

## Spring 2010 Table Rocks Hikes: BLM and Nature Conservancy Offer Interpretive Hiking Opportunities

**Medford, Ore.** – Wildflowers are beginning to show their color, vernal pools are buzzing with life, spring time is returning to the southern Oregon landscape, and it is once again time for the annual spring Table Rocks weekend hike series! The Nature Conservancy and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are offering their annual guided, educational walks on the Table Rocks in April and May. This popular hike series promises a spectacular view of the valley, an abundance of wildflowers, and expert interpretation from specialists on the natural and cultural history of the area. Anyone from the community is welcome to sign up. There is no fee to participate, but **reservations are required**. To reserve a space on a hike call the **BLM Medford District Office at (541) 618-2200**. Participation is limited to 30 individuals per hike, unless otherwise noted. The weekend hike schedule can be viewed on the BLM's Table Rocks website and The Nature Conservancy website:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/ablerock/index.php>

<http://www.nature.org/oregon/preserves/>

Participants should dress for the weather and bring a lunch and water. There is no drinking water at either Upper or Lower Table Rocks. Restrooms are available at both trailheads. To help protect this special place and its inhabitants, dogs are not allowed on the trails. The hikes range from three to five miles roundtrip along a moderate grade trail, and last three to five hours.

### 2010 Table Rocks Weekend Hike Season Spring Schedule:

Saturday, April 3 10:00am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**Tribal History and Culture: Robert Kentta**, Cultural Resources Director, member, and elected official of the Confederate Tribes of Siletz Indians will discuss the history and culture of ancestral tribes who were moved from the Rogue Valley and other parts of Western Oregon to the Siletz Reservation. Weather permitting, a 45 minute presentation of traditional basketry and regalia in the parking lot will be followed by a stroll up to the top.

Saturday, April 10 10:00am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**Wildflowers Abound: Barbara Mumblo**, Botanist with the U.S. Forest Service, Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District and member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon will lead a hike to discover the dazzling array of wildflowers found on the Table Rocks.

Sunday, April 11 10:00 at UPPER TABLE ROCK

**Lichens and Mosses:** Join certified Lichenologist **Scot Loring**, who has worked seventeen years as a botanical consultant in Oregon, on an exploration into the amazing world of these often overlooked organisms. We will discuss what they are, where they grow, and their ecological roles while examining common and rare species alike. A hand-lens or other small magnifier is recommended but not required.

Saturday, April 17 10:00 am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**Spring in Bloom:** **Alex Maksymowicz** of the Siskiyou Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon will lead a hike to explore and enjoy the valley's beautiful native flora. Participation limited to 20 individuals.

Sunday, April 18 10:00 am at LOWER TABLE

**ROCK Nature Photography:** **David Sherman**, Rogue Valley Photographer since 1987 specializing in macro flower and landscape photography, will lead a comfortable hike up Lower Table Rock where he will help find winning shots as the group ascends the mesa. No need for tripods, bring a steady hand and a pocket full of questions. To see David's website, visit [www.pbase.com/alidave](http://www.pbase.com/alidave). Bring a macro, wide angle and telephoto lens if you can, and don't forget fresh batteries and boots if it's wet. David will bring some samples of his work, and would love to see some of yours for creative advice.

Saturday, April 24 7:30 pm at LOWER TABLE ROCK LOOP

**Night Owls:** **Vince Zauskey and Bob Quaccia** from the Audubon Society will listen for the sounds of the night from dusk ,til dark on a jaunt around the Lower Table Rock Loop (1/2 mile, accessible trail). These specialists will attempt to lure pygmy owls, great horned owls, and screech owls. *No guarantees!* A short presentation of the common owls of this area and their unique characteristics will precede the hike. Bring your flashlights and good hiking shoes! Participation limited to 20 individuals.

Sunday, April 25 10:00 am at UPPER TABLE ROCK

**Layers of Time:** **Jad D'Allura**, Professor of Geology in the CPME Department at Southern Oregon University will talk about the formation of the Table Rocks and the unique geological features observed along a hike to the top of this ancient lava flow. Please bring something to drink, a lunch, comfortable hiking shoes, and an inquiring mind.

Saturday, May 1 10:00 am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**Legacy of a Landmark:** **Jeff Lalande**, retired archaeologist and historian for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, will discuss the role of the Table Rocks in the culture and legends of the Takelma Indians, as well as some history of the Table Rocks area during the "Indian Wars" of the 1850s.

Sunday, May 2 10:00 am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**Traditional Medicines:** **Michael Altman** is a professional member of the American Herbalists Guild and Certified Nutritionist who teaches at Southern Oregon University and College of the Siskiyous. Participants will be acquainted with the powerful role plants play to improve health and overcome disease. He will also identify a number of species found on Lower Table Rock and discuss their medicinal uses.

Saturday May 8

**8:30 am** at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**For the Early Bird: Harry Fuller**, a Klamath Bird Observatory volunteer and experienced field trip leader, will take you to view the spring birds of Table Rocks. Learn I.D. tips and conservation information. Bring binoculars and I.D. books if you desire. Participation limited to 15 individuals.

Sunday, May 9 **Mothers Day**

10:00 am at UPPER TABLE ROCK

**Family General Hike:** Spend Mother's Day with **Molly Allen**, a BLM environmental interpretation specialist, on a family hike to the top of the rock! This is a general information hike suitable for the whole family. Topics include wildflower I.D., ethnobotany, geology, wildlife, ecology and cultural history.

Saturday, May 15

10:00am at UPPER TABLE ROCK

**Incredible Insects and Spiders!:** **Dr. Peter Schroeder**, Associate Professor of Biology and Entomologist at SOU will lead a hike to explore and discuss the amazing 6 and 8-legged animals found on and around the Table Rocks.

Sunday, May 16

10:00 am at UPPER TABLE ROCK

**Native Knowledge: Gwyn Myer**, Environmental Interpretation Specialist from the BLM, will take you on an exploration of the Table Rocks cultural and natural history. Bring lots of questions for this seasoned table rock hike guide. There will be a focus on the unique relationships between people and plants from past to present, but all subjects will be covered.

Saturday, May 22

10:00 am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**Nature Sketching:** Join illustrator and Ashland Academy classical art student **William Reed** on a nature sketch trip. Learn about the core elements of landscape drawing, and get advice from a skilled artist in recreating the beauty of the Table Rocks. Participation limited to 14 individuals.

Sunday, May 23

10:00 am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**Wildthings:** Join **Sean Anderson**, a Wildlife Biological Technician for the BLM, to learn about life in the wild for our slithery, furry and feathered friends that live on and around the Table Rocks. **Heather Armstrong**, Environmental Interpreter for the BLM, will join Sean to answer general questions about the Table Rocks.

For more information on the hikes, please call the **BLM Medford District Office at (541) 618-2200**, or visit the BLM's recreation website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/index.php>

About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – 253 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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