



The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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Inside This Issue

Obsidians Annual Meeting	1
Honored Member Nomination	1
2026 Board Nominees	3
In Memoriam	4
Board Notes	5
Obsidians New Liability Waiver	6
Gribble Donation & Coincidence	6
At the Shedd: Chasing Magma	7
Obsidians Annual Celebrations	7
The List by Mike Smith	8
Trip Reports	9–20
New Scherer Room Exhibit	21
Colleen Milliman's 100 th	21
Potluck	22
SEM Trail Ribbon-Cutting	22
Upcoming Events	23
Photo of the Month	24

Dates to Remember

September 25	Potluck
October 2	Bulletin Deadline
October 9	Annual Meeting
October 14	Board Meeting
October 15	GameNight!

Current event schedules at:

www.obsidians.org

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Bulletin Submission Policy

To submit articles
for publication,
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obsidians-bulletin@googlegroups.com

OBSIDIANS ANNUAL MEETING

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 at the Lodge! The meeting is an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look forward to 2027—our 100-year Anniversary. Guests who would like to learn more about our organization are also welcome. We will start at 6:30 with a half hour to socialize and make sundaes with ice cream donated by Prince Pucklers. At 7:00 the meeting will begin. On our agenda is electing new Board members, one new and two returning (see page 3 to get to know our nominees). We will also be voting to grant Bea Fontana *Honored Member* status to recognize her contributions to the Club over the past 50 years. Because trips are at the core of our mission, we will recognize the leaders who make trips possible and those who have completed a landmark number of trips. At the end of the meeting, we will take time to remember those Obsidians who have passed over the last year.

HONORED MEMBER NOMINATION —BEA FONTANA—

Jim Northrop

The Obsidian bylaws provide for the nomination of one person per year as an “honored member.” Persons who have “rendered distinguished services” to the Obsidians or are eminent for achievements in exploration, science, or art shall be eligible for honored membership. Nominations must be in writing and endorsed by five members, and shall state the reasons for such nomination. A two-thirds vote of all members present at the annual meeting shall be necessary for election.

THIS YEAR THE NOMINEE FOR HONORED MEMBER IS BEA FONTANA. Bea Fontana has rendered distinguished services to the Obsidians. And then some. Among Bea's many accomplishments:

She was elected to the Obsidian Board in 1982 and chaired the Lodge Building Committee for the next eight years, waging an ongoing battle against honeybee colonies, packrats, and woodpeckers. The eviction of the packrats necessitated replacing the entire cedar shake roof, vacuuming up the rat poo, replacing insulation, nailing on new cedar shingles, and adding hardware cloth to all the soffit vents to keep the rats from returning.

Over the years she also left her mark on the Lodge interior:

- Designed the nametag board (built by Wes Prouty) in the Lodge foyer. Also designed the Obsidian arrowhead logo still seen on some of the older nametags.
- Spearheaded the project to add the basalt stone facing to the existing fireplace and hearth. Before that the Lodge fireplace was just concrete blocks. Bea created a model of how the stone facing should look and hired a mason and oversaw his work. The result is the beautiful stone fireplace we now enjoy.
- Created the *Three Peaks* etching that graces the nine glass panes of the roll-up garage door above the entrance to the Scherer Room.



(Continued on next page)

Honored Member Nomination—Bea Fontana (Continued from page 1)

• Designed and built the storage cabinet with combination lock for the sound system in the Lodge.

After the new Storage Building was completed in 2014, Bea shopped for, configured, and set up the modular shelving for the summer camp gear inside. She built and installed drawers and racks for smaller items, then labeled aisles, shelves, and bins, to keep things organized in a consistent manner.

It is fair to say that summer camp has been Bea's favorite Obsidian activity. Bea said, "Do it once, and you'll want to do it again." She commented that it is interesting to see how many Obsidian presidents attended summer camp for the first time because the camp was named for them, "And then, they keep coming back—because it's fun!" Bea has attended 26 summer camps, starting with Camp Thaxton in the Ruby Mountains of Nevada in 1982, and including Camp Ruzicka in the Strawberry Mountains of Oregon in 2026. Camp Fontana at Mt. Baker in Washington State was named in Bea's honor.

For summer camp, Bea built the wooden napkin holders to keep napkins from blowing away; improved the dish drying racks with table legs that store inside the wooden racks; and designed and built six handwashing stations.

She designed and built the infamous 'quadpod' shower system with pulleys for hoisting solar shower bags, redwood slatted floors to keep one's feet out of the mud, and home-stitched, plastic shower curtains between the four shower stalls for privacy. Bea wrote a multi-page manual with diagrams on how to assemble the contraption. The shower system must be seen (and used) to be appreciated. Most recently she designed and built a folding bulletin board for camp that can be transported in a camper or van.



Solar shower bags lie strewn about waiting for the sun, with the quadpod shower system seen in the background. Photo taken by Rick Ahrens at the 2007 Summer Camp.

She is one of two persons on the Publications Committee who designs and lays out the articles and photos for the *Obsidian Bulletin*—a detailed and time-consuming process.

Currently she serves as chair of the Librarian/Historian Committee. Bea says: "I am mostly just a figurehead, with most of the energy coming from archivist Bert, and researcher Janet. My main role is to fact-check our articles for the *Bulletin*, and pretty them up—hopefully drawing folks in to actually read them."

Bea joined the Obsidians in 1977. (Her father Bep Fontana joined the Obsidians in 1992.) Bea's first trip was a hike up Grizzly Peak in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. As of December 2023, Bea had participated in 186 activities: 174 trips, two climbs (Diamond Peak, 1988, Mt. Thielsen, 1989), and ten bus trips. Bea led 20 trips. Cross-country skiing, rafting, and canoeing were among her activities.

Bea retired from the basement art department at the University of Oregon Bookstore on 13th Street, where she put her artistic talents to work serving students. Those artistic talents and woodworking skills are apparent throughout the Lodge, at summer camp, and in the layout of the *Bulletin*. The Obsidians have been fortunate to have had Bea as a member for nearly 50 years, with 2027 soon to be her 50th anniversary (and the 100th anniversary of the Obsidians). For all her service to the Obsidians, Bea Fontana is definitely deserving of honored member status.

OBSIDIANS

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: obsidians.org

Officers & Board of Directors

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

Board meetings are held at 6:00 PM the first Wednesday of each month, except October when it is the Wednesday after the Annual Meeting. There is no August meeting.

Committee Chairpersons

Bus Jim Northrop
Climbs Wim Aarts & Steve Davis
Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd Angie Ruzicka
Entertainment Ane McKee
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance Susan Zeni
Lodge Building Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds Nancy Whitfield
Librarian/Historian Bea Fontana
Membership Diane Schechter
Online C. Cooper & L. Lindstrom
Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity D. Rubenstein & L. Van Liefde
Safety Marianne Reiter
Stewardship Darko Sojak
Summer Camp Angie Ruzicka
Trips Dave Cooper

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Deadline
for October Bulletin
Friday, October 2

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff:
Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz

Copy Editors:
Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger

Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:
Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana

Assembly/Mailing Team

Managers: Lou Maenz, Nancy Raymond
Team: Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin,
Barbara Gunther, Jane Hackett,
Anne Hollander, Yuan Hopkins,
Judy Newman

2026 BOARD NOMINEES

LISA VAN LIEFDE

I MOVED FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO EUGENE IN THE FALL OF 2017, DRAWN BY FAMILY AND OREGON'S INCREDIBLE OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE. Fortunately, I discovered the Obsidians immediately and have been an active member since 2018.

My professional background is in business management and marketing, including recent rewarding work at the University of Oregon. As I prepare to retire this fall, I am incredibly grateful for how the club has connected me to parts of Oregon I never would have found on my own.

The Obsidians are an important community for me, and making the decision to give back was natural. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading hikes, and serving on the Publicity, Extended Trips, and ad hoc DEI committees, and participating on the Board. I am truly honored to be nominated for a second term on the Board. As we head into 2027—our landmark 100th year of connecting people to the outdoors—I encourage all members, new and old, to find a way to get involved, volunteer, and give back!



GORDON SAYRE

I MOVED TO EUGENE IN 1993 TO WORK AS A PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT THE UO. I WAS THRILLED TO LIVE NEAR MOUNTAINS FOR THE FIRST TIME, and quickly took up rock climbing and summiting Cascades peaks. I joined the Obsidians in the 1990s when I lived next door to John Mowat, but I did not go on many trips during the years we were raising two children. In the 2000s I rediscovered the club, joining several climbs, snow trips, and hikes each year.

My work teaching environmental history and literature has inspired me to present four times at Potlucks and ExploraTalks on Pacific Northwest exploration, guidebooks, and local skiing history. I look forward to studying the Obsidians archives, and developing events to celebrate the club's centennial next year.

I especially enjoy leading ski trips such as Red Top Mountain and hikes to new destinations like the Devil's Staircase Wilderness area. I would like to increase the number of winter and river trips on the outings schedule. I also believe that service and conservation trips in collaboration with the McKenzie River Trust and other local environmental groups may help expand our membership and visibility. I am also a member of Eugene Yacht Club, another all-volunteer organization with a substantial property to maintain and a mission that includes training new sailors.



SUE ZENI

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY POSITION ON THE OBSIDIAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS BECAUSE THE POSITION COMBINES SOME OF MY MANY INTERESTS AND PASSIONS. They include a love of the outdoors as well as a hankering for participating in a group that strategizes on how to run smoothly and successfully into the ever-evolving future. I am a hiker, backpacker, biker, climber, trail maintainer, and tree grower. I am currently the Chair of the Obsidian Finance Committee, and the Training Coordinator for Eugene Mountain Rescue. The Obsidians are an asset to the Eugene community, and I would be pleased to help position the group for continuing to thrive as we head towards the 100th year of operation!



IN MEMORIAM

SALLY GROSSCUP

1946–July 28, 2026

SALLY AND HER HUSBAND, RICK, JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN SEPTEMBER 1980 AFTER CLIMBING THE MIDDLE SISTER, and later they became Life Members. Their son, Aaron, followed as a junior member. Sally's Obsidian Log recorded 55 trips which included 34 climbs and three summer camps. Sally received the Ten Peak Award in 1983. Friends who climbed with her recall that she carried a head of lettuce in her helmet, eating the lettuce before she needed to wear the helmet on the climb. During a 1983 North Sister climb, when there was a climb accident, Sally was one of two who hiked out to alert Search and Rescue. Three years later she and Rick co-led a North Sister climb.

Her obituary in *The Register-Guard* noted that she was an adventurer who *participated in marathons, triathlons, and climbed peaks across the Pacific Northwest—including all Three Sisters—as well as summiting worldwide in such places as Aconcagua in Argentina and Imja Tse (Island Peak) in Nepal.*

Sally is survived by her husband Rick and their two children, Valerie and Aaron. A Celebration of Life will be announced this fall.

Her obituary was posted online on August 10, 2026, and published in *The Register-Guard*.

BLYTH CARPENTER

October 1942–July 26, 2026

BLYTH AND HER HUSBAND, RUSS, JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1994. THEY PARTICIPATED IN A VARIETY OF CLUB ACTIVITIES including hikes, summer camps, and co-leading trips. Russ was President of the Club in 1998. Most memorably, they connected the Obsidians with Bhutan. Through nineteen trips to Bhutan—often public service projects—Blyth created opportunities for Obsidians to travel there and share that experience. After moving to Arizona, they continued their service by helping found the Border Community Alliance. Russ, her husband of 62 years, shared that Blyth *demonstrated, in many different ways, her belief that all people should have equal opportunity, and that we should build bridges across different cultures.* She is survived by her husband, three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. If you wish to honor Blyth, consider a contribution to the Border Community Alliance in Tubac, Arizona.

For a glimpse into her voice and vision, read Blyth's *Bulletin* articles *Auspicious Bhutan* (June 2005) and *Bhutanese Obsidian a Real Success Story!* (September 2005).

Editor's Note: An obituary is available on the Legacy website:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/gvnews/name/blyth-carpenter-obituary?id=62061633>

HAL BUSBY

1932–August 3, 2026

HAL'S LIFE TOOK A JOYFUL TURN IN 1980 WHEN HE MET AND MARRIED LINDSAY PIERCE, WHOSE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE OUTDOORS SOON DREW HIM INTO OBSIDIAN ACTIVITIES. Lindsay led the first two Obsidian trips he took—French Pete and Olallie Guard Station. Once a member, he volunteered for the Lodge fall cleanup, along with twenty fellow Obsidians. He led, or co-led with his wife, eight of his 44 trips. Serving as Librarian/Historian committee chairs, Lin and Hal joined other Obsidians on June 28, 1992 for the historic rededication of the Obsidian plaque on Macduff Mountain. Hal was also a longtime member of both the Eugene Gleemen and the Master Gardeners, thus sharing his love of community and the outdoors. Lindsay passed in 2025, a loss felt deeply by many, including their Obsidian friends. Hal is survived by his brother, sister, three sons, and many other family members. No services are planned.

Editor's Note: His obituary is in the August 11, 2026, Register-Guard.

MARGE WRIGHT

January 30, 2025

MARGE WRIGHT SET OUT HIKING AS AN OBSIDIAN ON DECEMBER 4, 1991, HER TWIN DAUGHTERS ALONGSIDE HER. She stayed a proud member until her last sunrise on January 30, 2025.

Her route encompassed seventy-eight trips while leading twelve. She attended six Summer Camps from Diamond Lake to the Sawtooths, enjoyed potlucks at the Lodge, and served as Membership Chair from 1999 to 2002, a job that suited her, since she was happy sharing the Obsidians community and her love for the outdoors with all.

She had an eye for the small, real life, moments. A favorite came from Summer Camp in the Tetons, when the group returned from a long day of hiking to find many tents (including hers) trampled by bison. Having pitched camp on a soft patch of dehydrated "biomatter," she smiled and acknowledged it was their ground, their world, first.

She led a good hike through life on a trail laden with berries, the beautiful ups and downs of the mountains, crisp breezes, and emerald pools. And although there were a few snakes and an abundance of mosquitoes, there was plenty of sunshine and playful pikas bringing joy along the way.

Happy trails, Margee Wright, with love from her daughter Megan.

JULY BOARD NOTES

July 1, 2026

From minutes by Jean Harris & Angie Ruzicka

Angie Ruzicka called the meeting to order. Board members present: Steve Davis, Mark Hougardy, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Lisa Van Liefde, Nancy Whitfield. Others present: Lana Lindstrom, Bert Ewing.

AGENDA ITEMS

Kudos to: Angie for persevering with the liability waiver, Steve for mentoring a young climber, Mike Smith for sharing stories at an evening event at the Lodge.

Minutes: June Board meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Sue Zeni): This report is completed before month's end, so it does not include changes to the Summer Camp Fund, Bus Fund, or dividends from Vanguard. Revenue was \$1,396 (not including donations) and Expenses were \$4,536 in June for a total net revenue of -\$3,140. Moved \$5,000 from our General Fund in Vanguard to bring the checking account up to approximately \$9,000. Our accident policy insurance went up 153% to \$2,230! This insurance is for up to \$25,000 per accident for secondary medical coverage. The cost is much higher than anticipated and puts us about \$1,500 over our insurance budget. Renewed our Directors & Officers insurance. This cost is fixed for three years, so the cost was as planned. Lana shared that given the increase in the cost of accident insurance, the finance committee will be exploring options for coverage. June expenditures were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Team Building: Using the Self-guided Lodge Tour created by Janet Jacobsen, we explored a variety of items (e.g. photos, art) around the Lodge.

Librarian/Historian Committee Presentation (Bert Ewing): Bert described his process for creating a digital archive for the Club. Over the last 13 years he has scanned and/or taken photos of thousands of items including photos, scrap books, logbooks, summit books, equipment, memory books, maps, programs, blueprints, documents, and more. The archive provides a backup in the case of fire or flood, a record of the club's history, and extensive resources for research. It will be invaluable as we plan events for our 100-year celebration. The Board expressed gratitude for Bert's work!

OLD BUSINESS

Liability Waiver Continued (Angie/Steve): The Board approved the comprehensive list of risks to be included in the new waiver that participants will acknowledge when signing up for an activity online. Angie will check back with the Center for Nonprofit Law to fine tune the final language of accepting risk and waiving liability. The language will be emailed to the Board for approval. Next steps include writing a *Bulletin* article to explain the new waiver and replacing our current online waiver with the new one.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Wim Aarts & Steve Davis): The Climbs Committee successfully completed climbs of Mount Thielsen and Mount Bailey in June. The mountains were climbed on consecutive days on the same weekend in sparkling clear weather. A very

poor weather forecast resulted in cancellation of the Mount Saint Helens climb scheduled for the last weekend of June.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): June sales totaled \$30. We have ordered more insulated lunch bags and foam sit-upons. Scott Wilkinson is designing us a special Summer Camp bandana which will be for sale at Summer Camp.

Entertainment (Ane McKee): We held GameNight! on June 9 and a surprise cake was brought in for all to enjoy. GameNight! and Potluck & Presentations will resume in Sept.

Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana): We put together a pair of articles about the Lodge's Memorial Climbing Wall for the July *Bulletin*. The committee met with Angie at the Lodge to share info about the archives and historical items—some displayed, some stashed upstairs, others safely stored in the fireproof vault. Janet opened binders packed with info she has gathered. Bert brought his laptop to share the virtual archive of papers, clippings, slides, and prints, which he continues to add to. We also explained about Obsidian historical papers that were donated to the UO Library Special Collections. Some examples: minutes of board meetings 1927–42, summit registers of various peaks, and a couple of scrapbooks.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): We had three rentals in June and September is filling up fast. It appears that we will receive around \$1,000 more in rental income than last year. French drain construction will happen in August.

Lodge Grounds (Nancy Whitfield): Several trees were cut and a small area was brushed out by Ross Nettleship's chainsaw class. The firewood is temporarily stacked behind the storage shed. One work party occurred—mowing, weeding, pruning, string trimming. Sprinklers were turned on. Looking good!

Membership (Diane Schechter): June membership 461 members.

Online/Webmaster (Lana Lindstrom & Carla Cooper): Thanks to all of the leaders who notified us that they had completely stopped receiving notifications in mid/late May. Turns out that bots were registering for guest accounts and our resulting welcome emails were reported as Spam. Our email provider has a low tolerance for Spam, so when we received so many Spam reports, our email account was suspended. It took several days for our developer to reinstate the notification process and beef up our security. Hopefully, all is well again.

Science Education (Angie Ruzicka interim): Thirty-one folks enjoyed our evening event at the Lodge with dessert and stories from Mike Smith. Through his stories Mike described how several heuristics (mental shortcuts) can impact our outdoor experiences.

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): Five stewardship work parties were held in June. Thanks to the leaders and volunteers.

Summer Camp (Angie Ruzicka): We accomplished several tasks in June: emails were sent confirming lodging choices, an article was written for the July *Bulletin* describing our scout trip, the set-up crew was identified, and planning for the after-hike snacks was started.

Trips (Dave Cooper): One bike ride and 28 hikes. Good to see folks getting into the mountains. We collected \$42 in nonmember fees.

The Obsidians New Liability Waiver

Steve Davis

AS YOU'VE PROBABLY NOTICED, THE OBSIDIANS LIABILITY WAIVER CHANGED IN JUNE. The recent history of recreational liability waivers in Oregon started in 2014, when the Oregon Supreme Court invalidated recreational liability waivers as "unconscionable" and unenforceable (Bagley vs. Bachelor). As interpreted, this ruling meant that any voluntarily-signed liability waiver for a non-essential activity, (for example hiking, volunteer trail maintenance), was unenforceable. Despite the ruling, the Obsidians, like many volunteer and recreational activity organizations, continued to require a signed liability waiver, in the hope that signing the waiver would provide some small, undefined, legal protection.

A consequence of the 2014 ruling was a rapid and significant increase in liability insurance rates. In some cases, such as ski areas and guiding companies, increased insurance cost either drove them out of business or reduced their margins to the point of instability. Non-profit organizations were faced with purchasing very expensive liability insurance, cutting programs, or continuing with knowledge that a misstep could spell financial disaster. The Obsidians found the cost of liability insurance prohibitive.

In the first Oregon legislative session of 2026, SB1517 passed, reinstating the validity and enforceability of liability

waivers for ordinary negligence related to non-essential activities (recreation, volunteer, etc.). It was signed into law by Governor Kotek on April 7. From that date Oregon liability waivers became enforceable. As is reasonable, liability waivers are not enforceable for acts of "gross negligence, reckless conduct, willful misconduct, or intentional acts." The signed law contains wording that requires liability waivers to disclose the risks associated with the activity.

The passage of the 2026 law triggered the Obsidians Board to initiate a process leading to adoption of a new liability waiver. Multiple people, on and off the Board, contributed to the new waiver, which was drafted and sent to the Center for Non-profit Law (CNL) for review. With some minor modifications, what returned from CNL is what you now see online when you sign up for an Obsidians activity. The new waiver contains the required risk list as well as much stronger wording protecting the Obsidians organization, its leaders, and all of its members. We hope the new waiver will reduce activity liability concerns, and as a benefit, increase our leader pool.

Participants under 18 years old will still need to have a paper copy signed by a parent or legal guardian, and a PDF of the waiver may be obtained from the activity leader or the website.

A Donation and a Coincidence

THE JULY *BULLETIN*, FEATURING AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE MARK McLAUGHLIN–JERRY CLARK MEMORIAL WALL, ALONG WITH A PHOTO OF THE *WHITE WINDS* BOOK COVER, was posted on the Obsidians website on July 3. That same evening, Dr. Gordon Gribble, Professor Emeritus at Dartmouth College, emailed Janet Jacobsen asking whether any additional copies of *White Winds* were available. He mentioned that he had climbed with Mark McLaughlin several times in the 1960s.

Janet mailed a used copy of *White Winds* to Dr. Gribble, which began an engaging exchange of emails about his climbing experiences during his years as a University of Oregon chemistry graduate student in the early 1960s. He subsequently made a large donation to the club in memory of two of his climbing partners, Leonard Wojcik and Max Deninzer. He had previously donated in honor of Mark McLaughlin and Jerry Clark. Dr. Gribble also shared photographs of his climbs with Bert Ewing for the Obsidian archives.

When this story was shared with the Wednesday hikers, Mike Smith asked for the professor's name. In a remarkable coincidence, Dr. Gribble had been Mike's academic advisor during his graduate studies at Dartmouth. More proof for the six degrees of separation theory!

White Winds, written by Joe Wilcox, recounts the Mt. McKinley-Wilcox expedition. A few copies are available for loan at the Lodge.

Librarian/Historian Committee

OBSIDIANS MISSION:

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

Chasing Magma

Dr. Jeffrey B. Johnson: National Geographic Explorer and Volcanologist

Saturday, September 19 at the Shedd Institute, 5:30–7:00

Light snacks and drinks will be provided from 5:30–6:00

FOR MEMBERS OF THE HIKING COMMUNITY, FEW SUBJECTS HIT CLOSER TO HOME THAN THE VOLCANIC FORCES THAT SHAPED THE CASCADES—the same mountains we climb, traverse, and love. Dr. Johnson's work offers a rare window into what lies beneath. A researcher who has pursued active volcanoes across all seven continents, Dr. Johnson brings both scientific rigor and genuine adventure to his work. His field research has taken him from the lava fields of Hawaii to remote eruptions in Antarctica, and his collaborations with *National Geographic* have brought volcano science to audiences worldwide. At *Chasing Magma*, he will share stories and footage from the field, explaining the methods scientists use to monitor and understand some of Earth's most powerful and least predictable forces.

The Parks Talk series is designed to connect Eugene residents with compelling voices in science, nature, and conservation. This installment is a natural fit for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts who want to deepen their understanding of the landscapes they explore. The volcanic peaks of the Oregon Cascades—South Sister, Broken Top, Mount Bachelor—are not merely scenic. They are geologically alive, and Dr. Johnson's talk promises to change the way you look at them on your next summit.

Seating is limited. Registration is \$20 and available now at the Eugene Parks Foundation website:

<https://www.eugeneparksfoundation.org/parks-talk-chasing-magma>

OBSIDIANS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS SINCE 1927

Compiled by the Librarian Historian Committee

May 19, 1937 — More than fifty people gathered for a potluck dinner and campfire at the Henry and Fan Korn home to honor Club founder and first President, Dr. John Bovard, who was headed for his new position at the University of California. (June 1937 *Bulletin* pp.1, 3)

May 24, 1946 — *The 19th anniversary of their organization, the Obsidian Club will have a dinner meeting at the Osburn Hotel. E.A. Britton, county juvenile agent, will be the speaker, and will outline the growth and development of the Obsidians since they started as the Eugene Outdoor Club in 1927. (Register-Guard article)*

April 18, 1953 — The 25th Silver Anniversary Banquet will be held in the Osburn Hotel Dining Room. *During the past colorful twenty-five years, the Obsidians have been extremely active. The mountains and streams, lakes and hills, beaches and waterfalls, have been visited by Obsidians on official climbs, hikes, and outings an astounding number of times with even a more astounding number of people. (April 1953 Bulletin pp.1, 3)*

August 9 to August 23, 1953 — *Silver Jubilee Summer Camp at Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park via Greyhound Bus. Cost approximately \$75 (February 1953 Bulletin p.1)*

September 6, 1957 — 30th Anniversary. *More than 70 members, friends and former members enjoyed the big potluck dinner and the pictures and reminiscences that followed. Most*

delightful to everyone who stayed till the end were the spontaneous contributions by several of the older members - the old stories - and especially the retelling of the story of the club's origin. (September 1957 Bulletin p.4)

June 17, 1972 — 45th Anniversary potluck. *All ... encouraged to send in 6 of your slides or snapshots And then be on hand to use the new P.A. system and tell us about them when they are shown on the screen. (June 1972 Bulletin p.1)*

September 24, 1977 — 50th anniversary banquet at the Black Angus with Willie Unsoeld as guest speaker. Tickets - \$7.20. (September 1977 *Bulletin* p.1)

September 8, 2002 — 75th Anniversary Banquet at the Coburg Inn with a historical slide program by Rick Ahrens. 110 members and friends attended. (October 2002 *Bulletin* pp. 1, 4)

1927–2002 — 75th Anniversary 19-page *Bulletin Supplement. Reminiscences and recollections (and congratulations) have been received from every known living ex-Obsidian President and give some insights into Club activities during the past several decades. Editor John Cecil. (November 2002 Bulletin)*

December 14, 2002 — 75th Anniversary and Winter Trips Kick-Off (Dec 2002 *Bulletin* p.1)

November 5, 2017 — 90th Anniversary Lodge Open House (October 2017 *Bulletin. pp.1, 3.*) (January 2018 *Bulletin* p.6)

THE LIST

Mike Smith

I PUFFED MY WAY UP THE LAST OF THE STEEP CLIMB TO THE PETRIFIED FOREST PLATEAU, the forest itself a few miles and several millennia behind me. It must have been quite a sight, given the size of the stony logs and stumps, still so realistic, they needed to be touched to prove their composition was inorganic.

The plateau was a sea of short-grass prairie, a small remnant of the original. I walked south on the Maah Daah Hay trail, 13 miles from Medora, North Dakota, 86 miles from the trail's northern terminus along the Little Missouri River. This was Roughrider Country, and I was in wilderness that bore the name of the 26th president.

The hiking itself was easy for one who is used to mountains. The pool-table flat prairie afforded views into the eroded hills with juniper trees on their north facing slopes and sparse grass on the warmer, drier southern facing ones. Trail markers were visible a mile away, allowing me to easily detour when I encountered bison.

I had long wanted to see this area, which was on The List, affording it special status in my life. The List is dynamic; each year, an item or two might be added. Each year, if all goes well, a few items are checked off. Some years are particularly good—I saw Isle Royale and Theodore Roosevelt National Parks, and a wolf in the wild this particular year, the last having been at the top of The List for many years. The List is the most deeply personal thought I publicize. Because it is so personal, I don't believe in the 1000 places to see before you die approach. That is somebody else's list. Mine is mine. If you have one, yours is yours. I have no desire to see Beijing; most don't care to see the Sandhill crane migration.

The List began as a figure of speech many years ago. In my forties, I wrote it down, becoming more aware of life's lack of guarantees. A neurologist, I saw too many people disabled or dead before they did or saw what they wanted to. When I reached my fifties, the realization hit me that much of The List for me contained wilderness areas that required both good health and good physical condition. I almost put off the trip to Dakota for another year, but I knew if I went now I wouldn't be kicking myself next year if something came up. Indeed, a recent bicycle accident left me with a broken scapula and three broken ribs, all healed, but were a stark reminder of what can happen.

Occasionally, I delete an item I haven't done, but only if I am really no longer interested. Namibia's Skeleton Coast and Etosha Park remain. I won't see them, but I've been fortunate enough to have traveled twice to South Africa. I will never finish the 1,500 miles of the Appalachian Trail I haven't hiked. The List does not and perhaps should not be completely rational. It is a written reminder not to squander good years. They won't always be, as I learned this past year.

I day hiked in North Dakota. I had never done a trip like that before and found it rewarding, covering significant mileage each day because I carried less. Water is an issue and bison dangerous, both good reasons not to camp in the backcountry. It was also nice to sleep in a bed when nights were in the low 20s. In addition to bison, I saw pronghorn, wild horses, and bugling elk, a real treat. But time in wilderness usually gives me more than visual memories. I generally come out of the area looking at the world differently. I left Billings County with a surprising sense of optimism, given the current state of the world. Theodore Roosevelt came to the area in 1882 as a young man. An avid hunter, he realized the uniqueness of that particular era but envisioned a time when the bison were gone and the prairie no more. He said, "What makes our country great is not what we have but how we use it." Three days after another September 11, '01—1901—he became president, the first interested in conservation. It's difficult to travel in Roughrider Country without encountering: "I never would have become president had it not been for my experiences in North Dakota." I think he would have been pleased to know bison are still around, the area he loved became first a memorial to him and then a national park. He worked to save what he could, and it changed America 110 years ago. He would be anything but pleased now. Those of us who are still on the stage need to play our parts to the fullest to reverse the changes that have been made. My goals are to survive this time, be physically strong enough to help fix what will need to be fixed, and well off enough to help pay for those costs.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, 2006

TRIP REPORTS



Climbs

Mount Thielsen

June 20, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Jamie Sullivan

Assistant Leader: Steve Davis

Climbs: 10.0 miles, 3,800 ft. (Difficult)

STARTED THE MORNING AT THE TRAILHEAD AT 5 AM FOR A SAFETY BRIEFING. Asked about medical conditions, injuries, or concerns. None were had. Also gave the group a chance to respond to this question via email prior to the trip. We left the trailhead at 5:10 AM and started our hike in the coolness of the morning. The mosquitoes were out and, if we stopped, bug spray was needed. The fire from 2024 left a significant void of any flora on the trail. The monotone of burned trees and



Summit pic with Me (Jamie), Randy, Jack, Joel, Jason and Danni.



Jason rappelling,

upturned roots were patterned across the landscape. The hike in was good but several breaks were needed to allow participants to hydrate, eat, and rest a little. We reached chicken out ledge in roughly 4.5 hrs. One participant may have had food poisoning and had a very upset stomach. Danni assessed and spent time at tree line with the sick climber and deemed that she was safe to hike out with a second person. Another climber was not physically fit enough to continue



Lumin rappelling.

with the group once we were above tree line. Steve talked to this climber and turned him around. These two climbers descended to the parking lot together. When we got up to chicken out ledge, I performed a lead climb, belayed by the assistant (Steve Davis), and set up a fixed line for the climbers. A rock was slung on chicken out ledge to protect the belayer. Three cams were placed on the wall prior to climbing to protect both the climber and belayer. Three to four cams with slings were placed along the route. Added our own webbing to the anchor to ensure safety. The second assistant (Danni Harris) then ascended the fixed line with a prussik and behind her was Jack, who brought a second rope to the anchor point. Danni set a hand line to the summit to ensure safety along the exposed summit. The group of eight other climbers were then safety- and gear-checked prior to ascending the rope. One person per section between cams was allowed (no more than three people on the rope at a time) to prussik up the rope. There were no other climbers on the mountain while we were there. The climbers secured their PAS to the hand line and made their way to the summit. A quick summit picture was taken with the first few climbers. Danni and I then returned to the ledge approximately 20 feet lower. The rappel area from the last

several years has crumbled and the climbers left side of the mountain was very unstable. The area on climbers right has a few larger boulders to rappel from, but the area under the right (north) side also crumbled and is also unstable. The climbers were rotated on and off the summit pinnacle. Once coming off the summit, the climbers followed the hand line back to the rappel station and began rappelling to chicken out ledge. A very experienced climber (Danni Harris) went first and backed up each rappel with a firemen's belay. Up top, Steve Davis and I made sure everyone set up their rappel correctly. I rappelled down last to join the group. The rope was very difficult to clean due to a pinch point approximately two feet from the anchors. The ropes get pinched into a crack around a larger rock due to a bend in the rope for the proper angle to rappel from. Once on chicken out ledge, we gathered the gear, hydrated, ate, and then headed down around noon. Nine climbers safely made it back to the cars around 3 PM. I then surprised the group with a cold watermelon. A graffiti issue was also dealt with by a board member and this was a strong reminder of the Leave No Trace principles that we all strongly believe in. This was a great group of climbers with lots of support from each other! Everyone seemed to have a great time! Participants: Steve Adams, Lumin Browning, Jack Carpenter, Steve Davis, Gina Gorsek, Danneille Harris, Randy Jeremiah, Jason L, Jane Leng, Joel Rice, Jamie Sullivan.

Mount Adams

July 11, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Steve Davis

Assistant Leader: Sam Hillmann

Climbs: 12.0 miles, 6,600 ft. (Difficult)

AFTER A DUSTY APPROACH, WE CROSSED MORRISON CR. AND STARTED UP THE ROCKY, LOOSE CLIMBERS TRAIL to the base of Crescent Glacier. Happy to be on snow, we ascended to our camp at the Lunch Counter (9,200 ft.) and set up camp in the persistent, strong wind. The wind blew hard all night and during the ascent to the summit the following day. We got a



John, Steve D., Joel, and Steve M. on the summit with Mt. Rainier looking on from the distance.

relaxed start up the long, moderate-angle snow slope leading to the false summit, Pikers Peak. Despite being a little knackered at Pikers Peak, we could see our goal and headed

across the saddle and up the final 600 ft. to the summit. The old lookout building on the summit is still snow-covered, but it provided a bit of shelter from the wind. Views were spectacular from Glacier Peak and Mt. Rainier in the north all the way to the Three Sisters and Mt. Bachelor in the south.



Our 'cozy' camp on the Lunch Counter.

After eating a bit, we headed back the way we came. Once at Pikers Peak, the most daring member of the party shed his crampons and took to the somewhat icy glissade chute. The rest of us chose to descend a bit before glissading, as the ice can be rough on the rear and hips. In all, we managed to descend, in less than an hour, what had taken us several hours to ascend earlier in the morning. Once back on the Lunch Counter, we snacked, hydrated, packed, and began the slog back down to the trailhead and cars. A great trip with a superior group. Participants: Steve Davis, John Kovari, Steve Mokrohisky, Joel Rice.

Broken Top and NW Ridge

August 8, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Steve Davis

Assistant Leader: Miranda Trieston

Climbs: 12.5 miles, 3,700 ft. (Difficult)

UNDER THE GLIMMER OF THE MILKY WAY, WE BEGAN OUR HEADLAMP HIKE UP THE GREEN LAKES TRAIL to the climb up the Northwest Ridge of Broken Top. Once on the ridge, we



The team on the summit on a picture perfect day! Note the flying ant.



Hilary catching flying ants on her tongue as she tops Broken Top.
scrambled up the climber's trail to the balcony at the base of the short technical climb. After donning helmets and harnesses, we followed the fixed rope over the vertical step to the start of the scramble and narrow ledge traverse to the infamous Catwalk. We each successfully traversed the



Miranda (L) and crew heading down the loose, rocky NW Ridge.
Catwalk, mindful of the gaping void to the right, to the base of the final summit scramble. A fixed rope was set up and we all reached the summit on a gorgeous, windless, bluebird day. Despite the swarm of flying ants that kept us fidgety, we all admired the stunning, crystal clear view from Hood in the north to Thielsen in the south. We descended and recrossed the Catwalk, followed the narrow ledge and down-scramble to the

top of the vertical technical section, and rappelled back to the balcony. After a brief lunch break, we headed back down the Northwest Ridge, then to Green Lakes and the trailhead. A fantastic, enthusiastic, and very talkative team! Participants: Steve Davis, Hilary Harris, Jane Leng, Scott Miller, Isac Pederson, Kathryn Reynolds, Miranda Trieston, Lindsay Urquhart.

Mount McLoughlin

August 16, 2026

Leader: Steve Davis

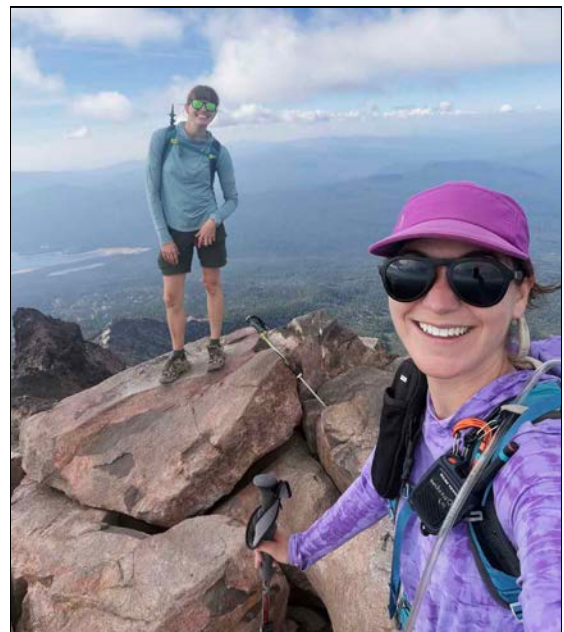
Assistant Leader: Hilary Harris

Climbs: 9.0 miles, 3,900 ft. (Difficult)

BY HEADLAMP IN THE PRE-DAWN DARK, HILARY LED NINE OBSIDIANS ACROSS THE TRAILHEAD CREEK and up the trail toward the summit of Mt. McLoughlin. Four hours of difficult hiking and scrambling on loose, rocky, steep terrain landed us on top at mid-morning. Although a smokey haze muted the view, we were rewarded with the sight of upper Mt. Shasta, seemingly disembodied, floating above the haze layer in the south. To the north, we caught vague glimpses of Diamond Pk., Mt. Thielsen, and Mt. Scott. After a summit snack and requisite photo ops, we packed up and followed Hilary back down the mountain to the trailhead, arriving in the early afternoon. For



Together on the summit. (Photo by a friendly person.)



Miranda and Hilary happy on top. Photo by Hilary Harris.

several in the party, Mt. McLoughlin was the first major Oregon Cascades volcano on their tick list! Participants: Steve Adams, Steve Davis, Marti Gerdes, Hilary Harris, Alexander Lockhart, Jeff Orendorff, Ricky Orendorff, Sandra Sigrist, Miranda Triesto.



Hikes

PDX Architecture, Oregon Historical Society, Powell's

June 23, 2026

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 3.0 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

OUR RIDE FROM EUGENE TO PORTLAND ON THE AMTRAK CASCADE TRAIN WAS A 2+ HOUR PLANNING SESSION FOR MANY FUTURE (POSSIBLE) TRIPS. Arriving in Portland, we made our way to the airport via the trams. The Portland Airport is really a work of art! What everyone noticed was just how calm the airport was, especially when compared to other large-scale airports. One of the highlights was a nine-screen giant panel display showing different natural scenery from around the Pacific Northwest. In the first panel, a hiker is seen making their way from south to north across the scene's horizon, then they step into the next scene and hike across it, then step into the next, and so on. We encountered a delay when the ticket counter was not open as expected, followed by a long line. Thank you to all the participants for their patience! Christiane was able to make her flight to see family. Our next destination was the Oregon Historical Society, which is a gem! Due to time, we could not visit as long as we would have liked. We hope to make additional trips to spend more time there. We also enjoyed some time at Powell's Books before returning to Union Station and our ride home. This was possibly one of the last Obsidian trips on the older Amtrak coaches, which have been in service for 40+ years. This trip leader is looking forward to the new Amtrak Airo trains and more Obsidian trips to Portland. Participants: Marguerite Cooney, May Fogg, Mark Hougardy, Christiane Hougardy, Evelyn Nagy, Dorothy van Winkle.

Hope Abbey

June 28, 2026

Leader: Steve Adey

Hike: 1.5 miles, 150 ft. (Easy)

WE SPENT ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF WANDERING AROUND. The cemetery is nicely set up with historical notes posted on about 50 grave sites. Currently, Hope Abbey is open the last Sunday of each month. Participants: Steve Adey, Robin Armstrong.

Mt. June

June 29, 2026

Leader: Jeff Orendorff

Hike: 7.5 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

TODAY WAS NICE AND COOL FOR OUR HIKE. We had sprinkling rain for a bit. The sky was overcast and the peak had some fog. It was a great hike. Participants: Robert Messick, Jeff Orendorff.

Brice Creek

June 29, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Margot McDonnell

Assistant Leader: Jean Stover

Hike: 7.7 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

THIS WAS A BEAUTIFUL HIKE WITH A GREAT GROUP OF OBSIDIANS ON A COOLISH DAY, PERFECT FOR HIKING. We didn't see any other hikers on the trail—we had nature in all its splendor to ourselves! The falls on the upper Trestle Loop were a highlight. We heard the burbling music of Brice Creek throughout the hike on the main trail. The shuttle worked out



Kathie, Steve, Marty.

very well, driving three cars to the east trailhead (our destination) and returning to the west trailhead in one car. When we finished the hike, we were able to fit in the two cars to drive back to the west trailhead. Everyone was in good spirits and there were no incidents to report. Participants: Steve Adey, Tamara Bressi, Kathie Carpenter, Abby Gershenson, Whitney Gould, Peter Graham, Margot McDonnell, Christine Paige, Guy Pritchett, Martin Thompson.

Coast Hike & Heceta Lighthouse

June 30, 2026

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 6.0 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

THIS HIKE NEVER DISAPPOINTS! A beautiful day on the coast with a great group of Obsidians. Participants: Mari Baldwin, Tamara Bressi, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, May Fogg, Mark Hougardy, Evelyn Nagy.

Obsidian Grand Tour

June 30, 2026

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 18.5 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

ONCE AGAIN, I WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE OTHER OBSIDIANS TO JOIN ME ON THIS EPIC 19-MILE TREK through some of the most beautiful scenery in the Cascades. We stood on the top of Four-in-One Cone, trudged up to the Collier Glacier viewpoint,



Our group of eight at Arrowhead Lake. Photo by Steve Johnson.



The marmot at Sawyer's Bar. Photo by Marian Sparks.



The view from Four-in-One Cone. Photo by Steve Johnson.

zigzagged down Opie Dilldock Pass, saw a marmot at Sawyer's Bar, clambered up a scree slope to Arrowhead Lake, then went down another scree slope to see Obsidian Falls. The weather was too cold for our traditional swim in Arrowhead Lake, but cool enough to keep hikers moving at a brisk pace. We were able to complete the hike in 9½ hours. Participants:

Steve Adams, Steve Davis, Marti Gerdes, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Steven Johnson, Jane Leng, Marian Sparks, Larry Winiarski.

Obsidians Butte to Butte

July 4, 2026

Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Hike: 4.0 miles, 67 ft. (Easy)

THE BUTTE TO BUTTE MAYOR'S WALK HAS BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT! On a cloudy, cool morning, our group enjoyed visiting and walking together. Three of our group did the four miles in less than an hour! A lovely way to start the day and enjoy the



Near the start of the Mayor's Walk. Photo by a friendly bystander.

positive energy of our community. Participants: Mari Baldwin, David Clinger, Kim Davidson-Ruby, Vicky Hanson, Jonathan Jost, Allison Knight, Holger Krentz, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Randy Sinnott, Gretchen Sotomayor, Marian Sparks, Lynn Stearney, Sue Wolling.

Cowhorn Mountain

July 8, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Steven Johnson

Hike: 8.6 miles, 2,100 ft. (Difficult)

THIS WAS A HIKE TO THE SUMMIT OF COWHORN MOUNTAIN FROM WINDIGO PASS ON THE PCT. It was a good day for a hike with clear skies giving us great views. We met four PCT hikers on



Our group near the summit.

the trail who had been hiking for three months, doing up to 35 miles a day. It made our nine-mile hike that day seem rather short, but we still had fun. Some of us stopped in Oakridge at the 3 Legged Crane for dinner after the hike. Participants: David Clinger, Steve Davis, Wendy Edmonds, Steven Johnson, Mark Kintigh, Jane Leng, Lynn Meacham, Robert Messick, Sandra Sigrist, Marian Sparks, Larry Winiarski.

Erratic Rock, Chachalu & Fort Yamhill

July 9, 2026

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Field Trip: 3.0 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

WHILE DRIVING UP I-5, WE CHANGED OUR ROUTE and treated ourselves to views of open lands, farmland, and small towns. The day was beautiful, and the view of Mount Hood while standing at Erratic Rock was exceptional. The rest of the day we explored more of Oregon's history, then made our way back to Eugene. Participants: Steve Adey, Kathie Carpenter, May Fogg, Mark Hougardy, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Nancy Whitfield, Sina Wibstad.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

July 11, 2026

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

SADLY, TWO GUESTS CANCELED AT THE LAST MINUTE, AND HAPPILY, A MEMBER SHOWED UP AT THE LAST MINUTE. One guest learned about the Obsidians via our display table at the Pisgah Wildflower Festival. This is always a fun outing. Participants: Victoria Binning, Marguerite Cooney, David Cooper, Damon Harris, Lynn Meacham, Isaac Monrean, Anne O'Connell, Dorothy van Winkle.

Bachelor Mtn. from Bugaboo Ridge

July 14, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Steven Johnson

Hike: 8.6 miles, 1,800 ft. (Difficult)

IT WAS A WARM DAY, BUT STILL A GOOD DAY FOR A HIKE AS THERE WAS A COOL BREEZE. There is still a logging operation on the road to the trailhead, but unlike my trip in 2024, we were allowed to get past to the trailhead. The hike to the summit



Our group on the Bugaboo trail.



Our group of 12 plus a butterfly on Bachelor Mountain.

passes through many flower-covered meadows. Our group of twelve all reached the summit, where we had our lunch and enjoyed great views to the north, but smoke obscured views to the south. Participants: David Clinger, Marti Gerdes, Abby Gershenson, Steven Johnson, Margot McDonnell, Lynn Meacham, Robert Messick, Jeff Orendorff, Monica Ozwoeld, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Sue Wolling.

Annual Beach Barefoot Hike

July 17, 2026

Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Assistant Leader: Heidi Anderson

Hike: 6.2 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

OUR CHEERFUL GROUP OF 17 OBSIDIANS ENJOYED A STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL DAY ON THE OREGON COAST—blue skies, no wind, a minus tide. We started at Holman Vista and after helping each other cross Sutton Creek on a log, we made our way up and



Crossing Sutton Creek--teamwork! Photo by Heidi Anderson.

over the dune to reach the beach. As we walked north, the receding tide left puddles with interesting textures and exposed colorful sea stars. When we reached "Darko's Hidden Cove," we enjoyed a snack and explored the cliffs before heading back south. Our final beach activity was a joyful *hokey pokey*. Participants: Heidi Anderson, David Clinger, Scott Fuchise, David Hawkins, Gwyneth Iredale, Tracy Johnson,



Cool textures! Photo by Marian Sparks.



A rainbow of sea stars! Photo by Heidi Anderson.

Lana Lindstrom, Robert Messick, Evelyn Nagy, Rae Obrien, John Ostrom, Guy Pritchett, Angie Ruzicka, Gwynn Sawyer, Sandra Sigrist, Joan Skarda, Marian Sparks.

Hunts Cove

July 21, 2026

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 12.4 miles, 2,150 ft. (Difficult)

WITH TEMPERATURES IN EUGENE PREDICTED TO REACH CLOSE TO 100 DEGREES, THE HUNTS COVE HIKE WAS A GOOD DESTINATION. The trail into Hunts Cove is through a beautifully shaded, mature forest, along several cascading mountain streams that kept our hikers cool enough to finish this 13-mile trek. Pamela Lake has been reduced to a small puddle, but Hunts Lake is still full and provided us with a chance to take a rather brisk swim before our return hike. Unfortunately, smoke has smothered the Cascades, and it's looking like it's here to stay for the summer. A stop at Takoda's Restaurant after the hike gave our group a chance to cool down after this challenging hike. Participants: Steve Davis, Wendy Edmonds, Marti Gerdes, Steven Johnson, Mark Kintigh, Lynn Meacham, Robert Messick, Jeff Orendorff, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Marian Sparks.

South Eugene Meadows

July 25, 2026

Leader: David Cooper

Assistant Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 4.5 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

ELEVEN OBSIDIANS WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO FIND COOL TEMPERATURES AND CLOUDY SKIES for the first official Obsidian hike on the South Eugene Meadows trail. It was also a surprise to see the new parking lot empty with the gate closed. Most of



Starting down the well-designed trail to accommodate the 50 ft. easement.



At the loop intersection by one of the six fiber glass bridges, Janet points the direction we will take.

us parked along 52nd Street. Before the hike, Janet emailed everyone a one-page history that described how the lollipop trail came to be, and that appreciated the vision of so many volunteers. Holger, our official photographer, captured the trail's character, especially on the steep switchbacks on the 50-foot easement. A western tanager bursting out of bushes was unexpected. We stopped at a well-placed sitting rock with a view of Spencer Butte and shared Janet's persimmon bread, made with fruit from Kathie's tree. The hike took about two hours, with four miles distance and 600 ft. elevation gain. When we returned to the empty parking lot, we met Sue Wolling and Lyndell Wilken heading out to hike the trail. Meanwhile, Mari and Dave figured out how to unlock the gate. It turned out not to be locked at all, just a puzzle of unfamiliar pieces to sort out. Strange ending! Participants: Mari Baldwin,

Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, Marguerite Cooney, David Cooper, Kim Davidson-Ruby, Elizabeth Grant, Christiane Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham.

Vivian Lake from Salt Creek Falls

July 26, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,745 ft. (Difficult)

TWELVE OBSIDIANS MADE THE TREK TO BEAUTIFUL VIVIAN LAKE FROM SALT CREEK FALLS. Blue skies, moderate temperatures and no mosquitoes made for a perfect day! We stopped briefly at Fall Creek Falls, then on to Vivian, where we had lunch and a few went for a quick swim. On the way back, we viewed



Dorothy, Marian, Martha at Vivian Lake.

Diamond Falls before returning to our cars. Participants: Annie Chan, David Clinger, David Cooper, Martha Dyer, Vern Marsonette, Kirk Powell, Gina Schroeder, Marian Sparks, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle, Bill Whitley, Kim Whitley.

Welcome Home, Whale

July 26, 2026

Leader: Evelyn Nagy

Hike: Easy

WE TOURED THE VISITOR CENTER AT THE HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER before meeting our guide for a very interesting interpretation of the whale and all it represented. Afterwards, we finished the day with an enjoyable hike on the beach at Nye Beach. Participants: May Fogg, Helen Martz, Evelyn Nagy, Karla Rusow, Pat Soussan, Judy Terry.

A Day at the Beach

July 27, 2026

Leader: Evelyn Nagy

Hike: Easy

A PLEASANT DAY AT THE COAST. Participants: May Fogg, Evelyn Nagy.

Berley and Craig Lakes

July 28, 2026

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 9.0 miles, 1,200 ft. (Moderate)

BERLEY LAKES IS A TRIP THAT'S TYPICALLY A WINTER SKI DESTINATION; however, I've always wanted to explore these two lakes in the summer. It turns out that both Upper and Lower Berley Lakes make for a great day hike, giving us

beautiful views of Three Fingered Jack, with the added bonus that both lakes are great swimming lakes. After lunch, we followed the Old Santiam Trail, which was abandoned decades ago, to Craig Lake. We wandered a bit until we found a steep scramble trail that took us to this beautiful, secluded lake that was so inviting that nine of our group of twelve went for another swim. After the hike, most of our group stopped at Takoda's Restaurant. Participants: Elena Cantoran, Kathie Carpenter, Jacquie Fern, Steven Johnson, Jane Leng, Lynn Meacham, Jeff Orendorff, Guy Pritchett, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Marian Sparks, Harold Thompson.

Shale Ridge Cedar Grove Trail

August 1, 2026

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Hike: 5.8 miles, 365 ft. (Easy)

JUST A REALLY, REALLY NICE WALK IN THE WOODS. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Tim Christie, David Clinger, Martha Dyer, Marti Gerdes, Elizabeth Grant, Robert Messick, Eva Mogart, Harold Thompson.



Elizabeth, Tim, Martha, Robert, Eva, Harold, Marti, Kathie, David.
Photo by Tim Christie.



Ghost pipes of the forest are ready for their close-up.
Photo by Eva Mogart.

Raptor Loop

August 2, 2026

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 4.0 miles, 700 ft. (Easy)

We had a nice hike through the shady woods. Participants: Marguerite Cooney, Marti Gerdes, Christiane Hougardy, Jessica Johnston, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Kirk Powell, Dorothy van Winkle.

Collard & Clear, Hike & Swim

August 7, 2026

Leader: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader & Photographer: Joan Skarda

Hike: 5.3 miles, 490 ft. (Easy)

FAR FROM THE HEAT OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY, Clear Lake Dunes County Park adventures are always a good idea. Thank you, J&J Skarda for support. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Christiane



We had fantastic swim at Clear Lake.

Hougardy, Dave Predeek, Angie Ruzicka, Joan Skarda, John Skarda, Darko Sojak, Harold Thompson, Annette Thompson.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

August 8, 2026

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DAY OF SHARING WHAT OUR CLUB IS ABOUT while hiking through the woods. Participants: Tamara Bressi, Bethany Connors, Dave Connors, Fred Crafts, Tim Dettmer, Alan Foley, Marti Gerdes, Mollie Jackson, Justin Leung, Jackie Lewis, Lauren Moore, Suzanne Porter, Sam Tracer, Dorothy van Winkle.

Evening Hike: Willamette Riverbank / Alton Baker Park

August 13, 2026

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 4.0 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

ANOTHER LOVELY EVENING WHERE EVERYONE ENJOYED WALKING

ALONG THE WILLAMETTE RIVER and through Alton Baker Park! Participants: Tamara Bressi, David Clinger, Marguerite Cooney, David Cooper, Margot Cortez, Mark Hougardy, Gwyneth Iredale, Lisa Van Liefde.

South Eugene Meadows

August 16, 2026

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 4.5 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

THIS NEW TRAIL IS QUITE POPULAR. Several of us met people we knew who were also out enjoying the trail. Participants: Lynda Christiansen, David Clinger, Margot Cortez, Gwyneth Iredale, Lynn Meacham, Gretchen Sotomayor, Dorothy van Winkle.

Waldo Lake Loop

August 18, 2026

Leader: Mary Holbert

Hike: 22.0 miles, 1,600 ft. (Difficult)

IT WAS A GREAT DAY OF HIKING AT WALDO LAKE. We added a little distance by starting at the Charlton Lake Trailhead, as other options were closed for rehab. The five of us completed the 23-mile hike in 9 hours, including breaks. There was some blowdown, but far less than the USFS had warned. Much of the hike was through burned areas with varying amounts of fresh growth. For long stretches, it was a veritable sea of fireweed. The contrast between the pink and black of the trees was phenomenal. It was pretty hot, dusty, and exposed, but there were breezy sections that provided some relief. We walked counterclockwise in order to get through blowdown early in the hike. A nice side effect of the counter clockwise choice was that our final section was shaded and unburned. Participants: Kim Davidson-Ruby, Mary Holbert, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Jane Leng, Darko Sojak.

Dorris Ranch

August 19, 2026

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Assistant Leader: Mandy Lund

Hike: 4.0 miles (Easy)

WHEN WE ARRIVED AT DORRIS RANCH, THE GATE WAS LOCKED due to pesticide spraying in the hazelnut orchard. With Lana's help, we pivoted to the Springfield riverfront at Island Park and everyone enjoyed the warm evening. Participants: Cliff Alexander, Mari Baldwin, Tamara Bressi, Marguerite Cooney, Margot Cortez, Lana Lindstrom, Mandy Lund, Evelyn Nagy, Lisa Van Liefde.

52nd & Willamette: South Eugene Meadows

September 1, 2026

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Assistant Leader: Mandy Lund

Hike: 4.0 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS HAD EXPERIENCED THIS NEW TRAIL. All agreed that it is a great new addition to Eugene! Participants: Cliff Alexander, Marguerite Cooney, David Cooper, Dan Gilmore, Stephanie LeMenager, Mandy Lund, Jayne Miller, Lisa Van Liefde, Sina Wibstad.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

Hikes: 2.7–6.2 miles, 449–1,530 ft. (Easy–Moderate)
Various Leaders

Eva Mogart, Janet Jacobsen: 7/1 9 Participants
7/22 7 Participants
Gwyneth Iredale: 7/8 10 Participants 7/15 5 Participants
Mandy Lund: 7/22 5 Participants
Janet Jacobsen: 7/29 9 Participants
Darko Sojak: 7/31 4 Participants
Margot McDonnell: 8/5 7 Participants
David Clinger: 8/12 12 Participants 9/2 11 Participants
Janet Jacobsen, Eva Mogart: 8/19 8 Participants
Eva Mogart: 8/26 5 Participants

Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Janet Jacobsen: 6/30 5 Participants
Marian Sparks: 7/7 7 Participants
Jorry Rolfe: 7/14 7 Participants 9/1 6 Participants
Jacquie Fern: 7/21 4 Participants 8/18 6 Participants
Lynn Meacham: 8/4 7 Participants
Valerie Metcalfe: 8/11 7 Participants

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.0 miles, 1,040 ft. (Moderate)

Mari Baldwin: 6/29 5 Participants
Lisa Van Liefde: 7/8 8 Participants
Gwyneth Iredale: 7/27 11 Participants
Heidi Anderson: 8/26 13 Participant



Bike Trips

Willamette River Solar System By Bike

August 1, 2026
Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak
Bike: 19.5 miles, 379 ft. (Easy)

THE EUGENE SOLAR SYSTEM TRAIL IS ONE OF THE FIRST SOLAR SYSTEM TRAILS IN THE COUNTRY, the longest on the West Coast, and the only one in Oregon. Today we cycled this



The Sun, our beloved yellow dwarf star.

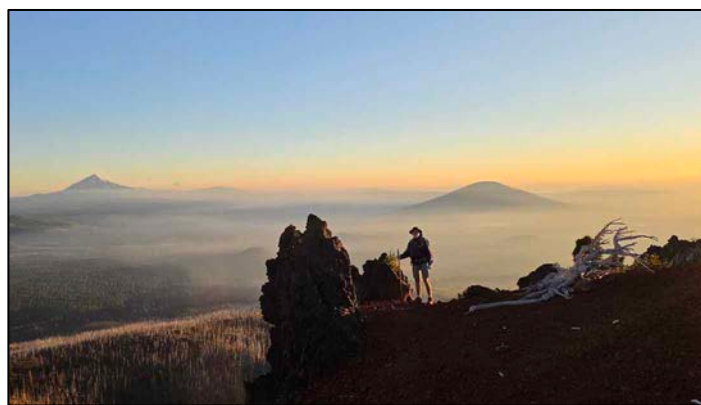
unique 1:1 billion scale trail. Balmy weather was a bonus. Participants: Alan Foley, Jeff Lange, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

Car Camp

Black Crater Sunrise

August 12, 2026
Leader: Darko Sojak
Car Camp: 8.0 miles, 2,355 (Difficult)

ANOTHER SPECTACULAR SUNRISE IN THE CASCADES! Just before 3 AM, we left our camp at Lava Camp Lake and began our dusty trek through the eerie remains of the 2017 Milli Fire. A new moon contributed to perfectly dark skies and



Darko Sojak, Black Crater sunrise. Photo by Jane Leng.

the occasional glimmer of the Perseid meteor shower. The summit of Black Crater was cold and windy, but it offered a great smoke-free view of the sunrise, a dozen other volcanoes, the Belknap Lava Field, and central Oregon. Participants: Jane Leng, Darko Sojak.



Water Trips

Siuslaw River Kayaking or Canoeing

July 28, 2026
Leader & Photographer: Lana Lindstrom
Assistant Leader: Rachelle Masin
Water: Moderate

ASSISTANT LEADER, RACHELLE, SUMMARIZED HOW MANY OF US FELT ABOUT THIS TRIP: “It was such a pleasure sharing the day on the river with everyone.” Other comments via e-mail: fun, beautiful day; couldn’t have asked for better weather; fun day on the river; great paddling with a supportive group and no wind! The leaders were very impressed with how participants helped each other unload and load the boats and get into and out of them safely. We had 11 solo kayaks in different shapes and lengths and one tandem 17 ft. canoe. We paddled upriver on the Siuslaw with the tide for about 25 minutes, but when we reached Sweet Creek, there was a mud bar



Joan and Dave launching the last two kayaks.



Reflections on a beautiful day.

across the mouth, so we continued paddling upstream for another 20 minutes. By the time we returned, the water had risen high enough to navigate the creek. Most of the blackberries were a bit too high to reach, but there were some to sample (not enough to make jam)! Participants: Jan Anselmo, Richard Anselmo, Mari Baldwin, Lee Bartlett, Elizabeth Grant, John Hegg, Lana Lindstrom, Rachelle Masin, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott, Joan Skarda, David Strutin, Lyndell Wilken.



Stewardship

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Care & Stewardship

June 26, 2026

Leader: Mike Smith

Stewardship: 0.5 miles, 100 ft. (Mixed)

FOUR OF US WENT TO THE ARBORETUM AND WORKED ON TWO SITES: 1. Oak savanna, where there was sign washing, sign fixing, brushing of grass, raking of same, and cutting of oak



Mike Smith. Photo by Darko Sojak.

branches over the labyrinthine trails. Place looks good! This site is very near the pavilion to the southeast. 2. Oak woodlands, up a nearby trail, where we did the same with some issues with the brusher, but we had it mostly under control. First time we have done both sites! Participants: David Cooper, Angie Ruzicka, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak.

Ridgeline Brushing and Trimming

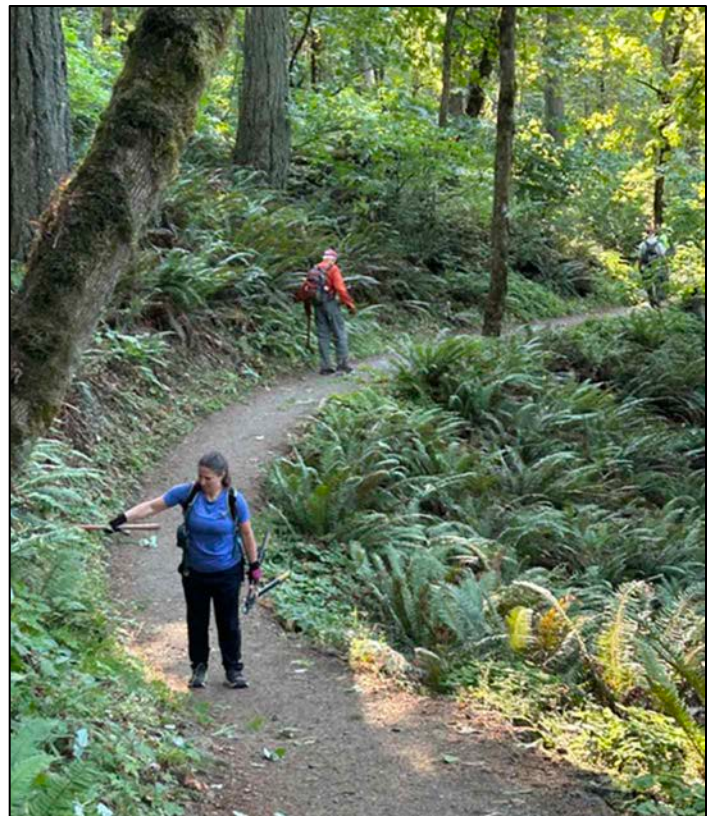
July 29, 2026

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Stewardship (Mixed)

FOR THIS WEDNESDAY EVENING OUTING, WE MET AT THE WILLAMETTE AND 52ND TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT to work independently to brush the trail sides of the Ridgeline. We had a lively debate on the utility of the weed cutters because, based



Mandy and Larry patrolling the trail.

on their looks, they don't look like they will work very well. All doubters were pleasantly surprised that, against soft-stemmed plants, they work exceptionally well. Thankfully, most of the plants we encountered fell into the soft-stemmed category. We hiked in about halfway to the Tie Trail junction and worked our way back out to the switchbacks. We also pruned back some overhanging poison oak. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing energy balls and post-outing treats, and to Clara for cutting back blackberries around the trailhead and picking up litter. Participants: Matt Bell, Larry Dunlap, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Mandy Lund, Eva Mogart.

Lodge / Grounds Workday

July 31, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Nancy Whitfield

Assistant Leader: David Cooper

Stewardship

AN EARLIER START PROVIDED COOLER TEMPERATURES, although the day was quite moderate. Ten Obsidians worked hard and the grounds show it. All lawns were mowed, tall grass



Doug puts the finishing touches on the tree.



The grounds are looking good.

trimmed, bushes cut back, trees pruned, the sprinkler controls checked, and the fence corridor maintained. The ability of a small hard-working group continues to fill me with admiration and awe. Participants: David Cooper, Larry Dunlap, Clara Emlen, Vern Marsonette, Doug Nelson, Maryanne Reiter, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield.

Think Globally, Act Locally, Summer 2026

August 10, 2026

Leader: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 2.0 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

TODAY WE CLEANED A SHORT SECTION ALONG THE FERN RIDGE MULTI-USE TRAIL. Thank you, volunteers. Time that inspires people and makes them feel valued is priceless. Participants: Joanna Alexander, Fred Crafts, Marti Gerdes, David Morris, Lisa Quillin, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Bill Whitley.



David Morris. Photo by Darko Sojak.



Marti, Dave, Darko, Joanna and Bill. Photo by Fred Crafts.



Job well done. Photo by City of Eugene worker.

NEW EXHIBIT IN THE SCHERER ROOM QUILTS BY MARIAN SPARKS

September thru December

MARIAN HAS BEEN AN ART QUILTER SINCE 2003. Marian says: "Throughout the years I have explored depth of field through geometrics and have enjoyed hiding pictures and messages in my quilting. ...I joined the Obsidians in December 2025. On these fabulous hikes, not only have I been feasting on the beauty we have in Oregon, it has been feeding my creative energy."

Editor's note: Marian is on the Entertainment Committee, has participated in over 60 trips and has started leading trips.



Celebrating 100 Great Years with Colleen Milliman



Colleen and her son Greg at the Lodge.

*On August 22,
friends gathered
at the Obsidian Lodge
to share cake and
punch with Colleen.*

*It was festive at Hayward Field on August 23!
Approximately 45 Obsidians and their guests accompanied
Centenarian Colleen Milliman on her 100-meter walk.
Hundreds of Hayward Field spectators were cheering.
Happy birthday Colleen!*

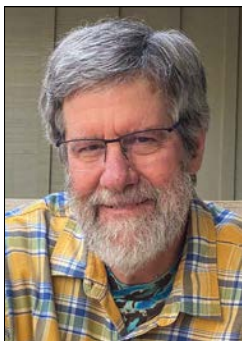


AT THE LODGE



Friday, September 25, 2026

Old-Growth Forest Hikes—Then & Now



JOHAN CISSEL WILL BE PRESENTING AN UPDATE ON HIS *FIELD GUIDE TO OLD-GROWTH FORESTS IN THE OREGON CASCADES*. John authored a series of old-growth hiking guides from 1991 to 2003, and has recently revisited over 100 of those hikes in preparation for his upcoming guide. Focusing on changes in the forest over the last 30 years, he will highlight the diversity of our amazing old forests, and touch on the effects of those changes over time, including changes due to wildfires. John has had a long career in forest and fire ecology and research, and had previously given presentations to the Obsidians in 1992 and 2004.

You do not need to be an Obsidian member to attend; no sign-up is necessary. All are welcome. For more information visit:

www.obsidians.org/events/category/entertainment.



Potluck & Presentation

Friday, September 25, 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.

SOUTH EUGENE MEADOWS OFFICAL OPENING!

SEM Grand Opening Celebration and Hike

September 22, 2026

Leader: Jonathan Jost Assistant Leader: Andy McIvor
3.8 miles (Easy)

Official ribbon-cutting:

When:
Tuesday September 22, 2026
10 AM – 11 AM

Where:
South Eugene Meadows trailhead
5200 Willamette Street

JOIN THE OBSIDIANS FOR THIS GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION OF THE SOUTH EUGENE MEADOWS TRAIL. We will join the Eugene Parks Foundation and Eugene Parks and Open Space for their community celebration at 10:00 AM. We will then take part in a celebratory 'hike the loop' walk, which will depart from the trailhead immediately following the ceremony.

If you are interested in car pooling, please meet at Amazon Community Center parking lot at 9:20 for a 9:30 departure. If you are NOT car pooling, meet at the newly developed parking area, 5200 Willamette, at 9:45. Wear your Obsidian gear!

Sign up online: https://obsidians.org/events/

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:

September 15, 22, 29

October 6, 13, 20, 27

Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

Wednesdays:

September 16, 23, 30

October 7, 14, 21, 28

CHECK FOR DETAILS & SIGN UP ONLINE

obsidians.org/events



STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

National Public Lands Day

Trail Maintenance

9:00 AM-NOON

Saturday, September 26

Willamette Confluence Stewardship

9:30 AM-NOON

Friday, October 2

Love Your Lake

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Rosary Lakes Cleanup: October 6

Bobby Lake Cleanup: October 31

Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance

9:00 AM-NOON

Saturday, October 31

Saturday, November 28

Have a question?

Contact obsidians-stewardship@googlegroups.com

Get Acquainted Hikes

Second Saturday of the Month:

September 12 & October 10

Members and nonmembers, please join us!

Sign up online.

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

Please contact Dorothy for the particulars.

dorothyvanwinkle@yahoo.com

541-485-7416, land line, no texting

Thank you!



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

~~Tuesday, September 15~~ **CANCELED**

Thursday, October 15

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

Mt. Pisgah Sunset Full Moonrise

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

September 24, October 23, November 22

Guests welcome

CHECK FOR DETAILS
& SIGN UP ONLINE

obsidians.org/events



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September 2026



East slope rock sculpture. Photo by Steve Davis. See the Mt. McLoughlin trip report on page 11.

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