

SUNDAY MORNING TRIPS (June 4, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, except 8:30 am - 3:30 pm for Tire Mtn only)

	# people (exclud. leader)	SITE/TRIP	DESCRIPTION	Leader
4-1	12	Dorena/Row	Prairies east of Cottage Grove on Dorena Lake (Reservoir).	COE botany staff
4-2	12	Howard Buford Recr. Area: Piedmont & CF Willamette River	This easy hike showcases one of the best remaining occurrences of Willamette Valley prairie and oak savanna habitats near Eugene. An area of wet prairie near the beginning features many native plant species adapted to spring flooding. We'll continue across an upland prairie with additional native species, about 1-1/2 miles to a seasonal stream with buckbrush (<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i>) growing along it.	Ed Alverson
4-3	9	Horse Rock Ridge RNA	A moderate four-mile round trip leads through second-growth forest to a rocky bald with an interesting flora including species typically found at higher elevations or east of the Cascade crest. As a Research Natural Area, the flora has been well inventoried, and a list of species is available. We'll explore the plants, the pollinators, and the lichen community, and ditch the pollinators for the lichens depending upon the weather.	Bruce Waugh
4-4	10	LCC native planting area & forest trail	Native landscaping and garden at Lane Community College, followed by a walk in the woods on the hill behind campus.	Susie Holmes
4-5	10	Mohawk RNA	Explore plant-fungi interactions at Mohawk RNA, which was designated in 1984 as part of a national network for studying largely unmanaged ecosystems. We'll spend time in one of the few old-growth forests close to Eugene and discuss how fungi are critical players in these ecosystems. Gentle hike will be less than two miles, but blowdown obstacles are likely. Scent-trained dog will be with leaders, but no other dogs allowed on NPSO hikes (sorry).	Heather and Hilary Rose Dawson, Molly Widmer, and Jessica Celis
4-6	10	Native Garden	Enjoy a visit to a 8 year old suburban garden (featured in Flora of Oregon Vol 2, Landscaping with Native Plants, p6, Fig 2) where a wide variety of native plants are a major component. Many of the natives will be in bloom in early June and should be putting on an impressive show. Learn about the pros and cons of using native plants in a residential neighborhood setting and get ideas on how to incorporate them into your own garden.	Clay Gautier
4-7	12	Tire Mountain	Painterly swaths of pink, yellow, and blue color the sloping meadows of Tire Mountain each June. The relatively easy trail cuts across a number of these meadows before eventually switchbacking up to the viewless summit (most people who come for the flowers skip this part as will we). Since most of the trail lies a little below 4000', there is an interesting mix of subalpine plants and low elevations annuals. After a wet spring, it is these annuals that put on a spectacular show and make this one of the best wildflower hikes in the Western Cascades. Drive time >1 hour each way. Bring lunch, return time ~3 pm.	Tanya Harvey
4-8	20	Wild Iris Ridge	Wild Iris Ridge hosts some of the City of Eugene's best prairie and oak savanna habitat. This walk will be partly on a gravel trail and partly off, with a few rolling hills and one moderate but short climb. Wild Iris Ridge has been undergoing oak and prairie habitat enhancement since 2007, including canopy thinning, invasive shrub removal, and upland prairie restoration. We'll view remnants and restored areas, including majestic savanna oaks and wildflowers, including the site's namesake. There can be some wet spots at this time of year so wear appropriate shoes/boots.	Emily Steel
4-9	15	Willamette Confluence Preserve	This fun meander is a chance to learn riparian trees, shrubs and flowers, and have some close-up views of the lower stretches of the Middle Fork Willamette River. We'll learn a little site history, see vegetation and hydrologic restoration up close, and visit a remnant prairie and savanna in flower, too! This Preserve is owned by the McKenzie River Trust, and otherwise is closed to the general public as wild habitat. Birds abound, and if it is sunny, we might see some members of one of the biggest populations of Western Pond Turtles in the southern Willamette Valley!	Bruce Newhouse