



## Week of June 28 - July 4



Fawn at Oregon Caves National Monument

### 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," with interviews of local artists Joyce Dodson and Connie Blakely. Tuesday evening features classical pianist Lindsey Brown, while David Hodges brings poetry to life on Wednesday. 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.

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!

### Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)

Oregon Caves National Monument received snow until this spring, delaying the blooming of many flowers. However, the state flower, Oregon Grape, has evergreen leaves shining and yellow flowers coming into bloom. Oregon Grape is not a grape vine but an evergreen shrub related to the barberry bush. The green foliage looks like holly leaves and turns red in the fall and occasionally in the spring and summer. By fall, berries that look like clusters of grapes will appear.

Native Americans, European settlers, and even today's herbalists have used the root of Oregon Grape for stomach, liver, and gall bladder problems. Dyes can also be made from the roots (yielding yellow) and the berries (providing purple). Many Oregonians who gather the berry clusters make grape jelly, which is very tart until plenty of sugar is added.



Oregon Grape in bloom

Oregon Caves has a wonderfully diverse biology. Oregon Grape: an aspect of that diversity is found on all the Monument's trails.