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Dates to Remember

May 15	Bhutan Potluck
May 19	SciEd Tuesday
May 30	June Bulletin Deadline
June 3	Board Meeting

Complete current schedules at:
www.obsidians.org or
 Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

Camp Ishi
 Summer Camp 2009
 A few spots left!
 See Page 12

Climb School 2009:

"Mountaineering 101"

By Larry Huff, Climbs Chair

WHAT A GREAT CLASS this was, with such an eager group of students. I could say this every year, as I capture the essence of Climb School. The course was top heavy with participants refreshing skills they had once learned and we had the best weather that I have experienced since I came through this course in 2004.



*Larry Huff taking a fall for the team... while testing an anchor!!!?
 Photo by Wayne Deeter*

This Obsidians/Eugene Mountain

Rescue course is about the people. All the promotion, registration, instruction and support are provided by volunteers. From instructors to students, the selfless attitude it takes to interact in a team setting humbles me. I, without a doubt, learn something new about myself, my peers and students as we all work together to demonstrate new or learned skills.

The first two field days on the rock ran late into the day as students and volunteers alike enjoyed warm temperatures. I'm always proud as students face their fears at the moment they step backwards off the cliff, with their eyes locked intently on the helper as they defy logic and move down the ropes. At the bottom of the rappel a feeling of accomplishment floods over them.

WE EVEN HAD OUR THIRTY SECONDS of fame when the local news media filmed, and briefly participated on the ropes, as they wove together a story of a sunny Sunday afternoon in Eugene. I was more than a little concerned about this young lady wanting access to the ropes. I was being lobbied hard by the students as I was thinking of a way to draft a release waiver. I just didn't want to have any loose ends. I did reach a compromise with the young reporter as we drafted a release and she agreed to do her work at the bottom of the ropes. It was actually quite entertaining as she and the cameraman worked out the best comment and sharpest looking rappel she could muster in about a five-foot drop.

The snow day was equally gorgeous and the students performed flawlessly. I was even a bit dumbfounded by the interest and time they were willing to spend at each station. The hands down best part of snow day is the ice axe self arrest practice. The students learned to stop a slide in the snow. They saw how to arrest a fall when landing on their back, face to the sky, belly down head first, and when simply losing con-

(Continued on page 4)

Meet the Committees:

Peter Green, Trail Maintenance Chair Matt Bell, Primo Volunteer

By Janet Jacobsen

PPETER GREEN'S last name is perfect for the chair of the Trail Maintenance Committee. Recruited by then President John Pegg, Peter took on the job in 2007. Following in Peter Asai's footsteps, Peter continued working with the staff at Eugene Parks and Open Space. Sessions were scheduled on the last Saturday of the month or late afternoon on Wednesdays in the summer. Volunteers met at various trailheads to work on projects: planting ferns, trees, and native plants, building trails, removing an old wooden walkway, and hauling and spreading gravel.

Peter greets all volunteers with enthusiasm and helps them find an appropriate job. His wife, brother, and friends even show up to help. Peter's first activity with the Obsidians was the 2006 Spring Climb School. His log includes Broken Top, Mt. Hubris, Smith Rock, Mt. Shasta, Mt. Adams, and Crevasse Rescue Class. Peter also volunteers with the with Sight Unseen and assists blind climbers. Last month he attended a Wilderness First Responder class.



MATT BELL is a loyal volunteer and works in tandem with Peter. He is a speedy driver of the motorized wheelbarrow and smooth swinger of the Pulaski.* I met Matt on his first Obsidian trip, Battle Ax, led by Bob Huntley in July 2005. He doesn't remember riding in my car on the rutted undriveable road where we stopped 1.4 mile from the trailhead. Lucky for us, he overlooked my edgy driving and joined the Obsidians. Matt graduated from the U of O the previous year and was working at the U of O campus downtown. In 2006, he climbed Diamond Peak and stayed the course for the infamous Devil's Den. His trip log demonstrates

his commitment to trail maintenance.

Peter and Matt along with Christer and Jason, city staff members, make these projects work.

* What is a Pulaski?

A **PULASKI** is a tool designed for fighting wildfires and also works well for trail maintenance when chopping or digging soil that is hard or root bound. It combines an axe and a mattock on one head with a strong handle. The invention is widely credited to Ed Pulaski, a ranger with the Forest Service. Ed Pulaski was famous for saving the lives of a crew of 45 firefighters during the disastrous 1910 Idaho wildfires. Perhaps he saw the need for a better fire-fighting tool. The Forest Service began using it in 1913. Mount Pulaski, a 5480-foot peak near Wallace, Idaho is named for him.

(Information from Wikipedia)

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

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Barb Revere

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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Climbs Larry Huff
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Safety..... Sue Sullivan
Science & Education.....Joella Ewing
Summer Camp Lana Lindstrom
Summer TripsJim Pierce
Trail Maintenance.....Peter Green
Winter Trips.....Paul Flashenberg
Youth.....

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Deadline

for June 2009 Bulletin

Saturday, May 30, 2009

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Finding the Eagles' Nest

By Margaret Essenberg

Editors Note: See the Essenberg's trip report on Page 7 for the account of their Obsidian hike to see the eagle's nest on March 24th. See Bert Ewing's recent photo of the eagle on its nest on the back page (Page 16).

ON MARCH 13, 2007, my husband Richard and I had the luck to see a bald eagle fly to a tree on Skinner Butte, where it was building a nest. As I write, that eagle and its mate are incubating their third set of eggs there. We expect the first egg to hatch before the end of April. An eagle is a very large bird, but the woods are even larger, so here are some tips on how to find it. Bring binoculars!

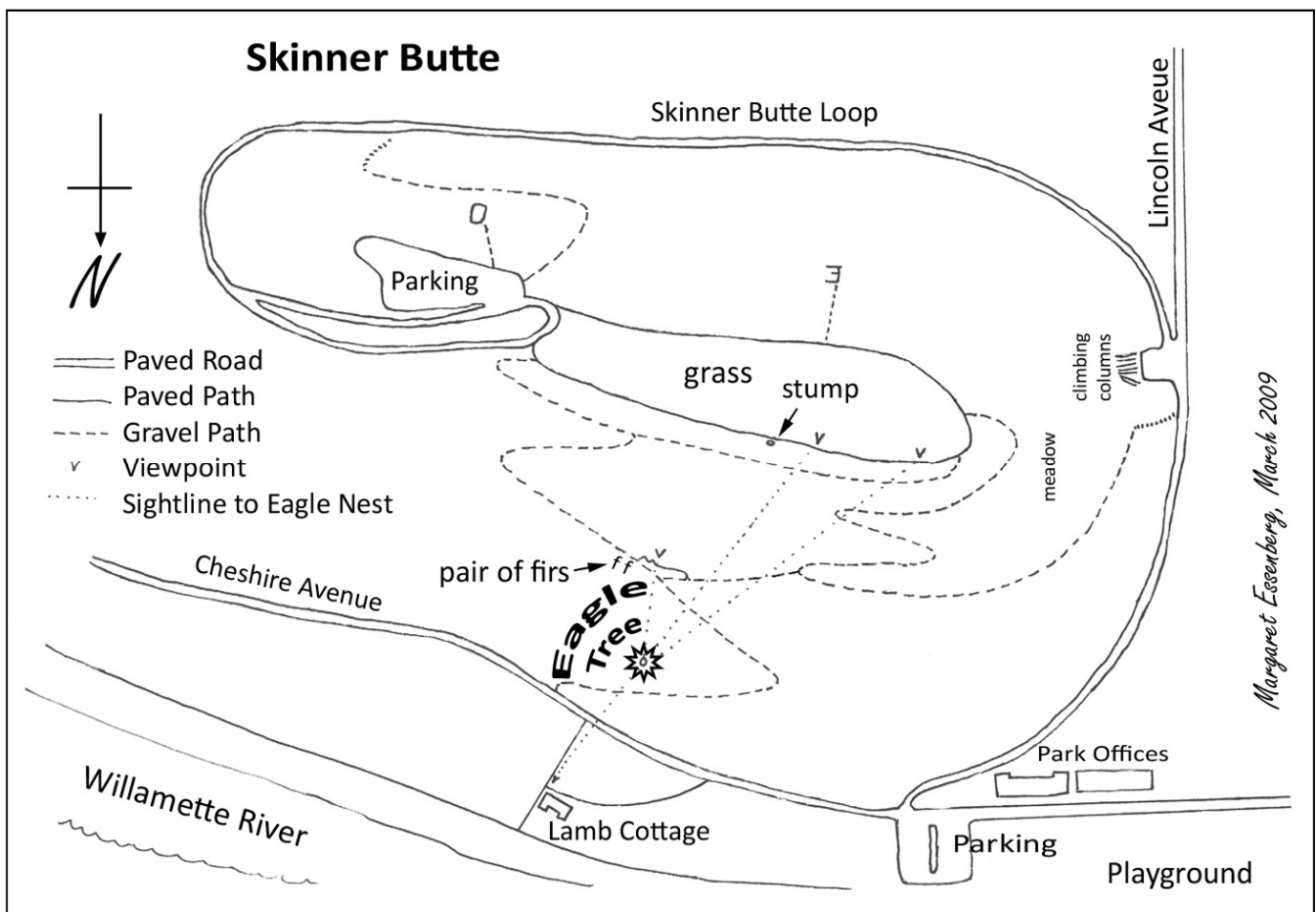
First, learn to recognize the tree. Stand at the Lamb Cottage and look straight at the butte along the line of the sidewalk. The eagle tree is a Douglas fir with a split, double top. The nest is in the fork where the two tops split. It's a roughly spherical bundle of sticks at least 6 ft. in diameter.

Walk up the gravel, switchback trail to the trail junction I've marked with a bracket and a "v". Our closest view of the eagle is from about 60 paces east of that junction. That viewpoint is marked by two large fir trees (ff on the map) that touch at their bases on the downhill side of the trail. Look in

the direction indicated on the map, seeking the split-top fir. From this position, the nest is above you.

THE MOST COMPLETE VIEW of the nest is from the summit. Take the paved path that goes through the woods along the summit. Look for a large tree stump on the north side of the path. The viewpoint is about 12 paces further west. At present, it is marked by pink plastic ribbons tied to bushes on either side of the path. At this position, you are on the same level as the nest. Look through the tree canopy for the split-top fir. It is the most distant fir you can see from here. There is another viewpoint about 60 paces further west on the paved path. Look under an arching, moss-covered branch of a nearer tree for the distant eagle tree.

Once you spot the white head and dark shoulders, there is no doubt! An adult eagle also has a magnificent hooked, yellow beak. The one or two eaglets will be gray and fluffy at first. By the time they are a month old, they will be large, dark adolescents. During June they won't yet be able to fly, so you will find them on their tree, venturing into branches above and below the nest, hopping and flexing their wings with increasing restlessness.



Cemeteries, Whales, Trilliums, and ...Poop!

THE MASONIC CEMETERY is celebrating its 150th birthday along with the state of Oregon. The big birthday bash is Memorial Day weekend. Check out the website www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org to see the variety of activities. The Hope Abbey Mausoleum will be open. The cemetery has many stories about the Skinner, Whitaker, Chambers, Friendly, Condon, Collier, and Kerns family members. **Karen Seidel**, an Obsidian, helped research many of these people and wrote the biographical sketches that are posted by the monuments.

Emily and Sam Scherer, junior members, were part of the Page Elementary School Battle of the Books team who took first place in the third through fifth grade division at the Second Annual State Battle of the Books tournament, held April 4 in Salem. They competed against 16 of the best teams from seven regional tournaments. Teams must read 16 books to prepare.

In March, **Mary Ellen West** participated in a gray whale expedition to Baja California's San Ignacio Lagoon with Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute and its director, Dr. Bruce Mate. She boarded the Royal Polaris vessel in San Diego for the 1000 mile, 8-day, 7 night whale watching trip. The vessel is 113' in length with seating for 34 people. In the San Ignacio Lagoon, a major calving area, she boarded a skiff driven by a local resident where she could get close up views of the mother whales and calves. The group also stopped at the San Benitos Islands, Cedros Island and San Martin Island where they saw more bird, animal and plant life. Mary Ellen's enthusiasm for this trip is contagious. It is also a way to support Marine Mammal Institute.

United Way honored seven community volunteers in various categories for their "extraordinary efforts" at a luncheon Thursday, April 23. Obsidian **Dave Predeek** was one of those volunteers. He was recognized for his hard work with the Friends of

Buford Park and Mount Pisgah. It is there he propagates native seeds, clears invasive plants, and for ten years has led the Monday Morning Regulars. This group of senior citizens commits three hours each week of strenuous outdoor work to clearing blackberry bushes and other invasive plants. Dave also volunteers with other organizations. He averages five to ten volunteer hours a week. Kudos to Dave!

Obsidian Board member **Vern Kocken** was recognized for her volunteer work at Briggs Middle School by the Springfield School District at a school board reception, April 27.

On a recent hike up Spencer Butte, I met up with three U of O researchers kneeling by a trillium near the bridge just as you start up from Fox Hollow. They were studying whether it makes a difference to the fragrance what pollinator does the pollinating and would a beetle pollinator cause the fragrance to be less pleasing. They answered the two questions that I am frequently asked on my Ridgeline Trail hikes. Why does the trillium turn pink? The pink color is a signal to pollinators that this flower has already been pollinated. (In other words, "Leave me alone.") What are the two kinds of trillium that we see on the trail? Trillium ovatum has a standing stem—think "standing ovation". The other is Trillium parviflorum that does not have an upper stem and the flower sits directly on the three leaves. It is found in wetter areas.

I met Ingrid who lives near the Martin Street Trailhead. She has placed plastic bags and a container for dog poop at the Martin and at the Fox Hollow trailheads. She hikes the Amazon Headwaters Trail every day with her dog and carries the litter home. I noticed that her container at Fox Hollow parking lot is loaded down with all kinds of trash so she has lots more than dog poop to carry down the trail. Kudos to a dedicated volunteer who knows what doesn't belong on the trails.

The Devil's Staircase

By Dave Tvedt, Cascadia Wildlands Board of Directors

WATERFALLS, OLD-GROWTH RAINFOREST, Pacific giant salamanders, roadless country, solitude... you'll find them all in the proposed Devil's Staircase Wilderness, a priceless wild area located in the heart of the central Oregon Coast Range, northeast of Reedsport. Only a very small amount of the Oregon Coast Range still has virgin forest. The Devil's Staircase area has one of the largest and best concentrations of remaining virgin forest anywhere in the Oregon Coast Range. It is also simply the wildest, most remote country left there. As such, it is an historic and ecological gem and one of the last and best remnants of how the coast range used to be.

On April 19th, a group of adventurous Obsidians did a bushwhack hike into the Wassen Creek portion of the proposed wilderness area. Since there are no official or built trails into the area, following elk trails or bushwhacking is the only way to go. The hike went into an area of the Wassen Creek drainage that has some of the largest trees remaining in the Oregon Coast Range. Participants on the hike also got to experience firsthand

some of the thick vegetation of the coast range. Everyone did great on the hike and all made it out alive.

The Devil's Staircase area is jointly administered by the Coos Bay BLM and the Siuslaw National Forest. It has long been proposed for but has never gotten Wilderness protection even though it has some of the wildest country in Oregon. Wassen Creek is the largest drainage in the proposed Devil's Staircase Wilderness and features the elusive Devil's Staircase waterfall within its wilds. Other nearby drainages with a wild character are also included in the proposed Wilderness. These roadless canyons are home to river otter, spotted owl, marbled murrelet, black bear, cougar, water ouzels, beaver, crayfish, Coho salmon and a myriad of other wildlife.

The support of the Oregon delegation is critical to the passage of legislation that will permanently protect this area. The Devil's Staircase lies in the heart of Representative Peter DeFazio's district. He has expressed support, but he, along with Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, still need to get letters expressing support in order to insure this one-of-a-kind priceless area gets wilderness protection.

BOARD NOTES

May 6, 2009

By Laurie Funkhouser, Secretary

President Jim Duncan called the meeting to order. Board present: Laurie Funkhouser, Jim Pierce, Marshall Kandell, Barb Revere. Verna Kocken, Wayne Deeter, Larry Huff, and Stewart Hoeg. Others: Paul Flashenberg, John Jacobsen, Doug Nelson, Lenore McManigal, Elle Weaver, Joella Ewing, Lana Lindstrom, Lyn Garrick-Gilman, Pat Bitner, and Sue Sullivan.

Treasurer's Report: Board approved for payment of the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Board approved Margaret Prentice becoming a member of the Publicity Committee and Charlene Pierce becoming a member of the Membership Committee. The Board approved applications of four new members. Total membership 532.

Summer Trips (Jim Pierce): We had 15 trips in April and took in \$150.00. There were 14 hikes and a bike trip Leader Training Workshop was scheduled for May 7th at the Lodge. Linda and Valerie have done a great job putting this together. My thanks to the speakers and the Leaders who help out... and get door prizes

Winter Trips (Paul Flashenberg): There were 55 trips completed.

Climbs (Larry Huff): The Climbs Committee is happy to report that the Basic Mountaineering School was again a success. We had a total of 19 students participate in two classroom sessions and three field sessions.

By-Ways-By-Bus (Liz Reanier via Verna Kocken): Twenty-five riders participated in the April 21st trip led by Mary Ellen West and Ray Jensen. The Brownsville trip on May 2, has been cancelled.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Camp is a "go". There will be one session only - Monday, July 20-Sunday, July 26.

Extended Trips (Jim Duncan): Two extended trips are scheduled this month.

Conservation (Pat Bitner): Conservation committee sponsored McKenzie River Trust as the program for April 21 SciEd evening. Two hikes to the Trust's Ten Mile Creek acquisition and Portland Audubon's existing sanctuary are planned for June 27.

Publication (Barb Revere): In April 2009, the Publications Committee sent out 336 hard copies and 140 e-notices of the April Bulletin

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): The presentation by Robert Graham was well attended with 73 at the presentation and 56 at the potluck. Next potluck will be May 15th with member Chris Stockdale's trip to Bhutan.

Science and Education (Joella Ewing): Eight members attended the double feature program on April 21. Eight dollars was collected.

Membership (Barb Revere): We have 463 active, 35 associate, 3 honorary, 12 junior and 20 lifetime members, for a total of 533 members.

Publicity (Elle Weaver): Information regarding our hiking, biking, skiing, & climbing activities has been updated with the Eugene Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee which lists organizations that encourage walking and biking.

Online (Wayne Deeter): The Obsidian website is up to date.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): Rolled over a \$22,066.75 CD on April 7th with Umpqua Bank for 14 months at 2.48%. The General Fund was audited by Dan Christiansen and Jean Coberly April 2nd.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All of the reports turned in, will be recorded on the participants' activity sheets.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): A grounds work party was held in conjunction with the Lodge Committee prior to the April Potluck Pat Adams and Sam Tracer continue to down, buck and split the firs. Another half cord was sold.

Safety (Sue Sullivan): All first aid kits (both for hiking and mountaineering) have been inventoried, and the supplies for updating the first aid kits have been either ordered or purchased. An ad hoc committee has met to consider removing a person from the restricted list. A recommendation from this committee will be presented at the May 6 board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Representative for Community Task Team re. Arlie Acquisition/Ridgeline Trail: Eugene Parks and Recreation is seeking a volunteer from the Obsidians to

participate in the development of a master plan for the Suzanne Arlie Ridgeline Corridor. The Board approved John Jacobsen as the representative for the club.

Petition on Roadless Area/Oregon Wild Petition: Pat Bitner sought the Board's approval for the club to sign an April 7, 2009 letter of support from Oregon Wild, to stand by the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. After discussion, it was felt that the club would not be participating in lobbying but providing affirmation of support of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule and, therefore, the Board approved adding the Club's name to the letter.

Approval of Summer Camp check signers: Lana Lindstrom sought approval from the Board for the following members to be signers of checks for the Summer Camp account: Lana Lindstrom, Wendy Dame, Don Doerr, Nancy Whitfield and Sharon Ritchie. The Board unanimously approved.

Wilderness Campsite Monitoring: Barb Revere received a notice from the Willamette and Deschutes National Forest seeking volunteers to monitor campsites in the Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Washington areas.

Ad hoc Restriction Consideration Committee: Sue Sullivan as chair of the Safety Committee provided a summary of the Committee's review of an "appeal" by a restricted member. Based upon the summary the Board approved the recommendation of the Committee adding that more than one person be involved in the interview.

Climb School Fund Sharing with Eugene Mountain Rescue: Sue Sullivan, as a representative of Eugene Mountain Rescue, with support from Larry Huff, as chair of the Climb Committee, presented the proposal regarding Climb School that, (1) Obsidians would be responsible for purchasing and maintaining the group gear, including but not limited to ropes, carabineers, webbing; (2) the Eugene Mountain Rescue would be responsible for personal gear, including but not limited to helmets, climbing harnesses, ice axes; and (3) the proceeds from the Climb School would be split 50/50. The Board approved the proposal.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Bike Trips

Bellfountain Bike Trip

April 18, 2009

Leader: Lyn Gilman-Garrick
38 miles, 500 ft. (Difficult)

SHARON RITCHIE AND I CO-LED this 38-mile bike ride through the rolling hills north and west of Junction City. The weather was perfect - mid 60's and partly sunny. The first half of the ride was flat, but after lunch we burned off brownies pedaling up and over the steep hill on Coon Road. We stopped for lunch at Bellfountain Park and ate under the towering firs surrounded by a field of fawn lilies and shooting stars. It was a fun group and a great ride, and we hope to make it an annual summer trip. Members: Barbara Bruns, Paul Garrick, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Richard Hughes, George Jobanek, Darrell McBee, Pam Morris, Sharon Ritchie and Art Sather; and nonmember Paula Erickson.



Hikes

Skinner Butte Eagles' Nest

March 24, 2009

Leader: Margaret and Richard Essenberg
2 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

THIRTEEN PEOPLE MET AT THE FOOT of Skinner Butte at 9:00 am. The leaders gave everyone a hand-drawn map that shows paths and eagle-nest viewpoints. We walked to the Lamb Cottage, from which the bald eagle nest can be seen, and everyone tried to memorize the gestalt of the split-top fir in which the nest sits. We ambled up the switchback trail, hearing bird-songs and enjoying early trillium flowers. We prowled about the summit, looking eastwards toward the completely cloud-obscured Sisters, southwards over Eugene to Spencer Butte, down the south slope to the U of O's letter "O" and South High's letter "E", and north to the osprey nest. We have not seen any ospreys at the nest this year and suspect that the eagles have been such unpleasant neighbors during the past two breeding seasons that the osprey pair is seeking a safer neighborhood for raising a family this year. From the paved, wooded path that traverses the summit, we saw an adult bald eagle sitting on the nest. The leaders tried to imprint on all members' minds the location of the viewpoint, so they can return later to watch the eaglets grow from gray fluff-balls to dark, awkward, flight-eager adolescents. We walked down the west face, traversing the meadow that is recovering from last summer's grass fire, descended beside the basalt columns, and returned to the parking lot at 11:00 am. Members: Rick Ahrens, Liz DeShetler, Margaret Essenberg, Richard Es-

senberg, Jim Pierce, Margaret Prentice, Bonnie Richman, Pat Soussan and Peggy Windle; nonmembers: Karen Ecker, John Harimar, Ed Lozano and Sally O'Donnell.

Elijah Bristow State Park

March 29, 2009

Leader: Barb Revere
6 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

NINE HALE AND HEARTY OBSIDIANS ignored the weather reports and accompanied me on a trip to this nearby state park, named for the Upper Willamette Valley's first settler. After the last couple of weeks of foul weather, the trail is muddy and there are no flowers yet. Our walk took about three hours and we were treated to rain, hail (often!), wind and, finally, warming sunshine all through our lunch! We found the park all but deserted except for hundreds of violet-green swallows, one great blue heron, two cormorants, a half-dozen buffleheads and a few other ducks we couldn't identify. My Obsidian companions were: Jim and Sharon Duncan, Pat Soussan, Walt Dolliver, Don Colgan, Nancy Whitfield, Ruth Romoser, and Barbara Morgan. Thanks to Jim for driving and to everyone who took a chance on the weather.

Ridgeline Trail

March 31, 2009

Leader: Janet Jacobsen
6.2 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

WE HIKE THE 6.2 MILE RIDGELINE TRAIL from Blanton Heights to Spring Boulevard in two hours and 45 minutes. It was a cool day with some wind that kept us moving. Yes, we did have time to notice the emerging trillium display, one blooming fawn lily and one blooming hounds tongue. Dan Christensen, Janet Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, and Jim Pierce pointed out trail sections that the Obsidians have built through the years. That included a new (four days ago) 250-ft.-section of the trail on Mt. Baldy. Many remarked that the Ridgeline Trail is in much better shape than previous years. No, we did not have lunch at the new bench on Baldy. Instead we snacked on raspberry chocolate almond M&Ms. We thank the various groups who have spread gravel on the trail. This is a great trip to lead, especially for those that have not hiked the entire trail. Could this be called a thru-hike? Participants included members Pat Hutchins, Barb Revere, Ruth Romoser, Susan Sanazaro, Martha Welches, Dan Christensen, Janet Jacobsen, Jim Pierce, and Joanne Ledet; and nonmember Maggie Steel.

Solar System Walk

April 6, 2009

Leader: Jim Pierce
8 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR A HIKE. The sun was bright as Sandra Larsen and Jim Pierce walked through the one-billionth scale model of our solar system. Traveling faster than the speed of light (at scale), we visited the inner planets near the duck pond at Alton Baker Park. While passing Mars, we bumped into non-member Maggie Steel, who joined us out to Uranus. After exploring the inner planets, we crossed the bridge to the South Bank Trail and the gas giants... Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus. Then we took the West

Bank trail to Neptune and on to the Owasso Bridge. It was warm and the concrete is very tiring, so we decided to leave Pluto out of this adventure. We returned along the East and North Bank Trails. Along the way we saw the eagles' nest at Skinner Butte along with a couple of osprey nests. There were over 20 western pond turtles sunning themselves, and we saw several herons... one VERY close. We spotted four mallards up in trees and later four vultures perched in trees. Spring is here with about 15 kinds of flowers. In all it was a great hike. Members: Sandra Larsen and Jim Pierce, and nonmember Maggie Steel.

Spencer Butte

April 8, 2009

Leader: Janet Jacobsen, Photo: Jim Maloney

6.4 miles, 1,800 ft. (Moderate)

THE STATS

Wildflowers: trillium, calypso, fawn lilies, shooting stars, and grass widow

Trash: bottles, cans, pacifier, and broken glass from a car clouting

Good Samaritan: hiker who put our bag of trash in his car

Photographer: Jim Maloney (SciEd wind energy program) sent

us his photo of the *Calypso bulbosa*, a keepsake of exquisite flower alcoves on the Amazon Headwaters Trail

Vandals: removed five new trail markers near the top of Spencer Butte

Hikers: Obsidians Janet Jacobsen and Barb Revere



Ridgeline Trail

April 11, 2009

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

6.2 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

ALL OF US APPRECIATED THE CAR SHUTTLE that allowed us to hike the Ridgeline Trail from Blanton Heights to Spring Blvd. The pleasant weather was a bonus along with the trillium, fawn lilies, calypso, and hounds tongue. The three nonmembers appreciated the new \$2.00 fee for intown hikes and that the hike was on Saturday. They asked for membership forms! Members: Dick Hildreth, Janet Jacobsen, Sue Meyers, Moshe Rapaport and Charlie Van Deusen. Nonmembers: Neil Cawood, Julie Meyer and Judy Ness.

McDowell Creek Falls & Brownsville

April 15, 2009

Leaders: Marshall Kandell & Barb Revere

Photo: Barb Revere

1.7 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

OUR SOUTH EUGENE CONTINGENT met the rest of our group at Gateway and caravanned in three cars up through Marcola and Sweet Home to McDowell Creek Falls County Park. Although this was a comparatively short hike, the trails took us through a



wonderland of waterfalls, rushing streams, bridges, wooden and stone staircases, all amid a striking rainforest made surreal by stark trees covered by moss that almost glowed a bright yellowish green against the dark background. On the ground, we found frequent trillium and lots of skunk cabbage flaunting their young yellow flower buds. Backtracking to Brownsville, we stopped for lunch in City Park next to the Linn County Historical Museum (next time, we'll know to go to the far more spacious Pioneer Park). For the next two hours, we went our own ways: some touring the great little museum, some doing the walking tour of the historic town and most, eventually, checking out the coffee, hot chocolate and cookies available in the various local cafes. It was agreed that next time we'd plan on having lunch in one or more of the cafes (will have to check with Mary Ellen West for advice, since this is her bailiwick). Although the weather was a bit nippy in the morning, the sun came out around mid-day and the only drops of rain fell while we were in our cars. Mixing hiking with exploring Brownsville seemed to please our nice sized group of 11 participants, including members Daniele Delaby, Walt Dolliver, Marshall Kandell, Joanne Ledet, Lou Maenz, Barbara Morgan, Margaret Prentice, Barb Revere, Susan Sanazaro and Barb Schomaker; and soon-to-be member Eleanor Wilkerson (who drove in from Elmira to be with us).

King's Valley

April 16, 2009

Leader: Dan Christensen, Photo: Jim Pierce

5 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)



THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL, HISTORICAL, RELATIVELY EASY HIKE through the eastern foothills of the Coast Range. King's Valley is

located northwest of Philomath on the King's Valley Highway off of Highway 20, just a few miles north of Wren. The hike was actually two separate hikes with both trailheads located in different Benton County Parks. The first hike began 4.8 miles up King's Valley Road at Bezell Memorial Park. The historical Plunkett farm house (circa 1875) is located near the trailhead parking lot. This 2.7 mile hike travels alongside pretty Plunkett Creek through a Douglas fir forest. Moss covered trees, ferns and alders are abundant. Trilliums were still present but fawn lilies had not yet blossomed. Other smaller flowers were present along the trail including snow queens. The trail then turns south at a junction, away from the creek, and climbs 300 feet up the South Ridge. Twenty switchbacks, plus an excellent tread, make the climb very comfortable. View from the top of the ridge is limited, although one can look a fair distance to the north further into King's Valley. The trail continues west along the top of the ridge through the fir canopy with some open meadow areas as well as old logged-over areas which have not yet revegetated. The trail then turns north in a loop which goes back to the parking lot.

The second hike trailhead is located off Hoskins Road (1.7 miles further north on King's Valley Highway) and then 1.8 miles west on Hoskins Road to Fort Hoskins Historical Park. This park is located on the site of Fort Hoskins (1855-65). This hike is subdivided into two sections: the first section is a historical tour of the fort site, aided by numerous, informative, interpretive signs. The tour included a side trip to the Frantz-Dunn house (circa 1869), which was either built by the Frantz family after they bought the property or it was the fort hospital which the Frantz family converted to their home. In either case, it is a beautiful example of the two-storey structure of the homes of that period. The second section of the hike consisted of a 1.3 mile hike over the hilltop located on the north side of the property. This hill contains an open savannah which the county is apparently planning to fill with oaks and remove surrounding firs, similar to what is being done on Mt. Pisgah. The weather was just right for hiking: a mix of clouds and sun with no rain. The participants in this unique and educational hike were Obsidians Dan Christensen, Ray Jensen, Joanne Ledet, Jim Pierce, Ardys Ringsdorf and Nancy Whitfield.

Mt. Baldy Loop

April 17, 2009

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

5 miles, 800 ft. (Easy)

OUR LOOP BEGAN WITH THE AMAZON HEADWATERS TRAIL at the Martin Trailhead and ended with a walk on the Rexus Trail along the Amazon Creek back to our cars. Points in between were Fox Hollow, Dillard, Mt. Baldy, Spring Boulevard and a meadow trail to Old Dillard. We particularly enjoyed the calypso coves on the Amazon Trail. Jan Wulling sang her version of "On Top of Mt. Baldy all covered with trees." Jan was familiar with the meadow trail and showed us where a pond with peeping frogs was hidden. At the end of the trip, we looked at the ridgeline of trees to see where we had been. Fred Weech commented that the loop was an easy way to get mixed up. I had to agree. The trip took 2 ½ hours. Members: Janet Jacobsen; non-members: Fred Weech and Jan Wulling.

Sweet Creek/Beaver Creek Hike

April 18, 2009

Leader: Carol Petty

5 miles, 650 ft. (Easy)

WARM SPRING WEATHER AND BEAUTIFUL SUNSHINE complemented a wonderful hike at Sweet Creek and Beaver Creek Falls. This hike is one of the most spectacular waterfall hikes. We extended the mileage of this hike to five miles which includes three trails offering different views of Sweet Creek and Beaver Creek Falls. We enjoyed a variety of wildflowers including bleeding heart, yellow violets, pink fawn lilies, trilliums, and yellow skunk cabbage. An exhilarating addition to our hike was watching several kayakers maneuvering the rapids. Participants were members Myron Cook, Joan Abel and Carol Petty (leader).

Wassen Creek

April 19, 2009

Leader: Sue Wolling

5 miles, 800 ft. (Difficult)



NINE OBSIDIANS TOOK OFF on a gorgeous spring morning to explore Wassen Creek, a little-known wild area in the Coast Range east of Reedsport. We enjoyed the guidance of guest leaders Dee and Dave Tvedt, who are working to gain wilderness designation for the area. Wassen Creek is true wilderness, its old growth forest showing virtually no evidence of human presence. We started out with the relative luxury of an elk trail (and gained a lot of respect for the fitness level of those elk!), then bushwhacked through forest, among ferns and logs as well as frequent thickets of salmonberry. We occasionally took advantage of giant logs that served as bridges over the thorny brambles, and at other times had to mind our language as well as our feet. The reward for our labors, though, was magnificent groves of old growth, with numerous trees 8-10 feet in diameter, lush mosses and ferns, a waterfall and creek, and many wildflowers in bloom. Best of all, we were seeing an intact, untouched old-growth ecosystem--quite a rarity in the Coast Range. Rarely has a 5-mile hike produced so many sore muscles, bruises and scratched arms, but everyone considered the hike well worth the effort. Members: Denise Butler, Sandor Lau, Becky Lipton, Moshe Rapaport, Rich Romm, Chris Stockdale, Sue Wolling, Charley Wright and Leslie Wright; nonmembers: Dave Tvedt and Dee Tvedt.

Peavy Arboretum/Finley NWR

April 22, 2009

Leaders: Marshall Kandell & Barb Revere

Photo: Barb Revere

6 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)



WE HAD MORE TRAILS than you can shake an ambiguous trail marker at and three official maps of the area that didn't agree with each other. This had us scratching our heads and backtracking a bit for the first 45 minutes of the hike, but the day was balmy and the feet willing and we pressed onward to complete, if not the exact route planned, a reasonable and pleasing facsimile. We spotted many of the usual (but still spectacular) spring wildflowers, including Dutchman's breeches, which is not so usual in my experience. We had vistas to the west, including Mary's Peak, and often felt we were very remote, instead of only five miles north of Corvallis. A lone pileated woodpecker flitted overhead as we returned to the cars, highlighting the trip for the birders. On the drive homeward we made a quick side trip to walk the Woodpecker Trail of Finley NWR -- spotting not a one of the hard-headed species, but we enjoyed prolonging the lovely day out. Thanks to the faithful hikers who followed us through the spaghetti-maze of trails: members were Walt Dolliver, Jim Duncan (map navigator), Sharon Duncan, Barbara Morgan, co-leaders Barb Revere and Marshall Kandell, and Susan Sanazaro; our one nonmember was Eleanor Wilkerson, who was completing her third trip.

Cape Mountain

April 25, 2009

Leader: Jim & Sharon Duncan

4.6 miles, 700 ft. (Easy)

HIKING WITH A FEW FRIENDS who enjoy each other's company compensates for less than ideal weather, and that was the story of our trip to Cape Mountain. Although the sun was out when we left Eugene, it was a cool, sometimes cold and windy day up on Scurvy Ridge as we hiked through the mixed Coast Range forest of fir, spruce, hemlock and cedar to the Indian shelter replica. We retraced our steps to a viewpoint of the ocean for a quick lunch, then continued to the top of Cape Mountain. Along the way Ranger Rick identified many of the fresh green plants and wildflowers that were springing up. Given the weather, we took a shortcut back to the Dry Lake trailhead and called it a day. On the way home we treated ourselves to refreshments at Alpha Bits, perhaps the highlight of the trip. Members, and good sports all, included Rick Ahrens, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Margot Fetz, and Margaret Prentice.

Amazon Headwaters/Raptor Center

April 26, 2009

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

2 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)

SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:00, eight adults and four kids walked up the Amazon Headwaters Trail to the Raptor Center for their incredible Earth Day Celebration. The display of flowers on the trail included calypso, fawn lilies, dogwood, camas, and trillium. Thanks to a discussion with U of O researchers a few days earlier, I was able to point out the two types of trillium and explain why the flower turned pink. Some of the group opted to leave the Center on their own timetable, while five of us agreed to start down the trail at noon. We enjoyed the close-up views of five birds with their handlers and a tour of the clinic where we met dedicated volunteers including the veterinarian. There were only rave reviews for the Raptor Center and the hike. On her third trip, Judy Ness had two of us sign her membership application. Members: Jane Allen, Drew Babb-Hackett, Madison Babb-Hackett, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Sue Meyers, Moshe Rapaport and Ruth Romoser; nonmembers: Judy Ness, Connie Pierce, Dante Richey and Devon Richey.



Byways By Bus

Thompson's Grist Mill, Horner Museum, and more Oregon

April 21, 2009

Leader: Mary Ellen West

ON A WARM SUNNY MORNING, we enjoyed our coffee break at the Thompson's Mill State Heritage Site, which opened in 2007. This grist mill, located in Boston Town, dates from 1858 and was in operation for almost 150 years. Power was provided by diverting the Calapooia River into an intricate mill race system. In 1871, the O & C R.R. bypassed Boston and went through Shedd, some 1.5 miles to the west. Subsequently, most of the buildings in this town were moved to Shedd and Boston died, but the mill survived. For our grand tour, three excellent guides led us through this unusual and authentic restoration. Next to the Benton County Museum, which is in the former Philomath College building, we saw the recently opened Horner Collection, now housed in a new, separate building. J.B. Horner was born in Texas in 1856; his given name was Johan Baptist Swadlenack. His widowed mother married Elias Horner and he was re-named. At age 16, he entered Philomath College, and at age 17, he was awarded his teaching certificate. Eventually, he became a popular professor and lecturer at Oregon Agricultural College until his death in 1933. Because of his interest in Oregon history and Indian mounds and petroglyphs, he collected an immense quantity of everything - clothes, appliances, wagons, stuffed animals and much more. For years, these were displayed in the basement of Gill Coliseum, but for the past ten years, the items have been in storage. It was quite an undertaking to catalog and sort out this stuff. We saw perhaps 10% of the entire collection. Lunch was at the Gathering Together organic farm

where we ate delicious lasagna and salad. We then went on to the Finley N.W.R., where volunteer Sally guided us into the historic (c. 1855) Fleichter House and also the big red barn. From the Bruce Road, we viewed the old Cheadle Farm - the house is gone, but the barn remains. Mary Lee Cheadle told us many interesting stories of her life there, until the property was transferred to Finley in 1964. Our last stop was at Hazelnut Hill for ice cream and confections. Our leader, Mary Ellen West, had persuaded owner Sally Hilles to open for our group. Our thanks for this courtesy and for another great bus trip. Our driver was Leonard Buckner, and we had 27 riders. Participants included members Alice Anderson, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Paula Beard, Louise Behnke, Mary Lee Cheadle, Barbara Chinn, Sharon Cutsworth, Rachele Fiszman, Barbara Flanders, Dennis Flanders, Dora Harris, Margit Hollerud, MaryAnn Holser, Kess Hottle, Ray Jensen (reporter), Verna Kocken, Natalie Newlove, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Liz Reanier, Julie Snell, Janet Speelman, Richard Speelman and Mary Ellen West; and nonmembers Barbara Hottle and Mary Lou McIrvin.



Trail Maintenance

Mt. Baldy - Trail Maintenance

March 28, 2009

Leader: Matthew Bell, Photo: Christer LaBrecque
1.2 miles, 0 ft.



SEVEN OBSIDIANS met Jason of Eugene Parks and Open Spaces (EPOS) at 9 am at the Spring Boulevard trailhead of the Ridgeline Trail. After an overview of the day's project and a brief refresher on how to operate the power-wheelbarrows, we headed up the recently improved and re-routed Ridgeline Trail to the top of Mt. Baldy. Once at the top of Baldy, we began the project of the day: rerouting 100+ feet of trail! Ed, Janet, Pat, and Matt cleared the sod along the new path identified by EPOS using Pulaskis and hazelhoes. Meanwhile Joanne, Jim, and Dan went for their first loads of gravel for the day. Christer (EPOS) was waiting with a gravel truck on the private drive on the east side of Baldy. On one of Joanne's trips up with a load of gravel her power-wheelbarrow began to emit a lot of smoke. Jason was able to fix the problem after determining that it was due to a rock being stuck against the belt and pulley on the machine. We were able to get the new stretch of trail completed by about

noon. Ed worked very hard to "brush-out" and prevent future erosion of the trail section we were circumventing. Participants were: Jason and Christer of Eugene Parks and Open Spaces; Joanne Ledet, Jim Pierce, Janet Jacobsen, Dan Christensen, Pat Soussan, Ed Lizewski, and Matt Bell of the Obsidians.



April Potluck

Treading Lightly On Appalachian Trail

April 24, 2009

Presented by: Robert Graham

Reported by: By Chris Cunningham

DIE-HARD FOOT TRAVELER Robert Graham began his Appalachian Tales presentation by outlining the provision he made for the trip and offering tips to those considering a similar journey. He dehydrated some of his meals before leaving and alternated those along the trail with deli nosh and 7-11 delicacies. He invested in a bear canister to keep his food out of harm's way, and not one of the 17 bears he saw dined on his supplies. He used a simple REI sleeping bag and one-person tent. He treaded lightly, wearing trail running shoes instead of hiking shoes, "because they are lighter and dry out faster...and cause fewer blisters."

A veteran hiker who also completed the Pacific Crest Trail in 2005, Graham frequently compared the two trips. He said the AT was easier than the PCT, because terrain was gentler, and the trails were better marked. Needless to say, the 25 pounds he carried along the AT was a big improvement over the 40 pounds he carried on the PCT.

An engaging multi-media presentation followed—produced by Obsidian Sue Sullivan—guiding us along the 2,159-mile Appalachian Trail. We started on April 8, 2008 in Georgia, and finished on August 17, 2008 in Maine. Few hikers, we learn, begin north then head south, choosing to follow the good weather. But a bit of snow was on the ground when we started at Springer Mountain, Ga., and rain drenched us for most of the last month, as we approached Mt. Katahdin, Maine.

WE MADE SOME LIFE-CHANGING friendships with the people we met along the trail, and at the Trail Days Festival in the hiker-friendly town of Damascus, Virginia, in the Blue Ridge Mountains. (Did you know the New York Times refers to this festival as the Backpackers Mardi Gras?) The generous spirits of people we never saw, called "trail angels," touched us. They left water and food in unexpected places. Some of the "trail magic" caught us completely off-guard, like the insulated box containing a thermos of hot coffee and fresh, warm muffins.

Impressions of stunningly beautiful sunrises and sunsets, and unforgettable cloud formations remain in our mind's eye. So do the hot dogs and banana splits we gorged on in cordial, small town cafes. Always dog-tired at the end of the day, we remember pitching our tents in the middle of nowhere, or sleeping on summits in rustic three-wall shelters, or staying in charming hostels in settlements the size of a postage stamp. All these experiences, we carry in us, even today, thanks to Robert Graham, who took us there.

UPCOMING

Camp Ishi

Lassen National Volcanic Park

July 20-26, 2009

CAMP ISHI IS A GO! Thanks go to those who responded positively to the Summer Camp Committee's decision to have just one session this year – Monday, July 20 through Sunday, July 26. If you haven't registered yet, it's not too late. The registration form is at www.observians.org.

And just a reminder: if you haven't already paid in full, the final payment is due by May 15. After crediting the \$30 deposit, the balance for members: \$155; non-members: \$175. Please make your check payable to Obsidian Summer Camp Fund and either bring it to the May 15th potluck or mail to:

Obsidian Summer Camp, PO Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405

Camp buddy: If you're a first timer to camp, you'll be assigned a camp buddy who will answer your questions before camp and "show you the ropes" at camp.

Carpooling: The following members would like a ride to camp; please contact them directly: Walt Dolliver and Sam Tracer. And in general, if you have extra space in your vehicle or would like a ride, please contact registrar Sharon Ritchie at 342-8435 or trehugr@comcast.net.



Obsidians on summit of Mt. Lassen. Photo by John Jacobsen

Camp Booklet: Will be available at the May 15th potluck.

Lana Lindstrom, Summer Camp Chair



Upcoming Bus Trips

Bonneville, Hood River, WAAAM Museum

Date: Tuesday May 19

Leaders: Barbara & Paul Beard

Cost: \$53 - Members, \$55 Nonmembers

Reservations & Checks: Janet Speelman - 344-3019

BUS LOADING AT 7:15 AM, departure 7:45 as we have about 300 miles to go. The sites will be spectacular along the Columbia River Gorge, including the WAAAM Museum, a tour you will not want to miss. All the antiques can be fired up to fly, or drive. The homeward bound trip will take us around Mt. Hood through the small town of Sandy for a great snack stop and then through the foothills of the Cascades to Silverton entering 1-5 at Salem. Bring your own sack lunch

California Coast, Skunk Train, Wineries

Dates - June 1 - 6, Monday through Saturday

Leaders: Liz Reanier & Don Payne

Cost: \$700 - Members, \$712 - Nonmembers

Reservations & Checks Janet Speelman - 344-3019

For information about this trip, see the March *Bulletin*, which had the bus calendar included, or call one of the leaders.

Remnants of the Aurora Colony

Date: Tuesday June 23

Leaders: Mary Ellen West, Liz Reanier

Cost: \$38 - Members, \$40 - Nonmembers

Reservations & Checks: Verna Kocken - 736-5180

THE AURORA COLONY was founded by Dr. Wilhelm Keil, who moved from Bothel, Missouri to Oregon in the 1850's to establish a Christian community. A town guide will tell us the story of a communal society and how it developed and changed. Bring a sack lunch. We will stop at Bauman Farms (circa 1896) in Woodburn on the way home for ice cream and assorted candies, fresh vegetables, plants and more.

St. Paul Rodeo

Date: July 4, 2009 - Saturday

Leaders: Barbara and Paul Beard

Cost: \$45 - Members, \$47 - Nonmembers

Reservations & Checks: Verna Kocken, 736-5180

LET'S GO TO ONE OF THE BEST RODEOS IN OREGON. All the fanfare of flag flying, cowboys and cowgirls riding with the best of costumes, bull riding, bronco horses, a great BBQ and the best grandstand seats with chair backs in the shade.

Load at Shopko 9 am, depart 9:30. Wear your best rodeo outfit and hat. We will be back in Eugene in time for you to enjoy the great fireworks show Eugene is so well known for. Lunch on your own at the rodeo.

Get a Jump on Summer!

Sat., May 16 – Heceta Head – Hike, moderate. This very popular coast trail has much to offer: beach, creek and headland climb. The headland holds the most scenic and most photographed lighthouse on the Oregon coast and is framed by two of our loveliest beaches, Washburne and Devil's Elbow. Led by Pat Soussan. 7mi., 400ft.

Sat., May 16 – Marcola-Brownsville Loop – Bike, difficult. This Obsidian favorite starts in Coburg and does a counter-clockwise loop starting on McKenzie View Rd., then north to Marcola with a lunch stop near picturesque Crawfordsville Valley. Heading west, and passing two covered bridges, you are on your way to historic Brownsville, returning to Coburg again. Led by Sharon Ritchie and Lyn Gilman-Garrick. 61mi., 500ft.

Thurs., May 21 – Horse Rock – Hike, easy. This is an easy and very close to town hike. Up in the Coburg Hills, leader Lana Lindstrom expects a lovely show of wildflowers and nice views. 4mi., 100ft.

Sun., May 31 – Aufderheide Drive – Bike, difficult. According to leaders Sue Wolling and Sam Miller, "This ride begins with a tour along Cougar Reservoir and then parallels the east fork of the McKenzie River. There are trees-a-plenty along this route and the road surface is excellent." 50mi., 2700ft.

Sun., May 31 – Veneta-ODB – Bike, moderate. An email from Leader Stewart Hoeg describes the ride: Traverse "rolling farmlands with cows, llamas and sheep, to an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet at Our Daily Bread in Veneta, -- where you can have a great brunch without feeling too guilty". 42mi., 500ft.

Tue., Jun. 2 – Kentucky Falls – Hike, easy. 'Tis the season to go looking for American dippers and bask in the spray of the two waterfalls that come together at trail's end and lunch spot. There are three beautiful waterfalls in all, deep ferny canyons and wildflowers to provide the oohs and ahhs on this yearly favorite. Led by Barb Revere. 4.4mi., 800ft.

Sat., June 6 – Crescent Mountain – Hike, difficult. A beautiful if challenging hike, this trail leads up to a spectacular

meadow of bear grass and other beautiful blooms each spring. The views are lovely too. Bring a topographical map and try to identify the neighboring peaks! Led by David Adkins. 8mi., 2200ft.

Sun., Jun. 7 – Bunchgrass Ridge – Hike, difficult. Stretching for several miles between Waldo Lake and Oakridge, high above highway 58, this scenic mountain ridge is known for spring flowers and Cascade views. Led by Chris Stockdale. 10mi., 1000ft.

Sat., Jun. 13 – Pisgah/Strawberries – Hike, moderate. Wild strawberry fields on Mt Pisgah—don't believe us? Join leader Jane Allen, on this close-in walk, and hunt for these elusive, luscious morsels. Don't forget the shortcake and whipped cream! 6mi., 1000ft.

Sun., Jun.14 – Wolf Creek/Clay Creek, Bike, difficult. Paraphrased from a description by the two leaders, Lyn Gilman-Garrick and Sharon Ritchie: This challenging but lovely ride starts at the high school in Crow and enters a pretty valley, then up and over a long steep hill on Wolf Creek Rd. At Siuslaw Rd. we enjoy a 2-mile downhill before taking Clay Creek Rd. for 10 scenic creek-side miles to the campground. We pause for lunch and then retrace our route. 47mi., 3000ft.

Sun., Jun. 14 – Old McKenzie Highway – Bike, difficult. It's a tough climb, but somebody's got to do it – so why not you? Join leaders Sue Wolling and Sam Miller on this ride up the west side of highway 242 while it is open to boots and bikes, but not to cars. According to Sam, "The route begins under a canopy of trees and progresses uphill towards terrific views of the Three Sisters. This is a premium ride." No cars, no horns, no curses, no sweat! 47mi., 3700ft.

Mon., June 15 – Tamolitch Pool – Hike, easy. A deep turquoise pool brings the McKenzie River back to the rocky surface at this landmark along the lovely McKenzie River National Scenic Trail. The hike starts at Trailbridge Reservoir and traverses a trail, roughly cut from lava along the river's edge, to the breath-taking pool. 4.4 mi., 100ft.



Conservation Hike

June 27, 2009

THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE plans two hikes on June 27th at the Ten Mile area north of Florence. We'll start at Cape Perpetua and from there we'll visit the conservation easement land the McKenzie River Trust (MRT) holds. We'll learn about the area with Paul Engelmeyer, who is the steward for the Portland Audubon Society's adja-

cent land, and with MRT staff. Paul will have some interesting news for us.

One hike will be very easy, a mile and a half, with no elevation gain. The other, a six-mile loop, will climb an as yet unknown distance, and then traverse a contour. The area includes National Audubon Society and Pine Tree Conservation Society lands between the Cummins Creek and Rock Creek Wilderness areas, and isn't usually open to the public.

Joe Moll, Executive Director of the trust, spoke to the Science and Education group April 21st, and showed some enticing pictures of the area.

By Margot Fetz

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

Friday May 15:

Bhutan: Land of the Thunder Dragon

TRAVEL TO THE LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON [Bhutan] is time-consuming and expensive, but not one of the group of eight who ventured to that remote kingdom in October 2007 regretted the journey. Obsidian Sam Miller found seven friends (including three more Obsidians) who wanted to accompany him on a trip that would include a strenuous 8-day, 7-night trek into the Himalayas as well as cultural sightseeing. Sam worked closely with Obsidian Pema Chhophyel and his associate and childhood friend, Sonam Jatso, to put together an itinerary that would appeal to the whole group. Sonam, who lives in Bhutan, owns a company called Insiders' Bhutan, and he has extensive experience in designing such trips. Chris Stockdale, one of the Obsidians in the group, has put together some photos and a narrative that she hopes will convey some of the beauty and mystique of this little visited country sandwiched between superpowers India and China.

By Chris Stockdale



May Potluck - Friday, May 15, 2009
Obsidian Lodge - Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Program, 7:30

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with plates, utensils and cups... plus \$1 to help cover club expenses.

Roll Up Your Sleeves for the Community!

ALL RED-BLOODED OBSIDIANS are invited to come to Lane Memorial Blood Bank on Monday, June 1. In return for a pint of blood, the blood bank will give you pizza, cookies, and juice along with a big THANK YOU.

I have reserved the two hours from 4:30-6:30 for the group, so please call 484-9111 for an appointment and tell the person making the appointment that you are with the Obsidians.

The group always has a lot of fun at these blood drives, so come early and stay late. Some people find they cannot donate for various reasons, both medical and otherwise, so I suggest you check our website www.lmbb.org under "Donate Blood." You will find some basic reasons for deferral under "Eligibility," but if you have unanswered questions, please call and speak with one of our nurses. If you've ever thought about donating blood, this would be a great time to start. If you're a little apprehensive about the procedure (and many people are), you'll have the support of fellow members who have been doing it for years.

The summer months are always a difficult time for blood banks to collect enough blood to meet all needs. We depend on high schools and colleges for about 13% of all blood collected, and when schools are out for the summer, the students magically disappear. On top of that, we know that many peo-



ple head out of town for vacations so our challenge to find donors is even tougher. Please help us make sure the blood is available for the patients in our local hospitals when they need it. If you can't join us on June 1, please come in some other time. You will find information about our donor hours as well as dates and locations of blood drives on our website.

By Chris Stockdale



SciEd Happenings

SciEd Tuesday May 19:

Fisheries Program in the Upper Willamette Basin

ERIC MOBERLY, the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), will present an overview of the ODFW fisheries program in the Upper Willamette Basin. He'll describe projects staff and volunteers have used to accomplish a variety of management goals. He will also discuss native and nonnative fish interactions, current long term monitoring projects, enhancement opportunities and how dams have affected our native fish.

The slide presentation begins at 7 pm at the Lodge.

SciEd Hike Sunday May 31:

Reptiles & Amphibians

HIKERS, WITH RESOURCE EXPERT **TOM TITUS**, will be on the lookout for amphibians and reptiles on May 31 in the Mt. Pisgah area. After meeting at 9 am at the entrance to the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, we will spend the morning hiking the river trail from the Arboretum, uphill to the power line right-of-way and across the trail on the middle bench, arriving back at the Arboretum in time for lunch.

Any herpetology field guides would be good to bring along, as well as water, lunch and hiking shoes. Joella Ewing will lead the 3 to 5-mile easy hike.

Tom earned his PhD studying the evolutionary genetics of salamanders and is currently a research associate and instructor at the UO where he teaches a course called Amphibians and Reptiles of Oregon.

Joella Ewing, SciEd Chair

Ewart Baldwin

LONGTIME OBSIDIAN MEMBER EWART BALDWIN died May 2nd. Ewart was a professor-emeritus of geology at the U of O. He was widely known for his knowledge of Oregon geology and particularly for his contributions to understanding the geology of the Coast Range. He joined the club in 1968, was president in 1977 and completed 82 hikes, 8 climbs, and 132 bus trips, leading 57 trips in all. Those of us who had the pleasure of being on bus trips with Ewart really appreciated his talks on the geology of the areas - they were informative and entertaining, and he was always most generous in sharing his knowledge with us. There will be an article about Ewart in a future *Bulletin*.

Memorial Service:

First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene
Saturday, May 23 at 1 pm

Jim Duncan, Obsidian Board President

Obsidian Calendar

May

- 15 Fri – **Bhutan**—Stockdale..... **Potluck**
- 16 Sat – **CASA**, Walk 5m **E**, J.Allen344-6362
- 16 Sat – **Diamond Peak**, Climb/X-Ski, B.Hamilton343-6550
- 16 Sat – **Heceta Head**, 7m 400' **M**, P.Soussan345-3046
- 16 Sat – **Marcola**—**Brownsville Loop**, Bike, **D**, Ritchie.342-8435
- 17 Sun – **Brice Creek**, 8m 1000' **M**, J.Ledet683-2603
- 17 Sun – **Trials Country**, 6m 500' **M**, McLucas.....485-6508
- 19 Tue – **Auto/Aeroplane Museum**, Bus, J.Speelman344-3019
- 19 Tue – **Stream Ecosystems**—Moberly **SciEd Tues**
- 21 Thu – **Horse Rock**, 4m 100' **E**, L.Lindstrom683-1409
- 23-25 Sat-Mon – **Hart Mtn**, Car Camp/Hike **E**, Pierce ...344-1775
- 27-29 Wed-Fri – **Columbia Gorge**, L.Lindstrom.....683-1409
- 27 Wed – **Washburne and China Creek**, **E**, Kandell345-8095
- 29-31 Fri-Sun –**Mt Shasta**, Climb, Huff868-5391
- 30 Sat – **Broken Top Crater**, X-Ski, **D**, D.Hildreth345-7520
- 30 Sat –**Diamond Peak**, Climb, Deeter954-0924
- 30 Sat – **Ridgeline Trail**, 6.2m 900' **M**, J.Jacobsen343-8030
- 31 Sun – **Castle Rk**, 11.4m 2600' **D**, C.Stockdale767-3668
- 31 Sun – **Aufderheide**, Bike 50m 2700' **D**, S.Miller484-4586
- 31 Sun – **Mt. Pisgah**—**Nature Walk**, **E**, J.Ewing344-9197
- 31 Sun – **Veneta** – **Our Daily Bread**, Bike **M**, S.Hoeg ...484-6196

June

- 1-6 Mon-Sat – **Northern California**, Bus, J.Speelman....344-3019
- 2 Tue – **Kentucky Falls**, 4.4m 800' **E**, B.Revere.....726-4989
- 6 Sat – **Crescent Mountain**, 8m 2200' **M**, D.Adkins344-4163
- 7 Sun – **Bunchgrass Ridge**, 10m 1000' **D**, C.Stockdale ...767-3668
- 7 Sun – **Fish Lake**, Kayak/Canoe 4m **E**, E.Sather822-0311
- 13 Sat – **Hardesty Mountain**, 10m 4000' **D**, J.Terry.....345-0720
- 13 Sat – **Pisgah**—**Strawberries**, 6m 1000' **M**, J.Allen.....344-6362
- 14 Sun – **Wolf Creek**—**Clay Creek**, Bike, **D**, Ritchie.....342-8435
- 14 Sun – **McKenzie View Loop**, Bike **M**, D.Nelson.....736-6076
- 14 Sun – **Old McKenzie Highway**, Bike, **D**, S.Miller484-4586

Classifieds

For Sale

BARRASTERS SKI RACK - fits on cars with gutters. Excellent condition. Bargain price: \$25. **BIKE RACK** -\$20. Fits on car trunk. Sandra 687-2589 or sglars@comcast.net

WOOD - Green fir, cut and split at the Obsidian Lodge. You haul. \$120/cord. Contact John Jacobsen, Grounds Chair at 343-8030 or johnwjacobsen@comcast.net

Help Wanted

WILDERNESS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - Willamette and Deschutes Forest is seeking campsite monitors for the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington and Three Sisters Wilderness areas. Visit and assess campsite conditions. Must be able to backpack 1- 3 nights, 2 -3 times per summer, and attend an 8 hr. training on July 11. Contact Ryan Brown, Recreational Planner at 541-782-5211, or mbrown@fs.fed.us

Magazines Wanted

I need **CURRENT MAGAZINES** to send to a former student (an avid reader) whose Guard unit of the 82nd Cavalry just mobilized to Iraq. Contact Janet Jacobsen at 343-8030 or jbjacobsen@comcast.net



Bald eagle on nest at Skinner Butte. Photo by long time Obsidian, Bert Ewing. See Page 3 for instructions and a map on how to find the nest. See Page 7 for a trip report of a recent Obsidian hike to see the eagle and the nest.



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