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Dates to Remember

January 21	ExploraTalk
January 31	Potluck
January 31	Bulletin Deadline
February 5	Board Meeting
March 15	Bus Rally

Current event schedules at:

www.obsidians.org

The Register-Guard
Sports/Outdoor Calendar—Tuesday

Visit our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/theobsidians

SAVE THE DATE
2020 BUS RALLY
Sunday, March 15
2-4 PM at the Lodge

Maryanne Reiter, President 2020

Marci Hansen

THE OBSIDIANS WILL HAVE THE PRIVILEGE IN THE YEAR 2020 OF HAVING MARYANNE REITER AS PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Maryanne was born in Kennewick, WA and grew up in Minneapolis, MN. After graduating high school as valedictorian, she attended the University of Minnesota for her undergrad, then Oregon State University for graduate school. Maryanne spent a long portion of her career as a hydrologist at Weyerhaeuser from 1995-2019. Her position at Weyerhaeuser brought her to Eugene. Her responsibilities with Weyerhaeuser allowed her to be out in the field often in the spring and summer where she monitored streams, creeks, and wetlands. Maryanne knows more about the wild spaces around the tiny towns in Oregon than anyone you know. Test her on the location of the tiniest town in Oregon no one has heard of—she'll know the location. She retired from Weyerhaeuser last year, and now is committed to volunteering and playing in the outdoors every minute she gets.



Maryanne loves to rock climb, mountain climb, trail run, road cycle, backcountry ski, Nordic ski, and backpack. Beyond participating in and excelling at activities, Maryanne has also been a leader.

“Maryanne’s passion for climbing is just as strong today as it was 30 years ago,” says longtime friend and climbing partner Deb Carver. “She applies her exceptional knowledge and judgment to maximize adventure while minimizing risk.”

Upon moving to Oregon, Maryanne joined Corvallis Mountain Rescue in 1991 and then Eugene Mountain Rescue in 1995. She still consults with EMR.

Maryanne’s first climb with the Obsidians was Mt. Hubris in 2001. She has since led dozens of climbs for the Obsidians.

“As an avid outdoor enthusiast, I regularly cycle, ski, run, and backpack,” says Obsidian member and climb leader Trina Kanewa. “Several years ago I took climb school, which opened even more outdoor horizons in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Climbing and mountaineering with Maryanne has inspired me to push myself beyond my comfort zone and rewards have been bountiful. Her wild sense of humor makes every outing fun and memorable. She has been incredibly inspiring and always has words of encouragement. She is a true leader. For those lucky enough to join her in the outdoors, we are truly blessed and our lives are deeply enriched.”

Since 2015 Maryanne has been an Obsidian Board member, Climbs Committee chair and has led Obsidians’ annual Climb School.

“Climb school with the Obsidians and especially Maryanne sparked my love of climbing,” says 2015 Climb School graduate and climb leader Kerry Willhite. “Maryanne made me feel safe and invincible at the same time. I led my first rock climb with her as well. The Obsidians and the Eugene climbing community are so lucky to have her.”

As president, Maryanne plans to focus on recruiting more leaders for all activities as well as increasing the overall membership.

Welcome New Members!

Tom Mulhern
Eugene, OR 97401

Yolanda Mulhern
Eugene, OR 97401

Natalie Morgan

Lenore McManigal, Historian

NATALIE MORGAN IS THE LONGEST LIVING CONTINUOUS OBSIDIAN MEMBER—69 YEARS! She joined on June 23, 1950 when she was 19. By 1959 Natalie, her sister Marjorie and her mother Blanche had climbed the Three Sisters, thus meeting the requirement to all become Princesses. She also climbed Diamond Peak and Broken Top. Natalie was Entertainment chair in 1957 and served on the board. She married Boyd Morgan in 1957 (busy, busy year) and they both attended the Mt. Rainier Summer Camp in 1959. She and Boyd live in Eugene and have continued their membership and support of the club through the years.

Other current longtime members who joined later are Keith Newsom (1951), Jim Dotson (1955) and Ron Green (1957). Members who joined in the 1960s are Gary Kirk, Carol Scherer, Lenore McManigal, Howard Byerly, Boyd Morgan, Kevin McManigal, Steve McManigal, Ben Ross, Mary Bridgemen, Rose Marie Moffitt, Elizabeth Grover, and Wes Prouty.



Winter Trips

Leaders are Emerging. Join them!

Steve Cordon, Winter Trips Chair

IN DECEMBER, 15 DIFFERENT LEADERS PUT TRIPS ON THE SCHEDULE. Many thanks to those that stepped up to help us step out on the trail. Every leader brings a unique style and grows our sense of community. Winter Trips is always looking for new leaders, even if for only one trip. Email wintertrips@obsidians.org if you're curious about leading a trip.

The January–March Cascades forecast is expected to be slightly warmer/drier than the 1980–2010 long-term averages. That hopefully allows for a solid mix of snow outings and hikes. If you're interested in snow trips, keep your eye on the schedule; trips may be added/cancelled/rescheduled at the last minute to catch the right conditions.

Donation in Memory of Virginia Prouty

AFTER A LIFE-WELL-LIVED CELEBRATION AT THE LODGE ON NOVEMBER 10, Virginia's daughters Penny and Laurie sent a \$200 donation "as gratitude for the wonderful day we had at your lodge." They also wrote, "A special thanks to Dave (Cooper) for showing us around, and to Janet (Jacobsen) for the thoughtful memoriam."

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405
Website: www.obsidians.org

Officers & Board of Directors

Maryanne Reiter, President
Dave Cooper, Vice President
Denise Rubenstein, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
John Cooper, Steve Cordon,
Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins,
Kathy Randall, Lyndell Wilken

Board meetings are held at 6:00 PM the first Wednesday of each month, except October when it is the Wednesday after the Annual Meeting. There is no August meeting.

Committee Chairpersons

Bus..... Sharon Cutsforth
Climbs Maryanne Reiter
Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd K. Coots/J. Rolfe
Entertainment Evelyn Nagy
Extended Trips..... Lana Lindstrom
Finance Stewart Hoeg
Lodge Building..... Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds John Jacobsen
Librarian/Historian Lenore McManigal
Membership..... Diane Schechter
Online Wayne Deeter
Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity..... Marci Hansen
Safety..... Lyndell Wilken
Summer Camp Lana Lindstrom
Summer Trips Dave Cooper
Trail Maintenance..... Matt Bell
Winter Trips..... Steve Cordon

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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The Obsidian Bulletin

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Deadline

for February Bulletin

Friday, January 31, 2020

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Jorry Rolfe, Ethel Weltman

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

Assembly/Mailing Team

Manager: Lou Maenz

Team: Tom Adamecyk, Don Baldwin,
Clara Emlen, Yuan Hopkins,
Nancy Raymond, Barbara Schomaker

Darko's Beach Adoption

Jorry Rolfe

BACK IN NOVEMBER, DARKO SOJAK, SOLVE BEACH CLEANER-UPPER EXTRAORDINAIRE, OFFICIALLY SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO ADOPT AN OREGON BEACH IN HIS NAME. The one that he is now responsible for is Berry Creek Beach. He even received a certificate!

What this means is that he can set up cleanup events with Obsidians, order supplies, and report results to SOLVE to keep this part of the coast clean and healthy. He is required to clean his stretch of beach at least three times a year for two years, one of those times can be a statewide event in either March or September.

His adopted section of beach covers 1½ miles of coastline from Berry Creek all the way north to what he calls Darko's Hidden Cove. The Berry Creek estuary and beach are accessible via the Baker Beach Trailhead seven miles north of Florence.

Darko has been participating in SOLVE beach cleanups since 2012. He says that a few years ago he discovered this beach and has been cleaning it twice a year ever since with his Obsidian friends.

Way to go, Darko. Thanks for drawing a line in the sand for yourself, for clean seas, beaches, and healthy communities!

Editor's note: Join Darko on Saturday, February 1 for a hike from Holman Vista to Darko's Hidden Cove and/or Sat-



Darko (far right) and his crew after the September cleanup. Good news: since Berry Creek estuary and the nearby beach are now cleaner than before, they collected only 46 lbs. of debris. Bad news: there was 46 lbs of debris! Good news: that 46 lbs won't be going into the ocean.

Photo by Toresa Martell.

Climb School 2020

Maryanne Reiter, Climbs Chair



Snow practice at Hayrick Butte. Photo by Marci Hansen.

EACH SPRING THE OBSIDIANS AND EUGENE MOUNTAIN RESCUE OFFER A COURSE IN BASIC MOUNTAINEERING to teach the skills needed to participate safely on climbs in alpine environments. The emphasis of this course is to provide students with the basic skills needed to safely rock climb and alpine mountaineer where travel may involve traversing the steep slopes of rock and snow. This course is not meant to train people to lead groups on rock or glaciers but rather to be a safe team member. We will not cover in detail the use of map and compass, weather and avalanche assessment, or crevasse rescue.

The course consists of three classroom sessions and two field sessions covering introduction to rock climbing and snow skills. The class is limited to 30 participants. You must be 16 or older to participate, but will need a parent or guardian signature if under 18. Those between 13 and 16 may participate if accompanied by a parent or responsible adult who is also enrolled in the course. The cost of the class is \$80 for Obsidian members and Eugene Mountain Rescue volunteers, and \$110 for nonmembers.

The Obsidians will provide all ropes, anchors and group gear needed for the field sessions. We also have the following personal gear available if needed: climbing harnesses, rock helmets, prusik loops, belay devices, and locking carabiners.

Online registration opens Feb 18, 2020 at 7:00 AM. Obsidian and Eugene Mountain Rescue members can pre-register by contacting Maryanne Reiter, the Climbs Committee Chair at mreiter1959@gmail.com.

Please see the *Climbs* page on the obsidians.org website for more detail.

NOVEMBER BOARD NOTES

November 6, 2019

By Denise Rubenstein, Secretary

President Lyndell Wilken called the meeting to order. Board members present: Marci Hansen, Maryanne Reiter, Dave Cooper, John Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, Stewart Hoeg and Dave Hawkins. Others present: Denise Rubenstein, Kathy Hoeg, Jorry Rolfe, John Jacobsen, and Wayne Deeter.

The Board approved the minutes for October 2019.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg

Stewart reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved paying the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bus Trips (Sharon Cutsforth): The October bus trip to the Chinese History Museum was successfully completed. 24 members and 4 nonmembers participated, \$36.00 in trip fees were collected. We have one trip remaining, December 9: Christmas Storybook Land in Albany. The bus committee met on October 24 to begin planning for 2020 trips. We continue to look for new bus trip leaders. A follow up meeting is scheduled for December 5, 12:30 PM at the Lodge.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): Concessions took in \$31.20 in October.

Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe & Kay Coots): The October ExploraTalk about the HJ Andrews Research Forest with Dr. Nelson from OSU was attended by 27 people; \$22 was donated at the door. Dave Cooper led a very successful hike to the forest on Oct. 20.

Entertainment (Evelyn Nagy, Pam and Ron Swisher): The speaker for the October 25, 2019, potluck presentation was Lana Lindstrom and she discussed her trip to Morocco. We collected \$68 and approximately 80 people attended.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Routine upkeep of the grounds in October consisted mostly of keeping the falling fall leaves cleared and a couple of minor mowings. Thanks to Janet Jacobsen for helping with the mowing. The tree work that was approved by the Board at the October meeting was completed by Highland Tree Service on October 30 and 31. Turned out to be a good move to go with Highland's \$200/hr bid—it ended up with 12 hours of crew/equipment time, so the final cost was \$2400. The other bids we received were for \$3200, \$4900, \$5000 and Highland's fixed bid of \$4800. Plus, they did significantly more work than we asked for originally: in addition to the 3 dead fir removals proposed, they removed two additional dead firs along the edge of the parking areas (actually, cut back and left about 20 ft for wildlife tree); removed almost double the 1–2 hangers that were in the bidding proposal; topped approximately 15 oak trees rather than the 8–10 bid; did extensive clean out of dead and damaged limbs and branches not included at all in the original proposal, particularly in front of the Lodge and along the main drive into the Lodge; and removed several old, rotting logs that were not in the original proposal. I was able to work closely with Ben Macauley, Highland owner and arborist, because he provided me with a hard hat with a built-in headset so I could communicate with him as he worked up in the canopy. That allowed us to talk over things

and make decisions on the spot on what needed to be done. Having the per hour contract meant adding or removing items of work was not an issue. It all worked out great and I am very pleased with the completed job. It really cleaned up our canopy as well as the grounds in general.

Membership (Diane Schechter): New members for Board approval: Barbara Tamaccio and Erin Murphy.

Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz): On Oct 2, 2019 we mailed 200 *Bulletins*. Folding were Clara Emlen, Judy Newman, Janet Whitesides, Barbara Schomaker, Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin, Yuan Hopkins. Lead: Lou Maenz.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): AED has been checked and Safety Committee members have confirmed their participation in 2020.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): For October we had 20 trips generating \$260 in fees. The participation levels were 209 members and 13 nonmembers.

Trail Maintenance (Matt Bell): There was one outing this past month. We cleaned the steps and drainage along the Main Trail. We worked all the way back to the main parking lot from the summit.

Winter Trips (Steve Cordon): We need more trips on the schedule, but otherwise we are ready for our Winter Trips season to begin on November 15.

OLD BUSINESS

Wilderness Permit Update: Lyndell Wilken, Dave Cooper and Maryanne Reiter met to discuss a generalized version as to how the club might manage the proposed Wilderness permits. Leaders were polled and the resulting initial version was presented to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

- Election of Board Officers: The following were approved: President: Maryanne Reiter, Vice-president: Dave Cooper, Treasurer: Stewart Hoeg, Secretary: Denise Rubenstein.
- Budget increase for Publicity: Marci Hansen requested the budget to increase to \$1000. It would be used for quarterly posters, a search for experienced climbers to teach beginners, targeted social ads on Facebook and Instagram, along with sponsoring different events, and getting more Obsidian gear out in public. A thorough discussion showed Marci's vision.
- Letter to Lodge neighbor about hazard trees: John Jacobsen drafted a letter to be sent by the Board regarding a neighbor's dead Douglas-fir that is leaning over Lodge property.
- Ideas for the next decade/next steps: Lyndell reviewed and compiled the ideas that were solicited from members at the Annual Meeting in October. Those ideas will be shared next month.
- Committee Chair Renewals for 2020: Lyndell is in the process of communicating with and confirming Committee Chairs for next year.
- Two new members were approved.
- December Holiday Dinner: In the recent past, pizza was ordered for Board members and guests after the December meeting. After a discussion of the intent of the event, along with crowded December schedules, ideas were suggested for the future, and it was determined that this year would be a pass for a holiday dinner.
- Rescheduled January Board Meeting: January 8, 2020.

DECEMBER BOARD NOTES

December 4, 2019

By Denise Rubenstein, Secretary

President Lyndell Wilken called the meeting to order. Board members present: Marci Hansen, Maryanne Reiter, Dave Cooper, John Cooper, Steve Cordon, Lana Lindstrom, Dave Hawkins, Stewart Hoeg, and Kathy Randall. Others present: Denise Rubenstein, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Diane Schechter, John Jacobsen, Wayne Deeter, Jim Northrop, Clara Emlen, Kathy Hoeg, and Carla Cooper.

The Board approved the minutes for November 2019.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg

Stewart reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills. Stewart presented the 2020 Obsidian preliminary budget which was created by committee chairs and the Finance Committee and will be voted on in January. He also compared our actual investments against investment policy, and we are in compliance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Concessions (Carla Cooper): Sales for November totaled \$100.

Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe & Kay Coots): Sixty-six people attended the November ExploraTalk with Chandra LeGue of Oregon Wild—\$114 donated that evening.

Entertainment (Evelyn Nagy, Ron and Pam Swisher): The speaker for the November 22, 2019, potluck presentation was Jeff Carr and he discussed hiking and climbing the Wallowa Mountains. We collected \$90 and had approximately 90 guests.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Finance Committee met and prepared the preliminary 2020 Obsidian budget on Nov 20. The meeting included Joel Greer and Denise Bean—two Obsidians who I will be requesting be added to the committee.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): 11/21/2019: Work party focusing on new plantings for the Lodge grounds. We created a new planting bed above the Lodge with Oregon grape and sword ferns, added a smaller bed in the parking area with red-twigged dogwood, planted 3 giant sequoias in the far parking island and planted a Port Orford cedar that Dave Predeek has grown from a cone and donated to the Obsidians. Some of the fall leaves were placed as mulch for the new plantings. Thanks to Dave Cooper, Doug Nelson, Jim Northrop and Janet Whitesides for their help with this project. Oh, and Dave installed much brighter LED bulbs in all the parking lights. 11/30/2019: Helped with a special plant salvage and transplanting for the monthly Trail Maintenance Committee's project. We salvaged the uncommon meadow checkermallow from along the Ribbon Trail and transplanted it in several groupings around the Obsidian grounds. I met prior with Diane Steeck, an ecologist with the city of Eugene to pick planting locations at the Lodge. After the project, the Grounds Committee (Janet and I) hosted a lunch at the Lodge for all the volunteers. We also had a couple smaller leaf herding sessions.

Membership (Diane Schechter): Total membership of 481 includes 312 members who have renewed and 149 members

who have not renewed. A final reminder will be sent to those members who have not renewed and then they will be removed as active members. By January 1 we will have an accurate number of active members. New members for Board approval: Tom Mulhern, Yolanda Mulhern.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): Summer trips summary 2019: 38 leaders led 171 outings including 158 hikes, 2 bikes, 4 backpacks, 5 car camps, 1 paddle, and 1 class. Difficulty of hikes: 38 easy, 108 moderate, and 25 difficult. Income from trip fees was \$1915. Participant counts: 1529 members, 135 nonmembers.

Trail Maintenance (Matt Bell): There was one outing in November to salvage and transplant meadow checkermallow. This was a joint Trails and Grounds outing during which we planted the salvaged checkermallow to the Lodge grounds.

Winter Trips (Steve Cordon): I'm still collecting the official November results, but tentative numbers for Nov 15–30 are: 12 trips, 108 members and 2 nonmembers, \$112 fees. Many thanks go to a number of leaders that stepped up to add trips. Of note: Mark Hougardy and Denise Rubenstein recently added lovely walks, and a group is helping generate more urban hikes through the winter.

OLD BUSINESS

Wilderness permit update: Lyndell Wilken provided Wilderness area maps that show the proposed trailheads which would require permits for day and/or overnight trips. The time for public comments has been extended.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Board approved the 2020 committee chairs (will be published in February *Bulletin*).
- Ideas for the Next Decade: At the Annual Meeting, club members were invited to share ideas for looking at the future of the Obsidians. Lyndell collected and organized the suggestions/thoughts. The printed compilation was shared with the attendees as an offering of food for thought.
- Garage sale for outdoor equipment: Clara Emlen, Nola Nelson, and Lou Maenz have been discussing the possibility of a garage sale at the Lodge. Clara said the planning was in the preliminary stages. Her proposal was met with enthusiasm and lots of questions. It was suggested that partnering the sale with our popular Get Acquainted Hikes might work well. The discussion was tabled for next month.
- New members were approved. (See Membership report.)
- Club Statistics Review: John Jacobsen presented a very comprehensive review of club membership, activity, participation and leadership trends over the past 14 years. The review provided graphs, tables and summaries which led to robust discussion of the club's recent trends. John suggested that membership numbers are a key indicator of the health of the club and have been declining for over 10 years. The number of leaders continues to decline as well, although the number of trips offered has increased. Much appreciation to John for this comprehensive review.
- Special thanks were given to Lana Lindstrom for her service on the Board as she finishes this term.

TRIP REPORTS



Bike Trips

Camas Bakery Loop

November 2, 2019

Leader: Richard Hughes

Bike: 21 miles, 236 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER GODS SENT VIBRANT SUNNY RAYS which shined upon us the entire ride. Our destination was Camas Mill Bakery where most of us dined on butternut squash soup and fresh artisan bread in the old schoolhouse. Members: Steve Cordon, John Hegg, Richard Hughes, Brenda Kameenui, Lana Lindstrom, Angie Ruzicka, Gordon Sayre, Harold Thompson. Nonmembers: Caroline Forell.

McKenzie View Loop

November 9, 2019

Leader: Richard Hughes

Photographer: Darian Morray

Bike: 26 miles, 643 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER OF COURSE PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE in whether a trip will happen or not. I prayed for sun and got no fog. No flats, no dropped chains and no dropped riders—a good ride. Members: Julie Barnas, John Hegg, Richard Hughes, Steven Koester, Darian Morray, David Strutin.



Julie, Richard, Steven, John, and Dave ready to ride.

Creswell Loop

November 16, 2019

Leader: Richard Hughes

Bike: 20 miles, 382 ft. (Easy)

KUDOS TO THE RIDE LEADER FOR ORDERING UP PERFECT WEATHER for a casual ride around the foothills and flats of Creswell. After the ride most of us stayed for lunch at the bakery where we dined outside in the sun. Members: Laura Anderson, Kathleen Ehli, Richard Hughes, Steven Koester, Darian Morray, Angie Ruzicka, David Strutin, Harold Thompson.

Brownsville Loop

November 23, 2019

Leader: Richard Hughes

Bike: 45 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

FLEXIBILITY WAS THE MANTRA FOR THE DAY. Waking up to fog in Eugene had cancellation echoes in my head. It didn't take long for the heavy mist to dissipate and then I headed for the start point in Coburg. Upon arrival it was soaked in and not safe to ride. With a consensus we drove back to Eugene and rode out Lorane Highway, over Briggs, Territorial, Lorane and back via Fox Hollow. I hit a hole in the road and flattened my tubeless tire. Not usual to have a flat with tubeless, but tubed it and rode on. Finally we had lunch at Hideaway near the end of the ride. Members: John Hegg, Richard Hughes, Darian Morray, Harold Thompson.



Climbs

Peregrine Traverse-Acker Rock

October 4, 2019

Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Climb: (Difficult)

THE PEREGRINE TRAVERSE ROUTE ON ACKER ROCK WAS IN GREAT SHAPE with perfect weather and strong team members. Most of all there were no bee encounters. We ended up with three teams of two with several people getting a chance to swap leads. Great day! Members: Trina Kanewa, Jennifer Marlow, Juli McGlinsky, Maryanne Reiter, Gordon Sayre, Dalen Willhite.



Hikes

Obsidian Loop

November 2, 2019

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 11.5 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

I'VE LEAD THIS HIKE A FEW TIMES IN AUTUMN, and this was one of the clearest days imaginable. The dry air made for a cold start, 27 degrees at the trailhead. We encountered some snow at about 5,500' and more as we ascended. There were about ten fallen trees on the trail which will need attention next year. We regrouped at the volcanic sector, at the beginning of the loop, and twice more on the way to the falls. The water flow over the falls was about 1/3 of what it was when I was here in July. The snow hid some of the obsidian, but the rocks were exposed. The ponds were frozen, but the ice is very thin at the moment. We finished the loop, but not before having clear views of the northern Oregon Cascades from Belknap to Mt. Hood. All in all, it was a good day to be in the woods. Now they can close 242 for the season!! Members:

Denise Bean, Marguerite Cooney, Rebecca Eastwood, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Mike Smith, Paul Winther. Nonmembers: Tom Mulhern, Yolanda Mulhern.

UO Fossil Collection

November 5, 2019

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 3 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

THE BEST PART OF THIS EXCURSION FOR MANY OF US WAS THE WALK from Alton Baker Park to the U of O's Department of Earth Sciences in Cascade Hall on a fairly sunny fall afternoon. The plan was to view some of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History's Condon Collection of Fossils housed in that building. We were joined by Native Plant Society members who doubled the size of the group. As a result, it was very challenging to hear Professor Greg Retallack or see the fossils he was talking about; however, it was interesting to just get a feel for the thousands of fossils (many collected in Oregon) in the collection, both in administrative offices and in the vault. Thanks to all the participants for their graciousness in accepting the situation. Members: Joanna Alexander, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Anne Hollander, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Dave Predeek, Jorry Rolfe, Gordon Sayre, Janet Whitesides, Karen Yoerger. Nonmembers: Kerry Barrett.

Chuckle and Indigo Springs

November 8, 2019

Leader: Joanna Alexander

Hike: 4 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

OUR GROUP OF CONGENIAL CHUCKLE SPRINGS SEEKERS ARRIVED AT INDIGO SPRINGS CAMPGROUND IN A HEAVY FOG OF WOOD SMOKE. No one having serious lung challenges, we forged on, the smoke staying up while we wended our way down into the clean fresh air and music of rushing, singing waters of the uppermost reaches of the Middle Fork of the Willamette and of the tributary streamlets gushing out of the ground on our left. We enjoyed a most springlike day and each other's company as we passed through giant western red cedars, western hemlocks, and ancient Douglas-firs, some 300 or 400 year old ones decaying on the ground, coated with lush moss and serving as nursery trees to hemlocks. We lunched at the very source of Chuckle Springs, a clear pool with seven or eight springs feeding it. Back at the campground we hiked the .2-mile loop around Indigo Springs and talked with some camping folks who were about to launch hunting season. Celebration of the amazing day followed at the Brewers Union Pub 180 in Oakridge, basking in a warming sun on the sidewalk outside. Members: Joanna Alexander, Nikki Frank, Sara Henley, David Lodeesen, Leila Snow.

Shotgun Creek Loop

November 10, 2019

Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 4.6 miles, 800 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT. We enjoyed the excellent trail which was covered with millions of leaves. Some Pacific golden chanterelles were collected. As Kathleen said, "Another wonderful fall day." Upon our return to Eugene our happy group stopped in a small craft brewery for refreshments. Members: Julie Barnas, Denise Bean, Marguerite

Cooney, Kathleen Ehli, Jean Harris, Holger Krentz, Laurie Marshall, Kathy Randall, Darko Sojak, Diana Wheat.

McKenzie River Trail/Belknap Hot Springs

November 10, 2019

Leader: Clara Emlen

Photographer: Nancy Matthews

Hike: 8 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

FOUR OBSIDIANS CAUGHT LTD BUS #91 IN SPRINGFIELD at 8:46, arriving at the McKenzie Ranger Station at 9:58. The trail access is directly across the highway from the ranger station. The hike is mostly level with a few switchbacks with mild elevation gain. The group took a leisurely pace allowing time to observe the flora and fauna along the way. There were various types of fall fungi that emerged from the soil and logs offering interesting color and structure, as well as a few dogwood trees still in yellow fall color. A pileated woodpecker flew in to an area where large holes in the tree trunks were observed. Pacific wrens and golden-crowned kinglets were also observed. A raven was heard calling in the distance. The group arrived at Belknap Hot Springs three hours later. After enjoying lunch and a soak in the pool, we returned along the same route reaching the ranger station in two hours, about 5:00, in time for some beautiful sunset colors and just before the woods got dark. The near full moon began to rise shortly afterwards. The group caught the return bus at 5:59 for a relaxing ride back to Springfield. Nature knowledge, scribe, photographer: Nancy; timekeeper and fungi finder: Yuan; and pacers: Sara and Nancy. Members: Clara Emlen, Sara Henley, Yuan Hopkins, Nancy Matthews.



Sara, Yuan, and Clara.

Veterans Day Hike

November 11, 2019

Leader: David Lodeesen

Hike: 6 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

WE HAD A WONDERFUL TURNOUT WITH 22 OBSIDIAN PARTICIPANTS this Veterans Day to hike the river trail, including a stop at the Lane County Veterans Memorial Wall to honor those local veterans who died in service to our country. Five Obsidian participants on this hike are veterans: Mike Smith (Navy), Michael Bean and David Lodeesen (Army), Tom Rundle (Marines), and Holger Krentz (Air Force). The day was cool and overcast but the fall colors were still lingering. Many participants got a chance to meet and chat with other members that they had never met before. I think we've started a new tradition for the club as this was the fourth consecutive Veterans Day Hike we've completed. Hope to see you all again next year. Members: Joanna Alexander,

Mari Baldwin, Michael Bean, Brad Bennett, Marguerite Cooney, David Cooper, Kay Coots, Nikki Frank, Whitney Gould, Elizabeth Koch, Holger Krentz, David Lodeesen, Vern Marsonette, Helen Martz, Darian Morry, Kathy Randall, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Louis Rubenstein, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, Dorothy van Winkle.

Larison Rock

November 17, 2019

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 8 miles, 2,400 ft. (Difficult)

WHEN I PUT THIS HIKE ON THE SCHEDULE, I wondered whether it should be moderate because of the eight mile distance. The committee chairs of summer and winter trips assured me it should be rated difficult. Yep. The climb is 1,500' in two miles, consistent with upper Hardesty, upper Maiden Peak, and Henline. It isn't steep, but it just keeps going. Anyway, we had seven going out and had favorable conditions to hike up to the top. After a short lunch, we returned, after having paid the gravity bill. Nice day close in to town. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Joel Greer, Lynn Meacham, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Mike Smith.

Cardwell Hill and Fitton Green

November 24, 2019

Leader: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Jules Moritz

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 7 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

EUGENE'S DRIZZLY MORNING DID NOT DISCOURAGE THESE OBSIDIANS from driving north. By the time we reached the trailhead, the rain stopped. We started our 40° hike at the top of Cardwell Hill Drive. A large portion of the hike was on well-maintained, wide roads along the Marys River and smaller tributaries. On the way to Fitton Green we saw several large bear footprints right on the muddy trail. From the top of the hill we enjoyed the view to the Philomath area, nestled in the patchy fog. After a short lunch break along the Marys River, we hiked the maze of trails guided by our great assistant leader. After the hike our cheerful group stopped for refreshments at nearby Cardwell Hill Cellars. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Rebecca Eastwood, Kathleen Ehli, Leah Firth, Vicky Hanson, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Jules Moritz, Kathy Randall, Millie Schwandt, Darko Sojak, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield.



Nearing the high point of the hike.

SW Hills to Iris Ridge

November 22, 2019

Leader: Dorene Steggell

Assistant Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

THE SUN WAS SHINING but there was still frost in the shadows as we toured Mulkey Cemetery noting the headstones that reflected many local place names. We followed paved neighborhood off-street paths along a tiny creek up to the Iris Ridge Summit Sky Trailhead and walked the upper loop in the park to the main upper trailhead at Bailey View Drive. After pausing to enjoy the view, we returned to our cars on sidewalks and a few off-street paths. Members: Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper, Steve Adey, Evelyn Nagy, Janet Jacobsen, Dorene Steggell, Nancy Whitfield, Dorothy van Winkle.

Mt. Baldy Sunrise

November 28, 2019

Leader Darko Sojak

Hike: 3.5 miles, 950 ft. (Easy)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE TOP OF SUNNY MT. BALDY! We had a nice 23° sunrise. Members: Lana Lindstrom, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

Turkey Trimming

November 29, 2019

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 8 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

THIS WAS THE SIXTH ANNUAL TRIMMING-THE-FAT-AFTER-THANKSGIVING HIKE and it was the coldest by far—about 29 degrees when we started! But all of us were prepared and stayed warm, briskly hiking the trails and back streets in south Eugene; the route this year resembled a seahorse! Along the way, we got to know each other better by playing speed dating Obsidian-style. Three were born in Europe, one in the nation's capital, and several in California! The places we wanted to vacation were all over the map (literally): beaches, mountains, cruises and just hanging out in our backyards. And we also learned about the recent bike/pedestrian improvements in the Amazon Corridor. The three new bridges across Amazon Creek each cost \$200,000 and the entire project will cost \$2.7 million when completed next year. Members: Linda Anson, Jennifer Baer, Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Richard Hughes, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Darko Sojak, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Gwyneth Iredale.

Cape Mountain

December 1, 2019

Leader: Joel Greer

Hike: 8 miles, 1,100 ft. (Moderate)

SIXTEEN HIKERS BEGAN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER WITH AN AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE in the coastal temperate rainforest at Cape Mountain. The temperature held pretty steady at about 43 degrees for the duration of the hike. For the first hour or so, we experienced the *rain in rainforest*, but it was a mild drizzle. As we hiked through the lush forest of Sitka spruce, Douglas-fir, red cedar, moss, and ferns, the rain ended and we even had some intermittent sunshine. There were several nice views of the coast and coastal lakes along the way, and there were quite a few recently fallen branches and some small trees across the trail. We made two creek crossings,

then climbed up the Nelson Ridge Trail for lunch under an enormous Sitka spruce and with nice views of the Pacific Ocean. Another 2.3 miles of hiking brought us back to our cars at the Dry Lake Trailhead. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Lynda Christiansen, Marguerite Cooney, Kathleen Ehli, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Nancy Hoecker, Holger Krentz, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Randy Sinnott, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak, Janet Whitesides, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Jessica Moll.

Stocking Stuffer Hike and Luncheon

December 6, 2019

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Assistant Leader: Joella Ewing

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 3 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

THE LODGE WAS WARM AND INVITING WITH A FIRE, decorated tables, and hot apple cider for the 38 hikers who brought 150 pairs of new wool socks for the Egan Warming Center. Thanks to everyone who shared their special foods and helped with the prep and cleanup tasks. We especially thank Joella who coordinated the potluck and inspires us with her concerns for the homeless. She took the leftover food to the Nightingale Hosted Shelter. Generosity made our sixth annual gathering a special way to start the holiday season. Members: Steve Adey, Linda Anson, Charles Ashmore, Barbara Aten, Mari Baldwin, Denise Bean, Pam Caples, Lynda Christiansen, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, John Cooper, Sharon Duncan, Clara Emlen, Joella Ewing, Betty Grant, Jane Hackett, Nancy Hoecker, Yuan Hopkins, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen, Laurie Marshall, June Miller, Judy Newman, Jorry Rolfe, Ruth Romoser, Karla Rusow, Diane Schechter, Barbara Schomaker, Mike Smith, Pat Soussan, Dorene Steggell, Sam Tracer, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield, Lyndell Wilken. Nonmembers: Marian Jacobs, Debbie Knechtel.



Good food, good conversation.

Larison Creek

December 7, 2019

Leader: Denise Bean

Hike: 6.2 miles, 583 ft. (Moderate)

WE HAD THE PERFECT WINDOW OF WEATHER with no rain for hiking. The trail had been cleared of the many downed trees from last winter's storm. The turnaround spot for lunch had changed with downed trees blocking the path to the *lunch* rocks. We were able to cross over the trees and still get there.

This is a nice winter trail hike. Members: Denise Bean, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Kathleen Ehli, David Hawkins, Nancy Hoecker, Cindy Rice, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde.

Meadowlark Prairie to Fern Ridge

December 8, 2019

Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 6.9 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

IT TOOK US A LEISURELY 2.5 HOURS FOR 6.9 EASY MILES along the Amazon Diversion Canal. The simple, peaceful, gray day hike was embellished with a friendly young Great Dane that followed us for 1.5 miles, thousands of low flying migratory birds and a couple of otters in the canal. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Lynda Christiansen, Richard Hughes, Daphne James, Sandra Larsen, Lana Lindstrom, Laurie Marshall, Darko Sojak, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Debbie Knechtel.

Hendricks Park Winter Walk

December 10, 2019

Leader: Denise Rubenstein

Hike: 3 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

IT APPEARS THAT THE SEASONAL RAINS HAVE FINALLY COME, so we hiked in the rain. Buds are swelling in anticipation of what's to come, but as promised, we did find plants in bloom: pink and white viburnum, purple beauty berry and a very late coral flag star lily. Three intrepid hikers enjoyed the gifts of a winter walk in the woods—technically, on the eve of winter. Members: Kathy Hoeg, Laurie Marshall, Denise Rubenstein.

Suzanne Arlie Park Exploratory

December 16, 2019

Leader: Dorene Steggell

Assistant Leader: David Cooper

Hike: 4.5 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

ON THIS SUNNY DAY DAVE PROVIDED US WITH COPIES OF THE CITY'S PLAN DIAGRAM FOR THE PARK. The first part of the hike took us past huge slash piles on logged over land. We visited the chimney and cellar ruins of an old residence, then hiked a trail through the area designated as mountain bike park. Returning by a road under the power line, we took the trail designated as the only hiker-only trail not built to accessibility standards in the park. Members: Steve Adey, Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, David Cooper, Kathleen Ehli, Patricia Esch, David Lodeesen, Richard Shields, Randy Sinnott, Dorene Steggell, Nancy Whitfield.

Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte

Hike: 6.2 miles, 1,530 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders:

Tom Rundle 11/6 16 members 1 nonmember

David Cooper 11/13 10 members

Steve Cordon 11/20 17 members 1 nonmember

Denise Rubenstein 11/27 13 members

Mike Smith 12/4 23 members

Janet Whitesides 12/11 20 members

Vern Marsonette 12/18 15 members



Wednesday Spencer Butte regulars encountered snow the morning of November 27. Photo by Dave Lodeesen.

Ridgeline Hikes

Leader: David Cooper

Blanton Heights to Spencer Butte,

Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,730 ft. (Moderate)

11/3 12 members 2 nonmembers

11/24 10 members

Blanton Ridge, 4 miles, 650 ft. (Easy)

11/14 5 members

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Spring Blvd to Spencer Butte

Hike: 9 miles, 1,900 ft. (Moderate)

11/16 10 members

12/8 11 members 4 nonmembers



Lodge Cleaning Work Party

November 6, 2019

Leader: David Cooper

WHAT AN EFFICIENT GROUP! This leader often felt like everyone else's extra, part-time helper. Thanks, crew. You're hired! Members: David Cooper, Kay Coots, Clara Emlen, Janet Jacobsen, Dorene Steggell, Dorothy van Winkle, Janet Whitesides.

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hikes: 3–7.5 miles, 1,000–2,000 ft. (Moderate)

Leader: Janet Jacobsen:

11/11 sunset/moonrise 11 members 2 nonmembers

12/11 sunset/moonrise 3 members 1 nonmember

12/14 8 members 1 nonmember

Leader: Steve Adey:

11/15 Up-Down-Around-Up-Down 2 members

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

January

1 Wed New Year's Day Butte-Short Hike **E**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
 1 Wed New Year's Day Butte-Med Hike **M**..... Cordon 513-3452
 1 Wed New Year's Day Butte-Long Hike **M**.....Smith 520-488-9569
 8 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**Lindstrom 683-1409
 9 Thu Cape Lookout Cabins Ext Trp **M**Nagy 514-4110
 10 Fri Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **E** Jacobsen 206-1251
 11 Sat Salt Creek Falls SShoe **E**.....Hovis 731-3412
 11 Sat 12 Bridges Loop Bike **E** Hughes 933-5542
 12 Sun Carl G. Washburne Loop Hike **E**..... Sojak 799-9199
 12 Sun Pisgah Ganderflanking Hike **M** Cooper 868-5427
 12 Sun Midnight Lake Xski **M**..... Wolling 345-2110
 15 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Lindstrom 683-1409
 18 Sat Nickerson Loop SShoe **E**.....Rundle 653-0741
 19 Sun 100 Mile Bakery Loop Bike **E**..... Hughes 933-5542
 19 Sun Redtop Mountain Xski **D**..... Thompson 683-8942
 21 Tue The Intertwine: A Conservation Story..... **ExploraTalk**
 22 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Steggell 343-7018
 25 Sat Odell Overlook SShoe **E**Hovis 731-3412
 25 Sat Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**Cooper 868-5427
 25 Sat Brownsville Loop Bike **M** Hughes 933-5542
 28 Tue River Path North Hike **E**Cooper 868-5427
 29 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**Rundle 653-0741
 31 Fri New Hikes in NW Oregon & SW Washington..... **Potluck**

February

1 Sat Holman Vista Hike **M**.....Sojak 799-9199
 2 Sun Groundhog Day Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
 8 Sat Salt Creek Falls SShoe **E** Hovis 731-3412
 8 Sat Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
 14 Fri Oregon's Birthday Hike **M**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
 18 Tue River Path North Hike **E** Cooper 868-5427
 18 Tue The Geography of Adventure..... **ExploraTalk**
 25 Tue Maxwell Butte Shelter SS Camp SShoe **M**..... Hovis 731-3412
 28 Fri Biking in Mongolia **Potluck**

March

10 Tue Forest Service Permits and Fees..... **ExploraTalk**
 15 Sun 2020 Bus Trips **Bus Rally**
 27 Fri Exploring Croatia **Potluck**
 28 Sat Beach Clean-Up with SOLVE Hike **E**Sojak 799-9199

April

14 Tue Seneca and Sustainability..... **ExploraTalk**
 20 Mon Grand Canyon Backpack 2020 Bk Pk **D** Adey 520-9285
 24 Fri Long Distance Walking in the UK **Potluck**

May

29 Fri Biking Taiwan! **Potluck**

Watch for news of 2020 bus trips in the February Bulletin

THE BUS COMMITTEE IS HARD AT WORK PLANNING A SERIES OF TRIPS FOR 2020. We are hoping our first activities for the year will not get snowed out again. We appreciate the support from all 190 participants during the 2019 year. Bus trip information will also be posted on the Obsidians home page: www.obsidians.org

Contact information: bustrips@obsidians.org

Sharon Cutsforth, Bus Committee Chair, 746-4929

AT THE LODGE



ExploraTalk

Tuesday, January 21 at 7 PM



The Intertwine: The Portland–Vancouver Greenspace Conservation Story Mike Houck

IN 1982 MIKE HOUCK WAS TOLD BY OFFICIALS, “THERE IS NO PLACE FOR NATURE IN THE CITY.” Today, Metro, the regional government, owns 17,000 acres, and local park providers own several thousand additional acres of parks and natural areas. Mike will describe the evolution of *The Intertwine*, a Portland-Vancouver regional system of parks, trails, and natural areas. Together government and nonprofit organizations have worked for thirty years to protect biodiversity and watershed health across the urban and rural landscapes, all the while ensuring that the region’s residents have access to nature where they live, work, and play.



Friday, January 31 at 6:30 PM

New Hikes in NW Oregon and SW Washington

A slide show presentation by
William L. Sullivan

OREGON’S HIKING GURU TAKES US ON AN ILLUSTRATED TOUR OF A DOZEN NEW HIKES he discovered while researching the just-released fifth edition of his book, *100 Hikes in NW Oregon & SW Washington*. Come discover a new waterfall trail near Hood River, an overlooked wildflower hike on the permit-free side of Mt. Adams, and a new kids hike along the Columbia River near Portland. Along the way get the latest news about fire-damaged trails in the Columbia Gorge, as well as anecdotes about history, wildflowers, and more.

Sullivan has written 21 books about the Northwest, including *Hiking Oregon’s History*, *Oregon Favorites*, and *The Case of D.B. Cooper’s Parachute*. His journal of a 1000-mile hike he took across Oregon, *Listening for Coyote*, was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of Oregon’s *100 Books*, the most significant books in the state’s history.



Potluck

Friday, January 31
Obsidian Lodge

Potluck, 6:30 PM Program, 7:30 PM

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



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January 2020



Sunrise from Mt. Baldy. Photo by Darko Sojak. (See report on page 8.)

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