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Dates to Remember

May 19	Program - Energy
May 22	First Aid for Leaders
June 7	Board Meeting

Detailed trip schedules at:
www.obsidians.org or Register-Guard - Sports - Tuesday

Interim Potluck Location

The May program will take place at Washington Park Center, 2025 Washington St. See Potluck Preview - Page 3

LATE BREAKING NEWS

The Obsidians board has unanimously approved the first dues increases in 13 years. See *Board Notes* on Page 12 and full story, with background information, in the June Bulletin.



SHATTERED GLASS...everywhere! Your heart sinks to the pit of your stomach with the realization that someone has smashed your car window and you've been vandalized. Your hike has ended and your hassle with law enforcement, insurance and repairs has just begun.

Throughout the nation, car clouting at trailheads has become a major problem...a costly concern with no easy answers.

In a recent Register-Guard feature story on car clouting, writer Jack Moran reported in the past year Eugene police have taken more than 30 reports of vehicle break-ins at lots surrounding Spencer Butte. Damages in some incidents exceeded \$1,000. A Sheriff's Department spokesman says the issue is a countywide problem from the coast to the Cascades.

In 1997, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs passed a resolution that "a portion of the funds derived from fees levied by the Forest Service for parking at trail-

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Lodge Renovation Nears Completion

Story and Photos by John Jacobsen

AFTER A LONG and what seemed at times a tortuous road, we appear to be in the final stretch of completing the expansion and renovation work on our lodge. Things are looking great, with most of the new features in place, making us think all the trials and tribulations were worth it.

The following is an update on construction progress, along with some personal impressions and expressions of appreciation on behalf of the Construction Committee and the club in general to those who have made significant contributions to this ambitious project.



Preview of new etched artwork at lodge.

- **BEA FONTANA** did an incredible job creating and etching a beautiful scene of the Three Sisters in the glass panels of the garage door hanging in the new lodge entry. A *garage door*? You need to see it to understand it, but it is really something. The

(Continued on page 11)

Nominating Committee Seeking Candidates

THE NOMINATING Committee will meet during the latter part of May to discuss the procedures for selecting three candidates for election to three-year terms on the Obsidian board of directors beginning January 2007. The nominees' names need to be submitted to the board at its July meeting. The

election will take place at the October 10 annual meeting at the lodge.

Article IV of the Obsidian Constitution (GOVERNMENT, Section c) describes the responsibilities of the board and nominating committee:

"At the April Board meeting the Board shall appoint from the Club at large a Nominating Committee of five (5) Active Members whose duty it shall be to nominate three (3) candidates for the Board of Directors for the coming year. The Nominating Committee shall report to the Board of Directors at the July board meeting the names of three (3) nominees for Board of Directors (with approval of those nominated). The names of nominees shall be published in the July Bulletin. Up to three (3) additional nominees may be submitted by petition (signatures of five (5) voting members required with approval of those nominated to the Secretary before the September board meeting.) Complete slate of nominees shall be published in the September Bulletin."

Contact any of the following Nominating Committee members before June 1st if you would like someone to be considered as a candidate or have any suggestions or comments:

John Jacobsen johnwjacobsen@comcast.net

Ed Lichtenstein ed@ori.org

Jim Duncan jameslduncan@prodigy.net

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Board of Directors

President - Wayne Deeter
Vice President - John Pegg
Secretary - Laurie Funkhouser
Treasurer - Sheila Ward

Marianne Camp Jim Duncan
Brian Hamilton Stewart Hoeg
Anne Dhu McLucas Sandra Larsen

Board meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, except August, at the Obsidian Lodge.

Committee Chairpersons

By-Ways By Bus Liz Reanier
Climbs Doug Nelson
Concessions Laurie Funkhouser
Conservation Judy Newman
Entertainment Kathy Hoeg
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance Stewart Hoeg
Lodge Building Rob Castleberry
Lodge Grounds Max Brown
Librarian/Historian Lenore McManigal
Membership Sharon Ritchie
Online Wayne Deeter
Publications Marshall Kandell
Publicity Marianne Camp
Safety John Pegg
Science & Education John Jacobsen
Summer Camp Jim Duncan
Summer Trips Margaret Prentice
Trail Maintenance Peter Asai
Winter Trips Bill Johnson
Youth Andy Jobanek

Welcome!

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Reinstated

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PIERCE, JIM jimpierce@jimsarsjars.com



The mailing crew getting the Obsidian Bulletin ready to go. From left: Tom Revere, Yuan Hopkins, John and Lenore McManigal, Ray Jensen and Marshall Kandell. Crew Chief Barb Revere took photo.

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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

bulletin@obsidians.org

Although email is preferred, submissions can also be sent to:

The Obsidian Bulletin
P.O. Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline
for June Bulletin
Saturday, June 3, 2006

Editorial Team
Marshall Kandell, Barb Revere,
Janet and John Jacobsen

Assembly/Mailing Team

For April Bulletin
Yuan Hopkins, Ray Jensen, Marshall Kandell, John and Lenore McManigal, Tom Revere, Vera Woolley and Crew Chief Barb Revere

COMING MAY 19th: *A Net-Zero Energy Home*

ELDON HAINES and his wife Linda Rose have been advocates of renewable energy sources for years. In fact, Haines, a retired physicist, co-founded the company that produced the Copper Cricket passive solar water heater. So when their daughter and son-in-law extended, in Haines' words, "a loving invitation," to build their retirement cottage in the younger couple's one-acre backyard in northeast Portland, Haines and Rose made a commitment to walk the talk and "go green" in their construction project.

So inspiring as a sustainable living space, the "Rose House" was featured in Portland's 2004 "Build It Green" home tour that highlights the latest in green building techniques, such as bet-

ter indoor air quality, enhanced lighting and constant temperature control.

LEARN HOW the couple accomplished this pioneering feat at 7 p.m. on



Friday evening, May 19, as they escort you on a virtual walk-through of their home's construction. For a peak beforehand, check out http://www.green-rated.org/prog_builditgreen.aspx?y=2004.

Eponymously called the "Rose House," the structure is considered

Oregon's first "net-zero energy" home. Employing solar photovoltaic panels, the 800-square-foot cottage was the first in Portland to create more energy than it uses. Haines explains, "Net-zero energy means the 300 sq. feet of solar cells return as much electricity to the grid in a year as we use."

Note location change for this month's program! The "Rose House" presentation will take place at **Washington Park Center, 2025 Washington St., Eugene**. Socializing with light refreshments begins at 7 p.m. and the presentation will start at 7:30.

HAINES SAYS the features that make net-zero energy use possible are advanced conservation window frames, walls and roof; direct sun or diffuse light on a heat-absorbing floor; solar water heating and a solar assisted heating system. The cottage, which cost

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"Potlucks" Preview and Review ...by *Chris Cunningham*

APRIL REVIEW: *"The Joy of Birds"*

DAN GLEASON'S "The Joy of Birds" slide presentation was a veritable collage of color, texture and behavior. We were smitten with pretty birds on seashores or ruddy desert landscapes, or choreographed in elegant and graceful flight. As guaranteed, Gleason described the "many pleasures we derive from birds and birding." And he also included examples of the many ways centuries of artists have depicted birds. Objects of fascination across cultures, birds grace Italian frescoes, ancient coins, Japanese fans, and totem poles — with regal, whimsical, even menacing bearing.

But then Gleason, a respected field ornithologist and retired UofO biology instructor, described their adaptive be-

haviors and structural morphology, and we were mesmerized by the tiniest of physical details in beaks, glands and lobed toes, structural details our avian friends depend on for their livelihood and survival.

TAKE BEAKS, for example: They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, depending on where the bird gathers its diet, and whether it dines on seeds, insects, fish or carrion. The pelican uses his lower jaw and pouch as a fishing net. The pouch widens as he dives underwater. Once the fish is caught, he drains the water from his pouch, tilts his head back and gobbles down his supper. The great blue heron has a very long, sharply pointed bill used to spear fish. And, the bill of a tufted puffin

allows it to hold onto many slippery fish at a time, sometimes lined up neatly in a row. And, by the way, the tufted puffin molts the top layer of her colorful beak every summer after the chicks have fledged, marking the end of the breeding season.

Not all feathers are created equal: Cormorant feathers are not naturally waterproof. In order to make deep underwater dives, the cormorant wets the outer layer of its feathers, reducing buoyancy and allowing it to pursue prey. To dry its feathers, the cormorant perches and spreads its wings toward the sun. Unlike other seabirds, cormorants do not venture far from their nesting colonies, which are built either on

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Gearing Up: Tasty Power Lunches



By Kristin Hostetter
Special to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer

EVERYTHING SEEMS to taste better when you're on a hiking trip. Is it because you're so famished from all the exercise that your palate becomes less discriminating? Maybe.

Or because the beautiful landscape acts as eye candy, sweetening every bite you take? Probably.

Or because you magically become a superb chef each time you don your hiking boots? Doubtful.

Whatever the reason, enjoy the results. Food really does taste better in the outdoors.

Sometimes, though, lunch is a hurried affair -- just a 15-minute respite between pounding out the miles to the next camp. Nutritionally speaking, lunch is incredibly important; it gives you the much-needed energy and calories to enjoy a full day's hike. And it doesn't have to be boring, either. Here are some of my favorite lunch foods. All are easy to pack and prepare, and all are guaranteed to beat the peanut butter blues:



Kristin Hostetter

Dehydrated hummus -- You can find this Middle Eastern chickpea spread in boxes in most grocery stores and it whips up in no time. Just add water, stir and smear it on a pita.

Dehydrated tabouli -- This Middle Eastern grain and parsley salad is easy to find in grocery stores, as well. Add water and let it re-hydrate. Goes great with hummus and pitas.

Crunchy cream cheese -- At home, empty a container of cream cheese into a bowl, then add a few teaspoons of hot sauce, salt, pepper and a handful of finely diced fresh veggies such as onions, carrots and bell peppers. Mix it up well and

pack it in a watertight plastic container or a squeeze tube. This tastes great rolled up inside a corn tortilla.

Instant soups -- On cold days, boil water in the morning and dump a few packets of your favorite soup mix (Knorr's makes some really good ones) into a wide-mouth, leakproof water bottle. Shake it up and slip the bottle into an insulated bottle carrier. At lunch it'll be nice and hot and ready to drink.

Leftover rice or pasta -- Don't feed it to the animals. If it tasted good last night, it probably will today, too. Store leftovers in a wide-mouth, leakproof water bottle.

Souped-up peanut butter -- By itself, peanut butter can be boring. But try this delicious version: At home, combine a cup of chunky peanut butter, 1/2 cup of honey, 1/2 cup of crushed graham crackers, 1/4 cup powdered milk, 3 tablespoons cinnamon and a tablespoon of powdered cloves. Mix well and store in a squeeze tube.

Niblets -- Lunch doesn't need to be one big, bulging sandwich. It can be a series of tasty snacks that offer a variety of textures, tastes and nutrition. Plus, eating lunch buffet-style can be super quick and easy; just lay out a bunch of different munchies and graze. Here are some of my favorites: baby carrots, string cheese, dried apple rings, sun-dried tomato slices (the dry kind, not the ones marinated in oil), roasted almonds, turkey jerky and, of course, good old gorp (with lots of M&M's).

An outdoors writer for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Kristin was Backpacker Magazine's gear editor for seven years and continues to write for that publication. See:

<http://backpacker.com/experts>

She has generously allowed the Obsidian Bulletin to reprint her Seattle P-I articles.

Potluck Review

(Continued from page 3)

offshore rocks, ledges or islands. Cormorants build nests from sticks and whatever else they can find. When its neighbor isn't looking, the cormorant isn't above stealing nesting materials!

ANOTHER SEABIRD, the common murre, lives in tightly knit colonies on rocky islands or cliff edges. It, too, is a creature of habit, coming back to the same spot year after year. They don't build a nest. Instead, the female lays a single egg, held on the top of her feet during incubation. Common murre

eggs are variegated in color and pointed, so if disturbed they roll in a circle rather than fall off the ledge. Seabirds have specialized salt glands above their eyes, which prevent their bodies from over-salting. The glands produce a salty solution that is excreted through the birds' nostrils and down grooves of their beaks, where it drips off.

With huge nostrils and bald heads, turkey vultures aren't especially attractive. But there's much to be admired about these threatening-looking creatures. For one thing, the turkey vulture is among the few birds which have a

fine sense of smell for detecting the odors of dead animals well below the forest canopy. The turkey vulture consumes and then regurgitates food for its young; never taking live prey to the nest, keeping the home front neat and tidy.

As far as backyard birds are concerned, the northwest black cap chickadee sings the familiar chick-a-dee-dee-dee, but with a slightly different nuance than other chickadees around the country. And, those jays we see are stellar and scrub jays, not blue jays. While jays east of Colorado have blacker

(Continued on page 5)

Tired of Toting the Weight? Buy a Goat!

By Mary Holbert

FIVE OR SIX YEARS AGO, I joined the Obsidians for summer camp in the Sawtooths. I'm a person who often forgets that the journey counts and, without even considering, will develop a plan to avoid the parts I dislike. So, I flew to Boise in something like an hour (less than half the time it took me to get to Portland in my car) and was picked up at the airport by a fellow Obsidian and driven to camp.

What does that tale have to do with goats? Well, I like to go camping way out in the beyond, but slogging with a heavy pack is kind of like driving to Boise... a major turnoff!

The Sawtooths were memorable, staggeringly beautiful. I took that image home -- and one other, which brings us to why I'm writing for the Bulletin. On a hike into a wilderness area we came around a corner and there was a guy sawing a tree that blocked the trail. Lying on the ground in the near vicinity were three

or four enormous goats, bearing substantial packs, nonchalantly chewing their cuds. I knew about donkeys, horses, mules and llamas. I had even wishfully thought of owning a donkey to pack. Never had goats crossed my mind. I stopped and asked a lot of questions. I decided this was the answer to accessing those gorgeous places without all that hard work.

LAST APRIL 15TH, I purchased two five-day-old alpine buck kids. I bottle-fed them for three months. Next April

15th, they will each be capable of carrying about 50 lbs. of gear over any terrain I wish to traverse. Right now they are dedicated hikers (8.5 miles is the current record for one day). They either think they are people or I'm a goat (I suspect the latter). Being herd animals and recognizing me as top ranking member (this is regularly challenged by #1 goat!), no leashes are required. I go, they follow. I open the back of the pickup, they jump in. Being goats, they do eat just about anything, but require blackberries, et al for nourishment, rather handy on the trail.

Now, about the hard work I'm going to avoid. I spend an average of six to eight hours per week on goats. We have a portable goat house and portable fence to keep them on fresh ground. I move that. They have to stay in shape...so we hike, even when I'd rather not. They have to remain highly socialized to be good pack animals. We have tea

together. They get brushed, scratched, complimented. They are dogs without a lot of bad doggy habits. For example, they do not run off when hiking, ever. Poop is small pellets They don't mind getting left in a pen most of the time. They smell good (this may be a personal bias.) They don't make a lot of noise.

I still have a lot to learn about goat packing. Here's the heads up, though. I'll write some more after the first trip with packs.



From left: Legs, Plum and Mary

Potluck Review

(Continued from page 4)

heads and crests with whitish streaks and a white spot above the eye, our backyard jays have forehead feathers tipped with light blue and whitish streaks on the chin and throat.

LASTLY, Gleason described the

plain-looking starlings as "the bird everyone loves to hate." They are aggressive and annoying — but interesting, nevertheless. Like the turkey vulture, the starling has an acute sense of smell. The starling also "ants actively," which is to say he pecks up ants and rubs them over his feathers. Biologists speculate the acidic ant secretion con-

tains chemicals that act as an insecticide or bactericide for the bird; or, these secretions supplement the bird's own preen oil.

Such descriptions were among the many Gleason offered in his presentation. The main point left with us was: "Keep your eyes open. There are all kinds of exciting things in the world."

Car Clouting

Continued from page 1)

heads should be used to establish a trailhead security program to protect vehicles parked at such sites from vandalism and break-ins. Such a program should provide surveillance, enforcement patrols, as well as user education (signs and hand outs)."

LOTS OF LUCK!



BBC News Photo

Local governments are hard-pressed for cash and are cutting budgets... even in law enforcement. Police don't have the time or resources to patrol trailhead parking, where

they're local or in remote areas. It's up to us to watch out for ourselves.

Last October, Barb Revere had her car clouted at Umpqua Dunes. Except for maps, nothing was visible in the car...and, yet, vandals smashed a window and popped the trunk. They grabbed what they could and ran off...as the car alarm blared.

"One problem we had," recalls Barb, "was that we were right on the county line. I first called the Douglas County Sheriff, thinking of the nearest town, Reedsport. I left a message with the dispatcher. A few days later, a deputy called me and said we were in another county, call them."

"THE COPS AREN'T GOING to come to take a report," says Barb. "Only one deputy for 200 miles, but they want it reported if for no other reason than it goes in as a crime statistic that may get them another deputy hired. If something of value is missing, they'll just put it on a list. They might catch the thieves, but don't hold your breath on getting things back...most is sold pronto for more meth. I asked the deputy how to prevent a future crime: he said not to leave anything in the car -- and vote for law enforcement."

Jane Hackett had her car clouted while on a backpacking trip in Washington a few years ago. Her experience with her insurance company was almost as traumatic as the vandalism. What does your insurance company advise? What does your policy cover? Are you sure? What about your homeowners policy...does it cover your passengers' losses?

In Barb's case, the insurance company was great, but the repairs have been a nightmare. "In one way or another the inside mechanism of the window was damaged and the first repair guy who replaced the window did not do a good job. We have had the car into the dealer twice, and the glass guys

out twice, and again tomorrow! We are out \$425 (so far) and the insurance is out over \$600 and our driver's side window still doesn't work right. What a turkey this has turned into!"

SO, WHAT'S A HIKER TO DO?

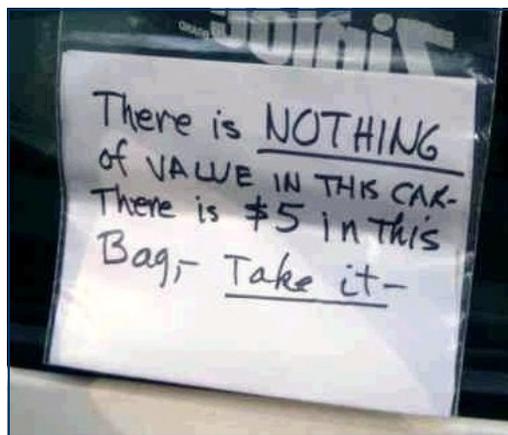
There are no easy answers. In some areas, vandalism is caused by urban gangs on smash and grab forays. In other places, it's the work of professionals who know what they want and where to get it (the car parts most stolen today are air bags and high intensity headlights!). And, sometimes, it's meth addicts who will take anything they can sell or trade for their next fix.

Various organizations and agencies offer similar common sense advice, such as the safety tips cited below. But on one critical issue, there is a major difference of opinion...whether to lock or not lock your car doors while on your hike.

The R-G article quoted Pete Barrell of Mt. Pisgah saying, "That's what I tell all my friends to do when they come out here...leave the car unlocked and leave the windows cracked. That way, you won't get your window broken." His advice is becoming more and more common. However, a search of National Park, National Forest, law enforcement, insurance company and outdoor organization websites discloses an almost unanimous urging to "lock your car and be sure the windows are closed all the way!"

IF YOUR CAR IS STOLEN...the first question you'll be asked is, "did you lock your doors."

In Barb's case, "The deputy also said that not locking the car was an *invitation*. I am thinking of not locking the car, but



Tom is uncomfortable with that. He thinks we should put a sign on the car that says, 'there is nothing of value inside,' and offering a \$5 bill (in a baggy) if they (the thieves) 'really need

money'." Barb did just that on a recent hike (see photo), but there were apparently no needy vandals around that day.

The following is a compilation of tips gathered online:

National Park Service

- Lock your valuables in the trunk or other location where they cannot be seen. (Note: In some cars you can lock the trunk so that it can't be popped by the driver's side lever. Of course, a determined pro could still crack the trunk open with a crowbar or some more sophisticated crook tool.)

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Elwha River Canyon Sandstone Cliffs

Story and Photo by Miles Hollander

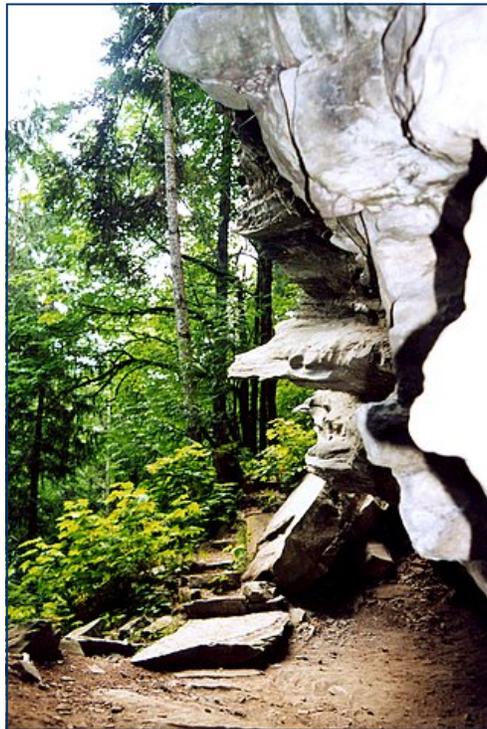
A FEW SUMMERS AGO, I took a trip up to the Olympic Peninsula and during my exploring came across this really cool rock formation that also happened to be a climbing spot for some of the Port Angeles locals. I ended up doing some climbing there, as well as writing an essay about it for a geology class I was taking at the time. Due to summer camp being held in Sequim, with activities in the Olympic National Park, I thought of this essay for the *Obsidian Bulletin*.

All at once the huge rock formation is revealed. I came to it after walking, for a short time, in anticipation, along a narrow footpath in the woods high above the Elwha River. Climbing immediately skyward, the sandstone cliffs seem to be in unison with the tall fir, maple, hemlock and cottonwood trees which are abundant in the forest that cover the canyon's high slopes. Far below, the river slides along the canyon floor with a methodical steadiness that seems to transcend time. I crane my neck back in an attempt to see the top, but the cliffs are so high, and beyond vertical, that it is difficult to glimpse the top, high above.

As I walk along the narrow footpath at the base of the cliffs, I notice many defined striations and distinct layers in the rock. Up high, the layers continue, but there are also many blocky sections and overhanging slabs. Lower on the rock there are multiple deeply grooved areas in the rock, some between layers and some involving many layers. It has the appearance of rock

that has been smoothed and carved out by a river's flow. The rock itself feels sandy and is slightly abrasive, but solid. It has a moistness or clamminess about it. These rock formations go on for about a quarter-mile and the entire structure seems to be overhanging in a vertigo inducing display.

The Elwha River Canyon sandstone



cliffs are an excellent example of a geological rock formation for many reasons. They are part of a diverse geological and ecological system; specifically, the Olympic Peninsula of Washington...and this raises many questions. Were these particular for-

mations constructed during the accretion and/or uplift of the Olympic Mtns. proper? Or are they outside the actual mountain range and possibly the result of erosion processes from glaciations. Could they have been cut down by the Elwha itself during some previous era when the river was a raging 200-foot deep anaconda eating its way seaward and devouring everything in its path?

The sandstone formations, with their highly stratified layers and moist sandy feel, suggest a sedimentary type rock of oceanic origin. But how did they end up here with their smoothly carved out grooves and multiple overhanging slabs, the whole of which seem to be thrust vertically from the high slopes of the Elwha River Canyon? I wonder if fossils could be found in these formations, giving a clue as to their origins.

These formations are one small part of a larger integrated system. Earth, with its internal processes driving its external processes, is in an ever changing state -- and still taking on new forms. As I head back towards my car, cross back over the Elwha River Dam, and head to Port Angeles, I'm reminded that our existence -- the human existence -- is one that takes place in the blink of an eye when compared to earth's geologic story.

Editors Note: Access to this area, especially following spring flooding is problematical. Check with the ranger station before attempting.

Potluck Preview—Net Zero Energy Home

(Continued from page 3)

\$117,000 to build, contains one bedroom, a study/bedroom, a 12x26' kitchen, living and dining area, a bath and walk-in shower, and a mud room. According to the Oregon Dept. of Energy, although their cost was about 15% more than a conventional house of similar size, the savings in utilities is ex-

pected to make a difference over time. The Rose House might see net power bills as low as \$0 per year.

Haines, who has a Ph.D. in chemistry, and Rose, who has a Ph.D. in education, are world travelers who also have spent extended periods of time in the Pacific islands as volunteer technical assistants in science and environmental programs.

Picture-Packed Guide to Wildflowers of Pacific Northwest

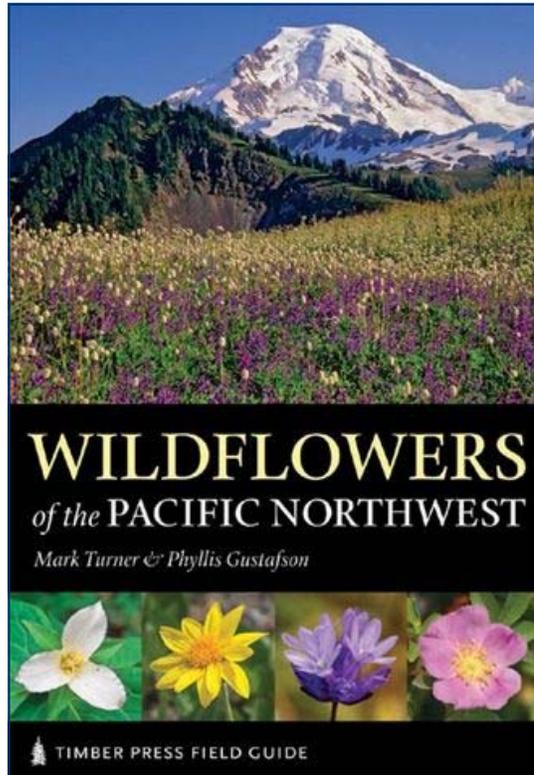
The following report by *Obsidian Melody Clarkson* is a condensed version of her book review in the "Bulletin of the Native Plant Society."

Photos by Mark Turner

FOR NATURE ENTHUSIASTS and hikers who love to know the names of the wildflowers they encounter, there's a new field guide out that supplements bringing along usually at least three flower books, often making identification slow, not to mention the heavy backpack or roadside juggling act. When exploring from southern British Columbia to the Klamath-Siskiyou region of Southern Oregon and Northern California, botanizers will want a copy of *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest (WPN)*, with photographs by Mark Turner and plant descriptions by Phyllis Gustafson. A Timber Press Field Guide, it offers a thorough, one-book coverage of the areas most of us hike and drive, including the diverse eastside.

WPN describes 1,220 perennial and annual species, including some shrubs with significant flowers. For most entries Phyllis details flower and leaf size and shape, as well as color irregularities, flowering season, specific habitat and native status. Both a photograph of the flower and a map showing the growing region by county accompany each entry. Confronted with selecting from the abundance of wildflowers in the geographic region covered, the authors state that they "chose the showier species at the expense of plants with small and nearly insignificant flowers."

Before the individual flower entries (three to a page) begin, pages 13 through 56 offer more than the usual in the way of introductory information. The authors have chapters on "How to Use This Book," "Exploring for Wildflowers" and the must-read section, "Climate, Geography, and Plant Habitats." The numerous landscape pictures



in this section are stunning! It's hard not to be impressed with the photographs throughout the book, fine in detail and accurate in color, a paean to Mark's botanical knowledge, photographic expertise and, perhaps, most importantly, his tenacity.

ALL FIELD GUIDES come with inherent organizational dilemmas. Mark and Phyllis have chosen to organize their wildflower selections by color, then flower petals and, finally, alphabetically by family and genus within each flower petal category. Many of us amateur botanizers have learned to identify some families and look for characteristics of familiar genera when identifying flowers. Looking first at color may seem a little backwards, but isn't that how we first describe the flower to

our botanist friends: "Oh, I saw this incredible blue flower today?"

Color selection quickly narrows the search for both the inveterate botanizer as well as the first time enthusiast. After locating the correct color section, the user will find guidewords clearly written on the page edges to easily narrow the search. The guidewords cover categories such as "3 or 6 petals," "5 symmetrical petals (ovary superior)," as well as "many petals" and "no obvious petals" -- helping some to a greater awareness of plant families. For the amateur who has read a little about sepals and tepals and ray flowers and disk flowers, this could first offer some confusion, but reading the section on plant families in the beginning of the field guide should clarify the usage of petals for even the beginning botanizer. At the bottom of a page, the user will find additional pages referenced for any differently colored members in a genus, a great feature for those who like to see all of the species in a genus.

In my backyard I actively used the guidebook to see how easily I could identify some familiar wildflowers and had little trouble. The only frustration I could see using the guide might come when looking for a plant's common name in the index. Both the Latin and common names appear together alphabetically; however, the authors had to be selective as to which common names to use. Whether my bluebells are a *mertensia* or a *campanula*, I won't find "bluebells" as an entry in the index unless I look for "broadleaf bluebells" or "Scouler's bluebells." The same is true for forget-me-nots. One must know "meadow forget-me-not" or



Balsamorhiza sagittata; Phlox speciosa

(Continued on page 10)

Elderhostel Offers Additional Hiking and Camping Opportunities

By Ruth Romoser

FOR PERSONS WHO WANT more hiking, travel, golf and tennis experiences and who want to meet travelers -- and even perform musically-- Elderhostel offers affordable lodging and camping trips (at the low end, similar to Sierra Club's Clair Tappan vacation package deal). Elderhostel trips are much cheaper than Backroads or New England Hiking Holiday trips.

I've really enjoyed hiking with Elderhostelers in the Wind River, WY area. We stayed in Dubois and one trip leader invited me to do extra 6 a.m. hikes into the "badlands," as well as evening hikes. I think I wore out the leader since the trip wasn't in the catalog the following year. Another wonderful Elderhostel trip was a week of tennis/hiking in Sedona, AZ. This was a "favorite" trip; every road/street leads to a hiking trail. It's fun to truck up the street for an extra morning/evening stroll. The Sedona trip also offers "free" evenings. Participants can do dinner at a place of their choice or do something else -- like listen to music.

ELDERHOSTEL TRIPS are usually five nights, beginning Sunday and end-

ing Friday noon. This includes pre-paid lodging, food and, depending upon the specific package, such special amenities as transportation, tennis court passes, free golf rentals or entertainment. Driving to the meeting place for the week is much less expensive than train or plane travel. Elderhostel will arrange for room sharing or participants can pay for a single room.

I like Elderhostel trips where we all stay at one place. It's fun to discover the library, museums, parks, etc. If an evening program sounds dull, one can walk somewhere. I walked so much in Dubois and in Page, AZ, people thought I was a new resident!

MY FRIEND, Obsidian Sharon Thomas, and I did an Elderhostel Vermont inn hiking trip which included day hikes on the Appalachian and Long Trails. We could have done more hiking! On what became the funniest ever scenic drive tour, our cab driver, Louie,



Ruth Romoser and Sharon Thomas aboard a boat about to sail on a Lake Champlain (VT) cruise.

led us to the first inn (it was *rural!*). We heard an absolute awe-inspiring talk by a hiker who fell on the AT and repeated his hike. Vermont is very hospitable -- lots of handshakes -- and is provincial. The capital, Montpelier, has 8,000 residents and the capital tour is very interesting.

Elderhostel can be reached at toll-free phone, 1-877-426-8056; or use the website, www.elderhostel.org.

New York Associate Happy to Be an Obsidian



Kathy with her sister Bonnie, Bette and Ewart Baldwin at Mintern Gardens BC on the Harrison Hot Springs trip.

BETTE HACK -- a longtime Obsidian (since 1953!) and Byways-by-Bus stalwart -- has relayed to us the following excerpt from an email she received from her niece, Kathryn (Kathy) Madden of New York, who became an associate club member last month... with the hope of becoming an active member in the future.

"The good news is that I am now an Obsidian! I am so HAPPY! I hope that I can live up to it from a distance. I can always research and lead a trip in the future. I would have fun doing that and so would Ron (husband). I can also write articles for the newsletter and contribute financially. In any case, I am proud to be able to sustain this legacy."

Welcome aboard, Kathy. The Bulletin staff looks forward to receiving your articles. Living in an uptown Manhattan apartment, your urban and east coast outings are sure to be of interest. And your visits to Oregon are sure to also offer fascinating perspectives.

Car Clouting

(Continued from page 6)

- Lock your vehicle. Do not hide your keys on or near your vehicle.

REI

- Avoid high-risk areas. Ask rangers and wilderness area managers about security at trailheads.
- Leave purses and wallets at home. Carry whatever cash and/or credit cards you need in your pack and leave your car empty of valuables. If you can, remove CD/stereo equipment before you leave home. Leave your glove box and between seat console compartment empty and open (unless you have a light in the glove box that could cause your battery to drain). (Note: Some sites also urge you to keep your car registration, proof of insurance and any other identifying materials on your person and not leave them in the car, making it harder for thieves to resell your vehicle or find your home.)
- Get organized before you reach the trailhead. Don't "showcase" the contents of your vehicle by taking a half-hour or so to arrange your gear...unload your gear, survey the area, hoist your pack and move out.
- Park your vehicle with the trunk or rear-access door facing



the most exposed section of the parking lot. (This is echoed on the Daniel Boone National Forest website, which warns about parking your car with the trunk backed into the woods, providing cover for someone trying to break in.)

THE R-G FEATURE also quoted a Eugene police detective as saying, "Another common sense approach...is to keep your eyes peeled and simply be aware of your surroundings....If you see someone in a parking lot who appears to be there for something other than hiking, they just might be waiting for a chance to break into a vehicle. One way to make sure of their intentions is to hike a short distance, then turn around and watch them just when they think you're out of sight. That's when they'll break in, right after you leave, because they figure you'll be gone for a while." If you don't relish confronting suspicious persons, note their description and license number and file a report with police.

With more than 200 summer trips scheduled this year, we'll be providing plenty of opportunities for car clouters and thieves. By being alert, careful and conscientious in storing everything out of sight, we can help reduce the evildoers' motive and means. Leaders should caution those signing up for their trips to bring only what is necessary; and drivers should be sure riders leave nothing visible in their cars.

As if we didn't already have ample reasons to appreciate our volunteer drivers -- considering their willingness to drive and the soaring gas prices -- here's yet another reason to offer a heartfelt "**Thank you!**" following each successful and safe trip.

Wildflowers

(Continued from page 8)

"small flowered forget-me-not," as "forget-me-not" is not in the index.

Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest is intended as a field guide, not a botany textbook. Nevertheless, Mark and Phyllis received guidance from their numerous contacts in the scientific community, as well as utilizing over 80 books, scholarly articles and scientific databases -- both off and on the Internet -- to insure as much botanical accuracy as possible. The very few botanical discrepancies (noted in the unabridged review), however, are minute in comparison to the knowledge and guidance the book offers. It belongs in all of our backpacks or automobiles.

Thank you, Phyllis and Mark.

A Timber Press Field Guide: 511 pages, 1247 color photographs, 1200+ flower species and range maps, \$27.95. Flexible, plasticized cover.

-- Melody Clarkson



Alpine Shooting Star
Dodecatheon alpinum



Big-pod Mariposa Lily
Calochortus eurycarpus

Lodge Renovation Nears Completion

(Continued from page 1)

etched glass is installed in the door and the door is installed in the lodge, all of which took some interesting coordination between the artist, the etcher, the

- Painting and finishing have been major volunteer tasks, taking several weeks to complete (completion anticipated by mid-May.) We have been running two shifts a day, nearly every

Seeing the paint go on in the colors that Sharon Duncan, Pat Dark and Bea Fontana picked has been exciting. Who would have thought that the Obsidian Lodge would ever have an *accent wall*?

- Replacing the loose laid rock wall is nearly completed with a recent Saturday morning work party of 5 people.

- **AS IS ALWAYS THE CASE**, the Obsidians have responded to the club's needs throughout this project – first with generous cash donations and throughout the job by giving generously of their time, energy and “let's get it done” spirit. This has allowed us to keep costs down as much as possible. A hardy **“Thank you!”** to all who have given. Special thanks go to 2G Construction for their willingness to coordinate with the volunteer efforts and support our volunteer activities in every way.

Of course, the major hurdle still remaining is passing the final inspection and getting our occupancy permit



Handicap parking excavation begins.

garage door supplier, the contractor and the volunteer painters. It is a gorgeous piece of art that the Obsidians will enjoy for many years to come. We thank Bea for her talent, time and hard work, as well as all those involved.

- Installing **PAVERS** in the handicap parking lot was a big volunteer project. Stewart Hoeg coordinated the planning, design and estimating. Hard working crews, who didn't seem to mind the backbreaking work, labored several days to complete the installation. When the crew arrived to paint the handicap signs and striping on the parking area, they couldn't believe we were putting paint on such an attractive “patio.”

- **THE NEW GAS STOVE INSTALLED** in the entry area should provide a warm welcome for us as we arrive at the lodge for winter pot lucks.

- Contractor 2G has completed the major work, with only odds and ends remaining; such as putting in the doors, which for some reason were repeatedly delayed in shipment (arrival is expected as we go to press).



Handicap parking complete.

day. Joella Ewing has been coordinating the volunteers, supervising the work and toiling alongside the volunteers both shifts, every day, morning until night. In her spare time, she makes quiche and coffee cake for us.

when we finish up. We don't expect any problems, but we are all waiting with bated breath until that is done. If all goes according to plan we hope to have an open house about mid-June. Check the June Bulletin for the announcement!

BOARD NOTES

May 3, 2006

Board members present: Wayne Deeter (President), John Pegg (VP), Sheila Ward (Treasurer), Laurie Funkhouser (Secretary), Jim Duncan, Sandra Larsen, Brian Hamilton, Stewart Hoeg and Anne Dhu McLucas. Other members present: Doug Nelson, Bill Johnson, Judy Newman, Barb Revere, Sharon Ritchie, Kathy Hoeg, John and Janet Jacobsen, Rob Castleberry, Marshall Kandell, Lenore McManigal, Margaret Prentice and Max Brown. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Board approved payment of the following bills: EWEB, \$292.93; Publications (bulk mail \$115, Insta-Print \$449.90); Summer Camp Fund (1/2 of audio system), \$144.98; Pacific Crest Trail dues, \$100; Eugene Mountain Rescue (1/2 climb school), \$619.60; Lana Lindstrom (work party foods), \$17.28; Janet Jacobsen (Publicity), \$35; Doug Nelson (climb equipment), \$25.80; Stewart Hoeg (entertainment and construction), \$127.48; Laurie Funkhouser (concessions), \$416.66. The current checking balance of just over \$51,000 consists of \$29,000 from the endowment Fund and three CDs which matured.

Old Business

Construction (John Jacobsen): Construction is nearing completion! A major delay was suffered due to the drywall taking almost four weeks rather than four days, causing scheduling problems for the contractor as well as the volunteer coordinators. John complimented the commitment of the Obsidians volunteers with special kudos to Joella Ewing for the incredible job of managing all the volunteer activities. Primary work remaining: volunteer efforts including a big cleanup job. Completion anticipated within two weeks unless final inspection reveals issues. Total cost of the project – demolition thru completion – should be about \$174,000.

Dues/Fees Proposal: Stewart Hoeg requested and the board unanimously approved bylaws changes to increase annual dues to \$30, reinstatement fees to \$5 and nonmember trip fees to \$5. Language regarding an initiation fee was eliminated. It is anticipated the fee changes will take effect on or about 10/1/06. In

addition, board members supported a constitutional change to move to the bylaws language regarding fees for life membership (Section 7). This will be discussed further in the Bulletin and presented for vote before the members at the annual meeting.

Approval was also given to include in the annual membership form: (1) an option to “save a tree” as well as reduce club expenses by opting to receive the Bulletin exclusively on-line; and (2) adding donor options of Basic (\$30), Silver (\$50), Gold (\$100) and Platinum (\$200) and recognizing donors in the January Bulletin.

Nominating Committee: See Page 2.

New Business

Construction Cashflow: In the event of a cash flow problem prior to maturity of a CD in July, the board approved the following possible actions (in order of preference): borrowing from Summer Camp and/or Bus Trips accounts; selling shares of Vanguard Equity; or early withdrawal from the CD. The hope is that no such action will be needed.

Computers: Wayne reported that Sue Sullivan told him Weyerhaeuser has desktop computers available due to recent upgrading. It was decided to explore the possibility of a computer as a multi-media option for presentations.

Committee Reports

Summer Trips (Margaret Prentice): Received 17 trip reports (151 members, 13 nonmembers) for revenues of \$203. All but one report were submitted on-line. Currently, only four outstanding reports, two from last weekend.

Winter Trips (Bill Johnson): Received 7 trip reports (58 members, 14 nonmembers) for total revenues of \$111.

Climbs (Doug Nelson): Spring Climb School was well attended with 22 students who participated under good weather with personalized instruction in basic mountaineering from volunteers from Obsidians and Eugene Mountain Rescue. The class was made possible by donations from Weyerhaeuser Company (meeting space), The River House Outdoor Program (climbing gear) and Hoodoo Ski Area (restrooms and ski slope area). Net revenue to Obsidians, the equivalent to Eugene Mountain Rescue, was \$619.60. Thanks to all the volun-

teers and supporting organizations.

Trail Maintenance (Peter Asai, via email): John Cooper led a Spencer Butte trail maintenance trip. The last regular trail maintenance outing before summer hiatus will be May 27th. Peter is working on a National Trail Day (June 3) outing in the Middle Fork Ranger District. The Register-Guard recently reported that the Eugene Parks Foundation received a \$10,000 grant from REI to improve the Spencer Butte/Ridgeline trail systems and Peter will be checking to find out if Obsidians may be involved in how the funds are used.

Byways-By-Bus (Liz Reanier, via Lenore McManigal): Two trips completed: (1) Historic Eugene Homes + Register-Guard with 28 riders; and (2) Meet the Mother of Meriwether Lewis at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center with 25 riders. Work continues on the May/June trips and spots are available for riders in late June as well as August.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): Sharon Ritchie mentioned she is working on a Crater Lake trip in March 2007.

Conservation (Judy Newman): In September, the NWEI “Voluntary Simplicity” course will be offered (see description on conservation link at Obsidian website. The Committee is seeking conservation tips.

Publications (Marshall Kandell): 505 April Bulletins printed, 472 mailed at total cost of \$562.89.

Entertainment (Kathy Hoeg): 65 attended the April program; \$62 collected. May program will be located at Washington Park Center, 2025 Washington St.

Science & Education (John Jacobsen): Two trips led by Rick Ahrens (see trip reports).

Membership (Sharon Ritchie): The board approved three new members and a reinstatement.

Publicity (Marianne Camp): John Jacobsen reported that KVAL covered Larry Dunlap's combo Ridgeline hike/trail maintenance trip on April 19th, with Sharon Ritchie making sure there was “full” participation.

Concessions (Laurie Funkhouser): Sales of \$70 in April. The board approved \$40 to purchase coffee supplies.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All trips submitted have been recorded.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hikes

Willamette Valley Wetlands

April 2, 2006

Leader: Rick Ahrens

Interpretive Nature Walk

2 miles, 0 ft. ("A")

WE MET AT THE Gilbert Shopping Center in drizzly rain which lasted most of the day. Our first stop was William Finley Refuge, where we looked at waterfowl. Next we went to the Jackson-Frazier Wetlands just north of Corvallis. They have a nice boardwalk and interpretive signs and we saw some interesting birds there. Our final stop was the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area just off Hwy. 99. Took a loop trail to learn about the history as a WW II training base and see the wildlife. Members on the walk were Rick Ahrens, Max Brown, David and Shelly Call, Bob Huntley, Barb Revere and Sheila Ward.

Dorris Ranch & Willamalane Parks

April 5, 2006

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

6 miles, ("A")

Photo by Zella Andreski

WE WERE SURPRISED at the Dorris Ranch when one of the men from the Lewis and Clark expedition welcomed us and then introduced us to Sacagawea. They were waiting for a school group to arrive on a "large yellow canoe." Sacagawea entertained us with a dramatic story about an encounter with a grizzly bear. After stepping back in time, we walked on trails through the filbert groves, meadows, and woods to the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. We identified black walnut, maple, and In-cense-cedar trees. Trillium, yellow violets, and bleeding hearts spread out along the trail in this peaceful setting. Yuan Hopkins shared a box of truffles with us before we began our walk from the Doris Ranch to E Street, South 4th Street, Union Street, and Park Avenue where a gar-



A filbert grove at Dorris Ranch.

den entrance beckoned us. Immediately we were surrounded by fawn lilies and ivy. The short trail took us up to the grassy hillside with a panoramic view looking south over the valley and the Willamette River. We left the park on Valley View Avenue and retraced our route back to Dorris Ranch.

Eleven of the eighteen hikers continued on via auto to Ruff Park on 66th Street. We make a quick stop at Lively Splash Pool to use the facilities. Most had never seen the pool and thought it quite amazing. Next time we should bring swimming suits. The Ruff Park has a small circular trail that weaves through landscaped settings of magnolia trees and other plants. It was a bit early but a few of the trees were in bloom.

We were glad to see Mary Holbert from Newport. She was in Eugene attending a "goat" conference. She promised to write an article for the Bulletin on raising two goats for backpacking.

Members: Zella Andreski, Jean Corberly, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Margot Fetz, Janet Hackett, Mary Holbert, Yuan Hopkins, Janet Jacobsen, Sherwood Jefferies, Vi Johnson, Sandra Larsen, Darrell McBee, Nancy McBee, Margaret Prentice, Barb Revere, Julia Richardson and Charlie Van Deusen.

North Bank Deer Preserve

April 8, 2006

Leader: John Jacobsen

8 miles, 1,369 ft ("B")

MISTY RAIN as we left Eugene, pouring rain on our return and, in between... pretty nice... mostly sunny, no rain and a very convivial group of 10 hikers enjoying a beautiful and unique part of Oregon. *And*, we saw the rare Colombia white tail deer, a first for me on this hike. Although it was not close enough to get pictures to prove it, it *was* spotted...I swear!

This hike loops around and through the North Bank Habitat Management Area, a 10 square mile preserve for the



Photo by John Jacobsen

Enjoying the open ridges of the North Bank Deer Preserve

Columbia white tail, overlooking the North Umpqua River. Our group included several people who had not had the pleasure of doing this hike before and as is often the common reaction of first timers (and returnees as well), they were very impressed with the open rolling hills, oak savannas and meadows as we followed the ridgelines which provide 360 degree panoramic views of the North Fork of the Umpqua River and its surrounds. While a wonderful trail, providing a nice change of scenery, the trail can be muddy in places, so be prepared for that if you go.

Apparently, spring is arriving a little later than usual this year, so the wildflowers were not as prolific as on some of my previous trips, but we still enjoyed a variety of early bloomers. It seems like the early flowers are mostly tiny, but if you make the effort it is amazing what you find hiding in the grass and moss. According to the *Jacobsen Book of Flower ID* we saw blue ones and yellow ones and pink ones...and many, many white ones. According to our trip wildflower researcher, Barb Revere, they were in fact spring queen, baby blue eyes, cryptantha, fawn lily, shooting star, hound's tongue, yarrow, lupine red flowering currant and madrone (which was just starting to bloom). It was a wonderful day enjoying our region's varied landscapes, squeezed quite neatly between the rain showers. Hikers included nonmember Mary Peel and Obsidians Zella Andreski, Ann-Marie Askew, Mari Baldwin, LaRee Beckley, Mary Hamilton, John Jacobsen, Sue Meyers, Barb Revere and Glen Svendsen.

Larison Creek

April 9, 2006

**Leader: Lynda Christiansen
10 miles, 700 ft. ("B")**

THE RAIN WAS COOPERATIVE, falling while we were driving, both there and back, but apart from a brief shower during the lunch stop, we stayed dry while hiking.

The first 1.5 miles of the trail follow deep, green (think pea soup) Larison Cove, before turning into old growth forest. Then the trail follows along Larison Creek, lovely as it babbles over rocks and, with the recent rains, the moss and lichen are plump and lush. Three fallen trees were no obstacles for us Obsidians; nor for the five mountain bikers we encountered through the day. For entertain-

Hail to Thee, Max Brown!



Photo by David Call

Hail to thee, Max Brown!

*Your footprints cover all the earth in County Lane.
They say you've walked each trail and path in this fair place
And that every tree here knows your smiling face.*

How is it, Max Brown,

*You've hiked so many places where Obsidians go?
Do you know something we should also know about?
We're in the same club, you know, though some of us are
Worn out.*

We want to know your secret, Max.

*You can't be coy with those with whom you've hiked so far.
You must reveal your secret source of vim and vigor.
You must tell us why we are little and you are bigger.*

Max would not speak.

He smiled but would not say

A word about his secret

Source of vigor, or allay

Concerns about the reasons why

We tire when we walk

And things go awry,

And why

We might not reach 300...like Max.

-- David & Shelley Call

ment during the lunch stop at the crossing of the creek before it heads uphill out of the canyon, we were amused to watch two bikers carry their bikes across a slick, downed tree.

A peaceful setting for a pleasant hike. Participants were members Lynda Christiansen, Bob Huntley, Daphne James, Sherwood Jefferies, Nola Nelson, Barb Revere, Charlie Van Deusen and Nancy Whitfield.

Cape Perpetua/Yachats

April 12, 2006

**Leaders: David and Shelly Call
5 miles, 200 ft. ("A")**

WE LEFT EUGENE under familiar gray skies. As we approached the coast, the

sky turned blue and a strange yellow orb appeared in the sky. Those with longer memories said it was the sun.

After arriving at Cape Perpetua Visitor Center we hiked to the Spouting Horn and to Devil's Churn. The surf was high, giving us a good show. We returned to the visitor center and drove to the top of Cape Perpetua to a sunny, scenic lunch spot, where we admired the views and looked for whales. After walking the loop trail to the rock shelter, we drove to Yachats and the 804 trail to finish an easy day of walking beside the sea.

Afterwards, we learned our friend and companion on the trip, Max Brown, had just completed his 300th Obsidian hike! (*See our ode to Max above.*)

Sharing Max's historic accomplishment were: nonmember Lynn Dahlstrom and fellow Obsidians David and Shelly Call, Margot Fetz, Sherwood Jefferies, Margaret Prentice and Sheila Ward.

Mt. Pisgah Sunrise/Moonset

April 13, 2006

Leader: Royal Murdock

3 miles 1,000 ft. ("A")

Photos by Barb Revere



Tyler, LaRee, Royal, Janet and John

SOMETIMES THE FULL MOON goes down just as the sun rises over the Cascades, with the summit of Mt. Pisgah providing a magnificent vista. And, sometimes, as on this hike, the clouds obstruct the heavenly spectacle, leaving only the beautiful spring flowers, the interesting cloud formations, a dry early morning hike and the congenial company of members LaRee Beckley, Tyler Burgess, Jan and John Jacobsen, Royal Murdock and Barb Revere.

Alsea & Green Peak Falls

April 15, 2006

Leader: Sherwood Jefferies

Co-Leader/Reporter: Janet

Jacobsen

6 miles, 800 ft. ("B")

THE WEATHER FORECAST called for heavy rain. I called everyone the night before to say that Sherwood was leading the trip *no matter what* and not to call me early Saturday morning to opt out. Whoever showed up at SEHS could go. I was surprised only two hikers gave a pass to this rainy day hike. Decked out in colorful raingear, it was not easy to identify all 14 hikers as we started on the trail to Alsea Falls. From there, Sherwood led us on a loop trail through the forest and then up to Green Peak Falls. The calypso orchids and sagging trilliums were bright spots as the rain poured down.

It was so cold and wet that our lunch

turned into a quick, soggy snack and we headed back to the warm cars. I am sure all of us were keeping notes on how to improve our rain gear and how to keep items in our packs a bit drier on our next "damp" hike. As we gained elevation on our drive back to Alpine, it began to snow. For a few minutes, it was a winter wonderland. Our thanks go to Sherwood for scouting the trip and making sure all of us got back to the cars. It was his first trip as leader! Let's hope he leads it again...on a sunny day.

Hiking were members Zella Andreski, Jean Coberly, Walt Dolliver, Paul Flashenberg, Jane Hackett, Debra Higbee, Yuan Hopkins, Bob Huntley, Janet Jacobsen, Sherwood Jefferies, Marshall Kandell, Sue Meyers, Barb Revere and Nancy Whitfield.

Kentucky Falls/Sweet Creek

April 16, 2005

Leader: Barb Revere

5 miles, 650 ft. ("A")

Photos by Barb Revere



Along Sweet Creek

WE SHIFTED INTO REVERSE and began exploring *Plan B* after encountering snow-covered roads only a couple of miles after leaving Hwy. 126 on our way to Kentucky Falls. The decision was made quickly to try the low elevation trails of Sweet Creek. The torrents of water and continuous cascades and falls in the Sweet Creek area delighted those exploring it for the first time. The weather was a mix of misting rain, bright overcast and plain old Oregon spring sunshine. Trillium, lily, orchid, spring beauty, wood sorrel, wood violets, bleeding heart, red current, salmon berry and fairy bells broke up the continuous carpet of spring green along our trail. The alder trees were just pushing out the first bit of leaf, which allowed us to walk in sunshine for the last mile of the day. Salamanders, slugs and a couple of water

ouzels enlivened the walk. We couldn't resist the pull of Alpha-Bit when we got back to Hwy. 126, and turned in for a warming mug of tea, pie and even a root beer float.



This Easter Sunday hike featured Barb in an Easter bonnet and LaRee with bunny ears.

The tremendous good sports who hiked with me (Barb Revere) were: members LaRee Beckley, Daphne James and Tina Rain; and nonmember Mary Peel.

Urban Flora and Fauna

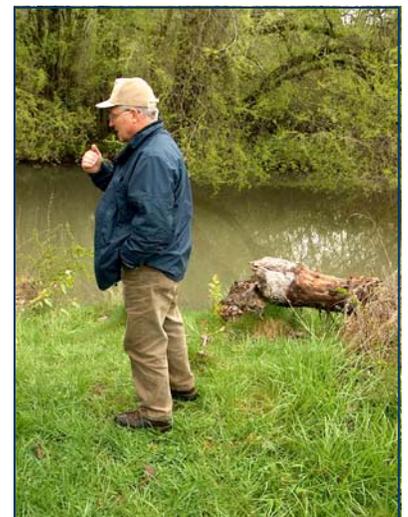
April 17, 2006

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Field Trip, 2 miles, 0 ft. ("A")

Photo by John Jacobsen

BEAVERS ARE SURE INTERESTING critters (and not just the orange and black ones to the north of us). Our public works departments should harness their energy; not only do they build dams and lodges, but they also construct canals and tunnels.



Dave Walp discussing a tree brought down by beavers in Alton Baker Park.

Because they're shy, they notify others of their territory by creating scent mounds, a precursor to Revlon's musk

perfumes. Thanks to Dave Walp, we saw lots of examples of their presence (*including beaver eggs!*) in Alton Baker Park and around Delta Ponds. We also saw porcupine damage on many trees in Alton Baker Park, as well as a sleeping racoon in the crook of a tree. Other wild-life included a wolf which turned out to be a large dog, great blue heron, scaups, mallard, buffleheads, coots and Dave saw two turtles. We all agreed we are very fortunate to be living so close to "nature." We've gone by these places many times before without noticing the details. Thanks Dave! On the field trip were members Dan Christensen, Stewart Hoeg, Richard Hughes, John Jacobsen, Marshall Kandell, Lana Lindstrom, Anne Montgomery and Margaret Prentice.

Ridgeline Trail

April 19, 2006

Leader: Larry Dunlap

Hike + Trail Maintenance

5 miles, 500 ft. ("B")

Photos by John Jacobsen

WE DECIDED TO TRY something a little different...hike a familiar trail *and* do trail maintenance. Just carry your favorite tool and trim, scrape, shovel or prune as needed while you walk along. The Eugene Parks Dept. thought it was a capital idea...as did the reporting staff at KVAL when they saw it in the list of activities published in Tuesday's R-G. So we had newscaster Jennifer Winters and her cameraman Al with us as we tromped thru mud and wonderful spring wildflowers, stopping sporadically to improve trail drainage, cut back brush, open culverts and admire the columbine, lillies, hounds tongue, etc.



KVAL reporter Jennifer Winters and trail maintenance guru Peter Asai

We had plant expert Dave, bird con-



Dave, Larry, Janet and Margaret taking a break from hiking and maintaining the Ridgeline Trail.

noisseur Rick and trail maintenance guru Peter along to answer questions and provide advice. The day was one of those spring beauties you dream about all winter; warm, pungent, greening and each twist of the trail offering a new entry for a spring bouquet.

Then, when it was over, we all watched our good work on TV!!! Members along were Rick Ahrens, Peter Asai, Larry Dunlap, Jane Hackett, Janet and John Jacobsen, Dave Predeek and Margaret Prentice...with cameraman Al and Jennifer Winters along for the hike, as well. *Thanks for the coverage!*

Mt. Pisgah

April 20, 2006

Leader: Marc Hansen

4 miles, 1,000 ft. ("A")

FROM THE NORTH TRAILHEAD we began the hike around the lobe of Mt. Pisgah. We then headed south through a small rain forest on to an open plateau. In perfect sunny weather we intersected the main summit trail and then continued on to the summit itself. Camas, spring beauties, fawn lilies, houndstooth and shooting stars were spotted along the way. Running rivulets too were encountered. Joining me were Sherwood Jefferies and nonmember Marcy Fisher-Helms.

Spirit, Moon & Parker Falls

April 21, 2006

Leader: Jane Hackett

Co-Leader/Reporter: Janet

Jacobsen

3 miles, 800 ft. ("A")

WE SAW TWO BLACK BEAR CUBS on the side of the road as we left Parker Falls. I should say those in the front car saw two and those of us in the second car saw only one. About 2 1/2 ft. tall, the cub stood up by a tree and gave us a good view before scampering up the slope. When Wayne led this hike two months ago, the falls were decked out with ice sculptures. Now there is more water and the trillium are in bloom.

The 125 ft. Moon Falls was voted our favorite. It was worth the long scenic drive to view these falls. Perhaps someone would like to lead it later in the summer when one can continue on the new paved Brice Creek Road (FSR 22), FSR 5850 and FSR 2102 to Oakridge. On the way home, we stopped at the Cottage Grove Ranger Station to pick up the recreation guide and other materials. Joining Obsidians David and Shelly Call, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Sherwood Jefferies and Barb Revere was nonmember Christy Fisher.

Willow Creek
April 22, 2006
Conservation Hike
Leader: Margot Fetz
4 miles, 0 ft. ("A")

MATT BENOTSCH, guru of The Nature Conservancy's Willow Creek Preserve, showed 12 of us around the lower southern part of the preserve, pointing out landscapes, restorations, experimental plots and projects. We saw Kincaid's lupine, host plant for Fender's blue butterfly, but it's too early to see the butterflies. We saw candy flower, trilliums, buttercups and the plants of an endangered species, *lomatium bradshawii* (not yet blooming).

We heard and saw warblers, sparrows, herons, a kestrel and western meadowlarks. A red-tailed hawk seemed to be training a juvenile overhead. The weather was dry, windy, sunny and, in some places, wet underfoot. We avoided poison oak here and there.

What The Nature Conservancy has done and continues to do with the land is impressive, and we all enjoyed learning about its work. Volunteers are welcome to meet on 18th just past Bertelsen at 9 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month. Nonmembers Lyn Dahlstrom and Ronald Edwards enjoyed the tour with members Joan Abel, Rick Ahrens, Dan

Bates, Shirley Cameron, Margot Fetz, Maggie Gontrum, Joanne Ledet, Anne McLucas, Margaret Prentice and Sam Tracer.

Tamolitch Pool from Trailbridge
April 23, 2006
Leader: Barb Revere
4 miles, 200 ft. ("A")
Photo by Barb Revere

THERE WERE JUST A FEW wildflowers, but smiles bloomed on every hiker's face at the cloudless sky and warm temperatures. Everyone was energized by the lovely weather and we flew up the trail rapidly. Lunch was a sun-drenched, lazy affair at the rim of the pool. We had the place to ourselves and conversations ranged from travel in Ireland/Mexico, our varied international ancestry, storytelling, recipes for paella, the email flap at city hall and the importance of being able to laugh at oneself. Sated by food, some (Daphne) chose to laze like a lizard on a rock, while others explored the dry falls area.

On the hike out Marshall fell against some sharp lava and received two cuts on his face as well as scrapes on a knee. We administered first aid, gave sympathy (just a little) and informed him that his beauty contest days were over. He took it rather well.



New member Mary, Daphne and Marshall (before the fall.)

As we neared our car, we began to encounter other hikers, all confirming with smug smiles how clever we all were to think of this beautiful hike on this glorious spring day. We encountered two logs over the otherwise excellent trail: one easily straddled and one monster that we had to walk around. Tickled pink to be hiking on dry trail and without rain gear or snow goggles, my fine companions were: nonmember Jamie Gorbet and members, Daphne James, Sherwood Jefferies, Marshall "Scar Face" Kandell, Wendy Mitchell and applying member, Mary Peel.

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area
April 24, 2006
Leader: Rick Ahrens
Interpretive Nature Walk
2 miles, 0 ft. ("A")

WE MET AT 6 P.M. at the end of Royal Ave. on a sunny and windy evening. Ambled along looking at waterfowl, swallows, sandpipers and got a good look at an American bittern. Also saw osprey, harriers and a couple of bald eagles. The best sightings were an ibis flying overhead and a tufted duck.

Thanks to Glenn and Dan for bringing along their scopes. Members Rick Ahrens, LaRee Beckley, Walt Dolliver, Janet Hall, Kathy and Stewart Hoeg, Joanne Ledet, Judy Newman, Bill Prentice, Margaret Prentice, Ginny Reich and Barb Revere were joined by nonmembers Lyn Dahlstrom, Glenn and Gloria Morgan and Dan and Rosemary Villani.

Mary's Peak
April 25, 2006
Leader: Dan Christensen
8 miles, 2,000 ft. ("B")
Photo by Barb Revere

THE TWO MAJOR CONCERNS prior to setting out were the forecast of cloudy conditions with a chance of showers and,



Photo by Barb Revere

Hiking through the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

more important, the status of the heavy snowpack which had prevented reaching the peak two weeks earlier. Seemingly miraculous, the clouds gave way to blue sky enroute and the snowpack had melted enough for us to primarily hike off of it. The top of the peak was totally clear of snow. The trail requires a steady, but not steep, ascent over a four-mile distance from about 2,000' to just over 4000'. It is in excellent condition -- very dry for this time of year. The first three and a half miles up the north ridge are through a beautiful hemlock/cedar forest with little undergrowth except in the lower reaches. The flowers we saw -- primarily trillium and yellow violets, but also flowering currant and oxalis -- were present only in the first mile



Sun and snow on Mary's Peak

The view from the peak is breathtaking. Today we could see all the way from the Pacific to Mt. Jefferson, plus North and Middle Sister. The fortunate hikers, all members, were Dan Christensen, Jane Hackett, Janet Hall (welcome back), Janet Jacobson, Sherwood Jefferies, Nola Nelson and Barb Revere.

Spencer Butte
April 28, 2006
Leader: Janet Jacobsen
8 miles, 2,000 ft. ("B")

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL sunny day for the two-hour hike to the top of Spencer Butte via the Amazon Headwaters trail. Trilliums and calypso orchids were in the last stages of their bloom, while shooting stars, irises, bleeding hearts and camas lilies were at their peak. Even with the haze, we could see the snow capped mountains. On the way back, we saw three flowering dogwood trees on the other side of the creek. On the hike with me were members Nola Nelson and Sue Meyers, who were happy to discover such a convenient forested hike so close to the city.



Bike
Trips

McKenzie View/Donna Store
April 29, 2006
Leader: Sharon Ritchie
38 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

AN ABSOLUTELY PERFECT biking day. Warm, blue skies, but the weather report was for gray skies, rain and wind. They were really wrong and we were really happy! The ride is lovely, although we had a tough time biking on the river path which was filled with March of Dimes walkers. We also had a lot of vehicle traffic on Hill Road. We ate lunch on the lawn under a beautiful tree at a grammar school near the "Donna Store." My thanks to an all-member crew for helping make it a perfect day. Participants were Gayle Berge, Barb Bruns, Darrell McBee, Stewart Hoeg, Sam Houston and Sharon Ritchie.



Byways
By Bus

Historic Homes of Eugene
+ Register-Guard
April 6, 2006
Leader: Mary Ellen West

THE FIRST BYWAYS-BY-BUS trip of 2006 was a tour of historical houses in Eugene, the Hope Mausoleum, Oregon Electric Station and The Register-Guard. The House tour started in the East Butte Historical Landmark area. There are a number of houses that tell tales of early Eugene citizens, as well as the architectural styles of the times. Mary Ellen West and Lucille McKenzie, local historian, led the tour of homes. The Shelton-McMurphy-Johnson House at 303 Wilamette St. was the site of an interior tour. Docents provided a picture of life in the house from the Victorian era to the late 20th century. The three families who lived in the "Castle on the Hill," up the hill from the railroad depot, watched the development of Eugene from about 1,700 residents in 1888, when the house was built, until Eva Johnson died in 1986.

The Hope Mausoleum, designed in

the Egyptian revival style, is the centerpiece of the 1859 Masonic Cemetery, where many important early Eugene citizens are buried, including Eugene Skinner. Dennis Hellsvig was our guide. The Oregon Electric Station, refurbished to look as it did when it was built in 1914, was a great lunch stop. The trip concluded with a tour of the Register-Guard. All agreed the 21st technology used to put out the paper was impressive.

Riders on our history trip, which touched three centuries, were: nonmembers Sherry Lawrence, Kate Pryka and Susan Reinoehl; and members Ewart Baldwin, Barbara Beard, Paula Beard, Louise Behnke, Mary Lee Cheadle, Rosemary Etter, Rachele Fiszman, Betty Hack, Barbara Hagerman, Donna Halker, Dora Harris, Ray Jensen, Rosella Jones, Verna Kocken, Barbara and Don Payne, Liz Reanier, Edna Robertson, Edith Rode, Nola Shurtleff, Paula Sievers, Julia Snell, Janet Speelman, Mary Ellen West and Vera Wooley.

Meet Mother of Meriwether Lewis at Columbia Gorge
April 18, 2006
Leader: Ray Jensen

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP was the monolog by Merna DeBolt, who portrayed in costume Lucy Meriwether Marks, mother of Capt. Lewis, at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center in Stevenson, WA. She returned after 200 years to set the record straight about her beloved famous son. Her performance was informative, amusing and truly delightful. We all applauded with enthusiasm.

Our mid-morning coffee break was at the Tualatin Rest Area and, as always, our hospitality committee spoiled us with delicious goodies. The next stop was the new Capt. William Clark Park on Cottonwood Beach near Washougal, where the Lewis and Clark group camped for six nights in 1806. Unfortunately, the Columbia River was so high that this nice sandy beach was under water. So we did not fully savor the experience of this important site. We continued east on Hwy. #14 for great views of the Columbia Gorge -- especially from Cape Horn. Enroute, Ewart Baldwin discussed the geology of the area.

At noon at the Interpretive Center, we ate our sack lunches outside beneath their covered entranceway. In addition to Merna's presentation, we enjoyed action demonstrations for the giant sized fish

(Continued from page 18)

wheel and the Corliss steam engine. Their museum housed a number of excellent displays, including a large rosary collection. Completing three hours here, we crossed into Oregon over the historic Bridge of the Gods, where Ewart explained the legend. Next stop was 30 minutes at spectacular Multnomah Falls with enough time for a short hike closer to the falls.

From the Falls, driver Kurt Hand got us home in 2 hrs. 10 minutes. Well done, Kurt. On a rare sunny spring day, Mt. Hood, St. Helens, the Cascades, the gorge and even the Three Sisters were all beautiful to see.

My appreciation to Verna Kocken for handling the sign-up; Vera Woolley and the hospitality people; Ewart on geology; and to a very congenial group of riders, all members: Ewart Baldwin, Barbara and Paul Beard, Louise Behnke, Mary Bridgeman, Mary Lee Cheadle, Barbara Chinn, Rachele Fiszman, Barbara Hagerman, Dora Harris, John and Lenore McManigal, Joyce Norman, Barbara and Don Payne, Virginia Prouty, Liz Reanier, Paula Sievers, Julie Snell, Dick and Janet Spelman, Mary Ellen West, Cristy White and Vera Woolley.

Bill Sullivan Explains How to Map Out Hikes

By Margaret Prentice

BILL SULLIVAN had a captive audience at EWEB on April 10th at the annual Trip Leaders' Meeting. He showed and described, as only Bill can with wit and humor, an amazing variety of maps for hikers. Beginning with colored templates of the maps he draws himself for his books, he led us through his favorite area topographic maps (some of which were barely hanging together), Forest Service maps, downloaded maps, Geological Survey maps and several others.

No matter what aspect of hiking Bill talks about, you can be sure he'll be a hit. He donated one of his books for a drawing and Peter Rodda was the lucky winner.

The program continued with a discussion by Wayne Deeter on submitting reports on line; which, thanks to his work on developing it, is fairly easy. Janet Jacobsen, Sharon Ritchie, George Baitinger and John Jacobsen briefly shared their expertise on some items in the leaders' packets -- such as the membership, incident and accident report forms.

The evening ended with the usual door prizes, donated by Tom & Judy Adamcyk, Larison Rock Hikers and others. Joella Ewing organized the drawing set-up and sign-up.

Last, but not least, sincere thanks to Janet Jacobsen for planning the meeting.

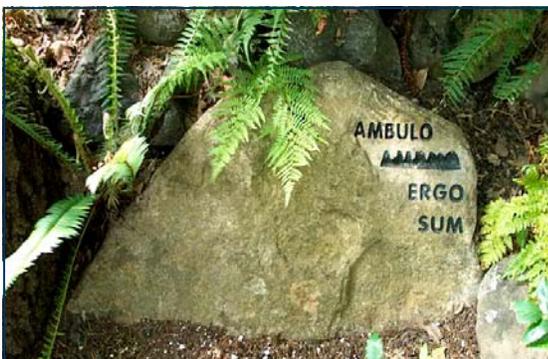
Sources for topographic maps:

- U.S. Geological Survey (can be downloaded from www.topozone.com)
- Green Trails Maps (www.greentrails.com) -- Map packs with 6 or 12 maps of your choice. New maps include Sisters, McKenzie Bridge, Three Sisters, Broken Top.
- Knight Library Map Room: Copy maps for 10 cents.
- U.S. Forest Service offices.

Obsidian Featured in Garden Show

Photos by John Jacobsen

LONG TIME MEMBER, and Obsidian President (1968/69), Gary Kirk's "free form" garden will be featured in this year's Eugene Symphony Garden Tour. Gary has collected rocks as well as having sculpted many of the major rock features. Highlights include a replica of the Old Man and Old Woman on the North Umpqua, a Meditation area with a rock slab in the shape of Wisconsin, a Sleeping Lion, the Brae Burn Stone Circle, an Inuksuk, and a labyrinth. He has been hard at work creating a Celtic Stargate that will be ready for the show.



According to Gary, the combination of Latin and pictogram yields: "I walk through the mountains; therefore I am."



Gary with the Old Man and Old Woman

Eugene Symphony Music in the Garden Tour

Sunday June 11th

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00 in advance

\$12.00 at the door.

Tickets available at garden shops like Gray's, Jerry's, Down to Earth. Call Eugene Symphony at 687-9487

UPCOMING

All Aboard!

Book a Seat on an Obsidian Byways-By-Bus Excursion

SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE on the following Obsidian Byways-By-Bus excursions, all offer interesting itineraries, lots of fun, unpredictable surprises and great camaraderie.

Finding the Lost County of Umpqua

Date: May 23 (Cost: \$29)

Leaders: Ray Jensen, Verna Kocken **Reservations:** Verna Kocken, 2263 37th St. Springfield, OR 97477

We will travel south on I-5 through Oakland, with a stop at Henry Estate Winery for our coffee break. This is the site of the old Fort McKay, where the Calapooya Creek enters the Umpqua River. Then to Elkton and west on Hwy. #34 to Scottsburg with our sack lunch break in the Myrtlewood Grove at Scottsburg County Park. After lunch, we will stop at the Dean Creek Elk Viewing area. Then on to the Umpqua Discovery Center, which features a new \$1.2 million "Pathways to Discovery-Exploring Tidewater Country" exhibit. Afterwards, we may go to the dunes visitor center or the lighthouse. There was at one time a county of Umpqua, so come aboard for some history, great scenery and more! Our return trip will be north on Hwy 101 to Florence to return to Eugene by 6 p.m.

Mt. Shasta, Mt. Lassen and Yosemite

Date: June 5 through June 11 (Cost: \$600)

Leaders: Liz Reanier, and Don Payne. **Reservations:** Janet Speelman, 1496 West 28th, Eugene, OR 97405

Travel I-5 to Redding the first day, with a stop to check out the Mt. Shasta area. The second day we will go to Yosemite, where lodging will be at the east end of Yosemite Valley at Curry Village. The accommodations are tent cabins. There is no running water or toilets in the cabins, which are furnished with beds and linens. There will be a guided tour of the park for one day and a bus tour to the Mariposa Grove of Sequoias the other day. Upon leaving Yosemite, we will travel back to La Quinta Inn in Redding for two nights. We'll make a round trip to Mt. Lassen on day six and I head home on day seven.

Yaquina Head Lighthouse

Birds and Oregon Coast Aquarium

Date: June 20 (Cost: \$40)

Leader: Rick Ahrens **Reservations:** Verna Kocken, 2263 37th St., Springfield 97477

We will travel Hwys. 99W and 101 to Newport, where we will visit with the sea otters at the aquarium, check out a wonderful seabird aviary and walk through the Passages of the Deep's acrylic tunnel, surrounded by sharks and other sealife staring at us! Lunch (cost not included) will be at the

aquarium. Then we will visit a very nice museum on coastal history and wildlife at Yaquina Head and the lighthouse, where we will be able to view a colony of over 25,000 nesting seabirds just offshore. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. On the way to the coast, Rick Ahrens will give a talk on the natural history of the Oregon Coast.

Wildlife Images, Rehabilitation & Education Center

Date: July 12 (Cost: \$34)

Time: Early departure 7:30 a.m.; return 4:30 p.m.

Leaders: Ray Jensen, Liz Reanier **Reservations:** Barbara Payne, 39478 Walterville Lane, Springfield, OR 97478

Going south on I-5, we'll take the Wolf Creek turnoff for the Galice-Rogue Byway, where we will have several stops. Sack lunch at Indian Mary Park; then on to Wildlife Images for a guided tour. We'll see grizzlies, bobcats, timber wolf, the eagle flight enclosure and other birds and animals. This is a 24-acre complex in natural habitat on the Rogue River, west of Grants Pass. We will return home via Merlin or Grants Pass.

Great Oregon Steam Up

Date: August 5 (Cost: \$29)

Leaders: John McManigal, Ray Jensen **Reservations:** Lenore McManigal, 741 East 38th Ave., Eugene, OR 97405

We will drive directly to the Brooks turnoff, with perhaps a stop at the Santiam River Rest Stop. Since this is such a short drive, there will be no coffee break. The Steam Up is a big show featuring authentic vintage farm machinery in action...and much more. There is a truck museum, cat museum, log sawing, a railroad and a tractor pull. There is a grand review parade around the whole area, and a miniature train that takes passengers around the park. There are many places to buy food at reasonable prices, but you could bring your own. Other activities open all day are the country store with flour milling, flea market, swap meet and blacksmith shop. Return home by 5 p.m.

Oregon Zoo with Rick Ahrens

Date: August 15 (Cost \$30)

Leader: Rick Ahrens **Reservations:** Janet Speelman, 1496 West 28th Ave, Eugene, OR 97405

Join us for a beautiful summer day at the zoo. On the way to Portland, Rick (a former zoo keeper), will give a talk on the history of zoos and be available to answer questions. Even if you have been to zoo, there are several new exhibits to see. Be sure not to miss the bird program with the flying raptors at the amphitheater. There are food services around the park (your cost), but you can bring your sack lunch, also.

Barb's May Trip Sampler

BARB REVERE has looked over upcoming trips and selected an attractive sampling for special mention. If you are leading a trip and would like us to know why you think it will offer something special, email us: bulletin@obsidians.org.

Saturday, May 20 – Green Island – At the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette, this area is usually off-limits; so don't miss this opportunity to hike with leader Margot Fetz and Joe Moll, executive director of McKenzie River Trust.

Same Day (May 20) – Little North Santiam River – A lovely stretch along a scenic river in the Opal Creek Wilderness, this hike features waterfalls, deep quiet pools and old growth forest. Dan Christensen will lead this 9-mile hike.

Same Day (May 20) – The Twins – Catch some spring weather, a panoramic view and the last of winter; join Wayne Deeter on an 8-mile, *intermediate x-country ski trip* up this double-peaked mountain east of Waldo Lake.

Same Day (May 20) – Sahalie & Koosah Falls + Clear Lake -- The lava cradling the south end of Clear Lake erupted from nearby Sand Mountain over 3,000 years ago; it dammed the outflows of the Great Spring and Fish Creek, creating one of the clearest lakes in the world. This 8-mile hike (which includes waterfalls described below) is led by Danielle Delaby.

Sunday, May 21 – Sahalie and Koosah Falls – Pristine water streams out of Clear Lake to form the McKenzie River and tumbles almost immediately over these two huge waterfalls. If all you have seen are the two waterfalls, you're missing the beauty of the dozens of drops and cascades that link Clear Lake, Sahalie and Koosah Falls and Carmen Reservoir. Join John Cooper for his 5-mile loop hike.

Saturday, May 27 – Devil's Den – Get down and dirty with leader Wayne Deeter on his hike to Devil's Den.

"More of an adventure than a hike," says Wayne. This trip may not be for everyone. If you are into sliding into a hole by rope and intrigued by caves, join this exploration of the Rabbit Hole, the Narrow Hall, the Big Room, the Knife Room and the Devil's Den.

Saturday, June 3 – Broken Top Crater – Broken Top Mountain sits like an overlooked sibling a little southeast of the better known Three Sisters. On this *advanced cross-country ski trip*, you'll ski "high into Broken Top Crater just under and to the west of Broken Hand on Tam MacArthur Rim," says leader, Dick Hildreth. "Last time we were able to park just off Cascades Lakes Highway, hop out of the cars into 3 feet of snow, ski up the snow mobile road past Todd Lake to Big Meadow and beyond to the snow covered Crater Ditch trail into the crater."

Same Day (June 3) – Dog Mountain – Reputed to have the most beautiful wildflower meadows on the Columbia Gorge, this hike is actually just across the river in Washington. Views of the mighty Columbia and nearby mountains add to the appeal of this "C" hike led by Buzz Blumm.

Same Day (June 3) – Tire Mountain – For another awesome wildflower trip a bit closer to home, join leader Sandra Larsen on this "B" hike.

Sunday, June 4 – Around Mt. Pisgah – See Mt. Pisgah and the arboretum with new eyes. Leader Rick Ahrens knows wildlife, plants and ecosystems. You'll come away with a new take on this well-known hiking destination.

Same Day (June 4) – Tamolitch Pool from Carmen Reservoir – Tamolitch Falls dropped into this turquoise pool until construction of the Carmen and Smith Reservoirs diverted the river. This seldom hiked section of the McKenzie River will prove interesting with its huge mossy boulders and windfall logs. I will lead his one.

Monday, June 5 -- Alpine Trail – This trail extends 15.4 miles into the

hills behind Westfir, in an area known for spectacular wildflower meadows in June. Led by Paul Flashenberg.

Wednesday, June 7 -- North Fork/Middle Fork of Willamette – Leader Melody Clarkson picked this trail for its beautiful old growth forest. In the Waldo Wilderness, this 11-mile "C" hike follows the lush streambed closely. At the far point of the trail you will be bushwhacking and route-finding to gain a plateau with waterfall views. For adventurous hikers.

Saturday, June 10 – Cook's Ridge – In the Cape Perpetua system of trails, the climb to Cooks Ridge takes hikers into many diverse habitats: Old growth spruce and fir forest, sword fern and mushroom covered forest floor and alder lined creek beds are some of the delights. Led by Peter Graham.

Tuesday, June 13 – Gwynn Creek – Led by Cork Higgins, this trail is also in the Cape Perpetua area.

Wednesday, June 14 – Washburne and China Creek Loops – Leader Marshall Kandell has scheduled this trip for optimum tide-pooling along the beach-leg of the journey. You might also enjoy the loop back to the cars -- up the Hobbit Trail, past the beaver pond and along lovely China Creek.

Saturday, June 17 – Hinman Vineyards – What better way to spend a Saturday than *cycling* through lovely farm country and passing country estates to this popular winery. Led by Larry Dunlop.

Sunday, June 18 – Adams Mountain – Join Chris Stockdale for this 11-mile "C" trip in the mountains east of Cottage Grove. The route travels portions of the Knott and Crawfish trails.

Same Day, June 18 – Aufderheide Drive – The dogwood bloom in spring and so do many other plants along the Aufderheide Drive as it cuts through the mountains between Blue River and Westfir. Richard Hughes leads this 40-mile *bicycle trip*.

Camp Deetour Update...



By
*Lana
Lindstrom*

Camp Openings

DUE TO CANCELLATIONS, there are some openings for camp, particularly if you want to stay in an Adirondack (three-sided shelter). If you've changed your mind and want to come to camp, contact Lana Lindstrom to inquire about the possibilities. At press time, we don't yet know the details since we're still waiting for some fees to be paid in full.

Camp Booklets

If you didn't already pick up your camp booklet at the April program, please do so at the May program (May 19, beginning at 7 p.m. at Washington Community Center).

Board/Card Games

In addition to exercising our bodies during summer camp, how about exercising the gray matter too! We have indoor lighting this year, so we're thinking about organizing card and/or board games in the evenings. Does anyone have a Texas Hold 'em kit or poker chips? Do we have bridge or pinochle players? Call or email lane_lindstrom@hotmail.com or call 683-1409 if you're interested organizing board or card games after the campfire.

Looking for Ride-Shares to Camp

If you want to save gas money and be good to the environment by ride-sharing to or from camp, contact Sharon Ritchie.

Session 1

- We have a driver who can take an additional rider. Contact Sharon Ritchie at rehugr@comcast.net for further info.
- Chuck Wager is biking to camp from Eugene and would like company. Anyone wanting to get some serious exercise, contact him directly.

Session 2

- Mary Holbert would like to take the train and then rent a car in Tacoma and drive from there to camp. Anyone else interested in relaxing on the train and sharing car rental costs, contact her directly.

Events at Mt. Pisgah

For information about and registration for the following events, call 747-1504. References to member and nonmember fees refer to Arboretum membership, not Obsidian membership.

EARLY BIRD WALK, Saturday, May 20, 8-10 a.m. Enjoy the morning chorus and observe your favorite migrants. Experienced birder Davey Wendt will help you identify and appreciate our many feathered friends:

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS, Saturday, May 20, 2-4 p.m. Peek into the world of snakes, lizards, frogs, turtles and salamanders as you explore their habitats in the Arboretum. Tom Titus, UofO professor, leads this walk.

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL & PLANT SALE, Sunday, May 21, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Annual celebration of Oregon's wildflowers -- this year honoring the magnificent white oak habitat of west-

ern Oregon. Enjoy a display of hundreds of wildflowers and educational exhibits prepared by festival co-presenters, The Native Plant Society of Oregon and Lane Community College. Plant sale, children's activities, music, guided walks and food and craft vendors. Suggested donation: \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Members free.

A LOOK AT FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION, Monday, June 5, 6-8 p.m. Jason Blazar of Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah leads this walk, discussing floodplain restoration. Hike to the south meadow to see the recent stewardship activities there to help control invasive vegetation, reforest the floodplain, enhance the channel connectivity with the Coast Fork of the Willamette River and restore habitat for aquatic species such as Chinook salmon, Oregon chub and western pond turtles. Suggested donation: \$3

(MPA and FBP members free).

BUTTERFLY WALK, co-sponsored by Mount Pisgah Arboretum and the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), Sunday, June 11, 12-2 p.m. Join Neil Bjorklund (NABA) on this guided walk to look for the many winged beauties at Mount Pisgah, exploring the best butterfly habitats on the east side of the mountain. Suggested donation is \$3. (MPA and NABA members free)

SINGLES WORK PARTY: TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m.- noon. Join Site Manager Tom LoCascio and help maintain the Incense Cedar Trail, showcasing the famous Octopus Tree. Help resurface the trail and clear out invasive vegetation. Bring a lunch and stay afterwards for picnic. For people of ALL ages and strengths! Bring water bottles, appropriate foot wear and a smile! FREE.

First Aid for Leaders & Hikers

WHAT DO I DO if someone trips on a hike and twists an ankle? How do I take care of a deep cut? What do I do with all the stuff in the First Aid kit?



The answers to these questions... and many more... will be provided at a special "Practical First Aid Class" for trip leaders and hikers at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 22, in our newly renovated lodge. Obsidian Dr. Larry Dunlap will conduct the class, which will be of great value to all of us who enjoy hiking or biking in remote places far from telephones, emergency rooms or immediate transportation.

If all goes well with the city's building permit process, this will be the first club event in the renovated lodge and a sneak preview for class participants to see and appreciate the fruits of so many months of planning, hard work and perseverance on the part of our board and Construction Committee.

IN THE EVENT THE CITY has not yet signed off on our use of our building (*heaven forbid!*), this class will have to be postponed until a later date, probably in the fall. So, be sure to check the Obsidian website and the bulletin board at the YMCA the week prior to the class.

Hope to see you there.

-- Margaret Prentice

Nearby Nature Summer Family Programs

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR an enjoyable outdoors activity to do with your family (and grandchildren) this summer, you might want to consider a Nature Quest in Alton Baker Park conducted by Nearby Nature.

Each quest includes a family-paced hike with trail activities, followed by a craft, a snack and a visit from a costumed "Kinder Critter."

Follow the signs to the Alton Baker Park Host Residence/Yurt. Cost is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Pre-registration is recommended.

SCHEDULED QUESTS are from 10 a.m. to noon on:

Saturday, June 17 -- "Dads Can Do It!" Celebrate Father's Day by learning about animal dads that sing, dance and even carry eggs on their backs.

Saturday, July 15 -- "Meadow Micro-Magic." Explore the meadow and check out everything from flowers to insects up close with all sorts of cool magnifying tools.

Saturday, August 12 -- "Creepy-Crawly Critter Safari." Wander the park using butterfly nets in waterways and meadows to catch bugs by the billions.

For more information, contact Nearby Nature at 687-9699 or check out their website at www.nearbynature.org.

Obsidian Calendar

May

12 Fri - **Mt. Pisgah sunset/moonrise**, 3m A, R.Murdock (345-8305)
 12 Fri - **Tahkenitch Dunes loop**, 6.5m B, S.Ward (686-5679)
 13 Sat - **Animal Tracks** Field Trip 3m A, L.Lindstrom (683-1409)
 13 Sat - **Diamond Pk (graduation)**, Climb, Hamilton .. (343-6550)
 13 Sat - **Fall Creek**, 5.8m 200' B, M.Welches (345-2056)
 13 Sat - **Junction Cty-Bellftn**, Bike 40m B, Sanders ... (485-2944)
 13-14 Sat-Sun - **Mt. Hood**, Climb, J.Pegg (343-0909)
 13 Sat - **Silver Creek Falls**, 7m 600' B, S.Hovis (345-7788)
 14 Sun - **Heceta Hd/Hobbit Tr**, 6m 500' B, McLucas (485-5608)
 16 Tue - **Alton Baker bike trail**, 5m A, R.Romoser (726-8154)
 17 Wed - **Hendricks Park**, 5m A, M.Kandell (345-8095)
 19 Fri - **Rose House: Net-Zero Energy Home**..... Potluck
 19 Fri - **Yachats-Waldport**, 7m B, B.Williams (683-5312)
 20-21 Sat-Sun - **Diamond Peak**, Climb/ski, G.Sayer
 20 Sat - **Green Island** Walk 4m A, M.Fetz (687-0733)
 20 Sat - **Little N Santiam Rv**, 9m 900' B, Christensen (343-8941)
 20 Sat - **Sahalie, Koosah & Clear Lk**, 9m B, Delaby .. (688-4978)
 20 Sat - **The Twins**, X-Ski 8m Int, W.Deeter (942-0824)
 21 Sun - **Koosah Falls Sahalie Falls**, 5m A, J.Cooper (344-8517)
 22 Mon - **First Aid for Leaders**, Workshop, L.Dunlap (686-6745)
 23 Tue - **Lost County of Umpqua**, Bus, V.Kocken (736-5180)
 27 Sat - **Castle Rock**, 11m 2600' C, A.Coons (687-9741)
 27 Sat - **Devils Den**, 5m 900' C, W.Deeter (942-0824)
 27-29 Sat-Mon - **Middle Sister**, Climb/ski, Manotti (342-5357)
 27 Sat - **3 Sisters Travs**, X-Ski, 35m Adv, McManigal (503-635-9973)
 28 Sun - **Clear Lake**, 8m 500' B, G.Baitinger (344-9345)

June

1 Thu - **Arboretum**, 3m 200' A, M.Hansen (343-5114)
 2 Fri - **Dorris Ranch w/R. Ahrens**, Walk 5m A, Fetz .. (687-0733)
 3 Sat - **Broken Top Cr**, X-Ski 12m Adv, D.Hildreth .. (345-7520)
 3 Sat - **Camp Creek Road**, Bike 35m B, S.Ritchie (342-8435)
 3 Sat - **Dog Mountain**, 7m 2900' C, B.Blumm (343-8830)
 3 Sat - **Fern Ridge bike path**, Bike 24m A, K.Riddle .. (684-4030)
 3 Sat - **National Trails Day**, Trail Maintenance, Asai .. (933-3927)
 3 Sat - **Tire Mountain**, 7.6m 800' B, S.Larsen (687-2589)
 4 Sun - **McKenzie Rv Tr**, 6.8m B, B.Revere (726-4989)
 4 Sun - **N Bank Deer Pres**, 10m 1300' C, C.Stockdale. (767-3668)
 4 Sun - **Around Mt. Pisgah**, 7m B, R.Ahrens (689-3996)
 5 Mon - **Alpine Trail**, 8m 800' B, P.Flashenberg (461-1977)
 5-11 Mon - **Lassen/Yosemite Pks**, Bus, J.Speelman ... (344-3019)
 6 Tue - **Willamette River**, Walk 4m A, M.Fetz (687-0733)
 7 Wed - **Alton Baker bike trail**, 6m B, R.Romoser (726-8154)
 7 Wed - **N/Middle F Willamette**, 11m C, M.Clarkson. (334-6883)
 10 Sat - **Cooks Ridge**, 6.5m 1200' B, P.Graham (933-1612)
 10 Sat - **Kentucky Falls**, 4.4m 800' A, J.Dorland (484-0280)
 10-11 Sat-Sun - **Smith Rock**, Climb, D.Nelson (746-6774)
 10 Sat - **The Twins**, 6.6m 1600' B, L.Huff (915-9071)
 10 Sat - **Willamette Valley Lp**, Bike 42m B, S.Ritchie (342-8435)
 11 Sun - **Deception Butte**, 8m 2600' C, L.Christiansen (687-8379)
 11 Sun - **Luckiamute-Momn**, Bike 40m B, Hughes (683-1409)
 13 Tue - **Gwynn Creek**, 6.2m 1100' B, Higgins (995-8060)
 14 Wed - **Washburne-China Cr Lp**, 5m A, Kandell .. (345-8095)
 15 Thu - **Siltcoos Rv-Carter Lk**, 5.5m B, S.Ward (686-5679)
 16 Fri - **Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail - Rathmann**..... Potluck
 17 Sat - **Hinman Vineyards**, Bike 38m B, L.Dunlap ... (686-6745)
 17 Sat - **Rosary Lk & Maiden Pk Sd** 9m B, D.Delaby (688-4978)
 17-18 Sat - **S Sister via Prouty Gl**, Climb, Slipp.. (503-582-1100)
 17 Sat - **Sweet Creek Falls**, 5m 650' A, C.Cunningham (344-0486)
 17 Sat - **Tire Mountain**, 8m 800' B, A.Coons (687-9741)
 18 Sun - **Adams Mtn**, 11m 2400' C, C.Stockdale (767-3668)
 18 Sun - **Aufferheide Dr**, Bike 40m 800' B, R.Hughes (683-1409)
 18 Sun - **Battle Ax**, 5.6m 1600' B, B.Huntley (687-1823)

Leaders Requested To Post Trips Earlier

THE SUMMER TRIPS COMMITTEE has requested that leaders post their trip sign-up sheets at least nine days prior to the trips. This will make it more convenient for those who may only come into the YMCA or the south part of town once a week to sign-up.



Baby blue eyes along the trail, North Bank Deer Preserve. See trip report Page 10. Photo by John Jacobsen

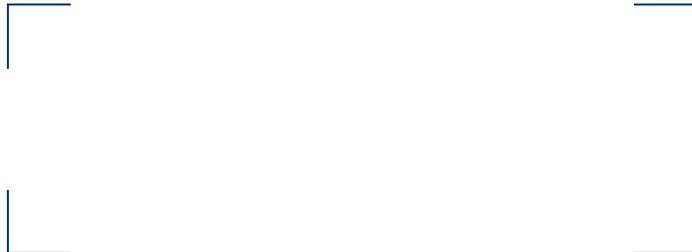


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May 2006