

Ashland Newcomers Hiking Group

Hike Schedule for April 24 through May 16, 2002

Meet in Safeway parking lot in Ashland at 9:00 am; car pools will leave for trailhead by 9:05 am. Note that the May 16 hike starts at 11:30 after the monthly Newcomers meeting. We take a lunch break to allow for social interaction, so bring something to eat and drink. Be prepared for cool and/or damp weather. TH = trailhead

Coordinator: Alex Maksymowicz 482-1964; maksym@jeffnet.org

Apr 25, 2002: Upper Table Rock

TH: Follow Table Rock Road (off Biddle Rd in Central Point, near I-5, Exit 33) for 5.2 mi; turn right on Modoc Road for 1.5 mi to trailhead parking area.

Est. drive time: 45 min

Hike description: Follow trail to top of mesa, then paths on top; lots of flowers along the way

Distance: about 5mi; elev gain: 700 ft

Comments: UTR is a more gentle trail than LTR and possibly has a greater diversity of accessible flowers. However, at this time of the year it is swarming with school groups, both grade school and high school. Since there were at least five busloads of kids present at the TH, we turned around and hiked the LTR again. Some 20 people came on this hike.

May 2, 2002: Sterling Mine Ditch Trail: Tunnel Ridge TH to Bear Gulch TH

TH: Proceed west from Phoenix to Sterling Creek Rd; turn left (south) and drive to Little Applegate Road; turn left and drive to Tunnel Ridge TH

Est. drive time: 60 min

Hike description: We did this before in the fall; now we'll repeat it with flowers. One mile climb to Sterling Ditch, then 2.5 miles along the ditch to the Bear Gulch trail; after a one-mile descent, walk along the road ½ mile to starting point.

Distance: 5 mi; elev. gain: 550 ft; difficulty: moderate (elev gain occurs in first mile)

Comment: Only 5 people came on this hike: ourselves, the Hulteens, and Colleen. The Hulteens' dog, Zeus, came along too and trotted behind me most of the way, occasionally dropping back to check on Noreen. Weather was wonderful, and the flowers were abundant.

May 9, 2002: Middle Fork of the Applegate River

TH: Take Hwy 238 from Jacksonville 8 mi to Ruch; turn left onto Upper Applegate Rd for 19 mi past Applegate Lake; turn left onto Applegate Rd 1.2 mi; turn sharp right onto FS 1040 5 mi; turn right onto FS 1035 ¼ mi to TH

Hike description: Walk along the river on this national scenic trail 2.5 mi; return the same way.

Est. drive time: 75 min

Distance: 5 mi; elevation gain: about 500 ft

Comment: Nine people on hike: Hulteens, Pagani, Gorham, Audrey Thompson, Joe Mancuso, Sandy Wentzel (new), and ourselves. Cool, sunny day, wonderful trail. Calypsos were blooming along the entire trail, along with Western Trillium and Oregon

Grape. A real treat was a cluster of *Cypripedium fasciculatum* (Clustered Lady's Slipper). Walking along the river was a delight. On the way in, the lake behind Applegate Dam was full (no bathtub rings) and looked lovely too.

May 16, 2002: Grizzly Peak

Departure time from Safeway parking lot: 11:30 am, after Newcomers Club meeting

TH: Drive Dead Indian Memorial Highway 7 mi; turn left on Shale City Rd (paved but potholed); follow Grizzly Peak Trail signs: 3 mi on pavement, 2 mi on dirt

Est. drive time: 30 min

Hike description: We'll celebrate the start of the summer hiking season on this loop through forest and grassland; magnificent views. The Toothpick-Catwalk loop off Tolman Creek Rd is our back up destination in case our planned celebration turns out to be premature.

Distance: 5 miles; elev. gain: around 800 ft