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Dates to Remember

December 1	Board Meeting
December 31	Bulletin Deadline
January 5	Board Meeting

Reminder:

This is the last *Bulletin* issue for 2021. Have a safe and joyous holiday season. See you in 2022!



Reminder: If you haven't renewed your membership yet, it's time!

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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www.facebook.com/theobsidians
[@Eugene_obsidians](https://www.instagram.com/Eugene_obsidians)

Summer Camp—Obsidians Style



WHEN THE AVERAGE AMERICAN HEARS THE TERM *SUMMER CAMP*, they're likely to think of S'mores around the campfire, making moccasins out of beads and leather, and playing pranks on their fellow campers. So if you tell your friends that you're signed up for Summer Camp, they might respond with confusion and perhaps concern.

But to Obsidians, Summer Camp means hiking through spectacular mountain scenery, eating great meals you didn't have to cook, and getting to know interesting people who share your love of the outdoors. And all for a lot less money than those summer camps we send kids to!

For those who are new to the Obsidians: Summer Camp involves traveling to a camping area—in this case Cascade Peaks RV Park in the Washington Cascades—to set up your home base for the week, whether it's a tent, an RV or trailer, or a nearby motel. Volunteers welcome you, tell you where you can set up, and give you the lay of the land. You'll also receive your duty assignment (everyone gets a duty, but they're really not very taxing—usually washing a few utensils, setting out some lunch fixings, etc.).



Mt. Rainier and Reflection Lake. Photo by Lana Lindstrom.

Once everybody is settled in, the daily routine develops. Morning starts with going to the dining area to assemble your sack lunch and eat a continental breakfast. Please bear in mind that we're on the North American continent—not some other continent where they serve fresh croissants or *pain au chocolat* for breakfast! Nonetheless, you won't go hungry or under-caffeinated. Then the hiking begins. You will generally have signed up the evening before for a trip that appeals to you. Or you can post your own and let others join you!

You may spend the days admiring wildflowers and trying to spot goats in the Goat Rocks Wilderness, hiking subalpine meadows and glaciers in Mount Rainier National

(Continued on page 4)

Welcome New Members!

George Ambrosini
Roseburg, OR 97470

Mike Graham
Mountain View, CA

Jerrie Jones
Eugene, OR 97404

Al Pakalniskis
Eugene, OR 97405

Maureen Whalen
Eugene, OR 97405

Thank You to Our Photographers

WE LIVE IN ONE OF THE MOST PICTURESQUE PARTS OF THE STATES, which is one of the major reasons we love it here and are Obsidians. As Obsidians, we get to go on the *Road Not Taken* by most (thank you, Robert Frost) and, by doing so, experience the beauty, closeness, and emotional atmosphere within.

However, we then go back to our regular routines and all we have experienced becomes a foggy memory—until we are lucky enough to come across a photo that jogs those experiences to the fore.

A picture, it is said, is worth a thousand words. But so many of the things we personally experience on an outing cannot be reduced to words. Try to describe the emotions you experience eating lunch beside a still pool of dark green water, or the sound of birds calling back and forth, or the thrill of reaching the top of a mountain and gazing off into the distance. Just plain can't be done. Even poets can't manage to adequately express those emotions.

Now enter the photograph—the humble snapshot that is capable of bringing back the personal narrative of our club activities without the hindrance of words.

We thank the 50 plus participants who have contributed photos for the nine *Bulletin* issues that have been published this year. Your photos not only bring back personal moments, but also serve to inform the reader about our activities, and to put a name to a face. Thanks to all of you for adding so much richness to the *Bulletin* and our lives.



Esme Greer's photo of photographers Tommy Young, Joel Greer, and Elizabeth Koch capturing the beauty of Waldo Lake.

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: www.obsidians.org

Officers & Board of Directors

Maryanne Reiter, President
Dave Cooper, Vice President
Denise Rubenstein, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
Denise Bean, Marci Hansen,
Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga
Jorry Rolfe, 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 Jim Northrop
Climbs Maryanne Reiter
Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd.... K. Coots/A. Ruzicka
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
Stewardship Jorry Rolfe / Darko Sojak
Summer Camp Lana Lindstrom
Summer Trips Dave Cooper
Trail Maintenance Matt Bell
Winter Trips Dave Cooper

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bulletin@obsidians.org

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The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline

for January Bulletin

Friday, December 31, 2021

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Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz

Copy Editors:
Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger

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

Assembly/Mailing Team

Manager: Lou Maenz

Assistant Manager: Nancy Raymond

Pickup Assistant: Clara Emlen

Team: Joanna Alexander, Don Baldwin,
Patricia Bean, Sara Henley
Yuan Hopkins, Barbara Schomaker

Thinking about Winter

Brenda Kameenui

A RECENT VIEW OF MT. HOOD LAID BARE BY A HOT, DRY SUMMER makes me long for a cold, snowy winter in the mountains. It's not too early to put a snowshoe or cross country ski trip on the Obsidian calendar, and this might be the trip for you as a new or returning leader.

I enjoy taking friends who have never skied before on the Waldo Lake Road. It's a snowmobile route, but I rarely come upon more than two or three snowmobiles. The gradual climb for about a mile makes the return trip a complete joy—straight, safe, and just fast enough. Less than a mile up the road the winter enthusiast turns around to a beautiful surprise view of Mt. Yoran. Follow the Waldo Lake Road as far as you wish. It's an easy trip with big rewards.

A few miles up Hwy. 58 from the Waldo Lake turn off is the Gold Lake Sno-Park. From here, ski or snowshoe a Maiden Peaks loop or cross the highway and travel toward Gold Lake. The USDA Forest Service website features a good map of trails from the Gold Lake Sno-Park:

www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/willamette/recreation/recarea/?recid=4683



*Another area for winter outings, Big Lake. March 2018.
Photo by Dave Lodeesen.*

We were sorry to learn that Dave Lodeesen passed away this week. He was one of our dedicated photographers who shared his photos in the Obsidians Gallery and had many photos published in the Bulletin. Dave's In Memoriam will be in our January issue.

DAVE COOPER IS EXCHANGING HIS SUMMER TRIPS CHAIR HAT for Winter Trips Chair as of November 15. Please send your trip plans to wintertrips@obsidians.org with at least the following information: name of trip, date of trip, type (hike, cross country ski, snowshoe, snow backpacking, nature walk). Things like the number of miles, elevation gain, difficulty level (easy, moderate, difficult), number of participants, and round trip driving distance can be filled in later. Dave may be able to fill in some of this information for you from templates based on previous trips. If you have questions or need help, Dave will be glad to encourage and assist you. Thank you, Dave, for your year-long commitment to watching over our trips.

Winter Trips Committee

(Summer Camp, continued from page 1)

Park, or exploring other less-traveled areas nearby. Or just hang out in camp, or drive to the Visitor's Center in the park. You can be as ambitious or as laid-back as you like.

At the end of the day, you'll return to camp to clean up and relax for a bit. At dinnertime, enjoy a hearty dinner (vegetarian options always available) prepared by caterers. In the evening, hikers report back on their day's adventures—a great opportunity to learn of the *must see* places, and plan the next day's trips.

Summer Camp offers great hiking, beautiful scenery, good food, and a chance to spend time with friends, new and old. You won't want to miss it—so mark your calendar for July 31–August 6, 2022, and watch the *Bulletin* for registration info, since Summer Camp typically fills on the first day. And if you're not yet a member, get those qualifying trips in and join up—the first 48 hours of Summer Camp registration are restricted to Members Only!

President's Address 2021

Marianne Reiter

FOR EACH OF US the reasons to hike up a hill or climb a mountain are varied. But one very common purpose to those who make the effort towards a summit is to get a view. There is something deeply satisfying when we can see far across the landscape, then look down at where we started. It is in the spirit of taking the long view while keeping sight of where we came from that we launched the Strategic Planning effort in 2020, and have continued its work into 2021. The Strategic Planning team shared the plan with the membership in June of this year, and were grateful to those of you, both in-person and on Zoom, who came to learn about the plan and provide support and feedback.

There has already been much work towards the goals of the plan. We formed a Stewardship Committee, which includes the epic work of trail maintenance and is dedicated to conservation, stewardship, and education in our community. Another group of motivated Strategic Planning team members have taken on the need for leaders and are developing creative ways to bring in and retain more leaders. The formidable job of updating the website is being addressed by another dedicated task group. Finally, we have another knowledgeable task group working on changing the club's tax status. This will allow us to have more options for providing outreach and education for the community, partner for grants, and potentially get a waiver for the property taxes, among some of the benefits. While all these efforts better position us for the long term, they would not have been possible without the hard and steadfast work of those who have given, and continue to give, their time and energy to the club for so many years.

Throughout this year with all that is happening, we have not let down our guard on health and safety. We have continued our commitment to staying safe while having fun by getting people together in the outdoors during the pandemic. When the number of COVID-19 cases began to rise again, we modified our protocols as the state changed their guidelines, and were able to keep our activities going. This year we also recognized the synergy that can happen when coordinating with other groups, and so continued our partnership with Willamalane to offer hikes led by Obsidians, as a way to introduce the larger community to our fabulous hike leaders.

The past year has had challenges and rewards brought about by changes within the club and within our community. But since we are adaptable—you have to be in order to be around almost 100 years—we are able to embrace those changes by pulling from our rich past as we reach into an even richer future. Thank you.



Our Obsidians Historian Committee Chair, Lenore McManigal, enjoyed attending the Annual Meeting via Zoom. Lenore recently celebrated her 96th birthday.

Photo by Janet Jacobsen.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING OBSIDIANS, INC.

October 8, 2021

By Denise Rubenstein

PRESIDENT MARYANNE REITER CALLED THE ZOOM MEETING TO ORDER. Board members present: Denise Bean, Dave Cooper, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga, Denise Rubenstein, and Lyndell Wilken. The meeting was well attended by club members.

A complete presentation of this Annual Meeting is available on our website. Take a look, it's very well done.

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Stewardship Task Group: The Obsidians strategic planning committee has identified Stewardship as one of the primary goals for the club's future. On May 5, 2021, the Obsidians Board collectively approved the formation of the new Stewardship Committee, the co-chairs the co-chairs Jorry Rolfe and Darko Sojak, and committee members: Matt Bell; Dave Cooper, Jim Northrop, Angela Ruzicka, and Lindell Wilken. The newly formed committee will work towards connecting Obsidian members with stewardship volunteer opportunities. During 2021 there will have been a total of 17 local trail maintenance trips, beach, lake, and river cleanups.

Online Task Group: Assembled a task group made up of people who work in online technology. The group includes Obsidian members Marci Hansen (lead), Eric Thornton, Laura Osinga, and Gwyneth Iredale, with nonmember Chelle Parmele. The committee has met three times.

The group is developing a request for proposals (RFP) to start the process of hiring a company to build a new website. The RFPs are lengthy as they list all our needs.

They are also currently developing several layers of communication, and checks and balances to ensure the new website meets everyone's needs.

Leader Task Group: This group is examining ways to increase the number of leaders in order to offer more hiking opportunities for all. Several ideas were offered: asking 1:1, offering to be an assistant to a new leader, suggesting hikes and templates to follow, and more. Many of these suggestions are already in place. Group members are Karen Yoerger, Lisa Van Liefde, Diane Schechter, Lana Lindstrom, Jonathan Jost, and Dave Cooper.

Tax Status Group: We are moving from a Social Club 501c7 to a Charitable Community 501c3. Many 501c7s have made the change to 501c3 because the focus has expanded to include benefits to the community. A few highlights:

- The new designation does not change anything about how we currently operate.
- The new designation supports our stewardship and outreach to the community.
- We will be able to receive tax deductible charitable donations.
- We will be able to ask Lane County for a waiver of property tax fees and personal property tax fees.
- We will be able to partner with other 501c3s for grants and other community funds.
- We will not need to limit rental income for the Lodge or non-member income.

Progress to date: began working with David Atkin at the Center for Non-Profit Law PC and are in the process of providing necessary documentation.

Tax Status Tax Group Members: Denise Bean (Lead), Jim Northrop and Stewart Hoeg.

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT: Stewart Hoeg

The Obsidians' financial position remains strong. As of September 30, our balance sheet had financial assets of \$294,000, including a Capital/Contingency Fund of \$71,000, an Endowment Fund of \$91,000, and a General Fund of \$11,000.

Last year at this time we 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.

COVID-19 has had a significant effect on revenues—no bus trip fees, no summer camp fees, no climb school, and no Lodge rental, potluck revenue or ExploraTalk revenue—with no offsetting reduction in expenses. As a result, for the past twelve months the club had about a \$1,300 negative cash flow from operations.

I would like to thank Dave Hawkins who is responsible for keeping the books for both the Summer Camp and Bus committees. As their treasurer, Dave is responsible for providing me with both committees' monthly financials for inclusion in my monthly board meeting financial updates.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS APPROVED: Angie Ruzicka, Dave Hawkins, and Maryanne Reiter were voted in as Board members. See the September *Bulletin* for full profiles.

DRAWING FOR FABULOUS PRIZES! This Zoom meeting offered drawings throughout the meeting. And the winners were...Sheridan Gates \$25 gift certificate for Obsidians merchandise, David Meredith \$25 gift certificate for Obsidians merchandise and an REI travel stuff pack, Joan Skarda \$25 gift certificate for Obsidians merchandise and an REI Big Haul 40L duffel bag.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bus Trips (Jim Northrop): For the second consecutive year (2020 and now 2021) the Bus Committee has had to postpone scheduled trips due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to have a full slate of bus trips in 2022.

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): Due to ongoing concerns over COVID-19, we did not offer Climb School this year. We also scaled back the number of climbs offered to those that are less technical. In all, we had five climbs as of early October; we had more on the schedule, but weather and leader injury prevented several climbs from happening. We also had three mountaineering conditioning hikes on Mount Pisgah in the early spring. Many thanks to the Climbs Committee for their continued support during a second year impacted by COVID-19.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): With no potlucks or ExploraTalks this past year, Concessions has had no in-person sales opportunities. However, since our 2020 annual report, we have had \$46 in sales. (Contact sales@obsidians.org if you wish to buy something from us. We still have shirts, caps,

whistles, grocery bags, etc.) Once it looks like we will be able to have events at the Lodge again, our committee will be looking at ordering new merchandise.

Conservation/SciEd (Kay Coots and Angie Ruzicka):

While the committee met several times to plan ExploraTalks and other activities, COVID-19 restrictions prevented us from holding in-person ExploraTalks in 2021. The committee discussed other possible activities and plans to proceed with several opportunities for members that comply with current COVID protocols. Those that were held as well as those upcoming to the end of 2021 include:

March 13: a birding walk at Green Island with Obsidian birders Joanna Alexander and Randy Sinnott.

Sept. 14: a walk-and-talk-about at the University of Oregon showcasing some of their sustainability efforts. (Part 1 of 3)

October: a group of Obsidians reading and reviewing the book *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America*.

October 19: a Zoom ExploraTalk with Hannah Alverson, Fire Ecologist with the BLM in Salmon, ID, discussing conserving white bark pines during a time of climate change.

November 15: a hike of the Coburg Ridge Preserve, part of a conservation easement grant, with representatives of the Nature Conservancy.

November 16: an in-person ExploraTalk is planned but may be cancelled depending upon COVID protocols at that time.

December 11: a birding walk at Green Island with Obsidian birders Joanna Alexander and Randy Sinnott.

December 14: a walk-and-talk-about (#2) at the University of Oregon showing some of their sustainability activities.

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

Entertainment (Evelyn Nagy, Ron and Pam Swisher):

There were no potlucks during the year due to the pandemic. On June 25, Darko Sojak and Angie Ruzicka led an outdoor picnic at Fern Ridge. Twenty-two people attended.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): Due to COVID, there has only been one extended trip this year. The committee will meet in the next couple of months to discuss 2022 trips.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Obsidian Finance Committee was responsible for putting together the 2021 budget and recommending investments for the Endowment Fund and Contingency Fund. Two committee members, Sue Zeni and Laura Ozinga, audited the treasurer function which includes all activity for the general, endowment, extended trips and capital/contingency funds. Due to no activity, there were no audits of either the Bus or Summer Camp committees. In response to a request from the strategic planning committee, the finance committee, with particular assistance from Denise Bean, discussed the pros and cons of changing the tax status of the club. Based on this discussion, the committee recommended to the Board that the club pursue changing the club's tax status from a 501c7 to 501c3. Thanks to committee members Denise Bean, Dan Christensen, Joel Greer, Dave Hawkins, Lana Lindstrom, Laura Ozinga, Sue Zeni, and Chairman Stewart Hoeg.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): Little Lodge use this year.

In May an energetic crew did a thorough cleaning in anticipation of starting to have some activities at the Lodge. But as we all know, the COVID trajectory reversed, and we are still looking forward to when we can gather together again.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): The Obsidians Grounds Committee continued with routine maintenance and upkeep of the Lodge grounds throughout the year although with significantly fewer work parties since there was almost no Lodge usage. We completed a couple fence projects:

•**300-Foot 3-Strand T-Post Fence** A basic fence, primarily to redefine the property line between the Obsidians and the new development to our southwest. We decided we could manage this project ourselves. Doug Nelson took the lead, procured the materials, and on the morning of April 29 the Grounds Committee cleared the brush and poison oak, pounded posts, and strung the wire to reestablish our property line. Final cost of materials: \$180.

•**185-Foot, 6-Foot High, Black Chain Link Fence and 14-Foot Entry Gate** This project included a lot of clearing before fence installation could occur and was handled with three contracts: Sam Tracer removed downed wood/trees along the entire length of the project. Sam finished up his work April 5. Final cost for Sam's work: \$1,000. Ben Macauley, Highland Tree Service, brought his tractor-mounted brush hog and made quick work of clearing the blackberries and assorted brush along the new fence line. Ben completed his work on April 10. Final cost for Ben's work: \$750. CG Fence of Albany installed the chain link fence and fabricated and installed the 14-foot double gate. Carlos Garcia and his son Austin set the posts in concrete on April 22 and returned on April 28 to install the fence and gate. Final cost for CG Fence's work: \$6,700.

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): Trip and leader awards: After an inventory of emblems, 35 were ordered for a cost of \$105. Twenty-nine members will receive their emblems, to be given out during hikes and club activities, or mailed.

Log Books: Recorded 400 trips on the member log sheets. Last year the number was 289.

Research: Provided information for The *Bulletin's In Memoriam* and historical articles, answered email enquiries, and provided trip summaries for two reinstated members.

In Memoriam, November 2021–2022 Active: Ray Jensen age 96, Inactive: Louise Behnke age 100; Vera Woolley, 99; Bill Eimstad, 97; Rex Stevens, 97; Chuck Ruel, 82; Marilyn Kerins, 74; April Anderson, 62.

Membership (Diane Schechter): Total Membership - 424, Active-396, Life-15, Honorary-5, Junior-8.

Online/Webmaster (Wayne Deeter): No Report

Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz): Last year we published nine editions of the *Bulletin*. The usual is ten, but we combined the May and April issues because of COVID and a lack of materials and activities. The monthly number of *Bulletins* being sent for eight of those months was 205 printed and 200 mailed. The average cost for those mailings was approximately \$55. The September mailing included the annual renewal form and was sent to all members. *Bulletins* printed this year: were 2,040. Mailed: 1,978.

Publicity (Marci Hansen): Obsidians Instagram account

has 267 followers and averages about 50 likes per post. Obsidians Facebook account has 1,177 followers and averages about 20 likes per post. Posts on social media work for the Obsidians. When posts include upcoming hikes or climbs, people see it and sign up. With COVID there was no reason for a publicity push in 2021. We have focused instead on the foundation of the Obsidians with developing a mission statement and working on the website.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): The Safety Committee did not convene this past year due to COVID. However, work did continue on restocking first aid kits, replacing the AED pads and figuring out how to check first aid kits in and out without having the YMCA as a location to do so. Janet Jacobsen graciously volunteered to distribute first aid kits from her home until the end of September. As of October 1, first aid kits will no longer be checked out to trip leaders. Steps will be taken to help educate club members on how to assemble a personal first aid kit when COVID becomes less of a problem. First aid kits will continue to be available for trail maintenance, climbs, bus trips and summer camp.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): The Obsidian Strategic Planning Committee has identified Stewardship as one of the primary goals for the Obsidians going forward. In May the Board collectively approved the formation of the new Stewardship Committee, the co-chairs Jorry Rolfe and Darko Sojak, and committee members: Matt Bell, Dave Cooper, Jim Northrop, Angela Ruzicka, and Lindell Wilken. The newly formed committee will work towards connecting Obsidian members with stewardship volunteer opportunities. During 2021 there will have been a total of 17 local trail maintenance trips, beach, lake and river cleanups.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Summer Camp 2022 will be based at Cascade Peaks RV Park between Randle and Packwood, WA; the dates are July 31–August 6. Mt. Rainier National Park and Goat Rocks Wilderness Area are both close by, and it's just a little farther to explore Mt. St. Helens or Mt. Adams. Steve Johnson is the Camp Boss. Thanks very much Steve and other members of the committee: Dave Hawkins, Angie Ruzicka, Lynn Stearney, and Sue Wolling.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): Through the end of September there were 199 trips with participant counts of 1,572 members and 136 nonmembers. The number of trips is very encouraging. This is the most trips we have completed in the past decade, and we still have 6 weeks of trips to go. So far, we have had 4 backpacks, 5 bike rides, 7 car camps, and 1 kayak, in addition to a variety of day hikes.

The big disappointment of the season was that the group effort to complete all sections of the Eugene to Crest Trail was unfinished. Fire closures east of Oakridge took the wind out of our sails, but we can try again next year—or perhaps we can make a similar try on the Santiam Wagon Road Trail.

Thanks go to all the trip leaders. We are glad to have some new leaders and assistants step forward and begin to replenish our ranks. This year we also had a couple of examples of what to do if you find yourself on the wait list for a popular hike. When wildflowers were plentiful, Elizabeth Grant and Becky Lipton both found themselves in this situation and decided to lead the same hike but start later with others from the wait list. Lisa Van Liefde and others led several week-day, evening hikes to give more hiking opportunities to those with full time jobs. The initiative shown by these leaders is a

real plus to the club.

Next year we intend to be solidly over 200 outings. This will be in addition to what will be offered through our Stewardship Committee's expanded role and the return of Summer Camp. People will look at the schedule, not to see if there is anything that appeals to them, but rather to see which trip they choose to go on.

Trail Maintenance (Matt Bell): Once again the Trails Committee has been busy practicing social distancing, breathing deeply through sweat soaked facemasks, and generally avoiding coronavirus. Aside from the new normal nature of this past year, this year's highlights include:

- “Donated” an estimated \$5,018 worth of volunteer labor!
- The weather is always perfect for trail maintenance, even when it's not!
- We saw a self-made backpack vacuum vacuuming up cigarette butts.
- I only got phantom poison oak once this year.
- We didn't use our 10% acceptable loss. No one was killed, injured, lost, or contracted coronavirus on a trails outing.

2021 Trail Maintenance Participation: Outings in Spencer Butte Park: 8, Outings in other Ridgeline parks: 2. Total Participants: 72 total; 66 members; 6 nonmembers. Unique Participants: 26 total; 22 members; 4 nonmembers. Total Estimated Volunteer Hours: 184.5

Winter Trips (Dave Cooper): The COVID-19 pandemic required us to be flexible and creative as we adjusted to changing guidelines and policies. Trip leaders responded by leading more in-town hikes, thus avoiding carpooling, adding assistant leaders so hikes could be broken into two groups, and creating hikes that matched existing regular outings but with a variation. (The long running Wednesday Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte hike was complemented by a same day hike from 52nd Street to the summit of Spencer Butte. Moonrise hikes up Pisgah often had long and short versions.) We hope that some of these variations become standard hikes in the future. Many thanks to the new leaders who stepped forward to keep our schedule full.

We had 144 outings led by 28 leaders. 136 hikes, 4 snowshoes, 3 cross-country ski trips, and one stewardship work party. Income for the season was \$1,221.

2021 AWARDS (See the October *Bulletin* for great pics!)

25 Leader: Joanna Alexander, Sharon Cutsforth, Denise Bean, Elizabeth Grant, Tommy Young. **100 Leader:** Dave Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, Darko Sojak. **200 Leader:** Jane Hackett. **100 Trips:** Joanna Alexander, Gwyneth Iredale, Lynda Christiansen, Joel Greer, Esme Greer, Helen Martz Rich Room, Angie Ruzicka, Peg Straub. **200 Trips:** Kathie Carpenter, Hilary Fisher, Nancy Hoecker, Carla Lyon, Lynn Meacham, Evelyn Nagy, Denise Rubenstein, Randy Sinnott, Sue Wolling. **300 Trips:** Caroline Moore, Holger Krentz, Nancy Whitfield, Tommy Young. **400 Trips:** Darko Sojak. **Rookie Leader of the Year:** Karen Yoerger.

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS

President Maryanne Reiter thanked members for their involvement and commitment to the club and for all the ways that volunteers step up to make the club successful.

OCTOBER BOARD NOTES

October 13, 2021

From Minutes by Denise Rubenstein

President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga, Denise Rubenstein. Others present: Carla Cooper, Jim Northrop, and Lana Lindstrom, Darko Sojak, and Evelyn Nagy.

The Board approved the minutes for September 2021.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Hawkins): Dave reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): There were two climbs scheduled in September. The Mt. McLoughlin climb was canceled due to rain. The Mt. Washington climb was successful in getting five people to the summit.

Conservation/SciEd (Kay Coots and Angie Ruzicka): The Conservation, Science and Education committee postponed the September ExploraTalk due to COVID concerns. The speaker has been rescheduled for November. Should COVID restrictions remain unchanged, the talk will be moved to 2022. A UO campus Walk and Talk featuring UO Sustainability Director, Steve Mital happened on September 14. This is one of three newly designed campus tours showcasing UO sustainability activities/practices.

Membership (Diane Schechter): The Board approved two new members - George Ambrosini and Al Pakalniskis. Total membership is 424. Renewals: We currently have 196 members who have renewed and 203 who have not. Assistant Leader Volunteers: This year we added a category for assistant leader on the volunteer section of the renewal form in our effort to get more leaders. Of the members who renewed, 17 indicated an interest in being an assistant leader. This is 8% of all those who returned the renewal form.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): Sept. 13, committee member Lyndell Wilken led a pilot cleanup project *Love a Lake* in cooperation with Cascade Volunteers. Nine volunteers cleaned fire pits and removed trash along the lakeshores of Rosary Lakes. **Sept. 25,** committee member Matt Bell led trail brushing and drainage ditch clearing on the Ridgeline Trail in Spencer Butte Park. **Sept. 25,** committee member Darko Sojak led Berry Creek beach cleanup, at which seven people picked up 66 lbs. of trash. **Upcoming:** Oct. 23, Darko Sojak will lead North Bank Restoration cleanup project in cooperation with City of Eugene Parks and Open Space. Oct. 30, Matt Bell will lead Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance project. **Nov. 7,** Darko Sojak will lead Obsidians Stewardship Day, a volunteer project in cooperation with Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council and McKenzie River Trust. **Nov. 27,** Matt Bell will lead a Spencer Butte Planting project.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): The committee met in September, discussed logistics, and inspected equipment. We have an agreement with Cascade Peaks RV Park, Randle, WA, regarding the rates and the sites, and have sent them a deposit.

OLD BUSINESS

•**Tax Status Change Update:** Maryanne reported that the process is moving along and on track. Stewart and Maryanne submitted several pieces of club information that David Atkin had requested.

•**Online Task Group Update:** The RFPs, which are almost 15 pages long, are ready in rough form and will require 3 more reviews before sending them out to contractors. They will be offered for Board review by the end of Oct., then sent out to contractors. The expected turn around time for responses is about 4 weeks. The selected vendor will have a 4-6-week timeline for the initial project work.

NEW BUSINESS

•Leader Task Group Board Report #2:

Task Group Members: Karen Yoerger, Lisa Van Liefde, Diane Schechter, Jonathan Jost, Dave Cooper, and Lana Lindstrom, Chair. Brenda Kameenui will write regular *Bulletin* articles.

New Leader Feedback: Dave solicited input from 14 leaders who led their first trip in the past 2 years—what were their concerns; what was easy and what was intimidating; etc. The responses were varied. Summary: assistants were very helpful for support and answering questions; it can be intimidating during the trip—“what happens if” someone gets lost/hurt/how to select sweep, etc.; getting started—helpful when someone suggests a specific trip and nudges them to lead it; 2 people weren't clear how to add photos.

1:1 “Ask” and Assistant Leaders: the most effective way to recruit new leaders is the 1:1 “ask”. Dave and Janet deserve a lot of credit for recruiting most of the 8 new leaders in 2021. For some Obsidians, it might be less intimidating to be the official assistant leader with a specific assignment(s) before leading with an experienced leaders as their assistant. Karen sent an e-mail to 14 experienced leaders asking them to consider inviting a potential leader to be their assistant and/or volunteer to be an assistant to a potential leader.

Bulletin articles: For October and maybe November, *Bulletin* articles will focus on why we need more leaders and provide specific hike suggestions for fall colors.

•**Annual Meeting Review:** Discussion showed that the Annual Meeting and its format was well received. Attendance was great with approximately 56 members, and everyone enjoyed Carla's drawing for prizes throughout the meeting.

•It was determined that the position of Online Committee Chair will be listed as vacant as efforts to reach Wayne Deeter have not been successful.

•**Liberty Insurance Policy Review:** Dave Hawkins explained that the policy that has been held for years only covers employees and executives – not participants in events, and therefore doesn't yield any benefit to the club. The Board moved to delete the policy.

•Two new members were approved. See Membership Report.

ADJOURNMENT

TRIP REPORTS



Backpacks

Weekend Winopee Y Not

October 8, 2021

Leader: Russ Davies

Photographer: Brad Bennett

Backpack: 14 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

FOUR OF US CARPOOLED TO OUR BACKPACKING BEGINNING NEAR CULTUS LAKE. With blue, sunny skies above us and happy feet on duff trails below, we traveled six miles along the lakes to our campsite at Winopee Lake, spying beaver dams, many mushrooms sprouting, and an old cabin, along the way. Clear night skies showed the Milky Way and millions of stars, while our campfire let us commune and keep warm with dinner. We began Day 2 watching fog drifting on the lake, and ducks on the lake testing flight patterns, before we headed for a six-mile loop hike along the Snowshoe Lakes and the PCT. We enjoyed socializing with a campfire, shared snacks, and fresh-baked dessert. We woke near daybreak to a soft mist that barely wet the ground as we packed and moved out. Again, sun and blue skies blessed our hike to the car, and it was another perfect Oregon outing! Members: Brad Bennett, Russ Davies, Michael Myers, Cindy Rice.



Russ baking chocolate chip muffins for everyone.



Bike Trips

Northwest Eugene Country Roads Loop

October 9, 2021

Leader: Darko Sojak

Bike: 24.5 miles, 230 ft. (Moderate)

NICE 24-MILE BIKE RIDE on a sunny, warmer than expected, fall day. Country roads of NW Eugene are surrounded with greenery, blooming California poppy, bright orange hawthorn, birds, butterflies, deer, and livestock. Members: Angie Ruzicka, Gordon Sayre, Darko Sojak, Harold Thompson.



Hikes

University of Oregon Campus Walk

September 20, 2021

Leader: Joanna Alexander

Hike: 2.5 miles, (Easy)

A DOZEN HAPPY WANDERERS VISITED THE UO CAMPUS between Summer Session and Fall Term, stopping occasionally for talk of environmental, cultural, social, and economic justice sustainability efforts. Evelyn shared that the Sept. 20, 2021 issue of *The New Yorker* magazine had an article about Derrick Bell, Dean of the UO School of Law from 1980 to 1985, that was titled, *The Man Behind Critical Race Theory*. It was a crisp morning on the cusp of the autumn equinox. One focus of the walk was to try to see differences between the various evergreen conifers: giant sequoias vs. coast redwoods, and incense cedars vs. western red cedars. We made a lovely pause amid the serene landscapes of Many Nations Longhouse to enjoy vegan chocolate cookies, donated by Jorry. From the previous UO Sustainability Walk, Lisa recalled that Johnpaul Jones, the Native American architect of the Many Nations Longhouse, was also the lead design consultant for the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Members: Joanna Alexander, Sharon Duncan, Clara Emlen, Nikki Frank, Kathy Hoeg, Yuan Hopkins, Lisa Marks, Evelyn Nagy, Jerry Pergamit, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Carol Ipsen, Al Pakalniskis.

The Twins

October 2, 2021

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Photographer: Esme Greer

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

WHAT A SPECTACULAR DAY! The weather was perfect with not a cloud in the sky and hardly any wind. As a result, we lingered on the top for about an hour, enjoying the views of Waldo and Charlton Lakes, and Crane Prairie. Wickiup Res-



ervoir and Davis Lakes barely had any water in them. There were patches of snow near the trail as we neared the top and lots on the Cascade peaks. Several of the participants had recently hiked around Waldo Lake and/or to Rigdon Lakes and appreciated seeing their journeys from above, especially through the 1996 burn area. Thanks to all the participants for sharing a fabulous day! Members: Marguerite Cooney, Whitney Gould, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Richard Hughes, Gwyneth Iredale, Elizabeth Koch, Lana Lindstrom, June Miller, Emily Rice, Sue Wolling.

Yoran / Lils Lakes Loop

October 2, 2021

Leader: Jan Anselmo

Hike: 12.1 miles, 1,330 ft. (Difficult)

BECAUSE THE BRIDGE ACROSS TRAPPER CREEK WAS STILL CLOSED, the group bushwhacked through the woods on the other side of Trapper Creek to intersect the Whitefish trail and connect to the Yoran Lake Trail. It was a beautiful fall day with mild enough temperatures that Kathie Carpenter swam in Lils Lake at our lunch break (yeah, Kathie!). Because everyone was interested in seeing even the lakes that were not right on the trail, we took the side paths to Hidden and Midnight Lakes. This, along with bushwhacking through the woods, ended up making the hike 13 miles instead of 12, according to my GPS. Members: Jan Anselmo, Kathie Carpenter, Marti Gerdes, Holger Krentz. Nonmembers: Richard Anselmo, Arjen Hoekstra.

Twin Craters Explora Hike

October 3, 2021

Leader: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Holger Krentz

Photographer: Joel Greer

Hike: 6.8 miles, 555 ft. (Moderate)

TODAY'S TWIN CRATERS EXPLORA HIKE WAS A TERRIFIC ADVENTURE. We hiked great trails, scrambled steep slopes of crumbly cinder cone, and bushwhacked sharp pahoehoe fields. October weather was generous. Members: Keiko Bryan, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Gwyneth Iredale, Daphne James, Holger Krentz, Linda Parks, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Dorothy van Winkle, Karen Yoerger.



Karen, Daphne, Dorothy, Esme, Angie, Darko, and Holger taking a break with a terrific view.

Clare Tucker Memorial Four In One Cone

October 3, 2021

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 11 miles, 1,400 ft. (Difficult)

WE HAD VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER to visit Four In One Cone on a crisp morning. The leader immediately went to his favorite part on the west end and had lunch. The others walked the rim of the cone and then had lunch. The views of the nearby Sisters, Black and Yapoah Craters, and Collier Cone were fabulous. Some snow at the 6,000-foot level. We returned the way we came. It was a good group. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Jim Conaghan, Marguerite Cooney, Janet Jacobsen, Lynn Meacham, Mike Smith, Paul Winther.

Green Lakes

October 9, 2021

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 11.3 miles, 1,760 ft. (Difficult)

IT WAS A PERFECT FALL DAY with a wonderful group of hikers. The air was crisp and the views were breathtakingly clear, with temperatures below 30 when we started that rose to the high 50s by the hike's end. The trail was quite crowded and, although we left Eugene at 6:30 AM, we still had to park out on the highway because the parking lot was full. We followed Fall Creek upstream through a mountain hemlock forest and past massive obsidian boulders, with views that got more and more incredible as we got further into the Three Sisters Wilderness. We lunched on the lakeshore face-to-face with South Sister and Broken Top.



South Sister from the middle Green Lake.

After lunch, some of us stayed to relax and enjoy the views. The rest of us found, then lost, then once again found the trail around the largest of the Green Lakes, where we saw the source springs gushing from the base of South Sister. This loop around the lake is much less heavily trafficked than the main trail, giving us a break from the crowds, some close encounters with tiny frogs, and lovely views of Mt. Bachelor. The total distance, including the lake loop and limping out to the highway to get our cars, was somewhat over 12.6 miles. I'd recommend this hike in August or September when the permit system might keep the crowds down a bit. The other hikers were friendly and good spirited, but there were A LOT of off-leash dogs, making even the dog lovers among us uncomfortable. If you are hiking with children, with someone who has balance concerns, or with people who are afraid of dogs, you'll need to be prepared for this. Also, several of the log and rock crossings of Fall Creek were icy and slippery in the morning and, while all our group made it safely across, there were a few anxious moments. Members: Kathie

Carpenter, Jim Conaghan, Marguerite Cooney, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Daphne James, Holger Krentz.

North Bank Habitat Area

October 9, 2021

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: George Ambrosini

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

THE NORTH BANK HABITAT IS A TEN-SQUARE MILE PRESERVE (ranch) overlooking the North Umpqua River near Roseburg that offers less crowded trails. Under sunny skies, we soon discarded a few layers of warm clothing and then took our time to enjoy the continuous spectacular views while hiking up and down the rolling hills. The first treats were the clusters of various shades of red berries on the Pacific madrone trees along the Blacktail Ridge Road from the West Entrance. What a contrast from the spring sprays of small bell-like flowers. The second treat was our lunch viewpoint celebration of Lynn's trip award for the Big 200 with chocolate zucchini bread. The third treat was double-dip ice cream at Rice Hill. We recommend the pumpkin pie flavor. Members: George Ambrosini, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Lynn Meacham, Dorothy van Winkle, Karen Yoerger.



Leader Janet was happy the red bunches of madrone berries added so much color to the hike.

Castle Rock via King Castle Trailhead

October 15, 2021

Leader: Karen Yoerger

Hike: 11.4 miles, 2,600 ft. (Difficult)

THE CRISP, CLEAR OCTOBER DAY; the angled sun highlighting fungi, ferns, the greens of the forest floor, hostas and other unusual items along the trail; the outstanding view of the Three Sisters with a fresh coating of snow; the Startrek fantalk, Klingon song and spaceship contrail over Castle Rock seen from the patio of Takoda's; the crockpot recipe and historical photos; and, especially, the enjoyable company; all made for a great hike and a great day. Thanks to all! Members: Kathie Carpenter, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Lynn Meacham, Darian Morray, Denise Rubenstein, Karen Yoerger.

West Metolius River Trail

October 16, 2021

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Hike: 7.3 miles, 270 ft. (Moderate)

ELEVEN OBSIDIANS ENJOYED A WARM, SUNNY DAY exploring the sparkling Metolius River. Along the way, we stopped to check out springs gushing out of the hillside, a fish hatchery, and fly fishers casting gracefully over the water (but never catching anything!) We did this hike as an out-and-back, with a lunch stop after just under four miles. Another fun option would be to do it as a longer loop, crossing over from the west to the east bank at Lower Bridge Campground (six miles RT, starting from the fish hatchery). Or, you could do it as a lollipop starting at Lower Canyon Creek Campground, following the west bank all the way to Lower Bridge Campground (5.5 miles), crossing over to the east bank for three miles, and then crossing back to the west side at the hatchery, for a total of 11 miles RT. After the river hike, we made a 15-minute trip to the Head of the Metolius Observation Site for a beautiful view of Mt. Jefferson and some head scratching over the humble beginnings of such a lively river. The drive to the trailhead was long but doubled as a fall foliage tour because the colors were just peaking. Members: Joanna Alexander, Brad Bennett, Donna Bloomfield, Kathie Carpenter, Lynda Christiansen, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Patricia Esch, Holger Krentz, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Wolling.

Sunset Sand Circles

October 16, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3.8 miles, 7 ft. (Easy)

THIS NIGHT, IN MID-OCTOBER, WAS 64°F on Florence's North Jetty. From the somewhat busy parking lot, we walked north to the Driftwood Shores beach where we found thousands of people walking two giant labyrinths carved in the sand. After the crowded labyrinth walk and the 6:30 PM sunset, we returned to the North Jetty. Members: David Hawkins, Gwyneth Iredale, Angie Ruzicka, Joan Skarda, John Skarda, Darko Sojak, William Wu. Nonmembers: Pierre Robert.



Nautilus.

Hendricks Park Fall Color Stroll

October 18, 2021

Leader: Denise Rubenstein

Hike: 2 miles, 150 ft. (Easy)

OVERCAST SKIES DID NOT DETER OUR EXPLORATION of the Rhododendron and Native Plant Gardens. We enjoyed tall Japanese anemone swaying in the breeze and not giving up; Dorothy finding every flash of color from rhodies, azaleas, and cyclamen; and meeting Emily, the head gardener, who

answered all of our questions. A lovely stroll with bursts of color along hidden paths. Members: Carol Babcock, Patricia Cleall, Sharon Duncan, Sheridan Gates, Kathy Hoeg, Gwyneth Iredale, Denise Rubenstein, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Jerrie Jones, Carlynn Hisel.

Pioneer Cemetery Walk

October 27, 2021

Leader: Sheridan Gates

Hike: 2 miles, (Easy)

WE HAD AN INTERESTED GROUP OF 15 as we sauntered through the Pioneer Cemetery, listening to historian/storyteller Randy Gudeika's stories of the lives and deaths of those buried there. From early stories of brutal settlers ravaging indigenous peoples, to those who lost their lives from the Spanish flu of 1918, to women's suffrage leaders who achieved the right for women to vote in Oregon during their lifetime, we deepened our understanding of the history of the region. A few participants discovered, or sought out, the locations of distant relatives buried in this historic cemetery. We encountered a few sprinkles mid-walk, which enhanced the mystique. The walk ended at the monument and gravestones of those who fought for the Union Army during the Civil War. Who knew that Jefferson Davis tried to escape capture by wearing his wife's hat and scarf? Randy graciously agreed to lead a second walk for the Obsidians on November 4. Members: David Cooper, Sheridan Gates, Evelyn Nagy, Nancy Giammatteo, Lana Lindstrom, Mary Livingston, Nola Nelson, Al Pakalniskis, Kathy Randall, Ginny Reich, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Maureen Whalen, Jerrie Jones, Jenny Ellis, Daina Pakalniskis.

Champoeg State Park

October 28, 2021

Leader: Whitney Gould

Assistant Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 9.9 miles, 272 ft. (Moderate)

RAIN THREATENED, but spared, our small band of hikers as we traversed Champoeg State Park from end to end. What was billed as an 8.2-mile hike turned out to be more like 10, due to a side trip to see a grave marker, a slight wrong turn, and an extra 1/4 mile to get to the Historic Butteville Store. The oldest continually operating store in Oregon was closed when we arrived. Turns out, it's no longer a store, but a place to buy drinks and ice cream in the summer months. The proprietor and his dog, Charlie, welcomed us anyway and, perhaps sensing our disappointment, gave us tastes of a new flavor.



Along the trail to Butteville.

We finished our journey with a stop at the interactive Champoeg museum, which provided an entertaining history of the early fur-trapping industry and the contentious effort to establish Oregon's first provisional government back in the mid-1800s. Members: Whitney Gould, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom. Nonmembers: Jerrie Jones.

Amazon Headwaters / Fox Hollow / Spencer Butte / Mt. Baldy Hikes

Hikes: 3.5–8.5 miles, 630–1,900 ft. (Easy–Moderate)

Various Leaders

Darian Morray: 9/29 6 Members, 2 Nonmembers, **10/20** 4 Members

David Cooper: 10/6 8 Members, 1 Nonmember

June Miller: 10/13 7 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Blanton Ridge Hike

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

Leader: Tommy Young

9/28 5 Members, **10/5** 3 Members, **10/12** 4 Members, **10/19** 3 Members

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hikes: 3.3–6.5 miles, 300–1,600 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen, Marti Gerdes: 10/1 4 Members

Janet Jacobsen: 10/16 1 Member, 1 Nonmember



Stewardship

Berry Creek & Beach Cleanup

September 25, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 4 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

SEVEN NIMBLE OBSIDIANS CLEANED THE AREA between Berry Creek and Lily Lake, followed by a cleanup of a large cranberry meadow between Berry Creek and the Baker Beach trail. Due to the COVID-related understaffing of the Forest Service, we were asked not to leave trash at Baker Beach. Bags with 66 lbs. of trash were strapped on the roof of the leader's car and transported for disposal at the Heceta Beach SOLVE station. Part of the group stopped at Chen's Family Dish for a tasty meal. Members: Sharon Duncan, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Barbara Orsi, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Mike Graham.



Nancy found a big rope.

North Bank Restoration Project

October 23, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 2 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

EARLIER THIS YEAR, the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space acquired the riverfront property on the north bank of the Willamette River that was previously owned by ODOT. There had been significant camping there for years, and the landscape was severely impacted. Despite the less favorable weather conditions, 14 Obsidian volunteers joined Kelsey Irvine and Lauri Holts from Parks and Open Space for a work party. We removed invasive English ivy and cleaned up garbage as the first step in the process of returning it to a healthy riparian area. Thanks to the volunteers! Members: Carol Babcock, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Holger Krentz, Vern Marsonette, Barbara Orsi, Linda Parks, Kathy Randall, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Sue Wolling. Non-members: Melanie Weir, Carlynn Hisel.



Barbara and Vern picking up trash and removing ivy.



Lisa Van Liefde

Gwyneth Iredale

I MET LISA AFTER SHE DISCOVERED THE OBSIDIANS THREE YEARS AGO. She co-owns and manages a natural stone import company from her home office, so was able to move to Eugene to be closer to her son who was enrolled at the UO.

Lisa took to the Obsidians like a duck to water when she joined. She became a leader when she saw and filled a need for hikes in the summer evenings. In addition to these popular evening hikes, Lisa has led hikes at Vivian Lake, Marys Peak, Clear Lake, four Pisgah hikes, and others for a total of thirteen hikes

Always a responsible, organized and prepared leader, she warmly welcomes new hikers and is a great recruiter for the club, leaving first time hikers with a very positive experience, often described in her excellent trip reports.

Between Obsidian events, visiting her three adult children, and work, Lisa loves to attend UO basketball and volleyball games.

I asked Lisa for a little more background on why becoming an Obsidian club member appealed to her, and she wrote:

I was born and raised in SoCal, am a life-long hiker and camper after learning fundamental outdoor skills in Girl Scouts. My three kids learned to love the outdoors, as well. Our vacations included week-long camping trips to Sequoia National Park, Yosemite and Big Sur. They still enjoy camping, backpacking and hiking as adults.

When I visited my son in Eugene, I fell in love with the area and its easy access to incredibly beautiful mountain and coastal areas. My first Eugene hike to the top of Spencer Butte, I knew I wanted to live here.

I credit Marsha Barr, the first person I met in Eugene, for introducing me to the Obsidians. And at a potluck dinner I knew I had "found my people." They seemed like grown up Scouts! I enjoyed getting to know local trails, extended trips, and really loved learning how to snowshoe, now a winter favorite.

After becoming familiar with Oregon trails, I was excited to start leading hikes despite a busy work schedule. Learning to lead was fun and is easy. Encouraged by Dave Cooper and Janet Jacobsen, I picked easy hikes at first, like Mt. Pisgah. This past summer I began the 'after work' hikes on Wed. evenings: super easy to pull together and lead. I love meeting new people and introducing them to new places, which is really rewarding.

Leading hikes was a great decision, and I encourage everyone to lead a hike! There is ample help available to make any trip a success. The more folks who lead, the more opportunities to hike!



Photo by Denise Rubenstein.

In Appreciation of William Riley “Tex” Matsler

(04/04/1917–01/23/2003)

Tommy Young

WHO IS TEX? The Tuesday Blanton Spencer Butte Hikers first saw a plaque recognizing W. Riley “Tex” Matsler on their 49th hike (08/03/2021). We saw it after the trailhead had undergone a thorough landscape cleaning by Deverton Cochrane with Eugene Parks and Open Space. Prior to that date the plaque had been covered by vegetation. Not even Janet Jacobsen, who was present, knew who he was.

The simple answer is that he was a U of Oregon graduate, and the Eugene Parks and Recreation Superintendent from 1949–1964. After a few fortunate finds online, we discovered that he was an individual who was a primary force in things that all Eugeniens appreciate.

What would Eugene be without parks like Hendricks, Westmoreland, Amazon, Riverfront, and Tugman? All of these were obtained under his direction. He also worked with the City Council in locating communication towers on Blanton Ridge instead of Spencer Butte. In 1950 he took Alton Baker and Bill Tugman both of *The Register-Guard* to the present site of South Eugene High School. Pointing to the south ridgeline he said, “That won’t always be there if we don’t do something about it.” That was the birth of our present day Ridgeline Trail. In the humble opinion of the Blanton Hikers, the Ridgeline Trail is one of the best features of Eugene. Thank you, Tex.

The Register-Guard’s January 25, 2003 obituary article, *Matsler Left A ‘Clever’ Stamp On Area Parks*, provided another piece of the puzzle: *The Ridgeline Trail Park was completed after his tenure, but friends who recognized his contribution recently placed bronze plaques bearing his name under the park maps at the Dillard and Blanton road access points. We asked Deverton Cochrane about the second plaque location. He replied: The other one is directly under the kiosk near Dillard West trailhead. It is the kiosk that is down the trail from the parking area. Both of these often get covered with dirt or gravel because they were installed flush with the ground.*

If you want to see the Blanton plaque by dawn’s early light, sign up for the author’s Tuesday morning hike. For more information, check out *A History of City of Eugene Recreation* by Bruce Steinmatz published January 20, 2016.

issuu.com/cityofeugenerecreation/docs/eug._history_book



50th Anniversary of Oregon’s Trail System

2021 MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY of the Oregon Recreation Trail System Act. The link below has three short, interesting segments: 1) the history of the Act. 2) Oregon’s Signature Trails—nine trails including the Banks to Vernonia Rails to Trails, the Amanda Trail, and the newly opened Corvallis to Coast Trail. 3) A Vision for the Future.

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLr2LJdZKpPFLJrAA00UY01GNEwYm9U9US

For Sale: New Cable Tire Chains (for multi-size tires, i.e. Outback) Save \$35

SZ343 Z® Passenger, easy to install and perfect for the snowy passes. I paid \$75, asking \$40. New—never used. Check tires sizes via link to product page.

www.peerlesschain.com/tire-chain-finder/traction/tirechains/672

Installation video and package contents:
[Peerless Super Z Installation video](#)

Call Gwyneth Iredale at: 344-5804



OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

November

- 9 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**. Young 941-780-4156
- 10 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Yoerger 510-2832
- 11 Thu Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E** Jacobsen 206-1251
- 13 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E** Jacobsen 206-1251
- 14 Sun Row River Trail, whole length Bike **M**.....Sojak 799-9199
- 15 Mon Coburg Ridge Preserve Hike **M**.....Rolfe 206-9501
- 16 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**. Young 941-780-4156
- 17 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**.....Gould 510-368-8941
- 18 Thu Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
- 19 Fri Toiletries for First Place Family Hike **E** Jacobsen 206-1251
- 21 Sun Larison Rock Hike **D** Smith 520-488-9569
- 21 Sun Mt. Hope Cemetery Loop Hike **M**..... Christiansen 912-9952
- 23 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**. Young 941-780-4156
- 24 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**.....Rubenstein 248-514-5092
- 25 Thu Turkey Trimming Hike **M**..... van Winkle 485-7416
- 27 Sat Spencer Butte Planting TrlMnt **M**.....Bell 503-884-8829
- 30 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**. Young 941-780-4156

December

- 1 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**Smith 520-488-9569
- 3 Fri Food for Lane County Hike **E** Jacobsen 206-1251
- 8 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Yoerger 510-2832
- 11 Sat Green Island Birdwalk Hike **E**.....Alexander 458-209-7798
- 15 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Morray 953-5679
- 18 Sat Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 21 Tue Mt Pisgah Winter Solstice Hike **M**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 22 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Rubenstein 248-514-5092
- 29 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**Smith 520-488-9569

January

- 5 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
- 12 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
- 19 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Miller 808-282-5201
- 26 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Smith 520-488-9569

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION about our activities, visit the Obsidian website: obsidians.org



JOIN THE UPPER WILLAMETTE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK for an evening of films that inspire us to enjoy and protect the wild and scenic places close to home with the Wild and Scenic Film Festival On Tour. The stories in these films give us a sense of place and help us to view the world through unique perspectives. Together we can learn what it means to be responsible stewards to the earth.

This year we are bringing the festival to you! Join the Stewardship Network to watch the Wild and Scenic Film Festival On Tour from the comfort and safety of your own home on November 16 at 7 PM. Closed captioning will be provided for all films and you will have access to the films for five days after the showing. Tickets are \$10 per household. All proceeds from this festival will support the work of the Stewardship Network Partners as we come together to work with communities to care for land and water in the Upper Willamette.

Purchase tickets and learn more about the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network at:

www.upperwillamette.org

Visit our Facebook event to learn more about the event and stay up to date on new announcements at:

fb.me/e/Y4D8SGoh

**Toiletries for First Place Family Center
Friday, November 19 at 1:30 PM
Amazon Community Center Parking Lot**

INSTEAD OF SOCKS, BRING TOILETRIES such as full bottles of shampoo. Our four mile amble will mainly be on the bike path and the Adidas Oregon Trail/Rexius Trail through Amazon Park. For information, see the First Place website: svdp.us/news/article/first-place-program-wish-lists

Email leaders Janet Jacobsen or Joella Ewing if you have questions or want to donate at another time.

**Food for Lane County Walk
Friday, December 3 at 9:00 AM
Leader: Janet Jacobsen**

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

Get Acquainted Hikes

Obsidian Lodge

Thursday, November 11, 10:00 AM

Saturday, November 13, 2:00 PM

TWO GET ACQUAINTED HIKES ARE SCHEDULED for guests from the Obsidian Lodge along the Ribbon Trail to Hendricks Park. Because of COVID guidelines, space is limited and sign-up is required. Face coverings will be needed inside the Lodge. If members would like to help, please email Janet Jacobsen at

bjjacobsen@comcast.net



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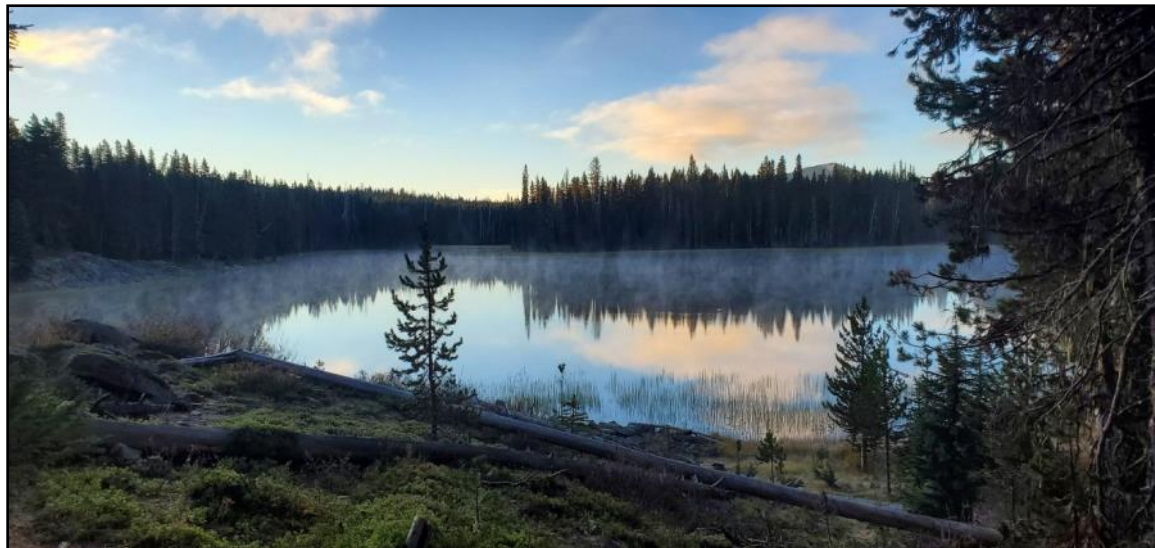
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Nov/Dec 2021



Winopee Lake. See the trip report on page 9. Photo by Brad Bennett.

ENJOY the photos in color!
ONLINE *Bulletin* at www.observians.org