



**OPAL CREEK**  
ANCIENT FOREST CENTER



**2012 CATALOG**





PHOTO: MARK CORNWELL

**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. 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 2½ hours from Portland and Eugene.
- ▶ Jawbone Flats is “**off the grid**.” The electricity we use is produced through hydroelectric and solar power.
- ▶ Our wide variety **workshops** range from moss & lichens to yoga retreats and family workshops. These educational and relaxing weekends offer something for everyone.
- ▶ Cabin rental fees fund our **education programs**, so each visit directly supports our mission of developing and implementing environmental education programming inspired by Opal Creek.
- ▶ Opal Creek **Expeditions** is back and in its third year. These 6-day adventures give 10-16 year olds an opportunity to fully immerse themselves in nature while learning the art of backcountry camping.

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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*\*The cost of all workshops and camps covers lodging and meals, beginning with dinner the day of arrival and ending with lunch the day of departure.*

**“GREAT CAMP. VERY HELPFUL STAFF WITH EXCELLENT SERVICE AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.”**



## A brief history –

**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.

**PROMOTING ANCIENT FOREST STEWARDSHIP THROUGH  
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES PROVIDED BY OPAL CREEK'S  
NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY.**



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

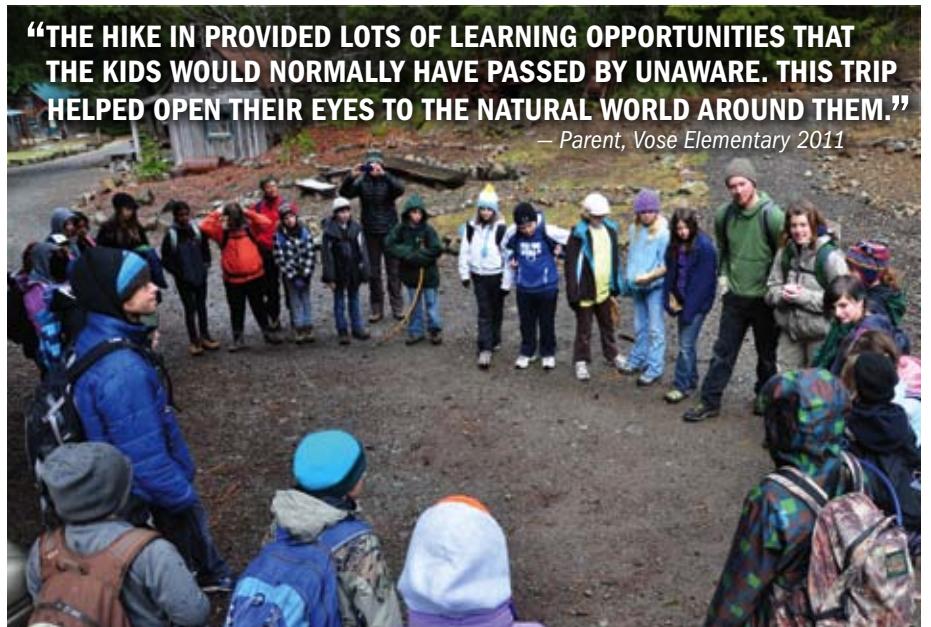
**Each spring and fall,** Jawbone Flats is transformed into an educational center of epic importance. Hundreds of students from across the Northwest enter this living laboratory to learn about the astonishing diversity of plants, mushrooms, lichen, macro-invertebrates, amphibians, and other organisms of the ancient forest.

Our classroom is the largest remaining, intact, low-elevation ancient forest ecosystem in Oregon, 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 a Wilderness First Responder, Leave No Trace Trainer, and trained in various curriculums, including Project Wet, WILD, and Learning Tree. Please contact our office at 503-892-2782 or email opalcreek@opalcreek.org to discuss opportunities for your class.

**"THE HIKE IN PROVIDED LOTS OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE KIDS WOULD NORMALLY HAVE PASSED BY UNAWARE. THIS TRIP HELPED OPEN THEIR EYES TO THE NATURAL WORLD AROUND THEM."**

— Parent, Vose Elementary 2011





## OPAL CREEK WORKSHOPS

We strive to provide “educational experiences inspired by Opal Creek’s natural and cultural history,” and to that end we also offer educational workshops for the whole family. Throughout our season we provide two-day, one-night educational workshops with various natural history and inspirational themes.

Leave the rush of everyday life and enter a world where time moves differently. Join fellow travellers on an adventure, exploring this amazing place through a variety of mediums. Whether interested in honing your skills, opening your mind, understanding the natural world, or sharing a life-changing experience with friends and family, Workshops at Opal Creek will fulfill your expectations.

At Opal Creek, we strive to have something for everyone. Our Family Workshops are designed as an opportunity for the entire family to enjoy the ancient forest together. These workshops focus on a specific niche of the Ancient Forest and we examine our surrounding in the ecosystem through a variety of fun activities and adventures, designed for all ages. 2012 Family Workshops include: Amphibian Adventure, Raptors of the Western Cascades, and Ancient Forest Canopy Exploration.

We also have a variety of workshops for adults ranging in topics from wilderness medicine to mushroom identification to yoga to fly fishing. We are sure you will find something that interests you as you peruse our 2012 schedule. All workshops are professionally taught and the price includes lodging plus meals from our fabulous kitchen.

**“THANK YOU SO MUCH! YOU BLEW ALL MY EXPECTATIONS AWAY!”**

– 2011 Workshop Participant

Please call 503.892.2782 or visit our website, [www.opalcreek.org](http://www.opalcreek.org),



### Mosses, Lichens and Liverworts of the Ancient Forest

APRIL 21-22, 2012

**COST:** \$140

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 19-20, 2012

**COST:** \$200 PER ADULT, \$100 PER CHILD  
4-13: FREE FOR KIDS AGES 0-3

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 Opal Creek board member Josh Kling and his wife Weezie, along with our Science Instructors as we look deep into the clear pools and under the downed logs for these elusive critters. Josh and Weezie have both worked on amphibian surveys for the U.S. Forest Service throughout the Cascades and are now parents to two young boys. 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. The biodiversity of the ancient forest provides an incredible opportunity to identify many different species.

to register online for workshops and summer expeditions.



## **Family Workshop: Ancient Forest Canopy Exploration**

JUNE 2-3, 2012

**COST:** \$300 PER PERSON

The ancient forest ecosystem is an intricate web, woven by fish in the streams, birds in the sky, and all sorts of amazing creatures in between. The many-layered canopy of the old-growth Douglas Fir is home to organisms that never touch the ground! Plants and animals alike have adapted to survive in the space in between the land below and the air above. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center partners with the Pacific Tree Climbing Institute to travel in this strange world and climb up these ancient giants to the canopy. Anyone 8 yrs. or older is welcome to come. Experience the temperate rainforest canopy for yourself and learn about other canopy ecosystems around the globe. This once in a lifetime workshop is not to be missed!



## **Family Workshop: Raptors of the Western Cascades**

JUNE 9-10, 2012

**COST:** \$ \$200 PER ADULT, \$100 PER CHILD  
4-13, FREE FOR KIDS AGES 0-3

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 development. 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 to present this exciting and educational workshop for the whole family, in one of the last true Wilderness areas.



## **Writing from the Wilds**

JULY 18-20, 2012

AGES 12-16

**COST:** \$175

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 their environment. 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. Jarecki is an adjunct fellow at Portland's Attic Institute, and facilitates writing workshops with youth and adult writers year-round. He has been recognized as a 2010 Fishtrap Fellow, and his creative work has appeared in a number of print and online publications, including Rattle, Cloudbank Literary Magazine, Oregon Poetic Voices and others.



## **Adult Fly Fishing Workshop**

JULY 20-22, 2012

**COST:** \$225

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, 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, Opal Creek and Opal Lake. All the 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 6-9, 2012

**COST:** \$350

Come join some of the Northwest's most enthusiastic, nature-inspired 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 of Stumptown Yoga ([www.stumptownyoga.com](http://www.stumptownyoga.com)) and Ariel Singer of The Bhaktishop ([www.thebhaktishop.com](http://www.thebhaktishop.com))

**Wisdom of the Ancients**

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2012

**COST:** \$200

"Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food." Come learn this ancient art with Opal Creek's world-renowned Chef and Food Service Director, Rebekah Yglesias, for this life-changing workshop. Get your hands dirty in our Lodge Kitchen using food preparation methods involving unusual grains, seeds, and weeds. You'll want to wash up before dinner though, because this overview of delicious and nutritious cooking is guaranteed to be finger lickin' good. Rebekah will lead participants through proven traditions of fermentation, sprouting, roasting, and juicing. A full belly is the perfect compliment to our forest of ancient giants, and after dinner a stroll through our unparalleled old-growth will be just what Hippocrates ordered.

All allergies, intolerances, and sensitivities are welcome to come, as Rebekah is an expert at catering to the entire spectrum of dietary needs.

**Ancient Forest Mushroom Workshops**

OCTOBER 13-14, 2012

OCTOBER 20-21, 2012

**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 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.

**Turning Over Stones:  
A Creative Writing Workshop with Amy Minato**

OCTOBER 27-28, 2012

**COST:** \$150

Just as we discover those zen-like salamanders hidden under logs and 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 Walla Walla Mountains. [www.amyminato.com](http://www.amyminato.com)





## WILDERNESS MEDICINE INSTITUTE COURSES

Opal Creek and 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. Seasoned WMI instructors often refer to Opal Creek as one of the premiere places to teach and practice wilderness medicine. Opal Creek's location offers a real backcountry setting for WMI's courses. Our location gives participants a chance to learn new skills and brush-up on old ones in an environment similar to where these skills are practiced.

Get certified in the backcountry of the Opal Creek Wilderness and still have all the comforts of home. Our fully equipped 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.

Visit WMI's website for complete class descriptions at [www.nols.edu/wmi](http://www.nols.edu/wmi)

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

**“Opal Creek is the best the West Coast has to offer in an immersive educational experience. The setting in the ancient forest is unparalleled for scenario-based education. I request this course for the joy of teaching there, knowing the great outcomes and interactions that will naturally flow.”**

— Mark Cornwell, Senior WMI Instructor

Please call 503.892.2782 or visit our website, [www.opalcreek.org](http://www.opalcreek.org),



Checking blood pressure at break time.

### Wilderness First Responder Recertification

APRIL 26-29, 2012

OCTOBER 4-7, 2012

**COST: \$360, INCLUDES MEALS & 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 First Responder

NOVEMBER 1-11, 2012

**COST: \$950, INCLUDES MEALS & 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.



### Wilderness Upgrade for Medical Professionals

JUNE 12-24, 2012

**COST: \$850, INCLUDES MEALS & 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.

WMI PHOTOS COURTESY MARK CORNWELL

to register online for workshops and summer expeditions.



## OPAL CREEK EXPEDITIONS

There is nothing like spending 5 days backpacking in the wilderness. Challenge yourself, meet new friends, and explore some of the most magnificent scenery Oregon has to offer.

Jawbone Flats is the perfect base camp for any sort of outdoor adventure. Our Science Instructors take the summer "off" and become backpacking instructors. They have an intimate knowledge of the entire watershed, and have waited all year to share the whole thing, not just around Jawbone Flats, with kids. No longer restricted by our cabins, carry your home on your back and experience the wilderness how it is meant to be. We'll venture to untouched micro-habitats while sharpening our backpacking skills, and learning proper field science habits. Each expedition focuses on different aspects of the watershed, and is guaranteed to test your backcountry travel skills in all aspects.

This year we are proud to expand our Expeditions program to beyond the Opal Creek watershed. Oregon is an incredibly diverse state, with both a high desert and rainforest within a couple hundred miles of each other. Join us as we compare and contrast the ecosystems of the western Cascades with those of the drier eastern part of the state. These trips spend one day in Jawbone, becoming familiar with our ancient forest, then venture into the strange world east of the Pacific Crest. Beyond the Gate Expeditions will focus on the Blue Mountains bioregion this year, venturing into deep canyons, peculiar rock formations, and Ponderosa Pine plateaus.

Our program director will be available for a pre-trip meeting on Thursday, May 17th at our offices in the Ecotrust Building (721 NW 9th Avenue in the Pearl District) for all signed up for or interested in a 2012 Opal Creek Expedition. A representative from REI will also be present to discuss properly sized and necessary gear for these trips.

*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

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JULY 8-13, 2012

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AGES 10-12

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**COST:** \$435

"It's easy as A...B...C...1...2...3..."

Everyone needs to learn, or brush-up on, the ABC's of backpacking. This adventure in the largest uncut watershed in western Oregon will focus on learning the skills needed to be a comfortable, competent, and happy hiker. Whether learning to identify the plants and animals in our watershed, or how to navigate with and without a compass, everyone will form lasting connections on this special trip.

After 2 days in Jawbone spent "planning ahead and preparing," we will begin our days on the trail. While hiking 5 miles/day we'll experience first-hand how to care for ourselves, and each other, in the Wilderness. Cooking, wilderness medicine, and astral navigation are on the curriculum, as well as leadership and communication skills. There will be plenty of time for swimming in the crystal clear waters of Opal Creek. We welcome everyone to join us for this expedition, especially those who are just becoming interested in backcountry travel.

### Fire on the Mountain

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JULY 15-20, 2012

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AGES 12-16

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**COST:** \$435

The ancient forests were under constant threat from fire. Because of this, all of the plants and animals in the ecosystem have special adaptations to live in such a place. This expedition in the Bull of the Woods Wilderness will pass through several different burn areas from different time periods. Learn how the fire changes the forest, and see first-hand what it looks like just years after a burn.

We'll put miles under our boots after only one day of planning and preparation, so come prepared with some broken-in boots and backpacking experience. Our daily travel (~8 miles) will put us in prime position to compare the forest in its various stages of recovery after a fire. Not only will we continue to develop our backcountry travel skills, but we'll learn how to do field studies and comparisons on various burn areas.

**Peaks of Opal Creek**

JULY 22-27, 2012

AGES 12-16

**COST:** \$435

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 old trees. Swim in a sub-alpine lake and search for newts on the lakes edge. Rest on each mountaintop as you take in the spectacular view. You can't get to these stunning parts of the Opal Creek ecosystem unless you carry your home on your back. This trip is about seeing everything the entire Wilderness has to offer, so come ready to move (6-9 miles/day) and learn quickly.

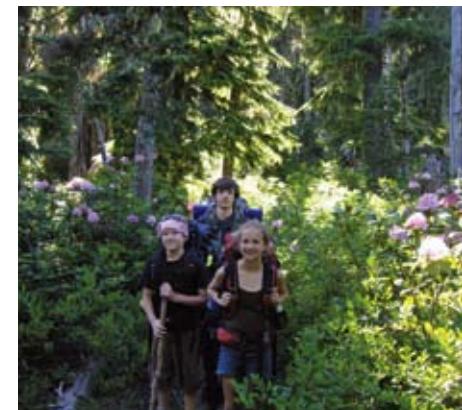
**Oregon's Uncut Gem**

JULY 29-AUGUST 3, 2012

AGES 12-16

**COST:** \$435

In 1996 Congress voted to permanently protect the Opal Creek watershed in the form of the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area. Anyone who has visited Opal Creek knows how incredibly special this pristine, uncut watershed is. Join us as we circumnavigate the entire Opal Creek Wilderness for a unique perspective of this 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 get to know the local flora and fauna as well as the rich conservation history as we dip into lakes and traverse steep ridges. We'll refine our backpacking skills while traveling 6-8 miles/day to see this beautiful place as few have, in its entirety.

**40 Lakes in 4 Days**

AUGUST 5-10, 2012

AGES 12-16

**COST:** \$435

Nestled in the valleys of Opal Creek and Bull of the Woods Wilderness are over 40 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. Learn about the forces that shaped the lakes we will visit as we compare each lake we dip into. We will swim in the lakes, testing 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'll cover lots of ground (6-9 miles/day) and lots of water, so bring good boots and good suits!

**Jawbone Flats to Desolation Canyon**

AUGUST 12-17, 2012

AGES 12-16

**COST:** \$535

The primordial forests of the Western Cascades are just one breathtaking ecosystem in Oregon. Join us as we travel to the east side of Oregon to compare and contrast the rainforest of the Western Cascades with the drier climate on the east. After one day in the ancient rainforest around Jawbone Flats, the Ochoco Mountains will seem like an alien world. Strange rock formations stand out among old-growth Juniper, until you exit the canyon. Enter a plateau dominated by Ponderosa Pine, but don't let these strange puzzle-piece trees distract you from Oregon's state rock: Thunderegg. This hike is not for the faint of heart, as we'll travel 3-6 miles/day to see all this amazing canyon has to offer. Our backcountry skills will be tested as we enter this new territory together, but with the skills learned and experience gained on this trip you'll be ready for anything.



## Opal Creek Backpacking: Advanced Skills

AUGUST 19-23, 2012

AGES 12-16

**COST:** \$435

If you enjoy hiking and camping, and want to improve your backpacking skills this camp is for you. Explore the Opal Creek Wilderness as you practice skills and build confidence in yourself as a backcountry traveler. Hike along creeks deep in the valley, climb ridges with the reward of spectacular views of the Cascades mountains, and relax along side pristine sub-alpine lakes. We will learn about the local flora and fauna – snacking on huckleberries along the way – while strengthening our backpacking skills. Emphasis will be put on safe and successful backpacking techniques, including: packing a backpack for an extended trip, essential gear, how to prepare and plan good-tasting and good-for-you meals all on a camp stove and safe food storage techniques. Backcountry travel is a many-nuanced skill which you will be a master of after this course. This trip will spend less time traveling (3-6 miles/day), and more time in camp focusing on our advanced cooking, knot-tying, and navigation skills.



## Opal Creek to Ochoco Mountains

AUGUST 26-31, 2012

AGES 12-16

**COST:** \$535

Opal Creek's Ancient Forest acts as a giant sponge, soaking up and filtering all the water that falls into the watershed. This water follows a path west, into the Willamette Valley, and eventually into the Pacific. While the creeks of the Ochoco Mountains eventually end up in the Pacific, the similarities between these two places end there. Many plants and animals are the product of this strange environment that owes its oddness partly to the Cascades, but also to the strange parent material it's made of. Spend one day in Jawbone Flats, preparing your gear and gathering baseline data, then travel over the ridge. You'll come to understand how strange the ground underneath your boots is, as we travel 3-6 miles/day. We'll learn and refine our backpacking skills as we analyze the unique geomorphology of the Ochoco Mountains on this expedition.



## Volunteer Weekends at Jawbone Flats

APRIL 27-29, 2012

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2012

**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 for just \$50.00 per person. This cost covers food and lodging for the weekend.

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 that relies on volunteers. We appreciate all the time our volunteers have donated over the many years, and realize we can't do what we do without them! 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](mailto:opalcreek@opalcreek.org).

**"OCAF 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





# Become a Member

Join us in ancient forest stewardship...

**Our Mission:** Promoting ancient forest stewardship through educational experiences inspired by Opal Creek's natural and cultural history.



We recognize a growing need for environmental conservation. At the same time, we see a decrease in programs that connect people and nature. Understanding that positive experience coupled with accurate, science-based information is the equation for conservation, Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center promotes stewardship of ancient forests, and all wild places, through educational experiences inspired by Opal Creek's natural and cultural history. Join us.

Memberships start at \$35 and include the following benefits:

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

To make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit our member page, <http://www.opalcreek.org/donate/>, 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.



PHOTO: MARK CORNWELL

## An Evening for Opal Creek

**Support us on May 11th,** 2012 for the only Opal Creek sponsored fundraising bash of the year, An Evening for Opal Creek. Local bluegrass favorites Stumbleweed will keep the party thumping with energetic sounds, accompanied nicely by signature Opal Creek cocktails made with local spirits. Take a moment to cool off, catch up, and take in the incredible views afforded by Ecotrust's west-facing rooftop garden.

Tickets are \$35 and partially tax-deductible. With food, drink, live music, and Ecotrust's rooftop fireplace, we promise something for everyone. Purchase tickets online through our store at <http://www.opalcreek.org/product-category/merchandise/> or by calling our office with your Visa or Mastercard at 503-892-2782.



**"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





## Facilities & Food

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center bases its programs out of Jawbone Flats, our 1930s-era 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 nationally-designated wilderness area.

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

- ▶ **Cabins 4 and 5:** Our newest cabins, 4 and 5 were beautifully rebuilt in 1998 for spectacular 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 extra sleeping room, and is equipped with a full bathroom, full kitchen 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 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. Our cabins can be rented individually, without taking part in an education program.

### PRICING FOR CABIN RENTALS

Stated prices are for 2-adult occupancy. Children ages 3 and under are free of charge, children ages 4-13 are \$10 per night, and each additional adult is \$20 per night.

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, September, October, November	Weekend (Fri./Sat.): \$175 Midweek: \$100	Weekend (Fri./Sat.): \$200 Midweek: \$125	Weekend (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 2-3 weeks in advance.

**Breakfast:** \$12 per person

**Packed Lunch:** \$10 per person

**Sit Down Lunch:** \$15 per person

**Dinner:** \$18 per person

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

### GEAR SHUTTLE

Jawbone Flats is located 3.1 miles from the Forest Service parking area. Program participants and cabin renters can take advantage of twice-daily shuttles between Jawbone Flats and the parking area to pick up and drop off your gear. This allows you to enjoy the spectacular hike through the old-growth forest with only a daypack. If a member in your party is unable to walk in, please arrange to ride the shuttle in advance with our Portland office.

Shuttles leave the parking area at **10 AM** and **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 encourage large groups to send all of their gear in on the complementary shuttle reserved for your group. There is a \$50 fee for each additional shuttle that is required.

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

**“OPAL CREEK IS THE BEST PLACE FOR A RETREAT! RAIN OR SHINE, IT IS GORGEOUS ... AND THE FOOD CANNOT BE BEAT!”**

— 2011 retreat attendee



# Staff



**Executive Director** Katie Ryan joined Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center in March of 2005. She brings twelve 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 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 puppy Murphy. When not working for Opal Creek, she enjoys skiing and hiking.



**Program Director** Tucker Lee was born and raised in Louisiana, right down the street from his entire extended family. After high school he explored the outdoor world for the first time, back country skiing in Colorado for several years. After spending so much time recreating in the wilderness, he started dreaming about working in it too. After taking a couple NOLS courses he was initiated into the wonderful world of outdoor education. He hasn't looked back since. Tucker attended Brevard College in western North Carolina, receiving degrees in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education. During his time at school he worked all over the country, from New Canaan, Connecticut, to McCall, Idaho, choosing to focus on science and environmental education because of the amazing things he found everyday when learning about the environment. He says "OCAF is the most amazing place I've had the privilege to work, not only because of the big trees, but because of the amazing people and incredible programs."

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.

For a complete list of staff please visit our website at [www.opalcreek.org](http://www.opalcreek.org).

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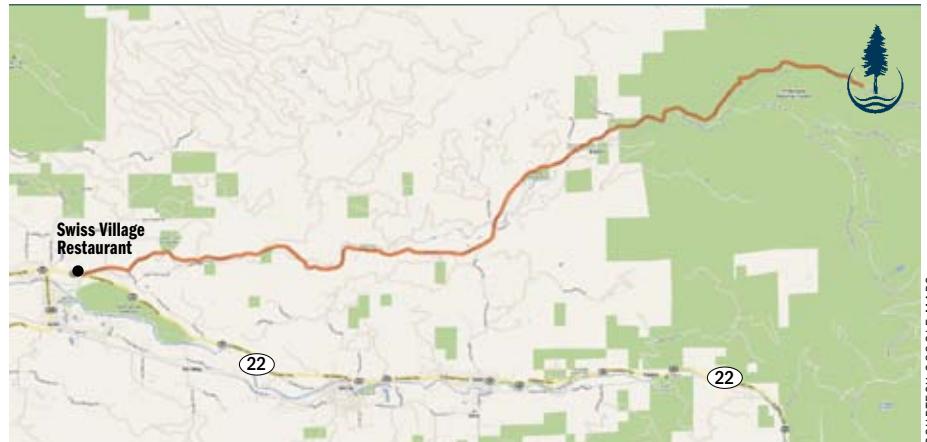
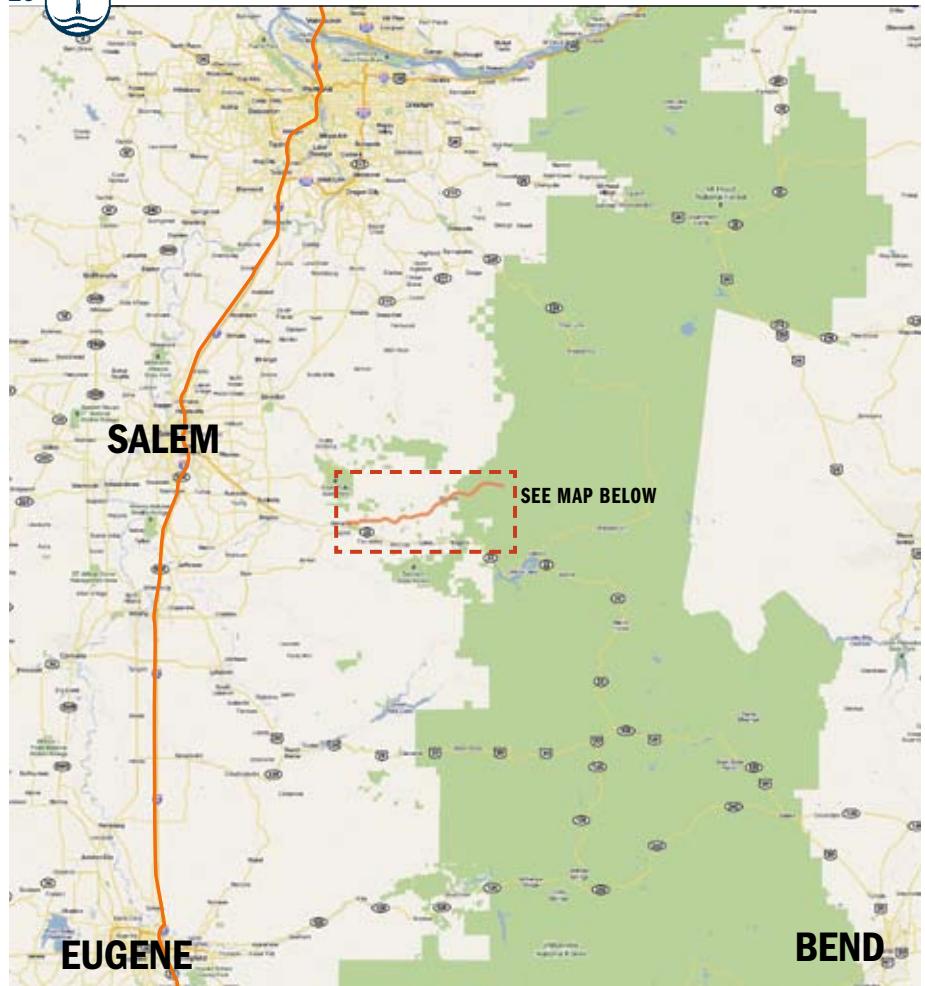
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# Opal Creek Trails

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. Half way 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.



## How do I get to Opal Creek?

### From I-5 North or South:

- ▶ From I-5 take Exit 253 to Hwy 22 (Stayton/Detroit)
- ▶ Continue on Hwy 22 for 22 miles (25 minutes)
- ▶ Turn Left (North) on to N. Fork Rd. Swiss Village Restaurant will be on your right.
- ▶ Follow N. Fork Rd. 14 miles to where the pavement turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Service road 2209.
- ▶ After 1.5 miles you will come to a fork in the road. Stay Left on Forest Service road 2209.
- ▶ Drive 4 more miles and you are at the Opal Creek trailhead!

### From Bend, Hwy 97 or 20:

- ▶ From Hwy 97 or 20 make your way to Hwy 22.
- ▶ Continue on Hwy 22 to Gate, OR (approx. 96 miles from Sisters, OR)
- ▶ Continue 11 miles past Gates to N. Fork Rd.
- ▶ Turn Right (North) on N. Fork Rd. Swiss Village Restaurant will be on your left.
- ▶ Follow N. Fork Rd. 14 miles to where the pavement turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Service road 2209.
- ▶ After 1.5 miles you will come to a fork in the road. Stay Left on Forest Service road 2209.
- ▶ Drive 4 more miles and you are at the Opal Creek trailhead!

### Alternative Directions from Hwy 97 or 20 (during Summer months only)

- ▶ From Hwy 97 or 20 make your way to Hwy 22.
- ▶ Continue on Hwy 22 to Gate, OR (approx. 96 miles from Sisters, OR)
- ▶ Turn Right (North) onto Gates Hill road, across from the Gates General Store.
- ▶ Continue on Gates Hill road to N. Fork Rd (approx. 3 miles)
- ▶ Turn Right onto N. Fork Rd.
- ▶ Follow N. Fork Rd. to where the pavement turns to gravel. You are now on Forest Service road 2209.
- ▶ After 1.5 miles you will come to a fork in the road. Stay Left on Forest Service road 2209.
- ▶ Drive 4 more miles and you are at the Opal Creek trailhead!

**PLEASE NOTE:** This alternate route saves roughly 30 minutes driving time for 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/Trailhead:

- ▶ The Center is located 3.1 miles past the gate. It is a gentle hike on an old gravel road.
- ▶ If you are staying with us you will need to schedule a gear shuttle in advance. Please call our office to arrange a shuttle. Shuttles are available to pick up your gear at 10am and 5pm.
- ▶ All able-bodied people are asked to make the short hike into Jawbone Flats. Shuttles area available for those guests who are unable to hike in and must be arranged with our office ahead of time.

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