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Dates to Remember

July 17	GameNight!
August 8-13	Summer Camp
August 29	Bulletin Deadline
September 3	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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for publication,**
please send directly to:

[obsidians-
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Looking to the Future Obsidians Club at 100 years

Denise Rubenstein on behalf of the Obsidian Board

THANK YOU comes first. Members have supported the Obsidians and its mission for almost 100 years. Connecting community to the outdoors is at our core. Members offer their support in so many ways—by leading, working on committees, participating in activities and events, paying dues, and more. With this support the Obsidians club offers endless opportunities for friendship, connections, adventures, and learning, along with tremendous health benefits! We make the community stronger. Thank you for all that you do.

Now for the **PLEASE**. The Obsidian Board is looking to shore up our Capital and Contingency funds in support of two main goals: 1) Pursuing Lodge Maintenance and Grounds Projects which protect our major assets (e.g., buildings, fences, sprinklers, fire hardening, safety, etc.), and 2) Looking forward to our 100-Year Celebration in 2027!



*The Board is ready and willing to work for you, but donations will be needed.
Photo by Carla Cooper.*

While the details of the Obsidians finances are somewhat complicated, a high-level picture of how the dollars are organized may be helpful here.

The Obsidians finances are divided into three funds, each with a different purpose:

The General Fund is where dues, Lodge income, etc. go in, and the majority of the expenses are paid from (e.g., utilities, insurance, taxes, publications, online costs, etc.).

The Endowment Fund (previous gifts through the decades) is intended to generate dividends and the principal money in this fund is generally not expected to be spent. Investment earnings may be used to support the other two funds.

The Capital/Contingency Fund is used for major capital improvements and emergencies. It has been drawn down the last three years to fund the new website, painting, and electrical work at the Lodge.

Oversight of the Obsidians funds has been strong, leading to good returns on investments and allowing for steady *business as usual* for many years. However, when we begin to look at a list of the Lodge and Grounds projects, both recent, past, and future (see the examples mentioned in the second paragraph above), along with a 100-Year

(Continued on page 2)

Looking to the Future—Obsidians at 100 Years (Continued from page 1)

Celebration of the Obsidians, generating revenue above and beyond the usual becomes necessary.

Our goal is to raise \$15,000 by December 31, 2025. Some of the ongoing and proposed projects, and estimated costs, are listed below.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Lodge & Grounds: fire hardening, paint & repair fence, roof cleaning, new woodshed, fire-resistant landscaping	\$9,000
100 Year Celebration	\$1,000
Tech Updates: e.g. document management system	\$4,000

So, the **ASK** today is for each of you to consider making a donation to the Obsidians Capital/Contingency Fund in support of these projects. There is a Donate button on the website, or you are welcome to send in a check to the Obsidians, PO Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405, Attn: Treasurer. Obsidians are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization which means your donation may be deductible on income taxes.

Thank you again for your amazing support of the Obsidians and our mutual love for the outdoors.



Nominees for the Board of Directors

Denise Rubenstein

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S JOB IS TO RECOMMEND THREE CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS for three-year terms beginning January 2026. The names of Steve Davis and Sandra Sigrist were presented at the June Board meeting. Jean Harris has agreed to serve another term. Qualities that the committee considered important included: demonstrated leadership, a variety of skill sets, and commitment to the club. Both new nominees have led trips and mentored others. Jean has been a dedicated Board member for the last three years and always adds value to any endeavor. Steve is active in Climbs, and Sandra comes with a strong background in community service programming.

All three will be voted on at the October 10 Annual Meeting. According to the By-laws, up to three additional nominees may be submitted by petition to the secretary before the September Board meeting; signatures of five voting members are required. Bios of the nominees will be published in the September *Bulletin*.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Denise Rubenstein, Lana Lindstrom, Maryanne Reiter, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde, or Karen Yoerger.

Obsidians Mission:

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

OBSIDIANS

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

Officers & Board of Directors

Denise Rubenstein, President
Lisa Van Liefde, Vice President
Angie Ruzicka, Secretary
Sue Zeni, Treasurer
Dave Cooper, Jean Harris,
Lana Lindstrom, John Miller,
Nancy Whitfield

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 Wim Aarts
Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd Angie Ruzicka
Entertainment Ane McKee
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance Susan Zeni
Lodge Building Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds J. Northrop & N. Whitfield
Librarian/Historian Bea Fontana
Membership Diane Schechter
Online D. & C. Cooper & L. Lindstrom
Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity D. Rubenstein & L. Van Liefde
Safety John Miller
Stewardship Darko Sojak
Summer Camp Lana Lindstrom
Trips Dave Cooper

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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Deadline

for September Bulletin
Friday, August 29

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Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger

Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:
Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana

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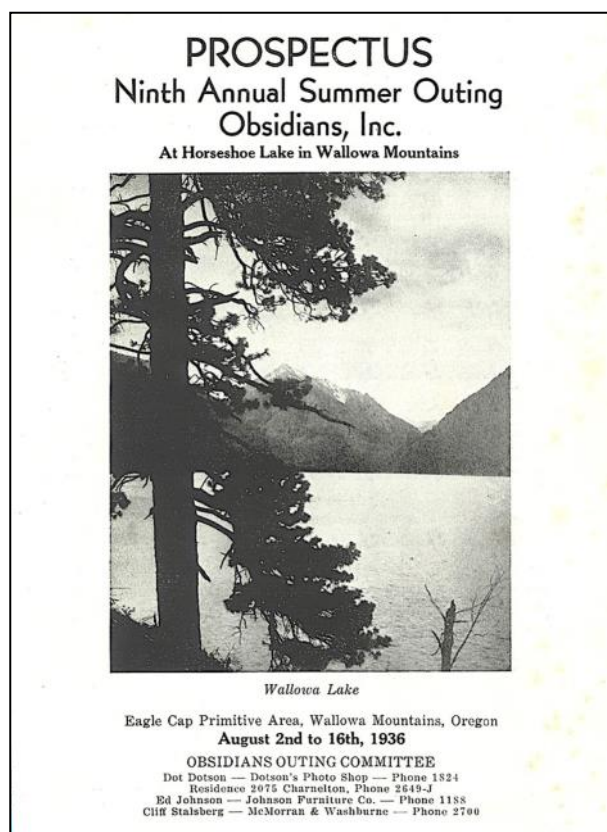
Managers: Lou Maenz, Nancy Raymond

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

The First Wallowa Summer Camp in 1936

Librarian/Historian Committee

OBSIDIANS HAVE HELD 86 SUMMER CAMPS since it was founded in 1927. Next month marks the 87th Summer Camp and for the eighth time, members will hold a camp at the Wallowa Mountains. The first was August 2, 1936 at Horseshoe Lake. It was a two-week outing to honor President Bailey Castelloe with Dot Dotson as camp chair. It was the eighth year for Mrs. Lake to take on cooking duties. The cost was \$35 with a \$10 deposit.



At an elevation of 7,300 feet in the Lake Basin, the 1936 camp was touted as surpassing the previous eight Summer Camps. The horse pack in for the 8½ miles to Horseshoe Lake allowed each camper 35 pounds with 10¢ per pound for excess weight. The baggage drop-off was at committee member Ed Johnson's Furniture Store. To liven up the campfire programs...*Musical instruments of small size will be welcome, and their transportation will be provided by the Committee. Those wishing to ride horses into camp can secure them at reasonable rates by contacting the Committee.... The Camp Committee will leave Eugene Thursday morning in order to have Camp established for the group coming in on Monday.*

The prospectus has some other interesting guidelines that might be amusing when you are packing for your Wallowa adventure this summer:

Come Prepared to Rough it.

The Club will provide emergency shelter tents. Individuals should bring tents as part of their dunnage. Be prepared for rain. Bring a sleeping bag if possible, otherwise several good

blankets. A comfortable bed is a major consideration on a two weeks outing. The nights will be chilly, so bring plenty of bedding even at the sacrifice of a can of cold cream.

The following are indispensable:

1. A good bed
2. Heavy hiking shoes (not necessarily high, but preferably hobbled.)
3. Heavy wool socks.
4. COLORED GLASSES (for snow or glacier trips)
5. Suitable hiking clothes
6. Adhesive tape for blisters.
7. Cold cream or zinc oxide for prevention of sunburn.
8. Small knapsack or pack board.
9. Drinking cup or canteen
10. Flashlight.

Photos from the summer camp might be the reason that a couple of years later, *swimsuit* was added to the list.



Bathing beauties at Razz Lake.
Photo taken by Mertie Hamlin on Aug 5, 1936.

The names of the twenty-nine people attending the camp were printed in the *Register-Guard*. A few months later, the first *Bulletin* was published—becoming the way to share trip details and highlights.

One camper, reflecting on their first Wallowa adventure in 2003, put it best: *You will be sure, I will not forget my first Summer Camp.*

Subsequent Wallowa camps were:

- 1940 Horseshoe Lake 29 participants
- 1947 John Henry Lake via Lostine 41 participants
- 1952 Horseshoe Lake 32 participants
- 1966 Moccasin Lake (camping nearby between two lakes) John and Lenore McManigal were chairs. A two-week camp with 102 participants
- 1984 Wallowas-south / Jack Creek / E. Fork Eagle Cr. (where Paint Your Wagon was filmed) 60 participants
- 2003 Wallowas / Imnaha River 110 participants.

A complete list of the past summer camps can be found online in the Obsidian Members Area > Historical Items.

Let's Head for the Mountains

Dave Cooper, Trips Committee Chair



IT'S PERMIT SEASON FOR THE MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS IN OUR WILDERNESS AREAS. Sometimes it may seem difficult to get a permit. The trick is to plan ahead. Study the information at this site: www.fs.usda.gov/r06/willamette/permits/central-cascades-wilderness-permits and be ready to log in when the date for your desired trip becomes available. Set your alarm!

There is often an alternative way to get out on the trails and reach those sought-after destinations. Permits are required at only 19 of the 79 trailheads in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wilderness areas. Sixty trailheads just require filling out a permit form at the trailhead.

Want to go to Marion Mountain? It might be difficult to get a permit to go via Marion Lake, but take the Pine Ridge trail, and have lunch on the mountain while looking down on the lake. Can't get a permit for Duffy Lake? Start at the Maxwell Butte trailhead. Want a good climb in the Three Sisters? No advance permit is required for Black Crater. Something easier? How about Linton Lake? Want to enjoy the views from Scott Mountain in the Mt. Washington Wilderness? Avoid the advance permit and campers at Benson Lake, and instead drive up Hwy. 242 a few miles and self-issue a permit from the Hand Lake trailhead.

We have so many wonderful places to visit in the Cascades. Learn how to obtain permits and investigate alternative wilderness routes. With resource books from local authors like Bill Sullivan and Franziska Adair (*Hike Oregon*) you can plan great outings. Don't forget our own Obsidian resources. In the Member Area of the website, use the event history to read trip reports from past trips for specific areas. Talk to other leaders about places you are considering. Don't just talk, though, let's get out there!

Mosquitos 'Tis the season...

Researched by the Librarian/Historian Committee

SEARCHING 89 YEARS OF OBSIDIAN BULLETINS FOR THIS 'SCHOLARLY' ARTICLE ON THE MOSQUITO SEASON, THE RESEARCHER FOUND 247 MOSQUITO MATCHES. Trip reports describe mosquitos as a swarm, a bombardment, voracious, and so fierce that a hiker must run to avoid providing them lunch.

Mosquito season typically begins in late spring (May/June) and lasts through the summer, with July often being the peak month. The severity of the season is influenced by factors like snowmelt, weather, and elevation. Usually, July is the worst month for mosquitos in the Cascades—the melting snow leaves lots of standing water. Things get better when summer dries things out.

The June 2003 *Bulletin* has a feature article on the West Nile Virus. Though the virus is relatively rare in Oregon, the Oregon Health Authority has current information at: www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/diseasesconditions/diseasesaz/westnilevirus/pages/wnvprevent.aspx

The best tip is to cover up. Wear long sleeves and pants. Tuck your pants into your socks. Don't forget your mosquito repellent head net hat.

For more mosquito repellent advice, check out the REI site on How to Choose Insect Repellents for yourself and your clothing: www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/insect-repellents

Fortunately, the 247 hits include references to mosquito-free days!



*Janet & Nancy model 'mosquito chic' headwear.
Photo by Carla Cooper.*

LIGHT BULB

Mike Smith

STANDING BY AN OLD MESQUITE TREE IN THE HIGH GRASSLANDS OF FAR SOUTHEAST ARIZONA one summer evening, I looked to the southeast. Some thunderheads had formed over the distant Huachuca Mountains, and I hoped maybe they would head in my direction. I was interested in three of them in a north-south line. The first two were significant rain producers; the third, much smaller, had no rain shaft under it but lit up periodically with cloud-to-cloud lightning, as if it were a giant light bulb.

Fascinated, I watched *light bulb* turn on and off, pondering the amount of current flowing and what was happening inside it. Slowly, the whole group moved further into the valley, and occasional distant thunder added some sound to the light show.

As the storm system moved northwest towards me, I noted Jupiter above the middle thunderhead. The point of light was bright enough to be seen in twilight, and it was exactly where Jupiter ought to be. The show was now more interesting—a giant gas planet with its major storms seen from a rocky planet with its own storms right nearby. I thought about the cosmos, storms, and what it all meant.

In the meantime, *light bulb* kept discharging, as if to call attention to it.

During the next half hour, as it became darker, the thunderheads and Jupiter moved, placing Jupiter above *light bulb*. I was intrigued with the coincidence. The thunderhead motion was a consequence of steering winds in the mid-levels of the atmosphere; Jupiter's motion to the west was a consequence of the Earth's rotation, although Jupiter of course has what we call proper motion. It moves on its own. I pondered steering currents and planetary orbits for a while, watching the rain, *light bulb*, and remembering that the Coriolis effect, caused by the rotation of the Earth, has a significant effect upon our weather.

I said a quiet thanks to nature for providing a nice show. I was grateful, as I always am, for what I see in the sky. It's free to those who look. I had seen an unusual event.

Suddenly, a bright green meteor flashed across the gap between Jupiter and *light bulb*. In that instant, I had views of an object in outer space, one in the far upper atmosphere, and a third just above the Earth. In that instant, I appreciated clearly the three-dimensionality of the sky.

Nature occasionally presents us with gifts, and with them, the less the expectation, the greater the surprise and wonder. There are no guarantees in nature except one: if you don't look you won't see.

And sometimes it's worthwhile to watch a bit longer than you planned to do.

See you on the trail.

Eugene Parks and Open Space Starts Work to Expand the Ridgeline Trails

Janet Jacobsen



SUZANNE ARLIE PARK, SOUTH OF LCC, IS EUGENE'S LARGEST AT 515 ACRES. Development is just beginning and will include 5.6 miles of mountain bike specific trail, and 4.4 miles of multi-use trail, connecting with the Ridgeline Trail system. There will be new trailheads and a parking lot for 88 cars. Completion date is expected in late 2026.

For the master plan, see: www.eugene-or.gov/5164/Suzanne-Arlie-Park-Development.

The South Eugene Meadows (SEM) trailhead on Blanton Road to 52nd and Willamette is geared for hikers. It will have 2.3 miles of new trail with a 3.75-mile lollipop loop. Additional parking for 34 cars will be built across from the 52nd and Willamette Trailhead parking lot. Those of us who have been on guided tours with Eugene Parks Foundation Board member John Winquist are excited about avoiding poison oak on the steep 50-foot-wide permitted corridor and avoiding mud puddles on the six new fiberglass low bridges. October 15 is the expected completion date. The cost: \$975,000 is from System Development Charges, and Eugene Parks Foundation donated \$625,000. Thanks, EPF donors!

For the master plan, see:

www.eugene-or.gov/5224/South-Eugene-Meadows-Park-Development.

For more information about these two projects, see the April 25, *Register-Guard* article:

www.registerguard.com/story/news/2025/04/24/eugene-ridgeline-trail-expansion-mountain-bike/83211929007/.

A new mountain bike trail, *Baby Steps*, is officially open in Black Oak Basin east of the Lodge. One can access the trail from the end of Bloomberg Road. Eugene Parks Foundation provided some funds for its construction.

For more information and a map see: www.facebook.com/groups/81715748896/posts/10161820988093897/

Watch for SEM hikes on the schedule in late October!

Registration Open for Coastal Bus Trip



YOU CAN NOW REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE FIVE-DAY, FOUR-NIGHT OREGON COAST BUS TRIP, Monday, September 29, through Friday, October 3. Details are still being finalized, but expect a jam-packed itinerary. The high-

light will be a jet boat ride up the Rogue River for lunch. Cost is \$850 for members and \$860 for nonmembers, double occupancy. Breakfasts at motels is included. Most lunches and dinners are on your own. If you don't have a roommate we can match you with someone.

For additional information
call trip leader Barbara Beard at (541) 994-2337,
or read the online description.

FOR SALE Eddyline 10 Sky kayak



Purchased last August and used twice. It weighs 32 pounds and has two 8-inch hatches, so it could be used for short overnight trips. The *Seals Cockpit 2.2* cover is included (\$46.95 at REI), as is the storage bag.



Asking \$975

Susan Wanser (541) 221-2753

JUNE BOARD NOTES

June 4, 2025

From Minutes by Angie Ruzicka

Lisa Van Liefde called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Jean Harris, John Miller, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Zeni. Others present: Carla Cooper, Jim Northrop.

AGENDA ITEMS

Kudos to: *John Miller* for his safety presentation at the potluck Friday 5/30, and to *Ane McKee* for facilitating a well-organized evening. The *Publicity Committee* for their new poster designed by *Scott Wilkinson* to be used at publicity activities. *Clara Emlen* for working so hard on the grounds and other stewardship activities. *Jim Northrop* for persevering in gathering the documentation to pursue the property tax exemption.

Board Meeting Minutes (Angie Ruzicka): May minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report (Sue Zeni): The Finance Committee activated the plan to divide the Obsidian Vanguard investments into specific mutual funds for each fund (Endowment, Capital/Contingency, and General). This will allow us to allocate the unrealized gains to the proper funds in the future. All of the existing mutual funds were sold, which turned our approximately \$90,000 unrealized gains into actual gains. The Endowment Fund rose from \$88,770 to \$129,320. The Capital/Contingency Fund rose from \$13,569 to \$76,784 by allo-

cating the remaining realized gains and the 2024 Net Income/Retained earnings. The General Fund dropped from \$27,521 to \$27,301 to balance all the funds. All of the three funds are invested in mutual or money market funds in Vanguard and the US Bank checking account. From now on, the unrealized gains on each Vanguard investment will be credited to the respective fund (endowment or cap/contingency). May 2025 income was \$3,180 and expenses were \$10,929. We paid NOLS for the Wilderness First Aid instruction. The class had a net income of \$3,000. Obsidian's Oregon and Federal Taxes were filed in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Report (Lisa Van Liefde): The committee included board members Lana Lindstrom, Angie Ruzicka, Denise Rubenstein, Lisa Van Liefde and at-large members Maryanne Reiter, and Karen Yoerger. Three board members' terms are up—Jean Harris, Lana Lindstrom, and Denise Rubenstein. Jean Harris has agreed to remain for another term so there are two openings. The committee identified Sandra Sigrist and Steve Davis to be nominated to join the Board and they accepted. Their names and bios will be included in the September *Bulletin* and the membership will vote at the annual meeting in October.

Member Addition to Grounds Committee (Nancy Whitfield): The Board approved adding Vern Marsonette.

(Continued on page 7)

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Accounting and Investing for Capital/Contingency Funds (Sue Zeni): Sue explained the strategy and process for selling stocks and bonds to “realize” our gains and then purchasing new Vanguard balanced funds to make tracking the earnings between the Endowment and the Capital/Contingency Funds clearer. She also described adding the Lodge buildings to Quickbooks for reporting that reflects our assets.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

Defensible Space Project (Nancy Whitfield): Nancy wrote an article describing the defensible space project on the Lodge grounds including an invitation to make donations in support of these efforts.

Property Tax Exemption (Jim Northrop): Jim delivered our documentation requesting a property tax exemption to the Tax Court on May 14. A person from Lane County counsel has been assigned to work on it. They have requested additional documentation and Jim is in the process of gathering and will submit.

Document Storage: We need to form a committee to develop a process for storing documents two possibilities include Dropbox and Google Drive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bus Trips (Jim Northrop): The Bus Trips Committee sponsored one trip in May to the Mazama Mountaineering Center, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, and the Leach Botanical Garden. Five Obsidians and two guests participated. In a first, the committee hired a Best Oregon Tours minibus and driver for the trip.

Climbs (Wim Aarts): The monthly report for April failed to mention that Dewayde Perry was one of the instructors in the snow skills class. Sorry about this oversight and a big thank you to Dewayde. The Climbing committee taught the Crevasse Rescue class with two evenings at the Lodge and two full days at Timberline Mt. Hood on May 3 and 4. We had six participants, all Obsidian members, and thanks to Danni Harris, Melanie Glock and Sheri Gabert, a very capable crew of instructors. Ten participants started the climb up Mt. Hood on May 5 and eight successfully summited. Of the eight participants it was the first Mt. Hood summit for six of the climbers. Middle Sister climb May 24–26 with ten participants was successfully completed.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): May potluck sales totaled \$134, with \$97 of that being prepaid orders for hoodies and vests. Thank you to Joyce Cedarlund and Nancy Whitfield for working the potluck.

Entertainment (Ane McKee): May’s Potluck & Presentation had Obsidian member and Safety Committee Chair John Miller talk about safety preparedness. Fifty-eight diners enjoyed the potluck and 61 folks were there to hear John’s presentation and participate in a great question and answer session. We gathered \$26 in donations. Thank you to Joyce Cedarlund for hosting May’s GameNight! s

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): Jean Harris and Assistant Leader Emily Rice led a very successful trip to the Columbia Gorge based at the Menucha Conference Center for 18 Obsidians. Several hikes were offered each day, and

nobody got wet in spite of cloudy weather. Lisa Van Liefde is leading a members only trip to the California redwoods based at Elk Prairie State Park September 19–22.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): It was a busy month at the Lodge. Outdoor education was a theme with crevasse rescue classes, NOLS training, and John Miller’s safety preparedness presentation at the potluck. We had three days of rentals and two UO faculty groups have reservations for September. We have received \$1,980 in rental income this year. Emergency lighting and fire extinguishers were checked. Painting continues as we work on the west doors and window trim. The west doors will have kick plates installed to hide some damage and prevent more. Thanks to the Grounds work parties this month the two buildings have an improved defensible fire perimeter. After the contractor comes to grind brush and take down hazardous trees, we will need a third building—a woodshed. This will be a metal shed set on the gravel pad south of the Lodge.

Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop/Nancy Whitfield): The Lodge Grounds Committee held two work parties in May, with 24 participants mowing, weeding, and cutting brush. The emphasis is to create a fire break around the buildings. A contract crew is scheduled on June 6 to cut brush and remove several trees. The sprinklers have been turned on.

Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana): We did research for two articles in the *Bulletin: In Memoriam* for Lin Pierce and an article on car clouting and prowling. We provided leader Steve Davis with history about the plaque on Macduff Mountain to share on his May 29 hike.

Membership (Diane Schechter): Membership—459 members. We are averaging ten new members a month. We had a high of 24 new members in April.

Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz): On May 11, Publications mailed out 200 Bulletins.

Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde): This past month we were invited to a tabling event by the Best Better Ways Bike Party which was promoting alternate means of transportation. The event was in the Farmer’s Market pavilion, and we were lucky enough to have smiling helpers to promote the Obsidians. Thanks to Jorry R., Gwyneth I., Sandra S., and Heidi A., AND Scott W. for designing our new multipurpose poster—you can see it at the Lodge.

Safety (John Miller): AED is checked and good to go. An address sign was installed over the name tag rack which should help in case there is a need for emergency services. John Miller gave a Hiking Safety: 10 Essentials, Home Emergency Preparedness presentation at the May Potluck and Presentation.

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): In May, Obsidians worked on two intown projects.

Trips (Dave Cooper): May was a seasonal turning point as we had more events out of town. Some examples within the 31 events this month were paddling on Fish Lake, a 22-mile hike along the McKenzie River, hikes up Mt. June, Macduff Mountain, and Sawtooth Rock. With more daylight hours evening hikes have returned, filling a much needed niche in our schedule. The *must read* trip report is Steve Johnson’s account of a 40-mile backpack in Paria Canyon.

TRIP REPORTS



Bike Trips

Row River Trail, Whole Length

June 1, 2025

Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographer: Hank Wright

Bike: 33.0 miles, 652 ft. (Moderate)

THE FORECAST DECEIVED US. Instead of a sunny 59°F, we started cycling in Cottage Grove in a cloudy and windy 50°F. We needed all of our warm clothes to start the ride. By the time we got to Mosby Creek, everyone was warmed up. Then the sun peeked through near Lake Dorena, shining on the picturesque and peaceful trail. Some parts of our familiar trail have become quite bad due to many spots of root-uplifted pavement. After a snack break at Culp Creek, we headed back to Bohemia Park, stopping at the Lake Dorena dam for a great view. Someone said that it's great to ride with a great bunch. Who doesn't love cycling 33 miles on a Sunday? Participants: Heidi Anderson, Jonathan Jost, Jeff Lange, David Morris, Angie Ruzicka, Matthieu Shanahan, Sandra Sigrist, Darko Sojak, Lynn Stearney, Lyndell Wilken, Signe Wright, Hank Wright.



Our Row River cyclists.

Tour de Fronds

June 21, 2025

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Assistant Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Bike: 32.0–62.0 miles (Moderate)

THE TOUR DE FRONDS IS AN ANNUAL CYCLING EVENT based in Powers, Oregon. This year, we advertised the event on the Obsidian website to encourage others to sign up. Twelve of us registered and paid for the event in early March. John, Lyndell, and Richard rode 62 miles (half of it in steady rain!), Dave rode 45, and the rest of us rode 32 miles and didn't get very wet. It's a beautiful ride on remote, paved roads, with lots of trees and ferns. It felt like the entire town (population



*Ready to ride at 7:15 AM! Darko, Angie, Dave, Sandra, Heidi.
Photo by Annette Pfautz.*



*Elk Creek Falls—nearby short hike.
Photo by Julie Barnas.*

of 500) was involved—from baking delicious treats and dinners, providing tasty snacks and music at the rest stops, and checking on the riders regularly. Many of us will ride it again! Participants: Heidi Anderson, Julie Barnas, David Clinger, Judy Evitt, John Hegg, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Annette Pfautz, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Darko Sojak, Lyndell Wilken.



Climbs

South Sister Climb

June 24, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Steve Davis

Climbs: 12 miles, 4,900 ft. (Difficult)

SEVEN EAGER CLIMBERS STARTED EARLY IN THE MORNING with the goal of summiting South Sister. After a short distance on the trail, we traveled across snow almost all the way to the 'Red Mile' at 8,800 ft. Once past the 'Red Mile', we crested the crater rim and traversed to the 10,383 ft. summit to complete a successful climb. Three climbers opted to turn around at about the halfway point on the ascent, while the rest huffed and puffed to the top. Participants: Steve Davis, Mary Holbert, Jeff Lange, Kate Lange, Mandy Lund, Maryanne Reiter, Jay Torland.



Early bloomer at 8,500 ft.



*The Team on the summit with spectacular views to the north.
(Photo taken by another climber on the summit.)*



Hikes

Tumble Lake via Tumble Ridge Trail

June 2, 2025

Leader: Mary Holbert

Hike: 14.0 miles, 4,000 ft. (Difficult)

TWO OBSIDIANS HAD A WONDERFUL WILDFLOWER-SCENTED HIKE. The weather was sunny with a cool breeze—it couldn't have been better. We were not able to get all the way to Tumble Lake due to a pick-up-stick array of downed timber. We made it to approximately 1/2 mile from the lake, using Gaia to guide us for the last half mile where the trail was obscured. We did enjoy looking at the lake and falls from the top of Dome Rock, where we lunched on the way out. Participants: Mary Holbert, Alison Lackey.

Evening Hike: Wild Iris Ridge

June 3, 2025

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 3.5–4.5 miles, 600–800 ft. (Easy)

WILD IRIS RIDGE IN THE EVENING WAS A LOVELY WAY TO UNWIND AFTER WORK. And there were three nice surprises: a first hike for a nonmember who was enthusiastic to have finally connected with us, and two members who had never hiked this trail before. What a great group and good conversations! Participants: David Cooper, Whitney Gould, Sarah L, Vern Marsonette, Guy Pritchett, Adriana Sorrell, Lisa Van Liefde.

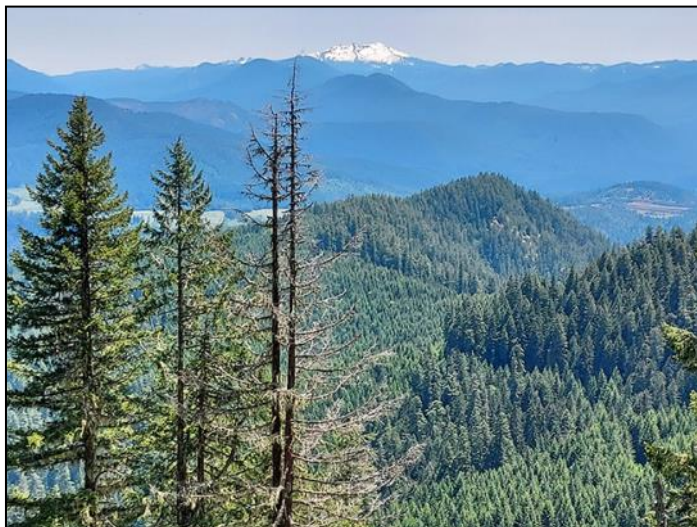
Tire Mountain Meadows

June 4, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Karen Yoerger

Hike: 4.5 miles, 700 ft. (Moderate)

THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT FOR OUR HIKE TO TIRE MTN. MEADOWS, bright and sunny, but not too hot. There was an abundance of wildflowers (we counted 57 species in bloom). Donna spotted the best patch of striped coralroot that the leader has ever seen. We were startled on a narrow upper



A view of Diamond Peak.

section of trail by the roar and approach of two motorcyclists who stopped and moved their bikes aside so that we could pass them safely, and we also encountered a number of mountain bikers during the day. We enjoyed a long lunch break at the top of the largest meadow, then returned down the trail with good views of Diamond Peak and the Three Sisters along the way. A great day with a great group! Participants: William Campbell, Barb Campbell, Daniel Conklin, Donna Ellickson, Jonathan Jost, Vern Marsonette, Eva Mogart, Rae Obrien, Jorry Rolfe, Diane Schechter, Lynn Stearney, Patricia Wilson, Karen Yoerger.

Eugene Sunset Mural Walk

June 6, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 3.0 miles, 60 ft. (Easy)

DOWNTOWN EUGENE HAS MANY COLORFUL BUILDING-SIZED MURALS along with smaller-sized art pieces. We visited back alleys and side streets to find some of these unique works



*A wall-sized mural titled, "Nature's Child."
In an alley at 957 Willamette Street.*



Some Obsidians inspect what appears to be a body behind a grate, a trompe l'oeil 'trick of the eye' image by artist Dan Witz.



A track-inspired mural by Matt Small. This 8x8-foot portrait of track & field legend Jesse Owens is made of recycled and dismantled materials from Hayward Field.

of art. Participants: Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, David Clinger, Fred Crafts, Marti Gerdes, Whitney Gould, David Hawkins, Mark Hougardy.

Lone Wolf / Patterson Mountain

June 9, 2025

Leader: Jean Harris

Photographer: Buzz Blumm

Hike: 4.6 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

SPENDING A HOT DAY ABOVE 4,200 FEET MEANS THAT IT WAS 60–80 DEGREES, not the 95 degrees that it was in the valley. This group enjoyed the solitude, timber, flowers, and the view. Lone Wolf Shelter is nestled in the timber near a lush



Lone Wolf Shelter.

back: Kathie, Marguerite, Dave front: Emily, Dorothy, Jean, Debra.



Mushroom in the meadow.



Candystick.

meadow. The zig-zag trail follows the ridgeline to Patterson Mountain with a view of Lookout Point Reservoir and the Three Sisters. A gentle breeze made our lunch break on the bench tranquil and calm. What a lovely day on Patterson Mountain! Participants: Buzz Blumm, Marguerite Cooney, David Cooper, Jean Harris, Debra Higbee, Emily Rice, Dorothy van Winkle.

Castle Rock via King Castle TH

June 12, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Karen Yoerger

Hike: 13.4 miles, 2,600 ft. (Difficult)

FOUR HARDY OBSIDIANS MADE THE HIKE TO CASTLE ROCK on a day that was, thankfully, much cooler than days earlier in the week. We saw a number of wildflowers (including one lone, tall lily), and many interesting mycoheterotrophs including spotted and western coralroot, pinedrops, candystick,



Phantom orchid.



Whitney and Marguerite with the Three Sisters.

and phantom orchids. Lunch near the summit provided views of the Three Sisters, Mt. Washington, and the McKenzie valley. There were only a couple of other bikers and hikers on the trail. A very enjoyable day! Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Whitney Gould, Karen Yoerger.

UO Art Walk

June 12, 2025

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 3.0 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

THE TEMPERATURE WAS PERFECT FOR OUR TWO-HOUR STROLL across the University of Oregon campus, taking in the public artwork. Participants: Jan Danforth, Patricia Esch, David Hawkins, Mark Hougardy, Ari Shamash, Marie Stringer.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

June 14, 2025

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HIKE WAS HAD WHILE SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB. The tiger lilies were abundant on one stretch of the Ribbon Trail and milkweed was in full bloom in the native plant part of Hendricks Park. Thank you, Jorry and Marie, for helping. Participants: Lee Andersen, Brenda Buck, Sara Lalla, Kelley McHugh, Jorry Rolfe, Marie Stringer, Dorothy van Winkle.

Five Covered Bridges

June 15, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Mark Hougardy

Trips: 2.0 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

A LOVELY DAY TO SEE FIVE LOCAL COVERED BRIDGES: Parvin Covered Bridge, Lowell Covered Bridge, the small covered pedestrian bridge at the Rolling Rock Park in Lowell, the



A beautiful work of engineering and art.

Unity Covered Bridge, and the historic Pengra Bridge. We also made a stop at a local farm stand. Participants: Patricia Esch, Mark Hougardy, Gennett Johnson.

Nelson Trails / Butte Disappointment

June 17, 2025

Leader: Roy Nelson

Assistant Leader: David Cooper

Hike: 4.8 miles, 1,200 ft. (Moderate)

THE TRIP TOOK A TOTAL OF 3 1/2 HOURS AND ALL FELT IT WAS A GOOD HIKE. Weather was great. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, David Cooper, Fred Crafts, Jan Danforth, Alan Foley, Marti Gerdes, Whitney Gould, Jane Kay, Jeff Lange, Roy Nelson.

Iron Mountain

June 19, 2025

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 8.0 miles, 1,900 ft. (Moderate)

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL SPRING PILGRIMAGE TO IRON MOUNTAIN DID NOT DISAPPOINT, as we were rewarded with an abundance of our favorite wildflowers. However, scheduling the outing on a national holiday did mean a full parking lot and sharing the trail with other wildflower enthusiasts. Other than the crowds, the mid-June date seemed to be a great time to visit, as the weather was perfect and the flowers were near their peak. We finished the eight-mile loop that circles Iron Mountain by the early afternoon, giving some of our group plenty of time to make a stop at Takoda's restaurant for an early dinner. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Daniel Conklin, Marguerite Cooney, Steven Johnson, Vern Marsonette, Andrew McIvor, Lynn Meacham, David Morris, Jorry Rolfe, Dorothy van Winkle, Sue Wolling.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

Hikes: 4.0–6.2 miles, 700–1,530 ft. (Easy–Moderate)

Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen: 6/4 12 Participants

Mark Hougardy: 5/25 8 Participants 6/1 5 Participants
6/8 7 Participants

Denise Rubenstein: 6/11 12 Participants

Sandra Sigrist: 6/18 10 Participants

Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Jorry Rolfe: 6/3 5 Participants

Janet Jacobsen: 6/10 4 Participants

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.0–6.8 miles, 1,020–1,375 ft. (Easy–Moderate)

Jeff Orendorff: 5/30 2 Participants 6/6 2 Participants

6/13 2 Participants 6/21 2 Participants

Mari Baldwin: 6/11 7 Participants

Angie Ruzicka, Jorry Rolfe: 6/13 5 Participants



Stewardship

Baldy Drainage

May 28, 2025

Leader: Matt Bell

Stewardship: 2.0 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

OUR GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MET UP AT THE DILLARD EAST TRAILHEAD for work at Mt. Baldy. We hiked up the shared use trail to begin our work and broke into two small groups. One group brushed the trail sides, cutting back a vine, poison oak, and madrone. The second group continued up the trail to add seven drainage dips to the tread of the trail. Special thanks to Janet for bringing tasty treats. Participants: Matt Bell, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Beejay Oslon.

BE THE CHANGE—JUNE

June 23, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 2.6 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

THANK YOU, FRIENDS, FOR BEING DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS. Today's 35 lbs. of trash may not seem like much, but you have helped make the area along the By-Gully Bike and Jog Path a better place. Participants: Bill Campbell, BJ Campbell, Donna Ellickson, Clara Emlen, Alan Foley, Peter Graham, Anne Hollander, Vern Marsonette, Andrew McIvor, Rae Obrien, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.



Angie and Rae.



Rae, Angie, and Donna at By-Gully Bike and Jog Path.

Green Island Work Party

June 28, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 1 mile, 10 ft. (Moderate)

WITH NO ILLUSIONS THAT WE CAN ERADICATE THE INVASIVE HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY, today we continued our stewardship work on Green Island. Thank you volunteers for the effort you put in. Participants: Annie Chan, Clara Emlen, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Holger Krentz, Angie Ruzicka, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak.



The crew came prepared to work.



*Darko Sojak. One less blackberry vine—roots and all.
Photo by Angie Ruzicka.*



Mike Smith and Lubos Hubata-Vacek.

Grounds Work Party
May 29, 2025
Leader & Photographer: Nancy Whitfield
Stewardship

ONCE AGAIN, THE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WORKED HARD AND ACCOMPLISHED A LOT. Mowing continued; digging up stubborn roots, pruning and weeding, clearing more shrubs, and blackberry removal continued. Most work was dedicated to the goal of creating a defensible space. The crew was blessed with a cool, somewhat misty day. Participants: Linda Anson, Mari Baldwin, David Cooper, Larry Dunlap, Donna Ellickson, Clara Emlen, Brenda Kameenui, Jeff Lange, Vern Marsonette, Jim Northrop, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Zeni.



The tough roots didn't stand a chance against Vern.



Sue goes after those pesky, prickly blackberries.



Clara and Donna doing the hard work.



Weeds don't stand a chance with Jim.



Larry works on a very difficult root.

OBSIDIANS EVENTS

**FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE AND COMPLETE INFORMATION
ABOUT ALL OUR ACTIVITIES, SEE THE OBSIDIANS WEBSITE**

www.observians.org

Regularly Scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday Hikes

Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

Distance: 8.5 mi. Elevation gain: 1,740 ft.

Tuesdays:
July 8, 15, 22, 29
August 5, 12, 19, 26

Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

Distance: 6.2 mi. Elevation gain: 1,530 ft.

Wednesdays:
July 9, 16, 23, 30
August 6, 13, 20, 27

CHECK FOR DETAILS AND SIGN UP ONLINE

observians.org/events/

GET ACQUAINTED HIKES

Second Saturday of the Month:
July 12

No hike in August.

Members and nonmembers, please join us!
Sign up online.



UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SPENCER BUTTE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Wednesdays 5:30–8:00 PM

**July 30
August 27**

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Saturday, September 27, 9 AM–noon

Have a question?

Contact observians-stewardship@googlegroups.com

or Matt at Matthew.v.bell@gmail.com



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

Thursday, July 17
None in August
None in September

4:30 –7:30 PM at the Lodge

Questions? Be sure to check the Obsidians calendar before you arrive in case of a change in date or time.

For more information, go to the Entertainment page on observians.org

MT. PISGAH SUNSET / FULL MOONRISE Various Leaders

Distance: 3 miles round trip Elevation gain: 1,000 ft.

July 9, Aug 8, Sept 6, Oct 5, Nov 4, Dec 3

Guests welcome
**CHECK FOR DETAILS
& SIGN UP ONLINE**
observians.org/events/



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July 2025



*Striped coralroot
among wild ginger leaves.*

Photo by Karen Yoerger.

*See the Tire Mountain Meadows
trip report on page 9.*

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