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Dates to Remember

May 11	Summer Camp Sign-up
May 12	Mother's Day Breakfast
May 14	GameNight!
May 31	Potluck
May 31	Bulletin Deadline
June 5	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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UPCOMING: OBSIDIANS STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Darko Sojak, Stewardship Committee

OBSIDIAN VOLUNTEERS ARE HONORED TO LEAVE PLACES BEHIND BETTER THAN HOW THEY FOUND THEM.

Please **join us on Saturday, May 11** for a Green Island stewardship restoration work party, a few miles north of Eugene, **and on Wednesday, May 29**, for Spencer Butte trail maintenance. We also hope to see you at the two other local Obsidians work parties on National Trails Day.

Sign up online for time, meeting place and details of the projects.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Saturday, June 1

- Darko Sojak is leading a work party at Mt. Pisgah.
- Leader Matt Bell will coordinate with Eugene Parks and Open Space for a Ridgeline Trail project.

Have a question? Contact stewardship@obsidians.org

SINCE 1993 THE AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY HAS HOSTED NATIONAL TRAILS DAY on the first Saturday of June. Obsidians began hosting trail projects in 2005 if not earlier. The goal is to encourage everyone to get outside and to connect with local outdoor clubs and other groups to experience, appreciate, and improve America's trail system.

Pics from National Trails Day 2020: Eradicating false brome, an invasive plant, from the Ridgeline Trail. Photos by Pat Soussan



False brome.



Matt and son Nathaniel hard at work.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE SUMMER SCHEDULE

THE MONTHLY SPENCER BUTTE TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORK WILL SWITCH TO ITS SUMMER SCHEDULE on the last Wednesday of the month from 5:30-8:00 PM.

Make a note of these dates: **May 29, June 26, July 31 & August 28.**

For information email Matt at Matthew.v.bell@gmail.com.



GARY KIRK'S ICE AX

Jim Northrop



Stepdaughter Robin Greene presents Gary Kirk's ice ax to Climbs Chair Maryanne Reiter at the celebration of life for Gary at the Lodge.

ON APRIL 20, THE OBSIDIANS HOSTED A CELEBRATION OF LIFE AT THE LODGE for pioneering rock and mountain climber—and former Obsidians president (1968 and 1969)—Gary Kirk. Gary wanted the Obsidians to have his ice ax. Climbs Chair Maryanne Reiter accepted Gary's ax on behalf of the Obsidians. In accepting the ax, Maryanne offered the following remarks:

I am honored to accept Gary's ice ax on behalf of the Obsidians.

This ax holds years of mountain memories. It brought Gary high onto the peaks he loved. It brought security as well as service when he was with Eugene Mountain Rescue helping other climbers who were lost or injured. This ax is a legacy of love.

As a climber, I am indebted to Gary for his contribution to our community. He had many first ascents on the spires of the Umpqua area as well as setting a bold, or perhaps more rightly, crazy, new route on Mount Thielsen in honor of his friend Mark McLaughlin who perished on Denali. The local climbing guide books are filled with Gary's accomplishments, and when I see his name in them, I smile and am grateful for having known him.

Thank you for donating his ax to the Obsidians, it is an incredible gift.

Welcome New Members!

DURING THE TRANSITION FROM OUR CURRENT WEBSITE TO THE NEW ONE, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PROCESS ANY NEW MEMBERSHIPS. We currently have 10 new members and we will list them next month.

WEBSITE UPDATE We're getting there!

AS WE GO TO PRESS...A SMALL GROUP OF MEMBERS ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF TESTING OUR NEW WEBSITE. Our database is very complex with thousands of records and we're changing from one software platform to another. It has taken considerably longer than we expected. Stay tuned—we are almost there!

OBSIDIANS

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

Officers & Board of Directors

Dave Hawkins, President
Denise Rubenstein, Vice President
Angie Ruzicka, Secretary
Laura Osinga, Treasurer
Dave Cooper, Russ Davies, Jean Harris,
Maryanne Reiter, Lisa Van Liefde,
Sue Zeni

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

Committee Chairpersons

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

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**Deadline
for June Bulletin
Friday, May 31**

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Yuan Hopkins, Judy Newman,
Nancy Raymond, Barbara Schomaker



Checkermallow.
Photo by Brooklyn Richards.

OSU GRADUATE STUDENT STUDIES NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANT at the LODGE

Jim Northrop, Interim Grounds Chair

BROOKLYN RICHARDS, A PH.D. GRADUATE STUDENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY AT OSU, is studying an uncommon native plant at our own Obsidians Lodge. In November 2019, Matt Bell and a crew of Obsidians transplanted meadow checkermallow (*Sidalcea campestris*) from locations west of the Lodge that were soon to be bulldozed for new housing. Eugene Parks and Open Space wanted the plants to be transplanted to a location with a similar soil and climate. Hence the nearby Obsidians Lodge.

A city parks ecologist worked with former Grounds Chair John Jacobsen to identify three locations at the Lodge to replant the *Sidalcea*. Plants at all three locations have survived, although deer have munched on the white flower stalks, preventing the plants from reseeding and spreading as hoped.

Brooklyn is studying some of the plant’s ecological interactions, including pollination and seed predation. Checkermallows have a unique breeding system called gynodioecy, which means that there are coexisting hermaphrodite plants (which produce pollen and fruit) and female plants (which only produce fruit and have no pollen production). The hermaphrodite plants have larger, showier flowers with pollen and nectar rewards for pollinators and are capable of self-pollination. The females, on the other hand, have smaller flowers with only nectar rewards, and cannot self-pollinate. These differences should mean that the female plants are at a disadvantage, but Brooklyn hypothesizes



Brooklyn Richards examines checkermallow.



Checkermallow in bloom on the Lodge grounds.
Photo taken by John Jacobsen the year after they were planted.

that there is a cost to being a hermaphrodite plant. That is, the hermaphrodite plant’s self-pollination doesn’t produce as high-quality of offspring, and pollen production makes hermaphrodite plants more attractive to weevil seed predators.

Brooklyn has a three-year fellowship from the National Science Foundation to study this uncommon plant for her Ph.D. dissertation. While this plant was once common in the Willamette Valley, it has lost nearly all of its native prairie habitat and only exists today in small remnant and roadside populations. She hopes to find at least thirty sites in the Willamette Valley. Other Lane County sites may include Frank Kinney Park, Hendricks Park, 30th Avenue near LCC, Suzanne Arlie Park, and Mt. Pisgah. An advantage of our site is that Brooklyn will not need a permit to collect seeds and stalks. At other sites Brooklyn has needed a plant collection permit or, in some cases, a ‘construction’ permit, as the government agency does not offer plant collection permits.

Brooklyn has a key to the gate. Say hello should you see her studying the plants at the Lodge.

*Editor’s note: To read more about the work party that transplanted checkermallow plants onto the Lodge grounds, see the Checkermallow Salvage and Planting trip report and pictures in the **March 2020 Obsidian Bulletin** (pp. 11–12).*

RAIN TIMING

Mike Smith

OUR GROUP CAMPED A LITTLE UPSTREAM OF 315-FOOT VIRGINIA FALLS, after having seen the remarkable cataract on the South Nahanni River in bright sunshine. I had stood shirtless near the falls at the top and in full rain gear at the bottom, because of the spray. We portaged three quarters of a mile around the falls the next morning, put spray covers on the canoes, and shot the Class III rapids in Fourth Canyon. I took only quick glances at the incredible scenery, as my French Canadian bowman and I tried to communicate well enough to keep the canoe from swamping. We later camped on an island, miles downstream from the falls, deep in Third Canyon. After dinner, we checked one last time that the canoes were pulled well up on land and tied, for losing any would have been catastrophic. Cleanup complete, we settled in our tents, rain starting, barely audible over the roaring river. It is one of the nicest memories I have of the 230-mile trip from Rabbitkettle Hot Springs to the Liard River in the Northwest Territories.

I called that night a gift of rain, when it started after dinner and cleanup, when one was perhaps finally dry, even some of the clothes, and there was nothing pressing to be done except to lie there and to listen.

I remember other rain timings, not as pleasant. One afternoon, after a friend and I left a lake in west central Quetico, we negotiated a nasty swamp that was too wet to walk on but not wet enough to paddle, eventually finding our exhausted, sweaty selves in pouring rain on a campsite lucky enough to have a place to pitch our two-man tent. We had neither the energy nor the initiative to deal with dinner.

If I awaken in the dark to hearing a few drops of rain on the tent fly, I need to make a half-asleep decision:

Do I get up now, get dressed, bag rolled, packed and the tent down in the dark, still mostly dry, before the rain gets serious, while concurrently eating breakfast? I will miss out on sleep, but in 45 minutes I can be on the trail or on the water, gear still dry, although I will be tired later that day. That is choice A.

Do I take a chance, convince myself it is the middle of the



*Virginia falls in 1985.
Photo by Mike Smith.*

night, sleep in, hope it will stop, risking that I end up packing wet? After all, *rain before seven stops before eleven*, but the saying doesn't necessarily mean eleven that day. That is choice B.

Do I just go back to sleep and stay put? That is choice C. If I am base-camped, that is fine. It becomes a problem when I awaken to pouring rain in the middle of the night, and I either have to come out of the woods the next day or otherwise must move on. In the first instance, I will be traveling home with wet gear, which is a real pain. I've dried wet tents in hotel stairwells, my room full of wet clothes drying, and I doubt I am the only person who has ever done that.

At the Arrigetch Peaks, it had rained all night, and the following morning we had to leave. I stayed mostly dry through the packing and breakfast, other than my chronically wet feet. But on days like that, there is no such thing as rain-proof gear. The first creek we needed to cross was running so high that we had to hike uphill a mile, until we found a mostly safe, but deep, place to cross, then hike back downhill a mile, to gain about ten yards of forward distance down the main creek. It would take us two full days to hike eight miles back to the Alatna River.

See you on the trail. I usually don't worry about getting my feet wet when I hike. I know the feeling well. Wet feet in wool stay warm. Honest.

Obsidians Mission:

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



*Bas-relief mural next to the entrance of the Obsidians Lodge:
The Obsidians Spirit by Dallas Cole.*



*Dallas holding one of the many, many ceramic pieces.
Photo by John Jacobsen.*

TAKE A SECOND LOOK at the Art Outside

Janet Jacobsen, Librarian/Historian committee

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, MAY 2, 2010, OVER 100 PEOPLE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE OBSIDIAN LODGE to hear member Dallas Cole talk about her newly installed art work, a ceramic relief mural titled “The Obsidians Spirit.” The idea of the mural to cover the cement block wall began with a conversation between John Jacobsen and Dallas at the Lodge Renovation Open House, October 2006. Three years later the mural installation began. More than 70 pieces were made and fired from a half-ton of clay and ash from Mount Saint Helens. Artistic Mason Scott Wylie worked for months to position and mount the pieces. Some of the background tiles were leftovers from the Lodge renovation entry way.

Close-ups show some of the whimsical details.

The mural captures the spirit of the Club as two hikers greet each other at the base of a waterfall splashing on obsidian rocks.

Dallas pointed out whimsical and subtle things to notice in the mural. She said that she often includes squirrels in her sculptures. There are five of them in this one, two of whom, wearing bandages climb on the tree trunk below a handicapped sign, perhaps waiting for assistance. The tortoise and the hare to the right of the tree trunk say something about the speed of various Obsidian hikers. The hare has a pack on his back. There are hidden rocks donated by John Cecil and Vera Wooley.

Winston Ross in the article *Art Outside* in the May 3, 2010 *Register-Guard* wrote: *The lines on the hikers, for example, are not wrinkles “but topographical markers, a representation of where they’ve been,” she said. The two are greeting each other because they love to go out and hike and climb. On the geese, at the base of a tree with a handicapped parking sign on it, Cole had this to say: “When you are having a hatch of eggs underneath you, you really need a special place to park.” Cole humbly thanked the 100-person crowd by saying she was “honored you would let me put my graffiti on your beautiful, beautiful wall.” Member Gary Kirk raised his hand and said he thought the signs on the right and left of the hikers spoke to the idea that they were looking to escape civilization. Cole thought about that for a second and replied: “I don’t know; I think we go to some pretty civilized places out there, too.”*

Obsidian President in 1986, Dallas was an ardent Conservation Chair and wrote many *Bulletin* articles. Other ceramic relief murals by Cole include one on the Community Conference Center facing the Hult Center and a series of bas-relief tree trunks created in association with Carolyn Orum at the Eugene Public Utility District offices off Seavey Loop. A member for 45 years, she now lives in Lake Oswego.

Related Obsidian Bulletin articles:
Obsidian Bulletin October 2009
Obsidian Bulletin April 2010
Obsidian Bulletin May 2010 (page 3)



Three photos by Bea Fontana.

Faith, Hope & Charity . . . Condon & Cope . . . North, Middle & South . . . A NOTE ON NAMING THE 3 SISTERS



George Jobanek

LAST YEAR*, IN AN ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM THE JULY AND SEPTEMBER 1956 ISSUES OF *THE OBSIDIAN BULLETIN*, Frances Newsom reminded us of how some of the Oregon peaks have come to be named, including that the Three Sisters were once known as Mounts Faith, Hope and Charity. Members might be interested to learn of other information about these magnificent peaks so close to Eugene and so close to the hearts of every Obsidian.

I have not attempted to determine the first time the name "Three Sisters" was used to refer to these great mountains, each of which is over 10,000 feet in elevation, the third, fourth and fifth highest mountains in Oregon.

Henry L. Abbot, in his report of the 1855 railroad survey of Oregon used this name. In describing the Oregon Cascades, Abbot wrote: *The chief summits are Mount Hood, Mount Jefferson, Mount Pitt [i.e. Mount McLaughlin], and Diamond Peak; which, with the four buttes comprising the group called the Three Sisters, tower high above the rest into the region of eternal snow.*

At one point during the survey, Robert L. Williamson, co-leader with Abbot, attempted to find a pass a railroad line might follow across the Cascades. Williamson's march took him, as far as I can tell, to the Green Lakes area and the Chambers Lakes between Middle and South Sisters.

On August 30, 1855, he saw the mountains. *To the northward were the snow peaks, which we afterwards*

found to be the Three Sisters. Two only were distinctly visible, but peaks of others were seen behind them, apparently separated by low depressions.

The party climbed the pass the next day. *Our course to the depression between the two snow peaks was nearly north. The ground was covered with volcanic rock in ridges and masses, with steep irregular ravines between. About ten miles from camp, we reached a good sized lake at the base of the snow peaks. We here struck an old Indian trail which led us to the depression. In ascending, we came to a beautiful little valley with a stream flowing through it towards the lake. This stream issued from the hills with a vertical fall of about thirty feet.*

We at length reached the summit of a ridge, which we supposed to be the culminating point. Its height above the sea was 6,303 feet. We then descended to a series of small lakes, one or two hundred feet below the crest just passed, and, at length, reached the summit of a ridge about five hundred feet higher than the first.

"On looking back we saw plainly that we had crossed an extinct crater, which had thrown to the southward the immense streams of lava we had passed over.

As lovers of the Three Sisters Wilderness, we should be grateful that Williamson did not succeed in locating a railroad line through this area!

Incidentally, other members of the 1855 survey included George Crook

and Philip Sheridan, later to achieve fame in the Civil War; John S. Newberry, the renowned naturalist for whom Newberry Crater is named; and many others, including Bartee, Old Red the quintessential mountain man and dead-shot, whose tangled red hair and beard obscured his face, only a bright eye gleaming through the shock, sighting along the long barrel of his rifle.

In 1888, in the journal *American Naturalist*, Edward D. Cope, a nationally prominent paleontologist and geologist, published an account of a trip he made in Oregon in 1879. Cope described seeing the Three Sisters but used names that I have seen no previous reference to.

At a point twenty to twenty-five miles south of Prineville, he wrote, nearly half the length of the Oregonian portion of the range is included in the panorama, at least a distance of seventy-five miles. From the line of frost-covered mountains rise magnificent snow-peaks to heights varying from 10,000 to nearly 15,000 feet above sea level.

"To the north is Hood; then succeeds Jefferson; then Condon, Cope, and the Batchelor [sic] ...Mount Condon [i.e. North and Middle Sisters] is a double mountain, consisting of two peaks with sharp summits, connected by a high saddleback. Its outlines are as steep as those of the others, and it presents an immense surface of snow. Mount Cope [i.e. South Sister] is twenty miles south. Its summit is an obtuse cone surrounded by impassible [sic] precipices. It is next to Mount Jefferson in elevation. These mountains are two of the four sometimes called the "Three Sisters".

Do not think, however, that Cope named the southern mountain after himself. *"They were given distinct names by the late Dr. [Ferdinand V.] Hayden, director of the US. Geological Survey of the Territories, but his ill-health and death prevented his issuing any publication on the subject. Mount Condon was dedicated to Professor Thomas Condon, of the University of Oregon."* Unfortunately for Condon, and for Cope, these names never became established.

Lastly, a University of Oregon geologist proposed in 1925 that these three mountains, whatever their names,

*To read the reprint of Francis Newsom's 1956 article go to:
Obsidian Bulletin June 1989 (page 6)

(Continued on page 7)

(Note on Naming the 3 Sisters: continued from page 6)

along with other lesser peaks, were once part of a much larger mountain.

Edwin T. Hodge felt he had evidence that Mount Multnomah, which he called the ancient ancestor of the Three Sisters, once rose over 15,000 feet above sea level, its base extending from Belknap Springs to Mount Washington to Elk Lake. The top of Mount Multnomah, Hodge claimed, was blown off, in the manner of Mount St. Helens and Mount Mazama.

The resulting caldera would have been one of the largest in the world, with the North Sister, the Husband, Broken Top, and Little Brother comprising parts of the rim. Middle and

South Sisters arose later within the caldera, as Wizard Island had arisen as a cone within the caldera of Mount Mazama, now appearing as an island in Crater Lake.

Hodge's theory, however, was refuted in the 1940s by another geologist, Howel Williams.

If Mount Multnomah had existed and lost its top to a gigantic explosion, Williams asked, where was the debris? Material from the blast of Mount Mazama has been found hundreds, thousands of miles away, but none has been found from the conjectured Mount Multnomah.

But while his mountain might never have existed, give Hodge credit as an able mountaineer. During the course of

his field work, Hodge climbed North Sister at least twice, three years before the Obsidians hiking club was founded. He was an Obsidian in spirit if not in fact. Whatever you call the Three Sisters—Faith, Hope and Charity; Condon and Cope; North, Middle and South—these mountains have a deep significance to our club. They are accessible and inviting, almost a backyard playground in their proximity to us. But most of all, they are one way we as a club have chosen to test ourselves. Climb all three and you join a lineage going back to the very inspiration for the club in 1927.

Hard as obsidian, but in love with mountains!

Editor's note: George Jobanek joined the Obsidians in 1983 and led 21 of his 53 climbs. He was awarded his Three and Ten Peak patches in 1989. He carried on the tradition with his son Andy going to climb school and summer camp with him. Andy then led five climbs and was awarded his Three Peak patch in 2003. George is the author of *An Annotated Bibliography of Oregon Bird Literature Published Before 1935* and the introduction and annotations to *Narrative of a Journey across the Rocky Mountains to the Columbia River* by John Kirk Townsend, both published by Oregon State University Press.

TRIP REPORTS



Bike Trips

Easter Bunny Rides Again

March 31, 2024

Leader & Photographer: Richard Hughes

Bike: 28 miles, 821 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A VERY COMFORTABLE EASTER SUNDAY MORNING while we stood around waiting for everyone to get their bikes ready to go. As soon as we started moving, the chill of the 40-degree temperature made one pedal faster to warm up. We made it to Veneta expecting to sit outside and enjoy a cup of joe at Our Daily Bread. Who knew they would be having a buffet—outside, no less? Onward to the Broadway Grill just down the street which was closed. The third charming choice was the best at the Veneta City Park, east on Broadway from Territorial Hwy. Flush toilets, Easter Bunny truffles, and smiles graced our rest stop. Lana wore her traditional wabbit ears and Sue not only wore ears on top of her helmet, but also picked up a little furry creature that was hitching along the way. Finally, Pat donned a white fuzzy ball tail that even Bugs Bunny would be jealous of. Members: Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, John Hegg, Richard Hughes, Jonathan Jost, Jeff Lange, Kate Lange, Lana Lindstrom, Andrew McIvor, Lynn Stearney, Lyndell Wilken, Sue Wolling.



Sue & Lana. The bike is decked out too.



Climbs

Basic Climb School

March 12–April 6, 2024

Leader & Photographer: Maryanne Reiter
Climb School

THE 2024 CLASS OF THE OBSIDIANS CLIMB SCHOOL ROCKED THE ROCK and had a blast in the snow. Everyone did a great job with learning new skills or refreshing old skills. The volunteers were outstanding. Thanks to everyone for making this year awesome. Members: John Gard, Melanie Glock, Daniel Hagen, Tom Happy, Andrew McIvor,



Sandra Sigrist rappelling for the first time.



Climb School snow day.

Jukka Naukkarinen, Maryanne Reiter, Sandra Sigrist, Jeffrey Smith, Jamie Sullivan, Heather Walloch. Nonmembers: Drew Simrin, Nancy Serrano, Shanna Anderson, Sheri Gabert, Chad Shelton, Jeremy Parker, Sam Hillmann, Sarah Dement, Spencer Anderson, Michael Helton, Tracy Hartz, Sara Gangaware, Alexis Heather.

Diamond Peak Graduation Climb

April 21, 2024

Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Climb: 8 miles, 3,750 ft. (Difficult)

WE HAD A FANTASTIC DAY ON DIAMOND PEAK. The team was fun, the snow was good, the homemade cookies were outstanding (thanks, Melanie), and the wind was still. Perfect combo! One student was having knee pain and so needed to turn around. She went back with the climb assistant, Miranda. The rest of the team made it to the summit just after noon. It was a crowded summit with all the skiers on top waiting to ski down. We had lunch and then launched down the mountain on our behinds with a most excellent series of glissading opportunities. We were back at the cars by 4 PM and celebrated with stickers and cupcakes (thanks, Jamie). Members: Sheri Gabert, John Gard, Melanie Glock, Daniel Hagen, Sam Hillmann, Maryanne Reiter, Drew Simrin, Jamie Sullivan, Miranda Trieston. Nonmembers: Nancy Serrano, Sarah Dement, Spencer Anderson, Michael Helton.



Hikes

Row River Path Trillium Walk

April 5, 2024

Leader & Photographer: Jean Harris

Hike: 7 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

EVERYTHING IS GREEN, GREEN, GREEN. Grass, bushes, and trees are becoming all the beautiful shades of green. This path has numerous trillium, iris, chocolate lilies, calypso



On top of Dorena Dam: Gwyneth, Mike, Jean, Vern, and Steve.

orchids, and more. Many trees along the path were loaded with blossoms. Our view of the lake included a couple of boats, birds, and debris. The six of us enjoyed our walk and talk. Members: Steve Adey, Heidi Anderson, Jean Harris, Gwyneth Iredale, Michael King, Vern Marsonette.

Row River Trillium Path

April 6, 2024

Leader: Whitney Gould

Hike: 12.1 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

TWO INTREPID OBSIDIANS WALKED AND WALKED ALONG THE RIVER TRAIL. We started at Mosby trailhead and turned around after six miles. Very easy to find and follow the path.

We saw horses, cows, a wall of ferns, numerous wildflowers, and crossed two bridges. Long, but not difficult. Members: Whitney Gould, Elizabeth Grant.

North Bank Habitat Management Area

April 10, 2024

Leader: Heidi Anderson

Assistant Leader & Photographer: Karen Yoerger

Hike: 7.5 miles, 1,745 ft. (Moderate)

OUTSTANDING DAY FOR THE GROUP OF 11 TO HIKE AT NORTH BANK! Many flowers in bloom, green hillsides, many birds, and a great time was had by all. Four participants had



Lunch on the ridge.

never hiked North Bank, so that's pretty darn special. Members: Heidi Anderson, Kristen Anderson, Kathie Carpenter, Janet Jacobsen, Jeff Lange, Lynn Meacham, Paula Rich, Sandra Sigrist, Dorothy van Winkle, Peggy Wright, Karen Yoerger.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

April 13, 2024

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

OUR GROUP OF FIVE ENJOYED THE FLOWERS AND THEIR SCENT AS WE HIKE THE TRAILS to and through the park. Under somewhat gray skies, the flower colors really popped. We completed our hike just before the hard rain hit. Another great day in the great outdoors in the great Northwest was had by all. Members: Gwyneth Iredale, Hally McCabe, Ane McKee, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Chandra Bigelow.

30th & Spring to Hendricks

April 18, 2024

Leader & Photographer: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 2.8 miles, 450 ft. (Easy)

TEN HAPPY HIKERS MET ON THIS BEAUTIFUL SPRING EVENING! The trail was dotted with flowers leading up to Hendricks Park where we were greeted with eye-popping color from the azaleas, magnolias, rhodies, and so many more. The



Lana is dressed to match the rhodies!

group took turns deciding which way we'd turn on the multiple trail junctions. Giving all a choice in the route made for a fun and longer tour of the park. We then headed out and back to our cars. Members: Norma Barton, David Clinger, David Cooper, Jennifer Crim, Whitney Gould, David Hawkins, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Peg Straub, Lisa Van Liefde.

Heceta Head

April 20, 2024

Leader & Photographer: Kathie Carpenter

Hike: 8 miles, 799 ft. (Moderate)

THIS WAS THE TERRIFIC LITTLE HIKE THAT HAD IT ALL. There were varied landscapes (forest, wetland, skunk cabbage blooming in all their odiferous glory, fabulous ocean views, historic lighthouse, sandy beach), great company (welcome to new members, Kim and Bill!), restrooms at the trailhead and the lunch spot, enough elevation to warm us up but not enough to wear us out, and very cooperative weather. The rain forecast kept the crowds away, but we only got a few drops, not enough to count as even a shower, and the trail was not muddy at all. The beach was covered with thousands of dried-up *Velella velella*, a delicate little jellyfish also known as 'by-the-wind sailors'. Unlike the skunk cabbages, they were not odiferous at all, and added a sculptural element to the really wild rock- and sandscapes carved by the wind on



Kim and Bill by the nearly completed new bridge across China Creek. It won't be long before we can hike the Valley Trail again.



Lots of color along the trail. Photo by Heidi Anderson. Pisgah East Side hike 3/29/24



The view from the lighthouse never disappoints.

the beach. Best of all, the bridge on the China Creek loop is almost finished! Members: Kathie Carpenter, Bill Whitley, Kim Whitley.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes
Hikes: 3.0–6.2 miles, 750–1,530 ft. (Moderate)
Various Leaders

Sandra Sigrist: 3/27 11 Members, 1 Nonmember
Karen Yoerger: 4/3 10 Members
Signe Wright: 4/10 7 Members
Darian Morray: 4/17 11 Members

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

Janet Jacobsen: 4/2 4 Members
John Miller: 4/9 6 Members, **4/23** 6 Members
Sandra Sigrist: 4/16 9 Members

Mt. Pisgah Hikes
Hike: 3.2–3.5 miles, 12–1,000 ft. (Moderate)
Leader, Janet Jacobsen: 3/29 4 Members, **4/22** 11 Members



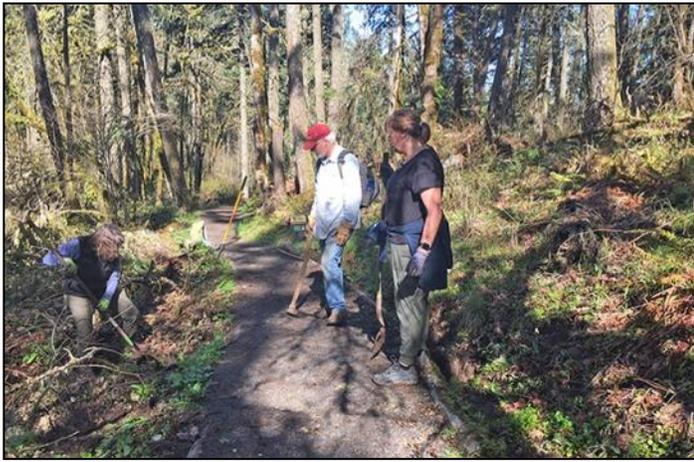
Amazon Headwaters Brushing & Drainage
March 30, 2024
Leader: Matt Bell
Photographer: Janet Jacobsen
Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

OUR GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MET AT THE FOX HOLLOW TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT on a beautiful, sunny spring morning to do some trail maintenance. After grabbing tools



Jennifer and Lynn digging out a culvert.

and talking about hazards, we headed down the Amazon Headwaters Trail to start our work. We made great time clearing the drainage ditches, culverts, and outflows. The primary hazard for the day, poison oak, was only present in the upper-most drainage. We were greatly aided by Dave Predeek's immunity to poison oak while clearing this ditch. The bulk of our group was able to head to the upper trail and clear three more drainages before we stopped for snacks. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing cranberry bread.



Dan, Jennifer, and Lynn are finishing up on another culvert.



It is hard work but Lynn is still smiling.

Members: Fletcher Bell, Matt Bell, Nathaniel Bell, Oliver Bell, Jennifer Crim, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Lynn Meacham, Dave Predeek.

Lodge and Grounds Cleanup

April 11, 2024

Leader: David Cooper

Work Party

IT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A GROUP OF DEDICATED OBSIDIANS. Today's efforts went beyond the usual clean, sweep, and mow. In the Lodge hallway, Doug, John, and Vern mounted the historic Obsidian bulletin board that had hung at the YMCA for many years. Originally used as the place to sign up for trips, it will now be a place to display pictures and notices about our activities. We clean the gutters every year but this time Gwyneth and Mike unclogged the downspouts, a messy, time-consuming job. The grounds crews were in constant motion with mowing, weed whacking, and pruning dominating phase one. Then came the raking, blowing, and debris moving. Some plants were moved, mulch was spread, and a woodpile relocated. There was always a little more that could be done and people found a place to be useful. What a bunch of volunteers! Members: Julie Barnas, David Cooper, Larry Dunlap, Clara Emlen, John Hegg, Kathy Hoeg, Gwyneth Iredale, Michael King, Vern Marsonette, Margot McDonnell, Patty Neis, Doug Nelson, Jim Northrop, Maryanne Reiter, Jeffrey Rusow, Karla Rusow, Sonia Wildish, Sue Zeni.

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

April 12, 2024

Leader: David Cooper

Photographer: Heidi Anderson

Work Party: 1 mile, 50 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A SHORT DAY BECAUSE A BROKEN TRACTOR MADE HAULING GRAVEL OUT OF THE QUESTION. So, with buckets and shovels, we took care of root wad holes. Not a bad working environment with the wild irises and chocolate lilies in bloom. Members: Heidi Anderson, David Cooper, Sandra Sigrist.



Chocolate lilies.



Sandra Sigrist.

APRIL BOARD NOTES

April 3, 2024

From minutes by Angie Ruzicka

Dave Hawkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Jean Harris, Maryanne Reiter, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde, Sue Zeni. Others present: Carla Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, Jim Northrop.

The Board approved the minutes of the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report (prepared by Laura Osinga): Dave Hawkins presented the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. Of note: Vanguard investments gained \$3,145 in March and US Bank checking is down \$17,000 due to payment for the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bus Trips (Jim Northrop—interim): The committee met on March 7. Jim Northrop will lead a trip to the historic Creswell Schoolhouse, Wildlife Safari, and the Douglas County Museum on May 9. Barbara Beard will lead a jet boat tour on the Willamette and Columbia rivers on June 4, travelling to Portland via Amtrak. Possible additional trips are the Santiam Excursion Train between Lebanon and Sweet Home and a fall color trip to the McKenzie River Discovery Center, the historic Fish Lake Remount Station, and the soon-to-be-reopened Santiam Pass Ski Lodge. The committee is co-hosting a Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast and Hendrick's Park Rhody hike on May 12. We continue to explore less expensive transportation alternatives.

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee and other volunteers have been working hard to make Climb School a success. We still have the rock-climbing section left to do. The Climbs Chair has been working on the NOLS wilderness first aid class as well as scheduling climbs and a crevasse rescue class.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): In March, we took in \$117 in sales and \$140 in orders for vests.

Entertainment (Ane McKee): Our March Potluck & Presentation was the Summer Camp Rally. Lana Lindstrom and Steve Johnson talked about what to expect, the registration process and other details regarding Camp Fontana this August. The Entertainment and Bus Committees will again co-sponsor a Mother's Day Pancake & Rhody Walk to be held on Sunday, May 12, 2024. We held another enjoyable GameNight! on Tuesday, March 19.

Finance (Susan Zeni): We continue to utilize STRIPE to collect payments for Lodge rentals, Climb School and the Wilderness First Aid class.

Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana): We researched info for the *In Memoriam* of Dan Bates, an active member who died in February. We searched the Obsidian archives and located a historical photo of Eagles Rest Lookout for the article in the April *Bulletin*. Janet is continuing research on the (possibly honorary) membership status of J.R. Bruckart, Willamette Forest Supervisor from 1938–1954.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): A Lodge/Grounds work

party is scheduled for April 11. The McKenzie River Trust and Square One Villages rented in March. April has the Gary Kirk Memorial coming up. In May things really get busy: some ongoing climb school sessions, three rentals, and a first aid class, to be immediately followed by a two-day wilderness first aid course in June. Plus, somewhere in all this we will schedule some training/help sessions on the new website.

Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop—interim): The Grounds Committee will combine with the Building Committee on the morning of April 11 to spruce up the grounds and Lodge prior to the 'Gary Kirk Celebration of Life' event on April 20.

Membership (Diane Schechter): Total Membership—477.

Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde): The committee continues to prepare for the Siuslaw PlayShop event in Florence next month. We are also trying monthly "Look Back" posts on Facebook and Instagram to highlight events of the previous months.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): AED defibrillator pads were replaced. First aid classes are scheduled for May and June.

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): The Fox Hollow trailhead was the starting point for the single stewardship project that took place this March. Ten volunteers cleaned the drains and brushed the Amazon Headwaters Park trail. Thank you.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): We had a full house for the Summer Camp Rally. Steve created a fabulous Power-Point presentation showing the campsite and highlighting some of the outstanding hikes. We have postponed the sign-up from April 20 to May 11 so that there's more time to become familiar with the new website before the pressure to sign up quickly.

Trips (Dave Cooper): Winter trips are done. As we move forward there will be just a Trips Committee. The seasonal distinction will no longer be made. The types of trips sponsored will remain the same. In March we had 26 trips. Collected \$16 in trip fees and an \$18 cash donation.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Replacement Progress (Dave Hawkins): Dave and Lana have been working to better understand the treasurer's workload and flow to identify options moving forward.

Policies and Practices: New Lodge Rental Agreement Forms (Dave Cooper): Dave presented the new Obsidian Lodge Rental Information/Agreement form updating the rental costs and an Indemnity Agreement. The Board approved the new form.

Insurance Overview (Sue Zeni): Sue reviewed the coverages and premiums of our three insurance policies: Property and General Liability Insurance through Liberty Mutual, Directors and Operators EPL Insurance through Travelers, and Accident Insurance through Philadelphia.

Approval of Summer Camp Check Signers (Lana Lindstrom): Lana gave an update regarding Summer Camp, including that the Food Manager job is being divided into

(Continued on page 13)

(April Board Notes: continued from page 12)

smaller chunks. The Board approved Pam Caples, Lana Lindstrom, and Nancy Whitfield as signers on the Oregon Community Credit Union Summer Camp account.

Nominating Committee Appointments (Dave Hawkins): Lana will chair the committee including Dave Hawkins, Maryanne Reiter, Jean Harris, Denise Rubenstein. Two additional committee members will be identified.

Annual Dues & Life Membership Increases Considerations (Dave Hawkins): The Board discussed a variety of opportunities for increasing revenue and donations to support our ongoing expenses.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on Website & Data Project (Lana Lindstrom/Dave Cooper): Things are moving quickly, and hopefully, the new website will launch in mid-April. The process to upload data and photos from the current website to the new one has begun. As a result, no updates are allowed; however, folks can continue to sign up for trips. Once the data transfer is completed, a group of Obsidians will be reviewing that data to ensure that it was transferred accurately. When the new site is live, members will receive an email explaining logging into the site and choosing a strong password. Two trainings, one for some committee chairs and one for trip leaders, were held in March; additional trainings and support for members are being planned.

ADJOURNMENT

Off the Beaten Trail at Summer Camp

Sue Wolling



IF LOTS OF COLD, WET WEATHER HAS TAKEN SOME OF THE SPRING OUT OF YOUR STEP, you might be having second thoughts about committing to a solid week of hiking at Summer Camp. Fortunately, there are lots of other things to do if you want to take a day off from hiking—including just hanging around camp to read a book!

One good alternative is to trade your boots for boats. There will be water options right at your doorstep (or tent flap) at Silver Lake. The resort offers pontoon boats, canoes, kayaks, rowboats, paddle boards, motor boats, and fishing rods (and maybe even root beer floats, for a dry land option!), so you can easily spend a pleasant day around the lake.

You might think you could spend a day kayaking the Class III whitewater of the nearby North Fork of the Nooksack, but there's something fishy about that river. At least, we hope so. It is a critical salmon run, so in order to protect the fish, no recreational use is allowed on the river during August.

But you can instead take in the sea-nery from a kayak along the shore in Bellingham, which is only about 30 miles from camp. The city offers numerous water trails (and these are NOT the kind of water trails you slogged through in Eugene throughout February!) to admire ocean and cliff views, explore tide pools, and enjoy some birdwatching.

If you head to Bellingham, you might not even make it as far as your kayak. There's so much to see and do in the city that Rick Steves produced an entire series about Bellingham! There's a plethora of parks, with popular trails, ocean views, and waterfalls. Bellingham also offers several free self-guided walking tours. Come lunchtime, you might head to Fairhaven Village, an historic district featuring restaurants,

art galleries, and boutiques, with everything locally produced. Art is big in Bellingham—REALLY big! Not only is there an outdoor sculpture garden and downtown Arts District, but you can also see the largest mural in Washington, spanning the length of two football fields. Or, you might get a jolt out of the Spark Museum of Electrical Invention, featuring the MegaZapper—the biggest lightning machine in the country! Sorry, but it's probably not free of charge.

Other options for a day off from hiking—or perhaps for a few days before or after camp—include bicycling (road, gravel or mountain biking), or taking a quick cruise to visit the San Juan Islands, or to go whale watching. You could also bring your passport and visit the outdoor sculptures, floral displays, and vistas at Peace Arch State Park, on the Canadian border.

With so many options, you might need to hike the next day, just to recover from your day off!

It's almost time to register for Summer Camp! Registrations for members, on the current Obsidian website, opens at 7 AM on Saturday, May 11. For nonmembers, registration opens at 7 AM on Monday, May 13.



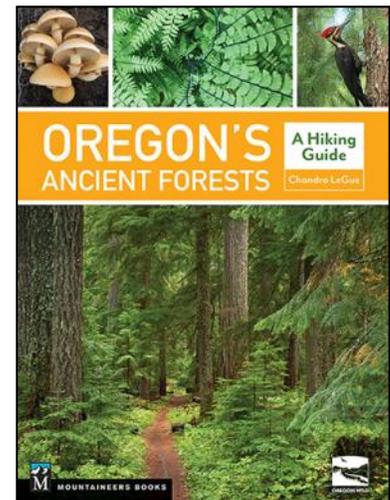
Protecting Old-Growth Forests & Wild Places

Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild



Hiking the Salmon River.

HOW DID THE FOREST ALONG YOUR FAVORITE TRAIL DEVELOP OVER THE PAST FEW CENTURIES and what battles were fought to protect your favorite Wilderness Area or wild river? Since Chandra LeGue, Senior Conservation Advocate with Oregon Wild, wrote her 2019 book *Oregon's Ancient Forests: A hiking guide*, several included trails have been impacted by fire, and some new campaigns to protect old-growth forests and wild places have emerged. Join us on Friday, May 31, 2024, to explore Oregon's ancient forests, see some of the changes they experience over time, and learn about what has been done and what is being done to preserve some of Oregon's most treasured places.



Chandra LeGue.

Potluck
Friday, May 31, 2024
Obsidian Lodge
Social 6:05 PM
Potluck 6:30 PM, Program 7:30 PM

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



Join Oregon Wild in celebrating 50 years of protecting Oregon's old-growth forests, rivers, and wildlife!

THIS ANNIVERSARY YEAR IS A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CONSERVATION LEGACY, raise a toast to a half-century of relentless advocacy, and build support for the years ahead with the community and partners who make our work possible.

To honor our 50th anniversary and celebrate with you, we're hosting two 50th-anniversary galas*:

Friday, May 10 in Portland
 and Saturday, May 11 in Eugene.

*Complete with dinner, drinks, awards, and inspiring presentations, it's a once-in-a-generation event for Oregon Wild that will impact Oregon's wild places and wildlife for years to come.

Tickets and more information here: <https://oregonwild.org/evergreengala>

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

<u>May</u>					
5 Sun	Finley Wildlife Refuge Hike E Hackett	953-7046	1 Sat	Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah TrlMnt M.....	Sojak 799-9199
7 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer B Hike MRubenstein	248-514-5092	2 Sun	North Fork of the Willamette Hike E.....	Hackett 953-7046
8 Wed	Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike M.....	Jacobsen 206-1251	4 Tue	Jet Boat Trip Bus.....	Beard 994-2337
9 Thu	St. Vinnies Greatest Hits Hike M.....	Carpenter 505-2370	6 Thu	Alton Baker Park Ramble Hike M...Van Liefde	949-677-1379
9 Thu	Wildlife Safari and More Bus	Northrop 343-3426	8 Sat	Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike E.....	TBA
10 Fri	Pisgah East Side Loop Hike M.....	Anderson 805-798-1842	8 Sat	Tam McArthur Rim Hike M	Blumm 228-0217
11 Sat	Green Island, MRT Stewardship WrkPrty M...	Sojak 799-9199	9 Sun	Waldport, city trails and lunch Hike M.....	Hackett 953-7046
11 Sat	Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike E.....	Lindstrom 683-1409	13 Thu	GameNight!	McKee 554-1364
12 Sun	Mother's Day B'fast &Rhody Walk Picnic Northrop	343-3426	14 Fri	Belknap Crater Hike D.....	Blumm 228-0217
12 Sun	Eel Creek Hike M	Hackett 953-7046	20 Thu	52nd to Blanton Ridge Hike E.....Van Liefde	949-677-1379
13 Mon	Crevasse Rescue Training.....	Aarts 503-804-8370	20 Thu	Mt Pisgah Summer Solstice Hike M.....	Sigrist 916-612-5517
14 Tue	GameNight!	McKee 554-1364	21 Fri	Pisgah East Side Loop Hike M	Hawkins 505-0119
14 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M.Young	941-780-4156	26 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt M	Bell 503-884-8829
15 Wed	Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer B Hike M Rubenstein	248-514-5092	28 Fri	Macduff Mountain Hike M.....	Johnson 520-2470
18 Sat	Patterson Mountain Hike E	Hackett 953-7046	<u>July</u>		
19 Sun	Emergency Preparedness -1st Aid Class	Wilken 343-3080	4 Thu	Obsidians Butte to Butte Hike E	Sojak 799-9199
21 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M.Young	941-780-4156	10 Wed	North Umpqua Car Camp CarCmp M	Metcalfe 221-5702
22 Wed	Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike M.....	Jacobsen 206-1251	13 Sat	Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike E.....	TBA
22 Wed	Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike M.....	Miller 255-6254	16 Tue	GameNight!	McKee 554-1364
23 Thu	Fox Hollow to Mt. Baldy Hike E.....	Van Liefde 949-677-1379	20 Sat	Mt Thielsen- Graduation Climb Climb D.....	Reiter 521-8472
23 Thu	Blanton to Baldy w/options Hike D.....	Sigrist 916-612-5517	28 Sun	Annual Beach Barefoot Hike M.....	Sojak 799-9199
24 Fri	Pisgah East Side Loop Hike M	Hawkins 505-0119	31 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt M	Bell 503-884-8829
25 Sat	Middle Sister Climb D	Reiter 521-8472	<u>August</u>		
25 Sat	Fort Rock & Homestead Village Hike E.....	Blumm 228-0217	12 Mon	Camp Fontana-Mt Baker, WA SmCmp M...	Johnson 520-2470
26 Sun	Horse Ridge exploratory, Cape Mt Hike E ...	Hackett 953-7046	28 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt M	Bell 503-884-8829
28 Tue	Blanton Ridge to Spencer B Hike MRubenstein	248-514-5092	<u>September</u>		
29 Wed	Trail Maintenance TrlMnt M	Bell 503-884-8829	15 Sun	Crown Z, Perkins and Pacific Hike M	Sojak 799-9199
29 Wed	Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike M... Smith	520-488-9569	17 Tue	GameNight!	McKee 554-1364
31 Fri	Protecting Old-Growth &Wild Places-ChandraLeGue	Potluck	21 Sat	Mt Hubris/Cosmic Wall Climb	Reiter 521-8472
			27 Fri	Mushrooms Along Our Trails-Bruce Newhouse	Potluck
			28 Sat	National Public Lands Day TrlMnt M	Bell 503-884-8829

June

- 1 Sat Wilderness First Aid
- 1 Sat National Trails Day TrlMnt M.....



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

Tuesday, May 14

Thursday, June 13

Tuesday, July 16

Questions? Contact: Ane McKee
entertainment@obsidians.org



**A reminder...
 Sunday, May 12
 is the Mother's Day
 Pancake Breakfast!**
 (Not just for Mothers)

Join us at the Obsidian Lodge.

Breakfast will be served from 9:30–11:00 AM.

After breakfast:
**Walk/Hike to Hendricks Park to view the rhodies
 or stay at the Lodge to visit, work a puzzle, or play a game.**
 We expect to be done by 2 PM.

For more details see the article on page 11 of last month's *Bulletin*:
April 2024 Obsidian Bulletin
 Or contact Jim Northrop: 343-3426
jim.b.northrop@gmail.com

*Online signup is appreciated (but not required).
 It helps us plan.*



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May 2024



*A great day on Diamond Peak!
See Diamond Peak Graduation Climb trip report on page 8.*

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