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Dates to Remember

September 11	Lodge Work Party
September 26	Bulletin Deadline
October 7	GameNight!
October 10	Annual Meeting
October 15	Board Meeting
November 6	GameNight!
November 5	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:

www.obsidians.org

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Dave Cooper

HONORED MEMBER NOMINATION—DAVID COOPER

Lana Lindstrom and Denise Rubenstein

THE OBSIDIANS BYLAWS PROVIDE FOR THE NOMINATION OF ONE PERSON PER YEAR AS AN HONORED MEMBER. The nomination is voted on at the Annual Meeting by all attending members. Most years, no name is submitted.

Last year, the Board proposed both Carla and Dave Cooper to be Honored Members. Since only one could be approved, Carla was affirmed at the October 2024 meeting. This dynamic duo has been married 54 years and knows how to work together successfully! The Club is extremely fortunate that both are willing to serve in leadership positions. Now it's Dave's turn to be voted on.

Dave's first hike with the Obsidians was in April 2014 when he huffed and puffed from Martin St. to the top of Spencer Butte on a Wednesday hike. But each week, it got easier—he said he lost a few pounds and gained a lot of muscle and lung capacity, not to mention new friends. That year he averaged two hikes a week with the club! Not too long thereafter he started participating in trail maintenance and discovered that he really enjoyed giving back to the community. Since then, he has participated in 890 trips and led 134 of them. And during that time, he had both knees and one hip replaced!

Dave officially joined the Board in January 2016 and served two consecutive terms. During that time, he served as Secretary, Chair of the Lodge Committee, and then Trips Chair. He also discovered that he really enjoyed being outside and continues to work with the Cascade Volunteers and the Scorpions in doing trail maintenance outside of the Eugene-Springfield area.

After taking a break from the Board for a couple years, Dave agreed to another three-year term which ends December 2026. He continues to serve as chair of the Lodge and Trips committees.

In April 2023, as Trips Chair and with much at stake, Dave agreed to step in and work with John Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, and the website developer to bring the new website and database to fruition. Carla joined the team the following year, and was

(Continued on page 2)

OBSIDIANS ANNUAL MEETING

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT THE LODGE. A social half hour will begin at 6:30 PM with ice cream donated by Prince Pucklers, followed by the meeting at 7:00. Guests who would like to learn more about our organization are certainly welcome. Two new Board members and one renewing member for 2026 will be elected. Read about the Board nominees on page 3. We will be voting on elevating Dave Cooper to Honored Member due to his distinguished service to this organization over many years. There may be other matters to discuss as well. Awards will be presented at the meeting. We will also remember those Obsidians who have passed since our last meeting.

instrumental in providing training and documentation before the new website went live in May 2024. She, Dave, and Lana are now the Administrators and continue to work with the developer to iron out problematic issues. So, who are you going to call when you have a website question—the Coopers! Carla for logging in and posting pictures, and Dave for trip and Lodge related questions.

Honor Dave's Legacy Lend a Hand at the Lodge

JOIN A SPECIAL WORK PARTY ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 AT 9:00 AM. Whether you're wielding a rake or sharing a story, your presence makes a difference.

Join a special Lodge work party, celebrating our newest Honored Member, Dave Cooper. He has tirelessly devoted many hours to the Obsidian Lodge as the committee chair, as well as working on the website and as the Trips Committee chair. The work party will focus primarily on the Lodge but if enough volunteers show up, there is plenty to do on the grounds. At the end of the day, volunteers can enjoy some treats and raise a glass of sparkling water to honor Dave. (You might even see last year's Honored Member, Carla Cooper assisting at the Lodge.)

Read more... and sign up online today:

<https://obsidians.org/event/lodge-grounds-workday/>

More work parties are coming soon to help spruce up the Lodge and grounds before winter.

Let's keep the momentum going!

Obsidians Mission:

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

MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER



MARK HOUGARDY

MARK HAS BEEN AN OBSIDIAN SINCE 2012. He enjoys hiking with his wife, Christiane. Mark also appreciates backpacking and learning more about stories that are often hidden beneath the side-walks and in forest duff. He enjoys introducing visitors to the quiet yet energetic character of 'Track Town', as well as the many beautiful areas of the southern Willamette Valley and central Oregon. He has worked as a guide with Road Scholar throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Editor's note: In July, Mark was appointed by the Board of Directors to replace board member John Miller, who has moved back to Hawaii.

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,
Mark Hougardy, Lana Lindstrom,
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 Maryanne Reiter
Stewardship Darko Sojak
Summer Camp Lana Lindstrom
Trips Dave Cooper

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Deadline
for October Bulletin
Friday, September 26

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Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana

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

2025 BOARD NOMINEES



SANDRA SIGRIST

WHEN I RETIRED IN 2022, I PACKED MY CAR, MOVED TO EUGENE, AND BEGAN LIVING THE OUTDOORS DREAM. Many adventures later, I still connect in awe with each new mountain, forest, desert, lake, and river. My first Obsidians activity was a Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail hike led by Dorothy van Winkle. And it was a gift beyond belief to discover a hiking club filled with kind, generous, and knowledgeable people who meet at sunrise every Tuesday and Wednesday morning to climb the Butte right in my backyard. Since then, I have participated in over 200 hikes, paddles, climbs, and bike rides, and led 40 of them. I particularly enjoy leading hikes at the coast.

Among the challenges that I anticipate the Board will be navigating in the next few years are: finding ways to stay accessible to, and involved with, the broader membership; preserving and learning from the long history of the Club while pivoting to incorporate a changing membership and world; continuing sound fiduciary management to address current needs and build a legacy for the future; and developing a program to recruit new trip leaders and provide them with encouragement, skills, and support.

I am so grateful for the opportunities that the club provides to explore the wilderness with like-minded people, and for the breadth of outdoor knowledge and experience that they share. I look forward to this opportunity to give back to the Club by serving on the Board.



JEAN HARRIS

THE OUTDOORS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF MY LIFE. My childhood in Myrtle Point, OR involved horses, hunting, ranch work, camping, and more. Helping with the family logging and Christmas tree business gave me a fine work ethic and endless time outdoors. Cottage Grove has been my home for 45 years with times outdoors being a source of joy with family and friends. I am fortunate to have two adult children living within a few hours and an adorable toddler granddaughter. The Obsidians and the Scorpions (trail work) give me opportunities to be outdoors and to provide a service. I am honored to be considered for a second term as a board member for the Obsidians.



STEVE DAVIS

I GREW UP IN RURAL CALIFORNIA WHERE ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS WERE LIMITED TO READING AND ROAMING THE HILLS on foot and horseback. Family entertainment was mostly related to hiking, with my first backpack in the Sierra Nevada at 7, which kindled my love of mountains and being above tree line at high altitude. The sea change came when at age 12 I read the classic mountaineering tale *Annapurna* by Maurice Herzog. I began rock climbing at the age of 14, and spent countless hours learning knots, climbing on the high school buildings, and ditching class to go to the local crag. Later, after two summers and two full seasons of climbing in Yosemite I finally had my fill. During that time of distraction, I somehow completed a BS in Earth Sciences.

After completing my MS in geology at U Montana, Camille and I moved to Flagstaff so she could pursue an MA in her field. Six years of work, mountain biking, skiing, and climbing in Flag gave way to CA and a PhD in geology. Post-PhD we spent 22 years in Texas, me as a geologist in the petroleum industry. In 2020 Camille and I moved back to the west where the air is clean and the water clear—Oregon! I joined the Obsidians in late 2022, took basic climb school in 2023, and started summiting volcanoes. During my hikes and climbs I've learned to appreciate

the deep beauty of the western Cascades forests, and to enjoy my time in the green space almost as much as I do above timberline. I look forward to helping the Obsidians move into their 2nd century with an emphasis on sustaining our membership and moving the demographic age hump to the left (younger).

Contemplating Mount St. Helens and Change

Sam Miller

THE FIRST OBSIDIANS SUMMER CAMP AT MOUNT ST. HELENS/SPIRIT LAKE OCCURRED IN 1949. It was a lovely area. Obsidians Dorothy and Clarence Scherer courted that summer at Spirit Lake and were later married. Obsidians summer camps became a long tradition for the Scherer family.

I led the last Obsidians climb of Mount St. Helens (May 28, 1979) before it erupted almost a year later on May 18, 1980. The eruption transformed the mountain, reducing its height by approximately 1,300 feet, destroying the surrounding forest, and burying Spirit Lake under layers of ash and debris. Trees near the blast vaporized. [*Ash shot into the air*](#) 15 miles and blanketed more than a dozen states. Property damage topped \$1 billion. Fifty-seven people died.

Mount St. Helens and its surroundings were closed to public access after the eruption. By 1983, tourists could drive to the Windy Ridge viewpoint about five miles from the volcano. That year, 35 Obsidians made a bus trip to view the mountain, but St. Helens was still off-limits for climbers.



*From the Obsidian archives:
Photo taken by Bailey Castelleo at the 1949 Summer Camp.*



*(1979) View of Goat Rocks from Mt. St. Helens.
Photo by Sam Miller.*

On February 6, 1987, I led a group of Obsidians and nonmembers to St. Helens' summit. We had a special permit obtained by a *Register-Guard* reporter, Harry Esteve, who was researching the rationale for the St. Helens climbing closure. The mountain officially reopened to climbers on May 4, 1987. I had led the last Obsidians climb before St. Helens erupted and the first permitted climb by the club years later.

These bookend events remind me that change is not a rare occurrence but a constant unavoidable aspect of existence. Changes occur in the natural world, personal circumstances, relationships, and our own thoughts and feelings.

I miss the old St. Helens. Before its eruption, it was a beautiful, snow-capped, and heavily forested peak. It was admired for its symmetrical cone-shaped summit and often referred to as the 'Mount Fuji of America'. On a clear day, it was a welcome sight when visiting Portland.

In 2021, the Oregon Glaciers Institute (OGI) reported the extent of glacial retreat in the Oregon Cascades. The OGI determined that Oregon had 60

individual *flowing ice bodies* as recently as the 1970s. Now, only 27 remain. We are losing a key feature of Oregon's natural beauty. I loved my early morning climbs up the snow-and-ice encrusted glaciers of our state's peaks.

This year the Grand Canyon lodge on the North Rim burned down. I visited it many times, most recently in May with my son. Surrounded by ponderosa pines, the lodge had majestic views. It will be missed by myself and others.

Mount St. Helens continues to change. Ten days after the eruption, fireweed poked its head through the ash. Nature's recovery was underway. Plants—including mosses, grasses, shrubs, trees, and animals such as fish and elk, have returned.

An annual Mother's Day Climb of Mount St. Helens has become a Northwest tradition. Since it started, an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 people have climbed the mountain in flashy dresses.

Today's Mount St. Helens is not the same area visited by the Obsidians years ago. It is a different yet worthy destination. Things change.

Editor's note: You can read Sam's trip report about the Mt. St. Helens climb after the eruption in the [March 1987 Bulletin](#).



*(2019) Mt. St. Helens—Thirty-nine years after the eruption.
Photo by Sam Miller.*

AN INTERESTING TWIST

Mike Smith

THIS WASN'T AN IMPRESSIVE YEAR FOR HUCKLEBERRIES AT MY WALDO LAKE SPOT NEAR SHADOW BAY. I had hoped for more, but I decided to quit early and drive down to Marilyn Lakes off Waldo Lake Road, where I knew there were both blueberries, and usually a few huckleberries. It was a cool August day in the Cascades with significant mist above 4000 feet when I drove up, and even on Waldo Lake itself, at 5400 feet.

Marilyn Lakes, upper and lower, are similar size, a bit over 20 acres, south of 50-acre Gold Lake, the latter having a campground and not allowing internal combustion motors. There is a network of trails throughout the several lakes in the area: Gold Lake Sno-Park south of Hwy. 58, with Odell, Midnight, and Arrowhead Lakes; Willamette Pass Ski Area three miles further up, where the PCT crosses the road northbound to the Rosary Lakes. There's access to the PCT from Gold Lake Road as well, passing above and south of Gold Lake on the Maiden Peak Trail.

I parked on the side of the road, just south of Fuji Mountain trailhead on the other side, hiking downhill a short distance to Gold Lake. I crossed the bridge over its outflow, Salt Creek, which flows towards spectacular Salt Creek Falls, and 20 miles later joining the Willamette in Oakridge.

A couple of years ago, we power-saw logged out the Marilyn Lakes trail system, during which I noted a nice patch of blueberries south of Upper Marilyn Lake. Somehow, during multiple prior times on the trails, it must have been before or after blueberry season, because I hadn't noticed any. There are huckleberries as well, which I thought I might sample on my three-quarters of a mile hike to the blueberries. The trail is generally flat; upper and lower lakes are separated by only three feet of elevation and 300 yards.

I hiked in from the campground and within 50 yards saw blueberry bushes, although with few berries. The trail became wet, a small seepage maybe 50 feet wide with several large skunk cabbages with individual leaves up to a yard long, and blooms at least a foot high. Along a small wooden puncheon (bridge) were multiple, large, thick branched blueberry plants the size of cultivated ones I frequent every year to pick my own berries for morning cereal. These larger plants had berries.

For the next hour and a half, I picked. My foot was bothering me, but once I started picking, I realized I didn't need to hike further. After obtaining what I could from the puncheon, I stepped off into the dark mud over branches that at first I didn't even realize were blueberry plants. Wild berries are smaller than cultivated ones, so I picked to save for maybe 40 minutes before I picked several handfuls just to eat. The branches were thick, the ground damp, with a convenient small log to sit on while I picked berries individually or in groups of two, three, or four. I could go further into the woods if I wanted for more berries, but I didn't need to. I came here for berries and to get into the woods on a nice, cool day. I had to decide whether to wear my sunglasses for sharper vision picking in the dark woods or to take them off for more light, but struggle with my astigmatism and perhaps miss my target.

As I worked my way back out of the bushes, trying to protect the branches from more abuse, I placed my berry bag on the trail so I could extricate myself. As I finally stepped on the trail and bent down to pick up the bag, I saw something red on the other side peeking out from underneath a stem of a small plant with alternate leaves resembling a false Solomon's seal. I picked up the end of the stem and looked underneath: there were a series of red berries hanging off the underside, which I had never seen before.

This was twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*). Earlier this summer, I had heard this name (as *twisted stock*) used at Pioneer Gulch Trail, to describe something larger, in a different habitat, that clearly wasn't. That plant remains to me unnamed. Twisted stalk berries are not poisonous, but I didn't plan to eat any, only to be fascinated with their color, number, and hanging.



Twisted stalk foliage.

*Below:
Twisted stalk berries.*



When I was a guide for Sandhill Cranes viewing, some were impatient if the birds were late. I told them the world was unfolding as it should. The birds always came. I went for huckleberries, ended up with wild blueberries, saw an interesting plant, and learned something about real twisted stalk, its appearance, location, and hanging berries. My world unfolded as it should.

See you on the trail, and may your world unfold as it should.

JULY BOARD NOTES

July 2, 2025

From Minutes by Angie Ruzicka

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

AGENDA ITEMS

Kudos to: National Trails Day participation—A group of Obsidians worked on an ADA trail that bypasses the steps at main parking lot at Spencer Butte. Kudos to Sue Zeni for all her hard work in preparing for the yearly audit. The financial information provided to the auditors was well organized and detailed.

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

Treasurer's Report (Sue Zeni): Statement of Activity for the General Fund Income and Expenses in June 2025: Income was \$3,339.59 (including a \$500 donation from Lana) and Expenses were \$3,441.90. Our net revenue was -102.31. Insurance: renewed accident insurance. Rate dropped from \$1,586 in 2024 to \$881 this year. This covers up to an additional \$25,000 in secondary insurance. Received a three-year quote for our Directors and Officers insurance. The 2025, 2026, and 2027 payments will be \$1,716 annually. We paid \$1,104 annually from 2022-2025 for this same insurance. We have paid all three of our insurances for the year. We will be under the insurance budget because we did not need to pay the D&O insurance for 2026 and 2027. Paid Revolution Design \$562.50 for Online Maintenance. We are quite a bit under budget in this category this year. This is the first month where we received dividends from our mutual funds that are strictly in the Endowment and Capital/Contingency Funds. Dividends from the Endowment Fund go to the General Fund Vanguard Money Market (Federal Fund) and are reflected on the General Fund budget. Dividends from the Capital/Contingency Funds are reinvested in the respective mutual funds. Unrealized gains from all of Mutual funds are reflected in a line item on the Balance sheet. We had about \$4,663 in unrecognized gains in June. The Board approved the June expenditures.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Board Nominees (Denise Rubenstein): Denise and Lisa met with our two new Board nominees, Sandra and Steve, to provide information about the Club and the Board. The membership will vote on the nominees at the annual meeting in October. Board member John Miller is moving and will resign from the board. The Board is responsible for appointing a member to complete the rest of his term (2 ½ years). Via an email vote on July 7, Mark Hougardy was confirmed to fill John's spot on the board.

Awards for October Annual Meeting (Denise): After discussion, the Board approved awarding certificates and patches for trips for this year at our annual meeting in October. Karen Yoerger has been maintaining the records, Angie will prepare certificates, and Denise will distribute the awards.

Committee to Develop a Process for Storing Documents (Denise): The Board discussed the importance of developing a secure and comprehensive system for digital storage of Club documents. Two possibilities include Dropbox and

Google Drive (there may be others). We will put an appeal in the *Bulletin* for people who would be interested in researching different platforms. **Appeal for 100-year Celebration volunteers (Denise):** It is time to form a committee to head up the 100-year celebration. The Board noted the Historian Committee is an incredibly valuable resource and they should be consulted early in the planning process to see how they would like to be involved. Jim will write an article for the September *Bulletin* describing the upcoming 100-year anniversary.

OLD BUSINESS

Replace Lodge Deck (Dave): After examining the outside of the building and discussion the Board decided to not replace the deck.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

Update on Property Tax Exemption: The county has acknowledged we are a charitable organization, however they found that only 10% of our activities occur at the Lodge. Jim provided the county with additional information. The appeal will be heard by the tax magistrate judge in Salem.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Wim Aarts): Two successful Obsidian climbs for the month: South Sister and Mt. Thielsen.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): Work continues on the building. There is sanding and painting to be done on the green exterior doors and trim. Kick plates will be installed on the exterior double doors on the east side of the Lodge. Another project is installing screening to prevent dry, windblown material from accumulating under the low west-side roof. This is being done at the fire marshal's recommendation. Special thanks to Bert Ewing for scans of the 24" x 36" drawings of the 2005 Lodge addition building plans. It's important to have records like this preserved in a digital format. Bea Fontana and Janet Jacobsen made a few changes to what is displayed in the Lodge. We've had two Macduff hikes recently so it's fitting that a historical Macduff photo has been hung. Thanks to Carla Cooper for updating and enhancing the website information and photos for potential renters.

Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop, Nancy Whitfield): Ben Macaulay and crew from Highland Tree Service cleared brush and cut down approximately ten trees from around the Lodge buildings—about nine hours of work over two days. This was a major step in creating a defensible space around the Lodge from wildfire.

Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana): We researched and wrote two articles for the July *Bulletin*: The 1936 Summer Camp at Horseshoe Lake in the Wallowas, and the number of references to mosquitoes in past bulletins. Framing and display of the June 28, 1931 photograph of Obsidians dedicating the plaque on the Macduff Mountain taken by Elsie Dotson: Bea created the layout arrangement and Janet donated the cost of the framing. We attached a label to the back explaining the history and subsequent rededication of the plaque in 1992. We also provided information about the plaque history to Steve Johnson to share with the participants on his June 28 Macduff Anniversary hike. The report will be published in the September *Bulletin*. We hung the picture at the Lodge in the alcove (above the framed Obsidian historical patches). This displaced Shirley Froyd's watercolor, which we have

July Board Notes (Continued on page 7)

July Board Notes (Continued from page 6)

moved upstairs. We'll be looking for a new place to hang it—perhaps at the top of the stairs? We relocated Florence Sims alpenstock. Bea found some attractive vintage-style hooks to mount the alpenstock above the heritage photo that includes Florence holding the alpenstock on a winter climb. Dick Hildreth gave us four small photos from the first winter outing in 1937 at Bohemia mines. There are framed heritage photos of both of these events in the main room at the Lodge. Dave Cooper took the 2005 Lodge remodel plans (that he got from John Jacobsen) to Bert to be photographed for the archives.

Membership (Diane Schechter): Membership—463 members.

Online/Webmaster (Lana Lindstrom, Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper): Several updates were made in the past few weeks and a couple more will be made in early July by our contractor. Request: if you notice anything unusual on the website or in notifications to you, please take a screen shot and send to obsidians-admin@googlegroups.com.

Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz): The *Bulletin* committee researched, produced, and mailed 200 copies of the *Bulletin* at a cost of \$37 for mailing.

Safety (John Miller): AED checked and is good to go.

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): Four in-city work parties were held in June 2025.

Trips (Dave Cooper): We had 30 outings in June and collected \$15 from nonmember fees.

FOR SALE

Adult IZIP Tristar 3-speed trike

- One size fits all.
- Seat and handlebars are adjustable.
- 24" front wheel and 20" rear wheels.
- Front fender.
- Includes a cover for storage.



Essentially brand new (\$825 new)

Asking \$500

Susan Wanser (541) 221-2753

TRIP REPORTS



Bike Trips

Getting Around Eugene by Bike

August 28, 2025

Leader: Sue Wolling

Photographer: Denise Rubenstein

Assistant Leader: Richard Hughes

Bike: 10.0 miles, minimal elevation gain (Easy)



Finishing off with a 'Bikery' Stop are Richard Hughes, Sue Wolling, Lana Lindstrom, Linda Anson, Roberta Thompson.

SEVEN OBSIDIANS, WITH VARYING DEGREES OF EXPERIENCE IN RIDING A BIKE, TOOK OFF ON A SHORT BIKE RIDE to various locations in central Eugene: the Library, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, and a few others. Along the way, they chatted about some of the "tricks of the trade": how to signal turns (just point where you plan to go!), rules of the road (it's perfectly legal for bicyclists to roll through stop signs if there's no traffic), and locking a bike. They also realized how much fun it is to ride a bike! All agreed that this is a trip worth offering again—so keep your eyes out for a future opportunity. Participants: Linda Anson, David Clinger, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Denise Rubenstein, Roberta Thompson, Sue Wolling.



Climbs

Mt. Thielsen

June 28, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Jamie Sullivan

Assistant Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Climb: 10.0 miles, 3,800 ft. (Difficult)

STARTED THE MORNING AT THE TRAILHEAD AT 5 AM FOR A SAFETY BRIEFING. Asked about medical conditions, injuries, or concerns. None were had. Also gave the group a chance to respond to this question via email prior to the trip. We left the trailhead at 5:10 AM and started our hike in the

coolness of the morning. The mosquitoes were not as bad as we feared as the cool morning and early hour saved us from these pests. The fire from 2024 left a significant void of any flora on the trail. The burned trees and upturned roots created a monotone pattern across the landscape. We had an easy hike in and were happy to be on the ridge with the breeze. This was a strong group of climbers, and we reached Chicken Out Ledge in just over three hours. When we got up to Chicken Out Ledge, I performed a lead climb, belayed by the assistant, and set up a fixed line for the climbers. Three cams with slings were placed along the route and added our own webbing to the anchor to ensure safety. The assistant (Maryanne Reiter) then ascended the fixed line with a prussik and brought a second rope to the anchor point. While the assistant set up a second rope for rappelling, and for a few advanced climbers to ascend, I set a hand line to the summit to ensure safety along the exposed summit. I then waited up top. The group of ten other climbers were then safety- and gear-checked by another experienced climber, Danni Harris, prior to ascending the rope. One person per section between cams was allowed (no more than three people on the rope at a time) to prussik up the rope. There were no other climbers on the mountain while we were there. As the climbers secured their PAS (personal anchor system) to the hand line and made their way to the summit, we took pictures. The climbers were rotated on and off the summit pinnacle. Once coming off the



Post hike and birthday celebration for Dan with fresh, cold watermelon.

summit, the climbers followed the hand line back to the rappel station and began rappelling to Chicken Out Ledge. A very experienced climber (Steve Davis) went first and backed up each rappel with a firemen's belay. Up top, Maryanne and another experienced climber, Eddy Pszczolkowski, made sure that everyone hooked up their rappel correctly, while I remained on the summit to take photos and celebrate a beautiful summit with the group. Two climbed down the fixed line with a prussik. I rappelled down to join the group. Eddy was placed on belay, released the rappel rope, and then down climbed while cleaning all the gear and anchor. Once on Chicken Out Ledge, we gathered the gear, hydrated, ate, and then headed down around 11:30 AM. All 12 climbers safely made it back to the cars around 2:10 PM. I then surprised the group with a cold watermelon that we cut up. Dan's birthday was in two days and so we placed a birthday candle in his slice of freshly cut watermelon. This was a very strong group

of climbers! Everyone had a great time! Participants: Lumin Browning, Steve Davis, Daniel Hagen, Danneille Harris, Sam Hillmann, Scott Miller, David Neff, Edward Pszczolkowski, Maryanne Reiter, Mark Samuelson, Jamie Sullivan, Miranda Trieston.

Mt. Daniel

July 11–13, 2025

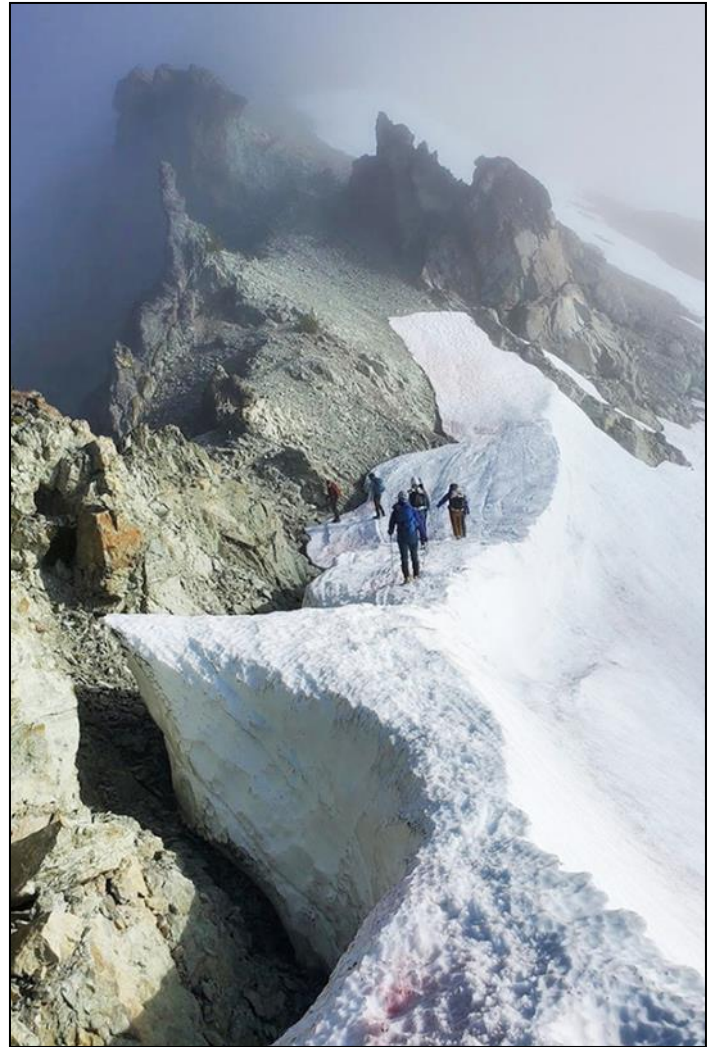
Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Assistant Leader: Sheri Gabert

Photographer: Jen Marlow

Climb: 15.0 miles, 5,000 ft. (Difficult)

WE HAD A GREAT CLIMB UP MT. DANIEL, A PEAK IN THE CASCADES OF WASHINGTON. The hike in was warm, but the company and incredible scenery made it go by quickly. We were



Crossing the snow.

able to get a refreshing dip in Peggy's Pond before the mosquitoes drove us into our tents or out on a walkabout. The next morning, we got up early and headed up the rocky ridge, then traversed the snow slope and back to the rock. Everyone summited in perfect weather. On the way back we had some excitement when a military cargo plane flew very low over the ridge above our heads. The hike out was expedited due to the bugs, but we still managed to stop for another swim in a lake just off the trail. Participants: Sheri Gabert, Melanie Glock, Jennifer Marlow, Juli McGlinsky, Meg McNabb, Maryanne Reiter, Sara Shari, Jamie Sullivan.

Mt. Adams

July 19–20, 2025

Leader: Steve Davis

Assistant Leader: Miranda Trieston

Climb: 7.5 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

OUR SMALL TEAM OF THREE OBSIDIANS REACHED THE SUMMIT OF MT. ADAMS AFTER A TENT-FLAPPING, NOISY NIGHT AT THE LUNCH COUNTER. We awoke in the windy, cold, pre-dawn dark to don our crampons and helmets, grab our ice axes, and begin the long ascent up frozen snow to the false summit, Pikers Peak. As we ascended, we were passed by an alpine Corgi making its descent, fully in its element, and wondering why its humans were so slow. Another hour took us to the 12,281-foot summit of the mountain with the remains of an abandoned fire lookout (supplied by mule back in the day). Although the upper 700 feet of the mountain was shrouded by cloud, we had occasional glimpses south to the Three Sisters and Mt. Bachelor. After a 2,600-foot, bumpy, icy glissade from Pikers Peak back to the Lunch Counter, we packed up camp and made our way down to the trailhead, tired and happy. Participants: Steve Davis, Brian Humphreys, Miranda Trieston.

Rock Gym to Crag: Skills for Climbing Outside

July 30–August 2, 2025

Leader: Patrick McMurdo

Assistant Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Climb

OUR THIRD GYM TO CRAG CLASS OUTING WAS A GREAT SUCCESS! Over three days, our excellent participants learned rock climbing, anchor building, and how to safely remove the anchor from the climb when finished climbing. All participants practiced lead belaying and led climbs at Eagles's Rest. They all left the class with increased confidence in their ability to independently climb outdoors. Participants: Wim Aarts, Connor Barrow, Daniel Hagen, Patrick McMurdo, Maryanne Reiter, Linda Sato.

Mount St. Helens—Monitor Ridge

August 17, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Steve Davis

Climb: 9.0 miles, 4,600 ft. (Difficult)

SIX OBSIDIANS TACKLED THE MONITOR RIDGE ROUTE ON MOUNT ST. HELENS and successfully ascended to the crater



View of Mount Rainier from the crater rim.

rim. We had a beautiful, cool day, a nice breeze, misty clouds, and firm footing from recent rains (no deep dust!). A little below the crater rim we broke through the clouds to enjoy blue sky and views of the summits of Mounts Rainier, Adams, and Hood. The interior of the crater was filled with broken clouds, but we were afforded occasional glimpses of the resurgent dome (and three or four geologists doing field work). Five climbers continued west along the rim to reach the true summit for a quick lunch break while the sixth rested near the rim a little way to the east. Participants: Lumin Browning, Lisa Butraw, Steve Davis, Marti Gerdes, Allison Knight, Jane Leng.

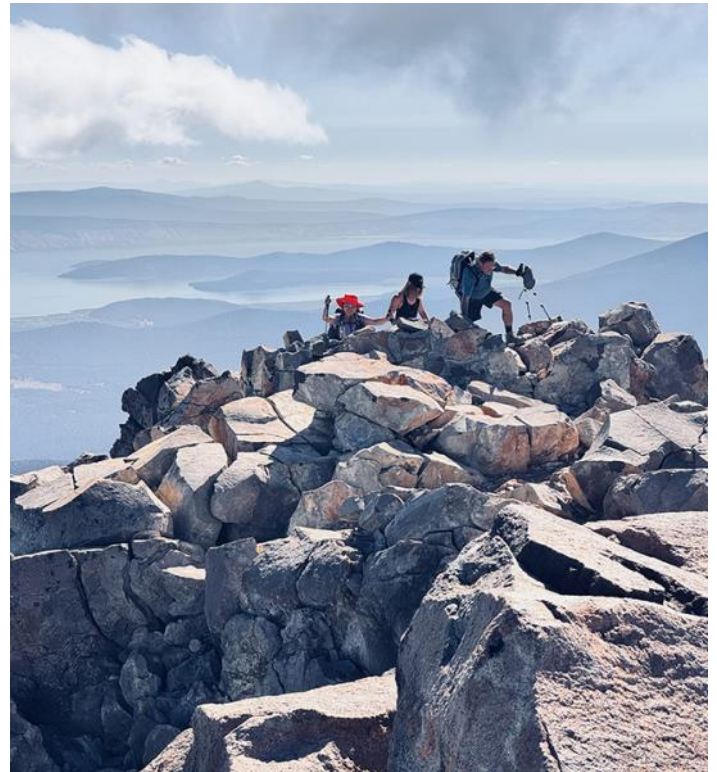
Mount McLoughlin

August 20, 2025

Leader & photographer: Steve Davis

Climb: 8.6 miles, 3,900 ft. (Difficult)

FIVE AMBITIOUS OBSIDIANS HEADED OUT BY HEADLAMP TO CLIMB MOUNT MCLOUGHLIN BY THE STANDARD ASCENT ROUTE. After successfully crossing the log over the gushing



Jane, Lumin, and Ken making the final steps to the summit block.

creek at the trailhead, we followed maintained trails to the climber's 'trail'. As we ascended the rocky, loose trail, one member opted to stop and spend several hours enjoying where they were while the other four continued for several hours to the summit. It was a picture-perfect day with stunning views of Mount Shasta to the south and distant views of Mt. Thielsen, Diamond Peak, and the Three Sisters to the north. While we sat and enjoyed lunch and sun, four sharp-shinned hawks cavorted around us, seemingly at play but probably feeding on the numerous butterflies that were fluttering past. In all, a most excellent day. Participants: Lumin Browning, Steve Davis, Jane Leng, Greg Milliman, Ken Robinson.

Mt. Thielsen

August 23, 2025

Leader: Dalen Willhite

Climb: 10.0 miles, 3,800 ft. (Difficult)

WE STARTED AT 5 AM TO TRY TO GET AHEAD OF THE HOT WEATHER THAT WAS FORECAST. We made good time and, aside from working around some inexperienced climbers on the summit, we had a smooth trip. Glad that we started early because we passed probably two dozen people on our way down. A beautiful day! Participants: Lumin Browning, Jane Leng, Dalen Willhite.



Hikes

Browder Ridge to Heart Lake

June 19, 2025

Leader: Mary Holbert

Hike: 12.0 miles, 2,900 ft. (Difficult)

THIS WAS A VERY FUN HIKE AND A GOOD WORKOUT. The leader had a rookie moment and mentioned two starting points. A delay resulted, but everyone was very accommodating. Since there are two other Browder Ridge hikes, I will spare the details except to mention that the trip to Heart Lake was snowy, steep, and interesting. There were structures on and around the lake that were reported to USFS law enforcement and a couple of Obsidians who adopt lakes. Participants: Jan Danforth, Marti Gerdes, Abby Gershenzon, Mary Holbert, Mark Kintigh, Alison Lackey, Sandra Sigrist.

Horsepasture Mountain

June 25, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Steven Johnson

Hike: 7.0 miles, 2,300 ft. (Difficult)

THIRTEEN OBSIDIANS MADE THE 2,300-FOOT ASCENT UP TO THE SUMMIT OF HORSEPASTURE MOUNTAIN ON A PERFECT SUMMER DAY from the Saddle trailhead on Road 1993. The



Jacquie, Lynn, Randy, Marti, Vern, Angie, Jeff, David, and Jonathan on the summit.

trail had not been cleared this year, so there were numerous downed trees to climb over and some heavy brush to wade through, but the trail was passable. The views of the Cascades from the top were spectacular. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, Jacquie Fern, Marti Gerdes, Steven

Johnson, Jonathan Jost, Vern Marsonette, Lynn Meacham, David Morris, Jeff Orendorff, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Randy Sinnott.

Mt. June

June 27, 2025

Leader: Jeff Orendorff

Hike: 7.5 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

ANOTHER GREAT MT. JUNE HIKE. There were many wildflowers, including plenty of rhodies still in bloom near the summit. We had the trail to ourselves other than a group of trail runners. The view from the top was very nice. Participants: Elena Cantoran, Jeff Orendorff, Darko Sojak.

Eugene Millrace Walk

June 27, 2025

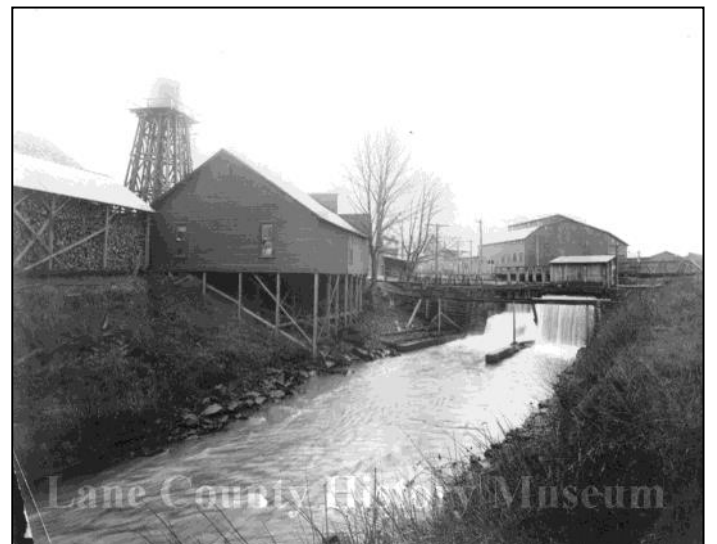
Leader & Photographer: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 6.0 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS, THE MILLRACE PROVIDED AN INEXPENSIVE AND ABUNDANT SOURCE OF ENERGY FOR EUGENE'S WATER-POWERED FACTORIES. While it was an artery for Eugene's industry, the Millrace was also the center of recreation for many. In the 1920s, as electricity became commonplace, the Millrace slipped into obscurity. In the



A remaining section of how the Millrace used to look.



The Eugene Millrace, 1915.

1940s, plans for part of the Millrace to be paved over and covered up were set in motion. Today, in some areas, the Millrace still looks as it once did. Our group's seven-mile walk visited the Millrace in reverse, from where an outflow can still be seen today by the DeFazio bridge, up to the diversion dam by the I-5 bridge, and back down to where we started on the other side of the river at Alton Baker Park. Possibly the most interesting part of our walk was viewing old images and maps that showed a very different Eugene. Participants: Steve Adey, David Hawkins, Mark Hougardy, Sandra Larsen, Guy Pritchett, Ginny Reich, Terri Robinson.

Macduff Mt. Hike

June 28, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Steven Johnson

Hike: 5.0 miles, 1,200 ft. (Moderate)

THE ANNUAL JUNE 28 HIKE UP MACDUFF MOUNTAIN WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN GREAT WEATHER AND WITH ABUNDANT WILDFLOWERS. The Forest Service road up to our trailhead



Lush Macduff Mt. trail.

was in good condition, as it had been freshly graveled to accommodate the logging going on in the area. Fortunately, being a Saturday, we encountered no log trucks. While the views from the summit were great, a colony of ants had taken over the top. None of our group of 12 was able to sit down to enjoy their lunch without being swarmed by ants. I've led this hike every year since 2015, and this has never been a problem before. I'll take an anteater with me next year. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Jacquie Fern, Marti Gerdes, Abby Gershenson, Whitney Gould, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Allison Knight, Lynn Meacham, Eliza Murphy, Rae Obrien, Sandra Sigrist.

Crescent Mountain

June 30, 2025

Leader: Mary Holbert

Hike: 9.0 miles, 2,350 ft. (Difficult)

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY ON CRESCENT MOUNTAIN. Jane hadn't seen any beargrass blooms and we found a whole meadow full of them for her. The air was clear and we could see from Mount St. Helens to Diamond Peak. Participants: Steve Davis, Jacquie Fern, Mary Holbert, Jane Leng, Sandra Sigrist.

Martin Lake

July 2, 2025

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 9.5 miles, 1,500 ft. (Difficult)

MILD TEMPERATURES AND AN IMPRESSIVE BEARGRASS BLOOM WELCOMED OUR GROUP OF TWELVE HIKERS on their trek to Martin Lake. This nine-mile loop hike begins at the Santiam Pass PCT trailhead and heads north towards Three Fingered Jack where we left the trail to hike cross-country past Martin Lake to the Old Summit Trail. From there we headed south past Booth Lake to Square Lake, where six of our group went for a swim before heading back to our trailhead. Participants: Annie Chan, Daniel Conklin, Marguerite Cooney, Donna Ellickson, Marti Gerdes, Steven Johnson, Jane Leng, Lynn Meacham, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Harold Thompson, Dorothy van Winkle.

Obsidians Butte to Butte

July 4, 2025

Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 4.0 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

WE DID IT AGAIN. Participants: Marguerite Cooney, Whitney Gould, Mark Hougardy, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Shelley Wise.

Videra Oak Meadow

July 5, 2025

Leader: Whitney Gould

Hike: 5.0 miles, 520 ft. (Easy)

THIS WAS A SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL OBSIDIANS HIKE THROUGH THE SOUTHWEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD IN EUGENE. Our focus was two pieces of property that show the before-and-after effects of development in a residential neighborhood. We started at Videra Oak Meadow, a 15-acre site that is both a wetlands and an oak savanna, of which just one percent remains in Lane County. The owner of the property is looking to sell it to developers, while residents are fighting to retain it in its natural state. From there, we walked a half-mile to another development, Timberline Hills, where the land was cleared more than ten years ago and a single house has yet to be finished. We continued our walk down Timberline Drive to a series of paths that wind through the Somerset Hills portion of the neighborhood, then back up through another section of paths. We ended our trek at Skyview Park, a beautiful spot for sitting and relaxing. This was the first time the Obsidians have done this particular hike. If there is more interest, the leader would be happy to do it again. Participants: Kristen Anderson, Kathie Carpenter, Jan Danforth, Whitney Gould, Roy Nelson, Guy Pritchett, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Veronica Spaulding.

Browder Ridge with Shuttle

July 7, 2025

Leader: Karen Yoerger

Photographer: Marti Gerdes

Assistant Leader: Sandra Sigrist

Hike: 9.4 miles, 2,800 ft. (Difficult)

A SPECTACULAR HIKE! First, we left two cars at the Gate Creek trailhead, then piled into the other two cars for the quick trip to the Deer Creek trailhead—the reverse of the route in the original description. The change to a west-to-east route maximized the views of the mountains and the best wildflowers on the Deer Creek side, and took advantage of



Buckwheat flowers with a great view of the Three Sisters.

afternoon shade on the Gate Creek side. It was a very warm day and a challenging climb up through the sunny meadows. The wildflowers were several magnitudes of amazing! As we passed through dry and moist sections of forest, dry and moist meadows, and rocky outcrops, we saw over 70 species in bloom. Four of our group chose to lunch in the shady woods by the Heart Lk. turnoff, while five of us scrambled up the rocks to the broad meadow for lunch at the summit. After lunch we returned to the summit junction and continued down the trail to the Gate Creek trailhead. Thanks to everyone for good company, conversation, and a wonderful day! Participants: Marti Gerdes, Abby Gershenson, Whitney Gould, Jane Leng, Roy Nelson, Emily Rice, Sandra Sigrist, Lyndell Wilken, Karen Yoerger.

Evening Hike: Dorris Ranch

July 8, 2025

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 4.5–5.0 miles, 177 ft. (Easy)

A BEAUTIFUL EVENING HIKE THROUGH THE HISTORIC FILBERT ORCHARD AND ALONG THE RIVERBANK. Great group and conversations! Participants: Lee Andersen, David Cooper, Carla Cooper, Jennifer Crim, Whitney Gould, David Hawkins, Holger Krentz, David Madeira, Debra Messinger, Jean Stover, Lisa Van Liefde, Nancy Whitfield.

Scott Mountain

July 9, 2025

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 10.0 miles, 1,300 ft. (Moderate)

I DID THIS LOOP HIKE ALMOST EXACTLY FIVE YEARS AGO, AND I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED; I HAD THE SAME RESULTS. It was a very brushy, sometimes difficult trail to follow until, at about 5,700 feet, it became impossible to follow because of

all the snow. Once again, we were forced to scramble up the very steep but snow-free south side to reach the summit. I am pleased to announce that the views were smoke-free and spectacular. We descended again on the south side to intersect the Benson Lake trail to return back to our trailhead. Our plan to swim in Tenas Lake was supported by hordes of mosquitoes, but vetoed by us. Participants: Kristen Anderson, Kathie Carpenter, Steven Johnson, Angie Ruzicka.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

July 12, 2025

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

SEVEN GUESTS AND SIX MEMBERS ENJOYED A BRISK HIKE WHILE SHARING INFO ABOUT OUR CLUB. Six more guests had signed up but were unable to attend at the last minute. It's hard to gauge how many members are needed for each hike because of these unexpected changes. Even so, having lots of members makes the outing very enjoyable for everyone, so *thank you, members*. Participants: Pam Caples, Nate Champlin, Nard Claar, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Suzanna Didier, Alan Foley, William Jaeger, Zigmás Kungys, Suzy Leonard, Lynn Meacham, Sheary Suiter, Dorothy van Winkle.

Indigo and Chuckle Springs

July 14, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Jean Harris

Hike: 7.0 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

THE MOSQUITOES WERE MINIMAL, THE SUN BRIGHT, THE RIVER FLOWING, AND THE SPRINGS GUGGLING. Seeing water bubble and flow out of fern- and moss-covered hillsides is the



Keiko, Kathie and Holger near Cliff Springs along the Middle Fork Willamette Trail.

ultimate in nature providing peace and joy. This section of the Middle Fork Willamette Trail has beautiful timber, rustic bridges and rocky basalt lava flows to hike along. Our feet were frozen quickly when placed in Chuckle Springs during lunch. A stretch of trail downstream from the Indigo Springs entry point has recently had major improvements. The trail was moved away from the approaching river, and three bridges were built to safely cross wet areas. Thank you to our friends who volunteer for the Scorpions group of Cascade Volunteers. This area is brimming with opportunities to get outside. Participants: Keiko Bryan, Kathie Carpenter, Jean Harris, Holger Krentz.

Opie Dilldock

July 16, 2025

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 16.0 miles, 1,900 ft. (Difficult)

SCHEDULING HIKING TRIPS TO THE CASCADES IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY IS ALWAYS A GAMBLE. Will it be too hot, will there be too much snow, or will it be too smoky? After already postponing this hike once because of the late-season snow, I chose to take a chance and keep this trip on the schedule. This turned out to be a good choice. While the day was warm, a constant breeze kept our group cool. There was plenty of snow, but we were able to find our way, and we enjoyed glissading on the way back. There was some haze in the air, but not enough to spoil the great views from the Collier Glacier viewpoint. After our excellent hike, some of us enjoyed a very refreshing swim in South Matthieu Lake. Participants: Marti Gerdes, Jean Harris, Steven Johnson, Mark Kintigh, Jane Leng, Tracy Livernois, Lynn Meacham, Linda Mirsepassi, Angie Ruzicka, Signe Wright.

Yoran Lake Loop

July 18, 2025

Leader: Jeff Orendorff

Hike: 12.0 miles, 1,300 ft. (Difficult)

BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OF DIAMOND PEAK, MOUNT YORAN, AND SEVERAL LAKES on this wonderful hike. We started the hike early in the morning, kept a good pace, and finished the hike in the early afternoon. We didn't see any other hikers on the trail, and the mosquitos were manageable. Participants: Jonathan Jost, Jeff Orendorff.

Annual Beach Barefoot Hike

July 19, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Hike: 7.0 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

OUR ANNUAL BAREFOOT BEACH HIKE WAS BETTER ATTENDED THAN EVER. This Saturday, twenty-one hikers enjoyed mostly sunny weather and light pleasant winds. In Darko's Hidden



Crossing Sutton Creek.

Cove, we admired the pigeon guillemot nesting on the high cliffs. Of course, we saved the traditional Hokey Pokey dance on top of the sand dune for the end. Special thanks to Vicky for bringing her delicious mini-mocha muffins and to Angie for helping organize such a great group. Participants: Heidi Anderson, Bill Campbell, BJ Campbell, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, James Dinn, Diana Dinn, Vicky Hanson, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Gwyneth Iredale, Allison Knight, Holger Krentz, Jeff Lange, Roy Nelson, Guy Pritchett, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Joan Skarda, John Skarda, Darko Sojak.

Collard & Clear Lakes, Hike & Swim

July 20, 2025

Leader: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Joan Skarda

Hike: 5.3 miles, 610 ft. (Moderate)

THE ANNUAL OBSIDIANS HIKE AND SWIM WAS CLOUDY AND BIT COOLER THAN USUAL. Regardless, we had a great time. Big thanks to Joan Skarda. Participants: Crystal D., Paul Grunwald, Jeff Lange, Angie Ruzicka, Joan Skarda, Darko Sojak, Sheri Sund.

No Name Lake

July 25, 2025

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 12.0 miles, 1,600 ft. (Difficult)

THIS IS A SPECTACULAR HIKE, BUT ONE I OFTEN HAVE TO CANCEL BECAUSE OF TOO MUCH SNOW, SMOKE, OR HEAT. This year we were finally able to complete our hike to No Name Lake, as the snow had retreated enough to open the trail, and the clear skies enabled us to view the Cascades from Mt. Thielsen to Mt. Adams. The lake itself was still half covered with ice and icebergs, allowing some of our group to surf an iceberg. Our group of nine took 7½ hours to complete this 11½-mile hike from the Tam McArthur Rim trailhead. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Jacquie Fern, Abby Gershenzon, Justin Johnson, Steven Johnson, Jane Leng, Monica Ozwoeld, Gretchen Sotomayor, Sue Wolling.

Cape Perpetua

August 3, 2025

Leader: Sandra Sigrist

Hike: 11.0 miles, 2,500 ft. (Moderate)

WOW! SUNNY, BLUE SKIES WITH COOL BREEZES ACROSS THE DAY. Eleven miles of trail, lunch on the ocean bluffs, contemplation time in the Amanda Statue Grotto, and whale viewing from the Cape Perpetua Stone Shelter. A really great hike! Participants: Lee Andersen, Marguerite Cooney, Jacquie Fern, Abby Gershenzon, Rachelle Masin, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Kathryn Socea, Dorothy van Winkle, Sue Wolling, Karen Yoerger.

Evening Hike: Willamette Riverbank / Alton Baker Park

August 5, 2025

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 4.0 miles, 177 ft. (Easy)

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL EVENING ALONG THE WILLAMETTE— perfect weather and company! Several folks had not followed this particular trail before. We welcomed two new participants and we look forward to seeing them again soon. Participants: Lee Andersen, Robin Armstrong, Mari Baldwin, Fred Crafts, Marti Gerdes, Diana Masarie, Guy Pritchett, Meredith Riley, Lisa Van Liefde.

Trestle Creek Falls Loop

August 18, 2025

Leader: Jeff Orendorff

Hike: 4.4 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

A WONDERFUL HIKE TO TWO BEAUTIFUL WATERFALLS east of Cottage Grove. Various types of berries were beginning to ripen, and the creek water was still plenty cold. Participants: Robin Armstrong, Elena Cantoran, Alan Foley, Jean Harris, Jeff Orendorff, Darko Sojak, Bojana Stefanovska.

Rosary Lakes

August 22, 2025

Leader: Jean Harris

Hike: 9.0 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

AUGUST 22ND BEGAN WITH SUN AND A 50-DEGREE TEMPERATURE AT THE TRAILHEAD near Willamette Pass. The nine hikers enjoyed the beautiful forest, occasional views of Odell Lake, and a gentle breeze. The Rosary Lakes reflected the blue sky, full of sparkles and light. We continued past the



Lunch near Middle Rosary Lake.

three Rosary Lakes and reached a viewpoint that showed Diamond Peak; Upper, Middle, and Lower Rosary Lakes; Odell Lake; and Crescent Lake. We returned to Upper Rosary for lunch and swimming (Paul, Randy and Marguerite). With the temperature around 80, the amble back to the trailhead was leisurely. Woodpeckers and other birds provided entertainment. This was a bluebird day at the pass levels. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, David Clinger, Marguerite Cooney, Jean Harris, Randy Jeremiah, Lynn Meacham, Roy Nelson, Paul Winther.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

Hikes: 3.9–6.2 miles, 700–1,530 ft. (Easy–Moderate)
Various Leaders

Denise Rubenstein: 6/24 7 Participants 6/25 11 Participants
7/15 4 Participants

Mark Hougardy: 6/22 9 Participants 6/29 10 Participants
7/6 9 Participants 7/13 5 Participants 7/20 8 Participants
7/27 10 Participants

Lisa Van Liefde: 7/1 8 Participants

Mike Smith: 7/2 11 Participants

Janet Jacobsen: 7/9 8 Participants 7/30 15 Participants

Sandra Sigrist: 7/16 9 Participants

Lynn Meacham: 7/23 14 Participants

Bojana Stefanovska: 8/6 12 Participants 8/20 15 Participants
8/27 11 Participants

Janet Jacobsen, Eva Mogart: 8/13 10 Participants

Darko Sojak: 8/23 2 Participants

Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Jorry Rolfe: 6/17 6 Participants 7/29 7 Participants

8/5 3 Participants 8/19 8 Participants

Lynn Meacham: 6/24 6 Participants

Jonathan Jost: 7/1 6 Participants 8/26 8 Participants

Janet Jacobsen: 7/8 2 Participants 8/12 3 Participants

Kathie Carpenter: 7/15 6 Participants

Denise Rubenstein: 7/22 5 Participants

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.0–6.8 miles, 1,040–1,375 ft. (Easy–Moderate)

Sandra Sigrist: 7/10 10 Participants

Heidi Anderson, Sandra Sigrist: 7/11 11 Participants
8/8 3 Participants

Heidi Anderson: 8/9 7 Participants

Jeff Orendorff: 7/11 2 Participants 7/25 2 Participants
7/28 3 Participants 8/16 3 Participants

Lisa Van Liefde: 7/29 3 Participants 8/26 5 Participants



Water Trips

Coyote Creek Paddle

July 1, 2025

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Photographer: Heidi Anderson
Water

IT WAS AN AMAZING COLLECTION OF COLORFUL KAYAKS IN VARIOUS SHAPES AND SIZES: one sit-upon, three origami folding boats, three short play boats, and six lightweight touring kayaks. Thirteen women helped each other load and



Helping each other launch.

unload the boats, and get into and out of the water safely. We paddled up Coyote Creek for about 45 minutes and then turned around, paddled past the launch on Cantrell Road almost to West 11th, and then back to the starting point. It was a beautiful day to be on the water, listening to birds, watching a curious grebe and great blue heron, while colorful butterflies and dragonflies flitted about. Participants: Heidi Anderson, Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, Kim Davidson-Ruby, Patricia Esch, Marti Gerdes, Elizabeth Grant, Lana Lindstrom, Emily Rice, Denise Rubenstein, Sandra Sigrist, Nancy Whitfield, Karen Yoerger.



Stewardship

National Trails Day

June 7, 2025

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer: Marlon Troubnikoff

Stewardship: 2.0 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

ON THIS SPECIAL DAY, WE MET UP WITH MARLON (FROM THE CITY OF EUGENE) to work on Spencer Butte trailhead improvements to the ADA trail. Even with manual



Matt doing a final raking with his son Naith watering the gravel before compacting begins.

wheelbarrows, we made short work of spreading gravel on a short ungravelled section. Meanwhile, Marlon cut and fitted a log to create a retaining feature on a corner so that we could fill it with large rock and cap it with gravel. Before leaving, we compacted the gravel to create a longer-lasting, durable trail surface. Special thanks go to Clara for diligently cleaning the trailhead steps, and to Janet for bringing scrumptious snacks. Participants: Matt Bell, Nikky Calvert, Jennifer Crim, Clara Emlen, Janet Jacobsen, Jim Northrop, Pat Soussan.

Tie Trail Brushing

June 25, 2025

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Stewardship: 2.0 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WE WORKED INDEPENDENTLY THIS OUTING TO CUT BACK WOODY BRUSH FROM THE SIDES OF THE TIE TRAIL at Spencer Butte. We struggled with the loppers that I brought from the City's tool shed as the jaws were loose, making effective cuts extremely difficult. We hiked and worked for about three-tenths of a mile before turning around and hiking out. We focused on making proper pruning cuts as we trimmed back hazelnut, vine maple, and bigleaf maple. We left the big vine maple overhanging the trail, although I'm concerned that it is



Dave cutting things back.

getting too low to keep. Special thanks go to Clara for doing a wonderful job of cleaning the trailhead stairs, and to Janet for bringing delicious snacks. Participants: Matt Bell, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Beejay Oslen, Pat Soussan.

Lodge and Grounds Work Party

July 7, 2025

Leader: Nancy Whitfield

Stewardship

FROM BRAVING BEES, CUTTING POISON OAK (I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WILL GET THE GOLD TO PAY YOU. How about three gold stars by your name on the cosmic karmic chart?), dragging heavy loads of debris, conquering those blackberries on that darn steep slope, mowing and mowing, digging up roots (grr), tending the beds, cleaning gutters, to anything else I missed, thank you very much. Participants: David Cooper, Donna Ellickson, Jean Harris, Andrew McIvor, Doug Nelson, Jim Northrop, Jeffrey Rusow, Karla Rusow, Nancy Whitfield.

Habitat Restoration

July 12, 2025

Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographer: Sha Cabal

Stewardship: 1.0 miles, 20 ft. (Mixed)

TODAY WE WORKED AT COYOTE PRAIRIE WITH FRIENDS OF BUFORD PARK. Our invasive species management work was



After the work, our group with Friends of Buford Park volunteers.

hot, dusty, and prickly. Thank you, volunteers! Participants: Wim Aarts, Bill Campbell, BJ Campbell, Clara Emlen, Holger Krentz, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

BE THE CHANGE—JULY

July 22, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 2.5 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

THANK YOU, FRIENDS, FOR HELPING TODAY. Together, at today's BE THE CHANGE outing, we picked up about 30 lbs. of trash, plus all those unwieldy, mysterious metal pieces.



Thank you volunteers!

Participants: Kristen Anderson, Mari Baldwin, Bill Campbell, BJ Campbell, Donna Ellickson, Lana Lindstrom, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

Tie Trail Brushing

July 30, 2025

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Stewardship: 2.0 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

FOR THIS OUTING, WE MET UP ON A WARM EVENING TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY IN SPENCER BUTTE PARK. We broke into two small groups and selected tools appropriately. The first group, Clara and Janet, stayed at the trailhead to clean



Our group of stalwart volunteers for this month's outing.

the concrete steps. The second group, Matt, Gretchen, Dan, Eva, and Dave, hiked in to tackle the main task for the evening, cutting back woody brush from the sides of the lower section of the Tie Trail. We hiked down to the junction with the Ridgeline Trail and worked our way back up to where we

stopped during the June outing, at the ocean spray shrub just past the open drain. Special thanks go to Janet for the chocolate zucchini bread! Participants: Matt Bell, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Eva Mogart.

BE THE CHANGE—AUGUST

August 4, 2025

Leader: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 2.8 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

THERE WERE ONLY FOUR OF US TODAY. We cleaned the park by the path on south bank of the Willamette River. Thank you, volunteers, for setting an outstanding example. Participants: Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Sue Wolling, Signe Wright.

Ridgeline Brushing

August 27, 2025

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Stewardship: 2.0 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WE MET UP AT THE FOX HOLLOW TRAILHEAD ON A PARTICULARLY WARM AUGUST EVENING to brush the trailsides of the Ridgeline Trail from the Cline Road access back to the Fox Hollow Trailhead. We were surprised to see two yearling deer near the road as we waited for everyone to arrive. We hiked



Dan and Matt pruning back oak that was hanging way too low over the trail.

into the Cline Road access and worked our way back to the trailhead. The loppers and hand clippers had a hard time making good progress in the trailing blackberry and black raspberry that lined the trail. Fortunately, we had a couple of weedcutters with us that we were able to use to their fullest potential. After returning to the trailhead, we enjoyed our post work tailgate drinks and snacks. Special thanks go to me for bringing everyone chilled waters and to Janet for bringing cold watermelon and chocolate zucchini bread. Participants: Mari Baldwin, Matt Bell, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Eva Mogart.

NEW EXHIBIT IN THE SCHERER ROOM



I'M A NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER BASED IN EUGENE. PHOTOGRAPHY HELPS ME TO SLOW DOWN AND CONNECT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT. I'm especially drawn to birds and the moon—birds for their beauty and grace, the moon for the sense of awe it brings.

I love being present with wildlife, looking them in the eyes, and trying to imagine what they are thinking and feeling. I aim to capture and share those moments.

I work with local organizations to improve my skills and share my work. I am treasurer of Emerald Photographic Society, and manage print competitions for Nature Photographers of the Pacific Northwest (NPPNW). You can see more of my images at annecampbellphotography.com.

I hope you enjoy the gallery.

Anne Campbell

Visionary Oregon, A Look at Visions Accomplished and Imagined

Upcoming Eugene Parks Foundation Lecture

Andy Mc Ivor

HOW WAS THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA ESTABLISHED? HOW ABOUT WATERFRONT PARK IN PORTLAND, which replaced a six-lane highway alongside the Willamette River downtown? How about Eugene's own Ridgeline Trail system? A look to the past gives lessons and inspiration for the future of big recreation projects, says Kenny Helphand, Knight Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture from the University of Oregon. Mr. Helphand is a board member of The Eugene Parks Foundation (EPF), and will deliver the latest in a series of Parks Talks at The Shedd Institute, 868 High Street, Eugene, OR 97401, on September 18, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

"I'm going to review positive visions that happened, some in other parts of the state, along with some of the visionaries who made them happen," said Helphand. "Also, some projects which happened, but then failed, like the downtown Eu-

gene Mall." He will cover Oregon Senate Bill 100, the famous 1973 statute which established statewide land use planning, the Oregon Coast Trail, Willamette Greenway, and several others, as well as ideas still on the drawing board, like high-speed rail from Eugene to Seattle.

In addition, Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knutson will give a short talk on her priorities and visions for the city. The suggested donation is \$15, and preregistration is required through the Eugene Parks Foundation website, eugeneparksfoundation.org. Space is limited, and these events have sold out in the past.

For those Obsidians who would like to review the background of one of Eugene's big ideas, the Rivers to Ridges trail system, please watch landscape architect Jeff Krueger's November 13, 2024 talk on that topic. It is available on the EPF website.

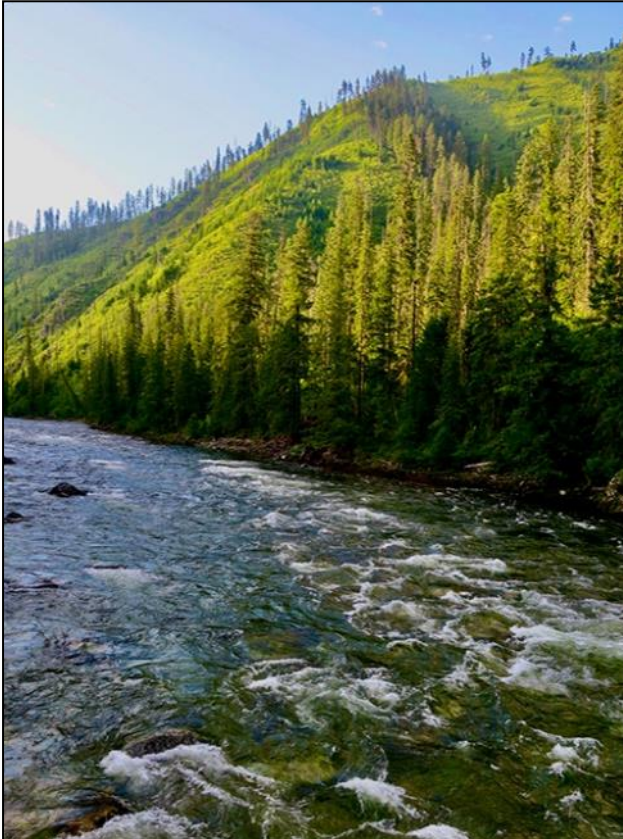




Friday, September 26, 2025

From Trailhead to Heart's Home

with Brenda Kame'enui



THE UNITED STATES HAS A LONG INTEREST IN TRAILS, from exploration across the continent, to recreation, as well as a history of usurping large swaths of indigenous land for recreational activities. In the late 1800s, social clubs became important, including the Appalachian Mountain Club, which was the first club to build trails and to admit women—a startling social reform of the day! Today we hike to maintain trails, advocate for public lands, enjoy social connection, and absorb the quiet... much like the Obsidians.

Join us as Obsidian member, poet, and wordsmith Brenda Kame'enui talks about trails of exploration, sorrow, and pleasure—from the Missouri to the Metolius, and Tuolumne Meadows to Twin Peaks. She will touch on Native American trails, the National Parks, the Oregon Trail, and some of her favorite trails, in this heartfelt photo essay.



Potluck
Friday, September 26, 2025
Obsidian Lodge
Social 6:00 PM
Potluck 6:30 PM, Program 7:30 PM

*Bring your favorite potluck dish to share
along with your own plate, bowl, utensils, and cup
that you'll take home to wash.
A small donation will be gladly accepted.*

*You do not need to be an Obsidian member to attend;
no sign-up is necessary. All are welcome.
If you want to attend the presentation only,
please arrive before 7:30 PM.*

Upcoming 2025 Potlucks & Presentations

Oct 24: Lana Lindstrom & Sue Zeni—Cycling
Nov 21: Donald Lyon—Galapagos—Islands in Time

No P&P in December

For more information
visit the entertainment page on obsidians.org

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:

September 9, 16, 23, 30

October 7, 14, 21, 28

Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

Wednesdays:

September 10, 17, 24

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

CHECK FOR DETAILS AND SIGN UP ONLINE

observians.org/events/

MT. PISGAH SUNSET FULL MOONRISE

Various Leaders

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

Sept 6, Oct 5, Nov 4, Dec 3

Guests welcome

**CHECK FOR DETAILS
& SIGN UP ONLINE**

observians.org/events/

GET ACQUAINTED HIKES

Second Saturday of the Month:

September 27, October 11, November 8

Members and nonmembers, please join us!

Sign up online.



UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ROSARY LAKES HIKE (Love Your Lake)

Wednesday, September 10

WORK PARTY AT THE LODGE

Thursday, September 11

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Saturday, September 27, 9 AM–noon

SPENCER BUTTE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Saturdays 9:00 AM–Noon

October 25, November 29

None in December

Have a question?

Contact observians-stewardship@googlegroups.com

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



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

Tuesday, October 7

Thursday, November 6

Tuesday, December 9

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



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September 2025



Hiking across a steep meadow. See the Browder Ridge trip report on page 12. Photo by Lyndell Wilken.

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