

## Where's the Fence?

*John Jacobsen Grounds Committee Chair*

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### Dates to Remember

May 28	<i>Bulletin Deadline</i>
June 2	Strategic Planning Meeting
June 2	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:  
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**I**T ALL STARTED IN EARLY JANUARY WHEN MY WIFE JANET AND I PULLED OFF AT THE TOP OF 30<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE to look at the new development west of the Obsidians' property. We looked around and Janet said, "Things have really changed." I said, "Where's the fence?" That fence being the single-strand on T-post one that Bill Eimstad surveyed and installed around our 4½-acre property in the early 80s, now missing all along the 300-foot property line shared between the Obsidians and the new development. There is a lot of story I am going to skip between the missing fence and the two new fences we now have, but a lot of head scratching and mind changing went on with our Grounds Committee (Dave Cooper, Doug Nelson, Jim Northrop, and me) trying to figure out what happened and what to do about it. If interested in more details of the missing story, see my Grounds Reports in the Board Notes in the February and April *Obsidian Bulletins*.

Ultimately, after considering all sorts of permutations for our security needs, property line demarcation, and even including fencing about 1,500 feet of open property line, we landed on a plan for two new fences which was presented to and approved by the Obsidian Board:

**300-Foot 3-Strand T-Post Fence**—A basic fence, primarily to redefine the property line between the Obsidians and the new development to our southwest. While initially we were concerned about the easy access through the development to our property from the backside, we realized as we tromped the boundary that the tangle of existing vegetation would stop access, so the need for a more substantial chain link fence was not necessary. We decided we could manage this project ourselves. Doug Nelson took the lead, procured the materials, and on the morning of April 29<sup>th</sup> the Grounds Committee (Dave, Doug, Jim, and I) cleared the brush and poison oak, pounded posts, and strung the wire to reestablish our property line.



*Wire fence: John Jacobsen, Doug Nelson rolling out wire. Dave Cooper behind tree. Jim Northrop in the leaves. Photo by Janet Jacobsen.*

**185-Foot, 6-Foot High, Black Chain Link Fence and 14-Foot Entry Gate**—When discussing security for our property we concluded the most likely place for nefarious access was directly from 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue which likely will witness significant increases in foot traffic with all the new developments near the Lodge. While we've never had serious security incidents at the Lodge, I have observed many minor issues over the years including a fire that was started on a valve box cover immediately above the Lodge, folks not cleaning up after their dogs, and last summer at least two incidents with transients accessing our property. We concluded that maybe now is the time to

*(Continued on page 2)*



*First post going in.  
Photo by John Jacobsen.*

**Where's the Fence?  
(Continued from page 1)**

secure the front of our property and not wait until after we have a serious incident. This project included a lot of clearing before fence installation could occur and was handled with three contracts:

- Sam Tracer removed downed wood/trees along the entire length of the project. Sam finished his work April 5.
- Ben Macauley, Highland Tree Service, brought his tractor-mounted brush hog and made quick work of clearing the blackberries and assorted brush along the new fence line. Ben completed his work on April 10.
- CG Fence of Albany installed the chain link fence and fabricated and installed the 14-foot double gate. Carlos Garcia (the CG in CG Fence?) and his son Austin set the posts in concrete on April 22, and returned on April 28 to install the fence and gate.



*Fence builders Carlos Garcia and son Austin.  
Photo by John Jacobsen.*

While the main reason for installing the chain link fence along the front of our property is security of the Lodge, cleaning out that area and replanting along the fence will really improve the aesthetics of the Obsidian grounds as seen from 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Want to check out the new fences? Janet and I will be leading grand tours of these grand additions to the Obsidian grounds, probably late May—sign up online.



*New fence and gate. Photo by John Jacobsen.*

**OBSIDIANS, INC**

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

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

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**Deadline**  
for June Bulletin  
**Friday, May 28, 2021**

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# Obsidians STRATEGIC PLAN 2021

*Maryanne Reiter, Marci Hansen, and Jim Northrop: the Strategic Planning Lead Team*

**I**N 2019 IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO USE 2020 AS A SYMBOL FOR NEW BEGINNINGS given its association with clear vision. Though we all learned the hard way that 2020 is more symbolic of having your best intentions stymied, there were many positive things that came out of 2020, including the Obsidians' strategic planning effort now underway. At the 2019 annual meeting, when President Wilkin collected ideas for the next 10 years from the members, there was hope that we'd start making changes to prepare the Club for the future. We received some good ideas and discussed how to achieve them. Initially our main focus was increasing the number of leaders, since it is crucial to have leaders in order to have trips. However, as we got into planning how to increase the number of leaders, we realized there were other aspects of the Club that we needed to address in order to recruit more members and leaders, such as updating the webpage and increasing our media presence.

Once we saw that in order to address one issue, we would need to address others, we stepped back and decided to take a broader approach to planning for the future of the Obsidians. Strategic planning, which is inherently systematic and coordinated, is well-suited to addressing the Obsidians' issues. It would be our trail map to the future as we identify our goals and strategies to achieve those goals. At a meeting in September, 2020 we presented the strategic planning process to the Board, and they gave their support to move forward with it. From there we formed a team of those interested in, and committed to, planning for the future of the Club.

The general steps in a strategic plan are to first look at what is going on internally and externally that is affecting the Club, i.e., what issues led to the need to start the strategic planning process. In the case of the Obsidians, it is the decline in leaders and members that is affecting the Club. This decline is in sharp contrast to the increasing trend in outdoor recreation. Once we articulated our main issues, the next step was to develop a mission statement as a way to have a common language about the Club's purpose.

The mission statement we developed is: *Connecting our community to the mountains, waters, and trails of*

*the great outdoors through exploration, education, and stewardship.* Having the mission statement helped to develop our focus areas, and ultimately our goals and strategies to achieve those goals.

Our focus areas come directly from the words in the mission statement: Community, Exploration, Education, and Stewardship. Within each of those focus areas we formed sub-committees to develop goals and strategies. We also developed overarching goals that either didn't fit neatly into one of our focus areas or were common to all the areas, and were for the good of the Club in general. We prioritized the goals since we know we can't accomplish them all at once. The top four goals are:

- Increase membership participation and community interest in the Club by updating our website
- Increase the number of leaders in the Club over the next five years
- Create a Stewardship Committee to advocate for the preservation and maintenance of outdoor spaces through participation in organized community service activities
- Increase community participation in Club activities through email and social media promotions

To accomplish our goals we plan to form task groups/ad hoc committees. These task groups will be made up of members, committee chairs, or committee members, and board members. On each task group there will be a board member to track progress. We will also be reaching out to the membership to help us, as well as considering hiring third parties where appropriate.

At this time we are developing ways to communicate the plan internally and externally. Having this article is an initial step in the communication process. In order for the membership to learn more about what is in the strategic plan, we will be hosting a meeting on June 2, 2021 to share it with you and get your feedback. Whether to meet in person or by Zoom will be determined as we get closer to the date. Please attend to help plan the future of the Obsidians. It is our hope, that by working together for the future of the Obsidians, we will ensure that the Club thrives for years to come.

***We will be hosting a meeting\* on June 2, 2021  
to share the strategic plan with you and get your feedback.  
Please attend to help plan the future of the Obsidians.***

***\*Whether to meet in person or by Zoom will be determined as we get closer to the date.***

# What the Heck Is a Lek?

Randy Sinnott

**P**UT MOST SIMPLY, A LEK IS A SPOT WHERE MALE BIRDS GATHER DURING BREEDING SEASON TO ADVERTISE THEMSELVES TO PROSPECTIVE MATES. It involves a lot of strutting, preening, dancing, fancy wardrobes, and intimidation. And that's just the males. Harken back to John Travolta and the disco era and you're beginning to get the picture. The female's only job is to observe and judge which of the males demonstrates that his genes are worthy of reproduction. It's like taking out a bank loan because once she leaves the lek, the nest building, egg laying, and childcare will be carried on exclusively by her.



Male sage grouse.

Not all birds lek, which is the term for the activity as well as the geographic location. The greater sage grouse of our Great Basin is probably North America's champion performer. Each year from March until May the males will congregate at dawn to flare tail feathers in a turkey-like display and strut around with white neck boas so puffed up it almost covers their heads. They advertise their presence by inflating twin sacs at the throat and expelling air to create a bubbly outburst that can be heard a mile away. Imagine a dozen cocks competing for the attention of the hens who, less than half the size of males, crouch about the lekking ground taking notes on their scorecards. When they've chosen, copulation happens and the hen flies off to do the hard work of perpetuating the species.

In late March of this year, a fellow birder and I got to witness this pageant in a remote part of the Oregon outback in the shadow of the Trout Creek Mountains and just a few miles from the Nevada border. We volunteered with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to monitor eight leks over a three-day period and note the number of birds, observe their activities, and geotag potential new leks. We camped on a small stream in the midst of the sage steppe at 6,000 feet, just below the snow line. Despite being able to see far into Nevada and identify distant ranges of mountains, there was not a tree in sight. Flakes of obsidian around our campsite, lithic scatter, told of native occupants being here in the 'way back'.

Our first night out, the wind blew fiercely as a front moved through. I lay awake in the back of my rocking pickup thinking the count would have to be cancelled due to severe wind. My cohort, from Hyderabad, India, braved the tempest in a tent. He assured me it was the coldest night he had ever endured. But at 4:30 AM, just about time to begin work, the wind died. After coffee we hiked up ridges and down ravines using GPS to be at our assignments by first light. Vivek, being half my age, alerted me to grouse I may have missed, first by hearing the rollicking, bubbling chorus, then whispering "there!" as grouse moved on a far ridge.



Female sage grouse.

We had fair weather over the following three days, reaching into the 70s on day two, after starting our morning at 18 degrees. Without trees, the vistas were spectacular. We never came upon a grouse nest. The hens are survivalists, and know how to hide them. Left alone, these magnificent birds can endure drought, fire, and icy winters. They don't migrate, and when the bugs and flowers of spring and summer disappear, they subsist on the leaves of sagebrush exclusively. Their greatest challenge is surviving human encroachments, like mining and cattle grazing. Grouse numbers have fallen in recent decades. Despite knowing that some leks have been in use for over a thousand years, we seem to be failing in our efforts to keep them around—something we must do to ensure that the sights and sounds of ancient dance floors may continue to amaze us.

*Editor's note: To watch a wonderful 3-minute video of the sage grouse mating ritual visit: [pbs.org/video/nature-sage-grouse-sex/](https://pbs.org/video/nature-sage-grouse-sex/)*

## OWLS

OF THE

## EASTERN ICE

*A Quest to Find and Save  
the World's Largest Owl*

*by Jonathan C. Slaght*

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020

**W**HILE WORKING ON HIS PHD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, the author spent five very cold winters in harsh conditions in Primorye, Southeast Russia, where the tiger and the Blakiston's fish owl are threatened by logging and hunting. Slaght's story weaves his fieldwork on the Blakiston's fish owl with the culture, the locals, extreme weather, snow camping, frozen rivers, dangerous spring ice, hazardous snowmobile rides, and some vodka. When Slaght departed at the end of his last field season his Russian colleague said, "It's your second home, Jon. You'll be back." Yes, there is an epilogue that includes his conclusions. The author is the Russia and Northeast Asia Coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Randy Sinnott made this comment about the book: *I enjoyed it, as much for the Russian culture and other wildlife—although the owls are remarkable.*

One doesn't have to be a birder to find oneself absorbed in this adventure, science, and travel narrative. For your comfortable fieldwork, find a toasty chair, perhaps with a sip of vodka and listen to the Blakiston's fish owl duet.

[soundcloud.com/naturesoundmap/blakistons-fish-owl-duet-bubo](https://soundcloud.com/naturesoundmap/blakistons-fish-owl-duet-bubo)

# Eagle Eyes Spot Error

See: *Hand Lake Shelter Restoration* article

with photos on page 4 of the *April Bulletin*

**T**HE DUST HAD BARELY SETTLED ON PRODUCTION OF THE APRIL *OBSIDIAN BULLETIN* when we received emails from a couple of our readers:

Steve Stenkamp emailed us from Bend to say:

*I believe the picture on the right is of Hoodoo and not Hand Lake. I say this because you can see the base of Hayrick Butte in the upper right side of the photo and there isn't a geologic feature like that at Hand Lake. The flat area in the pic is now the base area for Hoodoo. It was 4 or 5 years before there was a road and parking at the base of the tows. Cars had to park along the highway and ski into the area.*

Three days later Rick McManigal emailed us from Seattle:

*I read the Hand Lake article with interest. I worked at the Boy Scout camp at Melakwa (Lake), so hiked over there a few times. And my dad & I camped there when I was probably 13 years old, with some other Boy Scouts. I have a hard time recognizing/orienting to the Hand Lake historical picture. I can kind of see Bailey Costello's picture as being Hand Lake. But the photo by "unknown" might not be Hand Lake?? I don't think there is any steep hill around Hand Lake. That picture on the right kind of resembles Hayrick Butte next to Hoodoo ski bowl.*

## A bit of back story:

I searched long and hard for a vintage photo of Hand Lake Shelter but could find nothing online or otherwise that predated our restoration efforts in 1993. Obsidian member Bert Ewing combed through photos in the Obsidian Archives, and finally came up with the two photos that were used in the article. Over the years, hundreds of photos have been donated to the archive, often from the families of deceased members. Sometimes well-organized albums are donated, and at other times we receive an envelope containing random loose photos. Bert stays on top of digitizing and cataloging the collection. In the case of the photo we used in the article, it came into our hands already mislabeled, and at this point it is not possible to retrace its origin.

## The Lost Oregon Ski Areas

Steve Stenkamp has been chronicling the history of lost ski areas in Oregon. His Facebook page is loaded with interesting trivia. Take the time to scroll through the various posts at [facebook.com/lostoregonskiareas/](https://www.facebook.com/lostoregonskiareas/)

Hand Lake was just one of four ski hills that came into use in the mid-1920s, accessible via the old McKenzie Highway (242). The Obsidians purchased their portable rope tow in 1939 and set it up at Hand Lake, and about that same time, the CCC built a three-sided warming hut there.

A year earlier, in 1938, Ed Thurston, a former Obsidian who was by then living in Bend, began development of the Hoodoo Ski area and set up a rope tow (powered by an automobile engine). A first aid hut, built in 1946, is probably the building you see in our mis-labeled photo. The first chair lift was added in 1950. Due to competition from the Hoodoo and Willamette Pass ski areas, Hand Lake ski area declined in use, and in 1942 the highway department stopped plowing Hwy 242.

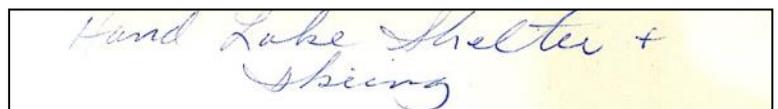
While mortified to have published misinformation, we are gratified to know that folks are actually reading our articles!

*Bea Fontana Publications Committee*



*above: The original photo from our Obsidian Archive.  
( I rotated the photo enough to straighten it  
and then had to crop it a bit. )*

*below: [Mis]information that was written on the back of photo.*



# APRIL BOARD NOTES

April 7, 2021

By Denise Rubenstein

President Maryanne Reiter called the Zoom meeting to order. Board members present: Denise Bean, Dave Cooper, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, and Lyndell Wilken. Others present: Evelyn Nagy, Matt Bell, Lana Landstrom, Jim Northrop, Stewart Hoeg, and Kay Coots.

The Board approved the minutes for March 2021.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stewart Hoeg reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Conservation/SciEd (Kay Coots and Angie Ruzicka):** Committee members Joanna Alexander and Randy Sinnott led a birding hike on Green Island during March—thank you to both!

**Lodge Building (Dave Cooper):** John Jacobsen organized a grounds work party which meant some exterior Lodge work was done. Gutters cleaned and the disabled parking area was pressure washed. Thanks Ben Brown and Vern Marsonette.

**Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): 3/26 Work Party**—Did a bit of spring mowing, finally blew out last fall's leaves and weeded planting beds. Thanks to Jim Northrop for helping. **4/1 Work Party**—Wow, it is amazing what a dozen folks can do in three hours! Specifically, we cut back sword ferns; weeded and cleaned planting beds; mulched planting beds; cleaned, weeded, and mulched recently planted trees and other plants; pressure washed disabled parking area; weeding, weeding and more weeding; and cleaned the gutters on both the Lodge and the storage building. A beautiful sunny spring day was a great backdrop for this industrious crew. Thanks to Joanna Alexander, Mari Baldwin, Ben Brown, Rob Castleberry, David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Meg Kieran, Sandra Larsen, Vern Marsonette, Jim Northrop, and Denise Rubenstein. **Fence Update**—We are moving along on getting a chain link fence and gate along the front (north side) of our property. Sam Tracer has completed his work getting all the +4-inch downed wood removed so we are ready for Highland Tree Service to come in with the brush hog to clear the project area of brambles and other debris. I meet with Highland this coming Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> to finalize scope/costs. I have gotten one bid on the chain link fence, one pending and another phone estimate. Be prepared for sticker shock, apparently due to skyrocketing material costs during the pandemic. The first bid came in at \$8,820 based on 200 feet of fence—I have asked for a rebid at 170 feet (our latest and hopefully final length estimate). The second bid is expected any time. A third contractor from Salem called today and I described the project to him, and he offered a \$9,600 estimate contingent on site confirmation—I told him not to bother since we had a lower bid in hand. While the costs are coming in at unexpected levels, I plan on proceeding and will get a recommended proposal to the Board when I get final bids from the two contractors I am dealing with. I have attempted to contact ten contractors with only the three bids indicated. Several were not taking on additional work, several never got back to me and one only did wood fencing. On the plus side,

I think when we get the area along the front of our property cleaned out, the fence installed, and a little landscaping in, it will look a whole lot better.

**Membership (Diane Schechter):** Total membership 403.

**Summer Trips (Dave Cooper):** The Summer Trips season is underway and off to a good start. The trips in April are filling up fast and a greater variety for trips should start appearing on the schedule.

**Trail Maintenance (Matt Bell):** There was one outing this past month in the Blanton Ridge Park to clear drainage, remove slough, cut back sword ferns, and clean trailhead kiosks and steps. We all enjoyed the nice weather and blooming flowers during this outing.

**Winter Trips (Dave Cooper):** Winter trips 2021 Season Summary: The COVID-19 pandemic required us to be flexible and creative as we adjusted to changing guidelines and policies. Trip leaders responded by leading more in-town hikes to avoid carpooling, adding assistant leaders so hikes could be broken into two groups, and creating hikes that matched existing regular outings but with a variation. The long running Wednesday Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte hike was complemented by a same day hike from 52<sup>nd</sup> Street to the summit of Spencer Butte. Moonrise hikes up Pisgah often had long and short versions. We hope that some of these variations become standard hikes in the future. Many thanks to the new leaders who stepped forward to keep our schedule full. We had 144 outings led by 28 leaders. 136 hikes, 4 snowshoes, 3 cross-country ski trips, and one stewardship work party. Income for the season was \$1,221.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Strategic Plan Updates:** Maryanne Reiter gave an update from the last meeting; a formal presentation will be given to the Board and Committee Chairs at the May Board meeting.

A proposal for proceeding with a partial new fence and gate for the Lodge, not to exceed \$7,000 was approved. John Jacobsen will finalize the details.

At the last Strategic Planning meeting on March 30, there was a quorum of Board members present to approve a request to pay Sam Tracer and Highland Tree Service for brush and tree removal work done at the Lodge. Amount not to exceed \$3,000. Payment will come from the Contingency Fund.

## NEW BUSINESS

New members approved by Board: Sharon Bruns, Lisa Marks, Marie Stringer.

**COVID Protocol Revisit:** Possible changes were discussed, conditions will be monitored, and protocols for other outdoor clubs will be reviewed.

**Board Nominating Committee:** A committee headed by Lana was put together to offer names for potential upcoming Board nominees at the July meeting. The following have terms ending at the end of 2021: Dave Cooper, Dave Hawkins, and Maryanne Reiter. The committee consists of Lana Lindstrom, Denise Bean, Jim Northrop, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, and Lyndell Wilkin.

## ADJOURNMENT

# TRIP REPORTS



## Bike Trips

### Easter Bunny Rides (again) to Veneta

April 4, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Richard Hughes

Bike: 28 miles, 821 ft. (Easy)

**T**HE RIDERS FOR THIS EVENT WERE A GREGARIOUS GROUP, excited and ready for an Easter morning adventure. We stopped for a break halfway through the ride to



*Veneta Bunnies: Lana, Pat, and Julie.*

refresh and be entertained by three members in Easter holiday costumes of their own making. Beautiful weather. Members: Julie Barnas, Lynda Christiansen, Steve Cordon, Patricia Esch, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Jessica Moll, David Strutin. Nonmembers: Michelle Cordon, Larry Myers.



## Hikes

### Easter Sunday Sunrise

April 4, 2021

Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3.5 miles, 950 ft. (Easy)

**N**INE EARLY-RISING FOLKS LEFT THE MARTIN STREET TRAILHEAD under clear skies and a beautiful half-moon. Hiking briskly, we arrived at the top of Mt. Baldy in plenty of time to watch the pink color spread across the sky as sunrise approached. When the sun popped above the Cascade foothills, we appreciated our good fortune at being able to observe the arrival of morning while much of Eugene slept. On the way back down, we took *John's trail* to experience the teeter-totter crossing and to observe many spring wildflowers: calypso orchids, trillium, fawn lily, spring beauty, iris,



*Seconds before the sunrise.*

and houndstongue. Near the cars we observed a flock of wild turkeys who traded 'gobbles' with Darko. Our departure was delayed as we watched a tom turkey give a female turkey an Ashiatsu massage. Members: Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, Gwyneth Iredale, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Linda Parks, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

### Thurston Hills

April 4, 2021

Leader: Denise Bean

Hike: 5.2 miles, 150 ft. (Moderate)

**T**HE TIME OF OUR HIKE WAS UNIQUE; it was an evening hike that began at 3:00 PM and ended around 5:30 PM. The weather was cooperative at a breezy 65 degrees. None of the participants had been on the Thurston Trails from the South entrance by Quartz Park. All seemed to enjoy the spring evening hike. Members: Mari Baldwin, Denise Bean, Michael Bean, Amanda Bell, Donna Bloomfield, Nancy Hoecker, Holger Krentz, David Lodeesen, Lynn Meacham, Ligia Miles, Linda Parks, Kate Shapiro. Nonmember: Jerry Pergamit.

### Mountaineering Conditioning

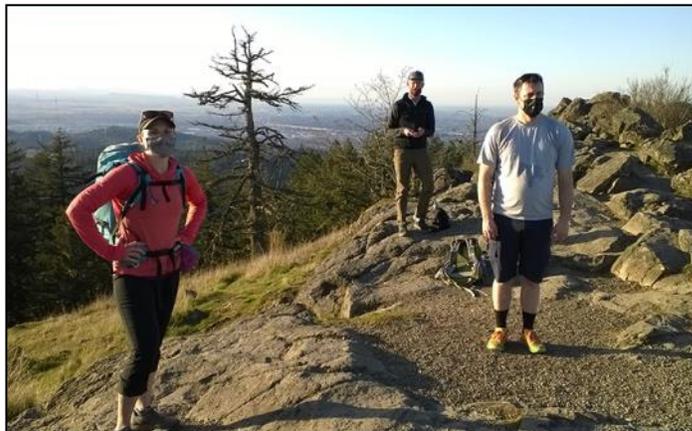
April 5, 2021

Leader: Jennifer Marlow

Photographer: Karen Yoerger

Hike: 6 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

**O**UR GROUP MET AT THE MARTIN STREET TRAILHEAD and hiked up to the summit of Spencer Butte. Participants carried varying amounts of training weight and maintained a brisk



*Jen, Gordon, and Matt enjoy the evening sun.*

pace in preparation for upcoming mountaineering trips. The weather was perfect for an evening hike. The summit view was beautiful across the valley and all the way to the Cascade peaks. We returned along the same route back to the trailhead and made it back to our cars well before sunset. Members: Matt Bell, Jennifer Marlow, Gordon Sayre, Karen Yoerger. Non-member: Doug Sandburg.

## Birding in Alton Baker Park

April 6, 2021

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 2 miles, (Easy)

WHAT AN INTERESTING TWO HOURS AMBLING IN ALTON BAKER PARK with our resident naturalist, Rick Ahrens! As always, he was a fount of information and an inspiration to learn more about the natural world. For example, did you know that female ducks lay one egg each day for 7–8 days and only then incubate them so that all the chicks hatch at the same time? Or that many birds are unihemispheric (a new word for me)? Or that when some migratory birds prepare for flight, their intestines and digestive organs actually shrink while their heart, lung, and leg muscles can double in size? Or that newly sprouted maple leaf clusters are tasty in salad or fried with butter and garlic? If you want to learn more, sign up for the next Birding in Alton Baker Park hike! A big thanks to Rick for sharing his time and knowledge with the rest of us. Members: Rick Ahrens, Joanna Alexander, Elizabeth Grant, Anne Hollander, Lana Lindstrom, Anne Montgomery, Emily Rice, Diane Schechter. Nonmember: Carol Babcock.

## North Bank Habitat Area

April 10, 2021

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Assistant Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 8 miles, 1,800 ft. (Moderate)

SEVENTEEN OF US LEFT EUGENE IN EIGHT CARS at 7:45 AM and headed south on I-5 to Wilbur, Exit 135. All successfully made the turn onto North Bank Road toward the West



*Rolling hills of North Bank Deer Preserve.*

Trailhead, where the leader breathed a sigh of relief. This is a great view hike on old ranch roads. It climbs quickly to ridges that circle the top of a valley, providing panoramas of the Umpqua River, the surrounding mixed forests, and the open oak savannas. On the downhill section of the loop, we were amazed to see many showers of purple shooting stars and blue houndstongue spread out over the hillside. Clouds with a little rain and a little wind did not prevent us from describing it as perfect weather for our hike—not too hot. Thanks to Darko for keeping us socially distanced and moving in the right direction, to Steve Johnson for bringing up the rear, and



*Happy hiker  
Angie Ruzicka.*

to all who loved the hike. Members: Sharon Bruns, Marguerite Cooney, Whitney Gould, David Hawkins, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Lana Lindstrom, Lynn Meacham, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Rich Romm, Angie Ruzicka, Kate Shapiro, Darko Sojak, Lisa Van Liefde, Karen Yoerger. Nonmember: Jody Boyles.

## Mildred Kanipe Wildflower Explora Hike

April 11, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Hike: 8 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A CHILLY 42 DEGREES IN OAKLAND, when 11 hikers were greeted at the parking lot by a flock of peacocks basking in the sun. We warmed up quickly as we hiked four loops radiating from a central stem: Oak Savannah, Fern Woods, Underwood Hill, and Mildred's Forest. The lengths ranged from 1.5 to 1.7 miles but, in typical Obsidian fashion, we



*One of many peacocks at Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park.*



*Lunch was at noon near Bachelor Creek.*

added mileage by exploring several unnamed trails including a marked “creek crossing” that would have required a swim. Each loop gained elevation and then circled back down—we had some lovely views. Wildflowers in bloom included buttercups, shooting stars, a few irises, fawn lilies, trillium, and camas. Birds included the peacocks, bluebirds, a woodpecker, and turkey vultures. We all enjoyed exploring a new place on a lovely spring day. Check out the history of the park at [mildredkanipepark.org](http://mildredkanipepark.org). Members: Kathie Carpenter, Patricia Esch, Holger Krentz, Linda Parks, Kathy Randall, Cindy Rice, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Doug Sandburg, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield.

## **SOLVE Beach Clean Up**

**April 17, 2021**

**Leader: Darko Sojak**

**Assistant Leader: Holger Krentz**

**Hike: 4 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)**

**OUR BIG, ENTHUSIASM-DRIVEN GROUP CLEANED THE AREA** around Berry Creek and the adjunct beach near Baker Beach, north of Florence. One hundred eighteen pounds of mixed



*Jorry and Darko weighing a heavy rope. Photo by Angie Ruzicka.*

debris were collected. After a day in perseverant coastal fog, we returned to 85-degree Eugene. Thank you, volunteers! People like you make the world a better place. Members:



*Linda Anson drying out after 4-ft. plunge. Photo by Darko Sojak.*

Joanna Alexander, Linda Anson, Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, Lynda Christiansen, Patricia Cleall, Wayne Cleall, Vicky Hanson, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Lou Maenz, Valerie Metcalfe, Judith Moman, Barbara Orsi, Linda Parks, Kathy Randall, Jorry Rolfe, Beth Roy, Angie Ruzicka, Joan Skarda, John Skarda, Darko Sojak. Nonmember: L. Zachary Dubois.



*Hummingbird nest on the branch along the trail.*

*Photo by Darko Sojak.*

## **Rooster Rock**

**April 17, 2021**

**Leader: Janet Jacobsen**

**Assistant Leader: Paul Winther**

**Hike: 6.6 miles, 2,300 ft. (Moderate)**

**SIX OF US CARPOOLED** from 42<sup>nd</sup> and Marcola Road to the Foster Dam (Shea) Viewpoint where we met two others in our group. We drove on to meet the last three at the Trout Creek Trailhead—all on time. Unused to the high temperatures, we were happy to be in shade for the steep uphill climb to our lunch spot, the long-gone site of the staff cabin for the pillar lookout. Calypso orchids were abundant. One member had an

issue with the heat and turned back to wait for us at the trailhead. Members: Brad Bennett, Marguerite Cooney, Whitney Gould, David Hawkins, Janet Jacobsen, Vern Marsonette, Lynn Meacham, Kate Shapiro, Paul Winther, Karen Yoerger. Nonmember: Jody Boyles.

### **Mt. Baldy Sunrise**

**April 18, 2021**

**Leader: Darko Sojak**

**Hike: 3.5 miles, 950 ft. (Easy)**

**NO MATTER HOW TALL THE MOUNTAIN, IT CANNOT BLOCK OUT THE SUN**—A Chinese proverb. Members: Linda Parks, Darko Sojak.

### **Mt. Baldy to Suzanne Arlie Park**

**April 19, 2021**

**Leader: Janet Jacobsen**

**Assistant Leader & Photographer: Pat Soussan**

**Hike: 5 miles, (Easy)**

**WE MET AT THE SPRING BOULEVARD TRAILHEAD** and, thanks to John Jacobsen, were able to provide everyone with an AllTrails map. Pat and I had scouted the Baldy / Arlie Park trails three times to make sure that we could make the correct



*Unmasked and fully vaccinated—Janet, Jorry, Mari, Karen, Peg, and Evelyn at the chimney from the 1920s era homestead building.*

turns at the many intersections to eventually find the crumbling fireplace! The blooming irises were a welcome contrast to the poison oak that we carefully avoided. We paused where there were views to identify familiar landmarks—it was confusing. Four of the group continued on up the trail to the Baldy summit while three of us took the lower trail back to our cars. It took around 2 1/2 hours. Members: Mari Baldwin, Janet Jacobsen, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Pat Soussan, Peg Straub, Karen Yoerger.

### **Earth Day Get Acquainted Hike**

**April 22, 2021**

**Leader & Photographer: Janet Jacobsen**

**Hike: 3 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)**

**OUR GOAL FOR THIS EARTH DAY WALK WAS TO NOTICE AND APPRECIATE** how Eugene Parks and Open Space has contributed to our outdoor experiences. We parked at the 30<sup>th</sup> and Spring Boulevard exit and then took the new housing development sidewalk that connects to Central Boulevard and the Ribbon Trail. We stopped at the Lodge to see where the new fence project would start a few hours later. We checked out the progress of the checkermallow that the Eugene Parks staff helped us transplant from the new development a few years



*At the end of the sidewalk, in the new development at 30<sup>th</sup> and Spring exit, the new signpost will mark the trail down to 29<sup>th</sup> and Central. Joanna, Lisa, Nikki, and Marie.*

ago. Then it was on to Hendricks Park. There we saw Kathy Hoeg and Sharon Duncan who told us the sad news that plants had been stolen from the Rhododendron Gardens. It was sad for us to pick up litter! Other than that, we all felt so lucky to have such green spaces to enjoy. New members commented that they now had a clearer understanding of how the trails connected. I gave everyone a reprint of the article, ‘Obsidians Connect with Spencer Butte and Ridgeline Trails: 1926–2017,’ from the April, 2017 *Bulletin*. Members: Joanna Alexander, Nikki Frank, Janet Jacobsen, Lisa Marks, Marie Stringer.

### **North Fork**

**April 23, 2021**

**Leader: Ben Brown**

**Hike: 10 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)**

**A NICE OUT-AND-BACK HIKE ALONG THE VERY PRETTY NORTH FORK MIDDLE FORK WILLAMETTE RIVER TRAIL.** We began the hike at the trailhead in a little park just past the Office Covered Bridge, and went 5.5 miles to our lunch spot on moss-covered rocks by the river, just beyond Road 1912. In actuality, the hike turned out to be 11 miles with a 400 ft. elevation gain. Between Roads 1910 and 1912, there are a couple of steep, eroded spots that require careful navigation, but they are not too bad. One minute the trail is right next to the river, the next it’s far above, with splendid views. There is poison oak that one must be aware of at a few spots along the way. A lovely hike with an enjoyable group of folks.

Members: Ben Brown, Steven Johnson, Evelyn Nagy, Barbara Orsi, Jorry Rolfe, Kate Shapiro, Peg Straub.

## Eugene to Crest Section 1

April 24, 2021

Leader: David Cooper

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 8 miles, 50 ft. (Moderate)

A GOOD START TO WHAT CAN BECOME A THEME FOR THIS SUMMER'S HIKES. Doing the entire Eugene to Crest Trail would offer numerous hikes, bike rides, and maybe a paddle



*Sixteen walkers shared the trail with a few marathon runners.*

to help fill our schedule. This Eugene-to-Springfield section is just the first step. Some of today's participants have ideas for parts that they might want to lead. Today's walk featured nesting herons, hummingbirds, and a profusion of delphinium. Members: Joanna Alexander, Kathie Carpenter, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Kay Coots, Kathleen Ehli, Hilary Fisher, Whitney Gould, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Lisa Marks, June Miller, Caroline Moore, Jorry Rolfe, Peg Straub.

## Amazon Headwaters / Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Jorry Rolfe: 4/7 11 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Janet Jacobsen: 4/14 15 Members, 1 Nonmember

Mike Smith: 4/21 13 Members

## Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Sue Willing: 3/30 10 Members

Tommy Young: 4/6 6 Members, 4/13 5 Members,

4/20 8 Members

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Street / Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Lana Lindstrom: 3/31 4 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Joanna Alexander: 4/7 2 Members, 4/14 3 Members,

4/28 7 Members, 4 Nonmembers

## Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hikes: 3.5–9.5 miles, 1,000–2,000 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen: 4/3 12 Members, 3 Nonmembers

Denise Bean: 4/18 9 Members



## Trail Maintenance

### Spencer Butte West Trail Improvements

April 24, 2021

Leader: Matt Bell

TriMnt: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WE MET MARLON, EUGENE OPEN SPACE STAFF AND BRAVED THE STORMY FORECAST to add stairs to the West Trail. Our group carried cut 6x6s, rebar, and tools up the



*Matt Bell contemplates the best way to carry the step up the West trail. Photo by Pat Soussan.*

West Trail beforebreaking into small groups. Janet, Pat, and Sandy picked up litter after dropping off their loads. Dave cleared drainage. Marlon and Dan set steps while Jim and I went back for more steps. We added seven steps to a climbing turn just below tree line, enjoying nice weather, occasional



*Pat Soussan and Sandy Gill decide this is the way to go.  
Photo from Pat Soussan.*



*Jim Northrop makes it look easy with over-the-shoulder method.  
Photo by Pat Soussan.*

sun breaks, and sprinkles while we worked. The weather is always nice for trail maintenance. The delphinium, baby blue eyes, Oregon iris, and biscuitroot were all blooming, and there was even one fawn lily still blooming by the trailhead. Members: Matt Bell, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Jim Northrop, Dave Predeck, Pat Soussan. Nonmember: Sandy Gill.



*Sandy Gill and Janet Jacobsen's method.  
Are you sure it only weighs 20 pounds?  
Photo by Pat Soussan.*



*Dan Gilmore hard at work installing a step.  
Photo by Matt Bell.*



*Dave Predeck carrying a bucket of rebar, Pat Soussan and Sandy Gill carrying a 20-pound step to be built at the treeline.  
Photo by Janet Jacobsen.*



## Work Party

### Terwilliger Burn Tree Planting

April 17, 2021

Leader: Denise Rubenstein

Work Party: 2 miles, (Easy)

**A** HARD-WORKING CREW INCLUDED 9-YR-OLD HENRY and two University of Oregon students. We looked great in our hard hats and neon vests. We did NOT stop at the hot springs on our way out—it was 82 degrees and full sun! Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Henry Judy, Denise Rubenstein, Karla Rusow, Lisa Van Liefde. Nonmembers: Alfonso Keller-Casielles, Anika Meisel.



*Carla and Dave Cooper with their grandson Henry.  
Photo by Esme Greer.*



*Eight sets of tools at the ready.  
Photo by Denise Rubenstein.*



*Lunch break Lisa & Henry.  
Photo by Denise Rubenstein.*



*Incense cedars ready for planting.  
Photo by Esme Greer.*

### Southwest Boundary Fence Build

April 29, 2021

Leader: Doug Nelson

Work Party: (Moderate)

**BUILT 300 FEET OF 3-WIRE / T-POST FENCE ON OUR SOUTHWEST BOUNDARY** between the Obsidians property and the new development off of Spring Boulevard and 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Members: David Cooper, John Jacobsen, Doug Nelson, Jim Northrop.

# Eugene to Crest Challenge

*Dave Cooper Summer Trips Committee Chair*

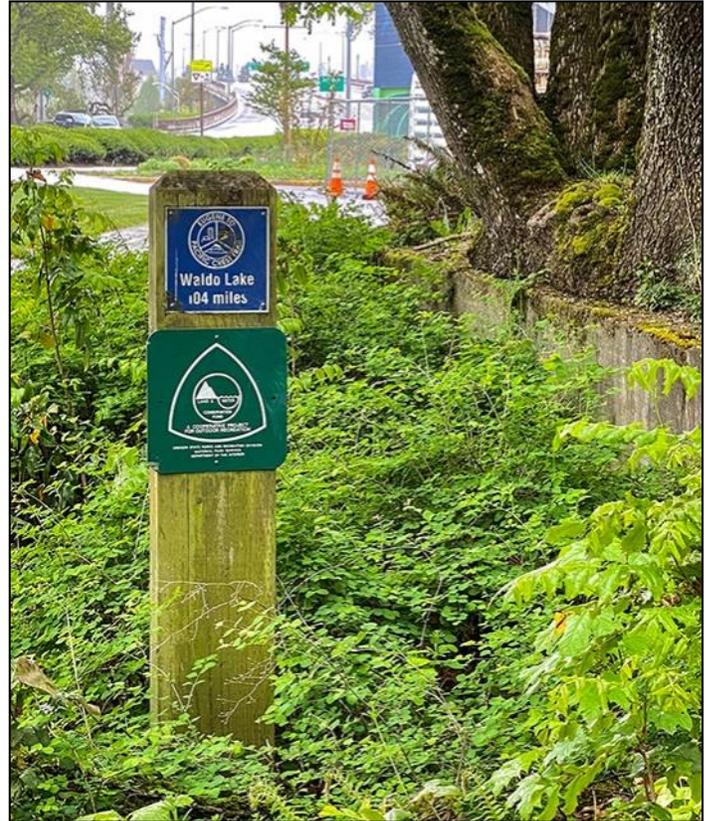
**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY YOU'VE HIKED FROM EUGENE TO THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL?** This spring several Obsidians have become enthused with the goal of doing this. The idea of providing a continuous trail from Eugene to the PCT emerged in the early 1970s and work was begun on the Eugene to Crest Trail. The trail officially opened in 1994, but the E2C was never actually fully completed and not all segments of the trail are connected. However there are still many miles of it to be experienced. The Summer Trips Committee intends to offer outings this season so that you can complete all or some of these sections. Some trips will be offered more than once. With the inclusion of bike rides for some sections it will be possible for some people to complete an entire trek from Eugene to the PCT. Hikers will have the opportunity to complete all the available hiking routes. There will even be rewards for participants who do all of the segments and leaders who coordinate the trips.

Many of you have been on some of these trails before but probably didn't realize they were part of a larger system. Tire Mountain, High Divide Trail, Bobby Lake, and Heckletooth Mountain are each a part of the route. More locally, the route begins in Skinner Butte Park. Utilizing bike paths the trail follows the river to Island Park in Springfield. Some Obsidians have already completed this first section, but it will be offered again. The E2C also includes parts of Buford Park, as well as Jasper and Elijah Bristow State Parks.

The Obsidians have a long connection with the Eugene to Crest Trail. A *Bulletin* article from March, 2009 mentions Obsidian Jerold Williams as the Project Coordinator, and in our history there are trip reports from Obsidian work parties that helped to construct this trail. So let's get out and enjoy these trails that a previous generation of Obsidians helped build. Watch for Eugene to Crest trips on the schedule. Look for E2C in the trip name.

More info at:

[fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd588934.pdf](https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd588934.pdf)



*Start of the uncompleted Eugene to Crest Trail.  
Photo by Carla Cooper. See trip report on page 11.*

## Jerold Williams: Project Coordinator, ETPCT

Jerold said: *Under the flag of the Sierra Club and with help of State Parks Department, I worked for 21 years building trails to help link existing trail segments. The Eugene-to-Pacific Crest Trail was dedicated on June 3, 1995 at the beginning of the trail near the Ferry Street Bridge. Jerold's trip reports on our website highlight the building of the trail. He wrote in 1987: The concept of a continuous 74-mile hiking route from Eugene to a junction with the Pacific Crest Trail near Waldo Lake is large and exciting. At times over the past 8 years it has seemed a long way from being realized. Keeping at it is now paying off as we are achieving increasingly longer sections of the completed trail. A crew of 12 made the connecting link on Sept. 12.*

## HAWAIIAN BIRDS WITH RICK AHRENS



*Scarlet honeycreeper. Photo by Rick Ahrens.*

**Lane County Audubon Society  
Zoom Program Meeting  
Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 PM**

**O**BSIDIAN MEMBER RICK AHRENS WILL BE PRESENTING HIS UNIQUE VIEW of Hawaiian birds for the Lane County Audubon Society. Rick has presented many programs at the Obsidian Lodge and shared his expertise on birding bus trips and hikes. See Birding in Alton Baker Park trip report page 8. For access details for the Zoom program visit:

[laneaudubon.org](https://laneaudubon.org).

**Welcome  
New Member!**

**Jody Boyles**  
Junction City, 97448

# OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

May	
9 Sun	Santiam Wagon Rd / House Rock Hike E ... Cooper 868-5427
9 Sun	Patterson Mountain Hike E .....Hackett 953-7046
10 Mon	Pisgah Native Plant Nursery Hike E .....Jacobsen 206-1251
11 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M Young 941-780-4156
11 Tue	Blacklock Point BkPk M .....Hovis 731-3412
12 Wed	Amazon Headwaters / Spencer Butte Hike M Rolfe 206-9501
13 Thu	52nd Street / Spencer Butte Hike M Alexander 458-209-7798
15 Sat	South Sister Climb D ..... Reiter 521-8472
15 Sat	Sawtooth trail to Mt. Hardesty Hike D ....Greer 281-701-0205
16 Sun	Cloverpatch Trail Hike M .....Sojak 799-9199
16 Sun	Sweet Creek Falls Hike E .....Hackett 953-7046
18 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M Young 941-780-4156
19 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M ..... Smith 520-488-9569
20 Thu	52nd Street / Spencer Butte Hike M Alexander 458-209-7798
22 Sat	E2C Alpine Trail Mid-section Hike M ..... Sojak 799-9199
23 Sun	Brice Creek Hike M .....Hackett 953-7046
24 Mon	E2C Day Island-Jasper Bike M .....Lindstrom 683-1409
25 Tue	Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise (long) Hike M Jacobsen 206-1251
26 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt M ..... Bell 503-884-8829
26 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M ..... Carpenter 505-2370
28 Fri	E2C Tire Mountain Hike M ..... Bean 953-6868
31 Mon	Masonic Cemetery to Obsidian Lodge Hike E Jacobsen 206-1251
June	
2 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M .....Yoerger 510-2832
4 Fri	Yachats beach house weekend CarCmp M .....Hovis 731-3412
5 Sat	National Trails Day TrlMnt M ..... Bell 503-884-8829
6 Sun	Butte Creek Falls Hike M ..... Marsonette 600-5332
7 Mon	Steens Mountain CarCmp M .....Hackett 953-7046
9 Wed	Amazon Headwaters M .....Gould 510-368-8941
14 Mon	Newport Bayfront / Beach Hike Hike E ..... Nagy 514-4110
16 Wed	Amazon Headwaters / Spencer Butte Hike M . Morray 953-5679
17 Thu	U of O Campus Walk Hike E .....Alexander 458-209-7798
18 Fri	Mt Thielsen Climb D ..... Hansen 360-852-2041
20 Sun	Mt Pisgah Summer Solstice Hike M ..... Jacobsen 206-1251
23 Wed	Amazon Headwaters / Spencer Butte Hike M Straub 514-7298
23 Wed	Mt Pisgah Sunset / Moonrise Hike M ..... Jacobsen 206-1251
25 Fri	Mt Adams Climb D .....Reiter 521-8472
28 Mon	Macduff Mountain Hike D .....Johnson 520-2470
30 Wed	Trail Maintenance M .....Bell 503-884-8829
30 Wed	Amazon Headwaters / Spencer Butte Hike M Moore 520-6946
July	
1 Thu	Horsepasture Mountain Hike E .....Johnson 520-2470
3 Sat	Berry Creek & beach, cleanup WrkPrty E .....Sojak 799-9199
8 Thu	Olallie Mountain Hike M .....Johnson 520-2470
12 Mon	Three Fingered Jack Loop Hike .....Johnson 520-2470
15 Thu	Oregon Dunes Hike ..... Hovis 731-3412
19 Mon	Chambers Lake Hike .....Johnson 520-2470
25 Sun	Annual Beach Barefoot Hike Hike E .....Sojak 799-9199
28 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt M .....Bell 503-884-8829
August	
9 Mon	Exploring Mt. Hood hike/camp CarCmp D ....James 683-7488
17 Tue	Hunts Cove Hike D .....Cooper 868-5427
25 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt M .....Bell 503-884-8829
September	
8 Wed	Tam McArthur Rim Hike M .....Cooper 868-5427
18 Sat	Mt McLoughlin Climb D .....Kanewa 525-1709
20 Mon	U of O Campus Walk Hike E .....Alexander 458-209-7798
25 Sat	National Public Lands Day TrlMnt M .....Bell 503-884-8829

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

## Onward and Upward: *Bulletin* News!

*Lou Maenz Publications Committee Chair*

**S**LOWLY BUT SURELY—SEEMINGLY FOLLOWING THE TWO STEPS FORWARD AND ONE STEP BACK FORMULA—we are approaching pre-COVID normalcy. Hence, this is a good time to review some of the changes we have made in the last few years and decide if other changes are to be made.

An example of this is the hard copy or printed version of the *Bulletin* versus the online version. Some members prefer one, others the other. However, it has come to our attention that there are some members who prefer the printed version but have changed to the online version only because they think it is the choice we advocate.

Not so. Our goal is to have members read the *Bulletin*. If getting the printed copy would make it more enjoyable for you to read, then we encourage you to change to what works best for you. The costs to us for printing or postage, or the use of natural resources, do not change as we need to have a monthly batch of a certain number to get the bulk mail price from the post office. If we do not reach that number, we have to pad our order.

So! If you are ruing the day you went to online only, change it! You will still be able to get the *Bulletin* online, but you will also get that wonderful copy you can mark up, re-read, keep in the reading room, or whatever, without having to print it yourself.

Contact Diane Schechter at [membership@obsidians.org](mailto:membership@obsidians.org) in order to add your name to the hard copy list.

### Other *Bulletin* News:

The folding committee was lucky enough to be able to meet at the Lodge during the lowered COVID level on April 14<sup>th</sup> to fold, tab, and label the outgoing *Bulletins*. We set up tables in the main hall, sat spaced apart, and opened the doors. We all enjoyed meeting face to face immensely! It seemed, according to various comments, that the COVID-19 year had simply melted away, and life was back to normal.



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May 2021



*Dozens of ups and downs on the trails throughout the park. Photo by Darko Sojak.  
Mildred Kanipe Wildflower Explora hike. See trip report on page 8.*

ENJOY the photos in color! ONLINE *Bulletin* at [www.observians.org](http://www.observians.org)