



OPAL CREEK

ANCIENT FOREST CENTER



2013 CATALOG





PHOTO: KYLE KRAUSE

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center is located in the heart of the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area, a spectacular 35,000-acre wilderness of ancient trees and pristine waters. At Opal Creek, you will walk among some of the largest and oldest stands of trees remaining in the Pacific Northwest. The plant biodiversity that still thrives in Opal Creek's watershed is a sampling of the forests that once blanketed all the Western Cascades. Opal Creek is the largest uncut watershed in western Oregon, and mere descriptions fail to convey the impact of being in a place of such primordial importance. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center can help you fully experience this gem.

- ▶ Our base of operations is Jawbone Flats, a **historic mining town** that sits at the confluence of two mountain streams surrounded by dramatic ridgelines; in short, the ideal backdrop for serious relaxation.
- ▶ Our comfortable, streamside accommodations are well suited for large **family gatherings** or private, **quiet weekends**.
- ▶ Our **location** eliminates the need for extensive travel, thus lessening the cost and burden on the environment. We are located only 2 ½ hours from Portland, Eugene and Bend.
- ▶ Jawbone Flats is "**off the grid**." The electricity we use is produced through hydroelectric and solar power.
- ▶ Our wide variety of **workshops** range from moss & lichens to yoga retreats and family workshops, offering something for everyone.
- ▶ Opal Creek **Expeditions** continue to grow! These 6-day adventures give 10-16 year olds an opportunity to fully immerse themselves in nature while learning the art of backcountry camping in the Opal Creek Wilderness and beyond.

There is truly something for everyone at Opal Creek. The tall trees and crystal clear waters beckon with a promise to relax the busiest of minds. If you have experienced Opal Creek, you know what makes it special and worthy of many visits. If you have yet to experience Opal Creek, now is the time. You won't be disappointed.

Cover lichen photo: Martin Hutten



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**Workshop and Expedition costs includes lodging and meals, beginning with dinner the day of arrival and ending with lunch the day of departure.*

**“SUCH A SPECIAL PLACE, WITH WONDERFUL STAFF,
I WISH EVERYONE HAD A CHANCE TO VISIT.”**

— from the 2012 Outdoor School



A Brief History

The Opal Creek forest was first inhabited by Native Americans. Points and lithic scatters dating back at least 2,000 years have been found across the watershed. The site that is now Jawbone Flats is believed to have been a summer camp for the Santiam Molalla Indians. The Whetstone Mountain Trail, which climbs the canyon, is believed to have been a frequent trade route for area tribes.

In 1859, miners arrived in the valley and discovered gold, but lead, zinc, silver and copper proved more fruitful. The Jawbone Flats mining camp was built beginning in 1930 by “Grandpa” James P. Hewitt, whose daughter Dolores married a member of the Atiyeh family, forever changing the fate of Opal Creek for the better.

In 1992, mining ceased and *Shiny Rock Mining Company* donated its land to the fledgling non-profit *Friends of Opal Creek*. The organization was established in 1989 by George Atiyeh to lead the effort to secure permanent protection of the Opal Creek ecosystem. This effort culminated in November 1996, with the establishment, through federal legislation, of the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area. Today the Opal Creek forest has received international attention and is enjoyed by over 20,000 visitors each year.

In 2005, *Friends of Opal Creek* changed its name to *Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center* to represent the distinct education mission of the organization. Our work today is based upon our mission of promoting conservation through educational experiences in wilderness.

We invite you to join us in being inspired by the beauty and importance of the ancient forest preserved at Opal Creek.

PROMOTING CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN WILDERNESS.



Outdoor School Programs at Opal Creek!

Each spring and fall,

Jawbone Flats becomes home to school groups participating in our unique and unparalleled educational programs. Hundreds of students from across the Northwest enter this living laboratory to learn about the astonishing diversity of plants, mushrooms, lichen, macro-invertebrates, amphibians, and other organisms of the ancient forest.

Bring your students to Opal Creek to experience our hands-on educational programs, including:

- ▶ Interpretative hikes
- ▶ Outdoor and indoor labs
- ▶ Field studies
- ▶ Evening programs

And much more!



PHOTO: HOLLAND STUDIOS

Our classroom is the largest remaining, intact, low-elevation ancient forest ecosystem in Oregon's Western Cascades, and our teaching philosophy aims to both instruct and inspire. From the moment students step off the bus, our hands-on curriculum, individualized for each class, provides a unique way for students to apply the scientific principles and concepts they have been studying. Our program director and science instructors work directly with each teacher to integrate the Opal Creek experience into the broader school curriculum, and to ensure that the students' time at Opal Creek leaves a lasting impression.

Our programs serve 2nd-12th grade students and all university levels. Science Instructors are all college graduates, with experience in field sciences. Each of our instructors is Wilderness First Responder certified, and trained in various curriculums. Please contact our office at 503-892-2782 to discuss opportunities for your class.

“OPAL CREEK STAFF WERE VERY PROFESSIONAL AND HELPFUL. I APPRECIATE THEIR POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENTS. THEY ARE GREAT ROLE MODELS!”

— Jefferson Middle School Teacher, 2012



WORKSHOPS

We offer a number of workshops for individuals and families throughout the season. Our eclectic mix of programs offers something for everyone—adults and youth alike.

Adult workshops range in topic from wilderness medicine to yoga, fly-fishing and our ever-popular mushroom workshops taught by John Villella. New this season, *Medicinal Plants of the Cascade Range*, invites you to explore the healing properties of the local flora.

Our family workshops are designed as an opportunity for the entire family to enjoy and explore the ancient forest together. These workshops focus on a specific niche of the forest and we examine our surroundings through a variety of fun activities and adventures, designed for all ages. This season's Family Workshops include: Amphibian Adventure and Raptors of the West Cascades.

We are sure you will find something of interest as you peruse our 2013 offerings. All workshops are professional taught and the price includes shared lodging plus meals from our fabulous kitchen.

To sign up for a workshop please visit our registration page:
www.opalcreek.org/2013-workshops

“I LIKE THE SMALL SIZE OF THE PROGRAM AND THE VERY RELAXED ATMOSPHERE HERE MOST OF ALL.”

— Workshop Participant, 2012



PHOTO: MARTIN HUTTEN

Mosses, Lichens and Liverworts of the Ancient Forest

APRIL 20-21

COST: \$140, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Which forest dweller can turn rock into food? What plants store water for dry periods and can create soil in the upper canopy of ancient forests? Non-vascular plants such as mosses, lichens, and liverworts are drawing increasing attention for their importance as indicators of forest health, air quality and environmental integrity. From air quality indicators and natural water filters to nesting material for birds and mammals, mosses, lichens, and liverworts are invaluable to Pacific Northwest forest ecosystems. A member of the Northwest Lichenologist Society and past Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center instructor, forest ecologist John Villella returns for his favorite workshop of the year, and will lead us on a journey through the little known non-vascular plant kingdoms of the Opal Creek wilderness. Opal Creek is home to hundreds of species, many of which are only found in the ancient forests of the northwest. This course is especially helpful for agency personnel who are conducting forest health surveys throughout the state.



Family Workshop: Amphibian Adventure

MAY 11-12

COST: \$150 PER ADULT, \$75 PER CHILD 4-13. FREE FOR CHILDREN 0-3, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Opal Creek's intact ancient forest and cool clean waters host the full diversity of Northwest amphibians, from the Pacific Giant Salamander, the largest terrestrial amphibian in North America, to the genetically unique ancient tailed frog. This workshop will examine the dozen amphibians that reside in Opal Creek's exceptional habitat. Join our stellar Science Instructors as we look deep into the clear pools and under the downed logs for these elusive critters. Tuition includes a copy of Opal Creek's self-published, *Field Guide to the Amphibians of Opal Creek*, for use during the weekend and for all future amphibian investigation. Come spend Mothers' Day at Opal Creek, relax, hike and enjoy home cooked meals, including a special Mother's Day breakfast, prepared by our kitchen staff.



PHOTO: MARK CORNWELL

Medicinal Plants of the Cascade Range

MAY 25-27

COST: \$225, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Join Dr. Andy Swanson for a weekend adventure exploring the medicinal herbs of the Opal Creek Wilderness. This class is intended for beginning herbalists and those interested in deepening their relationship and knowledge of the plant kingdom and the medicine contained within. The workshop will cover the identification and medicinal use of herbs as well as making tinctures, salves, oils, and other preparations. Throughout the weekend participants will have the opportunity to explore new ways of connecting with nature through art, writing, and meditation.

Dr. Swanson attended the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon, where he completed requirements for licensure as a Naturopathic physician and Classical Chinese doctor. He completed a two-year residency in family medicine at Nature's Cure Clinic, where he currently practices. He has had the opportunity to study with many teachers from Western, Chinese, and indigenous traditions. Dr. Swanson currently lives in the Columbia Gorge, where he spends his free time hiking, playing music, and studying the ancient teachings of the I Ching.



Writing from the Wilds

JULY 17-19

AGES: 12-16

COST: \$175, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Writing from the Wilds will give young writers an opportunity to renew their creative energy during mid-summer as they explore craft, narrative voice, story structure and more while roaming freely through the mind's wild terrain. Working with generative prompts and launching places, the workshop will inspire and support writers of all styles, levels and experience. It's the perfect opportunity for younger writers who wish for open space in which to write. Students will receive science instruction from Opal Creek's educators and come to understand and appreciate the forest that surrounds them. Travelling along footpaths alongside pristine creeks in the ancient forest is sure to inspire.

Dave Jarecki owns Breakerboy Communications, a writing firm that assists people, businesses and non-profit organizations in writing and communicating their stories. He lives in Portland with his wife, Courtney, their daughter, Lazadae, two hounds and three chickens.



Adult Fly Fishing

JULY 19-21

COST: \$225, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Learn the basics of fly fishing in a three-day, intensive seminar in the ancient forest of Opal Creek. Guided by Jeffry Gottfried of Educational Recreational Adventures (www.edurecadv.org) an experienced fly fishing instructor, licensed guide and naturalist, you will learn to flycast, tie the basic knots, identify aquatic insects and their life cycles, and apply proper Leave No Trace principles. Put your new skills to immediate use as you fish for wild native rainbow trout in the beautiful Little North Fork of the Santiam, Battle Axe Creek, and Opal Creek. All fly fishing gear necessary for the seminar will be supplied by ERA. In addition to standard western fly fishing, participants will also gain skills and experience in tenkara, traditional Japanese fly fishing. If you want to make a quantum leap in your fly fishing skills, this is the program for you.



Yoga in the Ancient Forest

SEPTEMBER 5-8

COST: \$350, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Close your eyes, take a deep exhale, and settle into the natural beauty of Opal Creek. The crystal clear waters and giant trees create a perfect environment for quieting our minds and opening our senses to the limitless wisdom of nature, both around and within us. This weekend will be a chance to become acquainted or deepen your relationship with the practices of yoga, the ancient Vedic art of living harmoniously. Participants will have the opportunity for several group yoga sessions, a short private lesson, and a class in Ayurvedic cooking with our very own Rebekah Yglesias. We will explore Hatha and Restorative schools of yoga, as well as meditation, pranayama (yogic breathing), and mantra. All levels are welcome. This workshop is very popular, and fills quickly, so reserve your space now.

Instructors Alexandra Jackiw (www.wellspiritalhealing.com) and Ariel Singer (www.environmentfitness.com) are delighted to be collaborating for the seventh annual Opal Creek Yoga in the Ancient Forest.



PHOTO: CASCADE RAPTOR CENTER

Family Workshop: Raptors of the Western Cascades

OCTOBER 12-13

COST: \$150 PER ADULT, \$75 PER CHILD 4-13. FREE FOR CHILDREN 0-3, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

This ancient rainforest is a beautiful and peaceful place. But everywhere around us the web of life is being woven with one genus at the top of the pyramid: birds. These unique creatures are the predators of the sky, holding reign over a kingdom only they can visit. Raptors have developed many different adaptations to succeed in the giant, multi-layered canopy of Opal Creek. Not only are they an integral part of the ancient forests, they played an important role in saving Opal Creek from logging. Join us to learn about the hunters of the sky, how to identify these giants soaring overhead, and meet live raptors up close. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center will partner with the Cascades Raptor Center (www.eraptors.org) to present this exciting and educational workshop for the whole family, in one of the last true wilderness areas.



Ancient Forest Mushrooms

SESSION 1: OCTOBER 19-20

SESSION 2: OCTOBER 26-27

COST: \$160 PER ADULT, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

The forest surrounding Opal Creek produces a large diversity of mushrooms every fall. Join past Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center instructor and forest ecologist, John Villella for a weekend as we hike through the tall trees, learning about the amazing world of mycology that holds it all together. Look high and low amongst the trees of Opal Creek for the curious organisms that come in so many shapes and sizes and help the forest grow and decompose. You will enjoy looking for mushrooms, learning to identify common species, and discovering their role in the environment. Throughout the day we will learn which species are edible and collect what we find, tasting them later that evening. We will also learn the best mushrooms to beautifully dye cloth. Please bring a piece of wool or silk clothing to dye. This workshop is very popular, and fills quickly, so reserve your space now.

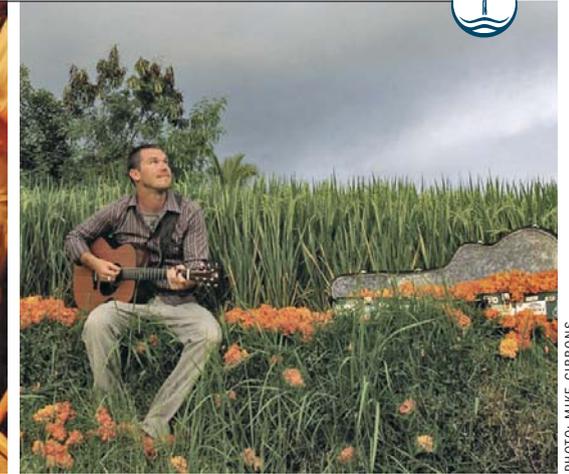


PHOTO: MIKE GIBBONS

Mountain Music Festival September 20-22

Few things pair better than clean mountain air and music. Join us for a magical weekend surrounded by the sounds of rushing water, wind in the trees, and amazing musical talent. Listen to songs beneath the stars, while exploring the majesty and wonder of the ancient forest. Whether you're a musician, an admirer, or a little of both, the Mountain Music Festival is your ticket to a weekend of inspiration in Oregon's most ethereal playground. Come play with us!

PRICES listed include lodging, meals, and music from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Package 1: private bedroom in cabin 4 or 5. \$175 per adult, \$50 per child ages 4-13, no charge for children under 4.

Package 2: dormitory-style lodging in the bunkhouse. \$125 per adult. Please, no children in the bunkhouse.

LINE-UP

Alan Kanning was born into a musical family who farmed the plains of northern Montana. His songs weave a melody through the comfort and loneliness of intimacy, the beauty and tragedy of ordinary life and the moment when hope flickers to life – just when you think it is flickering out.

Austin Willacy is a critically acclaimed singer/songwriter and has performed with Bonnie Raitt, Ray Charles, James Brown, and rising stars like Jem, John Corbett, Rachael Yamagata & Amos Lee. He donates his musical talent to a wide range of educational, social and environmental organizations.

Caroline Oakley and **Pete Leone** perform together featuring old-time fiddle and banjo tunes and country duets. Caroline is a founding member of the Flat Mountain Girls, and most recently played with old-time string band The Government Issue Orchestra. Pete is known for his high tenor singing and most recently played with Foghorn Stringband.

Mike Gibbons is a singer-songwriter who writes from an unabashedly personal place, using his craft to dig into his psyche and uproot whatever lies within. He has toured across the US and performed internationally on numerous occasions.

To register visit www.opalcreek.org/events



WILDERNESS MEDICINE INSTITUTE COURSES



Opal Creek and Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) have teamed up to bring you three of the most highly regarded wilderness medicine courses in the industry – all taught in the heart of the ancient forest.

Get certified in the backcountry of the Opal Creek Wilderness and still have all the comforts of home. Our fully equip cabins and lodge are an ideal backdrop to this course, offering a warm and comfortable environment to sleep and study. Our highly praised kitchen provides all meals.

**Lodging and meals begin the evening before courses begin.*



“GREAT LOCATION — I’D RECOMMEND IT TO ANYONE CONSIDERING TAKING THE WFR.”

— WFR participant, 2012



PHOTOS: MARK CORNWELL

Wilderness First Responder Recertification

SESSION 1: APRIL 26-28

SESSION 2: OCTOBER 4-6

COST: \$360, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

This three day scenario-based course is designed as review and practice of evacuation and decision making guidelines. It also provides wilderness medicine practitioners with current updates in the wilderness medicine field.



Wilderness Upgrade for Medical Professionals

JUNE 12-16

COST: \$850, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

This intense, hands-on course utilizes daily role plays, case studies and practical scenarios. Expect to spend plenty of time applying your knowledge. This five-day course is ideal for EMT's, nurses, physicians, certified athletic trainers and other medical professionals.

Wilderness First Responder

NOVEMBER 1-10

COST: \$950, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

This course is fast-paced and engaging. You'll spend half your time outside the classroom practicing hands-on skills in realistic scenarios. The intensive 80-hour curriculum is nationally recognized and supported by the Wilderness Medicine Institute's Medical Advisory Panel, and is quickly becoming an industry standard for all outdoor professionals.

Visit WMI's website for complete class descriptions at www.nols.edu/wmi



PHOTO: MARK CORNWELL

OPAL CREEK EXPEDITIONS

There is nothing like spending 5 days backpacking in the wilderness.

Jawbone Flats is the perfect base camp for outdoor adventure. Our unique expeditions combine backpacking skills with field science, giving your child hands-on experience ranging from camp cooking to sediment testing. Each trip approaches the watershed from a different ecological focus and maintains a strong emphasis on backcountry travel.

This year we have paired up with the experienced and certified guides of High Country Expeditions (www.highcountryexpeditions.com) to bring you a day rafting the McKenzie River. See our Uncut Gem and Advanced Skills expeditions for more information.

Beyond the Gate expeditions aim to compare and contrast the Opal Creek Wilderness with other diverse ecosystems throughout the state. These trips will take participants to two new locations this season: the Middle Santiam Wilderness, and the Tillamook State Forest.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

This spring we will host two orientation meetings for parents and backpackers to meet with our program

director. We strongly encourage everyone interested in a 2013 Opal Creek Expedition to attend one of these meetings, especially first-time backpackers. We will discuss proper gear and backpack sizing, go over the camp itineraries and hiking routes, and address any questions or concerns you may have.

The orientation meetings will be held in the Alder Room, on the second floor of the Ecotrust Building at 721 NW 9th Ave. in Portland's Pearl District. The meetings are scheduled for:

- ▶ Thursday, May 9, at 6 PM
- ▶ Monday, June 3, at 6 PM

Please call the Portland office at 503-892-2782 with any questions about these meetings.

All Opal Creek Expeditions follow leave no trace principles and maintain a student to staff ratio of 5:1. Our instructors are Wilderness First Responder certified and trained extensively to be prepared for any backcountry medical emergencies.

A complete gear list will be sent upon registration. If there are items you do not own consider renting equipment from local retailers.

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center operates under a special use permit with the Mt. Hood and Willamette National Forests.



Opal Creek Backpacking: Back to Basics

SESSION 1: JULY 7-12

SESSION 2: AUGUST 11-16

AGES: 10-12; AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5

COST: \$435

Come learn the ABCs of backpacking in the largest uncut watershed in western Oregon. This backcountry adventure will focus on the skills needed to be a comfortable, competent, and happy hiker. We'll spend two days in Jawbone Flats planning and preparing, then we'll hit the trail to experience first-hand how to take care of ourselves and each other in the wilderness. Camp cooking and wilderness medicine, leadership and communication skills are all a part of the curriculum, and, of course, swimming in the crystal clear waters of Opal Creek. We welcome hikers of all skill levels to join us for this expedition, especially those who are just becoming interested in backcountry travel.



Peaks of Opal Creek

JULY 14-19

AGES: 12-16; AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 6-9

COST: \$435

Throw your home on your back and head off on foot in search of the best vistas west of the Cascades. As we travel through deep canyons and over steep ridges, we'll learn about the geologic processes that formed the Cascade Range, and find out how mountains grow, erode, and evolve. Hiking under the old-growth canopy and swimming in sub-alpine lakes, we'll cover lots of ground and take in spectacular mountaintop views.



Fire on the Mountain

JULY 21-26

AGES: 12-16; AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 8

COST: \$435

Fire is a force of change in the ancient forest. Join us in the Bull of the Woods Wilderness as we seek out burn areas from different time periods to see first-hand how the forest comes back to life after a fire. We'll put miles under our feet after only one day of planning and preparation, so come prepared with broken-in boots and backpacking experience. We'll keep a steady pace on this trip so we can see the forest in various stages of recovery, doing comparison field studies at each site.



Oregon's Uncut Gem — and beyond!

JULY 28-AUGUST 2

AGES: 12-16; AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 7

COST: \$435

For a unique perspective on the Opal Creek Wilderness, join us as we circumnavigate one of the last uncut old-growth watersheds from ridgetop to ridgetop. Our hike begins at Opal Lake and continues along French Creek Ridge to Beachie Saddle. As we make our way along the valleys and ridges, we will investigate the connections between the lush forests and cool mountain streams, gaining a first-hand understanding of the complex relationships in an old-growth ecosystem. We'll study plant and animal life, and talk about the human history, particularly the conservation efforts, in the Opal Creek area. This trip is a chance to see the wilderness area in a way that few ever do, in its entirety. On our last day, after traversing the ridges of Opal Creek, we will head to the McKenzie River for a day of rafting with guides from High Country Expeditions and apply our understanding of the streams and rivers of Opal Creek to this larger water way all while spending a day on the river.



Lakes of the West Cascades

AUGUST 4-9

AGES: 12-16; AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 8

COST: \$435

Climb with us to the sub-alpine lakes of the Opal Creek and Bull of the Woods Wilderness areas. Astonishing views of the Cascades, from Mt. Hood to the Three Sisters, will greet us as we traverse steep ridgelines and descend into deep mountain valleys. We'll learn about the glacial and geologic forces that shaped these lakes, and test water depth and temperature as we take a dip. On the lakeshore, we'll study the countless insects, amphibians, fish, birds, and plants that inhabit these wetland refuges. We'll cover lots of ground and lots of water, so bring good boots and good suits!



BEYOND THE GATE: Westside Wilderness

AUGUST 11-16

AGES: 12-16; AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5

COST: \$495

After spending a day in the Opal Creek Wilderness exploring and learning about this unique forest, we will head south, along the slope of the Cascades, to the 8,500-acre **Middle Santiam Wilderness**. Come hike along the lightly travelled peaks and ridges, amongst stands of old growth trees up to 450 years old, and spend a night alongside Donaca Lake. We will discover the contrasts and similarities between the Opal Creek and Middle Santiam Wilderness Areas and hone our backcountry skills in a new and exciting west Cascades wilderness.



Opal Creek Backpacking and more: Advanced Skills

AUGUST 18-23

AGES: 12-16; AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5

COST: \$435

Perfect your backcountry travel skills in this exploration of Opal Creek's deep valleys, vista-filled ridges, and pristine sub-alpine lakes. Emphasis will be placed on safe and successful backpacking techniques, including packing a backpack for an extended trip, essential gear, how to plan and prepare tasty and nutritious meals on a camp stove, and proper food storage techniques. We'll get to know the local flora and fauna up close and personal, and spend time in camp focusing on our advanced cooking, knot-tying, and navigation skills. On our last day, after hiking the Opal Creek Wilderness, we will head to the McKenzie River for a day of rafting with guides from High Country Expeditions and practice the skill of rafting, while learning about this larger water way of the McKenzie River.



BEYOND THE GATE: From the Cascades to the Coast Range

AUGUST 25-30

AGES: 12-16; AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5

COST: \$495

Spend a day in Jawbone Flats discovering the intricacies of this west Cascade watershed before heading further west to the Coast Range and the **Tillamook State Forest**. Like the Opal Creek Wilderness, the Tillamook State Forest is a temperate rainforest, but these two forests have been managed differently over time. Hiking through Oregon's coastal mountains, we'll learn the unique history of the Tillamook Forest, including the Tillamook burn of 1933 and reforestation efforts. Compare the natural history of the Tillamook with that of Opal Creek and experience the contrasting environments while exploring and backpacking the Coast Range.

Volunteer Weekends at Jawbone Flats

SESSION 1: APRIL 26-28

SESSION 2: NOVEMBER 1-3

COST: \$50, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Join us at Opal Creek for a weekend of **clearing trails** and working on **basic maintenance** projects around our Jawbone Flats education center. Volunteer weekends require the ability to do hard, manual labor. Come prepared with appropriate clothes and gear. We will be working outdoors rain or shine! Please call in advance to reserve your space. The cost covers food and lodging for the weekend.

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center is a small non-profit that relies on its volunteers. We appreciate all of the time and energy you have donated over the many years, and realize we can't do what we do without you!

If you have specific skills, equipment or experience that could be useful to our programs please contact us at opalcreek@opalcreek.org or call 503.892.2782.

"OCAFC IS AN AMAZING PLACE SERVING AN IMPORTANT MISSION. THE PASSION OF THE STAFF IS CONTAGIOUS AND MAKES IT A PLEASURE TO VOLUNTEER. I'M COMING BACK!"

— 2011 volunteer





Support our Mission. Become a Member!

Join us in ancient forest stewardship...

Our Mission: Promoting conservation through educational experiences in wilderness.

Our mission is an integral part of the preservation of Opal Creek as an historical and cultural resource. The long-term health of this ancient forest, as well as the creation of awareness, and concern for the conservation of wild places still remaining is at the heart of what we do. Please consider supporting this crucial work.



Member Benefits Include:

- ▶ 10% off select workshops and summer programs
- ▶ Members' early cabin reservation period
- ▶ Mid-week rental discounts
- ▶ A subscription to our newsletter

To make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit www.opalcreek.org/donate or call 503.982.2782. While we welcome donations of any size, a \$35 gift gives an individual the benefits of membership and a \$50 gift provides a family with membership benefits. A monthly giving plan is also available. Please see our website's 'donate' page for details.

“I LOVE THIS PLACE! EVERYONE IS MELLOW AND KIND, THE FOOD IS EXCELLENT, THE SALAMANDERS ARE FRIENDLY.”

— Workshop Participant 2012

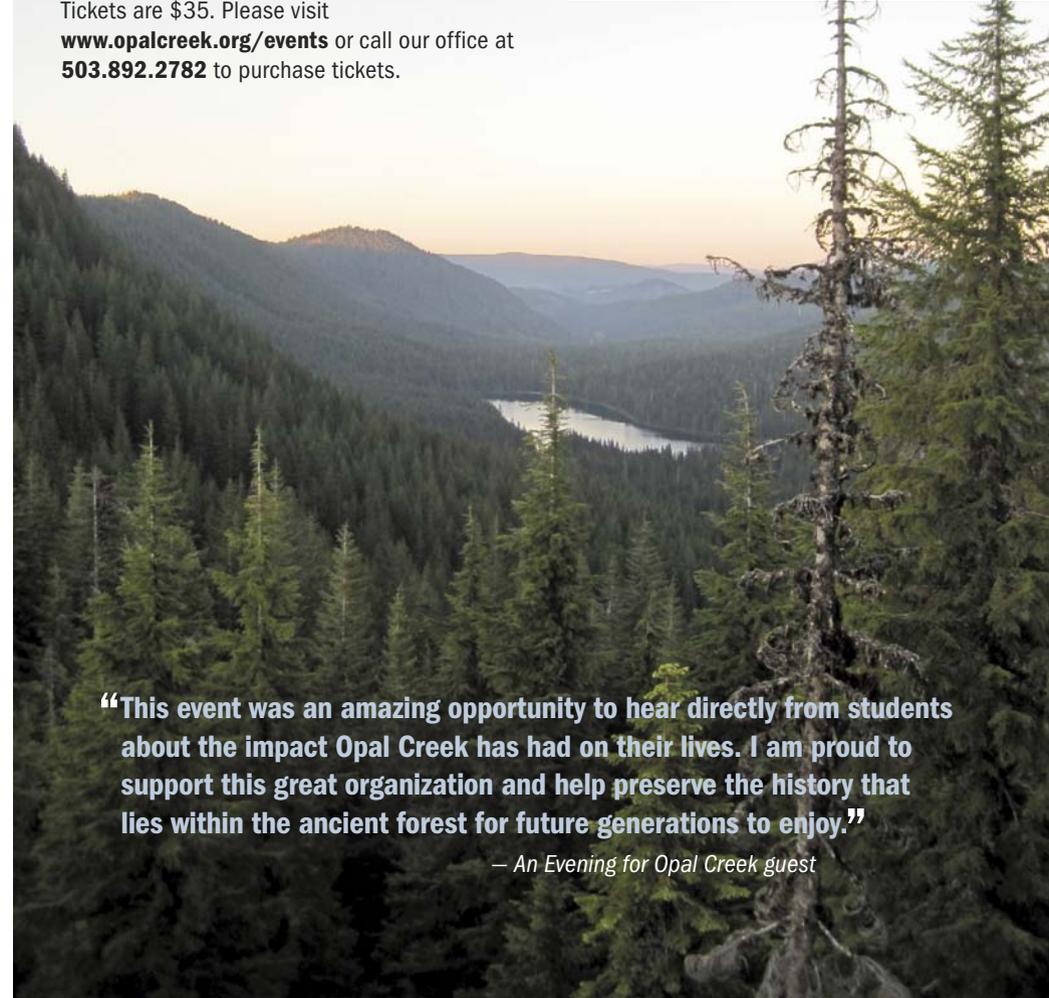


An Evening for Opal Creek

Join us on May 17th at 6:30pm at Ecotrust (NW 9th and Johnson) in downtown Portland for our annual fundraiser!

Local bluegrass favorite, Stumbleweed, will join in celebrating our work again this year and keep the party thumping with energetic sounds. Come support the important work of Opal Creek while enjoying beverages, appetizers and the incredible views afforded by Ecotrust's west-facing rooftop garden. It's sure to be a good time!

Tickets are \$35. Please visit www.opalcreek.org/events or call our office at 503.892.2782 to purchase tickets.



“This event was an amazing opportunity to hear directly from students about the impact Opal Creek has had on their lives. I am proud to support this great organization and help preserve the history that lies within the ancient forest for future generations to enjoy.”

— An Evening for Opal Creek guest



Sleeps and Eats:

Our cabins can be rented individually without taking part in an education program, and are ideal for family vacations, private getaways, or business retreats. Please visit our website at www.opalcreek.org for more cabin photos and up-to-the-minute rental information.

Jawbone Flats accommodates groups from 2-50, in a variety of cabin styles:

- ▶ **Cabin 1:** Built in 1928, our smallest and most charming cabin is a rustic, one-bedroom refuge situated on Battle Ax Creek. This cabin sleeps two comfortably in a king-size bed, with a futon in the living area to provide extra sleeping room, and is equipped with a full bathroom, full kitchen and a deck with a full view of Battle Ax Falls.
- ▶ **Cabins 4 and 5:** Our newest cabins, 4 and 5 were beautifully rebuilt in 1998 for spectacular spaciousness and comfort. In each cabin you'll find a back deck overlooking the Little North Santiam River, four large bedrooms, full kitchen, and two full baths with showers. These cabins sleep up to 16 people each.
- ▶ **Cabin 7:** A mid-size, rustic two-bedroom cabin with loft sleeps up to ten in a combination of shared and private bedrooms. This cabin was remodeled in 2006 adding many beautiful improvements. It has a living area, full kitchen and full bathroom.

All cabin kitchens are fully stocked with dishes, utensils, pots, and pans.

“ANOTHER FABULOUS VISIT TO THE BEAUTIFUL OPAL CREEK. WE LOVE IT HERE – THE RUSTIC CABINS, THE AMAZING FOREST AND STUNNING WATER, THE NIGHT SKY. THANKS FOR BEING HERE!”

– Cabin Renter, 2012

PRICING FOR CABIN RENTALS

Prices listed below include the first two adult guests. Each additional adult is \$20 per night; children ages 4-13 are \$10 per night; and children ages 3 and under are free of charge. For all-camp rates, please call the Portland office at 503-892-2782.

There is a two-night minimum for all cabins throughout the summer season (June 15-Labor Day), and a two-night weekend minimum for all cabins for the duration of the season.

| Season | Month | Cabin 1 | Cabins 4 & 5 | Cabin 7 |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Shoulder Season | April, May, June 1-14, | Weekend | Weekend | Weekend |
| | September, October, November | (Fri./Sat.): \$175 Midweek: \$100 | (Fri./Sat.): \$200 Midweek: \$125 | (Fri./Sat.): \$175 Midweek: \$110 |
| High Season | June 15 – Labor Day | All days: \$195 | All days: \$250 | All days: \$200 |



PHOTOS THIS SPREAD: HOLLAND STUDIOS

MEALS

Opal Creek strives to provide organic and local foods whenever possible. All meals are vegetarian and always hearty and healthy in nature. Due to the remote nature of Jawbone Flats, all meals must be arranged 3-4 weeks in advance.

- Breakfast:** \$12 per person
- Packed Lunch:** \$10 per person
- Sit Down Lunch:** \$15 per person (10 adult minimum)
- Dinner:** \$18 per person

Meals are half-price for children ages 4-13 and free of charge for children ages 0-3.

GEAR SHUTTLE

Jawbone Flats is located 3.1 miles from the Forest Service parking area. We operate a gear shuttle for our program participants and cabin renters so that you can enjoy the spectacular hike in through the old-growth forest with only a daypack.

Shuttles leave the parking area by reservation at **10 AM** or **5 PM**. Once you have made your program or cabin reservation, our Portland staff will work with you to schedule a shuttle at one of these times. We provide one complementary arrival and departure shuttle per cabin; there is a \$50 fee for each additional shuttle requested. If a member of your party is unable to walk in, please make arrangements with our Portland office in advance.

Please call our Portland office at 503-892-2782 for more details.

“I WANT TO EAT HERE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.”

– Workshop Participant, 2012



Staff



Executive Director Katie Ryan joined Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center in March of 2005. She brings fourteen years of experience organizing and leading field education programs throughout Oregon, Washington, California, the Yellowstone region, and Canada. Before coming to Opal Creek, she was directing programs at OMSI's Cascade Science School in Bend, OR. At home in the mountains, she has dedicated her career to sharing these special places with students of all ages, believing 100% that people need to experience wild places in order to care about them. Having spent three years living full time at Jawbone Flats, Opal Creek has become one of her absolute favorite places to share. Katie worked as our Program Director building our ever growing programs from 2005-2009 and took over as Executive Director in October of 2009. She now lives in Bend, OR with her husband Joe and dog Murphy. When not working on behalf of Opal Creek's amazing programs, Katie spends her time skiing, hiking, rafting, and just trying to be outside as much as possible.



Program Director Serena Becker discovered the mystery and beauty of Opal Creek when she joined the team in 2010. She brings with her years of experience as an environmental educator and project manager as well as extensive backcountry backpacking experience, including thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail in 2008. Serena has worked for the Audubon Society of Portland, Santiam Crossing, and Friends of Zenger Farm among other non-profit organizations. She enjoys spending time outside and sharing the wonders of Opal Creek with all those who find their way to the ancient forest. Serena holds a Bachelor of Arts

from The Evergreen State College and is a certified Wilderness First Responder.

Science Instructors

Our skilled and dedicated field instructors hold college degrees in the natural sciences or education, are Wilderness First Responder certified and receive training in outdoor teaching methods and risk management procedures.

For a complete list of staff please visit our website at www.opalcreek.org.

Board of Directors

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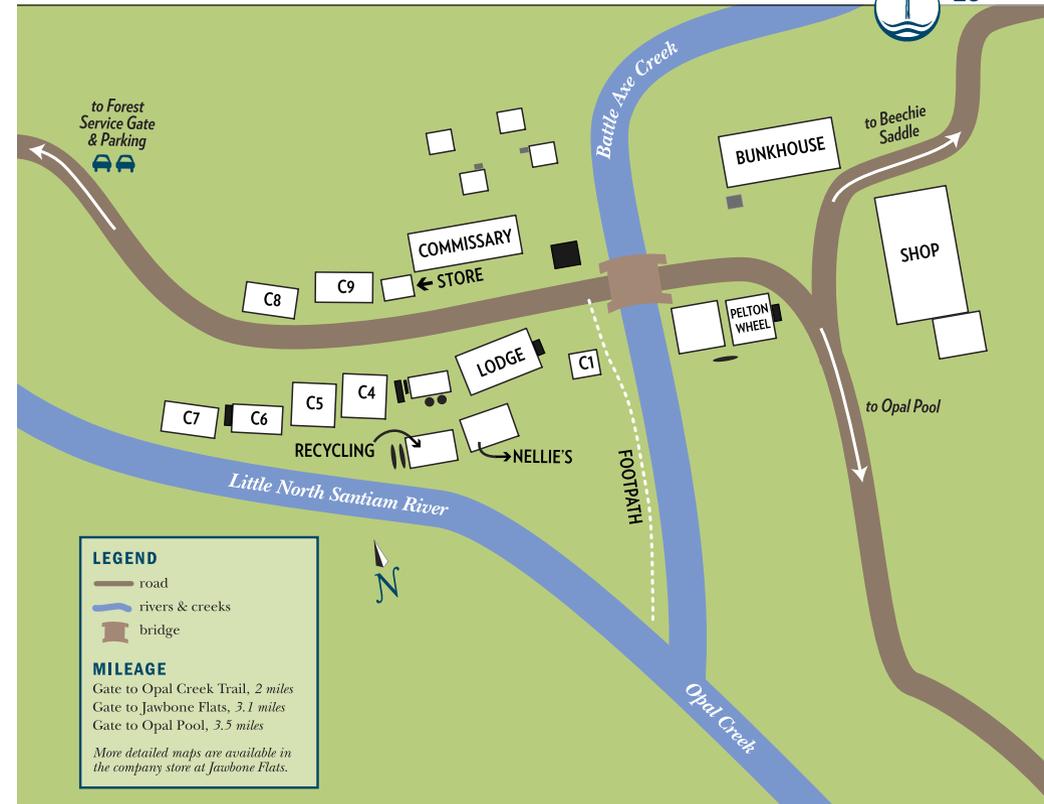
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In and Around Jawbone Flats

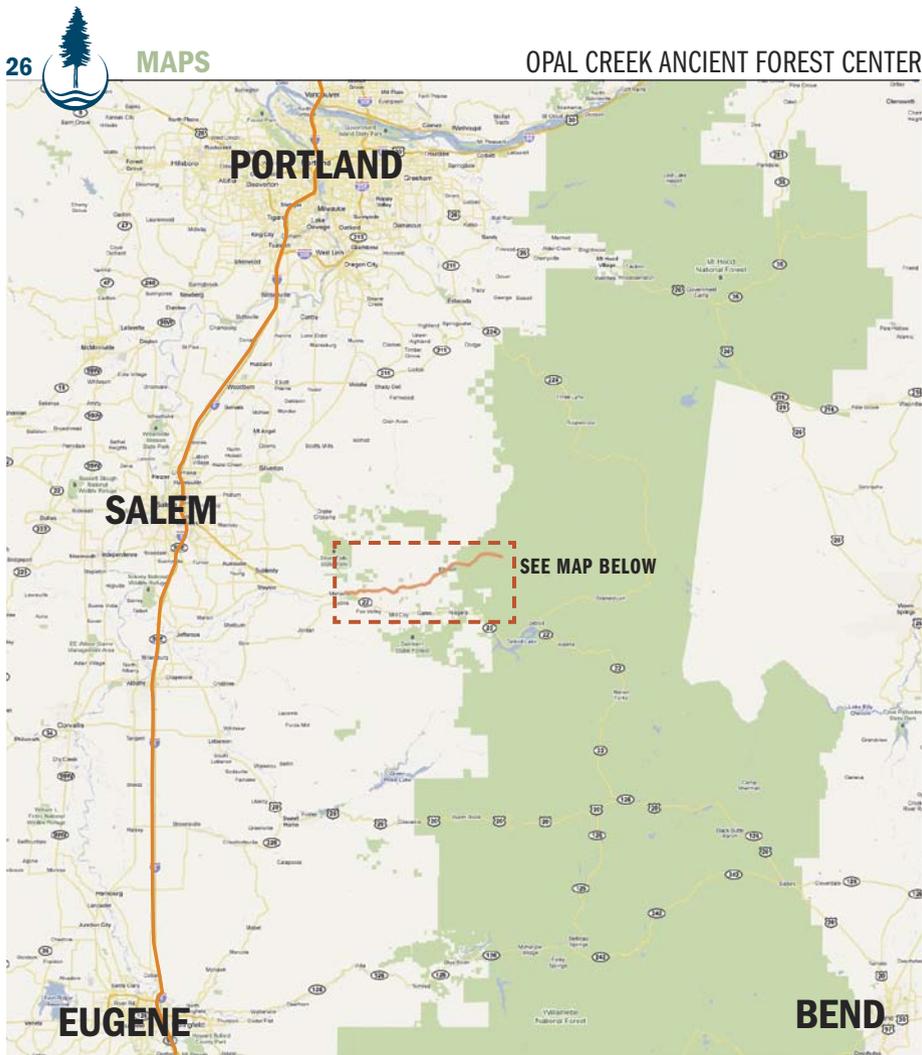
There are a number of hikes, ranging in difficulty and length, throughout the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation and Wilderness Area.

Gate to Jawbone Flats: This gentle 6.25 mile round trip hike or bike ride along the old mining road will take you to Jawbone Flats, an old mining town and our base of operations. With an elevation of merely 300 feet, you will enjoy hiking under a canopy of old growth trees, past historic mining and logging equipment.

Alternately, 2.2 miles in on the old mining road you may choose to cross the Little North Santiam River and continue hiking east, following the river up-stream about 1 mile, until you reach Opal Pool, where you can cross the bridge over Opal Creek and arrive back on the old mining road. Take a left onto the old road and you'll arrive in Jawbone Flats.

There are a number of longer, more strenuous backcountry hikes, including hiking Whetstone and Battle Ax Mountains, that radiate from Jawbone Flats. Please visit our "Company Store" in Jawbone Flats to purchase a wilderness map and discuss hiking opportunities with our knowledgeable staff.

Enter the Opal Creek Wilderness and be awed by this uncut gem!



COURTESY GOOGLE MAPS



Driving Directions

Do not follow MapQuest or Google Map directions: they are inaccurate. Typical driving times to Opal Creek are: from Salem, 1 hr; from Portland or Eugene, 2 hrs.; from Bend, 2.5-3 hrs.

From I-5:

- ▶ Take Exit 253 for Hwy 22 (Stayton/Detroit).
- ▶ At the end of the ramp turn left/east onto Hwy 22. Continue for approximately 22 miles.
- ▶ You will come to a flashing yellow light and on the right hand side of the road you will see the Swiss Village Restaurant.
- ▶ Turn left/north at the flashing light onto the North Fork Rd. The Opal Creek trailhead is at the very end of this road, approximately 20 miles.
- ▶ After 14 miles of pavement you will enter the Willamette National Forest where the road turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ After approx 1.5-2 miles you will see a turn-off on the right towards Three Pools. Stay to the left on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4.5 miles to the Opal Creek parking area and trail head.

From Bend, Hwy 97 or Hwy 20:

- ▶ From either of these highways, make your way to Hwy 22 West.
- ▶ Follow Hwy 22 West to Gates, OR, approximately 96 miles from Sisters.
- ▶ Approximately 11 miles past Gates you will come to a flashing yellow light and on the left hand side of the road you will see the Swiss Village Restaurant.
- ▶ Turn right/north at the flashing light onto the North Fork Rd. **The Opal Creek trailhead is at the very end of this road, approximately 20 miles.**
- ▶ After 14 miles of pavement you will enter the Willamette National Forest where the road turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ After approx 1.5-2 miles you will see a turn-off on the right towards Three Pools. Stay to the left on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4.5 miles to the Opal Creek parking area and trail head.

Alternate Directions (During Summer Months Only):

Please note: This alternate route will save you roughly 30 minutes of travel time from the Bend area. However, Gates Hill Road is 16% grade both up and down, and is not maintained in the winter. Please drive with extra caution when using this road.

- ▶ From Gates, turn right/north onto Gates Hill Road, across from the Gates General Store.
- ▶ Gates Hill Road is a paved, approximately 3-mile road that lets out on North Fork Road, approximately 9 miles north from Hwy 22.
- ▶ Turn right onto the North Fork Road.
- ▶ After 5 miles or so you will enter the Willamette National Forest where the road turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ After approx 1.5-2 miles you will see a turn-off on the right towards Three Pools. Stay to the left on Forest Road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4.5 miles to the Opal Creek parking area and trail head.

At the Parking Area/Trail Head:

- ▶ Jawbone Flats is located 3.1 miles down the old gravel road past the gate.
- ▶ If you are staying with us and have scheduled in advance, your gear shuttle will meet you at the trailhead parking lot at 10 AM or 5 PM.
- ▶ All able-bodied individuals are encouraged to make the short hike into Jawbone Flats to fully appreciate the unique natural setting you are about to experience.

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PHOTO: MARK CORNWELL

