

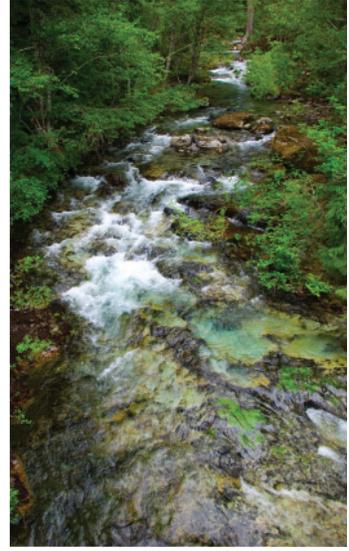
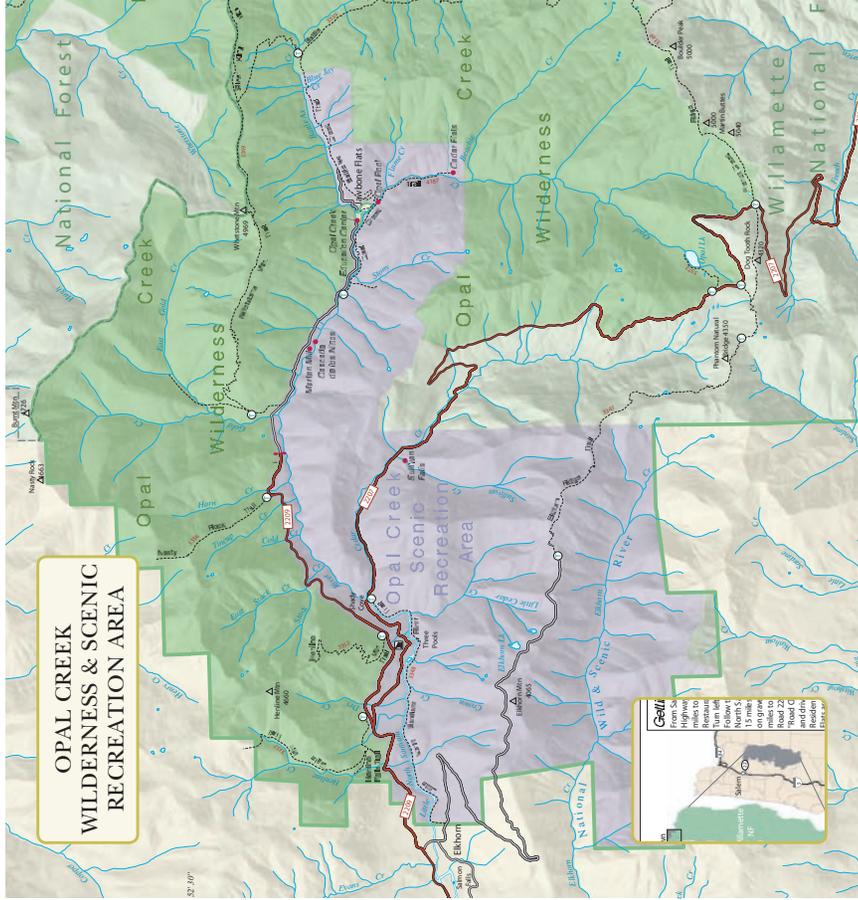
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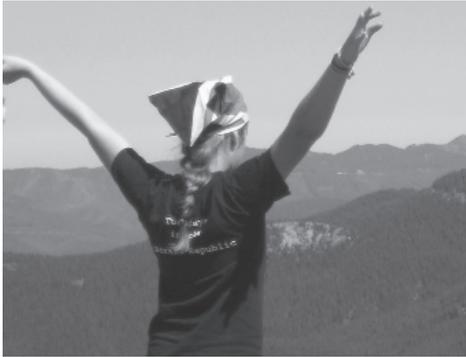
# OPAL CREEK

## ANCIENT FOREST CENTER

### 2009 *Catalog*



## Why 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.

2009 marks the launch of **Opal Creek Expeditions**, an expansion beyond our Jawbone Flats based programming that will take students out of the Opal Creek watershed to compare and contrast different natural habitats. The program launches this summer with ventures into our neighboring wilderness, Bull of the Woods, during our *Lakes of the Bull of the Woods* and *Tributaries of Elk Lake Creek* backpacking trips. Check out *Peaks of Opal Creek* for a circumnavigation of the Opal Creek watershed, or *Wild Foods Backpack* for a trip focused on identifying edibles of the area.

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 digital photography and creative writing workshops. Need to unwind? Opal Creek is the perfect place to practice yoga, and we are excited to be offering both spring and summer yoga workshops this year.

**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.

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.



## 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.

## Staff



**Executive Director** Tom Atiyeh has the longest tenure with our ever evolving organization. It was his grandfather that established Jawbone Flats and consolidated the area's mines. Tom led the transition from the Hewitt/Atiyeh family's ownership to the Twigg-Smith, Shiny Rock Mining Corp. era in the early 1970s. Tom returns to Opal Creek's lead administrative position after years leading Atiyeh International, Ltd. as its president.



**Program Director** Katie Ryan joined Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center in March of 2005. She brings ten 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 leading backpacking trips throughout the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountains. Katie is based at Jawbone Flats where she provides daily oversight of all education programs. She holds a B.A. in Child Psychology from College of the Holy Cross and is a certified Wilderness First Responder.



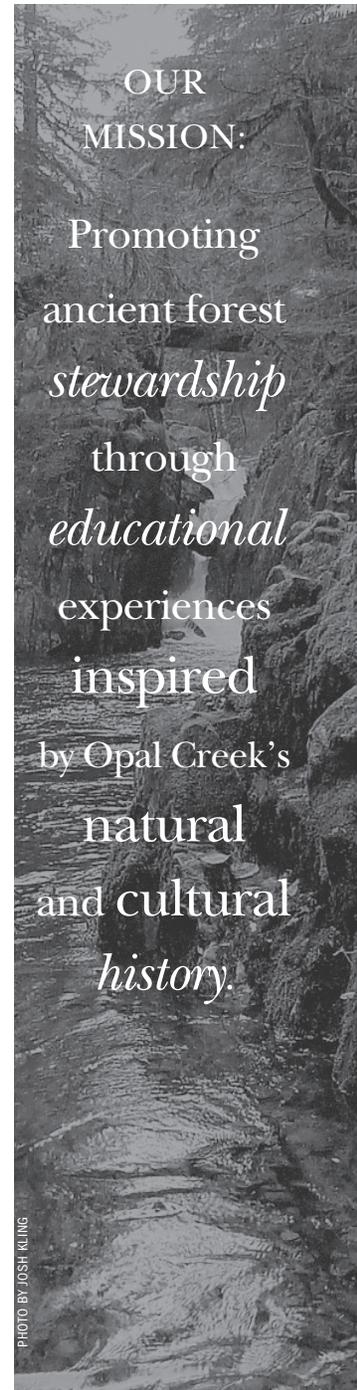
**Program Coordinator** Kaola Swanson has weathered her first winter in Jawbone and returns for her third season with Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center. Kaola enjoys traveling and backpacking in many locales, but taking kids into the wilderness is one of her favorite adventures. As an Instructor at Opal Creek, she has developed a fondness for beetles and soil ecology that she passes on to as many people as possible, whether program participants or passers-by. 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

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Keith Hatch    | Ted Helprin   |
| Thor Hinckley  | Heidi Hu      |
| Craig Jacobson | Adam Lane     |
| Josh Kling     | Rick Schaefer |
| Sean Sullivan  | Dave Taylor   |

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

PHOTO BY JOSH KLING



## 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 preserve 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, was once a frequent trade route for area tribes.

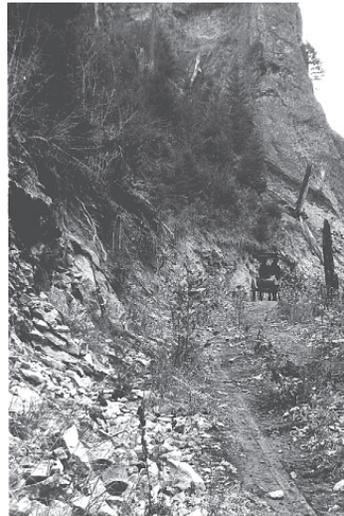
In 1859, miners arrived in the canyon to search for gold but little was ever found. Building began on the Jawbone Flats mining camp in 1929 by my "Grandpa" James P. Hewitt. My mother Dolores Hewitt married Victor Atiyeh (Governor of Oregon 1979-1987), forever changing the fate of Opal Creek for the better.

Throughout the 1970s and into the 90s the Twigg-Smith family provided financial support and land stewardship guidance. They continue to support us for special projects.

In 1992, mining ceased and *Shiny Rock Mining Corporation* donated its land to the fledgling non-profit Friends of Opal Creek. The organization was established in 1989 by my cousin George Atiyeh to lead the effort to secure permanent protection of the Opal Creek ecosystem. This effort culminated with federal legislation in November, 1996, establishing 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.

Tom Atiyeh,  
Executive Director



**Length of Stay Discount:** Additional 5% discount for members (for a total of 15%) whose reservation is for 3 nights or more.

**Meals** are provided by our incredible hospitality staff, and are always hearty and healthy in nature. Opal Creek strives to provide organic and locally grown food whenever possible. Due to the remote nature of Jawbone Flats, all meals must be arranged 2 weeks in advance.

**Breakfast:** \$12 per person

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

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

**Dinner:** \$18 per person

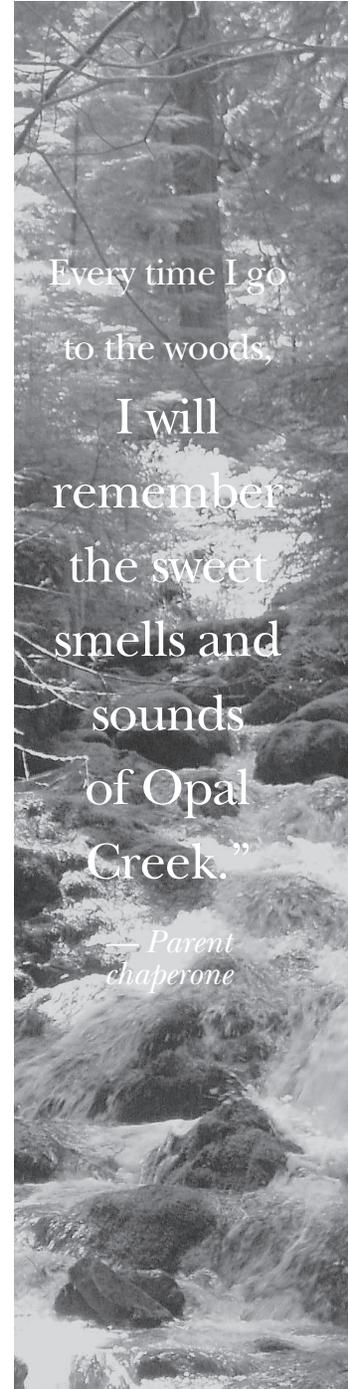
**Kids** ages 0-2 are free for meals, and 3-12 are ½ price.

**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. It is available for \$150/day. In addition, our hospitality staff can provide coffee/tea/light snack service for an additional \$5 per person, with a minimum of 12.

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

Every time I go  
to the woods,  
I will  
remember  
the sweet  
smells and  
sounds  
of Opal  
Creek.”

— Parent  
chaperone





## 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:

#### HIGH SEASON JUNE-SEPTEMBER

<b>Cabin 1</b>	\$140/night, two night minimum all nights
<b>Cabin 7</b>	\$180 min/\$315 max/\$45 person, two night minimum Fri and Sat
<b>Cabins 4 &amp; 5</b>	\$300 min/\$600 max/\$50 person, two night minimum Fri and Sat
<b>Lodge</b>	\$500 min/\$700 max/\$50 person
<b>Hostel (Cabins 4 &amp; 5):</b>	\$50 for "dorm-style" room \$110 for private room, double occupancy
<b>Whole camp:</b>	Contact us for details

#### SHOULDER SEASONS APRIL/MAY/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

<b>Cabin 1</b>	\$125/night, two night minimum Fri and Sat
<b>Cabin 7</b>	\$160 min/\$280 max/\$40 person, two night minimum Fri and Sat
<b>Cabins 4 &amp; 5</b>	\$270 min/\$540 max/\$45 person
<b>Lodge</b>	\$450 min/\$630 max/\$45 person
<b>Hostel (Cabins 4 &amp; 5):</b>	\$40 for "dorm-style" room \$90 for private room, double occupancy
<b>Whole camp</b>	Contact us for details

## 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 graders 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 examine closely 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](mailto:opalcreek@opalcreek.org) to discuss opportunities

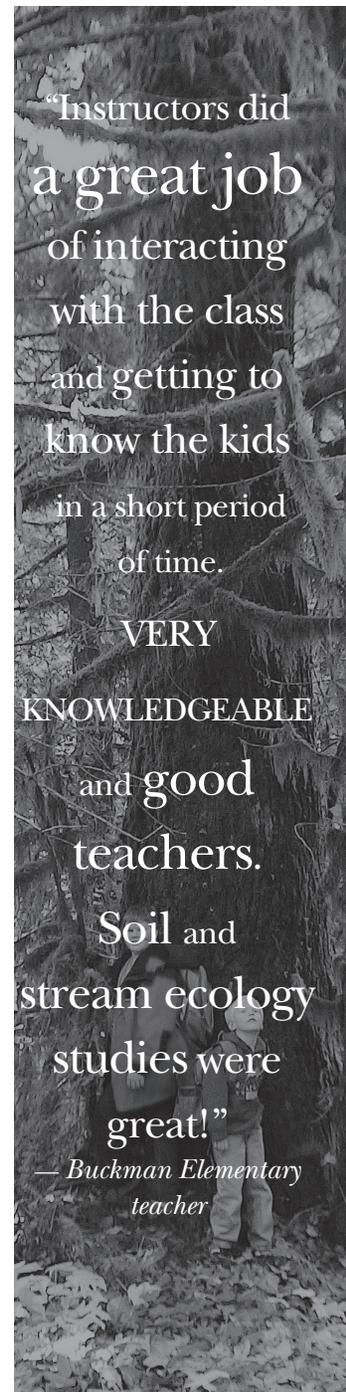
"Instructors did a great job of interacting with the class and getting to know the kids in a short period of time.

VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE and good teachers.

Soil and stream ecology studies were great!"

— Buckman Elementary teacher

"Opal Creek is a piece of heaven. I did my best to take in as much of it as I could in a short period of time. Thanks for creating such a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the important things in life."  
— Cabin renter



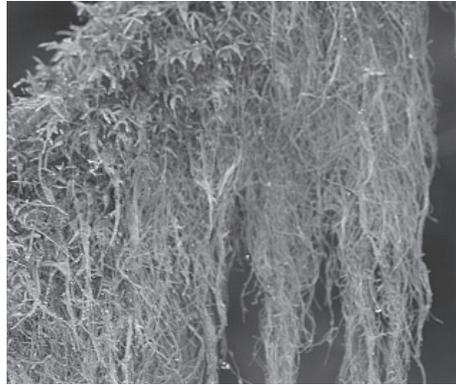


PHOTO BY MARTIN HUTTEN

## Mosses and Lichens of the Ancient Forest

APRIL 25-26, 2009

**COST: \$130/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 and lichens 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 and lichens are invaluable to Pacific Northwest forest ecosystems. Past Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center instructor and 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.



## Spring Amphibians of Opal Creek

MAY 2-3, 2009

**COST: \$140/ADULT, KIDS AGES 0-2: FREE, 3-13: \$70**

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 habitats 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.



## Volunteer Weekends at Jawbone Flats

**Please check our website for summer dates November 7-8, 2009**

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 costs: \$25.00 per person

In addition, we are always looking for Portland based volunteers to help with our many tabling events in the area. If you love Opal Creek, and have a few hours to spare talking about the forest and our programs, contact us for more information on how to get involved.

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center is a small non-profit organization which relies heavily on its volunteers. We appreciate all the time that 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](mailto:opalcreek@opalcreek.org).



Please call 503-892-2782 or email at [opalcreek@opalcreek.org](mailto:opalcreek@opalcreek.org) to register for workshops.



“Over the years,  
this experience  
continues to  
improve. Opal  
Creek is a  
**REMARKABLE**  
PLACE with  
exceptional  
staff. Thank you  
for being SO  
attentive to the  
well being of  
my students.”  
— *Buckman*  
*Elementary teacher*

## 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.

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

- ▶ **\$35 Individual membership** — Includes a subscription to our bi-annual newsletter, access to a members-only reservation period, and a 10% discount on all workshops and cabin rentals.
- ▶ **\$50 Family membership** — Entitles the whole family to member benefits.
- ▶ **\$100 Forest Steward** — Covers the cost of one student in a two-night education program.
- ▶ **\$250 Forest Supporter** — Buys a dissecting microscope that will allow hundreds of students per year to see a side of the ancient forest they've never seen before.
- ▶ **\$500 Forest Benefactor** — Pays for meals and lodging for 20 volunteers involved in forest stewardship activities.
- ▶ **\$1,000 Forest Patron** — Helps an entire class of students attend an overnight program at Jawbone Flats.
- ▶ **\$5,000 Opal Pool Group** — Your investment sets the standard for commitment to Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center's mission and programs.



### Yoga in the Ancient Forest I & II

MAY 29-31, 2009

JULY 31- AUGUST 2, 2009

**COST: \$270**

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. These workshops are very popular and fill quickly, so reserve your space now.

Workshop I Teacher is Sarah Pagliaro, [www.sarahyogapdx.com](http://www.sarahyogapdx.com).

Workshop II Teachers are Lisa Mae Osborn and Diana Hulet, The Bhaktishop, [www.thebhaktishop.com](http://www.thebhaktishop.com).



### Botany for Beginners

JUNE 13-14, 2009

**COST: \$130 PER ADULT, KIDS AGES 0-2: FREE, 3-13: \$65**

Lived in Oregon for awhile but still can't identify the state flower or know what it's used for? This workshop is for you. Opal Creek's ancient forest is rich with our region's native botanical biodiversity. We will spend the walk into camp focusing on plant identification and uses. Create your own plant ID book over the course of the weekend and learn how to preserve plants for identification at a later time. Become comfortable with your Field Guide. We will send some recommendations, but whatever guide you bring, our instructors will help you learn to identify plant families by leaf arrangement and flower pattern. We will harvest seasonal edibles and incorporate them into our meals. An introduction to medicinal plants and tincture making will precede an evening lecture on plant biology and ecology.



### Family Workshop: Wildflowers and Butterflies

JUNE 27-28, 2009

**COST: \$130 PER ADULT,  
KIDS AGES 3-13: \$70; 0-2: FREE**

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, Angelwings, 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.



PHOTO BY TOM AITTEH

### Young Writers Workshop

JUNE 29-JULY 2, 2009

**COST: \$240 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 Ancient Forest Center. 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 currently teaches 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 to lead this new program off.



### Tributaries of Elk Lake Creek

AUGUST 9-14, 2009

AGES 12-14

**COST: \$400**

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 practice safe wilderness travel skills including knot tying, map and compass skills, GPS skills, and wilderness medicine. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center will provide all of the food; participants are responsible for their own gear.



### Family Opal Creek Wilderness Backpack

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2009

**COST: \$200/ADULT, \$100/KIDS 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. Once we have reached our base camp we will spend our days hiking under the tall trees and along steep ridgelines while learning more about the amazing ecology of Pacific Northwest forests. Swim in some of Oregon's clearest waters in the afternoons and spend nights under the stars listening for owls. Much of Opal Creek remains untouched, and the only way to see it is by foot.

Participants will spend Friday night in Jawbone Flats and will hit the trail Saturday morning. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center will provide all food; participants will need to provide all backpacking gear. A detailed list will be sent upon registration.



### Opal Creek Beginning Backpack

JULY 26-31, 2009

AGES: 10-12

**COST: \$400**

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 and practice safe wilderness travel skills including cooking on a camp stove, packing for a backpacking trip, map and compass skills, and knot tying. We will have plenty of time for swimming and snorkeling in the crystal clear waters that surround 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; 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.



### Lakes of Bull of the Woods

AUGUST 2-7, 2009

AGES 12-16

**COST: \$400**

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 practice safe wilderness travel skills including knot tying, map and compass skills, GPS skills, and wilderness medicine. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center will provide all of the food; participants are responsible for their own gear.



PHOTO BY MARK CORNWELL

### Family Workshop: Mammals of the Santiam Canyon

JULY 25-26, 2009

**COST: \$130 PER ADULT,  
KIDS AGES 3-13: \$65; 0-2: FREE**

The 35,000 acres of undisturbed ancient forest surrounding Opal Creek are excellent habitat for a variety of mammals. Spend a weekend at Opal Creek with our instructors and Portland State professor Natalie Vasey, PhD. Natalie has been studying mammals for the past 15 years. Her studies have taken her to Madagascar and the rainforests of Costa Rica. The workshop will be a mixture of field work and classroom time and will focus on the local mammal species. Hike through the ancient forest in search of mammal signs, set live traps to see which small mammals reside near Jawbone Flats, and learn what mammals live only in the canopy of temperate rainforests.



### Sustainable Energy Systems

AUGUST 15-16, 2009

**COST: \$160 PER ADULT**

Join us for this exciting workshop, back by popular demand, to learn about Sustainable Power Systems, Active and Passive Solar design and Energy Efficiency. We recently had solar photovoltaic panels and an additional micro-hydro generator installed and now all the electricity used in our buildings comes from sustainable, renewable, on site resources. Join Bruce Barney, the primary designer of the new generation system, for a weekend of learning about Opal Creek's off grid power system. Bruce is a licensed mechanical engineer with Portland General Electric (PGE), has been involved with solar energy for many years, and has 3 kW of solar panels at his home.

Spend the weekend learning about generating your own solar, hydro or wind power designing and/or remodeling your home to minimize energy usage, learning how to eliminate phantom electrical loads, and other ideas how to live more sustainably in your home. Best of all, 100% of the power you use during your stay will come from local renewable resources.



### Family Workshop: Insects of Opal Creek

AUGUST 29-30, 2009

**COST: \$130 PER ADULT,  
KIDS AGES 3-13: \$65; 0-2: FREE**

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 the many different insect species 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.



PHOTO BY MARK CORNWELL

### Nature Digital Photography

SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2009

**COST: \$200**

The Pacific Northwest boasts some of the most beautiful scenery in North America and Opal Creek's ancient forest is a national treasure. Spend a weekend in the beauty of Opal Creek learning to improve your picture composition, understand the quality of light, and take quality digital images. The course will be a mixture of classroom and field time. Participants should bring their own photography gear in addition to equipment on recommended gear list.

Wilderness guru and professional photographer Mark Cornwell (<http://cascadian.smugmug.com>) joins us as the instructor for our Nature Digital Photography Workshop. Mark has a deep passion for the wild places he lives, works and plays in and his photography captures the true essence of the natural world. An excellent teacher, Mark paces this course for all levels of photography



### Wild Foods and Native Skills

JULY 5-10, 2009

AGES 12-14

**COST: \$400**

Trek into the deep reaches of the Opal Creek Wilderness. The tall trees and crystal clear waters will provide the backdrop as we develop our backcountry skills. Learn the rich cultural history of the western Cascades while hiking through the ancient forest ecosystem that helped shape it. Hunt for obsidian arrow heads along the Whetstone Mountain trail, once a Kalapuya trade route, and find some of the most spectacular views of the Opal Creek watershed at its peak. We will focus on Leave No Trace principles as we forage off trail for wild foods to garnish our meals and learn to identify medicinal plants. Sleep out in the open, blanketed by the starry sky, and learn Native American origins of the constellations. Venture out for a night hike during the full moon and listen for owls. 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.



### Peaks of Opal Creek

JULY 12-17, 2009

AGES 12-16

**COST: \$400**

Four peaks in one week! Throw a pack on your back 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, map and compass skills, GPS skills, and wilderness medicine. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center will provide all of the food; participants are responsible for their own gear.



### Opal Creek Watershed Exploration

JULY 19-24, 2009

AGES: 10-12

**COST: \$400**

Spend six days delving deep into the 35,000 acres that compose the Opal Creek Watershed. Spared from logging, the entire watershed is intact and pristine, from ridge top to ridge top. Hike among the spectacular old growth trees, waterfalls and rushing rivers that have given this area national recognition. We'll explore the incredible diversity of mammals, insects, fish and birds that inhabit this ancient forest. Grab a dip-net and try to catch frogs, salamanders and aquatic insects. Compare and contrast species diversity between the rushing creeks and the serene subalpine lakes. Put on snorkel gear and watch the underwater world of Opal Creek flow around you. We'll base our explorations at Jawbone Flats, our historic mining town in the heart of the Opal Creek Wilderness. We will spend two nights camped up the Cedar Creek drainage, giving us easier access to the deeper reaches of the watershed. There will be plenty of time for making new friends and sharing stories under the stars.



### Wilderness Survival at Opal Creek

AUGUST 16-21, 2009

AGES: 10-12

**COST: \$400**

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 take care of yourself and others 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.



### Family Workshop: Fall Amphibians

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2009

**COST: \$130/ADULT, KIDS AGES 3-13: \$65;  
0-2: FREE**

Opal Creek's intact ancient forest and cool clean water host the full diversity of the Northwest forest's 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 in to the clear pools and under the downed logs for these elusive critters. Tuition includes a copy of Opal Creek's self-published *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.



### Harvest Weekend at Opal Creek

OCTOBER 3-4, 2009

**COST: \$130/ADULT**

While we will miss the long warm days of summer, fall at Opal Creek brings its own pleasures. Spend the day walking among the tall trees, hunting for forest fruits like golden chanterelles and black huckleberries. Identify new plants and learn to harvest and use them sustainably. Tinctures and teas are fun and easy to make. Here in the Northwest there are many plants with medicinal properties that we will learn to identify and use. Red Cedar and Oregon Grape are our local versions of Echinacea and Goldenseal. The tincture we make this weekend will be ready for use by cold season. Harvest wild foods for a group meal. We will hunt for mushrooms and berries to flavor a Sunday morning brunch. There are some edible greens and flowers we will also be on the lookout for. Join us for the full moon this weekend in Jawbone Flats, and learn how to forage in our native forests.



### Ancient Forest Mushroom Workshops

OCTOBER 10-11, 2009  
OCTOBER 17-18, 2009

**COST: \$130/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 Vilella 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 7-8, 2009

**COST: \$130/ADULT**

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 Willowa Mountains.  
[www.amyminato.com](http://www.amyminato.com)



PHOTO BY MARK CORNWELL

### Wilderness First Responder Recertification

MAY 8-10, 2009

\*lodging and meals begin the evening of May 7

**COST: \$300, includes meals & 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 (W.M.I.).



PHOTO BY MARK CORNWELL

### Wilderness First Responder

JULY 6-15, 2009

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 1, 2009

**COST: \$950, Includes all meals & 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 Wilderness First Responder (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 of the classroom practising hands-on skills in realistic scenarios. In addition to scenarios, you'll 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.