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Dates to Remember

January 27	Potluck
January 27	Bulletin Deadline
February 1	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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Meet Our New President, Dave Hawkins

Lou Maenz

A WARM WELCOME TO DAVE HAWKINS AS OBSIDIANS' NEW PRESIDENT. Dave takes over from Maryanne Reiter who has been president for the past three years. During those three years many changes and updates took place. We are now a 501c3 nonprofit organization, have a newly structured strategic plan, and are changing our organizational image to incorporate these changes into a more contemporary vision.

Dave is an ideal choice to carry on that endeavor. He has the experience that is necessary to take on and make a continuing success of the organization's changes. He has a background of working with organizations that includes being on six boards, three of which he served on as president. These include the Eugene-Springfield Tax Association, the Eugene Estate Planning Council, and the Eugene Symphony Endowment Fund. He also served on three other boards in different positions.

Aware of the challenges and duties he is facing as president, Dave is sincerely interested in helping the organization to strengthen and grow in its new 501c3 status. He understands and accepts that there are a few problems facing the group that seem to be endemic to all groups who require volunteers to help them function well and smoothly. To wit, it seems volunteers are few and far between in this post-COVID era. Dave is also aware of a few other issues that might be in the offing and is ready and more than able to approach them and work on solutions. Since the new structure of the organization is so clearly defined, working with the other board members and the members in general should be a straightforward process.



Born in Kansas, Dave lived there until he went to college in Seattle and eventually completed his higher education at the University of Oregon. Always a hiker with friends, he finally had the time and opportunity, after retiring from his position at Kernutt Stokes CPA firm, where he was a partner and in charge of the tax department for many years, to become an Obsidian. That was in 2013. Since that time, Dave has served on two committees, one being the Obsidian Finance Committee.

Perhaps more importantly, Dave has hiked, gone to summer camp, enjoyed bus trips, hiked some more, gone on the extended trip to the Orcas, and become a very active and involved member of the group. Specifically, he has been on 107 trips including five bus trips. He received his 100 trip award in 2022. Dave has recently started leading monthly Mt. Pisgah hikes. So far, he has led six.

The Obsidians are very lucky to have Dave Hawkins serving his second term on the Board and this year as its president.

2023 Board Officers

President: Dave Hawkins	Secretary: Angie Ruzicka
Vice-President: Denise Bean	Treasurer: Laura Osinga

IN MEMORIAM

MARIAN WEST 7/11/1943–11/20/2022

IN AUGUST 1999, MARIAN CLIMBED MT. ST. HELENS, and that fall she joined the Obsidians to begin signing up for a variety of outdoor activities. She went on 62 trips including two climbs, 12 bus trips, 11 extended trips, five summer camps, hikes, and even a few bike trips. At the 2009 Summer Camp, she was one of the 43 proud hikers who climbed Mt. Lassen.

When she began to have mobility issues, she started going on bus trips with her partner, Pete Ferrero. On the 2017 More Food Bus Trip, Pete arranged a treat for riders—carrot cake to celebrate Marian’s birthday. All who rode with Marian on the bus trips admired her determination to be as independent as possible for so long.

Marian was also a member of Altair Ski and Sport Club where she had many close friends who gave her invaluable support these past years with her serious debilitation. Kathy Lindstrom shared this personal note: *I met Marian about 25 years ago on an Obsidian hike. We were both active in Altair Ski and Sports group. Marian was a walker, and walked with the Altair group 2–3 times a week until it became too difficult for her. She was a skier, a hiker, and a biker. She was also an accomplished ballroom dancer. It was a joy to watch Marian and Peter dancing with such grace and style. As Marian’s physical condition declined, she was always upbeat with her quirky sense of humor. Peter was her constant companion and caregiver and made it possible for her to remain in the home she loved until the last few weeks of her life. Her children Tyler and Lindsey, and of course Peter, were with her when she passed away.*

MARY ELLEN WEST 9/12/1931–11/24/22

MARY ELLEN JOINED THE OBSIDIANS one month after completing 21 miles on the September 4, 1983 Rock Mesa Benefit 75-mile hike from McKenzie Pass to Willamette Pass. Within a few months, Mary Ellen was co-leading hikes with Vi Johnson. In her June 1984 Tire Mountain trip report, she shared her conservation concerns: *Hopefully, anticipated logging around and about the mountain will not detract from the beauty of the area. Concern for the trail is shared by hikers and Forest Service personnel; hopefully, the trail will be maintained to Tire Mountain.* Mary Ellen went on to lead 115 trips including 26 bus trips. She was Trips Chair in 1985–1986 and continued to serve on the committee for a few more years.

Mary Ellen began her long tenure on the Bus Committee in 2005. She was known for meticulous scouting to lead engaging explorations such as Fort Vancouver, Thompson Grist Mill, Camp Adair, Historic Oregon City, Sauvie Island Birding, Oregon Jewish Museum, Santiam Wagon Road, Aurora Colony, State Capitol and Governor’s home, Fort Vancouver, and the new Coastal Museum. Her six popular Food Trips connected riders with local farms, produce, bakeries, and other tasty food production. On her last food bus trip in 2017, she wrote: *Riders had a “full” day, the eating was good.*

Mary Ellen was the director of Meals on Wheels for Lane County from 1972–1990 and continued to volunteer after retirement. When she was recognized for her 43 years with the program, she said that people just needed a little help to stay in their homes.

This past June, Mary Ellen donated the Cy Fulton painting *Breaking Camp* of the 1946 Mt. Jefferson Summer Camp that her mother purchased in 1973. Her gift is now hanging at the Lodge with two other Fulton paintings. Living at the Fox Hollow Residential Community these past few months, Mary Ellen kept in touch with Obsidian friends and also renewed her Obsidian membership. Friends will spread her ashes at one of her favorite hiking places that has a view of the Cascade Mountains.

Editors note: See the July, 2022 Bulletin for details about the painting.

OBSIDIANS

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

Officers & Board of Directors

Dave Hawkins, President
Denise Bean, Vice President
Angie Ruzicka, Secretary
Laura Osinga, Treasurer
Russ Davies, Jean Harris, Maryanne Reiter,
Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein

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

Committee Chairpersons

Bus (Interim) Jim Northrop
Climbs (Interim) Maryanne Reiter
Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd J. Rolfe/A. Ruzicka
Entertainment Ane McKee
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance Susan Zeni
Lodge Building Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds (Interim) Jim Northrop
Librarian/Historian Lenore McManigal
Membership Diane Schechter
Online (Interim) Marci Hansen
Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity Marci Hansen
Safety Lyndell Wilken
Stewardship Jorry Rolfe/Darko Sojak
Summer Camp Lana Lindstrom
Summer Trips Dave Cooper
Winter Trips Dave Cooper

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Assistant Manager: Nancy Raymond
Pickup Assistant: Clara Emlen
Team: Tom Adamcyk, Pat Bean,
Don Baldwin, Yuan Hopkins,
Barbara Schomaker.



Summer Camp Member-ies

Sue Wolling

I HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING THE NEW OBSIDIAN POLICIES, like members no longer having to pay a dollar at the start of each trip. Though I do sort of miss being forced to buy a candy bar before each trip, just so that I'd get a dollar bill in change to give to the trip leader!

One of the recent bylaw changes affects Summer Camp registration. It is now much easier to become a member of the Obsidians. Instead of needing to complete three qualifying hikes, now you can become a member simply by filling out a form and paying the membership dues (\$35). Among the benefits of membership is early signup for Summer Camp.

As you might recall, signing up for Summer Camp tends to become race-based—i.e. there's a race to snag one of the limited number of openings. Last year Camp filled in less than an hour! As in past years, registration for the 2023 Sawtooths Summer Camp (August 6–12) will be open for members for several days before it opens to nonmembers—but to register as a member, you must have been a member for at least 30 days!

Registration for Summer Camp will open on April 15, 2023. If you were to join the Obsidians on April 1, hoping to take advantage of early registration for Summer Camp...well, we wouldn't exactly dis-member you, but you would NOT be allowed to register early as a member. You would have to wait until April 17, when registration opens to the general public.

So what are you waiting for? Join the Obsidians now—or at least by early March, so you'll be eligible for early registration for Summer Camp. And in the spirit of Auld Lang Syne: if you haven't yet renewed your membership, it's time to re-member. Remember all of those beautiful places you've visited on Obsidian hikes. Remember the good times you had with your fellow Obsidians. You owe it to yourself to renew your membership. Join, or re-join the Obsidians today!

Welcome New Members!

Bart Bemus
Eugene, OR 97405

Jim Blick
Eugene, OR 97402

Sharon Blick
Eugene, OR 97402

Alyssa Buhl
Eugene, OR 97402

Hope Crifo
Montpelier, VT 05602

Douglas Daniell
Eugene, OR 97403

Allison Hennes
Springfield, OR 97478

Glenna Jordan
Eugene, OR 97405

Bill Knoke
Pleasant Hill, OR 97455

Carol Margart
Springfield, OR 97477

Lisa Oksman
Eugene, OR 97405

DeWayde Perry
Eugene, OR 97401

Stephanie Pflaster
Pleasant Hill, OR 97455

Virginia Rutherford
Wenatchee, WA 98801

John Sheridan
Eugene, OR 97405

Pam Sheridan
Eugene, OR 97405

Peggy Wright
Pleasant Hill, OR 97455

Membership Directory

THE OBSIDIANS *MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY* IS NO LONGER AUTOMATICALLY PRINTED AND MAILED. It is available on our website in the *Members Area* section. If you want a printed copy of the directory, contact Janet Jacobsen at jbjacobsen@comcast.net or by phone at 206-1251. If you want to have any contact information excluded from the directory, such as address, phone, or email, contact memberships@obsidians.org

NOVEMBER BOARD NOTES

From Minutes by Denise Rubenstein November 2, 2022

President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order. Board members present: Denise Bean, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, and Lyndell Wilken. Incoming Board members Russ Davies and Jean Harris. Others present: Dave Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, and Sue Zeni.

The Board approved the minutes for October 2022.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee had one last event for the season. Since Mount Yoran had too much snow to safely climb, we switched our costume outing to Mount June.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): We have completed an inventory, are making plans for selling remaining merchandise, and have begun thinking about ordering new merchandise. We have had a few requests for items. If anyone has something particular they would like Concessions to offer, contact the committee and we will look into it. October sales were \$34.

Entertainment (Evelyn Nagy, Ron and Pam Swisher): The October potluck with Buzz and Cecile Blumm hosted 45 people.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): One of the heaters in the Board Room failed and now both of these antiquated heaters have been replaced. Rather than have heat that is on all the time during the winter we now have two new heaters with thermostatic controls. With a little trial and error, we will soon establish the setting that will keep the room mildew-free at less operating cost. Reynolds Electric did this job for \$736.

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): Janet continued researching and finally sent an eight-page compilation of to Tom Hallberg, Managing Editor of Backcountry Magazine about how skiing and winter sports were part of the formation of the Club from 1927–1940's. Member Jim Dotson gave a box of his mother's Obsidian memorabilia to the Historian Committee. His mother, Elsie McHoes Dotson, joined in December 1927, participated in ski races, and received her ten-peak award in 1958. After Janet organized the materials, Bert Ewing took them to scan for the archives. Of particular interest was a March 5, 1929 two-page, tongue-in-cheek 'letter' to Obsidian President John Bovard from a privy specialist from Hog Hollow who had heard from Bill Tugman that the Club needed to build a privy on the land McDuff (Forest Service Supervisor and Obsidian Charter Member) gave to the Club. (That would be Lost Creek Ranch that the Club rented from the Forest Service). Who knew there were so many design choices!

Membership (Diane Schechter): Welcome new members: Steve Davis, Jim Flom, Paul Hamilton, Diana Hodges, Rob Hudson, Janice Silvestri, Ellen Syversen, Bill Wacknov.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): Beginning a search for a new safety committee member. Checked the AED.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): Winter is not a sleepy time for the Stewardship Committee. Smoke cancellations are behind us; accordingly, we can rock again.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): We fell short of our goal of 200+ trips this season, ending up with 193. Fires had a big impact late in the summer, both with direct closures and people dropping out of some hikes because of air quality concerns. Thankfully, several leaders closely monitored winds and the AGI to ensure a good day out or to find alternative places to hike. We had 45 leaders this season, including 4 new leaders. A statistic that couldn't be pulled from the data was the number of people who are stepping up to be assistant leaders. Having an assistant has been a great way for potential leaders to become comfortable with a little more responsibility. Hopefully, they will soon be leading some outings to help provide multiple activities for our rebounding membership numbers. Retaining new members through more activities should be a goal for the future. Summer trips took in \$1,630 in trip fees this year.

Winter Trips (Dave Cooper): Winter Trips are now underway. Many standard urban hikes are listed for the next few months. Also, some traditional hikes like Veterans Day walk and the Turkey Trimming hike are listed.

OLD BUSINESS

Website Update: Marci Hansen showed a brief overview of the site features. Revolution Design is currently working on the back-end functionality. The goal is for the site to go live December 12, with a group of members giving it a test drive the week before. There was a discussion as to whether a volunteer or paid staff will oversee the monthly maintenance. Members will be offered any needed support to navigate the new site. Marci will offer a zoom tutorial and an instructional link will be emailed to members. If further support is needed, Angie offered to do house calls.

NEW BUSINESS

- Voting for 2023 Officers: President–Dave Hawkins, Vice President–Denise Bean, Secretary–Angie Ruzicka and Treasurer–Laura Osinga
- Volunteers for Committees: Diane Schechter compiled a list of members who expressed an interest for specific volunteer options. The list was shared at the meeting and will also be shared with Committee Chairs.
- Bylaw Discussion: There are small language tweaks that need to be made to the Bylaws. That work has been ongoing, and the suggestions/discussion will be listed as an agenda item in early 2023. The changes will need to be approved by the general membership at the next Annual Meeting. Since the changes are very small, approval can wait until the October meeting.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

Nominations for committee chairs will be presented at the December Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

DECEMBER BOARD NOTES

From Minutes by Denise Rubenstein December 7, 2022

The meeting was preceded by a small but lovely holiday celebration. Through lots of hard work over two years the Strategic Planning Committee has made great strides in moving the club forward in many ways – a change in tax status, increasing membership, updating the website, creating a new Stewardship Committee and more.

President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order.

Board members present: Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, and Lyndell Wilken. Incoming Board members Russ Davies and Jean Harris. Others present: Dave Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, and Jim Northrop.

The Board approved the minutes for November 2022.

Treasurer's Report (Laura Osinga):

Laura reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills. Laura also reviewed the proposed 2023 Budget, and some adjustments were made.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee hosted a talk at the Lodge on Nov. 16 by Dierdre Wolownick Honnold, the oldest woman to climb El Capitan and mother of famous free solo climber, Alex Honnold. About 60 people attended.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): November sales were \$145. Thanks to Nancy Whitfield for taking on the potluck solo and for non-committee member Darko Sojak for jumping in to help her!

Entertainment (Evelyn Nagy, Ron and Pam Swisher): The November potluck had approximately 50 attendees. Thank you to speaker Marci Hansen.

Finance (Susan Zeni): Two financial audits were conducted in November. The first was an audit of the 2021 General Fund, and the second was an audit of the 2022 Summer Camp. No major flags were raised during the audits. An account has been set up at STRIPE for processing our credit card payments. Our nonprofit rate is 2.2% plus \$0.30 per payment. The STRIPE account will deposit donation income directly into our bank account. The Finance Committee is also working on: a summation of our insurance coverages with the goal of working with our insurance agent before renewals in June 2023, an outline of written procedures we would like to generate for the finance committee, storage of our common files in a Google Drive so all Finance Committee members can access them.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): On November 13 we had a work party to clean up ahead of some events at the Lodge. We split into two groups. The outside group under Jim Northrop's direction blew leaves, cleaned gutters, and did some weeding. Inside, the others thoroughly cleaned the kitchen, bathrooms, and main hall. Thanks go to Doug Nelson, Kay Coots, Denise Rubenstein, Clara Emlen, and Vern Marsonette for getting the Lodge ready to receive people.

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): We are compiling information for the January *Bulletin* obits for Marian West and Mary Ellen West. (They are not related.)

Membership (Diane Schechter): New members are Bart Bemus, Jim Blick, Sharon Blick, Alyssa Buhl, Hope Crifo, Douglas Daniell, Alison Hennes, Glenna Jordan, Bill Knoke, Carol Margart, Lisa Oksman, Dewayde Perry, Stephanie Pflaster, Virginia Rutherford, John Sheridan, Pam Sheridan, and Peggy Wright. We have 17 new members. Almost half of these new members participated in a Get Acquainted Hike, which are being held on the second Saturday of each month. 60 members did not renew, which is consistent with past years. Total membership is 417.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): Both activities held in November partnered with the City of Eugene. One work party was held along the Riverfront Park. The other was an outing in the Blanton Ridge area planting native plants. This latter group was lucky enough to see a 4-point buck casually walk by while they were working. Many thanks to leaders Darko and Matt!

Winter Trips (Dave Cooper): Winter trips set a record of sorts in November. For the first time in this chair's memory, all trip reports, signup sheets, and fees were received and approved by the end of the month. A combination of no member fees and almost everyone submitting images of the signup sheets electronically has made this process faster and easier. We had 21 trips and collected \$50 in fees.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Board approved via e-mail on Nov. 30 an expenditure not to exceed \$100 for celebratory refreshments at the December Board meeting.
- Marci presented an update on the new website. The owner of Revolution Design is now managing our project and expects to have a test drive available for a few key reviewers.
- There was a discussion about hiring an expert in WordPress to manage the monthly maintenance once the site is up and running and has all the kinks worked out.

NEW BUSINESS

- Lana presented the suggested edits to Policies and Practices. The Board approved changes made to the Obsidian Policies and Practices. They are as follows:

Increased dues from \$30 to \$35 and eliminated trip fees for members (effective 10/1/2022) except for Summer Camp.

Major overhaul of the document to streamline it and conform it to existing practices. Consolidated repetitive statements into opening paragraphs.

Added requirement that each committee consist of at least 3 members.

Amended the June 2021 reporting requirements from the Annual meeting to February.

Added requiring documentation of Committee procedures. *(See the full document on the website.)*

- The Board approved the list of 2023 Committee Chairs.
- There was a discussion on succession planning for the Committees. It was determined that the next step will be for Chairs to provide document continuity for the archives.

ADJOURNMENT

Closing the Circle

Mike Smith

NO WAY WAS I CROSSING THAT LOG SEVEN FEET ABOVE NEWTON CREEK TO GET TO THE EAST SIDE. Not gonna happen. After hemming and hawing with myself, delaying the rest of the group, who had somehow managed to get across safely by walking, straddling, or crawling, I finally stepped into the water facing upstream, leaned into the current, triangulated myself with my walking stick and feet, and scuttled across, taking a few seconds. The water was mid-calf and running well, but I did not feel wetness.



Thank you, gaiters. Thank you to all who wore them when I started hiking, so I could ask why, where, how much, and what to buy (summer and winter ones, as it turned out). The five second rule for a dropped piece of food (pick it up before then and it is safe) is not true. But five seconds immersion in 14 inches of water with good boots and gaiters and one will stay dry.

Initially I couldn't get the hang of how to put gaiters on and fasten them, with Velcro and buckle. Rather than do the smart thing and ask, I did the man thing, didn't ask, and fumbled around. Fortunately, I watch, listen, and learn a great deal by observing others. I now wear gaiters on many hikes, always when doing trail work, because in addition to keeping my feet dry and getting less mud on my pants, in deep brush, gaiters help prevent my double knotted shoelaces becoming untied. Gaiters keep snow out of my boots in winter and add another layer to my calves on cold days.

Perhaps four years ago, hard to know, since my memory for dates, once sharp, has dulled, at the meeting point of an Obsidian hike, I saw a hiker whose gaiters were upside down. I don't usually make comments about other's equipment, but this issue needed correcting. I went over and asked, "Could I help you with your gaiters? I had a heck of a time learning how to put mine on." Admitting my past problems helps establish a bond with the other person.

The hiker was most willing to be helped. I showed her how to open the gaiters, put the bottom strap under the middle of the boot, hook to the front lace of the boot, then to use the velcro to close the flaps. She was grateful.

Some call such help *closing the circle*, where each of us who has been helped must in the future help another, and thus close the circle. Teachers close many circles. Maybe all those years of corrections I have had are due to others who are closing a circle of their own. Such a circle doesn't have the force of an angel's getting their wings, but you get the point.

As I thought about this article, I happened upon this quotation:

I've learned a lot from a lot of guys who have had success in this game. And to be able to pass those kinds of experiences along to other guys, that's what it's about, right? Kyle Schwarber (Phillies outfielder)

Maybe that was karma. It's fine to think so. For me, an analytical mathematician, I realized that while one can't square a circle, one can definitely close one.

See you on the trail. I'll be the guy with the gaiters.



Climate and Environment

Elliott State Forest Redesignated

Jorry Rolfe

LA TE IN 2022 THE OREGON STATE LAND BOARD APPROVED THE CREATION OF THE ELLIOTT STATE RESEARCH FOREST. The added *research* in the title means that the former state forest will now primarily be a place for scientific discovery. The 82,520-acre site located northeast of Coos Bay, one of the most carbon-rich areas of the Coast Range with some of the last and largest stands of old-growth trees, will remain in public ownership in collaboration with OSU. This is the ancestral homeland of the Hanis Coos, Miluk Coos, and Quiiich peoples—bands of the Confederated Tribes Coos Lower Umpqua Siuslaw Indians.

The approval followed months of debate over management of a state forest that, while complying with wildlife protection requirements, was unable to generate enough revenue from timber harvests for public education (Common School Fund). A bill was approved by the Legislature transferring money into the Fund to replace revenue that logging on the Elliott might otherwise have generated. This transition marks the decoupling of the forest from the Fund, completing this funding obligation.

Our State Treasurer Tobias Read states that the newly created Elliott is the "largest research forest in North America." Although some private logging will still be allowed, the Elliott will be studied for long-term management and habitat and conservation practices. Research will primarily focus on ecologically responsible forestry, managing forests for climate change and improving forest management for threatened and endangered species, including salmon, the northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet.

Additionally, proposals will provide for other benefits and contribute to recreation, education, and the local economies. Meanwhile, as far as hiking goes, since this area has never been managed for outdoor recreation, it is difficult to find your way around in the forest! A Coast Range Forest Watch recreation map is available online at

coastrangeforestwatch.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/elliott_recreation_map_2020.pdf. It may be used with the app called Avenza PDF Maps.

TRIP REPORTS



Bike Trips

Honoring Veterans Ride

November 13, 2022

Leader: Richard Hughes

Photographer: Lana Lindstrom

Bike: 20 miles, 481 ft. (Easy)

THE MORNING ROSE IN COLD FASHION BUT WITH A HINT OF A PROMISE OF SUN AND WARMTH. Our first stop was the Nobel Peace Park which honors American recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Among those honored are Martin Luther King Jr. and Barack Obama. Next, we rode the Clearwater Trail into Springfield and to the two memorials at Mohawk Blvd. and I St. The first honors 63 military personnel from Lane County who lost their lives, and the second is dedicated to women veterans who serve in combat. Finally, we rode back to Eugene to view the War Memorial in Skinner Butte Park and the 451 names of those who died in war from World War I through Operation Desert Storm. Also in the same area is a replica of the Vietnam memorial wall with only one soldier's name. Members: John Hegg, Richard Hughes, Gwyneth Iredale, Jonathan Jost, Lana Lindstrom, Caroline Moore, Angie Ruzicka, Dale Schaper, Darko Sojak, Lynn Stearney. Nonmembers: Caroline Forell, Larry Myers.



At the Women in Combat Memorial.



Hikes

Koosah Falls / Clear Lake

October 22, 2022

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Hike: 8 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

SOOOO GLAD WE DIDN'T CANCEL THIS TRIP BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER! True, it drizzled for much of the time we were on the trail, but we also got a rainbow at the start of our

trip, beautiful fall foliage, and a cozy lunch break in front of the fireplace at the lodge. The new bridge at the north end of the lake is officially open so we could hike all the way around the lake without backtracking. The new bridge is a treat to walk on—it's so new that we could smell the fresh wood when we crossed. We started at Koosah Falls and hiked down the river to the reservoir where we crossed over and then were led astray by our leader, who managed to miss the trail-head. We bushwacked around for about a quarter of a mile before we continued on up the east bank past the waterfalls and on to Clear Lake. This is a classic fall hike for all ability levels. There are several points where people can peel off to make a shorter loop, and two of our party chose to take just the waterfall loop (three miles) while the rest of us went on to Clear Lake for the full circuit. Members: Anne Campbell, Kathie Carpenter, Patricia Cleall, Valerie Metcalfe, Cindy Rice, Beth Roy, Sandra Sigrist, Mitch Temple.

Berley Lakes

October 27, 2022

Leader & Photographer: Daphne James

Hike: 9 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

CONDITIONS CHANGE QUICKLY IN THE MOUNTAINS. After months of record-breaking heat, drought, and smoke, a wet cold front moved in two days before our hike. We planned for a two-lake hike with autumn foliage and ended up hiking in a half-foot of snow. Fortunately, the sky was clear and blue, the temperature mild, and several hunters and hikers had already broken the trail, making it quite easy for us to hike in our boots. We didn't make it to the Berley Lakes, but we had a simply wonderful day snow-hiking along the PCT and Santiam Lake trail; enjoying views of Three Fingered Jack, Mt. Washington, North and Middle Sisters, and Broken Top, all blanketed in first-of-the-season snow. Special thanks to the adventuresome Obsidian participants who were willing to go with the flow for a great day on the trail. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Daphne James, Monica Ozwoeld.



Monica and Kathie at lunch.

Cemetery Saunter

October 28, 2022

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 4 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WE HAD PERFECT FALL WEATHER FOR THIS SAUNTER THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOODS AND TWO CEMETERIES. The trees were at their peak of color. This was a very enjoyable outing with good company and good conversation. Members: Mari Baldwin, Marguerite Cooney, Fred Crafts, Lorraine Cuevas, Marti Gerdes, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Janice Silvestri, Dorothy van Winkle, Tommy Young.

Mount June Halloween Costume Hike

October 29, 2022

Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Photographer: Jennifer Marlow

Hike: 6.2 miles, 1,868 ft. (Moderate)

WE DIDN'T GET TO CLIMB MOUNT YORAN AGAIN THIS YEAR, but we sure had fun on Mount June. Everyone had fabulous costumes and we had a great party on the top in the warm sun. Members: Deb Carver, Shannon Clawson, Lorraine Cuevas, Jane Leng, Jennifer Marlow, Juli McGlinsky, Maryanne Reiter, Paul Winther, Sue Zeni.



Crazy costume crew.

Mount Pisgah & Mushroom Festival

October 30, 2022

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

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

PARKING AT THE NORTH TRAILHEAD, it took about two hours to hike the North Bottom Loop, around Swing Hill to Trail 4, and the main trail to the summit. Lynn led a longer hike for those who didn't have tickets or had tickets for a 2:00 admission. Those who purchased tickets for an early admission made their way down Trail 35 to the Mushroom Festival, where it was fun to visit the booths, visit with friends, and purchase tasty mushroom soup or mushroom/cheese with pear chutney from the food carts. Bill Sullivan had a booth with his newest books. It was easy to take the Pedestrian Festival Path along the river back to our cars. Next year, plan to purchase online tickets early. Another option is to purchase an Arboretum membership that includes a parking pass and ticket to the mushroom show. Members: Marguerite Cooney, David Cooper, Paul Hamilton, Gwyneth Iredale, Janet Jacobsen, Lynn Meacham, Valerie Metcalfe, Sandra Sigrist.

Row River Trail Fall Walk

November 1, 2022

Leader: Jean Harris

Photographer: Steve Johnson

Hike: 7 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS COOL AND RAINY, YET ALSO LOVELY WITH FALLING LEAVES AND THE PEACEFUL SOUND OF RAIN IN THE TREES. The highlight was watching a pair of eagles for 15 minutes from the top of Dorena Dam. They were perched in trees nearby. We saw two pelicans, two deer, turkeys, and other waterfowl. Mules near the path were friendly and entertaining. This was a pleasant trek with information shared about the construction of Dorena Dam and the progression of the path from a gold and timber railroad hauling system, to a steam engine excursion train, to the present-day bike path. We enjoyed this outing along with molasses cookies, and lunch at Coast Fork Brewing for part of the group. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Jean Harris, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Jane Leng, Lynn Meacham, Sandra Sigrist.



Friendly mules with Lynn, Sandra, Kathie, and Jane.

Ridgeline Trail with Shuttle

November 5, 2022

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6.2 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT A FUN TRIP TO HIKE FROM BLANTON TO SPRING TRAILHEAD and then swing around the north side of Mt. Baldy to Old Dillard Road! The fall colors were spectacular especially for those who had never hiked sections of the trail. We stopped at my house for chocolate zucchini bread before we continued on to Martin Street and our cars. Paul and Jane decided to hike back to Blanton. Thanks to our drivers, Jane, Lynn, and Whitney, who helped with the shuttle from Martin to Blanton. We started hiking around 9:00 and were back at Martin Street around noon. Members: Mari Baldwin, Kathy Brenner, Whitney Gould, Paul Hamilton, Janet Jacobsen, Jane Leng, Lynn Meacham, Valerie Metcalfe. Nonmembers: Samantha Bullis.

Veterans Day Hike

November 11, 2022

Leader: Mike Smith

Assistant Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Photographer: Angie Ruzicka

Hike: 5 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

I WAS FRANKLY OVERWHELMED BY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO SHOWED UP. We had a record number of hikers (30)

which included a record of seven veterans for the walk along the river to Greenway Bridge and back. Everybody spread out and we had no instances of blocking the walk! I think many of us needed this hike at this time of year at this place. Members: Mari Baldwin, Kathy Brenner, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Jennifer Crim, Lorraine Cuevas, Robert Eriksen, Whitney Gould, Nancy Hoecker, Richard Hughes, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Sandra Larsen, Lynn Meacham, Debra Messinger, June Miller, Evelyn Nagy, Denise Rubenstein, Tom Rundle, Angie Ruzicka, Dale Schaper, Janice Silvestri, Mike Smith, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle, Maureen Whalen. Nonmembers: Carol Woodman, Shelley Tinkham, Kiki Hines, Penny Joseph.



At the traveling Vietnam War Memorial Wall.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

November 12, 2022

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

SIX GUESTS JOINED FIVE MEMBERS FOR A BRISK, FOGGY, BUT NOT RAINY, MORNING TROMP through the woods to Hendricks Park and back. This was a lively group with lots of information shared about what the Obsidians have to offer. Members: Kathy Brenner, Marguerite Cooney, Vern Marsonette, Lynn Meacham, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Camille Gullickson, Kiki Hines, Janet Madrone, Gayle Nothwang, Sam Roslie, Peggy Wright.

South Santiam Combo

November 12, 2022

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 7 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO SPEND A CLOUDY, CHILLY, LATE FALL DAY than out on the trail in the company of the Obsidians! We started with a warm-up hike to Lower Soda Creek Falls in Cascadia County Park, then headed up the road ten miles to the pullout where Highway 20 crosses the Old Santiam Wagon Road. It's really a beautiful trail. It's wide and well-graded, and despite the heavy recent rain, it wasn't slippery or sloshy. The vine maples were still lighting up the forest with their yellow leaves, the trees were plumped up and bulgy like something out of Dr. Seuss, and we were within sight and hearing of running water the whole way. There were pockets of graupel, but otherwise this is a great trail to

remember when you want to hike in the mountains when the higher elevations are all snowed in. After exploring the falls and the cave under House Rock (only Holger was brave enough to actually go all the way inside the cave) we lunched on the river bank, collected pretty rocks, and scoped out some really great swimming holes for next summer. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Nancy Hoecker, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Valerie Metcalfe, Mitch Temple. Nonmembers: Samantha Bullis.



Waiting at the junction on the wagon road.

North Bank Habitat Area

November 13, 2022

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,800 ft. (Moderate)

WE LEFT THE LCC PARKING LOT AT 8:30 AM IN THE COLD FOG and returned at 3:30 PM to the same. Fortunately, at the North Bank Habitat Area we had some sun, some blue sky, and rolling clouds. We did adjust our outer layers of clothing a few times depending on the sun and elevation gain on those steep hills. The rolling oak savannahs, forested valleys, and views of the North Umpqua River were our reward. The madrone trees did not have any berries, but Dorothy found two dried orange madrone berries on the ground—a gift for me. What a change from the January 22 hike when the madrone trees still had so many berry clusters. Thanks to everyone who made the hike so pleasant. At the end of the hike, the mileage keepers said the hike was 8.5 miles, not 8.0. Members: Heidi Anderson, David Clinger, Marguerite Cooney, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Mitch Temple, Dorothy van Winkle, Karen Yoerger.

Silver Falls

November 19, 2022

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Assistant Leader: Jennifer Crim

Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,151 ft. (Moderate)

EIGHT MEMBERS AND FIVE NONMEMBERS HIKED BEAUTIFUL SILVER FALLS ON THE TRAIL OF TEN FALLS LOOP. The air temperature was below freezing but the sun was shining. Icy trail conditions required micro spikes to navigate the 8.5 miles. Due to this, it was not as crowded as normal, which made the day even better. The frost and snow in the lower

areas near North Falls added a bit of wintery whimsy! Folks stopped at the historic lodge afterwards to warm up before the drive back to Eugene. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Jennifer Crim, Steven Johnson, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Alice Moffitt, Dewayde Perry, Alyssa Buhl, Thomas Newman, Kiki Hines.

Ridgeline Matsler Plaque

November 19, 2022

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Sandra Sigrist

Hike: 10 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

WE PARKED AT THE WEST DILLARD TRAILHEAD and quickly found the W.R. ‘Tex’ Matsler/Ridgeline Trail/City of Eugene Parks plaque installed flush in the ground under the kiosk. Lynn brushed away the leaves and gravel for our viewing. Two hours later we were at the Blanton Trailhead to see a duplicate plaque hidden in the grass near the trailhead. Tex was Eugene Parks and Recreation Superintendent from 1949–1964 and a primary force behind the development of the Ridgeline Trail. It was Peggy’s first time on the trail and we were glad that the sun and blue sky overcame the cold temperature for a very pleasant morning. It was an easy way to hike ten miles in town. See the November 2021 *Bulletin* to read an article by Tommy Young about Tex. Members: David Clinger, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Sandra Sigrist, Peggy Wright.



It's cold at the West Dillard Trailhead viewing the plaque below the kiosk. Holger, Peggy, Lynn, David, Janet

Larison Rock (8th Annual)

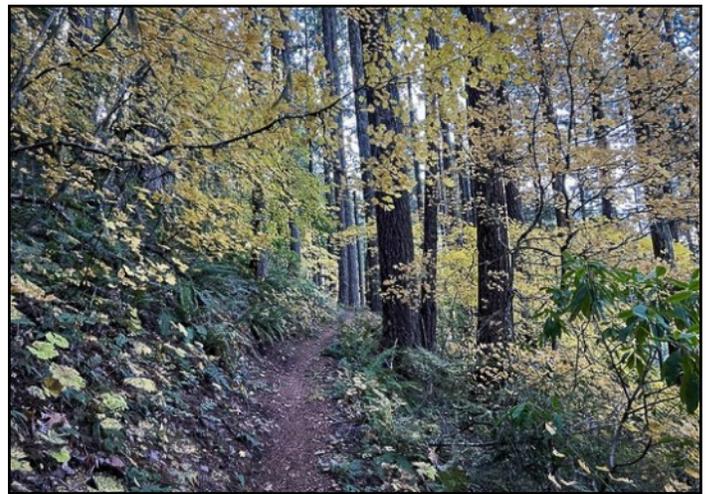
November 20, 2022

Leader: Mike Smith

Photographer: Lorraine Cuevas

Hike: 8.5 miles, 2,400 ft. (Difficult)

IT WAS A COLD MORNING IN OAKRIDGE but we warmed up rapidly while ascending the Larison Rock trail. We had lunch on top and returned down to the land of frost. Starting to feel past my hiking prime with this group. It reminds me of John C. Mellencamp’s comment: *There is nothing more sad or glorious than generations changing hands.* Looking forward to leading this hike in 52 weeks. Mountain bikers were on the trail as well, but no untoward incidents occurred. Members: Mari Baldwin, Lorraine Cuevas, Paul Hamilton, Gwyneth Iredale, Jane Leng, Pierre Robert, Mike Smith.



Beautiful fall foliage.

Thanksgiving Day Robust Ramble

November 24, 2022

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 7.5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

SEVEN OF US WALKED AT A VERY ROBUST PACE TO GET WARM because it was cold and foggy at the beginning. When we reached the Ridgeline Trailhead on 52nd and Willamette, the sun was shining brightly. Walking through the woods, we were treated to beautiful displays of sunlight streaming in through the trees. We encountered several rafters (!) of wild turkeys on our ramble. A lovely time was had by all. Members: Mari Baldwin, Jennifer Crim, Jonathan Jost, Holger Krentz, Jane Leng, Lynn Meacham, Dorothy van Winkle.

Turkey Trimming

November 25, 2022

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 5.5 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

THIS YEAR’S HIKE STARTED AT AMAZON PARK, went around Laurelwood Golf Course, followed the entire Ribbon Trail, and then returned on city streets. Along the way, we stopped at *The Bog*, a small native plant garden at the south end of Agate St.—check it out if you haven’t been there before. When we introduced ourselves, we told the group what our favorite food had been the previous day. A third of the group chose cranberry sauce. Who would have guessed?! Was it this superfood that propelled us at a very fast pace for the entire walk? Stay tuned until next Thanksgiving. Members:

Heidi Anderson, Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, David Clinger, Lorraine Cuevas, Robert Eriksen, David Hawkins, Nancy Hoecker, Richard Hughes, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Maureen Whalen, Lyndell Wilken.

Holiday Night & Oregon Authors

December 8, 2022

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Assistant Leader: Sandra Sigrist

Hike: 3 miles, (Easy)

WELL-OUTFITTED IN RAIN GEAR, WE MET AT 3:30 AT PRINCE PUCKLER'S TO BEGIN OUR WALK through the South University Neighborhood to find fourteen historic locations. Surprise! It stopped raining. With amazing navigational skills, Pat used the map to lead us up one street and then another while Sandra googled interesting facts about each location. Gordon joined us at the 19th Street Cafe for a light supper and conversation with many laughs. Gordon, Pat, and I headed to the Museum of Natural and Cultural History for their Holiday Night. Of particular interest was the Natural Athletes: Track & Field Champs of the Animal Kingdom exhibit and, of course, the gift shop. Pat and I walked back to our cars, so glad that we didn't cancel. Members: David Cooper, Patricia Esch, Gwyneth Iredale, Janet Jacobsen, Gordon Sayre, Sandra Sigrist.

Thurston Hills

December 7, 2022

Leader: Sue Zeni

Photographer: Jane Leng

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

WE STARTED OUT ON A COLD, FOGGY MORNING to explore the new trails on the west side of the Thurston Hills Natural area in Springfield. Our destination was covered with cold fog. We enjoyed a view of the white, foggy landscape from the top of a rock outcrop. We continued on the new trails until, at last, the sun popped out. The sudden sun caused ice fragments to fall from the oak trees to the trail at our feet. We were in no danger, but we were surprised to see the sparkling ice. The sun continued and we were treated to the view of the basalt columns that held up the rock outcrop we had climbed (via trail) earlier. Many in our group had not hiked in this particular area. We added it to our list of good places to go. It is close to town and the trail will be good in multiple types of weather. Members: Heidi Anderson, Sharon Blick, Kathie Carpenter, Nancy Hoecker, Holger Krentz, Jane Leng, Sandra Sigrist, Karen Yoerger, Sue Zeni.



Thurston Hills.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

December 10, 2022

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

SIX OF US HIKED IN WEATHER THAT VARIED FROM BLUE SKIES TO POURING RAIN. Lots of information was shared about what the Obsidians offer, and also about all kinds of dancing. What a fun group. Members: Joanna Alexander, Gwyneth Iredale, Barbara Orsi, Dorothy van Winkle. Non-members: Michael Nieman, Suzanne Nieman.

Lebanon Trails & Bakery Run

December 10, 2022

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Photographer: Nancy Whitfield

Hike: 5.6 miles, 230 ft. (Easy)

FOR MANY OF US, THIS WAS OUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE LEBANON (or for several, our first time there at all) and we agreed that the Lebanon downtown renaissance is progressing nicely. We started our day at Hazella Bake Shop—the name is the English version of Dutch *gezellig* (cozy)—which lived up to its name and had a wonderful selection of sweet and savory pastries. Among our faves were the cardamom custard buns, ginger almond cake, leek and parmesan braid, lingonberry Danish, and blackberry hand pie. After a stop at Sugar Vibes, we ambled four miles back and forth and around the North Shore Trail and Island Loop Trail. *Build Lebanon Trails*, the volunteer organization that is developing an extensive system of trails for the community, is also restoring habitat in the area. Birds we saw included: Canada goose (of course), coot/mudhen, egret, heron, a heron rookery, cormorant, eagles (on the way there), and also some very pretty ducks that we couldn't identify. As the habitat is restored, this should become a fantastic spot for viewing local and migratory birds. We then took the back roads to McDowell Creek Falls Park for the 1.6-mile waterfall loop, which was green and lush. Although I had promised everyone that we would get rain, we had perfect weather and the rain didn't start until we were nearly back in Eugene. It was a nice day and, after all of our exploring, we were still back in Eugene early in the afternoon. Members: Charles Ashmore, Kathie Carpenter, David Cooper, Whitney Gould, David Hawkins, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Vern Marsonette, Sandra Sigrist, Nancy Whitfield.



Vern looking happy at the bakery.

International Mountain Day Sunrise

December 11, 2022

Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3.5 miles, 950 ft. (Easy)

AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF SUNRISE HIKERS SIGNED UP, but only nine early risers showed up. The darkness and drizzle were no obstacle to a good morning. Members: Jennifer Baer, Jennifer Crim, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Barbara Orsi, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Darko Sojak, Paul Winther.

Food For Lane County

December 16, 2022

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 3.2 miles, 85 ft. (Easy)

IT WAS A COLD, SUNNY DAY FOR A WALK from the Fairgrounds to the Food for Lane County Distribution Center at 2345 W. Broadway for a tour with the director, Tom Mulhern. We learned about the creative ways that they engage the community and partner agencies to reduce hunger and create access to food. We heard the statistics about food insecurity in our county. After we thanked Tom, we each handed him an envelope with our donation to the Food Bank. Outside in the sun, we nibbled on homemade persimmon bread and then walked back on the Fern Ridge Bike Path to our cars. Tip for next year: stop at the Coffee Plant Roaster. Thanks to everyone who made our walk a special way of sharing. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Diana Hodges, Janet Jacobsen, Carol Margart, Sandra Sigrist, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Jane Allen, Mona Bronson, Connie Hirsch, Adina Kaiden.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Karen Yoerger: 11/2 7 Members

Corrine Clifford: 11/9 19 Members

Denise Rubenstein, Heidi Anderson: 11/16 13 Members

Mike Smith: 11/23 3 Members, 1 Nonmember, 12/21 13 Members, 2 Nonmembers

June Miller: 11/30 7 Members

Jorry Rolfe: 12/7 9 Members

Denise Rubenstein: 12/14 11 Members

Ane McKee: 12/28 9 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Tommy Young: 11/1 3 Members, 11/8 4 Members, 11/22 8 Members, 11/29 7 Members, 12/6 7 Members, 12/13 6 Members, 12/20 8 Members, 12/27 4 Members

Tommy Young, Janet Jacobsen: 11/15 6 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.5–5.3 miles, 1,000–1,100 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

David Hawkins: 11/18 10 Members, 12/16 11 Members

Janet Jacobsen: 12/21 15 Members



Snowshoe Trips

Ray Benson Sno-Park

December 5, 2022

Leader: Steven Johnson

SShoe: 6.5 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

IT'S ALWAYS A GAMBLE TO TRY TO SCHEDULE A WINTER TRIP because the weather and snow conditions can never be reliably predicted. For our December 5 snowshoe trip, however, we lucked upon the perfect weather and snow conditions. We parked at Ray Benson Sno-Park and made our way about three miles to Brandenburg Shelter to have our lunch, take in the great views of Mt. Washington and Three Fingered Jack, and enjoy the sunshine. After making our way back to our vehicles, we stopped off at Takoda's Restaurant to celebrate our memorable day. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, Jean Harris, Steven Johnson, Ane McKee, Lynn Meacham, Barbara Orsi, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Dorothy van Winkle.



At the Brandenburg Shelter.

Rosary Lakes

December 14, 2022

Leader: Jean Harris

Photographer: Holger Krentz

SShoe: 8 miles, 500 ft. (Difficult)

NINE HAPPY SNOWSHOERS ENJOYED A BRISK AND SUNNY OUTING from Willamette Pass to the three Rosary Lakes. The beauty of snow-laden trees, blue skies, and sparkling snow on the lakes gave us joy. With deep snow, the path was in good shape with soft snow and a packed down path. It was a delight to spend the day with all the adventurers. We only saw



two other groups on the trail. Wonderful! Members: Jean Harris, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Monica Ozwoeld, Sandra Sigrist, Harold Thompson, Signe Wright. Nonmembers: Annette Thompson.



Stewardship

Cage Removal / Spencer's Butte

October 29, 2022

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Trail Maintenance: 1 mile, 500 ft. (Moderate)

FOR THIS MONTH'S OUTING ON A BEAUTIFUL FALL MORNING, we met at the Willamette & 52nd trailhead, then hiked up the Ridgeline Trail to the neighborhood connector trail that comes from Owl Road. We met up with Marlon from Eugene Parks & Open Space on the way. He had a fun outing set up for us—to remove the cages and cedar posts from around the 26 plantings. We rolled up the cages and then loaded the cages and posts into the bed of Marlon's truck. There were so many that he needed to make two trips to remove them all. We stopped halfway through our work to enjoy a snack of cookies and banana bread. Dan deserves extra thanks for bringing a Leatherman tool and removing the cage with the most bent and twisted wires. Marlon and Nathaniel worked together to cut apart the cage around the ocean spray that had grown through it, thus saving us from having to prune it back to remove the cage. False brome has definitely invaded the area and, after we removed the cages, we dug it out from around the plantings. Special thanks go to Clara for cutting back blackberries around the trailheads. Members: Matt Bell, Nathaniel Bell, David Clinger, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen. Nonmembers: Fletcher Bell, Janell Cottam.



Carrying stakes to Marlon's truck.

Downtown Riverfront Park

November 12, 2022

Leader: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 1 mile, 100 ft. (Easy)

FOUR OBSIDIANS VOLUNTEERS, TOGETHER WITH LAURI AND KELSEY FROM CITY OF EUGENE PARKS & OPEN SPACE, salvaged and potted 200 small alder plants. Members: Jonathan Jost, Angie Ruzicka, Janice Silvestri, Darko Sojak.

Blanton Planting / Spencer Butte

November 26, 2022

Leader: Matt Bell

Trail Maintenance: 1 mile, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WE MET EVAN, FROM EUGENE PARKS & OPEN SPACE, AT THE BLANTON TRAILHEAD for a post-Thanksgiving planting event. Our small group of volunteers hiked the short distance to the planting area where the city has reduced fuels by removing Himalayan blackberry. We then listened to the most detailed planting description that we have ever received. We set out sword fern, thimbleberry, snowberry, elderberry, and ocean spray at pin flags that Evan had placed earlier, and then planted a total of 82 plants in two locations along the trail. Our group also enjoyed seeing a 4-point buck casually walk by while we worked. Special thanks go to Janet for providing—even in her absence—delicious energy balls for a post-outing snack. Members: Matt Bell, Nathaniel Bell, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Pat Soussan, Maureen Whalen.

McKenzie River Trust Stewardship

December 3, 2022

Leader: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 1 mile, 20 ft. (Easy)

OUR CHEERFUL GROUP AGAIN WORKED ON BLACKBERRY REMOVAL on the 2.5-acre plot that has been adopted by the Obsidians. Green Island, managed by McKenzie River Trust, is located ten miles north of Eugene at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers. We clipped dozens of blackberry bushes, dug up roots, and cut 15 dead conifers. A mostly sunny and windless day started at 35° and finished at a balmy 44°. It was a great work party and pure joy with volunteers! Members: Heidi Anderson, Charles Ashmore, David Clinger, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Zeni. Nonmembers: Thomas Newman.



Lodge & Grounds

Lodge and Grounds Clean-up

November 13, 2022

Leader: David Cooper

Work Party

WE SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS. Jim, Doug, and Clara worked outside. Leaves were blown and gutters cleaned on both buildings. Clara worked along the road to make sure our street view was looking good. Inside, the rest of us cleaned from top to bottom. Kitchen and bathrooms received special attention. All that remained was to get more AA batteries for the lights by the steps on the corner of the building. Vern was going to take care of that on Game Night. Members: David Cooper, Kay Coots, Clara Emlen, Vern Marsonette, Doug Nelson, Jim Northrop, Denise Rubenstein.

GameNight!

Linda Anson & Ane McKee,
Entertainment Committee

DO YOU LIKE GAMES OF SKILL OR DO YOU PREFER GAMES OF CHANCE? Is a one-on-one game more up your alley or would you prefer a raucous, interactive game cheering on your team? Can you draw a stick figure next to a house with flames decently enough that others will shout, "Firefighter?" Better yet, do you want to have a fun time with other Obsidians?

These questions and more were answered at the inaugural GameNight! held at the Lodge in late October. Thirteen Obsidians and guests brought a selection of 22 games, a variety of snacks, and a lot of fun and laughter. A small group played a couple of concentration-type games, while a larger group played some interactive games and filled the Lodge with shouts and laughter.

Since then, we've held GameNight! each month from 4:30 to 7:30 PM, but vary the day of the week to accommodate more people. You can register on Trip Signup, so we'll have an idea of how many are coming, or just show up anyway and drop in throughout the evening to join the fun. You're welcome either way!

Upcoming GameNight! dates are January 19, February 16, March 14, and April 13.

Lyndell Wilken Recognized

Dave Cooper, Scorpion Volunteer

LYNDELL WILKEN RECENTLY RECEIVED THE *JUDY MITCHELL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE HIGH CASCADES FOREST VOLUNTEERS*. The USFS Willamette National Forest established the *Judy Mitchell Volunteer of the Year Award* recognition in 2020 for Judy's pioneering work promoting the concept of volunteerism in the Middle Fork District of the Willamette National Forest.

Lyndell has served on the High Cascade Forest Volunteers Board, adopted Rosary Lakes to keep clean and pristine, coordinated volunteers maintaining winter recreation trails and shelters in the Willamette Pass Winter Recreation area, plus so much more. She has also promoted *Love a Lake* stewardship activities for our club.



Photo by Esme Greer.

Congratulations Lyndell for your much deserved honor.



POTLUCK

Friday, January 27, 2023, 6:30 PM

New Hikes in Oregon A slide show presentation by William L. Sullivan

AUTHOR AND HIKING GURU WILLIAM L. SULLIVAN TAKES US ON A SLIDE SHOW TOUR of new and changed trails he discovered while updating his *100 Hikes* guidebooks for Oregon. We'll visit a new Painted Hills preserve in Central Oregon, a secret beach on the Southern Oregon Coast, and a new canyon trail at Eastern Oregon's Steens Mountain. Sullivan will also talk about what's changed because of recent wildfires, tell how to get permits for trails with limited access, and describe terrific but overlooked trails close to home that weren't affected by fires or permits. As always, Sullivan spices his talk with anecdotes about history, wildflowers, and geology along the way.

Sullivan is the author of 22 books about history, mystery, and adventure. Among his latest are *Exploring Oregon's History* and *The Ship in the Woods*, a historical novel about the Swedish Vikings in Russia. His journal of a 1000-mile hike across Oregon, *Listening for Coyote*, was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of Oregon's 100 most significant books.



Potluck

Friday, January 27, 2023

Obsidian Lodge

Potluck 6:30 PM, Program 7:30 PM

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

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

January

10 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Young 941-780-4156
11 Wed Amazon/Spencer Butte Hike **M** Cooper 868-5427
11 Wed Odell Overlook SShoe **M** Hovis 731-3412
13 Fri Deschutes Canyon New Year Bkpk **M** Davies 525-3719
14 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E** van Winkle 485-7416
17 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Young 941-780-4156
18 Wed Amazon/Spencer Butte Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
19 Thu GameNight! Anson 228-8722
20 Fri Pisgah East Side Loop Hike **M** Hawkins 505-0119
21 Sat Amazon Creek Tree Planting WrkPrty **E** Rolfe 206-9501
22 Sun Redtop Mountain Xski **D** Sayre 515-9450
24 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Young 941-780-4156
25 Wed Salt Creek Falls SShoe **M** Hovis 731-3412
25 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** Morray 953-5679
27 Fri New Hikes in Oregon with Bill Sullivan Potluck

February

1 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** Yoerger 510-2832
2 Thu Groundhog Day Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
3 Fri Tahkenitch Dunes Backpack BkPk **E** Davies 525-3719

5 Sun Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
7 Tue Marilyn Lakes SShoe **D** Hovis 731-3412
8 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** Smith 520-488-9569
11 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E** van Winkle 485-7416
11 Sat Oregon's Birthday (early) Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
15 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
16 Thu GameNight! McKee 554-1364
22 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** Morray 953-5679
23 Thu Potato Hill SShoe **D** Hovis 731-3412
28 Tue Shelter Cove SShoe **E** Shuraleff 954-4474

March

1 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** Yoerger 510-2832
8 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs Hike **M** Rubenstein 248-514-5092
10 Fri Boulder Creek Wilderness BkPk **M** Davies 525-3719
11 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E** van Winkle 485-7416
14 Tue GameNight! Anson 228-8722
15 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** Clifford 915-5434
22 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** Smith 520-488-9569
29 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs Hike **M** Rubenstein 248-514-5092

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

Save The Dates!

February 28–March 2, 2023
Shelter Cove Extended Trip
Leaders: Chris Shuraleff and Jane Hackett

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND AFTER TWO SUCCESSFUL PREVIOUS TRIPS, come join 16 snow lovers at Shelter Cove Resort overlooking the west side of Odell Lake on the Willamette Pass. We will be staying at the Kokanee Lodge Units C and D with a total of four bathrooms and six bedrooms. Towels and bedding are provided.

Each unit has wireless internet, a large living room with gas fireplace overlooking the lake, and a full kitchen with a large group table. There is an open doorway between both units. Come cross country or downhill skiing, snowshoe, or just curl up by the fire with a good book and enjoy this winter wonderland with us.

Online registration will open at 7AM on January 15 and is limited to 16 people. Members please mail a check for \$120 (includes two nights and two dinners and parking) payable to Obsidians to Chris Shuraleff, 34790 Matthews Rd., Eugene 97405 within five days of signing up. After January 18 nonmembers may register for \$125. The payment is non-refundable unless your place is filled by someone else. Pre-trip meeting will be February 6 at the Obsidian Lodge board room to discuss car pooling, dinners, rooms, etc.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Happy New Year Friends!

Darko Sojak, Obsidians Stewardship Committee

IN MEMORY OF MY MOM, I HAVE CREATED THE FIRST OBSIDIANS STEWARDSHIP BLOOD DRIVE.

My mother's name was Nada (1932–2019) which means *Hope* in Croatian. I can't think of a more fitting name to connect Obsidians, Community, Stewardship, and my memories.

As a blood donor, you're not just giving blood, you're sharing life and hope with our communities throughout the PNW, from Bellingham, WA to Eugene, OR. Please schedule to donate blood this January.

Step 1. Sign-up at Obsidians website

Step 2. Schedule blood donation at bloodworksnw.org/donate

Step 3. When you arrive at the BloodWorks NW site to donate blood, please request to donate under the Obsidians code NADA.

Thank you!

For Sale

Cross country ski poles
Arriva excel 150 cm
Made in Finland, gently used
\$15
Sandra
687-2589



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P.O. BOX 51510
EUGENE, OR 97405

OBSIDIANS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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January 2023



*See the Rosary Lakes Snowshoe trip report on page 12.
Photo by Monica Ozwoeld.*

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