

# The **OBSIDIAN** Bulletin

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NUMBER 8

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## Dates to Remember

December 2 Board Meeting  
 January 1 *Bulletin* Deadline

Current event schedules at:  
[www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

*The Register-Guard*  
 Sports/Outdoor Calendar—Tuesday

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram:  
[www.facebook.com/theobsidians](http://www.facebook.com/theobsidians)

[@Eugene\\_obsidians](https://www.instagram.com/Eugene_obsidians)

Remember:  
 The **Bulletin** is not  
 published in December

## President's Address

Maryanne Reiter

**I**MAGINE YOUR FAVORITE OUTDOOR PLACE, be it a wildflower-thick alpine meadow, a gentle winding forest trail, a sweeping mountain summit or a breathlessly sheer rock face. As you read this, be there, because it is those wild outdoor places where we find our solace, our joy, our community and our strength. We are Obsidians because we choose to experience the beauty and adventure of those wild places with others. To paraphrase an old adage—we may be faster if we travel alone, but we are stronger and richer when we choose to travel together. And this year, 2020, has been a journey to test our strength as individuals and as a community due to COVID-19. I am proud to say that as Obsidians we have risen to the challenge of keeping ourselves and others safe while still sharing our love of the outdoors. We have had to cancel so many things: bus trips, potlucks, climb school, summer camp, hikes, bike rides, and educational talks. But because as Obsidians we are restless and tenacious, when Lane County went into Phase II we developed protocols to address health and safety on hikes, climbs, and bike rides so they could go on. And where face to face is still not a safe option, the Obsidians are pursuing the use of technology to provide education to the community. For all of those who stepped up to keep the outdoor activities that we could do safely going, for the Board and Committee members who persevered to keep the logistics of the club working, for all of you who stayed on as Obsidian members even though you may not have been able to do one thing with the club, I want to thank you for your effort and commitment to keep us thriving.

As 2020 has shown, we can rise to the challenge of keeping the club moving forward in difficult times. It is in this spirit of rising to the challenge that the Obsidians have initiated a strategic planning process in order to help determine where the club is going over the next several years and how it will get there. As Obsidians we understand the necessity of maps—they are one of our most cherished tools as a way to plan and dream about our trips and as a way to navigate on our journey. The planning process is our map to the future, because without one, we may arrive at an unintended destination. Over the next four to six months an *ad hoc* committee will assess the internal and external forces affecting the club (changes in demographics, etc.), seek to understand the needs of our membership and community, and then develop goals and strategies to achieve those goals. All along this planning adventure, we will keep you informed of our progress as well as look to you for input. As Obsidians we know that it is not just the destination, but it is the journey with others that enriches our lives. Likewise, it is the intent of this concerted planning effort to enrich and strengthen the club into the future so we can continue to offer our community the joy of exploring the wild and beautiful places of the Pacific Northwest.

## Membership Renewal Reminder!

**R**ENEW NOW SO YOU CAN BE INCLUDED in the 2021 Member Directory—and receive the benefits of membership for the next year. Three ways to renew:

1. Renew online with PayPal by going to your account page, where you sign in for trips.
2. Download the form from the members section of the website and mail with your check for \$30.
3. Just write your name and any contact information that has changed in the last year on a piece of paper. Mail with your check for \$30 to:

Obsidians Membership  
 P.O. Box 51510  
 Eugene OR 97405

### Board Officers for 2021

(Elected by the Board at the November Board meeting.)

Maryanne Reiter, President  
Dave Cooper, Vice President  
Denise Rubenstein, Secretary  
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer

## New Board Member

Lou Maenz

**A**T THE OCTOBER, 2020 BOARD MEETING, JORRY ROLFE WAS SELECTED TO FILL JOEL GREER'S VACANCY following his resignation. Jorry has been a very active



member of the Obsidians since she joined in January, 2012. Not only did she complete 200 hikes in her first five years, she has gone on to complete 536 hikes and has led 25, and since 2013 has been a steady Wednesday morning hiker.

Jorry has done far more for the club than simply being a hiker and hike leader. The wide array of committees she has served on is stunning. In 2013 she joined the Publicity Committee as chair. In 2016 she became a member of the Publications Committee and currently serves as an editor of trip reports. She also became the Obsidian's delegate to the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.

Then in 2017, she joined the Conservation/SciEd committee co-chaired with Tom Rundle, was chair of the committee in 2018, and then became co-chair with Kay Coots from 2019 to 2020. She and Kay Coots have creatively tackled the challenge of COVID-19 to provide opportunities for members to learn about conservation and scientific issues at Zoom meetings and outdoor events. Microplastics in the Pacific Northwest is the topic for the first Zoom presentation on November 17 (See page 13 for details).

Although Jorry has only been a member for eight years, she has been deeply involved with the club and is certainly in a knowledgeable position to provide thoughtful perspectives at Board meetings. Her appointment is an excellent choice. The Obsidians thank her.

### Editor Needed!

**T**HE BULLETIN NEEDS YOU! Now that Jorry has taken on additional responsibilities as a new member of the Obsidian Board she has submitted her resignation to the Publications Committee. Thus, we are in need of a person to take over her job as editor of the trip reports. This entails downloading the trip leader reports from the Obsidian website and readying them for publication in the Obsidian *Bulletin*. You can contact Jorry for details on what she has been doing. She is also happy to provide training for the job. If you enjoy writing, you would also enjoy meeting\*/zooming with the diverse characters that make up our editing team. Please contact:

Lou Maenz [slmaenz@aol.com](mailto:slmaenz@aol.com) or Jorry Rolfe [jorry.rolfe@gmail.com](mailto:jorry.rolfe@gmail.com)

*\*When we get back to normal after COVID-19, this will undoubtedly include lunch together at Cornucopia after the production meetings.*

### Welcome New Members

Patricia Cleall  
Eugene, OR.

Victoria Frank  
Eugene, OR.

Peter Kay  
Eugene, OR.

## OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: [www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

### Officers & Board of Directors

Maryanne Reiter, President  
Dave Cooper, Vice President  
Denise Rubenstein, Secretary  
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer  
John Cooper, Marci Hansen,  
Dave Hawkins, Kathy Randall,  
Lyndell Wilken

*Board meetings are held at 6:00 PM the first Wednesday of each month, except October when it is the Wednesday after the Annual Meeting. There is no August meeting.*

### Committee Chairpersons

Bus..... S. Cutsforth/J. Northrop  
Climbs ..... Maryanne Reiter  
Concessions ..... Carla Cooper  
Conservation/SciEd ..... K. Coots/J. Rolfe  
Entertainment ..... Evelyn Nagy  
Extended Trips..... Lana Lindstrom  
Finance ..... Stewart Hoeg  
Lodge Building ..... Dave Cooper  
Lodge Grounds ..... John Jacobsen  
Librarian/Historian ..... Lenore McManigal  
Membership ..... Diane Schechter  
Online ..... Wayne Deeter  
Publications ..... Lou Maenz  
Publicity..... Marci Hansen  
Safety..... Lyndell Wilken  
Summer Camp ..... John Jacobsen  
Summer Trips ..... Dave Cooper  
Trail Maintenance..... Matt Bell  
Winter Trips..... Dave Cooper

## The 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 January Bulletin

Friday, January 1, 2021

### Editorial Team

*Writing & Editorial Staff:*

Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz

*Copy Editors:*

Jorry Rolfe, Ethel Weltman

*Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:*  
Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg

### Assembly/Mailing Team

*Manager:* Lou Maenz

*Assistant:* Nancy Raymond

*Team:* Instaprint

# History of the Obsidian Bulletin

**N**INE YEARS AFTER THE OBSIDIANS CLUB WAS FORMED IN 1927, the first issue of *The Obsidian* was published. Over the years both the publication and its name have changed.

**December 1936:** The first issue of *The Obsidian* newsletter was a New Year's edition. Sheldon Turnbull and Fuller Printing probably took over the printing in July 1937.

from the "dark ages" of typing stencils and processing on mimeograph machine to the timely execution of Macintosh word processing plus graphics. Of course, you knew there would be change soon, but when and by what process were not certain. Now, the time has come as well as how.

**September 1991:** In very small vertical letters, *Bulletin* was added to the masthead.



Photo of Obsidian Publications Committee with mimeograph taken May 9, 1964

**1959:** Published at Mishler's Duplicating Company where current member Barbara Beard worked when she was eighteen years old and typed the four page *The Obsidian* newsletter on a stencil. Barbara said: *The Obsidian woman with the bun would proof before we printed the 200 copies. If there was a mistake, we had to redo the whole page. I believe our office handled the mailing. A monthly bill was around \$17.00. Every three months Mary Costelloe would draw and cut a new masthead stencil.*

**October 1961:** *How did you like the last issue of the bulletin? It was our first complete home made edition. Figuring up all the work that Gerry has done in cutting the stencils, and doing our own mimeographing and addressing and the printing and sending out the annual meeting notices we have saved the club something over \$70 to date. The machine cost \$200 and this has necessitated the purchase of other items such as a supply of paper, mimeographing sheets, inks and addressing cards, etc. It all means more work, but reorganization of the committee should straighten that out.*

**1981:** Instaprint opened on Willamette Street and probably began printing *The Obsidian* around 1985 with employees Robyn and later Brian Vail shepherding the process.

**January 1985:** *The Obsidian bulletin gets face lift! What better time than the new year to change our bulletin's format? Beginning with this January 1985 issue we have changed*

**January 2005:** John Cecil, editor and Publications chair retired after 17 plus years and 190 issues. He wrote: *The Obsidian saw many changes in format, both mechanical and typographical, before the turn of the century. This latest adjustment will see further major upgrade when blue pencil, Exacto knife and glue stick are finally consigned to the trash bin and The Bulletin enters the wonderful world of computerized, on-screen page make-up. Cecil's labor of love included hand-delivering each final copy from Bend to the print shop (Instaprint) in Eugene, by Cecil's account, probably 90 times.*

**February 2005:** The publication graduated to online production and now includes color photos and the word *Bulletin* appearing in cursive in the masthead. There are currently two teams. The editorial team compiles, writes, designs and publishes, and the mail team meets at the Lodge to assemble the pages.

**July 2020:** Because of COVID-19 Instaprint not only printed but assembled and mailed *The Bulletin*. The mail team is eager to resume meeting at the Lodge to assemble and mail *The Bulletin*.

**January 1, 2021:** Brian will retire at Instaprint after 40 years. Thanks, Brian, for your assistance and watchfulness all these years. You have been a pleasure to work with.

All of the *Obsidian Bulletins* are available on our website.

*Researched and compiled by Janet Jacobsen*

# OCTOBER BOARD NOTES

October 14, 2020

By Denise Rubenstein

President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order. Board members present: Dave Cooper, John Cooper, Stewart Hoeg, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, and Denise Rubenstein. Others present: Jorry Rolfe, Evelyn Nagy, Carla Cooper, Jim Northrop, and Lana Lindstrom.

The Board approved the minutes for September 2020.

**Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg.**

Stewart reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Climbs (Maryanne Reiter):** The Climbs committee had its second climb of the season on September 20 with a successful summit of Mt. McLoughlin by first time climb leader Trina Kanewa.

**Concessions (Carla Cooper):** Even though we have had no sales events since March, we have managed to sell \$69 worth of merchandise.

**Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe & Kay Coots):** The September visit to Zena Forest and Mill was rescheduled by our host to October 15. Additional activities, including a Zoom ExploraTalk and a birding adventure to Green Island, are being finalized for November.

**Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz):** Once again the committee decided, in the interest of safety, to have Instaprint do the folding and mailing.

**Safety (Lyndell Wilken):** AED batteries were checked.

**Summer Trips (Dave Cooper):** Between COVID-19 and fire closures, the Summer Trips season has been one of adjustment to say the least. But the resilient Obsidians made the changes necessary to provide opportunities for our members and guests to get outside in a safe manner. Some new leaders did step forward to help us to have more manageable, small group hikes on our urban trails.

Through the end of September there were 134 trips including hikes, bike rides, backpacks, and kayaking. These trips have generated \$891 from trip fees.

**Trail Maintenance (Matt Bell): September Trail Maintenance Participation**

Outings in Spencer Butte Park: 1

Participants: 6 total; 6 members.

Estimated Total Volunteer Hours: 18

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Strategic Plan Update: On September 30, the Board convened for a presentation given by Maryanne Reiter, Marci Hansen and Jim Northrop. They offered a thorough presentation outlining how the club would

benefit from a strategic plan at this point and what it might look like. Basically, a strategic plan gives a clear map of the goals of the club and how to achieve them. The Board approved a motion to start the process. An invitation to join the planning committee was sent to Board members and committee chairs, approximately 10 replied. As a next step a date will be set for the preliminary strategic planning meeting.

Bus Committee Transition: The committee chair and the treasurer have decided to step down and a new chair has not been found. While the future of the committee is uncertain, Jim Northrop has offered to fill in the interim, temporary position, noting that no trips are planned at this time due to COVID-19 concerns.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Annual Task Roundup: Voting for the three new members was done by email this year. It turned out to be a good test, as it reached more members than just those who come to the meeting.

Trip and Leader Awards: Janet Jacobsen has done an outstanding job, arranging for in-person presentation of the awards. It was a lovely personal touch. She and Carla Cooper also scouted or took terrific photos of the leaders leading. She and Carla Cooper also assembled individual photos of the twenty awardees from past trips in the October *Bulletin*. Congratulations to all.

Thank you letter: The family of Bill Arthur sent a donation in Bill's honor. A thank you letter was sent which included his memorial writeup in last month's *Bulletin*.

Board 2021 vacancy: Joel Greer has decided to decline the Board nomination but will continue to lead interesting hikes throughout the state. The nomination committee reconvened after the Board meeting, nominated Jorry Rolfe to fill the position and were very happy with her acceptance. The Board subsequently approved the nomination. Jorry will be a great addition to the Board.

Two new members were approved.

**OPEN AGENDA ITEMS:**

Stewart Hoeg noted that budget time is coming up: committees will be needing to offer best guesses on next year's budget needs. The preliminary budget will be presented in December, Chairs can then respond and the budget will be presented to the Board in January for approval.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:**

November 4: Board Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

# ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

October 9, 2020

By Denise Rubenstein

**A**DJUSTMENTS WERE MADE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING as an in-person meeting was not appropriate due to COVID-19 concerns. Email ballots were sent with the nominations for the 2021 Board, which were Denise Bean, Joel Greer and Laura Osinga. All three were approved. This procedure appeared to work well as more members were reached than only those who attend the meeting. The return rate was about 30%.

## **TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT: (Stewart Hoeg)**

The Obsidians financial position remains strong. As of September 30, our balance sheet had financial assets of \$271,000 including a Capital/Contingency fund of \$71,000, an Endowment Fund of \$91,000 and a General Fund of \$16,000. Last year at this time we had financial assets of \$274,000 including a Capital/Contingency Fund of \$62,000, an Endowment Fund of \$91,000 and a General Fund of \$28,000. COVID-19 has had a significant effect on revenue—no bus trip fees, no summer camp fees, no climb school, and dramatically reduced trip fees, lodge rentals, potluck revenue and ExploraTalk revenue with no offsetting reduction in expenses. As a result, for the first time in years the club expects to have a slightly negative cash flow. I would like to thank John Jacobsen who is responsible for keeping the books for Summer Camp, and Sharon Cutsforth and

Judy Phelps who jointly take care of the books for the Bus Committee. These three individuals are responsible for providing me with their respective committees' monthly financials for including in my board meeting financial updates.

## **COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS:**

**Bus Trips (Sharon Cutsforth & Jim Northrop):** All bus trips and other gatherings were canceled for year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was disappointing to everyone involved as we felt we had an enjoyable schedule planned. Our thanks to everyone on the bus committee for their time and energy in planning the trips that didn't happen. Special thanks to Jim Northrop for signing on as co-chair for 2020. On a brighter side, since the trips are all planned this schedule could be presented again in 2021 if there are leaders available to do so.

**Climbs (Maryanne Reiter):** The climbs committee met early in the year to plan for Climb School and to schedule the annual offering of climbs. We had 30 students who registered and paid for Climb School before it was to start on March 30. We also reserved the Willamalane climbing wall and had wrangled innumerable volunteers to teach classes. Then on March 23 we cancelled Climb School due to COVID-19. This was a first for all the years I have been involved with the class. We also suspended planning for the annual climbs. After the Obsidians began to open up hiking and biking activities, we scheduled two non-technical climbs: South Sister and Mount McLoughlin.

**Concessions (Carla Cooper):** The Concessions Committee

started 2020 enthusiastically ordering new merchandise. We spent most of our budget on vinyl decals, fleece vests, long and short sleeve t-shirts, caps, and bandanas. Our new goods were available for the first two potlucks and the March ExploraTalk. Sales to date total \$419.73. Many thanks to the Concessions Committee: Chris Shuraleff, Keiko Bryant, Mari Baldwin, and Nancy Whitfield. Carla Cooper (Chair)

**Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe & Kay Coots):** The Conservation/Science/Education committee met in January, July and August and sponsored three ExploraTalks at the Lodge in 2020. The three talks were as follows:

January: Mike Houck with the Urban Greenspaces Institute presented *The Intertwine: the Portland-Vancouver Green-space Conservation Story*.

February: Nick Kohler with the University of Oregon presented *The Geography of Outdoor Adventure Sports*.

March: Matt Peterson, USFS Recreation Program Manager, spoke on Forest Service Permits and Fees.

While COVID-19 restrictions caused the cancellation of two scheduled ExploraTalks and one field project, the committee continues to plan opportunities for members that comply with COVID-19 protocols. These include:

October: a field visit to a family run sustainable forest and mill, Zena Forest Products.

November 17: a Zoom ExploraTalk on Microplastics with speaker Dr. Suzanne Brander.

November 14: a Green Island Bird Walk with our own Obsidian birders, Randy Sinnott and Joanna Alexander.

November or December: Possible project opportunity with McKenzie River Trust.

Many thanks to the committee which included Joanna Alexander, Angie Ruzicka, Randy Sinnott and Diana Wheat and co-chairs Jorry Rolfe and Kay Coots.

## **Entertainment (Evelyn Nagy, Ron and Pam Swisher):**

The Obsidians hosted five potlucks with programs in the past twelve months. Fewer potlucks were due to COVID-19. The potlucks were hosted by Evelyn Nagy, Ron Swisher and Pam Swisher. Approximately fifty-five people attended each program, although January's guest Bill Sullivan had eighty-five. Much appreciation goes to committee members: Dave Cooper, Yuan Hopkins, Richard Hughes, Mary Livingston, June Miller, Lana Lindstrom, Esme Greer, Joel Greer.

**Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom):** Six Extended Trips were scheduled for 2020. Five were cancelled due to COVID-19. The Cape Lookout trip led by Evelyn Nagy in early January garnered \$45 in fees.

**Finance (Stewart Hoeg):** The Obsidian Finance Committee during the past year was responsible for putting together the 2020 budget and recommending investments for the Endowment Fund and Contingency Fund. Due to COVID-19, no internal audits were done this year. With particular assistance from Lana Lindstrom and Denise Bean, we updated

[\(Continued on page 6\)](#)

**(Annual Reports continued from page 5)**

and corrected Obsidian personal property data which will save the club more than \$100 per year in taxes. Thanks to committee members Denise Bean, Dan Christensen, Joel Greer, Dave Hawkins, Lana Lindstrom, Laura Osinga and Chair, Stewart Hoeg.

**Lodge Building (Dave Cooper):** Under the cloud of COVID-19 the use of the Lodge has been severely curtailed in 2020. There were four rentals this year. The income received in 2020 totaled \$225.

**Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen):** The Obsidian Grounds Committee continued with routine maintenance and upkeep of the Lodge grounds throughout the year. The COVID-19 shutdowns reduced the work to just keep grass and weeds beat back. We expanded the defensible perimeter around the Lodge a little bit and worked at cleaning out the existing perimeter as well to make it easier to keep the vegetation cut back. We also expanded some of the planting beds near the Lodge. Thank you to the crews that have helped throughout the year.

**Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal):** Since October 1, 2019 I have recorded 2,306 entries on the member log sheets from 289 trip reports. I am a bit tired of writing Amazon Headwaters so many times. We used the online computer counts to award trip and leader emblems to 20 members. The October *Bulletin* will feature the members receiving the awards. We have also answered requests for information. Lenore McManigal Historian and Janet Jacobsen.

**Membership (Diane Schechter):** Renewals for 2021:

Total 405: Paid 180, Not paid 225

Total Membership 436: Active 405, Life 14, Honorary 6, and Junior 11.

**Online/Webmaster (Wayne Deeter):**

**Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz):** The *Bulletin* has published ten issues online and mailed approximately 2,250 issues to members and interested organizations.

**Publicity (Marci Hansen):**

**Safety (Lyndell Wilken):** The Safety Committee met in February to review documents in the bylaws and constitution that were related to safety. Several minor changes were made to keep the documents up to date with the times. First aid kits were inventoried in February and supplies were updated as needed. The first aid kits were removed from the YMCA as a result of the COVID epidemic. Janet Jacobsen graciously volunteered to keep the first aid kits at her home and trip leaders interested in using them have checked them out through her. The Lodge AED batteries were checked monthly. AED replacement pads were ordered and installed in April. Safety Committee Members: Jim Northrop, Maryanne Reiter, Dave Cooper, John Hegg, Mike Smith; Lyndell Wilken, Chair.

**Summer Camp (John Jacobsen):** The Obsidian Summer Camp planned for this past August in the Chemeketa Campground, Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho was cancelled due to the COVID shutdown. Effort to secure reservations at the Chemeketa CG for 2021 were unsuccessful, so I gave up in mid-August but was able to get a 10-day window for the Excelsior Group Campground near Glacier, Washington and Mt. Baker starting on August 5, 2021. While

generally pessimistic about COVID concerns decreasing enough to allow for timely planning for a camp next year, it was nice to have a spot reserved in case that changed. A couple weeks after getting the reservations they were cancelled for CG maintenance next year. We got a full refund of all the CG fees we paid.

**Summer Trips (Dave Cooper):** Between COVID-19 and fire closures the Summer Trips season has been one of adjustment to say the least. But the resilient Obsidians made the changes necessary to provide opportunities for our members and guests to get outside in a safe manner. Some new leaders did step forward to help us to have more manageable, small group hikes on our urban trails. Through the end of September there were 134 trips including hikes, bike rides, backpacks, and kayaking. These trips have generated \$891 from trip fees.

**Trail Maintenance (Matt Bell):** During the past year the Trails Committee has been busy practicing social distancing, staying indoors to avoid smoke, breathing deeply through sweat soaked facemasks, and generally avoiding coronavirus. Aside from the unique nature of this past 7 months, this year's highlights include:

- Donated an estimated \$2,992 worth of volunteer labor!
- The weather is always perfect for trail maintenance, even when it's not!
- There is no trip fee for trail maintenance outings.
- This year we started bringing our own tools and we really miss cookies and the *Newman's Lemonade!* It's hard to bribe adults let alone kids to work for free without treats.
- We canceled three outings this year, a new record! (One that we hope not to top.)
- We didn't use our 10% acceptable loss. No one was killed, injured, lost, or contracted coronavirus on a trail outing.

**2020 Trail Maintenance Participation**

- Outings in Spencer Butte Park: 10
- Total Participants: 48 total: 43 members, 5 nonmembers
- Unique Participants: 16 total: 12 members, 4 nonmembers
- Total Estimated Volunteer Hours: 131.5
- Total Estimated Volunteer Labor: \$2,992

2020 Trail Maintenance Committee: Matt Bell, Dan Gilmore, Pat Soussan, Clara Emlen, & Todd Larsen

**Winter Trips (Dave Cooper):**

**Trip and Leader Awards (Historian Committee):**

Congratulations to all!

**Trips**

- 100: Kay Coots, Mark Hougardy, Darian Morray, Denise Rubenstein
- 200: Brad Bennett, Keiko Bryan, Steve Cordon, Pat Esch, Richard Hughes, Kathy Randall
- 300: Marguerite Cooney, John Jacobsen, Sandra Larsen

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Annual Reports continued from page 6)*

400: Lana Lindstrom

500: Mike Smith, Tom Rundle, Jorry Rolfe

### Leader

25 leader: Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Randy Sinnott

50 leader: Richard Hughes, Steve Johnson

75 leader: Darko Sojak

**In Memoriam:** Tributes can be found in November 2019 – September 2020 *Bulletins*.

Quotes are from their trip reports:

**Cork Higgins (80)** *Spring was busting out all over as eight Obsidians hiked the forests and meadows of Mt. Tom in the Coburg Hills.*

**Bill Arthur (82)** *A Duck fan, he loved to wear his Obsidian yellow sweatshirt on bus trips.*

**Richard Heinzkill (86)** *...there it was...the snowcapped peak with the sun shining brightly on it but framed by a hole in the*

*swirling dark clouds. This view lasted for all of 15 seconds.*

**Birgitte Williams (89)** *And as always, I felt so grateful for our good fortune being so close to so much beauty, sharing with friends.*

**Shirley Froyd (93)** *A fall ride along Dorena Lake is a most pleasant experience.*

**Virginia Prouty (96)** *All of this in four hours, a lovely way to spend a Saturday morning. Neighborhood walks are truly appropriate in these winter months.*

**Norm Benton (96)** *We started down the Fisher Chimneys at dark, using flashlites but found ourselves in a tight spot at 10:30, and decided to bivouac on the sloping ledge, roping ourselves to rock to prevent falling off if we should drop off to sleep.*

**Jack Ewing (100)** *Everybody should be happy on hikes.*

**Ethel Allen (100)** *As all good things come to an end, we returned to Eugene at 5:15 pm*

ADJOURNMENT

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## Remember Your Friends!

*Lou Maenz*

**M**OST OF US HAVE MADE FRIENDS THROUGH THE OBSIDIANS. Not always close friends, but people you met and chatted with regularly on hikes, or at potlucks, or meetings. Then COVID-19 happened and social contact ground to a halt. Many of us went online and have communicated (well almost) that way. However, communication is not just a short, typed note. As humans we communicate using a number of different methods. One of those is body language—and that is, of course, out. However, voice and inflections of voice are important components to communication. Think about it. The simple question, *How are you doing?* when typed in an email or text message can come across as cold and rote. Spoken, it can come across quite differently.

So, think about catching up with an old acquaintance with a phone call during this cold and unfriendly time. It could mean a great deal to both of you.

## Obsidians Strategic Planning Underway

*Maryanne Reiter*

**I**N SEPTEMBER THE BOARD VOTED to form a strategic planning committee to help determine where the club is going over the next several years and how it will get there. The strategic planning process includes examining internal and external factors affecting the club (changes in demographics, etc.), and developing a mission statement and goals as well as the strategies to accomplish those goals. We felt systematic planning was needed in order to address declines in membership and leadership as well as other issues such as communication, diversity and inclusion, and succession planning. As we work through the four to six month planning process we will be keeping the membership informed of our progress. Stay tuned!

## Elliott State Forest: Draft Proposal Now Online

*Jorry Rolfe*

**O**SU IS GETTING CLOSE to having a final proposal for taking over the Elliott State Forest as a university research forest. Meanwhile, the draft proposal available as of October 27 is consistent with the vision of the Land Board for the forest. The key elements of the proposal are:

OSU's approach to research, including the research design that will guide future experiments and management of the forest.

OSU's commitment to a research forest that supports conservation, recreation, education, and local and regional economies.

OSU's commitment to public accountability in forest decision-making and governance, as well as a proposed governance structure.

How OSU will financially support the proposed research forest.

As you may know, the Elliott has been open to the public, but with no trail system. During a recent online public forum discussing the draft, a panelist confirmed that there are plans for a trail system in the forest. Good news for hikers and birders!

For more details, the proposal may be viewed online at: <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Pages/Elliott-Forest-Proposal.aspx>. Written feedback may be provided and is due by November 13.

# TRIP REPORTS



## Hikes

### Wild Iris Ridge Loop

October 1, 2020

Leader: Nikki Frank

Hike: 2 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

**W**E ENTERED THE WILD IRIS RIDGE LOOP from the trailhead at Summit Sky Boulevard and explored the less developed east valley of the park. We noted the ripening red berries of the madrone trees abundant in this ecosystem, Oregon white oak savanna, a few incense cedars and Willamette Valley ponderosa pines. We had nice views of the west side of Spencer Butte. It is a lovely walk. Members: Alan Curtis, Nikki Frank. Nonmembers: Jerry Pergamit.

### Brice Creek

October 3, 2020

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Photographer: Gwyneth Iredale

Hike: 8.5 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

OUR JOURNEY BEGAN ON A FOGGY MORNING with visibility so poor that we lost two cars before we even got to I-5. After



turning around at LCC they caught up though, and by the time we all reached the trailhead it was a sunny beautiful day. The first weekend in October turned out to be too early for fall foliage but just right for a swim, so we spent the first 4+ miles from Cedar Creek Campground to Champion Creek looking for the perfect swimming hole, of which Brice Creek

has a gorgeous abundance. On the return trip the Fearless Four (Darko, Jessica, Wally and Kathie) dove in while the others showed superior judgment by cheering and jeering from the banks. Worth it though! An optional, socially-distanced early dinner at Hop Valley was the super fun ending to a super fun day. Added bonuses: Six separate sightings of snakes who seemed to be unusually active that day, and no traces of the wildfires that ravaged so many of our favorite hiking spots. If you're looking for a moderate hike with just enough elevation gain to heat you up so you're ready for a refreshing plunge, Brice Creek is the one. It's lush and lovely, and shaded most of the way. It's just a short, easy drive from Eugene with plentiful parking, suitable for all vehicle types. The trail is well maintained, and several campgrounds on the other side of the creek provide easy access so that you can make your hike as long or as short as you want and use the handy facilities along the way. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Nancy Hoecker, Gwyneth Iredale, Lynn Meacham, Wally Miller, Jessica Moll, Darko Sojak, Peg Straub.

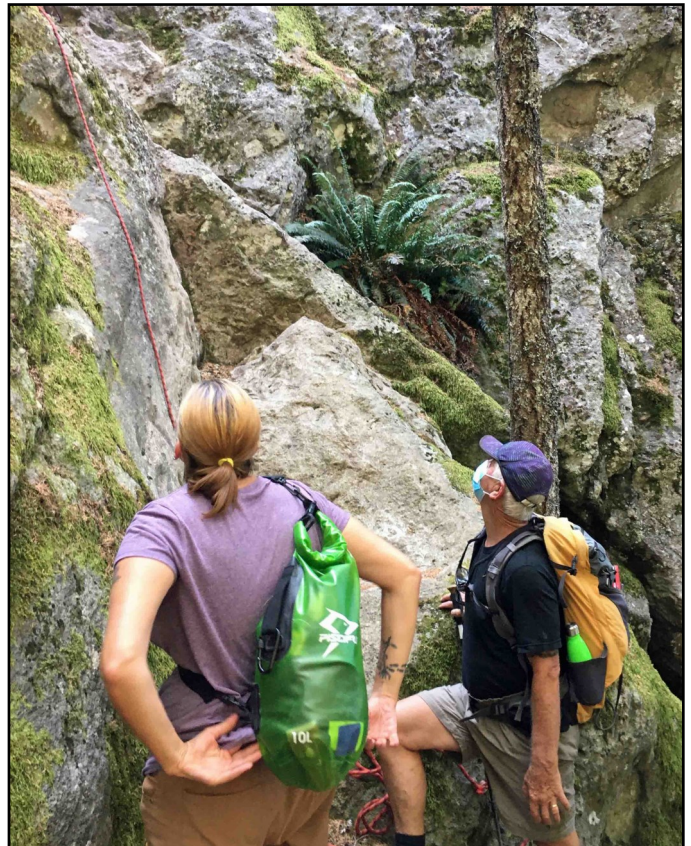
### Rooster Rock

October 3, 2020

Leader: Paul Winther

Assistant and Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6.6 miles, 2,300 ft. (Moderate)



**I MET JANET AT SHEA VIEWPOINT** overlooking Foster Dam to drive to the Trout Creek Trailhead 18 miles east of Sweet Home. We started hiking at 9:30 and soon we were busy brushing the trail as we kept a steady pace to the top. We had



the trail to ourselves except for a few hikers on top. A climber from Mill City and I checked out the rope and anchors before starting down—another day for that, perhaps. It was a beautiful and very warm day for a fall hike. Members: Janet Jacobsen, Paul Winther.

## Cham-o-tee Sunrise

October 4, 2020

Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 5.2 miles, 1,150 ft. (Moderate)

UNDER THE FULL SHINY MOON our early-riser group stormed



up to the top of Cham-o-tee (aka, Spencer Butte). We welcomed the opulent sunrise with 20 other hikers. Members: Diane Davis, Jacquie Fern, Janet Jacobsen, Jane Kay, Denise Rubenstein, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Peter Kay. (*Editor's note: Spencer Butte was called Cham-o-tee by the native Kalapuya, meaning rattlesnake.*)

## Ribbon Trail for Guests

October 4, 2020

Leader: Denise Rubenstein

Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (easy)

JANET COORDINATED ANOTHER VERY SUCCESSFUL GET



ACQUAINTED HIKE. She personally contacted each participant before the hike and during the hike we sprinkled members throughout the extended line in order to offer welcoming con-

versation to all. Vicky Hanson proved to be an excellent Obsidian ambassador while Mike Smith generously offered to stay behind to monitor the Lodge. Jane and Peter Kay joined us; Peter had just completed his third trip earlier that morning—way to jump right in, Peter! New member Steve Denison brought his wife and brother-in-law to tour the Lodge. It was a beautiful sunny morning for a fall walk in the woods. Members: Vicky Hanson, Janet Jacobsen, Jane Kay, Denise Rubenstein, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Patricia Cleall, Peter Kay, Victoria Frank, Russ Davies, Meghan Mahoney, Elaine Johnson.

## South Eugene Hills

October 11, 2020

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 7 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

AT THE END OF THE URBAN HIKE, everyone agreed that it was an interesting workout. The route started at *Market of Choice* and then we hiked through Morse Ranch where Dorothy pointed out a red-shouldered hawk's nest, through Lafferty Park where we saw the nearby home of two coatimundis (unfortunately, they were hiding), up steep Brookside, and down steep walking paths to Willamette St. Marguerite showed us the Edgewood Pool and Park which none of us had seen before. Another couple of miles on low-traffic streets and through two school yards brought us back to the market. It was an excellent morning visiting with friends and getting some exercise. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Steve Denison, Nancy Hoecker, Richard Hughes, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Jorry Rolfe, Peg Straub, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Victoria Frank.

## East Wild Iris Loop

October 13, 2020

Leader: Nikki Frank

Photographer: Joanna Alexander

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THE LEADER MET SOME OF THE HIKERS AT ALBERTSONS AT 18<sup>TH</sup> AND CHAMBERS to caravan to the trailhead on Summit



Sky Boulevard because it is more difficult to find than the usual Bailey Hill Trailhead. It had been a rainy day, but the rain stopped right as we began the hike at 3:30. We explored

the less developed east valley of the park and took the time to enjoy the views of the west side of Spencer Butte and identify some of the trees and shrubs. Some of the hikers expressed appreciation that this was not an early morning hike. It was a very congenial group. Note to access trailhead: Parking is at the summit just west of the address, 3160 Summit Sky Blvd. Entering the address into a GPS or smartphone map ought to lead one there. Members: Joanna Alexander, Nikki Frank, Sheridan Gates, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Jerry Pergamit, Patricia Cleall.

## Zena Forest Hike and Mill Tour

October 15, 2020

Leader: Jorry Rolfe

Assistant Leader: Kay Coots

Photographer: Randy Sinnott

Hike: 3 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

ON A BEAUTIFUL AUTUMN DAY, we were escorted lovingly through the 1,300-acre sustainably-managed forest in the Eola Hills by one of the owners of Zena Forest Sarah Deumling, followed by a visit to their sawmill with employee Paul.



Since 1984 this family business has been run under a different conservation and management model with these values: no chemicals, no clear-cutting and no compaction (no equipment used on the forest floor). They specialize in the hardwoods (Oregon white oak, western maple and Oregon ash) and are FSC-certified, meaning they are dedicated to promoting responsible forestry. With the change in climate, more pine and incense cedar are being planted as these trees are more drought tolerant. There are parcels of land at Zena under conservation easements, one with Willamette University and the other with Bonneville. The latter is part of a mitigation obligation; as a result, funds from Bonneville helped with costs to remove undergrowth, like blackberries. The Deumling family also values connection to their community. We saw a very small area with a natural spring within the forest itself that belongs to a neighbor for her own source of water, and Zena participates in the Access and Habitat Program to allow public hunting on their land. It was such a satisfying and deep pleasure for us all to see this healthy ecosystem and to witness the care Zena is taking with trees and people. Members: Joanna Alexander, Laura E. Anderson, Kathie Carpenter, Kay Coots, Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Nancy Hoecker, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott, Diana Wheat.

## Rigdon Lakes

October 16, 2020

Leader: Daphne James

Hike: 8 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WALDO LAKE WAS SPARKLING IN THE SUNLIGHT for our fall hike to the Rigdon Lakes in the Taylor Burn area of Waldo Wilderness. We started out along the Waldo Lake Trail, stopping frequently to gaze across the lake to views of Diamond, The Twins, Fuji and other peaks. After two miles, we turned north at the Wilderness box to begin the three and a half mile loop around Rigdon Butte, Upper Rigdon Lake, Lower Rigdon Lake, and Lake Kiwa. We stopped on the narrow strip of land between the Rigdon lakes to sit back and enjoy the vivid blues of the sky and water. At the high point of the trail, we spotted snow-covered Mount Jefferson in the distance. We completed the loop and returned to the Waldo shore for a lakeside lunch. I went for a quick swim; others were content to stay on shore and soak in the warm sun. The afternoon hike back to our trailhead along Waldo lake made for a perfect end to our lovely fall hike. Members: Jan Anselmo, Brad Bennett, James Dinn, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Janet Jacobsen, Daphne James, Lynn Meacham, Evelyn Nagy, Rich Romm, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield.

## The Twins

October 17, 2020

Leader & Photographer: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 6.6 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY! The weather was perfect for hiking and admiring the distant mountains and lakes. Surprisingly, 2/3 of the participants had never hiked The Twins. It's my



favorite hike in the Willamette National Forest because not only does one see the Cascade Range, but one can also see the lakes along Cascade Lakes Highway as well as Waldo and Charlton Lakes. We lingered over lunch and then descended down the steep back side (more interesting views) to make a lollipop loop before rejoining the main trail. What a wonderful, congenial group sharing a fun autumn hike! Members: Julie Barnas, Kathie Carpenter, Nancy Hoecker, Richard Hughes, Jonathan Jost, Lana Lindstrom, Jessica Moll, Cindy Rice, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lynn Stearney, David Strutin, Sue Wolling.

## Hendricks Park

October 22, 2020

Leader: Denise Rubenstein

Hike: 3 miles, 350 ft. (Easy)

**LOVELY EVENING HIKE.** We found several plants in bloom and marveled at the variety of colors and textures that are always waiting in the gardens. The changing night sky offered even more colors to our stroll. We were so entranced by the byways of the Rhodie garden that we didn't actually make it to the forest on this trip. Next time. Members: Mari Baldwin, Alan Curtis, Patricia Esch, Gwyneth Iredale, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Peg Straub. Nonmembers: Patricia Cleall.

## North Bank Habitat Management Area

October 24, 2020

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 8 miles, 1,800 ft. (Moderate)

**THE NORTH BANK HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA** is a preserve (ranch) ten square miles in area, overlooking the North Umpqua River near Roseburg. The highlight of the hike were the clusters of red berries on the Pacific madrone trees along the Blacktail Ridge Road from the West Entrance. What a contrast from the sprays of small bell-like flowers on the madrones in the spring. We saw one deer and two hikers while we attempted to accurately count the number of steep hills. I hoped for an easier symbolic Seven Hills of the Umpqua River (not Rome) but instead there were nine. Rolling dark clouds alternated with patches of blue sky and sun—much appreciated at lunch time. Mud was not a problem—the trail was dry! We presented Kathy with her 200-trip patch. Members: Nancy Hoecker, Janet Jacobsen, Kathy Randall.

## Clear Lake

October 25, 2020

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Photographer: David Lodeesen

Hike: 7.6 miles, 225 ft. (Moderate)

**A COLD BUT GORGEOUS SUNNY DAY!** 30-degree start to our hike! We soon warmed up and everyone enjoyed the beautiful



crisp clean air, and pristine lake. Starting from the North McKenzie Trailhead, we headed counterclockwise around the lake which put us in a great spot for a sunny lunch break. Marguerite found a new friend in the form of a cute little snake. Good times with a great group! Members: Keiko Bryan, Lynda Christiansen, Marguerite Cooney, David

Lodeesen, Lynn Meacham, Jorry Rolfe, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Valerie Metcalfe.

## Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte Hikes

Hikes: 5.2–6.2 miles, 1,170–1,530 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders:

September 23 Lana Lindstrom: 10 Members

September 30

Denise Rubenstein: 11 Members

Evelyn Nagy: 8 Members, 1 Nonmember

October 7

Denise Rubenstein: 5 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Mike Smith: 13 Members

October 14

Joanna Alexander: 6 Members, 1 Nonmember

Denise Rubenstein: 8 Members

October 21 Mike Smith: 8 Members, 2 Nonmembers

## Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hikes

Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,740 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders:

September 29 Tommy Young: 5 Members

October 13 Angie Ruzicka: 4 Members

October 20 Tommy Young: 8 Members

## Mt. Pisgah Hike

Hike: 8 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

October 10 Janet Jacobsen: 4 Members, 1 Nonmember



## Bike Trips

## Ankeny Wildlife Refuge

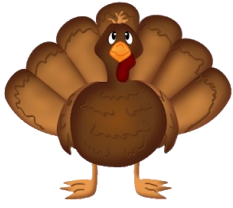
October 18, 2020

Leader: Richard Hughes

Bike: 27 miles, 700 ft. (Easy)

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IS DEVELOPING A NEW FACILITY** at the Overlook in the Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge. The new Nature Center will have an indoor classroom, a covered outdoor learning space, and restrooms as well as parking. Normally when riders cycle this area, they park at this location. Currently the area is closed while under construction and scheduled to be completed this fall. With all that said, we parked at the Buena Vista Ferry Landing. We rode from there, circled the refuge, crossed the Willamette River, and then cycled into the City of Independence where we had lunch in the city park. After food and drink we meandered on the other side of the river to the ferry before returning to our vehicles. Members: Elizabeth Grant, Richard Hughes, Jonathan Jost, Lana Lindstrom, Jessica Moll, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lynn Stearney.

# UPCOMING



## Turkey Trimming Hike Thursday, November 26, 8:30 AM Amazon Community Center Parking lot

**L**ANA LINDSTROM WILL LEAD THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TURKEY TRIMMING HIKE on Thanksgiving morning, not the day after. With COVID-19 restrictions, many of us will not be able to share a Thanksgiving meal with relatives and friends—this is an alternative way to share camaraderie. Start the day with several huffy-puffy hills and visit with friends or meet new ones. Guaranteed that this fast-paced hike will burn off some calories before lunch. Sign up online.



## Warm Cap Walk Friday, December 4, 1:30 PM South Eugene High School Parking Lot

**No SOCKS!** The Egan Warming Center received 79,000 pairs of socks last year. They need warm caps, mittens and toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors).

**No SOUP!** Because of COVID-19 we can't hold the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Stocking Stuffer Hike and Lunch at the Lodge. We wanted to provide a fun way to donate warm caps and then walk to Hendricks Park. Sign up online so that we know if we need another leader(s) to keep the groups small and the routes/elevation varied. Mileage will be around five miles with 700 ft. elevation gain. If you don't plan to hike, you can drop off your donation between 1:00 and 1:30 or drop it off at Joella Ewing's front door at 2384 Washington Street the week before or week after. Signup begins around November 20. If you have questions, email Janet Jacobsen at [bjjacobsen@comcast.net](mailto:bjjacobsen@comcast.net).

*Joella Ewing and Janet Jacobsen*



## Food for Lane County Walk Friday, December 18 at 9:00 AM

**S**IGN UP ONLINE TO JOIN THE OBSIDIANS AT GATE F ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE LANE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS to walk for Food For Lane County. We will do a spirited saunter on the Fern Ridge bike path to the Food for Lane County warehouse on Bailey Hill Road. In the past we have carried cans, but this year I suggest a lightweight check or cash to promote our theme: *Carrying each other by feeding others*. Another option is to donate online, possibly with a tribute card for the holiday season at: [foodforlanecounty.org/donate/donate-funds/tribute-card](https://foodforlanecounty.org/donate/donate-funds/tribute-card)

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## Rick's List Nature Calendar



**R**ICK AHRENS AND NEARBY NATURE VOLUNTEERS continue to update a calendar of in-person and virtual local nature activities. It is a quick way to find out about community nature education events for adults. Either Google *Rick's List Nature Calendar* or use this link: [www.nearbynature.org/ricks-list/](http://www.nearbynature.org/ricks-list/).

Rick was Climb Chair in 1988–89 and Obsidian President in 1990 and 2002. He has been a popular presenter at potlucks and ExploraTalks.

Check it out.

*From the Sci/Ed Committee*

# OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

## November

- 10 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M . Young 941-780-4156
- 11 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M ..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 11 Wed Cape Perpetua Hike M ..... Hackett 953-7046
- 14 Sat Green Island Birdwalk Hike E ..... Alexander 458-209-7798
- 14 Sat Green Island Walk Hike E ..... Grant 514-1176
- 17 Tue Microplastics in PNW Waters ..... ExploraTalk
- 17 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M . Young 941-780-4156
- 18 Wed Mt Baldy from Martin St Hike E ..... Hackett 953-7046
- 18 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M ..... Whitesides 919-593-5578
- 21 Sat Larison Rock Hike D ..... Smith 520-488-9569
- 22 Sun Cook's Ridge/Gwynn Creek Hike M ..... Hackett 953-7046

- 24 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M . Young 941-780-4156
- 25 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M ..... Smith 520-488-9569
- 26 Thu Turkey Trimming Hike M ..... Lindstrom 683-1409
- 27 Fri Mt Pisgah Hike M ..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 28 Sat Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M ..... Bell 503-884-8829
- 29 Sun Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike M ..... Jacobsen 206-1251

## December

- 4 Fri Warm Cap Walk Hike E ..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 18 Fri Food for Lane County hike Hike E ..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 21 Mon Mt Pisgah Winter Solstice Hike M ..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 29 Tue Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike M ..... Jacobsen 206-1251

## ExploraTalks are Back—Online!



### Zoom ExploraTalk Microplastics

Tuesday, Nov. 17 4 PM



**T**HE CONSERVATION, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION (CSE) COMMITTEE IS SPONSORING AN ONLINE ZOOM PRESENTATION with OSU's Susanne Brander. Please register for the talk on the Obsidian Online Trip Signup. All participants will receive emails with the Zoom link by November 15. Obsidian and CSE Committee member Diana Wheat, who teaches college biology, will be hosting.

Dr. Susanne Brander and other scientists from Oregon to British Columbia are scrutinizing the marine food chain from top to bottom, from zooplankton to killer whales. All are being analyzed for microplastics, currently a hot topic for local scientists. We are all concerned that our oceans are awash in plastic fibers and trash.

Specifically, toxicologist Brander will be discussing recent research findings from her and collaborators' labs on micro and nanoplastic occurrence in the environment and effects on aquatic organisms. This includes field work on PNW marine organisms such as rockfish (a bottom-dwelling species) and filter-feeding mussels. Studies also involve behavioral responses of larval fish, measured in the lab, to commonly detected microplastics such as particles generated from tire material during use on roads and fibers from ropes, nets, and clothing.

Are the plastics killing the animals? Should we be worried about eating local seafood? How are plastics being monitored in local waters? Attend this Zoom session to find out what Dr. Brander can tell us about her research and answers to these questions.

Questions about the ExploraTalk may be directed to [scied@obsidians.org](mailto:scied@obsidians.org).



## Classifieds

### For Sale:

Premier Sports cross country ski poles - 136cm (53.5") \$5

Toasties (aka buffs) in many colors! \$20 each or 2/\$36

Susan Wanser at 221-2753 or [smwanser@gmail.com](mailto:smwanser@gmail.com)

## Winter Trips

**W**INTER TRIPS SEASON, NOVEMBER 15–APRIL 1, needs trips Please send your trip plans to [winter-trips@obsidians.org](mailto:winter-trips@obsidians.org) with the following information: name of trip, date of trip, type (hike, cross country ski, snowshoe, snow backpacking, nature walk), number of miles, elevation gain, difficulty level (easy, moderate, difficult), number of participants, and round trip driving distance. Thank you, Dave Cooper, Winter Trip Chair



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November/December 2020



Photo taken on Rigdon Lakes hike by Esme Greer (See trip report on page 10.)

ENJOY the photos in color! ONLINE *Bulletin* at [www.observians.org](http://www.observians.org)