

Flowers brilliant at Tire Mountain



INTO THE OUTDOORS

BY JAYSON JACOBY

One of the most enjoyable aspects of summer trips to the Cascade mountains is the variety of colorful wildflowers travelers are likely to encounter.

Although these brilliant displays cover just about the entire spectrum, they usually don't bloom until the first of June. But because of Oregon's warmer-than-usual winter and spring, most of nature's art — at least in meadows below 4,000 feet — is already in full splendor.

The seven-mile trip to Tire Mountain and back, via the Alpine and Tire Mountain trails northwest of Oakridge, passes through several wildflower-carpeted meadows and even offers splendid views of several High Cascade snowpeaks. Although this trip makes a nice, undemanding hike, it's also an adventurous and fun mountain bike ride.

Though Tire Mountain can also be reached by a trail coming in from the west, the route starting at the Alpine trailhead is more scenic.

Start by driving east of Eugene on the Willamette Pass Highway, No. 58. Thirty-one miles east of Interstate-5, turn left at the Westfir exit. After crossing a steel girder bridge over the Middle Fork Willamette River, turn left toward Westfir and the North Fork Road.

After passing several houses, the road comes to a junction with an abandoned covered bridge on the left side. Continue straight on paved Road 19. Just under three miles from the covered bridge turn left onto Road 1910, immediately crossing the North Fork of the Middle Fork Willamette.

Follow this steep gravel road eight miles to a junction and turn left onto Road 1911 for one-half of a mile to the trailhead located on the left side at a wide spot in the road. Don't miss the beautiful bird's eye view of the river from a turnout at the one-mile point on Road 1910.

The Alpine trail heads west from the trailhead through a thicket of young Douglas fir trees. At the one-half mile point, it enters an old-growth forest of fir and hemlock on the north side of the ridge before crossing over to the dry, grassy south

side.

At one mile, the trail enters the first wildflower meadow. This steep, rocky hill is home to several species of plants, including bright orange-red Indian paintbrush. The best mountain views are also from this first of several meadows.

Diamond Peak fills the view to the southeast, and Mount Bachelor, Broken Top and the South Sister loom to the east. The top halves of the Middle and North Sisters also peak up above the distant forest. Mountain bikers should take care to avoid excessive speed through this rough stretch, as the meadow's grass hides some big rocks.

The trail re-enters the deep forest at the meadow's edge and soon reaches a junction with the Tire Mountain trail. Turn right here, going uphill on the Tire Mountain trail. The Alpine trail heads downhill, eventually ending at a spur of Road 1910. Bring along a Willamette National Forest map and arrange for a car shuttle to meet you at the lower trailhead if you want to tackle this challenging descent.

The Tire Mountain trail descends for a short distance along a ridge and then enters another small meadow dotted with wildflowers. After a short uphill stretch through the trees, the trail reaches the last and largest meadow. Views from this clearing extend west to the Willamette Valley.

After this final meadow, the trail again enters a deep, dark old-growth forest, carpeted with licorice ferns and clover. The trail contours along a ridge, then rounds a sharp bend and begins heading south.

At the three-mile mark, turn left onto the uphill fork for the half-mile climb to Tire Mountain's summit. You can also continue straight ahead four miles to the west trailhead, which is also the point where the Winberry Divide trail ends.

The final climb to the summit is the most challenging part of the trip for mountain bikers, as it includes several switchbacks.

Although the trip to Tire Mountain gains less than 1,000 feet of elevation, there are a few stretches of moderate climbing. Mountain bikers should remember to bring plenty of water, as there is none available along the route.

Jayson Jacoby is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

Ultimate teams qualify for national competition

The Oregon club sports men's and women's ultimate teams qualified during the weekend to go to the national championships.

The Duck men earned a spot in the nationals by taking first place at the Western Regional Tournament in Davis, Calif., Saturday and Sunday. Oregon finished with seven wins and no losses, including an upset win over first-ranked Stanford.

The Oregon women finished 5-2 for the weekend but beat Humboldt State for the consolation championship and the second berth to visit nationals.

The national tournament will take place in Fort Collins, Colo., Memorial Day weekend.

In other Oregon Club Sports news, the Oregon club rugby team took first in the open/collegiate division

of the Portland Rugby Tournament at Delta Park during the weekend.

The Ducks opened with a 6-4 win over Douglas College. The Oregon try was scored by Greg Hunton, and Dai Toyota scored the conversion kick.

Oregon followed its win with a loss to the Corvallis Killer Bees, 13-9. Bob Schneider scored a try, and Toyota added a conversion kick and penalty kick.

The Ducks next played for the championship and shut-out Southern Oregon, 6-0. Dick Dunn scored a try for Oregon, and Toyota again made a conversion kick.

Toyota was named MVP of the division.

Oregon will next compete in a game against Oregon alumni Saturday at 1 p.m. at the field behind McArthur Court.

Ducks earn Pac-10 honors

Oregon softball players Kim Manning, Marnie McCall and Laura Schmidt were selected to the All-Pacific-10 Conference second team.

Manning, a shortstop, was fourth in the conference in hitting with a .381 average. The senior tied for the conference lead with six home runs and was second in hits with 64 and slugging percentage at .571.

McCall, an outfielder, led the

Pac-10 with a .446 batting average, 66 hits and 36 stolen bases. She collected a .473 slugging percentage and scored 32 runs.

Schmidt, also an outfielder for Oregon, was third in several team categories. She collected 44 hits, 25 RBI and maintained a .288 average.

UCLA's Lisa Fernandez was named Pac-10 Player of the Year, and Bruin coach Sharron Backus was top coach.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN U of O MAY 18-22, 1992

Monday - Wednesday, May 18 - 20 EMU Courtyard

MOCKTAILS 10:30 am - 2:00 pm

LUCY BOOTH-Alcohol Q & A 10:30 am - 2:00 pm

GRAFFITI WALL 10:30 am - 2:00 pm

WRECKED CAR ON 13th STREET

Wednesday, May 20th EMU Courtyard

OREGON STATE POLICE with a driving simulator

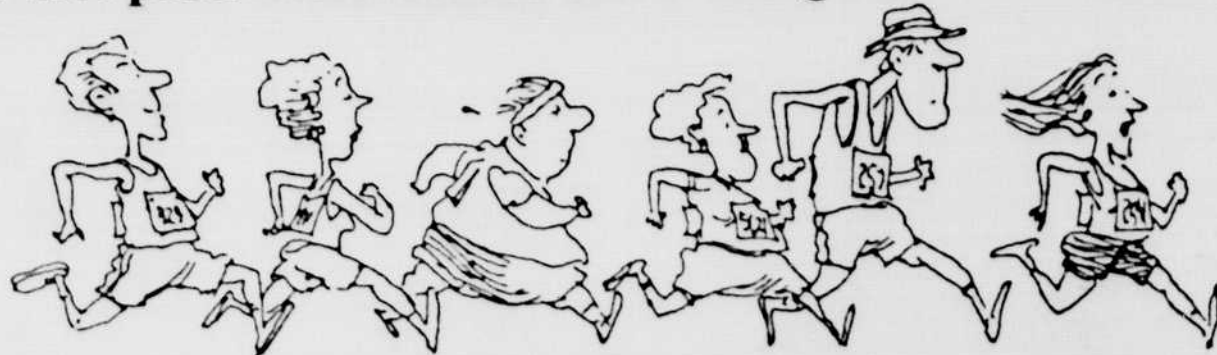
MADD facilitated alcohol breathalyzer test

KAPPA ALPHA PSI STEPPERS trampoline demonstration

MARK ALAN musician BOB MORTIMOR comedian

Thursday, May 21st Alton Baker Park

FUN RUN 4:00p.m. Alton Baker Park BBQ Pits



KEYS

Test your Alcohol IQ and win \$100 from the Bookstore and more prizes for the Fun Run

TO YOUR SUCCESS

Sponsored by Health Education, Student Health Center, Dean of Students, Project Eugene Century Council.
Contributions by East Earth Herb, OLCC, Oregon State Police.