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Dates to Remember

Mar 18	SciEd Tuesday
Mar 28	Summer Camp-Potluck
Mar 29	April Bulletin Deadline
Mar 29	Trail Maintenance
Apr 2	Board Meeting

**Camp Hamilton
Summer Camp Rally**
See Page 18

**Camp Hamilton
Summer Camp 2008
Registration Form**
See Insert

Online viewers: Access the Summer Camp Registration Form at the Obsidian website.

Climb School 2008:

The Tradition Continues

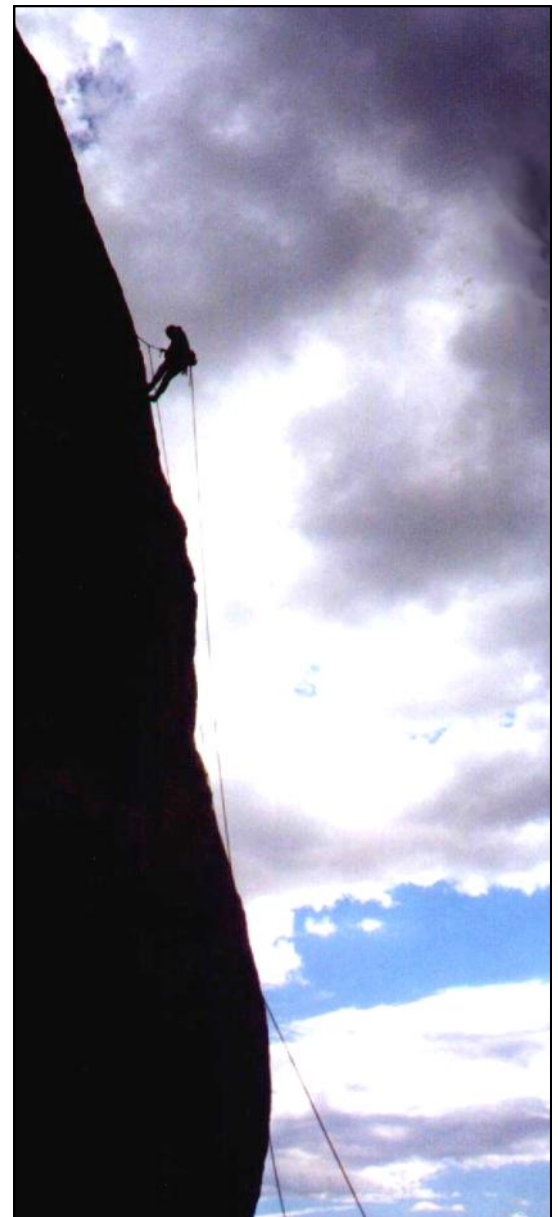
Photo and Story by John Pegg

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME vividly. I was sliding down a steep snow slope, head first, on my back. Snow was flying everywhere as I quickly picked up speed. My mind wanted to go blank in panic, but I concentrated on what the instructor had showed us, stuck out my ice axe to one side, let my body be pulled around as it bit into the snow. Suddenly I had arrested my fall and was looking up at my fellow students, applauding my success.

I was participating in the Spring Climb School, one of the most enduring and successful of Obsidian traditions. The year was 1982 and I had never had an ice axe in my hand before. It was the start for me, as it has been for hundreds of mountaineers in Eugene before me who got their start taking this class. The tradition continues in April when the Obsidians, collaborating with Eugene Mountain Rescue and the River House Outdoor Program, once again offer this exciting introduction to mountaineering basics.

When I climbed back up the slope for another practice slide I said, "That was fun!" And I remember our instructor, Tom Donnelly, replying in that off hand, friendly way of his, "Yeah, but it could also save your life."

LARRY HUFF, THE CHAIR of the Climbing Committee, puts it this way. "The difference between being safe and unsafe in the mountains is knowledge. In this sport a little instruction can go a long way in keeping you safe. When traveling on snow a simple slip with the security of knowing proper technique with an ice axe is just that, a simple slip and you stop yourself. Without knowing how to use an ice axe, a slip can quickly lead to an out of control slide—into the rocks,



(Continued on page 6)

President's Message:

If It Can Go Wrong...

By Brian Hamilton

I'M SCHEDULED TO LEAD a cross-country ski trip to Fawn Lake in a few days and I've been concerned that we'll have problems with the snow conditions. I was out last weekend on a ski trip and the snow was hard and icy and not very pleasant. Ascending steeper sections of the trail was difficult and I didn't have a lot of control on downhill sections. The weather forecast for the next few days looks even less promising – warm with surface snow melting in the afternoon and refreezing at night, plus no new snow in sight. Should I cancel the trip or maybe postpone it in hopes of better conditions in another week or two?

Thinking about this reminded me of how many ways trips can go wrong. Often, conditions that affect the outcome of a trip are beyond our control, such as the weather or a road closure. A climb can be too dangerous because of too much ice, not allowing crampons to bite, or too little ice, contributing to rock fall, both of which can lead us to turn around shy of the summit. Sometimes there is too much snow to reach the cross-country ski or snowshoe trail and sometimes there is not enough, prompting us to drive to higher elevations. Trips can also go bad due to conditions entirely within our control, such as the time I bailed out of a climb with horrible blisters half way up the south ridge of North Sister.

But given all the things that can and do go wrong on Obsidian trips, I really can't recall any trips that were "failures". Many times it's the flexibility of the trip leader and the rest of the group that saves a trip by coming up with a spur of the moment alternative to the original plan. The spirit of adventure inherent in outdoor pursuits can also contribute to making the most out of difficult situations.

FINALLY, A DEGREE of adversity can be the element that really makes a trip memorable. We may hike the same trail over and over again so that the trips blend together in our memory, but it's when something unusual happens that a certain trip will stand out from the others.

Naturally, there are times when a trip leader should turn back or even cancel a trip entirely if conditions become unsafe for the group. Other than that type of situation, I don't know of any trips that I would call a disappointment or a failure. I suppose that oversleeping so that one doesn't make it to the meeting place before the departure time could be an exception, but it's got to be rare that you can't find something good out of an Obsidian trip. So, will I cancel the trip? No, we'll take what Mother Nature dishes out to us and make the best of it. The snow conditions may be terrible, but I'm sure we'll have fun.

OBSIDIANS, INC

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Board meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, except August, at the Obsidian lodge.

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Deadline

for April 2008 Bulletin
Saturday, March 29, 2008

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For February Bulletin

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Call Manager..... Vera Woolley
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Copy Editors..... Jean Coberly & Beth Roy
Graphics, Design & Desktop Publishing
..... Stewart Hoeg & John Jacobsen

Welcome!

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935-3671 livandtliv@cs.com

Obsidian Membership Report March 2007

Active Members 476
Associate Members 33
Honorary Members 3
Junior Members 13
Life Members 21
Total Members 546

Leading Leaves a Legacy

By Janet Jacobsen

Editor's Note: Bob Dark is an honorary Obsidian member. He has led 36 climbs and hikes and has been on 120 trips. He has served as President, Climbs Chair, Lodge Chair, and Summer Camp Chair.

OBSIDIAN LEADERS DESERVE A GOLD STAR for providing adventures, friendships, laughter, and so many memories for members and friends. I estimate that around 250 members have led at least one trip for the club. Bob Dark stands out in my mind as a role model of generosity, safety, and best "trip scouter" ever. He is one of those leaders who went the extra mile to share his love of the out of doors. Bob led and helped with climbs, hikes, raft trips, summer camps and extended trips. His wife Pat signed on as co-leader for many of those trips.

Over the years, Bob had three Ford vans and one Dodge. He and Pat didn't hesitate to fill the van with Obsidians and head out of town. Those of us who signed up for his trips have many of stories to share and they all begin with "Remember when Bob led..." or "Remember when Bob took his van to"

My first memory of Bob was when he and Bud Proctor co-led a "grandmother" climb of Mt. Washington in June of 1977. I had just started climbing and needed all of his encouragement on those last few feet to the top where I suddenly had the unique view of well-polished shoes and polyester suits. How could someone climb to the summit and not have a scuff mark on their "Sunday shoes?" I was so exhausted that my first scrambled thoughts fantasized a TV commercial or Mormon missionaries. The two men were comfortably seated on each side of a tablecloth-covered rock on which

they had a variety of fruit, a giant grinder sandwich and a bottle of wine (for looks only, of course). Obsidians Bert Ewing and Sam Miller had planned this great scenario when they climbed and belayed all of the trappings to the summit before we arrived. It made for a memorable arrival for our group of tired climbers. On the way down, Bob turned on his internal radar and zeroed in on the return trail and led us back through the trees directly to camp.



Bob and Pat at Summer Camp in 2001. Photo by John Jacobsen

I SOON LEARNED THAT BOB was a great organizer and leader. He started making plans months ahead. I never saw him with a checklist. It was all in his head. Among the many memorable trips he led are: a 1978 Mt. Rainier hike, a 1982 John Day River raft trip, a 1990 Rogue River/Paradise Lodge hike (47 people on this trip), a 1990 Mt. Bachelor/Sunriver ski trip, a 1993 Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge hike/camp trip and a 1996 Hotel Diamond-Steens Mountain outing. Bob wrote in one of his reports, "I want to thank all the people who went on the trip for being so congenial and making this such a fun outing. You're easy to be with so let's do it again." That could have been the refrain for each of his trips.

My best memories of Bob as a

leader extraordinaire are during the many years my husband and I joined him on the set up crew for Summer Camp. Bob worked for months to make sure that summer camp was a smooth operation. With so many vehicles in the set up caravan each driver had a walkie-talkie so that Bob could give a heads up on what was at the top of the hill or around the next corner. He kept everyone well entertained while those of us in the back followed the slow Penske truck up the hill. As soon as we rolled into camp, Bob began to unload and explain what had to be done. Bob would be the first one up each morning, starting the fire so that we would have hot water for instant coffee. Pat helped to prepare the food for the set up crew. Bob was the role model on how to set up camp and have fun at the same time. During the week, he quietly worked behind the scenes making runs to get water, hauling garbage, leading trips, and making sure we were safe. If hikers needed to be dropped off at a trailhead for a one-way hike, Bob took them in his van.

HE CHAIRED THE 1989 summer camp at Rattlesnake Flats in the North Cascades. The Forest Service assured him that the name of the area had no significance. Was Bob surprised to discover just the opposite! Empty #10 cans were grabbed up quickly to avoid stepping out of the tent in the middle of the night.

Bob is just one of many in our club who have made it possible for others to enjoy the forests and rivers. Leaders leave a legacy of good times filled with friendships, laughter, encouragement, and adventure. Leaders set the course and help us learn new skills and achieve milestones. Without leaders, we wouldn't have a club.

I say to all the leaders, "Thank you."

Book Review:

Marco Polo, Move Over!

By Sam Miller

***A Sense of the World: How a Blind Man Became History's Greatest Traveler*, by Jason Roberts.**

Harper Perennial, 2007. \$14.95

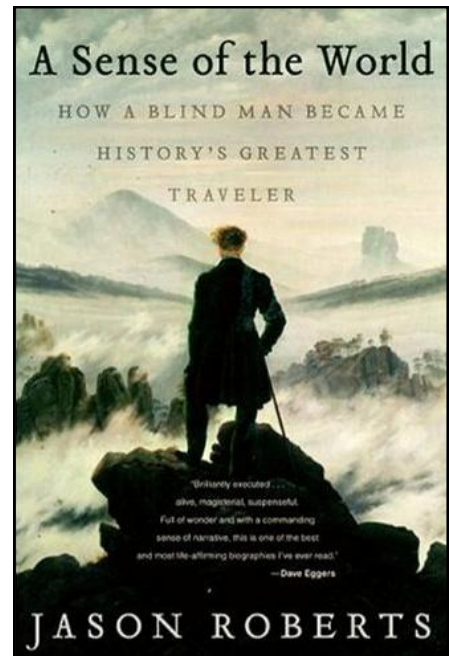
(also available at Eugene Public Library)

DO YOU THINK you're an avid traveler? Are you afflicted with wanderlust? Have your travels been curtailed due to physical problems? If so, you need to become acquainted with the extraordinary life of James Holman to appreciate what it really means to explore the world.

Born in Exeter, England, in 1786, Holman joined the British navy at the age of 12. By age 25 he lost his sight and left the navy. Blind, ill and nearly destitute, young Holman chose not to wallow in self-pity but to explore the world.

In the 19th century Holman, feted as "The Blind Traveler," traversed the globe and shared his exploits through popular travel narratives and memoirs. He journeyed more than 250,000 miles across five continents, encountered over 200 different cultures, and met a diverse collection of interesting personalities. He climbed Mt. Vesuvius during its 1821 eruption, trekked across most of Siberia, and hunted slave traders in Africa. These are just a few of his exploits.

Through careful research, biographer Jason Roberts presents a compelling story about one of history's great travelers. This book was written for people like the Obsidians.



Janet's Jottings:

Anniversaries, Walking Sticks...

LARRY AND ZOTTY CASH'S 65th wedding anniversary announcement in the Register Guard prompted a feature article in the "Pacific Crest Trail Communicator" magazine. Larry Cash, long time Obsidian and former Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Association President from 1986-1993 was instrumental in ensuring that the PCT's end points were marked with monuments. He received the PCTA Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997. For more information, visit their website: www.pcta.org

Have you seen **KATHY AND JIM FLOYD**'s walking sticks? Kathy's stick has many carved notations and symbols reflecting some of the best parts of her life. It reminds one of the alpenstock hanging in the lodge. Frank Alderson, a retired judge, makes the sticks out of maple, ash, or oak and sells them for \$45.00. All of the

money is donated to the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation. Frank has an amusing flyer answering some frequently asked questions, such as: How long will my stick last? Longer than you will! Do you use a walking stick yourself? Yep, except when I forget it. How much more money do you hope to raise? Depends on how long I stick around. Better order one now! I'm getting older you know. Stick Quote: Never be caught up the creek without your stick. Frank can be reached by email frald@aol.com or telephone, 541-484-2171 or 541-517-4311(cell).

WHERE IS HIDDEN LAKE? If you have been to one of several Hidden Lakes or even a Lost Lake in our state, could you provide some details? Send to bulletin@obsidians.org.

MARGARET PRENTICE gave the club a June 2, 1953 "Everest Climbed Sou-

venir Edition", which the London Times sold for four pence. Does anyone have an opinion how the club could make use of this? One suggestion was to sell it on EBay and give the money to the retaining wall fund.

RICK GROSSCUP, Obsidian member, is the owner of the Christian House at 170 E. 12th Ave., the oldest house in Eugene. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A photograph of Rick and the house appeared in the February 16th Register Guard. A few days later, Rick and his cherished house were on the late night news. We will need to include the house on one of the club's urban hikes.

The end of March and April is the beginning of a wildflower progression on the **RIDGELINE TRAIL**. Take time to hike the Amazon Headwaters Trail and the Ridgeline Trail to view the trilliums, fawn lilies, and calypso orchids.

FRANCES NEWSOM

January 27, 1906 – January 12, 2008



Frances at her 100th in 2006

FRANCES SUE SCHROEDER was born in Portland and raised in Canyon City, Oregon. Doing anything important required going somewhere else, so the travel bug bit Frances at an early age and often thereafter. Going to the big city meant a buggy ride to Prairie City, a narrow-gauge Sumpter Valley Railway train ride to Baker City, a hotel stay, and a ride on the Union Pacific. When roads improved a bit, the family would hop into the Dodge touring car and drive over Tygh Valley Grade to The Dalles and down to Portland. On the grade Frances and the girls would get out and grab rocks to chock the wheels in case



Frances and Jim, Hofbrauhaus, Munich, 1959

the Dodge stalled.

When Frances was 16, the whole family picked up stakes and moved to Eugene, to the house at 11th and Hilyard. Of course in those days Hilyard was a gravel street, but there were trolleys going by on 11th to Springfield and Fairmount Blvd.

Frances graduated from Eugene High School in 1924, and got her B.A. in botany at the University of Oregon in 1928. She taught science for a year at Ashland High School. In 1931 she married Jim Newsom from Prineville, who was a new M.D. They settled in Walla Walla and raised two boys, Jim, Jr., and Keith. In 1941, she and the boys moved back to the family home in Eugene, where she worked for the University of Oregon library. In the summers of 1948-50, she attended the University of Denver and got her M.A. in library science. She was then appointed head librarian of the U of O School of Architecture and Allied Arts, and served until she retired in 1972.

FRANCES NEVER LET any dust settle under her feet. She visited at least 49 countries on her many travels. When the boys were in Scouts, she was a Cub Scout den mother. When the boys joined the Obsidians and started hiking and climbing, she decided the only way she would see them on weekends was to go along. As a result she climbed seven peaks (Washington, North,



*From right: Frances, Gerry Fehly, Anne Connell
President's Tea, Banff Summer Camp, August 1956*

Middle and South Sisters, Broken Top, Diamond Peak, and Thielsen), and became Princess Alpine Phlox.

FRANCES WENT TO FOUR Obsidian summer camps – Glacier National Park in 1953, Mt. Hood in 1954, Banff in 1956, and Green Lakes in 1958. Through the years she took many hikes and bus trips. Over 57 years she participated in 221 Obsidian trips.

— *Keith Newsom*



*Frances and son, Keith
Atop North Sister, September 1953*

Editors Note: A feature cover story appeared in the February 2006 Obsidian Bulletin about Frances.

Letter to the Editor, The Register-Guard Feb. 15, 2008

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL are facing the issue of park bond spending which will in part determine the legacy their tenure will leave the future citizens of Eugene. Recent events have made clear they face the choice of essentially completing the South Ridgeline Trail and open space vision, or spending an equal amount of money to purchase two Amazon parcels of less than 80 acres total. While important and popular with some constituents, the Amazon properties would not contribute significantly in comparison to the other parcels that can be acquired.

With the amount of money now known to be required to purchase the Amazon properties, the city could protect several hundred acres of valuable habitat adjacent to the southern urban growth boundary and essentially complete the ridgeline trail from LCC to Fern Ridge. There are willing sellers and donors who are prepared to be a part of this vision.

Which legacy will they choose for future generations? Completing the vision of open space and public access for twenty plus miles along the south ridgeline, or focusing on two smaller purchases with value, but at an extremely dis-

proportionate price. My hope is they will make the choice that most benefits all of the future citizens of Eugene.

— John Winquist

Note from Janet Jacobsen: John Winquist and I both served on the South Ridgeline Habitat Study Task Force. John's concept of what might be possible in completing the ridgeline vision was gained from the task force, newspaper articles, and his work as a volunteer in soliciting support for the ridgeline trail and open space. He is happy to talk with people about what he thinks is possible, either by email, winquistj@lanec.edu or 541-344-1124. For another point of view, consider that the SRHS task force agree on three concerns in priority order: (1) Biodiversity (habitats) (2) Storm water (habitats with direct surface water) (3) Recreational Values (habitats that contribute to recreational experience) Sections of the two Amazon parcels (Beverly and Green) meet these priorities. For more information, see the South Ridgeline Habitat Study article in the February Bulletin or visit the project website at www.EugeneNR.org. These are tough decisions.

Climb School

(Continued from page 1)

into a crevasse, or over a cliff!”

“This class is a deal,” past Obsidian President Doug Nelson told me. “If you have ever wanted to climb mountains safely, this is the place to start. You can get the same instruction other places, but I guarantee that it won’t be better and it will cost you a lot more.” Doug, who is himself an accomplished climber and has led climbs for the Obsidians on every major mountain in Oregon, got his start with this same class, many years ago. “Like a lot of people, I just started with some of the easy mountains, little more than strenuous hiking. But there are not trails to the top of most mountains. I quickly realized that if I didn’t get some instruction, I would end up hurting myself.”

SUE SULLIVAN, ONE of the instructors in this year’s school, says the goal of the class is not to make students mountaineers. That takes years of climbing and apprenticeship. The goal is to give students a starting point so they can participate in alpine adventures with more experienced climbers

and take care of themselves. A graduate of the climb school will be able to participate in most of the climbs the Obsidians lead every year. Sue says, “A lot of people know the Mazamas in Portland or the Mountaineers in Washington, but they don’t associate the Obsidians with mountaineering. But the Obsidians have been involved in mountaineering since the 1920’s. If you look at the guidebooks and records of first ascents, you recognize a lot of Obsidian names. I am really honored to be a part of continuing that tradition.”

I PERSONALLY would recommend the class to anyone who enjoys hiking, backpacking, or cross-country skiing, which includes almost every Obsidian I know. Whether or not you aspire to anything more technical than an Oregon classic like the south side of South Sister, in late summer a “walk-up,” your awareness of the outdoors and what is safely possible for you will definitely expand. For me, it has led to adventures with Obsidians and friends on mountains as close as the Sisters and as far away as Nepal.

You might even become one of those who use what they learned about ropes and carabineers to transition into the fun and exciting world of modern rock

climbing. Your destination might soon be Smith Rock or a local crag as easily as the tall mountains of Oregon or Washington. Or you might soon be climbing with the goal of a ski descent. Your photos will show skis on your packs as well as crampons and an ice axe. As many graduates learn, this is not just a class of techniques and skills but a class of possibilities. You can build on what you learn here and use it as a passport to a world you can fill with your own adventures.

The class is divided between alpine rock climbing basics and snow/glacier travel, with many of the skills overlapping. There will be two Thursday evening sessions at the Obsidian Lodge, April 10 and April 17 at 7:00 PM. Each classroom session will be followed on the weekend by a full day outdoors. Saturday or Sunday, April 12 or 13 (students’ choice of days) the rock practice will be at Skinners Butte Columns. Saturday, April 19 the snow practice will be at Hoodoo Ski Bowl.

The fee this year is \$65.00 for Obsidians and \$75.00 for others. To register for the class or for more information, e-mail or call George Baitinger at baitinger4107@comcast.net 541-344-9345 in Eugene.

Soulmates At First Sight

By Pete Peterson



Bob and Zella on their honeymoon cruise to Alaska.

SUDDEN, POWERFUL LOVE SURPRISED Zella Andreski. After her husband died in their 43rd year together, she says, “I had absolutely no interest in remarrying.”

Those movies — showing mature people absolutely drawn together — well, they were silly and overly romanticized with “a lot of hoopla,” she thought.

Then, in the winter of 2005, when this former dancer and choreographer

yearned for exercise, she signed up for an excursion to Alsea Falls with the Obsidian hiking club, a trek that led her right to Bob Huntley.

Fellow hiker Huntley quickly noticed the volume of “essentials” Andreski had crammed in her backpack. “We both laughed,” she says. “It was the first time I had laughed with a gentleman since I had lost my husband.”

She knew instantly she was attracted to him. Huntley

agrees: “When we looked into each other’s eyes, well, I could tell something was going on.”

After the hike, Andreski, 65, “felt guilty” about her keen interest in Huntley, yet said to herself, “I could trust Bob’s soul.”

She says, weeks later, “When I saw that he was leading a hike north of Oakridge, I signed up.”

As they began dating, Huntley, 59, a divorcee, says he was clearly guarded. “By this age you can’t change too much. You have to find someone you’re comfortable with, and they have to be comfortable with you.”

Despite his cautiousness, the soft-spoken electric-motor repairman says, “I had to ask myself, ‘What’s the word for this feeling I have for Zella?’ All I could come up with was, ‘Love.’”

LAUGHING, NODDING AND SQUEEZING Zella’s hand, he says that “Once I made the decision to take this plunge, to give my heart to this woman, oh, it felt so good ... I’d been in love before, but I never felt like I had a soulmate.”

For their wedding reception last October in the Obsidian Lodge, they had “Soul Mates” scripted on their wedding cake.

Their story of sudden, dramatic love isn’t a silly movie romance. “This is a real love story,” says the former Zella Andreski, now happily known as Zella Huntley.

Pete Peterson is a freelance writer and Obsidian member. This story excerpted, with permission, from The Register Guard’s “Romance alive and well for couples over 50” appearing in the February 28, 2009 edition of “Our Generation”.

What a Relief!

DALLAS COLE IS HARD AT WORK sculpting, glazing, firing and doing all the many, many, many steps needed to make the Obsidians’ relief mural a reality. We anticipate installation at the Obsidian Lodge by late summer or early fall (a bit later than projected previously).

Dallas says of the picture shown at right, “The lighter portion has been through the bisque firing but not yet glazed. The part I’m working on is still in wet clay. There are other portions presently being glazed-fired.”

Your Funding Help Still Needed

There have been very few donations to help fund this project so far. I have received less than 10% of the potential \$4500 expected cost for materials and installation. Am I nearly alone in thinking this an incredible gift to the Obsidian Lodge from Dallas—she is donating her professional skills and artistry? If you would like to join in giving this gift by donating to the material and installation costs, please contact me at 343-8030 or johnwjacobsen@comcast.net.

— John Jacobsen



BOARD NOTES

March 5, 2008

By Laurie Funkhouser, Secretary

President Brian Hamilton called the meeting to order. The following members of the Board were present: Jim Duncan, Stewart Hoeg, Laurie Funkhouser, Wayne Deeter, Marshall Kandell, Anne McLucas, Jim Pierce and Barb Revere. Other members present were Liz Reanier, Scott Hovis, Chris Stockdale, Doug Nelson, Sharon Ritchie, Joella Ewing, Janet Jacobsen, and John Jacobsen.

The minutes of the February Board Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg requested and received Board approval for payment of the bills.

OLD BUSINESS

Family Outings Fees: Scott Hovis proposed that for the next year (until March 2009) the Family Outings Fee be \$1.00 per adult. With the proposed fee, families would be less likely to be restricted by finances. The Board APPROVED the proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Payment of Federation of Western Outdoors Club dues (\$50): The Board APPROVED payment.

Proposed Pay Off of Endowment

Loan: Stewart Hoeg requested approval by the Board to pay off the Endowment Loan which is \$7,827.98. In addition, the 2007 income from dividends and interest would remain in the Endowment Fund. Finally, reclassify \$9,000 in General Fund checking to the Contingency Fund. The Board APPROVED the proposals.

Proposal to Rename the Contingency Fund to Contingency and Capital

Fund: Stewart proposed the name change to more accurately reflect the use of the Fund. The Board APPROVED the proposal.

Obsidian Membership Survey: Tabled until next meeting.

Long Range Planning Meeting: Followed the regular Board meeting. Marshall Kandell will provide a summary of the Planning session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Barb Revere): Currently 36 trips have been posted on the calendar which involves 18 leaders and includes 11 bike trips, 1 bird/bike and 23 hikes. The self-scheduling is continuing through March 15th. From March 16 through 31, committee members will contact leaders. The schedule will be posted on-line in early April and published in the April Bulletin.

Winter Trips (Jim Pierce): Thirty-four trips have been completed this season – 10 hikes and 24 x-country ski or snow shoe trips with a total of 276 participants (227 members and 49 non-members) and fees of \$432.00. Ten trips have been canceled and 4 rescheduled.

Climbs (Larry Huff): The climbs committee has set the dates, contact and registration information for climb school on the climbs link on the home page. The climb schedule is still in a preliminary stage. We have got the okay from Roger Bailey to use the River House climbing gear for school. We have entered into a deal with Backcountry gear store to offer students climbing gear packages. We are also working out the details to bring discounts to all the Obsidian membership.

By-Ways-By-Bus (Liz Reanier): The Rally on February 24th was successful! The WW II Camp Adair Trip should be interesting as members were directly involved in the Camp. The Southwest Oregon trip may be canceled. A sub-committee of three is looking at revising finance forms, duties, descriptions, etc.

Summer Camp (John Jacobsen): Plans continue to move forward for Camp Hamilton up the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River near Sawtooth. A meeting was held on February 28th to assess and begin repair/upgrading damaged equipment. In addition, began discussions for scouting of Summary Camp 2009 and seeking camp bosses. The Summer Camp Rally is scheduled for the next potluck – March 28th – with registration beginning at that time with the insert in the March Bulletin.

Extended Trips (Jim Duncan): The committee met on February 12. The following trips have been placed on the

calendar for 2008: (1) Lana Lindstrom will lead a Columbia Gorge Waterfalls and Wildflowers trip, June 4 – 6 at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center. Details will appear in the March Bulletin. (2) Jim Duncan will lead a Lewis and Clark History trip, October 3-5 at Fort Columbia State. Details will appear in a later Bulletin. The committee has received commitments from leaders for two trips in 2009.

Publication: Still seeking a Chair. Have continued publishing a 20 page Bulletin!

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): Kevin McManigal's Polar Bear presentation had a crowd of approximately 47 individuals. The next program is Camp Hamilton Summer Camp Rally.

Science and Education (Joella Ewing): 23 people attended the February program and \$23.00 was collected. The March 18th program will be Jay Linninger of Cascadia Wildlands Project discussing the the BLM Forest Policy Revisions.

Membership (Julie Dorland): Current membership is 557. There are no new applicants but two reinstated members.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): A \$20,000 CD with Umpqua Bank was opened.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All on-line reports have been recorded.

Lodge Building (Brian Hamilton): Propane consumption by the entry-way stove is averaging 10 gallons per month. The pilot light consumes approximately 8 gallons. The cost is approaching \$4.00 per gallon. Committee is considering turning off the pilot light between meetings but will need to train members on how to relight the pilot light.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): The committee met on February 21 to spruce up the grounds before the potluck. Thanks to Pat Adams, Jim Floyd, John Jacobsen, Darlene Mancusco, Dave Predeek and Martha Welches. Pat continues to work on the oak habitat restoration. Negotiations to swap the Summer Camp trailer for tree falling is in progress.

Safety (Doug Nelson): Looking to have a first aid program in May.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Snow Shoe Trips

Potato Hill

January 26, 2008

Leader: Scott Hovis

5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Difficult)

THERE WAS ENOUGH new snow that we had to break trail a lot. Towards the top it got fairly windy and cold but as soon as we dropped down it made a big difference. If you want to leave the crowds at Ray Benson this sno park only a few miles away is the place to go. Members: Brad Bennett, Scott Hovis, Pat Hutchins and Elle Weaver.

Mile Post 42

February 2, 2008

Leader: Jim Pierce

1 mile, 150 ft. (Easy)

DA DETERMINED DOZEN defied daunting drifts. The schedule called for Diamond Creek Falls at Salt Creek Falls, but the snowy forecast changed the plans to Eagle Creek Road. Icy roads, poor traction and being chain-challenged forced one couple to give up. The rest of us retreated to a parking spot at around 2000 feet elevation near Mile Post 42, just six miles beyond Green Waters Park. There was no trail, but we found an old, overgrown logging road. The "easy" snowshoe trip became challenging as we waded through a foot of new snow. We knocked the wet whiteness off saplings as we weaved through the obstacle course. There were also numerous fallen trees to climb over, under and around. It was a short and fun adventure. Newly-minted members Richard and Margaret Essenberg showed us how "bear paw" snowshoes work. Thanks to Jim F., Brad and Jim P. for driving through the ice. Thanks to Myriah and Walt for breaking trail and finding the way through the maze. Completing the outing through the wet winter wonderland were nonmembers Myriah Marsh and Charlene Pierce, and members Walt Dolliver, Richard and Margaret Essenberg, Jim and Kathleen Floyd, Bonnie Richman, Lynne Tracy and leader Jim Pierce.

Rosary Lakes

February 16, 2008

Leader: Matthew Bell

Photo: Brad Bennett

8 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

THE SAYING GOES that the early bird gets the worm. In this case the early Obsidians got the PCT to Rosary Lakes all to themselves on the way in, due to our early start. Being the first ones up the trail had the added benefit of allowing us to see that earlier that morning an elk had used the trail. We surmised that the elk used the trail because it didn't post-hole with every step as it had in the snow leading to and from the trail. The first people we saw were a wayward snowboarder and skier from the ski area who came down to Upper Rosary Lake by mistake. On our way back to Willamette Pass we came across various groups of cross-country skiers and snowshoers on their way up to the lakes. The weather was perfect, with barely a cloud in the sky, affording us unobstructed views of Pulpit Rock and Maiden Peak. Since no snow had fallen recently the trail was fairly crusty which made for pretty easy going up to the lakes. Members Matthew Bell, Brad Bennett, Marianne Camp, Jim Floyd and Kathleen Floyd participated.



Ski Trips

Lakeview Mountain

January 27, 2008

Leader: John Hegg

10 miles, 2,200 ft. (Difficult)

WITH A FRESH ACCUMULATION of snow on the ground in Eugene and more on the way, four members of our group drove toward the pass, stopping in Oakridge to rendezvous with two additional skiers. From the Crescent Lake Sno-Park, our group of now six skiers broke trail through freshly-fallen snow to Fawn Lake. We then continued cross country up toward Stag Lake and ascended the higher ridge south of the lake. As we approached the steeper flanks of this southeast ridge of Lakeview Mountain, we attached climbing skins and started the ascent, switchbacking steadily on up the ridge to avoid the steeper drop offs through ever deepening accumulations of new dry snow. Alternating the arduous job of trail breaking often, the group pushed on higher up the slope encountering increasingly deepening snow



Last look at Pulpit Rock on the way home from Rosary Lakes. February 16 snow shoe trip. Matt, Marianne, Brad, Kathleen & Jim

conditions. As the top of the ridge neared, faint glimpses of the mountain itself appeared through the clouds and blowing snow. With time pressing, and considering the long distance to the car, the group decided to head back. The return ski down gave the opportunity for some dramatic downhill telemark turns through fresh powder on the steep tree lined ridge above Stag Lake. Getting back to the parking lot fulfilled a long day of good skiing and good company. Skiers were: Rich Anselmo, Jan Anselmo, Deb Carver, John Hegg (Trip Leader), Sam Miller, and Harold Thompson (all members).

Fuji Shelter

January 27, 2008

Leader: Laurie Funkhouser

9 miles, 1,500 ft. (Difficult)

LEAVING AT 8:00 IN THE MORNING, the crew had snow falling the entire way, except for a short time near Oakridge. We parked at Gold Lake, gathered gear, shuttled one vehicle to Salt Creek Falls and headed up the trail to the lake with the watch showing 11:00. After Gold Lake, the trail headed uphill to the ridge. The snow was fresh and fluffy but made for some gripping problems, so Mary and Laurie swapped a ski which gave one to glide and one to brake! Susan and Dave were the strong legs that broke trail and had sharp eyes to find the blue diamonds. Once up the hill, the trail traversed the ridge winding up and down and around heavily snow-laden trees to the infamous downhill road. Ah! Due to the lateness of the day and continued snowfall, we opted to not visit the shelter and continue the downhill ride to Salt Creek. We had a great time with the challenge and as Bea said, "We all functioned exceptionally well as a group." Thank you! The group included members Susan Wanser, Brian Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Becky Lipton, Bea Fontana and Laurie Funkhouser, and nonmember Dave Jensen.

Rosary Lakes

February 9, 2008

Leader: Brian Hamilton

5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

FIVE OF US TOOK OFF from Willamette Pass Ski Area and immediately encountered an icy trail and hard-crusting snow. The ice was slick enough that Mary

couldn't get enough traction with her skis and decided to ski closer to the lodge. After a long cold stretch, this was one of the first days of a change to warmer weather. As the temperature rose, snow that had collected on the boughs above began dropping all around us, breaking branches on the way down and landing with loud "harrumphs." The sun was out all day, yet under any tree it was like being in a drizzling rain. When we reached Lower Rosary Lake, we chose the north, sunny side to take a break away from the trees and eat our lunches. The snow on the trail had softened enough by afternoon that we had more control of our skis on the trip back down than on the icy trip up. We were still plagued with near misses by snow bombs, but luckily no one was hit. We met Mary back at the trailhead and all five of us had a pleasant ride back to Eugene in one vehicle. Skiers were Obsidians Laurie Funkhouser, Mary Hamilton, Carol Petty, Clare Tucker, and leader Brian Hamilton.

Little Odell Butte

February 10, 2008

Leader: Laurie Funkhouser

8 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

OVERCAST SKIES DID NOT DETER the eleven adventuresome cross-country skiers from gathering at SEHS, loading into three cars and heading up Highway 58. We arrived at the "wide spot in the road" which is the entrance to Road 6020 at about 10:00 and were on the trail by 10:15. We took Road 6020 for about 1.5 miles, then at the small blue "Butte" sign on the right veered towards uncharted territory. Chris marked his GPS, Mari checked the compass and we all consulted the map to determine the direction to head – west! Chris bushwhacked us around and up the Little Odell Butte to reach a road (!) which apparently IS the trail. The skiing became easier on the road and we made a perfect single track up and around the Butte. As we neared the top of the Butte, we weaved through small trees to reach an open area to have lunch – close to noon - with a view of the immediate area. Mari and Dave continued to the top (less than a half-dozen zigzags away), followed shortly by Chris, Jesse (on skate skies) and Doug, followed by Lubos (with one pole – broke the other in two), Chrissy and Susan. Bea, Charlie and Laurie were content to be

"that close" to the top. Of course, the trip down was much faster with a steady descent and a few trees/bumps to maneuver. We returned on virtually the same route with just a little less bushwhacking. Our fun group consisted of members Mari Baldwin, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Chrissy Anderson, Susan Wanser, Bea Fontana, Jesse Rapp, Charlie VanDeusen, Chris Steele, Doug McCarty and Laurie Funkhouser, and nonmember Dave Jensen.

Paulina Lake Lodge

Newberry Crater

February 17, 2008

Leader: Beatrice Fontana

Photo: Sheridan Caulley

7 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

OUR CAR-FULL OF SKIERS headed for eastern Oregon via Willamette Pass, shortly after 7:00 a.m. We passed a car/pickup wreck in the process of being cleared below Oakridge, but, other than that, found road conditions to be manageable and mostly clear. Thanks to Jane and Roy for your careful driving. We pulled into the 10-mile SnoPark at about ten and were headed up the Nordic trail by about 10:30 a.m. It had been nine years since Jane and I had been over the trail. (I had every intention of scouting it ahead of time, but recent road conditions prevented that.)

The trail was well-marked and had been traveled by multiple skiers since the last new snow a week earlier. We found that parts of the trail have been re-routed. That, and the fact that trees grow a lot in nine years, made it difficult to recognize exactly where along the trail we were some of the time. Also, the viewpoint of Mt. Jefferson and peaks to the north seems to have been on a part of the trail that has since been re-routed, which was annoying. We got up to the Lodge at about 1:00 p.m. Jon suggested that sitting at the end of the dock, out on the frozen lake, looked like a good way to distance ourselves from the snowmobiles in the lodge parking area. It turned out to be an excellent choice.

The day was sunny and almost windless. The snowmobilers finally snarled their way out of earshot, and we were left to enjoy the wide vistas of Newberry Crater and Paulina Peak. Some camp robbers found us and provided lunchtime entertainment; we found they really like raw almonds. After lunch we just had to



*Lunch on the dock at Paulina Lake.
Jon, Bea, Jane's arm (!), Roy's legs (!), with resort area in the background.*

go inside the restaurant and sample the apple cobbler. Sheridan tested the coffee, and pronounced it "not bad."

After a brief consultation, we decided that none of us relished the idea of skiing back down the trail. The lack of new snow and previous traffic had created icy ruts that, despite the pleasant air temperature, never softened up to the point that the going became easy. We headed down to view Paulina Creek Falls and found it in all its winter glory. This winter's deep snow left only about twelve inches of the guardrail protruding on the viewing platform, and completely covered the rail in other places. We approached the precipice on foot, with extreme caution, poles in hand.

The run back down to the car via the main the road was a lot of fun. Sheridan suggested that perhaps we needed just one snowmobile so that we could go back up and do it again...n-a-a-a-a. We headed for home shortly after 4 p.m. and arrived back at SEHS after dark, tired but smiling. The five participants were members Bea Fontana, Jane Hackett and Royal Murdock and nonmembers Sheridan Caulley and Jon Tesdell.

Midnight Lake
February 18, 2008
Leader: Glen Svendsen
6 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

OBSIDIANS Mary Hamilton, Carol Petty

and Glen Svendsen enjoyed a trip to Midnight Lake on a relatively warm and sunny President's Day. We left the Gold Lake Snow Park about 10:00, heading to Pengra Pass. Although the plan was to ski up the Pacific Crest Trail, the icy, rutted condition of the PCT in the shade of the trees persuaded the group to take the shortcut back to the Bechtel trail. We also found that the "winter" trail between Bechtel and Midnight Lake went by a frozen pond that is a little off the usual trail, causing Glen some momentary confusion over which was the "real" pond near the junction of the PCT and Midnight Lake Trail! After a lunch overlooking Midnight Lake, using the remains of an igloo for a lunchroom, the group had some fun runs down the trail, arriving back at the Snow Park about 2:30.

Circle Lake Trail
February 24, 2008
Leader: Laurie Funkhouser
10 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

WE HAD A GREAT DAY! The crew of nine Obsidians— Dick Hildreth, Susan Wanser, Chrissy Anderson, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Bea Fontana, Sue Wolling, Dave Jensen, Pat Hutchins and Laurie Funkhouser — arrived at Ray Benson/Hoodoo at about 10:00 a.m. surrounded by light snow flurries. We geared up and

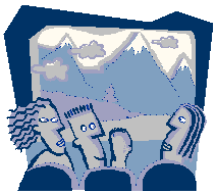
climbed the six-plus-foot wall of snow to start on our adventure. We started out on the North Loop Circle Trail and stopped at the North Blowout shelter which was virtually buried by snow! After a snack, Dick led us bushwhacking to Circle Lake and reconnected with Circle Lake Trail. With 4-6 inches of new snow, it was a great ski day, so we continued to the Island Junction Shelter where Pat and Bea had success in building a fire in the stove and let us lunch in warmth, which was greatly appreciated. The sun flirted with the clouds as we continued on Circle Lake Trail and headed to Brandenburg Shelter and another stop which included picture taking. Then onward to the South Loop and back to the Ray Benson Snow-Park. Gentle snowfall almost the entire trip, met less than a half-dozen people, temperature about 30-32 plus a fun crew made for an excellent trip.



Hikes

Row River Trail
February 15, 2008
Leader: Sandra Larsen
11 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

NINE HAPPY HIKERS left Eugene under cloudy, foggy conditions, arriving at the Mosby Creek trailhead with sunny skies but chilly temperatures. Our group made the 5.3 miles to Harms Park in one hour and 45 minutes, accompanied by a canine companion who was with us all the way. After lunch and a brief rest in the sunshine, we returned by the same route, with the dog returning to his home as we continued to the parking lot. We didn't see much in the way of wildlife except for cows, horses, mules and chickens as we passed various farms at the beginning of the hike. Dorena Lake is much prettier in the summer when the lake is full. At this time of year it is partially drained for flood control. This trip was rescheduled from the previous week and we had much better weather conditions on Friday (Feb. 15). Members: Dan Christensen, Walt Dolliver, Kathleen Floyd, Sandra Larsen, Sue Meyers, Lynne Moody, Bill Rodgers and Elle Weaver; nonmember: Bonnie Saur.



Kevin McManigal's "Polar Bears in Churchill"

By Lou Maenz

IN THE FALL OF 2007, Kevin McManigal and family traveled to Churchill, Manitoba, to see polar bears. His slides and description of the trip were delightful and informative. This was not the slick show of a professionally created TV nature series or a *National Geographic* magazine, and was all the better because of it.

The McManigals flew to Winnipeg and boarded the train, the very, very slow train, which took them north to Churchill on the cusp of Hudson's Bay. There is nothing between Winnipeg and Churchill except the small town of Thompson (about two thirds of the way and where the car road ends) and a vast landscape of boreal forest and muskeg bogs. Kevin treated us to a couple of almost sepia toned slides depicting graphically just how cold and desolate these icy November reaches were.

At the end of the train line, the town of Churchill was snow blown and barren. It was a collection of one and two story frame structures scattered about seemingly willy-nilly on the tundra with a few restaurants, a few hotels and

stores, a supply of bars, and a grain elevator. It looked cold, and it was. According to Kevin the temperature hovered around zero.

NOVEMBER, THE TIME of McManigal's trip, is the when ice begins forming on Churchill Bay. This is what the bears have awaited throughout summer. As the temperatures fall and ice rime begins forming on the edges of the bay, the bears leave the bush and congregate at the edge of the tundra to wait. Few polar bears enter the town. There is no reason to. It is the coming ice and hunting season they are awaiting. Their hope is for a hunting season that will be long and rich enough to supply the four inches of fat they must have to keep warm when not on land.

Interestingly, the polar bears of Churchill have adapted to the summer ice melt and den during the summer while maintaining a form of walking hibernation. This is particularly fascinating if you consider that southern bears den in the winter.

In order to view the bears waiting at the edge of the bay, the McManigals

took a day trip on a tundra buggy. This large snow cat type excursion vehicle drives out on the frozen tundra looking for the bears. They were lucky. There were polar bears galore. Because of this, we were treated to panoply of stunning photos, polar bear after polar bear, sitting, standing, walking and one that was winking. They seemed big enough and close enough to touch. Tucked in with these were two charming pictures of ptarmigans almost invisible in the snow.

AFTER THE ADVENTURE of seeing hundreds of polar bears, they headed back to town, spent another night at Vera's Bed and Breakfast, and got back on the pokey train to Winnipeg.

One thing Kevin wishes us to consider: global warming is putting these bears into extreme danger. Because of temperature change, the slightly later freeze and slightly earlier thaw that will occur could deprive them of a month or more of hunting. They will not survive if this happens.

Thank you, Kevin, for an educational and enjoyable evening.



From the Obsidian Archives:

The Obsidian • March 1947

LOOKING BACK 60 YEARS we find the Obsidians very busy. Plans are underway for Summer Camp (or the Summer Outing as it was called then) at Husband Lake — cost for 2 weeks: \$40. The club furnishes some tents for folks. They suggest that the nights might be cold so bring an extra blanket.

The week long Winter Outing was about to kick off at the Mazama Lodge on Mt. Hood on March 24th. Cost was \$22, which covered lodging and meals, but not transportation which was an additional \$4. Ski instruction will be available each morning. The evenings will be given over to dancing and resting.

The Climbing Committee has just completed their first Obsidian Mountaineering School at the end of January. Eighty-five people turned out including current member Bob Moffitt, as did Willi Unsoeld, who would be in the first American party to climb Mt. Everest in 1963. It appears the school focused on knot tying and then a slide show of Cascade peaks. The 1948 climb schedule listed 14 climbs.

Monthly camera meetings were being held for members to share their pictures and trade tips and advice. Social walks seemed to be in vogue. An ice skating party in January drew about 60 people. The Valentine Box Social in February was enjoyed by 18 members and their friends at the Obsidian cabin.

— John Jacobsen

UPCOMING

Columbia Gorge Waterfalls and Wildflowers

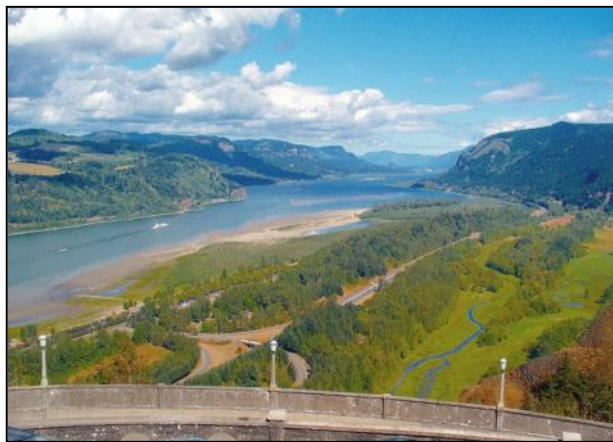
HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO EXPLORE the waterfalls in the Columbia Gorge or hike Dog Mountain, but just haven't found the energy to plan an overnight trip? Here's your opportunity to do so with other Obsidians!

Lana Lindstrom is leading an Obsidian extended trip on Wednesday, June 4 to Friday, June 6, staying at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett. This beautiful not-for-profit facility sits on a bluff above the Columbia River, 25 miles from downtown Portland and two miles west of Crown Point Vista House. Trails cover much of the 100 acres. It's a quiet, peaceful setting with delicious family style meals.

We'll explore nearby trails and waterfalls and hike to the top of Dog Mountain (Washington side) where spectacular views overlooking the Columbia will reward us. Wildflowers should be at their peak. Or if you prefer, you can just hang out at Menucha.

The Details

Accommodations: We'll be in two separate buildings (Beam and Boyd), each of which has rooms with either double or single beds. There will be two persons in most rooms, and three in a few rooms. Bathrooms are shared. Beam Building has two large rooms to lounge around in or play cards or games. See: <http://www.menucha.org>.



Meals: Breakfasts and dinners are served family style; we'll make our own lunches to take with us on our hikes. Six meals are included, starting with dinner on Wednesday night and ending with a sack lunch for Friday. We'll take turns serving breakfasts and dinners.

Pre-trip meeting: Thursday, May 15, 7:00 PM at the Lodge.

Cost per person: \$145 for the accommodations and 6 meals.

Maximum participants: 20

Rose Festival: The Portland Rose Festival (www.rosefestival.org) has several events during our stay, culminating in the Grand Floral Parade and Dragon Boat Race on Saturday. You may want to consider reserving a hotel in Portland for Friday night.

To reserve your place, send a *non-refundable* check payable to Obsidians for \$15 to Lana Lindstrom, P.O. Box 5506, Eugene, OR 97405 by March 31. The balance will be due no later than May 5. If you want to share a room with someone, include their name with your check. *Note:* We are charged per building, not per person. I anticipate that this trip will sell out quickly; however, if there are significantly fewer sign-ups than anticipated, the cost will increase slightly.

— Lana Lindstrom

Global Warming: Changing Course

FEEL OVERWHELMED AND HOPELESS reading about disappearing islands, polar bears, and weird weather? Want to meet with like-minded folks, sip tea, and explore your role in climate changes? It's up to us to transition to a life-sustaining planet - think "butterfly effect"!

The Conservation Committee is sponsoring another Northwest Earth Institute class (www.nwei.org). Participants in the previous classes have enjoyed both the small discussion groups and figuring out our place and impact on this planet.

Global Warming: Changing CO₂ course is a *four-session* course exploring the history and science of global warming, personal values and habits as they relate to climate change, and personal actions to curb the effects of global warming. The class will begin in mid-April and meet at a mutually convenient time. The cost is \$20 per person for the reading

material provided by NWEI.

Topics Covered:

1. **Off Course:** Communities around the world are experiencing the effects of global warming. We will explore why society has been slow to respond.
2. **Collision Course:** This session breaks down the history and science of global climate change and identifies our participation.
3. **Changing Course:** There are accessible and significant actions we can each take to change course.
4. **Setting a New Course:** We'll explore our individual and collective power to create a sustainable future.

To sign-up, e-mail or call Lana Lindstrom at лана_lindstrom@hotmail.com, 683-1409 by March 31.

— Stephen Brander

March Into Spring

Sun., Mar. 16 – South Eugene Nature Walk – *Hike, easy*. This 4-mile walk, in a forested area of West Eugene's Churchill neighborhood, is one of leader Joanne Ledet's favorite walks. Your route will follow road, forest and creek-side. Negligible elevation gain.

Same Day (Mar. 16) – Alton Baker Bike Trail – *Hike, easy*. This trip, led by Ruth Romoser, travels along the river where ospreys have recently returned to nest. At this early date, the river should be running high and the crowds will be thin. Plan to do this hike with friends and then stop for a bite or a sip at one of the nearby cafes on your way home. Five miles and little elevation gain for this in-town trip.

Tue., Mar. 18 – McKenzie Bridge to Belknap Resort – *Hike, moderate*. If soaking in a 102-degree pool sounds good, this is the hike for you! We'll walk 4 miles along the McKenzie River Trail to the resort for lunch (BYO. The resort kitchen serves only hotel guests). Besides the 102-degree pool, options at the resort include wandering the gardens, reading, and napping in the resort lobby. We return on the same deeply wooded trail. One writer calls this section along the McKenzie River the "most scenic" segment of the entire 27-mile trail. Best of all, we'll let Lane Transit do the driving. Barb Revere leads this 8-mile hike with ~300ft elevation gain.

Thurs., Mar. 20 – Lils Lake – *X-Ski, difficult*. On the first full day of spring, this trip follows the Pacific Crest Trail to Lils Lake after first passing Midnight, Arrowhead and Hidden Lakes. In summertime, hikers must bushwhack to Lils Lake, but if the snow holds, you and leader Wayne Deeter will be able to ski over all the brush. Beautiful woody area, good weather and good company should make this

a memorable trip. Eleven plus miles and 1400 feet of elevation gain earn this trip a *difficult* rating.

Sat., Mar. 29 – Sand Mountain – *X-Ski, difficult*. This ancient crater stands midst the lava flows of the Santiam Pass area. A 1967 forest fire opened its slopes, providing many opportunities for skiing to and from the restored lookout tower at the top. Led by Bill Johnson, this trip will test your back-country skills and provide a change from the usual snopark crowds. Rated difficult, this trip covers about 10 miles, with appreciable elevation gain.

Tues., Apr. 1 – Amazon Creek Headwaters – *hike, easy*. Leader Janet Jacobsen says this 3-mile walk, with 500 ft. of climbing, is a great trip for local wildflowers. Expect some mud, but volunteers have made many improvements in recent years, so the trail is in good condition. Kudos to Obsid-

ian Trail Maintenance Crews! Boots recommended but not required.

Wed., Apr. 2 – Spencer Butte from Amazon Headwaters Trail Head – *hike, moderate*. Ditto everything from Janet's Apr. 1st hike. This has 1800 ft. of climbing and a 360 view from Eugene's southern most and highest butte. Jane Hackett leads this more challenging trip.

Sat., Apr. 5 – Talking Stones – *hike, easy*. An informative and interesting local walk, featuring the Willamut carved stones commemorating native history. Wildflowers? You betcha! Janet Jacobsen and Rick Ahrens lead this 5.5-mile hike along the river.

Wed., Apr. 9 – Ridgeline Trail – *hike, moderate*. Janet Jacobsen and Jane Hackett lead this shuttle hike along Eugene's beautiful south hills trail. Boots are recommended and wildflowers are expected. Roughly five and half miles and 1500 ft of climbing.

Sat., Apr. 12 – Orchard Point – *Bike, easy*. Your destination point is the north end of Fern Ridge Reservoir, but the real reason to take this trip is all the lovely scenery you'll see on the ride itself. Touring some of the nicest farmland in the Willamette Valley, you'll take several back roads west out of Eugene before arriving at the dam that was built by the Army Corps. of Engineers in 1941. This is a good place to keep an eye out for resident and migratory birds, so bring binoculars and your birding guide. Led by Sharon Ritchie.

Park your vehicles and reduce your carbon footprint! Anyway you look at it there is a lot of great walking right here in Eugene-Springfield. Of the nine hikes featured in this month's column, six are local, with only a little driving required, and one of the out-of-town trips takes an LTD bus to the trailhead.



On Spencer Butte - Photo by Rick Ahrens

“ I Love To Go A-wandering”

By Barb Revere

*“I love to go a-wandering
Along the mountain track,
And as I go, I love to sing,
My knapsack on my back.”*

BUT WAIT! Before any of you wacky wanderers go heading out for the trail, we need to put some hikes on the schedule, and March is the time to do it. Not for long will the trails be muddy. Not for long will the skies drip all day, nor the snow cover the trails.

It is true that for the past couple of weeks leaders have been sending in their trips by email to summer-trips@obsidians.org, but we know there are procrastinators out there. And we know we haven't nearly filled out the schedule. We are still looking for dozens, maybe hundreds of trips to fill in the season's schedule.

And the paucity of trips on the fall



schedule would shame the lederhosen off Bud Clark.

But all is not lost because Summer Trips Committee has a sure-fire cure for those who would “put off until tomorrow”: a handpicked crew of VPPs (very persistent people) has your email

addresses and phone numbers and they are about to pounce. So expect to be contacted, starting yesterday. Remember we need the trip title, the date, elevation gain and mileage for each trip.

If you can't commit this early, don't worry. Trips are accepted and put on the schedule throughout the entire season, April 1 through November 15. But please do send your trips in, so we can all have lots of choices when the air warms up and the wanderlust sets in.

At Summer Trips, our motto is: “No trip too short, too steep, nor too long, and no trip is ever refused”

*“High overhead, the skylarks wing,
They never rest at home
But just like me, they love to sing,
As o'er(Oregon) we roam.”*

“The Happy Wanderer” lyrics by Antonia Ridge



Upcoming Bus Trips

Newly Discovered Cottage Grove

Date: March 27 - Thursday

Leaders: Mary Ellen West & Ray Jensen

Cost: \$44 Members, \$46 Non Members

Reservations and checks to: Janet Speelman 344-3019

WE WILL TRAVEL THE BACKROADS around Fern Ridge and Territorial Road, with our pastry-coffee stop (included) at OUR DAILY BREAD in Veneta. We will visit both the new and old Cottage Grove. New is the rejuvenated Village Green, and the surrounding gardens, a real show place. Cindy, their designer-gardener, will lead our tour. We will stay at the resort for lunch (your cost). Our afternoon schedule will include a visit to the Territorial Seed Co. test gardens, plus a guided tour of historic Cottage Grove, with a stop at the 1886 Dr. Snapp House.

Remembering Camp Adair - WW II

Date: April 15 - Tuesday

Leaders: Mary Ellen West & Ray Jensen

Cost: \$43 Members, \$45 Non-Members

Reservations and checks to: Barbara Payne - 746-1964

WE ARE PRIVILEGED to have as our guide, John Baker, author of "Camp Adair, The Story Of A World War II Cantonment" This book, now in its fifth printing, retraces the stories of some 125,000 soldiers and Four Infantry Divisions that trained here. Between 1942-1944, this was the second largest city in Oregon, and is now its largest ghost town.

We will also visit museums in Linn, Polk and Benton Counties, all with Camp Adair artifacts. We will explore the army site six miles north of Corvallis, which Mr. Baker described as hallowed ground. There will be many fascinating stories. Bring your own picnic lunch.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS



FWOC

Wilderness Conference 2008 "Wilderness in a Time of Change"

April 3-5, 2008

The Mountaineers Building
300 Third Ave West
Seattle, Washington

The 2008 Conference "Wilderness in a Time of Change" will include speakers on the impact of climate change on wilderness, why wilderness protection is important now, endangered species preservation and the political realities in Washington, D.C. There also will be programs on building coalitions for wilderness and working with media.

For more information and registration forms, go to the FWOC website:

www.wilderness2008.org



Mt. Pisgah

Spring 2008 Education Events

www.efn.org/~mtpisgah

All Events take place at Mount Pisgah Arboretum, 34901 Frank Parrish Rd., Eugene, 97405. Located off I-5 Exit 189, 15 minutes southeast of Eugene. Call (541) 747-1504 for additional information and to sign up.

Map & Compass Navigation Sunday, March 16, 1-5pm

If you've ever wanted to take a detour off-trail without fear of becoming a local news item, then this introduction to map and compass navigation is a great starting point! Instructor Kori Wanner will introduce map and compass basics, such as reading a map, taking a compass bearing, and following a compass bearing in the field.

Spring Equinox Wine Tasting Hike Wednesday, March 19, 6-8pm

Celebrate the Vernal Equinox and welcome spring with a hike to the top of Mount Pisgah, and then sample delicious

local wines at the peak!

Elder Walk

Saturday, March 29, 10-12am

Join Nature Guide Harold Schyberg and other nature-loving seniors on a guided ecology walk along the Arboretum's blooming trails.

Travel Photography Workshop

Saturday, March 29, 1-4pm

Follow-up Sunday, April 6, 1-3pm

Before you take off on vacation this summer, join photographer David Stone and learn to bring back photos that tell a compelling story of your travels. The first instructional session will end with an assignment to practice the techniques taught. In the follow-up session, bring your images for evaluation and further instruction. Film and digital cameras welcome.

Plant Dyes Workshop

Sunday, March 30, 1-4pm

Fiber artist Barbara Setsu Pickett shares her approach to natural dyeing, using low-impact methods mindful of water and chemical use. Learn to dye fabric and fibers using invasive plants and debris from your garden!

Eat Your Weeds

Saturday, April 5, 1-3pm

In this fun and interactive workshop, herbalist Sue Sierralupé will lead students on a journey through nature's grocery store. Delight your palates with dandelion/chicory coffee, nettle-herb pasta sauce, wild weed rice, and more. Lunch is included in this class!

Early Bird Walk

Saturday, April 12, 8-10am

Enjoy the morning chorus on this early walk. Experienced birders Dick Lamster & Maeve Sowles help you identify and appreciate the Arboretum's many feathered friends.

Trees, Forests, Ecosystems: Hike, Observe, and Discover

Saturday, April 12, 10am-noon

Take a guided hike and visit the plant communities at the Arboretum! Observations at each stop will help participants discover important vegetation features and ecological characteristics.

Talkin' Rocks Geology Walk

Saturday, April 12, 1-3pm

The history of the Willamette Valley and surrounding hills lies below the living layer of grasses and trees at Mount Pisgah. Explore the rocks and soil that form the foundation of this area on this walk with geologist Todd LaMaskin.

Kids Work for the Earth

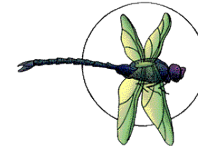
Sunday, April 13, 1-4pm

Get ready for Earth Day at Mount Pisgah Arboretum! Kids age 5 and up will plant baby oak trees with Arboretum staff and nature guides, and learn about the relationships between trees and animals, plants, and humans.

Early Bird Walk

Saturday, April 19, 8-10am

Enjoy the morning chorus on this early walk. Experienced birder Davey Wendt will be your guide as the spring migration brings warblers to the Arboretum.



Nearby Nature

Spring Break Day Camp

March 24-28, 8:30am-3:00pm

Spring Wings and Crawly Things! Go on an insect patrol! Explore meadows, look under logs, and pond dip to discover all that swims, crawls, and flies in Alton Baker Park.

Spring is Here! Work Party

Saturday, April 5, 10am-2pm

Dress for the weather! We'll provide gloves and tools.

No School Day Adventure

Friday, April 11

Color Crazy! How do colors and markings help animals survive in the wild? Why are so many animals brightly colored? Answer these questions and more as we go on a camouflage hike, experiment with blending into nature nearby, and create our own colorful animals to take home.

See www.nearbynature.org for more.

Why Are We Going Back To the Sawtooths?

By Janet Jacobsen

Photos by John Jacobsen taken during Camp Lowry in 1983

I ATTENDED THREE of the four Summer Camps that the Obsidians have held in the Sawtooths — in 1983, 1994 and 2000 (the first Sawtooth camp was held in 1961 at Redfish Lake). One week is simply not long enough to explore all the trails, history, and other recreational activities of this spectacular area. It is a place that one wants to return to again and again. There are so many hikes I want to do again and there are hikes and other activities that I couldn't fit into the busy one week schedule of my last three visits.

My best records are for the 1994 Sawtooth Summer Camp at the headwaters of the Salmon River. A hike to Bench Lake included a boat ride across Redfish Lake and a swim. Sawtooth Lake and Alice Lakes were spectacular. Goat Lake was difficult but well worth the effort. The Fourth of July Lake hike offered dramatic views of the White Cloud Mountains. Some toured the Yankee Fork Mining Museum and Bonanza, a ghost town up the



The Salmon River, town of Stanley and the Sawtooths in background.

salmon. Rick Ahrens and Ray Harris provided telescopes for star watching. And we must not forget Stanley, the town that has unique restaurants, library, and a few quaint shops. It is usually hopping on Saturday night - referred to by locals as the "Stanley Stomp." See the Stanley webcam at www.sawtoothcamera.com.

At the 1983 camp up the Yankee Fork, I remember climbers took the boat across Redfish Lake to test their climbing skills on some well known rock, the Super Slab, considered the most accessible rock climbing in the Sawtooths. Nearby hot springs were a favorite stop on the way back to camp. There was lots of snow that year so one had to ford flowing streams and swim in cold lakes. At the 2000 camp, campers enjoyed float trips down the Salmon River in inflatable kayaks. Did anybody go horseback riding that year or boating on Redfish Lake?

There is something for everybody in the Sawtooths!

Oh... and Clint Eastwood's 1985 movie *Pale Rider* was filmed in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.



Geology hike in the White Cloud Mountains with Ewart.

Yankee Fork River. John Jacobsen and Steve McManigal led a premier 14-mile mountain bike ride that brought some riders (me) off their bikes and to their feet, pushing their bikes. Others visited the Sunbeam Hot Springs.

Ewart Baldwin led a group to Lost River to see the earthquake scarp near Mt. Borah and to Challis Hot Springs. Bob Dark drove a few folks up the old Galena Road only to be stopped by a mudslide. Gene Thaxton told how to find Ernest Hemingway's grave in Ketchum. Some explored Ketchum restaurants, stores, and hair salons. There is no reason not to look one's best at summer camp. Rick Ahrens led the climb to Mt. Borah which is 12 feet higher than 11 years before. Some found a day at Redfish Lodge was a perfect way to relax.

At campfires, Ewart talked about geology and a forest ranger presented a program about the 900-mile trek for



Hiking along Sawtooth Lake.

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

Friday, March 28:

Camp Hamilton Summer Camp Rally

THINKING OF GOING TO CAMP HAMILTON in the Sawtooths of Idaho? Maybe you have been to Summer Camp in the Sawtooths before and know you want to go back again. Maybe you are thinking of taking your first plunge into Summer Camp after hearing some of the wild tales. No matter your situation, whether you are definitely going or are just thinking about going to camp, the Camp Hamilton Rally at the March 28th potluck is a good place to start. It is the first opportunity to register as well as getting all sorts of valuable information.

You'll learn all about the Bonanza Historic CCC Campground where we will be camping; see slides of the camp, the beautiful surrounding area, some of the best hikes; hear about plans for meals, what to bring and tips for a successful camping experience. If you haven't gone to camp with us before this will be a great chance to learn how we do it. If you're an old hand, the slides of this beautiful area of Idaho will inspire you to dust off your gear.

To understand what the area has to offer, check out Janet Jacobsen's story on the previous page. It tells why she is looking forward to going back to the Sawtooths again.

We will accept completed registration forms with the \$20 deposit (checks only) the same evening. One form is included in this month's Bulletin - additional forms may be downloaded from www.obsidians.org. See the registration form for detailed registration information. With two sessions of camp and up to 70 at each session, we expect that everyone who wants to go to camp this year will be able to do so.

-- John Jacobsen, Summer Camp Boss



March Potluck

**Friday, March 28, 2008 Obsidian Lodge
Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Program, 7:30 p.m.**

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with your own plates, utensils and cups...plus \$1 to help cover club expenses. Parking at the lodge can be crowded. Please consider carpooling.



SciEd Tuesday, March 18:

THE BLM'S WESTERN OREGON PLAN REVISION: IMPLICATIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

JAY LININGER, Executive Director of the Cascadia Wildlands Project, will give a 45-minute slide presentation Tuesday, March 18, on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) revision of the Western Oregon Plan and how it will affect ecological systems and local economies. The program will begin at 7p.m. at the lodge.

Jay will also discuss the history of the Oregon & California Railroad Company (O&C) lands managed by the BLM in

western Oregon, current forest management policy on O&C lands, forest policy changes contemplated in the revisions, alternatives including pending legislation, and what we can do.

Cascadia Wildlands has been instrumental in educating the public about the negative effects of the changes.

— Joella Ewing, SciEd Chair



Trail Maintenance The Fun Continues

THE NEXT TRAIL MAINTENANCE outing is Saturday, March 29th, at 9:00 AM. Details regarding location and start time are yet to be determined. Call Peter Green at 541-510-1151 for details and with any questions.

Peter Green, Trail Maintenance Chair



LOU MAENZ SENDS ALONG the following on the Amazon Headwaters Trail Maintenance, held on February 23: About a dozen Obsidians showed up, including Larry Huff, in picture above, to help the Parks Department plant ferns, trees, and shrubs at the beginning of the trail. It was a cool but not rainy day, and some area locals and a group of fraternity men from UO joined the Obsidians. A lot got done and the coffee and goodies brought by the parks department were delicious.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, I have been a member of the CSA at Wintergreen Farm, which is located on Poodle Creek Road, near Noti. After paying an up-front fee, members receive a weekly basket of organic fruit and vegetables from the farm--whatever is ripe, is what you get. You also receive a weekly newsletter that includes recipe ideas and news from the farm. Each week's basket is about enough for a family of four that likes produce, so I need a partner!

Though the baskets are delivered to a number of different drop sites throughout Eugene-Springfield, I would like to find someone who lives in the south Eugene area.

I find the CSA a great way to support local farmers, enjoy great organic produce, and be more creative in my food choices. (i.e., just what do you do with bok hoi? And what's celeriac?)

Anyone who might be interested can call me at 345-2110 or bicycle@efn.org.

*Thanks,
Sue Wolling*

Obsidian Calendar

March

- 15 Sat – **Island Park to Autzen Bridge**, 5m E, Revere...726-4989
- 15 Sat – **Trestle Creek Falls**, 3.5m 1000' M, A.Askew...687-1659
- 16 Sun – **Alton Baker Bike Trail**, 5m E, R.Romoser.....726-8154
- 16 Sun – **Southwest Hills of Eugene**, 4m E, J.Ledet.....683-2603
- 18 Tue – **BLM W Oregon Plan**..... **SciEd Tuesday**
- 18 Tue – **McKenzie River Trail**, 8m 400' M, B.Revere..726-4989
- 20 Thu – **Lils Lake**, X-Ski 11.5m 1400' D, W.Deeter.....942-0824
- 22 Sat – **Arrowhead Lake**, X-Ski, J.Cooper.....344-8517
- 27 Thu – **Eagle's Nest**, 1m 200' E, Essenberg 343-1733
- 27 Thu – **Cottage Grove**, Bus, M. West.....343-5492
- 28 Fri – **Summer Camp Rally**..... **Potluck**
- 29 Sat – **Sand Mtn**, X-Ski 10m 1000' D, Johnson 746-151329
- 29 Sat – **Trail Maintenance** P Green 510-1151
- 30 Sun – **Finley Wildlife Rfg**, Bird 3m E, R.Ahrens.....689-3996

April

- 1 Tue – **Amazon Hdwttrs**, 3m 500' E, J.Jacobsen343-8030
- 2 Wed – **Spencer Butte**, 8m 1800' M, J.Hackett 984-0049
- 5 Sat – **Talking Stones**, 5.5m E, J.Jacobsen343-8030
- 6 Sun – **MountainGate**, 4m 400' E, B.Revere726-4989
- 9 Wed – **Ridgeline Tr**, 5.6m 1450' M, J.Jacobsen343-8030
- 10 Thu – **Basic Mountaineering; rock: April 10,12,13; snow: April 17, 19**, class, G.Baitinger..... 346-2927
- 12 Sat – **Orchard Pt**, Bike 30m E, S.Ritchie342-8435
- 13 Sun – **Skinner Butte**, 4m E, J.Jacobsen343-8030
- 15 Tue – **Camp Adair**, Bus, West & Jensen 343-5492
- 15 Tue – **Himalayan Trekking**..... **SciEd Tues**
- 17 Thu – **N Santiam**, 9m 900' M, D.Christensen 343-8941
- 20 Sun – **Historic Albany**, 4m E, T.Burgess 684-4951
- 22 Tue – **North Umpqua**, Bus, Kocken&Reanier.....687-1925
- 25 Fri – **Joys of Cycling in Japan**..... **Potluck**
- 29 Tue – **Leaders Meeting**, Workshop, B.Revere 726-4989

SciEd Program Calendar

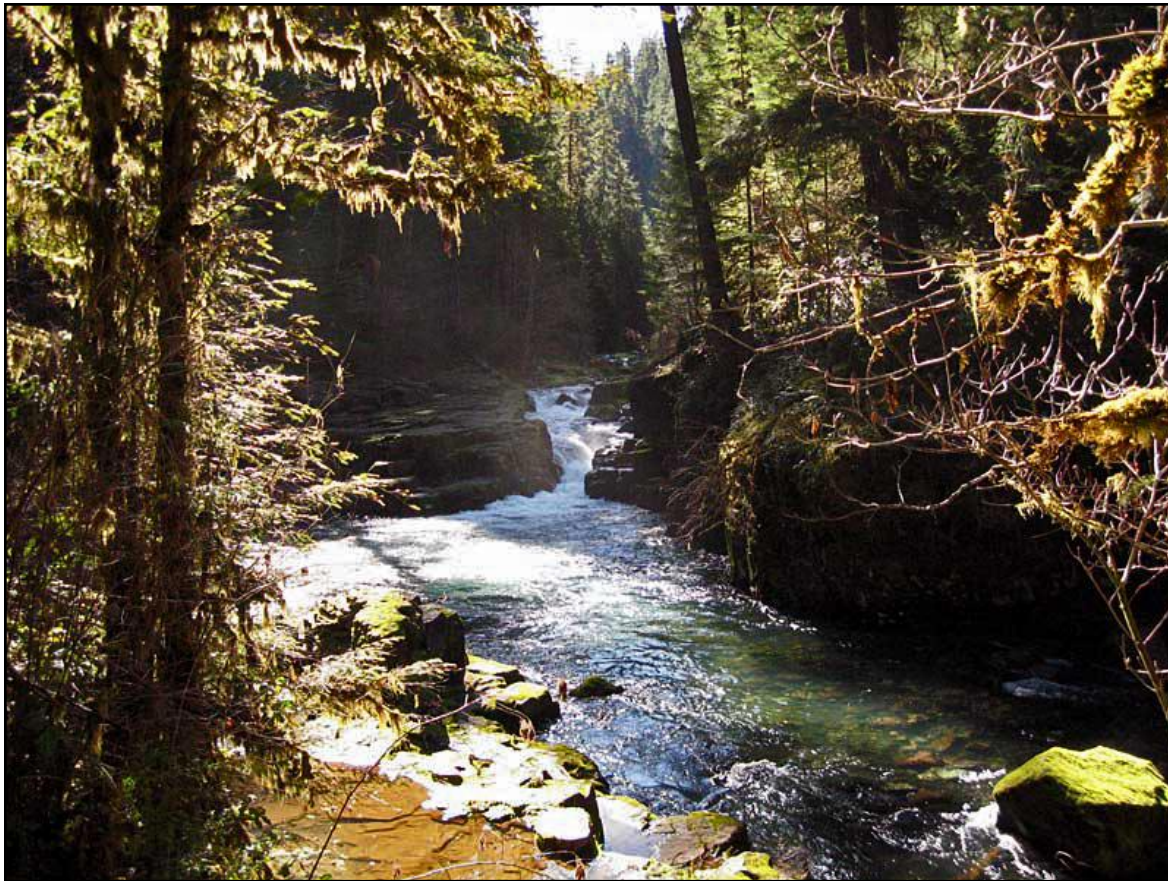
April - May

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR now for the upcoming SciEd Tuesday programs, because there is no guarantee your Bulletin will arrive before each of the monthly offerings. SciEd programs all begin at 7 p.m. at the lodge.

April 15 - Bruce Klepinger, president of IBEX Expeditions, will show slides on "Trekking in the Himalayas and Trans-Himalayas". He says people will be surprised to learn how the traditional, colonial definition of trekking differs from our current concept.

May 20 - Charlie Quinn, Associate Director of Development for the Nature Conservancy in Eugene Willow Creek Preserve will present a slide show entitled "Nature Conservancy Projects in the Southern Willamette Valley". He will include information about the Willow Creek and Coburg Ridge Preserve and update us on the Wildish property acquisition.

Joella Ewing, Sci Ed Chair



Early spring at Brice Creek Falls - Photo by Wayne Deeter



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