

# OUTDOORS

## BRANCH OUT



Oregon Redwoods Trail is on Oregon's South Coast, near the town of Brookings. It's one of only two places in the state where redwoods can be found. PHOTOS BY ZACH URNESS/STATESMAN JOURNAL

### See ancient forest, unique trees on these hikes

**Zach Urness**  
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This won't come across as any surprise, but Oregon is home to some of the world's most spectacular forests and trees.

From yew to sitka, ponderosa to redwood, from redcedar to myrtle, oak, hemlock and Douglas-fir, trees are the star of the show in the Beaver State.

A few months ago — pre-pandemic — I sat down with Chandra LeGue, author of "Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide" and a field coordinator for Oregon Wild. We picked our 10 favorite tree-centric trails — hikes that are all about interesting, or unique, or downright bizarre patches of forest across the state.

Our conversation can be heard online in an episode of the Explore Oregon Podcast. But included here are our 10 picks that include trails in every corner of the state.

(Note: While most of Oregon's outdoors has reopened, double-check before traveling for COVID-19 limits or closures. See the online version of this story for links to stories with more details, including directions).

**1. Oregon Redwoods (Zach pick)**

My first pick has to be the Oregon redwoods, just because nothing quite compares with the majesty of an old-growth redwood, and because there're so few places to see them on Beaver State soil.

Redwoods just look and feel different from any other tree.

There are actually two places to hike



Sunlight breaks through the trees in the Valley of the Giants.

among Oregon redwoods and both are located around the town of Brookings in the extreme southwest corner of the state. My favorite is Oregon Redwood Trail. It's a little more remote, a little farther back there, and I love this trail because it starts off being pretty nondescript. You're hiking through the forest, pretty typical, and then the first grove of giant redwoods show up out of the mist and just tower over everything around them. I love the hikes where the trees really jump out, and that's true here.

(Listen to the podcast for a story on how the grove was saved from plans to log it).

**2. Malheur River Canyon (Chandra pick)**

Here's a great trail for a unique mix of trees: The Malheur River Trail. It begins about 5.5 miles from the river's headwaters, in the Malheur National Forest southeast of John Day, at the Malheur Ford, and heads downstream past steep

out. They have a grey-ish white, shaggy bark, with an almost golden hue to them. They stick out to pretty much everyone who hikes this trail.

One of the reasons they grow in this area is the geologic region — it's an area known as the Old Cascades. It's a much older range of mountains compared to the volcanoes of the young Cascades, and the old ones are a lot more biodiverse. A lot of really interesting wildflowers and trees all grow here, including the Alaskas, which are some of the oldest trees recorded — they can age to 1,800 years old and have kind of drooping appearance that goes along with shaggy bark.

**4. Marys Peak East Ridge-Tie Trail Loop (Chandra)**

My next pick is also best known for the spring wildflower displays in its summit meadows, but the forests that surround Marys Peak, and that shelter the Corvallis water supply, are just as worthy of exploring.

Located on the eastern edge of the Coast Range and Siuslaw National Forest, Marys Peak is the highest peak in the Coast Range and not far outside of Corvallis. The recommended 5-mile loop begins on the East Ridge Trail at Conner Camp, climbs through a tall, cathedral-like forest of Douglas-fir and vine maple, then gains elevation through a forest that transitions to a unique stand of old-growth noble firs. The loop uses the Tie Trail, which follows a moist slope of Douglas-fir and hemlock forest dotted with huge cedar trees, to return from the summit area.

**5. Myrtle Tree Trail (Zach)**

Next I'm again headed down to southwest Oregon to pick Myrtle Tree Trail — which, as you might guess, I

**3. Echo Basin (Zach)**

For my next pick I am going with Echo Basin, a 3-mile trail off South Santiam Highway near Tombstone Pass in the Cascade Range.

The reason I am picking this trail — which is typically known for spring wildflowers — is that it's home to one of Oregon's most impressive groves of Alaska Yellow Cedar. They are a really cool tree that only grows in a handful of places in Oregon and here, they stand

## Learning to 'put the ill wind behind me'

**Fishing**  
Henry Miller  
Guest columnist

Anyone who has been camping with a bunch of males knows, to put it politely, about "intentionally (releasing) a massive intestinal wind."

That was how Vienna, Austria, authorities delicately described an incident at a public park where a man was fined 500 euros (a whopping \$564) for "violating public decency" by, ahem, breaking wind intentionally at police.

"Members of the city's police force 'prefer not to be farted at,'" was the way the reporter for BBC Europe put it in an

article about the, ahem, blow-up.

You've probably heard about it.

The story, originally posted in early June, has spread virally like a beer-and-boiled-egg toot between the underground parking and the penthouse in the elevator shaft of a high-rise.

The story brought on a whiff (sorry) of nostalgia for me with the recent announcement of the re-opening of some campgrounds in the Pacific Northwest.

While the phrase "diet and exercise" generally is associated with health and fitness, it takes on a different connotation when it comes to hiking, biking, rowing, fishing, hunting and other outdoor pursuits among the Y chromosome set.

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Henry's tried and true one-person tent. HENRY MILLER/SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN