trail to skirt this landslide. Here is Ron's description of the first day of work. His report will really bring it home to you just how much we owe these people. Obsidians Larry Dunlap and Rob Castleberry are members of the group.

*It has started! Four of us—Tom Caples, Jim Suiter, Larry Larson and I—met Kevin Rowell, Trails Coordinator for Middle Fork at the NE trailhead on Forest Road 1833 yesterday. We packed up with three chainsaws and took off down the trail. Oh, did I mention rain? It didn't quit from the time we left the trailhead until we got back. Not hard but just continuous. But it wasn't too cold, and by the time we had made it down the trail a ways we were warmed up.*

*Goal was to begin cutting/swamping out the right-of-way for the new reroute around/over the slide. It's about 1 1/2 miles or so down the trail and isn't a hard hike in and out. We had been down in December helping Kevin flag the proposed route and knew it is very steep with lots of downed trees, with some huge old growth.*

*Kevin had brought a large saw and, along with Larry Larson, went to tackle the big trees while Tom, Jim, and I were to work on smaller trees. The first bit isn't too steep, but lots of downed stuff and we made pretty good time up through it. Kevin and Larry went on up to the first monster and started on it. Once the three of us got into the steep hillside, it became a real chore just to keep our footing while working and just moving from one place to another.*

*Kevin and Larry finally finished cutting through the big guy in time for lunch. It was time for a break, so we slid (literally) down the hill and had lunch. Had a small fire which helped make the gray day a bit better. After lunch back up the hill and slipping, sliding,*

*cutting, swamping, etc. commenced again until some of us run out of steam. Slid down the hill again packed up and headed out.*

*With three saws going, we did make a dent, but it is going to take many more days of the same to get it all cut out. While that is the No. 1 priority right now, we are going to have to cut an initial tread up around the steep slope just so we can get in and out without so much effort. So next trip up, we'll have at least one saw (or more depending on turn-out) going with the other folks laying a narrow track we can move up and down on.*

*This new trail is going to have it all, switchbacks, rock work, retaining walls, possible bridge, etc., etc. One thing we have on the crew is lots of experience, and with Kevin's expertise it will get done. Going to be a very interesting project.*

As the Forest Service continues to lose funding for trails, our volunteer service becomes more and more important. It is a lot of work, not easy work, but at the end of the day when you look back at where you started and the progress made that day it is very satisfying. I'll get off my soap box now as I know I'm preaching to the converted.

Since this initial report, the crew has been working regularly on the trail. The Forest Service will be taking over the finishing touches and hopes to have it ready for hiking by this fall. If you're interested in joining Ron and his crew on this project, or other trail maintenance, contact Ron at [lescass12@earthlink.net](mailto:lescass12@earthlink.net).

*Photo by Ron Robinson of Fall Creek trail work.*



# May Board Notes

**May 7, 2014**

**By Susan Wanser and Kathy Hoeg**

President Matt Bell called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Don Colgan, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Stewart Hoeg, and Elle Weaver. Also present were: Keiko Bryan, Wayne Deeter, Brian Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Kathy Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, and Doug Nelson. The Board approved the minutes of the April 2014 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stewart Hoeg reviewed the Budget-vs-Actual Report and the Balance Sheet. The Board approved payment of the bills.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Summer Trips (Tom Musselwhite):** The summer trips season began April 1 and as of May 3, 18 activities have been completed. As of May 3, 98 activities are scheduled including six backpacking, nine bicycling, three canoe/kayak, and 78 hiking trips. Two leader workshops were conducted in April.

**Climbs (Brian Hamilton):** Five conditioning hikes were led up Mt. Pisgah and Spencer Butte. One climb was rescheduled and one climb was cancelled due to poor weather. Eleven climbs and three conditioning hikes remain on the schedule.

**Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell):** There was one outing in April. We met at the Willamette and 52<sup>nd</sup> trailhead and worked independently to brush the trailsides of the Ridgeline trail and painted the Willamette and 52<sup>nd</sup> trailhead kiosk.

April Trail Maintenance Participation: one outing in Spencer Butte Park with 11 participants.

**Highways and Byways By Bus (Liz Reanier):** The Death Valley trip was enjoyed by 21 members and 14 nonmembers. It was a fantastic trip. Registrations are going well for the next few trips. We greatly appreciate the publicity bus trips are receiving. We are always open for suggestions for 2015 bus trips.

**Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom):** The Rally was well attended by many of the folks who signed up for Summer Camp. Thanks much to Chris Stockdale for her enthusiastic presentation of the area. The camp booklets were distributed. There are currently 98 folks signed up.

**Extended Trips (Chris Stockdale):** The extended trip to Crater Lake in early April was considered a success by the 16 participants. People were able to ski or snowshoe at the Rim on both days and enjoyed the comfortable lodge in the evenings.

**Conservation, Science, & Education (Joella Ewing):** Thirty people attended Michael McCloskey's talk "Environmental Breakthroughs That have Kept Oregon Green."

**Entertainment (Susan Wanser):** Sixty-eight people attended the Summer Camp Rally. The next potluck will be on May 30 which is the 5<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month to avoid the Memorial Day weekend.

**Membership (Elle Weaver):** Three new member applications were presented.

**Publicity (Mary Hamilton):** About 132 people stopped by the Obsidian Earth Day booth at EWEB Plaza over the course of

the day. Thanks to Rick Ahrens, Lynne Eichner, Joella Ewing, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott, and Darko Sojack for set-up, breakdown and staffing the tent. Ridgeline Celebration – June 7 at Spencer Butte parking lot. Hikes will be led by Matt Bell and Janet Jacobsen. The booth will feature historical photos of Spencer Butte and current trail maintenance photos. The Publicity Committee is looking for volunteers.

**Concessions (Patty MacAfee):** The majority of items ordered for 2014 have arrived, and sales remain moderate.

**Online (Wayne Deeter):** There are now 2,585 photos in 185 albums in the Obsidians photo gallery, up from 2,184 photos in 172 albums in April. There are now 268 likes of our Facebook page, an increase of eight from April.

**Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal):** All of the activities reported in the April Bulletin have been recorded.

**Lodge Building (Doug Nelson):** The lodge has been rented for the evening of May 20 by the Eugene Gleemen.

**Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen):** Two work parties were held last month. April 15 – general spruce-up before Explora-Talk, including mowing and cleaning planting bed in front of Lodge. Thanks to Joanne Ledet for helping out. May 3 – built a path for access between the new storage garage and the back of the Lodge. Thanks to Brenda Kame'enui and Jim Whitfield for helping with this grueling work.

**Safety (Pat Esch):** Reported on one Incident Report left over from last month.

## NEW BUSINESS

Pat Esch, the Safety Committee chair, said that six incident reports relating to one member had been investigated by an Ad Hoc Restriction Committee consisting of Anne Bonine, Don Colgan, Pat Esch (chair), Brian Hamilton, Shellie Robertson, and Ellie Weaver. The Restriction Committee recommended to the Board that the member should be placed under two specific restrictions, and the Board approved this.

Matt Bell asked Pat Esch to explain at the next Board meeting how members who are restricted show up on trip leaders' screens on the online system.

Mary Hamilton, the Publicity Committee chair, handed out samples of the club's new business cards that were designed and printed by John Jacobsen. She suggested that they be handed out liberally to nonmembers.

Pat Esch reported that after some corrections and proofreading the new version of the Safety Manual will be sent out to the Board.

Lana Lindstrom asked how often trip leaders find that they do not have enough volunteer drivers and how they handle such a situation. Are trip leaders given any guidance on this?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board meeting will be on June 4 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned for food at The Wild Duck Cafe.

## Trip Reports & Other Activities



### Byways By Bus

#### Death Valley

April 6, 2014

Leader: Paul Beard, Asst: Barbara Beard

Photographer: Holger Krentz

**T**HIRTY-FIVE OBSIDIANS AND FRIENDS along with our driver, Augie Bergman, and navigator, Char Bergman, headed out on the road to Death Valley and beyond on a cool damp Sunday morning. After stopping for a quick coffee break in Oakridge, we were eager to get going on this long-anticipated trip of fun and adventure. Traveling over Willamette Pass gave us views of Diamond Peak and Odell Lake. We enjoyed a short rest stop at Collier State Park to see the logging equipment from the early 1900s. The exhibit is well maintained and takes one back in time to when cross-cut saws and teams of horses and mules were used in the logging industry. Crossing into California, we enjoyed our sack lunches at Lava Beds National Park, where the Modoc Indian stronghold and caves were located. On to Susanville for an ice cream snack and finally to Reno for the first night. The Grand Sierra Hotel is a spectacular sight. With twenty-five stories, it is high above all else in the city. We were all placed in the 16<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> floors so the views were great. Paul,

our money man, gave everyone a little cash to try out some of the two hundred or so machines in the casino. Char walked away with a couple of Franklins; her quarters did quite well.

Day two found us enjoying a spectacular drive up the mountain to Virginia City, where we had time to explore this old mining town. Some chose to take the trolley ride around town. The tour guide did an excellent job of driving and sharing interesting historical information. We all did some shopping and scattered to different, quaint eating establishments for lunch. Oh, yes—most of us met Stinky, an old miner, and Bernadine, his burro, with whom you can have your picture taken for only a dollar. On the road again to Tonopah, we had a short stop in Hawthorne, Nevada where many enjoyed a visit to the Army Museum of old firearms and missiles. What a find out here in the desert—just because one of our riders, Peter Rial, began talking to a stranger. The Best Western in Tonopah was ready with our rooms, a spaghetti and salad dinner, plus many kinds of fresh cookies—a welcome sight and meal.

**WE WERE UP EARLY ON DAY THREE** as we needed extra time to make a detour into Death Valley, which added about one hundred miles to the trip. Road construction on Hwy. 267 had the road closed; it was due to reopen in just a few days. After picking up our guide, Ranger Bob, we reached our destination of Scotty's Castle on time for our reservations. Most of the group had never been here before so were totally amazed at the construction and technology developed



at the Castle in the early 1900's. The beauty of the buildings, furnishings, landscaping and the stories told make this a must-see stop. After our interesting tour, we enjoyed lunches on the picnic grounds beneath huge trees. Then, we were off to Ubehebe Crater, approximately 700 feet deep and one-half mile across, another gorgeous sight. There is a trail all the way around the thin rim of the crater. Winds were so strong, you felt like you would be blown right over the edge. Ranger Bob was full of fun, lots of interesting stories. He said winds up to 60 mph are just a breeze. A strong wind would be about 90 mph and a gale brings about 120 mph winds—you probably wouldn't want to stand on the rim during a gale. Our destination for the night was Furnace Creek Ranch located about in the middle of Death Valley. The temperature was 105 degrees when we checked in at 4:00 o'clock, but cooled down some by 7:00. Some took the shuttle up to the beautiful glass restaurant on top of the hill for refreshing drinks and to watch the spectacular sunset change the mountains into vivid colors. Furnace Creek Ranch has interesting displays of old mining equipment, museums, golfing, swimming, and four restaurants to choose from for dinner. Some of us saw a coyote strolling through the grounds—he was almost as tame as a dog.

**AFTER A DELICIOUS BUFFET BREAKFAST** on day four, we were off to Badwater Basin, the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere, 282 ft. below sea level. Ranger Bob gave us many insights into the geology and history of the area. We all had the opportunity to walk out onto the salt flats. Next stop was the Harmony Borax Works outdoor museum where Ranger Bob entertained us with a skit involving one of our riders, Edith Pattee. He defined the activities of the Borax Works and what it was like to be a mule skinner. A mule skinner drove a team of eighteen mules and two horses 165 miles in ten days, with a heavy load of Borax, through the treacherous mountains and steep canyons—no easy job. After that intense skit and much information, we just had to listen to Fenderman doing the "Mule Skinner Blues." Panamint Springs was our last look at the massive valley before arriving at Ridgecrest for the night. Along the way, we drove through Trona, possibly one of the most chemically-infested towns in the USA. One of our riders, Peter Rial, gave us a little history of Trona—none of us wanted to stop for a visit. Trona is just outside of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center and this may explain why so many chemicals are manufactured in this area.

Day five began with a tour of the China Lakes Weapons Center Museum. To gain entry required, in advance, full names, birth dates and place of birth for each person. Our guide was a retired nuclear physicist with many degrees in engineering of missiles, math and science. His vast knowledge of the nuclear and chemical world was more than we could comprehend in a one hour lecture. They have some beautiful paintings and interesting exhibits at the museum, as well as the weapons displays. As we headed on our way to Bishop, we made a side trip to Fossil Falls—a dry falls about 30 feet deep in a long canyon. There is only water in Fossil Falls when flash floods occur. Along the trail, John Jacobsen

spotted a rattlesnake. Of course, all the guys wanted a closer look, but the gals stayed at a distance. Lunch time found us at *The Grill* in Lone Pine, opened just a month ago. The food was excellent and the service outstanding. Next stop was Manzanar Internment Camp Museum, where Japanese Americans were placed following the Pearl Harbor attack. The museum and grounds are well worth seeing. Another interesting stop was the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery. This historic site is currently closed, but we enjoyed seeing the building exterior and grounds. The building made of brick in the early 1900s is beautiful and the grounds well-kept with walkways, flowers and a great fish pond. We had a great time viewing and feeding the fish and many quarters were spent on fish food. Arriving in Bishop, we stopped at Schat's Bakery to order sandwiches, bread, and goodies for the next day's journey.

**MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN PROVIDED SOME GREAT HIGHS**, beautiful snow, coffee, and a gondola ride to the top of the mountain at 11,053 feet. What a wonderful way to begin day six. One of our Obsidian members, Barbara Bruns, shared that after coming from the east coast, she had climbed nearby Mt. Whitney. At over 14,000 feet, Mt. Whitney is the highest point in the Sierras. Congratulations Barb! The day was perfect—great snow and great sun. Some jumped up and down, having a high moment at the top and getting a picture at the 11,053 feet sign. We won't tell who was jumping up and down, but they sure were having fun. We enjoyed our picnic lunch this day by the shores of Mono Lake. We had a great educational time as well as a terrific lunch, packed by Schat's Bakery. We enjoyed a nice walk among the pillars of rock, learning more about the formations called tufa. The tufa were formed under water thousands of years ago. When the water receded, it left the tufa exposed in many strange and interesting forms. It was a beautiful setting with the Sierras in the background. As we continued on the winding mountain highways with spectacular scenery, we came to a little town named Strawberry, population fifty. The rustic old Strawberry Lodge had a great ice cream parlor and an old upright piano. We enjoyed the best strawberry ice cream ever and of course a little entertainment on the piano from "Piano Paul"—what a find. Continuing on our trek along the winding mountain roads, we eventually reached the mining town of Placerville and a little farther on the town of Lincoln. Here we appreciated a quick stop at the beautiful city park. Speaking of Lincoln (which none of us had ever visited before), on April 15, 2014, a local woman was a contestant on *Wheel of Fortune*. After a long day, we reached our destination for the night, Granzilla's Inn at Williams. We had a wonderful dinner and accommodations—it is a must stop when traveling I-5.

Our last day on the road gave us more spectacular sights and a couple more great stops. At Corning, home of the *Olive Pit*, our moneymen gave out the last of his cash for espresso and other goodies. What goodies we found—every type of olive you can imagine, and all types of jellies, nuts and exotic coffees. At a nearby fruit stand, we sampled some

wonderful fresh California strawberries. On the road again we enjoyed views of Mt. Shasta covered with snow, then on into Oregon for our lunch stop at *Heaven on Earth*. It was to die for. If you haven't experienced this restaurant along I-5, just north of Sexton Mountain, you are missing out. The smell of fresh pastries baking and the cinnamon rolls as big as cakes are heavenly. At the end of a fantastic trip, we arrived back in Eugene at Shopko around 5:30 PM. Seven days on the road, we were tired but made many new friends and it was hard to say goodbye. Members: Bill Arthur, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Thomas Berkey, Barbara Bruns, Sharon Cutsforth, Rose Mary Etter, Barbara Flanders, Dennis Flanders, Chris Gordon, Mary Hawkes, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Verna Kocken, Holger Krentz, Craig Molitor, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Peter Rial, Velma Shirk, Mary Ellen West. Nonmembers: Pat Bitner, Marcia Claypool, Edith Pattee, Sharon Gadomski, Judy Phelps, Betty Dickerman, Nicholas Johnson, Alice Krentz, Char Bergman, Swee Berkey, Pat Frishkoff, Paul Frishkoff, Rachel Kish, Jim Northrup.



## Trail Maintenance

### **Spencer Butte Trail**

**March 29, 2014**

**Leader: Matthew Bell**

**Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)**

**T**HE THREATENING WEATHER DIDN'T DETER OUR FIFTEEN VOLUNTEERS TODAY! Those that showed up were rewarded with warm muffins made by Janet Jacobsen. We had enough people to tackle several projects on the trails. Dan, Emily, and Greg worked with Josh Shrader of EPOS to replace two fence rails on a fence that we built some time ago along the West Trail. The fence rails were broken by a falling branch during the last snow storm. Clara cleaned two concrete steps until they were spotless. The rest of our group headed out and up the main trail to clear drainage and remove built up plant material from the trail. David and Betty went up and removed rebar from the trail that people have told EPOS was becoming hazardous. Pat hiked to the summit and picked up garbage. Dave, Jane, Todd, Janet, and I hiked up the trail raking duff, clearing drainage ditches, brushing the trailsides, and piling up garbage. Roberta, Trenton, and Autumn came up after us putting the finishing touches on the drains and picking up our little garbage piles — they had the garbage bags. We all met up at about the Junction Meadow and headed back down the trail adding some brush to the trailsides and keeping an eye out for more garbage. We returned to the parking lot and enjoyed snacks and lemonade provided by EPOS. Members: Matthew Bell, Roberta Chord, Jane Dods, Autumn Edwards, Trenton Edwards, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Betty Grant, Janet Jacobsen, Todd Larsen, Dave Predeck, Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: David Cooper, Emily Mehary, Greg Butler.



## Snowshoe Trips

### **Tait's Loop**

**March 30, 2014**

**Leader: Lyndell Wilken**

**Snow Shoe: 7.5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Difficult)**

**A**FTER MUCH DELIBERATION OVER THE WEATHER, five of us headed for Willamette Pass to Tait's Trail above Rosary Lakes. We were rewarded with six to eight inches of fresh sparkling snow on the ground and in the trees. We followed the groomed trail for four miles to the backside chairlift in packed snow, which made for a comfortable walk. Then, the work began up the Skyline Trail to the Maiden Peak Saddle in deeper snow. The elevation gain was steep, but all made it to the top with ease. Tait's trail was well marked with diamonds leading to our lunch spot overlooking Lower Rosary Lake. The sun came out and we had views of Pulpit Rock, Maiden Peak, Odell Butte, the lakes below and the surrounding area. We all felt blessed to have this great day of snowshoeing since the season this year had been marginal with the low snow levels and warmer temperatures. Members: Mari Baldwin, John Hegg, Daphne James, Jorry Rolfe, Lyndell Wilken.



## Canoe Trips

### **Coyote Creek**

**April 19, 2014**

**Leader: Lana Lindstrom**

**Water: 4 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)**

**S**IX STALWART OBSIDIANS BRAVED COOL WEATHER and just a wee bit of drizzle to paddle Coyote Creek, starting at Cantrell Road and paddling up the creek (to the south). Due to high water, we were able to navigate further than usual. Next time, we'll bring a bow saw! It was a leisurely first paddle of the year with a great group of folks. A fitting way to celebrate Earth Day! Members: Gail (Jake) Bradshaw, Patricia Esch, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Lou Maenz, Pat Soussan.



## Climbs

### **Climb School - Rock**

**April 5, 2014**

**Leader: Maryanne Reiter**

**Photographer: Laurie Monaco**



**O**N SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2014 we met at the Columns at 8:00 for the Obsidian Basic Climb School rock climbing session. Obsidian and Eugene Mountain Rescue volunteers set up an engaging course for the students that included ascending a fixed rope, transitioning to a horizontal fixed line, and rappelling. We also had a top rope climb set up, another vertical fixed line station, and a climbing techniques station. The students learned how to belay, rappel and travel on a fixed line as well as some techniques for crack climbing. The weather was good and all the students seemed to enjoy themselves. Members: Maryanne Reiter, Jennifer Rogers, Jim Woodard. Nonmembers: Jeremy Ludwig, Scarlett Philibosian, George Williamson, Sara Bowen,

Kristi Skoog, Bruce Kreitzberg, Shawn Prime, Cody Gregory.

### **Climb School - Rock**

**April 6, 2014**

**Leader: Maryanne Reiter**

**ON SUNDAY APRIL 6, 2014** we met at the Columns at 8:00 for the Obsidians Basic Climb School rock climbing session. Obsidian and Eugene Mountain Rescue volunteers set up an engaging course for the students that included ascending a fixed rope, transitioning to a horizontal fixed line, and rappelling. We also had a top rope climb set up, another vertical fixed line station, and a climbing techniques station. The students learned how to belay, rappel and travel on a fixed line. There was some light precipitation but since the leader promised no rain, it did not rain. Members: Rebecca Eastwood, Maryanne Reiter. Nonmembers: Dan Fent, Justin Howell, Benjamin Pellegrom, Scott Huette, Brian Vollmer-Buhl, Elizabeth Vollmer-Buhl, Emily Boatner, Joel Zeni, Jenny DeLuca, Kevin Lippke.

### **Climb School - Snow**

**April 12, 2014**

**Leader: Dave Beardsley**

**Photographer: Laurie Monaco**

**THE 2014 OBSIDIAN BASIC CLIMB SCHOOL SNOW FIELD SESSION** was held on the west side of Hayrick Butte in Santiam Pass under a perfect clear blue sky. Twenty-two students and eight assistants enjoyed a full day on steep slopes practicing self-arrest, anchor building, roped travel, communication, belaying and crevasse travel. Members: Dave Beardsley, Rebecca Eastwood, Jennifer Rogers, Jim Woodard. Nonmembers: Dan Fent, Jeremy Ludwig, Justin Howell, Scarlett Philibosian, George Williamson, Sara Bowen, Benjamin Pellegrom, Scott Huette, Kristi Skoog, Brian Vollmer-Buhl, Elizabeth Vollmer-Buhl, Bruce Kreitzberg, Shawn Prime, Cody Gregory, Emily Boatner, Joel Zeni, Jenny DeLuca, Kevin Lippke, Caroline McCants.







## Hikes

### **Magnolia Arboretum & Middle Fork Path**

**March 25, 2014**

**Leader: Janet Jacobsen**

**Hike: 8.5 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)**

**T**HE FORECAST FOR PRECIPITATION AND A THUNDERSTORM in the North Bank Deer Preserve area prompted us to change our hike to the hidden ten-acre Wallace M. Ruff Jr. Park and Magnolia Arboretum in east Springfield. The park was established in 1992 by Ruff, Sr. who wanted to create the largest magnolia arboretum west of the Mississippi River. We ambled the bark mulch paths viewing over one hundred twenty magnolia trees in various stages of bloom. By 9:00 we were at Dorris Park for a brisk walk on the paved Middle Fork Path. The trillium, fawn lilies, hounds tongue, and camas lily sprinkled the steep hillside above the river. We were even more satisfied with our change in plans when the sun broke through the clouds. Members: May Fogg, Judy Garwood, Janet Jacobsen, Patricia MacAfee. Nonmembers: Vega Barkley.

### **Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte**

**March 26, April 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2014**

**Leader: Janet Jacobsen, Tommy Young (April 9)**

**Photographer: Tommy Young**

**Hike: 6.2 miles, 1,530 ft. (Moderate)**

**THE HIKERS BY DATE WERE: MARCH 26** - Members: May Fogg, Janet Jacobsen, Jan Pylar, Jorry Rolfe. Nonmembers:



David Cooper, Vega Barkley. **APRIL 2** - Members: Janet Jacobsen, Jan Pylar, David Reinhard, Jorry Rolfe, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Caroline Moore. **APRIL 9** - Members: Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Gary Ladenes, Caroline Moore, Carla Lyon. **APRIL 16** - Members: David Cooper, May Fogg, David Hawkins, Janet Jacobsen, Tom Rundle, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Caroline Moore, Carla Lyon, Barbara Hurwich. **APRIL 23** - Members: Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Craig Molitor, Jorry Rolfe, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Kathy Giesen, Gary Ladenes, Caroline Moore, Carla Lyon.

### **Ridgeline Trail**

**March 30, 2014**

**Leader: Janet Jacobsen**

**Photographer: Holger Krentz**

**Hike: 6.2 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)**

**CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND OBSIDIAN, BETTY TAYLOR**, and her dog, Lucy, visited with us in the parking lot before we headed out to the Blanton Trailhead. The Blanton section, our favorite, had the best display of trillium, fawn



lilies, and calypso orchids. The Lane County Youth Corps was out in full force spreading gravel on the Willamette section. We thank them! On top of Baldy with one-half mile to go, we thought we might have to outrun the rain. Luck was with us. We were dry when we reached our cars at the Spring Trailhead. Members: May Fogg, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Ruth Romoser. Nonmembers: David Cooper, Carla Cooper.

### **Clearwater Trail**

**March 31, 2014**

**Leader: Karla Rusow**

**Hike: 8 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)**

**THE TWO OF US HAD A VERY PLEASANT, SOMEWHAT CHILLY WALK.** We started at 9:30, as planned, took a short break at the Clearwater Trailhead and headed back to Dorris Ranch. Members: Ruth Romoser, Karla Rusow.

## Goodman Creek

April 1, 2014

Leader & photographer: Tom Musselwhite

Hike: 6 miles, 1,000 ft. (Easy)

**A FEW BIG TREES AND REMNANTS OF AN OLD GROWTH FOREST ARE BIG ATTRACTIONS** on this low elevation, close to town hike. On this day, calypso orchids, wildflowers, ferns, and mosses lined the trail. Trillium were abundant. Recent rains made for a muddy, slick path in a few places.



Several stream crossings made keeping your feet dry a challenge. Despite the reputation as a high use area, the only people we saw were a couple of Forest Service workers putting the finishing touches on the new Hardesty Mountain Trailhead. The trailhead sign on Highway 58 that once read *Goodman Creek Trail*, now reads *Hardesty Mountain Trail*. I planned on about a four-mile walk, but we actually clocked just over six miles with no complaints. If you turn back at the big log footbridge, it would reduce the trail distance to about four miles (as advertised). The newly refurbished and renamed trailhead features new restrooms and a paved parking area. A great close to town hike that still gets you out there. We dodged the rain and the bicycles! A leisurely and lovely stroll on the fringes of the Willamette National Forest. Members: Tom Musselwhite, Tom Rundle. Nonmembers: Kathy Giesen, Steve Cordon, Cliff Gray, Deanna Palm.

## Trestle Creek Falls

April 13, 2014

Leader: Tom Musselwhite

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

**TWELVE OF US MET UP AT SOUTH EUGENE** on this superb spring morning. Our destination—the upper reaches of Brice Creek and Trestle Creek Falls. The day was the warmest of the season thus far, but not too hot. It was a perfect day for a trip into the old forests of the Oregon Cascades. We departed the trailhead at 10:30. Our fastest hikers reached the upper falls first. Some of us dallied along the way a bit longer, ogling over and photographing wildflowers and such. Calypso orchids and trillium were plentiful, mosses and ferns were still lush. After reassembling at the

upper falls, our group embarked back down the opposite side of the Trestle Creek basin to visit the lower falls. Lunch time found us picking spots among the cascades and pools along Brice Creek. It was a great day to appreciate and enjoy a few of the natural wonders so close to home with a group of like-minded trekkers who still like getting out there. Members: Don Colgan, Chuck Eysers, Kathy



Hoeg, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Patrice McCaffrey, Tom Musselwhite, Brian Popowsky, Dave Predeek, Tom Rundle, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Marissa Athens.

## Mt. Pisgah-Sunset/Moonrise

April 14, 2014

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

**MOONRISE WAS AT 7:30 PM**, but with the low-hanging clouds, we knew we would have to wait in a chilly wind



with our eyes glued to the east. Twenty minutes later, Darko saw the first color appear. It wasn't long until the full moon finally made it above the clouds. There were cheers from another group. Mars was close by. No, we didn't stay on top to wait for the lunar eclipse! Thanks to the Obsidian lunar spectators who didn't give up. Members: David Cooper,

Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Jan Pylar, David Reinhard, Darko Sojak.

## Wild Iris Ridge Park

April 19, 2014

Leader: Joanne Ledet

Hike: 3 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

WHEN I SCOUTED A PORTION OF THIS TRAIL ON APRIL 13, it was a perfect day: the sun was shining, the views were great, the birds were singing, and the wild iris were in full bloom. We were not quite so fortunate the day of our walk. The wind was blowing and rain was threatening, but it did not dampen the spirits of the hikers who participated in the first Obsidian hike to this area. We were still able to see an abundance of wild iris, some checker mallow and buttercups, and a few wild turkeys. The park also has many madrone trees and quite a few of their leaves had been severely nipped by the cold weather this winter. Thanks to Tommy for sharing his knowledge of the park area and showing us some paths to explore on another trip. Members: Roberta Chord, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Yuan Hopkins, Joanne Ledet, Anne Montgomery, Margaret Prentice, Michelle Tambellini, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Kathy Giesen, Carla Cooper, Pete McManus.

## Yachats to Waldport

April 20, 2014

Leader: Janet Jacobsen, Asst: Darko Sojak

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 7 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

WE HAD RAVE REVIEWS FOR OUR ONE-WAY BEACH WALK with sun, blue skies, little wind, and big waves. Most



of us jumped and splashed through the larger creeks, while some removed shoes or did the garbage bag stomp. It was hard to leave our lunch spot at Tillicum State Park. We were back at the shuttle cars at Patterson State Park by 2:00. Our co-leader, Darko, made a pep talk for ice cream at BJ's in Florence. Sorry to say, there is not enough room to list the most popular flavors. What a pleasant day! Round trip from Target to Patterson State Park was 184 miles. Members: Dick Hildreth, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Verlean

McCoy, Jan Pylar, Tom Rundle, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Kenneth Parramore, Alice Krentz.

## North Bank Deer Preserve

April 27, 2014

Leader: Janet Jacobsen, Asst: Don Colgan

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 7.4 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

WE LEFT EUGENE AT 7:45, we were on the trail at 9:15, and four hours later, we were back at the cars with muddy boots. Thirteen of us were happy that we paid no attention to the forecast for rain showers. The short, windy, rain shower with wind after lunch was exciting. It was a pleasant temperature for hiking the open rolling hills, through open



oak savannas and green meadows, following the ridge lines that provided 360-degree panoramic views of the North Fork of the Umpqua River and surrounding areas. After adding up all the ups and the ups-and-downs, we managed a gross elevation loop of 1,800 ft. There were muddy places, abundant poison oak, dramatic madrone trees, and lots of wildflowers. We saw white and purple iris, white camas, and Hooker's Indian pink (*Silene hookeri*). Thanks to co-leader Don Colgan and drivers. I'm waiting to hear if any hikers turn up with poison oak. Members: Mari Baldwin, Don Colgan, David Cooper, Judy Garwood, Lisa Grissell, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Andrew McIvor, Jorry Rolfe, Randall Sinnott, Fumiyo Tao. Nonmembers: Jim Zajac, Michael Wolf.

## Fall Creek

April 27, 2014

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 6 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

WITH THE SUN OUT AND BROKEN CLOUDS, three of us headed out to Fall Creek, hoping that the weather would stay that way. It did for 3.5 miles where we stopped at a bridge to have lunch. The wildflowers were out in abundance. There was also an abundance of mud on the trail. As we ate our lunch, the cloud cover deepened and it started to sprinkle. As we packed up, it started to rain and it rained heavily all the way back to the car. A short stop for coffee at Pleasant Hill was enjoyed by all. Members: Ken DenOuden, Rebecca Eastwood, Jane Hackett.



## Extended Trips

### Crater Lake Ski/Snowshoe

April 4, 2014

Leader & photographer: Chris Stockdale  
Extended Trip

**A** CONGENIAL GROUP OF 16 SKIERS AND SNOWSHOERS took over the Union Creek Lodge for a weekend of activity at Crater Lake. After what has been a disas-



trous snow season, we weren't sure what we would find up at the lake and were happy to find plenty of snow to play on. Although we were somewhat disillusioned by the steady rain at the lodge, our minds were eased as we approached the lake and the rain turned into snow showers. Visibility was disappointing as the lake was obscured by clouds and fog, but everyone was able to ski or snowshoe. On Saturday evening, everyone pitched in to help with a group dinner which was enjoyed in front of a roaring log fire in the living area. On Sunday, some of the group went hiking along the Rogue River trail and others headed back to the lake. This time the weather cooperated and we were treated to a view

of the whole lake. Thanks to everyone who helped organize the dinner, drive carpools, and organize the daily trips. Members: Charles Couture, Joella Ewing, May Fogg, Lisa Grissell, Sandra Larsen, Sue Meyers, Ginny Reich, Leila Snow, Chris Stockdale, Jeanine Taylor, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Patty Neis, Ted Taylor, Jan Pylar.



## Obsidian Booth at Earth Day Celebration

**D**ARKO SOJAK AND HOLGER KRENTZ set up the booth at the EWEB Plaza and staffed the booth for the first shift. Darko said, "It was rainy and windy setup. Our small red tent was only like preschool emergency shelter. Holger and I had a tough time keeping all stuff dry and without blowing away. Next to our booth was Next Step Recycling with a nice, taller tent with removable sides. We should have one."

The next three shifts were hosted by Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnot, Joella Ewing, Lynn Eichner-Kelley, Janet and John Jacobsen. Around 132 people stopped by the booth to ask questions or chat about the Obsidians.

The Publicity Committee has board approval to improve the tent situation. Hopefully by the Eugene Celebration, the Obsidians will have a new tent!



## UPCOMING

### Ridgeline Celebration Saturday June 7

**W**ATCH THE NEWSPAPER AND OTHER MEDIA SOURCES for the event details for the Ridgeline Celebration, Saturday, June 7 at the Spencer Butte parking lot. Information about the history and ecology of the Ridgeline corridor, and booths from participating groups will be presented from 11:00–2:00. There will be information about the realignment of the trail at the Spencer Butte Summit. The Obsidian booth will feature historical photos of Spencer Butte and current trail maintenance photos.

Matt Bell will lead an interpretative hike about trail maintenance. The Obsidians will offer a car shuttle for a Ridgeline Trail hike from the Spring Blvd. trailhead back to the celebration at the parking lot. Check Online Signup for these events. It is also National Trails Day, a time to recognize volunteers who care for trails. If you would like to help, contact Matt at [trails@obsidians.org](mailto:trails@obsidians.org) or

[publicity@obsidians.org](mailto:publicity@obsidians.org)

### ExploraTalk 7 PM June 17 Obsidian Lodge

**D**AVE HELFRICH, 80, McKenzie River guide since age 15, tells river stories of Prince Helfrich (and Obsidians).

A detailed story about Dave Helfrich and this most exciting ExploraTalk will appear in the June Bulletin, but mark your calendars now in case the Bulletin gets to you late. He and his *McKenzie Memories* have been featured in the *Register-Guard*, with pictures, twice in the past year. You won't want to miss this one.

## Strawberry Mountain Summer Camp

**C**ARPPOOLING TO CAMP IS ENCOURAGED. You are responsible for finding travel partners by reviewing the online signup list where individuals have indicated whether they need a ride or want riders. It's about 300 miles, a 6–7 hour ride, including a few short stops.

**First timers** to Camp have been assigned a camp buddy—he/she is your *go to* person for the inevitable questions. They will also help orient you the first day or two in the Strawberries. If you can't remember the name of your camp buddy, contact Lana Lindstrom.

**Camp Booklets** were distributed to all registered campers at the April Rally potluck. They include a packing list, information about the area, and 24 hike descriptions. Booklets which were not picked up at the Rally are in the Obsidian green box at the YMCA. They are also available online.

**Cancellations.** We recognize that plans change and cancellations occur. If you cancel prior to June 30, you will forfeit \$35. If you cancel after June 30, you will forfeit the entire payment (\$270 for members/\$300 for nonmembers).

**Prepare for Camp!** You'll have a much better time if you're in shape. Now is the time to start regularly hiking up Pisgah, Spencer Butte, or just around the neighborhood. You might also want to read about the geology and history

of the area—we'll be near the towns of John Day, Prairie City and Canyon City. Find out where the gold is located. Browse nature books so you can identify some of the profuse flowers you'll see while hiking. Review the Camp Booklet and Bill Sullivan's Eastern Oregon hiking book and select a hike or two you would like to lead.



# UPCOMING BUS TRIPS



## More Food III

**Date: Wednesday, June 18**

**Leader: Mary Ellen West**

**Cost: \$45 (\$47 nonmembers)**

**Reservations & checks: Janet Speelman, 344-3019**

**T**HIS TRIP WILL SHOWCASE WILLAMETTE VALLEY FOOD PRODUCERS. Our first stop will be at the Hunton Family Farm near Junction City. The grains and beans grown here should be up and growing. Our coffee break will be here in the education building. Then we will go to the Camas County Mill where the grains are milled and the products are packaged. Then it's off to the Hard Times Distillery in Monroe. Vodka is the main spirit produced. Lunch (on your own) will be at the New Morning Deli in Corvallis. We will stop at the Peoria Farmers' Market on our way to Stahlbush Island Farms. This farm grows and processes fruit and vegetables on 5,000 acres. Our final stop will be in Junction City for Lochmead ice cream.

## Mt. St. Helens, NW Trek Wildlife Park

**Dates: July 15-16 (Tues - Wed)**

**Leaders: Sharon Cutsforth & Bill Arthur**

**Cost: \$180 (\$184 nonmembers)**

**Reservations & checks: Barbara Payne 746-1964**

NATURALIST RICK AHRENS will accompany us on this nature oriented trip north to view the recovery process in the Mount St. Helens blast area and to see wildlife of the Pacific Northwest. We will leave Shopko at 7:30 AM, stopping for our coffee break at a rest area near Wilsonville. Bring a

sack lunch. The picnic lunch spot will be determined later. There are many viewpoints and places of interest along SR 504, known as Spirit Lake Memorial Highway. We plan to visit the Weyerhaeuser Forest Learning Center, located just inside the blast zone, to learn about forest replanting and recovery. Perhaps we will see some of the thousands of elk that have returned to Mt. St. Helens. Next we travel to Johnston Ridge Observatory, named for the volcanologist who was camped on the ridge when the volcano blew. Bring your Golden Age Pass. As time allows, we will stop at other interesting spots along the highway. We then travel up to Eatonville, lodging at the Mill Village Motel. There are several restaurants nearby for dinner (on your own), and free continental breakfast at the motel in the morning. We plan a grocery stop before heading to the Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. It will be your choice whether to bring a sack lunch or eat at the Wildlife Park restaurant. There will be time to take the guided tram tour (cost included) among the animals and to walk the forest paths to view the larger predatory animals. We suggest picking up some snacks, as it will be a long drive back to Eugene, with rest stops along the way, probably arriving by 7 PM.

## Back to the Coast

**Date: August 13 (Wednesday)**

**Leader: Mary Ellen West**

**Cost: \$48 (\$50 nonmembers) to Janet Speelman 344-3019**

## Oregon History: Men (Families) & Machines

**Date: September 11 (Thursday)**

**Leader: Mary Ellen West**

**Cost: \$55 (\$57 nonmembers) Janet Speelman 344-3019**

## Fall Color in the Cascades

**Date: October 8 (Wednesday)**

**Leaders: Bill Arthur, Barbara & Paul Beard**

**Cost: \$45 (\$47 nonmembers) Mary Lee Cheadle 689-1085**

## Christmas Lights at River Forks Park

**Date: December 2 (Tuesday)**

**Leader: Verna Kocken**

**Cost: \$57 (\$59 nonmembers) Liz Reanier 687-1925**

# Strawberry Wilderness Ghostly Sighting: Summer Campers Beware of Joaquin Miller

Janet Jacobsen

**T**HE UNKEMPT GHOST OF JOAQUIN MILLER stepped out of the dark shadows to visit the campfire at the 1997 Strawberry Wilderness Summer Camp. There was a stunned silence while the *Poet of the Sierras* bedazzled Obsidians with his poetry and scolded them about their *flamboyant* tents. Before he disappeared back into the shadows, he admonished us to visit his cabin near Canyon City to get into the spirit of roughing it.

Joaquin departed from Eugene City in 1863 to gold rush boomtown Canyon City where he was elected the third judge of Grant County and practiced law until 1869. His wife, Minnie, and new baby joined him but that is another story. His old cabin is located at the Grant County Historical Museum. The Joaquin Miller cabin is one of several memorial literary sites listed in the *Oregon Cultural Heritage*



*Commission Literary Sites.*

Research, not ghostly visits, provided the framework for Bill Sullivan's novel *A Deeper Wild*, about flamboyant Joaquin Miller (1837-1913) and his two wives. When accused of being a liar, Miller supposedly answered, "I am not a liar. I simply exaggerate the truth." It is quickly apparent that one has to dig deeper through the lies, scandals, and legends for the facts. Sullivan writes in his forward, "I offer instead the story of a fascinating man and the courageous women who molded his life."

For another Joaquin experience, Sullivan describes the difficult Joaquin Miller Trail in his *100 Hikes Eastern Oregon*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. "Surprisingly few people have discovered the lovely path that climbs the quiet south side of the Strawberry Range to a viewpoint crest." There is no guarantee that struggling up the 5.8-mile trail with 3,250-foot elevation gain would offer a ghostly sighting. We can only hope that Joaquin Miller appears again at the 2014 Summer Camp.

Sources:

*A Deeper Wild* by William L. Sullivan, 2000

*100 Hikes/Travel Guide Eastern Oregon* by William Sullivan, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2008.

Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission Literary Sites:  
<http://www.ochcom.org/>

Report Page: Strawberry Wilderness [www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

Grant County Historical Museum 101 South Canyon City Boulevard, Open Monday-Saturday, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM, \$4.00/\$3.00 admission

## In 1983 Rainbow Falls Saved from the Axe Made Part of Three Sisters Wilderness

*Note: This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act. In celebration of the Act, the Obsidian Bulletin is publishing a series of articles about Obsidian involvement in bringing about legislation protecting some of our members' favorite hiking destinations. This month we will describe events leading up to Rainbow Falls inclusion in the Three Sisters Wilderness.*

**A** GROUP HIKING TO BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW FALLS in July, 1983 found marking tape along the trail alerting them to the imminence of the proposed Wangdoodle Timber

Sale. In response, then Obsidian President Joe Lowry fired off a letter to Randy Dunbar, ranger of the McKenzie District of the Willamette National Forest, urging the Forest Service to halt any logging activity in the area until the U.S. Senate had an opportunity to act on legislation to include Rainbow Falls in its pending wilderness proposal.

The Oregon Natural Resources Council, the Natural History Society, the McKenzie Guardians, the Native Plant Society and the Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness are

*(Continued on page 16)*

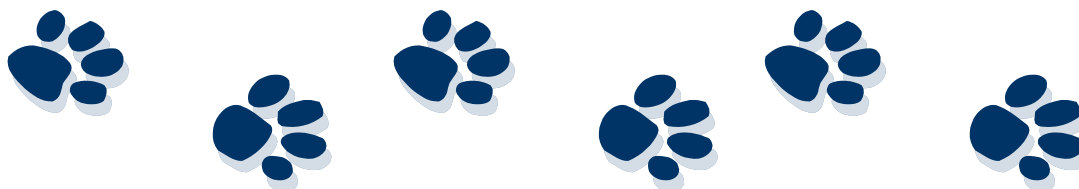
*(Rainbow Falls continued from page 15)*

some of the organizations that joined forces with the Obsidians to support the proposal.

According to a July 11, 1983 *Register-Guard* article, former Obsidian President Ben Ross “has given the trail a workout this spring” escorting representatives of these organizations, plus field representatives to Oregon Senators Bob Packwood and Mark Hatfield, as well as *Register-Guard* and TV reporters, to a spectacular viewpoint where Rainbow Creek cascades down the side of the canyon before joining Separation Creek 800 feet below. The viewpoint is from a promontory on the northern side of the canyon. “The falls, a series of vertical drops down the canyon wall, are framed by the snow-covered peaks of the Three Sisters Mountains to the east,” the article said.

Ironically, Rainbow Creek itself was used as the boundary for the Three Sisters Wilderness when it was created in 1957, Ross said. However, the falls itself, “one of the more dramatic features of the canyon, was left unprotected.” The goal of the informal group, the Friends of Rainbow Falls, was to have the boundary moved back about one mile to Foley Ridge Road, so the falls and the surrounding area of about 640 acres would be given wilderness protection.

Rainbow Falls supporters were able to testify at a hearing held in Salem by Senator Hatfield on August 25, 1983. Eventually the efforts of the Obsidians and the other outdoor organizations bore fruit when Congress enacted legislation including Rainbow Falls in the Three Sisters Wilderness.



## The Obsidian Role in Saving Three Sisters Wilderness

**Barb Revere**

***(Reprinted from the November 2005 Bulletin)***

*(Saving Wilderness in the Oregon Cascades: The Story of the Friends of the Three Sisters, by Lawrence C. Merriam; published by Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness, Eugene, 1999; 52 pages; available in Eugene & Springfield Public Libraries.)*

**H**AVE YOU EVER HIKE UP LOWDER MOUNTAIN and cautiously leaned over the ledge to view the beautiful Karl and Ruth Lakes hundreds of feet below and wondered, “Who were Karl and Ruth?” If so, this is the book for you.

Karl and Ruth Onthank were among the founding members of the Friends of the Three Sisters, the organization most responsible for preserving the wilderness we hike today. In May 1954, the U. S. Forest Service regional office in Portland recommended the Three Sisters Primitive Area be reclassified as an area with lesser protection. In addition, there was a proposed reduction of about 50,000 acres. The area west of Horse Creek and east of Ollallie Ridge would be excluded and opened to logging, mining and road building. Though many conservation groups expressed dissatisfaction with this decision, the Obsidians responded by convening a committee to fight the action. They organized the Friends of the Three Sisters with the goal of preserving the wilderness intact. The original Friends members were all Obsidians, but soon began to draw on other outdoor and conservation groups like the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, the Eugene Natural

History Society and the Mazamas. They received help from sympathetic politicians like U.S. Senator Wayne Morse.

The book includes a list of 39 hikes and pack trips taken each July into the Three Sisters area to publicize the fight beyond conservation circles. More than 60 photos, many historic, fill the book, as well as five maps. The official first statement of the Friends is also included. Merriam begins with a brief history of the Three Sisters area, from inclusion in the Cascade National Reserve in 1893 to designation as a national forest in 1933 to the creation of the Three Sisters Primitive Area in 1937. The book then launches into the more than 24-year battle to get the highest wilderness status established and to restore the Horse Creek and French Pete exclusion area.

The chronology of events is told in a rather dry outline style, but gives the reader a strong sense of the dedication, perseverance and sheer bull-doggedness needed when average citizens fight wealthy powerful lobbies and bureaucratic lethargy and self-interest. Each new blow dealt by the Forest Service and timber lobby meant a new letter campaign and new scientific studies, as well as countless phone calls and petitions. Appendix III, which contains personal remembrances by 14 former Friends, tells the story best; these were busy people with families and careers, yet they found the time and dedication to fight for the wilderness we enjoy today. They were environmentalists before environmentalism was mainstream.



# A Woman's Fight for Wilderness

*Judy Newman*

**I** RECENTLY SAW A DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT THE LIFE OF MARDY (MARGARET) MURIE. Not a household name? She is often called the mother of the conservation movement in America. She married her biologist husband, Olaus Murie, in 1924, and spent her honeymoon traveling by boat and dogsled for three months with him in the wilderness of the Upper Koyukuk River country of Alaska while he completed his studies of the caribou population in that area.

This trip and subsequent trips into the wilds of Alaska, instilled in her a love of that country that she shared not only with her husband but with National Park Service scientists and the many conservationists of the time (Robert Marshall, founder of the Wilderness Society, Aldo Leopold, Supreme Court Justice William O'Douglas, and Howard Zahniser, author of the Wilderness Act, among others). All of them felt compelled to find a way to preserve this wilderness. Many of them expressed values they saw inherent in wilderness that went beyond what we would expect, well beyond the flora and fauna and recreation, to the spiritual and inspirational.

As two people who had lived and studied in wilderness areas for extended periods over many years, the Muries became leaders of the effort to preserve a part of Alaska as a perpetual wilderness. In 1960 the Arctic National Wildlife Range was signed into being. Olaus died in 1963 but Mardy continued on with the conservation work. In 1964 she was at the White House when President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act. Throughout the seventies she continued on with the work of protecting the ANWR from being divided. She wrote letters, gave speeches, and testified at hearings. She was an invited speaker when Jimmy Carter was honored for expanding the range and renaming it in 1980. ANWR was increased in size in 1983 and again in 1988 to its present size of approximately 19.3 million acres – the largest of the refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

In 1998, Mardy Murie was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton. Mardy Murie, author and activist, died in 2003 at the age of 101, having been a constant, vigilant adherent of the conservation of

wilderness

The complete article can be found at:

[http://www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/2006\\_Bulletins/2006\\_04\\_Bulletin.pdf](http://www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/2006_Bulletins/2006_04_Bulletin.pdf)

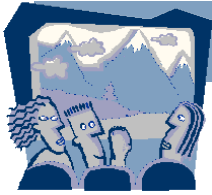
For additional information: *Two in the Far North*, by Margaret Murie, 1997.

[www.muriecenter.org](http://www.muriecenter.org)

[www.arcticdance.com](http://www.arcticdance.com)



## At The Lodge



# POTLUCK

Friday, May 30

## Hiking in Scotland

*Hiking the highlands and islands of Scotland! We spent an amazing and challenging week of hiking along the west coast from Ullapool to Gairloch and the Isle of Skye. From being almost blown off a cliff our first day with pounding rain, gale-force wind, and a reverse waterfall, our adventure began in a very challenging way. Every day was filled with incredible scenery, wonderful people, delicious food, and musi—a trip of a lifetime!*

Come hear Judy Sinnott and friends describe their amazing adventures.

### May Potluck

Friday, May 30, 2014

Social hour 6 PM, Potluck 6:30 PM, Program 7:30 PM  
Obsidian Lodge

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



## ExploraTalk

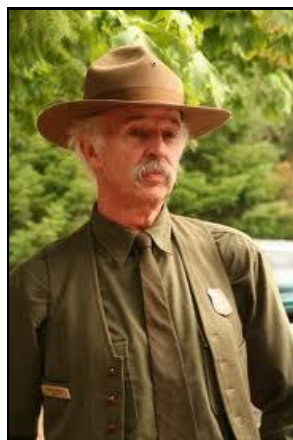
Tuesday June 3, at 7 PM

## Kalapuya/Molala Cultures

**T**ONY FARQUE, Archaeologist for the US Forest Service for more than 30 years, will focus on Kalapuya and Molala Native American cultural history found in the wilderness around the South Santiam River.

Discussion topics will include tribal culture history, traditional cultural landscapes, restoration, rock art interpretation, and tribal stories. Archaeological excavations, analysis, ethnographies, pioneer recollections and current tribal input will provide the basis for the presentation. Artifacts and replicas will be on display for viewing and a question and answer session will follow.

Additional topics will include traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), hunting/gathering societies, pre-contact ways of life, cultural adaptation to historic and pre-historic



environmental change, material wealth/trade, and current tribal/USFS joint efforts to restore traditional cultural landscapes.

### Related Hike June 20

The presentation serves as preparation for a subsequent hike to the Cascadia Cave rock shelter site located on private land. Cascadia Cave is one of the oldest documented archaeological sites in Oregon. The only approved public access is with USFS personnel, permitted by agreement with the land owners.

Early excavations by UO icon Luther Cressman established a base line for comparative analysis of the site, which displays the largest and most complex rock art found in western Oregon. ExploraTalk presenter Tony Farque will guide us on an ancient indigenous travel route along the north bank of the South Santiam River; Sign up on our online sign-up system.

**Joella Ewing Conservation, Science and Education Committee Chair**

# Carpooling

Pat Esch

**C**ONFUSED ABOUT CARPOOLING? Is it or isn't it a part of an official Obsidian trip? The Obsidian board approved the formation of an ad-hoc carpooling committee to discuss and clarify the issue.

So, you've signed up online, signed the signup sheet at the meeting place, paid the trip fee, had introductions and divided up for various cars. Isn't this the beginning? No.

These are the preliminaries and not until everything is sorted out at the trailhead does the trip really begin. There may be no-shows at the meeting place and some participants may join along the way or not until the trailhead. The club has an unwritten policy of not getting involved in carpooling, which means that the official trip begins at the trailhead.

Participants are responsible for choosing which car to travel in and the group should try to balance out the number of riders in each car. The trip leader is not responsible for assigning riders to cars, but will indicate who the drivers are.

The carpooling fee is paid when you get back to town. By paying the driver at the end of the trip, the shared cost is clearer. The fee is considered sharing the cost of the travel expense. Our drivers are greatly appreciated and the club does not consider them chauffeurs.

## USFS Wants to Know Your Favorite Places In the Willamette National Forest

**I**T'S FINALLY HERE! An online mapping tool that allows you to tell the USFS about the places you like to visit in the Willamette National Forest, available here: <http://go.usa.gov/KqGH>

This new, innovative tool makes it easy for you to draw right on a map (circling an area, drawing a line, or a specific spot) and tell us why that area is important to you. You can also see what areas are important to others. Comments and drawings you make can be seen by others—so please add your thoughts to the dialogue.

According to Matt Peterson, assistant recreation staff officer, "We will use this information to help develop our road investment strategy and identify the roads and special places that are important for maintaining access over time." Matt is in charge of the road investment strategy and spoke about it at our December 2013 ExploraTalk.

**Joella Ewing. Conservation, Science, Education Chair**

## Obsidian Calendar

### May

14 Wed <b>Pisgah-Sunset/Moonrise</b> Hike M Jacobsen	343-8030
14 Wed <b>Spencer Butte</b> Hike M Jacobsen	343-8030
16 Fri <b>French Glen</b> Extended Trip E Camp	685-1964
17 Sat <b>Hills of SW Eugene</b> Hike M Ledet	683-2603
17 Sat <b>Rooster Rock</b> Hike D Jacobsen	343-8030
18 Sun <b>Cayuse Creek</b> Hike M Musselwhite	461-3296
21 Wed <b>Spencer Butte</b> Hike M Jacobsen	343-8030
22 Thu <b>Mary's Peak</b> Hike M Wolters	757-2977
24 Sat <b>Eel Creek</b> Hike M Hackett	953-7046
25 Sun <b>Hardesty-Eula Ridge</b> Hike D Beardsley	357-0630
25 Sun <b>Mt. June</b> Hike M Lindstrom	683-1409
26 Mon <b>Ribbon Trail</b> Hike E Jacobsen	343-8030
28 Wed <b>Spencer Butte</b> Hike M Jacobsen	343-8030
28 Wed <b>Spencer Butte</b> Trail Maint M Bell	503-884-8829
29 Thu <b>Scio Covered Bridges</b> Bike M Hughes	933-5542
30 Fri <b>Trip Thru Scotland</b>	<b>Potluck</b>
30 Fri <b>Blacklock Point Coast</b> Backpack M Hovis	731-3412
31 Sat <b>Mt. Hood</b> Climb Beardsley	357-0630
31 Sat <b>Brice Creek</b> Hike E Hackett	953-7046

### June

1 Sun <b>Dog Mountain</b> Hike D Giesen	554-4162
3 Tue <b>Footsteps of the Kalapuya</b>	<b>ExploraTalk</b>
4 Wed <b>Spencer Butte</b> Hike M Jacobsen	343-8030
7 Sat <b>National Trails Day</b> Trl Mnt M Bell	503-884-8829
7 Sat <b>Ridgeline Trail Celebration</b> Hike E Jacobsen	343-8030
7 Sat <b>South Sister</b> Climb Deeter	954-0924
8 Sun <b>Heceta Head/Hobbit Trail</b> Hike M Lipton	736-7498
8 Sun <b>TBA Conditioning</b> Hike D Beardsley	357-0630
11 Wed <b>Spencer Butte</b> Hike M Jacobsen	343-8030
12 Thu <b>Pisgah-Sunset/Moonrise</b> Hike M Jacobsen	343-8030
13 Fri <b>Trout Creek Mountains</b> Bk Pk D Sullivan	683-6837
13 Fri <b>Mt. Rainier</b> Climb Beardsley	357-0630
15 Sun <b>Brownsville - Corvallis Loop</b> Bike D Hegg	484-0619
17 Tue <b>Down the McKenzie</b>	<b>ExploraTalk</b>
18 Wed <b>More Food III</b> Bus West	343-5492
20 Fri <b>Cascadia Cave Rock Shelter</b> Hike E Ewing	344-9197
21 Sat <b>Mt. Pisgah-Sunset</b> Hike M Jacobsen	343-8030
21 Sat <b>Mt. Thielsen</b> Climb Willhite	406-570-4514
21 Sat <b>Fish Lake Water</b> E Sather	822-0311
22 Sun <b>Three Mile Lake</b> Hike M Hovis	731-3412
22 Sun <b>Browder Ridge</b> Hike D Giesen	554-4162
25 Wed <b>Spencer Butte</b> Hike M Jacobsen	343-8030
25 Wed <b>Spencer Butte Trail</b> Trl Mnt M Bell	503-884-8829
26 Thu <b>Iron Mountain</b> Hike M Camp	685-1964
27 Fro <b>Sweet Creek Falls</b> Hike E Ewing	344-9197
27 Fri <b>Parvin Covered Bridge</b> Bike M Esch	338-8280
28 Sat <b>Iron Mountain</b> Hike M Lipton	736-7498
28 Sat <b>Mt. Washington</b> Climb Hamilton	343-6550
28 Sat <b>Macduff Mountain</b> Hike M Jacobse	343-8030
29 Sun <b>Horse Pasture</b> Hike M Hackett	953-7046

### July

4 Fri <b>Obsidian Loop</b> Hike M Grant	514-1176
5 Sat <b>Lowder Mountain</b> Hike M Terry	345-0720
6 Sun <b>Matthieu Lakes</b> Hike M Grant	514-1176
7 Mon <b>Smith Rocks</b> Hike M Hackett	953-7046
11 Fri <b>French Pete Creek</b> Hike M Colgan	485-2787

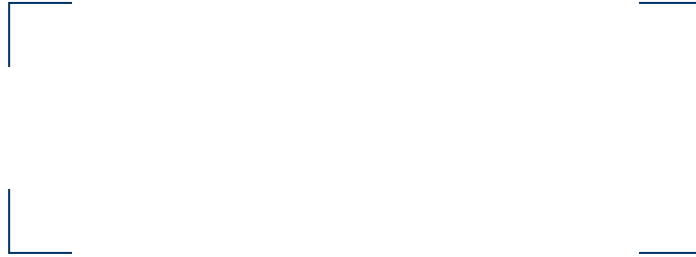
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**May 2014**



*Calypso orchids—photo by Holger Krentz*