



## Week of July 5-11



Vanilla Leaf along the Cave Exit Trail

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### Special Events This Week

#### Ranger Programs

Free Ranger programs will be offered each day. Check the blackboard in the Visitor Center for fascinating topics and times. Candlelight tours that present a unique perspective of the caves will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings. Reservations for the adventurous off-trail tours are now being accepted.

Join Ranger Suzan O' Larick Thursday night for a free evening Ranger program.

#### Chateau Programs

Entertainment at the Chateau is in full swing this week. Monday is "Artist's Adventure," featuring local artists. David Hodges brings poetry to life on Wednesday, and Chateau Artist-in-Residence, Jennie May Donnell reads intriguing stories in the Lobby on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Visitors on Sunday afternoon can enjoy the Celtic harpist, Bob Clark. Inquire at the Chateau's front desk for the finer details of these hotel events.

### Columbian Black-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*)

Resident black-tailed deer and their newborn fawns are easy to spot this time of year on both Highway 46 and the trails at Oregon Caves National Monument. Mother deer are selecting isolated spots for labor and then leading their babies to new nursery spaces, such as the steep slopes of Highway 46, to avoid some predators.



Columbian Black-tailed Deer

The fawns are sporting new spotted coats, which makes them blend into sun-dappled foliage. Unfortunately, camouflage combined with proximity to the road makes deer difficult to see while driving.

**If you encounter deer on the highway, please stop your vehicle, put your flashers on, and wait until the deer move off the road.**

Otherwise you might separate the fawns from their mothers. Never touch any fawns that you find, even if they are alone – the mothers often reject their babies if they smell human odors. Deer are a special part of the diverse ecosystem found at Oregon Caves, and the Monument is grateful for your help in preserving and protecting this valuable place. Hope you can spot some of the bouncing youngsters!

### Vanilla Leaf (*Achlys triphylla*)

The moist, shady forests of the Monument provide habitats for the Vanilla Leaf, currently in bloom with its showy white spike. Sometimes called deer foot and sweet after death, this perennial in the Barberry family features three fan-shaped, asymmetrical, coarsely blunt-toothed leaflets.

In some areas of the Monument the leaves of Vanilla Leaf form a continuous, light-green carpet over the forest floor. They are interconnected underground by numerous crossing rhizomes or horizontal, usually underground stems that often send out roots and shoots from its nodes.

Traditionally, its dried leaves have been hung to repel flies and mosquitoes, or to provide a sweet, vanilla scent. Vanilla Leaf: just one example of the Monument's biodiverse plant life, can be found on all trails – especially the Cave Exit Trail.



Vanilla Leaf in bloom