

## Inside This Issue

Forest Ranch Property	1
In Memoriam	2
Update Your First Aid Kit	3
Antihistamines Revisited	3
Summer Camp Geology	4
Obsidians Butte to Butte	4
Scientific, Conservation, Sci/Ed?	5
Wrong Trail by Mike Smith	6
South Eugene Meadows Update	7
May Board Notes	7-8
Trip Reports	9-14
Help Wanted: Publicity	14
Upcoming Events	15
Photo of the Month	16

## Dates to Remember

June 9	GameNight!
June 26	Bulletin Deadline
July 1	Board Meeting

## Summer Camp

August 23-29 Summer Camp

Current event schedules at:

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

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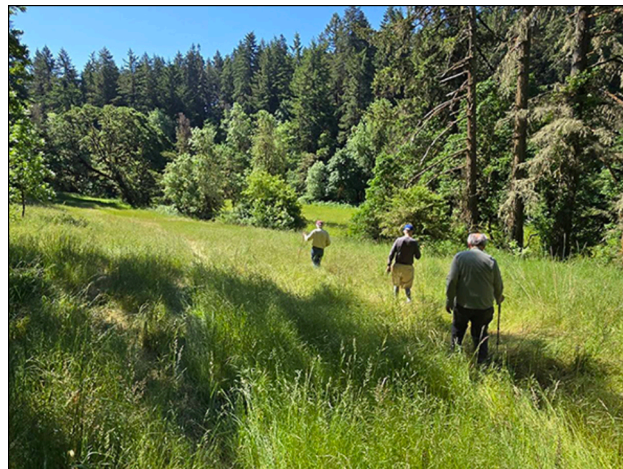
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# FOREST RANCH PROPERTY

*Darko Sojak*

**A** FEW WEEKS AGO, JANET JACOBSEN INTRODUCED ME TO JOHN WINQUIST, a board member of Eugene Parks Foundation.

I learned that in the last two years, the Eugene Parks Foundation purchased and turned over to the city 92 acres which includes the year-round headwaters of the middle fork of Spencer Creek, near Lorane. John told me that there is a very nice two-mile loop trail around the property, with two significant issues that need to be resolved before the park opens to the public in the summer of 2028.



*At the Forest Ranch Property.*

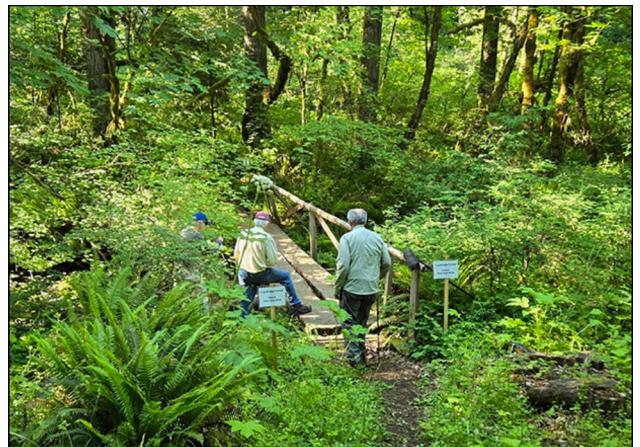
When I heard that, my stewardship light immediately went on, thinking about how I could connect the dots and help the Eugene Parks Foundation.

In further conversation with John, I learned that there are some makeshift temporary decks that currently serve as bridges. Walking and driving are seriously degrading the quality of the wetland. The worn, rotting bridges and boards are completely inadequate and past their useful life, and need to be permanently replaced.

**Photos by Darko Sojak.**

Today, David Cooper, Mike Smith, and I met with John at Forest Ranch, to see the property along Spencer Creek and explore potential stewardship projects.

Beautiful old forest and adjunct peaceful meadows are gems, and offer huge potential for Eugene's greater Rivers to Ridges Vision. We all agreed that a solution is urgently needed, and could be a huge opportunity for Obsidians and other stewards.



*The old bridge.*

This nearby project will be a great opportunity for all Obsidians volunteers who are looking to contribute to the community through their commitment to making the world

*(Continued on page 2)*

## IN MEMORIAM

### BILL McWHORTER December 9, 1942—April 28, 2026

**B**ILL, HIS WIFE MAXINE, AND DAUGHTERS LAURA AND VALERIE, WENT ON THEIR FIRST OBSIDIAN HIKE IN SEPTEMBER 1976 to Windy Lakes when, fortunately, there were no mosquitoes. Even with his medical practice and other professional commitments, Bill found time over the years to participate in 31 trips and lead climbs and ski trips. In May 1983 he led a 20-mile overnight ski tour around Broken Top, and wrote: *This trip was billed as strenuous, and proved to be that, with 20+ miles of skiing and several thousand feet of elevation gain. However, it was also beautiful, fun, picturesque, and exciting.* Bill had the energy on a Mt. Jefferson climb to add more miles in order to quickly assist two climbers who descended on the wrong trail. Bill and Maxine attended the 2006 Sequim Summer Camp. For the June 2008 potluck, he shared his ultralight flying adventures over Oregon locales. In recent years, Bill and Maxine with their dog often greeted Obsidians on the Ridgeline Trails.

Obsidian Sam Miller shared these words about Bill: *“The Most Unforgettable Character I Ever Met” was a long-running Readers Digest series. It featured stories about people who left lasting impacts on the lives of others. If I were to write such a story Bill McWhorter would be prominently featured among the people who have shaped my life as an outdoorsman. We spent time together on numerous outdoor trips over 40 years. We kayaked Glacier Bay, climbed the Matterhorn and Mt. Cook, cycled throughout the United States, hiked the John Muir Trail, and skied 26 miles roundtrip to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. These are just a few of the many outings we did together. He was intelligent, thoughtful, and physically tough. Our time together outdoors will always be a warmly remembered part of my life story.*

Bill is survived by his wife Maxine, daughters Laura and Valerie, and four grandchildren.

*Editor’s Note: An obituary was in The Register-Guard, Sunday, May 3.*

### Forest Ranch property: (Continued from page 1)

around us a better place. Volunteering not only benefits the organization or community we work with or for, but also benefits us greatly through connection, fulfillment as a sense of purpose, and the joy of physical labor.

So please, keep an eye on the Obsidians schedule and get ready for some fun projects: [obsidians.org/events/category/conservation/](https://obsidians.org/events/category/conservation/)

To learn more, visit: [https://www.eugeneparksfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Forest-Ranch\\_pitch-sheet\\_11x17\\_07102024\\_cmprsd.pdf](https://www.eugeneparksfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Forest-Ranch_pitch-sheet_11x17_07102024_cmprsd.pdf)

See also: *Eugene Parks Foundation Completes Forest Ranch Acquisition* by Andy McIvor and Janet Jacobsen [February 2025 Obsidian Bulletin](#) (page 13).

Many thanks to Janet Jacobsen for the introduction, to Mike Smith and Dave Cooper for their expertise, and John Winquist for his dedication and willingness to give us a shot.

#### OBSIDIANS MISSION:

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

## OBSIDIANS

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

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

### Officers & Board of Directors

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Lisa Van Liefde, Vice President  
Jean Harris, Secretary  
Sue Zeni, Treasurer  
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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  
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Safety ..... Maryanne Reiter  
Stewardship..... Darko Sojak  
Summer Camp ..... Angie Ruzicka  
Trips ..... Dave Cooper

### The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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

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

For reprint rights, contact:

*The Obsidian Bulletin*

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

#### Deadline

for July Bulletin

Friday, June 26

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



## Hey, Obsidians, It's Time to Check Your First Aid Kit!

**I**T'S SPRING AND OUR THOUGHTS TURN TO BEING OUTSIDE MORE. With outdoor play occasionally comes outdoor injury and the need for a first aid kit. Each person who participates in an Obsidian activity should carry a minimal first aid kit. The kit should contain general items as suggested below and items for your specific needs. Check the contents of your kit to make sure the supplies are in good shape and that the medications are not expired.

### Suggested Contents:

At least 6 each\* acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen  
and antihistamine tablets for pain and swelling  
(\*need regular replacement)

Personal medications

Protective gloves

Disinfectant wipes

5 Band-Aids, 2" x 4½"

5 Band-Aids, 1" x 3"

Butterfly bandages

Rolled elastic bandages, 3 inches wide

Surgical Tape, 1"

Moleskin/blister patches

Safety pins, #3s

Duct tape

Emergency Blanket (space)

Triangular cloth bandage

Insect bite treatment (optional)

Foam sit pad (makes great splint)

### Other items for preventing injuries or discomfort

Sunscreen

Lip protection

Electrolyte mix or tabs (hot weather)

Bug repellent

## ANTIHISTAMINES REVISITED

*Maryanne Reiter, Safety Committee Chair*

**F**OR YEARS THE OBSIDIANS HAVE CONSIDERED BENADRYL TO BE THE OPTIMUM TREATMENT FOR AN ALLERGIC REACTION, BUT RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THINKING about antihistamines for treating allergic reactions, both in the type of antihistamine used and the protocol for administration. Previously, diphenhydramine hydrochloride (Benadryl®) was recommended for mild and moderate allergic reactions and even for anaphylaxis, which is a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction. In the last few years there has been more concern about diphenhydramine hydrochloride, which is considered a first-generation antihistamine, since it crosses the blood brain barrier and can cause drowsiness or brain fog, and prolonged, frequent use has been linked to a higher

risk of developing Alzheimer's. Because of these concerns, the Obsidian Safety Committee is recommending second generation antihistamines for mild and moderate allergic reactions. These include cetirizine (Zyrtec®), Loratadine (Claritin®), or Fexofenadine (Allegra®). Of those, cetirizine appears to be the fastest acting, though it may cause some drowsiness. For anaphylactic reactions, antihistamines are not enough. The person needs epinephrine immediately. While antihistamines can help relieve allergy symptoms like hives and itching, they work too slowly in severe reactions. To learn more about how to tell if someone is having a severe allergic reaction visit: [wms.org/magazine/magazine/1356/anaphylaxis-clinical-practice-guidelines/default.aspx](https://wms.org/magazine/magazine/1356/anaphylaxis-clinical-practice-guidelines/default.aspx)

# ROCK OF AGES

## Geology of the Strawberry Mountains

*Sue Wolling*

**T**HE STRAWBERRY MOUNTAINS ARE PART OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS—in fact, they're arguably the jazziest part of the Blues, including some of the highest peaks, scenic lakes, and lots of great hiking trails.

So where did the Strawberry Mountains come from? They actually have a split personality. The geology of the western portion is completely different from that of the eastern part, with a big split along the Indian Creek fault.

The rocks of the western part of the Strawberries, known as the Canyon Mountain Complex, are really old—278 million years. The complex is an 'ophiolite', for you Scrabble players out there—a section of sea floor from the western Pacific that was lifted up and moved. About 140 million years ago, this complex smashed onto the North American continent and stuck there. The result is a collide-oscope of rocks unrelated to everything around them. Among those is an unusual one called serpentine—so named because it's greenish to black, has a scaly appearance, and is slick or greasy to touch. As you drive south on Highway 395 from Canyon City, you might see outcroppings of serpentine.

This western part of the Strawberries is notable for its minerals. In 1862 gold was discovered in Canyon Creek, and Chinese miners and laborers flocked to the area. You can learn about their history at the Kam Wah Chung Museum in John Day, which is definitely worth a visit. During the World Wars chrome was extracted from Canyon and Baldy Mountains, and there are also small deposits of copper and nickel.

The geologic history of the eastern part of the Strawberries is much more recent. About 14–7 million years ago, the same volcanic activity that caused the Columbia River Basalt flows over most of eastern Oregon also erupted to produce Strawberry Mountain. In its prime, this 9,038-foot peak is thought to have

resembled Mount Hood, but erosion has taken its toll.

Over the next few million years, the surrounding land collapsed because so much basalt had oozed out from below. This formed the Columbia River Basin. Meanwhile, the Strawberries got squished to the north and tilted, leaving Strawberry Mountain 6000 feet above the John Day Valley. This could explain some of the steep hiking trails you'll encounter at Summer Camp.

Finally, things cooled down—a lot. During the Pleistocene Era, only 1-2 million years ago, glaciers up to 1000 feet thick covered the Strawberry Mountains. As these glaciers advanced and retreated, they carved up the mountain into U-shaped valleys and rock beds that hold seven alpine lakes. If you hike up to Strawberry Lake, you'll be hiking up the terminal and recessional moraines those glaciers left behind. Strawberry Lake itself is a tarn, occupying a cirque—a bowl-shaped depression left behind by a glacier. If you hike up there on a sunny day, you can claim to have been to 'Cirque du Soleil'!



*Strawberry Lake. Photo by Holger Krentz.*

The list of hikes in the Summer Camp booklet includes trails in both the east and west sides of the Strawberries, so you can walk through the Strawberries' geologic history. For an authoritative version of that history, please see *Roadside Geology of Oregon*, an excellent resource written by University of Oregon professor Marli Miller. It's available in the Eugene Public Library.

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## Looking Forward to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Butte to Butte?

**E**UGENE'S FAVORITE COMMUNITY ROAD RACE is scheduled for Thursday, July 4, 2026. Sign up and join **Team Obsidians** for a 4-mile Mayor's Fitness Walk.

Questions: contact leader Darko Sojak, [darchey@comcast.net](mailto:darchey@comcast.net)

*Part of Team Obsidians  
at the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Market parking lot  
after the 2022 Butte to Butte walk.*



# What's in a Committee Name? Scientific or Conservation or Sci/Ed Committee???

**T**WENTY YEARS OLD IN 1947, THE OBSIDIANS ESTABLISHED A **Scientific Committee** with Frank Sipe, past Obsidian President and Associate Professor of Botany at the University of Oregon, as Chair. He wrote this editorial for the December *Bulletin*: *Science has arisen from the desire of human beings to understand their surroundings. We enjoy what we see in proportion to how well we understand what we see. We Obsidians have chosen, as the center of our activities, the wild areas of the western country, where Natural History spreads before us in a never-ending panorama. We should not be content just to stand off and admire Nature; we should become an active agency for conserving what we have. To do this, we must understand as well as enjoy. We should exercise our heads, as well as our feet and legs. Let the Science Committee know your interests and help build a program.*

Seven years later, the November 1954 *Bulletin* announced that the Scientific Committee was renamed **Conservation and Scientific Committee**. The following year co-chairs Mike Stahl and Karl Onthank helped organize *the Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness*. Karl Onthank wrote: *Science has taken a back seat, the main work of the year being*

*conservation matters. Chiefly that of the Three Sisters Wilderness area and Upper McKenzie area. Two years later in the November 1956 Bulletin, there was another announcement: Due to the urgency in issues in Conservation, it was decided to separate the Scientific and Conservation Committee into two separate committees. This, it is felt, will be an important move.*

Jump to April 1998 *Bulletin's* report that the Science and Education and Conservation Committees were merged and renamed **Conservation and Education**. In the following years the Conservation Committee continued to be renamed, sometimes combined with Science and Education. No matter what the group is called—Conservation, Science, Sci/Ed, or Stewardship—it is the dedicated individuals volunteering their time who turn plans into action.

Current Obsidian President Angie Ruzicka is also the Conservation/SciEd Chair. She said that she enjoys working with Obsidian committees like Stewardship and is looking to build connections with other groups doing science education in Eugene--WREN, Mt. Pisgah, McKenzie River Trust, and the Eugene Natural History Society.

To view a spreadsheet with a chronological list of the many committee chairs as well as committee name changes please visit the **HISTORICAL ITEMS** page in the **MEMBER AREA** of the Obsidian Website:

[\*\*Obsidians Scientific, Conservation and Education Chairs 1948–2026\*\*](#)

*Editor's note:*

Frank was President in 1945  
and Scientific chair 1948-49, 53, & 56.

He was also Editor of the *Bulletin* in 1949.

Dan Sellard's interview with Frank Sipe  
was in the April 13, 1975 *Register-Guard*  
a few months before Frank's death  
on November 4.



*Frank Sipe in 1975.*

*Photo from a Register-Guard clipping in the Obsidian Archive.*

# WRONG TRAIL

Mike Smith

**I** DON'T KNOW WHY I TURNED AROUND.

I was looking at a mess. A mess to me is an inexact term I use for trail-blocking organic material: several broken large logs, assorted attached and unattached branches, other greenery, and mud, noting where it was—on the descent to Harper Creek on the South Willamette Trail (SWT)—and the size.



*This was the mess on the trail.*

*Photo by Mike Smith.*

I must have heard something, despite having removed my hearing aids due to the rain. A young woman stood about 10 yards from me, uphill on the trail. I didn't see a pack; she wore sneakers, not the best foot gear to hike, especially on a wet day, although I have encountered this before, once in pouring rain where the wearer planned to wear a plastic bag around her feet inside running shoes. I strongly suggested she not hike; she went anyway.

"Is this the Eula Ridge Trail?"

Uh Oh. She's going to be unhappy with my answer.

"No, this is the South Willamette Trail. Eula Ridge is back about a mile. Remember where the trail forked? You went right. You needed to go left."

About a quarter mile from the trailhead, the trail bifurcated; to the right, a sign on a tree said this was the South Willamette Trail (SWT), 5.1 miles to Hardesty Mountain Trail. Left went up Eula Ridge, which joined Hardesty Mountain Trail near the top of the mountain with the same name. It was a 14-mile loop. She hiked that extra mile, including a nasty stream crossing, and had to climb over logs in eight different places. I knew that because I had just hiked it, scouting the trail for logs needing removal. At least, she didn't have to traverse the mess where she found me. If there had been fewer blowdowns, I would have been further along the trail when she caught up with me, and she would be further from where she was supposed to have gone.

This was neither time nor place to suggest a map, a compass, or better clothing. Most of us out here have been

guilty of shortfalls in outfitting or taking hikes. I hoped she would learn something today from her mistake. I like maps and carry a compass, which I almost never use. The times I have used it, however, were important. Next time, maybe she will prepare in advance for the trip. On my trips to areas I haven't seen for a while, I usually check a map or CalTopo, and I have decent trail memory.

I have worked the SWT 25 total days; I have hiked it and Hardesty at least a dozen other times. Last year, I had power brushed the section where we were now standing. I was wearing a hard hat on a day that promised wind, always a potential danger in the woods. I had two small saws with me, lunch, water, and a space blanket in my pack. My wife knew where I had gone and what time I should be done. This woman was hiking alone. I understand that and don't criticize others who do; solitary hikes are often the best ones I take. Before I left the house, I threw in my golden yellow rain jacket, because it is better than my windbreaker. I ended up wearing it.

The stream was four feet wide, 15 inches deep, flowing fast, which made me stop a bit to think whether it was worth crossing, and if so how I was going to do it. I had gaiters, faced upstream when I crossed—quickly—using my walking stick to triangulate. I had no problem, and while my boots were wet, my feet stayed dry.

After I sent the woman on her way, I continued, scouting the next mile, stopping at the last log which I knew from the report. I knew now how to log out the trail, cut the blocking logs out, clear the messes. We needed two crews, one from the Eula Ridge side, where I started, the other from Crale Creek Road, where two years ago I found a shortcut to reach the high point on the SWT without a long hike from the west. This day, I put a ribbon marker at the user trail leading to the main trail so workers could find it coming from Crale Creek Road. I had a good outing.

I was mildly concerned for the hiker although not worried. She got well off track on a day where the weather was not forgiving, which would cost her time and energy. She would be warm enough hiking. It bothered me that she missed the easily visible trail sign. Despite my familiarity with the trail, I had a dedicated GPS plus one on my phone, which did have reception. I want to know where I am, my altitude, the closest way out, and the time. Going into the woods should not be taken lightly. I knew the weather forecast and wore a sturdy rain jacket. My rain pants were old but serviceable. I had good boots and gaiters. My taking the time and the right gear shows the respect I have for the country. There is a softer side, too. It is not enjoyable to be improperly equipped, especially in rain. I've been there and suffered. The SWT and other trails are lovely in spring. Water is everywhere. Violets, trilliums, and Nuttall's toothworts were blooming, Pacific wrens were calling and even a vulture flew overhead. I had a great hike. I'm afraid she did not.

When I got back to the trailhead, I noted the right front tire on her vehicle was significantly low. Sometimes bad days happen.

See you on the trail and hope it's not on a bad day.

# South Eugene Meadows Trail Update:

**W**ORK HAS BEGUN ON THE NEW PARKING AREA... on Willamette Street south of 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, across from the existing small trailhead parking area for Spencer Butte Park. The parking lot will have the usual trailhead amenities, ADA parking, a gate that's locked at night, a security camera and a crosswalk with pedestrian-activated flashing lights for crossing Willamette Street. Starting from the new parking lot trailhead, the connecting trail is still under construction to the new South Eugene Meadows Loop Trail. The 2.5 miles of new trails will open previously inaccessible meadows while protecting the area's unique oak and grassland habitats. It will open to the public later this summer. The trail is a collaboration between the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space and the Eugene Parks Foundation, a local nonprofit whose mission is to "create exceptional parks, open spaces, and trails for the Eugene community and visitors."

Above information is the from the Eugene City website that includes a map and photos:

[eugene-or.gov/5224/South-Eugene-Meadows-Park-Development](http://eugene-or.gov/5224/South-Eugene-Meadows-Park-Development)



*Lynn and Jorry walking on path by parking under construction.*

Photos by Janet Jacobsen.



## MAY BOARD NOTES

**May 6, 2026**

**From minutes by Jean Harris**

Angie Ruzicka called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board members present: Steve Davis, Jean Harris, Mark Hougardy, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Lisa Van Liefde, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Zeni. Others present: Karen Yoerger, Lana Lindstrom.

### AGENDA ITEMS

**Kudos:** Angie to Karen for the incredible summer camp work, to Pam Caples, who entered all the 95 entrants and collected the money, and to Lana for advice. Nancy and Sandra to Mark for his incredible Oregon City trip.

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

**Treasurer's Report (Sue Zeni):** April donations were \$2,500. This donation was specifically marked for the 100-year celebration fund and will be moved to the capital/contingency fund until 2027. Revenue was \$5,867 (not including donations) and Expenses were \$8,763 in April for a total net revenue of \$-2,896. Liberty Mutual Fire and Liability Insurance went up about 10% to \$6,179. This insurance is for the Lodge, grounds, and general liability. April income includes all the remaining revenue for the successful WFA class held at the Obsidian Lodge. The payment to NOLS for the class is \$4,800 and was paid May 1. The net revenue for the class was \$2,400 minus some STRIPE fees (most payments were made via STRIPE). Received one Obsidian member complaint that her credit card

was used fraudulently after her STRIPE payment. I followed up with STRIPE. STRIPE is a secure PCI-compliant payment processor and the card details are not stored on our system and is not available to the Obsidians. It is a very low probability that the issue came from her summer camp payment. The tax documents for the Obsidians have been completed by the accountant and will be sent in the first week of May. The Board approved the April expenditures.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Membership Committee Presentation (Lana Lindstrom):** Diane Schechter has been the chair for 15 years. Prior to 2022, becoming a member involved 3 signatures of hike participation. Now a new member can apply online and become a member immediately, using a credit card or a check. Greeters at potlucks welcome new members and have a seat for them. Carla and Lana deal with technical issues with the new system. Diane sends reminder emails to those who don't renew. She shared a chart that tracks membership trends for 2005–2019. Website improvements for membership will be addressed soon.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Summer Camp Update (Karen Yoerger):** Summer camp work is progressing well, registration and payment is complete for 95 people and 16 on the waitlist. Camp booklets are ready. Arrangements have 20 staying in RVs and 70 split between tents and bunkhouses. Requests for accommodations have 3–5

per bunkhouse. A scouting trip around a May 21 appointment will figure out logistics and check roads and trailheads.

**100-Year Celebration Update (Angie & Lisa):** An enthusiastic group has lots of ideas. A spreadsheet has been created and the next step is to create categories, find a chair, and continue with planning.

**Liability Waiver (Angie/Steve):** SB1517 has been passed, signed, and in effect as of 4/4/26. Steve and Jim created an extensive list of possible risks. The discussion involved how much to have added to the waiver section and possible ways to sign the waiver. The center for nonprofit law can be used to advise us. More data will be gathered for specifics, such as bikes and water sports. This topic will continue at the June board meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Bus Trips (Jim Northrop):** Best Oregon Tours cancelled its Malheur Birding trip, scheduled for April. Not enough folks signed up.

**Climbs (Wim Aarts & Steve Davis):** The Climbs Committee wrapped up a successful Basic Climb School after multiple reschedules of field sessions. Weather was not fully cooperative this year so inventive solutions were used to complete the school. While the Snow sessions successfully wrapped up at Timberline this year, the Rock field sessions had a bit more complex schedule to work around weather. An indoor day at the Lodge was followed by two late afternoon sessions at the Skinner Butte Columns, a bit of a variance from the normal one day at the Columns. It worked out well and all Climb School participants were psyched and ready to head to the mountains on Obsidians climbs! Unfortunately, this year's Diamond Peak graduation climb was unable to happen as avalanche conditions seemed to peak during each day we tried to schedule it for. This year's snow conditions on Diamond Peak are abysmal. We are hoping that the Mt. Thielsen graduation climb is able to run successfully the first weekend of May without rescheduling.

**Concessions (Carla Cooper):** Sales from the March and April potlucks totaled \$145. We have also recently purchased an assortment of Ladies, extra-small, small, and medium size T-shirts in lovely colors.

**Entertainment (Ane McKee):** April's Potluck & Presentation had Katie Russell with the Elakha Alliance give an informative and entertaining presentation on sea otters and efforts to support their return to the Oregon coast. We hosted 56 diners, and 64 folks attended the presentation. We collected \$16 from the donation box.

**Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom):** Fourteen Obsidians enjoyed a fun Extended Trip to Crater Lake, staying at Union Creek. On the way there, we hiked at Cooper Reservoir—lots of beautiful flowers and flowering trees and bushes. The weather at the lake varied from low clouds when the lake was barely visible to light snow, hail (graupel), sunshine, and blizzard. Three of us enjoyed skiing and the rest, snowshoeing. On the last day, everyone admired the stunning, churning water at Rogue River Gorge and hiked a bit along the trail. Check out the pictures! We need more overnight trip leaders!

**Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana):** We wrote Ann Lichtenstein's In Memoriam for the April *Bulletin*. We wrote four In Memoriams for May: Mitch Daletas, Ken Parramore, Patricia Bean, and Pat Dark. We worked with Tom Taylor, 1960

President and architect of the Lodge, on an article for the April *Bulletin* about finding the site and building the original Lodge. We also put a notice in the May *Bulletin* soliciting the loan or donation of slides and prints of Obsidian activities from the 1980s–90s to be scanned into the Obsidian archive.

**Lodge Building (Dave Cooper):** April was a big month for Lodge usage. Between committee activities, a couple of NOLS training sessions, the Get Acquainted hike, and a climb school quick relocation, we still had three rentals. The work on replacing the French drain will begin when Summer Camp begins.

**Lodge Grounds (Nancy Whitfield):** The Grounds Committee did not have a work party this month BUT a few stalwart individuals worked on various tasks throughout the month: Maryanne Reiter mowed and kept the grass at bay, Dave Cooper weed whacked, mowed, and tended to a plethora of small details. Sandra Larson and Pat Soussan put in a few hours catching up on weeding. Clara continued her inspiring work along the fence. Whew! What a crew!!!

**Membership (Diane Schechter):** Membership = 452. Renewal reminder emails are being sent to those whose memberships have expired. The majority do not renew. This renewal pattern is consistent with past years.

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

**Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde):** The Publicity Committee is preparing for another tabling event in May, Mt. Pisgah's Wildflower Festival, May 17. We have five volunteers. A website banner will run the week prior.

**Safety (Maryanne Reiter Interim Chair):** The Safety Committee sponsored a successful National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) Wilderness First Aid class at the Lodge on April 25–26. We had 25 students and two great local instructors. When we were planning the course, we did not consider large events for Eugene. As it turns out, it was the same weekend as the marathon. Luckily, with a little creative navigating, everyone was able to get to the Lodge. The monthly AED battery check was performed. The Safety Chair will be getting first aid supplies to committees soon.

**Science Education (Angie Ruzicka interim):** There were three activities in April—a tour to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, a tour to St. Vinnie's recycling facilities, and an outing to the Eugene Natural History Society's April speaker.

**Stewardship (Darko Sojak):** Kudos to all the volunteers who this month participated in blackberry removal at Green Island, Earth Day habitat restoration at Mt. Pisgah, and trail maintenance at Wild Iris Ridge.

**Summer Camp (Angie Ruzicka):** After a small delay at the beginning of website sign up on April 4, things went smoothly. We reached 95 participants by mid-morning and currently have 17 people on the waitlist. Pam Caples sent emails to people signed up with directions for completing registration and payment. Many people chose to send the form via email and pay with a credit card using Stripe. The camp booklet was completed and printed in time for the April Potluck and Presentation. 50 folks have already picked theirs up! We are finalizing our plans to scout Lake Creek Camp and surrounding area the week of May 18.

**Trips (Dave Cooper):** We had 35 outings and collected \$86 in nonmember fees.

# TRIP REPORTS



## Bike Trips

### Getting Around Eugene By Bike

May 18, 2026

Leader: Sue Wolling

Assistant Leader: Richard Hughes

Bike: 10.0 miles (Easy)

**M**AY IS BIKE MONTH, so eight Obsidians took off on bikes to pick up tips for a safe, pleasant, and easy way to reach common Eugene destinations by bike: the YMCA, the downtown Eugene Library, the Farmers Market, Trader Joe's/REI, and more. It was a pleasant spring day and riders enjoyed sharing ideas about equipment, navigating a route, locking a bike, and everything else that makes bicycling a practical and fun means of everyday travel. Participants: Bill Campbell, BJ Campbell, Abby Gershenson, Richard Hughes, Jonathan Jost, Lynn Stearney, Meg Stewart Smith, Sue Wolling.



## Hikes

### Wildflower Wander in Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

April 27, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Meg Stewart Smith

Hike: 2.5 miles, 250 ft.

**A**RE YOU READY FOR A GAME OF NAME THAT EPHEMERAL WILDFLOWER? Bring along your curiosity! Eight wanderers search for wild blooms within the boundaries of



*Tolmie's star tulip.*

the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Fields of western geranium yield to stalks of larkspur, camas, Oregon iris, straight-beaked buttercup, and Oregon saxifrage. The oak woodland support licorice fern on branches, and western sword fern and bracken fern below. What a lucky day for chocolate lily (*Fritillary affinis*), which we see on display along the way. Bold displays of Tolmie's star tulip (*Calochortus tolmiei*) mingle with baby blue Eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*); these frilly masterpieces are hidden in sedges, or are those grasses? Lupine, popcorn flower, and common monkeyflower are basking in full sun near the bog on the lower plateau. We find one shy calypso orchid nestled near the Incense Cedar path. Common lomatium is beginning to display a parsley-like umbel. The yellow pond lily is popping open near Adkison Bridge. Fragrant fringe cup, giant wake robin, and large & small-flowered false Solomon's seal greet us along the serpentine path. Our return walk is gracefully lined with deep edges of tall delphinium & Pacific bleeding heart. Western meadow rue, a dioecious plant, waves its yellow anthers, loaded with pollen; the female plant has yet to display her purple flowers. We ponder what tricky timing will unite these two. Does our appreciation of small movements in beauty inspire us to conserve our native landscape? Participants: Steve Adey, Joanna Alexander, Wendy Edmons, Nancy Hoecker, Gwyneth Iredale, Barbara Maki, Meg Stewart, Katie Vaughn.

### Oregon City & Camassia Natural Area

May 2, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 7.0 miles, 500 ft. (Mixed)

UPON ARRIVING IN OREGON CITY VIA AMTRAK, WE WALKED ABOUT A MILE THROUGH TOWN and found ourselves in the staging grounds of the Teddy Bear Parade. We saw horses,



*Willamette Falls.*

marching bands, an ROTC group, firetrucks, police cars, a local jeep-enthusiast group, and many more vehicles, all

decorated with teddy bears. The parade is an annual event that gathers teddy bears and stuffed animals that are then distributed to local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, emergency rooms, children's help centers, hospitals, and women's shelters. We made our way across the Oregon City Arch Bridge for views of Willamette Falls in the distance. We meandered our way on side roads to The Nature Conservancy's Camassia Nature Preserve, where we saw a bounty of camas in bloom. At the preserve, we met a volunteer named Walt who helped us with the correct pronunciation of



*Visiting the Camassia Nature Preserve.*

Camassia, and shared more about the area's natural history. We walked back to town and enjoyed a coffee and a short rest at the White Rabbit Book Cafe. We then rode the Oregon City Municipal Elevator to the top of the bluff. The McLoughlin Promenade was constructed in 1937 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, and the views of the area are magnificent! We walked to the Museum of the Oregon Territory and visited for an hour, enjoying a twenty-minute video about the area's rich and varied history. Returning via the Promenade, we stopped at the NPS McLoughlin House—Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, where we were greeted by a tall man wearing a top hat and sporting a mutton chop beard. He introduced himself as Dr. John McLoughlin and welcomed us inside, where he sat in a rocking chair and shared much of his life's story. Dr. John McLoughlin was the chief superintendent of the British Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) based at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. He also worked at Oregon City with American pioneers who had crossed the continent. These key roles in Oregon history later earned him the moniker, the 'Father of Oregon'. A special thanks to the volunteer interpreter in this role who gave us all much to talk about. Afterward, we walked down the WPA-created Grand Staircase back to the elevator and to downtown. Everyone's energy was a bit spent, so we made our way to the Corner 14 Foodcarts, where we rested and re-energized for a time, then made our way to the Amtrak Station and returned to Eugene. This was a memorable trip with a lot of laughter.

Participants: Heidi Anderson, Marguerite Cooney, David Hawkins, Mark Hougardy, Sandra Larsen, Helen Martz, Evelyn Nagy, Sandra Sigrist, Dorothy Van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield.

**Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail**

**May 9, 2026**

**Leader: Elizabeth Grant**

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

**AN ENTHUSED GROUP OF NON-MEMBERS.** Participants: David Cooper, Elizabeth Grant, Tess Hills, Robert Messick, Thomas Park, Stephanie Reynolds.

**Silver Falls—Trail of Ten Falls**

**May 11, 2026**

**Leader: Elizabeth Grant**

**Hike: 7.6 miles, 1,050 ft (Moderate)**

**A GREAT GROUP OF NINE ON A PERFECT WEATHER DAY HIKE** SEVEN-PLUS MILES and enjoyed the myriad waterfalls. Silver Falls never disappoints. Participants: Robin Armstrong, Alan Foley, Elizabeth Grant, David Hawkins, Barbara Maki, Robert Messick, Jukka Naukkarinen, Martin Thompson, Dorothy Van Winkle.

**Evening Hike: Willamette Riverbank / Alton Baker**

**May 13, 2026**

**Leader & Photographer: Lisa Van Liefde**

**Hike: 4.0 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)**

**THIRTEEN MEMBERS ENJOYED EACH OTHER'S COMPANY AND A GORGEOUS EVENING** hiking along the Willamette River and through Alton Baker Park. Participants: Steve Adey, Joanna



*Willamette & Alton Baker Park hanging with the Heron!*

Alexander, David Clinger, Marguerite Cooney, Jennifer Crim, Whitney Gould, Christviane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Lana Lindstrom, Vern Marsonette, Robert Messick, JeanSylvain Negre, Lisa Van Liefde.

## Ribbon Trail To Moon Mountain

May 15, 2026

Leader: Steve Adey

Hike: 6.5 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

THE WALK TOOK ABOUT THREE HOURS. There was a lot of poison oak. Not many other people. The open area south of Moon Mountain had a good variety of wildflowers in bloom. Participants: Steve Adey, Barbara Maki, Margot McDonnell, Guy Pritchett, Marian Sparks.

## Dead Mountain

May 17, 2026

Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 12.4 miles, 2,820 ft. (Difficult)

TODAY WE HIKED DEAD MOUNTAIN, NORTHEAST OF OAKRIDGE, originally known as Green Mountain (before the forest fires of 1883, 1898, and 1910). Our brisk 12.4-mile, 2,820-foot



Trail #3566. Photo by Darko Sojak.



Atop Dead Mountain. Photo by Anna Maria Hundseder-Aarts.

ascent on Flat Creek Trail #3566, was pure joy. It was 36°F at 3,636 ft., where we enjoyed a windless lunch-time view. Participants: Mary Holbert, Anna Maria Hundseder-Aarts, David Morris, Rae Obrien, Angie Ruzicka, Gordon Sayre, Sandra Sigrist, Darko Sojak, Marian Sparks, Jan True.

## Clear Lake / Wagon Road

May 23, 2026

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 7.6 miles, 225 ft. (Moderate)

EVERYONE ENJOYED THE BEAUTIFUL, SUNNY DAY COMPLETE WITH PEEKABOO VIEWS of Mount Washington and the deep blue waters of Clear Lake. We weren't able to stop at Sahalie Falls



Clear Lake. Photo by Marian Sparks.

due to the crowded parking area, but there was plenty of room at Takoda's for refreshments! Participants: Tamara Bressi, Kathie Carpenter, David Clinger, Marguerite Cooney, Elizabeth Grant, Robert Messick, Marian Sparks, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy Van Winkle.

## Tire Mountain

May 27, 2026

Leader: Jean Harris

Photographer: Marian Sparks

Hike: 6.0 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

OBSIDIANS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC IN ANY WEATHER. We ventured up the steep road to the Tire Mountain Trailhead, driving into the beautiful, swirling fog. The old growth forest with wisps of wildflowers was wrapped in a shroud of fog. The steep meadows did not disappoint as many flowers were in bloom. Camas, iris, penstemon, larkspur, and balsamroot, plus many more. The trail runs in and out of meadows and timber with fog swirling all around. Once back at the cars and driving away,



*Paul, Holger, and Roy hiking through the balsamroot..*



*Roy, Paul, Holger, Marti, Margot, Vern, Milan, Marian, and Guy on Tire Mountain Trail.*

the sun appeared along with a view of the Three Sisters. Participants: Marti Gerdes, Jean Harris, Milan Kothari, Holger Krentz, Vern Marsonette, Margot McDonnell, Roy Nelson, Guy Pritchett, Marian Sparks, Paul Winther.

**Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte/ Raptor Loop Hikes**  
**Hikes: 3.8–6.2 miles, 1,033–1,530 ft. (Moderate)**  
**Various Leaders**

**Eva Mogart: 5/6** 11 Participants  
**Darko Sojak: 5/10** 7 Participants  
**Margot McDonnell: 5/13** 8 Participants **5/20** 10 Participants  
**Mike Smith: 5/27** 7 Participants

**Blanton Ridge Hikes**  
**Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,740 ft. (Moderate)**  
**Various Leaders**

**Lynn Meacham: 5/5** 8 Participants  
**Janet Jacobsen, Marion Sparks: 5/12** 5 Participants  
**Lynn Stearney: 5/19** 6 Participants  
**Marion Sparks: 5/26** 8 Participants

**Mt. Pisgah Hikes**  
**Hike: 2.5–4.0 miles, 250–1,300 ft. (Easy–Moderate)**

**Jeff Orendorff: 5/1** 2 Participants **5/6** 3 Participants **5/8** 3 Participants  
**5/13** 2 Participants **5/20** 4 Participants  
**Sandra Sigrist, Heidi Anderson: 5/8** 12 Participants



**Water Trips**

**Coyote Creek Paddle**  
**May 27, 2026**  
**Leader: Lana Lindstrom**  
**Assistant Leader: Kim Davidson-Ruby**  
**Water: (Easy)**

**O**NLY FOUR OBSIDIANS EXPLORED COYOTE CREEK TODAY, but it was a lovely morning paddling into Fern Ridge and then south on the creek. The water level was low, so getting in



*Robert admiring the moss.*



*Regal great blue heron.*

and out of the kayaks was a bit of a challenge, but no one fell in! It was a cooperative adventure. We heard lots of birds and saw hundreds of swallows, one osprey, two great blue herons, and several grebes. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Kim Davidson-Ruby, Lana Lindstrom, Robert Messick.



## Class

### **First Aid/ CPR/ AED Class**

**May 17, 2026**

**Leader: David Cooper**

**Photographer: Lana Lindstrom**

**E**IGHT OF US SIGNED UP FOR THE CPR/AED PART OF THE CLASS AND FIVE STAYED FOR THE GENERAL First Aid section in the afternoon. Both were taught by Laurie and Hannah and



*Steve doing compressions. Notice the straight arms.*



*Dorothy, Tamara, Miranda, Margo, and Lana celebrating passing the First Aid class!*

were excellent. Most of us previously had taken CPR classes, but a periodic refresher is a good idea. Some protocols change and unless one practices regularly, one forgets, especially us older folks! Each of us had our own mannequin to practice. Particularly useful were the lights which provided immediate feedback if we weren't pushing down hard or deep enough. We then paired up and practiced using an AED and continuing the compressions during the two minutes that the machine was analyzing whether or not the shock worked. Two minutes is a LONG time—whew! In the afternoon, we practiced doing splints and applying gauze pads to stop bleeding. It was a very worthwhile experience. Thank you very much, Hannah and Laurie! Participants: Tamara Bressi, Kathie Carpenter, Steve Davis, Berit Everhart, Lana Lindstrom, Margot McDonnell, Miranda Trieston, Dorothy Van Winkle.



## Science & Education

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

**May 15, 2026**

**Leader: Angie Ruzicka**

**Photographer: Darko Sojak**

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

**O**UR GROUP OF EIGHT ENJOYED DINNER AT THE UNTHANK HALL FOOD COURT. There was enough variety that everyone was able to find something they liked. As we strolled to our talk, we felt the Friday night energy of a college



*Audience ready for the presentation!*

campus! The presenter enthusiastically described the evolution of mountain beavers. We were all impressed with how much information researchers can get from fossilized teeth. Although elusive in the wild, this guinea pig sized mammal has been spotted on the Spencer Butte trail from the Martin Street trailhead. Participants: Joanna Alexander, Jennifer Crim, Mark Fromuth, Kathy Humphries, Robert Messick, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Dorothy Van Winkle.



## Stewardship

### Grounds Work Party

May 1, 2026

Leader: Nancy Whitfield

Stewardship

**A** LOT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE HARD-WORKING CREW. The drive-up entry is virtually shiny geranium free. Much mowing occurred and a lot of weeds were taken down. The bed by the front door is being refreshed, and the work along the fence continues. Wait until you see the handicapped parking area! It received a thorough pressure washing. And we welcomed a brand-new member and ground crew participant! Participants: David Cooper, Karen Elliott, Vern Marsonette, Doug Nelson, John Ostrom, Maryanne Reiter, Karla Rusow, Gwynn Sawyer, Pat Soussan, Nancy Whitfield.

### Think Globally, Act Locally (Spring 2026)

May 11, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 2.4 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

**IMAGINE A PERFECTLY SUNNY MONDAY MORNING.** Seven friends meet at the easternmost point of the Delta Path (corner of Delta Hwy. and Green Acres Rd.) to make this little corner of



*Obsidians cleaning under the bridge.*

the planet a little cleaner. Then imagine the very happy people picking up the trash. In 90 minutes, we picked up over 150 pounds of mixed rubbish. It was a bit of a festive feeling to leave a cleaner trail behind us, but it was too much for us to carry away. I called the City of Eugene Parks and Open Spaces hotline for help with the disposal but was redirected to an online form. Then Mari called the Lane County Public Works Department and after a few friendly redirects, she found a place and made arrangements for us to drop off the collected trash. Luckily, it was very close, so Angie and I walked there with all that trash towering over a shopping cart. Thank you, friends! Volunteers like you deserve a huge round of applause.



*We picked up over 150 pounds of mixed rubbish.*

Participants: Joanna Alexander, Mari Baldwin, Teresa Bowen, Denny Ellis, Rae Obrien, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

### Grounds Work Party

May 15, 2026

Leader: Nancy Whitfield

Stewardship

**A HARD-WORKING CREW WORKED IN THE PERFECT TEMPERATURE** on this May morning. Four yards of mulch were quickly spread, all the grounds were mowed, and the tall grass and weeds were cut along the frontage road. Small trees were cut up, clean-up along the fence continued, and the grass was edged along the lower parking area. It was a small but powerful, hard-working group. Much gratitude to those who volunteered for the work. Our grounds look good! Participants: David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Jean Harris, Jonathan Jost, Brenda Kameenui, Vern Marsonette, Roy Nelson, Nancy Whitfield.



## HELP WANTED!

### Publicity Committee

**D**O YOU ENJOY POSTING ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM? The Obsidians Publicity Committee could use your help!

We're looking for an individual with social media familiarity, who would be willing to commit time for posting consistent, relevant information to followers.

Co-Chairs Lisa Van Liefde and Denise Rubenstein will support with content and scheduling. Thanks for considering being a part of this important communication work.

*Thank you!  
Lisa and Denise*

# OBSIDIANS EVENTS

TO FIND 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:**

June 9, 16, 23, 30

July 7, 14, 21, 28

### Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

**Wednesdays:**

June 10, 17, 24

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

CHECK FOR DETAILS & SIGN UP ONLINE

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



## STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Ventenata Pull-a-thon Stewardship

9:00 AM-NOON

Wednesday, June 10

### Lodge/Grounds Workday

9:00 AM-NOON

Friday, June 12

### Arboretum Care Stewardship

9:00-11:30 AM

Friday, June 26

### Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance

5:30-8 PM

Wednesday, June 24

Wednesday, July 29

*Have a question?*

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

## Get Acquainted Hikes

Second Saturday of the Month:

June 13 & July 11

Members and nonmembers, please join us!

Sign up online.

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

Please contact Dorothy for the particulars.

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

541-485-7416, land line, no texting

Thank you!



## Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

Tuesday, June 9

No GameNight!s 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](http://obsidians.org/entertainment)

## Mt. Pisgah Sunset Full Moonrise

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

June 27, July 27, August 25

Guests welcome

CHECK FOR DETAILS  
& SIGN UP ONLINE

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



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June 2026

*Jean, Guy and Marian  
in the balsamroot.*

*Photo by Marti Gerdes.*

*See the Tire Mountain  
trip report on page 11.*



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