

About Your Guide

Whitey Lueck's formal training includes an undergraduate degree in horticulture, a graduate degree in forest ecology, and two years of internships as a horticulturist and landscape designer for municipal parks departments in Nantes, France and Bern, Switzerland.

Here in Eugene, he first taught in the landscape program at Lane Community College during the 1980s, then joined the faculty of the School of Architecture and Environment at the University of Oregon in 2005.

For 29 years, Whitey also taught field classes in natural history throughout the West, from the Canadian Rockies to Baja California—first through LCC (1986-2003) and later through OUT-OF-DOORS, his own company (2004-2014).

Whitey cares for several long-term landscape projects in Eugene which demonstrate a more nature-friendly approach to landscape design, plant selection, and ongoing care of the sites.

Every winter, for fun, he organizes and hosts a ten-week *Nordic Film Series* at the university that showcases the rich film industries of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland. And in summer, he hosts a five-week series from the same five countries.

Whitey is also the author of seven engaging essay collections, including:

- *Staying Put in Lane County*
- *Sixty-Four Trips Around the Sun*
- *The Trees of Eugene*
- *In Praise of Natural Silence*

Tree Walks 2023



Guided Tours
of
Our Natural Environment

TreeWalks 2023

The natural environment in the Eugene-Springfield metro area is composed of many kinds of plants, from mosses to maples, and myriad animals, from insects to humans. In these walks, the focus is on the trees, but we also discuss other plants as well as animals, and how we might design and care for our urban and suburban landscapes to better accommodate them.

Despite the many threats, both global and local, that face our natural environment, the emphasis of these walks is on having a good time while exploring some of the areas that make the upper Willamette Valley here such a pleasant place to live.

The TreeWalks take place on *Saturday mornings*—usually, but not always, the first Saturday of the month—from *10 a.m. until noon*. Please arrive a few minutes early, so we can begin promptly at ten o'clock.

Walks are generally on level, paved surfaces and they average about a mile in length; walking speed is moderate. Tours occur rain or shine. Participants receive a map of the walking tour—as well as a list of the major members of the “cast” that day—should they wish to return to the area another time.



April 1st: Sladden Park and Vicinity

We'll meet on the east side of the park, near the intersection of Cheshire Avenue and North Adams Street. After visiting and discussing the park a bit, we'll head into the adjacent neighborhood and see, among other things, a tree with arguably the largest trunk of any tree in the metro area.

May 6th: Arrow Park in Springfield

Meet at the east end of Otto Street, just south of Briggs Middle School. This brand-new park will be our departure point for exploring the adjacent neighborhood that includes century-old houses—and some mighty interesting trees—as well as a spanking-new development.

June 3rd: Razor Park and Environs

Meet on the east side of the park, near the bike path. (*You'll need to park either on Stults Avenue to the north, or in the Maurie Jacobs Park lot at the end of Fir Lane off River Road, then approach the park from the bike path.*) Where an indoor soccer field was once proposed, the restoration of a native grassland/savanna habitat is now underway. We'll visit the nearby neighborhood as well.

July 1st: Lincoln School Park and Vicinity

Meet in the park at the intersection of West 12th Avenue and Madison Street. Our tour will include both the adjacent neighborhood as well as part of the Lane County Fairgrounds. Some of the fine specimens we'll see include a valley pine, an eastern black walnut, and a grove of coast redwoods.

August 5th: Bluebelle Park in Springfield

Meet on the north side of the park, near the intersection of Bluebelle Way and South 50th Place. In this walk, we'll visit an older neighborhood in Springfield's “flower street” district, a very recent housing development nearby, and a wonderful new bike path.

September 2nd: River Road Elementary

Meet in the grove of Oregon white oaks near the old barn, along the east edge of the school site. We'll visit the new school's landscape, then the surrounding neighborhood where some amazing trees grow atop the gorgeous river loam of that part of town—including a rare Siskiyou cypress and some mighty fine giant sequoias.

October 7th: Bethel-Danebo Area

Meet at Fairfield Baptist Church on the northeast corner of Elmira Road and North Bertelsen Road. (You're welcome to use the church's parking lot.) After paying homage to the site's phenomenal eastern black walnut tree, we'll move into the adjacent neighborhood to see what we might find there.

October 28th: South University Neighborhood

Meet at the corner of East 21st Avenue and Potter Street. The relatively shallow “hill soil” here supports nonetheless some of the most massive trees in Eugene—including two contenders (a pin oak and an Atlas cedar) for “largest individual of the species” in the state of Oregon. And fall foliage might also be pretty nice about this time.