



Trail Blazer

Vol. 93 No. 5

www.trailsclub.org

May 2020



Photo: Dolores Anderson Niebergall

Empty Boots

Muriel Ernstrom

April 26, 1929 - April 15, 2020

Lifetime member, Muriel Ernstrom was born into the Trails Club on April 26, 1929. Her parents, the Wybenga's, were early TC members in the 1920's. Muriel's oldest son, Jim, remembers trips to Nesika Lodge with his parents, Muriel and Henry and his grandparents, the Wybenga's in the 1950's.

Muriel met her husband, Henry through the Club and they were very active, chairing Lodge Committees at both Nesika and Tyee over the years. Muriel was known for her outstanding cooking and always drew a large Work Party crew when she was hosting/cooking.

Muriel was a "can do" woman who spent most of her life as an active club, school, church and neighborhood volunteer. The Ernstrom's lived on Peacock Lane, and when Muriel sold the family home a few years ago, she was the person who had lived on the Lane the longest!

The late '50's and '60's was the era of Trails Club "Kiddie Campers" and many TC families gathered for a week of car/tent camping each summer. I especially remember several summers camping at Sequim with Ernstrom, Stangell, Lindsay, Squire, Schiewe and other long time member families. We raked in steamer clams from Hoods' Canal and cooked them in water buckets over the open fires. The dads went fishing and brought home Salmon for dinner, too. There was a covered group cooking and eating area where Muriel and my mother,

Arlene Brennfleck baked berry and apple pies for everyone in the big wood stove ovens. Campfires, S'mores, and sing a longs will never be forgotten. Muriel's husband Henry named the part of the campground where our families' tents were pitched and flooded out during an occasional rain--"lower Slobovia!"

I also remember bringing food and supplies into Nesika on "the monster" with Gerry Reneau, the Ernstrom's, Stangell's, Canon's and many more. Cooking amazing dinners with Muriel and Arlene in charge of the wonderful wood stove!

Many work parties at Tyee, along with New Years Eve and other celebrations were an integral part of my youth and later enjoyed by my children, Shannon and Brent, too. Muriel and mom made the BEST huckleberry pies and there was always an annual trek to Tyee to pick them and then baking them into mouth watering pies, eating them warm out of the oven--wood stove, then electric when Tyee was "modernized!"

Henry passed away at age 95 about 4 years ago and my parents, George and Arlene died on New Years Eve 2016. George and Henry had joined the club as Eagle Scouts in 1939 when their Scoutmaster, Ken Martin (RIP) took them on the train from Portland to Multnomah Falls where they would hike into Nesika Lodge.

So many wonderful memories and definitely the end of an era. I have recently "rejoined" the Club after a couple of decades away. Thanks to ALL those upon whose shoulders we stand. You will NOT be forgotten!

RIP Muriel and Henry Ernstrom. George and Arlene Brennfleck and Pete and Ginny Stangell, too!

- Mary Lou Brennfleck Hennrich

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

1st readings:

Provisional: Jennifer Samuels, Lloyd Luther, and Adam Cornwell, sponsored by Rachel Eggers and Susan Ashenfelter

2nd readings approved: Craig Gwydir, Walter Schaffer, Laure Bordelon, Shailesh Mulgaonker, Jim Hawley, Helen Wang, Philip Bransford.

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THE TRAILS CLUB OF OREGON
P.O. Box 67095, Portland, Oregon 97268-1095

The purpose of the Trails Club is to foster and stimulate interest in hiking, climbing, skiing, camping and other similar outdoor activities and to promote activities of a social nature for the benefit of its members. The Club's interests and concerns are conservation of natural beauty and resources of the country. All Club activities are affected by the voluntary participation of the members. Membership requirements include an approved outdoor activity, a scheduled lodge visit, recommendations by two members within a one-year period, approval by the Board of Trustees, and payment of \$50 in dues and a \$15 entrance fee.

Board Meetings: Usually first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at Mazamas Mountaineering Center, 527 SE 43rd Ave. at SE Stark St. Portland, OR

President	Sheryl Wagner President@trailsclub.org
Vice President	Beverly Drottter VicePres@trailsclub.org
Secretary	Rebecca Knudeson Secretary@trailsclub.org
Treasurer	Bill Yandon Treasurer@trailsclub.org
Trustee-Nesika	Glen Conrad NesikaChair@trailsclub.org
Trustee Tyee	Nathen Barton TyeeChair@trailsclub.org
Trustee-Membership	Lori Leach MembershipChair@trailsclub.org
Trustee-Publications	Joel Reitz PublicationChair@trailsclub.org
Trustee-Social	Linda Conrad SocialChair@trailsclub.org
Trustee- Trips	Susan Ashenfelter TripsChair@trailsclub.org
Conservation	Candace Bonner Conservation@trailsclub.org
Editor	Dave Hays Blazer@trailsclub.org

Changes and other club correspondence should be sent to:
Membership@trailsclub.org or

Trails Club of Oregon
P.O. Box 67095
Portland, OR 97268-1095

EVENT CANCELATIONS

Please note that most events are canceled for the foreseeable future, including the planned **Weekend Outing on the McKenzie River** in July.

Meeting Places

Friendly House NW Thurman and 26th. TriMet bus service on routes 15, 17 and 77 is nearby.

Gateway TCO : From I-205: take the Glisan Street exit, proceed east to 99th Ave, turn north, proceed a couple blocks and park in the Park and Ride garage. Meet at the SE corner of the structure (near the stairs) on the sidewalk (directly inside if it is raining). From I-84: take I-205, take the above exit and instructions

Mazamas Mountaineering Center (MMC): A common meeting place for Board meetings and other administrative functions. It is located at 527 SE 43rd Avenue, one block south of Stark St.

Target: A common westside meeting place for hikes. Exit US 26 at NW 185th Ave and drive south to Evergreen Pkwy turn east (left) one block to NW Town Center Dr., Park and meet on the west side of Target's parking lot across from Starbucks Coffee. Tri Met bus service on routes 47, 52 and 89 is nearby.

Tryon Creek State Park: Sometimes used for Wed. AM (and other) hikes. From I-5 South: Take Terwilliger Blvd. exit, bear right, heading south past Taylor's Ferry Rd. and bear left at at Boone's Ferry Rd split, right at second roundabout exit, staying on Terwilliger. Park entrance is a right about one mile past the roundabout. Park near the Nature Center.

Trails Club of Oregon & Meetup Websites

Our website (TrailsClub.org) is the official site for club events and information. There is also a Trails Club Meetup.com site that allows event planners to organize TCO events online, and publicize these events to a wider audience (Meetup.com/Trails-Club-of-Oregon/events/). However, all events posted on the TCO Meetup site should be added to our TCO website as well (and this no longer happens automatically, unfortunately).

While we try to get every event in the Blazer and on the Trails Club website (www.trailsclub.org), some events, especially those planned on short notice, may not appear in the Blazer.

Use the Calendar menu item for a monthly calendar or use the Activities menu to filter events. Registration on the web site is not required to view the events.

Also: All may use the Payment menu item on our web site to use PayPal to pay your dues. You can pay for all members in a household in one transaction.

Board Meeting

April 7, 2020, 7-9 PM

Locations: Zoom

Attendees:

- Sheryl Wagner President
- Beverly Drottar Vice President
- Rebecca Knudeson Secretary
- Bill Yandon Treasurer
- Joel Reitz Publications Trustee
- Susan Ashenfelter Trips Trustee
- Glen Conrad Nesika Trustee
- Nathen Barton Tyee Trustee
- Lori Leach Membership Trustee
- Linda Conrad Social Trustee

Approved meeting minutes of the March meeting.

Chris Monti, investment committee:

At end of last year, the board authorized that our investment fund take additional risks. Over the past few weeks we reinvested \$50,000 (about 12% of the portfolio) in a broad index, the first of probably 6-7 investments to be made over the next 2-3 years. We want to invest on the equity side during this decline and then, as things improve, invest in fixed income to restore the balance the Club has had in the past.

Treasurer's Report, Bill Yandon

Beginning Balance old account	\$3390.43
Checks and payments	\$20.00
Ending Balance old account	\$3370.43
Beginning Balance new account.....	\$18,883.29
Despoits	\$1226.20
Checks and payments	\$1642.56
Ending Balance new account	\$18,466.93

Committee Reports

Nesika Glen. We are turning in paper work to the National Scenic Area and Multnomah County for approval of the Red Wing rebuild. Currently we're locked out of the forest. The Forest Service wants to reevaluate the road before they give us a permit for access. Everything is on hold.

Tyee Nathen. Can't hold events due to stay at home restrictions.

Membership Lori. Dues coming in are low. She has called some members who haven't paid.

1st readings

Provisional: Jennifer Samuels sponsored by Rachel Eggers and Susan Ashenfelter Lloyd Luther sponsored by Rachel Eggers and Susan Ashenfelter Adam Cornwell sponsored by Rachel Eggers and Susan Ashenfelter

2nd readings approved:

- Craig Gwydir
- Walter Schaffer
- Laure Bordelon
- Shailesh Mulgaonker
- Jim Hawley
- Helen Wang
- Philip Bransford

Publications Joel. He is getting the directory ready for printing. We have only 7 requests for a paper directory.

Trips Susan. We're looking way ahead to plan backpacking and other trips. May try posting pictures of past trips in a Zoom format. Thinking about ways to train members in first aid. She may take a NOLS class and then train members.

Social Linda reported. She is working with Bound to Happen who is developing a mostly on line CPR and Wilderness First Aid class. They will provide a certificate. She has talked with Fulton Community Center to reschedule the banquet for Nov. 8, 3:00-6:00 to be jointly held with the annual meeting.

Next meeting 5/5, probably via Zoom



Spring cleaning around Nesika. Photo: Amber Tilton

Suggested Viewing

While we spend extra time at home, here a few checklist of films you might want to watch for a virtual outdoor adventure, as suggested by TCO members:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mile, Mile and a Half | <input type="checkbox"/> This Mountain Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meru | <input type="checkbox"/> An American Ascent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free Solo | <input type="checkbox"/> Pretty Faces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild | <input type="checkbox"/> Valley Uprising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Dawn Wall | <input type="checkbox"/> The Great Alone |

Suggested Reading

And here's few good ones to settle into the sofa with, recommended by Bill Yandon:

- Desert Solitaire by Edward Abbey
- The Monkey Wrench Gang by Edward Abbey
- ...anything else by Edward Abbey
- The High Adventure of Eric Ryback by Erick Ryback (hiking memoir of PCT, early 1970's?)
- My Life of High Adventure by Grant Pearson (early memoir of Denali National Park)
- Pacific Crest Trail by William Gray, National Geographic edition
- A Sand Country Almanac Aldo Leopold
- The Man Who Walked Through Time, Colin Fletcher
- Of Men and Mountains by William O Douglas
- My Wilderness -The Pacific West also by William O Douglas
- Any one of several John Muir books.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The **Membership Directory** is found at: <https://trailsclub.org/resources/directory/>

This online directory can be sorted and searched. It is also much more up-to-date than any printed directory could be. This year, print copies are only being provided to members who request one, which is done by sending an email with your name to dir@trailsclub.org before the end of May.



The classiest ride in the forest. Photo: Amber Tilton



Taking a breather. Photo: Amber Tilton

CONSERVATION

NOTE

Mother Earth in the Time of Corona

This month, in honor of the 50th anniversary year of Earth Day, the Conservation Committee would like to share a poem to Mother Earth by Nadine Anne Hura, posted by the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

As you read the poem, please take a moment to imagine what our world would be like if every nation's leader addressed our Mother Earth with such love and respect. As we emerge from this terrible pandemic, let us hope we do not resume our lives as they were. Let us hope we can redefine a "good economy" not as one that maximizes GDP, but one which strives to achieve the smallest possible GDP that will permit us to be fed and sheltered and enjoy our lives on earth. Let us hope we will continue to produce less, consume less, waste less. Let us hope we have seen what a difference we made by our changed behavior during this pandemic, and have noticed how many lives have been saved by the lessening of pollution in the air we breathe. Let us hope we emerge from this pandemic feeling empowered and determined to deal with climate change, and ready to treat our Mother Earth and all her life with the love and respect she deserves.

A poem by Nadine Anne Hura to Papatuanuku, Mother Earth, shared by Jacinda Adern, the prime minister of New Zealand:

--

*Rest now, e Papatuanuku
Breathe easy and settle
Right here where you are
We'll not move upon you
For awhile*

*We'll stop, we'll cease
We'll slow down and stay home*

*Draw each other close and be kind
Kinder than we've ever been.
I wish we could say we were doing it for you
as much as ourselves*

But hei aha

We're doing it anyway

It's right. It's time.

*Time to return
Time to remember
Time to listen and forgive
Time to withhold judgment
Time to cry
Time to think*

About others

*Remove our shoes
Press hands to soil
Sift grains between fingers*

Gentle palms

*Time to plant
Time to wait
Time to notice
To whom we belong*

*For now it's just you
And the wind
And the forests and the oceans and the sky full of rain*

Finally, it's raining!

Ka tuturutu te wai kamo o Rangi ki runga i a koe

Embrace it

This sacrifice of solitude we have carved out for you

*He iti noaiho - a small offering
People always said it wasn't possible
To ground flights and stay home and stop our habits of
consumption*

*But it was
It always was.*

*We were just afraid of how much it was going to hurt
- and it IS hurting and it will hurt and continue to hurt
But not as much as you have been hurt.*

So be still now

*Wrap your hills around our absence
Loosen the concrete belt cinched tight at your waist*

*Rest.
Breathe.
Recover.
Heal -*

And we will do the same.

--

For the love of Mother Earth, Wishing you all good health
to carry you through the pandemic,
- Your Conservation Committee.

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Gentle Reminders

For activities such as bicycle, snowshoe, and x-c skiing check with the leaders for the difficulty level. Good equipment for the specific activity is required for all events. For hikes, snowshoe:

Class A—Shorter, less strenuous activity, typically 4 to 8 miles, less than 1500 feet elevation gain.

Class B—Moderate to difficult, typically 6 to 12 miles, up to 3000 feet of elevation gain.

Class C—Long and difficult, strong experienced participants only, typically over 8 miles, and over 3000 feet of elevation gain. Boots are recommended for B/C hikes.

Harsh or unusual conditions may greatly increase the exertion and skill required. Be prepared for the level of activity you are planning to take. Contact the trip leader if you have any questions and to let him or her know that you will be attending. Bring plenty of water and a sack lunch. Please, no alcohol. Remember to bring your Ten Essentials. Pets allowed on designated trips only.

Stay with the group and follow the leader. The leader is responsible for the group's safety. The leader determines which route is taken. The leader has authority to determine if a participant is prepared for the activity. Group safety must come first.

Fees

There is no charge to Trails Club members for day activities; non-members pay \$2. Please contribute to any carpooling expenses at the rate of \$.15 per mile. With multiple riders the driver can collect up to \$.30 per mile shared by all the riders. Other fees may apply.

If you have RSVP'd for an activity at a lodge involving food expense and are unable to participate, you are obligated to do one of the following: Cancel before the food is purchased, find someone to take your place, or pay for your share of the food.

All activities must be approved by the appropriate activity Coordinator or the Trips Trustee.

Newsletters

Send write-ups to: blazer@trailsclub.org

Submissions are due by the fifteenth of the month prior to publication.

Please use the following format:

Month Day (Day of week) Event Title - Class A, B, C

Description Text - Please include distance, elevation change, and round trip driving distance.

Do not capitalize full words, lines or sentences for emphasis
Day trip descriptions should be under 100 words.

Depart: Meeting place, with address if possible, and departure time

Leader: Name, Phone, and/or email.

Editor: Dave Hays

Send pictures, new events, corrections and anything else for the Trails Club of Oregon website to:

webmaster@trailsclub.org