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**Dates to Remember**

November 21	Potluck/Presentation
December 3	Board Meeting
December 16	GameNight!
January 2	Bulletin Deadline
January 7	Board Meeting
January 13	GameNight!

Current event schedules at:

[www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

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**The next issue of the Bulletin will be published in January.**

(There is no December issue.)

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**President’s 2025 STATE OF THE OBSIDIANS Address**

*Presented at the Annual Meeting by Denise Rubenstein*

**A GREAT PLACE TO START IS WITH OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**  
*Connecting our community to the mountains, waters, and trails of the great outdoors through education, exploration, and stewardship.*

**Education:** If you have ever attended a potluck, a first aid class, a navigation class, climb school, been on a hike with one of our flower or tree experts, learned anything from fellow Obsidians ...give a wave.

**Exploration:** If you have hiked a new trail, a new mountain, tried a new campsite, been on an Explora hike, even ganderflanking, taken a train to find a new trail, been somewhere new due to Obsidians...give a wave.

**Stewardship:** If you have worked on a stewardship project with Matt, Darko, Jean, done trail maintenance, Love a Lake with Lyndell, beach clean up, **OR** picked up trash as you hike along the Ridgeline...give a wave.

If you’ve done all three, stamp your feet!

**W**ELCOME, ALL, TO THE 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OBSIDIANS. We start our Board meetings with Kudos—reflecting on the previous month and noting things well done by members. It makes sense to start our annual meeting by reflecting on this *past year* with things well done. For one thing...we live up to our mission statement!

The Obsidians are unique in being a totally *volunteer-run* organization and it’s only possible due to so many members giving very generously of their time and talents. As a result, the Obsidian organization is in good stead.

Thanks to the talents of the Finance Committee, *oversight of Obsidian funds has always been strong.* However, costs rise, this lovely, aging Lodge needs maintenance, and our Capitol/Contingency fund needed some shoring up due to recent draw downs. To that end, a donation appeal was sent out with a goal of \$15,000 by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to generous contributions \$11,715 was donated. Thank You!

We had another successful Summer Camp in the Wallows this year thanks to Steve Johnson and Lana Lindstrom. It was glampier than our traditional camps, but who doesn’t love biscuits and gravy for breakfast? There were plenty of challenges on various hikes to alpine lakes. The tram ride up to Mt. Howard was stunning—didn’t even have to work hard for a cold beverage at the top, and nighttime kayaking on clear bottom boats?! BTW, have you seen the newest *Bulletin*? **Check it out** for a full color review of camp. If you were at camp, you will revel in the memories. If you weren’t at camp, you’ll wish you had been there. The *Bulletin* team outdid themselves on this issue—check out that flower page.

And finally, the entire Obsidian organization has just won an award. The Eugene Parks Foundation has *honored* us with the **Parks Legacy Award** for 2025. All because of *our stewardship projects.* This Legacy Award will be presented at the Parks Talk on November 20, at the Shedd Institute. You are all invited! There is a suggested donation of \$15 with complimentary hors d’oeuvres. Check out the October *Bulletin* to see how to register. (Or click on the links at the bottom of page 2 of this Bulletin.)

**Congratulations!**

## IN MEMORIAM

### BRIAN HAMILTON

February 18, 1951–September 25, 2025

**B**RIAN JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 2004 AND QUICKLY BECAME INVOLVED IN CLUB ACTIVITIES, leading 30 of his 76 trips and 31 of his 47 climbs. He served as Lodge Chair and Summer Trips Chair. An architect, he provided his expertise in the planning of the Lodge remodel.

Elected President, Brian was featured in the December 2007 *Bulletin: New Club President Took Interesting Route to the Lodge*, where he shared his inspiration: *I always wanted to climb the mountains I could see from here [his office]. At age 50, he embraced the motto: "It's now or never,"* and went on to earn the prestigious Obsidian Ten Peak Leader Award in 2009.

In his President's Message *Summer Camp Misconceptions* for the September 2008 *Bulletin*, he reflected on his experience at Camp Hamilton in the Sawtooths:

*Since I'm the 2008 president of the Obsidian Board, I felt obligated to go to summer camp this year. After all, the camps are usually named for the current president. So, my wife Mary and I found a sitter for our dog and made arrangements to attend.*

*There's a lot of truth in the old saying —Don't knock it until you've tried it. After a week at summer camp, I'm pleased to say that I enjoyed it much more than I could have imagined. Before arriving in camp, we attended the pre-camp rally and it hit me that because the Obsidians have been doing this for a long time they have really figured out how to do it right. Once we got to Camp Hamilton we realized that we had never been to a camp like this before. We had a great time! The people, the food, the camp facilities, the variety of daily activities, and the location are just some of the things I really liked about summer camp. Obsidians are wonderful people! We made new friends and got to know others better.*

Brian shared his adventurous spirit with so many.

### DONATIONS UPDATE

## Wow! Obsidians really rock.

**W**HEN A DONATION REQUEST FOR LODGE REPAIRS, INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS, AND OUR 100-YEAR CELEBRATION WENT OUT TO THE MEMBERSHIP in July, the goal was \$15,000. A steady stream of contributions started arriving and at the Annual meeting in October our goal had reached \$11,715. Donations have continued to roll in and thanks to several sizable donations this year, I'm pleased to announce that we have exceeded our goal and **our total is now \$31,115**. Well done, Obsidians! Every contribution, no matter the size, is deeply appreciated.

And...if you are looking to maximize an RMD plan, consider the Obsidians. Our all-volunteer organization runs on the generosity of its members.

Thank you!

*President Denise Rubenstein*

### REMINDER

**E**UGENE PARKS FOUNDATION WILL BESTOW THE PARKS LEGACY AWARD ON THE OBSIDIANS AT A PARKS TALK EVENT. Denise will accept the award so let's support our Club by attending this lovely event.

Thursday, November 20 at 5:30–7 PM at The Shedd Institute

The award ceremony will follow a presentation by Ben Helphand. More info and registration at:

<https://www.eugeneparksfoundation.org/a-sense-of-discovery>

or: <http://bit.ly/4odyu0L>

## OBSIDIANS

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: [www.obsidians.org](http://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 January Bulletin  
Friday, January 2**

### Editorial Team

*Writing & Editorial Staff:*

Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz

*Copy Editors:*

Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger

*Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:*

Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana

### Assembly/Mailing Team

*Managers:* Lou Maenz, Nancy Raymond

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

# Did you forget to renew your membership?

**M**ANY OBSIDIANS' MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRED AT THE END OF OCTOBER. This is your reminder if you have not yet renewed. Otherwise, when you show up for a hike, the leader will ask you to pay \$5 if it's an in-town hike or \$8 if it's out of town.

## Directions to renew:

Everyone needs to complete an online transaction/order whether you pay by check or credit card. We have a temporary renewal link in the yellow banner at the very top of the home page.

Click on *Renew Your Membership Here*.

Log in with your user ID or email address and enter your password.

The order will pop up.

Verify that the information is still correct—you may need to enter your birthdate.

Select to pay by credit card and enter your card information, or pay by check.

Click on the orange *Renew Subscription* button.

Easy Peasy!

## Really late renewals:

If the yellow banner does not show on your device, or if you are referencing this article after November, the temporary link will have been removed.

Log in with your user ID or email address and enter your password.

Click on *User Dashboard* (in the orange box)

Click on **MY SUBSCRIPTION**,

and then on **RENEW NOW**  
and follow the instructions above.

The image shows a user dashboard with a dark blue sidebar on the left and a white main content area on the right. The sidebar has three items: 'NOTIFICATIONS', 'MY SUBSCRIPTION' (highlighted with an orange circle), and 'LOGOUT'. The main content area shows subscription details: 'Next payment date' is 12/01/2025; 'Auto renew' is disabled with a note 'Using the auto-renewal toggle is disabled while in staging mode.'; 'Payment' is 'Via Manual Renewal'. At the bottom, there are two orange buttons: 'CANCEL' and 'RENEW NOW' (with 'ADD PAYMENT' partially visible to its right). Pink arrows point from the text instructions to the 'MY SUBSCRIPTION' button, the 'RENEW NOW' button, and the 'ADD PAYMENT' button.

If you have any difficulties, don't hesitate to email [lane\\_lindstrom@hotmail.com](mailto:lane_lindstrom@hotmail.com) or call Lana at 541-683-1409.

*NOTE: There has been a glitch in the process for late renewal. We hope it will be resolved soon. If you are unable to follow the above directions, please try again in another week.*

## Famous Last Words: Dr. Jane Goodall

**T**HE FIRST EPISODE OF NETFLIX'S NEW DOCUMENTARY SERIES *FAMOUS LAST WORDS* FEATURES A REMARKABLE INTERVIEW with conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall, recorded in March and released after her passing on October 1. The series invites us to sit down with extraordinary individuals who share their final reflections—interviews kept secret until their subjects have died.

Goodall's episode is insightful, personal, and deeply moving. She speaks directly to us, knowing this would be her last message. Her words are full of stories, memories, and the warmth she emanated to all. She reminds us that every life matters, that we are part of nature, and that our actions make a difference.

A must-watch for every human. (And perhaps every chimp?)

I recommend reading about the *Famous Last Words* series in the New York Times.

—Anne Hollander

# UNIVERSAL INTERCONNECTIONS

Mike Smith

*We are stardust, we are golden  
We are billion-year-old carbon  
And we've got to get ourselves  
Back to the garden*

*Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young; Woodstock*

**A**S I SCRAPED AWAY DIRT FROM THE TRAIL, I SAW A TINY BIT OF GREEN ON A DARK BROWN STUMP. We were restoring Bunchgrass Trail where the Cedar Creek fire had burned hot the year before. At 5,400 feet elevation we had entered an area of black, brown, gray, and whitish-gray, where the dead trees *sounded* dead when they were tapped with a trail tool. I didn't know that there was a specific sound for fire-dead dead. The soil was like brownish talcum powder with some, but very little, greenery in a few places. We often knew we were on the trail by the compacted hardness of the soil, but in other places on the trail there was no such hardness.



I stopped work to look more closely at this smidge of green: a few centimeters of plant growing out of the wood, eight tiny leaves. Here was green, life. I stared at the plant and touched it gently, wondering where the seed came from and how many of the other seeds found a suitable spot to germinate.

Green means chlorophyll, a substance that reflects green light, comprised in part of four pyrrole rings (a porphyrin) joined together, containing carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen, a magnesium atom present in the middle, stabilizing the system, a co-enzyme for many processes of photosynthesis.

Across the divide to the animal kingdom, oxygen is carried in vertebrates by heme, and in earlier phyla by hemocyanin. Heme, part of hemoglobin, contains a porphyrin complex, *chemically identical to chlorophyll, except iron, rather than magnesium, is the central metal*. Iron carries oxygen, to a lesser extent carbon dioxide, with 250-fold more affinity for carbon monoxide, CO, which is why we have smoke alarms; odorless CO displaces oxygen in hemoglobin.

It is worth emphasizing: substitute iron for magnesium and what starts as part of a plant energy-producing system becomes a part of an animal oxygen delivery system. I'm still trying to get my figurative hands around that. (I mean is that cool or what??)

Hemocyanin has a slightly different type of chemical ring, still 5-sided, with another nitrogen in the ring; copper is the central metal chelated. When copper combines with oxygen, it turns blue, explaining the blue blood of arthropods and mollusks. When cobalt is present in similar metallo-porphyrin complexes, we have methyl cyanocobalamin—the synthetic version we know as Vitamin B12—essential for our existence, for it is crucial for adequate red blood cell formation and myelination of our cerebrum and spinal cord.

Iron is fascinating. Our Sun will never make it, ending up ultimately as a carbon and oxygen white dwarf. Larger, hotter stars, however, fuse smaller elements past carbon to silicon, which fuses to iron. Spontaneous fusion ends here; iron needs external energy to fuse. Star size is a balance between heat expansion and gravitational contraction. When fuel runs out, expansion stops, the star core collapses upon itself and explodes—a billion degree supernova releasing energy that will form the other 66 natural elements. The iron in the star core is where the iron in our blood came from. The Sun therefore cannot be a first-generation star. We are, as Carl Sagan said, made of starstuff: calcium in our bones, phosphorus in the nucleotide adenosine triphosphate, the currency of biological energy, potassium in cells, sulfur needed for three specific amino acids, all came from fusion.

The plant on Bunchgrass, the asters, indeed all green plants, have magnesium electron transfer engines made of star stuff. They can synthesize sugars and other carbon-based compounds. All this occurs on a planet with silicon and oxygen the most common elements, with a hot iron core, a remarkable interconnection of the universe, us, and a small plant on a log that was once a living tree.

See you on the trail.

# OBSIDIANS 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

• October 10, 2025 • 48 people in attendance  
*From minutes by Angie Ruzicka*  
**Ice Cream Social 6:30–7:00 PM**

**A**N ICE CREAM SOCIAL STARTED THE EVENING with folks enjoying vanilla ice cream from Prince Pucklers, a variety of tasty toppings, and fresh apple crisp. A special thank you to Obsidian member Rick Sanford for arranging the ice cream donation.



*Ice cream is always popular during the social. Photo by Darko Sojak.*

**Business meeting call to order 7:00 PM**  
–Denise Rubenstein–

**Board Members:**  
*Denise Rubenstein (President),  
Angie Ruzicka (Secretary),  
Mark Hougardy,  
Jean Harris,  
Dave Cooper,  
Lisa van Liefde (Vice President),  
Lana Lindstrom,  
Nancy Whitfield*

*Photo by Carla Cooper.*



**T**HIS WAS THE 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OBSIDIANS. Denise read the Obsidian mission statement and highlighted *Education, Exploration, and Stewardship* by asking attendees to raise their hand for each of the categories they have participated in during the last year. Denise thanked members for living up to our mission statement and especially all the volunteers who contribute time and energy to sustain the club’s activities.

*Read Denise’s State of the Obsidians Address on the front page of this Bulletin.*



**President Denise Rubenstein opens the meeting.**

*Photo by Bea Fontana.*

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Treasurer's Annual Report – Sue Zeni, chair – presented by Pam Caples –

**T**HE 2025 OBSIDIAN FINANCES ARE BETTER THAN WE PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR. There are several reasons for this:

- Our membership numbers are staying high. We continue to get new members!
- We were able to earn \$3,000 by holding a NOLS Wilderness First Aid Class at the Lodge.
- We were recently granted a property tax exemption as a nonprofit! Thanks for Jim Northrop for appealing our application for property tax relief. This will save the Obsidians almost \$6,000 annually.
- Our insurances did not go up as much as we expected!
- Our website costs have been less than we expected. This is our first full year with our new website, so we had to estimate our web maintenance costs without much history to go on.
- The Climbs Committee has held multiple climbing classes and has earned \$1,845.

We are working on shoring up our Capital and Contingency Fund to pay for more fire prevention work around the Lodge as well as prepare for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2027.

The Obsidian Endowment and Capital/Contingency Funds were moved to different investment funds in Vanguard this year. We were able to realize the gains on our appreciated funds and move them to a different set of Vanguard funds that were more appropriate for the particular Funds purposes. The purpose of the Endowment is to provide annual income to the Obsidian General Fund, and the purpose of the Capital/Contingency Fund is to grow until it is needed to improve the Obsidian Lodge, grounds and equipment. We spent \$11,060 out of our Capital/Contingency fund this year to pay for the painting of the Lodge.

## Membership Report – Diane Schechter, chair

**M**EMBERSHIP HAS BEEN STEADILY INCREASING—472 members as of October 2025.

### Membership payments

- Almost all of the new memberships have been paid by credit card.
- Every new person who joined in 2025 paid by credit card.
- Some members who renewed by check last year have renewed by credit card this year.



*Diane Schechter.  
Photo by Bea Fontana.*

## Memberships Renewals

- Renewals for many members have begun and will continue throughout the year.
- Prior to this year everyone's membership expired on October 30. Therefore approximately 200 members recently received a 30-day notice.
- Those who haven't renewed will then receive an additional email reminder from the membership committee.
- Please don't let your membership expire! This will create more work for the Membership Committee volunteers.

## Get Acquainted Hikes

The Get Acquainted hikes offered by Dorothy van Winkle have continued to be very successful:

Total attendance this year was 92 people.

Average attendance per hike was 11 people.

Total number of guests attending was 31 although it is very likely there were more, as many guests attend without registering.

Forty-five percent of the guests who registered became members—which is excellent.

## Greeters

Emily Rice has been coordinating the greeters and we have three greeters per potluck.

We have continued to have some reserved seats for new people, to ensure that they are welcomed by members who are prepared to engage with them and share information about the Obsidians.

## Other

The new website, despite the challenges, is attractive and an excellent introduction to the Obsidians.

The change to a 365-day membership, is more equitable for our members, who now get a full year's worth of dues.

Get Acquainted hikes have been a very good way to encourage membership.

The Climbs committee has been offering more classes which has attracted younger members.

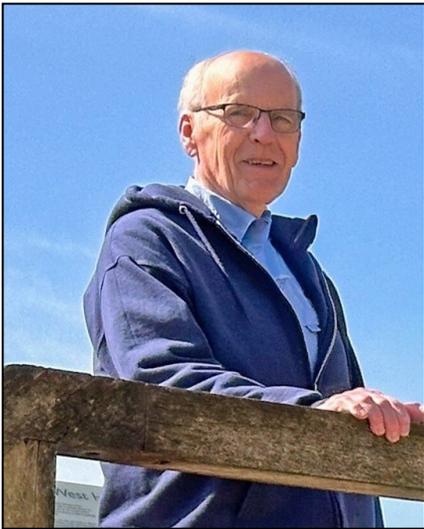
## **New Business**

### *Election of New Board Members – Angie Ruzicka and Denise Rubenstein –*

**T**HREE BOARD MEMBERS ARE COMPLETING THEIR TERMS—Jean Harris, Lana Lindstrom, and Denise Rubenstein. The nominating committee included board members Lana Lindstrom, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde and at-large members Maryanne Reiter, and Karen Yoerger. One returning board member, Jean Harris, along with two others, Sandra Sigrist and Steve Davis, were nominated to join the board. Denise shared a bit about each nominee (see the September 2025 newsletter for additional information). The membership voted to elect all three nominees.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# AWARDS



## *Honored Member Award—presented by Denise Rubenstein*

**O**UR BYLAWS STATE THAT ONE PERSON PER YEAR CAN BE NOMINATED AS AN “HONORED MEMBER” FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CLUB. Dave Cooper is nominated for 2025. Dave joined the Obsidians in 2014 and has completed over 900 trips and led 134. In addition, he has participated in trail maintenance and other stewardship activities with both the Obsidians and Scorpions. Dave is currently serving his third term on the Board as well as chairing both the Lodge Building and Trips committees. Along with his wife of 54 years, Carla, Dave has spent thousands of hours on the new website: providing support to trip leaders, members, and guests, and problem solving to improve the functionality. You can read more details about Dave’s contributions in the September 2025 *Bulletin*. The membership voted to award Dave the Honored Member status.

*Dave Cooper*  
2025 Honored Member.  
Photo by Carla Cooper.

## *Leader and Trips Awards—Denise Rubenstein*

**T**HANKS TO KAREN YOERGER’S WORK TO SET UP AND MAINTAIN A TRACKING SYSTEM, we were able to grant both Leader and Trips Awards this year. Carla Cooper took photos to be included in the *Bulletin*.

### *Leader Awards*

**25 Leads:** Steve Adey, Heidi Anderson, Danneille Harris, Jonathan Jost, Jeff Orendorff, Angie Ruzicka, Harold Thompson, Sandra Sigrist.

**50 Leads:** Maryanne Reiter, Karen Yoerger.

**75 Leads:** Mark Hougardy, Denise Rubenstein.

**200 Leads:** Matt Bell, Darko Sojak.



*Where would we be without leaders? This group alone accounts for 575 trips. In Front: Jeff Orendorff (25 leads), Mark Hougardy (75) Back row: Darko Sojak (200) Angie Ruzicka (25) Maryanne Reiter (50 Climbs) Karen Yoerger (50) Heidi Anderson (25) Sandra Sigrist (25) Denise Rubenstein (75) Jonathan Jost (25).*

*(Continued on page 8)*

### ***Trips Awards***

**100 Trips:** Steve Adey, Heidi Anderson, David Clinger, Jean Harris, Jeff Orendorff.

**200 Trips:** Joanna Alexander, Whitney Gould, Vern Marsonette, June Miller, Jim Northrop, Sandra Sigrist, Dorothy van Winkle, Karen Yoerger.

**300 Trips:** Hilary Fisher, Gwyneth Iredale, Steven Johnson, Carla Lyon, Evelyn Nagy, Randy Sinnott.

**400 Trips:** Mari Baldwin, Nancy Hoecker, Caroline Moore, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka.

**500 Trips:** Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham.

**600 Trips:** Jane Hackett, Darko Sojak.

**700 Trips:** Mike Smith.

**900 Trips:** David Cooper.

**1000 Trips:** Jorry Rolfe.



*100 Trips awards were given to Jeff Orendorf, Jean Harris, Bea Fontana, and Heidi Anderson. Except that... Bea actually completed her 100<sup>th</sup> trip in January 1991 and received the award when the badges were first given out in November 2002! Blame modern technology for the SNAFU.*



*Jim Northrop, Dorothy van Winkle, Karen Yoerger, and Sandra Sigrist all received the 200 Trips award.*



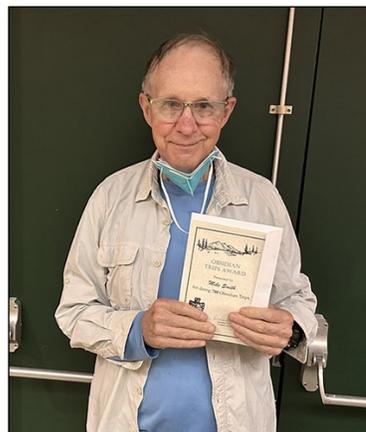
*Marguerite Cooney and Holger Krentz earned the 500 Trips award.*



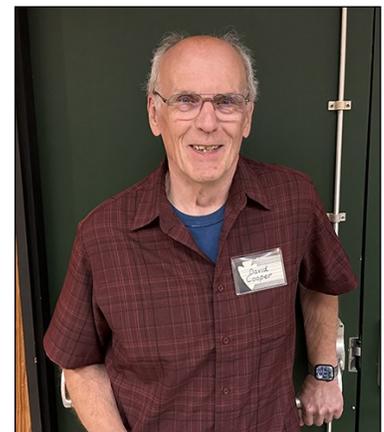
*Gwyneth Iredale and Nancy Hoecker received their 400 Trips award.*



*Darko Sojak has his 600 Trips award.*



*Mike Smith has his 700 Trips award.*



*Dave Cooper earned the 900 Trips award.*

*(Continued on page 9)*

## In Memoriam

*Fred Crafts shared the names and brief Obsidian histories of our members who passed in the last year. The information was prepared by the Librarian/Historian Committee. At the end of Fred's words we observed a moment of silence in their honor.*

**A**T THIS TIME, WE HONOR FIVE OBSIDIANS WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED AWAY. We're saluting them for a life well lived. Gone but never forgotten. Obsidians who might agree with the poet Gary Snyder who said: "*Nature is not a place to visit. It is home.*"

### **Wes Prouty age 93**

**WES JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1968. EARNED HIS TEN-PEAK AWARD IN 1972 AND SERVED AS PRESIDENT THE FOLLOWING YEAR.** He went on 356 trips, leading 66 trips and 20 climbs. He chaired five Summer Camps and assisted with many others. From 1975–1980 he led seven backpacks, hiking the entire Oregon Pacific Crest Trail.

A skilled cabinetmaker, Wes built the Lodge's dining tables, 25 juniper heritage frames, the nametag board, fireplace mantle, two bookcases, and the summer camp tables.

In 2013, on one of his last trips from his home in Durkee in Eastern Oregon, he hauled the large juniper frame for the restored Bryan Ryan oil painting and stayed to help with the difficult four-ladder installation high up on a wall. He said he was happy to make the frame—it was time again for him to contribute to the club.

In appreciation of his longstanding service to the club, a plaque was hung in the Lodge's main hall in 2016 that recognizes him for his woodworking contributions to the Obsidians.

### **Max Brown age 87**

**MAX JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1995. THREE YEARS LATER HE WAS INVITED TO CO-CHAIR THE LODGE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE** and again from 2002–2004. For two more years he was Grounds Chair, a responsibility he enjoyed. Max was a quiet, unassuming man. He attended Board meetings for many years, always thanking the volunteers who lent a hand. His contributions were practical and thoughtful, creating six new parking spaces and selecting and planting the dogwood tree that welcomes visitors at the entrance. In addition, he found time to go on 338 trips, including trail maintenance for the Deception, Fall Creek and Brice Creek trails.

### **Lindsay Pierce age 86**

**JOINING IN 1977, SHE LED EIGHT TRIPS TO THE OLLALIE MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT,** writing in her last trip report: *One delight not recalled in previous trips was a patch of tiny wild strawberries bordering the trail somewhat beyond the spring. Yum.* A quote from the *Register-Guard* obituary highlighted that Lindsay was a "passionate hiker with Eugene's Obsidian Club."

### **Kitson Graham age 75**

**KITSON HAD A BIG SMILE FOR THE BULLETIN PHOTO WHEN PRESENTED WITH HER 100-TRIP PATCH AT THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING.** Kitson participated in many Obsidian bike rides, sharing her enthusiasm with others and always willing to be the sweep. She and her husband, Peter, attended their inaugural Summer Camp in the Sawtooth Mountains, setting the stage for nine more fun Summer Camp experiences. They co-led several hikes at Shotgun Creek, recounting in their trip report that they "*enjoyed a picnic, observed lush creek side flora, discovered a mountain lion footprint, and soaked in the tranquility of Lane County's sanctuary.*" Kitson was a creative, artistic, kind and patient person—qualities that helped her welcome so many to Club activities.

### **Brian Hamilton age 74**

**WE RECEIVED WORD THAT BRIAN HAMILTON DIED SEPTEMBER 29.** His *In Memoriam* will be in the November *Bulletin*. Brian was one of only eleven members to receive the most challenging 10-Peak Leader Award.

Here are a few words from his last President's message:

*Having served as an Obsidian Board member for three years and as club president for 2008, I recall the old adage that you get out of life (or any endeavor, for that matter) what you put into it. I feel like I have gotten so much more out of the Obsidians by being involved in various areas of the club, and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to volunteer.*

## Closing Remarks

**D**ENISE INTRODUCED THE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Cooper, Jean Harris, Mark Hougardy, Lana Lindstrom, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde, and Nancy Whitfield. Mark Hougardy is the newest member appointed to fill the vacancy left when John Miller moved to Hawaii. Denise expressed her gratitude to both the board and the committee chairs for their efforts on behalf of the club. She invited folks to sign up to be part of the 100-year Celebration Committee. Lastly, as our rainy season begins, Denise encouraged folks to continue to get outside and enjoy nature!

## Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:52 PM.



ANNUAL MEETING FOOTNOTE:  
*Annual Trail Maintenance Awards*

**T**HE FOLLOWING FOLKS ARE RECEIVING THE TRAIL MAINTENANCE AWARD for passing the threshold of 15 Trail Maintenance Activities:

Fletcher Bell  
 Nathaniel Bell  
 Oliver Bell  
 Larry Dunlap

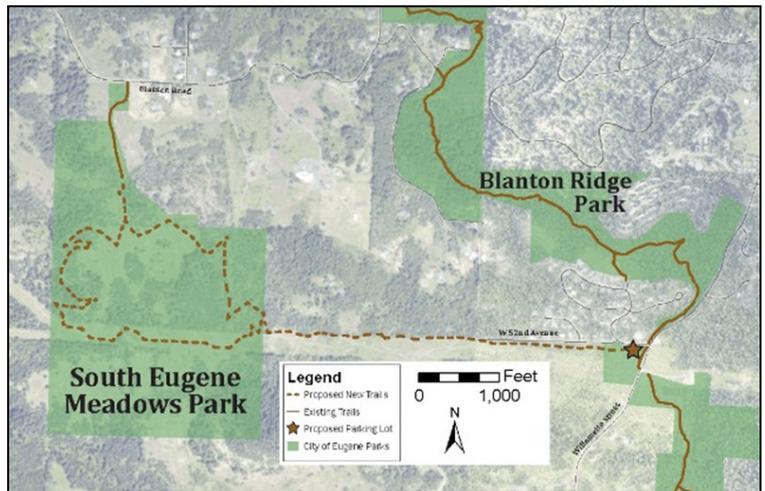
Elizabeth (Betty) Grant  
 Jim Northrop  
 Tom Rundle  
 Darko Sojak

*Trail Maintenance Leader Matt Bell was unable to attend the Annual Meeting to present the awards in person, but the awards will be distributed to them ASAP.*

## The New 52<sup>nd</sup>/Willamette Street Trail is Taking Shape

*Andrew McIvor*

**O**NE SUNNY SUNDAY AFTERNOON WHILE ALL WAS QUIET, I TOOK A STROLL ALONG THE NEW 52<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE TRAIL being built by the City of Eugene to connect Willamette Street with South Eugene Meadows. The trail is not open yet, but I wanted to check the progress. To *stroll* might not be accurate, as the mud stuck to my shoes like putty. Pretty soon I was walking like Frankenstein's monster. The trail winds along the brushy strip on the south side of 52<sup>nd</sup> street, keeping a modest distance from the neighbors. There are piles of rock, large and small, along the route, awaiting placement. Further west, workers have contoured the trail and laid down gravel, so it was easier going. Larger granite rocks line much of the trail, along with sturdy bridges. It had a nice feel. Just west are Bonneville Power Administration power lines. I stopped where construction stopped, but in the distance, I could see the border of South Eugene Meadows.



This new trail was funded by the Eugene Parks Foundation, a nonprofit working to develop and enhance Eugene's parks. The dual use trail will connect with a loop trail in South Eugene Meadows to form a 3.75-mile *lollipop*. Yet to be built is a 34-car parking lot across the street from the existing small lot that services the Ridgeline Trail to Spencer Butte.



The *Eugene Register-Guard* published an article on plans for South Eugene Meadows and Suzanne Arlie Park last April: [www.registerguard.com/story/news/2025/04/24/eugene-ridgeline-trail-expansion-mountain-bike/83211929007/#:~:text=](http://www.registerguard.com/story/news/2025/04/24/eugene-ridgeline-trail-expansion-mountain-bike/83211929007/#:~:text=)

In all about 10 miles of new trails are coming soon, including Eugene's first mountain biking area at Suzanne Arlie Park.

# OCTOBER BOARD NOTES

**October 15, 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, Steve Davis, Jim Northrop, Sandra Sigrist.

## AGENDA ITEMS

**Kudos to:** *Denise Rubenstein* for facilitating the annual meeting, *Charlie Ashmore* for coming up with a plan and organizing volunteers for building the woodshed, *Lisa Van Liefde* of the Publicity Committee for coordinating with the city to get our Get Acquainted hike on the list of events for the City of Eugene's Walktober event, *Scott Wilkerson* designed posters, bookmarks, and stickers and flyers to be put on kiosks on the Ridgeline Trail.

**Board Meeting Minutes (Angela Ruzicka):** The September Board Meeting and Annual Meeting minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report (Sue Zeni):** The 2025 Obsidian Finances are better than we planned for this year. There are several reasons for this: Our membership numbers are staying high. We continue to get new members! We were able to earn \$3,000 by holding a NOLS Wilderness First Aid Class at the Lodge. We were recently granted a property tax exemption as a nonprofit! Thanks to Jim Northrop for appealing our application for property tax relief. This will save the Obsidians almost \$6,000 annually. Our insurances did not go up as much as we expected! Our website costs have been less than we expected. This is our first full year with our new website, so we had to estimate the web maintenance costs without much history to go on. The Climbs Committee has held multiple climbing classes and has earned \$1,845. We are working on shoring up our Capital and Contingency Fund to pay for more fire prevention work around the Lodge as well as prepare for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2027. We spent \$11,060 out of our Capital/Contingency fund this year to pay for the painting of the Lodge.

**September Expenditures** were approved. The Finance Committee is looking at other options for Quickbooks—at \$115 per month it is expensive. Budget season is coming up so Sue will start preparing a draft budget.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Update on Summer Camp Meeting (Denise):** We've formed a small group that is researching possible summer camp sites.

**Update on Document Storage (Lisa, Angie, Sue):** Going to look more closely at Google Workspace for Nonprofits edition. The Eugene Mountain Rescue uses it. We need to involve the Librarian/Historian committee. People like Burt Ewing have a lot of historical documents. Maryanne Reiter has also expressed an interest in this process. Angie and Denise will reach out to find folks to be part of a committee.

**Reminder of Obsidians Officers for 2026 (Denise):** The 2026 Board members vote on officers in November.

**Eugene Parks Foundation Award (Denise):** On November 20, the Obsidians organization will receive an award from the Eugene Parks Foundation for our stewardship activities. There is a tentative plan to set up a table with information about our group.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Update for 100 Year Celebration volunteers:** A small group of folks have expressed an interest, we will form an ad hoc committee and need to identify a chair of the committee.

**Leaky Lodge Update (Dave):** On a couple of occasions, we have had water coming up through the floor along the south wall. Dave had one estimate for replacing a French drain for around \$11,000; two other contractors suggested different solutions--making a dry well or drilling through the concrete to install pipes underneath the building to drain the water away. Dave is waiting for official bids from them. Steve Davis emphasized choosing a solution that prevents water under the building.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Bus Trips (Jim Northrop - interim):** The five-day Oregon Coast bus trip was cancelled due to an insufficient number of people signing up. No additional bus trips are planned for 2025.

**Climbs (Wim Aarts):** Introduction to Trad Climbing by Eddie Pszczolkowski and Hanna Waight was held 9/19 as an evening session and 9/21 at the Columns as a day session with six participants. The Mt. Hubris leader climb was successful.

**Concessions (Carla Cooper):** Thanks to Joyce Cedarlund and Nancy Whitfield for working the September potluck. It was not a good month for sales; we only had one vest order.

**Entertainment (Ane McKee):** After our three-month break from holding Potlucks & Presentations during summer, Obsidian member Brenda Kame'enui kicked off our return with her photo essay on how trails have been established and used across the United States over the years from the perspectives of exploration, sorrow, and pleasure. We had 45 diners during the potluck portion and 66 attend her presentation. We gathered \$5 in donations. We took a break from holding GameNight! evenings in August and September due to summer schedules, but we will begin holding them again in October.

**Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom):** Lisa Van Liefde and Jean Harris led a very successful trip to the Northern California redwoods. Thirteen members stayed in three cabins (or tents next to the cabins) for three nights in Elk Prairie State Park. Three of the group stayed for four nights. Everyone had a great time and were awed by the giant trees. Check out the pictures in the online gallery!

**Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana):** We did the research for Max Brown's In Memoriam. Eugene Parks Foundation award: We provided Ridgeline trail maintenance history since coordination began in 2005 with Eugene Parks and Open Space. (The Board notes from 2005/2006 are interesting. That is when Peter Asai and his Trail Maintenance committee decided to have TM in town and not up in the forest. That set the stage for our Club to be involved with Parks and Open Space, with Matt Bell in charge since 2009.) We researched/wrote the In Memoriam for the Annual Meeting be read by Fred Crafts. We provided information about Brian Hamilton's Obsidian activities for his wife Mary. Brian passed on September 29. His In Memoriam will be in the November *Bulletin*.

**Lodge Building (Dave Cooper):** There were four rentals in September. A private individual and the UO Environmental Studies and Earth Sciences departments were tenants. Then the Eugene Gleemen returned to fill the Lodge with their

voices. Income from these renters was \$770. On Sept. 11 the Lodge and Grounds committees held a joint workday. The inside of the Lodge was dusted and cleaned top to bottom. From dusting the fans and beams to mopping the floors. Bathrooms were cleaned. Kick plates were attached to the outside east doors, windows were cleaned, and the trim on the windows was touched up. The handicapped parking area received a cleaning. All the cables that we have for presentations equipment have now been marked with identifying tape so we can easily sort ours from the presenter's. There is now another building on the grounds. Special thanks go to Charlie Ashmore for getting us a small Shed-in-a-Box so we can have a place to store firewood. We can now be in alignment with the fire marshal's recommendations. Doug Nelson, Dave Cooper, Vern Marsonette, and Charlie spent a few mornings on this from preparing the gravel bed to installing stacking frames inside the shed.

**Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop and Nancy Whitfield):** Work continued maintaining the beds, removing debris from the defensible space, mowing and removing vegetation close to the building. The newest Honored Member, Dave Cooper, was recognized and celebrated.

**Membership (Diane Schechter):** We have 472 members.

**Online/Webmaster (Lana Lindstrom, Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper):** Our website is designed to send a 30-day reminder notice prior to members' expiration dates. Approximately half of our members have an October 30 renewal date. The process had a rocky start because there was a major update on September 29, which was then refined 2 days later. Most members didn't notice the blip, but it caused more work for the developer and yours truly. There is now a *Renew Here* link at the top of the home page (in the yellow banner). If members click on the 30-day email link they were sent, it will redirect them to this link instead. We continue to hear very positive comments about the website appearance and ease of signing up for trips from guests and newer members.

**Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde):** The Publicity Committee participated in the annual Southeast Neighbors Association (SEN) picnic in Tugman Park Sept. 13. This year, the climbing contingent was included, show-

ing climbing gear. Thanks to Denise, Lisa, Jorry, and Steve who staffed the table. We also showed off our new, six-foot tablecloth with the Obsidian logo emblazoned on the front. Our Obsidian poster can now be found on ALL kiosks along the Ridgeline Trail. This will have a big impact on spreading the word about our club to the local hiking community. Many thanks to Denise for spearheading this effort! Lastly, we learned that the Eugene Parks Foundation announced it will bestow its annual award on the Obsidians for contributing time and resources to making Eugene Parks the best they can be. It recognizes years of trail maintenance, stewardship efforts and encouraging community members to use the trails. The award will be Nov. 20 at the Shedd Institute at 5:30 PM during its Trails Talk event with Benjamin Helphand. We hope as many members as possible will attend this event. Preregister at:

[www.eugeneparksfoundation.org/a-sense-of-discovery](http://www.eugeneparksfoundation.org/a-sense-of-discovery)

**Safety (Maryanne Reiter Interim Chair):** The Safety Committee added a new member to represent the Stewardship Committee. Lyndell Wilken agreed to join the committee. Thank you, Lyndell. The interim Safety Chair continued to learn about committee duties from a past Chair including the location of first aid kits at the Lodge and first aid supplies. The AED batteries were checked. The unit is nearing its expiration date so the interim chair contacted the past provider for a quote for a new one. However, that company, Cardiac Sciences, was acquired by Zoll. We will have to research what products Zoll offers and how they compare to what we had previously. The Safety Committee is again going to sponsor a NOLS Wilderness First Aid Class. It will be April 25-26, 2026.

**Stewardship (Darko Sojak):** Obsidians' stewardship outings were popular in September. A total of 27 volunteers worked on two urban and one mountain project.

**Trips (Dave Cooper):** September was a disappointing month. We had only 26 trips and collected \$53 dollars from guests. What is truly surprising is that all but five were urban hikes and three of those were led by the same person.

**Adjournment**

## TRIP REPORTS



### Bike Trips

#### Row River Trail, Whole Length

October 5, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Bike: 33.0 miles, 652 ft. (Moderate)

**A** SUNNY SUNDAY AND THE MOST AMIABLE BUNCH OF BIKERS. We enjoyed the entire 33 miles of the Row River Trail, starting in Bohemia Park and cycling along Dorena Lake to Culp Creek and back. A pesky staple flattened one tire, but it didn't ruin our trip. Participants: John Anderson, Julie Barnas, Laura E, John Hegg, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Harold Thompson, Larry Winiarski, Signe Wright.



Near Dorena Lake dam.



## Climbs

### **Mt. Hubris**

**September 26–27, 2025**

**Leader: Maryanne Reiter**

**Assistant Leader: Melanie Glock**

**Various photographers**

**Climb (Difficult)**

**WE HAD A FABULOUS CLIMB ON MT. HUBRIS.** Six bold Obsidians scaled the peak using ropes and trad gear. The summit pitch was even more exciting due to the strong



*Striding towards Hubris. Photo by Miranda Trieston.*



*Sheri and Melanie on top of pitch 1. Photo by Trina Reiter.*



*Trina belaying on top of pitch 3. Photo by Sheri Gabert.*



*Jane on the summit pitch. Photo by Maryanne Reiter.*

winds blowing that day. It was a late Sunday night when everyone returned safely to Eugene. Participants: Sheri Gabert, Melanie Glock, Jane Leng, Maryanne Reiter, Trina Reiter, Miranda Trieston.



## Hikes

### **UO Pioneers, Scholars & Rogues Walk**

**September 5, 2025**

**Leader: Mark Hougardy**

**Hike: 3.0 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)**

**A NICE TWO-HOUR WALK THROUGH THE UO'S 150-YEAR-ALONG HISTORY**, looking at the grounds, architecture, and historic figures. Participants: Bill Campbell, BJ Campbell, Sharon Duncan, Kathy Hoeg, Mark Hougardy, Gwyneth Iredale, Cory Johns, Valarie Johns, Larry Johns, Nancy Whitfield.

### **Clear Lake & Waterfalls Double Loop**

**September 20, 2025**

**Leader: Mark Hougardy**

**Assistant Leader: Lana Lindstrom**

**Hike: 9.0 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)**

**WELL, WE TRIED, BUT THE HIKING GODS ONCE AGAIN BESTED OUR EFFORTS TO EXPLORE CLEAR LAKE.** Smoke from a nearby fire raised concerns about the air quality at the trail-

head, so we ended up going to Thurston Hills in Springfield. We hiked between five and six miles and enjoyed the scenery. One nice find was seeing a football-sized paper wasp nest. Participants: Mark Hougardy, Lana Lindstrom, Guy Pritchett, Nancy Whitfield.

### **Fuji Mountain Hike**

**September 28, 2025**

**Leader: Jeff Orendorff**

**Hike: 11.0 miles, 2,200 ft. (Difficult)**

**FUJI MOUNTAIN IS A NICE HIKE.** We started early, kept a good pace, and avoided the warmer temperatures which came later. We saw no one else until after we reached the peak. There were several bikes and hikers during the second half of this popular hike. We enjoyed our snack break on the peak in the sun, while looking out over the wonderful view afforded by a 7,000+ ft. peak. Participants: Steve Davis, Jeff Orendorff.

### **Nelson Trails / Butte Disappointment**

**October 4, 2025**

**Leader: Roy Nelson**

**Hike: 5.0 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)**

**CLOUDY AND COOL WHEN WE STARTED** but some sun by the time we finished. Thought we could do the trip in three hours but took four. Participants: Tim Christie, Jean Harris, Lana Lindstrom, Renee Mann, Roy Nelson, Chris Stockdale.

### **Umpqua Dunes—Dellenback Trail**

**October 4, 2025**

**Leader & Photographer: Mark Hougardy**

**Hike: 6.0 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)**

**THE EVENING BEFORE THE HIKE, SEVERAL OF US CAMPED AT TUGMAN STATE PARK.** The evening was pleasant, and a nearly full moon rising above the trees was impressive. The campground, which is usually packed in the summer, was quiet in our area, and we only had one neighbor. It rained



*A section of the elevated walkway.*



*Crossing the dunes on the Dellenback Trail.*



*Tracks in the sand. Some have thought the brush-like marks to be a porcupine tail, while others think this might be from a smaller animal in a bobcat's mouth—and swinging slightly from side to side—as the bobcat walks.*

quite a bit that night. The next morning, we met the group at the Dellenback Trailhead. There was concern that the government shutdown might close the gates. While the gates were open, the on-site facilities, such as trash collection and bathroom supplies, were unkept, and that situation will only get worse the longer the shutdown continues. We started our hike and walked into an expanse of dunes. The dunes are impressive! There were many animal tracks and human prints, too. Crossing the dunes, we entered the foresty deflation plain and were greeted by several small and large mushrooms along the trail. The wooden elevated walkway was nice to walk on, though we had to bend and move around angled trees at times. Arriving at the beach, the weather was pleasant and we enjoyed lunch. On the return trip, we walked without shoes over the sand and enjoyed the views. Participants: Mark Hougardy, Denise Rubenstein, Joan Skarda, John Skarda.

## Tahkenitch Dunes Loop

October 5, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 6.5 miles, 580 ft. (Moderate)

IN THE MORNING, SEVERAL OF US WHO HAD CAMPED LOCALLY at Tugman State Park packed up and made our way to the trailhead. We were met by Obsidians who live on the coast



*A beautiful day on the coast!*



*An egg case for a skate.*

and several who made the trip over from Eugene. The weather and temperatures were pleasant as we started our hike. We took the northern loop, making our way through the forest, across a dune, and out to Tahkenitch Creek. The trail paralleled the creek, showing just how much erosion had occurred since a former visit. The trail down the beach had also eroded out, but getting down the beach was not an issue. The beach was expansive, and any concerns about an incoming tide were lessened. The wind was minimal, and the sun was enjoyable; it was a perfect day walking along the beach! Near the water, one of the Obsidians found a leather-looking pouch about a foot long or so. This “mermaid’s purse” was the egg case for a skate. We crossed inland and made our way to Threemile Lake, where we enjoyed lunch overlooking the placid lake. Returning through the forest, we were greeted by a variety of mushrooms, and some of the Obsidians found a bounty of chanterelles along the trail. Participants: Annie

Chan, Marguerite Cooney, Mark Hougardy, Rachelle Masin, Guy Pritchett, Denise Rubenstein, Sandra Sigris, Joan Skarda.

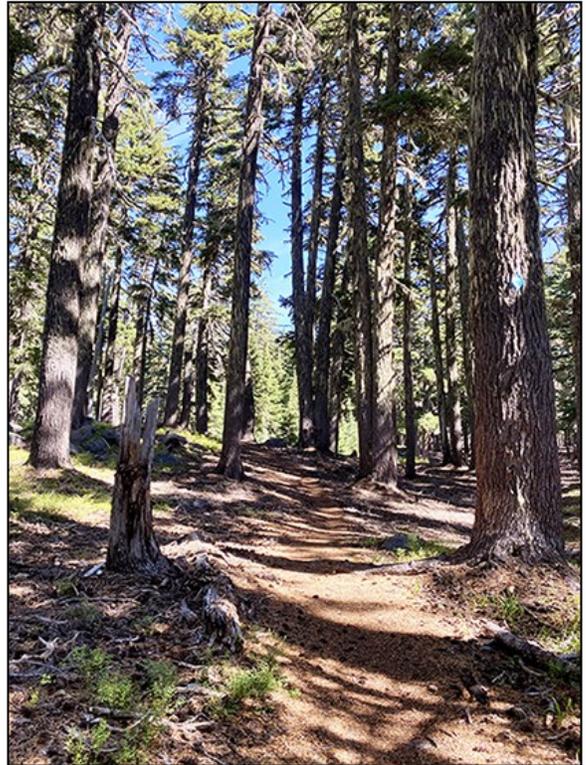
## Twin Peaks

October 7, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Brenda Kameenui

Hike: 6.5 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

A SPLENDID AUTUMN DAY LURED FIVE HARDY HIKERS TO THE TWIN PEAKS, a gem west of the Cascades. The trailhead, 6.3 miles up the Waldo Lake Rd., is tucked away and easy to miss, but the hike is not to be missed. We agreed the trail is



*Quiet on the Twin Peaks trail.*



*After lunch on the first Twin Peak.*

more than a gradual climb—it's easily a steady climb—but in the most favorable conditions it is a soft-needle trail (until the last stretch up the flanks of the first volcanic cone), a forest of ramrod-straight mountain hemlock and pine, and quiet. The quiet solitude, good for the soul, permeates the woods. From our lunch spot at the top of the first Twin, we enjoyed a windless hour under a cerulean sky and a 180-degree view. We ticked off the mountains, from Diamond Peak to Mt. Jefferson, marveled at the size and deep blue radiance of Waldo Lake, and counted reservoirs and small lakes. Participants: Robin Armstrong, Brenda Kameenui, Lana Lindstrom, Guy Pritchett, Jean Stover.

## **Diamond Creek Falls**

**October 8, 2025**

**Leader: Jean Harris**

**Hike: 4.0 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)**

**LEAVING A CLOUD-COVERED VALLEY TO FIND SUN IN THE MOUNTAINS IS A SOURCE OF JOY.** Vine maple and big leaf maple provided brilliant color among the conifers. Mushrooms were erupting everywhere. This hike began with views of Salt Creek Falls cascading 286 feet down into the canyon. The trail parallels Salt Creek upstream, then crosses on a sturdy wood bridge to continue to the Diamond Creek Falls loop. Viewpoints allow glimpses into the Salt Creek canyon and across to the Highway 58 tunnel. We meandered past Too Much Bear Lake above the cliffs of the canyon, and turned left to follow Diamond Creek upstream. The side trail to the stream below Diamond Creek Falls is worth the hike down and back. A new bridge at the bottom took us to the base of the falls, which was spectacular. The group enjoyed lunch at the viewpoint and continued on the loop back to the parking lot. Time spent outdoors gave the four of us a day to remember. Participants: Jean Harris, Roy Nelson, Gina Schroeder, Peggy Wright.

## **Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail**

**October 11, 2025**

**Leader: Dorothy van Winkle**

**Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)**

**WE HAD A GOOD TURNOUT EVEN WITH THE THREAT OF RAIN AND A BIG FOOTBALL EVENT HAPPENING IN TOWN.** It was fun to watch three deer frolicking in Hendricks Park before they finally ran off into the woods. Lively conversation about the club was had among the group. Thank you, Lisa, for offering this as one of the official Walktober events. Thank you, members, for being part of this monthly hike. It takes a group effort for this to be successful. Participants: Robin Armstrong, Marion Carey, Tim Christie, David Gingold, Nick Haile, Kara Helgeson, Diantha Hull, Kathy Kifer, Erin Malliris, Jaymi Osborn, Jessica Radaelli, Krista Shultz, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle, Karen Yoerger.

## **Berry Creek, Nelson Ridge, Princess Tasha Trails**

**October 19, 2025**

**Leader: Jonathan Jost**

**Hike: 8.8 miles, 1,368 ft. (Moderate)**

**THE WEATHER CALLED FOR A 30% CHANCE OF RAIN, THEN PARTLY CLOUDY, AND THAT'S WHAT WE GOT.** We chose to park at the Horse Camp, then walked down the trail with the sign for "horse Water" to the start of the loop on the AllTrails app. We chose to hike the loop counterclockwise to traverse the

somewhat boring switchbacks downhill. The trail was in good condition—one section a bit overgrown. In spite of the overnight rain, we had no problem negotiating the two stream crossings. The sun was just emerging as we took our lunch break at the bench in the second field, where we were able to catch a glimpse of the breaking waves. We completed the remainder of the hike through beautiful Doug fir forest. Our total hiking time was 4.5 hours. Participants: Jan Danforth, Jonathan Jost, Larry Winiarski.

## **Wild Iris Triple Loop**

**October 29, 2025**

**Leader: Darko Sojak**

**Hike: 4.4 miles, 860 ft. (Moderate)**

**WILD IRIS TRIPLE LOOP IN AFTERNOON SUNSHINE.** Participants: Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Rae Obrien, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

## **Cemetery Saunter**

**October 31, 2025**

**Leader: Dorothy van Winkle**

**Hike: 4.0 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)**

**THIS WAS A PERFECT FALL DAY FOR A SAUNTER THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOODS** via two cemeteries. The leaves were in prime fall colors and the temperature was just right. The pigs came running right on cue, oinking, hoping for treats. Kathy had sliced persimmons which she graciously shared with the humans and the pigs. Parts of this route were new to some of the group and it's always enjoyable to discover new pathways. Sandra let it be known that during the month of January, Prince Puckler's has ice cream sundaes on sale, so check it out. Participants: Steve Adey, Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, Fred Crafts, Alan Foley, Marti Gerdes, Sandra Larsen, Lynn Meacham, Diane Schechter, Janice Silvestri, Dorothy van Winkle.

## **Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes**

**Hikes: 3.5–6.2 miles, 950–1,530 ft. (Easy–Moderate)**

**Various Leaders**

**Lynn Meacham: 10/1** 18 Participants

**Janet Jacobsen: 10/8** 9 Participants

**Bojana Stefanovska: 10/15** 11 Participants

**10/22** 13 Participants

**Darko Sojak: 10/27** 2 Participants

**David Cooper: 10/29** 10 Participants

## **Blanton Ridge Hikes**

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

**Various Leaders**

**Jorry Rolfe: 9/23** 6 Participants

**Janet Jacobsen: 9/30** 10 Participants **10/28** 5 Participants

**Jonathan Jost: 10/7** 5 Participants

**Denise Rubenstein: 10/14** 5 Participants

**Margot McDonnell: 10/21** 10 Participants

## **Mt. Pisgah Hikes**

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

**Jeff Orendorff: 9/26** 3 Participants **10/1** 2 Participants

**10/3** 2 Participants **10/6** 6 Participants **10/8** 2 Participants

**10/15** 2 Participants **10/17** 2 Participants

**10/24** 2 Participants

**Heidi Anderson, Jane Leng: 10/9** 6 Participants



# Stewardship

**National Public Lands Day**

**September 27, 2025**

**Leader: Matt Bell**

**Various photographers**

**Stewardship: 2.0 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)**

**F**OR NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY AND THE FIRST SATURDAY MORNING OUTING OF OUR WINTER SCHEDULE, the City asked us to work in Dillard-Skyline Park to improve drainage and cut back brush from the trail. Our group of volunteers met at the small trailhead and parked so that we



*Fletcher cutting down a trip hazard (stump) from beside the trail.  
Photo by Matt Bell.*



*Denise, David, Elizabeth, and Jonathan clearing the ditch and cutting back brush from the trail sides and outflow.  
Photo by Lisa Van Liefde.*



*Jim, Denise, Lisa, and Jonathan working to clear and armor the drainage ditch. Photo by Janet Jacobsen.*



*Jonathan clearing the outflow of a built-in drainage feature.  
Photo by Lisa Van Liefde.*

boxed each other in to fit all of the vehicles. We discussed the two tasks and, after the tailgate safety talk, we self-selected the projects to work on by selecting our preferred tools for the day. We hiked up the Ridgeline to the drainage ditch that we were to widen, clear, and armor with rocks. We reviewed the plan for the ditch and outflow work with Janet, David,

Jonathan, Elizabeth, Denise, and Jim. The remainder of the party (Eva, Lynn, Joan, Matt, Fletcher, Naith, and Oliver) continued on up the trail to cut back brush along the trail as we worked our way back. When we met back at the ditch, we double-checked the rock placement by doing the step test. We filled underneath the rocks to increase stability and prevent undercutting by the water channeled through the ditch. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing scrumptious treats, and to Clara for clearing copious amounts of gravel and bark from the concrete steps at the main trailhead. Participants: Matt Bell, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Elizabeth Grant, Janet Jacobsen, Jonathan Jost, Eva Mogart, Jim Northrop, Denise Rubenstein, Lynn Stearney, Lisa Van Liefde.

## BE THE CHANGE—OCTOBER

**October 6, 2025**

**Leader: Darko Sojak**

**Stewardship: 2.7 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)**

**TODAY'S ROOSEVELT CHANNEL BIKE TRAIL TRASH CLEANUP WAS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF FUN TEAMWORK.** Thank you, volunteers. You are a true gift. Participants: Bill Campbell, BJ Campbell, Vicky Hanson, Darko Sojak.

## Habitat Work Party

**October 11, 2025**

**Leader: Darko Sojak**

**Stewardship: 2.0 miles, 10 ft. (Mixed)**

**NOT THAT BAD WEATHER CAN STOP US, BUT WE WERE LUCKY TO HAVE A RAIN-FREE MORNING.** The seven of us, under the watchful eye of Sha Cabal (intern and volunteer coordinator, Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah), removed a bunch of pesky, invasive blackberries, and picked a few buckets of hawthorn berries in the North Bottomlands near the Buford Park Native Plant Nursery. Thank you, Obsidians, for generously sharing your energy and time with the community. Participants: James Dinn, Gwyneth Iredale, Mandy Lund, Andrew McIvor, Angie Ruzicka, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak.

## Grounds Work Party

**October 17, 2025**

**Leader & Photographer: Nancy Whitfield**

**Stewardship**

**THE OBSIDIAN GROUNDS BUZZED WITH ACTIVITY ON THIS PERFECT FALL DAY.** I have never seen so much accomplished in one work session. Firewood was gathered and split and



*Gwynn and John put the root slayers to work on the difficult roots.*



*Dave and Vern put the finishing touches on the NEW woodshed.*



*Mike moves the firewood.*



*Roy and Jean unload the SUV turned wood hauler.*



*A full new woodshed.*

filled the new woodshed. All the bits of limbs and trees were cut up. The beds were tackled and tamed, and all areas were mowed. Stubborn roots were dug up by first time volunteers (Whew! I hope they come back!). Pesky blackberries on a slope got the heave-ho. The woodshed door was adjusted. I am always in awe of these volunteers. They work hard and get things done. Plus, their collective knowledge of trails and the outdoors always takes me aback. Someone asked what the reward is for doing this work. For me, it is the pure privilege to work with these volunteers. Participants: David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Jean Harris, Vern Marsonette, Roy Nelson, Jim Northrop, John Ostrom, Karla Rusow, Gwynn Sawyer, Mike Smith, Pat Soussan, Nancy Whitfield.

### **Ridgeline and Tie Trail Drainage**

**October 25, 2025**

**Leader: Matt Bell**

**Photographer: Janet Jacobsen**

**Stewardship: 2.0 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)**

**FOR THIS OUTING, OUR GROUP OF UNSINKABLE OBSIDIANS MET AT THE WILLAMETTE AND 52<sup>ND</sup> TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT DURING AN ATMOSPHERIC RIVER.** We grabbed tools (Terra hoes, shovel, & silage fork) and gloves before heading out on the trail. We stopped at the drainage below the switchbacks and cleared those first before hiking on to the Tie Trail Junction, where we cleared a drainage with three culverts just before it. We hiked up the Tie Trail a little and cleared two drainages. We then worked our way back out, clearing drainages and, using loppers and saws that we brought from home, cut back some of the overhanging branches that were weighed down by accumulated rain water. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing delicious treats to go with the juice provided by the City. Participants: Mari Baldwin, Matt Bell, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Andrew McIvor.



*Mari and Matt hold the branch while Dan saws at the joint.*



*Dan and Mari brush the branches off the trail.*



*Near the Tie Intersection, Mari clears a hidden culvert while Matt and others work on the opposite drainage ditch.*

## AT THE LODGE



# POTLUCK

Friday, November 21, 2025

## Galapagos: Islands in Time

—A pictorial tour with Donald Lyon



**T**HE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS ARE A PARADISE, KNOWN FOR THEIR UNIQUE WILDLIFE AND ECOSYSTEMS, and still a place where creatures live unafraid of humans. It's considered one of the premier destinations for wildlife viewing and a paradise for nature lovers and photographers. Donald Lyon spent over 40 years as a small group photographic tour leader and organizer. Come join us as he shares some of his experiences and incredible pictures of this unique corner of the world.



### Potluck & Presentation

Friday, November 21, 2025

Obsidian Lodge

Social Time 6 PM

Potluck 6:30 PM, Presentation 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 appreciated.*

You do not need to be an Obsidian member to attend; no signup is necessary. All are welcome.

Visit [www.obsidians.org/events/category/entertainment](http://www.obsidians.org/events/category/entertainment) for more information.

## Are You Making a New Year's Resolution?

**S**TART THE NEW YEAR WITH A STEWARDSHIP STEP FORWARD. On January 3, 2026, Obsidians will participate in a multi-group New Year's beach cleanup near Florence, OR. Please sign up early and show your stewardship spirit.

For any questions contact Darko Sojak at [darchey@comcast.net](mailto:darchey@comcast.net)

## Start the New Year with a Hike!

16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spencer Butte Hikes.

New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1, 2026

**C**ELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR BY SIGNING UP FOR ONE OF THE THREE HIKEs offered from three different Ridgeline trailheads to the top of the butte: Round trip distances: 6.2 miles from Amazon Headwaters/Martin Street, 5.2 miles from 52<sup>nd</sup> & Willamette, or 2.2 miles from Spencer Butte trailhead.

Signup opens December 11.

# OBSIDIANS EVENTS

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

[www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

## Regularly Scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday Hikes

### Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

**Tuesdays:**

November 11, 18, 25  
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
January 6, 13, 20, 27

### Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

**Wednesdays:**

November 12, 19, 26  
December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
January 7, 14, 21, 28

**CHECK FOR DETAILS AND SIGN UP ONLINE**

[obsidians.org/events/](http://obsidians.org/events/)

## GET ACQUAINTED HIKES

**Second Saturday of the Month:  
November 8, December 13, January 10**

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

**This is an easy and always enjoyable  
romp through the woods.**

**Please contact Dorothy for the particulars.**

[dorothyvanwinkle@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothyvanwinkle@yahoo.com)

(541) 485-7416, land line, no texting

**Thank you!**



## UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### SPENCER BUTTE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

**Saturdays 9:00 AM–Noon  
November 29  
(None in December)**

### HENDRICKS PARK TREE PLANTING

**Saturday, December 6  
9:00 AM–Noon**

### NEW YEAR'S BEACH CLEANUP

**Saturday, January 3**

*Have a question?*

Contact [obsidians-stewardship@googlegroups.com](mailto:obsidians-stewardship@googlegroups.com)



## Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

**Tuesday, December 16  
Tuesday, January 13**

**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 [obsidians.org](http://obsidians.org)

## MT. PISGAH SUNSET FULL MOONRISE

**Various Leaders**

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

**December 3  
January 2**

**Guests welcome**

**CHECK FOR DETAILS  
& SIGN UP ONLINE**

[obsidians.org/events/](http://obsidians.org/events/)



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November 2025



*The trail near Tahkenitch Creek. Photo by Mark Hougardy.  
See: Tahkenitch Dunes Loop trip report on page 15.*

ENJOY the photos in color! ONLINE *Bulletin* at [obsidians.org/newsletter/](https://obsidians.org/newsletter/)