



Table Rocks Hike Season — Spring 2013

BLM and Nature Conservancy Offer Interpretive Hiking Opportunities

Wildflowers are displaying colorful blooms; vernal pools are buzzing with life; bird songs fill the air – spring is returning to Southern Oregon. It's time for the annual spring Table Rocks weekend hike series! The Nature Conservancy and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are offering guided, educational hikes 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**. Participation is limited to 20 individuals per hike unless otherwise noted. To reserve a space on a hike, call the **BLM Medford District Office Monday—Friday, 7:30—4:30pm at (541) 618-2200. Please sign up no later than 4 p.m. the Friday prior to the date of the hike.** The weekend hike schedule can be viewed on the BLM's Table Rocks Web site and The Nature Conservancy Web site:

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

<http://nature.org/trhikes>.

Participants should dress for the weather and bring a lunch and water (drinking water is not available at either Upper or Lower Table Rock). Restrooms are available at both trailheads. To help protect this special place and its inhabitants, dogs are not allowed on the trail. The hikes range from three to five miles roundtrip along a moderate grade trail, and last three to five hours.

2013 Table Rocks Weekend Hike Series Spring Schedule

Saturday, April 6 10:00 a.m. at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Lichen Hikin': Join certified Lichenologist **John Villella**, a botanist with the Siskiyou Biosurvey and member of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, on a hike to explore the unique variety of important non-vascular plants that live on the Table Rocks.

Saturday, April 13 10:00 a.m. 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 14 10:00 a.m. at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Powerful Pollinators: Find out what all the buzz is about by joining **Sarah Red-Laird**, a.k.a. Bee Girl, who will explain why pollination is essential for our survival on this family-friendly hike. Learn about the birds and the bees and their relationship with the wildflowers and trees that produce a rainbow of colors on the Table Rocks.

Saturday, April 20 10:00 a.m. 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 the history of the Table Rocks area during the “Indian Wars” of the 1850s.

Sunday, April 21 10:00 a.m. at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Layers of Time: **Jad D'Allura**, Emeritus Professor of Geology 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.

Saturday, April 27 10:00 a.m. at UPPER TABLE ROCK

A Changing Rogue Climate: Join **Alan Journet**, Co-Facilitator of the Southern Oregon Climate Action Network, for a hike and discussion of climate change projections for the Rogue Valley and the potential consequences for the Table Rocks.

Sunday, April 28 10:00 a.m. 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 at the trailhead will be followed by a stroll to the top.

Saturday, May 4 7:30 p.m. at LOWER TABLE ROCK LOOP

Night Owls: **Steve Godwin**, wildlife biologist with the BLM, will listen for the sounds of the night from dusk ‘til dark on a walk around the Lower Table Rock Loop Trail (1/2 mile accessible trail). Steve will attempt to lure pygmy, great horned and screech owls. But no guarantees! A short presentation of the common owls in this area and their unique characteristics and adaptations will precede the hike. Bring your flashlights and good hiking shoes!

Sunday, May 5 10:00 a.m. at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Spring in Bloom: **Chamise Kramer**, botanist at the BLM, will lead a hike to explore the valley's beautiful native flora and wildflowers of the Table Rocks.

Saturday, May 11 8:00 a.m. at LOWER TABLE ROCK

Bird's the Word: **Teresa “Bird” Wicks**, Klamath Bird Observatory intern and Southern Oregon University environmental education graduate student, will lead a group on a birding excursion through the chaparral, oak savanna, mixed woodland and mounded prairie/vernal pool plant communities of the Table Rocks. Bring your binoculars and bird guides and pick Bird’s brain with your ornithology curiosities.

Sunday, May 12 **Mother’s Day** 10:00 a.m. at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Nature Rocks! Spend Mother’s Day with 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 identification, ethnobotany, geology, wildlife, ecology, and cultural history.

Saturday, May 18 10:00 a.m. at UPPER TABLE ROCK

Incredible Insects and Spectacular Spiders: **Dr. Peter Schroeder**, Associate Professor of Biology and Entomologist at Southern Oregon University, will lead a hike to explore and discuss the amazing six and eight-legged animals found on and around the Table Rocks.

Sunday, May 19 7:30 p.m. at LOWER TABLE ROCK LOOP

That's Batty! Join **Tony Kerwin**, BLM wildlife biologist and district planning and environmental coordinator, 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!

Sunday, May 19 10:00 a.m. at LOWER TABLE ROCK

Spring Nature Sketching: Join artist **Cheryl Magellen**, local drawing instructor and member of the Southern Oregon Society of Artists, for a spring nature sketching session of the magnificent vistas, flora, and fauna of the Table Rocks. Bring along your sketchbooks, pencils, felt-tip pens, or other drawing supplies, and learn to capture your interpretation of the natural world on paper.

Participation is limited to 15 individuals.