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Dates to Remember

February 23	Potluck
March 1	Bulletin Deadline
March 6	Board Meeting
March 29	Potluck

Current event schedules at:

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Ice Storm Topples Trees At Lodge

Jim Northrop, Lodge Grounds Chair

JANUARY'S ICE STORM toppled two oaks at the Lodge, blocking two of the three driveways just days before the William Sullivan potluck. No trees damaged the Lodge itself or the storage building, although one of the oaks did take out a section of our new fence. The Lodge still had electricity and no frozen pipes. That was a relief.

A quickly assembled crew of nine Obsidians turned out to cut up the two oaks and drag away the branches. A combination of electric and gasoline chainsaws did the trick, with Larry Dunlap and Maryanne Reiter the chief sawyers. When one chainsaw broke down and the other was too small for the task, a call was put in to Rob Castleberry. Even though Rob was busy cleaning up his own yard, he drove to the Lodge with his chainsaw and made quick work of the remaining logs. Thank you, Rob!

With the driveways and parking spaces cleared, and the damaged fence raised back into place, the hard-working Obsidian crew retired to The Pub at Laurelwood for a well-deserved lunch.



Larry Dunlap and Dave Cooper get started cutting the trunk while Lorraine Cuevas works on clearing branches. Photo by Carla Cooper.

Additional photos of the cleanup on page 12.

Brushing the Ridgeline Trail After the Storm

Matt Bell, Ridgeline Trail Maintenance Leader

IT TOOK FIVE MORNINGS AND TWENTY OBSIDIANS AND GUESTS—many of them signing up more than once—with rakes, loppers, and hand saws to brush and clear almost six miles of Ridgeline Trail System. I led two mornings and then coordinated with Eugene Parks and Open Space for Pat Soussan and Jim Northrop to lead the other two mornings. Janet Jacobsen provided persimmon bread treats for all. Trail clearing was a joint effort project with the much-needed Scorpion sawyers removing the logs across the trail—especially those that we could not jump over. It was fun for Obsidians to rake together and to see our tired smiles, knowing that our work benefited the hiking community. Bravo for the Scorpions and the Obsidians!

There are still two more parks (Blanton and Dillard-Skyline) with trails to clear, so please consider joining us as we work to get the trails back in order.

See pages 9–10 for trip reports.

IN MEMORIAM

KAREN SEIDEL

JUNE 23, 1936–JANUARY 19, 2024

KAREN WORKED FOR MANY YEARS TO RESEARCH AND WRITE the biographical sketches displayed at the monuments in the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. The signs create a journey for cemetery visitors to learn about Eugene's history. Obsidian leaders often asked Karen to meet their group at the cemetery for a personal tour where she shared lively anecdotes about the cemetery and Eugene's notable or not-so-notable figures. One leader commented in his 2005 trip report that Karen was a wonderful guide, bringing Eugene's past alive with so many stories. In 2022, the Lane County Historical Society honored Karen with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her research for the Masonic Cemetery, Eugene City Club, Eugene's Historic Review Board, Lane County Historical Museum, and the Fairmont Neighbors History project.

An Obsidian member for 47 years, Karen also contributed historical articles about the Lodge and summaries of decades of trips for the *Bulletin*. Her sense of humor was ever present in her data when she wrote that Obsidian leaders took *trusting souls to Deathball Rock, Phantom Bridge and Wildcat Mountain*. She went on one hundred trips and led fourteen hikes including four to Black Crater. Her 1986 trip report began: *Eleven enthusiastic hikers, undeterred by two weeks of hot, lethargy-producing weather, the rigors of summer camp (three survivors), or fatigue from high Sierra trekking, started up the Black Crater Trail on a warm and hazy day.*

In a tribute to her in the January Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association e-newsletter, Charley Wright wrote that Karen will be remembered *as wise, gracious, talented, committed, firm, and irreplaceable.*

To honor Karen, visit the cemetery.

Editor's Note: Karen's complete obituary can be found in the February 4, 2024 issue of The Register Guard. For more information, see below:

www.observians.org/bulletin/Issues/2022_Bulletins/2022_04_Bulletin.pdf

www.observians.org/bulletin/Issues/2018_Bulletins/2018_07_Bulletin.pdf

<https://eugenemasoniccemetery.org/index.php/enewsletters/>

Obsidians Mission:

Connecting our community to the mountains, waters, and trails of the great outdoors through exploration, education, and stewardship.



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Lisa Van Liefde, Sue Zeni

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

Committee Chairpersons

Bus (Interim) Jim Northrop
Climbs Maryanne Reiter
Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd Angie Ruzicka
Entertainment Ane McKee
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
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Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity D. Rubenstein & L. Van Liefde
Safety Lyndell Wilken & John Miller
Stewardship Darko Sojak
Summer Camp Lana Lindstrom
Trips Dave Cooper

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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Published monthly, except August and December. Articles, story ideas, letters to the editor, and other editorial submissions may be emailed to:

bulletin@observians.org

For reprint rights, contact:

The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline

for March Bulletin

Friday, March 1

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Assistant Manager: Nancy Raymond

Team: Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin,
Barbara Gunther, Yuan Hopkins,
Judy Newman, Barbara Schomaker

The Odor

Mike Smith

I WAS IN THE ANCHORAGE AIRPORT LATE ONE NIGHT, taking my then annual red eye to Seattle, and stopped in the men's room. As soon as I entered, I recognized a smell that I knew immediately: *I've just come out of the bush.*

I call it The Odor. Capitalized. Two young men were present.

The Odor is difficult to describe. It is not present when I do trail work for a day or hike 20 miles. I sweat, I'm dirty, I stink, but I don't have The Odor. The first full day on a multi-day backcountry trip, I don't have it either. I smell clean. The Odor is days old sweat on clothes that have been worn too long, over skin unwashed for far too long, in places where there is a lot of sweat, dirt, rain, and flowing water—the combination mixing with woodsmoke from burnt cedar, pine, birch, or spruce.



Biologically, The Odor is created by bacteria breaking down oils plus some pure carbon, but I think there may be a special compound created when hard work is performed in places where there are no signs, where rivers run free, people are few, sounds are beaver tail slaps, eagles, flickers, hawks, hermit thrushes, marmots, ravens, wolves, white throated sparrows, and wind rustling through jack pines. The Odor requires tens of thousands of steps or strokes under pack or paddle, or both, bug bites, sunlight, rain, dew, blood from a few cuts, walking through muck, tripping on a root, fording a river, reaching a difficult summit. It is enhanced by watching sunrise over a misty lake, sitting by a fire at night or on a cold rainy morning, having a wake-up *caw*, hearing dishes clank, kneeling on the ground pitching a tent, watching a hawk, collecting wood from a lake shore, or hearing a fish jump.

The Odor is neither the smell of a men's locker room nor the smell when one is ill and doesn't bathe for a few days. Long stays in wild country inoculate the nose to ignore it. But when I am on the last portage, the last mile of the trail, I can recognize a person who has just left the jumping off point. They smell clean, soap and shampoo squeaky clean. They haven't worked enough yet. They will, and days later will likely be exiting where I was and have The Odor.

These two men were self-conscious; both wanted and needed a shower and were trying to get fully clean using a sink, knowing that they had several hours ahead on the flight back to the Lower. Nobody wants to board a plane with The Odor; it belongs in wild country. The Odor is like multi-day-old salad that you tolerated for dinner on the last night, but hours later in town, if any is left, looks inedible and you dump it.

After I washed my hands and turned from the sink, I accidentally brushed the pack one still wore. The young man apologized. He probably forgot he had the pack on. I've forgotten, too, on high mileage backpacks.

"Been there," I said. "A lot." These young men were kindred spirits. They had spent two weeks in some place in the Kenai I had never heard of, doing it now, in their thirties, because family and work were soon going to take all their time. They loved it and asked where I had traveled. I just said I had been in the Brooks (Range) many times including two trips to the Refuge. They gave me the longing look, of *aufeis*, caribou, Dall sheep, griz, midnight sun, open horizons, tundra, tussocks, wildflowers, wild rivers, willow thickets, wolverines, and how-am-I-going-to-see-all-this-country-before-I-die?

"Have a good trip back home," I said as I left. "See you on the trail, or whatever passes for one up here."



2023/2024 Premium Members

Platinum Members

(\$200 or more)

Osinga, Laura

Gold Members

(\$100–199)

Bean, Denise

Fontana, Bea

Hanson, Vicky

Harris, Jean

McDonnell, Margot

Morgan, Boyd

Terry, Judy

Silver Members

(\$50–99)

Aten, Barbara

Baldwin, Don

Barnas, Julie

Barnes, Jennifer

Barr, Marsha

Baskett, Martin

Beard, Barbara

BeBout, Michael

Bradley, Joan

Buchbinder, Gabriel

Carver, Deb

Chambers, Emeline

Chamness, Dan

Chan, Annie

Christensen, Dan

Christiansen, Lynda

Claypool, Marcia

Clinger, David

Cooper, Carla
Cooper, David
Cutsforth, Sharon
Dame, Wendy
Defazio, Peter
Dinn, Diana
Dinn, James
Doerr, Don
Duncan, Sharon
Dunlap, Larry
Ewing, Joella
Foster, Bob
Gaffney, Karen
Garwood, Judy
Gates, Sheridan
Glover, Elizabeth
Grant, Elizabeth
Harvey, Sylvia
Hovis, Scott
Kameenui, Brenda
Kay, Jane
Kay, Peter
Landes, Michael
Lowder, Bill
Lyon, Carla
Madden, Kathryn
Martz, Helen
Masarie, Diana
McCoy, Verlean
McIvor, Andrew
Meacham, Lynn
Miller, John
Miller, June
Miller, Sam

Milliman, Greg
Moffitt, Michael
Morray, Darian
Morray, Karen
Murphy, Ronald
Neis, Patty
Newlove, Natalie
Northrop, Jim
Parks, Linda
Parramore, Ken
Payne, Don
Pegg, John
Raymond, Nancy
Romoser, Ruth
Rundle, Tom
Rusow, Jeffrey
Rusow, Karla
Smith, Mike
Stewart Smith, Meg
Strutin, David
Swisher, Pamela
Swisher, Ron
Thompson, Harold
Van Liefde, Lisa
Vincent, Virginia
Watson, Morgan
Whitfield, Nancy
Wilken, Lyndell
Wolling, Sue
Wolters, Kris
Yoerger, Karen
Young, Tommy

Thank you for your support of the Obsidians!

Consider the Obsidians for an RMD

IF YOU HAVE AN IRA, AND DUE TO YOUR AGE, YOU HAVE A REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD) EACH YEAR, you might consider donating a portion of this to the Obsidians. The portion of your RMD you donate is treated as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). The great thing about this is that you save taxes even if you don't itemize. Consult your financial advisor. Earmarking this amount for the Obsidians is a great way to support the organization.

JANUARY BOARD NOTES

January 3, 2024

From minutes by Angie Ruzicka

Dave Hawkins called the meeting to order. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Russ Davies, Jean Harris, Maryanne Reiter, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde, Sue Zeni. Others present: Carla Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, Jim Northrop, Darko Sojak. The Board approved the minutes for the December 6 Board Meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Laura Osinga):

Sue Zeni presented the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. Of note: We ended the year with \$4,422 more income and \$6,400 fewer expenses than budgeted—mainly accounted for with more dividend income and membership dues, as well as fewer website maintenance costs, admin costs, and building maintenance costs than anticipated in 2023. Vanguard investments gained \$6,550 in December. The bills were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bus Trips (Jim Northrop - interim): The Bus Trips Committee will meet in early March to plan for the coming year. All ideas for bus trips are welcomed.

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee Chair and Obsidian Member Patrick McMurdo have been working on hosting a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) Wilderness First Aid class.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): The committee is in the process of ordering new merchandise.

Entertainment (Ane McKee): December is one of the months we do not hold potlucks. We did, however, hold another successful GameNight! and had 15 participants playing a variety of games and visiting.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): The committee has a meeting scheduled to discuss potential trips. Anyone interested in leading or co-leading an overnight trip? Contact the chair!

Finance (Susan Zeni): The proposed 2024 budget is attached. Note that the publicity budget has been changed from \$250 to \$400. The Finance Committee recommends a mileage rate of 11 cents per mile for 2024 (same as 2023).

Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana): The process of preparing to close the active Obsidian logbooks continues. Bert continues to scan the logbooks for the archives. After some research, we were able to confirm that life member Howard Byerly is deceased. He died in 2000 and his obit was in the Chicago Tribune. He joined the Club in 1963. Bert Ewing was on the last two climbs that Howard led in 1971.

Membership (Diane Schechter): Total Membership—429

Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde): The committee has contacted potential members and will be meeting quarterly. Social media postings have been done on Facebook and Instagram. A draft has been drawn up for a Publicity Posting Calendar for 2024 along with a Publicity Committee Action Plan per Obsidian guidelines. We will be present at a Hiking/Kayaking event in Florence in April.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): AED was checked. We will be meeting in February.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): Nine volunteers joined community members at work parties at year's end. At Hendricks Park where their goal is to be ivy free, they "freed the forest" of this invasive plant and planted 24 ferns. On New Year's Eve Obsidians joined four off road vehicle clubs for a cleanup, food, and fun on the beach and dunes near Florence.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Sue Wolling is once again writing informative and interesting monthly articles about Summer Camp. Denise Rubenstein has contacted a number of caterers in the area, has received a bid from one of them and is waiting to hear from two others.

Trips (Dave Cooper): 2023 came to a close with 23 trips completed and \$9 in fees received in December. Eighteen of these trips were urban.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 committee members (Dave Hawkins): The Board approved the committee members for 2024.

2024 Obsidian mileage rate (Sue Zeni): The government mileage rate is similar to last year so a motion passed to continue to use 11 cents per mile as a recommended donation to drivers.

Pending New Website demonstration (Maryanne Reiter): Maryanne gave a demonstration of the functionality for both guests and members.

Hiking sign-up sheet change recommendation (Dave Cooper): Board approved that when we fully transition to the new website, the liability waiver will be signed online upon trip signup. We will no longer have participants sign a paper signup sheet. In the future we might consider signing the liability waiver once a year instead of every event.

Amend Policies & Practices for Summer & Winter Trip change (Dave Cooper): Board approved moving forward with one committee "Trips," (as opposed to the current Summer and Winter Trips) the change will be made in the Policies and Practices.

Giving Program ideas (Jim Northrop): Jim described a variety of levels of donations with mountain names e.g. *Mt. Hood*. Board approved forming an ad hoc committee to establish a process for how donations are specified, what fund they would go to, how it is budgeted, how donation is acknowledged and reported in the *Bulletin*.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on website & data project (Lana Lindstrom): The team had several productive meetings with the developer. There is an ongoing process with moving data from the old website to the new website. It is anticipated the new website will go live sometime in January. There is a committee developing a plan to first train leaders and committee chairs and then general users.

Review & approve the 2024 budget (Sue Zeni): Sue explained the budget and answered questions. The 2024 budget was approved.

(Continued on page 6)

(Board Notes, continued from page 5)

NOLS Wilderness First Aid Class (Maryanne Reiter): We will sponsor the class here at the Lodge June 1–2. Maryanne is coordinating with NOLS and will work out the details of sending in deposits, determining the number of participants and final cost for participants.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

Publicity Committee questions (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde): Presented an action plan with a variety of strategies: articles, presentations to local groups, participation in community events, joint ventures with other outdoor-oriented organizations, and social media.

ADJOURNMENT

2024 COMMITTEE Members

Bus Trips (Jim Northrop—interim): Judy Adamcyk, Tom Adamcyk, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Marcia Claypool, Pat Cleall, Denise Bean, Joella Ewing, Judy Garwood, Sheridan Gates, Whitney Gould, Dave Hawkins, Michael King, Sandra Larsen, Vern Marsonette, Diana Masarie, Evelyn Nagy, Stephanie Pflaster

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): Wim Aarts, Danni Harris, Jen Marlow, Juli McGlinsky, Meg McNabb, DeWayde Perry, Scott Timms, Dalen Wilhite

Concessions (Carla Cooper): Linda Brunson, Keiko Bryan, Joyce Cedarlund, Anne Hollander, Michael King, Chris Shuraleff, Tracy Vilhauer, Nancy Whitfield

Conservation, Science & Education (Angie Ruzicka): Joanna Alexander, Heidi Anderson, Samantha Bullis, Jean Harris, Mark Hougardy, Maryanne Reiter, Jorry Rolfe, Darko Sojak, Meg Stewart-Smith, Maureen Whalen

Entertainment (Ane McKee): Joella Ewing, Juliette Deinum, Yuan Hopkins, Lana Lindstrom, Hally McCabe, June Miller, Evelyn Nagy, Janice Silvestri, Susan Wanser

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): Jean Harris, Emily Rice, Diane Schechter, Lisa Van Liefde

Finance (Sue Zeni): Pam Caples, Dave Hawkins, Stewart Hoeg, Lana Lindstrom, Laura Osinga

Library/Historian (Bea Fontana): Bert Ewing, Janet Jacobsen

Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop): Dave Cooper, Clara Emlen, Doug Nelson

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): Joella Ewing, John Hegg, Steve Johnson, Doug Nelson, Jim Northrop, Nancy Whitfield

Membership (Diane Schechter): Samantha Bullis, Juliette Deinum, Brenda Kame'enui, Diane Longcore, Carla Lyon, Emily Rice, Dorothy van Winkle, Tracy Vilhauer

Online (Bob Eriksen): Carla Cooper, Tim Vignos, Scott Wilkinson

Publications (Lou Maenz): Editorial Team: Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz, Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger. **Mailing Team:** Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin, Barbara Gunther, Yuan Hopkins, Judy Newman, Nancy Raymond (Assistant), Barbara Schomaker,

Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde): Kathy Brenner, Darko Sojak, Scott Wilkinson

Safety (Lyndell Wilken & John Miller): John Hegg, Jim Northrop, Maryanne Reiter, Mike Smith

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): Matt Bell, Dave Cooper, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Lyndell Wilken

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Pam Caples, Dave Hawkins, Steve Johnson, Angie Ruzicka, Sue Wolling

Trips (Dave Cooper): Lydia Fazzio, Jane Hackett, Darrian Morray, Karen Morray, Barbara Orsi, Joan Skarda, Mike Smith, Scott Wilkinson

Ad Hoc New Website Communication & Training (Lana Lindstrom): Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper, Lynn Lary, Maryanne Reiter, Diane Schechter

Welcome New Members!

Shelly Dax
Cottage Grove OR 97424

Mandy Lund
Eugene, OR 97404

Robin Whitley
Eugene, OR 97405

TRIP REPORTS

Extended Trips

Newport King Tides & Yurts

January 11, 2024

Leader & Photographer: Evelyn Nagy

Extended Trip: 5 miles, (Easy)

IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE THE KING TIDE AT ITS HEIGHT. During winter season, it is difficult to get a beach walk in, but not to worry. South Beach State Park had another enjoyable hike which protected us from the high tide and wind. We stayed in South Beach most of the time for dinner, and for the outstanding tour of Oregon State University's Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building, a state of the art tsunami/earthquake building which is one of only three on the west coast. We cut our trip short due to concerns about weather conditions on the way back. Members: Linda Anson, Lorraine Cuevas, Clara Emlen, Elizabeth Grant, Rachelle Masin, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Chris Stockdale, Susan Wanser.



Preschoolers also observing the king tide.



Hikes

Whale Watching Overnight

December 27, 2023

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 7 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

THE END OF THE YEAR IS A GREAT TIME FOR WHALE WATCHING on the Oregon coast as migrating gray whales pass just offshore. This year the wave heights easily exceeded 18 feet, which made whale watching difficult. The trip focused more on looking for wildlife and watching gargantuan waves strike the coastline. We arrived at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Interpretive Center as heavy rain also arrived. We explored picturesque Quarry Cove Trail and Quarry Cove, then hiked to beautiful Cobble Beach where the

incoming waves created impressive acoustics among the thousands of fist-sized cobbles. We continued to the lighthouse and kept watch for whales in the distance, but they remained elusive. A peregrine falcon kept watch on the adjacent Colony Rock. We continued to Salal Hill and saw a deep blue wall of water and wind approaching from the south. As we made our way off the hill, the wall of water hit—we were thoroughly soaked! Returning to the interpretive center, we explored the exhibits, then retreated to our hotel to warm up. That evening, we enjoyed a superb dinner at Local Ocean Seafood. Later, we observed police cars parked near the beach and several officers searching for someone. The following morning, we met at the Oregon State Parks Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay. After viewing the exhibits, we walked past the impressive blow hole on the coast and up the Sunset Street Access Area, where we watched as waves pounded the rocky cliff-lined peninsula. Even crashing against a cliff, the wave splashes exceeded the rooflines of nearby 2-story houses. Just after noon, we walked back to town and ended the trip. Members: David Clinger, Nancy Hoecker, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy.

New Years Day—Spencer Butte

January 1, 2024

Leaders: (Short) Janet Jacobsen; (Medium) Denise Rubenstein & Heidi Anderson; (Long) Mike Smith

Hike: 2.2–6.2 miles, 600–1530 ft. (Easy–Moderate)

DID ALL THE MANY HIKERS WE MET ON THE TRAIL know that the sun was shining above the clouds highlighting the snow-capped mountains? Whatever the reason, we shared Happy New Year greetings! Somehow our groups from three trailheads managed to rendezvous on the summit for photos, snacks, and conversation. Carla's photos are in the Members Area Gallery. What a lovely morning to renew friendships. Returning to the main parking lot, there were cars waiting to take our spaces. The early hiker catches a parking space. Members: (Short) Lynda Christiansen, Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Sandra Larsen, Helen Martz, Jeff Orendorff, Ginny Reich, Diane Schechter, Pat Soussan, Meg Stewart Smith, Nancy Whitfield; (Medium) Heidi Anderson, Liz Cooney, David Cooper, Richard Hughes, Brenda Kameenui, Lana Lindstrom, Janet Madrone, Vern Marsonette, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Darko Sojak, Lisa Van Liefde, Paul Winther; (Long) Wim Aarts, David Clinger, Jennifer Crim, Lorraine Cuevas, Whitney Gould, Nancy Hoecker, Gwyneth Iredale, Lynn Meacham, John Miller, June Miller, Mike Smith, Lis Sorrell, Shelley Tinkham, Maureen Whalen, Sue Wolling.

Alsea and Green Peak Falls

January 6, 2024

Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Assistant Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 5.2 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

DESPITE A FORECAST OF RAIN, our optimistic group set out on our hike under blue skies. After observing Alsea Falls, we headed across the river and made our way northwest to Green Peak Falls. Both falls were at their rain-swollen best. Two hikers spotted a frustrated salmon at the base of Green Peak Falls. After visiting the falls, we took a snack break at Hubert

K. McBee Memorial Campground under a shelter complete with an 80-foot-long table made from a single Doug fir log. On the way back we hiked up a connector trail to Big Fir Trail to complete a loop that was new to us all. Surprisingly, there were lots of mushrooms—chanterelles, golden chanterelles, and hedgehogs. Overall, it was a pleasant (if a little soggy) day and we enjoyed each other's company in the magical moist forest on a winter day. Members: Theresa Congdon, James Dinn, Whitney Gould, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lis Sorrell, Mitch Temple, Shelley Tinkham, Maureen Whalen.

University of Oregon Artwalk

January 12, 2024
Leader: Steve Adey
Hike: (Easy)

WE SPENT ABOUT FOUR HOURS ROUND TRIP from Hendricks Park. Several group members downloaded the free *uoregon* app which has numerous self-guided tours. Members: Steve Adey, Joanna Alexander, Mari Baldwin, Carla Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Sandra Sigrist, Lis Sorrell.

Blue Horizon @ Cape Mountain

January 21, 2024
Leader: Jane Hackett
Photographer: Sandra Sigrist
Hike: 3 miles, 150 ft. (Easy)

THIS WAS A VERY GOOD WINTER COAST HIKE. We managed to start and end the hike without much rain. We did have drippy trees and a little fog. The wind was high in the trees and not much of a problem. The trail was well maintained and soft under foot. We did not have many ocean views but did identify the places where we would have had them if the weather had been better. We completed the hike around 2:00 and went to Homegrown in Florence for a late lunch. The drive back was rainy all the way. Highway 126 is clear of trees and debris. Members: Clara Emlen, Jane Hackett, Sandra Sigrist, Lis Sorrell, Mitch Temple.



Bridge and Bald Hill

January 28, 2024
Leader: Angie Ruzicka
Photographer: Darko Sojak
Hike: 6.5 miles, 575 ft. (Moderate)

EIGHT EAGER EXPLORERS VENTURED NORTH to Corvallis looking for a trail unencumbered by ice storm damage. Our optimism grew as we were greeted with sunny skies and spring-like temperatures. We made quick progress along the paved bike path from the western edge of Oregon State University campus, passing through research farm lands and crossing a rushing Oak Creek on Irish Bend Covered Bridge. Originally built in 1954 across a Willamette River slough near Monroe, the bridge was moved to OSU in 1989. After continuing past the fairgrounds on the Midge Cramer Path, our progress slowed as we headed up 'mucky mud' switchbacks and had to maneuver around a couple of downed trees. Our senses of humors intact, we made it to the top and enjoyed views to the Coast Range and Cascade foothills. The trip down the NW side of the hill was uneventful and we took time for a snack in Bald Hill Farm Barn. We appreciated seeing many folks out enjoying the beautiful day! Members: Marguerite Cooney, Jan Danforth, Diana Dinn, James Dinn, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.



At the top of Bald Hill.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

Hikes: 3.5–6.2 miles, 950–1,530 ft. (Moderate)
Various Leaders

Lynn Meacham: 1/3 12 Members
Mike Smith: 1/10 9 Members

Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Jorry Rolfe: 1/2 5 Members
Jonathan Jost: 1/9 7 Members

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.5–6.6 miles, 500–1,375 ft. (Moderate)
Various Leaders

Jonathan Jost, Lynn Stearney: 12/31 4 Members
Heidi Anderson, David Clinger: 1/5 10 Members
Jeff Orendorff: 1/12 2 Members



Snowshoe Trips

Salt Creek Falls

January 24, 2024

Leader: Scott Hovis

SShoe: 3.5 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

THERE WAS 3 FT. OF PACKED SNOW. The road to the 'kiddie sled area' is plowed, but not to the falls view area. The creek just past the largest foot bridge is tricky to cross. We threw our snowshoes over to the other side & then crossed on the 12 in. diameter log using our poles. There are cliffs where the railings have fallen over. Use a lot of caution. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Scott Hovis, Sandra Sigrist.

Gold Lake

January 28, 2024

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photographer: Diane Repp

SShoe: 4 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

BEAUTIFUL SPRING CONDITIONS. Warm and sunny. Hope for more snow. We all enjoyed the day but even with snowshoes you broke through the soft snow. We had the place to ourselves through lunch. At that point the groups started showing up. We skipped the loop to Marilyn Lakes. The trail had not been broken and we could have been at it for a long time given the conditions. The road conditions were perfect. No snow or ice. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Steve Davis, Patricia Esch, Jane Hackett, Diane Repp, Sandra Sigrist, Lis Sorrell.



Respite.

Science and Education

Film Screening: *Land/Trust*

January 25, 2024

Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Science/Education

SIX FOLKS WATCHED THE FILM SCREENING of *Land/Trust* followed by a discussion at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History. The film, produced by a woman for her Master of Fine Arts at UC Santa Cruz, documents the efforts of a non-federally recognized tribe, Amah Mutsun, in stewarding the land at Ana Nuevo State Park (between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz) on the CA coast.

The tribe is working to reestablish coastal prairie habitat by removing species like Douglas fir that have encroached due to fire suppression, and by planting native species grown from seed on site. The project involves partnerships between the tribe, CA State Parks, researchers from the UC System (archeologists, ethnobotanists), and community members. We heard many thought-provoking ideas: collaboration, goals for restoration, foodscapes, tending vs. managing, and the role of humans in the landscape. Members: Joanna Alexander, Diana Dinn, Mark Hougardy, Angie Ruzicka, Lis Sorrell, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Kathie Carpenter.



Stewardship

Beach Clean-up with SOLVE

December 31, 2023

Leader: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 4 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

ON THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR, we enjoyed a great work party and lovely community engagement with members of several local 4WD clubs. Sunny coastal weather was a bonus. With gratitude for the unselfish and noble actions of all volunteers, I am looking forward to another year of reciprocity. Members: Mari Baldwin, Angie Ruzicka, Joan Skarda, Darko Sojak.

Ridgeline Scouting & Brushing

January 27, 2024

Leader: Matt Bell

Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

OUR GROUP OF ADVENTUROUS OBSIDIANS met up at the Willamette and 52nd Trailhead parking lot to scout and remove storm debris from the Ridgeline Trail. We broke from our usual plan of hiking in and working our way out, to working our way in and hiking our way out. We cut, dragged, and threw numerous branches off of the trail. About half of our group raked storm debris from the trail. We also kept track of and measured the logs that will require a chainsaw to clear, to report to the City and the Scorpions. We made great time and started up the Tie Trail only to encounter a 3 ft. deep rootwad pit that destroyed the trail. A little farther along we encountered the largest downed tree of about 52 in. diameter. Mari, Sandra, and Denise elected to continue on to the summit. The rest of our group hiked back to the trailhead for well-earned cookies and juice. All in all, we stepped over, crawled under, jumped, and walked around 14 logs each way. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing persimmon bread and energy balls. Members: Mari Baldwin, Matt Bell, Nathaniel Bell, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Jim Northrop, Dave Predeek, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Darko Sojak, Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: Fletcher Bell.

Amazon Headwaters Brushing & Scouting

January 30, 2024

Leader: Pat Soussan

Assistant Leader: Jim Northrop

Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

OUR GROUP OF SEVEN MET AT THE RIDGELINE FOX HOLLOW TRAILHEAD with rakes, clippers, and handsaws under cloudy skies and temperatures in the 50s. Our plan was to have each

participant take a portion of the trail to brush and then leap-frog down the trail to the next open section. The Scorpions had preceded us and removed trees that had fallen on/over the trail. There was plenty of debris for us to rake off the trail and we completed our work by 11:30. Janet passed around well-deserved and welcomed treats for us before we returned up the trail to the parking lot. We all agreed that it was a successful and enjoyable trip. Members: Wim Aarts, Jennifer Baer, Anna Maria Hundseder-Aarts, Janet Jacobsen, Carla Lyon, Jim Northrop, Pat Soussan.

Ridgeline Brushing & Scouting

January 31, 2024

Leader: Jim Northrop

Assistant Leader: Pat Soussan

Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 50 ft. (Moderate)

TEN OBSIDIANS TACKLED THE DAMAGE to the Ridgeline Trail from the January ice storm. Pat Soussan and Janet Jacobsen led a crew of five to rake and clear the trail between the Fox Hollow Trailhead and the Tie Trail junction. Jim Northrop led the rest of the crew on the loop between Fox Hollow and Dillard Roads. Janet's home-baked persimmon bread recharged us when our energy flagged. We accomplished much, but much more will need to be done to reopen our trails. Members: Wim Aarts, Jennifer Baer, Mari Baldwin, Steve Davis, Janet Jacobsen, Lynn Meacham, Jim Northrop, Diane Schechter, Pat Soussan, Karen Yoerger.



*Dave Predeek starts branch removal.
Photo by Darko Sojak.*



*Mari Baldwin
and
Denise
Rubenstein scout
options for
continuing up
the trail.
Photo by Sandra
Sigrist.*



*One of many uprooted trees on Spencer Butte.
Photo by Darko Sojak.*



Photo by Diane Schechter.



*Steve Johnson in hole made by root ball.
Photo by Pat Soussan.*



Jim gives directions before group splits up. Photo by Pat Soussan.



Sandra Sigrist checks for overhanging limbs as others follow. Photo by Pat Soussan.



Lynn Meacham by a big one. Photo by Pat Soussan.



The Scorpions have been through here. Photo by Pat Soussan.



Janet Jacobsen on the damaged but usable bridge. Photo by Pat Soussan.



Wim removes a limb from trail. Photo by Pat Soussan.



Jennifer Baer, Jim, and Wim Aarts. Photo by Diane Schechter.



Mari by another uprooted tree. Photo by Diane Schechter.



Jim and Janet on cleaned trail—but the tree still needs to be removed. Photo by Pat Soussan.



Left: After evaluating the situation carefully, Matt Bell safely removes an overhanging limb. Photo by Pat Soussan.

Lodge Grounds Cleanup

Photos by Carla Cooper



Ever faithful volunteer for Lodge Grounds and Trail Maintenance, Clara Emlen tackles a pile of branches on the driveway.



Middle above: Rob Castleberry interrupted his own work at home to come to the rescue with his chainsaw when our larger saw broke down.



Working to get the fence bent back as much as possible.



Middle: Maryanne Reiter, Jim Northrop, and Larry Dunlap confer.



Maryanne and her trusty chainsaw ready to work.

Susan Wanser, Jim, and Linda Anson handled the wheelbarrows.



Jim works on another fallen limb while Lorraine Cuevas and Dave Cooper work clearing the fence.





Camp Fontana, Obsidian Summer Camp 2024

Sue Wolling

YOUR SUMMER CAMP COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO NAME THIS YEAR'S EVENT CAMP FONTANA, after longtime Obsidian Bea Fontana. But if you're new to the Obsidians, you might not know Bea Fontana.

If you have heard of Bea, it's most likely as the creator of the remarkable Summer Camp shower system—more about those in a later *Bulletin*. But those showers are a mere drop in the bucket when it comes to Bea's work. Bea combines commitment, creativity, skill, attention to detail, and an ability to figure things out that give her creations a clever and uniquely *right* feel.

The Obsidian Lodge is a veritable *Bea-hive* of her work. When you enter the Lodge, the Scherer Room is on your right—and if you look up, you'll see the peaks of the Three Sisters etched into the glass. When the Lodge was remodeled in 2006, funding wouldn't cover the planned accordion-type divider to isolate that room for small groups. What was available was a garage door—which seemed inauspicious. But Bea created a *cutting-etch* image, etched into the glass panels, that speaks to all Obsidians. It's Bea-utiful!

Moving into the Lodge you'll see the big fireplace—another of Bea's works. When the Lodge was built, they burned through available funds a little too fast to include a nice fireplace, so it was left as cinder blocks, with space to add a rock facing later. Despite little more background than attending a few rock concerts, Bea decided to take on the stonework. She created a model of what she wanted, then selected a mason and met with him at local quarries to choose the basalt for the fireplace, rock by rock. The mason, Tom Mains, did an amazing job of replicating the look of Bea's model, then Bea re-installed the memorial plaque, and cut down the fire screen to fit the modified opening. Bea, you really rock!

But that's not all. In 2017, the Obsidians purchased a high-quality sound system for the Lodge. This significant investment needed protection from damage or theft. Bea wouldn't hear of a white plastic cabinet in our beautiful wood and stone Lodge, so she offered to build something more appropriate. The result: a locked cabinet made of vertical-grained fir with custom features like rounded corners that won't poke anybody. The lovely result speaks for itself!

These are only a few of the many projects Bea has completed around the Obsidian Lodge over the years—while also completing dozens of ski trips and hikes. You'll hear more about her as we prepare for Camp Fontana.



Photo by Carla Cooper.



*Bea, on the ladder, disassembling the showers at North Cascades Summer Camp.
Photo by Darko Sojak.*

DARKO SOJAK, CHAIR OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE, has been participating in Obsidian-led SOLVE beach cleanups for over ten years. Darko began leading these outings in 2018. He recently received a thank you letter from the organization and sent it along, with the emphasis that it was for all the Obsidian volunteers. The following is an excerpt from that letter, as well as a thank you letter from McKenzie River Trust for Obsidians work at Green Island.

As we begin a new chapter in 2024, I wanted to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude for your exceptional leadership and dedication as a SOLVE event leader throughout this impactful year. Your commitment has been instrumental in making a positive difference in our region, and we are truly grateful for the enthusiasm and energy you've brought to the projects you held with us.

Looking back on the year, it's evident that our collective efforts, driven by leaders like you, have left a lasting mark. The impact of your work has been felt far and wide. Event results are still coming in, but so far, 1,459 projects were held in 2023 resulting in 3,903 native trees and shrubs planted, 907 trees cleared of ivy, 660,060 pounds of trash diverted from our waterways, and 46,933,423 square feet of habitat restored. That's 5 times the square footage of the Hoyt Arboretum restored, and the weight of three and a half blue whales worth of litter collected! Your passion for service and ability to inspire others has been invaluable to our community.

Abby Boyle

Program and Supply Coordinator



Photo by Angela Ruzicka.

McKENZIE RIVER TRUST IS GRATEFUL for the partnership with the Obsidians and the adoption and care of the "Obsidians Corner" at Green Island, a 1,100-acre conservation area outside of Coburg, Oregon. Located at the confluence of the McKenzie and the Willamette Rivers, Green Island provides essential habitat for an abundance of fish and wildlife species. The Obsidians Corner greets visitors as they enter the island, running between the historic McKenzie River channel and the road. Since the adoption of this area in 2021, members have volunteered over 200 hours transforming and caring for this space by clearing invasive blackberry so native plants can thrive, and more recently also supporting firewise work removing lower limbs of trees to protect the canopy and surroundings.

Special thanks to Darko Sojak for championing this project and leading as the Obsidian's Stewardship Committee Chair.

Green Island is open to the public on the second Saturday of the month March–December for Living River Exploration Days when you can bike, run, fish, picnic, or generally explore with 7 miles of trails on the island.

Thank you for your continued care and support of this special place!

Sarah Wheeler

Volunteer Coordinator | McKenzie River Trust



Blackberry and tree limb removal at Green Island.
Photos by Darko Sojak.



OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

February

- 13 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M..Sigrist 916-612-5517
- 15 Thu Odell Overlook SShoe M..... Hovis 731-3412
- 16 Fri Mt. Pisgah 6 Miler Hike MMiller 255-6254
- 17 Sat Finn Rock Reach Planting WrkPrty E Sojak 799-9199
- 20 Tue Amanda Trail Hike M Sigrist 916-612-5517
- 20 Tue Blanton Ridge to Sp. Butte Hike M. Rubenstein 248-514-5092
- 21 Wed Amazon Hdwtvs/Spencer Butte Hike M.. Miller 808-282-5201
- 21 Wed Salt Creek Falls SShoe M..... Hovis 731-341223
- 23 Fri Hiking the PCT Bob Welch..... **Potluck**
- 23 Fri Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike M Jacobsen 206-1251
- 23 Fri Pisgah East Side Loop Hike M..... Hawkins 505-0119
- 23 Fri Shelter Cove SShoe/ski ExtTrp M .. Van Liefde 949-677-1379
- 24 Sat Trail Maintenance TrlMnt MBell 503-884-8829
- 26 Mon Mt. Pisgah 6 Miler Hike MMiller 255-6254
- 27 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M..Sigrist 916-612-5517
- 28 Wed Amazon Hdwtvs/Spencer Butte Hike M.....Miller 255-6254

- 12 Tue Basic Climb SchoolReiter 521-8472
- 19 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike MRolfe 206-9501
- 19 Tue GameNight!McKee 554-1364
- 26 Tue Blanton Ridge to Sp. Butte Hike M. Rubenstein 248-514-5092
- 29 Fri Summer Camp Rally - Camp Fontana **Potluck**
- 30 Sat Trail Maintenance TrlMnt M..... Bell 503-884-8829

April

- 2 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike MRolfe 206-9501
- 9 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M Miller 255-6254
- 13 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike E
- 16 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M .Sigrist 916-612-5517
- 18 Thu GameNight!McKee 554-1364
- 23 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M McDonnell 729-1474
- 26 Fri Climbs around the world - Morgan Watson.....**Potluck**
- 27 Sat Trail Maintenance TrlMnt M..... Bell 503-884-8829
- 30 Tue Silver Falls/Abiqua Falls Hike M Johnson 520-2470

March

- 5 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M McDonnell 729-1474
- 6 Wed Potato Hill SShoe D Hovis 731-3412
- 9 Sat Green Island Education Walk Hike E..... Sojak 799-9199
- 9 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike E van Winkle 485-7416
- 12 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M . Miller 808-282-5201

May

- 1 Wed Pisgah w/Pacific Source Hike ECooper 868-5427
- 4 Sat Grand Canyon Backpack BkPk D..... Adey 520-9285
- 14 Tue GameNight!McKee 554-1364
- 29 Wed Trail Maintenance TrlMnt M..... Bell 503-884-8829
- 31 Fri Protecting Old-Growth Forests & Wild Places.....**Potluck**

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION about our activities, visit the Obsidians website: www.obsidians.org



POTLUCK

Friday, February 23, 2024, 6:30 PM

Hiking the PCT with Bob Welch



AFTER HIKING JUST THE OREGON PORTION OF THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, Bob Welch, along with his brother-in-law, decided to take on the entire PCT. Being a prolific and award-winning writer, Bob published his book, *Seven Summers (And a Few Summers): My Adventures Hiking the 2,650-Mile PCT* in August 2023 about his journey. Join us for an evening of being inspired and entertained with tidbits, anecdotes, and stories from the book.



Potluck
 Friday, February 23, 2024
 Obsidian Lodge
 Social 6:05 PM
 Potluck 6:30 PM, Program 7:30 PM

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share along with your own plates, utensils, and cups to be washed at home.



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:
 Tuesday, March 19, Thursday, April 18,
 Tuesday, May 14, Thursday, June 13
 Questions? Contact: Ane McKee
entertainment@obsidians.org

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Feb 2024



Snow trails. Photo by Diane Repp. See the Gold Lake trip report on page 9.

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