



journeys

to oregon's last great places

Born anew each season and biodiversity-rich all year, Oregon is truly a special place. Come and explore it with us! This year, we're pleased to again offer a wide range of trips, including a visit to Williamson River Delta Preserve to observe a pioneering wetland restoration project in process, an opportunity to witness salmon reach the end of their ancient journey up the Middle Fork John Day River, an exciting rafting trip through the wild and scenic Sandy River Gorge, and an extensive tour of southeast Oregon's uniquely beautiful Steens Mountain and Alvord Desert.

Your generous support makes our conservation at these remarkable sites possible, and we want you to see first-hand how you've helped us protect these special places.

To sign up for one or more trips, please call Di or Laura at 503 802-8100, and mention this brochure. *Space is limited to ensure a quality experience for everyone, so we encourage you to make your reservations early.*

.....

Spring Wildflowers at Tom McCall Preserve

Leader: Jason Seivers, field trip program manager

Date: Friday, April 11

Start: Portland

Cost: \$25/person

Limit: 9

A Nature Conservancy tradition, springtime in Oregon isn't complete without a visit to one of the Columbia Gorge's most stunning displays of wildflowers. The mounds, swales and vernal pools of this grassland preserve, not to mention the spectacular views of the gorge, provide the perfect backdrop for more than 300 plant species, balsamroot, lupine and Indian paintbrush. The preserve's diversity can be attributed to its location in the transition zone between the moist, heavily-forested west side of the Cascades and the drier bunchgrass prairies of the east. Tom McCall Preserve also offers stark visual evidence



Balsamroot and lupine © Charles Quinn/TNC

of the dramatic geological events that formed it. Join us for a two-mile, easy hike on flat, even terrain with minor elevation gain. Price includes transportation from Portland and lunch at a local café. *Registration deadline is March 28th.*



© TNC

Rafting the Sandy River Gorge

Leader: Jason Dumont, Portland area preserves manager
Date: Friday, May 9, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Start: Portland Area (Oxbow Park)
Cost: \$45/person
Limit: 15

Only 30 minutes from downtown Portland, Sandy River Gorge Preserve represents nearly 40 years of successful conservation. Through cooperative, partnership-based work, much of the six miles between Dodge and Oxbow parks is in conservation ownership. The gorge, a federal wild and scenic stretch of river, is both spectacular and

difficult to see on foot, and despite its close proximity to Oregon's largest city, the river feels remote and secluded. With the removal of the Marmot Dam last year, the now free-flowing Sandy River represents one of the best hopes of saving Columbia River salmonids. Join the Conservancy and professional guides from Blue Sky Rafting on this exciting trip through the heart of the river, and see the progress we've made towards restoring the natural integrity of this special place. Price includes lunch, rafting equipment and shuttle from Oxbow Park. *Registration deadline is April 18th.*

Journey through Juniper Hills

Leader: Dr. Stu Garrett, former Nature Conservancy trustee
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Start: Prineville
Cost: \$25/person
Limit: 14

Our 14,000-acre Juniper Hills Preserve represents a diverse central Oregon landscape of ancient western juniper trees, native grasslands and ponderosa pine forests. Nestled between the Ochoco Mountains on the north and the Maury Mountains on the south, it serves as a vital migratory corridor for elk, antelope and other wildlife. John Day and Clarno "painted hills" formations highlight the preserve's fascinating geological history, while the story of the Meek Lost Wagon Train reveals another intriguing historical side. Wildflowers should be outstanding in May, and Dr. Garrett will share his expertise on both the native flora and the area's fascinating history. This trip is partially auto-based, and also includes several short walks of up to one mile on gentle grades with slight elevation gain. Price includes lunch and transportation from Prineville. *Registration deadline is April 30th.*



© Cynthia Beckwith/TNC



© Rick McEwan

Williamson River Delta Preserve: After the Dikes Came Down

Leader: Matt Barry, Williamson River Delta project manager
Date: Tuesday - Wednesday, June 10-11
Start: Klamath Falls
Cost: \$130/person (double occupancy)
\$175/person (single occupancy)
Limit: 8

One of the most challenging and pioneering wetland restoration projects in the West is underway at the Conservancy's 7,440-acre Williamson River Delta Preserve on Upper Klamath Lake. A world-class haven of biodiversity, the shallow lake hosts 2-3 million birds migrating on the Pacific Flyway,

~ continued on page 3



Western grebe © Rick McEwan

17 native fish species, eight of which are endemic, and over 15 endemic species of fresh-water mollusks. The trip begins in Klamath Falls, when we gather for dinner on Tuesday. After breakfast on Wednesday, we head north to spend the morning touring the preserve by van and seeing the details of the wetland project, including areas completed and underway. After lunch there will be a short, optional boat ride to see restoration work from the water. Price includes transportation from Klamath Falls during the trip, one night's lodging in Klamath Falls, and meals from dinner on Tuesday through lunch on Wednesday. The trip ends in Klamath Falls by 4:00 pm. *Registration deadline is May 13th.*

Zumwalt Prairie: Hiking Pine and Camp Creeks

Leader: Phil Shephard, northeast Oregon stewardship director
Date: Wednesday - Thursday, June 18-19
Start: Joseph
Cost: \$220/person (double occupancy)
\$265/person (single occupancy)
Limit: 14

In 2006, The Nature Conservancy added 6,000 acres of stunning landscape – dubbed the Pine Creek Addition - to our existing Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, bringing our total protected area to 51 square miles. The addition includes one of the three Findley Buttes that stand so prominently above the rest of the prairie and, like the rest of the preserve, hosts intact bunch grass communities and provides critical habitat to a variety of species. We'll begin this active tour by hiking the Pine Creek Addition on day one, introducing you to the buttes, prairies, flowers, forests and wildlife of the area, including an amazing 360-degree view from atop the North Findley Butte. On day two, we'll continue our tour with a visit to some of the main activity centers on the rest of the preserve, including a walk up Camp Creek and a drive from the canyon bottom to the top of the prairie. Price includes transportation from Joseph, meals from lunch on Wednesday through lunch on Thursday and one night's lodging at the Wallowa Lake Lodge in Joseph. Hikes will be from three to five miles through native prairie and forest on uneven terrain with approximately 800 feet of elevation gain. The trip ends at Wallowa Lake Lodge by 4:00 p.m. on June 19th. *Registration deadline is May 16th.*



© TNC



© Kim Lepre/TNC

Walking on Water at Sharon Fen

Leader: Molly Sullivan, southwest Oregon stewardship coordinator
Date: Wednesday, June 25
Start: Ashland
Cost: \$40/person
Limit: 12

Discover this highly unusual quaking fen – a peat-forming wetland fed by nutrient-rich runoff or groundwater – located below Grizzly Peak near Ashland. A mosaic of plant communities form thick, floating mats in this 20-acre lake preserve, including bog buckbean and bulrush, brown mosses, sedges and beds of aquatic vegetation. Surrounding forests with white fir, incense cedar, ponderosa pine and Saskatoon serviceberry also harbor a diversity of wetlands including, at the other end of the nutrient spectrum, a quaking bog. We'll travel by four-wheel drive to this

~ continued on page 4

isolated corner of the Cascades, and then walk a short distance to the fen where you'll have the opportunity to literally "walk on water." You'll also have a chance to come face-to-face with the carnivorous sundew plant as you watch it devour its insect victims. Price includes lunch and transportation during trip. *Registration deadline is May 30th.*



© Cullen Brady/TNC

The Ancient Forest of Opal Creek

Leader: Jason Seivers, field trip program manager

Date: Thursday, July 17, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Start: Stayton

Cost: \$35/person

Limit: 14

Legendary for its pristine, jade-green waters and towering, centuries-old trees, Opal Creek lies deep in the heart of Oregon's western Cascades. In 1996, federal legislation created the 20,300-acre Opal Creek Wilderness and the 13,640-acre Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area. A 1,920-acre Wild and Scenic River designation for Elkhorn Creek was also established to protect the heart of this priceless treasure. Join staff from the Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center on interpretive walks through this legendary old growth forest, and discover why this internationally-renowned gem is so magical. Between walks, enjoy a sit-down lunch at Jawbone Flats, a 75-year-old mining camp and the centerpiece of a growing education program. Walking will be on forest trails, up to four miles total, with moderate elevation gain. Price includes lunch and transportation from Stayton during the trip. *Registration deadline is*

June 20th.

Crook Point and Oregon's Wild Rivers Coast

Leader: Jason Seivers, field trip program manager

Date: Tuesday - Wednesday, July 29-30

Start: Bandon

Cost: \$310/person (double occupancy)

\$390/person (single occupancy)

Limit: 14

In remote southwestern Oregon, where wild rivers, ancient forests and craggy sea stacks are shadowed by the Siskiyou Mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to

the west, lies an enchanting, little-known secret – Oregon's Wild Rivers Coast. Jason, a former Parks and Recreation planner in the region, will provide a unique tour of some of the West Coast's most spectacular scenery. We'll visit several Nature Conservancy partnership projects including Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Blanco – Oregon's western-most point – Port Orford Heads State Park and the awe-inspiring headland at Crook Point. Now part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Crook Point is normally closed to the public, but this trip offers a rare opportunity to tour the area with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The trip includes easy to moderately challenging walks of up to two miles on varying terrain, and the price includes transportation during the trip, meals from lunch on day one through lunch on day two and one night's lodging in Bandon. *Registration deadline is June 27th.*



Crook Point © Cynthia Beckwith/TNC

Oak Savanna at Coburg Ridge Preserve

Leader: Jean Jancaitis, Willamette Valley land steward
Date: Saturday, August 16, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Start: Eugene
Cost: \$25
Limit: 12

Explore a rare Roemer's fescue prairie that provides habitat for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly, its host plant, the Kincaid's lupine, and up to 200 additional native plant species on this moderately challenging, three- to four-mile hike. Jean will lead us up to and along the 1,800-foot ridge-line of Coburg Ridge, just northeast of Eugene, to one of the few large, remaining tracts of native upland prairie in the Willamette Valley. We'll then hike down the 1,200-acre site through one of the valley's largest intact oak savannas. The site's rich biological diversity is attributed to its location in the transition zone between the Willamette Valley and the West Cascades ecoregions, where virgin fir-hemlock forests coexist with prairie species. The Nature Conservancy recently acquired a conservation easement here. Come learn how we're working closely with the landowner to restore the site's oak and prairie habitats. Cost includes lunch. *Registration deadline is July 25th.*



© Rick McEwan



© Gordon Bittner

endangered Columbian white-tailed deer and bald eagles. An instructor from the Skamokawa Paddle Center will provide stable sea kayaks and a brief introduction to sea kayak use and safety. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the boat launch and end by 3:00 p.m. to catch the incoming and outgoing tides. No previous sea kayaking experience is required, but participants should be comfortable with moderate paddling for up to two hours at a time. Price includes sea kayaks, other equipment and lunch. *Registration deadline is August 1st.*

Blind Slough Paddle

Leader: Tammy Lesh,
North Coast Land Conservancy board member
Date: Thursday, August 28, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Start: Knappa
Cost: \$95
Limit: 12

Representative of an ecosystem once common on the West Coast from Alaska to Tillamook Bay, Blind Slough Swamp is a rare Sitka spruce swamp along the lower Columbia River. This habitat type is currently endangered in Oregon and threatened throughout its range. In addition to towering Sitka spruce trees, the swamp provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species including the



Columbian white-tailed deer © Tom Stehn/USFWS



Chinook salmon © Tom and Pat Leeson

Salmon Spawning at the Middle Fork John Day River/Dunstan Homestead Preserve

Leader: Jeff Fields, Middle Fork John Day River stewardship ecologist
Date: Friday - Saturday, September 5-6
Start: John Day
Cost: \$185/person (double occupancy)
\$230/person (single occupancy)
Limit: 14

Witness a place so special wild spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead fight their way 484 miles upriver from the ocean and past three major dams to spawn in its pristine gravel beds – the Middle Fork John Day River. Because it has never had hatcheries, the John Day is an important resource for recovery of wild salmon in the Columbia Basin. For the past 18 years, the Conservancy has worked to create partnerships with state, federal, tribal and private partners to conserve and restore aquatic habitats in the upper watershed. Our base is the Dunstan Homestead Preserve. At nearly 1,200 acres, one key conservation challenge at the preserve is to restore former river meanders and stream-side vegetation to increase and improve habitat for fish, elk, beaver, songbirds and other native wildlife and plants. We'll gather on Friday in John Day for dinner together and an overview of the project site. Lodging is at the Best Western. On Saturday, after breakfast together in John Day, we'll take a driving tour of conservation and restoration projects supported by the Conservancy in the upper Middle Fork John Day basin and have lunch at the preserve. We'll return to John Day and end our trip by 5:00 p.m. Walking will be up to one mile on mostly flat ground with some uneven terrain. *Registration deadline is August 6th.*

Steens Mountain and the Alvord Desert

Leader: Heather Swartz, southeast Oregon program manager
Date: Tuesday - Friday, September 16-19
Start: Frenchglen
Cost: \$345/person (double occupancy)
\$445/person (single occupancy)
Limit: 14

This four-day tour of Steens Mountain and its surrounding wildlands takes in some of the most spectacular and important conservation areas in the West, including the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area and the Conservancy's Borax Lake Preserve. On day one, we'll gather in the evening at the historic Frenchglen Hotel, where we'll lodge for the next three nights. The next day, we'll visit hot spring-fed Borax Lake, where the endangered Borax Lake chub evolved to thrive in surface temperatures reaching 105 degrees. Then we'll visit the Alvord Desert – Oregon's driest spot – and stop for a world famous milkshake in the tiny town of Fields. On day three, we'll drive the scenic Loop Road to the 9,733-foot summit of Steens Mountain – the state's largest fault block mountain – where we'll enjoy spectacular views down glacier-carved gorges like Kiger and Little Blitzen. On our return to the hotel, we'll look for Oregon's largest herd of wild horses, estimated at over 400. Mornings and evenings will include optional birding excursions into adjacent Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and the trip includes long periods of driving as well as short, easy walks. Price includes meals from dinner on day one through breakfast on day four, three nights' lodging at the Frenchglen Hotel and transportation during the trip. Note: Lodging at the Frenchglen Hotel includes shared bathrooms. Rooms with private baths are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for an additional \$18 per night at the Drover's Inn nearby. *Registration deadline is August 15th.*



Steens Mountain's Kiger Gorge © TNC

***Call Di or Laura at 503 802-8100 to reserve your spot today.
We look forward to seeing you!***