

May Day Sale

sale prices on bags, car racks, and touring accessoires for you summer adventure

20% off all Jandd and Detour, and Axiom bags

Hollywood F1B Trunk Mt car rack, msrp \$ 75 sale \$ 60

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Soma 1 qt water bottles and/or sunlite mini road pump - **HALF PRICE**

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see lots more specials on our website - bicycleway.com

check out specials on our **web store** - prices are good in our stores too ! sale ends 05/31/2011

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9am to 2pm • Saturday

May 7

20th Annual HARDY PLANT sale

... a sale by gardeners for gardeners

Info: 541-344-0896 or www.thehardyplantgroup.org

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Bathers soak in the pools at Cougar Hot Springs

PHOTO BY ROB SYDOR • DIGITALLATTE.COM

GETTING HOT

Thawing out in Lane County springs

by Shannon Finnell

May marks the time of year that Eugeneans can finally think about taking off their clothes. Lane County's hot springs are a great excuse for doing just that. Strewn about the area, they're usually no more than a 50-mile drive away.

Terwilliger (aka Cougar) Hot Springs in the Willamette National Forest is a popular hot springs site with several pools of varying temperature. Bathing suits are pretty rare here, but the Forest Service prevents it from becoming a den of sin by closely monitoring attempts to break prohibitions on alcohol, drugs and evening soaks. It's about a 55-mile drive; take Highway 126 to Forest Road 19 (between mileposts 45 and 46) and take a right. Drive to the dam (3.4 miles) and take another right, then drive on the west side of the reservoir to find a trailhead and parking lot. Day passes from the National Forest are \$5.

McCredie Hot Springs, near Oakridge, is HOT! Temperatures sometimes reach 114 degrees, a shocking change for bare Willamette Valley bottoms. There is a slippery trail into the site and a very swift creek, so this might not be the best spring for children. Take Highway 58 to the springs' parking lot between mileposts 45 and 46. A sign pointing to McCredie Station Road is next to the parking lot.

Wall Creek Warm Springs' claim to fame is its beauty, not its temperature. The cooler pool is a great summer soak, and the half-mile hike into the area will expose visitors to a beautiful forest. From the light at Highway 58 and Crestview in Oakridge, turn left and then take a right on First Street, which becomes Salmon Creek Road/Forest Road 24. Take that to Forest Road 1934 and take a left. From there it's about half a mile to the trailhead and another half mile to the springs.

Belknap Hot Springs and Lodge, on the McKenzie River, is the place to go if you're concerned about being exposed to the horrors of the human body — it's bathing suit mandatory. It has two mineral hot springs pools and a lot of gardens, if hot gets too hot and a sojourn is necessary. Overnight accommodations are also available, with a weekend two-day minimum. The cost to soak is \$7 for one hour or \$12 per day, 9 am to 9 pm. About 55 miles east of Eugene, see belknaphotsprings.com for directions & info.

Deer Creek Hot Springs is just beyond the Belknap Hot Springs, but its architect is Mother Nature. It's nestled in the bank of the McKenzie, so the river water cools down the hot springs too much to be pleasant during the winter, but during the summer and fall, when the river's at its lowest, things heat up again. The pool is about 8 feet by 12 feet, so it can get crowded if all of Oregon wants to soak at once. Nudity is normal here. About 58 miles east of Eugene on Highway 126, take a left onto Deer Creek Road and look for the path on the left just past the bridge.

Kitson Hot Springs is now on Boy Scout land. They've made the old bathhouse into a bat sanctuary. *EW* sure isn't going to tell you where it is. Keep out, unless you have a thing for trespassing — and bats.

EW