



## Spring 2008 Table Rocks Hike Season

### BLM and Nature Conservancy Offer Interpretive Hiking Opportunities

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 Table Rocks guided hike season. From April 1<sup>st</sup> through June 6<sup>th</sup>, the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and The Nature Conservancy are offering the public two separate interpretive hiking opportunities, one on the weekdays and one on the weekends.

#### **Group, weekday hikes:**

Various school and community groups have been guided by the Table Rocks Environmental Education Program to the tops of Upper and Lower Table Rocks for over 20 years. Groups of 10 individuals or more and of any age are welcome to sign up for these free, interpretive hikes. Participants enjoy spectacular views of the Rogue Valley and surrounding mountain ranges while learning about the unique natural and cultural history of the Table Rocks. Guides are available Tuesday through Friday. Hikes begin around 9:00 a.m. and last about four hours. The schedule is already quite full so please reserve a day as soon as possible.

For more information visit our website:

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

Contact: Leah Schrodt, Project Coordinator, (541) 618-2468.

#### **Weekend Spring Hike Series:**

The Nature Conservancy and the BLM are offering their annual series of guided, educational walks on the Table Rocks in April and May. This popular weekend hike series promises a spectacular view of the valley, a natural wildflower display, 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/wherewework/northamerica/states/oregon/preserves/>

Participants in both the weekday and weekend hikes should dress for the weather and bring a lunch and something to drink. 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 trail. The hikes range from three to five miles roundtrip along a moderate grade trail, and last three to five hours.

## 2008 Table Rocks Weekend Hike Season Spring Schedule:

- Saturday, April 5 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK  
*"Ethnobotany is the science of people's relationship with plants."* Nancy Turner, Ethnobotanist
- Come learn the various uses of the plants on the Table Rocks! Join **Donn Todt**, ethnobotanist and horticulturist for the Ashland Parks Department, on an exploration of local ethnobotany. Donn has published several articles on regional ethnobotany that have appeared in the *Journal of California*, *Great Basin Anthropology*, the *Journal of Ethnobiology*, and *Southern Oregon Heritage Today*.  
Participation will be limited to 25 individuals.
- | Sunday, April 6 10:00 am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Plants and Pools*  
**Molly Sullivan**, Southwest Oregon Stewardship Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy, and **Armand Rebeschke**, a BLM botanist and Native Plant Society member will describe the remarkable features that make this preserve a botanical treasure and take fellow hikers up to the vernal pools to investigate the unique organisms that inhabit them.
- Saturday, April 12 1:00 pm: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Nature Photography*  
Join **Terry Tuttle**, retired forester and professional photographer on a nature photography hike. Wildflowers, landscape, and wildlife photography will be covered. Bring your camera and, if you have one, a light tripod. Terry will be joined by 2 members of the Southern Oregon Photo Association Club as well. For more information, visit [www.sopacameraclub.org](http://www.sopacameraclub.org). Participation will be limited to 24 individuals.
- Sunday, April 13 10:00 am: 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.

- Saturday, April 19 10:00am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Spring in Bloom*  
**Marcia Wineteer**, Botanist with the BLM, will lead a hike that focuses on the spring wildflowers and native plant communities of the Table Rocks.
- Sunday, April 20 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Fire Ecology*  
Explore the important role of fire in the Rogue Valley with the BLM's fire ecologist, **Charley Martin**. Learn how our landscape has adapted to survive and thrive with fire. Charley will be joined by **Jena DeJulio**, BLM's fire effects monitor and Native Plant Society member, to enrich the hike.
- Saturday, April 26 8:30 am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *For the Early Birds*  
**Harry Fuller**, A Klamath Bird Observatory volunteer and experienced field trip leader, will take you to view the spring birds of Table Rocks. Learn identification tips and conservation information. Highlights may include Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Western Bluebirds, California Towhee, and migrating warblers. Buckbrush should be in bloom attracting hummingbirds. Bring binoculars and identification books if you desire. Participation will be limited to 15 individuals.
- Sunday, April 27 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Incredible Insects!*  
**Dr. Peter Schroeder**, Associate Professor of Biology and Entomologist at Southern Oregon University will lead a hike to explore and discuss the amazing natural history and ecology of the 6 and 8-legged animals found on and around the Table Rocks.
- Saturday, May 3 10:00 am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Legacy of a Landmark*  
**Jeff Lalande**, 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 Rock area during the "Indian Wars" of the 1850s.

- Sunday, May 4 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Layers of Time*  
**Bill Elliott**, Assistant Professor of Geology at Southern Oregon University, will describe the formation of the Table Rocks and unique geological features observed along a hike to the wildflower-covered top of this ancient lava flow.
- Saturday, May 10 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Wonderful Wildlife*  
Come learn about life in the wild with **Jeff Stephens**, Wildlife Biologist for the BLM, on a hike investigating the biology and ecology of animals found on and around the Table Rocks.
- Sunday, May 11 10:00 am: **Mothers Day**  
LOWER TABLE ROCK *Family Hike*  
Join **Greta Gardiner**, a BLM environmental interpreter, on a family hike to the top of the rock! This is a general information hike suitable for all ages. Topics will include plant and flower identification and the cultural history of the area. Bring water, your lunch, and your curiosity!
- Saturday, May 17 10:00 am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Living with "Titanakh"*  
Come discover the unique cultural history, ethnobotany, and general ecology of the Table Rocks with BLM naturalist **Leah Schrodt**.
- Sunday, May 18 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Nature Sketching*  
Join illustrator and naturalist **Irene Brady** on a nature sketching trip. Get advice from this skilled professional as you recreate the beauty of the Table Rocks. Bring a camera if you wish. If it rains, we'll skip the sketching to explore and enjoy Table Rocks natural history. Bring your sketchpad, drawing tools, waterproof sifter, sack lunch and water bottle. For more information about Irene see [www.natureworkspress.com](http://www.natureworkspress.com). Participation will be limited to 12 individuals.