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Dates to Remember

January 19	Zoom Meeting
January 28	Feb <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline
February 2	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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Vote by Membership Needed

Jim Northrop

THE OBSIDIAN BOARD HAS SCHEDULED AN ALL-MEMBERS MEETING on January 19, 2022, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will occur by Zoom video conferencing. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent by email prior to January 19.

Why the meeting? The Board adopted a recommendation from the Strategic Planning Committee to change the tax status of the Obsidians from a 501c7 social club to a 501c3 (educational/charitable organization). The change in tax status requires several changes to the Obsidians Constitution. Amendments to the constitution require the approval of two thirds (2/3) of those present at a meeting of the club. A quorum of 25 members is required to hold the meeting.

Why make the change? There are several benefits to changing the tax status:

- The new designation supports and is consistent with our additional stewardship activities and outreach to the community.
- The change in tax status allows members to receive a tax deduction for charitable donations.
- There will likely be a reduction or elimination of property taxes (\$4,917 in 2021).
- There is potential to partner with other 501c3 charitable organizations for grants and other community funds.
- The Obsidians will no longer need to limit rental income for the Lodge or other nonmember income, such as fees from nonmembers for climb school or Obsidians-offered first aid classes.

While this is a significant change in the direction of the club, we will still offer our current activities to the community. Currently our focus as a social club is on serving the membership. Our focus will now be on serving our community as well as the membership. The Board has already adopted a new mission statement: *Connecting our community to the mountains, waters, and trails of the great outdoors through exploration, education, and stewardship.*

The Obsidians have expertise that the community at large lacks. We know how to safely bring people to the summits of mountains and how to teach mountaineering. We know how to safely hike in the wilderness. We know the great outdoors. The Obsidians are uniquely poised to make a lasting difference to our community.

It is hoped that this change in focus will help revitalize the Obsidians by bringing in younger members. Younger generations want to be involved with organizations that will have an impact on their communities through stewardship and education.



Other outdoor clubs have changed their tax status. The Mountaineers in Seattle

(Continued on page 5)

Welcome New Members!

Corrine Clifford Eugene, OR 97408 Robert Eriksen Eugene, OR 97401 Carlynn Hisel Eugene, OR 97405 Nancy Little Eugene, OR 97401

Membership Directory

Diane Schechter

EFFECTIVE LAST YEAR, the Obsidians Membership Directory is no longer printed and mailed to members. While this is a cost savings, the biggest advantage is that the online directory is updated regularly, so that members who join throughout the year can be included. It is available on our website in the Members only section.

If you want to have any contact information excluded, such as address, phone or email, contact Diane Schechter at dsp053@gmail.com. If you want a printed copy of the directory, contact Janet Jacobsen at jbjacobsen@comcast.net or 206-1251.

Winter Trips Driving Safety

Dave Lodeesen

Reprinted from January 2018 Bulletin

THIS TIME OF YEAR MANY SKI AND SNOWSHOE TRIPS head to or over one of the mountain passes. It's very important for drivers to have a proper vehicle equipped with dedicated winter tires and/or tire chains. Our cars, SUVs, and trucks come equipped from the factory with all season tires. Note: these are NOT winter tires and you must carry tire chains to be legal in the State of Oregon if approaching any of the mountain passes during the winter months. **This includes vehicles with AWD or 4WD.** The only exception to the tire chain law is if you install dedicated winter tires on your vehicle; these have the special designation icon (three-peak mountain with a snowflake) on the sidewall of each tire. These tires are sometimes referred to as snow tires and can be studded or stud-less. The main difference between winter tires and your typical all season tires is in the rubber compound that the tires are made from. Winter tires use a rubber compound that stays soft in cold weather so the tires can grip icy or snow-packed road surfaces far better than all season tires. They also have deeper lugs to bite into and release snow for traction. Be mindful that you still must use caution when driving in winter conditions by slowing your speed, especially on the downhill, and not tailgating. So be safe and legal by having tire chains and/or winter tires. Because even if the roads are plowed and dry, often the Sno-Parks are not, and getting stuck in one of those can cost you up to several hundred dollars to get a tow truck out there to pull you out.



OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: www.obsidians.org

Officers & Board of Directors

Maryanne Reiter, President
Laura Osinga, Vice President
Denise Rubenstein, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
Denise Bean, Marci Hansen,
Dave Hawkins, Jorry Rolfe
Angie Ruzicka, 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 (Interim).....Jim Northrop
Climbs..... Maryanne Reiter
Concessions.....Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd.... K. Coots/A. Ruzicka
Entertainment..... Evelyn Nagy
Extended Trips.....Lana Lindstrom
Finance..... Susan Zeni
Lodge Building.....Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds (Interim).....Jim Northrop
Librarian/Historian..... Lenore McManigal
Membership.....Diane Schechter
Online..... Vacant
Publications..... Lou Maenz
Publicity..... Marci Hansen
Safety..... Lyndell Wilken
Stewardship..... Jorry Rolfe/Darko Sojak
Summer Camp..... Lana Lindstrom
Summer Trips..... Dave Cooper
Winter Trips..... Dave Cooper

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Deadline

for February Bulletin

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Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff:

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: Tom Adamczyk, Don Baldwin, Yuan Hopkins, and Barbara Schomaker

IN MEMORIAM

CURTIS IRISH JULY 3, 1930–NOVEMBER 20, 2021

A MEMBER FROM 2001–2007, Curtis was the unofficial Fire Lookout Historian for the Club. Collecting historical photos, he scanned many photographs of Obsidians enjoying the views from lookouts. His *Bulletin* articles featured the lookouts at Gold Butte, Scott Mountain, Carpenter Mountain, and Mt. Fuji. A number of his enlarged photographs are on the east wall of the Lodge. According to Rick Ahrens, he *did the photos using a special contraption he made to lay the photos flat on the floor and then have his camera on a frame above it*. Curtis continued to work for years and developed an extensive collection of historical photos.

Curtis led historical/photo hikes to the Blue River Mining District and Crack-In-The-Ground. When Janet Jacobsen interviewed Curtis about his favorite places in Lane County, Curtis referred to the view of Wolf Rock from Carpenter Mountain saying, *there are little things all over Lane County that are unique. There is a beautiful waterfall near the site of historic Lost Creek Ranch on the old McKenzie Hwy. From the parking site on the north side of the road there is a trail to the west, and a two-minute walk brings you to the waterfall which can only be seen when the glaciers are melting. Beyond the waterfall the trail continues and a five-minute walk will bring you to a multitude of springs that gush out of the lava rock and form a river. In spring, there are queen cup lilies at this site.*

Community members at his Marcola Cemetery graveside service shared stories about his generosity and how the farm—across from Marcola High School—where he was born and lived his life, is now part of the Marcola School District's school-based farm program. The well on his farm provides most of the water for Marcola. His 25,000 photographs, including those on Twitter will be managed by Marcola historian Jay Swofford.

Editor's note: A complete obituary can be found in the December 7, 2021 issue of The Register-Guard. His fire lookout articles can be found in the November 2003, February 2004, December 2004, and November 2006 Bulletins.

DAVE LODEESEN MARCH 7, 1952–NOVEMBER 3, 2021

DAVE LODEESEN MOVED TO EUGENE IN 2014, joined the Obsidians in 2015, and quickly began hiking several times a week. He was quoted in an AARP article: *But people just don't let the weather get in the way, they hike no matter what*. Apparently so, since he went on 640 trips and three climbs, led 23 trips, attended summer camps, received his Trail Maintenance Patch and was Winter Trips chair from 2017–2018. Leaders knew they could depend on Dave to offer support and comradery along the trail, and he was a major contributor of photographs to the *Bulletin*. Dave led his last Veterans Day hike in 2019 and wrote in his trip report: *We had a wonderful turnout of 22 Obsidian participants this Veterans Day to hike the river trail, including a stop at the Lane County Veterans Memorial Wall to honor those local veterans who died in service to our country... I think we've started a new tradition for the club as this was the fourth consecutive Veterans Day Hike we've completed. Hope to see you all again next year.*

On Sunday, November 14, Dave's daughter, Amanda Lodeesen-Fuller, and brother and sister-in-law, Craig and Robyn Lodeesen, gathered with Obsidians, friends and relatives at the Wall of Honor Memorial in Skinner Butte Park. An Honor Guard Ceremony paid tribute to Dave's military service with the playing of *Taps* and the presentation of the American flag to Amanda.

Amanda and Craig offered remembrances of Dave, and Craig included these words: *I'd like to thank all of you for being here and for supporting and loving David...We think he finally found some peace when some years ago he met all of you. We noticed from his Facebook page that his life seemed to change...The world of hiking and fresh air seemed to provide him with an outlet for love and friendship that he must have surely longed for. We want to thank you again for helping him to experience this time of freedom, stability, and happiness...We grieve in our loss but feel better having met all of you, knowing that you opened doors to a good life for David.*

Craig also thanked Obsidian Dorothy van Winkle, for her support and assistance to Dave's family and friends. Then Dorothy invited the gathering to share remembrances of Dave and, among the stories, those from thirteen Obsidians brought smiles and laughter. Autumn leaves drifted quietly down, and the rippling Willamette River offered a soothing background for all to honor and remember.

Editor's notes: Contributions in Dave's memory can be made to: VeteransLegacyOregon.org. A member has already volunteered to lead the 2022 Veterans Day hike. See pg. 2 for a reprint of Dave's article about winter safety and tires.

Licorice Fern: A Fern with a Winter Life Cycle

David Wagner

PEOPLE WHO WALK IN THE WOODS IN THE WINTER cannot help but notice the luxuriant growth of mosses on the trunks and branches of the deciduous trees. Oaks, ashes, and elders all show this, but none so wonderfully as the big leaf maples beside the streams and rivers. A good image of this situation must include also the ferns which sprout out from the thick moss mats. The fern is the licorice fern, *Polypodium glycyrrhiza*.

First, a note about the name licorice fern. The Latin name for the plant, *glycyrrhiza*, refers to the same feature. Licorice is obtained from the root of leguminous plant (a member of the pea family), the flavoring compound being called glycyrrhizin. It is sweet (chemically a sugar) and has that characteristic flavor. In the stems of the licorice fern is a compound which leaves a licorice flavor in your mouth when you chew it, but it is not glycyrrhizin. The stem is quite bitter, and it is only the aftertaste which has the licorice taste. Nobody will make candy from the licorice fern.

But, getting back to the mossy branches of big-leaf maples, let us consider the life cycle of the fern. All of our forest floor ferns have a spring-summer cycle. New fronds uncurl in the late spring and mature spores in mid-summer. Some, like the sword fern, are evergreen and the fronds will last through the following winter and into the next season while new fronds are being produced. Others, like the lady fern and maidenhair fern, have annual fronds, uncurling in the spring and shedding spores in mid-summer (like the sword fern) but then dying down in the fall with the first frost. These ferns are not to be seen in the winter.

The licorice fern, on the other hand, sends up new fronds in the fall after the onset of the rainy season. Just as the Indian plum is my harbinger of spring, the appearance of the licorice on the spreading branches of the big-leaf maples is a harbinger of the (winter) rainy season. The ecological explanation is simple. The ferns on the forest floor have their roots in the soil, where they can obtain moisture from the water table. On the trunks and branches of trees, however, the environment is like a desert in the summer. The tree-living plants are not parasites and get nothing from the tree hosts. Drought conditions persist throughout our dry summers. Furthermore, the light available to plants (remember, light is the other critical requirement for plant photosynthesis besides water) is greater in the winter when you grow in the branches of deciduous trees. For these reasons, plants growing on tree branches, whether ferns, mosses or lichens, have their growth and reproductive times in the winter.

The lesson is to enjoy the licorice fern in the winter. If you want to find it in the summer, it will not be there. The licorice fern is deciduous, but the dropping of fronds comes with the onset of the dry season, in late spring, and not with the onset of cold weather.

Reprinted from the November, 1985 Bulletin when David was a member.
www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/Archive/1985_11_Bulletin.pdf

Photos by Carla Cooper



2022 Board Officers

AT THE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING, the 2022 Board members chose the officers for the coming year. Maryanne Reiter will continue in her position as President, Laura Osinga will be the new Vice-President, and Denise Rubenstein will continue as Secretary. The only non-Board member that will serve as an officer will be Stewart Hoeg, who will continue as Treasurer. Both positions of Secretary and Treasurer do not need to be filled by Board members. We thank each of these individuals for being willing to volunteer their time and expertise to guide the Obsidians through the next year.

(Membership Vote, Continued from page 1)

changed to a 501c3 educational/charitable organization in 2011, with members voting 98.7% in favor of the change. The Portland-based Mazamas, now a 501c3 educational/charitable organization, provided this history of the club's evolution: *The Mazamas has evolved over the years. From its industrial roots with our founding fathers to morphing to more of a social club in the 1950s to becoming a modern-day nonprofit organization that serves thousands of individuals.*

Recently the Inter-Mountain Alpine Club in Tri-Cities, Washington, changed from a 501c7 social club to a 501c3 educational and charitable organization.

In a way, the Obsidians will be returning to their roots of public service. The club was founded in 1927 as a result of a tragedy when two young men became lost while climbing in the Sisters: *Need of an organization of experienced mountain climbers and woodsmen in Eugene for such emergencies...is apparent.* The Obsidians were formed to serve the public in 1927 and will continue to do so 100 years later—though we will not return to our search and rescue roots.

The change in tax status will not change the fundamentals of our operations or activities. The Obsidians will continue to offer hikes, climbs, summer camps, bus trips, bicycle rides, stewardship projects, ExploraTalks, and potlucks. We will continue to have our wonderful *Bulletin*. So many of our members are committed to being of service in our community. Let's make these changes while envisioning the Obsidians as a local hub for outdoor fun *and* service.

Summer Camp

Sue Wolling

AS WE SETTLE INTO THE COLD, DARK DAYS OF WINTER, the advice concerning the 2022 Summer Camp, appropriately is: *Just Chill!*

Planning for Camp Reiter is proceeding—but as the surge of Delta changes into a bigger surge of the Ohmigosh variant, which is probably already busy mutating into the Holysmokes variant...well, things are different this year. Due to the ongoing uncertainty, the camp rally and registration deadlines will be pushed back a little farther than originally intended. And, like everything else this year, Camp Reiter will come with a Pandemic Rider: we will only offer Summer Camp if we can do it safely and confidently.

Nonetheless, we have every reasonable hope that Summer Camp will proceed as intended, and we look

forward to a wonderful week of hiking, food, and friendship in a beautiful location. So, please mark your calendar for Camp Reiter, July 31–August 6, and watch your *Bulletin* for updates and registration, which will likely occur in late March/early April. Then chill out, stay warm, and enjoy some winter trips. Or better yet, sign up to lead a trip or two yourself.



AmeriCorps to Stay at the Lodge

Dave Cooper

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A BIG TRIP PLANNED only to find out your reservation has been canceled? Eugene Parks and Open Space Department found themselves in a similar situation in December. The City recently acquired some property in west Eugene and were able to win in a competition for the service of AmeriCorps to help develop this area. But then there were some problems regarding the housing location for the crew during their stay in Eugene. If the City couldn't quickly find an alternative place to house the crew of 10 and their supervisor, AmeriCorps would grant this resource to another applicant.

While volunteering at Hendricks Park, Jim Northrop learned of the City's predicament and wondered if the Obsidians Lodge might work as a place for the crew to stay. Before long Jim and Lodge Chair Dave Cooper met with Kelsey Irvine, the City's representative in this effort. She had but a few days to submit a completed plan to AmeriCorps to retain their services. In the end, the City decided that the Lodge would make a great home base for the crew from January 11 through February 20. The Board approved this special rental. The Y has agreed to provide showers and use of their recreational facilities for the crew during their stay.

As the Obsidians begin making the transition to a new tax status, this support of the City's Open Spaces seems a fitting way to demonstrate our renewed commitment to being of service to our outdoor community. Hosting a crew that will be improving the Parks and Open Spaces resources in our area is a win for the Obsidians, the Parks Department, and the community.

Kelsey stresses that during this time, the Lodge will be the group's home so please respect their privacy. If you absolutely must access the Lodge, contact Dave Cooper or Jim Northrop at least 24 hours in advance and they will pass it on. Do not plan on just popping in.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER BOARD NOTES

From Minutes by Denise Rubenstein NOVEMBER 3, 2021

President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order. Board members present: Denise Bean, Dave Cooper, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga, Denise Rubenstein, and Lyndell Wilken. Others present: Angie Ruzicka, Jim Northrup, Stewart Hoeg, Lana Landstrom, and Darko Sojak.

The Board approved the minutes for October 2021.

Treasurer's Report (Stewart Hoeg): Stewart reviewed the year-to-date income, expenses, and the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee held a brainstorming session at the Lodge on Oct 27. We invited climbers from the community to discuss what the needs are in the community for climbing education/skills. We also discussed available resources, and ideas on how and what, to provide the skills and education. There is one more climb scheduled for the season, a Halloween climb of Mt. Yoran.

Conservation/SciEd (Kay Coots and Angie Ruzicka): A Zoom ExploraTalk was held October 19 with a presentation by Obsidian Hannah Alverson, a Bureau of Land Management Fire Ecologist. Twenty-six attended the presentation *Conserving Whitebark Pine During a Time of Climate Change*. Seven Obsidians read and reviewed Timothy Egan's book *"The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America"*. The participants agreed that they would like to continue the book group. Suggestions for the next book to read and review should be sent to Angie Ruzicka. Additional members are welcome to join the group!

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Thanks to Jim Northrup for his help in starting the restoration of the area we cleared of blackberries, neighbor's yard debris, poison oak, brush, etc. at the front of the Obsidians property along 29th for the chain link fence installation last spring. We planted several anchor trees and bushes. There is a lot more stuff still to be planted. Thanks to Joanna Alexander for donating two vine maples for the restoration project. I have a spot picked out near our entrance gate for them.

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): As requested by Maryanne Reiter, Janet provided a copy and a scan of the Articles of Incorporation and other documents to send to the lawyer for the process of changing our tax status and for the October Board meeting. (She probably sent them too many documents because she soon heard that they had all that they needed.) Dave Cooper and Janet Jacobsen facilitated the presentation of twenty-six trip and leader awards during Obsidians activities. Five awards were mailed. Lenore has recorded all the trips in the October *Bulletin*.

Membership (Diane Schechter): Total membership is 427.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): All first aid kits have been collected and will be stored in the Lodge. The AED has been checked. The safety committee will meet on November 8.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): October 23, Darko Sojak led North Bank Restoration cleanup project in

cooperation with City of Eugene Parks and Open Space. Fourteen volunteers pulled invasive English ivy from riverbank trees and picked up over 100 lbs. of trash. October 30, Matt Bell led Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance project. Obsidians cleaned summit steps and main trail.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): For October we had 28 trips, including two new leader outings. Income from these trips was \$243.

Trail Maintenance (Matt Bell): There was one outing this past month in Spencer Butte Park to clean the summit steps and blow leaves from the Main Trail.

Winter Trips (Dave Cooper): Some winter trips are now scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS

- Marci provided an update on the Request for Proposals from the Online Task Group. The Board reviewed the document, suggested minor clarifications, and asked questions. Slight changes will be made based on the discussion and the RFPs will go out in the next few days to four already vetted companies. When they are returned in mid-December, a recommendation will be presented to the Board at a special meeting in order to expedite the process.
- Stewart Hoeg gave an update on the club's change to a 501c3 tax status. The process is moving forward. As noted in the above Treasurer's report, the property tax bill and personal property tax bill has just been paid. The new tax status will reduce those amounts substantially. The new tax status will also allow any donations to the club to be tax deductible on the donor's end.

NEW BUSINESS

- The slate for the 2022 Officers was approved: President: Maryanne Reiter, Vice President: Laura Osinga, Secretary: Denise Rubenstein, Treasurer: Stewart Hoeg.
- The Board approved three new members: Mike Graham, Jerrie Jones, and Maureen Whalen.

ADJOURNMENT

From Minutes by Denise Rubenstein

DECEMBER 1, 2021

President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, and Lyndell Wilken. Others present: Carla Cooper, Jim Northrup, Stewart Hoeg, Darko Sojak, Evelyn Nagy, Matt Bell, and Kay Coots.

The Board approved the minutes for November 2021.

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

Conservation/SciEd (Kay Coots and Angie Ruzicka):

Jorry, with much help from Obsidian Tom Happy, arranged a visit to the Coburg Ridge Preserve on November 15. The group size was limited; however, nine Obsidians enjoyed the opportunity to visit this special area which is under the preservation and protection efforts of The Nature Conservancy.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Finance Committee met via Zoom to prepare the preliminary 2022 Obsidians budget.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): There will be a Lodge rental on December 12. Some folks will be gathering in remembrance of two of the early members of the Scorpion Trail Crew who have recently passed. Another tentative rental is on the schedule for April.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): November 8: Jim Northrop and I continued with the restoration work on the Obsidians frontage along 29th by planting Oregon grape, sword ferns, and the two vine maples donated by Joanna Alexander. This may be the extent of planting in the restoration area, although we could transplant more sword ferns at some point. We also started the daunting task of leaf removal from the grounds. November 10: A small work party gathered up piles of fall leaves and moved them to the restoration area along 29th for mulch. We got all the drives and parking areas cleared of leaves for now. Thanks to Rob Castleberry, Dave Cooper, Brenda Kameenui and her two grandsons, and Jim Northrop for their help. November 22: Installed two motion-activated, battery-powered, LED lights at the entrance gate. This looks to be my last monthly Board report after around 35 years of doing so in one form or another, for various committees. Doubt that I will miss having to do the monthly reports but will likely miss doing the stuff that was reported on. Jim Northrop has agreed to take on the role of Lodge Grounds Chair on an interim basis—good luck, Jim.

Membership (Diane Schechter): In November, I sent a renewal reminder, by email, to 136 members who had not renewed. Within two weeks, 69 members sent in their renewals. This was incredibly successful and was a very effective strategy. Those who have not renewed by December 3 will have their status changed to inactive. They can get reinstated at any time by paying the annual dues.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): The safety committee met in November. The AED battery and pads will need to be replaced in March 2022. First aid supplies will be purchased to distribute to Obsidians leaders to promote the use of personal first aid kits. Depending on COVID protocols the safety committee would like to eventually offer a first aid preparedness class at the Lodge. Steps will be taken to inform Obsidians members about opportunities in the community to learn or improve navigation skills.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): On November 7, Darko led a group at McKenzie River Trust's Green Island who worked on blackberry removal. As a result of this successful project, the club will be adopting a meadow at this location. Details will soon be worked out among committee members, Darko, Dave C., and MRT's Elizabeth Goward. On December 18, Darko will be leading a North Bank restoration project. The committee recently came up with a stewardship checklist and process since any member may propose a quali-

fying environmental stewardship project or activity to the committee. This document serves as guidance for members and committee chairs in the process of considering, evaluating, approving, supporting, and completing such projects and activities. We looked to the club mission statement and the following core values as we worked on the document: restoration, preservation, community service, safety, and responsible management of the environment for the present and the future. Matt Bell has generously agreed to continue to carry out trail maintenance details. Angie will be working with Matt in maintaining Excel files of all stewardship projects/activities. Matt has asked Trails committee members to serve on the Stewardship Committee.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): Summer Trips for 2021 closed Nov 14. It was a pretty successful season in many regards. Coming through these COVID times people seemed to want to get outside and be with others. Our number of trips offered broke the 200 mark. We had 239 outings and brought in \$2,318 in revenue from trip fees. This total is a substantial jump from the past few years. Of course, COVID and fires were factors in the drop some years but compare it to 2018, a good year, which had 194 trips. It's encouraging to see the number of trips increase and several new leaders step forward. We might have had more trips if the fires near Oakridge hadn't dashed our intention to offer trips along the length of the Eugene to Crest Trail. Hopefully, we will offer over 200 trips next year despite yielding some outings to the expanded Stewardship Committee and once again having Summer Camp. In fact, we should offer more trips of increasing difficulty to prepare for the opportunities that Summer Camp in the Washington Cascades will offer!

Trail Maintenance: (Matt Bell): For the final trail maintenance committee report for the year and all time, there was one outing with ten members this past month in Spencer Butte Park to plant salvaged sword ferns and some Oregon grape around the main trailhead parking lot hopefully to out-compete the Himalayan blackberry that the city is trying to control. 2021 Trail Maintenance Participation: Outings in Spencer Butte Park: 10. Outings in other Ridgeline parks: 2. Outings with the Forest Service: 0. Participants: 90 total; 84 members; 6 non-members. Unique Participants: 29 total; 25 members; 4 non-members. Estimated Total Volunteer Hours: 238. Estimated Total Value: \$6,487.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Updates:

Tax Status Change Maryanne advised that all required materials have been sent to David Atkin and a few minor changes to our website will be needed before submission to the IRS. They are "cut and paste" changes that show the club's focus to be educational instead of social.

Online Task Group Marci reported that RFP's have been sent and three have responded with interest and questions. One proposal has been returned and Marci will follow up with the rest. The Task Group will quickly meet to study the proposals prior to conferring with Maryanne. Recommendations will then be presented to the Board, with a special meeting, if needed, for the sake of expediency.

Stewardship The Committee drafted a comprehensive document along with a checklist for club members to follow when

(Continued on page 8)

(Board Notes, continued from page 7)

presenting ideas for stewardship opportunities.

NEW BUSINESS

- Stewart Hoeg reviewed the preliminary budget for 2022 based on input from Committee Chairs.
- The 2022 Committee Chairs were approved: Bus Trips: Jim Northrop (Interim Chair); Climbs: Maryanne Reiter; Concessions: Carla Cooper; Conservation/SciEd: Kay Coots & Angie Ruzicka, Cochairs; Entertainment: Evelyn Nagy, Pam Swisher & Ron Swisher Cochairs; Extended Trips: Lana Lindstrom; Finance: Susan Zeni; Librarian/Historian: Lenore McManigal; Lodge Building: Dave Cooper; Lodge Grounds: Jim Northrop (Interim Chair); Membership: Diane Schechter; Online: Vacant; Publications: Lou Maenz; Publicity: Marci Hansen; Safety: Lyndell Wilken; Stewardship: Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak; Summer Camp: Lana Lindstrom; Summer Trips: David Cooper; Winter Trips: David Cooper.

- The Board approved three new members: Lynda Burdick, Diana Gleason, and Robin Risque. Total membership: 426.
- The Board voted to authorize Stewardship Committee Chairs to sign agreements with third parties (e.g., City of Eugene, Cascade Volunteers) with the understanding that the Board would first be advised of any new agreement and signers would wait for approval. An email communication will be sufficient.
- Lyndell talked about offering first aid supplies and kits, if needed, for leaders. As Stewardship activities take us further afield, the committee will be purchasing Tech Nu packs.

ADJOURNMENT



Jane Hackett

Chris Shuraleff

JANE HACKETT DOES NOT SAY SHE CAN'T!

Jane joined the Obsidians in 1978 and has gone on a total of 576 trips. She has led 231 of them; 53 were winter trips on snowshoes or skis. She also headed up five car-camping trips and in 1991 she was President of the Obsidians. Jane has chaired three Summer Camps and was Winter Trips Chair for six years. She also has gone on four Wilderness Volunteer trips. Quite the resume!

But let's rewind this a bit and start at the beginning of her Obsidians membership and leadership. Jane saw herself back in 1978 as shy and introverted. A friend introduced her to the club and once she opened the door, it fed her love of the outdoors. She had great mentors who modeled leadership skills and supported everything she did. She began to pull from those strong leaders things that she could use, such as starting to lead familiar trips. Every time she led, it increased her confidence to do more complex and/or extended trips such as Elk Lake Lodge, houses at Black Butte and Sun River, and camping in the Steens and Hart Mts. For winter trips, she enjoys leading up and around Hoodoo which has open vistas and great views of the mountains and rolling hills, such as Sand and/or Cash Mountain.

She says that the more she led, the better she got, as she developed assertiveness and confidence that carries over in her life. She feels that what holds potential leaders back is the need to be perfect. The more you tell yourself you can't, the smaller your world and after a while you are not doing much at all. So ask a current leader to be a co-leader to help you and 'just go for it'.



TRIP REPORTS



Climbs

Mt. Yoran Halloween Costume

October 30, 2021

Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Photographer: Trina Kanewa

Climb: 11 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

THIS WAS THE INAUGURAL OBSIDIANS MOUNT YORAN COSTUME CLIMB. The weather did not cooperate, so we ended up summiting the adjacent peak, locally called *Myran*. It was full-on alpine winter conditions up there, with a white-out and strong winds. We scurried down from the summit and had the costume party by a small lake. There was lots of chocolate, and the costumes were creative. Very fun day! Members: Deb Carver, Jim Conaghan, Trina Kanewa, Bill Lowder, Juli McGlinsky, Maryanne Reiter, Angie Ruzicka, Gordon Sayre, Darko Sojak.



What is going on in the woods?



Hikes

Finn Rock Reach with McKenzie River Trust

October 18, 2021

Leader: Dave Predeek

Assistant Leader: Kay Coots

Hike: 3 miles, 50 ft. (Moderate)

EIGHT OBSIDIANS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE FIRST PHASE OF RESTORATION WORK that has been completed by the McKenzie River Trust (MRT) at Finn Rock Reach. Joe Moll, MRT Executive Director, led the group through the project area that had been ravaged by the Holiday Farm fire just 13 months earlier. Project goals include in-

creasing wetland areas, slowing and spreading water across the floodplain, improving juvenile spring Chinook salmon habitat, and increasing nesting habitat for western pond turtles. The group enjoyed good fall weather as we walked and learned about the project and the impacts of the Holiday Farm fire on the area. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Kay Coots, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Dave Predeek, Emily Rice, Nancy Whitfield, Tommy Young.

Koosah Falls to Clear Lake

October 24, 2021

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 9.5 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

SUNDAY DAWNED DARK, RAINY AND COLD. There were high wind warnings and thunderstorms in the forecast. Worst of all, a bomb cyclone was headed for Eugene and none of us knew what a bomb cyclone was. It was the perfect day for a hike. We circled Clear Lake counterclockwise, through light rain, heavy rain and sometimes no rain. The fall foliage was breathtaking, and yellow leaves glowed against the firs and darkened skies. We lunched at the log shelter by the resort, where we enjoyed Vern's home-baked oatmeal cookies—thanks, Vern! As long as we kept moving, we didn't get cold. At Holger's suggestion, we added the loop down the other side of the McKenzie. We crossed back over at the reservoir and returned upriver to Koosah Falls, taking our original 8.4 miles up to 9.5. All the hikers were good sports about the weather and the extra distance, and together we agreed on the wisdom of that old Nordic saying, *There is no bad weather, only the wrong clothes.* Members: Kathie Carpenter, Whitney Gould, Gwyneth Iredale, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Caroline Moore, Evelyn Nagy, Barbara Orsi, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.



Koosah Falls

Cemetery Saunter

October 29, 2021

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Assistant Leader: Karen Yoerger

Hike: 4 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

THIS TRIP WAS RENAMED THE SLIPPERY SLOG. Eight people enjoyed discovering new areas in the south part of town via the hidden pathways that connect different neighborhoods. One pathway included descending 50 steps. Of particular note was the colorful fall foliage, and this leisurely saunter allowed us to fully appreciate the scenery. Members: Joanna Alexander, Donna Bloomfield, Holger Krentz, Judith

Moman, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield, Karen Yoerger. Nonmembers: Jerrrie Jones.

Nature Photography @ Spencer Butte **November 5, 2021**

Leader: Joanna Alexander
Photographer: Carla Cooper
Hike: 2 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

JUST IN TIME FOR OUR AFTERNOON START, THE STORMY, RAINY DAY DRIED UP. Six lovers of moving slowly along a forest trail ascended the wide, recently-cleaned steps (thank you, Clara!), that were decorated with fallen, golden big leaf maple leaves. Because the recent rains had decreased the number of fellow hikers, and the leaves in the gardens below were too soggy for leaf blowers, a lovely silence permeated the mild autumn air. Only the chattering of chickarees (Douglas squirrels), a couple seen off-trail, and some bird songs were heard until about 2:45 when an airplane roared past. Had the rains forced ALL of the deciduous leaves to carpet the forest floor? Not at all! Golden leaves remained on towering bigleaf maples, and lush green mosses draped snags and logs. Douglas fir sap trickled down like large candle wax drips; some were clear and sparkling in the light like tiny holiday lights. We discovered quite the variety of fungi, both on dead wood and popping up from among fallen leaves. Many pictures from this outing are in the New Gallery, in the Members Area of the Obsidians webpage. Carla Cooper captured some of the beauty with her great eye. As hints of coming spring, we spied multitudes of candy flower shoots and healthy fringedcup. Clara saw a different, as yet unidentified, kind of squirrel, and she heard Pacific wren, golden-crowned kinglet, chestnut-backed chickadee, and a raven. Joanna heard a Steller's jay. The walk was indeed slow, moving at less than one mile per hour. Everyone went home satisfied with time spent together in a more leisurely way. Members: Joanna Alexander, Carla Cooper, Clara Emlen, Barbara Orsi, Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: Joan Ojerio.



Glorious day on the Ridgeline.

Thurston Hills Vista Loop
November 7, 2021
Leader: Denise Bean
Hike: 7 miles, 830 ft. (Moderate)

THE SHUTTLE SYSTEM WORKED GREAT. I met three drivers at the parking lot of Quartz Park, where they left their cars. I

drove all of us to the East Trailhead, where we met the group. All seemed to enjoy the diversity the trail had to offer. There were some slick muddy parts for about a mile in the middle. The new trail led to vistas overlooking the valley to the west, north, and east that were amazing. The rain held off until the last two miles—yay! Members: Denise Bean, Donna Bloomfield, Kathie Carpenter, Whitney Gould, Vicky Hanson, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Vern Marsonette, Lynn Meacham, Lisa Van Liefde. Nonmembers: Debra Kramer, Lynda Burdick, Christine Morgan, David Morgan.

Pioneer Cemetery Walk
November 9, 2021
Leader: Sheridan Gates
Hike: 2 miles, (Easy)

THE GROUP FOR THIS SECOND WALK THROUGH PIONEER CEMETERY consisted mostly of folks from the wait list for the October walk. It took place on an overcast day that matched the mood and mystery of the tales related to us by historian/storyteller Randy Gudeika. As we walked from tombstone to tombstone, we heard many stories: of early settlers and their skirmishes with indigenous peoples; of family disputes ending in murder; of brave WWI soldiers who died in Europe from the Spanish flu contracted on board ship; and of towns, such as Vanport, that were built to support the industries of the times, but that are now gone from the map. Randy's stories enabled us to see a much clearer picture of earlier times in Oregon, and of the challenges and cultures of people named on buildings and street signs. He highlighted social inequities not always captured in history books, and encouraged a deeper appreciation for learning from our history. Members: Joanna Alexander, Carla Cooper, Jacque Davis, Sharon Duncan, Clara Emlen, Sheridan Gates, Kathy Hoeg, Jim Northrop, Marie Stringer. Nonmembers: Robin Risque, Lynda Burdick.

Goodman Creek to Eagles Rest
November 10, 2021
Leader: Jean Harris
Photographer: Esme Greer
Hike: 13.4 miles, 2,100 ft. (Difficult)

WHAT A FLAWLESS DAY. The rain held off until after the hike. The trail had mud, but it was not excessive. The ground was covered with fallen leaves—mostly big leaf maple. The log bridge crossing Goodman Creek definitely has shifted over the years, but it is still sturdy. This hike follows Goodman Creek, climbs a bit, goes through second-growth Douglas fir



and a mix of cedars, hemlocks, maples and alders. Ash Swale Shelter is next to a marsh. Lunch at the top of Eagles Rest provided a view of the Lost Creek drainage and many nearby mountains. A pair of grouse flew out of the brush twice, going up and coming back. We enjoyed this 13.4-mile outing. Members: Esme Greer, Jean Harris, Lynn Meacham, Harold Thompson.

Silver Falls

November 11, 2021

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 7.5 miles, 950 ft. (Moderate)

MID-NOVEMBER IS A SURPRISINGLY GREAT TIME TO HIKE THE TRAIL OF TEN FALLS at Silver Falls State Park. The water was the highest and the crowds were the sparsest that any of us had seen. The autumn leaves had all dropped, but that made it easier to see the ferns and mosses that were plumped up from the recent heavy rains. There was water everywhere—pouring, dripping, oozing, splashing and cascading from the canyon walls. Several stretches of the trail were completely flooded, and we had to scramble up the hillside to get safely through. We started at the North Falls Trailhead and hiked counterclockwise so that we could have lunch by the fire in the lodge. Unfortunately, going that less-familiar way made it easier to get lost, and we cut off the entire stretch of the trail that would have taken us behind South Falls. Luckily nobody complained, and despite the non-stop rain, I think everyone had a good time. At least they said they did. Members: Donna Bloomfield, Kathie Carpenter, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Vicky Hanson, Nancy Whitfield.



Nancy checks the flooded trail as we skirt around it.

Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail

November 11, 2021

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

JORRY, JOANNA, AND EVELYN CHEERFULLY GREETED THE TWO GUESTS AND NEW MEMBER and then, during introductions, gave an animated sketch of our activities. A surprisingly warm day for November, we enjoyed our walk and conversation on the Ribbon Trail to Hendricks Park. We were back at the Lodge at noon. How did guests find out about the hikes? They named the Willamalane trips with Jim Northrop and Vern Marsonette or, when they registered, they found the option to contact me about a Get Acquainted hike. Thanks to

our Obsidians ambassadors, and to John Jacobsen for keeping the Lodge open during our two-hour hike. Members: Joanna Alexander, Carol Babcock, Janet Jacobsen, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe. Nonmembers: Robin Risque, Corrine Clifford.

Birding at Delta Ponds

November 12, 2021

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 3 miles, (Easy)

WE LUCKED OUT ON THE WEATHER—63° and sunny! Rick Ahrens was our naturalist-guide, and he shared lots of fun and fascinating facts. Did you know any of these facts? The Delta Ponds are fed through one small opening (weir) by the Willamette River, and water only enters when the river flow is 3,500 cfs or higher. Forty to fifty years ago, there were no red-shouldered hawks or Anna's hummingbirds in the valley, and now the Anna's like it here so much that they winter over. Northern shoveler ducks work in pairs to create a water vortex for easier access to food. Male and female geese make distinctively different honking sounds. The local beavers have different summer and winter lodges in the ponds. On this hike, we saw a nutria snoozing on top of one of the lodges, as well as two others on a log. And three turtles on another log. And a pair of beautiful wood ducks. And several species of ducks, geese, sparrows and other birds. It was a fabulous morning! Thanks, Rick! Members: Rick Ahrens, Joanna Alexander, John Cooper, Clara Emlen, Lana Lindstrom, Nola Nelson, Ginny Reich, Karen Yoerger. Nonmembers: Robin Risque.

Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail

November 13, 2021

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THE SUN CAME OUT AND THE SKY WAS BLUE for our afternoon gathering at the Lodge. We welcomed seven guests and one new member. Thanks to Mike Smith for watching the Lodge during the hike; and to the members who made sure that everyone felt included, and who made it all so lively and fun. For some of the guests, it was their first hike on the Ribbon Trail, but all were excited and surprised to visit our historical Lodge. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Jerrie Jones, Mike Smith, Marie Stringer. Nonmembers: Katie Drummond, Alicia Perry, Robert Eriksen, Lynda Burdick, Diana Gleason, Nancy West, Suzanne Hurt, Rob Goldman.

Eel Creek

November 14, 2021

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 5 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

DUE TO A LANDSLIDE ON HIGHWAY 138, we were not able to drive via the Elkton bakery or the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area. So it was via Florence that three of us drove to the Eel Creek trailhead, where we met up with John and Joan. A very good day for this hike. The temperature was just right for ambling up and down the dunes. No rain or wading also helped to make the day. Mushrooms large and small were noted along the trail. The ocean was gray and rough. We hiked south for 40 minutes along the beach before stopping for lunch. No people or wildlife seen. Just a peaceful, quiet few minutes before we retraced our steps back to the cars and home. Members: Jane Hackett, Barbara Orsi, Joan Skarda, John Skarda, Maureen Whalen.

Coburg Ridge Preserve

November 15, 2021

Leader: Jorry Rolfe

Assistant Leader: Kay Coots

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 6 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

ON THIS BLUSTERY AND WET MORNING, we had the rare opportunity to hike on this ridge. We were accompanied by five others: Obsidian Tom Happy, his wife Jane, and their son and junior member Eamon; John Winquist, an active supporter of the Ridgeline Trail; and The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Jeff Rosier, who is the Willamette Valley Land Steward in the Eugene office. Tom Happy had made all the arrangements, and gained special permission for our hike from land owner, Jon Jaqua. Making the morning even more significant was learning that the Obsidians used to practice climbing on nearby rock formations, and that long-time member Gary Kirk often led hikes here. We hiked to the highest point on the 1,200 acres of this McKenzie River property while hearing about the ancient land and rolling prairie. It was once the home of the Kalapuya peoples, who used fire to clear the land and manage it for plant cultivation, hunting, and gathering. Now, the TNC continues the effort to rid the grasslands and oak woodlands of introduced species. Native species such as Kincaid's lupine, an important host plant for the larvae of the Fender's blue butterfly, flourish in spots on the preserve. Kathie spied one lone, young plant on a slope! No wildlife was observed—only their scat, which seemed to be of much interest to the group as we put on our rain gear. This visit allowed us to see the critical protection and preservation efforts by TNC on the Jaqua's permanent conservation easement—a golden opportunity on a gray day to glimpse a bright habitat future. Members: Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, David Cooper, Evelyn Nagy, Barbara Orsi, Jorry Rolfe, Darko Sojak, Maureen Whalen, Tommy Young.



One view from Coburg Ridge.

Toiletries for First Place Family Center

November 19, 2021

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Assistant Leader: Joella Ewing

Hike: 4 miles, (Easy)

LOADED DOWN WITH BAGS AND PACKS FILLED WITH TOILETRIES, 19 of us walked from Amazon Community Center to First Family Center to deliver our donations. Family Support Specialist Hailey Finnigan thanked us for giving so many donations, and said that the families will appreciate all the help. With a lighter step, we walked on the bike path to the Nightingale Hosted Shelter community at 3500 Hilyard

Street. Joella donates a home-cooked meal for the twenty residents once a week, and she had made arrangements for a tour with the resident camp manager, Nathan Showers. They are primarily funded by grants and donations, and we were so impressed with the scope of their assistance. Awesome! Joella returned with some of group while the rest of us continued on to Tugman Park, South Hilyard Terrace on Betty Niven Lane with its low-income rentals for working families, and the First Family Annex at West Amazon and Fox Hollow. Our 2½-hour walk made us more aware of housing options, and of how much affordable housing and homeless service St. Vincent de Paul has provided for our community. The most-heard phrase was, *I had no idea that this was here.* Members: Mari Baldwin, Donna Bloomfield, Keiko Bryan, Carla Cooper, Sharon Duncan, Clara Emlen, Joella Ewing, Nancy Hoecker, Kathy Hoeg, Yuan Hopkins, Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz, Ruth Romoser, Barbara Schomaker, Marie Stringer, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Nancy West, Jan Beckwith.

Larison Creek

November 20, 2021

Leader: Denise Bean

Hike: 6.2 miles, 583 ft. (Easy)

WE ALL MET IN PLEASANT HILL at the Pisgah Public Market area. The trailhead had plenty of parking and was easy to find. You could not have asked for more perfect winter weather—sunny and in the upper 40s. The trail was in great condition. We hiked to the usual lunch spot and sat on rocks by the creek. To get to the creek, you still have to crawl over trees that toppled a couple of years ago. If you go slightly above the usual place, there is a better path down to the creek, and you can walk on the bank back to the rocks for lunch. Going back to the trailhead, we ran into several mountain biking groups. This is a great winter hike with the variety of walking: at first along an inlet to the reservoir; and then in a gorgeous, old-growth rainforest. The mushrooms and moss were spectacular. Members: Denise Bean, Whitney Gould, David Hawkins, Jerrie Jones, Holger Krentz, Denise Rubenstein, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield.

Larison Rock

November 21, 2021

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 8.4 miles, 2,400 ft. (Difficult)

NICE DAY TO LEAVE THE FOG BEHIND IN THE VALLEY and go up Larison Rock—the seventh year in a row that I have led it. The trail was in good shape, the group handled it well, and we arrived on the Rock with no wind, bright sunshine, and blue sky above us. Each year, the trees constrain the view a little bit more, but the rock is always a good place to eat lunch. We then headed back down to the cars. For the first time on one of these hikes, there were mountain bikers on the trail—three sets for a total of ten. Members: Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Vern Marsonette, Angie Ruzicka, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak, Paul Winther.

Mt. Hope Cemetery Loop

November 21, 2021

Leader: Lynda Christiansen

Hike: 4.9 miles, 630 ft. (Moderate)

A FORECAST FOR A COLD MORNING AND A TEMPERATURE OF 33 DEGREES at 9 o'clock led to a couple of cancellations, but

an intrepid group began an exploration of the Masonic Cemetery. We located the grave of Eugene Skinner who, in the 1840s, laid out the streets of the new city. As we walked, we noted the names of settlers from the 1800s that are now the names of some Eugene streets. We appreciated the good work done by the cemetery board of directors to maintain the facility. Our hike took us through the local neighborhood, onto the paths of Laurelwood Golf Course, then via the Ribbon Trail to the Rhododendron Garden, and back to the cemetery. We remained dry and comfortable, making for a very pleasant ramble through the University neighborhood. Members: Mari Baldwin, Donna Bloomfield, Keiko Bryan, Lynda Christiansen, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Patricia Esch, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Marie Stringer. Nonmembers: Heather Isham, Lynda Burdick, Jan Beckwith.

Turkey Trimming

November 25, 2021

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 7.5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

SUNSHINE GREETED 13 OF US as we headed out from Amazon Park, through Tugman Park, and up to the Ridgeline Trailhead on 52nd and Willamette St. After a short hike up, we veered off on the spur trail and made our way down to the Amazon Headwaters Trailhead near Martin Street. Members and nonmembers enjoyed chatting while walking along the bark path back to where we started. It's always fun to show people new in-town routes to explore. Members: Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Jennifer Crim, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Robert Eriksen, Nancy Little.



Walking through Tugman Park.

Sweet Creek Falls

November 27, 2021

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 3 miles, 350 ft. (Easy)

A TRUE RAIN FOREST HIKE—foggy, misty, fine rain and lots of drips from the trees. Muddy trail, slick rocks, and roots. The creek itself was full and ran fast. Lots of white water. Waterfalls were full. Noted a small group of people waving on the other side of the creek. I have never been over there, so we all wondered how they got to that side. On the way back down the trail, a member of our party slipped on some wet rocks and required a little first aid. I decided to forget about the upper section of trail and lunch in Florence. It was a very soggy day. Members: Patricia Cleall, Patricia Esch, Jane Hackett, Ken Hartupee, Yuan Hopkins, Barbara Orsi. Nonmembers: Christine Morgan, David Morgan.

Shotgun Creek Loop

November 28, 2021

Leader: Denise Bean

Hike: 5.5 miles, 670 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE FOREST with an enthusiastic group of hikers. Denise Bean was the official leader, but so many folks signed up that Kathie Carpenter was invited to step in as the leader of a second, socially distanced group. Thanks to Denise for ensuring that everyone could go on this popular hike. Shotgun Creek is so close to Eugene that it makes a wonderful afternoon outing, rain or shine. Members: Joanna Alexander, Laura E Anderson, Denise Bean, Donna Bloomfield, Kathie Carpenter, Gwyneth Iredale, Jerrie Jones, Barbara Orsi, Jorry Rolfe, Marie Stringer. Nonmembers: Pierre Robert, Lynda Burdick, Nancy Little, Allan Jones.

North Fork Willamette

November 28, 2021

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 5.6 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

DROVE OUT OF THE FOG AT WESTFIR. Sunny and beautiful for the rest of the day. Trail as usual this time of year—muddy. Per a request from the Scorpions, I counted the downed trees. Took pictures and will send them off shortly. Not too bad—four or five in the first two miles. All easily gotten over. The river was full and fast. It was Sandra's first time on the trail. We spent a good 40 minutes enjoying lunch in the sun on the bridge. Very good day over all. Members: Jane Hackett, Sandra Larsen.

Food for Lane County

December 3, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 5.7 miles, 85 ft. (Easy)

IT WAS A CHILLY DAY FOR OUR WALK on the Fern Ridge Bike Path along Amazon Creek to Bailey Hill, where we turned north to the Food For Lane County (FLC) facility. We were invited inside to present our weightless donations—no cans this year. One dollar can be stretched to provide three meals. Several of us had already made online donations using the tribute cards feature. Executive Director Tom Mulhern thanked us and told us about the future renovations for the facility. Thanks to everyone who shared this thoughtful way to start the holiday season. Members: Carol Babcock, Mari Baldwin, Patricia Cleall, Diana Gleason, Whitney Gould, Vicky Hanson, Nancy Hoecker, Janet Jacobsen, June Miller. Nonmembers: Carlynn Hisel, Corrine Clifford.



Finley Wildlife Refuge

December 4, 2021

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 5 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

ALTHOUGH THIS WAS PRIMARILY A HIKE, after receiving photos of tundra swans, I added two side trips: the McFadden Pond, plus the Cheadle Pond. McFadden Pond had two to three hundred swans, along with northern pintails, Canada geese, female harriers, and both immature and mature bald eagles. We made the stop at Cheadle Pond and found maybe 50 swans, but two immature Bald Eagles were hanging out on snags in the middle of the pond. They seemed to be practicing at harassing the local waterfowl. We continued on to headquarters where we started the hike after observing one bluebird sitting on a stake for a prolonged period. Everyone got a good look. We started on the Mill Hill Loop Trail and had it to ourselves. Very quiet. Two of our party went back to headquarters, while four of us continued to the Woodpecker Loop Trail. We enjoyed a snack break at the education shelter, along with the views of the valley, before completing the loop and returning to the cars. We all enjoyed this trip very much. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Lynda Christiansen, Patricia Cleall, Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Jane Hackett, Gwyneth Iredale.

Dimple Hill

December 5, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Joel Greer

Hike: 7.3 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

WE BEGAN OUR HIKE AT CHIP ROSS PARK IN CORVALLIS with sunny skies, good visibility, and a comfortable 40 degrees. We had good views to the south, and even caught glimpses of Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson as we hiked up Dan's Trail. We reached the summit meadow at about 11:30 AM, where we enjoyed lunch, along with warm sunshine and views. Then we hiked the same way back down and finished the remainder of Chip Ross Loop. We had three nonmembers, and everyone enjoyed the good exercise and social interaction. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Diana Dinn, Whitney Gould, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Nancy Hoecker, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham. Nonmembers: Heather Doyle, Robert Eriksen, Elke Crafts.



Thurston Hills Vista Loop

December 12, 2021

Leader: Denise Bean

Hike: 7 miles, 830 ft. (Moderate)

HIKERS WERE BRAVE TO TURN OUT for this legendary hike in the cold and rain. The upper Mossy Maple Trail was very muddy, but the rest was packed and great. The rain held off until the last hour of the hike. All enjoyed the new vista loop and were impressed by the views. Members: Joanna Alexander, Denise Bean, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Nancy Hoecker, Vern Marsonette, June Miller, Evelyn Nagy, Barbara Orsi, Cindy Rice, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Nancy Little.

University of Oregon Sustainability Walk

December 14, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Kay Coots

Hike: 3 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

ELEVEN OBSIDIANS ENJOYED THE SECOND OF A THREE-PART SERIES of walks with UO Sustainability Director, Steve Mital. This walk focused on building materials used to promote sustainability principles, current environmental research projects under way, recent accomplishments by UO research, and educational opportunities related to sustainability. In addition, UO faculty member Mark Blaine discussed the UO's science communication program; Ann Craig, from the Museum of Cultural and Natural History, shared information on the museum's activities to support sustainability; and Cimmeron Gillespie, from the Office of Sustainability, shared examples of his program's accomplishments. Members: Mari Baldwin, Kay Coots, Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Nancy Hoecker, Vern Marsonette, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Louis Rubenstein, Nancy Whitfield.



UO staff share information about sustainable building materials.

Amanda Trail

December 16, 2021

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Hike: 8.7 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

WE STARTED OUR DAY ON THE NORTH SIDE OF YACHATS in the dense and dripping rain forest of the Ya'Xaik Trail and Gerdemann Preserve. We vowed to return in the spring when the gigantic Himalayan rhododendrons are in bloom.

Then we drove to the south side of Yachats to pick up the Oregon Coast Trail, which took us across Highway 101 and onto the Amanda Trail. Alas! The Amanda gathering place is closed for some kind of construction or repair. We were disappointed that we couldn't get close to the site honoring Amanda's heartbreaking memory, but the day was still a good opportunity to learn more about this shameful chapter in Oregon's history. And it was a beautiful day for a picnic at Strawberry Hill, where we watched seals playing in the surf. We also saw a very charming miniature lighthouse—fully operational; a huge, ancient grandmother Sitka spruce; and some of us say that they saw an elk. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Nancy Hoecker, Janet Jacobsen, Daphne James, Jorry Rolfe.

Not All Who Wander Are Lost December 17, 2021

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle
Hike: 4 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

ON THIS SUNNY DAY WE HAD LOTS TO WONDER AT while we wandered. Highlights included a stunning purple beautyberry tree, a camelia bush in full bloom, and a magical gnome village all decked out for Christmas. From Lafferty Park we could see Autzen Stadium and Bowerman Tower. In the Wayne Morse woods we saw and heard several types of birds, including woodpeckers. We spotted the nests of the red shouldered hawks high in the trees. We were the only ones at the reservoir on College Hill—a rare occurrence. Taking a series of connector paths, we ended up along the Amazon Canal to get back to where we started. Members: Donna Bloomfield, Diana Gleason, Holger Krentz, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Debbie Knechtel.

Tenth Annual New Years Day Hikes January 1, 2022

Leaders: Janet Jacobsen, Mike Smith, Pat Soussan
Photographer: Darko Sojak

THANKS TO MIKE SMITH'S ADVICE AFTER SCOUTING THE ICY SPENCER BUTTE STEPS, the 10th annual New Year's day hike was changed to Mt. Baldy with three groups kicking off at 8:30 from different trailheads: Amazon Headwaters (Janet), 52nd and Willamette (Mike) and Fox Hollow (Pat). Twenty-seven hikers eventually met at the top of Baldy to enjoy the sun and the view and to wish each other Happy New Year. Thanks to the leaders who scouted and made the safer decision to celebrate on Mt. Baldy.



The temperature was 37° as the hikers started down.

Amazon Headwaters, Fox Hollow, Spencer Butte, and Mt. Baldy Hikes

Hikes: 5.2–6.2 miles, 1,150–1,530 ft. (Moderate)

Janet Jacobsen: 10/27 9 Members, 1 Nonmember

Mike Smith: 11/3 6 Members, 1 Nonmember, **12/1** 11 Members

Karen Yoerger: 11/10 7 Members, **12/8** 5 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Whitney Gould: 11/17 7 Members

Denise Rubenstein: 11/24 8 Members, 1 Nonmember

Darko Sojak: 11/28 2 Members

Darian Morray: 12/15 6 Members

Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Leader, Tommy Young

10/26 5 Members, **11/2** 4 Members, **11/9** 4 Members, **11/16** 4 Members, **11/23** 6 Members, **11/30** 6 Members, **12/7** 6 Members, **12/14** 5 Members, **12/21** 5 Members

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hikes: 3.0–6.5 miles, 300–1,600 ft. (Moderate)

Janet Jacobsen: 10/31 11 Members, **11/18** 5 Members, **11/26** 7 Members, **12/18** 6 Members, 1 Nonmember, **12/21** 17 Members, 1 Nonmember, **12/24** 9 Members

Janet Jacobsen, Lynn Meacham: 11/6 8 Members, 1 Nonmember

Lynda Christiansen: 12/19 4 Members



Bike Trips

Row River Trail, Whole Length November 14, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Bike: 39 miles, 688 ft. (Moderate)

EASY 39 BIKE-MILES ON A SUNNY DAY from Bohemia Park in Cottage Grove, along the Row River Trail, and to Wildwood Falls. Members: Lynda Christiansen, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Vern Marsonette, Darko Sojak.



Lubos, Lynda, and Vern at Rat Creek Bridge parking lot.



Stewardship

Summit Steps

October 30, 2021

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer: Pat Soussan

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

OUR GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MET UP AT THE MAIN SPENCER BUTTE PARKING LOT. It was shrouded in mist that made for an eerie start. We grabbed our garden hoes, backpack leaf blowers, and leaf rakes, and hiked up the Butte. We enjoyed beautiful views above the clouds from the summit. Risking sore backs and tennis elbow, we scraped gravel from the summit steps as we worked our way back down. After cleaning the steps, we raked and blew leaves off of the trail. Special thanks go to Dan for lugging a backpack leaf blower up and down the Butte, and to Clara for immaculately cleaning the trailhead steps and kiosk. Members: Matt Bell, Clara Emlen, Marti Gerdes, Dan Gilmore, Whitney Gould, Janet Jacobsen, Barbara Orsi, Pat Soussan.



Ready to tackle the steps.

McKenzie River Trust Stewardship

November 7, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 2 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

DESPITE THE BLOODY WOUNDS, BLACKBERRY THORN PUNCTURES, AND TORN GARMENTS, we all agreed that today's work party was extraordinarily fun and fulfilling. We'll be back! Members: Kathie Carpenter, Lynda Christiansen, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Nancy Hoecker, Holger Krentz, Becky Lipton, Angie Ruzicka, Gordon Sayre, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield.



Whitney, Kathie, and Dave plant ferns.

North Bank Restoration Project

December 18, 2021

Leader: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Work Party: 2 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER COOPERATED. Nine Obsidians volunteers, led by Lauri and Kelsey from City of Eugene Parks and Open Space, planted Oregon grape, ninebark and thimbleberry. We also removed some invasive English ivy and cleaned the riverbank along I-105. Members: Mari Baldwin, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Nancy Hoecker, Holger Krentz, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Eileen O'Brien.

DCCT Requests Donations

Dave Strutin

PEOPLE WITH DIABETES WANT TO HIKE, BIKE, SKI, AND SNOWSHOE TOO, but there are many without the education, supplies, and medications to meet the current standards of care. Diabetes Community Care Team (DCCT) is a local nonprofit seeking to offer an expanded service to these diabetics and your help through donations is greatly needed. To donate, go to DCCT.life and click on Fundraising, then Donate. Thank you.

For Sale

Cross country ski poles

Arriva excel 150 cm

Very good condition

Sandra

541-687-2589

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

January

- 10 Mon Lodge Cleanup Work Party **E**..... Cooper 868-5427
- 11 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
- 12 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501
- 14 Fri Deschutes River Canyon Backpack **M** Davies 797-4004
- 15 Sat McKenzie River Trust Work Party **E**..... Sojak 799-9199
- 15 Sat Birthday Lake Xski **D**..... Sayre 515-9450
- 16 Sun Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 18 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
- 19 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Miller 808-282-5201
- 23 Sun Nickerson Loop SShoe **E**..... Hackett 953-7046
- 25 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
- 26 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Smith 520-488-9569
- 30 Sun Redtop Mountain Xski **D**..... Thompson 683-8942

February

- 1 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
- 2 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501
- 5 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E** Jacobsen 206-1251
- 8 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
- 9 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Smith 520-488-9569
- 13 Sun Oregon's Birthday Hike **M**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 15 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
- 16 Wed Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 16 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Yoerger 510-2832

- 18 Fri Recharge Your Hiking Hike **E**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
- 22 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501
- 23 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Jacobsen 206-1251

March

- 1 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501
- 2 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Lindstrom 683-1409
- 8 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501
- 9 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Smith 520-488-9569
- 15 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501
- 16 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Yoerger 510-2832
- 22 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501
- 23 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Grant 514-1176
- 29 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501
- 30 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Morray 953-5679

April

- 5 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501
- 12 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501

May

- 7 Sat McKenzie River Trust Work Party **E**..... Sojak 799-9199
- 8 Sun Salmon Creek Mother's Day Hike **M**..... Sojak 799-9199

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION about our activities, visit the Obsidians website: www.obsidians.org
If you plan to join Obsidians trips, be prepared to abide by our protocols: [COVID-19 Protocols](#)

Mountaineering Program

OBSIDIANS MEMBER PAUL WINTHER has a collection of his climbing memorabilia on display at the Brownsville Community Library until the end of January. A former Mazama member/climber, he has already donated some of his early climbing gear to the Mazama Library and Historical Collection. As part of their library's travel programs, **he will give a presentation at the Brownsville Library on Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 PM.** If you have any questions, email Paul at pwinther9@gmail.com.

The library is located at 146 Spaulding Avenue.

Tue, Wed, Friday: 10AM–5PM
 Thurs: 1PM–7PM
 Sat: 10AM–2PM



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January 2022



*Madrones and a valley view. Photo by Esme Greer.
See Thurston Hills Vista Loop trip report on page 14.*

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