



OPAL CREEK

ANCIENT FOREST CENTER



2010 CATALOG





Why Opal Creek?

The Pacific Northwest, and Oregon in particular, abounds with amazing natural beauty and many, many options for enjoying the great outdoors. So why Opal Creek? What sets this specific watershed tucked away in the Cascades apart? How can Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center help you fully experience this gem?



Our base of operations, Jawbone Flats, sits at the confluence of two mountain streams surrounded by dramatic ridgelines: in short, the ideal backdrop for serious relaxation. Our comfortable, stream side accommodations are equally 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. Not to mention Jawbone Flats is “off the grid,” meaning the electricity we use is produced through solar panels and hydroelectric power. Additionally, our cabin rental fees fund our education programs, so each visit directly supports our mission of developing and implementing environmental educational programming inspired by Opal Creek.

Our education programs provide the perfect chance for students to get their hands dirty, immersed in the natural world they are learning about. Instructors employ top tier industry teaching methodologies, all the while highlighting local ecology and geology.

Opal Creek Expeditions is back and in its second year. These 6 day adventures give 10-16 year olds an opportunity to fully immerse themselves in nature. The programs launch from Jawbone Flats and move into our neighboring wilderness, Bull of the Woods. Compare and contrast the different natural habitats between Bull of the Woods and the Opal Creek watershed during *Lakes of the Bull of the Woods* and *Tributaries of Elk Lake Creek* backpacking trips. Check out *Fly Fishing and Freshwater Ecology* our newest offering in the waters surrounding Jawbone Flats, or sign up for *Wilderness Survival*, an annual favorite.

Since their introduction in 2006, our Family Workshops continually delight, giving many families the opportunity to create meaningful memories together. Join us on our Family Backpack for an adventure, or check out one of our many Jawbone based Family Workshops with topics ranging from Mammals to Insects.

Nurture your artistic side by joining us for a creative writing workshop. Need to unwind? Opal Creek is the perfect place to practice yoga, and we are excited to offer a full weekend of meditation and stretching.

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.

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“THANKS SO MUCH FOR MAKING THIS EXPERIENCE SO AMAZING AND LIFE CHANGING!” –Young Writer '09



A brief history –

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 watersheds 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.



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 Kalapuya 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 little was ever found. 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 50,000 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 ancient forest stewardship, and we invite you to join us in being inspired by the beauty and importance of the ancient forest preserved at Opal Creek.

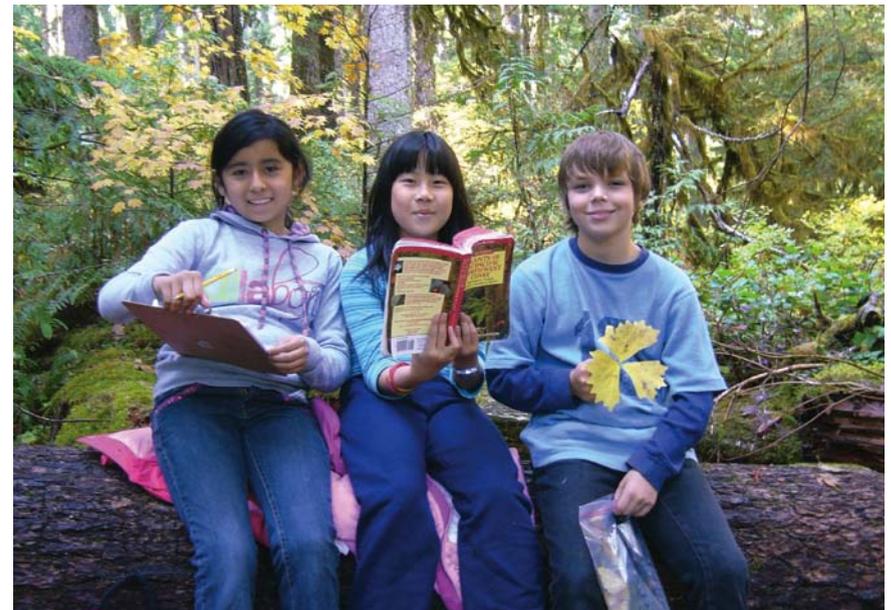
OUR MISSION:
PROMOTING ANCIENT FOREST STEWARDSHIP
THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES INSPIRED BY
OPAL CREEK'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY.

Teachers: Bring your students out to Opal Creek for an unforgettable experience!

In addition to the wonderful workshops and summer programs we offer at Opal Creek, we also offer school year programs. Our programs serve 2nd-12th grade students, and all university levels. Surrounding our education center is the largest remaining, intact, low-elevation, ancient forest ecosystem in Oregon's Western Cascades. Students will be exposed to an astonishing diversity of plants, mushrooms, lichens, macro-invertebrates, and many other organisms. The living laboratory of the ancient forest provides an excellent context for the concepts the students are learning. Our newly remodeled, solar powered classroom is equipped with microscopes to allow students to closely examine the intricate details of the forest. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about sustainability through our onsite examples, including our hydropower system, solar panels, and composting facilities.

Our teaching philosophy is based on hands-on, experiential learning, and our instructors are trained in various field education techniques and hands-on teaching methodologies. We employ a professional teaching staff with natural science or education bachelor's degrees and Wilderness First Responder certifications. We work with each individual teacher to craft a program that ties in with work the students have been doing in the classroom.

Please contact our office at 503-892-2782 or email opalcreek@opalcreek.org to discuss opportunities for your class.





Mosses, Lichens and Liverworts of the Ancient Forest

APRIL 24-25, 2010

COST: \$140 PER ADULT

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. Past Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center instructor and forest ecologist John Vilella 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.



Spring Amphibians of Opal Creek

APRIL 24-25, 2010

**COST: \$150 PER ADULT;
KIDS: AGES 0-2: FREE; AGES 3-13: \$75**

The Pacific Northwest is known nationwide for its wet and soggy climate. While undesirable to some, Northwest amphibians relish in the fresh spring rains and seasonal pools created by this climate. Join our expert instructors in exploring the forests surrounding Jawbone Flats, seeking out all the secret habitats of our amphibian residents. We will hike among the towering trees, cascading streams, and dripping mosses in search of elusive amphibians that call this forest home. Learn about the different homes necessary for amphibians to survive, the fascinating ways they are adapted to their habitats, and the roles they play in this ecosystem. The tuition cost includes a copy of *Field Guide to the Amphibians of Opal Creek* for your use during the weekend and on all your amphibian studies in the future.



FAMILY WORKSHOP: Wildflowers and Butterflies

JUNE 26-27, 2010

**COST: \$150 PER ADULT;
KIDS: AGES 0-2: FREE; AGES 3-13: \$75**

The ancient forest enjoys magnificent wildflower blooms mid-summer, and these flowers bring striking species of butterflies to Opal Creek. Join Opal Creek instructors for a weekend exploring the wildflower diversity in the forest, and learn about the many diverse butterfly species who pollinate these flowers. We will hike through the tall trees, in search of Swallowtails, Anglewings, Painted Ladies, and the elusive Mistletoe Hairstreak, Oregon's only old growth dependant butterfly species. We will visit some of Opal Creek's butterfly hotspots, and learn to ID these butterflies by sight. All family workshops are kid focused, feature hands-on activities, and are a great way to enjoy the Opal Creek area as a family.



FAMILY WORKSHOP: Mammals of the Santiam Canyon

JULY 24-25, 2010

**COST: \$150 PER ADULT;
KIDS: AGES 0-2: FREE; AGES 3-13: \$75**

The 35,000 acres of undisturbed ancient forest surrounding Opal Creek are excellent habitat for a variety of mammals from tiny voles to impressive cougars. The workshop will be a mixture of field work in the forest and some classroom time. We will learn about mammal characteristics in general and focus on mammal species local to Jawbone Flats. In the forest we will set live traps and look for mammal signs like tracks and scat. Learn about some mammal adaptations through interactive games. In the evening, we will see a slideshow of the more elusive mammals, including canopy dwellers and large predators. All family workshops are kid focused, feature hands-on activities, and are a great way to enjoy the Opal Creek area as a family.



Young Writers Workshop

JUNE 28-JULY 1, 2010

COST: \$320 PER STUDENT

This intensive 4-day workshop is designed to offer young writers an ideal atmosphere for experiencing both the wilderness and the literary arts. Daily discussions, readings, writing exercises, and plenty of individual feedback and critiques will be at the center of this session, though each day will also provide due time for hiking, swimming, and appreciating the wonders of Opal Creek. This workshop is open to writers of all levels—be that poetry or prose—and apart from a journal and pen, all that is required is a keen interest in words, and a desire to further your abilities as a reader and writer. This program is designed for students grades 9-12.

Justin Gardiner, past OCAFC instructor, will be leading this workshop. He taught Creative Writing at Warren Wilson College, where he received his MFA in 2005. Justin's work with High School students includes two falls as the Visiting Poet-in-Residence at the South Carolina Governor's School of the Arts, and his work has appeared in literary journals that include *Quarterly West*, *The Ledge*, *New Orleans Review*, and *ZYZZYVA*. He is excited to return to Jawbone for the second year of this popular workshop.



Yoga in the Ancient Forest

JULY 30-AUGUST 1, 2010

COST: \$300

Come join some of the best-loved and most experienced Northwest yoga teachers for this wellness-focused workshop set amidst the natural beauty of Opal Creek! This weekend will be a chance for participants to explore the joys of yoga practice while surrounded by a thriving old-growth forest. What better way to relax in the beauty and serenity of wilderness than by strengthening our bodies and quieting our minds through the practice of asana? We will explore Vinyasa, Restorative, and Hatha schools of yoga. All levels welcome. This workshop is very popular, and fills quickly, so reserve your space now.

Instructors for the workshop are Ali Jackiw, Ariel Singer, Tasha Danner and Monicka Koneski, from one of Portland's best loved yoga studios, The Bhaktishop: www.thebhaktishop.com



FAMILY WORKSHOP: Insects of Opal Creek

AUGUST 28-29, 2010

**COST: \$150 PER ADULT;
KIDS AGES 0-2: FREE; AGES 3-13: \$75**

Bring the whole family out for a weekend exploring the fascinating and often overlooked world of insects. We will search high and low, under rocks, and in the water for many different species of insects that live at Opal Creek. Learn why they are important to all ecosystems, and the specific roles they play in the Western Cascades. August is a great time of year at Opal Creek, and we will have plenty of time to swim and snorkel in the cool pools of the Little North Fork of the Sanitam River, further investigating the aquatic habitat of our local insects. All family workshops are kid friendly, feature hands-on activities, and are a great way to enjoy the Opal Creek area as a family.



FAMILY WORKSHOP: Fall Amphibians

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2010

**COST: \$150 PER ADULT;
KIDS: AGES 0-2: FREE; AGES 3-13: \$75**

Opal Creek's intact ancient forest and cool clean water host the full diversity of the Northwest forest 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 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. All family workshops are kid focused, feature hands-on activities, and are a great way to enjoy the Opal Creek area as a family.



Ancient Forest Mushroom Workshops

OCTOBER 9-10, 2010
OCTOBER 16-17, 2010

COST: \$160 PER ADULT

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 in the ancient forest of Opal Creek for the curious organisms that come in so many shapes and sizes... that help the forest grow and decompose... that we can eat and use to dye our clothes. You will enjoy exploring for mushrooms, learn to identify common species, and discover their role in the forest. Throughout the day we will learn which species are edible and collect what we find, tasting them later that evening.



Turning Over Stones: A Creative Writing Workshop with Amy Minato

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2010

COST: \$150 PER ADULT

Just as we discover those zen-like salamanders hidden under logs, crawdads under rocks, looking below the surface of daily life reveals meaning. Come be inspired by what you find as we turn over the stones of our lives beneath elder trees and beside effervescent Opal Creek. Then practice ways to shape your findings into effective writing. This workshop develops organically with participant interest. Themes we may consider include loss, hope, change, love and spiritual quest. We will weave being outdoors with readings, discussions and writing in a fun, relaxed, supportive atmosphere. All writing levels welcome!

Amy Minato is author of *Siesta Lane*, a creative nonfiction book by Skyhorse Press and *The Wider Lens*, a poetry collection published in 2004 by Ice River Press. Her poetry has been published in national and regional magazines and has been recognized with a 2004 Oregon Literary Arts Fellowship and her prose with a Walden Fellowship. She currently teaches writing workshops through Literary Arts, Community of Writers and at conference centers. She and her family migrate between Portland and the Wallowa Mountains. www.amyminato.com



Wilderness First Responder Recertification

APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2010

*Lodging & meals begin the evening of April 29

COST: \$360, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Are your wilderness medicine protocols on the tip of your tongue or in the bottom of your pack? Do you need to recertify your WFR before your exciting summer adventures? 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.

This course may be used to recertify current Wilderness First Responder and Wilderness EMT (wilderness portion only) certifications from the following organizations: WMI, NOLS, SOLO, OPEPA, WMA and WPT. CPR is included. This course will be taught by instructors from the Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI).



Wilderness First Responder

JULY 5-14, 2010

OCTOBER 22-31, 2010

*Lodging & meals begin the evening before the course

COST: \$1150, INCLUDES ALL MEALS AND LODGING FOR THE ENTIRE 10 DAYS

Essential for anyone who spends significant time in remote places or who has a professional career in the outdoors, the WFR course will prepare you to make difficult medical decisions in remote settings. Taught by the Wilderness Medicine Institute, this course is fast-paced and engaging. You'll spend half your time outside the classroom practicing hands-on skills in realistic scenarios. You will also participate in a full-scale night mock rescue. WMI's curriculum encompasses a wide range of topics including long-term patient care, wound management, straightening angulated fractures, reducing dislocations, litter packaging and administering medications. You'll complete this course with the tools and confidence to manage patients in the backcountry for multiple days. 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.



Opal Creek Beginning Backpacks I & II

SESSION I: JUNE 27-JULY 2, 2010
SESSION II: JULY 11- 16, 2010

AGES: 10-12

COST: \$420

Our back country experienced and WFR certified instructional staff will be the guides on this first time backpacking adventure. Learn about backpacking and outdoor skills as you hike among the tall trees of the ancient forest. We will learn safe wilderness travel skills, including cooking on a camp stove, packing for a backpacking trip, using a map, compass, and GPS, and practicing wilderness medicine. We will have plenty of time for swimming and snorkeling in the crystal clear waters that meander through Opal Creek. The first two nights will be spent in Jawbone Flats, preparing and practicing some basic skills around camp. The crew will then head off to explore some of the most beautiful parts of the watershed. Opal Creek will provide all food, but participants are responsible for their own gear. A full gear list will be sent upon registration. Join us on this fantastic introduction to backpacking in one of the most beautiful forests in Oregon.



Peaks of Opal Creek

JULY 18-23, 2010

AGES: 12-16

COST: \$420

Four peaks in one week! Throw on your pack and head off on foot in search of the best vistas west of the Cascades. Watch the landscape change as we travel through deep canyons and over steep ridges. Learn about the geologic processes that formed this chain of mountains, and observe how time and the elements have caused them to evolve. Develop backpacking and outdoor skills as you hike under the canopy created by centuries old trees. Swim in a subalpine lake with the local newts, and rest on each mountain top surrounded by native wildflowers and butterflies. You can't get to these stunning parts of the Opal Creek ecosystem unless you carry your home on your back. We will learn safe wilderness travel skills, including cooking on a camp stove, packing for a backpacking trip, using a map, compass, and GPS, and practicing wilderness medicine. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center will provide all of the food; participants are responsible for their own gear.



Lakes of Bull of the Woods

JULY 25-30, 2010

AGES: 12-16

COST: \$420

Nestled in the valleys of Opal Creek and Bull of the Woods Wilderness Areas are many serene, untouched sub-alpine lakes. Travel along steep ridgelines for astonishing views of the Cascades extending from Mt Hood to the Three Sisters as we make our way into the deep valleys of the lakes. Become an amateur limnologist as we compare the lakes of Bull of the Woods, only reachable by foot, using bio-monitoring and chemical testing techniques. Swim in the clear cold water each afternoon to test for water depth and temperature. From shore, test the sediment with your toes and observe the numerous species of insect, amphibian, fish, bird, and plants that inhabit these wetland refuges. We will learn safe wilderness travel skills, including cooking on a camp stove, packing for a backpacking trip, using a map, compass, and GPS, and practicing wilderness medicine. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center will provide all of the food; participants are responsible for their own gear.



Tributaries of Elk Lake Creek

AUGUST 1-6, 2010

AGES: 12-16

COST: \$420

Climb over Battle Ax Mountain for an incredible view of the Cascades and descend to find the blue waters of Elk Lake. Float in the warm water before throwing your pack on and following the sparkling creek that feeds the Collawash River. Chase the stream as it tumbles and turns through stands of centuries old fir, hemlock, and cedar trees. The flora is lush along riparian zones and huckleberries will be ripe for the picking this time of year. This is the only backpacking trip where snorkels are an essential item and we will pace ourselves to allow for regular dips into the streams throughout the day. We will study changing water conditions using biological monitoring and chemical testing techniques. Each bend in the river is more beautiful than the last, and these mountain stream systems only reveal themselves to those who travel on foot. We will learn safe wilderness travel skills, including cooking on a camp stove, packing for a backpacking trip, using a map, compass, and GPS, and practicing wilderness medicine. OCAFC will provide all of the food, and participants are responsible for their own gear.



Wilderness Survival at Opal Creek

AUGUST 8-13, 2010

AGES: 10-12

COST: \$420

If you were lost in the mountains would you know how to take care of yourself? Spend six days in the old growth forests of the western Cascades to learn and practice the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in mountainous areas. Obtain safe drinking water and learn the latest techniques for purification. Pitch tents and emergency shelters. Make rope out of plants and learn to tie basic knots. Practice wilderness first aid skills. Learn to properly use a map and compass, as well as a GPS system, to help navigate your way. Swim and snorkel in the Little North Fork of the Santiam River and learn proper water safety techniques. We will base our explorations from Jawbone Flats, our historic mining town in the heart of the Opal Creek Wilderness. Test the skills you have learned when we spend one night camped out in the ancient forest a couple miles from camp. There will be plenty of time for making new friends and sharing stories under the stars.



Fly Fishing and Freshwater Ecology

AUGUST 15-20, 2010

AGES: 10-15

COST: \$480

Educational Recreational Adventures (ERA) and Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center have joined forces to offer a week of quality fly fishing instruction and fishing for native rainbow trout in spectacular waters within an ancient forest. Join Jeff Gottfried and other ERA staff to learn to rig a fly rod, tie knots, choose the right fly for the right conditions, identify aquatic insects and tie flies that represent them, read water and other fly fishing skills. Hike along and wade in the Little North Fork of the Santiam, Opal Creek, Battle Axe Creek and Opal Lake as we pursue, catch, photograph and release wild trout. No fly fishing experience necessary. This program will be geared toward first time fly fishers. If you want to learn to fly fish, this is the place for you. In addition to all the fly fishing and tying gear, Jeff will also be bringing bows, arrows, atlatls and targets just for variety.



Watershed Navigation of Opal Creek

AUGUST 22-27, 2010

AGES: 12-16

COST: \$420

Circumnavigate the Opal Creek Wilderness area for a unique perspective of this entirely protected watershed. We will start at Opal Lake and hike along French Creek Ridge to Beachie Saddle. Spend the night blanketed under the starry sky, learning constellations and their stories. As we make our way around the watershed, we will explore the ecosystem, investigating connections between the lush forest and the pristine mountain streams. You will learn about local flora and fauna as well as the rich conservation history as we dip into lakes and traverse steep ridges. We will learn safe wilderness travel skills, including cooking on a camp stove, packing for a backpacking trip, using a map, compass, and GPS, and practicing wilderness medicine. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center will provide all of the food, and participants are responsible for their own gear.



FAMILY WORKSHOP: Opal Creek Wilderness Backpack

SEPTEMBER 3-6, 2010

**COST: \$220 PER ADULT;
\$120 PER KID AGES 10-17**

Have you always wanted to explore the ancient forests of Oregon more deeply, but don't feel comfortable backpacking on your own? Bring your family and join our WFR certified staff to spend the last weekend of summer away from the crowds, walking through remote reaches of the Opal Creek Wilderness. We will hike to the ridge top the first day and make base camp. From here, we can day hike, swim in serene lakes, and play games. The amazing ecology of Pacific Northwest forests and the conservation history of the Opal Creek area will be a focus throughout the weekend. Much of Opal Creek remains untouched, and the only way to see it is by foot.

Participants will hit the trail Friday afternoon after backpacking preparation in Jawbone is complete. OCAFC will provide all food, but participants will need to provide all backpacking gear. A detailed list will be sent upon registration.



Become a Member

Join us in ancient forest stewardship...

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center's mission is essential for the long term health of the ancient forest and the preservation of its cultural resources. The benefits of our work also extend out to the greater Northwest region as citizens make choices in their local communities. Your support goes directly to the heart of this effort and we cannot succeed without your investment.

Income from programs alone falls well short of our expenses, and the difference is made up by donations from people who care about the long term health of Opal Creek. We are proud of our record of success, and of our strong financial management and fiscal discipline. Donations are enthusiastically appreciated and put to important use. You are rewarded with the knowledge that your investment makes a significant contribution to our offering world class experiential science education. Additional member benefits include 10% off select workshops, first choice at cabin rental dates, midweek rental discounts, as well as subscription to our newsletter. We are stretching every dollar so your gift will make a bigger impact than ever before! Please give!

To make a tax-deductible contribution, please see our website, www.opalcreek.org/supportus.html or call our Portland office at 503-892-2782.

- ▶ **\$35 Individual membership:** Support Opal Creek's mission and enjoy the benefits of membership.
- ▶ **\$50 Family membership:** Entitles the whole family to member benefits. This can cover the cost of one student attending an overnight program at Jawbone Flats.
- ▶ **\$100 Forest Steward:** Could fund a day of professional instruction by our expert staff trained in experiential education.
- ▶ **\$250 Forest Supporter:** Can buy scientific equipment to let students study the ecosystem with tools and techniques used by professional researchers.
- ▶ **\$500 Forest Benefactor:** Can pay for meals and lodging for 20 volunteers involved in forest stewardship activities.
- ▶ **\$1,000 Forest Patron:** Could help a class of 20 students attend an overnight program at Jawbone Flats. A contribution at this level helps ensure our programs continue for years to come.
- ▶ **\$5,000 Opal Pool Group:** Your investment allows us to reach more students with life changing educational experiences. Your generosity sets the standard for commitment to Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center's mission and programs.

“STAFF ADDED A FUN AND CHEERFUL HOMEY ATMOSPHERE THAT ENRICHED THE WHOLE GROUP—THEY CLEARLY LOVE THEIR JOBS AND THE KIDS TOO.”

—Buckman Parent



Volunteer Weekends at Jawbone Flats

MAY 15-16, 2010

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2010

As stewards of the Opal Creek watershed, Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center seeks to maintain and improve the health of this ecosystem and the safety of its trails. Active stewardship includes education and outreach, as well as sweat and hard work. Join us at Opal Creek for a weekend of clearing trails and cleaning areas around our Jawbone Flats education center. The work for these weekends will be hard, manual labor. Come prepared to help in this manner. Please call in advance to reserve your space. Suggested donation to cover food and lodging costs: \$35.00 per person

In addition, we are sometimes looking for help in our Portland office with various projects. If you are interested in helping in this capacity, please contact our Portland office at 503-892-2782.

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center is a small non-profit organization, who relies heavily on their volunteers. We appreciate all the time our volunteers have donated over the many years, and realize we can't do what we do without volunteer help. If you are interested in volunteering for Opal Creek, or have a skill you think would be helpful to our programs, please email us at opalcreek@opalcreek.org.





Facilities & Food

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center bases its programs out of Jawbone Flats, our 1930's historic mining town. Our center sits in the heart of the Cascades, at the confluence of two mountain streams, surrounded by 35,000 acres of wilderness.

We have accommodations for groups from 2-50, in a variety of cabin styles:

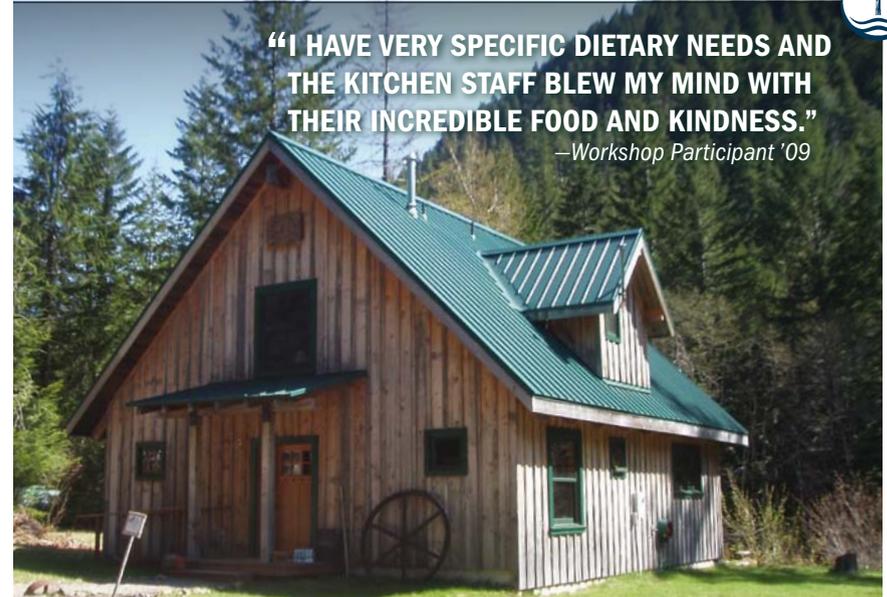
- ▶ **Cabins 4 and 5:** These are our newest cabins, beautifully rebuilt in 1998, and spectacular in their spaciousness and comfort. You'll find a back deck overlooking the Little North Santiam River, four large bedrooms, full kitchen, and two full baths with showers. These cabins sleep 16 people each.
- ▶ **Cabin 1:** Our smallest and most charming cabin, built in 1928, is a rustic, one bedroom cabin situated on Battle Ax Creek, with full view of Battle Ax Falls. This cabin sleeps two comfortably in a king size bed, with a futon in the living area to provide for extra sleeping room, and is equipped with full bathroom with tub and shower, full kitchen, fireplace and a deck with spectacular views.
- ▶ **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 just remodeled in 2006 adding many beautiful improvements. It has a living area, full kitchen, bathroom with shower, and a woodstove.

Our cabins can be rented individually, without taking part in an education program.

PRICING FOR CABIN RENTALS

These prices are for 2 people. Each additional person is \$25 per night. We welcome one child 10 years old or younger with each paying adult. There is a two night minimum for every cabin Friday and Saturday nights. Cabin 1 has a two night minimum every night.

Season	Month	Cabin 1	Cabins 4, 5 & 7
Shoulder	April	\$125	\$150
Early Summer	May & June	\$150	\$175
High Summer	July & August	\$175	\$200
Autumn	September & October	\$150	\$175
Shoulder	November	\$125	\$150



“I HAVE VERY SPECIFIC DIETARY NEEDS AND THE KITCHEN STAFF BLEW MY MIND WITH THEIR INCREDIBLE FOOD AND KINDNESS.”

—Workshop Participant '09

Meals are provided by our incredible hospitality staff, and are always hearty and healthy in nature. Opal Creek strives to provide organic and seasonal food whenever possible through contracts with local farmers and markets. Some leafy greens and herbs are grown on site. Due to the remote nature of Jawbone Flats, all meals must be arranged 2 weeks in advance. Please let staff know about any dietary restrictions when you schedule your meals.

Breakfast: \$12 per person

Packed Lunch: \$10 per person

Sit Down Lunch: \$15 per person

Dinner: \$18 per person

Kids ages 0-2 are free for meals, and 3-12 are ½ price.

Commissary: Our newly remodeled commissary is now fully equipped to host your next company retreat. This solar powered building with internet access, white boards, a digital projector and screen is the perfect meeting space. Please contact us for current rates and bring your team to Jawbone Flats for a productive meeting session away from typical distractions.

Gear shuttle: Jawbone Flats is located 3.1 miles past the trailhead where you leave your car. For those taking part in our programs or renting a cabin, we provide a gear shuttle, allowing our guests to enjoy this spectacular hike through the old growth with only a day pack. Many people hike the Opal Creek trail everyday, and in an effort to provide hikers with a car-free experience, we work to minimize the number of shuttles each day. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center provides gear shuttles at **10am** and **5pm**. Once you have made your reservation with us, you will need to work with our Portland office to schedule a shuttle at one of these times. We encourage groups to send all of their gear in on one complementary shuttle. There is a **\$50 fee** for each additional shuttle that is required. Please call our Portland office at 503-892-2782 for more details.

Staff



Executive Director Katie Ryan joined Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center in March of 2005. She brings eleven 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 brings years of experience sharing wild places with students of all ages throughout the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountains. Having spent the last 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 for the last 5 years and took over as Executive Director in October of 2009.



Program Director Kaola Swanson returns for her fourth season with Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center. She is still in awe of the wilderness every day, relishing the many opportunities to teach and learn from participants, passers-by, and this unique ecosystem. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Oregon and is a certified Wilderness First Responder.

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center field instructors all have college degrees in natural sciences or education. They are Wilderness First Responder certified and undergo extensive training in both outdoor teaching methods and safety procedures.

Board of Directors

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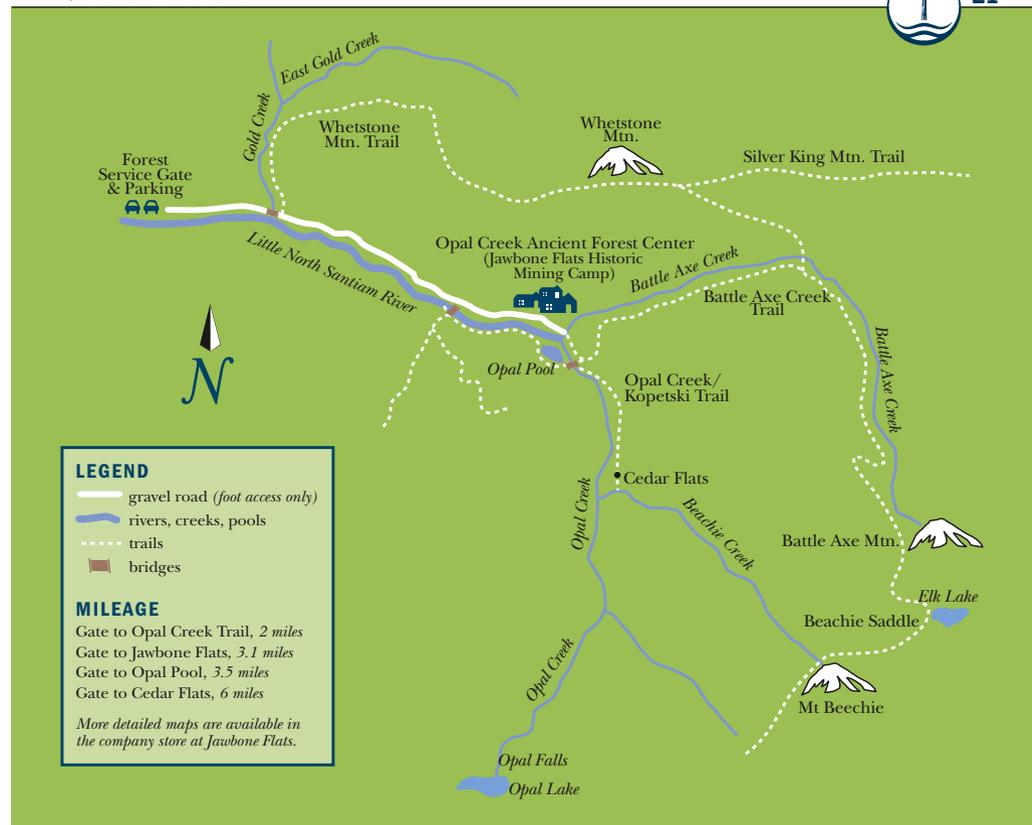
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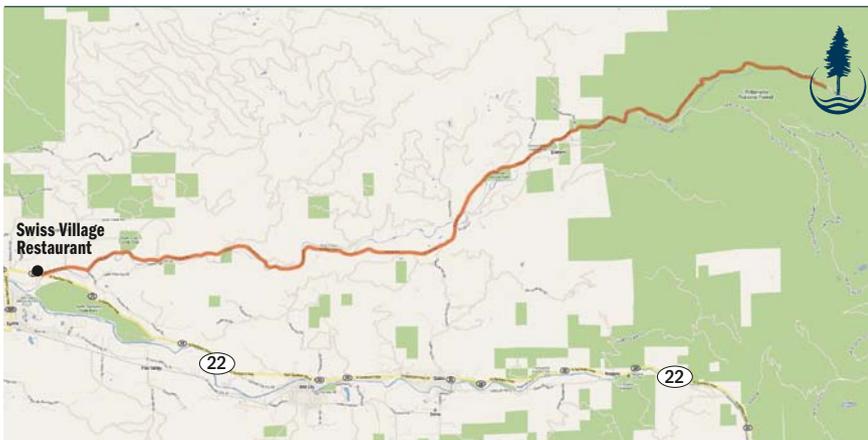
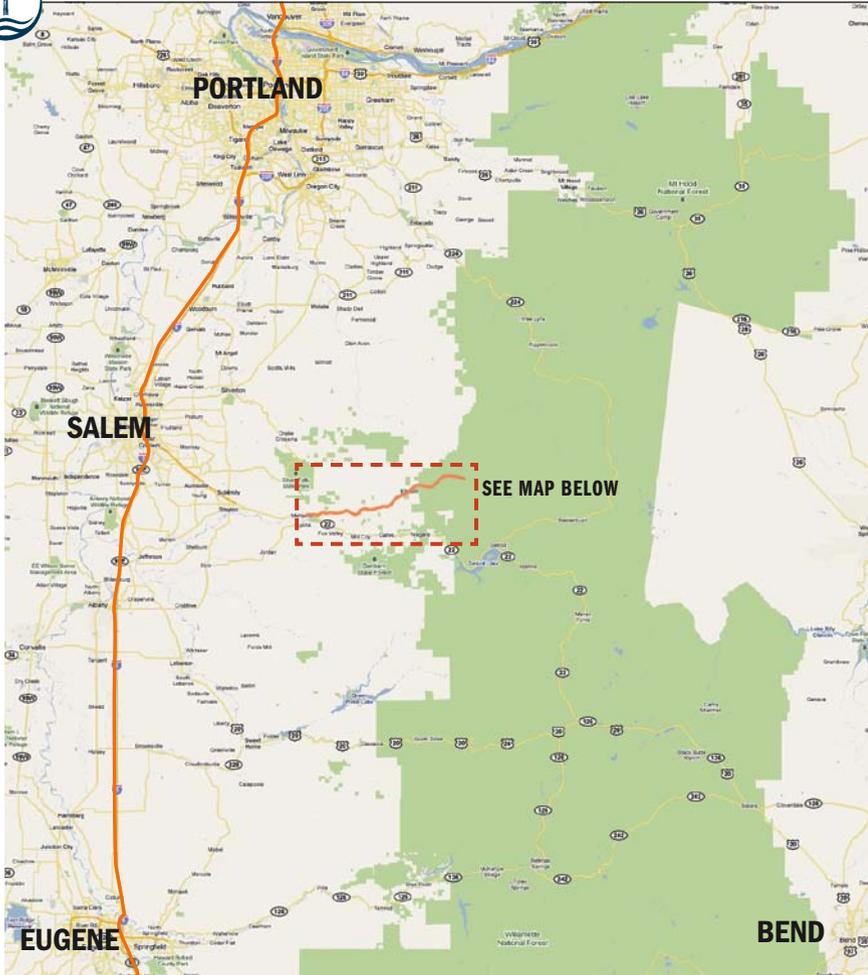
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Dave Taylor
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Opal Creek Trails

The gate to Jawbone Flats is an easy 6.25 mile round trip hike or bike ride along an old mining road. The elevation gain is a minimal 300 feet but there is a lot to see! You will cross the emerald waters of Gold Creek on a 60 foot tall bridge originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. Continuing up the Little North Santiam River Valley, you will pass 700 year old trees, Swiss designed half-bridges, and abandoned mines. Halfway to Jawbone, you will find yourself in the dense canopy of the Bertha E. Hewitt Memorial Grove. Two miles along the trail you will reach the Merten Mill, a steam-powered sawmill built in 1943. The operation closed in 1945 after two company trucks fell off a steep area of the road and proved logging in the area too risky and unprofitable. No other commercial logging occurred within the Scenic Recreation Area. A short side trail from here leads to Cascada de los Ninos, a 30-foot falls that marks the end of the native winter steelhead run. At the bridge 2.2 miles in, you can either continue 1.1 miles up the road directly to Jawbone or you can follow the ups and downs of the Opal Creek Trail to Opal Pool. Turn left across the creek and to Jawbone or continue another 1.8 miles to Cedar Flats.



COURTESY GOOGLE MAPS



How do you get to Opal Creek?

From I-5 North or South bound:

- ▶ From I-5 Take **Exit 253** for Hwy 22 (Stayton/Detroit)
- ▶ Go East on **Hwy 22 for 22 miles** or approximately 25 min.
- ▶ After roughly 22 miles you will see the **Swiss Village Restaurant** on the right hand side of the road.
- ▶ **Turn LEFT (North)** at the Swiss Village Restaurant onto the North Fork Rd. There will be a brown sign for the Elkhorn Valley Rec Area.
- ▶ **After 14 miles** of pavement you will enter the Willamette National Forest and the road **turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Road 2209.**
- ▶ After approximately 1.5 - 2 miles you will come to a fork in the road. Stay to the left on forest road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4 miles to the Opal Creek/Jawbone 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. It is approximately 96 miles from Sisters, OR to Gates.
- ▶ Approximately 11 miles past gates you will see the **Swiss Village Restaurant** on the left hand side of the road.
- ▶ **Turn Right (North)** at the Swiss Village Restaurant onto the North Fork Rd. There will be a brown sign for the Elkhorn Valley Rec Area.
- ▶ **After 14 miles** of pavement you will enter the Willamette National Forest and the **road turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Road 2209.**
- ▶ After approx 1.5 - 2 miles you will come to a fork in the road. Stay to the left on forest road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4 miles to the Opal Creek/Jawbone parking area and trail head.

Alternate Directions during Summer Months Only:

- ▶ Turn North (right) onto Gates Hill Road, which is located across from the Gates General Store in Gates, OR.
- ▶ Gates Hill Rd is a paved and approx 3-mile road that lets out on North Fork road, approximately 9 miles up (near Elkhorn Golf Course).
- ▶ Turn Right onto the North Fork Road
- ▶ After 11 miles or so you will enter the Willamette National Forest and the **road turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Road 2209.**
- ▶ After approx 1.5 - 2 miles you will come to a fork in the road. At the fork, stay to the left on forest road 2209.
- ▶ Continue another 4 miles to the Opal Creek/Jawbone parking area and trail head.

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 the Parking Area/Trail Head:

- ▶ The Center is located 3.1 miles past the gate. You'll be hiking in on an old gravel road.
- ▶ If you are staying with us and have scheduled in advance, a shuttle will be available for gear pick-up at 10am and 5pm.
- ▶ All able-bodied people are encouraged to make the short hike into Jawbone Flats to fully appreciate the unique natural setting you are about to experience.



OPAL CREEK
ANCIENT FOREST CENTER

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