



Inside This Issue

National Trails Day 2026	1
Summer Evening Hikes	2
Old Obsidian Photos & Slides	2
In Memoriam	3
Welcome Wagon by Mike Smith	4
How Did the Lodge Get Built?	5
April Board Notes	6-7
First Aid Class	7
Trip Reports	9-12
Kam Wah Chung Museum	13
Potluck	14
Upcoming Events	15
Photo of the Month	16

Dates to Remember

May 12	GameNight!
May 29	Potluck
May 29	Bulletin Deadline
June 3	Board Meeting

Summer Camp Dates

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

Current event schedules at:

obsidians.org

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram:

[facebook.com/theobsidians@Eugene_obsidians](https://www.facebook.com/theobsidians@Eugene_obsidians)

Bulletin Submission Policy

To submit articles for publication, please send directly to: obsidians-bulletin@googlegroups.com

National Trails Day June 6, 2026

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IS YOUR CHANCE TO GET OUTDOORS, connect with your community, and give back to the trails you love. Become trail stewards on any trail, anywhere. Watch the Obsidian website for trail maintenance and stewardship activities.



Ridgeline Trail System — established 1940; now 19 miles with additional segments underway.

Howard Buford Recreation Area — established 1972; now with nearly 30 miles of trails.

Thurston Hills Natural Area — established 2017; now with 12 miles.

Photo by Gwyneth Iredale.

Obsidians Have Celebrated National Trails Day Since 1993

June 5, 1993 American Hiking Society launched its first ever National Trails Day on the first Saturday of June to celebrate, maintain, and protect America’s trails. Participants could join local events—such as hikes, cleanups, and trail maintenance. Hundreds of organizations participated. Obsidians quickly sponsored hikes to Brice Creek, led by Virginia Prouty, and Mt. Chucksney, led by Buzz Blumm.

June 4, 1994 Obsidians celebrated National Trails Day by promoting the newly built 14-mile Coast Horse Trail System with a hike that meandered through the scenic Cape Mountain area led by Mary Ellen West.

June 3, 1995 The Club participated in the official dedication of the 108-mile Eugene-to-Crest Trail at the corner of East 2nd Ave. next to the Ferry Street Bridge.

June 1, 1996 Obsidians attended the Sweet Creek Trail Dedication with Obsidian President Sylvia Harvey saying a few words.

June 5, 2010 Obsidian Trails Committee and Eugene Parks and Open Spaces staff sponsored a Spencer Butte West Trail project –where there were steep sections that needed to be reinforced with gravel and retaining walls. It was Janet Jacobsen’s idea to have a National Trails Day Bucket Brigade. Trail Maintenance Chair Matt Bell wrote to publicize the event: “the more people we can get to participate the better.”

What happened? *We brought gravel up to the lowest section of fencing, the farthest a powered-wheelbarrow can go up the trail. From there the buckets were filled and*

Continued on page 8

Summer Evening Hikes

Lisa Van Liefde

EVENING HIKES ARE STARTING AGAIN ON APRIL 29, and will continue through the summer. Connect with friends and meet new ones while getting your heart rate up after work or dinner! The planned schedule is every other Wednesday evening, 6:00 PM, at a trailhead in the Eugene/Springfield area.

These in-town hikes are a perfect way to learn basic leadership skills. I'll happily assist anyone who is interested in leading or co-leading. More evening hikes can be added with more leader volunteers, so contact Lisa Van Liefde if interested!

Schedule through June (July–Sept will post at a later date):

5/13: Willamette Riverbank / Alton Bake Park, 4 miles

5/27: Spring and 30th to Hendricks Park, 2.7 miles

6/10: Dorris Ranch, 4.5 miles

6/24: Fox Hollow to Mt. Baldy, 3.6 miles

DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE OLD PHOTOS!

*The Librarian/Historian Committee
would like to fill some gaps in the Obsidian Archive*

THERE IS A DEARTH OF IMAGES SHOWING OBSIDIAN ACTIVITIES DURING THE 1980S AND '90S.

If you have tucked away (pre-digital) photos and slides of activities from those decades, please consider loaning (or donating) them to us to be scanned into the archive.

Contact the Librarian/Historian Committee:

obsidians-historian@googlegroups.com

or phone Bert Ewing 541-342-7306

or Bea Fontana Librarian/Historian Chair



*Bert continues to scan historic slides and prints
into the Obsidian Archives.*

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 (Interim) 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

© 2026

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 June Bulletin
Friday, May 29

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff:
Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz

Copy Editors:
Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger

Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:
Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana

Assembly/Mailing Team

Managers: Lou Maenz, Nancy Raymond

Team: Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin,
Barbara Gunther, Jane Hackett,
Anne Hollander, Yuan Hopkins,
Judy Newman

IN MEMORIAM

KEN PARRAMORE

August 29, 1945–April 3, 2026

KEN JOINED THE OBSIDIANS AFTER ATTENDING THE 2014 STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN SUMMER CAMP with his partner, Verlean McCoy. They quickly became familiar faces on trails and bus trips. Most recently they attended the 2025 Wallowa Lake Summer Camp. On the June 20, 2019 Cottage Grove bus trip, Obsidians and guests stopped at the Creswell Historic Schoolhouse to meet hosts Verlean and Ken, who welcomed everyone with refreshments and a tour of the ongoing school renovations. Ken and Verlean also hiked at Mt. Pisgah where smiles and greetings were exchanged with Obsidians along the trail. Verlean said that Ken very much enjoyed being a member of the Obsidians and participating in bus trips and summer camps. A celebration of life was held on May 2 at the Creswell Historic Schoolhouse.

Editor's note: A complete obituary was in The Register-Guard, April 26, 2026.

PATRICIA BEAN

March 16, 1950 –April 7, 2026

PAT JOINED THE OBSIDIANS AFTER ATTENDING THE 2012 MT. BAKER SUMMER CAMP. She signed up for three more camps: Orcas Island 2015, Ruby Mountains 2016, and North Cascades 2017. During the North Cascades camp, she worked with Darlene Mancuso. Between the two of them, they delivered record breaking concessions earnings of \$269.

In 2017, Pat joined the *Bulletin* Assembly team where she continued, except for a brief break, until 2023. It was a pleasure to know and to work with her.

PAT DARK

May 14, 1926–April 13, 2026

PAT MARRIED BOB DARK IN MARCH 1979 and attended her first summer camp with him at the Strawberry Mountains. That fall she joined the Obsidians, and soon she and Bob were strategic members of the setup crew for many of the nine summer camps they attended. Pat was a good sport and fit right in with all these new adventures that were not for the faint of heart. They would load up their van with Obsidians for other events that they co-led—rafting the challenging Owyhee River that involved a 2½ hour portage; renting houses at Sun River for two weekends of skiing at Mt. Bachelor; organizing two overnight hiking trips along the Rogue River to Paradise Lodge for 46 and 47 Obsidians respectively. She was on the 75th Anniversary committee to plan the banquet at the Coburg Inn. Using her artistic talents, Pat decorated the tables with black cans overflowing with colorful flowers.

Pat always stepped out of their van or trailer with a smile, ready to get to work. Together she and Bob made it possible for so many to enjoy camping, rafting, skiing, and hiking. After her husband Bob passed in 2010, she continued to enjoy bus trips. Later, as she approached the century mark, Pat looked forward to reading each issue of the Obsidian *Bulletin*.

Preceded in death by her sons Brad and Dean Morin, she is survived by son Mark Morin and his wife Ellen, and eight grandchildren. Pat's Celebration of Life was held at Cascade Manor on May 2.

Editor's Note: An obituary for Pat was in The Register-Guard, April 29.

Mitchell Daletas

May 5, 1933–July 12, 2025

WHEN MITCH JOINED IN 1970, his application listed seven Oregon mountain climbs. He climbed fourteen more mountains, some with his sons Thom, Steve, and Ken, who also joined the Obsidians. At the 50th Annual Meeting in 1976, Mitch was awarded his three-peak patch and Ken received his ten-peak patch. Ken was Climbs chair in 1982, the same year he led a Mt. Hood climb with his brother Tom and sister Sharon, who then joined. Mitch's last Obsidian climb was Mt. St. Helens in 1990 with Ken. Their climbing records read like a family chronicle—father, sons, and daughter tied together by rope and summits.

Mitch led Diamond Peak three times. His September 1981 trip report shares an adventure: *We spent Saturday evening at Blue Lake. Left camp at 6:30 am. Sunday. After six hours of climbing and a couple of rolls of crepe paper to mark our return trail (crepe paper markers were retrieved on descent) we reached the summit. It was warm with a slight breeze. The temperature increased considerably on our descent making a dip in Blue Lake quite refreshing. All those who started also finished.*

Mitch opened and operated Mohawk Pharmacy in Springfield, retiring in the late 1990s.

Editor's Note: An obituary for Mitch and his wife who died in 2023 was in The Register-Guard, April 12, 2026.

WELCOME WAGON

Mike Smith

TREE SWALLOW NESTING BOXES, EACH WITH ART WORK PAINTED ON THE PLYWOOD, were spaced more or less evenly on my left. Like mailboxes on an avian country road, they disappeared around the bend ahead. On our right was a pond from an old gravel pit where Jim told me he had occasionally seen otters, although there were none today. He said the pit would soon overflow from rain, flooding the brown grasses nearby. We were on Green Island, north of the confluence, and Jim, who had extensive experience with the 90 nesting boxes, explained how he and others did a swallow survey. Both of us carried binoculars, because one does so in this kind of place. Jim was a good birder; I, not so much.

Jim told me that Kit, part of the survey crew, didn't believe in the idea that touching a bird was bad for it. "Kit opens the door, and usually the bird flies out, so he counts the eggs or young and then closes the door. If he has to, he can lift the bird off the nest to do it." In any case, the survey crew had been dealing with 90 nesting boxes and counting every bird there for a long time. They had useful data, and I was impressed with their skill and dedication.

My route to this spot was 15 miles, and eight long months with biopsies and scans, revealing I had advanced prostate cancer, the same disease that killed Barry Lopez. I began androgen deprivation therapy in July, estrogen side effects that made things on my body too large or too small, plus hot flashes. My 45 radiation treatments occurred from mid-October to Christmas Eve. Each day I had treatment, I left an outdoor essay, appropriately numbered, in the waiting room. The essays were for anyone to read, but they were my daily therapy as surely as the photons that were shot into my pelvis.

I surmised that hormonal changes seemed to improve my observational skill and ability to find beauty in unexpected places. I removed encroaching brush on Lowder Mountain trail in the Three Sisters Wilderness, eschewing trail work rules by refusing to remove a clump of Cascade asters I found, moving cone flower and tiger lily stems out of the way rather than cutting them, as I wrote in *Not Quite by the Book*. Jim arrived at the radiation center on my 42nd treatment day. I acted like a welcome wagon host in the waiting room, totally foreign to how I perceived myself, perhaps again an effect of my mixed-up mischievous hormones. I introduced him to our small group who had similar times for treatment, how we all supported each other, our camaraderie. These were the best 15 minutes of my day. Jim found interesting my then 42-essay pile in the room for those awaiting treatment, figuring the author might be interesting as well. I had been about to take the essays home after I finished at the center. However, the prior day the techs told me that many were reading them, so I left them there. I told Jim he could take them home as long as he brought them back. He must have realized that even in this short time, I might be interesting enough that it might be worth showing me Green Island, so here we were on a gray day that promised drizzle but not much else.

Back near the river, there was a red tail hawk that flew over along with a couple of flickers, some robins, and my only contribution, a spotted towhee. Jim said he was interested in my story about iron in heme and magnesium in chlorophyll, the only difference between the two structures in their central part, adding he needed to do a lot more reading.

We continued walking, not seeing much this time of year, until we reached the riverbank, seeing what looked like a 2-3 knot current with significant erosion on our side. While I was nautically investigating, Jim spotted a pair of eagles on a tree across the flow. It's been a while since I have seen a pair of eagles. He got closer to the edge of the river than I, who thought the water looked cold with no easy egress if one went in. We talked about radiation. Jim had finished his sixth treatment and told me he now had fewer than forty to go. I liked his attitude. I counted up my treatments on my essays. Jim felt like he had some changes he needed to make; I told him what I did, but we both knew that each of us has to find his own way.

We finished our walk with a good look at many wigeons in the distance and then returned to the vehicles.

I went out to Green Island not knowing what I would see, remembering *North Country* writer Sam Cook's thoughts that "you don't go out looking for cool things to happen, but you go out knowing that cool things could happen every time. I just tell people, just go, just get out... You never know what you're going to see, but you aren't going to see it in the living room."

It wasn't until afterward that I realized the connection I was destined to find that day was not with plants, the sky, or even the eagles, but with Jim, from the welcome wagon and essay writing side of me to his welcoming me into an important part of his life. When I, by illness, was unable to find connections in nature, I developed others in the radiation center. I wasn't going to find them in my living room, but I could find them in the inner waiting room of a radiation therapy center.



Photo by Darko Sojak.

How Did the Lodge Finally Get Built?

Librarian/Historian Committee

TOM TAYLOR, PRESIDENT IN 1960 AND LODGE ARCHITECT, is 93 years old and living in Silver Springs, Nevada. In recent phone conversations, he was in good spirits, sharing again the Lodge story. For the 90th Anniversary, Tom sent a handwritten letter telling the story of how they finally decided to build a lodge. Here are parts of his letter.

SOMETIME DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION, some of the early members of this club decided it would be great to have a clubhouse. At a time when any cash was hard to come by, an opportunity presented itself. A lot on the corner of 17th and Oak was for sale for about \$200.00. The purchase was made and held on to. After The Great War, when everyone was tired of meeting at homes, storing outdoor gear at homes, and placing the sign-up sheet at various businesses and the YMCA, it was decided to start the building program again....

We had some \$4500 of savings available and a city lot. It seemed a small city lot worth \$12,000 and a \$4500 building budget was asked. We decided to buy a larger, cheaper piece of property and sell the city lot. Some time was spent on the search with about a half dozen properties considered. The present piece was decided on because it was about 4.8 acres for about \$4,500. Besides, it was remote and in the Oregon woods—perfect for an outdoor club. At the time, 30th Avenue had not been built and the N.W. corner of the property had access only by a dirt road. No utilities were on-site—a daunting venture with a real piece of adventure and hard work ahead. A rough road was hand cleared, the building site and parking lot hand cleared.

At this time the committee decided I would design the structure. We had about \$12,000 available (after sale of our



Tom installing the sink in the Lodge kitchen.

April 1961 photo by Ray Sims.

earlier property). It was decided we needed a room for about 50, a small meeting room, a kitchen, restroom, storage for outdoor gear. ...Many other improvements followed over the years and I am sorry I have not seen the building since 1973...

I have missed you all. I am also sorry if some of my numbers and names are not included - It has been a long time and many miles on the trails and peaks since.

On belay,
Tom Taylor

Librarian/Historian notes: Its completion, largely due to members' volunteer labor and donations of materials, was recognized at a dedication celebration May 19, 1963. In October 1962 we began using the word *Lodge* instead of *Club-House* because it saved us \$75/year on insurance. **See also:** *Obsidian Lodge History: The First Thirty Years* [October 2017 Bulletin](#) [p.11] and *Continuing the Obsidian Lodge Story* [April 1999 Bulletin](#) [p.8].



The back wall goes up October, 1960.



The concrete porch and stairs were completed on the east side of the Lodge in May, 1964. The look of the east side has remained relatively unchanged since then.

Old photos from the Obsidian archives.



First snow at the Lodge in November, 1961. Obsidians had gatherings inside as early as April, 1961, but there was still plenty of work to complete inside and out.

A better view of the original main entrance on the north side.

An entry room and memorial rock climbing wall were added in 1974.

The Lodge underwent a major renovation and expansion in 2006.

The memorial wall was incorporated into the redesigned entryway and rededicated.



APRIL BOARD NOTES

April 1, 2026

From minutes by Jean Harris

Angie Ruzicka called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Steve Davis, Jean Harris, Mark Hougardy, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Sue Zeni. Others present: Carla Cooper, Jim Northrop, Lana Lindstrom.

AGENDA ITEMS

Kudos: Dalen Wilhite for exemplary work for climb school and Carla, Dave, Maryanne and Jean for an excellent leader training meeting.

Minutes: The Board approved the March board meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report (Sue Zeni): US Bank and Vanguard Funds have been updated with Sue Zeni, David Hawkins and Angie Ruzicka as registered users. March donations were \$1,499. Transferred \$3,010 in donations from 2026 through March 16 to the Capital/Contingency Fund. Added \$500 to the Post Office for mailing *Bulletins*. Revenue was \$8,087 (not including donations) and Expenses were \$3,855 in March for a total net revenue of \$4,232. Pam Caples and Kate Lange performed an audit of the 2025 Finances. Moved \$44,038 from 2025 General Revenue to the General Fund. This is a part of our new year-end closing procedure. The finance committee has completed work to fulfill requirements for a financial audit. Sue will step down as treasurer in July, 2026, opening an opportunity for a new treasurer. The Board approved March expenditures.

NEW BUSINESS

Team Building Fun (Angie): We participated in a Lighthouse sorting activity with 10 Oregon coast lighthouse descriptions to put in location order, north to south.

Forming a Nominating Committee for new board members—Discussion (Angie): This committee will have five members who will choose three candidates for three-year positions on the board. Dave, Lisa, and Sue are leaving. Angie is chair, Lana, Sandra, and two more members will form this committee. They will meet once, then pursue possible candidates.

Report on Trip Leader Training (Jean Harris): This was a productive meeting of nearly 30 people. Carla guided us through the process with helpful screenshots on how to use the website. Dave and Jean had information regarding drivers, reimbursement, asking participants if they have medical issues to share with the leader, and having an assistant the first time. The website has helpful resources in the Guide for Trip Leaders and the Trip Leaders Checklist. Checking the calendar for other events is wise. Maryanne guided the group through an activity regarding safety issues that may occur, then pointed out the distinction between preventable and actual incidents. Safety and shared information was emphasized. The group had time to plan, ask questions, and interact.

Finance Committee Presentation—Informational (Sue): Sue explained the treasurer's report and the steps taken to align accounts with stated percentages. The finance committee has completed work to fulfill requirements for a financial audit.

Sue will step down as treasurer in December, 2026, opening an opportunity for a new treasurer. Jim asked about insurances, fixed costs, and future costs. The changing liability laws may impact insurance costs.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on REI Tabling Event—Information (Sandra for Lisa): Summary report: The initial opening involved REI employees welcoming all with cowbells, gifts, and a grand entry Friday morning. The Obsidian table was near cashiers, so there was great exposure with constant people at the table. The publicity poster pulled people in with comments and conversations. Vintage climbing gear was a big hit along with the TV monitor with rotating slides. Younger people were interested. Perhaps 50% of the conversations were with folks under 50, who weren't aware of the Club. Some say we hike too fast. The REI employees were friendly and connected. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped during the three days! In addition, Lisa spoke briefly with the Black Diamond and Outdoor Research representatives. Both companies have departments dedicated to supporting non-profits for co-branding shirts or gear. My sense is that REI will also be open to supporting future branding requests. Suggestion: the Publicity, 100th Anniversary, and Concessions committees should consider connecting to discuss co-branding opportunities for the next generation of leader or 100th anniversary shirts, stickers, or other swag for general use. It's important the Club communicates cohesively when asking for financial support in the form of free or subsidized gear.

Liability Waiver—Discussion (Angie): The OR liability waiver - SB1517 is soon to be law when Governor Kotek signs the bill. As an outdoor organization, we are working to prioritize safety for all of our activities and prepare proper liability waivers to align with the new policy. Using a summary of the bill prepared by Steve Davis, we brainstormed what needs to be considered as we make changes. This task will continue at the next meeting. Many are gathering information to guide us. Jim Northrop has worked on liability issues in prior years and will gather more resources.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Wim Aarts & Steve Davis): The Climbs Committee successfully ran the snow section of the Basic Climb School with a full house of 25 participants. We had myriad cheerful, engaged, and experienced volunteer assistants, as well as top notch instructors and excellent coordination from school dean Dalen Willhite. Because snow conditions locally were abysmal, we elected to hold our snow field day at Timberline. Most class participants were able to make it and all had a great time learning how to travel safely as a group on steep snow climbs. Next up: the rock section of climb school will happen in early April, and is being ably coordinated and led by Maryanne Reiter. The Climbs Committee also received several purchases, including a spool of prusik cord, picket cables, webbing, and a pair of Rocky Talkies to enable and enhance communications between the leader and assistant leader during

climbs (until now some leaders provided their personal Rocky Talkies, but not all leaders have them).

Concessions (Carla Cooper): Concessions sales for the March potluck totaled \$42. Thank you Chris Shuraleff, Lynn Meacham, and Marguerite Cooney for working the potluck.

Entertainment (Ane McKee): March's Potluck & Presentation was the Obsidians Summer Camp Rally. Karen Yoerger, Camp Boss, and Angie Ruzicka, Summer Camp Committee Chair, gave details of what to expect and how to register for Camp Ruzicka that will be held in August in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. We collected \$14 from the donation box.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): While we only had one rental in March, the Lodge has been seeing a lot of use from our own committees. Climbs has been busy with planning and Climb School. The Trips Committee held a leader training event. Entertainment sponsored an interesting talk from adventure author Michael Cooper. There was an initial meeting of people interested in planning for our 100-year anniversary. Next month could be really busy with six days of rentals and one tentative.

Lodge Grounds (Nancy Whitfield): No grounds work party occurred this month although a couple individuals worked on projects. The fence continues to be cleared. Due to more concern about liability and safety, a small removable chain has been installed at the top of the north rock stairs. A sign will be hung on both the top and bottom chain. Spring is here!

Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz): We published and mailed 200 *Bulletins*.

Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde): Committee members prepared for the REI Grand Re-opening tabling event 3/12–3/13. Scott created a beautiful slide show, presented on a 24" screen. Signage/posters were updated and

bookmarks purchased. Club volunteers were organized over the three days. An important goal was to increase awareness of the Club, especially to a younger demographic. An endless stream of folks of all ages and abilities stopped to view the images on the TV, and the antique climbing gear. We had lively conversations, and most were extremely pleased to learn of the club and looked forward to viewing the website. The event was a success, with endless thanks to all those who volunteered to staff the table! Our next tabling event will be held at Mt. Pisgah's Wildflower Festival May 17.

Safety (Maryanne Reiter Interim Chair): The Safety Committee completed the updates to the Safety Manual and it was posted on the website. The document on suggestions for first aid kits was also updated and posted on the website. The Committee Chair gave a safety talk at the Leader training on March 22. The NOLS class now has 19 students signed up. The next focus of the Safety Committee will be on updating the meds in the first aid kits and editing the accident investigation form.

Science Education (Angie Ruzicka interim): We sponsored two activities this month, a local trip to the Eugene Natural History Society speaker and another a field trip by train to Salem's Museum of Mental Health.

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): This month the Obsidians stewards worked on two local projects. Thank you all.

Summer Camp (Angie Ruzicka): March was a busy month preparing for the Summer Camp Rally for the March Potluck & Presentation including developing the slide show and finalizing the registration form. We also met to craft the confirmation email with instructions for paying online.

Trips (Dave Cooper): 32 trips. \$26 in nonmember fees. A successful leader training was held. Thanks to presenters Jean Harris, Maryanne Reiter, and Carla Cooper.



First Aid / CPR / AED Class

May 17, 8:30–3:00

Instructor: Laurie Monico

Cost: \$25 for certification card and supplies

At the Lodge



- This is an American Red Cross Heartsaver certification class.
- 8:30 to 12:30 will be the official class for getting your certification card.
- 1:00 to 3:00 will be an optional, scenario-based training to practice what you learned in the morning. This will cover not just the first aid skills, but the additional considerations you will need to manage if someone is injured on an outing. This includes summoning help and determining an evacuation plan.
- Sign up online.

OBSIDIANS MISSION:

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

Obsidians/National Trails Day History, continued from page 1

passed up the trail. The twenty-one volunteers each took a short section of trail and walked the partially filled buckets to the next person. Though each bucket of gravel was only partially full, our efforts led to 32 feet of the trail graveled in about three hours. No one has promoted another bucket brigade.



Photographer unknown.

Every year since 2013, Obsidians have observed National Trails Day with at least one stewardship outing.

June 7, 2014 The Publicity and Trails Committees coordinated again with the City to hold a Ridgeline Celebration at the Spencer Butte parking lot with information, demonstrations, photograph exhibits, and hikes.

June 3, 2017 Three stalwart Obsidians met at the main trailhead under threatening skies to celebrate National Trails Day. Dave Cooper, Tom Rundle, and Matt Bell hiked up the Spencer Butte Main Trail towards the summit steps to chip, scrape, scoop, and sweep gravel and other debris from the steps in the summit portion of the trail. Twelve guests and thirteen members attended two Get Acquainted hikes.

June 1, 2024 Darko Sojak led a Stewardship activity at the Native Plant Nursery at Buford Park, and Matt Bell led a Trail Maintenance to brush trailsides of the Ridgeline Trail.

For information about how to get involved locally, contact Darko Sojak. (darchey@comcast.net)



Photo by Jim Pierce.



Photo by Janet Jacobsen.



Photo by Darko Sojak.



Photo by Matt Bell.

TRIP REPORTS



Bike Trips

Easter Bunny Rides Again

April 5, 2026

Leader: Richard Hughes

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Bike: 26.0 miles, 600 feet (Moderate)

BUNNY EARS AND BUSHY TAILS all came out today to welcome the warmth of spring while pedaling along the bucolic county roads. Our stop at Lovely All Day Cafe in Springfield was not only nourishing, but the music fed our souls, too. Participants: David Clinger, Patricia Esch, Kirk Hendrickson, Richard Hughes, Jeff Lange, Kate Lange, Lana Lindstrom, Andrew McIvor, David Morris, Larry Myers, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lyndell Wilken, Sue Wolling, Sue Zeni.



CONSERVATION, SCIENCE & EDUCATION

Eugene Natural History Society, March Talk

April 17, 2026

Leader: Joanna Alexander

Conservation, Science, & Education: 0.8 miles

HERON BRAE'S TALK, "FOR THE LOVE OF OAK," was a unique one for the Eugene Natural History Society. She combined science with a kind of embodied spiritual relationship that we should all strive to have with our native fellow beings such as the Oregon white oak, and all of the beings that are connected to it. We left wondering which oak tree we would adopt to develop our own special relationship. Participants: Joanna Alexander, Evelyn Nagy, Meg Stewart.

Tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant

April 20, 2026

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Conservation, Science, & Education

SIXTEEN OBSIDIANS TOURED the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) Treatment Plant for almost two hours with guide, Amelia. Ten biked there and six drove. The system has 850 miles of sewer lines and 49 pump

stations in the Eugene-Springfield area. The facility has 90 employees and operates 24/7; it cleans about 35 million gallons per day (53 Olympic-sized pools). First, the 'grit' is removed (wipes, stones, plastics, etc). Then the sludge goes through several aeration basins which provide 'dinner' for the different types of bacteria that convert dissolved organic matter into settleable solids. The effluent is treated with chlorine and then sodium bicarbonate to neutralize the chlorine. The entire process takes about a day. By the time the fluid is dumped into the Willamette, it is clear and cleaner than the water in the river! However, it is not potable. The facility also purifies biogas, a byproduct of the anaerobic digestion process, and pipes it directly to NW Natural. MWMC also owns a Biocycle Farm which includes 400 acres of poplar trees planted in different phases and also provides sludge to grass seed farmers to fertilize their fields. It was an interesting tour! Participants: Julie Barnas, David Clinger, David Cooper, David Hawkins, Richard Hughes, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Jeff Lange, Lana Lindstrom, Becky Lipton, Vern Marsonette, Andrew McIvor, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lori Stein, Meg Stewart.



Obsidians fit in one of the pipes. Photo by Amelia Remington.



Cyclists gathering at Alton Baker Park before riding to the treatment plant. Photo by Darko Sojak.

St. Vinnie's Stewardship Tour

April 24, 2026

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Conservation, Science, & Education: 0.5 miles

LEARNING ABOUT ST. VINNIE'S RECYCLING OPERATIONS was fascinating! They offer 2.5-hour tours of their housing services and recycling services twice a month to the public, and we joined about 25 others. We were transported in two vans and toured four locations: the book warehouse (sorting and selling donated books and other media), mattress recycling, the car lot and appliance recycling center, and the clothing warehouse. The organization works really hard to reduce the amount of 'stuff' which goes into landfills. Participants: Anne Campbell, Larry Dunlap, Jenny Gusset, Vicky Hanson, Lana Lindstrom, Helen Martz, Dave Predeek.



EXTENDED TRIPS

Crater Lake SS / XC

April 10, 2026

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Assistant Leader: Heidi Anderson

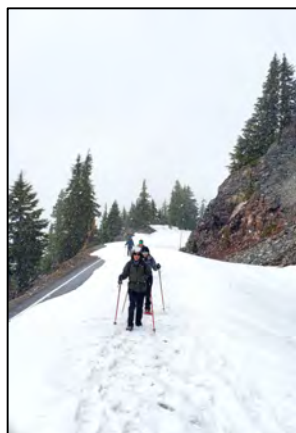
Extended Trip (Mixed)

WHAT A FABULOUS THREE DAYS with an interesting group of Obsidians! Check out the pictures in the gallery! On Friday, we met at Cooper Creek Reservoir (Sutherlin) at 9:30 AM for a 5.8-mile hike under sunny skies. Much to our surprise, there was quite an assortment of wildflowers: western houndstongue, calypso orchids, shooting stars, trilliums, fawn lilies, violets, Hooker's fairybells, several types of white flowers, and flowering currant bushes. The numerous dogwood trees with giant white petals stole the show.



The group at Cooper Reservoir. Photo by Heidi Anderson.

The drive to Union Creek 'Resort' took 2.5 hours, in part due to a short, but intense lightning storm with a deluge. We stayed in two separate houses. Dinner was shrimp scampi, pasta primavera with either white sauce or pesto, spinach salad, and a scrumptious chocolate cake. On Saturday, we left at 9:30 AM to drive the half hour to Crater Lake. Six Obsidians snowshoed from the parking lot clockwise to the second overlook, and enjoyed clear skies and great views of the lake and Wizard Island while eating lunch. Four snowshoers barely saw the lake, almost invisible under low clouds, and then joined Ranger Corey on a tour. They learned about the history, ecology, and geology of the area and also observed human penguins (other tour participants) sliding down a slope face first! Three Obsidians skied five miles on the East Rim Road starting at the visitor center. No views, but decent snow.



Photos by Ane McKee (L) and Gretchen Sotomayor.

The weather was a medley of different conditions: very low clouds, snow flurries, tiny hail (graupel), clear skies, and a blizzard which dumped at least an inch in about 30 minutes! Dinner prepared and served by participants in the other house was delicious: lasagna rolls, yummy spring soup, tossed salad, muffins, and cookies. After breakfast on Sunday, everyone meandered across the street to view the Rogue River Gorge, a short trail with incredibly close views of the constrained river rushing through a narrow lava channel. Some folks hiked further downriver, enjoying the views as the river widened out. Most of us drove straight home thereafter, but two Obsidians hiked the 5-mile round trip Boundary Springs trail through a burn area to see the headwaters of the Rogue River. Participants: Heidi Anderson, Kristen Anderson, Paula Anderson, Sharon Friedland, Richard Hughes, Brenda Kameenui, Lana Lindstrom, Ane McKee, Evelyn Nagy, Emily Rice, Gretchen Sotomayor, Carlos Sotomayor, Jean Stover, Dorothy van Winkle.



Brenda, Gretchen, Richard, and Ane playing Rummy Tiles. Photo by Lana Lindstrom.



HIKES

North Bank Habitat Area

March 28, 2026

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 7.0 miles, 1,300 ft. (Moderate)

BLUE SKIES AND A COMFORTABLE HIKING TEMPERATURE OF 70 degrees greeted our group of hikers to this North Bank hike from the Talbert trail to Whistler's Overlook. This trail was a new experience for our group. We hiked through wide-open, flower-covered meadows, and were able to get some great views of the North Umpqua River. After our scenic hike, we stopped at Backside Brewing in Sutherlin for a very nice meal. Participants: Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Rae Obrien, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

April 11, 2026

Leader: David Cooper

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THE RAIN DETERRED A NUMBER OF PEOPLE, but it let up for our walk to Hendricks Park and back. Participants: Mari Baldwin, David Cooper, Anand Gupta, Gwyneth Iredale, Nile Iverson, Barbara Orsi, Mariette Vogeletzang-Liu.

EMX / Downtown River

April 16, 2026

Leader: Steve Adey

Hike: 6.5 miles (Moderate)

THE WALK TOOK A BIT OVER THREE HOURS with a variety of stops including the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. It takes under ten minutes to process an LTD pass. Participants: Steve Adey, Mari Baldwin, Marguerite Cooney, Sandra Sigrist.

Tamolitch Blue Pool

April 18, 2026

Leader: Charla Eubanks

Hike: 4.1 miles, 350 ft. (Easy)

WE HAD A DELIGHTFUL HIKE IN TO BLUE POOL. The weather was great though the trail was still pretty muddy. It was nice to see Jean's group, too—fun! Participants: Marguerite Cooney, Charla Eubanks, Elizabeth Grant, Madison Kingsbauer, Brana M, Eva Mogart, Misty Moore, Guy Pritchett, Kimberly Wetzell.

Tamolitch Blue Pool: Brisk Hike

April 18, 2026

Leader: Jean Harris

Hike: 4.0 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

SPRINGTIME ALONG THE MCKENZIE IS BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL, with sunny skies and temperatures from 38–63 degrees. We enjoyed the riverside trail, the lava portions, and the river views as we approached Tamolitch Pool. Traces of recent snowfall appeared in a couple of shady spots. We

marveled at the underground stretches of the McKenzie above Tamolitch Pool that were created 1,600 years ago by lava from Belknap Crater that buried three miles of the river. We enjoyed our hike and chatted with Char's group along the trail. Participants: Kathy Bronson, David Clinger, Ben Converse, Jean Harris, Gwyneth Iredale, Steven Johnson, Lynn Meacham, Roy Nelson, Marian Sparks.

Trestle Creek Falls Loop

April 19, 2026

Leader: Jeff Orendorff

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

WE HAD GREAT WEATHER FOR THIS HIKE, AND the waterfalls were in great form today. The volunteer trail maintenance crew have obviously been through here and are much appreciated. The trail was clear of obstructing deadfall, and a steep spot has been graveled. Participants: Milan Kothari, Jeff Orendorff.

Silver Falls / Abiqua Falls

April 24, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Steven Johnson

Hike: 8.0–10.0 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

WINTER STORMS AT SILVER FALLS STATE PARK have closed off access to both North and Upper North Falls. However, we were still able to view the other eight falls in the beautiful Trail of Ten Falls loop. We started our hike from the North Canyon District parking area and had a very pleasant lunch at the South Falls Lodge before returning to our trailhead. After our hike, we drove past the town of Scotts Mills to take the challenging drive and short scramble to view Abiqua Falls, one of Oregon's most beautiful waterfalls. We completed our adventure with dinner at The Yard Food Park (we really need one of these in Eugene) before driving home. Participants: David Clinger, Marguerite Cooney, Steven Johnson, Karen Knowlton, Vern Marsonette, Lynn Meacham, Valerie Metcalfe, Michael Moffitt, Monica Ozwoeld, Marian Sparks.



Rough road into Abiqua Falls trailhead.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte/ Raptor Loop Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Darko Sojak: 3/27 3 Participants

Mark Hougardy: 3/29 10 Participants 4/5 10 Participants

Karen Yoerger, Tamara Bressi: 4/1 10 Participants

Mike Smith: 4/8 14 Participants 4/22 12 Participants
Christiane Hougardy: 4/12 10 Participants 4/19 8 Participants
Janet Jacobsen: 4/15 7 Participants 4/29 13 Participants

Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen, Dan Gilmore: 3/28 7 Participants
Janet Jacobsen, Marion Sparks: 3/31 4 Participants
Janet Jacobsen: 4/7 7 Participants
Randy Sinnott, Marion Sparks: 4/14 9 Participants
Margot McDonnell: 4/21 5 Participants 4/28 5 Participants
Lisa Van Liefde: 4/29 7 Participants

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 4.0 miles, 1,300 (Moderate)

Jeff Orendorff: 4/1 2 Participants 4/3 3 Participants 4/8 3 Participants 4/10 2 Participants 4/15 2 Participants 4/17 2 Participants 4/22 2 Participants 4/24 3 Participants 4/29 3 Participants
Sandra Sigrist, Heidi Anderson: 4/30 11 Participants



STEWARDSHIP

Blanton Section Trail Improvements

March 28, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Assistant Leader: Dan Gilmore

Stewardship (Mixed)

N**A****T****U****R****A****L****A****R****E****A****S****A****N****D****T****R****E****E****S****V****O****L****U****N****T****E****E****R****C****O****O****R****D****I****N****A****T****O****R****, J****O****E****W****A****K****S****M****U****N****D****S****K****I**, greeted us at the 52nd and Willamette Trailhead and walked us through the project to improve drainage and clear the trail corridor on the Blanton Trail. After choosing our tools—loppers or terra hoes—we set off. We took note of the wildflowers and kept an eye out for poison oak as we dug, trimmed, and cleared. It wasn't easy to get photos with everyone bent over working so intently, but the effort showed. Back at the parking lot, we enjoyed the treats and the conversation with Joe about the Parks and Open Space plans for the Arlie and South Eugene Meadows Trails. Participants: David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Dave Predeek, Sony Sawad, David Schwieger.



Green Island Work Party

April 3, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 1.0 miles, 10 ft. (Mixed)

T**O****D****A****Y**, **O****U****R** **B****L****A****C****K****B****E****R****R****Y** **R****E****M****O****V****A****L** **T****E****A****M** worked at peaceful Green Island. Eradicating the pesky, thorny vines was fun, though exhausting. Thanks to all the tireless volunteers. Participants: BJ Campbell, Bill Campbell, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Angie Ruzicka, David Schwieger, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak.



Clara Emlen working on blackberries.

Earth Day Habitat Restoration

April 22, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 1.5 miles, 30 ft. (Mixed)

H**A****P****P****Y** **E****A****R****T****H** **D****A****Y** **A****N****D** **A** **B****I****G** **'****T****H****A****N****K****S****,** **V****O****L****U****N****T****E****E****R****S****'** for being folks that we could count on. Today, we focused on the shining geranium, an invasive annual plant that spreads across large areas of the Mount Pisgah Arboretum. Participants: Bill Campbell, BJ Campbell, David Clinger, Gwyneth Iredale, Rae Obrien, Angie Ruzicka, David Schwieger, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak.





Kam Wah Chung Museum

Marti Gerdes

IN MY FIRST WEEK AS CURATOR OF KAM WAH CHUNG MUSEUM IN JOHN DAY, I discovered I had to take over payments for the safety-deposit box storing the museum’s historic opium.

That’s just one of the many quirks and wonders of Grant County, a part of Oregon that too many of us know too little about. Eastern Oregon is known for its ‘freeze-and-fry’ syndrome, a feature that makes asphalt roof shingles curl like corn chips and garage-less cars need block heaters. Grant County covers 2.9 million acres, over 60 percent of which is publicly owned and 54 percent is national forest—a perfect place for Summer Camp. And you can get there fast, because the county has only one stoplight (in John Day).



The region makes for some of the best, and most idiosyncratic, exploring in all of Oregon. The Sumpter Valley Dredge, for example. It’s worth the 90-minute drive from Summer Camp—because how often can you walk aboard an early 20th-century gold dredge (now on the National Register of Historic Places) and try to imagine the brain of the guy who thought, “We need to build a big ship in the middle of the desert to dig a channel where we *might* find gold.”

Other Grant County museums worth a visit are the DeWitt Museum and Depot Park in Prairie City (open Fridays and Saturdays, 541-820-3603); Grant County Historical Museum (541-575-0362); Grant County Ranch and Rodeo Museum (541-575-5545); Northwest Big Game Museum (541-575-2055); and my (biased) favorite, Kam Wah Chung & Co. State Heritage Site (tours daily, 541-575-2800).

Kam Wah Chung, in downtown John Day, is a must-visit destination for this year’s Summer Camp. It’s one of only 17 National Historic Landmarks in Oregon (others include Bonneville Dam, the Columbia River Highway, and Timberline Lodge). Formerly a Chinese apothecary, trading post, and Chinese religious and community center, Kam Wah Chung was built circa 1866 and was home to two locally prominent immigrants, ‘Doc’ Hay and Lung On. Doc Hay’s herbal expertise made him the go-to doctor for the Chinese community, but also for American cowboys and ranchers who’d heard he could heal injured limbs that Western-medicine doctors wanted to amputate. An entrepreneur, Lung On dabbled in a bit of everything, from horse racing and real estate to helping area workers with legal matters. He even had the first car dealership in Eastern Oregon (he sold Fords).

Chinese laborers gathered at Kam Wah Chung for communal meals (the kitchen exhibit today features enormous cooking pots), games, and de-stressing with opium. Kam Wah Chung’s visitor center, two blocks from the historic site, tells stories about Chinese workers’ influence on mining, railroad building, and logging in Eastern Oregon, as well as their migration paths from China.



After Lung On and Doc Hay died, the building was boarded up, contents intact, and ignored for decades. Kids broke into the building to steal firecrackers Doc Hay had stocked to sell for Chinese New Year. When the City of John Day discovered—while planning to build a municipal swimming pool on the site—that the City owned the building, they opened it up to discover a veritable time capsule untouched for decades: Doc Hay’s herb collection, Lung On’s not-yet-cashed checks, dry goods, and religious objects left exactly as the two men had used them.

I served as museum curator in 2004–5, the first year Oregon Parks and Recreation Department managed the museum. I’d guess that by now, the State no longer pays to keep Kam Wah Chung’s opium stash in a bank vault. But I could be wrong. Ask the tour guide when you visit.



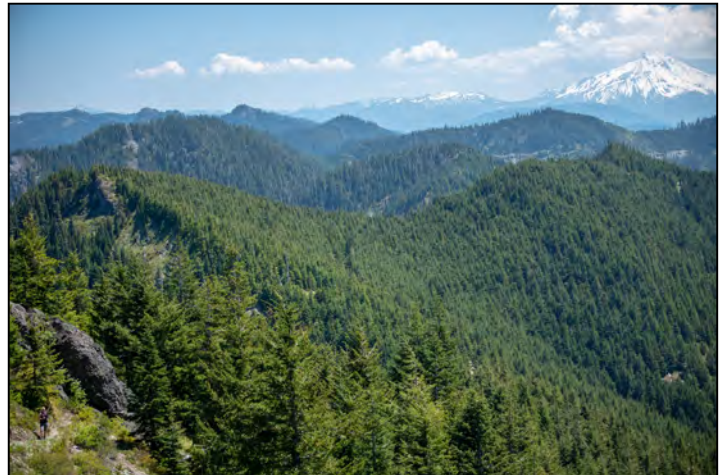
Friday, May 29, 2026

Hiking in the Aftermath of Oregon's Wildfires

with Franziska Adair of HikeOregon.net

JOIN US FOR A COMPELLING PRESENTATION BY FRANZISKA ADAIR on wildfires and their impact on a handful of trails in Oregon. Combining her love of the outdoors and photography, she will present before and after views of local trails, discuss recent wildfires, how they started, how large they became, and what they changed. Learn why fire plays an important role in healthy ecosystems—and when it becomes dangerously destructive.

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.



Before and after photos from Rocky Top trail.

Potluck & Presentation

Friday, May 29, 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:

May 12, 19, 26

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

Wednesdays:

May 13, 20, 27

June 3, 10, 17, 24

CHECK FOR DETAILS & SIGN UP ONLINE

obsidians.org/events

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Think Globally, Act Locally

12–2 PM

Monday, May 11

Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance

5:30–8 PM

Wednesday, May 27

Wednesday, June 24

National Trails Day Trail Maintenance

9:00 AM–NOON

Saturday, June 6

Have a question?

Contact obsidians-stewardship@googlegroups.com

Get Acquainted Hikes

Second Saturday of the Month:

June 13

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.

June 27

Guests welcome

**CHECK FOR DETAILS
& SIGN UP ONLINE**

obsidians.org/events



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

Tuesday, May 12

Tuesday, June 9

No GameNight! In July & August

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



OBSIDIANS
P.O. BOX 51510
EUGENE, OR 97405

OBSIDIANS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
EUGENE, OR
PERMIT 803



May 2026

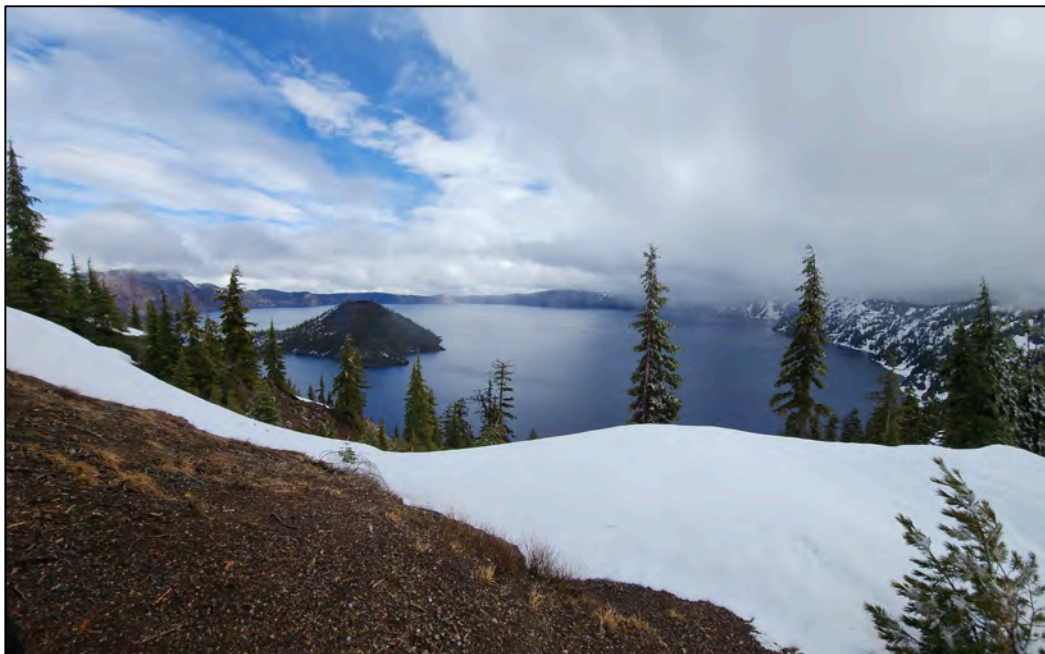


Photo by Gretchen Sotomayor. See the Crater Lake trip report on page 10.

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