

## Spring and Summer Wildflower Displays Within Driving Distance of Eugene Oregon

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In the southern Willamette Valley of western Oregon the wildflower season is relatively short. We have a California climate with cool damp winters and warm dry summers. By June the rains cease until October and most small plants must complete their reproduction before the dry season. Our local wildflower display is at its best in late April, May and early June, after which the Valley prairies and roadsides become golden in color and dominated by non-native species. However we are lucky to have the Columbia Gorge, the High Desert, the Coast Range and, especially the Cascade Mountains near by. With these areas in close proximity, we can extend the wildflower season from March to September by looking for flowers at higher elevations as the season advances.

The wildflower sites featured here are all within a few hours' drive of Eugene. Although many destinations require traveling on unpaved Forest Service roads and carrying maps of the National Forests, you will be rewarded with gorgeous blooms and wonderful vistas. In some cases you can drive close to these meadows, in others you will need to hike a few miles to reach the best flowering areas. Study the trip descriptions, and refer to the recommended hiking books to see if a given trip is appropriate for you and your family. Fill your gas tank before you depart and be sure your current Northwest Forest Pass is in your car. Wear appropriate clothing and boots, carry maps, lunch and water, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and be prepared for a day in the wild. Be sure to take your camera or sketchpad and a wildflower book. Remember, flowers are protected on public lands. Do not disturb the plants, stay on trails, and leave no trace of your presence.

This information courtesy of Emerald Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon. PO Box 902, Eugene, Oregon 97440. Visit our website for current field trip schedules. [www.NPSOregon.org](http://www.NPSOregon.org)

**Late March to mid-April: The Columbia River Gorge.** Eager for a really early start to your wildflower season? Visit the Columbia River Gorge about an hour's drive east of Portland, specifically the Nature Conservancy's Tom McCall Preserve along the Rowena scenic loop east of Mosier, and the

Washington side of the Columbia east of Bingen and White Salmon. Hundreds of spectacular early spring blooms can be seen here.

The site is special because of the 2-foot-tall, pink-purple Columbia desert parsley (Apiaceae: *Lomatium columbianum*), and the equally tall yellow arrow leaved balsamroot (Asteraceae: *Balsamorhiza sagittata*). Other flowers include the dainty yellow spring gold (Asteraceae: *Crocidium multicaule*), in wet areas, rusty popcorn flower (Boraginaceae: *Plagiobothrys nothofulvus*), bright blue small flowered lupine (Fabaceae: *Lupinus polycarpus*), white varileaf phacelia (Hydrophyllaceae: *Phacelia heterophylla*), parasitic naked broom rape (Orobanchaceae: *Orobanche uniflora*), white or pink narrow leaved owl clover (Scrophulariaceae: *Castilleja attenuata*), bright purple grass widows (Iridaceae: *Olsynium douglasii*), large flowered triteleia or cluster lily (Liliaceae: *Triteleia grandiflora* ssp. *howellii*), yellow bells (Liliaceae: *Fritillaria pudica*), and many more!

Drive the Columbia River freeway I-84 east past Hood River, taking Exit 69 into Mosier. Follow the Scenic Loop road southeast past orchards for 6.6 miles to the Rowena Crest parking area. This is the Tom McCall Preserve. Be sure to leave your car in the windy parking lot and hike the trail which meanders north toward a spectacular Columbia River overlook. To get to Bingen and White Salmon, continue east on I-84 to Hood River. Cross the toll bridge to the Washington side and drive east on Highway 14, taking side roads into the hills at such locations as Catherine Creek, Major Creek, Rowland Lake, and Lyle. Interesting flowers, Indian petroglyphs and restrooms can be found at Horsethief Lake State Park about 25 miles east of White Salmon. **Watch for poison oak!** You will find color photos and maps in Russ Jolley's wonderful book, *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge*.

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**Early April: Kentucky Falls Trail in the Coast Range west of Eugene.** You will hike to lovely waterfalls through a shady old growth western hemlock forest with lush mosses and some species which are more common in the redwood forests further south.

For example, sharp eyes may spot a rare shrub with the amusing name western wahoo (Celastraceae: *Euonymus occidentalis* var. *occidentalis*). Also to be found here are: lovely pink coast fawn lily (Liliaceae: *Erythronium revolutum*), and two currants, common red flowering currant (Grossulariaceae: *Ribes sanguineum* var. *sanguineum*) and along streams the stinking currant (Grossulariaceae: *Ribes bracteosum*). On wet cliffs look for Marshall's saxifrage (Saxifragaceae: *Saxifraga marshallii*) and the long tresses of Oregon selaginella (Selaginellaceae: *Selaginella oregana*). At streamside you may see the golden saxifrage (Saxifragaceae: *Chrysosplenium glechomifolium*) and fetid adder's tongue (Liliaceae: *Scoliopus hallii*).

Travel west from Eugene on Highway 126 toward Florence. Six miles west of Walton, turn south on Whittaker Creek Road. Go 1.5 miles and turn right. In another 1.5 miles bear left on Dunn Ridge Road. After 6.9 miles take a left on a gravel road

to Reedsport. In 2.7 miles turn on Forest Service Road 23 for 1.6 miles, then right on Road 2300.919 for 2.7 miles to the trailhead. The trail along Kentucky Creek takes you downhill to the falls. There is a maze of logging roads in this area, thus it is strongly recommended that you carry a map of the Siuslaw National Forest.

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**Late April and early May: Mount Pisgah Arboretum.** This destination, just east of Eugene, provides the best and most accessible early spring wildflower display in Lane County! Many habitats from forest to riparian areas, rich meadows and open hillsides await the visitor. Especially striking here is the open savannah with scattered 300-year-old Garry oaks (Fagaceae: *Quercus garryana* var. *garryana*). A list of nearly 500 species is available at the Arboretum office for 25 cents.

Here are a few highlights: Beside the Visitor Center the tall blue Pacific hound’s tongue (Boraginaceae: *Cynoglossum grande*), in open meadows the annual baby blue-eyes (Hydrophyllaceae: *Nemophila menziesii* var. *atomaria*). Among the ancient oaks are fields of blue camas (Liliaceae: *Camassia leichtlinii* var. *suksdorfii*), the beloved Oregon fawn lily (Liliaceae: *Erythronium oregonum*), fuzzy white cat’s ear (Liliaceae: *Calochortus tolmiei*), and the endemic Rose Family shrub osoberry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*). In the forest look for fairy slipper orchid (Orchidaceae: *Calypso bulbosa* var. *occidentalis*), and the herb yerba buena (Lamiaceae: *Satureja douglasii*). Along the Willamette River and in the Water Garden see white alder (Betulaceae: *Alnus rhombifolia*), also the seldom-seen shrub western wayfaring tree (Caprifoliaceae: *Viburnum ellipticum*), the gorgeous blue poison larkspur (Ranunculaceae: *Delphinium trolliifolium*), and in June strawberry-ice-cream-colored blooms of steeplebush (Rosaceae: *Spiraea douglasii* var. *douglasii*), and dozens more.

Mount Pisgah Arboretum (541-747-3817) is located in Buford Park Recreation Area approximately 3 miles east of Eugene at 34901 Frank Parrish Road. Take 30th Avenue across I-5; continue east on Seavey Loop Road across the Coast Fork of the Willamette River. Trail maps and plant lists may be purchased at the Visitor Center. **Watch for poison oak!** The Arboretum sponsors wildflower walks in the spring; call for their schedule. E-mail: [mtpisgah@efn.org](mailto:mtpisgah@efn.org)  
Web site: [www.efn.org/~mtpisgah](http://www.efn.org/~mtpisgah)

**Every year, the Sunday after Mother’s Day, Mount Pisgah Arboretum hosts its Wildflower Festival. You will find hundreds of labeled wildflowers and a plant sale, plus food and events in a carnival-like setting. Bring the family for a day of fun! Don’t miss it.**

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**Late April and early May: Spencer Butte.** This is another nearby site with a wide diversity of plant species. An uphill hike of less than a mile takes you through dense forest and open meadow, with a final rocky ascent to the 2,000-foot summit. Choose the trail up the east side of the Butte. Hundreds of species have been noted including a number of very interesting rock ferns. Here are some highlights: In the woods in earliest spring snow queen (Scrophulariaceae: *Synthyris reniformis*), a bit later mustard family-member spring beauty (Brassicaceae: *Cardamine nuttallii* var. *nuttallii*), fairy slipper orchid (Orchidaceae: *Calypso bulbosa*), and bleeding heart (Fumariaceae: *Dicentra formosa*). Further up you will encounter the evergreen twinflower (Caprifoliaceae: *Linnaea borealis* var. *longiflora*), small flowered alumroot (Saxifragaceae: *Heuchera micrantha* var. *micrantha*), and salal (Ericaceae: *Gaultheria shallon*). The Butte is home to three species of yellow violets: evergreen violet (*Viola sempervirens*), Shelton’s violet (*Viola sheltonii*), and upland violet (*Viola praemorsa*), all in the family Violaceae. In open rocky areas near the summit grow the gorgeous purple-flowered grass widows (Iridaceae: *Olsynium douglasii*), the pale parasitic broom rape (Orobanchaceae: *Orobanche uniflora*), Henderson’s shooting star (Primulaceae: *Dodecatheon hendersonii*), another parasite, the bastard toad flax (Santalaceae: *Comandra umbellata*), three diminutive annuals in the Figwort Family: small flowered blue-eyed-Mary (*Collinsia parviflora*), yellow chickweed monkeyflower (*Mimulus alsinoides*), and baby innocence (*Tonella tenella*). Amid these same rocks grow the five little ferns: brittle fern (Dryopteridaceae: *Cystopteris fragilis*), Indians’ dream (*Aspidotis densa*), lace fern (*Cheilanthes gracillima*), American parsley fern (*Cryptogramma acrostichoides*), and gold back fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*), the last four in the family Pteridaceae.

From Eugene city center travel approximately 4 miles south on Willamette Street to the Park entrance on your left. The trail is often crowded on weekends. **Watch for poison oak!** Spencer Butte is part of the Eugene City Parks system. Please leave your dog at home.

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**Late May to early June: Smith Rock State Park north of Redmond.** On the way stop at Indian Ford Campground west of Sisters to see our native western peony, (Paeoniaceae: *Paeonia brownii*). Like the Columbia Gorge, Smith Rock is east of the Cascade Mountains and provides beautiful flowers in a spectacular geologic setting. At the top of the trail you will find yourself in a

western juniper-sagebrush community. Here you will see some wonderful east-side species.

The famous bitterroot (Portulacaceae: *Lewisia rediviva*), first discovered in Montana by Lewis and Clark, grows in the scree at the top of the trail. Along the downhill trail to the river, look for bright pink showy phlox (Polemoniaceae: *Phlox speciosa*), tall yellow arrow-leaved balsamroot (Asteraceae: *Balsamorhiza sagittata*), and dainty blue narrow leaved phacelia (Hydrophyllaceae: *Phacelia linearis*). Near the Crooked River look for the introduced boxelder (Aceraceae: *Acer negundo*), several species of yellow fiddleneck (Boraginaceae: *Amsinckia* spp.), white corn salad (Valerianaceae: *Plectritis macrocera*), and Indian currant (Grossulariaceae: *Ribes cereum* var. *ceruum*).

Smith Rock State Park, a famous rock-climbing site, is on the Crooked River in Oregon's high desert. Cross the Cascades on the McKenzie River Highway 126 to Sisters and Redmond. At Redmond turn north on Highway 97 and drive about 4 miles to Terrebone. At Terrebone turn right (east) and follow the signs about 3 miles to the State Park. Take the well-marked trail down into the Crooked River Gorge. (There is a parking fee.)

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**Early June: Mary's Peak southwest of Corvallis.** This mountain supports an unusual flora, especially as you reach the bald areas near the summit. Here you will find the most extensive noble fir forest in the Coast Range. Some of the unusual examples of a more eastern flora which has persisted here from warmer times are: Douglas's catchfly (Caryophyllaceae: *Silene douglasii* var. *douglasii*), blue dwarf lupine (Fabaceae: *Lupinus lepidus*), spreading phlox (Polemoniaceae: *Phlox diffusa*), bright yellow sulfur flower buckwheat (Polygonaceae: *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *umbellatum*), scalloped onion (Liliaceae: *Allium crenulatum*), yellow glacier lily (Liliaceae: *Erythronium grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum*), and tiger lily (Liliaceae: *Lilium columbianum*).

Mary's Peak, at 4,097 feet, is the highest point in the Oregon Coast Range. It lies about 20 miles sw of Corvallis in the Siuslaw National Forest. From Eugene take Highway 99W north toward Corvallis. About 6 miles north of Monroe turn left (west) on Greenberry Road and follow this to Highway 34. Go left (south) on 34 for about 5 miles to Mary's Peak Road (30). Follow this to parking lots, campgrounds and trailheads.

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**Early to mid-June: North Shore Lookout Point Reservoir.** This road is recommended for "mountain bike botany." Ride along and stop frequently to see a progression of colorful species as you encounter varied habitats. Examples of the flowers to be found are: Hall's lomatium (Apiaceae: *Lomatium hallii*), Oregon sunshine (Asteraceae: *Eriophyllum lanatum* var. *achillaeoides*) the very early-blooming colts foot (Asteraceae: *Petasites frigidus* var. *palmaris*), bell shaped catchfly (Caryophyllaceae: *Silene campanulata* ssp. *glandulosa*), spatulate leaved stonecrop (Crassulaceae: *Sedum spathulifolium* ssp. *spathulifolium*), riverbank lupine (Fabaceae: *Lupinus rivularis*), whipplevine (Hydrangeaceae: *Whipplea modesta*), the early blooming Suksdorf's mist maiden (Hydrophyllaceae: *Romanazoffia californica*), native heal-all (Lamiaceae: *Prunella vulgaris* var. *lanceolata*), western yellow woodsorrel (Oxalidaceae: *Oxalis suksdorfii*), bluefield gilia (Polemoniaceae: *Gilia capitata* ssp. *capitata*), Menzies' larkspur (Ranunculaceae: *Delphinium menziesii*), red columbine (Ranunculaceae: *Aquilegia formosa*), redstem ceanothus (Rhamnaceae: *Ceanothus sanguineus*), harsh paintbrush (Scrophulariaceae: *Castilleja hispida* var. *hispida*), yellow monkeyflower (Scrophulariaceae: *Mimulus guttatus*), western blue-eyed-grass (Iridaceae: *Sisyrinchium idahoense* var. *idahoense*), Tolmie's cat's ear (Liliaceae: *Calochortus tolmiei*), ookow (Liliaceae: *Dichelostemma congestum*), and Hooker's fairy bells (Liliaceae: *Prosartes hookeri*).

Drive east on Highway 58 about 3 miles past the upper end of Lookout Point Reservoir. (Do not go as far as Oakridge.) Turn north to Westfir. At Westfir take the bridge across the North Fork of the Willamette River and follow the winding road west, which takes you to Forest Service road 5821 (West Boundary Road) along the north shore of the reservoir. **Warning:** Stop, look, and listen carefully before crossing the very busy Southern Pacific RR tracks! Carry a map of the Willamette National Forest. The level bike ride along the north shore is approximately 10 miles one way. Some portions of the road are unmaintained.

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**Early to mid-June: Tire Mountain north of Westfir.** By late June snow will be gone from all but the highest peaks in the western Cascades and flowers will start to bloom. Fortunately melting occurs at Tire Mountain meadows a bit earlier so we can recommend this hike in early to mid-June. For the rest of the mountain wildflower locations below you will need to wait a couple more weeks. Butterflies are abundant here. Look for a fantastic display of deltoid balsamroot (Asteraceae: *Balsamorhiza deltoidea*), meadows of rosy plectritis (Valerianaceae: *Plectritis congesta*) punctuated with blue accents of Menzies' larkspur (Ranunculaceae: *Delphinium menziesii*). The unusual western wayfaring tree (Caprifoliaceae: *Viburnum ellipticum*) is found in places here.

Learn to identify five species of *Lomatium* in the Parsley Family (Apiaceae): fern leaved lomatium (*Lomatium dissectum* var. *dissectum*), Hall's lomatium (*Lomatium hallii*), few fruited lomatium (*Lomatium martindalei* var. *martindalei*), pestle desert parsley (*Lomatium nudicaule*), and spring gold (*Lomatium utriculatum*); and three species of *Penstemon* (Scrophulariaceae): rock penstemon (*Penstemon rupicola*), hotrock penstemon (*Penstemon deustus* var. *deustus*), and Cardwell's penstemon (*Penstemon cardwellii*). On rocky outcrops see the lovely Tolmie's cat's ear (Liliaceae: *Calochortus tolmiei*), scalloped onion (Liliaceae: *Allium crenulatum*), and sulphur flower buckwheat (Polygonaceae: *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *umbellatum*). Return in July for masses of bluefield gilia (Polemoniaceae: *Gilia capitata*).

Drive east on Highway 58 to Westfir. From there, continue northeast 4.5 miles up the North Fork of the Willamette River on paved Road 19. Turn left on gravel road 1912 for 6.6 steep miles to Windy Pass. Go straight on Road 1910 for 0.4 mile and then fork right onto road 1911 for another 0.4 mile to the "Alpine Trail" sign on the left. (Botanists sometimes have to share this spectacular trail with mountain bikes.) Carry a map of the Willamette National Forest. On the trail, keep right at the fork at milepost 1.2. It is 3.8 miles to the summit of Tire Mountain, but the wildflowers listed here can be seen in the first 2.5 miles.

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**Late June and early July: Cone Peak and Iron Mountain in the Western Cascades east of Albany.** Here you will find a breathtaking display of brightly colored species, many in a natural rock-garden setting. Some of the more spectacular flowers are: Cascade aster (Asteraceae: *Aster ledophyllus*), inside-out flower (Berberidaceae: *Vancouveria hexandra*), tall lungwort (Boraginaceae: *Mertensia paniculata* var. *borealis*), field chickweed (Caryophyllaceae: *Cerastium arvense*), Cascade stonecrop (Crassulaceae: *Sedum divergens*), western blue flax (Linaceae: *Linum lewisii* var. *lewisii*), showy polemonium (Polemoniaceae: *Polemonium pulcherrimum* ssp. *pulcherrimum*), scarlet gilia (Polemoniaceae: *Ipomopsis aggregata* ssp. *formosissima*), mountain shooting star (Primulaceae: *Dodecatheon jeffreyi*), red columbine (Ranunculaceae: *Aquilegia formosa*). In rocky areas above Cone Peak meadows look for the unusual ivesia (Rosaceae: *Ivesia gordonii*). Wonderful species in the Figwort Family (Scrophulariaceae) are: common paintbrush (*Castilleja miniata* ssp. *miniata*), leafy lousewort (*Pedicularis racemosa* var. *racemosa*), small flowered penstemon (*Penstemon procerus* var. *brachyanthus*), and rock penstemon (*Penstemon rupicola*). Among the monocots are: Queen's cup (Liliaceae: *Clintonia uniflora*), Washington lily (Liliaceae: *Lilium washingtonianum*), bear grass (Liliaceae: *Xerophyllum tenax*), long tubed iris (Iridaceae: *Iris chrysophylla*), and fairy slipper (Orchidaceae: *Calypso bulbosa* var. *occidentalis*).

Avoid the Iron Mountain trail on sunny weekends as it is likely to be crowded. From Eugene take the McKenzie River Highway 126 toward Santiam Pass and its junction with Highway 20. Turn left (west) on Highway 20 for 6 to 8 miles and watch for the parking areas for Cone Peak Trail, and about a mile further west, Iron Mountain Trail. Both are excellent wildflower hikes. It is 1.7 moderate miles to the summit of Iron Mountain from the Iron Mountain trailhead; or about 1.8 easy miles to Cone Peak meadows from the Cone Peak trailhead. For a more strenuous day, make a loop and visit both areas. Arrange a car shuttle between trailhead parking areas. The book to carry with you is Ross and Chambers' *Wildflowers of the Western Cascades*, which was written especially for this area.

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### **Late June and early July: Patterson Mountain Meadow west of Oakridge.**

A one-mile walk through old growth forest takes you to an open meadow, which is a favorite feeding place for elk. Watch for runningpine clubmoss (Lycopodiaceae: *Lycopodium clavatum*) in the forest. Some of the gems of the wet meadow are: western coneflower (*Rudbeckia occidentalis*), arrowleaf groundsel (Asteraceae: *Senecio triangularis* var. *triangularis*), western swamp laurel (Ericaceae: *Kalmia microphylla*), Cooley's hedgenettle (Lamiaceae: *Stachys cooleyae*), great polemonium (Polemoniaceae: *Polemonium carneum*), western bistort (Polygonaceae: *Polygonum bistortoides*), plantain leaved buttercup (Ranunculaceae: *Ranunculus alismifolius* var. *alismifolius*), western blue-eyed-grass (Iridaceae: *Sisyrinchium idahoense* var. *idahoense*), tiger lily (Liliaceae: *Lilium columbianum*), rosy twistedstalk (Liliaceae: *Streptopus lanceolatus* var. *curvipes*), Cascade false hellebore, (Liliaceae: *Veratrum californicum* var. *caudatum*), white flowered bog orchid (Orchidaceae: *Platanthera dilatata* var. *leucostachys*), and many more.

Take Highway 58 east toward Oakridge. When you get to the upper end of Lookout Point Reservoir watch for Shady Dell Campground on your right. Turn right here and drive up Forest Service Road 5847 for 7.8 miles through clearcuts. Turn right on road 555 for 0.3 mile. Park at the trailhead for Lone Wolf Shelter. Carry a map of the Willamette National Forest.

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### **Late June to mid July: Tidbits Mountain north of Blue River Reservoir.**

This is an easy 4-mile round trip hike. A few highlights of the wonderful and diverse flora are: runningpine clubmoss (Lycopodiaceae: *Lycopodium clavatum*), Cascade daisy (Asteraceae: *Erigeron cascadenis*), Scots harebell (Campanulaceae: *Campanula rotundifolia*), four species of *Sedum*, fool's huckleberry (Ericaceae: *Menziesia ferruginea*), Brewer's mitrewort (Saxifragaceae: *Mitella breweri*), woodland beardtongue (Scrophulariaceae: *Nothochelone nemorosa*), curved beak lousewort (Scrophulariaceae: *Pedicularis contorta*), small flowered penstemon (Scrophulariaceae: *Penstemon procerus*

var. *brachyanthus*) the last two beyond the loop trail, woodland phlox (Polemoniaceae: *Phlox adsurgens*), scalloped onion (Liliaceae: *Allium crenulatum*), and glacier lily (Liliaceae: *Erythronium grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum*). Return in late August through September to see masses of blue mountain bog gentian (Gentianaceae: *Gentiana calycosa*).

Follow the McKenzie River Highway 126 east past the town of Blue River. About 3 miles further turn left on Road 15 to Blue River Reservoir. Follow this for 4.8 miles to end of the pavement. Continue straight on gravel Road 1509 up Tidbits Creek for 8.3 miles. Take steep Road 877 a short distance to the trailhead. As you hike you will pass the ruins of a forest shelter. Turn left here toward the 5,184-foot summit with the remains of an old lookout. Carry a map of the Willamette National Forest.

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**Late June to mid-July: Horsepasture Mountain southeast of McKenzie Bridge.** This hike offers a number of beautiful and unusual flowers in varying habitats. Some special examples are: turkey peas (Apiaceae: *Orogenia fusiformis*), stickseed (Boraginaceae: *Hackelia micrantha*), Oregon bluebells (Boraginaceae: *Mertensia bella*), western wallflower (Brassicaceae: *Erysimum capitatum* var. *capitatum*), spurred lupine (Fabaceae: *Lupinus arbustus*), scarlet gilia (Polemoniaceae: *Ipomopsis aggregata* ssp. *formosissima*), heart leaved buckwheat (Polygonaceae: *Eriogonum compositum* var. *compositum*), spotted saxifrage (Saxifragaceae: *Saxifraga bronchialis* var. *vespertina*), harsh paintbrush (Scrophulariaceae: *Castilleja hispida* var. *hispida*), and Baker’s violet (Violaceae: *Viola bakeri*). Brewer’s monkeyflower (Scrophulariaceae: *Mimulus breweri*), a tiny, easy-to-miss pink annual, is nestled in rock garden areas. Lily family members here include mountain cat’s ear (*Calochortus subalpinus*), glacier lily (*Erythronium grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum*), and beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*).

Drive the McKenzie River Highway 126 east to McKenzie Bridge. At the east end of the bridge, turn south onto paved Horse Creek Road for 1.7 miles. Just after the Horse Creek group campground, turn right onto Road 1993 and follow this for 8.6 winding miles. Park at the second hiker sign on the right to begin your hike. After 80 yards, turn sharply left when you reach the first junction at Horsepasture Saddle. After 0.7 mi. the trail zigzags to the craggy summit 1.4 miles above the saddle. On the open east side the wildflowers are wonderful. Carry a map of the Willamette National Forest.

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**Mid-July: Bohemia Mountain, southeast of Cottage Grove.** This area, in the heart of Lane County’s historic mining district, has long been a favorite destination of botanists who wish to see species found nowhere else in Lane County. The location is in the Umpqua National Forest approximately 40 miles southeast of Cottage Grove. Some highlights of the flora are: tall western groundsel (Asteraceae: *Senecio integerrimus* var. *exaltatus*), Howell’s flatseed rockcress (Brassicaceae: *Arabis platysperma* var. *howellii*), alpine candytuft (Brassicaceae: *Thlaspi montanum* var. *montanum*), Rocky Mountain honeysuckle (Caprifoliaceae: *Lonicera utahensis*), Nevada deervetch (Fabaceae: *Lotus nevadensis* var. *douglasii*), Nuttall’s linanthus (Polemoniaceae: *Linanthus nuttallii* ssp. *nuttallii*), small flowered penstemon (Scrophulariaceae: *Penstemon procerus* var. *brachyanthus*), rock penstemon (*Penstemon rupicola*), and Washington lily (Liliaceae: *Lilium washingtonianum*).

Leave the I-5 freeway at Cottage Grove and follow the signs to Dorena Lake. Continue along this paved road through Culp Creek and Disston. Continue southeast and after about 30 miles you will find a pointer for Fairview Peak. Turn right onto gravel Road 2212 and follow this 8.4 miles to Champion Saddle where you turn left on Road 2460, which becomes narrow, steep and rough. Continue 1.1 miles to a 4-way junction at Bohemia saddle. Park here and walk 10 yards to the left to the Bohemia Mountain Trail. The hike up the mountain is an easy 1.6 miles round trip. (At the base of the mountain are the old buildings of a once-bustling gold mining town now on private property.) Carry a map of the Umpqua National Forest.

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**Mid to late July: Blair Lake Meadows northeast of Oakridge.** This area, a large natural oasis amid clearcuts, features flowers of forest and open areas, dry habitats, wet meadows, ponds, and streams. Hummingbirds spend the early summer here, feeding their nestlings on the nectar of scarlet gilia and paintbrush. Some of the spectacular wildflowers are: kneeling angelica (Apiaceae: *Angelica genuflexa*), western coneflower (Asteraceae: *Rudbeckia occidentalis*), arrowleaf groundsel (Asteraceae: *Senecio triangularis* var. *triangularis*), vanillaleaf (Berberidaceae: *Achlys triphylla*), Sitka alder (Betulaceae: *Alnus viridis* ssp. *sinuata*), tall lungwort (Boraginaceae: *Mertensia paniculata* var. *borealis*), diminutive Scouler’s harebell (Campanulaceae: *Campanula scouleri*), Oregon boxwood (Celastraceae: *Paxistima myrsinites*), bunchberry (Cornaceae: *Cornus unalaschkensis*), one sided wintergreen (Ericaceae: *Orthilia secunda*), golden chinquapin (Fagaceae: *Chrysopsis chrysophylla* var. *chrysophylla*), Cooley’s hedgenettle (Lamiaceae: *Stachys cooleyae*), scarlet gilia (Polemoniaceae: *Ipomopsis aggregata* ssp.

*formosissima*), monk’s hood (Ranunculaceae: *Aconitum columbianum* ssp. *viviparum*), marsh cinquefoil (Rosaceae: *Potentilla palustris*), large boykinia (Saxifragaceae: *Boykinia major*), common paintbrush (Scrophulariaceae: *Castilleja miniata* ssp. *miniata*), elephant’s head (Scrophulariaceae: *Pedicularis groenlandica*), skunk cabbage (Araceae: *Lysichiton americanus*), and mountain cat’s ear (Liliaceae: *Calochortus subalpinus*). The unusual false asphodel (Liliaceae: *Triantha occidentalis* ssp. *brevistyla*) can be seen at the margins of Blair Lake. Among the orchid family members here are spotted

coralroot (*Coralorrhiza maculata*), white flowered bog orchid (*Platanthera dilatata* var. *leucostachys*), and hooded ladies’ tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*). Beargrass (Liliaceae: *Xerophyllum tenax*) blooms abundantly here in some years.

Drive 9 miles east of Oakridge on paved Salmon Creek Road number 24, turn left on gravel Forest Service Road 1934 for 8 rather steep miles, turn right on Road 733 for 1.3 miles to Blair Lake. Use low gear coming back down Road 1934. Carry a map of the Willamette National Forest.

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**Mid-July to August: Moon Point Trail south of Oakridge.** This is an almost flat 1-mile walk with a spectacular viewpoint, colorful flowers and abundant butterflies. A few highlights are: ranger’s buttons (Apiaceae: *Sphenosciadium capitellatum*), green flowered wild ginger (Aristolochiaceae: *Asarum wagneri*), leafy daisy (Asteraceae: *Erigeron foliosus* var. *confinis*), Eastwood’s daisy (Asteraceae: *Erigeron aliciae*), woolly sunflower (Asteraceae: *Eriophyllum lanatum* var. *lanatum*), silverback luina (Asteraceae: *Luina hypoleuca*), horsemint (Lamiaceae: *Agastache urticifolia* var. *urticifolia*), scarlet gilia (Polemoniaceae: *Ipomopsis aggregata* ssp. *formosissima*), mountain owllover (Scrophulariaceae: *Orthocarpus imbricatus*), wood betony (Scrophulariaceae: *Pedicularis bracteosa* var. *flavida*), northern valerian (Valerianaceae: *Valeriana sitchensis*), leopard lily (Liliaceae: *Lilium pardalinum* ssp. *pardalinum*), and white flowered bog orchid (Orchidaceae: *Platanthera dilatata* var. *leucostachys*).

Take Highway 58 to Oakridge. Turn south on Road 21 to Hill’s Creek Reservoir. After 18.4 miles, turn left on Road 2129 for an additional 8 miles, then uphill on Road 439 for 1.5 miles to the trailhead on the right. Carry a map of the Willamette National Forest.

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**Mid-July to August: Grasshopper Mountain Meadows northeast of Oakridge.** This is another wonderful butterfly site with a diverse and unusual flora. A few of the outstanding species are: Douglas maple (*Acer glabrum* var. *douglasii*), Scouler’s hawkweed (Asteraceae: *Hieracium scouleri*), tongue leaved luina (Asteraceae: *Rainiera stricta*), steer’s head (Fumariaceae: *Dicentra uniflora*), Fremont’s silk tassel (Garryaceae: *Garrya fremontii*), sticky currant, (Grossulariaceae: *Ribes viscosissimum* var. *hallii*), snapdragon skullcap (Lamiaceae: *Scutellaria antirrhinoides*), western blue flax (Linaceae: *Linum lewisii* var. *lewisii*), sulphur flower buckwheat (Polygonaceae: *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *umbellatum*), Cascade knotweed (Polygonaceae: *Polygonum cascadense*), the tiny threeleaf lewisia (Portulacaceae: *Lewisia triphylla*), small pink Brewer’s monkeyflower (Scrophulariaceae: *Mimulus breweri*), mountain owllover (Scrophulariaceae: *Orthocarpus imbricatus*), Baker’s violet (Violaceae: *Viola bakeri*), and round leaved violet (Violaceae: *Viola orbiculata*). Hike beyond the meadow to see Oregon bluebells (Boraginaceae: *Mertensia bella*).

Find Road 19 heading northeast out of Oakridge. Drive 13 miles and turn left on road 1926 for 3 miles. Turn right on Road 1927 for 2.1 miles, turn right on Road 1929 for 5.5 miles of unimproved road. Park at the trailhead. A 1.4-mile climb takes you to wildflower meadows with filtered alpine views of the Sisters. Carry a map of the Willamette National Forest.

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**Early August: Cupit Mary Meadow east of Oakridge and west of Waldo Lake in the Waldo Lake Wilderness.** Some of the beautiful species to be enjoyed here are: broad leaved arnica (Asteraceae: *Arnica latifolia*), bog St. John’s wort (Hypericaceae: *Hypericum anagalloides*), grass of Parnassus (Parnassiaceae: *Parnassia cirrata* var. *intermedia*), Howell’s monkshood (Ranunculaceae: *Aconitum columbianum* ssp. *viviparum*), marshmarigold (Ranunculaceae: *Caltha leptosepala*), slender boykinia (Saxifragaceae: *Boykinia occidentalis*), primrose monkey flower (Scrophulariaceae: *Mimulus primuloides* var. *primuloides*), Cardwell’s penstemon (Scrophulariaceae: *Penstemon cardwellii*), green false hellebore (Liliaceae: *Veratrum viride* var. *eschscholtzii*), and beargrass (Liliaceae: *Xerophyllum tenax*).

In Oakridge find paved Salmon Creek Road number 24 heading east. Follow Road 24 for 11 miles to a fork. Take the right hand fork and drive 2 miles until the pavement ends. 1/2-mile later take a sharp turn to the left onto road 2422. Drive about 10 miles to the Wilderness boundary. The trail to the meadows is two miles long with an 850-foot loss in elevation. Bill Sullivan promises you will be hip-deep in wildflowers! See his book *100 Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades* for more information about other wildflower hikes. Carry a map of the Willamette National Forest.

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ALL PLANTS IN THESE LOCATIONS ARE PROTECTED FROM PICKING OR OTHER DISTURBANCE.

We are indebted to Bill Sullivan for directions to many of these wildflower destinations. His hiking books are listed below.

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Here are some recommended books to read before your wildflower trip and to carry with you in pocket or backpack.

Gilkey and Dennis, *Handbook of Northwestern Plants*. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, 2001

Russ Jolley, *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge*. Oregon Historical Society Press, Portland, 1988.

Rhoda Love, Editor, *Mount Pisgah Arboretum Guidebook*. Mount Pisgah Arboretum, Eugene, 1999.

Pojar and MacKinnon, *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*. Lone Pine Press, Redmond, Washington, 1994.

Ross and Chambers, *Wildflowers of the Western Cascades*. Timber Press, Portland, 1988.

Simpson, et al., *Vascular Plants of Lane County Oregon: An Annotated Checklist*, Emerald Chapter, Native Plant Society of Oregon, 2002. (The reference for scientific and common names used above.)

William Sullivan, *100 Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades*. Navillus Press, Eugene, 1991.

William Sullivan, *100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon*. Navillus Press, Eugene, 1993.

Jerold Williams, *Afoot in Lane County*. Calapooya Books, Eugene, 1989.