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Dates to Remember

January 29 *Bulletin* Deadline
 February 3 Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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[@Eugene_obsidians](https://www.instagram.com/Eugene_obsidians)

Obsidian Membership Directory

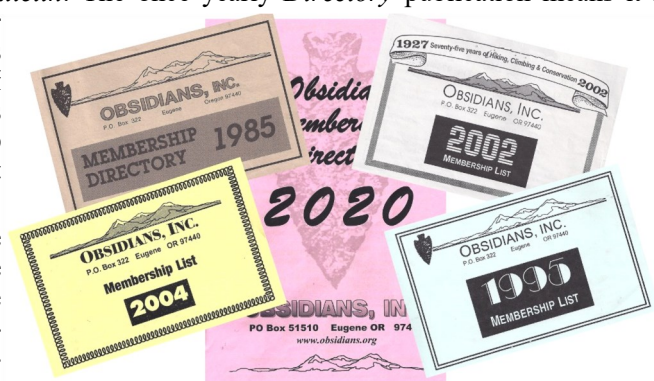
Big Change Coming (well actually, it's here)

John Jacobsen, Obsidian Online Committee

THE OBSIDIAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED A MOTION at their December meeting to discontinue mailing a printed *Obsidian Membership Directory* to all members in February of each year.

Why? This change began when President Reiter asked the Online Committee if member email addresses could be included in the *2021 Membership Directory*. While easily accomplished from a technical standpoint, there were other issues to consider:

- The *Membership Directory* is published once a year in February and included in the mailing of February's *Bulletin*. The once yearly *Directory* publication means it is only current at most for one month before it is outdated because of changes and additions. Is it a useful document to produce and mail just once a year?



- If the *Directory* were switched to an online publication, it could be regularly updated to provide current member contact information.

- If we added member emails to the *Directory*, we would eliminate the need for a separate email/phone list which we currently provide in the Members Only area of our web site.

- It is expensive to print and mail the *Directory* each year. If we added email addresses, that would add an extra line for each member, basically doubling the size of the *Directory*. While not doubling its printing and mailing costs, it would still increase them substantially.

- Having the *Directory* online would eliminate the printing/ mailing expenses entirely.

What Happened? The Obsidian Board discussed adding the emails to the *Membership Directory* and making it an online-only publication at the November Board Meeting and approved it at the December meeting.

While adding the emails to the *Membership Directory* was an easy task, switching it to

(Continued on page 4)

New Column for the *Bulletin*

A FEW YEARS BACK, MEMBER RICK AHRENS WROTE INTERESTING AND INSIGHTFUL SCIENCE/EDUCATION ARTICLES FOR THE *BULLETIN*. Others have also written articles on conservation topics over the years that inspired and educated. Now, more than ever, it seems relevant and important to resume the publication of features about the natural world and local environmental issues. The Conservation/SciEd Committee will lead this effort in the form of a new regular column entitled *Climate and Environment*. (See page 3.) It is a new year, and as good a time as any to begin!

IN MEMORIAM

Louise Behnke
September 25, 1920–November 6, 2020

LOUISE WAS AN OBSIDIAN MEMBER FROM 2000 UNTIL 2018 and went on 49 bus trips. She was a joy to have on bus trips and almost always had a joke or funny story to share with all over the microphone. Her husband Sterling, an Obsidian from 1939–1949, died in 1988. When they married in 1953, he was the owner of the Gilbert's Shoe Store in downtown Eugene where he later let Obsidians sign up for trips*. Louise is survived by a son and daughter.

Physically no longer able to go on bus trips, Louise still maintained her sense of humor and sunny disposition. In a letter written last July to member Verna Kocken, Louise closed with the following: *God bless us all, world wide. Be safe and Wash Your Hands. Love, Louise*

*The Obsidians had a bulletin board for signup sheets at Gilbert's Shoe Store from 1959–1968, then moved the board to the YMCA the following year. (April 2017 Bulletin)

Editor's Note: A complete obituary can be found in the November 22, 2020 issue of *The Register-Guard*.

From the Historian Committee:

HEIDI FARRELL (CALIFORNIA) SENT AN EMAIL EARLY IN DECEMBER asking for information about her grandfather Harry Wright who was a member from 1929–1939. She also wanted the lyrics and the melody for the *Obsidian Song* that he used to sing for their family. Member Carol Scherer remembered singing the song at summer camp when she was a child and was able to provide all of the verses and that the melody was the *Alabama Fight Song*. Bea Fontana and Janet Jacobsen searched the Obsidian scrapbooks and logbooks and found a newspaper clipping reporting that Harry was one of 71 persons on a Middle Sister Obsidian climb, July 1, 1934. They also found several photos including one of Harry with his trophy after winning the Obsidian 12-mile ski race.

Heidi replied with an enthusiastic thank you:

I know my dad will love seeing his father's logbook and seeing that picture of his dad...This is so fun for me and my siblings to see this side of our Grandpa. It was also fun to see that our Grandma (Mildred Jacobson) went hiking up the Middle Sister with him. They must have been dating at the time.

Welcome New Members!

Donna Bloomfield
Eugene, OR 97402

Mike Fleck
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Judith Moman
Eugene, OR 97404

Russ Davies
Eugene, OR 97402

Ligia Miles
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

William Wu
Eugene, OR 97401

OBSIDIANS, INC

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Website: www.obsidians.org

Officers & Board of Directors

Maryanne Reiter, President
Dave Cooper, Vice President
Denise Rubenstein, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
Denise Bean, Marci Hansen,
Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga
Jorry Rolfe, 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..... Jim Northrop
Climbs Maryanne Reiter
Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd ... K. Coots/A. Ruzicka
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
Summer Trips Dave Cooper
Trail Maintenance..... Matt Bell
Winter Trips..... Dave Cooper

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Deadline

for February Bulletin

Friday, January 29, 2021

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Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger

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

Assembly/Mailing Team

Manager: Lou Maenz

Assistant: Nancy Raymond

Team: Instaprint



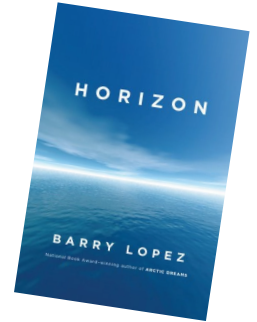
A Man of the River—Barry Lopez

Jorry Rolfe

NATURE WRITER/STORYTELLER BARRY LOPEZ LIVED MANY YEARS NEAR THE MCKENZIE RIVER IN FINN ROCK. He died on December 25. His eloquence and his profound caring for the land, water, and people made all his writings masterpieces of literature about the world around us and our stories. His words heal and inspire, teach and guide.

John Pegg wrote in the June, 2019 issue of the *Bulletin* about Lopez’s book *Horizon*, “I found the depth of his curiosity about the natural world and his empathy for the people and cultures he finds on his travels extraordinary. The prose showed me the humility, intelligence and generosity of an extraordinary person...” As John wrote, Lopez was remarkable, and the stories he has left us constitute a collection of moral wisdom about life.

In this time of a pandemic when we are spending more time in our homes and mourning our limitations, many of us are perhaps discovering while on our hikes or through outdoor activities, what he did “going wild” and feeling “uncomplicated air pushing against my skin... [on a] recalibration walk.” We all might not often experience this true wilderness, but we look for times and places to find fresh points of reference and joy in our present lives. Lopez reminds us that nature as a place of familiarity can affirm our sense of how fortunate we are to share these things... trees dripping wet, glowing sunsets, lakeside vistas, waterfalls, the wind.



With his love of story, words, and reading, and his belief in the restorative power of natural spaces, he became one of our greatest nature writers. Find a book of his or locate an essay he composed! There is a guarantee you will be impressed as you take your time pondering each of his sentences. Then go outside, and as he said, “find some place between the extremes of nature and civilization where it is possible to live without regret.”



The HJ Andrews Experimental Forest and the Holiday Farm Fire

Jorry Rolfe

Fire Update

OBSIDIANS HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED HIKING THROUGH THIS RESEARCH FOREST NEAR BLUE RIVER. OSU History Professor Emeritus Bill Robbins calls it *A Place For Inquiry, A Place For Wonder*, in the title of his new book on the history of the forest. Some of you might have attended the October, 2019 ExploraTalk with the forest’s Dr. Michael Paul Nelson about the ecology of surprise. He addressed a few results from the interdisciplinary research done at Andrews that extend beyond the sciences.

Unfortunately, the Holiday Farm Fire, ignited south of the Andrews Forest on September 7, did burn into the forest on September 12. Personnel at headquarters evacuated north along the 15 road. Some Andrews Forest families ended up losing their nearby homes. More than 400 acres (Andrews Forest includes 15,800 acres) of the lower part of this forest were destroyed. For the most part, the fire burned at low severity along the ground at the south boundary of Watershed 9 and northward into two other watersheds. Here there is some canopy tree death, and various monitoring markers and instruments were destroyed. The fire still continues to smolder in organic debris! Good news: the facilities at the headquarters were spared, and water gauging stations suffered little to no damage.

The staffs of both the Andrews Forest and the Willamette National Forest (WNF) have developed a strong relationship over the years. During fire suppression efforts, the WNF fire

crews worked hard to prevent the fire from moving into and burning structures by putting in dozer lines (fire lines made by the front blades of tracked vehicles) and hand lines, removing trees, and clearing the soil down to mineral soil (soil with little combustible material). Andrews is also grateful for how well the WNF staff kept them apprised of their activities. See images at andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/gallery/holiday-farm-fire-september-2020

The Future

Andrews Forest personnel will not only be working to resurvey land and relocate sensors in burned areas, but they will soon be preparing studies and monitors to aid them in learning from the fire. The leadership and researchers see the recent fire as one of a few big-change events (like the eruption of Mt. St. Helens and like the battle in the 90s over old growth) to be understood and to be publicly discussed. Studying the effects of the fire, forest recovery, and even re-imagining our world—all are not beyond the scope of the mission of this research forest, “to foster strong collaboration among ecosystem science, education, natural resource management and the humanities.”

Meanwhile, for those of us looking to hike in Andrews, that will not be possible before Spring 2021. Then we again will be able to access the 3.5-mile Lookout Creek Old-Growth Trail along the creek and the one-mile Carpenter Mountain Lookout Trail.

(Membership Directories Continued from page 1)

an auto-generated online publication was not. What we did:

- Changed the format to standard 8½x11 page size with two columns from the old 5½x8½ booklet with a single column. This will make it more usable for members, whether viewing online or downloading to print. While the booklet directory was handy and compact once it was printed, folded and stapled by InstaPrint, it is hard to set up on a home printer to print in booklet format. The odd, nonsequential paging required for booklet printing showed out of sequence pages if viewing directly, so it was necessary to have two versions available, one to print and one for online viewing.
- Added the member's email to the *Directory*, so now all member contact information is available in one spot for easy access.
- Updated our online database to track the club's board members, board officers and committee chairs each year so that all data is available for the *Directory's* auto-generation.
- Changed the *Directory's* heading from an annual format (Yearly - 2021, etc.) to the date the *Directory* is generated.
- Programmed our online system to auto-generate the *Directory* daily as a PDF and upload it to the Members Only area of our web site.

What's in it for you? An *Obsidian Membership Directory* that is always current and readily accessible either to view online or download to print. A few tips:

- The *Directory* is only available to Obsidian members, so you will need to go to the Members Only area of our website to access it. Click on **Members Only** in the TOC (Table of Contents – on the left) of our home page, www.obsidians.org, then click on **Obs Directory** in the TOC of the Members Only page. You will need your login credentials (user name and password) to access Members Only. You can request your credentials if you do not know them from the **Retrieve Credentials** tab of our *Online Signup* login (where you sign up for trips) or contact the Online Committee at onlineobs@gmail.com to help you get them.
- The *Directory* is in a searchable PDF format that can be searched both online in your browser or if you download it, with Acrobat Reader and most other PDF readers.
- If you bookmark the *Membership Directory* page in your browser, you can access it very quickly (avoiding the multiple steps above). You can also create a shortcut to the *Directory* on a Windows or Mac desktop by dragging the icon on the left end of the address bar containing the *Directory's* address in your browser to the desktop.
- Caution: If you are not seeing the most current (updated daily) version of the *Directory*, you may need to clear your browser's cache to remove the outdated version.

Whoa there...what about me? Not computer savvy...Don't have a printer...But still need a printed *Membership Directory*? Janet Jacobsen to the rescue. If you are an Obsidian member, contact her (jbjacobsen@comcast.net or 206-1251) and she will be happy to print the *Directory* and mail it to you. Or, you may know another fellow Obsidian who would be willing to help you get a printed copy.

And last: Contact the Online Committee (onlineobs@gmail.com) with any questions, concerns, suggestions or help with accessing and using the *Obsidian Membership Directory*. Contact the Membership Committee (membership@obsidians.org) with any changes or corrections to your contact information.

People Watching with a Purpose

Dave Cooper

DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE AN **OBSIDIAN** standing by a mysterious dull brown monolith on a city hiking trail recently? If so, they were one of 13 Obsidians who volunteered to help Eugene Parks and Open Space with the Trail Count Field Verification in November and December. This manual count will help verify the electronic counters located near Amazon Headwaters, Spencer Butte, Wild Iris Ridge, and Delta Ponds trailheads. For one or two hours on a weekday or weekend, one or two Obsidian volunteers stood in the sun, cold, or rain near an electronic counter and tallied the passing hikers and bikers. The heaviest usage recorded was 225 people during two hours on a Saturday afternoon at the Spencer Butte Trailhead. The fewest number of passersby was three hikers and one biker during one hour at Amazon Headwaters on a gloomy Monday. The volunteers hope to see the results. They have questions. Would a couple holding hands or a parent holding a child be counted as one or two? How tall does a dog have to be to be counted?

The electronic counters should provide pertinent information about trail usage for grants and prioritizing City resources. Obsidians are ready to count again if more verifica-

tion would be helpful. Thanks to: Joanna Alexander, John Cooper, Kay Coots, Janet Jacobsen, Jonathon Jost, Lana Lindstrom, June Miller, Caroline Moore, Evelyn Nagy, Denise Rubenstein, Pat Soussan, Lynn Stearney, and Chris Stockdale for volunteering a total of almost 40 hours.



Lynn Stearney and Jonathon Jost had a convenient seat for their counting.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER BOARD NOTES

November 4, 2020

By Denise Rubenstein

President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order. Board members present: John Cooper, Stewart Hoeg, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Kathy Randall, Denise Rubenstein, and Lyndell Wilken. Others present: Denise Bean, Laura Osinga, Jorry Rolfe (all Board-elect Members), Jim Northrop, and Evelyn Nagy.

The Board approved the minutes for October 2020.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bus Trips (Jim Northrop): Until a replacement chair can be found, Jim Northrop is willing to serve as interim Bus Committee chair for 2021. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, no bus trips are currently being planned, with the exception of the Columbia River paddle boat trip. Trips may be added if a vaccine is available sooner.

Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe & Kay Coots): Ten members participated in a tour of the 1,300-acre sustainably managed Zena Forest and the sawmill associated with the selective harvest activities from the forest. Jorry Rolfe organized the tour. On November 17, committee member Diana Wheat has arranged our first Zoom ExploraTalk—*Zoom In on Microplastics*. Also in November, committee members Joanna Alexander and Randy Sinnott will lead a bird walk on Green Island.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): The AED batteries were checked. The first aid kits still reside with Janet Jacobsen for check out and check in.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): Summer trips ends in mid-November. With the trips remaining it appears we will have had 179 trips and collected about \$1,300. Thanks to all the leaders who have helped with this COVID and fire-restricted season.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Update: The Ad Hoc Committee met on October 29 and determined that the committee size would be about 13 members with additional talent brought in for sub-groups as needed and they expect the process to take about 4–6 months. It was decided to identify the Club's target audience in order to write a clearer mission statement. A group was formed to work on the mission statement and a Google Drive share was set up by Steve Cordon to share and store documents.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Officers: President—Maryanne Reiter, Vice-President—Dave Cooper, Treasurer—Stewart Hoeg, Secretary—Denise Rubenstein.

COVID-19 Protocols posted on website review: It was decided that the *members only* and *dues reinstated* language would be dropped. Group size is to be determined by the leader, but wilderness hike limits remain at 12. Transportation is still left to each participant.

Patricia Cleall membership approved.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

Consideration of purchasing a Zoom account for future Board meetings and the like: It was decided that we'll continue using the free version and see if it suits our needs.

Including member emails in the Directory for ease of communication.

December 2, 2020

By Denise Rubenstein

President Maryanne Reiter called the Zoom meeting to order. Board members present: Dave Cooper, John Cooper, Stewart Hoeg, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Denise Rubenstein and Lyndell Wilken. Others present: Denise Bean, Laura Osinga, Jorry Rolfe, Jim Northrop and Carla Cooper.

The Board approved the minutes for November 2020.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe & Kay Coots): The final ExploraTalk for 2020 was a success with 37 signups. Member Diana Wheat hosted and moderated the Nov. 17 Zoom presentation with Dr. Brander of OSU. We learned about the toxicity and prevalence of microplastics in air, in wastewater sludge, and in the ocean in sea creatures. Guided by CSE committee members/birders Joanna and Randy, a group enjoyed a walk mid-November on Green Island while locating many bird species of interest.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Finance Committee met via Zoom on November 20 to prepare the preliminary 2021 Obsidian Budget.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): The refrigerator has been emptied and shut off. Thank you, Lana. One heater in the Board room is to be left on low to prevent mildew.

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): Bea Fontana researched archives for additional information for Louise Behnke's obituary (September 25, 1920–November 6, 2020). Her husband Sterling, member from 1939–1949, owned the Gilbert Store where the Obsidians kept their bulletin board with sign-up sheets from 1959–1969.

Rick Ahrens, Bert Ewing, Paul Winther and Janet Jacobsen assisted Jeff Thomas (Mazama archivist for 20 years) with information needed for his video project of the first ascent of Hen Rock in the Menagerie Wilderness. He wanted permission to use photos of the ladder on Rooster Rock that Curtis Irish sent to Janet some years back. We are still trying to contact Curtis. Jeff was happy to read Mark McLaughlin's April 11, 1965 Rooster Rock trip report (a hike) where the ladder obviously had been removed since Mark stood on a member's shoulder to toss a rope to have a top belay for five hikers to make it to the top.

All trips in the November *Bulletin* have been recorded on the member log sheets.

Membership (Diane Schechter): New members: Donna Bloomfield, Russ Davies, Mike Fleck, Ligia Miles, Judith Moman, William Wu. As of 11/29/20: Total Membership—

(Continued on page 6)

Board Notes continued from page 5)

446, Renewals—329, Non-renewals—82, Not applicable—31. An email has been sent to all members who have not yet renewed. This has been effective in increasing renewals.

Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz): A new trips editor, Karen Yoerger, has been appointed to take Jorry Rolfe's position as Jorry has taken a position on the Obsidian Board. January's *Bulletin* will most likely be processed by Instaprint, as was November's. We are hoping February will be able to be safely handled by the folding crew.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): Final report for Summer Trips: 2020 was a year for starts and stops—fees, no fees, many changes due to COVID-19. The Obsidians adapted to make the best of the situation with more urban hikes and smaller groups. We had 181 outings this year. Income from trips fees was \$1,308.

Winter Trips (Dave Cooper): Winter trips began in mid-November and the schedule is beginning to fill. Many of the dates for reoccurring Ridgeline and Pisgah hikes have been set up. There are some snowshoe and Xski trips planned.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Update: Maryanne reported that the last meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19, next meeting still to be determined.

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary 2021 Budget based on input from committee chairs: Stewart presented a preliminary budget for 2021 noting that most needs were down due to COVID-19 restricting some activities, but *Bulletin* costs were up as the committee uses Instaprint for some services that members meeting together would usually perform.

Member Compensation: Denise Bean reported findings after an exploratory meeting with a non-profit attorney regarding member compensation on assorted items.

2021 Committee Chair Nominations/approval: Committee chairs were approved.

COVID-19 Status for Outdoor Clubs: Dave Cooper reviewed the governor's newest recommendations for community safety and determined that we will stick with a limit of six participants per outing, adding another six for each co-leader. It's great to see that members have been flexible and stepping up to lead.

New Member Approval: Six new members were approved.

Thank you to outgoing Board Members: Many thanks to John Cooper, Stewart Hoeg, and Kathy Randall for their service and commitment to the Board during their terms. Their work for the Club is much appreciated.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

The online Obsidian Membership Directory will include email addresses with a printed copy available upon request.

Introducing Angie Ruzicka

Kay Coots

Conservation/SciEd Co-chair

Angie Ruzicka, who joined the Obsidians in December 2018, will be putting her science education background to work as the Conservation, Science and Education Committee co-chair. Angie moved to Oregon in 1987 to attend Oregon State University. After graduation she taught at the middle and high school levels for 30 years prior to her official retirement last summer. Since joining the Obsidians, Angie has completed over 90 hikes, including several that she led, and one climb. We are happy and appreciative that Angie will be sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge as committee co-chair!



Bus Trips Update

JIM Northrop will serve as the Bus Trip Interim Chair. Dave Hawkins has volunteered to be Interim Treasurer.

Jim prepared this update: *Because of COVID-19 the bus committee has no trips planned for the coming year, other than the possibility of Barbara Beard's Columbia River trip in late August. We are considering different ways of doing bus trips (such as a partnership with Willamalane), but nothing is happening currently on that initiative.*

Viewing the photos of past bus trips will bring back memories and smiles. An easy way to view the albums is to go to The Report Page on the Obsidian website. Then select By-Ways-By Bus, 25 most recent or try this link if reading the *Bulletin* online: [25 most recent](#). Some albums have many photos and will take longer to load.

Editor's note: Jim joined the Obsidians in 2016 and has gone on 171 trips, 29 of them bus trips. He has been a committee member since 2017. Dave Hawkins is on the Obsidian Board and is a member of the Finance Committee.



TRIP REPORTS



Hikes

Heceta Head/Beach Loop

October 17, 2020

Leader: Brad Bennett

Photographer: Dave Lodeesen

Hike: 7 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

SEVEN OF US LEFT THE TARGET STORE ON WEST 11TH AROUND 8:00. We drove out of town with overcast skies and some fog. Made a short stop at Fred Meyers in Florence, then regrouped at the Sea Lion Caves parking lot where we left the fog behind us and the sun was shining bright. From there, we caravanned on to the Heceta Head Lighthouse parking lot. We started hiking up the wide gravel trail, stopping first to look at the Heceta Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast before arriving at the lighthouse. We took a few moments to enjoy the working lighthouse up close and the great views of the ocean. To the right of the lighthouse, we picked up the trail. This trail climbs above the lighthouse through an old spruce forest with rhododendrons. After reaching the summit, we had great views of the beach that we would walk on later. Checking the wind, we determined to hike the loop counter-clockwise so the wind would be at our backs during the beach hike. After reaching the Hobbit Trail junction, we crossed Highway 101 and continued on the Valley Trail to Washburne State Park, crossed 101 again into the day use area and stopped at the restrooms. Moved on to the beach with a slight breeze to our backs. We found a little cove for a lunch break out of the wind. After lunch we continued south to the Hobbit Trail. We took this trail to the Heceta Lighthouse trail which took us back to our cars. Mid-October on the Oregon beach with friends, sunny skies, and very little wind makes for a fabulous day. Members: Brad Bennett, Keiko Bryan, Marguerite Cooney, Victoria Frank, Peter Graham, David Lodeesen, Lynn Meacham.



A favorite view for Obsidians.

Moolack Creek to Devils Punchbowl

October 24, 2020

Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 7.5 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

FROM MOOLACK CREEK TO DEVILS PUNCHBOWL STATE NATURAL AREA. Mid-50 degrees with an 8-mph north wind. After a leisurely lunch, we returned back the same way. Each way we crossed six shallow creeks. It was a nice day on the mostly sunny beach. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Vicky Hanson, Holger Krentz, Rachele Masin, Jessica Moll, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.



Fossils on the beach.

Patterson Mountain

October 18, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 4.6 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

BIG SURPRISE AT THE TRAILHEAD—MANY ELK HUNTERS. I have never led this trip in the fall, so hunting did not register. After a quick conversation, we retreated to Westfir and the North Fork Middle Fork Willamette River Trail. Parking lot was full of vehicles carrying bike racks. Beautiful day. We did the lower section up and back. Only a few bikes. Three people on this hike had never been on this trail, so it worked out well. Hike was enjoyed by all. Members: Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Jane Hackett, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Russ Davies.

Finley Wildlife Refuge

October 23, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 5 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

GREAT FALL HIKE. I think we all thought that we would see more fall color, but that was not to be. It was very quiet; only saw three other hikers while we were there. Stopped at headquarters for snack. The ones who walked down to the gazebo were treated to cedar waxwings and bluebirds. Another surprise—hunting is allowed on the refuge. I did not see a goose or swan anywhere, so it must have been for elk or deer. We saw a few elk prints, but no animals or hunters were seen or heard. Members: Kay Coots, Jane Hackett, Helen Martz, Pat Soussan, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Vicki Levine, Larry Winiarski.

Salt Creek Falls

October 25, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 3.4 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

A 37-DEGREE MORNING AT THE AMAZON CENTER. Picked up two participants in Pleasant Hill. So off we went up the hill. First thing I noticed was the wind and how the trees were swinging around. Great, clear, sunny day. It was 35 degrees before we passed through the tunnel, 29 degrees coming out of the tunnel, and 27 degrees at the Salt Creek trailhead. Everyone was thinking about what they did and did not bring with them. I, for one, had thrown my mittens and gloves out of my pack after a recent trip, so I put on a pair of latex gloves. We did a fairly fast, 3-plus miles on a beautiful trail with hundreds of rhododendrons that I had not seen before because they were under the snow. The views into the canyons were great. Berry Falls was running full and was beautiful in the sunlight. No stops for lunch. Short stop for pictures at the falls. As long as we kept moving, we kept warm. No fees at the trailhead. Bathrooms closed for season. No hunters. Members: Wayne Cleall, Jane Hackett, Helen Martz. Nonmembers: Patricia Cleall, Donna Bloomfield, Ligia Miles.

Talking Stones

October 28, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 5 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

ONCE AGAIN, THE STONES WON; I LOST. Good fall hike. We moved out at a fairly fast rate just to keep warm. We walked through the U of O campus to get to the Knickerbocker Bridge. Two members of our group were new to the area, so we pointed out the library, art museum, and Hayward Field. We found some, but not all, of the stones. We enjoyed our 5-mile hike and were back at the cars by noon. Members: Steve Denison, Jane Hackett, Yuan Hopkins, Sandra Larsen, Ginny Reich. Nonmembers: Donna Bloomfield.

Halloween Gillespie Butte

October 31, 2020

Leader: Jorry Rolfe

Assistant Leader: Leah Firth

Photographer: Kay Coots

Hike: 5 miles, 607 ft. (Moderate)

THE GROUP FORMED AT LANTERN LANE, near Crenshaw Road and Pool Street, to walk up to Gillespie Butte City Park, Gillespie Cemetery and around the Cal Young neighborhood. We covered five miles on this mild Halloween day. Many of us were surprised by the work done in preparation for the Gillespie Butte development that is planned for the slope. First, we acknowledged that this land was the home of the Kalapuyas before people arrived on the Oregon Trail. The trip leaders had prepared remarks about the history of the Butte, legacy oak trees, pioneer settler Jacob Gillespie, and the historic Woodmen of the World headstones and organization. There is a WOW monument to James Armitage in this hillside burial ground. Participants then wandered the cemetery before we headed to the Spyglass Neighborhood, by the Oakway Golf Course, through the Champignon Community and back to Crenshaw. Along the way, we enjoyed seeing the first home designed by local architect, Rob Thallon, on Spyglass in 1980, and many charming cottages and signature homes. Note: The Gillespie Butte development will be pre-

serving numerous trees along the Butte. Members: Joanna Alexander, Kathie Carpenter, Kay Coots, Patricia Esch, Leah Firth, Nancy Hoecker, Gwyneth Iredale, Janet Jacobsen, Sandra Larsen, Lou Maenz, Helen Martz, Evelyn Nagy, Ginny Reich, Jorry Rolfe, Dorothy van Winkle.



Leader Jorry got the Halloween walk started with a history lesson.

Waldport to Seal Rock

November 7, 2020

Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 10 miles, 150 ft. (Moderate)

OUR ADVENTUROUS GROUP DROVE TO CLOUDY WALDPORT and accessed the beach trailhead via the Bayshore neighborhood. In windy and occasionally drizzly weather, we hiked the smooth, sandy shore north to the Little Cove Scenic Point, crossing four shallow creeks. There we realized that we could not continue further north due to the wild waves that were crashing into Little Cove beach. Sheltered under oceanside cliffs and encouraged with a few stray sunrays, we enjoyed lunch with first-class views. At that point, our plan was to return, but it was our lucky day. After walking back just a couple of hundred yards, Keiko discovered an access to OCT (Oregon Coast Trail), so we continued to walk north through a funky neighborhood in a Sitka spruce forest and then back to the wide beach. After crossing two more creeks, we arrived at the Seal Rock State Wayside surrounded, by spectacular rock formations. After a brief visit to the Seal Rock area, we hiked back the same way. The beach was loaded with huge pillows of sea phytoplankton foam, a sign of a healthy ocean. Propelled by a 20 mph NNW wind, we returned to our starting point at 2:10. The ice cream parlor at Yachats was our brief stop before a rainy and windy drive home. Members: Keiko Bryan, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, James

Dinn, Victoria Frank, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Holger Krentz, Jessica Moll, Kathy Randall, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

Constitution Grove/Shale Ridge

November 1, 2020

Leader: Joel Greer

Photographer: Esme Greer

Hike: 10.8 miles, 350 ft. (Moderate)

WE BEGAN AT CONSTITUTION GROVE and admired the huge cedar and fir trees—which were young when the Constitution was signed in 1787—and noted wooden plaques honoring the signers. We continued east on North Fork Trail #3666 (Segment 5) for about 3.4 miles (trail signs said it was only 2.25 miles!) to the trailhead for Shale Ridge. There have been numerous tree-falls on Segment 5 since early August, and we had to slowly work our way around and over numerous obstructions. This trail is very lightly hiked and faint in a few places. We met one other person the entire day. There were many varieties of mushrooms and the autumn leaf colors were beautiful. We had lunch at the north end of the Shale Ridge Trail, then walked about 1.5 miles south on Shale Ridge Trail before turning around. We did not reach the grove of giant cedars due to time constraints, but it was a very enjoyable hike on a sunny, mild, autumn day, and we managed a total of ten miles. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Diana Dinn, James Dinn, Victoria Frank, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Holger Krentz, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield.



Darko had a great mushroom harvest on this hike.

Davies Nettleton Loop

November 8, 2020

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 7 miles, 767 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL FALL HIKE! A cold but sunny day greeted us. The OSU/McDonald Forest trail system was a new trail experience for all members today! Everyone agreed that it was a great discovery and worth future exploration. The fall leaves were especially impressive. Our guest (and hopefully future member) Heather, was warmly welcomed by all. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Kay Coots, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein,

Peg Straub, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle, Karen Yoerger. Nonmembers: Heather Doyle.

Cape Perpetua

November 11, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photographer Holger Krentz

Hike: 6.5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

GORGEOUS DAY. Some of the best weather I have had on the coast. A few participants had not been here before and they really enjoyed seeing all the different aspects that Cape Perpetua has to offer. The visitor center was closed but bathrooms were open. Too bad that whales were not migrating; the water was calm and you could see forever. Great day. Members: Donna Bloomfield, Steve Denison, Jane Hackett, Holger Krentz, Margot McDonnell, Christine Paige. Nonmembers: William Wu.



Passing through one of the huge trees across the Cape Perpetua Trail.

Green Island Birdwalk

November 14, 2020

Leader: Joanna Alexander

Assistant Leader: Randy Sinnott

Hike: 3 miles, 5 ft. (Easy)

DURING THIS TIME OF THE PANDEMIC and restricted public gatherings, McKenzie River Trust opened its Green Island property to self-guided visits on this day. After 15 years, the property is still in the process of habitat restoration. The windy, rainy weather pattern paused for a most enjoyable, rain-free, three-hour walk led by knowledgeable birder, Randy Sinnott. With help from our multiple eyes, 20 or 21 species of birds were sighted or heard (h): Steller's jays, red-tailed hawk, mallard ducks, vee-formations of cackling geese, song sparrow, black-capped chickadees, wild turkeys (two very large males), ravens, Pacific wren, spotted towhee, cormorants, great blue herons, great white egret, ravens, black phoebes, flickers (h), American wigeon, downy woodpecker, red-breasted sapsucker (up close and very dashing), ruby-crowned kinglet, and many ducks and little brown birds not specifically identified in the cloudy lighting. We toured the south area. The north area, where bird boxes can be found, will have to wait for another visit. Everyone enjoyed getting out in this special place and was grateful for the mild and dry weather break. Members: Joanna Alexander, Linda Anson, Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Holger Krentz, Emily Rice, Randy Sinnott, Nancy Whitfield.

Green Island Walk

November 14, 2020

Leader: Elizabeth Grant

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3 miles, 5 ft. (Easy)

DESPITE STORMY WEATHER PREDICTIONS, 13 of us ambled our way for several hours about this lush riparian property with little to no rain—and next to no signage to guide or educate us! McKenzie River Trust's Green Island is open to the public only a few days a year. We appreciated the one staff/volunteer at the gate who suggested that we take a photo of the map board and stay on the graveled paths. There would be no further guidance for the day. Thinking we couldn't get too lost and slightly reassured that volunteers would be out looking for stragglers (a.k.a. lost hikers) at the 3:00 closing, we split into two groups and crossed paths only once late in the day. Phones recorded our efforts at 5.8 to 8 miles. Why an island you ask? Go yourself to see if you can learn the answer to that question. Wildlife reported: one large bounding deer, a pair of red-tail hawks, a few LBJ birds (little brown jobs), a ton of scat—likely from well-fed coyotes and maybe some berry-loving bears—and one beautiful turkey feather. *(Editor's note: For information about future events at Green Island, check the website at mckenzie-river.org/property/green-island/).* Members: Mari Baldwin, Patricia Cleall, Kathie Carpenter, Lynda Christiansen, Elizabeth Grant, Nancy Hoecker, Lou Maenz, Wally Miller, Michael Myers, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Karen Yoerger. Nonmembers: Jerry Pergamit.



Crossing the bridge to the little pond.

Mt. Baldy from Martin Street

November 18, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 3.6 miles, 700 ft. (Easy)

WE HAD LUCK; MANAGED TO GET THIS DONE between major rain events. We made a few adjustments to our hike to make sure we got to Mt. Baldy. We took the lower trail when we got to Fox Hollow trailhead—a little faster. We took the bike trail up to the top of Baldy. Here it started to rain and the wind increased. We took the other trail down and picked up the power line road that made a quicker hike back to the cars. Slightly damp, but everyone enjoyed the hike. Members: Jane Hackett, Sandra Larsen, Chris Shuraleff, Karen Yoerger. Nonmembers: Judith Moman, Tinker Flom, Ligia Miles Donna Bloomfield.

Larison Rock

November 21, 2020

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 8.6 miles, 2,400 ft. (Difficult)

EIGHT OF US HIKED UP TO LARISON ROCK. The temperature at the start was 33 degrees, but the 1,500-ft. elevation gain in two miles made all of us warm. We were on top for lunch with clear skies overhead and a nice view to the south. Year by year, the trees are starting to encroach upon the view. We hiked back down with no problems, encountering only two other people the whole time. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Michael Dunne, Bill Lowder, Rachele Masin, Angie Ruzicka, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak, Paul Winther.

Cook's Ridge/Gwynn Creek

November 22, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 6.4 miles, 1,250 ft. (Moderate)

STARTING UP THE TRAIL, the first thing to greet us was a beautiful orange-gold mushroom, standing about 12 inches tall, within this glowing cap. We were treated to a large variety of mushrooms along the trail for its entire length. The next thing that got our attention was the number of trees, large and small, that had blown down along the Cook's Ridge trail. The first mile was a study in what a powerful wind can do to a landscape. As we got deeper into the forest, the fallen trees disappeared and just tons of small debris littered the trail. For those who had never hiked this trail, the number of large old growth trees was the main attraction. We arrived under gray skies with no rain for most of the hike. The expected rain held off until the last mile. The serious rain arrived after we got into cars. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Lynda Christiansen, Marguerite Cooney, Jane Hackett, Nancy Hoecker.

Turkey Trimming

November 26, 2020

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Photographer: Gwyneth Iredale

Hike: 6 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

THE WEATHER AND THE COMPANY WERE EXCEPTIONAL; evidently lots of Obsidians were seeking either some exercise or community on Thanksgiving Day. With introductions, we shared what we were grateful for: our friends, family, health, living in our Eugene bubble, Obsidians, and just being alive. We tackled some huffy-puffy hills and walked some roads which many folks had never set foot on. It was a splendid way to spend a few hours with friends. Members: Joanna Alexander, Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite



Cooney, Hilary Fisher, Nancy Hoecker, Richard Hughes, Gwyneth Iredale, Jonathan Jost, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Lynn Stearney, Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Kate Shapiro.

Shotgun Creek

November 26, 2020

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 4.9 miles, 800 ft. (Easy)

NICE, SHORT, TURKEY DAY HIKE. Members: Donna Bloomfield, Patricia Esch, Kitson Graham, Peter Graham, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Paul Winther.



Paul found a painted rock.

Thurston Hills

November 22, 2020

Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 4.5 miles, 720 ft. (Easy)

UP AND DOWN ON THE GOOD TRAIL. Happy Sunday! Members: Donna Bloomfield, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Ligia Miles.

Middle Fork Willamette River

November 29, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 5 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

THE FOUR PEOPLE WHO CAME ALONG ON THIS HIKE had never been there before, so that made my day. We drove out of thick fog somewhere past Dexter Lake into clear sunny skies. The temperature stayed below 40 degrees for the entire day. Ran into a few other masked hikers enjoying the sun. Not many stops along the way. Back in town by 2:30. The day was enjoyed by all. Members: Donna Bloomfield, Kathie Carpenter, Jane Hackett, Nancy Hoecker, Ligia Miles.

Warm Cap Drop Off

December 4, 2020

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Kay Coots

Hike: (Easy)

OBSIDIANS DONATED 60 WARM CAPS, 12 pairs of gloves and one scarf for the Egan Warming Center during the one-hour drop off time at the South Eugene High School parking, or at Joella's home. Because of the stricter COVID-19 guidelines, we encouraged participants to hike on their own in small groups to Hendricks Park. Maps were provided. Thanks to Joella, who helped to collect and then deliver the donations. The people on the following list are ones who donated. Joella and I apologize if your name is not included; some of the

drop-offs at her home did not have the donor's name. Thanks to all of you who participated. Hopefully, 'Soup's On' at the Lodge in 2021. Members: Joanna Alexander, Mari Baldwin, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, John Cooper, Kay Coots, Joella Ewing, Bea Fontana, Jane Hackett, Yuan Hopkins, Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz, Helen Martz, Lenore McManigal, June Miller, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Barbara Schomaker, Peg Straub, Nancy Whitfield, Lyndell Wilken, Sue Wolling.



Joella and Janet accepting a donation from Lyndell.

Lower Hardesty Trails

December 5, 2020

Leader: Joel Greer

Hike: 6.7 miles, 1,625 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A CHILLY, 31-DEGREE START TO OUR HIKE, but the sun was shining, there was no wind, and we quickly warmed up as we hiked uphill on Hardesty Trail. After two miles and an ascent of 1,400 ft., we reached the highest point of our hike. We retraced our path back downhill and, after another mile, turned to the southwest on an old, overgrown logging road. It quickly narrowed to a somewhat normal hiking path and, although unnamed, there was much evidence of trail maintenance to trim and remove fallen trees and branches across the trail. We had lunch a bit more than a mile down this fairly flat path and ate while sitting on fallen and trimmed logs. We returned to the main Hardesty Trail and continued downhill to our cars. Everyone had a good workout and nice social outing. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Diana Dinn, James Dinn, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield.

Marshall Island Rain Walk

December 12, 2020

Leader: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 2.9 miles, 10 ft. (Easy)

CLOUDY AFTERNOON WALK through the woods on bushy, ungrouted trails along the Willamette River. We saw three adult bald eagles. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Jessica Moll, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lisa Van Liefde.

Thurston Hills

December 13, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Assistant Leaders: Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 6 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)

TO MY SURPRISE, EVERYONE SHOWED UP. Overcast day with threat of rain. Everyone seemed ready for whatever came. I want to point out that there were two assistant leaders on this trip, Holger and Lana. Lana set out in the lead. Holger is very familiar with the trail system. It has improved a lot from when I first followed Denise Bean on an introduction hike when it first opened—a lot less mud for starters. We were able to stay on graveled trails for the most part. We came to a junction of an old jeep road and a narrow trail that disappeared into the weeds. I asked Holger which was less muddy; he indicated the road. He was right—less mud, but straight up to the top of the butte. At this point I was going to turn the group around and head back to the cars. Lana, Richard and Jorry decided to continue on and explore the trail connection to the Jasper Road trailhead. The rest chose to return to cars. As we turned to head down the trail it started raining heavily. Thanks to Holger, we were able take a short cut and get back to our cars a little faster. This is a great trail system and it appears to me that they are going to extend it over time. Members: Patricia Esch, Jane Hackett, Nancy Hoecker, Richard Hughes, Holger Krentz, Sandra Larsen, Lana Lindstrom, Ligia Miles, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Peg Straub, Nancy Whitfield.

Evening at Hileman Landing

December 14, 2020

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 2.7 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

SHORT HIKE WITH PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT AND SURPRISES.

From the northernmost street of the Eugene city limits, we meandered bushy, overgrown, slippery and somewhat muddy trails north almost to the Wilson Bend. In the blackberry jungle between the ponds and rushing Willamette River, we discovered an old rusty truck and a mysterious wooden structure. Along the river, we saw big frogs, chirping small birds, and one bald eagle. On the way back, we enjoyed river otters, huge jumping fish, close-by beaver in the pond along the trail, and a gang of wild turkeys roosting high in the branches of big leaf maple trees. Everyone enjoyed our crepuscular hike. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Dorothy van Winkle.



Dorothy, Kathie, and Angie explore the old truck.

Food For Lane County Hike

December 18, 2020

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Assistant Leader: Kay Coots

Hike: 5.7 miles, 85 ft. (Easy)

THE FAIRGROUND GATES WERE CLOSED but we all managed to find our meeting place at 17th and Friendly Street near Gate F on the south side of Amazon Creek. We took the Fern Ridge Bike Path along Amazon Creek to Bailey Hill where we turned north to the Food For Lane County facility. After I delivered our envelope with our weightless checks, Jorry shared some of the volunteer work that she does to prepare sandwiches for several distribution sites. Our two-hour walk had a sense of quiet joy from doing something meaningful. We appreciated the Eugene City employee who was gathering up trash along the path and under the bridges. We could tell the difference on the way back. Members: Joanna Alexander, Donna Bloomfield, Kathie Carpenter, Patricia Cleall, Kay Coots, Hilary Fisher, Jane Hackett, Vicky Hanson, Janet Jacobsen, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Peg Straub.

Zumwalt Slugs and Snails

December 20, 2020

Leader: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Hike: 3.6 miles, 30 ft. (Easy)

IT RAINED HAPPILY ON ALL OF OUR 3.6 MILES, but who cared? We jumped over streams, walked through swamps, explored the clay shoreline and mossy trails. Rough-skinned newts roamed fields covered with brown leaves and mushrooms. Randy, our local ornithology expert, pointed to scrub jays, golden-crowned sparrows and spotted towhees. We returned home by noon. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Vicky Hanson, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Randy Sinnott, Darko Sojak.

Eugene Mural Walk

December 25, 2020

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 4 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

THE CHRISTMAS DAY WALK BEGAN WITH A HIKE UP SKINNER BUTTE on a section of the new 'round the mountain' trail. It was cold and rainy and the 'Cliff Notes' to the murals got soggy, but the participants enjoyed learning about the 20x21 Mural Project in downtown Eugene (www.20x21eug.com). There are 22 official murals created by commissioned international and local artists, and we discovered some informal ones as well. Good way to share some camaraderie on a special day. Members: Mari Baldwin, Donna Bloomfield, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Nancy Hoecker, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Peg Straub, Martha Welches.

Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte Hikes

Hikes: 5.2–6.2 miles, 1,170–1,530 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Jorry Rolfe: 10/21 8 Members

Janet Whitesides: 10/28 12 Members, 11/18 12 Members, 1 Nonmember

Mike Smith: 11/4 11 Members, 11/25 13 Members

Janet Jacobsen: 11/11 13 Members, 1 Nonmember, 12/2 10 Members

Kay Coots, Janet Jacobsen: 12/9 9 Members
Mike Smith, Darian Morray: 12/16 7 Members, 1 Nonmember

52nd Street/Spencer Butte Hikes

Hike: 5.2 miles, 1,150 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Denise Bean: 10/28 3 Members

Lana Lindstrom: 11/4 8 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Evelyn Nagy: 11/11 3 Members

Joanna Alexander: 12/16 4 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Angie Ruzicka: 10/6 2 Members, **12/22** 5 Members

Tommy Young: 10/27 7 Members, **11/3** 10 Members,

11/10 7 Members, **11/17** 8 Members, 1 Nonmember,

Tommy Young, Angie Ruzicka: 11/24 7 Members, 1 Nonmember

Randy Sinnott: 12/1 6 Members

Jorry Rolfe, Janet Jacobsen: 12/8 9 Members, 1 Nonmember

Janet Jacobsen: 12/15 8 Members, 1 Nonmember

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hikes: 3.5–9.0 miles, 1,050–1,400 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Kay Coots: 10/30 8 Members, 1 Nonmember, **11/29** 3 Members, 2 Nonmembers, **12/21** 7 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Janet Jacobsen: 10/30 10 Members, **11/29** 8 Members,

12/11 6 Members, **12/26** 3 Members

Gwyneth Iredale: 11/27 7 Members, 1 Nonmember

Janet Jacobsen, Jonathan Jost: 12/21 11 Members, 2 Nonmembers



Ski Trips

Midnight Lake

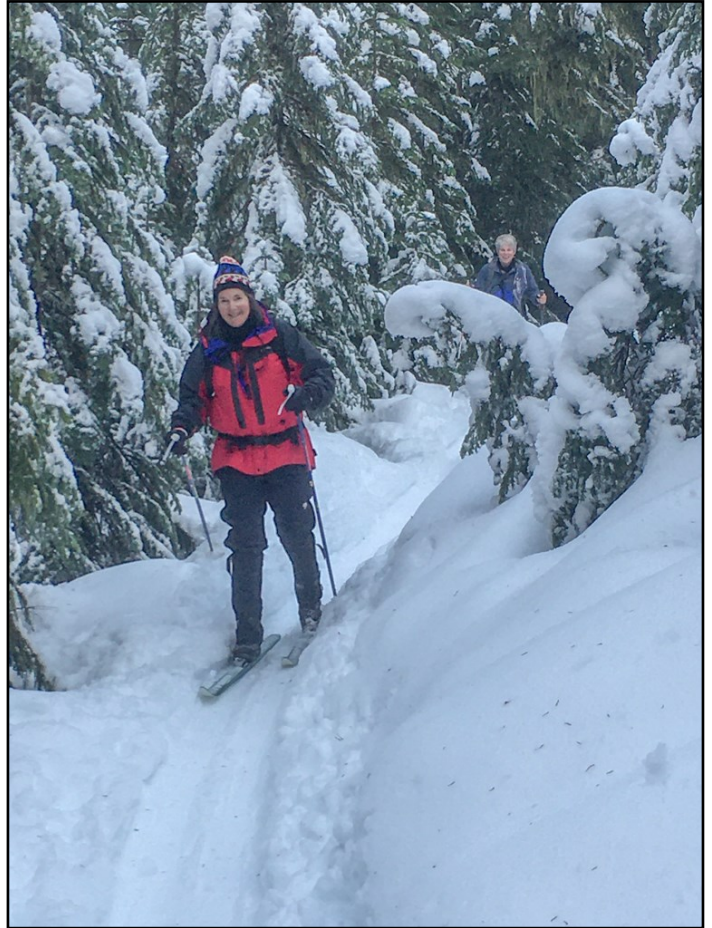
December 19, 2020

Leader & Photographer: Sue Wolling

X Ski: 6 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

THE WEATHER FORECAST SOUNDED MUCH MORE PROMISING a few days before the trip than it did on the day of, but five of us gamely headed up to Gold Lake Sno-Park and were rewarded with sunshine to start this first-of-the-season ski trip. It was a bit icy for climbing the short hills up to Midnight Lake, but not bad. I've never before seen such clear views of the nearby mountains and Willamette Pass Ski Area from this trail. We luxuriated at Midnight Lake for one of the most balmy, comfortable lunches I've ever had on a winter trip. The little hills in the middle section were a bit like a toboggan run, with fast trails through the woods. It was fun, and also gave us a chance to practice some of the finer points of cross-country skiing (like getting back up after falling). For the sake of social distancing, we skipped Bechtel Shelter and enjoyed a quick glide down Abernethy Road, then chatted on the flat section back to the parking lot. It was a great trip. We finished by 2:00 for an easy drive back before the predicted heavy rains. Members: Valerie Metcalfe, Susan

Wanser, Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Larry Huff, Larry Winiarski.



Valerie Metcalfe and Susan Wanser on the trail.



Snowshoe Trips

Gold Lake Snowshoe

December 6, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

SShoe: 4 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

PERFECT CONDITIONS. **NO WIND, RAIN OR SNOW.** Sunny skies with a packed surface and about three inches of fresh snow. Lunch at the bridge with the assistance of several Clark's nutcrackers in case we needed help getting lunch to our mouths. As we ended lunch, someone saw what they thought was a coyote trot out on the ice of the outlet and fall through. We all were thinking about what we could or should do to help it out, but we were saved as the parents of the dog came rushing to the edge of the water. Fortunately, for all of us, the dog rescued itself. We did see the owners start taking off layers to dry him. We added another 3/4 of a mile to the trip by following blue diamonds around the lake edge before turning around and heading back to the cars. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Patricia Esch, Jane Hackett, Lisa Van Liefde, Paul Winther.

*“Snow Holds Obsidians
Captive in Cabin up
McKenzie”*

*“Snowbound?
It’s Great Fun
Say Obsidians”*



New Year's Day 1933

OBSIDIANS CELEBRATED THE NEW YEAR A LITTLE MORE ROBUSTLY IN THE EARLY DAYS OF OUR CLUB. Recently, while re-searching something for the Historian Committee, Janet Jacobsen came across newspaper clippings and photos from one unforgettable New Year's outing. The following was written by John Bovard, the Obsidian's first president.

Members of the club trekked to the Obsidian cabin for the annual New Year's party that year, planning to spend two days enjoying the usual snow sports, cabins and programs but to their surprise, they remained four days—snowed in by an unexpected storm...members of the group awoke early Monday morning for the trip back to the city and discovered that two feet of snow had fallen during the night. Approximately 25 persons had driven their machines to the cabins and parked during the outing while others left their cars at the highway. Those who had driven to the cabins were snowbound, there was no recourse but to shovel their way out.

As folks at home chuckled over the plight of the “snowbound Obsidians,” the group borrowed hand shovels from the forest service and proceeded to dig their way to the highway for the next two days. However, there was plenty of turkey and other food in the cabins and the entire adventure was a glorious lark.

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

January

12 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M Jost 485-1612
13 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M Rubenstein 248-514-509213
13 Wed 52nd Street/Spencer Butte Hike M Nagy 514-4110
13 Wed Wild Iris Ridge Hike M Hackett 953-7046
16 Sat Mt. Pisgah Hike M Jacobsen 206-1251
16 Sat Delta Ponds Hike E Hackett 953-7046
17 Sun Nickerson Loop Snowshoe E Hackett 953-7046
19 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M Wolling 345-2110
20 Wed 52nd Street/Spencer Butte Hike M Alexander 458-209-7798
21 Thu Spencer Butte, the Day After Hike M Jacobsen 206-1251
24 Sun Bechtel Shelter Xski E Hackett 953-7046
26 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M Firth 953-5679
27 Wed 52nd Street/Spencer Butte Hike M Yoerger 510-2832
27 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M Carpenter 505-2370
28 Thu Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise (long) Hike M Jacobsen 206-1251
31 Sun Eel Creek Hike M Hackett 953-7046

February

2 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M..... Jacobsen 206-1251
3 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M Lindstrom 683-1409
7 Sun Gold Lake via Marilyn Lake Snowshoe M...Hackett 953-7046
9 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M Jost 485-1612
10 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M Jacobsen 206-1251
14 Sun Oregon's Birthday Hike M Jacobsen 206-1251
14 Sun Big Lake Xski M Hackett 9537046
16 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M Sinnott 915-0234
17 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M Rubenstein 248-514-5092
23 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M Morray 953-5679
24 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M Smith 520-488-9569
26 Fri Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise (long) Hike M Jacobsen 206-1251

March

2 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M Wolling 345-2110
22 Mon U of O Campus Walk Hike E Alexander 458-209-7798

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



The President's Corner

Maryanne Reiter

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! The Obsidians have partnered with Willamalane to sponsor hikes in the area with our mutual hiking program scheduled to re-launch in May, 2021. We are both very excited about working together to provide hiking opportunities for our community. Willamalane recently started a virtual hiking program called "Hike Your Way." The goal of the program is to engage the community in healthy outdoor activities as well as generating increased interest in our mutual hiking program. Since we are hiking partners with Willamalane we are included as a resource for hikes. Check it out! You can join anytime and you can get more details here:

willamalane.org/classes_and_programs/adults/hike.php

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS Stewart Hoeg, Kathy Randall, and John Cooper for their outstanding service during their tenure on the Obsidian Board. They have contributed in many ways to make the Obsidians a successful and fun club. Best wishes to them all.

Free Wood

A cord of dry hardwood
1-2 foot long logs, not split
I have a truck and can help.
Daphne daphleej@yahoo.com



Smaller gathering on Spencer Butte this year. Photo by Darko Sojak.



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January 2021



*Looking north with Otter Rock on the left. Photo by Holger Krentz.
(See report for Moolack Creek on page 7.)*

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