



Nature on the Rocks – Celebrating 30 Years of Environmental Education

A lot can change in thirty years, but luckily for the Table Rocks, the one thing that hasn't changed is their ability to evoke a natural curiosity in all who witness these prominent features of the Rogue Valley and step foot on their well-worn paths. For thirty years the Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy have been offering guided hikes to learn about the unique natural and cultural environment of the Table Rocks. Specialists from around the region will share their knowledge as part of the annual Table Rocks Weekend Hike Series. Come enjoy the magic of nature's classroom and help us celebrate 30 years of education on the Table Rocks!

Free guided hikes are offered on weekends in the spring. February and March hikes are listed below. Additional hikes are also planned for April and May. Anyone is welcome to sign up, but **reservations are required**. Space is limited to 20 individuals, unless otherwise noted. Please contact the Medford District BLM at 541.618.2200 M-F 7:30—4:30 pm. to reserve a spot. **You must register by 4 p.m. the Friday before the hike is scheduled.**

Three to five miles roundtrip guided hikes along a moderate grade trail generally last three to five hours. Participants should dress for the weather and bring plenty of drinking water (no water source is available on site) and a lunch or snacks. Restrooms are available at both trail heads. To help protect this special place, dogs, mountain bikes, and OHVs are **NOT** allowed on the trail.

To view the full hike schedule, please visit the following websites:

Bureau of Land Management

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

The Nature Conservancy

<http://nature.org/trhikes>

Saturday, February 27

9:00 a.m. at LOWER TABLE ROCK

Dive Into Vernal Pools: Join **Molly Morison**, Stewardship Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy, to discuss the quick and changing nature of vernal pools along with the plants and animals that live there. Learn about their unique adaptations and try to spot the tiny vernal pool fairy shrimp and other residents in these shallow pools.

Sunday, March 13

10:00 a.m. at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Lichen Hikin' with a Fun-gi: Join **John Villella**, a botanist with the Siskiyou Biosurvey and member of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, and Native Plant Society of Oregon to observe lichens, bryophytes and terrestrial algae. This is a great time to visit Upper Table Rock as it is prime time for ephemeral bryophytes and terrestrial algae associated with the vernal pools on the top of the rock. Some lichen highlights include: vagrant forms of *Xanthoparmelia* and *Dermatocarpon*, and local rarities such as *Parmelina* and *Peltula*. Also there is a chance to observe early flowering wildflowers.

Saturday, March 26

9:00 a.m. at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Nature Rocks: Celebrate spring break with a BLM environmental interpreter 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 identification, ethnobotany, geology, wildlife, ecology, and cultural history.