

Table Rocks Hikes: Spring 2011

BLM and The 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/tablerock/index.php>

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/oregon/placesweprotect/spring-hikes-on-the-table-rocks.xml>

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.

2011 Table Rocks Weekend Hike Season Spring Schedule:

Saturday, April 2 7:30 PM at LOWER TABLE ROCK

Night Owls: Steve Godwin, BLM Wildlife Biologist, 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). Steve 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 and adaptations will precede the hike. Bring your flashlights and good hiking shoes! Participation limited to 20 individuals.

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3040 Biddle Road • Medford, Oregon 97504 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford>

BLM
Medford District Office

Sunday, April 3 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, April 9 10:30 AM at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Wildflowers Abound: Barbara Mumblo, Botanist with the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest 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. Participation limited to 25 individuals.

Saturday, April 9 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, April 10 10:00 AM at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Leapin' Lizards!: Dr. Michael Parker, Professor of Biology and Herpetologist at SOU, will lead a hike to explore the reptiles and amphibians found in the habitats of the Table Rocks. Rain or shine, discussion will include exciting information about the life history, habitat and basic ecology of these fascinating animals. Participation limited to 20 individuals.

Saturday, April 16 9:00 AM at UPPER 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. He will acquaint participants with the powerful roles plants play to improve health and overcome disease as he identifies plant species found on Upper Table Rock and discusses their medicinal uses.

Sunday, April 17 10:00 AM at LOWER TABLE ROCK

Picnic for the Planet: Join **Molly Morison** with the Nature Conservancy and Bucky Dennerlein of the BLM to learn more about local ecology and conservation efforts at Table Rocks on a hike to the best lunch spot in the valley. The Conservancy's Picnic for the Planet is an Earth Day event to celebrate the planet we live on, the food it provides, and the people we share it with. Please feel free to bring a local favorite food to share with others at the top of the rocks. For more information visit <http://nature.org/earthday>

Saturday April 23 8:00 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. For more information about what birds are in the area see Harry's blog at: <http://atowhee.wordpress.com> Hike participation will be limited to 15 individuals.

--2 of 4--

The Nature
Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3040 Biddle Road • Medford, Oregon 97504 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford>

BLM
Medford District Office

Saturday, April 30

10:00 AM at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Nature Photography: David Sherman, Rogue Valley Photographer since 1987, specializing in macro flower and landscape photography, will be leading a comfortable hike up Upper Table Rocks 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. 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 be bringing some samples of his work, and would love to offer creative advice on see some of your photos.

Sunday, May 1

10:00 AM 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 to the top.

Saturday, May 7

10:00 AM at LOWER TABLE ROCK

Wild Things: Jeff Stephens, a Wildlife Biologist for the BLM, will lead a hike on Lower Table Rock to talk about and answer questions regarding our slithery, furry, and feathered friends that live on and around the Table Rocks. **Mike Laurance**, Environmental Interpreter for the BLM, will join Jeff to answer general questions about the Table Rocks.

Sunday, May 8 Mother's Day

10:00 AM at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Family General Hike: Spend Mother's Day with **Heather Armstrong**, 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 will include wildflower I.D., ethnobotany, geology, wildlife, ecology, and cultural history.

Saturday, May 14

10:00 AM at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Spring in Bloom: Marcia Wineteer, Botanist at the BLM, will lead a hike to explore and enjoy the valley's beautiful native flora and wildflowers of the Table Rocks.

Sunday, May 15

10:00 AM at LOWER 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. Participation limited to 20 individuals.

Saturday, May 21

8:00 PM at LOWER TABLE ROCK

That's Batty!: Join **Tony Kerwin**, Wildlife Biologist and District Planning and Environmental Coordinator with the BLM, to learn more about the regional bats, their unique characteristics and the threats facing them. The group will use bat detectors to listen for bats on a short walk around the Lower Table Rock Loop (1/2 mile, accessible trail). Bring your flashlights and good hiking shoes! Participation limited to 20 individuals.

--3 of 4--

The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



NEWS **Release**

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3040 Biddle Road • Medford, Oregon 97504 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford>

Sunday, May 22

12:30 PM at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Nature Sketching: Join watercolorist **Sylvia Miller**, retired art and biology teacher and scientific illustrator, on a nature sketching adventure. Learn more botanical illustration along the trail and take in the beauty of the valley with a brief lesson on scenic landscape drawing at the top. To see Sylvia's website, visit www.sylviamillerwatercolor.com. Bring a sketchbook, sketching pens and pencils, and a portable watercolor set (optional). Sylvia will be bringing some samples of her work for creative inspiration. Participation limited to 15 individuals. For additional information, you may contact Sylvia at sylvia541@msn.com.

For more information on the hikes, please call the **BLM Medford District Office at (541) 618-2200**.

###

BLM
Medford District Office

The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

