

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

VOLUME 86

JANUARY 2026

NUMBER 1

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Dates to Remember

January 13	GameNight!
January 30	Potluck
January 30	Bulletin Deadline
February 4	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:

www.obsidians.org

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Bulletin Submission Policy

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bulletin@googlegroups.com](mailto:obsidians-bulletin@googlegroups.com)

Welcome, President Angela Ruzicka!

Lou Maenz

ANGIE JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 2018 and has been an active member ever since. Not simply taking hikes, of which there have been multitudes, but working to improve and enhance the club. Her first major contribution was to become the Conservation/SciEd co-chair in 2021, a position she was well suited for, as her background is in Science Education. In 2022 she joined the Board as secretary.

Angie graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Biology, spent a couple of years teaching outdoor school and working as a field biologist before getting her teaching degree from OSU. Degree in hand, she spent 30 years teaching middle school and high school and is now teaching part time at UO helping prepare the next generation of teachers. Why still teaching? Because she loves it, and working with young people gives her hope for the future.



There are three major activities in 2026 that Angie is looking forward to as President. The first and most encompassing is planning for celebrating 100 years of the club in 2027, with welcoming, reaching out, and celebrating all that the Obsidians have accomplished in the—hard to believe—last 100 years! It has been, for the community, a time of creating open spaces, building new trails and improving others, environmental education, and creating wonderful outdoor activities.

The second biggie is being the chair at the upcoming Strawberry Mountains Summer Camp. It is taking place at a youth camp with cabins, trailer space, and camping areas. Something for all of us!

The third is to help the growth of environmentalism and appreciation in the Eugene/Springfield area by connecting with other organizations. Together we can develop greater understanding, knowledge, and activities for the community.

2026 Board

President.....	Angela Ruzicka	Dave Cooper
Vice President ...	Lisa Van Liefde	Steve Davis
Secretary	Jean Harris	Mark Hougardy
Treasurer	Sue Zeni	Sandra Sigrist
		Nancy Whitfield

IN MEMORIAM

Guy Strahon

December 12, 1944–December 12, 2025

GUY JOINED THE **OBSIDIANS** IN 2004 and went on to lead 23 of his 114 trips, many of them bicycle and hiking trips shared with his longtime partner Judy Terry. Guy began his trip reports on a joyful note: *Enthusiastic cyclists enjoyed a gorgeous day by biking on the Row River Trail to Wildwood Falls.* His October 2014 McKenzie View/Coburg Bottom Loop report again captured his mood: *Four lucky bikers enjoyed one of the nicest October days in recent history. It was 79 degrees, no wind, almost a complete reversal of last year. In 2013, it was raining and cold, and we quit at lunch because it was miserable!*

Guy sometimes shared a watermelon at end of rides, and his legendary berry cobbles were enjoyed at potlucks. His carpentry skills were invaluable for the 2006 Lodge renovation, and for the 2013 storage building construction, where he was one of the incredible core crew “who worked every day, in order to pull the job off.” A photo of him guiding a roof truss placement is in the [November 2013 Bulletin](#) (p.5).

Honoring the Life of Brian Hamilton

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR **BRIAN HAMILTON** will be held Sunday, February 15 at 2 PM at Emmaus Lutheran Church, with reception to immediately follow in the fellowship hall. Please go to www.briandhamilton.net to see more photos and to leave remembrances or condolences. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to OPB, KLCC, or an organization of your choice.



*Obsidians celebrate the New Year
on the Spencer Butte summit.*

OBSIDIANS

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: www.obsidians.org

Officers & Board of Directors

Angie Ruzicka, President
Lisa Van Liefde, Vice President
Jean Harris, Secretary
Sue Zeni, Treasurer
Dave Cooper, Steve Davis
Mark Hougardy, Sandra Sigrist,
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 Jim Northrop
Climbs Wim Aarts/Steve Davis
Concessions..... Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd..... Angie Ruzicka
Entertainment Ane McKee
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance..... Susan Zeni
Lodge Building Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds..... Nancy Whitfield
Librarian/Historian..... Bea Fontana
Membership Diane Schechter
Online C. Cooper & L. Lindstrom
Publications..... Lou Maenz
Publicity..... D. Rubenstein & L. Van Liefde
Safety Maryanne Reiter
Stewardship..... Darko Sojak
Summer Camp Angie Ruzicka
Trips Dave Cooper

The **OBSIDIAN** Bulletin

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Published monthly, except August and
December. Articles, story ideas, letters to the
editor, and other editorial submissions may
be emailed to:

obsidians-bulletin@googlegroups.com

For reprint rights, contact:

The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline

for February Bulletin
Friday, January 30

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Barbara Gunther, Jane Hackett,
Anne Hollander, Yuan Hopkins,
Judy Newman, Tom Woxell

Historic Hosmer Photo at the Lodge

Librarian/Historian Committee

DARKO SOJAK TOOK THIS PHOTO AT THE NOVEMBER 2025 POTLUCK of presenter Don Lyon pointing to his father, Obsidian Bob Lyon, on the 1949 Mt. Rainier Mazama climb photo. He said the label had a mistake: *The photographer was climber Jim Hosmer not Paul Hosmer.* Paul (Jim's father) was a well-known writer and photographer in Bend. Hosmer Lake is named after Paul.

From the Spirit Lake Summer Camp report in the August 1949 *Bulletin*: Doris Sims, Bob Lyon and Jim Hosmer arrived in camp on Monday after their successful climb of Rainier with the Mazamas, but with their report of the climb around the campfire, they were gone next morning for a climb of Mt. St. Helens.



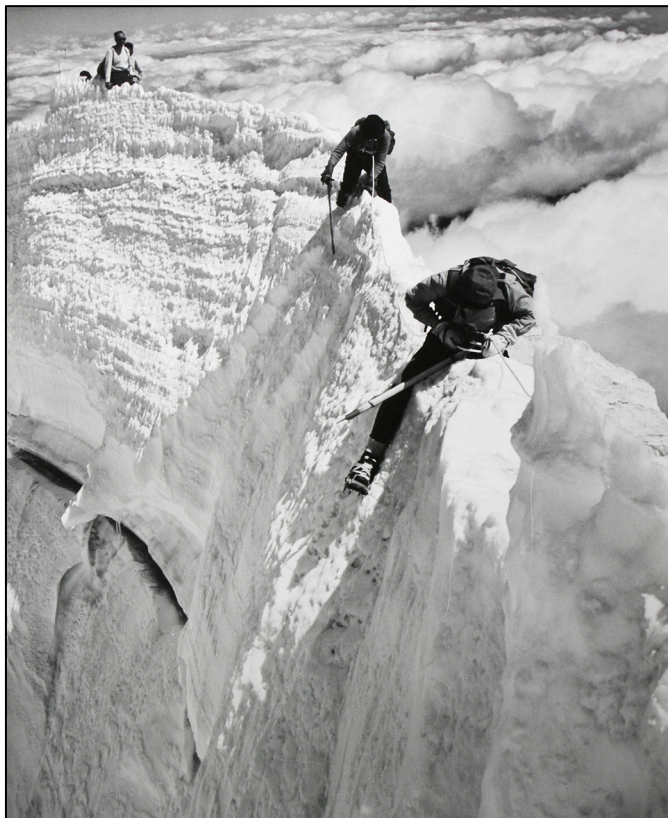
Don Lyon

The Hosmer Rainier photo was featured in the *Saturday Evening Post* January 2, 1954, with the headline: *I'm proud of this picture.* Jim wrote: *Finding this natural ice bridge in going up 14,408 Mt. Rainier...was a break for our climbing party. Of course, it could have been a break for our necks, too, but climbers never look at things that way. Two earlier attempts by our party to get up the mountain had failed, forcing us to descend about 2000 feet each time and skirt farther around the mountainside glacier in search of a new approach. This was it: A razor-backed spine of ice that dropped vertically on both sides into the blue-black, bottomless crevasses.*

Going ahead, I anchored myself to a solid bank of ice with ice ax, rope and crampons. Looking back at Doris Sims and Bob Lyons climbing on my rope, I quickly reached for my camera and caught this picture of mountain adventure at its best. (*Lyon's name was spelled incorrectly.)*

At that time, the *Post* paid \$100 for the "personally taken photographs". Fortunately for the Obsidians, Jim donated many of his photos to the Club in 1990. ([February 1990 Bulletin](#) p.12).

Mt. Rainier Climb, August 13, 1949
Doris Sims, Bob Lyon
Photographer Jim Hosmer



Don provided this photo of his father Bob, Obsidians President in 1947, leaving Camp Lyon Summer Camp at Wallowa Mountains. Bob died in 1950.



Bob Lyon

Let's not forget Rainier climber Doris Sims. Doris didn't stop with the Rainier climb—Labor Day weekend she was reported as the first woman to climb the Three Sisters in one day. Doris (Sims) Jones' (1911–2005) *In Memoriam* and photo is in the [May 2005 Bulletin](#).

The Librarian Historian Committee has reframed the Hosmer photo with a corrected label.



Doris Sims

Win-Win

Mike Smith

YEARS AGO, WHEN I TRAINED IN NEUROLOGY, I spent time at the Tucson VA Hospital. I remember a radiologist there, a pleasant man 30 years my senior, who once tried to get rid of extra chairs in his department. I don't know how he ended up with so many chairs, but he wanted to get them removed and had no success. Then one day, an edict came down from the fire safety manager saying the halls were unsafe in many departments because of furniture. If anything not fixed in place was left in the hall, it would be removed. The radiologist was thrilled. He told his secretary to start leaving chairs out in the hallway. Problem solved.

The Crew was working Rockpile Trail from the trailhead on Pioneer Gulch to Rockpile Lake junction, about two and a half miles. The trail was mostly in the 208MF fire last year and had been badly burned over. We had to hike almost a mile where we had already cleared and logged out the trail before we got to the rest needing work. We had three saw groups and I led a fourth group to work on restoring the trail, which needed to be found in some places, have holes filled with rocks and soil, and dug out in other places so people could follow it.

At the trailhead, 600 vertical feet below where we needed to start, we laid all the tools out on the ground that we would need. Everybody takes at least one tool and maybe two. Not sawing that day, I left my axe, wedges, and hand saws out of my pack and off the ground. That was 10 pounds less right there. The last tool remaining was a Rogue Hoe/Rake, which is fine, although I prefer a Rinehart with a better hoe with no rake. I had reached a certain degree of competence in trail work and had used many different tools. An experienced crew member told me a couple years back he liked the Rinehart the most, and with time I agreed with him. But a new person to the crew took it. I could have pulled rank and taken it from him, but I can work with a Rogue Hoe. Both it and the Rinehart are light; I can use either as a walking stick, shovel, or a root cutter, especially in a burn, where roots are easy to pull out, or if not that, to cut with a hard whack. The tool is stable enough vertically that I can use it to pull myself up after kneeling.

Starting the climb, I was slow, in part because of plantar fasciitis, which had me trying different sock combinations in addition to a boot insert. I found something that worked, but additionally it was humid with a chance of thunderstorms, and that slowed me down, too. Eventually passing the new person but staying well behind another, I made it to the junction, where we regrouped. We planned to leapfrog each other up the trail. The saw groups were ahead of us. I used the rake part of the hoe to break up the soil and move it, either to fill a hole, to uncover the tread, or to make a place for flowing water to drain off in order to limit trail erosion. There had been some recent rain, so there was almost no dust; the last time we did trail work even hiking left dust in the air, quite typical in Oregon this time of year.

About a hundred yards past the junction, I caught up to the new person, who asked me whether a gully on the side of the trail could be left as is. I preferred not to do that, so I used my rake to break up some dirt to put in the gully to fill it and uncover the tread where I thought it should be.

"Wow," the newbie said. "I should have taken your tool."

Music to my ears.

Quietly, I replied, "Want to trade?"

I got a look like —Really? You are going to let me use that?

We traded tools.

The rest of the day went well. Why not? I just traded away a tool I didn't prefer to somebody who wanted it and had the tool I wanted. We were both happier and he might think I was really nice to work with. Or not. I had put the chairs I didn't want in the hall. Win-win.

See you on the trail.



Rinehart hoe.



Rogue hoe/rake.

NOVEMBER BOARD NOTES

November 5, 2025

From minutes by Angie Ruzicka

Denise Rubenstein called the meeting to order. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Jean Harris, Mark Hougardy, Lana Lindstrom, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Zeni. Others present: Carla Cooper, Steve Davis, Jim Northrop, Sandra Sigrist, Karen Yoerger.

AGENDA ITEMS

Kudos to: Sue Zeni for all her work on putting together the budget. Gwyenth Iredale for helping prepare for the November 20th Eugene Parks Foundation evening.

October Board meeting minutes approved (Angie Ruzicka).

Treasurers Report (Sue Zeni): We have received \$20,252 in donations in October. Revenue was \$26,483 (including donations) and Expenses were \$3,261 in October. We are recognized as tax exempt by Lane County, so we will no longer need to pay property or personal property taxes. We will still pay \$76 annually in “fire fees” which are a pass through to local fire districts.

October expenditures approved (Sue Zeni).

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Board of Directors Officers for 2026 (Denise):

The current board members continuing into 2026 along with the two new board members voted to approve the following officers for 2026: President—Angie Ruzicka, Vice President—Lisa Van Liefde, Secretary—Jean Harris, Treasurer—Sue Zeni.

Summer Camp Update (Angie): The study group researched several sites and have identified three potential sites for summer 2026. We will meet again in the next several weeks.

Update on Parks Legacy Award (Lisa Van Liefde): The Obsidians will be presented with the “Parks Legacy Award” from the Eugene Parks Foundation November 20 at the Shedd. We will have a table and an easel, Denise and Gwyneth are updating a PowerPoint presentation, and there will be a ten-minute talk to accompany the presentation, including an invitation to join us at the next Get Acquainted Hike.

Estimate of Number of Volunteer Hours by Obsidians (Denise): Denise will reach out to Darko Sojak (Stewardship Committee Chair) for the stewardship volunteer hours for 2025.

Long Term Budgeting for Lodge and Grounds (Nancy Whitfield & Dave Cooper): Nancy sought Board input on how to budget for ongoing maintenance needs for the Lodge and grounds. After discussion, the Board approved a motion to make a 5-year plan for the Lodge and grounds. Priorities include safety, maintenance, and improvements.

2026 Budget Discussion (Sue): After receiving requests from committee chairs, Sue has developed a preliminary budget that is looking good so far.

OLD BUSINESS

Reminder of Bill Sullivan Event January (Denise): We discussed strategies for managing large crowds that some speakers draw. For this year we will reduce publicity for Bill’s

presentation and observe the impact. Other possibilities include turning people away when the Lodge reaches capacity or requiring sign-up for tickets (free).

Document Storage (Denise): The Board approved a motion to adopt Google Suite for Nonprofits. To get started Sue Zeni will apply for the Google Suite Site and set up folders for each committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Entertainment (Ane McKee): Our October Potluck & Presentation featured Lana Lindstrom and Sue Zeni describing their separate experiences cycling the G.A.P and C & O Canal Trail from Pittsburgh, PA to

D.C. We had 49 folks attend the potluck portion of the evening and 64 were there to enjoy the presentation. We gathered \$11 in donations. We also held another fun GameNight! evening at the Lodge.

Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana): The Register-Guard obituary for Hollis Oxley mentioned that he was an avid climber of the local mountains and belonged to the Obsidians. This led to a search through our archives and past *Bulletins* for details of his history with the Obsidians. We learned that he was a member during 1958–59. He climbed several mountains with the Club, earning his 3-Peak award. When Bea was presented with her 100-trip award at the Annual Meeting, she was pretty sure something was amiss, but it took some digging a few days later to find her actual trip history. We realized that the early trip history of members who joined the club before 2006 is not available on our new website. We are taking steps to make sure that Karen Yoerger will have access to that (missing) early trip activity history, so that she will be well-armed for calculating next year’s trip awards.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): REI was our only renter in October, but reservations have been made for the rest of the year and into 2026. Some work parties in October accomplished a lot, primarily outside. The new woodshed is full (actually overfull). We’ve met with contractors seeking solutions to the drainage issues we have. Further information is being gathered. A Eugene to Crest trail marker has been mounted in the Lodge. Look back at the May 2021 *Bulletin* article *Eugene to Crest Challenge* or talk to Dave Cooper for more information related to this marker.

Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop and Nancy Whitfield): The work party on October 17 accomplished many tasks. Fifteen volunteers attacked gutters, roots, beds, firewood, and blackberries. Cutting down dead trees on the property is being pursued. (Free, maybe?)

Membership (Diane Schechter): About 173 members renewed on time through October 31, 2025; most paid by credit card. Having a “Renew here” link in the yellow banner at the top of the home page made it easy for most people to renew easily. However, we had a major glitch in the renewal process which has not yet been resolved. Therefore, we are not able to generate the number of active members at this time.

Online/Webmaster (Lana Lindstrom, Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper): Many of our members had a “Next Payment Date” of October 30 or 31, 2025 because, until last year, that’s when

all memberships expired. The renewal process was proceeding fairly smoothly, in part, because the developer posted a “Renew Here” link in the yellow banner at the top of the home page. But starting October 31, it fell apart. Erroneous emails were sent to about 60 members who had already renewed, that their memberships had expired; they appear as nonmembers with a fee when they sign up for trips! Moreover, the members who had not yet renewed, were unable to renew—the link does not work for them. Needless to say, it’s been very frustrating for all concerned. Growing (Groaning) pains!

Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde): The Publicity Committee created and printed stickers that were offered as a substitute for patches to award recipients at the

annual meeting. Preparations are under way for the Legacy award event on November 20.

Safety (Maryanne Reiter Interim Chair): The Safety Committee continued to research a new AED for the Lodge including types and costs of various units. The batteries of the current AED were checked. The Committee also scheduled its first meeting on November 17 since having an interim chair and new members.

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): In October, Obsidian volunteers worked on three local projects.

Trips (Dave Cooper): We had thirty hikes in October. We collected \$30 in nonmember fees.

DECEMBER BOARD NOTES

December 3, 2025,

From minutes by Angie Ruzicka

Denise Rubenstein called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Jean Harris, Mark Hougardy, 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 for preparing for the legacy award acceptance at the Eugene Parks Foundation event. Denise for welcoming people and honoring people for all they do.

The Board approved the November Board meeting minutes.

Treasurer’s Report (Sue Zeni): We have received \$30,412 in cash donations as of December 1. Revenue was \$7,156 (including donations) and Expenses were \$-5,253 in November for a total net revenue of \$10,386.71. We received a \$5,253.81 refund from Lane County for 2024 Property Taxes. The refund is because our property is now considered exempt from property taxes. We transferred \$25,000 from the Obsidian Checking account to the Vanguard Money Market account. The Board approved the November expenditures. Sue will make adjustments to the balance sheet for the bus trip committee. There is a refund for a trip that was cancelled that needs to be accounted for.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Committee Chairs for 2026 (Denise): The Board approved the Committee Chairs for 2026.

Overview of Budget for 2026 (Sue Zeni): Proposing the donations in 2026 go into Capital and Contingency (rather than the General Fund). After discussion the Board approved the proposed budget for 2026.

Update on Summer Camp (Angie): We chose Lake Creek Camp in the Strawberry Mountains for Summer Camp 2026. We will have a 6-night camp Sunday afternoon, August 23 through Saturday morning, August 29. Angie Ruzicka will be Committee Chair, Karen Yoerger will be Camp Boss, and Pam Caples will continue as Treasurer.

OLD BUSINESS

Update for 100-year celebration volunteers (Denise): We have a solid group of nine people who will be on the committee, but currently no chair. Denise will schedule a meeting with the group in January.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

Signers on Accounts: Sue Zeni will write up a resolution for January to remove Denise Rubenstein from the US Bank and Vanguard accounts and add Angie Ruzicka. The accounts will have three signers: Sue Zeni, Dave Hawkins, and Angie Ruzicka.

Mileage Rate: Given the current information available we will likely keep the suggested mileage donation rate at .11 per mile. Sue is working to get a Google Suite for non-profits account created. Once it is established, we will form a committee to plan its structure for archiving documents.

Long Range Planning: An ad hoc committee is drafting a five-year plan that prioritizes repairs, improvements, and preventative maintenance to the Lodge and grounds.

Donations: Those from 2025 will be acknowledged in the February 2026 *Bulletin*. Fundraising possibilities in 2026 include an appeal related to National Trails Day (June 6, 2026) and an article in a fall *Bulletin* describing how to donate RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) from tax deferred retirement accounts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bus Trips (Jim Northrop): The Bus Trips Committee will meet in early spring to plan outings for 2026. The committee seeks additional members and new ideas for bus trips. Contact committee chair Jim Northrop to volunteer or share ideas.

Climbs (Wim Aarts): Climb committee set the dates for the 2026 Climb School which will be published soon. Other education topics and climbs have been proposed and planned (Crevasse Rescue and others).

Concessions (Carla Cooper): Concessions took in \$151.50 during October and November. Thank you to Joyce Cedarlund for working the November potluck.

Entertainment (Ane McKee): At our November Potluck & Presentation, photographer Donald Lyon took us on a pictorial

tour of the Galapagos. We had 64 diners, 73 for the presentation, and gathered \$7.50 in donations. We held GameNight! at the Lodge on November 6. Four of the eleven participants were new Obsidians or expressed interest in becoming Obsidians members.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): The Extended Trip Committee had a very productive meeting in November. We debriefed the two trips held this year and discussed strategies to assist leaders. We edited the Extended Trip Leader Manual which will be further refined before republishing. And we brainstormed possible 2026 trips and leaders who might want to earn lots of kudos by leading one. One upcoming trip: Crater Lake in mid-April.

Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana): Darko Sojak sent the *Bulletin* a photo of the November potluck presenter Don Lyon pointing to the 1949 (Mazama) Mt. Rainier climb photo that featured his father Bob Lyon (who was Obsidian President in 1947) and Doris Sims. Don said the photographer's name was Jim Hosmer not Paul Hosmer. We will correct the label and plan to write an historical article for the January *Bulletin*. We have been reorganizing the binders and books that line the shelves on the east wall of the Board Room at the Lodge. For thirty years, the member activity logbooks resided at the home of Lenore McManigal, who kept them updated until her death in December 2023. Since then, Janet has been storing them at her house. We installed a combo lock on the glass doors of one of the two display cases and have moved the logbooks to their new home in the Board Room. We're continuing to work on signage and labeling for the various collections on the shelves.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): Only one rental this month. Work continues on selecting the best solutions for protecting the structural integrity of the building from water damage.

Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop and Nancy Whitfield): Work on the grounds was limited this month. Maryanne Reiter moved ALL the leaves on the entire Lodge/parking area before the potluck so the driveways and parking areas were visible. I believe this is called an epic leaf blowing event. Thank you, Maryanne! Highland Tree Service provided an estimate for removal of two dead trees. Preliminary work has begun to develop a forward looking budgeting and maintenance plan.

Membership (Diane Schechter): Membership – 428. Our membership year changed last June to a 365-day membership

period. All members now receive a 30-day and 7-day notice that their membership is about to expire. However, many members still have an October or November renewal date. As of November 30, 230 people renewed and 112 people have not renewed. This is about the same as last year. Follow up emails were sent to all lapsed members. There have been some glitches with the renewal process, and Lana has been super diligent in tracking the issues and working with Revolution to address these.

Online/Webmaster (Lana Lindstrom, Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper): Our renewal directions in the November *Bulletin* were accurate for those renewing on time. However, for those renewing late, there was one additional step - they had to cancel the hold placed on their record before they could renew. Fortunately, most Obsidians figured that out! The developer has fixed most of the membership issues which caused problems last month. It's been a time-consuming learning experience for all. Thanks, Obsidians, for your patience!

Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde): Co-Chair Denise Rubenstein did a fantastic job preparing for the Eugene Parks Foundation Legacy award on Nov. 20. Many hours went into updating our slideshow, the acceptance speech, and tabling presence. Sincere thanks as well to Club members Andy McIvor and Gwyneth Iredale for their efforts to help prepare us for the award, and to Steve Davis and Chris Stockdale who assisted with the table.

Safety (Maryanne Reiter Interim Chair): The Safety Committee met on Nov. 17. We received a quote from Cardiac Partners on a new AED and received feedback from others in the health field that it was a good choice. We also discussed options for additional safety training besides the NOLS Wilderness First Aid class we have scheduled in April of 2026. The committee thought a basic first aid/cpr class would be helpful and more affordable than the NOLS class. We discussed sponsoring a leader safety training in 2026. Each representative of a committee (Bus, Climbs, Trips, Lodge, Stewardship) discussed safety concerns and ways to mitigate those concerns.

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): Obsidians stewards participated in two local work events in November 2025. Thank you to the volunteers.

Trips (Dave Cooper): In November we had 17 hikes and collected \$20 in trip fees.

Wanted:



Donation of a used, battery-powered leaf blower for quick cleanup around the Lodge.

Contact Jim Northrop at 541-343-3426.
Your donation may be tax-deductible.

OBSIDIANS MISSION:

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

TRIP REPORTS

Class

Gaia Phone Navigation

November 8, 2025

Leader: Sue Zeni

Class

UNLIKE MOST CLASSES, we spent most of the time on our phones! Everyone increased their knowledge of Gaia. All agree that it is a powerful tool, but it takes practice to use it. Don't wait until an emergency to draw out the phone and figure things out. Keep practicing while you are doing the easy hikes. Participants: Heidi Anderson, Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, David Clinger, Berit Everhart, Alan Foley, Elizabeth Grant, Margot McDonnell, Monica Ozwoeld, Sandra Sigrist, Marian Sparks, Sue Wolling, Sue Zeni.



Hikes

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

November 8, 2025

Leader: Diantha Hull

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THE MORNING WAS TOTALLY SOCKED IN WITH FOG, but by the time we met at the Lodge, the sun came out with all blue skies. We hiked to Hendricks Park through the yellow fall trees, having multiple conversations along the way. Some of the new folks said that they would be joining right away. It seemed like a good time was had by all. Participants: Sam Arnold-Boyd, Tamara Bressi, Sara Cakebread, Jennette Claassen, Kevin Claassen, Ann Coit, Fred Crafts, Marti Gerdes, Diantha Hull, Barbara Kessel, Dianne Morley, Alex Morley, Thea Peck, Eileen Ricks, David Schwieger, Janice Silvestri, Lisa Van Liefde, Karen Yoerger.

Hardesty Mountain

November 9, 2025

Leader: Jeff Orendorff

Hike: 11.5 miles, 1,700 ft. (Difficult)

WE HAD LOTS OF SUN AND 60s TEMPERATURES for this November day hike. It was uncharacteristically warm and clear for this time of year. We added a little distance and gain to the hike for the sake of three tempting side trails. One was a short, steep spur up to Sawtooth Rock. Another was for a lunch spot with a viewpoint, since Hardesty Mountain is bereft of such niceties. The third side trip was added to the two-mile exploratory portion of the hike. It is a nice hike and one to be repeated. Participants: Jeff Orendorff, Larry Winiarski.

*Big Mountain, Small View
Walking miles and miles of up and up,
Finding forests of trees all over the top.*

*With trail signs pointing hither and yon
Will we finish this hike before dark or at dawn?
Alas, at the peak of ol' Hardesty,
We find that the view is still hard to see. [Orendorff]*

Annual Veteran's Day Walk

November 11, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Dorothy van Winkle

Assistant Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 2.0–5.0 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

TWELVE OBSIDIANS CAME OUT TO HONOR THE VETERANS in our club, as well as veteran parents, children, and even grandchildren of club members. As we approached the main Veterans Memorial in Skinner Butte Park, we saw many uniform-clad soldiers walking or running with heavy packs, also heading to the same memorial. The group was comprised of UO veteran students, their children, and members of the UO ROTC program. We heard the short speeches given by officers and young ROTC members. Dorothy mentioned that we were an Obsidians group doing our Annual Veterans Day walk, and they acknowledged our effort by giving us a round of applause. Their 35-pound packs were full of food donations for a local food bank. Being on the periphery of their commemoration added to the enjoyment of our own observance. Thank you, veterans, past and present. Participants: Steve Adey, Buzz Blumm, Marguerite Cooney, Mark Hougardy, Christiane Hougardy, Holger Krentz, Sandra Larsen, Lynn Meacham, Angie Ruzicka, Mike Smith, Dorothy van Winkle, Paul Winther.



Davies Nettleton Loop

November 11, 2025

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 6.6 miles, 721 ft. (Moderate)

A GREAT GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS, beautiful fall leaves, and no rain—what more could one ask for? It was fun to share a trail that most had never hiked, and for others, it had been far too long. All agreed that we need to post more hikes to Oregon State University's McDonald Research Forest, just outside of Corvallis. Participants: Lynda Christiansen, Tim Christie, Donald Doucette, Lynn Drazinski, Diantha Hull, Lana Lindstrom, Vern Marsonette, Guy Pritchett, Denise Rubenstein, Sandra Sigrist, Lisa Van Liefde.

Tamolitch Pool, Sahalie Falls

November 14, 2025

Leader: Jean Harris

Photographer: Vern Marsonette

Hike: 7.0 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

OUR DAY HAD CLOUDS, SUN, 50-DEGREE TEMPERATURES, and moisture everywhere. To hike along the McKenzie River is always a delight. The hike to Tamolitch Pool and back allowed us to soak up all the beauty, plus the reward of seeing Tamolitch Pool. The second portion involved lunch near Sahalie Falls, followed by hiking the waterfall loop trail past Koosah Falls and back on the other side of the McKenzie River. If you haven't been to these two destinations, I encourage you to make the stop separately, or to both. Participants: Annie Chan, Daniel Conklin, Donna Ellickson, Alan Foley, Jean Harris, Holger Krentz, Vern Marsonette, Valerie Metcalfe, Roy Nelson, Jean Stover, Paul Winther.



Koosah Falls.

Pioneer Cemetery Walk

November 15, 2025

Leader: Sheridan Gates

Hike: 2.0 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

THE PIONEER CEMETERY WALK WENT WELL. We had a new member join for his first activity, a walk-on member, and a full group of 15. The day was beautiful, and historian/storyteller Randy Gudeika was in a rare entertaining mode. We had a special treat when the cemetery caretaker introduced us to the

self-guided tour of the cemetery and asked one in our group to read about his aunt, who was notorious in Oregon history. She was the editor of a local paper and, when threatened by longshoremen, warned that she would retaliate if harassed again. She started a journalism scholarship at the University. We learned about a woman who was instrumental in the Oregon women's suffrage movement and used her social connections to advocate for women's right to vote. We learned about two soldiers who were friends in Eugene, who travelled to war in Europe on a ship, but never fought as they died from the Spanish flu. We learned about the civil war section of the cemetery and heard stories of battles and families impacted by the war. Participants: Wim Aarts, Steve Adey, Mari Baldwin, Raymond Brumbaugh, Lynda Christiansen, Lynn Corbett, Nancy Deboard, Larry Dunlap, Sheridan Gates, Abby Gershenzon, Kathy Hoeg, Anna Maria Hundseder-Aarts, Carla Lyon, Alex Morley, Chris Stockdale.

Turkey Trimming Hike

November 27, 2025

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 7.5 miles, 750 ft. (Moderate)

WE LUCKED OUT ON THE WEATHER, cloudy but dry, except for a few drops as we neared the parking lot. This was a fast group of 15 Obsidians! It took us 2:35 to complete seven miles, in South Eugene including stops at many intersections. It was a splendid way to get some exercise and share stories and community with friends on Thanksgiving Day. Participants: Steve Adey, Mari Baldwin, David Clinger, Richard Hughes, Jonathan Jost, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Rae Obrien, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Diane Schechter, Randy Sinnott, Darko Sojak, Dorothy van Winkle, Sue Wolling.

East Trails of the North Bank Habitat Management Area

November 30, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 9.1 miles, 1,550 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS GREAT TO ESCAPE CLOUDY EUGENE and hike with friends for Angie's birthday. We drove 80 miles south and then hiked the easternmost trails of the North Bank Habitat Management Area, starting at North Bank Rd., between Jackson and Cooper Creek. None of us had ever been there before, and the beautiful weather on the last day of November shined. Lunch at noon was at the highest point of our hike. We all felt gifted with a grateful-vibes day. Participants: David Clinger, Whitney Gould, Holger Krentz, Rae Obrien, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.



Obsidians enjoying a sunny afternoon.

Thurston Hills Loop from Quartz Park

December 12, 2025

Leader: Heidi Anderson

Assistant Leader: Sandra Sigrist

Hike: 5.5 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

THICK FOG GAVE WAY TO BLUE SKIES and excellent views from the top of the ridge. Several hikers were new to this area and all had a great time! Participants: Heidi Anderson, Donna Ellickson, Whitney Gould, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Linda Mirsepassi, Jorry Rolfe, Sandra Sigrist, Darko Sojak, Gretchen Sotomayor, Jean Stover, Paul Winther.

Yachats Ridge Tour

December 13, 2025

Leader: Sandra Sigrist

Assistant Leader: Heidi Anderson

Hike: 3.0 miles (Easy)

THIS TOUR PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW YACHATS and the coastline north to Yaquina lighthouse from the ridge above Yachats. View the Future volunteers drove Obsidians to seven locations on the potential land trust area, and offered education and information on the physical and cultural history of the area. Participants: Joanna Alexander, Heidi Anderson, Peter Graham, Emily Rice, Jorry Rolfe, Sandra Sigrist, Nancy Whitfield, Lyndell Wilken, Karen Yoerger.

Green Island Edu-ramble

December 13, 2025

Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographer: David Hawkins

Hike: 7.1 miles, 30 ft. (Easy)

ON A FOGGY DAY WE RAMBLED GREEN ISLAND, where the McKenzie River meets the Willamette. Participants: David Hawkins, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Vern Marsonette, Andrew McIvor, Darko Sojak, Lisa Van Liefde, Larry Winiarski.



Obsidians on the bank of the Willamette River channel.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

December 13, 2025

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

AS WITH MOST OF THE GA HIKES, people sign up and don't attend and others don't sign up and do attend. It's anyone's guess what the makeup of the group will be, yet it is always an enjoyable hike. Today we had 11 hikers. Surprisingly, some of the winter-blooming trees in Hendricks Park are in flower already! Join us for a future GA hike; you will not be disappointed. Thank you, Lynn, Elizabeth, and Judith for sharing club knowledge. Participants: Kerry Augustyniak, Philip Buhl, Margot Cortez, Elizabeth Grant, Renee LaFrance, Lynn Meacham, Louis Menard, Judith Momen, Dorothy van Winkle, Mason Wingert, Ron Wingert.

Delta Ponds & More

December 14, 2025

Leader: Whitney Gould

Assistant Leader: Rae Obrien

Hike: 5.0–8.0 miles (Easy)

THIS WAS A COOL, CLOUDY, MORNING RAMBLE from the Owen Rose Garden to the Greenway Pedestrian / Bike Bridge to the 1.4-mile loop trail surrounding the Delta Ponds. We returned to the Ruth Bascom East Bank trail via a path on Delta Ponds Road. A majority of our group opted to do the longer 7.5-mile route, which continued over the Owosso bridge, and along the West Bank Path, and led us back to the Rose Garden. We saw a variety of waterfowl enjoying the ponds and surrounding wetlands. Participants: Steve Adey, Tamara Bressi, Marguerite Cooney, Whitney Gould, Elizabeth Grant, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Rae Obrien, Guy Pritchett, Jorry Rolfe, Adriana Sorrell, Marian Sparks, Dorothy van Winkle.

Flood Watch by the River

December 19, 2025

Leader: Steve Adey

Hike: 4.0–8.0 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

WE SPENT A BIT OVER 2 1/2 HOURS WALKING. River was high, but not unusually so. Participants: Steve Adey, Mari Baldwin, Whitney Gould, Dorothy van Winkle.

Shotgun Creek Recreation Site: Tiki, Drury Ridge, and Shotgun Creek Trails

December 27, 2025

Leader: Rae Obrien

Assistant Leader: David Clinger

Hike: 6.0 miles, 600 ft. (Mixed)

FIVE OBSIDIANS AND ONE NONMEMBER started the hike under an overcast sky. There was debris on the trail from recent storms but nothing big enough to stop our progress through the beautiful forest. Two-thirds of the way through the hike, the sun broke through the clouds for a brief period. All three of the trails, the Shotgun Creek, Drury Ridge, and Tiki, were beautiful. Shotgun and Tiki are both easy trails. The Drury Trail was more of a challenge, but none of them were difficult in spite of the wet conditions. We estimated a total distance for the hike of 6.86 miles with an elevation gain of 761 ft.

Participants: David Clinger, Margot Cortez, Rae Obrien, Terri Robinson, Angie Snyder, Marian Sparks.

Cooper Creek Reservoir Trail

December 20, 2025

Leader: Whitney Gould

Assistant Leader: Rae Obrien

Photographer: Dave Clinger

Hike: 6.2 miles, 440 ft. (Moderate)

SIX INTREPID OBSIDIANS BRAVED A DECEMBER MORNING CHILL to travel to Sutherlin, where we began our trek at the West Trailhead of the Cooper Creek Reservoir. Heavy fog and mist enveloped us and the trail, limiting the visibility at the start of our hike. Despite the fog and mud, the well-marked trail was easy to find and follow and provided some gentle ups and downs. A few downed trees and mud were minor obstacles. Soon the sun peeked through and we were treated to some warmth, better views, and a few bird sightings. We stopped for a quick lunch near the East Trailhead and continued on at a more rapid pace, finishing our trek back where we started, happy for the adventure, and ready for a hot drink at a local coffee shop. Participants: David Clinger, Whitney Gould, Andrew McIvor, JeanSylvain Negre, Rae Obrien, Guy Pritchett.



Trail in the mist.

Meadowlark Prairie to Fern Ridge

December 28, 2025

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 6.9 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

A CHILLY AND FOGGY DAY FOR A HIKE, but the warmth of good company, hearing meadowlarks, seeing a heron and a variety of ducks, all made for a pleasant time on the trail. Participants: Marguerite Cooney, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Sarah Kaufman, Denise Rubenstein, Dorothy van Winkle.

Yachats New Year's Day Peace Hike

January 1, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Sandra Sigrist

Assistant Leader: Heidi Anderson

Hike: 4.0 miles, 1,360 ft. (Moderate)

FIVE OBSIDIANS HIKED FROM THE CAPE PERPETUA OVERLOOK to the Amanda Statue Grotto, and joined in the annual Peace Walk events, including placing a sprig of pine into the ceremonial fire with well wishes for the New Year. Participants: Heidi Anderson, Suzanna Didier, Guy Pritchett, Sandra Sigrist, Marian Sparks.



The Amanda statue in the Grotto honoring Native Americans, during the annual Yachats Peace walk.

Spencer Butte Hikes

Our Annual Tradition!

January 1, 2026

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 2.2 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

THE SHORT-HIKE FOLKS GOT OUT OF THE PARKING LOT a bit early because it was cold and wet. We got on top just before 9 AM, where it was cold, wet, and a little windy. I gave everybody the chance to go down when they wanted to. Darko's group came shortly after 9 AM and a little while later we had the Martin St. group. Lots of food, laughing, and pictures. The leader was deeply touched to see people he hadn't seen in a while, as well as being able to be up top. He may have an essay out of this day, but a few more connections are needed. It was kind of nice to have a shorter hike back down than usual. Participants: Joanna Alexander, David Cooper, Sandra Larsen, Carla Lyon, Eva Mogart, Caroline Moore, Evelyn Nagy, Mike Smith, Bojana Stefanovska, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield.

Leader: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Hike: 5.2 miles, 1,439 ft. (Moderate)

OBSIDIANS KEEP TRADITIONS ALIVE with a Happy New Year hike to the top of Spencer Butte. Participants: Wim Aarts, BJ Campbell, Bill Campbell, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Mandy Lund, Anna Maria Hundseder-Aarts, Margot McDonnell, Penny Mock, David Morris, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lisa Van Liefde.

Leader: Denise Rubenstein

Assistant Leader: Lynn Meacham

Hike: 6.2 miles, 1,520 ft. (Difficult)

THE DAY WAS DRIZZLY AND COLD, but spirits were high. Plenty of smiles all the way around. Great way to start the New Year! Participants: Jennifer Baer, Annie Chan, Steve Davis, Donna Ellickson, Nancy Hoecker, Christiane Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Brenda Kameenui, Michael King, Lynn Meacham, Jim Northrop, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Diana Wheat, Sue Wolling, Karen Yoerger.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail /

Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen: 11/5 5 Participants **11/26** 9 Participants
12/31 5 Participants

Sandra Sigrist: 11/12 17 Participants **12/3** 12 Participants

Margot McDonnell: 11/19 14 Participants **12/17** 14 Participants

Karen Yoerger: 12/10 18 Participants

Lynn Meacham: 12/24 8 Participants

Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Jane Leng: 11/4 7 Participants

Jonathan Jost: 11/11 11 Participants **11/18** 9 Participants

Sandra Sigrist: 11/25 7 Participants

Jorry Rolfe: 12/2 5 Participants

Margot McDonnell: 12/9 6 Participants
12/16 6 Participants **12/30** 4 Participants

Janet Jacobsen 12/23 2 Participants

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.0–9.4 miles, 10–1,375 (Easy–Moderate)

Heidi Anderson, Sandra Sigrist: 11/14 11 Participants

Dorothy van Winkle: 11/15 11 Participants
12/25 9 Participants

Karen Yoerger, Sandra Sigrist: 11/22 13 Participants

Jeff Orendorff: 12/3 2 Participants **12/5** 2 Participants

12/10 2 Participants **12/12** 2 Participants **12/17** 2 Participants

12/19 3 Participants **12/31** 2 Participants

Mari Baldwin: 12/3 11 Participants

Angie Ruzicka: 12/21 6 Participants



Snowshoe Trips

Ray Benson Sno-Park

December 28, 2025

Leader: Steven Johnson

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Snowshoe: 5.0 miles, 250 ft. (Mixed)

THE SEASON'S FIRST SIGNIFICANT SNOWFALL finally occurred, allowing our group of six Obsidians to enjoy a beautiful snowshoe trek from the Ray Benson Sno-Park to the North Blowout Shelter. This trip offers great views of the Cascades in a five-mile loop. Participants: Gwyneth Iredale, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Andrew McIvor, Lynn Meacham, Paul Winther.



On the trail.



Stewardship

BE THE CHANGE—NOVEMBER

November 10, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 2.6 miles, 30 ft. (Mixed)

BALMY MONDAY WAS FUN. Eight Obsidians, one nonmember, and two unregistered guests participated in a quite messy and somewhat hectic trash pick-up at East Alton Baker Park. Thank you to the volunteers for supporting my cause. Participants: Linda Anson, Mari Baldwin, Julie Barnas, BJ Campbell, Bill Campbell, Whitney Gould, Vicky Hanson, David Schwieger, Darko Sojak.



Mari Baldwin and Julia Barnas.

Hendricks Park Planting

November 29, 2025

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer: Pat Soussan

Stewardship: 2.0 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

FOR WHAT WAS HOPEFULLY OUR LAST OUTING OF 2025, we met up with Joe and Kelsey from the City in Hendricks Park to plant trees and shrubs in an area of the forest that they are rehabilitating from an overgrowth of blackberries and ivy. We broke into small task-related work groups, with most of our group working on planting over 130 plants in our short time.



Others filled buckets with mulch and shuttled plants to the work area in a garden cart. Still others carried plants and mulch to the plantings. Oliver found an actual salamander, not a newt, under a log and shared it with the group. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing delicious zucchini bread and to Joe for bringing “I dig EUG parks” swag items. Participants: Jennifer Baer, Mari Baldwin, Matt Bell, Oliver Bell, Nathaniel Bell, Jan Danforth, Steve Davis, Larry Dunlap, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Michael King, David Schwieger, Pat Soussan, Ella Watt.

Grounds Work Party

December 5, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Nancy Whitfield

Stewardship

FIFTEEN STALWART VOLUNTEERS WORKED in the not-so-cold rain to accomplish many tasks. The miracle of the day was the transformation of the back roof after it was washed. Firewood was gathered and tarped, parking lot and Lodge beds were trimmed and pruned, and old boards were cut up and split for kindling. The clogged gutters were cleared and the heaters inside were inspected and cleaned. The location of the septic tank was verified, marked and recorded with photos. Clearing on the west fence continued. The highlight of the day was a special birthday celebration for Mike Smith! Participants: David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Jean Harris, Brenda Kameenui, Roy Nelson, Doug Nelson, Jim Northrop, John Ostrom, Maryanne Reiter, Angie Ruzicka, Gwynn Sawyer, Mike Smith, Pat Soussan, Nancy Whitfield.



Look at the difference! Brenda, Angie, and Maryanne created a miracle!

Hendricks Park Tree Planting

December 6, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 1.0 miles, 40 ft. (Moderate)

TODAY, TOGETHER WITH OTHER VOLUNTEERS, Obsidians stewards planted trees and shrubs in Hendricks Park. As always, it was an honor to have a dedicated team of volunteers. Thank you to Kelsey and Joe, from Eugene's Parks & Open Space, and to all for your selfless energy invested in this worthy cause. Participants: David Clinger, Mandy Lund, Caroline McManus, David Morris, John Ostrom, Emily Rice, Angie Ruzicka, Gwynn Sawyer, David Schwieger, Darko Sojak.



Obsidians: Angie Ruzicka, David Morris, Emily Rice.

BE THE CHANGE—DECEMBER

December 17, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 2.4 miles, 60 ft. (Mixed)

THE LAST BE THE CHANGE PROJECT THIS YEAR attracted 14 volunteers. The brief rain did not spoil our parade, so our cheerful group combed green areas on both sides of the Willamette River between the Peter DeFazio Bridge and the Frohnmayer Bridge. We collected about 50 lbs. of trash. Thank you, Obsidians volunteers, for your passion and energy. You made the change! Participants: Linda Anson, Teresa Bowen, BJ Campbell, Bill Campbell, Donna Ellickson, Peter Graham, Vicky Hanson, Holger Krentz, David Morris, Rae Obrien, Rachael Perry, Angie Ruzicka, David Schwieger, Darko Sojak.



Obsidians Stewardship Year in Retrospect

Darko Sojak, Stewardship Committee Chair

EVERYTHING COMES TO AN END, including the BE THE CHANGE 2025 project. The BTC project was born as a clear vision and has taken strong root since its inception in January, with simple tasks and rewarding direct results.

Throughout the past year, Obsidian volunteers cleaned up: Along the Roosevelt Canal Trail in West Eugene, the EWEB path in Springfield, Wild Iris Ridge Park in Southwest Eugene, Westmoreland Park in Eugene, the By-Gully Bike and Jog Path in Springfield, several sections of bike path along the Willamette River, the Pringle Grove section of Eugene's Amazon Trail, and along Pre's Trail. We have removed over 900 lbs. of waste from our neighborhoods. Thank you, Obsidians, for not turning your back on the growing trash problem.

(Continued on page 15)

*Roosevelt Channel bike trail.
Pringle Grove Park.
Photos by Darko Sojak*



In addition to the BE THE CHANGE projects, Obsidians stewards worked on a dozen local trail maintenance projects, mountain lakes shoreline cleanups, invasive species removal in Sweet Home's Cascadia Park, six work parties at the community garden in Cottage Grove, and several habitat restoration projects in our area.

We have often been recognized, welcomed, and thanked as individuals and as a team. Please continue to inspire and encourage others to join us in future projects. Thank you all!



Photographers:
(Clockwise from top left)

Joe Waksmundski

Pat Soussan

Jean Harris

Pat Soussan

Jennifer Crim

Janet Jacobsen



New AED at the Lodge

*Maryanne Reiter
Safety Chair*

THE OBSIDIANS HAVE PURCHASED A NEW AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) by Defibtech for use at the Lodge. It is located in the kitchen by the side door in a lower cupboard which is labeled AED. Using an AED along with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for someone in sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) has been shown to double the survival rate of victims who are outside a hospital setting. Since the Lodge is somewhat remote, we want to make sure that if someone is in cardiac arrest we can immediately start treatment. Each minute of delay reduces survival by 7–10%. It sounds scary, but the AED technology makes it shockingly easy (pun intended) it is to use even by untrained people.

When should the AED be used? The AED should be used for victims of sudden cardiac arrest who are unconscious and unresponsive and are not breathing, or not breathing normally. The AED should not be used on responsive or conscious victims. If you suspect someone is having a cardiac arrest, have someone else call 911 (they may have to step out of the Lodge to do that—the Lodge address is on a plaque above the nametag wall) and then immediately start administering CPR and deploying the AED.

These machines do have a limited lifespan, and the warranty on our previous AED recently expired, necessitating the need to purchase a new one. Our new AED is fully automatic and has only one button to press to initiate the process. It is designed to analyze heart rhythm and automatically deliver a shock if needed. All you need to do is turn on the unit, follow the voice prompts and it will do the rest. If the victim needs a shock it will automatically deliver one. The response kit contains a gloves, shears, a razor (in case the victim has a very hairy chest and the pads won't stick), hand wipes, and a CPR pocket mask. There is a card that shows what to do to start the process. It was made to be straightforward so bystanders can use it.

Next time you're in the Lodge, locate the cupboard, open it, and see what the AED looks like in case you ever need to use it.

For more information on our new AED visit: www.defibtech.com/products/lifeline-auto-aed/



Let's Make Summer Plans!

Obsidians Summer Camp Strawberry Mountains, Oregon August 23–29, 2026



THIS YEAR, THE OBSIDIANS SUMMER CAMP will be based at Lake Creek Youth Camp (LCYC, lakecreekcamp.org/) in the Strawberry Mountains of central Oregon, south of the town of John Day. Some of you will remember enjoying camp there in 2014. The LCYC is located amid a stand of ponderosa pine in a quiet, rural area, and offers a mix of accommodations that include cabin bunkhouses, space for tents, and room for RVs (no services). Everyone will provide their own bedding/sleeping bag/tent, and will share the use of several bathroom/shower buildings. A lodge and covered outdoor spaces are available for card games, reading, or relaxing, and there is a lawn for active games.

We will have six nights at camp and five full days for adventures. There is great hiking in the nearby Strawberry Mountain Wilderness and Malheur National Forest, including Strawberry Lake and Mountain, Wildcat Basin, and the Malheur River—check out the John Day section in Bill Sullivan's, *100 Hikes in Eastern Oregon*. This was a gold rush center during the mid-late 1800s, and there are interesting historical sites in John Day (Kam Wah Chung Museum), Canyon City (Grant County Historical Museum), and Prairie City (restored railway depot and museum), to name a few. And you could stop on the way to or from camp at the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

The Summer Camp Committee, led by Angie Ruzicka (Committee Chair), Karen Yoerger (Camp Boss), and Pam Caples (Treasurer) is hard at work pulling together the details for the camp. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available in monthly *Bulletin* articles, and posted on the Summer Camp page of our website (obsidians.org/events/category/summer-camp/).

IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday, February 27: Last day to become a member in order to have priority registration.

Friday, March 27: Camp Rally. Details about the facility, registration and things to do.

Saturday, April 4: Registration for members begins.

Monday, April 6: Registration for nonmembers begins.

Friday, April 24, Friday, May 29 potlucks: Pick up camp booklet if you have registered and paid.

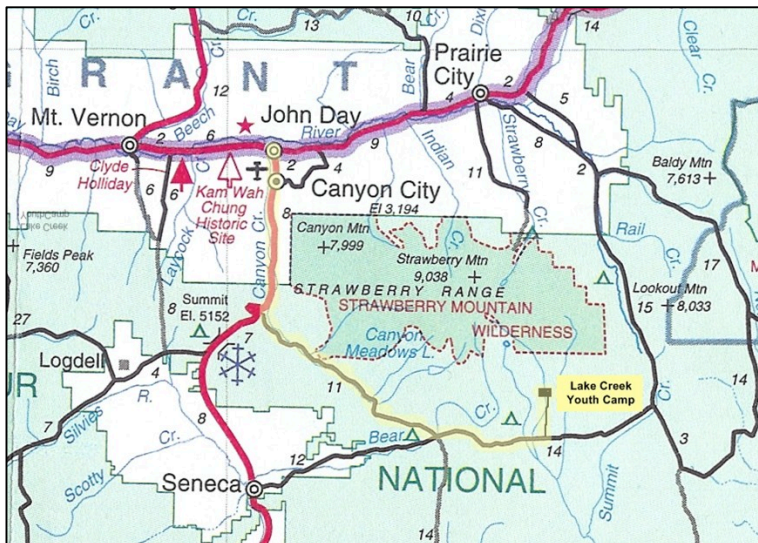


Photo by Darko Sojak.



Friday, January 30, 2026

Oregon's 10 Best Snow Adventures

—with Bill Sullivan

OREGON OUTDOOR GURU BILL SULLIVAN will take us on a tour of the state's ten top snowshoe and backcountry ski adventures, from a winter visit to Crater Lake to a snow camp in the heart of the Three Sisters Wilderness. Along the way we'll visit Steens Mountain, Jefferson Park, and the Wallowas—all in the season of snow.



You do not need to be an Obsidian member to attend; no sign-up is necessary. All are welcome. Visit www.obsidians.org/events/category/entertainment for more information.

Potluck & Presentation

Friday, January 30, 2026

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.

OBSIDIANS EVENTS

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

Regularly Scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday Hikes

Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

Tuesdays:
January 13, 20, 27

Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

Wednesdays:
January 14, 21, 28

CHECK FOR DETAILS & SIGN UP ONLINE

obsidians.org/events/

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



MLK Day Shrubs & Tree Planting

9:00 AM–Noon
Monday, January 19

Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance

9:00 AM–Noon
Saturday, January 31

Have a question?

Contact obsidians-stewardship@googlegroups.com

Get Acquainted Hikes

Second Saturday of the Month:
February 14, March 14, April 11

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

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

Thank you!

Mt. Pisgah Sunset Full Moonrise

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

February 1
March 1
March 31

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



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

Tuesday, January 13,
Thursday, February 12,
Tuesday, March 10

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**



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EUGENE, OR 97405

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January 2026



Great views of Three Fingered Jack on the Ray Benson snowshoe trip. Photo by Steve Johnson. See the trip report on page 12.

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