



OPAL CREEK

ANCIENT FOREST CENTER



2014 CATALOG



Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center is located in the heart of the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area, a spectacular 35,000-acre wilderness of ancient trees and pristine waters. At Opal Creek, you will walk among some of the largest and oldest stands of trees remaining in the Pacific Northwest. The plant biodiversity that still thrives in Opal Creek's watershed is a sampling of the forests that once blanketed all the Western Cascades. Today Opal Creek is the largest uncut watershed in western Oregon, and 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. We are located only 2 ½ hours from Portland, Eugene and Bend.
- ▶ Jawbone Flats is "**off the grid**." The electricity we use is produced through hydroelectric and solar power.
- ▶ Our wide variety of **workshops** range from medicinal plants to yoga retreats and family workshops.
- ▶ Opal Creek **Expeditions** continue to grow! These 6-day adventures give 10-16 year olds an opportunity to fully immerse themselves in nature while learning the art of backcountry camping in the Opal Creek Wilderness.

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 visit Opal Creek, now is the time. Come explore this awe-inspiring wilderness and historic mining town.



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

**“THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! MAGICAL AND AMAZING FOOD
IN A MAGICAL PLACE! NOURISHED MY BODY AND SOUL!”**

— Tatyana, Mosses & Lichens participant



A Brief History

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

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

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

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

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

PROMOTING CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN WILDERNESS.



Outdoor School Programs at Opal Creek!

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

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

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

And much more!

“ THIS WAS ANOTHER FANTASTIC TRIP TO OPAL CREEK! I REALLY LOVE THAT STUDENTS ARE EXPOSED TO CONCEPTS OF CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY BECAUSE THEY SEE IT IS A WAY OF LIFE HERE.”

— Laura, teacher, McMinnville High School

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

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



WORKSHOPS

We offer a number of workshops for individuals, families and youth throughout the season. Our eclectic mix of programs covers the sciences, arts and recreational activities.

Adult workshops range in topic from wilderness medicine to yoga, fly-fishing and our ever-popular mushroom workshops. In addition to these tried and true programs we've added **three new adult courses** this season; *Story Seekers*, an adult writing workshop, *Photography in the Ancient Forest*, and *Secrets from Rebekah's Kitchen* with our celebrated Food Service Director, Rebekah Yglesias.

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

We've also added to our youth workshops this season; along with *Writing from the Wilds*, your 12-16 year old can continue to explore their artistic side in our new *Art Along the Trail* course!

All workshops are professionally taught and the price includes shared lodging plus meals from our fabulous kitchen.

To sign up for a workshop please visit our registration page: www.opalcreek.org/2014-workshops

“I FEEL LIKE I’VE ONLY ‘SCRATCHED THE SURFACE’ – CAN’T WAIT TO COME BACK! THANK YOU FOR A GREAT EXPERIENCE.”

— Jo, Mosses & Lichens participant



PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

Family Workshop: Amphibian Adventure

MAY 10-11

COST: \$160 PER ADULT, \$80 PER CHILD 4-13.
FREE FOR CHILDREN 0-3, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Come spend Mothers' Day at Opal Creek! Relax, hike and enjoy home-cooked meals, including a special Mothers' Day breakfast.

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 tailed frog. This workshop will examine the dozen amphibians that reside in Opal Creek's exceptional habitat. Join our stellar Science Instructors as we look deep into the clear pools and under the downed logs for these elusive critters. Tuition includes a copy of Opal Creek's self-published *Field Guide to the Amphibians of Opal Creek* for use during the weekend and for all future amphibian investigation.



PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

Story Seekers: A Writing Retreat for Adults

MAY 31-JUNE 1

COST: \$160, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

At the heart of every story lies a tale of transformation, and the ancient forest contains them all. This workshop will explore the wild and tangled woods in search of stories of birth, death, love, desire, destruction, resilience, and healing. Our discoveries will then be our guides as we write the stories of the transformative experiences that have shaped our lives.

We will balance exploration, lively writing exercises, sharing, and free time. You'll get face-to-face with the spongy forest floor, towering trees, a bluegreen river, and your own grittiest tales. This workshop is a great opportunity for writers of all experience levels to generate new material, and for anybody who wants to connect to their richest stories in one of the most beautiful places.

Becca Deysach teaches creative writing and environmental studies for Prescott College and her Portland-based business, Ibex Studios (www.ibexstudios.com). When she's not holding space for others to tell their stories, you'll find her in the woods, cooking for friends, or sitting on the porch with a book.



PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

Medicinal Plants of the Cascade Range

JUNE 27-29

COST: \$225, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

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

Dr. Swanson attended the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon, where he completed requirements for licensure as a Naturopathic physician and Classical Chinese doctor. He currently practices at Urban Wellness Group in southeast Portland. He has studied with teachers from Western, Chinese, and indigenous traditions. Dr. Swanson currently lives in the Columbia Gorge, where he spends his free time hiking, playing music, and studying the ancient teachings of the I Ching.



Yoga in the Ancient Forest

JULY 17-20

COST: \$395, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Close your eyes, let out a deep exhale, and settle into the natural beauty of Opal Creek. The crystal clear waters and giant trees create a perfect environment for quieting our minds and opening our senses to the limitless wisdom of nature, both around and within us. This weekend will be a chance to become acquainted or deepen your relationship with the practices of yoga, the ancient Vedic art of living harmoniously. The workshop will include six yoga sessions, many hours of free time to explore the incredible forests of Opal Creek, and a class in Ayurvedic cooking with Opal Creek's very own Rebekah Yglesias. This workshop is perfect for beginners and yogis of all levels. Join instructors Ariel Singer and Meghan Young for a weekend of accessible and sweet practices of asana (poses), meditation, pranayama (yogic breathing), and mantra.



Youth Workshop: Art Along the Trail

JULY 21-23

AGES: 12-16

COST: \$215, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING
SIGN UP FOR BOTH YOUTH WORKSHOPS FOR THE DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$395.

Give the young artist in your life a chance to explore, reflect, and examine their art-making process, while developing new skills, techniques and thinking practices. Students of all levels will explore painting, landscape drawing, and mixed media projects throughout the beautiful Opal Creek wilderness. This workshop is a wonderful opportunity for students to create individually and collaboratively, developing a dialogue around works of art and enhancing artistic skill level. Students will find a space in which to create and expand their art vocabulary as they begin to discover the forest from a new and exciting perspective.

Benjamin Tellie is an artist and art educator. He teaches art and directs the summer art camp program at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, Rockville, Maryland. He is also a gallery instructor for the High School Seminar Program at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. He lives in Rockville, MD.



Youth Workshop: Writing from the Wilds

JULY 23-25

AGES: 12-16

COST: \$215, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING
SIGN UP FOR BOTH YOUTH WORKSHOPS FOR THE DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$395.

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

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



Adult Fly Fishing

JULY 25-27

COST: \$315, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Join Jeff Gottfried, Sam Vanderbeek and other guides from Educational Recreational Adventures for an intensive weekend of fly fishing (and catching) in the Little North Fork of the Santiam, Battle Ax Creek and Opal Creek. There will be opportunities to fish tenkara, traditional Japanese fly fishing, as well as classic western fly fishing. You will learn to flycast, tie the basic knots, and identify aquatic insects and their life cycle. Join us and learn the basic skills you'll need to fly fish on your own or learn how to fly fish in a whole new way. All gear necessary for the seminar will be supplied by ERA. Participants will also gain access to ERA's ongoing fishing and learning opportunities.

Jeff Gottfried's Educational Recreational Adventures conducts forest and aquatic education for all ages: www.edurecadv.org.



PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

Secrets from Rebekah's Kitchen

AUGUST 9-10

COST: \$160, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Fill yourself with the comforting and delicious essence of the Jawbone Kitchen. Taught by acclaimed Jawbone cook extraordinaire, Rebekah Yglesias, you will come away feeling more connected to the spirit of the food you eat, taking Hippocrates words "let food be your medicine and medicine your food" to a whole new level. Rebekah will guide you through several favorite lodge recipes, including dosas, a gluten-free sourdough lentil flatbread with various savory fillings and sauce. This workshop will include demonstrations of heavily-guarded Jawbone kitchen secrets and the sharing of cherished recipes collected by Rebekah during her half century of cooking.

Rebekah Yglesias grew up at the stove of her Costa Rican-born grandmother stirring and listening to the merits of chiles, beans, rice, and of course cocoa. She landed her first kitchen assistant job at the age of 11 and quickly realized her lifelong goal would be to learn not only how to make delicious food, but nutritious as well. Prior to working at Opal Creek Rebekah ran the kitchen of a retreat center on the Olympic Peninsula for ten years. In 2008 she became the food service director at Opal Creek and has developed an acclaimed menu and strong rapport with local farms.



PHOTO: T. MILLER & AUDUBON SOCIETY

Family Workshop: Raptors of the Western Cascades

SEPTEMBER 20-21

**COST: \$160 PER ADULT, \$80 PER CHILD 4-13.
FREE FOR CHILDREN 0-3, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING**

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 multi-layered canopy of Opal Creek. Not only are they an integral part of the ancient forests, they played an important role in saving Opal Creek from logging. Join us to learn about the hunters of the sky, how to identify these giants soaring overhead, and meet live raptors up-close. Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center will partner with the Audubon Society of Portland to present this exciting and educational birds of prey workshop for the whole family, in one of the last true wilderness areas.

Visit www.audubonportland.org for Audubon's educational opportunities.



PHOTO: GARY RANDALL

Photography in the Ancient Forest

SEPTEMBER 26-28

COST: \$750, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

Spend two days learning digital photography methods that will allow you to capture Opal Creek's natural beauty. Accomplished Oregon photographer Gary Randall will lead this workshop and explain camera function, composition and post processing in a relaxed atmosphere. Classroom instruction will introduce the course, then you'll hit the trails. The next day will be spent processing your work in Adobe Lightroom or Adobe Photoshop. A DSLR (digital single lens reflex) camera and laptop computer with Lightroom or Photoshop installed is required. Gary will walk you through the process of creating and finishing photographs using manual camera operation while shooting in RAW format. This class is structured for all skill levels from beginning to advanced.

Gary Randall is an Oregon based landscape and travel photographer. His work has been published worldwide. Gary has been a digital photographer for over twelve years and a film photographer all of his life. www.gary-randall.com



Ancient Forest Mushrooms

OCTOBER 18-19

OCTOBER 25-26

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

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

WILDERNESS MEDICINE INSTITUTE COURSES

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

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

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

Wilderness First Responder Recertification

APRIL 11-13

OCTOBER 3-5

COST: \$360, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

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

Wilderness Upgrade for Medical Professionals

JUNE 11-15

COST: \$850, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

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

“YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST AND THE FOOD IS OUT OF THIS WORLD. THANKS!” — Doug, WUMP participant



Wilderness First Responder

OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 9

COST: \$950, INCLUDES MEALS AND LODGING

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



OPAL CREEK EXPEDITIONS

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

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

This season we've added another session of the ever-popular Back to Basics Expedition for those 10-12 year olds looking to gain an introduction into backpacking and explore the diversity of an old growth forest!

For the second year running we've paired up with the experienced and certified guides of High Country Expeditions (www.highcountryexpeditions.com) to bring you a day rafting the McKenzie River. See River Deep, Mountain High and Advanced Skills expeditions for more information.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

This spring we will host two orientation meetings for parents and backpackers to meet with our program director. We strongly encourage everyone interested in a 2014 Opal Creek Expedition to attend one of these meetings, especially first-time backpackers. We will discuss proper gear and backpack sizing, go over the camp itineraries and hiking routes, and address any questions or concerns you may have.

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

- ▶ Thursday, May 8, at 6 PM
- ▶ Monday, June 2, at 6 PM

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

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

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

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



Opal Creek Backpacking: Back to Basics

SESSION 1: JULY 6-11
SESSION 2: JULY 13-18
SESSION 3: AUGUST 10-15

AGES: 10-12 — AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 4

COST: \$435

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



All Along the Watchtower

JULY 20-25

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

COST: \$435

Throw your home on your back and head off on foot in search of the best vistas west of the Cascades. We'll put miles under our feet after only one day of planning and preparation, so come prepared with broken-in boots and backpacking experience. Hiking under the old-growth canopy, swimming in sub-alpine lakes and taking in mountaintop views will engage all your senses. We will cover lots of ground on a route that will take us to fire lookouts, ridges and mountaintops: a vantage point that offers a glimpse at the magnificent Cascade Range. From these heights we'll have a birds' eye view of the stages a forest goes through recovering from fire. Along the way we'll focus on forest succession and the resilience of the landscape through which we will travel!



Oregon's Uncut Gem

JULY 27-AUGUST 1

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

COST: \$435

For a unique perspective on the Opal Creek Wilderness, join us as we circumnavigate one of the last uncut old-growth watersheds. As we make our way along the valleys and ridges, we will investigate the connections between the lush forests and cool mountain streams, gaining a first-hand understanding of the complex relationships in an old-growth ecosystem. We will study plant and animal life, and talk about the human history, particularly the conservation efforts, in the Opal Creek area. This trip is a chance to see the wilderness area in a way that few ever do, in its entirety.



River Deep, Mountain High

AUGUST 3-8

AGES: 12-16 — AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5.5

COST: \$435

As we travel through deep canyons and over steep ridges, we'll learn about the geologic processes that formed the Cascade Range, and find out how mountains grow, erode, and evolve. Climb with us to the sub-alpine lakes of the Opal Creek and Bull of the Woods Wilderness areas. Astonishing views of the Cascades, from Mt. Hood to the Three Sisters, will greet us as we traverse ridgelines and descend into mountain valleys. We'll learn about the glacial and geologic forces that shaped these mountains and waterways, and test water depth and temperature as we take a dip and keep an eye out for amphibians, fish and aquatic critters! On our last day, after traversing the ridges of Opal Creek, we will head to the McKenzie River for a day of rafting with guides from **High Country Expeditions** and apply our understanding of the streams and rivers of Opal Creek to this larger water way all while spending a day on one of Oregon's favorite rivers. We'll cover lots of ground and lots of water, so bring good boots and good suits!



Advanced Skills, and more!

AUGUST 17-22

AGES: 12-16 — AVERAGE MILEAGE PER DAY: 5.5

COST: \$435

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





Volunteer Weekends at Jawbone Flats

SESSION 1: April 11-13

SESSION 2: November 7-9

COST: \$50.00

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! The cost covers food and lodging for the weekend.

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

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



Support our Mission. Become a Member!

Join us in promoting conservation through educational experiences in wilderness.

Now, while our children's lives are devoted to learning and building an understanding of the world in which we live, is the time to place a strong emphasis on environmental education, provide them with as much quality time outdoors as possible, and cultivate a love of nature so that they are prepared to stand up and act on behalf of our environment!

Benefits of Membership Include:

- ▶ 10% off select workshops and summer programs
- ▶ Members only early cabin reservation period
- ▶ Members only guided hikes with our executive director
- ▶ A subscription to our newsletter

To make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit www.opalcreek.org/donate or call **503.892.2782**. While we welcome donations of any size, a \$50 gift gives an individual the benefits of membership and a \$100 gift provides a family with benefits of membership. A monthly giving plan is also available. Please see our website's 'donate' page for details.

“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TEACHING OUR KIDS AND MYSELF ABOUT THE ANCIENT FOREST. THE TWO YEARS I HAVE BEEN HERE IT HAS OPENED MY EYES ABOUT THE IMPACT THAT WE HAVE ON THIS EARTH. THANK YOU.”

— Shane, parent chaperone, Springwater Environmental School



An Evening for Opal Creek

Join us on May 16th at 6:30 pm at Ecotrust (NW 9th and Johnson in Portland) for our 25th Birthday Celebration and annual fundraiser!

We have something special planned for our 25th Birthday, so buy your tickets and put your party pants on – this is going to be the best Evening for Opal Creek yet! The evening will include live music, a photography exhibit, an open bar, rooftop access, a raffle, a key note speaker, and delicious food ... even a birthday cake! We look forward to seeing you there.

Tickets are \$50 and available at www.opalcreek.org/events. Call 503-892-2782 to purchase tickets over the phone or for more details.



3rd Annual Opal Creek Golf Tournament

September 5th, 2014
The Reserve Vineyards & Golf Club, Aloha, OR

Join staff, board, supporters, and golf enthusiasts at our 3rd annual golf tournament benefiting Opal Creek! This year's tournament will be held on Friday, September 5th with a tee time of one o'clock. Individual or team registration is available online at www.opalcreek.org/events. Your registration fee covers 18 holes of golf, a cart and driving range privileges, and a post-play event in The Reserve's clubhouse, which will feature a silent auction and include dinner and two drinks. Prizes will be given for the winning team and the longest drives. Additionally, participants will have an opportunity to purchase mulligans and take part in a putting competition pre-tourney.

There are several sponsorship opportunities for this event. If your business would like to be featured as a presenting or tee-box sponsor for our 2014 golf tournament, please contact Kristina at 503-892-2782 or koldani@opalcreek.org.

Tickets are \$150 for individuals and \$600 for four-person teams. Purchase them online at www.opalcreek.org/events or over the phone by calling 503-892-2782. Sign up early and secure your spot in this growing event!

“THE STAFF IS KNOWLEDGEABLE AND COMMITTED. SO WELL DONE, THIS WILL HAVE A LINGERING IMPACT. IN FACT, ONE BOY SAID IN THE DARK CABIN LAST NIGHT, ‘I THINK I’LL REMEMBER THIS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.’”

— Doug, parent chaperone, Cleveland High School



Sleeps and Eats

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

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

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

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

PRICING FOR CABIN RENTALS

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

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



“A FANTASTIC PLACE FOR FAMILIES TO RE-CONNECT WITH NATURE! WE ALL INTEND TO RETURN!”

— Cabin Renter

PHOTO: MARK CORNWELL

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



PHOTO: HOLLAND STUDIOS

MEALS

Our food service staff work with small farms, cooperatives, and wholesalers to provide organic and local foods whenever possible. All meals are vegetarian and always hearty and healthy in nature. Due to the remote nature of Jawbone Flats, all meals must be arranged 3-4 weeks in advance.

Breakfast: \$12 per person

Packed Lunch: \$10 per person

Sit-Down Lunch: \$15 per person (10 adult minimum)

Dinner: \$18 per person

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

GEAR SHUTTLE

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

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

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

“REBEKAH AND HER STAFF’S FOOD IS AMAZING. I WAS IMPRESSED AND INSPIRED BY THE ECLECTIC VEGETARIAN MENU.” — Tiffani, WUMP participant



Staff



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



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

Science Instructors

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

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

Board of Directors

Nancy Bales
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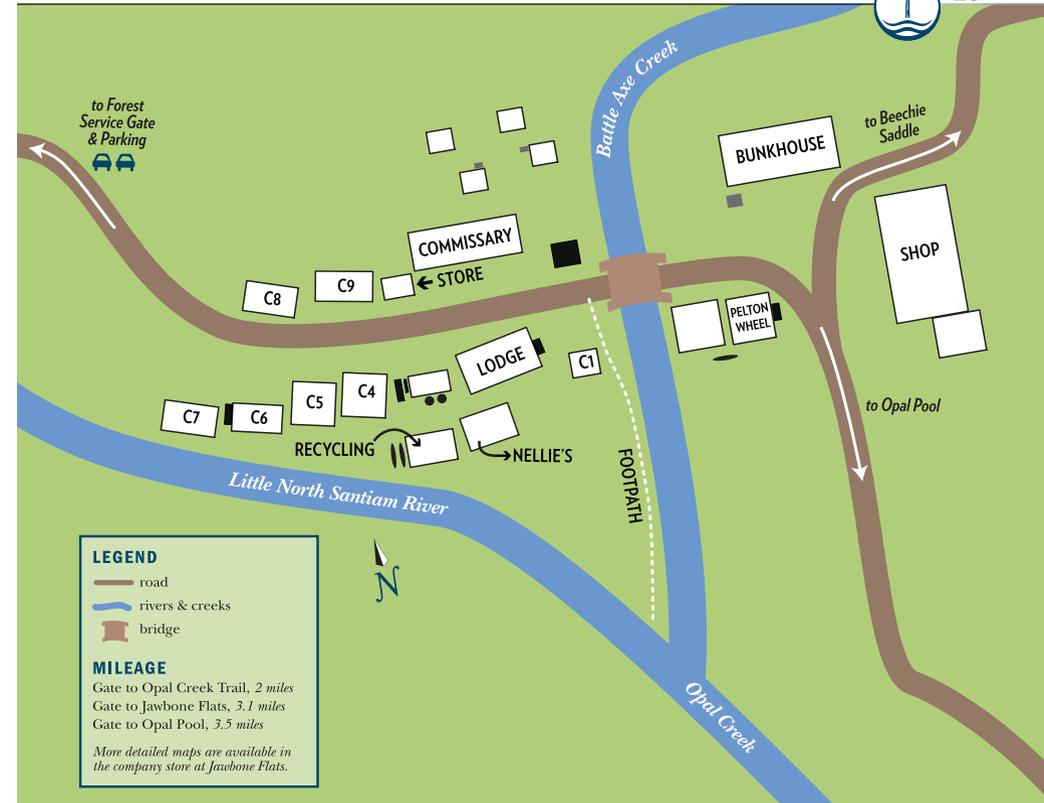
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Amy Weeden
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David Yudkin
Hotlips Pizza



In and Around Jawbone Flats

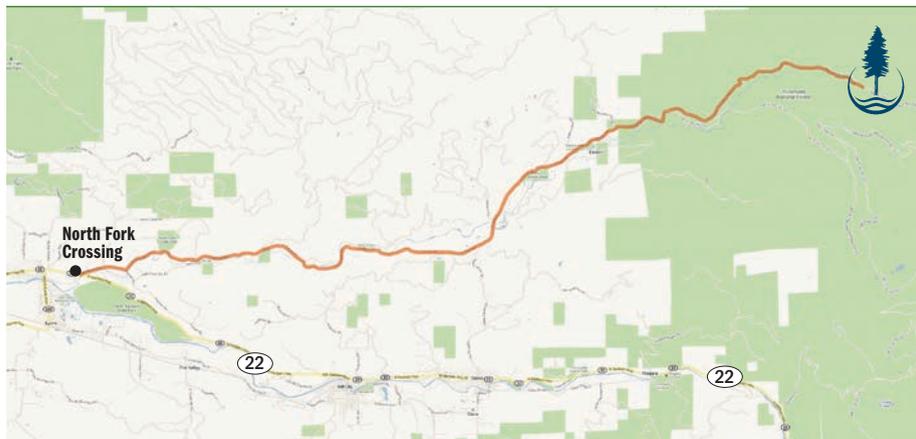
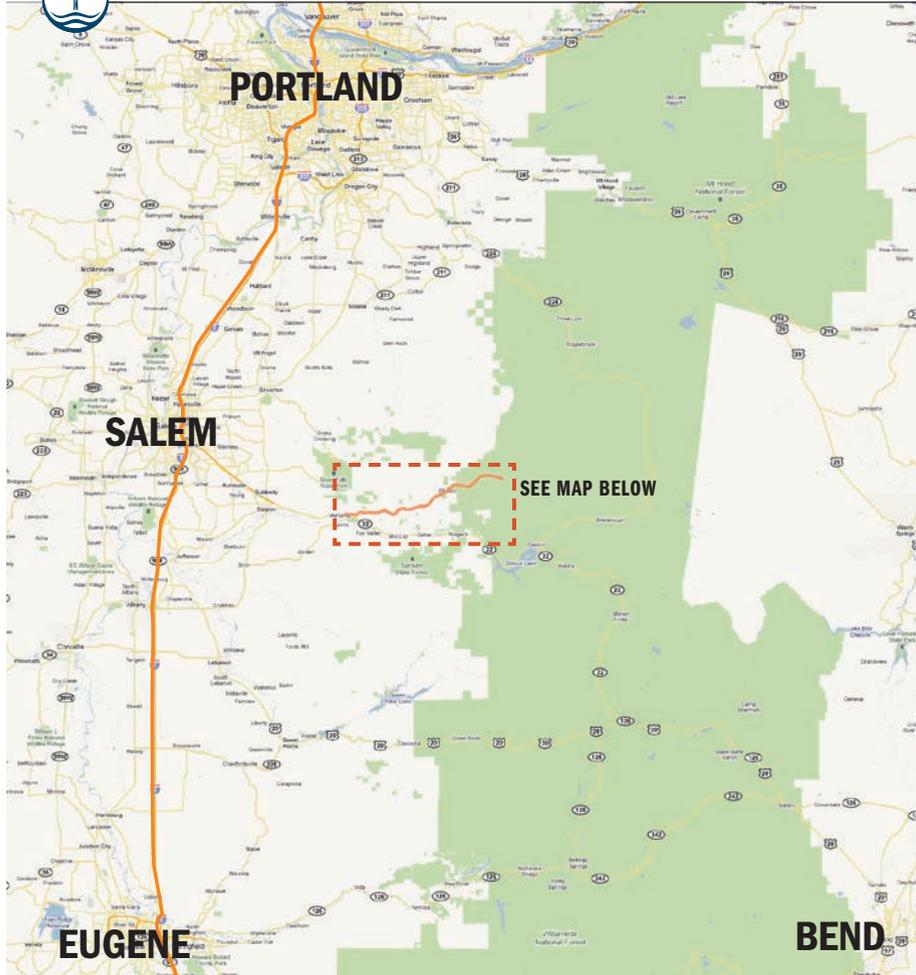
There are a number of hikes, ranging in difficulty and length, throughout the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation and Wilderness Area.

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

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

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

Enter the Opal Creek Wilderness!



COURTESY GOOGLE MAPS



Driving Directions

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

From I-5:

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

From Bend, Hwy 97 or Hwy 20:

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

Alternate Directions

(During Summer Months Only):

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

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

At the Parking Area/Trail Head:

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

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