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### Dates to Remember

May 9	GameNight!
May 14	Mother’s Day Breakfast
May 16	Trip Leader Meeting
May 19	Potluck
May 31	CPR Training
June 2	Bulletin Deadline
June 7	Board Meeting
June 15	GameNight!
August 6–12	Summer Camp

Current event schedules at:  
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## New and Experienced Trip Leader Meeting

May 16

**P**LEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING A TRIP LEADER TRAINING AT 6 PM ON TUESDAY, MAY 16 at the Lodge. We will have a full agenda of discussion items, especially if the new website is up or nearing completion.

If you are a new leader, an assistant, or just thinking about leading, we will be discussing safety, managing a group, planning resources, and best practices that make for a successful outing. If you are an experienced leader we need you at this meeting to share your expertise and help answer questions. You will probably even come away with some new ideas to help you on your trips.

There are some safety supplies that will be available for people who need to restock their first aid kits.

As a bonus, if you have led two trips since the beginning of winter trips you will be eligible to receive a Leader T-shirt. The Obsidians have partnered with Hop Valley as a joint promotion, and have received 85 long sleeve T-shirts. The shirts are printed with the Hop Valley and Obsidian logos and the word Leader on one sleeve. Sizes are limited, so you will want to be there to get yours!

See you there!



*Dave Cooper, Summer Trips Chair*



## CPR TRAINING at the Lodge

May 31

**T**HERE WILL BE A THREE-HOUR CPR TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSIDIAN MEMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 FROM 6–9 PM AT THE OBSIDIAN LODGE. Those interested will be able to register using the online trip signup page on the Obsidian web site, beginning May 10—limited to 16 participants. Trip leaders and committee chairs are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn the basics of CPR and the use of an AED.

Laurie Monico and Hannah Shallice from Search and Rescue will instruct the group on how to do adult, child, and infant CPR, how to use an AED, how to give rescue breath using a mask, and how to assist a choking patient. Each participant completing the three-hour course will be eligible to receive a card from the American Heart Association in *Basic Life Support CPR*. The card will cost \$10 and the certification is good for two years.

If you are taking the class, you will need to bring some padding to kneel on, or if you have difficulty kneeling, there will be tables available to practice the CPR skills while standing. The safety committee encourages those who take part in Obsidian activities to take advantage of this inexpensive opportunity to become certified in CPR.

*Lyndell Wilken, Obsidian Safety Committee*

## IN MEMORIAM

**JOHN HARTMAN**  
12/3/1948–3/17/2023

**J**OHN HARTMAN PASSED AWAY UNEXPECTEDLY from complications of heart surgery. He joined the Obsidians in 2010 and went on 45 trips, most of them challenging cross country ski trips. His partner Sally O'Donnell said that he loved the outdoors, skiing, and hiking with the Obsidians. Sam Miller, who skied with John shared: *John was a thoughtful person, with a keen interest in the natural world. He was an accomplished backcountry skier and navigator who enjoyed new challenges. Most of all, I will remember him as a kind individual.*

John was a longtime member of the Eugene Astronomical Society (EAS) and presented an Obsidian ExploraTalk program in 2013 on backcountry astronomy during the day, twilight, and night. He felt that it was fun to observe, use, and understand the sun, moon, planets, and stars while hiking and camping. On a [Facebook post](#), an EAS friend Jerry Olton said that *John loved living in Oregon and like all of us he was frustrated by all of the cloudy nights.* Sally added that John often quoted these words from the poem *The Old Astronomer and his Pupil*, by Sara Williams, ... *I have loved the stars too truly to be fearful of the night.*



*Climate and Environment*

## Controlled Burns for Local Restoration: Why, Where, When, and How

*Jorry Rolfe, Co-chair CSE Committee*

**A**LSO CALLED PRESCRIBED OR MANAGED BURNS, CONTROLLED BURNS REDUCE THE RISK OF LARGER OUT-OF-CONTROL FIRES. When they are integrated with thinning, they restore and improve habitats for native plants and animals. So these burns happen where there is the biggest threat of fire, and the greatest need for environmental remediation. Generally, our local ecological burns occur in spring and fall, and most importantly, the conditions have to be just right for safety: dry enough to minimize smoke production, windy enough to take that smoke out of the Willamette Valley Smoke-Sensitive Receptor Area (SSRA), yet not so windy as to create fire-control problems. Here in Lane County controlled burns are monitored and regulated by LRAPA.

Since controlled burns mimic natural fires, they are strategically, expertly, and carefully designed and planned with safety in mind, as well as for the best ecological impact. Often, thinning takes place to make the burns more effective. Then, during the burn, bosses manage and direct fire professionals who conduct the burns using fire trucks and tools such as drip torches. Backburning, also called broadcast burning, is the term used for the process involving the lighting of small fires across a tract of land along firebreaks. It reduces the amount of fuel that is available to the main fire by the time it reaches the burnt area.

*NOTE: Member Becky Lipton has arranged a May 13 tour of the Willow Creek Preserve with land steward Jeff Rosier of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Here controlled fires in 2022 were conducted to restore this ecosystem and increase the local butterfly habitat. TNC has organized controlled burns to restore health and diversity to natural lands for 60 years.*

## OBSIDIANS

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

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

### Officers & Board of Directors

Dave Hawkins, President  
Denise Bean, Vice President  
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Laura Osinga, Treasurer  
Russ Davies, Jean Harris, Maryanne Reiter,  
Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein

*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 (Interim) ..... Maryanne Reiter  
Concessions ..... Carla Cooper  
Conservation/SciEd ..... J. Rolfe/A. Ruzicka  
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Safety ..... Lyndell Wilken  
Stewardship ..... Jorry Rolfe/Darko Sojak  
Summer Camp ..... Lana Lindstrom  
Summer Trips ..... Dave Cooper  
Winter Trips ..... Dave Cooper

### The **OBSIDIAN** Bulletin

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### Deadline

for June Bulletin

Friday, June 2

### Editorial Team

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*Copy Editors:*

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*Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:*

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*Assistant Manager:* Nancy Raymond

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Barbara Gunther, Yuan Hopkins,

Judy Newman, Barbara Schomaker



# The Sawtooths: A Diamond in the Rough?

*Sue Wolling*

**A**FTER THE PAST TWO SUMMER CAMPS, OBSIDIANS MAY HAVE GOTTEN A BIT SPOILED by having running water, flush toilets, electrical outlets at each campsite, and decent WiFi. One might even think that to an Obsidian, ‘roughing it’ just means eating kale or other ‘roughage’ for dinner.

By comparison, Chemeketan Camp in the Sawtooths is relatively spartan. It offers a beautiful setting, and a spacious area for campsites amid scattered lodgepole pines, but as to amenities...well, it’s in God’s country. Amen to that!

The only running water in the campground is a stream that runs along the edge of the campground. The stream should be fine for filling shower bags, but must be filtered or treated for drinking. The Obsidians will provide sufficient potable water for dinner and dishwashing, but you’ll be on your own for water to take on hikes. For personal water, there are two options: (1) you can treat water out of the creek—if you have a filter or other purification system, please bring it to camp, or (2) you can fill a large container at Smiley Creek Lodge, six miles north of camp and on the way to many hikes, where there’s a filling station. (It’s actually a dump station for RVs, but filling your drinking water container from a dump station sounds kind of creepy!) Please bring some sort of vessel for carrying a few gallons of water so you’ll have water to take on hikes, brush your teeth, etc. Smiley Creek is the potable water source nearest to camp, but there are also a few other sources of drinking water that might be convenient to a particular trailhead. Watch for more details when you get to camp.

Charging campers less than \$300 for a week of camping with all meals included doesn’t exactly leave the Obsidians flush with cash. With no running water, there obviously won’t be any flushing at camp either. Clean porta-potties will be provided, along with well-stocked hand-washing stations. After all, cleanliness is next to godliness. Amen to that, too!

Finally, Chemeketan Campground is free of charge. That is, there’s no electricity, and no WiFi. In most respects, that’s probably a good thing. If you go into *Wordle* withdrawal, you can always travel to the nearby town of Stanley for WiFi and a bakery. But if you plan to use an online hiking guide, you’ll want to download the trails you expect to hike before you arrive at camp. This is one more reason to **READ YOUR CAMP BOOKLET BEFORE SUMMER CAMP!** Hard copies of the Camp Booklet will be available at the Obsidian potluck on May 19. You can also see or download a PDF version on the Obsidian website.

**Camp Hawkins**  
Sunday, Aug 6 – Saturday, August 12, 2023



**Obsidian Summer Camp**

Compiled by Holger Krentz, mainly from the 2000 & 2008 Obsidian Summer Camp guides, AllTrails app and The Hiker's Guide: Idaho's Sawtooth Country by Scott Marchant, various maps of Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Google Earth and other websites.



[2023 Camp Booklet](#)



## TIME TO CHECK YOUR FIRST AID KIT

*Lyndell Wilken, Safety Committee*

**S**PRING HAS FINALLY ARRIVED and has opened the door to the many activities that Obsidians love. It’s a good time to dust off your personal first aid kit and get it ready for the next several months of hiking, biking, kayaking, birding, or whatever outdoor pursuits you enjoy. Remember to check expiration dates on medicines like Benadryl, which expires every two years. Alcohol wipes dry out after awhile—replacing them every year is not costly to do. Band-Aids last a long time, but after several years they can lose their ability to stay on. Mentally make note of how old the items are in your kit and have an annual replacement plan. Remember, as an Obsidian you should always carry a first aid kit.

Tylenol, Aspirin, Advil, and Benadryl  
 Personal meds  
 Lip protection  
 Disinfectant pads  
 Insect bite treatment  
 Sunblock  
 Electrolyte powder or tablets

Butterfly strips  
 Five Band-Aids, 1" x 3"  
 Five Band-Aids, 2" x 4"  
 Maxipad (for wounds)  
 Protective gloves and CPR mask  
 Emergency blanket (space)  
 Rolled elastic bandage 3"

Safety pins #3  
 Surgical tape 2" (paper tape)  
 Blister pads (*Compeed*)  
 Duct tape wrapped on a pencil  
 Foam sit-upon (splint material)  
 Triangular bandage

# APRIL BOARD NOTES

## From Minutes by Angie Ruzicka April 5, 2023

President Dave Hawkins called the meeting to order. Board members present: Denise Bean, Russ Davies, Jean Harris, Maryanne Reiter, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein and Angie Ruzicka. Others present: Sue Zeni, Dave Cooper, Jim Northrop.

The Board approved the minutes for March.

**Treasurer's Report (Laura Osinga):** Angie shared Laura's report and bills for approval. A portion of the Climbs revenue as of March 31 will be forwarded to Eugene Mountain Rescue for their assistance with teaching Climb School. The generous donation from a member was transferred from the checking account to the Vanguard Money Market account. Per conversation with Lana, the Extended Trips fund balance was rolled into the General Fund balance and extended trip transactions will be coded to the General Fund going forward. The Board approved the bills.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Bus Trips (Jim Northrop):** The Bus Trips Committee met to discuss the challenges the committee faces with a doubling of the cost of renting the MTR Western buses, finding new trip leaders, and other matters. The trip on the Columbia River will not occur this year as the sternwheeler is under repair. The committee will likely offer several day trips this year, including the postponed trip to Odell Lake, but no overnight trips. The committee is exploring alternative transportation, such as taking Amtrak to Portland.

**Climbs (Maryanne Reiter):** The Climbs Committee has been busy with Climb School over the last month. In addition, the Climbs and Publicity Committee Chairs have been involved in developing a partnership with Hop Valley.

**Concessions (Carla Cooper):** Sales at the March potluck totaled \$130. The new travel tumblers and ball caps are hot items. Thanks to Anne Hollander for helping get set up and to the non-committee members who helped carry the merchandise back upstairs at the end of the evening!

**Entertainment (Ane McKee):** Approximately 60 attendees enjoyed an abundance of delicious food, particularly desserts, at the Summer Camp Rally potluck. Another 25 came just for the presentation. As always, GameNight! was fun.

**Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal):** The committee provided the research for the *Bulletin* In Memoriam for two inactive members (Liz Reanier and Margit Hollerud) and active member (Natalie Morgan). Natalie was the longest continuous Obsidian member—73 years—joining when she was nineteen, she then went on to climb the Three Sisters.

**Membership (Diane Schechter):** Total membership is 479.

**Safety (Lyndell Wilken):** Benadryl was purchased for the first aid kits.

**Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak):** Three stewardship activities/work parties were held on Saturdays in March. There are two activities scheduled for April. Many thanks for your volunteerism!

**Summer Trips (Dave Cooper):** Summer trips began April 1. The calendar is filling up, and we are well on our way to offering an average of a trip a day.

**Winter Trips (Dave Cooper):** The Winter Trips season has concluded. We had 117 outings. Despite cancellations of trips due to weather, that's still an average of 22 trips a month. We have collected \$153 from nonmembers. Summer Trips will be sponsoring snow trips this year!

## OLD BUSINESS

**Obsidian insurance & investments (Sue Zeni):** After the transfer of \$20,000 from checking to the Vanguard Money Market Account our allocations are in line with our guidelines in the Policies and Procedures, so the committee recommends we leave the allocations as they are. Accident Insurance and Lodge Liability Insurance contracts are coming up; we will be getting quotes from our current broker. In addition, Sue is pursuing getting another quote for comparison.

**Web design project update (Dave Hawkins):** Dave visited with Seth from Revolution. The project has been rescoped and they are working hard on finishing the work. Moving forward Dave will be the liaison between Revolution and the Board. In addition to Marci there are two members who have expressed a willingness to help.

**Hop Valley (Maryanne Reiter):** Hop Valley continues to be excited about partnering with us and supporting our activities. They have made 85 tech shirts in lime green for leaders. Several folks, Dave C., Jorry, Maryanne, and Matt will be working to get out shirts to leaders at hikes, climbs, events, potlucks, etc. They are also interested in developing a flag to be displayed on summits.

**Bylaws Update Committee (Dave Hawkins):** There are lots of changes to be made. We continue the work, and the hope is to present the work to the board at the May meeting. It will need to be voted on by members in October.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Board members nominating committee (Dave Hawkins):** The committee needs to be five members. Lana Lindstrom has chaired the committee in the past and is willing to do it again. Other members will include Dave Hawkins, Jim Northrop, Karen Yoerger, and Jorry Rolfe. There is an article in the April *Bulletin* that invites anyone who is interested in being on the board to contact Dave Hawkins.

## OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

**CPR class:** Maryanne has been in touch with Lori Monaco of Willamette Pass Ski Patrol. She has offered to teach Obsidians CPR and AED at the Lodge for a nominal cost (the cost of the cards). She can teach eight people on her own and up to 16 if she gets a co-instructor. Trip leaders should be the priority.

**Climb School Fees:** are not considered donations because participants are provided with a service.

## ADJOURNMENT

# FIREFLIES

Mike Smith

**“WE DON’T CLAIM TO BE SANE,” SAID SPUR AS HE AND SILVERMOON LEFT THE HOGBACK RIDGE SHELTER AT 9 PM,** heading north on the Appalachian Trail towards Erwin, Tennessee. They had arrived at the 3-sided wooden shelter as I finished my dinner. For the last hundred miles, we had leapfrogged each other. They were about to jump ahead.

A month earlier the pair, whom I had learned were from Atlanta, decided to thru-hike the entire trail. Spur, his trail name coming from his spur-of-the-moment thru-hike decision, ran a business. Silvermoon was a florist. I was Voyager, with my logo a saguaro cactus and a [Zia](#). I never learned their real names.

Shelters occurred every 8–15 miles along the Trail. While comfortably sleeping a dozen, an adage was “there’s always room for one more,” especially in a driving rain. Unfortunately, most shelters harbored large populations of well-fed, pack-smart mice that ran over sleeping hikers. I usually pitched my tent nearby. There was often a logbook left by a hiker containing instructions to mail it, postage guaranteed, when the book was full. Reading the past months of entries was a pleasant way to spend an evening and to learn about diversity of hiker goals, opinions, adventures, and equipment. In addition, because of travel in both directions, one heard about upcoming terrain and obtained reviews of the nearest town, emphasizing food, cost, and lodging, in that order.

That evening, I was in the middle of a 300-mile section hike from the Smokies to southwest Virginia. The previous year I had hiked from northern Georgia to the Smokies. I was in better shape this time and had exactly what I needed, nothing more. “Ten (miles) Before Ten (AM)” was my motto, and twenty-plus mile days were normal. The pack felt part of me.

I had stuck my head outside the tent to see how well their headlamps worked. Seemed interesting. While the two were hiking under a waxing gibbous moon, it was often cloudy in the Appalachians, so bright moons usually weren’t helpful. Probably more relevant, however, was that the AT was a green tunnel. I arrived on the Trail from Arizona with a full body tan.

After hiking in just shorts for two weeks, my tan disappeared.

Hogback was in dense, hardwood forest, dark even by AT standards. Still, the idea of a night hike was intriguing. I missed out on a real treat. I should have gone with them, even after 21 miles that day and even without a headlamp.

Three days later, I caught up with the two at a restaurant in Erwin. They were staying at Johnny’s Hostel near where the Trail emerged from the mountains by the Nolichucky River. Everybody on the AT in Tennessee knew about Erwin and Johnny’s. Hikers were good listeners in restaurants, since they were eating and not talking. I was no exception. Sitting down at a table across from Silvermoon, I rapidly spooned a quart of chocolate ice cream into my fat-starved frame, seldom looking up. It was really good.

Silvermoon was still excited about their night hike. “After we left you,” she said, looking at my rapidly diminishing pile of ice cream with some envy, “we descended into Low Gap and climbed in pitch darkness up to Big Bald.” The AT in the South has numerous descents into gaps and climbs to balds, grassy mountaintops.

“Once we were on Big Bald, it was just us and fireflies everywhere, with lots of stars and a bright moon. We didn’t need our headlamps, so we turned them off. It was even better then.” I actually stopped eating, visualizing the scene, having been there hours after they were.

“The miles just slipped by, with little flashes of light everywhere we looked. We finally slept up there in the open, with twinkling lights above, below, and around us. It was magical.” Silvermoon smiled, then delivered the coup de grace: “And so much nicer than that dark hole where you were.”



See you on the trail. Watch for fireflies.

## TRIP REPORTS



**Bike  
Trips**

### Easter Bunny Rides Again

April 9, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Richard Hughes

Bike: 29 miles, 1,034 ft. (Moderate)

**D**OES ANYONE KNOW AN ACCURATE METEOROLOGIST? Why do the weather gods disagree with each other? The questions are rhetorical. With 17 sign-ups, 5 brave souls trusted the ride leader to lead them to the land of milk, honey, and sunshine. We ended up with a wet ride and Easter



Wet and Wild Ride with Sue, Lana, Kirk, David & Elizabeth.

chocolates, compliments of a bunny with wet ears, and only one flat tire. Members: David Clinger, Elizabeth Grant, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Sue Zeni. Nonmembers: Kirk Hendrickson.



## Climbs

### Basic Mountaineering Course

March 13, 2023

Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Photographers: Maryanne Reiter & Matt Cook  
Class

**T**HE CLIMB SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023 WAS A HUGE SUCCESS with motivated students and instructors, and cooperative weather. The students learned the skills necessary to climb steep snow and rock in the Pacific Northwest. Members:



*At the Skinner Butte Columns. Sarah Nachbar set to rappel down.  
Photo by Maryanne Reiter.*

Steve Davis, Kent Godfrey, Marla Miller, David Morris, Scott Wilkinson. Nonmembers: Garney Hamilton, Linda Sato, Marjorie Doran, Andrew Hellman, Jordyn Hamilton, Sarah Martens, Mitchell Tichinin, Jeffrey Elms, Chris Bischoff, Miranda Trieston, Laurel Hamers, Nadav Steinberg, Sarah Nachbar, Wesley Curtis, Drew Jacobson, Courtney Brost, Jessica Morgan, Andy Nelson, Joshua Gramley, Connor Barrow.



*At the Skinner Butte columns, learning to rope climb and belay.  
Photo by Matt Cook.*



## Hikes

### Silver Falls Trail of 10 Falls

March 30, 2023

Leader: Elizabeth Grant

Photographer: Frank Webster

Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,050 ft. (Moderate)

**E**LEVEN HIKERS, TEN-PLUS SPECTACULAR WATERFALLS, NINE MILES (according to two member phones), a seed planted by Riccie to discover the indigenous names for the



*Double falls.*



*Lower South Falls.*

falls, one wonderful day! Members: Heidi Anderson, Kathie Carpenter, Elizabeth Grant, Jean Harris, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Riccie Shipley, Sandra Sigrist, Frank Webster, Paul Winther.

### **Edgewood Nature Trail**

**March 31, 2023**

**Leader: Steve Adey**

**Hike: 8 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)**

**THE WALK TOOK ABOUT THREE HOURS.** Some sections were muddy as expected, but not terribly so. The steep sections are not for those with gimpy knees. Members: Steve Adey, David Clinger, Nancy Hoecker, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Jorry Rolfe, Sandra Sigrist, Janice Silvestri.

### **Trestle Creek Falls Loop**

**April 7, 2023**

**Leader & Photographer: Jean Harris**

**Hike: 5.5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)**

**THIS TRIP WAS PERFECT FOR HIGH WATER FLOW** at both Upper and Lower Trestle Creek Falls. The five hikers meandered through the lush forest with an occasional sprinkle of



*Behind the upper falls, Mike King, Judi Doolittle, Frank Webster.*

rain. As we left Lund Park Trailhead and crossed Brice Creek, the roar of water was profound. Every possible side stream was flowing heavily. The clockwise trek on the loop brought us to the Upper Falls, roaring over the cliff. We meandered behind and crossed to the very drippy rocks across this little canyon. Spectacular! As we continued on the loop to the east end of Brice Creek trail, the water flow was tremendous, along with the Lower Falls. We truly enjoyed this outdoor adventure. Members: Jean Harris, Michael King, Barbara Orsi, Frank Webster. Nonmembers: Judi Doolittle.

### **Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail**

**April 8, 2023**

**Leader: Carla Cooper**

**Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)**

**TEN MEMBERS AND GUESTS ENJOYED A HIKE TO HENDRICKS PARK** and another guest joined us on our return to the Lodge. Three people indicated that they intend to join, and one even turned in their membership form right then. The other guests sounded inclined to join us, but did not definitely say so. Members: Joyce Cedarlund, Vern Cedarlund, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Jorry Rolfe. Nonmembers: Kristy Sarconi, Doris Tai, Diane Repp, Christian Kjelde, Juliette Deinum, Paloma Deinum-Buck.

### **North Bank Habitat Management Area**

**April 8, 2023**

**Leader: Janet Jacobsen**

**Photographer: Kathie Carpenter**

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

**WITH THE SUN TRYING TO SHINE THROUGH THE CLOUDS,** sunscreen and a sun hat were needed. Next time! A short detour on the Thistle Ridge Trail to see the stately madrone



*Lana posing for the traditional 'inside the ancient madrone' photo opp.* trees should be a required stop. At the ridge, we anchored the vintage picnic table for our marionberry muffin snack. On our way down after lunch, the plethora of houndstongue, a few shooting stars, and fawn lilies distracted us from the muddy, soggy trail sections. The 1% chance of rain turned out to be just a few sprinkles. Hiking with friends on the boundary ridge with expansive views of the North Umpqua River val-

ley made this a special spring hike. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Nancy Hoecker, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Barbara Orsi, Sandra Sigris, Karen Yoerger.

### Fairmount Streetcar Loop Walk

April 9, 2023

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 3 miles, 30 ft. (Easy)

WE ENJOYED A PLEASANT THREE-MILE WALK through the University of Oregon and nearby neighborhoods along a former section of the century-old Fairmount Streetcar line. The rain started just as the trip ended. Members: Mari Baldwin, Lynda Christiansen, Whitney Gould, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen. Nonmembers: Diane Repp.

### Hendricks Park Spring Heyday

April 12, 2023

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Angie Ruzicka

Hike: 3 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER ABRUPTLY CHANGED FROM RAIN TO SUN and made it a thrill to celebrate Ogden Nash's poem, *Lines in Praise of a Date Made Praiseworthy Solely by Something Very Nice That Happened to It*. After introductions, some



*Sunshine on Oak Knoll.*

shared poems that had April rhyming words. Pat Esch wrote: *I will fill a bill with a frill until I'm ill and need a pill in April.* Jorry surprised us when she ended her reading by saying, "The poem I read was the response I received at website openai.com, an artificial intelligence research lab site, where I opened an account. I gave it a request to write me a poem in the style of Ogden Nash about April in Eugene, Oregon." Here are few lines: *The Eugeneans don their raincoats and boots, And brave the showers without any hoots. For they know that April in Eugene is divine, And the magic of the season is simply sublime.* Fortified with words, we walked faster than a snail to Oak Knoll and the Rhody garden. Thanks to Ginny Reich who led us on a trail so we did not have to retrace our steps. Thanks to Angie and Kathy who directed hikers to gather at the parking lot since the covered shelter was reserved. Paraphrasing Ogden Nash: *Spring was certainly in its heyday with flowers blooming on the twelfth of Epperell.* Members: Beth Bauchet, Sharon Duncan, Patricia Esch, Kathy Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, Sandra Larsen, Lynn Lary, Ginny Reich, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Janice Silvestri. Nonmembers: Jane Allen.

### Salem Exploration

April 13, 2023

Leader: Jim Northrop

Assistant Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographers: Kathie Carpenter & Lana Lindstrom

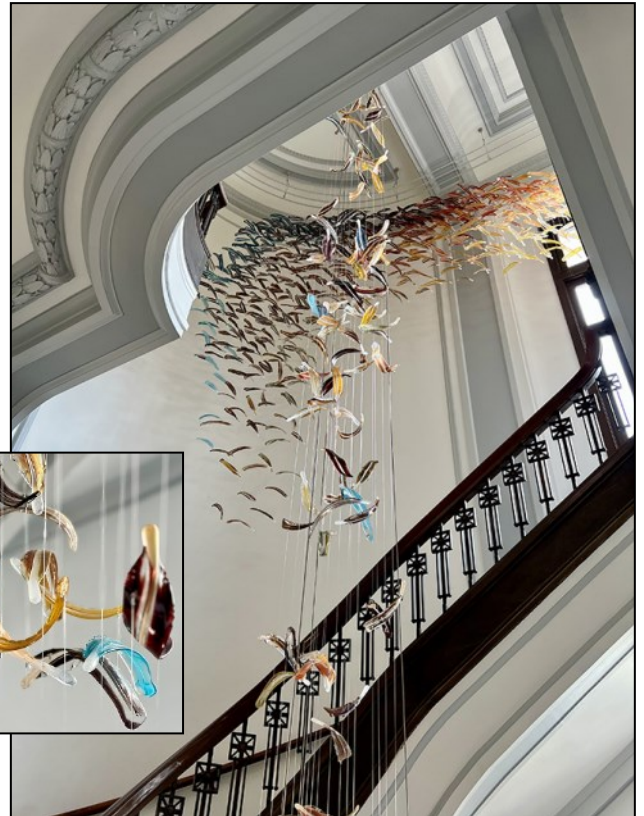
Hike: 7 miles, (Easy)

A BREAK IN THE RAINY APRIL WEATHER allowed twelve Obsidian walkers to explore Salem's downtown area without unfurling umbrellas or donning raingear. Our circular route



*The group, ready to explore the State Capitol.*

R-L: Mark, Joanna, Jim, Evelyn, Janet, Ginny, Lana, Nancy, Steve, Sandra, Lorraine. Photo by Kathie Carpenter.



*Beautiful exhibit in the recently retrofitted Supreme Court building—glass sculpture 'We fly with our own wings' by April Wagner (It's a giant eagle.) Photos by Lana Lindstrom.*

*Inset: Detail of the 1600 glass feathers in the mobile. Stunning!*

took us across bridges, through nine parks, and into the State Capitol Building, where we watched the House debate and pass a bill. The cherry blossoms blooming on the Capitol Mall were a bit past their peak but still enchanting. Highlights



included: viewing *We Fly With Our Own Wings*, a new art installation in the recently renovated Supreme Court Building consisting of more than 1600 hand-blown glass feathers; new exhibits in the Willamette Heritage Center, including one on the Chinese Community in downtown Salem; and an all-you-can-eat buffet lunch at Goudy Commons with several hundred Willamette University students. It was a fine day for a walk with friends. Members: Joanna Alexander, Kathie Carpenter, Lorraine Cuevas, Nancy Hoecker, Mark Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Jim Northrop, Ginny Reich, Sandra Sigrist.

## Fabulous Flowers

April 14, 2023

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 3 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL, SUNNY, WARM SPRING DAY WE HAD after what seemed like weeks of cold, rainy weather. The flowers we set out to see were indeed fabulous. The pig started



*Fun group of hikers on a fabulous flower hike passing through the Wayne Morse Family Farm parkgrounds.*



*The pigs, named Snacks and Chance, were as big an attraction as the flowers.*

oinking right on cue and came running as soon as it saw us. This is one of my favorite walks. Members: Joanna Alexander, Marguerite Cooney, Carla Cooper, Joseph Lee, Lynn Meacham, Dorothy van Winkle.

## Cottage Grove Murals & Museums

April 15, 2023

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Photographer: Kathie Carpenter

Hike: 4 miles (Easy)

THE WEATHER WAS A LITTLE COOL AND CLOUDY, but that did not deter our group from learning more about Cottage Grove. We enjoyed crossing a swinging bridge, exploring local



*We visited museums, street murals and covered bridges. L-R: Joe, Lorraine, Holger, Mark, Mike, Gwyneth, Dorothy, Heidi, Sandra, Pat, Jo.*



*Mark recounting Opal's tragic story to us.*

museums, seeing colorful murals, and eating some great local food. A special thanks to the volunteers at the Cottage Grove Museum for being so welcoming. Members: Joanna Alexander, Heidi Anderson, Kathie Carpenter, Lorraine Cuevas, Patricia Esch, Michael Heidelberg, Mark Hougardy, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Joseph Lee, Sandra Sigrist, Dorothy van Winkle.

## Row River Path Trillium Walk

April 17, 2023

Leader: Jean Harris

Assistant Leader: Heidi Anderson

Photographers: Jean Harris & Heidi Anderson

Hike: 7 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

TEN HAPPY HIKERS ENJOYED A LOVELY SEVEN-MILE STROLL on the Row River Bike Path. Wildflowers included trillium, calypso orchid, current, osoberry, snow queen, and fawn lily. After 3.5 miles we reached Dorena Dam and enjoyed the view of a nearly full Dorena Lake. Calm waters and cloudy skies created a peaceful setting. The rain began with about a



Row River train bridge. Mike King, Heidi Anderson, Sandra Sigrist, Barbara Orsi, Janice Silvestri. Photo by Jean Harris.



Trilliums galore. Photo by Heidi Anderson.

mile left to reach the cars at Mosby Trailhead. All in all, a lovely spring walk with lush, green everywhere. Members: Heidi Anderson, Annie Chan, Jean Harris, Daphne James, Michael King, Holger Krentz, Barbara Orsi, Sandra Sigrist, Janice Silvestri, Dorothy van Winkle.

## Alton Baker Wander

April 19, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Angie Ruzicka

Hike: 4.3 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

WITH BLUE SKIES IN THE DISTANCE, OUR OPTIMISTIC GROUP SET OFF to venture through Alton Baker Park on Pre's Trail. Despite some wind and rain, we enjoyed walking on the soft bark chip surface through woods, meadow, and along



Heidi, Holger, and Dave at the beginning of Pre's Trail.

the canoe canal. Alton Baker Park is a gem in the middle of Eugene that offers running, walking, biking, disc golf, dog park, the Cuthbert Amphitheater, native plants, rock garden, Nobel Peace Prize winners, the start of the scale model Solar System Trail, and more! Members: Heidi Anderson, David Cooper, Holger Krentz, Angie Ruzicka.

## Golden Gardens

April 20, 2023

Leader: Denise Rubenstein

Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2 miles, 22 ft. (Easy)

A DRIZZLY DAY, BUT WE OBSIDIANS ARE A HARDY BUNCH. We were lucky enough to have a three-year-old along who reminded us to listen to the rain and splash through puddles.



Denise explained that the logs and other features were to provide safe habitat and protect the turtles from predators.

Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Hally McCabe, Ane McKee, Denise Rubenstein. Nonmembers: Janet Madrone.

## Wild Iris Trail Plus

April 20, 2023

Leader: Elizabeth Grant

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 5 miles, 650 ft. (Easy)

THE RAIN HELD OFF AND ALLOWED US A VERY NICE CITY WALK with emerging wildflowers that included the trail's namesake wild iris. Janet had us all wondering about the



Janet, Elizabeth, and new member Anita on the Wild Iris Ridge Trail.



Beautiful madrone in bloom.

flowering cycle of madrone trees. Maybe she will write an article on this for the *Bulletin*? How can you tell madrone from manzanita? Madrones are found most often in mixed hardwood forests among other trees like Douglas fir, California bay laurel, tanoak, and redwood. In contrast, manzanitas stick mostly to chaparral, the sunny, sandy environments typical of ridgetops. Members: Elizabeth Grant, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Anita Larson.

### Eugene Mural Walk Downtown

April 21, 2023

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 3 miles, 60 ft. (Easy)

A LITTLE RAIN DID NOT DETER OUR GROUP FROM SEEING LARGE MURALS AND MICRO ART PIECES in downtown Eugene. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Lorraine Cuevas, Nikki Frank, Elizabeth Grant, Kathy Hoeg, Mark Hougardy, Hally McCabe, Ane McKee, Ginny Reich, Barbara Schomaker, Janice Silvestri. Nonmembers: Sohel Rahman.

### Corvallis Mural Walk

April 23, 2023

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Photographers: Kathie Carpenter & Holger Krentz

Hike: 4 miles, (Easy)

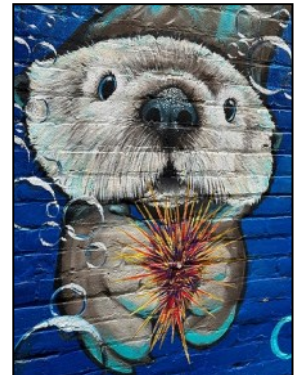
CORVALLIS HAS SOME COLORFUL MURALS WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE OF DOWNTOWN. We saw about 30 murals on our walk. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Sharon Duncan, Patricia Esch, Kathy Hoeg, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Nola Nelson, Jorry Rolfe.



This one was called 'Oh Deer!' Photo by Kathie Carpenter.



Corvallis has an insect problem. Fly? Mosquito? —or what? Photo by Holger Krentz.



Some were just so darn cute. Photo by Kathie Carpenter.



Not all wall art was a mural. This small ceramic sign is titled *Blackberry Picker*.

Photo by Holger Krentz.

## Skinner Butte

April 24, 2023

Leader: Margaret Essenberg

Assistant Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographers: Carla Cooper & Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2 miles, 350 ft. (Easy)

AT THE TRAILHEAD, THE LEADER PASSED OUT MAPS OF THE BUTTE'S TRAIL NETWORK. She explained her plan to avoid losing hikers at the many trail intersections of our intended



Margaret signaling the sweep at one of the 23 junctions we passed through today. Photo by Carla Cooper.



After our birders tell Chris Pietsch (Register-Guard photographer) where the eagles are on trees on the other side of the parking lot, Joe and he visit. Photo by Janet Jacobsen.

route. At each intersection, she would stop, raise an arm, and catch the eye of the sweep (Janet). The sweep would raise a hand, the leader would semaphore her raised arm to indicate the intended direction, and the sweep would then watch that all hikers followed it. We set out, finding many wildflowers. The sweep photographed many of these so she was often the

last member of the group to notice the raised arm of the leader. Since the leader is a slow hiker and also stopped for flowers and birds, the group bunched close behind her and it was soon evident that the precautionary procedure at intersections was quite unnecessary. Being a methodical person, however, the leader persisted through most of the 23 trail intersections. We ascended to the summit meadow on familiar trails, paid our respects to the city, the river, and the distant, cloud-obscured Three Sisters from the west overlook, then descended to the relatively new mid-elevation trail. This passed around the eastern meadow, under the big O and the big E, then over the top of the climbing columns. On the way down the north side, we took the path to the Campbell Center parking lot to see the bald eagles' current nest. It was unattended by parents, but Joanna spotted an adult eagle on a tree opposite the nest from us. As we watched, a second eagle flew to join it. We pointed them out to a man with an impressive camera, who Janet learned was Chris Pietsch. His photos of the eagles and their two eaglets appeared in the next day's *Register-Guard*. Members: Joanna Alexander, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Margaret Essenberg, Richard Essenberg, Sheridan Gates, Janet Jacobsen, Joseph Lee, Helen Martz, Pat Soussan.

## Amazon and Rexius Trails

April 26, 2023

Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Hike: 4.5 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

SUNSHINE AND BLUE SKIES PROVIDED A LOVELY SETTING for us to explore these two bark chip running trails in South Eugene. The contrast with our recent cool, rainy weather was a bit of a shock: we chatted about the need to transition our backpack contents from winter to spring! We observed buttercups in bloom with other flowers almost ready: camas, cow parsnip, checker mallow, and more. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Angie Ruzicka, Dorothy van Winkle.

## South Eugene Meadows

April 27, 2023

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Pat Soussan

Hike: 3 miles, 130 ft. (Easy)

OUR CARS AND BIKE WERE A TIGHT FIT AT THE SMALL TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT on Blanton Road. It was a warm afternoon to explore the upland prairie, oak savanna, and oak



Stopping at a stream: Kathy, Bob, Suzanne, Jorry, Dave, Karla, Maureen, and Janet.

woodlands. The Eugene City 2018 Ridgeline Trail Map indicated that the park would eventually help connect Wild Iris Ridge to 52<sup>nd</sup> and Willamette. Those hiking the footpaths for the first time had many questions about the boundary, the *No Trespassing* gate, and future plans. The leader could not answer most of the questions but did provide maps. After the hike, four of us stopped at the Blanton Ridge Trailhead to hike in the shade for ten minutes to an amazing calypso orchid display. Some history: In 2007, the Obsidians Board of Directors approved President John Pegg's letter in support of the City of Eugene's efforts to expand the Ridgeline Trail system using Forest Legacy Program funds for the Miesen property. The June 2011 *Bulletin* article by Joanne Ledet gave information about the purchase ([www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/2011 Bulletin/2011\\_06 Bulletin.pdf](http://www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/2011%20Bulletins/2011_06_Bulletin.pdf), page 2). Monies were provided by the Bonneville Power Administration, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and the voter-approved 2006 parks bond measure. Financial concessions were also made by the property owner, Ed Miesen. Dave Predeek, an Obsidian and a friend, said that Ed (now deceased) wanted the area protected. Members: David Clinger, Robert Eriksen, Kathy Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, Jorry Rolfe, Karla Rusow, Pat Soussan, Maureen Whalen. Nonmembers: Suzanne Kelley.

## Art and Flowers

April 27, 2023

Leader: Anne Hollander

Assistant Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 3 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY, SUNNY AND WARM, and we started out in the Rhododendron Garden at Hendricks Park. Quite a few of them were blooming, as well as magnolia trees and



*Pam, Lana, and Evelyn coming down the path.*

others. We then walked downhill through a lovely neighborhood to get to Maude Kerns Art Center. We all enjoyed the exhibit of John Bauguess's photos, documentations of life as lived by ordinary people. He had an eye for human interaction and story. After leaving the gallery, we walked back to the base of Hendricks Park and ascended the wooded trail next to Fairmont Blvd. A nice walk was enjoyed by all. Members: Joanna Alexander, Anne Campbell, Pam Caples, Carla Cooper, Nikki Frank, Sheridan Gates, Anne Hollander, Joseph Lee, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy. Nonmembers: Jane Allen.

## Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

Hikes: 4.0–6.2 miles, 1,082–1,530 ft. (Moderate)  
Various Leaders

David Cooper: 4/5 14 Members, 1 Nonmember

Joanna Alexander: 4/5 4 Members, 1 Nonmember

Jorry Rolfe: 4/12 12 Members, 1 Nonmember

Evelyn Nagy: 4/12 4 Members

Ane McKee: 4/19 11 Members, 1 Nonmember

Carla Cooper: 4/21 3 Members

Mike Smith: 4/26 18 Members, 1 Nonmember



*Above:*  
Carla spotted these mushrooms on her Fox Hollow to Spencer Butte hike. She didn't know what they were called but thought they were very pretty.

*She captioned her picture "Close-up of askdarkos." Darko verified that they belong to the huge genus of Mycena.*

*Photos by Carla Cooper.*

## Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Jorry Rolfe: 3/28 2 Members, 4/4 3 Members, 4/18 4 Members

Tommy Young: 4/11 4 Members

Janet Jacobsen: 4/25 4 Members

## Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.5–5.3 miles, 600–1,100 ft. (Moderate)  
Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen: 4/5 2 Members

Heidi Anderson: 4/7 8 Members

Carla Cooper: 4/10 5 Members, 1 Nonmember

Mark Hougardy: 4/16 5 Members, 1 Nonmember

David Hawkins: 4/21 10 Member



## Snowshoe Trips

### Rosary Lakes Snowshoe

April 12, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Jean Harris

Assistant Leader: Heidi Anderson

SShoe: 8 miles, 1,000 ft. (Difficult)

**T**HIS MID-APRIL SNOWSHOE FELT LIKE MID-WINTER. We so enjoyed low temperatures, snowfall, sunbreaks, and plenty of snow. The snow-covered trees were beautiful with



*Nancy Hoecker on the trail to Rosary Lake.*

no melting all day. Most participants continued to Middle and Upper Rosary Lakes, while a couple dined near the shores of Lower Rosary Lake. We didn't see anyone else on the trail. Thank you, amazing, kind, and enthusiastic snowshoers. Members: Annie Chan, Jean Harris, Nancy Hoecker, Barbara Orsi, Sandra Sigris, Frank Webster, Paul Winther.



## Ski Trips

### Three Lakes Loop

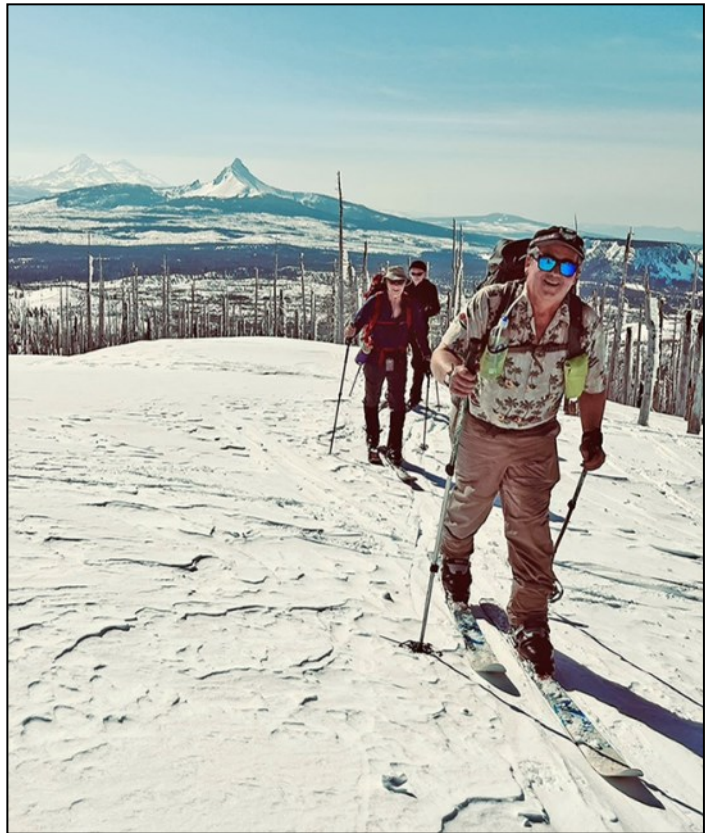
March 18, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Sam Miller

Assistant Leader: Lubos Hubata-Vacek

Xski: 8 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

**F**OUR SKIERS, THREE LAKES, AND A BEAUTIFUL DAY. CLIMB, CLIMB, CLIMB, then descend, descend, descend. Repeat. Along the way visit Martin, Booth, and Square Lakes. 360-degree views of the Three Sisters, Broken Top, Mt. Washington, and Three Fingred Jack. Soft, forgiving snow that made tight turns possible and long downhill rides effortless. A group of skiers with varied life experiences all capable of giving TED Talks on wide-ranging topics (and



*Three Lakes Loop.*

some did). One of the best days on skis. Members: Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Sam Miller, Harold Thompson. Nonmembers: Larry Winiarski.



## Extended Trip



### Crater Lake SS / XC

April 2, 2023

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Assistant Leader: Julie Barnas

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Extended Trip: 4 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

**W**HEN THE WEATHER FORECAST FOR A MAJOR STORM INCLUDING A SNOW DUMP IN THE MOUNTAINS came to pass, the group pivoted to Plan B. Kudos to the drivers and everyone else whose flexibility and positivity made this revised trip so enjoyable. We drove south on I-5 and left the downpours as we traveled over the mountains to Prospect, where we met for our first adventure. It was a leisurely 2.5-mile hike through madrones, lodgepole pines, and chinquapin to Pearoney, Mill Creek, and Barr Creek Falls. We also hiked to Avenue of the Boulders on the Rogue, where we enjoyed the roar of the river, sunshine, hail, and the heat reflected off of giant boulders. What snow? We found the snow—mounds of snow—when we arrived at our accommodations at Union Creek Resort, just 12 miles up the road. We stayed two nights in two rustic but comfortable cabins where we ate well, shared stories, read, played games, and laughed a lot. Darko and Angie's lasagna filled us for dinner, and for breakfast and lunch the next day. Darian's salmon dip, made

with salmon he had caught, was a big hit, and there was no lack of desserts thanks to Richard, Sue, Brenda, and Julie's baking skills. We could have stayed a couple more nights and not run out of food because the baked potato smorgasbord was so plentiful. Our only cabin challenge was making coffee or tea as our houses were not equipped with teakettles or coffee makers. Fortunately, several people brought plastic cones and paper filters, and Richard took on the coffee-making challenge each morning for one cabin so we were awake and ready for the day's adventure in the snow. Since the road to Crater Lake was closed (too much snow), we took advantage of the snow just outside our cabins. The folks with snowshoes walked across Hwy. 62 and snowshoed to The Rogue Gorge



*Almost full moon.*

overlook and then continued on the trail downriver. It was a beautiful walk along the river among towering old growth firs and young hemlock. There were a few obstacles—a small downed tree and numerous shrubs to step under or over—but it was a pretty easy trip. Rocks in the river looked like frosted cupcakes and the trees were dressed in white. It was a winter wonderland—in April! The sun came out briefly on the first day; it snowed 2–3 in. both nights. Some made it as far as the junction with Union Creek the second morning, thanks to trail-breaking and packing from the first day's trek. The four cross country skiers started out on the Rogue Gorge trail, but quickly realized it was not suitable for them. After exploring alternatives, Darian drove to the 1,000 Springs Sno-Park which was totally empty. We skied five miles on well-marked and groomed snowmobile trails. It was awesome! After three days of hiking and playing in the snow, including

some great snowball fights, we packed up and headed home-ward. It was snowing as we drove over the mountains and back up I-5 at Canyonville, but the roads were well-sanded. This is definitely a trip worth repeating. Just bring a coffee pot and teakettle if you stay at Union Creek. Thanks to Assistant Leader Julie for writing this report and to Darko, Darian, and Linda for driving. Members: Linda Anson, Julie Barnas, Joyce Cedarlund, Richard Hughes, Brenda Kameenui, Lana Lindstrom, Darian Morray, Evelyn Nagy, Barbara Orsi, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Sue Wolling.



## **Water Trips**

### **North Fork Siuslaw River**

**April 15, 2023**

**Leader: Scott Wilkinson**

**Water: 7.3 miles, (Moderate)**

**A**NDY McIVOR AND I MET AT THE TARGET PARKING LOT ON WEST 11<sup>TH</sup>. We put his boat on my car and drove to the Old Town Florence waterfront. (Note: \$2 fee to park by the boat ramp there.) We put in around 11 AM and paddled upstream on the main Siuslaw River toward the Hwy. 126 bridge at the mouth of the North Fork Siuslaw, where we headed up the North Fork. The weather wasn't sunny as we had hoped, but it was tolerable, overcast and around 50 degrees with mostly calm winds. Both of us were in sea kayaks. We paddled about 2.5 miles up the North Fork and turned around before reaching Bender Landing Park. We paddled against the ebb tide on the first leg, but the current was minimal and we still made good progress. On our way back to the marina, a harbor seal tagged along with us in the main Siuslaw. For some reason it was really interested in Andy's kayak and several times nosed the back of his boat—much to my amusement. We also had fun watching an osprey repeatedly dive for fish nearby. It was a good paddle. We went 7.32 miles in 2:34. Members: Andrew McIvor, Scott Wilkinson.

## **Class**

### **Tour of Rexus Facility**

**April 20, 2023**

**Leader: Sue Wolling**

**Class: 1 mile, (Easy)**

**A**S USUAL, THE WEATHER FORECAST CHANGED TO COLD AND RAINY AT THE LAST MINUTE, but Obsidians nonetheless traveled up to the Rexus Compost Facility north of Coburg. Sue Wolling, a recently-graduated Master Recycler, first gave a quick spiel about why food waste is a problem. Did you know that 30% of the food grown or imported into the U.S. for human consumption is thrown away? And growing and processing wasted food uses so much energy that reducing food waste has been identified as the single most effective action an individual can take to fight climate change! Then Dan Sutton, a third-generation member of the Rexus family, led us on a tour through mountains of organic matter that's becoming compost. Most of the food waste and yard debris collected by trash haulers in Eugene ends up at Rexus, where they have a sophisticated system of chipping,

mixing, turning, aerating, and monitoring to convert it into a wide variety of compost, soil amendments, and landscaping materials for home and commercial use. Dan said that Eugene residents do some things right. For instance, Eugene's food/yard waste is much cleaner and freer of contaminants than that of almost any other community in the U.S. But there are two take-home lessons for improvement: (1) do NOT use compostable bags or utensils because they're not organic and they contaminate the compost; (2) always remove those little sticky labels from fruits and vegetables since they don't break down and they're too small for Rexus equipment to sift out. Rexus has composting down to a fine art and the tour was a learning experience for all who attended. Members: Joanna Alexander, Heidi Anderson, Lynda Christiansen, Carla Cooper, Clara Emlen, Mark Hougardy, Sandra Larsen, Joseph Lee, Lana Lindstrom, Jorry Rolfe, Sandra Sigrist, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Wolling.



*Wayne Cleall searching for garbage in the mist at Ocean Beach State Park. Photo by Darko Sojak.*



## Stewardship

### Spring Beach Clean-Up

April 22, 2023

Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographers: Darko Sojak & Nancy Whitfield

Work Party: 2.5 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

**I**NSPIRED, WE DRAW OUR OWN PICTURE OF LIFE. Thank you, volunteers. Members: Linda Anson, Julie Barnas, Anne Campbell, Kathie Carpenter, Patricia Cleall, Wayne Cleall, Marguerite Cooney, Diana Dinn, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Pierre Robert, Beth Roy, Angie Ruzicka, Joan Skarda, John Skarda, Darko Sojak, Meg Stewart Smith, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Madeline Hepp, Denise Lutz.



*Water and sand create a delicate picture. Photo by Nancy Whitfield.*



*Anne Campbell.*



**T**HANK YOU OBSIDIANS VOLUNTEERS\* FOR PARTICIPATING in another Spring Beach Clean-up.

We all know that our effort may only be a 'drop in the ocean' in the current disaster but it gives an important expression that we really do care for our blue marble.

*Thank you!  
Darko Sojak  
Stewardship Committee*

*\*See the Spring Beach Clean-up trip report above.*



*Patricia Cleall.*

*Photos by Darko Sojak.*





Bill Sullivan

# New Trails Near Eugene

with *Bill Sullivan*

Wednesday, May 17, at the Shedd Institute

868 High St., Eugene

4:30 – Gathering, small plates, and wine

5:15 – Introduction and Presentation

Tickets are \$8 each and can be purchased at <https://tickets.theshedd.org/8888/9010>

**T**HE EUGENE PARKS FOUNDATION (EPF) WITH THE LANE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY IS CO-HOSTING THE SECOND *PARKS TALK AT THE SHEDD*. Learn about new or dramatically changed trails around Eugene. Bill will feature Wild Iris Ridge, Thurston Hills, McGowan Creek, the Tall Timber Trail, and Little Cowhorn Mountain. Part of his program will focus on thirty trails that burned in recent years and twenty trails that now require advance permits. Bill said, “These are the reasons we need to build more new trails in the Eugene area.”

EPF Executive Director Ariel Lissman will also present an update on *The Parks We Treasure Capital Campaign*. That includes trails!

Obsidians who attended the first *Parks Talk* had fun and learned how dedicated citizens can make a difference in the kind of parks and trails that future generations will enjoy for years to come. For more information, visit the Eugene Parks Foundation website:

<https://www.eugeneparksfoundation.org/>

On a similar note: in April the Obsidians scheduled 23 walks and hikes in the Eugene parks and trail system to help promote an interest in the upcoming Eugene Parks levy. See the trip reports and photos in this issue. For many hikers, it was their first visit to Golden Gardens, South Meadows Park, Hendricks Park, Skinner Butte, or Wayne Morse Farm.

*Janet Jacobsen*

## Strategic Fun: Obsidians Unplug and Unwind at Monthly GameNights!

*Jorry Rolfe, a dedicated GameNighter!*

**F**OR MANY OF US, GETTING OUTSIDE AND ENJOYING NATURE IS A TOP PRIORITY. BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE WEATHER DOESN'T COOPERATE or when we need a break from our regular routines? Ane M. (our current Entertainment Committee chair), Linda Anson, and Trish Wilson, have come up with a solution—GameNights!

I have found that gathering to play board games with our friends is so much fun. I always feel welcome as soon as I enter the Lodge. As we start to play, I get totally immersed in whatever the game of the moment is. Sometimes it involves cooperation with a team; other times I just want to win the round or think of the right word! There is always plenty of laughter.



*A group playing a game called InWords.*

The organizers are open to new games brought by participants. Last month, Hilary brought Pass the Bomb, a fast-paced word game. I saw a friend say an amazing word in one round (and we were all duly impressed) and then get stomped the next round. And the snacks are just that, nothing fancy, food to grab and eat to fortify you for the next rousing game. The afternoon turns to evening before you know it!



*Playing a game called Codenames.*

So mark your calendars; the next three are Tuesday, May 9, Thursday, June 15 and Tuesday, July 11. Come join us for a night of fun and friendship. Remember what George Bernard Shaw wrote, “We don’t stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.” See you soon!



Friday, May 19, 2023, 6:30 PM

# Antarctica, South Georgia & South Orkneys Odyssey

*with Lana Lindstrom*

**A**NTARCTICA IS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DESERT and has the world's largest ice sheet, nearly two miles deep. Here nature reigns—adorable penguins, curious seals, thousands of seabirds, and sculpted icebergs. For naturalists and historians the surrounding islands, including South Georgia, the Falklands, and the South Orkney Islands are equally appealing. Lana will share photos of her three-week experience in this extraordinary environment.



*Photos by  
Lana Lindstrom*



**Potluck**  
Friday, May 19, 2023  
Obsidian Lodge  
Social 6:05 PM • Potluck 6:30 PM • Program 7:30 PM  
*Bring your favorite potluck dish to share along with your own plates, utensils, and cups to be washed at home.*

## Welcome New Members!

**Maria Chaderina**  
Eugene, OR 97403

**Wesley Curtis**  
Eugene, OR 97401

**Peter Defazio**  
Eugene, OR 97440

**Paloma Deinum-Buck**  
Eugene, OR 97401

**Juliette Deinum**  
Eugene, OR 97401

**Christian Kjelde**  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

**Anita Larson**  
Eugene, OR 97401

**Ron Larson**  
Eugene, OR 97401

**Patrick Mcmurdo**  
Eugene, OR 97405

**Kristin Piljay**  
Eugene, OR 97405

**Kristy Sarconi**  
Springfield, OR 97477

**Linda Sato**  
Eugene, OR 97405

**Tim Vignos**  
Eugene, OR 97405

**Morgan Watson**  
Eugene, OR 97404

**The online Membership Directory is updated regularly.**

To view or download the directory:

- Go to [www.Obsidians.org](http://www.Obsidians.org).
- Click on **Members Area**.
- Sign in with your User Name & Password.
- Click on **Membership List**.

# OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

<b>May</b>		16 Fri	Mt Jefferson Climb <b>D</b> .....	Harris 521-5807
9 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	20 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	Young 941-780-4156
9 Tue	<b>GameNight!</b> at the Lodge .....	21 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	Smith 520-488-9569
10 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	21 Wed	Mt. Pisgah Summer Solstice Hike <b>M</b> .....	Jacobsen 206-1251
12 Fri	Lodge & grounds cleanup WrkPrty <b>E</b> .....	24 Sat	Mt. Thielsen Climb <b>D</b> .....	Reiter 521-8472
13 Sat	Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail Hike <b>E</b> ...	27 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	Young 941-780-4156
13 Sat	Smith Rock Climb <b>M</b> .....	27 Tue	Cape Perpetua CarCmp <b>M</b> .....	Hougaryd 206-9532
13 Sat	Controlled burns @ Willow Creek Hike <b>E</b> ...	28 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt <b>M</b> .....	Bell 503-884-8829
14 Sun	Mother's Day Breakfast & Rhody Walk <b>E</b> .....	28 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	Clifford 915-5434
16 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	<b>July</b>		
16 Tue	Trip Leaders Meeting at the Lodge .....	1 Sat	Middle Sister Climb <b>D</b> .....	Reiter 525-1709
17 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	1 Sat	Mt. Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike <b>M</b> .....	Jacobsen 206-1251
17 Wed	Mountaineering Conditioning Hike <b>M</b> ...	4 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	Young 941-780-4156
19 Fri	Experiencing Antarctica—Lana Lindstrom .....	5 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	Jacobsen 206-1251
20 Sat	Diamond Peak—Graduation Climb Climb <b>D</b> .....	8 Sat	Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail Hike <b>E</b> .....	TBA
20 Sat	McKenzie R Trust Stewardship WrkPrty <b>E</b> ...	11 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	Young 941-780-4156
21 Sun	Mt. Pisgah Wildflower Festival Hike <b>M</b> .....	11 Tue	<b>GameNight!</b> at the Lodge .....	Anson 228-8722
23 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	12 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	Clifford 915-5434
24 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	18 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	Young 941-780-4156
25 Thu	Fitton Green Hike <b>M</b> .....	19 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	Rubenstein 248-514-5092
26 Fri	Pisgah East Side Loop Hike <b>M</b> .....	22 Sat	Annual Beach Barefoot Hike <b>M</b> .....	Sojak 799-9199
27 Sat	Oak Knoll, Hendricks Park WrkPrty <b>E</b> .....	25 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	Young 941-780-4156
29 Mon	Masonic Cemetery /Ribbon Trail Hike <b>E</b> ...	26 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt <b>M</b> .....	Bell 503-884-8829
30 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	26 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	Rolfe 206-9501
31 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt <b>M</b> .....	29 Sat	Mt. Washington Climb <b>D</b> .....	Hansen 360-852-2041
31 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	<b>August</b>		
31 Wed	CPR and AED class Class <b>E</b> .....	6 Sun	Sawtooth Mountains SmCmp <b>M</b> .....	Johnson 520-2470
<b>June</b>		9 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	Smith 520-488-9569
2 Fri	Heceta Head & Tahkenitch CarCmp <b>M</b> ...	12 Sat	Broken Top Climb <b>D</b> .....	Timms 713-492-1547
2 Fri	Mt. Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike <b>M</b> .....	26 Sat	Three Fingered Jack Climb <b>D</b> .....	Mcmurdo 206-714-1655
2 Fri	Illinois R / Kalmiopsis Wilderness BkPk <b>D</b> ..	30 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt <b>M</b> .....	Bell 503-884-8829
3 Sat	National Trails Day TrlMnt <b>M</b> .....	<b>September</b>		
3 Sat	Fort Rock Hike <b>E</b> .....	23 Sat	National Public Lands Day TrlMnt <b>M</b> .....	Bell 503-884-8829
6 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....	29 Fri	Birding in Colombia—Randy Sinnott .....	<b>Potluck</b>
7 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....	<b>October</b>		
10 Sat	Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail Hike <b>E</b> .....	27 Fri	Patagonia—Valerie Metcalfe .....	<b>Potluck</b>
10 Sat	Diamond Peak—Graduation Climb Climb <b>D</b> .....	28 Sat	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt <b>M</b> .....	Bell 503-884-8829
13 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike <b>M</b> .....			
14 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike <b>M</b> .....			
15 Thu	<b>GameNight!</b> at the Lodge .....			

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION about our activities, visit the Obsidians website: [www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

Sunday, May 14  
**Mother's Day  
Pancake Breakfast  
& Rhody Walk/Hike**

Pancakes served from 9:30–11:00 AM  
Hike and/or socialize till 2:00 PM

Read full description in the [April Bulletin](#) pp.7–8.

*Online signup is encouraged so we will have a better idea of how many pancakes to flip, but you're welcome to show up without signing up.*



**AT THE LODGE**  
**Tuesday, May 9  
& Thursday, June 15**  
**4:30–7:30 PM**  
**Come join the fun!**



**OBSIDIANS**  
**P.O. BOX 51510**  
**EUGENE, OR 97405**

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May 2023



*Climb school snow day: the students and volunteers. Photo by Matt Cook.  
See the Basic Mountaineering Course trip report on page 6.*

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