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Dates to Remember

October 14	Board Meeting
October 15	GameNight!
October 30	Potluck
October 30	Bulletin Deadline
November 10	GameNight!

Current event schedules at:

obsidians.org

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

South Eugene Meadows Ribbon Cutting at the New Willamette West Trailhead *Janet Jacobsen*



Mayor Knudson cuts the ribbon. Photo by Darko Sojak.

AROUND ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE ATTENDED THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SOUTH EUGENE MEADOWS TRAIL at the new 52nd and Willamette parking area on Tuesday morning, September 22. The city pop-up event truck was there by 9:00 with coffee and treats including chocolate zucchini bread compliments of the Obsidians. Neighbors, donors, hikers, Eugene Parks Foundation members, and Eugene Parks and Open Space staff mingled and shared their smiles and stories of how respect and hard work put the pieces together to make the trail a reality.

Eugene Parks and Open Space Director Craig Carnagey started the ceremony followed by Eugene Parks Foundation Board President Kevin Alltucker, who recognized John Winquist for his decades of dedication to a vision of a connected Ridgeline Trail. Mayor Karrin Knudson cheerfully thanked everyone and cut the ribbon amidst much applause and photos! Twenty-two Obsidians started up the new trail for their celebratory hike the loop walk. Jorry Rolfe wrote in her trip report: *It was a memorable and celebratory occasion.*



Ariel Lissman, ED of the Eugene Parks Foundation with Andy McIvor, Obsidian & EPF Board member. Photo by Lynn Stearney.

The new kiosk provides a map, trail details, and how the trail was funded:

The South Eugene Meadows Trail was created with funding from the Eugene Parks Foundation and System Development Charges. Ongoing maintenance of the trail is made possible in part by the 2023 Parks and Recreation Levy. The property was purchased in 2011 with funding from the 2006 Parks Bond, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Bonneville Power Administration's Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, and a donation by the former landowner.

Editor's note: *This most recent addition to the Ridgeline trail system was 14 years in the making. Read about the history of the Spencer Butte and Ridgeline Trails on pp. 4-5.*

Mushroom Festival 2026



OBSIDIANS WILL HOST A TABLE AT MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM'S 2026 MUSHROOM FESTIVAL on Sunday, October 25, 10 AM–5 PM.

Stop by and say hello while you explore a world of mushrooms, food, vendors, and music!

The Obsidians table will be located on Non-Profit Alley, behind the Pavilion.

Tickets go on sale Friday, September 25.

Arboretum members get free admission.

Parking is free on festival day.

For more information:

<https://mountpisgaharboretum.org/festivals-events/mushroom-festival/>

****No need to sign up for this event****

How to Renew Your Membership

Lana Lindstrom

QUITE A FEW MEMBERS STILL HAVE AN OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER RENEWAL DATE, SO HERE'S A REMINDER ON HOW TO RENEW. All memberships are effective for 365 days from joining or renewing. If you renew prior to your expiration date, your renewed membership year will be counted from the original due date.

Log in.

Click on *User Dashboard* (orange button).

Scroll down to *My Subscription*.

Click on *View* on the line which has your next payment date. If you do not see a *View* option, go directly to next step.

Click on *Renew Now*.

Review the pre-loaded information. *Note:* if you want to continue to receive the *Bulletin* electronically rather than a paper copy, check the box.

Decide how to pay the \$50 fee.

Click on *Renew Subscription*. A notice will pop up that the order has been received.

If you elected to pay by check, put a check in the mail payable to Obsidians, PO Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405.

If you have online issues, please call or email Lana Lindstrom at 541-683-1409 (no texts) or lane_lindstrom@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Committee Chairpersons

Bus Jim Northrop
Climbs Steve Davis
Concessions..... Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd..... Angie Ruzicka
Entertainment Ane McKee
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance..... Susan Zeni
Lodge Building Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds..... Nancy Whitfield
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Publications..... Lou Maenz
Publicity..... D. Rubenstein & L. Van Liefde
Safety Maryanne Reiter
Stewardship..... Darko Sojak
Summer Camp Angie Ruzicka
Trips Dave Cooper

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Deadline

**For November Bulletin
Friday, October 30**

Editorial Team

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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

LOBSTER MUSHROOMS

Mike Smith

THE RED MUSHROOMS ON THE SIDE OF THE TRAIL STOPPED ME. I had scouted Winberry Tie Trail, past maples and mountain ash, two and a half miles up to the divide, a height of land between Winberry Creek and the Middle Fork of the Willamette River watersheds. The trail ended in a T at the mile-long divide trail connecting an abandoned road to the west that dropped four miles to the north side of Lookout Point Reservoir and FS 5821 to the east, which did the same in about six miles. I scouted to 5821 before retracing my steps.

Scouting is looking for logs or brush that need removal, checking trail tread for erosion or other problems in order to plan a future outing to address them. This trail was well known to me; on the way back down I had just passed a rock wall we built near a root ball hole we had filled in. It had rained hard that day and I remembered the cold mud in which we worked, near where I saw a mountain beaver on another outing. Mountain beavers, or boomers, are non-beaver rodents. They're cute.

We recovered the trail three years ago, originally barely able to find where it was. The trail required fifteen visits to log it out, including the access Forest Service road which the trail crosses twice. We then removed encroaching brush, repaired the tread and turnpikes, the latter of which elevate a trail above a wet area. I remember vividly being on my knees in full rubberized rain gear digging out every inch of a side wall of the trail for a hundred yards in a cold rain-snow mix, removing salal and Oregon grape. I know this place. One visit this year with two power brushers and a power saw crew would have the trail in good shape for the next season, assuming, of course, no trees fell on it in the meantime. All the logs needing removal were on the lower portion of the trail. The tread was excellent, although there was new growth of salal. Nature is trying to restore the trail, too, her way.

I couldn't identify the mushrooms, but I had seen similar ones called lobster mushrooms at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum's then recent annual mushroom festival. I took a picture and continued back to the Forest Service access road, taking that route, rather than the trail, to the vehicle.

I'm no mycologist. In another life, I could find myself interested in mushrooms to learn their names, like I did wildflowers. My first identification was a western cauliflower mushroom on Crescent Mountain nine years ago on a wet, cold hike where we aborted going to the summit as a matter of common sense. The mushroom is quite distinctive, grows at the base of old growth trees, and quite edible, although I didn't know that at the time.

I wrote to Steve, a crew member and mushroom expert, asking whether the mushrooms I had found on Winberry were indeed lobster mushrooms (*Hypomyces lactifluorum*). Steve

assiduously collects mushrooms on autumn trail work outings, putting them in his pack cover to carry home for dinner. He once started talking to me about boletes and porcinis which I thought until this writing were very different types of mushrooms. Turns out that all porcinis are boletes, but not all boletes are porcinis. It made as much sense to me as my constructing a 99% confidence interval of the mean with a random sample of 44 with a mean $\bar{x}$ and standard deviations would to him. In any case, Steve is quite polite in his emails, usually prefacing them by "Good morning," or if he is busy, "Morning." His answer to me was out of character: "where exactly are they?" The "where" wasn't even capitalized. I assumed my identification guess was correct. Steve didn't say. I replied the same day, since I surmised he was eager to get them. It was quite easy. We had both power brushed this area once, each of us using an orange Stihl weed whacker, 25.1 cc, 1 cylinder 2 cycle engine. I told him he could drive to the upper trailhead, and the mushrooms would be about a quarter mile up the trail, on the right. I could have said the west side, but that's nitpicking. Keep it simple.

The Arboretum mushroom festival was excellent that year, as always. I commented to one of the volunteer mycologists about the western cauliflower mushroom (*Sparassis radicata*) they displayed, and he lit up. You could see it in his eyes. It's the look one has when asked questions about their field. I've seen that look in teachers, climbers, birders, pilots, athletes, botanists, and know if I am asked about eclipses, or for that matter, confidence intervals, I light up like they do, becoming a different person.

The man said, "I made a dressing for a stroganoff by replacing the bread with the mushroom," using his hand like a ladle. He whispered conspiratorially, "It was the BEST dressing I have ever tasted."



Slug enjoying lobster mushrooms. Photo by Darko Sojak.

If you forage, know what you are doing. See you on the trail at the annual mushroom festival Sunday, October 25 at the Arboretum, where my volunteer work there has me collecting and removing the trash generated during the day!

OBSIDIANS CONNECT WITH SPENCER BUTTE AND RIDGELINE TRAILS: 1928–2026

Revised by Janet Jacobsen from April 2017 Bulletin article



*Returning from Spencer Butte, March 24, 1929. Leader: Miss Kent.
Photo probably taken from Willamette Street at about 24th Avenue.
From the Obsidian archives.*

THE OBSIDIANS HAVE HAD A LONG HISTORY WITH SPENCER BUTTE AND THE RIDGELINE TRAIL. Spencer Butte is mentioned in early *Bulletins* as one of the “usual” local walks with a reference to the rough Willamette road outside the city limits. Miss Kent led the first Spencer Butte hike March 24, 1928. Spencer Butte didn’t come under public ownership until 1939 when Eugene residents were asked to give \$5.00 each to “buy a piece of the butte.” This was followed by more purchases and easements that would eventually develop into the Ridgeline Trail System. Until the early 1980s there was no easy way to hike up Spencer Butte from the east side. There was a sign at Hendricks Park: Spencer Butte 8 miles. Excerpts from Obsidian trip reports chronicle the amazing vision and hard work of Eugene Parks and Open Space to expand and improve trails. See: [April 2017 Obsidian Bulletin](#)

1950 Birth of the Ridgeline Trail

In 1950 “Tex” Matsler (Eugene Parks and Recreation Superintendent from 1949–1964) took Alton Baker and Bill Tugman both of the *Register-Guard* to the present site of South Eugene High School. Pointing to the south ridgeline he said, *But it won’t always be there unless the city acts now to preserve it.* That was the birth of our present-day Ridgeline Trail. *A History of City of Eugene Recreation*, Bruce Steinmatz

4/3/1962 Ribbon Park Association

This is the name chosen by a group of citizens representing various organizations in and around Eugene who met at the Obsidian Club- house April 3 to form a club to work towards the forming a park running continuously from one Park to another for hiking, bike riding and horseback riding around the city of Eugene. Plans were made, a constitution was drawn up and officers elected... Mr. Matsler gave the party quite a talk on what the far-reaching plans should be and more or less on how to go about it... Ray Sims is the official representative from the Obsidians.

The Ridgeline Trail Park was completed after Matsler’s tenure, but friends who recognized his contribution recently after his death placed bronze plaques bearing his name (“Tex” Matsler) in the ground at the Dillard West and Blanton Road trailheads.



*Matsler memorial plaque beneath the Dillard West kiosk.
Perfectly cleaned and washed by Eva Mogart 8/26/26.
Photo by Janet Jacobsen.*

1/20/1975 Ribbon Trail Hike to Spencer Butte

Marriner Orum again led his popular hike from Hendricks Park to Spencer. He wrote: *The Ribbon trail is more of a concept than a reality. It will take a lot of dedication, lobbying, and dollars before we will be able to make this trip on a defined trail, divorced from the city streets and the automobile...in the meantime, it would be good to ‘buttonhole’ your local council member and start lobbying for the Ribbon Trail to the Butte.*

4/14/1983 South Hills Ridgeline Trail Dedication

The dedication is at 1:00 p.m near 52nd and Willamette Street. A hike of 3 miles is optional. Shuttle bus will return you to your cars. R.S.V.P. For shuttle bus, 687-5333. Do attend!

The March 1983 *Bulletin* one page article by editor John Cecil titled *Mud, Mud, Mud...* ([Obsidian Bulletin March 1983](#) pp.16–17) But Eugene’s new “Ridgeline Trail will be a winner! is a fun read. Excerpts: *The South Hills’ long awaited “Ridgeline Trail” is now a reality. Nearly three miles long, easily accessible and very close-in to Eugene, this new hiking trail will be a welcome attraction to anyone who can pull on a pair of Redwings... An old goat track to the top of the Butte, very steep, eroded and little used, takes off at about the midway point. (Yes, our archives have a 1944 photo of goats on the Butte.) ...Recently contracted by the City of Eugene at a cost of \$24,000, this fine trail was constructed by the Fall Creek trail building firm of Sprague Inc. and was only one month in the making... It’s success and usefulness (once that ever-clinging mud is mastered!) are a foregone conclusion. Heavy pedestrian use is*

predicted when its existence is more generally known. A future extension is planned to tie-in at its western end with the existing Spencer Butte trail system, and another add-on (eastwards) at the Dillard Road juncture is a sometime, maybe possibility.

2/29/1984 Ridgeline Trail/Spencer Butte

...The trail from (Willamette) to Dillard Road was muddy a good share of the time...From there we hiked back to the other new trail that connects to the trail going to the top of Spencer Butte. From there we took the deer trails up the east side and then the regular trail to the top. Had a much needed rest at the top. Leader: K.C. Kraft.

2005/2006 Obsidians begin volunteering for Ridgeline Trail Maintenance.

Trails Committee member, John Cooper, made contact with the Eugene Parks and Recreation to ask for input on local projects. The City was enthusiastic at the prospect of a group who would commit to improving trails. Monthly trail projects were scheduled. Obsidians worked on an amazing number of projects on the tie-in trail (now called Tie Trail). They constructed a stone culvert and trail retaining wall still used today.

9/5/2005 Amazon Headwaters Trail Opens

It was Labor Day and 22 people signed up to hike the new Amazon Headwaters Trail that officially opened on September 3rd. It is a beautiful forested trail with two new bridges and several boardwalks. Janet Jacobsen, leader. The trail was featured in the Sept 11 Register Guard article, Great Escape.

4/1/2006 Muddy Conditions: Ridgeline Trail Car Shuttle from Blanton to Spring

The downpour the night before made quagmire of the muddy trail. Perhaps bog is more descriptive. The worst part was the Blanton Heights section. So much for clean boots. Janet Jacobsen, leader. Update: In 2011 the city improved and resurfaced segments of the Blanton Ridge, installing timber retaining walls and gravel.

2/4/2009 Mt. Baldy Trail Improvements

Six of us hiked the new graveled trail from the end of Spring Blvd. to the top of Baldy. Rerouted and designed with many switchbacks, the trail is an impressive replacement of the steep rutted path. Janet Jacobsen, leader.

July/August 2009 Ribbon Trail Reconstructed

Thanks to funding from the federal stimulus package through the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC), the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space constructed the Ribbon Trail that connects Hendricks Park to the Ridgeline Trail system. It has been used sporadically for decades.

11/13/2014 Dillard Connector Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

With the background pitter patter of rain on the tent, Mayor Kitty Piercy, a City Parks and Open Space representative, and President of the Disciples of Dirt shared greetings and praise for the Open Space Staff who worked on the trail. Matt Bell and Obsidians were acknowledged for their trail maintenance work. Honors go to those who had the dream for the .4-mile missing link connecting trail so that trail users do not have to walk with Dillard Road traffic.

9/18 /2015 Spencer Butte Summit Trail and Natural Basalt Steps Ribbon Cutting

The new summit trail and steps to the 2,058-foot summit protect the fragile rock outcropping ecosystem while providing hikers with panoramic views. On one of the first hikes on the new trail, Mike Smith wrote: *This was my first time to the top since the work began four months ago, and there were somewhere between 128 and 143 steps, depending upon how one wishes to count them.*

10/24/2017 Wild Iris Ridge Park Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting

Eleven Obsidians joined the celebration of the new 1.3-mile shared use trail in the 250-acre park.

9/2022 Ridgeline Trail Improvements Continue

Blanton Trail, Amazon Headwaters Trail, and Ribbon Trail hikers have seen many improvements this summer—resurfacing, widening, and installing retaining walls. It takes many motorized wheelbarrow gravel loads to continually make our hiking more enjoyable. Thanks to the Eugene Parks and Open Space staff and seasonal trail crews.

9/22/26 South Eugene Meadows Trail Ribbon Cutting

We celebrated the addition of the South Eugene Meadows section. Fourteen years in the making, it is part of the long-range plan for an extended Ridgeline Trail.

Up next: 2026/27 Finish the Ride to LCC! Suzanne Arlie Park.



Obsidians eager to use the steps 8/12/15 (which were still under construction). Photo by Carla Cooper.



Photo by Gina Schroeder.

HIGHLIGHTS CAMP RUZICKA

Karen Yoerger

SUMMER CAMP 2026 WAS HEADQUARTERED AT LAKE CREEK YOUTH CAMP, AT THE EDGE OF THE STRAWBERRY MOUNTAINS AND STRAWBERRY WILDERNESS, near John Day in

Central Oregon. Our camp featured six days of accommodations and meals, with five full days for hiking and exploring. The bunkhouse cabins were pleasant and comfortable, the area for tents near the creek was spacious, shady and grassy, and the RVs had a large area for easy parking and setup. The camp kitchen staff, maintenance folks, and directors worked very hard to ensure a great environment for our camp. The 74 Obsidians who participated gathered in a wonderful spirit of community, cooperation, and adventure, ready to relax and have FUN!

(Read the [trip report on p. 18.](#))



Angie Ruzicka. Photo by Darko Sojak.

SETTLING INTO CAMP

*Two
bunkhouse
cabins.*

*Photo by
Karen Yoerger.*



*Signe and Hank Wright with the LCYC cart.
Photo by Darko Sojak. s*



At home in a bunkhouse cabin. Photo by Karen Yoerger.



Tent camping. Photo by Karen Yoerger.

THE HUB FOR OUR ACTIVITIES



The Outdoor Shelter—hub for our activities. Photo by Karen Yoerger.



Loading up our dinner plates inside the Lodge dining hall. Photo by Darko Sojak.



The bulletin board created by Bea Fontana. Photo by Karen Yoerger.



Relaxing outside the Lodge. Photo by Karen Yoerger.



Morning stretches. Photo by Darko Sojak.

HIKES & FUN



*Mountain goats
cruising for treats
at High Lake.*

*Photo by
Karen Yoerger.*



*Judy Ness.
Lunch at
High Lake.*

*Photo by
Dave Hawkins.*



High Lake with the Rabbit Ears above the ridge. Photo by Karen Yoerger.



*Ane McKee
at the top of
Bull Run Rock.*

*Photo by
Darko Sojak.*



*Friday's Strawberry Mountain summit group.
Photo by Karen Yoerger.*

*Camp Boss, Karen Yoerger at the
Strawberry Mountain summit.
Organizing and managing the
summer camp was a huge job.*

*In spite of that, Karen
found the time and energy
to enjoy challenging hikes.*

Photo by Kelsey Rosedale.



Lunch at the summit of Strawberry Mountain. Photo by Karen Yoerger.



*Dorothy van Winkle, Sue Zeni, Tamara Bressi, and Gwyneth Iredale hiking to Mud Lake.
Photo by Anne Campbell.*



Brush on the trail to Mud Lake. Photo by Lisa Van Liefde.



*A sea of Ceanothus, Teresa Bowen and Mandy Lund on the Table Mountain trail.
Photo by Rebecca Brouwer.
See the lyrics of the song they composed about the hike on p. 12.*



Strawberry Falls. Photo by Lisa Van Liefde.



*Big Creek at the end of
Hally's trail from camp.
Photo by Hally McCabe.*



*Clara Emlen and her trike.
Photo by Karen Yoerger.*

*Kelsey Rosedale
atop the Pinnacles
in Wildcat Basin.*

*Photo by
Rebecca Brouwer.*

*Vern Marsonette
sets up his special game.
Photo by Darko Sojak.*





Obsidians Board President Angie Ruzicka honored by Dorothy van Winkle and Denise Rubenstein.

Photo by Darko Sojak.

A Tribute: President Angie & Camp Boss Karen Strawberry Mountains Wilderness, 2026

It's not easy building holiday for 70 or more
You never know what surprise the earth has in store
A thunderstorm, then lightning, piercing the sky
Turning a tree to a torch, a new climate by the by
But Angie's a leader, beyond a great pres
She can read a room, read a map, make a good guess
One good guess was blessing Karen camp boss
It was a sure-fire win without a coin toss

An invitation to a week of pleasure, adventure
But camp isn't camp without infrastructure
The two found Lake Creek, no lake, but a creek,
A friendly ponderosa place in a wide-open space

Angie signed up Darko to show us where to park
Planned cornhole and horseshoes, never pitch after dark
She's nimble on her feet, day and night bright
Steady as you go, not much gives her fright
She's full of inspiration, all about connection
Creative as they come and when the day is done
She keeps old folks from fussing and welcomes the young

Angie stumps us with trivia and questions of the world
She's a take-charge girl with a head full of curl

Camp Boss Karen is gratitude with grace, so keen
About Paiutes and nature and all in between
From cirrus to nimbus, she made sky gazing ours
Brought coyote to a howl, put sparkle in the stars

We mucked in the mud at Strawberry Lake
Hiked as high and as far as our bodies could take
Watched moon glow and cloud drift in a star-studded night

A big Oregon sky in lonesome lunar light
Summer is a sunshine swim and a squeaky screen door
Our week at Lake Creek made this summer soar

So from young to old and Anderson to Zeni,
Thanks for the great time you offered to many

Brenda Johnson Kame'enui, August 28, 2026

A Sea of Ceanothus The Ballad of Table Mountain Trail

*written by Rebecca Brouwer, Teresa Bowen, Mandy Lund and
performed by the three of us with Larry Winiarski on guitar*

We started up the Table Mountain Trail
Four badgers and their backpacks, with snacks they will prevail
It soon became apparent the trail was tough indeed
But the hikers carried on, despite their snail-like speed

Chorus: I see, I see, A sea of ceanothus

First we lost Teresa and Mandy in the sea
And then we lost the trail, and found it, yay yippee
Soon it became quite obvious 12 miles were not in sight
The badgers turned around to make sure they were home by night

Chorus: I see, I see, A sea of ceanothus

The very dirty badgers learned a lot today
Always load up GPS to help you find your way
The most important lesson that you would not expect
Is hiking is best with good friends, and never forget elevenses.

Chorus: I see, I see, A sea of ceanothus



*Photo
by Anne
Campbell.*

Partial lunar eclipse on the last night of camp.

SEPTEMBER BOARD NOTES

September 2, 2026

From minutes by Jean Harris

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

AGENDA ITEMS

Kudos: Lisa to Angie and Karen for a fabulous summer camp, Lana to Lisa for many evening hikes, Nancy to Steve about climbs pictures, Jean to Steve for assisting a teen climber.

The Board approved the July Board meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report (Sue Zeni): Moved \$20,000 from our Capital Fund in Vanguard to pay for the new storm sewer at the Lodge. Revenue was \$4,151 (not including donations) and Expenses were \$4,098 in the General Fund and \$11,750 for Cap/Contingency in July/Aug. Total revenue for the month in the General Fund was for a total net revenue of \$53. Quickbooks Online went from \$115/month to \$140/month. I looked at downgrading our plan, but the downgraded plan doesn't include a budget. Instead, I suggest switching to an annual payment of \$1,512, which is about \$126/month. Kate Lange has agreed to start working on Obsidian Treasurer duties. We will start working together this year with a goal of me backing her up in 2027.

Approval of July/August Expenditures (Sue): Water usage was high so Sue and Nancy worked with EWEB water usage and checking systems. They were able to pinpoint issues and find solutions. Sue is also working to officially change Obsidians *Inc* to Obsidians.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Camp Report (Karen): It was a successful six-day camp with 74 participants and great weather. Lake Creek Youth Camp was well-equipped and ready. Campers supported local areas, enjoyed many trails, and wildlife. The totals will come close to budget. Thanks to Angie, Pam Caples, Lana, and Steve for advice, Nancy and Lynn for concessions, Bea for the bulletin board display and Karen for an excellent camp!

Onboarding Kate Lange as Treasurer (Sue): Kate will work with Sue over several months and gradually take on the treasurer responsibilities.

Resolution To Add Kate Lange to US Bank and Vanguard and Give Susan Zeni, David Cooper, And Kate Lange Access to Our EWEB Account (Sue): Approved.

Interest Survey (Angie): Link to be sent with Mailchimp announcement about the annual meeting. The goal is to find out the volunteer interests of members. Angie will send a draft to the Board by the end of the weekend for feedback.

Planning for the Annual Meeting Friday, October 9: Angie will send Maryanne the text for the Mailchimp announcement. Several board members will arrive early to help with setting up tables. The Ice Cream Social will begin at 6:30, Janet Jacobsen has arranged with member Rick Sanford for Prince Puckler's ice cream donation. Dorothy and Jean will serve ice cream. Angie will bring all the toppings. The meeting will begin at 7:00,

agenda items include the President's Address (Angie), Treasurer Report (Pam Caples), Membership Report (Diane Schechter), Board Nominating Process and Membership Vote (Angie), Honored Member Nomination and Membership Vote (Jim Northrup and Angie), Leader and Trip Awards (Karen Yoerger will tabulate, Angie and Jean to distribute), In Memoriam (TBD). Darko Sojak and Lisa Van Liefde will take pictures.

Letter of Support for Cascade Volunteers Grant Proposal (Jean): Jean will write a letter of support for a grant to fund Trailhead Hosts. After Board review she will submit to Mike Nease.

Nomination of Bea Fontana for Honored Member (Jim Northrup): Jim has nominated Bea Fontana for honored member status for 2026. Bea has served the Obsidians in multiple ways since joining the club in 1977. The detailed nomination was shared with many members via email and received more than five supportive replies as stated in the bylaws. This nomination will be voted on at the annual meeting on October 9, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

Website Update (Lana): Assistant leaders will soon be able to edit a trip and do trip reports. There are still issues with some people not getting email notifications about trips *because they inadvertently unsubscribed*. Troubleshooting continues. Waiver changes are coming too.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bus Trips (Jim Northrup): The Bus Trips Committee is searching for an energetic and enthusiastic person to lead and chair the committee in 2027. The current interim chair will help the new chair with the transition.

Climbs (Wim Aarts & Steve Davis): The Climbs Committee ran one climb in July (Mt. Adams) and three climbs in August (Three Fingered Jack, Broken Top, Mt. McLoughlin). All participants completed their climbs. Big shout-out to Melanie Glock who did her first Obsidians climb lead (3FJ) with aplomb, and to assistant leaders Miranda Trieston (BT) and Hilary Harris (Mt. McL) who led the us up and down their respective mountains while the climb leader (me) dawdled at the rear.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): Miscellaneous July sales totaled \$30, and Lynn Meacham brought in \$862 at Summer Camp. (Apparently the bandanas were a popular item.) Many thanks to Lynn and to Angie, Denise, and Pam for the additional help they provided!

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): The Suttle Lake Extended Trip (October 5-7) registration opened August 31. Imagine hiking or biking in the Sisters area without driving very far!

Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana): We prepared four In Memoriams for the September *Bulletin*: Hal Busby, Blyth Carpenter, Sally Grosscup, and Margee Wright. Janet compiled information about past Obsidian Anniversary celebrations, for possible future use—*Bulletin* article or...?

Research request from Signe Wright: Looked for possible first ascents by (her father) Jim Harrang, and his oft-times climbing partner Willie Unsoeld. (We found only a few of his climbs in the Obsidian Archive.) Bert has kept busy adding to the Obsidian Archive: He has scanned all the photos sent to us by Buzz Blumm. Also scanned photos of Gordon Gribble's climbs in the 60s. Bert is also in the process of scanning older Board Minutes and documents.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): We had 5 rentals these two months which generated \$640. The replacement French Drain project is underway. From what you see on the site, it is more of a Grounds project, but its purpose is to provide long term stability for the Lodge building. When it is completed there will be plenty of work to be done regarding what to plant when and where, steps to be replaced from the upper lodge storage area, and rocks (boulders) to be moved. There's more to do as we roll into our 100th year.

Lodge Grounds (Nancy Whitfield): Ten Obsidians worked hard on July 31 and the grounds show it. All lawns were mowed, tall grass trimmed, bushes cut back and trees pruned, the sprinkler controls checked, and the fence corridor maintained. The septic tank was pumped on August 12, 2026, by Royal Flush Environmental Services. The lid to the tank was very difficult to remove. It is my assumption the tank has not been pumped since installation. (20+ years ago) The tank is a 1000-gallon tank. The tank contents looked good, in that most of the contents seem to have broken down. The operator indicated it is probably because of the low usage. The recommendation is to pump it every 10 years. An 18" riser was installed, August 20, 2026, over the septic tank opening. The top of the riser is nearly flush with ground level. It should now be easy to access. Highland Tree Service (Ben) mulched the south and west area around the Lodge. The brush and vegetation were ground up. The sprinklers were on too much in July. I now have access to the EWEB account enabling me to monitor water usage. After much analysis, the cause is still somewhat mysterious. Perhaps a new control box is needed.

Membership (Diane Schechter): 464 members

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

Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde): We secured a tabling spot at the Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Festival happening on Sunday, Oct. 25. No other business to report.

Safety (Maryanne Reiter): The Safety Committee performed the monthly AED checks over the summer and worked with the Summer Camp Committee to resupply the first aid kits for Summer Camp.

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): Matt Bell led Ridgeline Brushing and Trimming on July 29. Two outings were held in August. Obsidian stewards cleaned along the Fern Ridge multi-use trail and did trail maintenance in Amazon Headwaters Park.

Summer Camp (Angie Ruzicka): During the last week of August, 74 people attended our six-night summer camp at the beautiful Lake Creek Youth Camp in the Strawberry Mountains. Folks stayed in tents, RV/Campers, and in bunkhouses. Despite a record wildfire year in Oregon, we enjoyed clear skies and fresh mountain air. In camp highlights included great food prepared by camp staff, time spent relaxing, snacking, and playing games after hikes, evening gatherings for trip reports, a sing along, and a special event—observing a lunar eclipse! On the trail we explored the geology of the area, enjoyed beautiful vistas, observed mountain goats, and swam in several lakes. The summer camp committee is grateful to everyone who made camp a success. See upcoming articles in the September and October *Bulletin* for details and photos.

Trips (Dave Cooper): July and August gave us 44 outings including one each of bike, paddle, car camp, and a field trip. What is a bit disappointing is that over half of these events were urban hikes. While we are blessed with a lot of local trails there is so much more out there. We should talk about this pattern and how it relates to attracting new members. Trip fees collected were \$65 dollars.

TRIP REPORTS



Car Camp

Eastern Sierra Exploratory

September 2, 2026

Leader: Valerie Metcalfe

Assistant Leader: Becky Lipton

Car Camp: (Mixed)

THREE OF US MADE THE 11-HOUR DRIVE through Reno and south of Lake Tahoe to Trumbull Campground in the Virginia Lakes area of the Eastern Sierras. Trumbull Campground was on a bit of a hill, but we were able to find level spots to set up our tents/trailer for the next six days. We

lucked out with the weather all week with clear blue skies and mild temperatures during the day. However, Trumbull Campground sits at 10,000' elevation and most evenings the wind tended to pick up, blowing over the ridges and down into the canyons. It got a bit chilly at camp so we were snuggled in bed by 8 PM. We had been informed to acclimate before doing a big hike at high elevation. Our first hike was exploring nearby Lundy Canyon which was quite beautiful. We stopped when we arrived at the end of the canyon where the trail begins to make a steep incline up to the ridge. There was water still running down from the ridges and we had our lunch sitting beside a waterfall pool. We couldn't resist doing a big hike on our second day, so we went up to Saddlebag Lake located a few miles off Tioga Road, just outside the east entrance of Yosemite Park. We did the stunning 9-mile loop hike called 20 Lakes Basin. We had very little elevation gain on this hike because the trail started at 10,000' elevation. On our third day,

some of us ventured over to Twin Lakes Resort and did the Barney Lake Hike. Like many hikes in the canyons, it starts out with mild elevation gain, and then as you reach the end of the canyon, the elevation gain increases more significantly as you approach the alpine lakes and the steep walls of the ridges in the distance. Others chose to visit Mono Lake Visitor Center this day. On our fourth day, we decided it was time to explore the lakes on the Virginia Lakes Trail, which was accessible from our camp. This was a shorter hike because we were not interested in hiking beyond the alpine lakes and up the steep ridges. We filled our afternoon with a drive to nearby Bodie, a famous abandoned mining town, now a California State Historic Park. Bodie grew rapidly after a major gold find in 1876. The gold ran out over the next few decades and it became a ghost town by 1915. We only had one day left to hike, so we decided to finish with a bang and enter Yosemite Park. We got an early start in case there was a wait to enter the park, but there were only about ten cars in line ahead of us at the east entrance. We drove up to Tuolumne Meadows and, after a short visit to the Visitor Center, decided to hike the Cathedral Lakes Trail. We did encounter more hikers on this trail because it is a through trail that many backpackers use to hike deeper into the park. We also encountered a pack train of mules carrying gear back down to the valley. Though Cathedral Lakes Trail was described as being about 7.6 miles on paper, the trail signs (and our bodies) told us that it was closer to ten miles. It was another stunning hike with gorgeous weather. The lakes were so clear and clean-looking, a part of me wished it was hotter so that I could jump in and take a swim (and a needed shower). Though it was a very long drive from Eugene down to the “northern” Eastern Sierras near Bridgeport, we all had an amazing adventure and look forward to returning to explore even further south. Participants: Becky Lipton, Valerie Metcalfe, Larry Winiarski.



Climbs

Three Fingered Jack

August 2, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Melanie Glock

Assistant Leader: Steve Davis

Climbs: 13.0 miles, 3,000 ft. (Difficult)

IN EXCELLENT CONDITIONS, THIS TEAM OF CLIMBERS HAD AN EXCELLENT DAY ON THREE FINGERED JACK. Three first-time climbers, two fresh out of climb school, joined the 3FJ experienced crew, and a good time was had by all. We protected the crawl with a 70m rope and set another rope for



Jane Leng on the summit.

the chimney climb. The team moved safely and efficiently through the exhilarating exposed sections, and all team members happily tagged the summit. Conversation was lively, spirits were high, and we feasted on excellent snacks. Participants: Jack Carpenter, Steve Davis, Sheri Gabert, Melanie Glock, Jane Leng, Isac Pederson, Maryanne Reiter.

Crux x Obsidians: Eagle's Rest Outdoor Climbing Meet-Up

September 11, 2026

Leader: Miranda Trieston

Assistant Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Climbs: (Moderate)

OUR GROUP ENJOYED A DAY OF CLIMBING IN THE SHADE AT EAGLES REST'S OVERSTORY WALL. We set up top ropes on four of the area's classics: The Understory (5.7), The Overstory (5.8), Webs of Connection (5.9), and The Descent (5.10a/b). For several participants, this was their first time climbing at Eagles



Bike Trips

Holt-Coburg-Herman Rd.

September 10, 2026

Leader: Darko Sojak

Bike: 23.0 miles, 336 ft. (Easy)

A SIMPLE, FINE BIKE RIDE ON A SUNNY THURSDAY MORNING. Participants: Jonathan Jost, David Morris, Darko Sojak.

Harlow-Willamette-Crescent, Bike Loop

October 1, 2026

Leader: Darko Sojak

Bike: 15.0 miles, 180 ft. (Easy)

TODAY, ON NATIONAL GREEN CITY DAY, we rode our bikes through some green and gray parts of Eugene. Participants: Kate Lange, Jeff Lange, Darko Sojak.

Rest. The large Douglas firs and manzanita provided welcome shade while everyone worked their way through the routes. A few climbers also practiced outdoor leading for the first time on Bazings (5.6) and The Understory (5.7). We kept climbing until the sun began to go down, then packed up our gear and



Asher working on the moves on the 5.10. Photo by Julie Polhemus.

headed back to town. Participants: Wendy Edmonds, Beatrice Meadow, Julie Polhemus, Maryanne Reiter, Riccie Shipley, Miranda Trieston.

Mount Yoran

September 26, 2026

Leader: Steve Davis

Assistant Leader: Isac Pederson

Climbs: 9.0 miles, 1,900 ft. (Difficult)

EIGHT ADVENTUROUS OBSIDIANS TACKLED MOUNT YORAN ON A COOL FALL DAY. Starting in the early morning chill, we quickly warmed up on our pleasant hike to Divide Lake. We took a short break to refuel, then headed up the steep climber's trail to the base of the gendarme guarding the route. There, we put on helmets, dropped trekking poles, and began our initial scramble up the couloir to the ridgeline. In order to reduce the odds of beaming each other with inadvertently kicked rocks, we broke into three smaller groups led by Isac, Miranda, and Steve, then took turns ascending to the ridge top. Once past the steep, short, 3rd class scramble, we headed up and across the E. face to another loose section where we again took turns climbing to the summit ridge. After crossing the airy step to the top, we enjoyed crystal clear views from Mt. Hood to Diamond Peak, all the peaks sporting a fresh dusting of snow. Summit cookies were consumed and we headed back down following the same small group protocol to avoid hitting each other with rocks. This was a nimble group and only one rock was dislodged during the climb, a testament to stepping with intent. Upon arriving back at Divide Lake, we found a spot



Descending to the top of the couloir. Photo by Miranda Trieston.

with a view and had an extended snack break before heading back down to the trailhead. Participants: Josh Arreola, Steve Davis, Hilary Harris, Mark Kintigh, Dave Morris, Isac Pederson, Joel Rice, Miranda Trieston.



Hikes

North Fork Smith River Mushrooms

September 6, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 5.5 miles, 770 ft. (Easy)

AFTER A LONG AND WINDING DRIVE, WE FOUND THE START OF OUR TRAIL DEEP IN THE BACKWOODS south of Mapleton. The sun chased away the clouds and our optimistic mycophile group kept up the good spirits. It was fun. At times it felt a bit like David Arora's *All That Rain Promises and More*, only with



Robert Messick looking for chanterelles.

a lot less mushrooms. Participants: David Clinger, Jane Leng, Lana Lindstrom, Robert Messick, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

Delta Ponds #1

September 11, 2026

Leader: Whitney Gould

Hike: 2.0–7.0 miles, 10 ft. (Moderate)

SEVEN OBSIDIANS AND ONE VERY WELCOME NONMEMBER TREKKED A LARGE LOOP STARTING AT THE OWEN ROSE GARDEN, through Delta Ponds, and back along the Ruth Bascom River trails. Though the stated purpose was to observe the birds and ducks



Jenny and Eva birdwatching. Photo by Eva Mogart.

at the start of the migratory season, we also enjoyed the opportunity for a long walk on a late summer day. Thanks to birdwatcher Eva and her binoculars, the following birds and waterfowl were identified: Canada goose, mallard, common merganser, rufous hummingbird, killdeer, greater yellowlegs, double-crested cormorant, great egret, great blue heron, turkey vulture, osprey, belted kingfisher, downy woodpecker, black phoebe, Steller's jay, California scrub jay, American crow, black-capped chickadee, golden-crowned kinglet, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, Bewick's wren, European starling, cedar waxwing, American goldfinch. Participants: Mari Baldwin, Marguerite Cooney, Whitney Gould, Jenny Gusset, Vern Marsonette, Eva Mogart, Guy Pritchett, Diane Schechter.

Chucksney Mountain Loop

September 18, 2026

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Hike: 11.0 miles, 2,390 ft. (Difficult)

THE STEEP AND CHALLENGING CHUCKSNEY MOUNTAIN LOOP TRAIL IS A TRUE GEM. We set out from the northern parking area of Box Canyon Horse Camp and didn't encounter a soul on



Hiking back down, down, down...

this beautiful, 10.8-mile backcountry loop. Perfect, sunny September weather rewarded us with stunning views of the Three Sisters and other peaks in the Cascade Range. We gathered plenty of golden and white chanterelles, as well as *Hypomyces lactifluorum* (known as lobster mushrooms). Participants: Anne Campbell, Jacquie Fern, Mark Kintigh, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Darko Sojak, Larry Winiarski.

Kentucky Falls Hike with Shuttle

September 19, 2026

Leader: Gordon Sayre

Hike: 9.0 miles, 1,000 ft. loss (Moderate)

ELEVEN OBSIDIANS DROVE FROM TARGET THROUGH VENETA AND UP THE DUNN RIDGE ROAD INTO THE MORNING FOG. We shuttled two cars down to the end point trailhead and the drivers returned to the start. All enjoyed the three waterfalls, and wondered if the rock is sandstone or volcanic. Our lunch spot was the large pool that Bill Sullivan describes in his Coast and Coast Range guidebook, and three of us swam in it. The middle part of the trail traverses steep slopes and small valleys. Some parts are eroded or slippery, and the boomers or mountain beavers have made many holes in the trail bed. After five hours on the trail some were eager to reach the end, and were puzzled by duplication of the same trail sign, showing the same distances, in different places on the trail. The wood bridges over the Smith River are handsome, and small flags suggest that trail crews are planning more improvements. This is a beautiful route in a forest with some of the biggest trees in Oregon. We measured a Douglas fir at 30 ft. circumference. Participants: Rebecca Brouwer, Martha Dyer, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Mandy Lund, Margot McDonnell, David Morris, Jorry Rolfe, Gordon Sayre, Randy Sinnott, Diana Wheat, Larry Winiarski.

South Eugene Meadows Grand Opening Celebration and Hike

September 22, 2026

Leader: Jonathan Jost

Assistant Leader: Andrew McIvor

Hike: 3.8 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

A MILD BUT OVERCAST DAY GREETED US AT THE NEW PARKING LOT FOR THE SOUTH EUGENE MEADOWS HIKE. After the Parks and Open Space presentation, our group of hikers set out at a brisk pace. We proceeded in a counterclockwise direction to complete the lollipop for our return to the parking lot. Participants: Heidi Anderson, Sam Arnold-Boyd, Teresa Bowen, Tamara Bressi, David Cooper, Gwyneth Iredale, Steven Johnson, Jonathan Jost, Holger Krentz, Margot McDonnell, Andrew McIvor, Guy Pritchett, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lynn Stearney, Bojana Stefanovska, Sue Wolling.

52nd & Willamette: South Eugene Meadows

September 29, 2026

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 3.8 miles, 580 ft. (Easy)

WE ENJOYED THE TRAIL AT SUNSET, the last 3/4 mile in full darkness! Headlamps helped light the way. For some, it was the first time they'd hiked this new trail. Everyone had a great evening. Participants: Tamara Bressi, Tim Christie, Whitney Gould, Melissa McReynolds, Suzanne Porter, Lisa Van Liefde.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen, Jennifer Baer: 9/9 14 Participants

Eva Mogart, Janet Jacobsen: 9/23 14 Participants

Blanton Ridge Hikes

Hike: 8.5 miles, 500–1,740 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Jorry Rolfe: 9/8 3 Participants **9/22** 5 Participants **9/29** 5 Participants

Lynn Stearney: 9/15 3 Participants

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.0 miles, 500–1,040 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Lisa Van Liefde: 9/16 5 Participants

Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak: 9/24 7 Participants



Summer Camp

Strawberry Mountains Summer Camp 2026

August 23–29, 2026

Leader: Karen Yoerger

Assistant Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Camp Ruzicka

WE ENJOYED AN OUTSTANDING SUMMER CAMP WITH A WONDERFUL GROUP OF OBSIDIANS, inviting and comfortable facilities, a hard-working and friendly camp staff, interesting hikes, and near perfect weather!

Camp Ruzicka (named for our Board President, Angie Ruzicka, as is our tradition) was headquartered at Lake Creek Youth Camp (LCYC), near the Strawberry Mountains and Strawberry Wilderness south of John Day, in Central Oregon. LCYC is operated as a nonprofit on a special use permit from the Malheur National Forest, and is located in an area of open forest and range near the edge of the Wilderness. About 20 campers took advantage of the comfortable bunkhouse cabins, with 2–4 campers to a cabin. Tent campers found lots of room to spread out in the shady, grassy area between the irrigation canal and the creek, while RVs set up in the open field beyond the parking area. It was a bit of a challenge to haul our camping gear from the cars to our camping spots, but many hands and a couple of garden carts were very helpful. Two bathhouses provided a total of 13(!) sinks, toilets, and hot showers.

The Lodge is a beautiful wood-beamed building that houses a dining area, kitchen, and a lounge with couches, books, and games. Outside, several picnic tables provided additional fresh air seating. Buffet-style breakfasts and dinners were served by the hard-working cooks and staff. During breakfast time, a variety of items were set out on separate tables for folks to

assemble their own sack lunches. Thank you, Toby's, for the donation of the pâté that we brought with us! If we thought that we would lose weight while at camp, we soon discovered that it was not to be. I cannot thank the LCYC staff enough for their friendliness, hard work, and excellent meals!

The hub for our daily activities was a covered outdoor shelter with a concrete floor, counter space, electricity, and a few picnic tables. Some of us met in a nearby grassy area for stretching sessions before breakfast. Coffee and hot water for tea were made available by camp staff here in the mornings (Thank you, camp caretaker Rex, for turning the coffee urns on to brew at 4:30 AM!). Bulletin boards were set up here with reference maps and information that Bea Fontana had carefully laid out. Nearby tables held the clipboards with the hiking signup sheets, pencils, and camp booklets. Each afternoon, hungry hikers met here to socialize and sample Obsidian-provided snacks and lemonade. The concessions table offered Obsidians Camp bandanas and logo items for sale, while we gathered to await the dinner bell.

Each morning, most of us piled into cars to head out for a day of hiking adventure. By the end of the week, our group had gone on at least a dozen different hikes. The most frequently visited trail was High Lake/Slide Lake (8 trips, 70 hikers), a short, easy, restful place to hang out and swim. Almost everyone saw mountain goats and kids there, sometimes up very close! Also popular were hikes to Strawberry Lake/Strawberry Falls/Little Strawberry Lake (6 trips, 41 hikers), Strawberry Mountain Summit (5 trips, 48 hikers), Malheur River Recreation Trail (4 trips, 30 hikers), and Monument Rock/Bull Run Rock (2 trips, 21 hikers). Hikers on trails that passed through wildfire burn scars found the tread overgrown by ceanothus brush, which required considerable route-finding skill and resourcefulness. Other nearby adventures included walks from camp to nearby Big Creek, bike rides on local Forest Service roads, and fishing. Excursions away from camp included trips to the John Day Fossil Beds Painted Hills Unit, and to John Day, Canyon City, and Prairie City. A tour of the Kam Wah Chung State Historical Site & Museum was very worthwhile. Unfortunately, some of the other area museums were not open during our stay.

Back in camp, we entertained ourselves with games of cornhole, badminton, and volleyball. Vern Marsonette planned a hilarious team competition game that involved throwing accuracy, puzzle assembly speed, and kazoos (?). Okay, you just had to be there! One picnic table was dedicated to weaving friendship bracelets. Hammocks were strung for naps and books were read.

Because of the wildfire risk, campfires were not allowed. We held our evening gatherings in the outdoor shelter, with café lights lending a bit of ambiance. After dinner one evening, Teresa Bowen and Diantha Hull led a rousing songfest. In addition to announcements, we enjoyed a mixer activity that helped folks get to know each other, heard creative and fun trip reports from the day's adventures, including an epic audience participation performance of the hit song *I See, I See, A Sea of Ceanothus*. We heard a Northern Paiute story, *How the Stars Got Their Twinkle and Why Coyote Howls To The Sky*, honored our current Obsidians Board President, Angie Ruzicka, for all

of her hard work on our behalf, and thanked the kitchen staff with a standing ovation for their efforts (plus head cook, Diane, gifted us the coveted recipe for Crème Brulee French Toast!) On the last night, we were treated to a clear dark sky and an almost full lunar eclipse. It was magical!

Bringing Summer Camp to life takes a community. I am beyond grateful for the contributions of so many Obsidians who made this year's camp possible: the 2026 Summer Camp study group (Angie Ruzicka, Kristen Anderson, Denise Rubenstein, Lisa Van Liefde, Jim Northrop), the Summer Camp Committee (Angie Ruzicka, Committee Chair; Pam Caples, Treasurer and Registrar), Lana Lindstrom (insurance, worthy advisor), Camp Book editors (Holger Krentz, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist), Scout Trip (Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist), *Bulletin* article authors (Sue Wolling, Marti Gerdes), Food Liaison (Kristen Anderson), Snack Maven (Kim Davidson-Ruby), Bulletin boards (Bea Fontana), Concessions (Lynn Meacham, Nancy Whitfield), the mixer activity (Susan Wanser, Angie Ruzicka, Nancy Whitfield), the President's Honor Guard (Dorothy van Winkle, Denise Rubenstein, Nancy Whitfield), and the Setup/Check-in Crew (Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Steve Johnson, Lynn Meacham, Bea Fontana, Alex Lockhart). And to everyone who saw a need during camp and stepped up to help, thank you!

Participants: Kristen Anderson, Robin Armstrong, Barbara Aten, Al Avey, Marsha Barr, Teresa Bowen, Tamara Bressi, Rebecca Brouwer, Anne Campbell, Pam Caples, Tim Christie, David Clinger, Dan Conklin, Kim Davidson-Ruby, Jim Dinn, Kasuna Duffey, Larry Dunlap, Donna Ellickson, Clara Emlen, Jacquie Fern, Bea Fontana, Nikki Frank, Irene Fries, Abby Gershenzon, Dave Hawkins, Nancy Hoecker, Scott Hovis, Diantha Hull, Gwyneth Iredale, Steve Johnson, Brenda Kameenui, Jeff Lange, Kate Lange, Jane Leng, Tom Livernois, Tracy Livernois, Alex Lockhart, Mandy Lund, Silva Marin, Zack Marin, Vern Marsonette, Rachelle Masin, Hally McCabe, Andy McIvor, Ane McKee, Lynn Meacham, Mary Moffat, Dave Morris, Judy Ness, Kelly Reis, Pierre Robert, Ken Robinson, Kelsey Rosedale, Michael Rowe, Denise Rubenstein, Karla Rusow, Angie Ruzicka, Gordon Sayre, Gina Schroeder, Joan Skarda, John Skarda, Darko Sojak, Lori Stein, Judy Terry, Debbie Tracer, Sam Tracer, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle, Susan Wanser, Larry Winiarski, Hank Wright, Signe Wright, Karen Yoerger, Sue Zeni.

See the Summer Camp photos and more on [pp. 6-12](#).



Stewardship

Ridgeline Brushing and Rootwads August 26, 2026

Leader: Matt Bell
Stewardship: (Mixed)

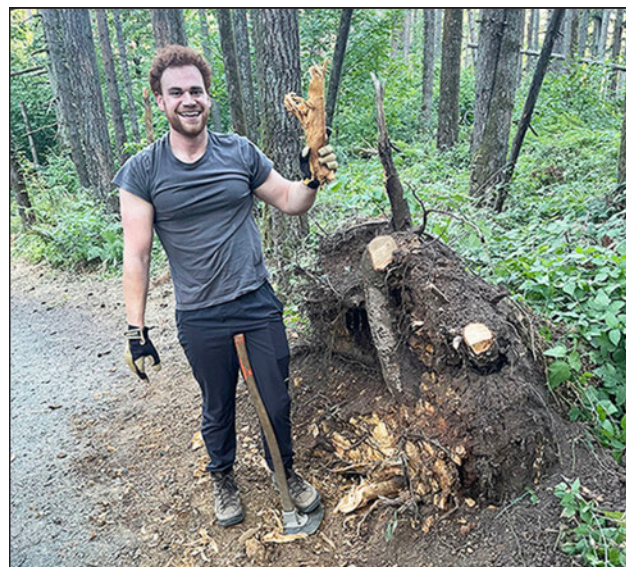
FOR THIS OUTING, WE TACKLED THE RIDGELINE TRAIL IN AMAZON HEADWATERS PARK. We lightly cut back woody



Eva pulling staples from the kiosk. Note her excellent work cleaning the Ridgeline Memorial Plaque in the ground below the kiosk.

Photo by Janet Jacobsen.

brush from the trailsides as we hiked in to find the rootwads that needed to be cut back from the trailsides. David, Matt, and Hobe found each of the three rootwads, while Eva and Janet continued to the Dillard West trailhead kiosk to clean it, pull



Hobe proudly victorious over a stubborn root cut with a Terra hoe.

Photo by Matt Bell.

staples, and clean the Tex Metzler plaque. Dave continued to prune back woody brush on the trailsides. We regrouped at the last rootwad and hiked back to the trailhead to enjoy snacks and juice. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing scrumptious treats. Participants: Matt Bell, Janet Jacobsen, Eva Mogart, Dave Predeck, Howard Robin, Dave Schwieger.

Westmoreland Park Wetlands Work Party September 19, 2026

Leader: Karla Rusow
Stewardship: 0.5 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

DARKO AND I SPENT A PLEASANT TWO HOURS SATURDAY, September 19 with the Parks and Open Spaces, as well as people from the Friendly neighborhood, working in the Westmoreland Wetland Prairie. The primary task was covering areas where invasive foxtail grass has been invading the

perimeter of the prairie and smothering out the native plantings. We also spent some time digging up fescue grass that was growing along the bark path as well as removing



Westmoreland Park, work on invasive weeds. Photo by Darko Sojak.

weeds. It was enjoyable to learn the history of the restoration area, including that the original Eugene airport was located there until it was moved. I also cannot wait to go to the site in the spring and see the camas and other native plants blooming. Participants: Karla Rusow, Darko Sojak.

PNW Forest Biodiversity with Adventure Scientists– Explora Trip
September 21, 2026
Leader: Steve Davis
Assistant Leader: Darko Sojak
Stewardship: 11.0 miles, 1,900 ft. (Moderate)



Steve Davis collecting data for PNW Forest Biodiversity w/Adventure Scientists.

Photo by Darko Sojak

TWO OBSIDIANS ADVENTURE SCIENTISTS VOLUNTEERS, Darko and Steve, enjoyed a day of retrieving acoustic recording units (ARU) from an area on the flanks of Substitute Point in the Three Sisters Wilderness. The ARU are part of the PNW Forest Biodiversity research project being run by the USFS with help from Adventure Scientist volunteers. The area we worked in is part of the big burn on the west side of the Three Sisters, so our off-trail travel was spent climbing over, through, and around downed trees. Despite this, our enthusiasm for contributing to the research kept us moving jauntily (really?) through the



Darko navigating the pick-up-sticks. Photo by Steve Davis.

tangle for more than five hours of navigating with GPS to the various ARU. Needless to say, both of us were happy to finish up in the tangle and find the Foley Ridge trail for a pleasant walk out, with Darko snagging a few tasty morsels (chanterelles and boletus) along the way. Participants: Steve Davis, Darko Sojak.

National Public Lands Day
September 26, 2026
Leader: Matt Bell
Stewardship: (Mixed)

FOR OUR FIRST SATURDAY MORNING OUTING OF OUR WINTER SCHEDULE, we met at the Main Spencer Butte Trailhead parking lot to work on the Main Trail. We reviewed the tasks for the day: clean trailhead kiosk and steps, clear drainage ditches and

culverts, and clear debris from the summit steps. We grabbed tools and set off. We hiked to the top of the Butte before working our way back down. Garden hoes were the tool of the day. They enabled us to loosen and remove the gravel and grit from the summit steps and check the culverts to clear them of



*David excitedly checking a culvert with Janet's special tool.
Photo by Janet Jacobsen.*

debris. Our work on the summit steps was greatly aided by the recent rains, which made the grit wetter and heavier so that the work wasn't too dusty. Comedically, the battery-powered backpack leaf blower ran out of battery with only a couple of sections of steps left to go. Next time we'll need to bring an extra battery. We continued to work our way back down the trail, checking and clearing culverts, before returning to the trailhead to help finish the steps. Special thanks go to Janet for the energy balls and post-outing treats. Participants: Matt Bell,



*Mandy, Naith, and Keith prepping before the steps get blown off.
Photo by Matt Bell.*

Nathaniel Bell, David Cooper, Larry Dunlap, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Mandy Lund, Karla Rusow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reading the Rivers

Dr. Hannah Dalal, National Geographic Explorer

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at the Shedd Institute 5:30–7:00 PM

**Celebrate Our 2026 Parks Legacy Award Winner, Joe Moll,
Executive Director of McKenzie River Trust**

Light snacks and drinks provided.

MOST OBSIDIANS SPEND MANY HOURS EVERY YEAR HIKING OR RECREATING ON THE WILLAMETTE AND MCKENZIE RIVERS. These rivers supply our drinking water, fish habitat, recreation, and beauty. Next month, Dr. Hannah Dalal, National Geographic Explorer from Carlton University in Ottawa, Canada, will come to Eugene for a special lecture, *Reading Rivers*. She'll provide a fresh look at the connections between people and the natural world, and one of her interests is how timber harvesting affects water quality and freshwater biodiversity.

Plus, there will be a special Parks Legacy Award presentation to Joe Moll—you won't want to miss it!

Link to reserve a seat:

eugeneparksfoundation.org/parks-talk-reading-the-rivers



STEWARDSHIP VETERANS DAY PLANTING

AS THE ENVIRONMENT WARMS, PLANTING NATIVE SHRUB AND TREE SPECIES ADAPTED TO LOCAL CLIMATE CONDITIONS IS BECOMING CRUCIAL.

On November 11, 9 AM to noon, Obsidians will join other Eugene volunteers in the Downtown Riverfront Park restoration project.

Please join us! <https://obsidians.org/event/veterans-day-planting-stewardship/>

Contact Darko Sojak for any questions:
darchey@comcast.net

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

Friday, October 30, 2026

Climbing Italy's Dolomites & Sardinia's Coastal Cliffs

with Maryanne Reiter

ITALY IS A ROCK CLIMBER'S PARADISE, WITH SPECTACULAR MOUNTAINS AND PLENTY OF WAYS TO EXPLORE THEM—and, of course, it's also a paradise for pasta-loving, pizza-eating, gelato fans!

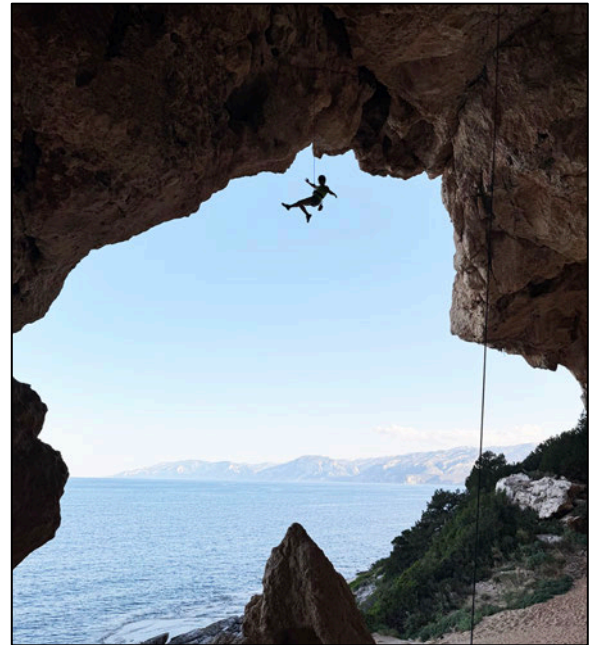
Our own Maryanne Reiter traveled to Italy in 2022 and 2024 to climb in the Dolomites, and on the island of Sardinia. In the Dolomites, she discovered via ferrata (iron paths), where climbers clip into cables along dramatic rock faces. Originally established during World War I to help soldiers travel through the mountains, these routes were later upgraded by the Italian Alpine Club for recreational use.

In Sardinia, she and her group sailed along the northeast coast, stopping to climb the seaside cliffs, sleeping on the boat, and sailing on to their next climbing destination. And wherever they went, they made sure to conduct a detailed survey of the local gelato flavors!

Come join us for a presentation that will vicariously take us all to new heights!

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



Sardinia: Maryanne on belay.



*Lecco:
Maryanne*

*Gelato!
m-m-m.*



Maryanne



*Sardinia:
Jen & Trina*



Potluck & Presentation

Friday, October 30, 2026

Obsidian Lodge

Social Time 6 PM

Potluck 6:30 PM Presentation 7:30 PM

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share along with your own plate, bowl, utensils, and cup that you'll take home to wash.

A small donation will be appreciated.

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:

October 13, 20, 27

November 3, 10, 17, 24

Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte

Various Leaders

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

Wednesdays:

October 14, 21, 28

November 4, 11, 18, 25

CHECK FOR DETAILS & SIGN UP ONLINE

obsidians.org/events



STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Green Island Work Party

10:00 AM-12:30 PM

Thursday, October 15

Love Your Lake

8:00 AM-5 PM

Bobby Lake Cleanup

Friday, October 23

Think Globally, Act Locally Fall 2026

10:00-11:30 AM

Wednesday, November 4

Veterans Day Planting

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Wednesday, November 11

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:

October 10, November 14, & December 12

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

Annual Veterans Day Walk

November 11, 2026 8:30 AM

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US on our walk through
Skinner Butte Park in honor of all veterans.

Sign up online for details.



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

Thursday, October 15

Tuesday, November 10

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.

October 24, November 22, December 22

Guests welcome

CHECK FOR DETAILS
& SIGN UP ONLINE

obsidians.org/events



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October 2026



Darko at the top. Photo by Angie Ruzicka. See the Chucksney Mountain Loop trip report on page 17.

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