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**Dates to Remember**

April 16	GameNight!
April 24	Potluck
May 1	Bulletin Deadline
May 6	Board Meeting

**Summer Camp Dates**

April 24 & May 29	
Pick up Camp Booklet at Potluck	
August 23-29	Summer Camp

Current event schedules at:  
[obsidians.org](http://obsidians.org)

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**Earth Day Theme 2026: Our Power, Our Planet**

*April 22, 2026*

**E**NVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS IS BUILT THROUGH EVERYDAY ACTION—from communities protecting ecosystems to innovators advancing solutions. Clean air, safe water, and climate resilience aren't optional—they're essential. Every action counts. Every voice matters. (From the Earth Day website.)

Don't have time for an Earth Day event? Visit the Earth Day website to Explore 50 Ways to take action for the planet every day. [earthday.org/earth-day-2026](http://earthday.org/earth-day-2026)

Watch the Obsidian calendar to see the variety of projects that the Stewardship Committee offers throughout the year. Turn your Earth Day into a commitment to sign up for one.

The Obsidian Concessions Committee has reusable tote bags for \$12 and insulated lunch bags for \$15 for sale at Potlucks. They will help you use less plastic and do your part to protect the earth.

Stewardship Committee Chair Darko Sojak has long been a champion for collective action, and not just for Earth Day.

In 2014 he and Holger Krentz helped set up the Obsidian tent at the EWEB plaza and kept it standing in the wind and rain for 132 people to drop by. That was the last year for the Earth Day event due to the new guidelines to anchor canopy tents. Darko and other Obsidians continue to offer trips to care for the public lands. Check out page 11 for upcoming Stewardship activities. Now is the time to get involved in protecting the earth!



*May 2014 Earth Day Event. Photo by Darko Sojak.*

**Looking for Board Candidates**

**T**HE JOB OF THE OBSIDIANS NOMINATING COMMITTEE is to propose three candidates to be on the Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning in January 2027. The Nominating Committee is being formed and will be chaired by Angie Ruzicka. If you have suggestions for Board members, please call or email Angie by May 15, 2026. The Nominating Committee will report to the Board at the June board meeting, and the nominees will be published in the July *Bulletin*. Thanks for your ideas!

[angie.ruzicka@gmail.com](mailto:angie.ruzicka@gmail.com)

541-521-6840

# IN MEMORIAM

ANN P. LICHTENSTEIN

October 13, 1940 – March 6, 2026

ANN MOVED TO EUGENE IN THE EARLY 80S to be closer to her sister. Her first Obsidian trip was a Mt. McLoughlin climb during the 1985 Summer Camp. Two years later she married Ed Lichtenstein, and attended nine Summer Camps with him, two of those when he was President during 1999 and 2000. She was also an enthusiastic supporter when Ed was the Lunch Responsible Person. At the 1992 Teton Summer Camp, she and Ed were co-chairs venturing out in the dark at 5:30 AM to put out the lunch materials. They introduced tofu pate, cream cheese, sliced cucumbers, peanut butter pretzels, and lots more. Campers raved about the great lunch ‘fixins’ at the Nosh Bar. With her kind-spirited style, she co-chaired the Obsidians 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet at the Coburg Inn.

Ann was also active in the Assistance League of Eugene. She loved her dogs, and walking with Ed in their neighborhood on the Willamette River when they lived in Eugene. Ed wrote that “Obsidians —events and the folks—were SO important for both of us.”

In 2019 they moved to Portland to be close to children and grandchildren. She is survived by her husband Ed, her two children, and three grandchildren: Porter Strother, and twins Gage and Hazel Gemelke, and her sister Charlotte.

*Editor’s Note: a complete obituary was in The Register-Guard, March 17, 2026.*



## Eugene Parks Foundation—Parks Talk Event

### The Polar Encounter

**Dr. M. Jackson: Glaciologist, Geographer, and Storyteller**

**Tuesday, April 18 at The Shedd Institute, 5:30 PM –7:00 PM**

**5:30 PM:** Light snacks and drinks, with time to browse The Shedd’s gallery exhibit featuring polar photography by award-winning National Geographic photographer Susan Seubert. Her striking images were captured on assignment in the polar regions for the National Geographic Expeditions program.

**6:00 PM:** First will be an update of EPF’s work across Eugene’s parks and natural spaces, including the latest progress on the Finish the Ride project, a mountain bike park in Suzanne Arlie Park near Lane Community College. Then featured speaker Dr. M. Jackson will share the profound connections between people and ice. Her talks are highly visual and deeply personal, blending decades of fieldwork across Iceland, Alaska, South Georgia, and the Aleutians, with reflections on climate change, storytelling, and what it means to live in a melting world. Glaciers are not just frozen rivers of ice, but mirrors of our own human experience.

The Susan Seubert gallery exhibit will remain open after the talk, giving guests another opportunity to experience the work.

Pre-registration for the \$15 tickets is required: [eugeneparksfoundation.org/parks-talk-m-jackson](http://eugeneparksfoundation.org/parks-talk-m-jackson)

## OBSIDIANS

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

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

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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  
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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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### Deadline

for May Bulletin

Friday, May 1

### Editorial Team

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*Copy Editors:*

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*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,  
Anne Hollander, Yuan Hopkins,  
Judy Newman

# The Wadatika—The Indigenous People of the Strawberry Mountains



**S**TRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN WAS ORIGINALLY (1864) NAMED STRAWBERRY BUTTE for its abundance of wild strawberries. Interestingly, the native Paiute people of the area had no known name for Strawberry Mountain.

Each of the several bands of the Northern Paiute named themselves after a particularly important food source. The Burns Paiute, the *Wadatika*, were thus not named for the tasty berries on the mountain, but rather for *wada*—the itchy-bitsy black seeds of a plant called *Suaeda calceoliformis*, found near Malheur Lake. The women would gather the seeds by beating the plants until the seeds fell out, and then heat baskets of the seeds with hot coals until they popped. They got rid of as much chaff as possible, then ground the little seeds on a stone and made a gruel or mush with the meal.

Actually, it's not thought that *wada* was a major part of their diet, because...well, *wada* seeds are really small. They also ate deer, elk, and other small game. Fishing was a family affair: they made a sock-like trap five to eight feet long. The women stood on the trap to submerge it in water while the men tried to scare fish into it. The *Wadatika* also gathered biscuitroot, camas bulbs, wild onions and carrots, and insects. Red ant pudding was considered a traditional and culturally important food.

The *Wadatika* were semi-nomadic. In the harsh eastern Oregon winters, they lived in sunken homes in the valley. In the spring and summer, they moved into the high country—not unlike Obsidians—using temporary brush shelters called wickiups as they pursued game and harvested berries.

The *Wadatika*'s way of life persisted for 7,500 years across much of central/southeastern Oregon and the Great Basin. But white settlers arrived in the area in the 1840s, and their ranching practices led to conflict with the *Wadatika*. In 1869, after bitter fighting, the U.S. created a reservation of 1.8 million acres for the Paiute—but the treaty was never ratified, and conflicts continued, culminating in the Bannock Wars of 1878–79. Many Paiute fled the area. Those who remained on the reservation were forcibly marched, through knee-deep snow, 300 miles up to the Yakama Reservation in Washington.

The Paiute eventually returned to their native lands, but found that the reservation had become 'public domain'. In 1928, a land company 'generously' gave the Burns Paiute ten acres on the outskirts of Burns—land that had previously been the city dump. The Tribe cleaned up the area, drilled wells, and established a reservation on this land and on many more acres that they either bought or acquired as allotments to individual tribal members.

Life on that reservation was tough. Their children were not allowed to attend the Burns public schools, and the Tribe often had to hide their children to avoid their being taken off to boarding schools. Between 1954 and 1980, nearly half of all tribal members died, due to poor health and living conditions. Nonetheless, the Tribe persisted, and eventually gained federal recognition as a tribal nation.

The Burns Paiute continue to work hard to maintain their cultural identity, particularly their language. It was only in the 1960s that there was a significant shift within this tight-knit community toward using English as a first language. The Tribe now uses culture and language camps, CDs, apps, and festivals to try to preserve their language.

If you want to learn more and support the Paiute Tribe, take a day off from hiking and visit Burns. You can visit the family-owned Oards Gallery to explore the antiques museum, admire and purchase handmade baskets, artwork, clothing, jewelry, furniture, and more. You can also learn more by visiting the Tribe's website at [burnspaiute-nsn.gov](http://burnspaiute-nsn.gov).

*Thanks to Sue Wolling for her research for this article.*

*Hiking in the Strawberry Mountains,  
Summer Camp 2014.  
Photo by Darko Sojak.*



# OH, INDEED I DO

*Mike Smith*



**S**MOKE STARTED CURLING OUT OF THE HOLE WHERE I WAS DRILLING. The drill hadn't seemed to work right from the start, requiring my pushing it more than I should have. Finally, my effort produced no further movement but plenty of smoke, so I pulled the drill out, noting removal was easy.

"Something's wrong with the drill," I said.

"Try this one," Sig gave me another drill. I had no trouble at all.

We were working on the bridge over Salt Creek not far from the falls. The bridge was about 60 feet long with a 45-degree bend on the west side. I worked on this bridge construction more than on our first one at Indian Creek along the Middle Fork, where I did necessary grunt work of moving logs and debarking cedars. Here, I cut the rails, drilled holes for the posts and support structures, and used a high noise impact driver to put in the screws and toe nails holding everything together.

We had cut the logs down in the valley across the river from Oakridge, where there was Western red cedar, covered the logs near the road with boughs to hide from poaching until we got a working trailer from the Forest Service (the first one had a flat tire), then eventually moved 35 logs, minus three or four that were stolen, on to a trailer. We drove 20 miles up to the falls, where we unloaded them by the parking lot. I moved thirty of them myself one day, a couple hundred yards to the work site, using a dragger Jim had rigged up. Some logs I just put over my

shoulder and carried. My step counter showed seven miles of hiking without ever leaving a circle of 200 yards radius. I worked closely with Jim and Sig, learning about bridge construction during the nine total outings I was there.

There was nothing wrong with the drill. It ran just fine. But it was in reverse, not forward, so as I pushed it in, the friction became intense enough to ignite the wood. I suspect Sig knew but didn't want to embarrass me. Before using a drill again, I discovered the button that changes direction and each time I used the drill turned it on briefly to ensure it was turning clockwise. I'd made a rookie mistake. I later graduated to where I had to figure out how to remove and replace the battery without asking anybody or taking too long. I didn't want to seem too clueless.

A few months later, I volunteered in Cottage Grove for Huerta de la Familia, building the seventh garden in the region for Hispanic families to grow their own food. My first trip there, the group was putting in fence posts. My job was to fill a wheelbarrow with gravel, and take it to each of 35 such holes, where the gravel was mixed with the ever present mud to surround the post. There was a second outing there a couple of weeks later, and I decided to go, despite the accurately forecasted rain. I wore full rain gear which I define as wearing enough clothing that one can't tell if it is raining.

I was first to arrive, low clouds, spitting rain, not getting lost like I had the first time, and as I went out on the plot, Gloria, as she introduced herself, held a Ridgid cordless 18V power drill.

"Hi," she said. "Do you know how to use this?"

Music to my ears. Oh, indeed I do. Before Salt Creek, I might have asked what it was. Nonchalantly, I said, "Yes, no problem," as if I had that drill, a few yellow DeWalts, a Milwaukee electric saw, and a Stihl power weed whacker 25.1 cc one cylinder 2-cycle motor in my garage, along with a work bench and a saw, rather than a hammer, a Philips screwdriver and a couple of crescent wrenches. Gloria didn't need to know that. It reminded me of being abroad on an overnight flight when the crew needed English speaking passengers to sit by the emergency exit, which happened to have great seats. The flight attendant looked at me, and asked, "Do you speak English?"

Oh, indeed I do. "Like a native," I replied, drawing out the three words.

My job in the rain was to remove the multiple screws that held the planks and slats of several elevated garden plots, so we could remove them. The job would require removal of upwards of 75 PowerPro brass Torx screws, many of which were so tightly bound I had to use the whole drill as a screw driver just to break them loose. I didn't notice the rain, only my gloves getting progressively wetter. I was one with the Ridgid. I even helped Jean change a bit; all I had to do was vigorously unscrew the chuck. The job was right up my alley, for all I had to do was to remove screws, so I used Reverse the entire time. Piece of cake.

See you on the trail.

# MARCH BOARD NOTES

March 4, 2026

From minutes by Jean Harris

## AGENDA ITEMS

**Kudos:** Angie to Mark Hougardy for his creative trips and good details. Sandra to the collection of climbers who help with climb school. Steve to Dave Cooper for all the liability work to keep us aware and responsive.

**Minutes:** The Board approved the February board meeting minutes.

**Treasurer's Report (Sue Zeni):** Financial documents have been submitted to our tax accountant for 2025 taxes. Our financial accounts (US Bank and Vanguard) are in the process of adding Angie (President) to their account. The transfer of 2026 donations to Capital/Contingency has been postponed until the Vanguard account completes the change in approved signers. This will be done in March. Revenue is starting to come in from Climb School and the Wilderness First Aid class. The Grounds expenses include a charge for locating all of the services (drains, utilities, etc). This expense will probably be moved to Capital/Contingency later as a part of the Lodge French drain project. Revenue was \$3,059 and Expenses were \$2,523 in February for a total net revenue of \$1,101. The Board approved the February expenditures.

## NEW BUSINESS

**AARP Presentation Proposal (Angie presented for Bill Campbell):** AARP volunteer with fraud watch who gives presentations about scams and frauds. Would we sponsor a presentation at no cost, donating time and space? The Board discussed and decided that any group using the Lodge pay the fee, \$150 for a half day.

**Publicity Committee Presentation (Lisa Van Liefde):** Denise Rubenstein and Lisa co-chair, with Steve Davis, Darko Sojak and Scott Wilkinson as members. The last two years has seen growth as presentations and materials continue to grow. Scott handles social media, graphics, bookmarks, signage and more. Darko is aware of the committee's history while Steve brings fresh eyes and a connection with climbs. They have one meeting a year and frequent emails. The third year involves tabling works, branding new items, power point, and evolving as needs arise. Finances: \$400 was used to purchase posters, bookmarks, and a tablecloth last year. This year will exceed the budget with the REI event needing 750 bookmarks. Future events include Mt. Pisgah Wildflower in May, Tugman Park event, and more. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be a focus. Steve has checked different advertising ideas: *Lookout Eugene-Springfield* calendar is free, ads are expensive. Bill Sullivan has offered to write articles about us for the *Lookout Eugene-Springfield* news. More committee members and subsets will be considered. Finding a way to gather member information about interest will be helpful. Thanks to Lisa for her presentation.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Update for 100-year Celebration (Angie, Sandra, Dave, Denise and Jim):** They used the card system, Sandra typed up the cards and organized them. Ongoing things include budget, timeline, strategic team needed including awareness,

connections, honor, wisdom, and wonder, cross generations, highlight conservation and stewardship. This ad hoc committee will give an update each month with a report.

**Inviting Committee Chairs to Board Meetings Update (Angie):** Each month will have a scheduled sharing from a committee chair with Lisa sharing about Publicity tonight.

**Liability Concerns (Steve/Angie):** We reviewed the insurance coverage for the club. Steve shared information about a bill in the Oregon legislature that could impact liability waivers statewide. We should know more when the legislature closes this session (this week).

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Climbs (Wim Aarts & Steve Davis):** The Climbs Committee in February has been deep in preparation for the 2026 Basic Climb School, which starts March 10. We currently have a full roster of instructors and volunteers to train the 18 people who have signed up to date. At this time the only remaining question is whether we will have enough snow in the Cascades to hold the all-important snow field day where students learn and apply skills critical to safe and successful snow climbs. We are considering holding the snow field day at Timberline if the worst-case scenario of inadequate snow in the central Cascades plays out. We are also finalizing orders for the few remaining equipment items that we need. As well, we are on the verge of publishing the 2026 climbs schedule on the calendar. All of us are keeping a wary eye on the liability waiver situation and awaiting guidance from the Board of Directors.

**Concessions (Carla Cooper):** February potluck sales totaled \$63. Thank you, Nancy and Marguerite. We will be meeting in March to look at ordering new merchandise.

**Entertainment (Ane McKee):** February's potluck was presented by Obsidians member, Gordon Sayre, who gave an entertaining talk about the origin of Crater Lake. We had 61 diners and 73 were there for the presentation. We gathered \$29 in donations.

**Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom):** The XC ski/snowshoe trip to Crater Lake, April 10–13, filled in just over two hours. Overnight trips are very popular! We need more leaders—anyone willing to step up and be rewarded with lots of kudos?

**Lodge Building (Dave Cooper):** A great month for documentation. Thanks to Bert Ewing we now have digital images of the original Lodge blueprints. We contracted with Hole-In-One Locating to map our underground water, electrical, sprinkler, downspout drains, and septic lines. Using ground penetrating radar they have given us a good map of what's underground. This was a necessary step prior to the French drain work.

**Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop & Nancy Whitfield):** Rather than snow, the 11-person work crew experienced a cold, but mostly sunny, day. Many leaves were raked. Many leaves remain. A combination shrub (hawthorn and hazelnut?) was expertly pruned. One large stump was prepped for eventual removal. Beds were tidied and spruced up. The fence area continued to be cleared. Two new signs were installed to help the flow of traffic. Sprinkler switch boxes were cleared out.

**Membership (Diane Schechter):** Membership— 455

**Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz):** In February we published the *Bulletin* and mailed 200 copies.

**Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde):** The Publicity Committee continues to post events and other information on social media and is preparing for upcoming community tabling events.

**Safety (Maryanne Reiter Interim Chair):** The Safety Committee resolved some questions in the Safety Manual about the Restricted List. The manual will soon be ready to be uploaded to the website. We also got Laurie Monico to teach a first aid/CPR/AED class that will lead to a certificate through the American Heart Assoc. The class will likely be in mid-May.

**Science Education (Angie Ruzicka, interim):** Our two activities this month shared a theme of food! We sponsored an

outing to campus for dinner and the Eugene Natural History Society speaker and another to the Camas Bakery and Oregon Air and Space Museum.

**Stewardship (Darko Sojak):** February was short, but we managed to work on four local projects. Thank you, volunteers and leaders.

**Summer Camp (Angie Ruzicka):** Our food liaison, Kristen, facilitated a very productive Zoom meeting with the camp director and cook. We are excited about the food choices and confident we will be well-fueled for our hikes and other activities! Thanks to a team effort (Angie, Karen, Holger Krentz, and Sandra Sigrist) a draft version of the summer camp booklet is almost completed. Next up is preparing for the summer camp rally on March 27.

**Trips (Dave Cooper):** We had 20 hikes in February and collected \$28 from nonmembers.

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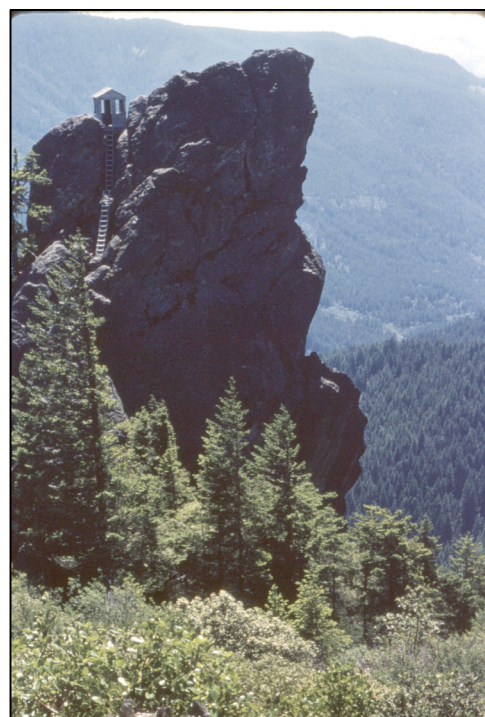
## Favorite Hikes

*Looking for a hike to lead? How about one of the past Obsidian favorites?*

RICHARD LESLIE (LES) AND MAY COOPER left Leslie's slides and \$5,360 from their estate to the Obsidians Endowment Fund in 1979. His slides from the 50s and 60s remind us of favorite hikes ( or summits). Unfortunately, many of the lookouts are no longer there. Thanks to Bert Ewing (Librarian/Historian Committee) for scanning the slides. To read about the fire lookouts, see the May 2011 *Bulletin*. [obsidians.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2011\\_05\\_Bulletin.pdf](https://obsidians.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2011_05_Bulletin.pdf)



*Black Crater Lookout 1923–1953.*



*Rooster Rock pillar lookout in Menagerie Wilderness 1927–1953.*



*Iron Mountain. The lookout was declared a hazard in 2007, torn down, and replaced with a platform from which hikers can view the surrounding country.*

# TRIP REPORTS



## BIKE TRIPS

### **Daffodil Bike Ride**

**March 22, 2026**

**Leader: Lana Lindstrom**

**Assistant Leader: Richard Hughes**

**Bike: 20.0 miles, 385 ft. (Moderate)**

**W**HAT A DIFFERENCE between the ride this year vs. last year at the same time! In 2026, the temperature at the start was 43 degrees with a 6 mph, cold wind. Only three riders rode e-bikes. We didn't linger very long at the Long Tom Grange. In 2025, the temperature at the start was in the low 60s; we socialized at the Grange for about half an hour, enjoying the balmy weather. Everyone except two riders rode e-bikes! The same both years: we admired several hundred thousand daffodils and narcissus, patches of irises, tulips, and some forsythia. Participants: Kristen Anderson, Paula Anderson, David Clinger, Patricia Esch, Alan Foley, Caroline Forell, Richard Hughes, Randy Jeremiah, Lana Lindstrom, Annette Pfautz, Marian Sparks.



## HIKES

### **Mt. Baldy**

**February 27, 2026**

**Leader: Darko Sojak**

**Hike: 3.5 miles, 950 ft. (Easy)**

**T**HERE WAS FOG, but finally the sun broke through. Participants: Mari Baldwin, Marguerite Cooney, Margot Cortez, Whitney Gould, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Guy Pritchett, Darko Sojak.

### **Castle Rock**

**March 1, 2026**

**Leader & Photographer: Steven Johnson**

**Hike: 8.5 miles, 2,000 ft. (Moderate)**

**W**E STARTED THIS HIKE at the Castle Rock/O'Leary trailhead. This takes at least two miles off of the distance hiked, plus it has less elevation gain than from the Kings trailhead. The trailhead starts about three miles down road 411, and is well maintained. It does have one creek crossing, but I suspect this creek dries up in the summer. We hiked about nine miles; the return hike was done in a light rain. It's a beautiful trail, and it's now my favorite way up Castle Rock. Participants: Kathie

Carpenter, Steven Johnson, Jonathan Jost, Lynn Meacham, David Morris.



*Kathie and Lynn crossing Cougar Creek.*

### **UO, Two Cemeteries & Golf Loop**

**March 5, 2026**

**Leader: Steve Adey**

**Hike: 6.5 miles, 700 ft. (Moderate)**

**EVERYTHING WENT AS EXPECTED.** Several hikers chose to take a shorter route, and the full walk as planned took a bit over 2.5 hours. Participants: Steve Adey, Mari Baldwin, Marguerite Cooney, Marti Gerdes, Whitney Gould, Holger Krentz, Jeff Lange, Evelyn Nagy, Guy Pritchett, Marian Sparks.

### **Oregon Dunes Day Use Big Loop**

**March 7, 2026**

**Leader: Darko Sojak**

**Assistant Leader & Photographer: Rachele Masin**

**Hike: 8.0 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)**

**A BEAUTIFUL COASTAL DAY.** We started on the dunes, meandered along the beach several miles until we reached Tahkenitch creek, and then hiked through the lush forest, making an eight-mile loop. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, David Clinger, Steven Johnson, Jeff Lange, Kate Lange, Rachele Masin, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Marian Sparks.



## REI is Moving—Walk

March 7, 2026

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 5.0 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A WALK from the former REI location at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Lawrence to the new location in the Oakway Center. Participants: David Cooper, Whitney Gould, Mark Hougardy, Christiane Hougardy, Holger Krentz, Guy Pritchett, Jorry Rolfe.

## Dan's Trail to Dimple Hill

March 7, 2026

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 7.5 miles, 1,500 (Moderate)

A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY made the hike even more enjoyable! Bright blue skies greeted us at the top where we enjoyed the view at lunch. Participants: Lynn Meacham, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle.



*Lunch with a view.*

## Raptor Loop

March 8, 2026

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 4.0 miles, 700 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER WAS BEAUTIFUL on our hike! A great two hours on the trail. Participants: Lynda Christiansen, Marguerite Cooney, Whitney Gould, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Holger Krentz, Guy Pritchett, Shelley Tinkham, Dorothy van Winkle, Sina Wibstad.

## Thurston Hills

March 13, 2026

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Assistant Leader: Heidi Anderson

Photographer: Margot Cortez

Hike: 7.3 miles, 1,104 ft. (Moderate)

THIS WAS A ONE-WAY HIKE starting at the main trailhead on Highway 126 and ending at the terminus of Weyerhaeuser Road. Dave, Heidi, Jorry, and I set up the shuttle—thank you! The weather held with no rain, although parts of the trail were muddy. Considering that it was the middle of March, we saw

quite a few varieties of flowers: trillium, violets, hound's tongue, osoberry bushes, and lots of stoncrop and spring queen. A big thanks to Heidi and Holger for leading while I brought up the rear. Participants: Heidi Anderson, Lynda Christiansen, David Clinger, David Cooper, Margot Cortez, Elizabeth Grant, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Lynn Meacham, Jorry Rolfe, Jean Stover, Sue Wolling.



*Verdant Thurston Hills.*

## Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

March 14, 2026

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

SIX REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS AND THREE GUESTS enjoyed a very pleasant springtime walk through the park. The trillium is in full bloom and more varieties of flowers will soon join them. Thank you to members for always making this a fun hike. Participants: Marguerite Cooney, Terry Falkenstern, Sandy Horner, Janice Silvestri, Elizabeth Van, Dorothy van Winkle.

## Hardesty Viewpoint

March 15, 2026

Leader: Jeff Orendorff

Hike: 8.0 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

A GREAT DAY FOR A HIKE on this wonderful trail. The weather was cloudy and cool. Participants: Elena Cantoran, Jeff Orendorff.

## Mt. June / Sawtooth Rock

March 16, 2026

Leader: Jean Harris

Hike: 6.0 miles, 1,000 (Moderate)

PAUL AND I HAD A GLORIOUS HIKE, enjoying the forest, gentle breezes, warm sunshine and cool shade. From the top of Mt. June, we could see Mt. Bailey, Thielsen, Diamond Peak, Mt. Bachelor, all Three Sisters, Washington, Three Fingered Jack, and Jefferson. Fabulous! The Sawtooth trail over to Sawtooth Rock has ups and downs, brushy stretches, and bare ground. The steep, grassy meadow gave views of closer mountains to the south, Bohemia Mountain and Fairview Peak, plus a look

back at Mt. June. We so enjoyed this opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Participants: Jean Harris, Paul Winther.

## Kentucky Falls

March 18, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Steven Johnson

Hike: 4.4 miles, 800 ft. (Easy)

**KENTUCKY FALLS IS A GREAT SPRING HIKE.** The hike through the dense forest was as green as it gets, and the three waterfalls were at their peak. It also helped that we did this hike on a beautiful sunny day. The drawback of this hike is that it takes as long to drive to the trailhead as it takes to hike into the falls. Still, our group of four had a great day that we completed with an after-hike snack at The Beer Stein. Participants: Marguerite Cooney, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham.



*Marguerite, Lynn, and Holger at Lower Kentucky Falls.*

## World Water Day—Salmon Creek

March 22, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 8.4 miles, 950 ft. (Moderate)

**TODAY WE HIKED EAST ON THE TRAIL** along the north bank of Salmon Creek, then returned west along the south bank of the rushing river. The total distance was 9.8 miles, with an elevation gain of just over 1,300 feet. Several fallen trees failed to slow down our fast-paced group. Participants: Diana Dinn, James Dinn, Steven Johnson, John McIntyre, Lynn Meacham, David Morris, Francesca Negri, John Ostrom, Angie Ruzicka, Gwynn Sawyer, Darko Sojak.



*Beautiful Salmon Creek.*

## Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders

**Margot McDonnell: 2/4** 22 Participants

**Jean Stover, Janet Jacobsen: 3/4** 9 Participants

**Janet Jacobsen: 3/11** 10 Participants

**Sandra Sigrist: 3/18** 16 Participants

**Margot McDonnell: 3/25** 19 Participants

## Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Various Leaders

**Jorry Rolfe: 3/3** 5 Participants

**Sandra Sigrist: 3/10** 10 Participants

**Margot McDonnell: 3/17** 5 Participants

**Jorry Rolfe: 3/24** 6 Participants

## Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.0–9.4 miles, 1,040–1,300 (Moderate–Difficult)

**Jeff Orendorff: 2/6** 2 Participants **2/25** 3 Participants **3/4** 2

Participants **3/6** 4 Participants **3/13** 3 Participants **3/18** 2

Participants **3/20** 3 Participants

**Darko Sojak, Angie Ruzicka: 3/1** 13 Participants

**Karen Yoerger, Sandra Sigrist: 3/15** 12 Participants



**SCIENCE/EDUCATION**

## Camas Bakery & Oregon Air and Space Museum

February 28, 2026

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Conservation, Science, & Education: 1.0 miles (Easy)

**WE ENJOYED VISITING THE CAMAS COUNTRY BAKERY** and having a meal inside the historic schoolhouse located on the grounds. Then we took a short drive to the Oregon Air & Space Museum. The museum showcases planes and historical items related to the history of aviation and space

technology. Participants: Patricia Esch, Whitney Gould, Mark Hougardy, Christiane Hougardy, Holger Krentz, Evelyn Nagy, Guy Pritchett, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield.

## **Museum of Mental Health in Salem**

**March 12, 2026**

**Leader: Kathie Carpenter**

**Conservation, Science, & Education: 4.0 miles (Easy)**

**WHAT AN AWESOME TRIP!** The good vibe on the train set the tone for the entire day, and our visit to the Museum of Mental Health was nothing short of amazing. It's a real gem of a museum, thoughtfully designed and packed with fascinating artifacts and information. What really moved it up from history to living history and current events were our three guides, each with a distinct personal connection to the State Hospital. They generously shared their insights and experiences, and connected us emotionally as well as educationally. We were all deeply affected and agreed that the museum exceeded our expectations. After lunch, we had plenty of time to explore the Willamette Heritage Center, which was also fun and fascinating. It rained all day, and our train home was late, but I was lucky to be leading such a great group of folks, who contributed to the day's success with their good attitudes and good conversation. I highly recommend this exact itinerary if you have out-of-town visitors you want to impress, or if you're looking for a day well spent on your own. Participants: Jane Allen, Anne Campbell, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Clara Freeman, Whitney Gould, Vicky Hanson, Sandy Itzkowitz, Guy Pritchett, Marian Sparks, Roberta Thompson, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield.

## **Eugene Natural History Society, March Talk**

**March 20, 2026**

**Leader: Angie Ruzicka**

**Conservation, Science, & Education: 0.8 miles (Easy)**

**WE HEARD A FASCINATING PRESENTATION** about the invisible microorganisms in a drop of water. Despite their tiny size, interactions between these organisms and oceanic food webs have a big impact on carbon flow and nutrient cycling. The enthusiastic presenter used beautiful line drawings and colorful graphics to tell the story of this hidden world. Participants: Patricia Esch, Whitney Gould, Mark Hougardy, Christiane Hougardy, Holger Krentz, Evelyn Nagy, Guy Pritchett, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield.



**STEWARDSHIP**

## **Arboretum Care**

**March 15, 2026**

**Leader: Mike Smith**

**Stewardship: 0.5 miles, 100 ft. (Mixed)**

**T**HE FIRST VISIT BY THE OBSIDIANS to help out at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum was a success! With six members and

one guest, we were instructed by Patrick Wegner and Executive Director Ilana Jakubowski, who did her share of spreading gravel and cutting back growth. We worked at the Oak Savannah exhibit, removed grass encroachment on the walkway, started to put fescue into areas that were used as shortcuts, took out organic growth on the paths, spread gravel over almost all of the paths until we ran out of gravel and, with Angie and Patrick's supervision, weeded out the small circular area with a surrounding bench. We aren't done, but we almost are, and we will wait for Patrick's instructions for the next visit to finish this area, and perhaps begin work on the Oak Woodlands exhibit. Participants: Teresa Bowen, David Cooper, Denny Ellis, Angie Ruzicka, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak.



*Removing grass encroachment from the walkway at the Oak Savannah Exhibit. Photo by Darko Sojak.*



*The Obsidians' first visit to help out the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum was a success! Photo by Mike Smith.*

## Ridgeline Drainage and Debris Removal

February 28, 2026

Leader: Matt Bell

Stewardship (Mixed)

FOR THIS OUTING, WE WORKED INDEPENDENTLY to improve the drainage and clear debris from a deadfall beside the Ridgeline trail. Our group hiked up the Ridgeline into Spencer Butte Park from the Willamette and 52<sup>nd</sup> Trailhead parking lot. We stopped to assess the deadfall from most of the large fir beside the trail. The debris was catching and holding water on the trail, something that is detrimental to the longevity of the trail. We broke into two groups with a few people staying behind to quickly scatter the debris and restore the ability of the trail tread to shed water. The rest of our group continued on to the long drainage ditch just below the switchbacks to clear and extend it. We made short work of the tasks and were able to hike out a little early, a rare treat for our volunteers. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing extra delicious goodies for all the volunteers. Participants: Matt Bell, David Clinger, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Hobe Robin, David Schwieger, Gretchen Sotomayor.

## Spencer Butte Steps

January 31, 2026

Leader: Matt Bell

Stewardship (Mixed)

OUR GROUP MET UP AT THE MAIN SPENCER BUTTE PARKING LOT and, after a brief discussion of the day's tasks, broke into three groups. One group stayed at the trailhead to clean the steps and kiosk. The second group hiked up to the summit to

clean debris from the summit steps. The third group hiked up and then down the Tie Trail to clear duff and slough coming from a rootwad from the last icestorm, before hiking up to the summit to join in on the step-cleaning. We made pretty quick—if a bit dirty—work of clearing the summit steps. Everyone was happy to not have the mess and noise from the leafblower, but the work did go a little slower without it. Special thanks as always go to Janet for bringing additional snacks. Participants: Fletcher Bell, Nathaniel Bell, Matt Bell, David Cooper, Jennifer Crim, Janet Jacobsen, Eva Mogart, Dave Predeek, Marian Sparks.

## CLASS

## Trip Leader Summer Kickoff & Orientation

March 22, 2026

Leader: David Cooper

Class

CARLA COOPER, JEAN HARRIS AND MARYANNE REITER covered using the website, getting started leading, and safety. Lots of questions from those in attendance were answered. Participants: Kristen Anderson, David Clinger, Marguerite Cooney, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Whitney Gould, Jean Harris, Mark Hougardy, Jonathan Jost, Jane Leng, Mandy Lund, Vern Marsonette, Margot McDonnell, Valerie Metcalfe, Roy Nelson, Rae O'Brien, Jeff Orendorff, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott, Lynn Stearney, Bojana Stefanovska, Jean Stover, Dorothy van Winkle. (Signup online was not required, so all participants are not listed.)

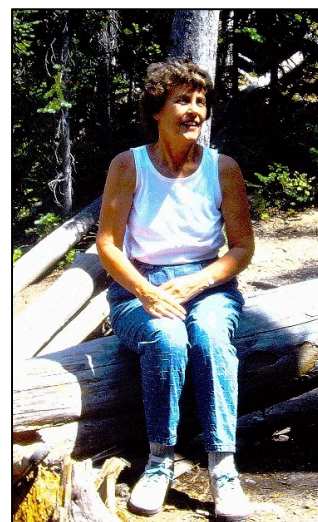


Conditions on the trails change constantly as this photo by Janet Jacobsen shows. The trail was clear for the regular Tuesday hike but had this mess on Wednesday morning.

To report a problem in Eugene city parks or on the trails, go to:



[eugene-or.gov/2411/Park-Watch---Report-A-Safety-Issue](http://eugene-or.gov/2411/Park-Watch---Report-A-Safety-Issue)



Pat Dark will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday May 14 at Cascade Manor. A life member, Pat attended eleven summer camps with her husband Bob (d.2010). For many of those camps, they were part of the set-up crew. Together they made it possible for others to enjoy camping for a week. Happy Birthday, Pat!



Friday, April 24, 2026



## Sea Otters!

*presented by Katie Russell with the Elakha Alliance*

**J**OIN ELAKHA ALLIANCE'S KATIE RUSSELL for an engaging, educational evening all about sea otters and the Elakha Alliance. Katie will share efforts to support the restoration of sea otters to the Oregon coast—reviving an essential keystone species to help restore balance to nearshore ecosystems. You will also learn fascinating facts about sea otters, discover the vital role kelp forests play in coastal health, and get tips on how to tell the difference between sea otters and river otters. Whether you're an otter enthusiast or just curious about our coastal ecosystems, this is a fun and informative event you won't want to miss!

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



*Otter photos by Gretchen Kay Stuart.*

### Potluck & Presentation

Friday, April 24, 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 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:**  
April 7, 14, 21, 28  
May 5, 12, 19, 26

### Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

**Wednesdays:**  
April 8, 15, 22, 29  
May 6, 13, 20, 27

CHECK FOR DETAILS & SIGN UP ONLINE

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

## STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



### St. Vinnie's Stewardship Tour

8:15 AM-NOON  
Friday, April 24

### Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance

9:00 AM-NOON  
Saturday, April 25

5:30-8 PM  
Wednesday, May 27

### National Trails Day Trail Maintenance

9:00 AM-NOON  
Saturday, June 6

*Have a question?*

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

## Get Acquainted Hikes

Second Saturday of the Month:

May 9

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!

## Mt. Pisgah Sunset Full Moonrise

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

April 30  
June 27

Guests welcome  
CHECK FOR DETAILS  
& SIGN UP ONLINE

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



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

Thursday, April 16

Tuesday, May 12

4:30 - 7:30 PM at the Lodge

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/entertainment](http://obsidians.org/entertainment)

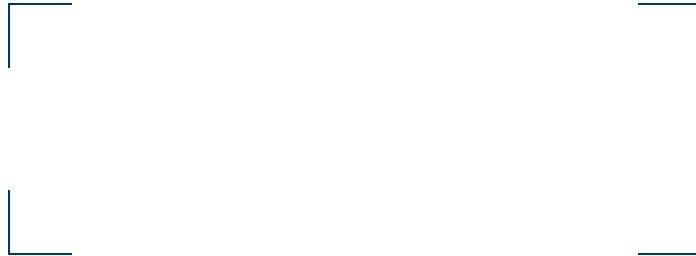


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April 2026



*Sedum photo by Margot Cortez. See the Thurston Hills trip report on page 8.*

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