



Bulletin

of the

Native Plant Society of Oregon

Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats

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Impacts of Recreation on a Botanical Treasure

by Abbie Harold, Lucy Keehn, and Nadav Mouallem; 2017 IAE/NPSO Conservation Research Interns

Limnanthes pumila ssp. *pumila*, commonly known as dwarf woolly meadowfoam, is a small annual herb with a delicate 5-petaled white flower that blooms from March to mid-April (Figure 1). You may know its more common "cousin," white meadowfoam (*Limnanthes alba*), which is grown as a seed oil crop in the Willamette Valley. Found only on Upper and Lower Table Rocks outside of Medford, dwarf woolly meadowfoam is associated with vernal pools and seasonally wet areas unique to the Table Rocks environment. Dwarf woolly meadowfoam is a state and federal Species of Concern and is considered a List 1 taxon by the Oregon

Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC), meaning it is considered threatened with extinction throughout its range. Upper and Lower Table Rocks are collectively owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and The Nature Conservancy. In 1986 the BLM designated the area as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), in part to protect the habitat of the dwarf woolly meadowfoam.

As a rare and endemic species, the success of the dwarf woolly meadowfoam population is closely tied to the quality of the vernal pools and mounded prairie ecosystem found on the top of the Table Rocks. The Table Rock plateaus are the remnants of a lava flow that erupted from a shield volcano near Lost Creek Lake roughly 7.5

million years ago and spread through the ancient Rogue River Valley. In the intervening millions of years the Rogue River has meandered across the lava flow, eroding the rock and carving the river down to its present level. The Table Rocks as we see them today, raised 800 feet above the surrounding valley, represent the small fraction of this lava flow that has not yet been eroded. The relatively impermeable volcanic rock substrate, along with the flat topography, allows for the seasonal ponding of water in the vernal pools perched atop the plateau, a habitat that is critical not only to dwarf woolly meadowfoam, but also the endangered vernal pool fairy shrimp and dozens of native plants and wildflowers (Figure 2). The primary threats to the dwarf woolly meadowfoam include competition with invasive species such as *Taeniatherum caput-medusae* (medusahead) and *Poa bulbosa* (bulbous bluegrass), which are invasive grasses, grazing, climate change,

continued on page 5

IT'S STILL RENEWAL TIME!

The NPSO membership year is January to December. Many of you have already renewed, but if you haven't yet, please do so before February 15, 2018 to ensure that you do not miss out on any of the *Bulletins*. Before you send in your renewal, it's a good idea to check the address label on this issue of the *Bulletin*. If it shows 2018 (or a later year) along the top, you are all set for the coming year and do not need to renew now.

You can renew online at npsoregon.org/online.html

It's also a good time to consider a tax-deductible contribution to

our special funds. The Leighton Ho Memorial Award is used for research projects in western Oregon. The Rare and Endangered Plant Fund supports work with our most threatened plants. The Augusta Rockafellar and Jean Davis Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to a botany student at an Oregon college or university. You can also include a contribution to the Oregon Flora Project along with your dues.

Your membership and donations make it possible to carry out more of the many projects that are needed to pursue the goals of NPSO.

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Native Plant Society of Oregon

World Wide Web

<http://www.NPSOregon.org>

E-mail Discussion List

To join, send a message to majordomo@tardigrade.net, with the following in the body of the message: subscribe npsos

General Business Address and Membership Inquiries

P.O. Box 902
Eugene, OR 97440

Send Membership inquiries Attn: Margaret Conover, Membership Chair

To correspond directly with Officers and Committee Chairs, see the list on the inside of the back page.

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The submission date is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue except for the Aug/Sept issue which is July 24 and the Dec/Jan issue which is November 24. Send submissions by e-mail to bulletin@NPSOregon.org.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors of the articles. They do not represent the opinions of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, unless so stated.

October 2017 Board Meeting Highlights

by Steven Yeager, State Secretary

Thea Jaster of the Oregon Flora Project shared progress on the redesign of the Oregon Flora website, which is expected to launch the end of January.

Margaret Conover is now membership chair and the post office box for membership communications has merged with the general business address (PO Box 902) in Eugene.

Judi Sanders announced there is still space in the photo gallery for photograph submissions for the 2018 Native Plant Appreciation Week poster.

The website committee shared its progress. A list of authors/contributors was created for key webpage revisions that need content updates. The hope is to have these pages revised by the new year.

The 2018 Annual Meeting will be held at the Meadow Lakes Public Golf Course in Prineville. Please note change of date to June 1–3, 2018. Siskiyou Chapter will host the 2019 Annual Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to make a \$2,000 donation to the Oregon Flora Project.

Plan Now for Native Plant Appreciation Week

Though the weather outside is frightful, the arrival of spring will be so delightful. While dreaming of spring, it's never too early to start planning for Native Plant Appreciation Week, which takes place annually at the end of April. This is the largest coordinated public outreach event for the Native Plant Society of Oregon and an excellent opportunity for society chapters throughout the state to sponsor workshops, hikes, plant sales, etc. and help increase their chapter's visibility and membership. We all get much busier as the weather improves so now is the time to plan. Be sure to post your activities in the NPSO *Bulletin* and let the NPAW Committee know about them as well. Email any information to Judi Sanders at judi.sanders@gmail.com.

NPSO Seeks Candidates

Please consider taking the opportunity to serve our Society by running for election to one of the state-wide officer or at-large board of directors positions. Interested persons and people with ideas for potential candidates may contact Dan Luoma by email (daniel.luoma@oregonstate.edu) for more information.

Is the *e-Bulletin* for You?

We are pleased to offer the option to receive the *Bulletin* in electronic form. An email would be sent to you with the *Bulletin* attached as a PDF file and a link from which you can access the file on the Web. This *e-Bulletin* would replace the paper copy you receive every month in your mailbox. If you would like to receive the *e-Bulletin* rather than the paper copy, please email membership@NPSOregon.org from the email address at which you want to receive it. Also, include your name as it appears on the mailing label of your paper copy.

NPSO CALENDAR

State Notes

NPSO State Board Meeting

January 20, Saturday, 10 am-2 pm

The next state board meeting will be held at Cordley Hall room 2087 on the OSU campus in Corvallis.

NPSO Annual Meeting 2018

June 1-3, Friday-Sunday

The next Annual Meeting will be co-hosted by the Portland and High Desert Chapters June 1-3, Friday-Sunday, in Prineville.

Blue Mountain

For information on Blue Mountain Chapter call Jerry Baker, 541-566-2244. To get on our email list, contact flora.id@wtechlink.us.

Cheahmill

For questions, or to be added to the Cheahmill Chapter's email list for reminders of upcoming programs and events, please contact the Cheahmill Chapter President at ch_president@NPSOoregon.org.

Meeting and work party location:

Carnegie Room, McMinnville Public Library, 225 NW Adams St. (corner of Highway 99W and SW Second St.), McMinnville. The library parking lot may be entered from either Adams or Second street.

December 30, January 27, and February 24, Saturdays, 9 am-noon

Work Party: Native Plant Garden.

We work around the Carnegie Building with a congenial crew to maintain the beauty of this demonstration garden. Volunteers are asked to commit two hours if possible; suit yourself and arrive at either 9 or 10 am. Bring gloves, bucket, and gardening tools if you have them. Location: McMinnville Public Library, see above for details. For more information, contact Catie Anderson at catie.fishback@gmail.com or 503-435-2401.

January 25, Thursday, 7 pm

Program: Burning for Butterflies, Birds, and Blooms. Amanda Stamper, Oregon fire management officer for the Nature Conservancy, discusses the ecological role of fire in the Willamette Valley. She delves into the history of fire in the valley and how prescribed burns are being used to restore and conserve native habitats. Amanda has worked in

IMPORTANT NOTE TO FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Field trips take place rain or shine, so proper dress and footwear are essential. **BRING WATER AND LUNCH.** Trips may be strenuous and/or hazardous. Participation is at your own risk. Be prepared to sign a release form indicating this. A sample waiver form is available at http://npsoregon.org/documents/NPSO_waiver.pdf. Please contact the trip leader or chapter representative about difficulty, distance, and terrain to be expected on field trips. Dogs are not allowed. All NPSO field trips are open to the public at no charge (other than contribution to carpool driver) and newcomers and visitors are always welcome. You must pre-register for all events. National Forests require a Northwest Forest Pass for some field trip locations. Permits can be acquired at forest headquarters and ranger districts.

NOTICE TO FIELD TRIP CHAIRS AND LEADERS

The Forest Service and other agencies have set policies limiting group size in many wilderness areas to 12. The reason is to limit human impacts on these fragile areas. Groups using wilderness areas should be no larger than 12. A trip leader checklist and sample waiver form are available at: <http://npsoregon.org/calendar.html>

fire management on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and studied natural resources fire ecology at Oregon State University and the University of Idaho. Location: McMinnville Public Library, see above for details.

February 22, Thursday, 7 pm

Program: Beyond Waterfalls. Join Interpretive Ranger Matt Palmquist for an exploration of the flowering plants at Silver Falls State Park. This slide show will feature plants from every corner of the park—from beneath the misty waterfalls to deep forests and open meadows. Later in the spring, he will lead the Cheahmill Chapter on a field trip to highlight wildflowers not often seen in the park. Location: McMinnville Public Library, see above for details.

Corvallis

For questions, information on upcoming events, or to be on the Corvallis chapter email list, contact co_president@NPSOoregon.org.

January 8, Monday, 7:30 pm

Program: Collecting Seeds from Native Plants. Jon Anderson, former owner of Seven Oaks Native Plant Nursery, and current director of Jonny Native Seed, will talk about collecting seeds from native plants. Learn how to collect native seeds to enhance your own garden. When, where, how, cleaning, techniques, and the dos and don'ts as he shares his experiences. Location: Room 2087, Cordley Hall, OSU. For information, contact Louise at 541-753-0012 or Judi at judi.sanders@gmail.com.

Emerald

Visit the Emerald Chapter Web site at <http://emerald.npsoregon.org> to learn more about the latest chapter events, plant lists & botanical information about Lane County plants & the people who love them.

Meeting location: The venue for programs this season is the Amazon Community Center at 2700 Hilyard St. in Eugene. Go to the M.L.I. Room in Building "C."

December 16, Saturday, 6:30 pm

Event: Holiday Social and Picture Show. Bring 10 to 12 digital photos and a snack to share if you wish. Come and socialize with others who share your interest in native plants. Location: Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St., Eugene. For more information call 541-954-5334.

January 20, Saturday, 6:30 pm

Program: The Weird Beauty of Liverworts. Botanist Dr. David Wagner gives a talk and slideshow, with a focus on photomicrographs that get up close and personal with the graceful forms of liverworts. Hiding among the mosses in our forests are plants with a mossy aspect but in a completely different division: liverworts. Those with a ribbon-like thallus are easy to notice. Thalloid liverworts have an amazing diversity of structures from simple to complex. Leafy liverworts are more easily overlooked because they share the same life form and life cycle as mosses. Location: the Amazon Community Center at 2700 Hilyard St in Eugene. For more information call 541-344-3327.

January 21, Sunday, 10 am-1 pm

Field Trip: Life among the Mosses Walk. A follow-up to Dr. Wagner's Saturday talk, this walk will focus on lichens, liverworts, mosses, and ferns. The Native Plant Society and the Mount Pisgah Arboretum co-sponsor both events. Rain or shine. Don't forget your parking pass. Fee: \$5. Location: meet at the visitor center, Mount Pisgah Arboretum, 34901 Frank Parrish Rd, Eugene. For more information, visit mountpisgaharboretum.com/learn/walks or call 541-747-3817.

Filipendula

This is a newly formed chapter for the northern Oregon coast area. For more information, visit our Facebook page: NPSO-Filipendula Chapter, or contact Field Trip Chair Carla Cole, colectarla@yahoo.com.

February 24, Saturday, 7 pm

Field Trip: Lichen Night Hike. Many secondary compounds in fungi and lichens fluoresce distinctive colors under ultraviolet light. We will be using UV

flashlights and wearing safety glasses to look at local species on one of the main trails at Lewis & Clark National Historic Park. Raingear highly recommended. Limit 12 people. Location: Meet in front of the Fort Clatsop visitor center by the main parking lot. Contact leader Carla Cole, colectarla@yahoo.com, for more information.

High Desert

For information, visit the High Desert Chapter website: www.highdesertnpsoregon.org and Facebook page: Native Plant Society of Oregon: High Desert Chapter, or email highdesertnps@gmail.com.

Klamath Basin

For information on the Klamath Basin Chapter, visit <http://klamathbasinnps.com> or contact the chapter president, kb_president@NPSOregon.org.

Mid-Columbia

For information on the Mid-Columbia Chapter, contact Sara Wu at mc_president@NPSOregon.org.

Portland

If you would like to receive the chapter's semi-official email newsletter, The Calochortus, email Don Jacobson at donjphoto@gmail.com.

Facebook: Take a look at our Facebook page. Native Plant Society of Oregon-Portland-Chapter. It will have the most up-to-date information on hike and other events as well as great plant pictures.

The Portland Chapter meets the second Thursday of most months. Meetings and programs begin at 7:00 pm. **MEETING PLACE: TaborSpace at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, 5441 SE Belmont St., Portland.** We will meet in **Copeland Commons**; enter the church through the main door off Belmont and turn right to enter the room. Parking is available in the church lot on the NW corner of SE 54th and Belmont.

January 11, Thursday, 7 pm

Program: Citizen's Rare Care Watch Update. Botanists of the region are

monitoring sensitive and rare native plants of Oregon. Kris Freitag, coordinator, and Jason Clinch, biologist/monitor, will give an update on the findings from the 2017 season. Come hear about this joint project of the Rae Selling Berry Seed Bank and Plant Conservation Program at PSU. Location: TaborSpace at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, 5441 SE Belmont St, see above for details.

January 28, Sunday, 2 pm

Native Plant Awareness Walk: Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Join us on a wintertime outing to learn about native plants in Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, a beautiful slice of nature nestled along the east bank of the Willamette River in Southeast Portland. You will have an opportunity to become familiar with characteristics as well as ecological and ethnobotanical roles of a wide array of species commonly found among the wetlands and bluffs of the Willamette River, and also learn about restoration efforts underway at this site. Participants will be split into three small groups led by the collaborating hike leaders Claire Carder, Brenda Hamilton, and Zak Weinstein. The refuge is easily accessible by bike and public transportation and the trail is paved. Walk will be held rain or shine. For more information, contact: awarenesswalks.npsopdx@gmail.com.

Siskiyou

To join the Siskiyou Chapter email list: Send an email, from the address at which you want to receive announcements, to announce-join@siskiyou.npsoregon.org. No subject or message is required. You will get a confirmation email. If you would like to volunteer to lead a hike in 2018, make a suggestion, or provide feedback regarding the field trip program, please contact Julie Spelletich at: jspelletich@gmail.com. Join us on Facebook at: [facebook.com/SiskiyouChapterNativePlantSocietyOfOregon](https://www.facebook.com/SiskiyouChapterNativePlantSocietyOfOregon).

January 18, Thursday, 7 pm

Talk: Fire Ecology and Forest Fungal Communities. Dr. Ann Rasmussen, faculty research assistant at Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, will provide an overview of the effects

that fire suppression, prescribed burns, and wildfires have on forest communities, followed by a case study on fire effects on ectomycorrhizal fungi in Southeastern US oak-pine woodlands. Refreshments at 6:45 pm, meeting and program at 7:00 pm. Location: Southern Oregon University Science Building, Room 161. Free and open to the public. For information contact Alexis at alexis.brickner@gmail.com or 860-878-2049.

Umpqua Valley

Visit umpquavalleynativeplants.com for more information on chapter activities or to be added to our email list. Check out our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/UmpquaValleyNPSO. Not online - call Donna Rawson 541-459-2821.

Willamette Valley

For program information, contact John Savage at 503-779-5414.

William Cusick

Visit our Web site at <http://williamcusick.npsoregon.org> or contact Susan Geer at 541-963-0477 or Emelie Montgomery-Jones at 541-963-3339 for updates and general information. Chapter notices and communications are done primarily through a Google group. Members are reminded to contact Susan or Emelie if they want to be added to the Google group, or if they do not have internet access and want to be contacted by phone for events.

Recreation Impacts, *cont'd*

and physical damage to the plants and habitat from off-trail hikers.

In 2006, the Institute for Applied Ecology began monitoring experimental plots with the goal of determining the effects of grazing, trampling, and competition with invasive species on the population of dwarf woolly meadowfoam. However, by 2008 the BLM and The Nature Conservancy had acquired all the land across Upper and Lower Table Rocks and designated it an ACEC, which put an end to cattle grazing on the landscape. While cattle grazing on the land negatively affected the habitat quality and therefore the survival of native plants, grazing pressures from native ungulates have not shown to have the same adverse effects on the environment. Since then, the study has been refined to assess the impacts of off-trail hikers (trampling) and how competition with invasive species impacts the population of dwarf woolly meadowfoam.

In April 2017, the NPSO Conservation Research Interns traveled south to the Table Rocks to contribute to this ongoing research effort. As a crew we worked on both Upper and Lower Table Rocks, counting individual dwarf woolly meadowfoam plants as well as the number of flowers on each plant, and determining the percent cover of native and nonnative

forbs and grasses in long-term monitoring plots. While monitoring the number of individual dwarf woolly meadowfoam plants is useful for identifying changes in population size and reproductive capability, estimating visual cover is a useful metric in determining changes in native and nonnative community assemblages over time. Both Upper and Lower Table Rocks are heavily frequented destinations for nature recreation so it is important to collect long term data sets like this to truly understand the impacts visitors have on this environment, which will then inform future management actions.

Documenting the effects of recreational traffic (trampling) has become increasingly important due to the escalating number of people and pets who venture to the Table Rocks to enjoy its beauty and botanical wonders, often straying off-trail and through vernal pools in the process (Figure 2). Recreation traffic not only adversely affects the dwarf woolly meadowfoam population by crushing the plants, but it also disturbs the vernal pool habitat and, importantly, spreads invasive grass seeds. Whether it's cheatgrass stuck in your socks or medusahead on your dog's collar, human mediated dispersal is inextricably linked with the spread of invasive grasses on the Table Rocks. In order to assess the effect that visitors have on this environment,

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Mark Your Calendars!

NPSO Annual Meeting 2018

June 1–3, Friday–Sunday

Co-hosted by the Portland and High Desert Chapters in Prineville. Field trip information and registration forms will be in the March *Bulletin*.



Figure 1. Dwarf woolly meadowfoam (*Limnanthes pumila* ssp. *pumila*) in bloom.

Recreation Impacts, *cont'd*

IAE has established a number of plots in high traffic areas around trails and outlook areas, and in low traffic remote areas unlikely to be visited. For this comparative study we counted the individual dwarf woolly meadowfoam plants in each plot and recorded the number of flowers those plants had produced. These data will be used to compare population trends in high and low traffic areas to determine which have higher rates of reproductive success.

The data collected in recent years indicate that plots in areas of high recreation tend to have a lower mean number of plants per plot than those in low recreation areas. These results suggest that recreation can pose a serious threat to populations of dwarf woolly meadowfoam, especially if trampling occurs during flowering of this ephemeral annual. Not only are we seeing this threat reflected in the data, we also witnessed the impacts of recreation first hand; during our time monitoring on Upper Table Rock we saw dozens of people walking off trail, some with dogs, through critical habitat for dwarf woolly meadowfoam. We hope that measures can be taken to better inform visitors of the importance and fragility of the critical habitat,

especially during the active growing season of dwarf woolly meadowfoam.

Recreation traffic can damage individual plants and harm the vernal pools, but it also plays a role in the spread of invasive species in the environment. Invasive species are harmful to the environment as a whole because they often outcompete native plants for resources, encroach into sensitive habitat, and can prevent successful germination of native species due to thatch buildup (Figure 3). IAE has noted a steady increase of invasive grass cover on the Table Rocks over the course of the study. This could be contributing to the decline of the dwarf woolly meadowfoam population, culminating in 2015 having the lowest recorded number of plants and flowers since the study began in 2006. These results suggest that management actions should be focused toward invasive species removal, and continued monitoring will help to inform future management and protection of the delicate Table Rocks ecosystem.

The Table Rocks are a place of unique habitat, which has given rise to a spectacular plant community with a diversity of wildflowers that attracts loads of botanists and recreationalists to the site each spring. This extraordinary ecosystem is important to



Figure 3. The thatch buildup from the invasive medusahead grass visible in a plot on Lower Table Rock.

conserve for the future because it hosts so many endemic and rare species that would most likely go extinct without this environment. Unfortunately, these rare and endemic plants can be impacted by the same people that come to enjoy their beauty every year. Recreational traffic can have negative impacts on individual plants, and can increase the spread of invasive species in the system. By being responsible and educated outdoor recreationalists, we all have the power to limit our impacts on the ecosystem and the impacts of invasive species on unique and delicate environments we love to enjoy. So scrub your boots, pick those seeds out of your socks, and get outside!



Figure 2. IAE interns monitor a plot in the mounded prairie and vernal pool habitat on Lower Table Rock.

Grant Proposals Requested

NPSO will continue to sponsor small field research grants. The objectives of the program are:

1. To stimulate basic field research into the biology and distribution of Oregon's native and naturalized flora and vegetation, particularly in the more remote areas of the state.
2. To promote native plant conservation through better understanding of Oregon's flora and vegetation and the factors affecting their survival.

Research proposals are due annually by March 1. The guidelines are available online at: www.npsoregon.org/grants.html. For a paper copy of the program policy and guidelines, contact:

Dan Luoma
Field Research Grants Committee Chair
5 NW Edgewood Dr.
Corvallis, OR 97330
541-752-8860

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Is this a change of address? If so, please write your old address here:

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Check to receive electronic *Bulletin*, sent by email in lieu of paper.

Please make checks for dues and contributions payable to:

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON

Send completed form and full remittance to:

Native Plant Society of Oregon
Margaret Conover, Membership Chair
P.O. Box 902
Eugene, OR 97440

DUES include monthly *Bulletin* and *Kalmiopsis* when published.

Membership is for the calendar year. New memberships enrolled after July 1 include the following year.

- New Renewal
 Student – \$12 Regular – \$25 Family – \$35
 Sustaining – \$60 Patron – \$125 Life Membership – \$500
 Subscription Only (*Bulletin* and *Kalmiopsis*) – \$25 *Only for those who wish to subscribe, but do not want to have full membership status.*

CONTRIBUTIONS to NPSO are tax deductible.

Jean Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$ _____
Leighton Ho Memorial Field Botany Fund	\$ _____
Augusta Rockafellar Memorial Scholarship	\$ _____
Rare and Endangered Plant Conservation Fund	\$ _____
Friends of the Oregon Flora Project	\$ _____

Membership in the Native Plant Society of Oregon is open to all.

Membership applications, renewals and changes of address (include old address) should be sent to the Membership Chair. Changes of address may also be e-mailed to Membership@NPSOregon.org.

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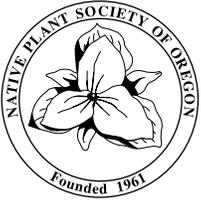
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Friends of the Oregon Flora Project

Dark winter months are a good time to reflect on the aspects of our natural world that we appreciate, and which add so much to our quality of life in the Pacific Northwest. Speaking for myself and my staff, we at the Oregon Flora Project are grateful to be able to work for a program that immerses us in the knowledge and beauty of the plants of our state. The OFP also gives us the chance to work with many people (such as yourselves!) who share our passion about native plants and their habitats.

www.oregonflora.org

Thank you for your financial support and your participation in the work of the OFP.

The new year will see us bringing more opportunities to share information with the public through the release of our updated website, the publication of Volume 2 of *Flora of Oregon*, and new field research linking native plants with agriculture. We appreciate you, and welcome your involvement!

-Linda Hardison, OFP Director

Contributions can be made online (www.oregonflora.org/supportOFP.php) or mailed directly to: Agricultural Research Foundation, 1600 SW Western Blvd. Ste. 320, Corvallis, OR 97333. Please make checks payable to the Agricultural Research Foundation and include "OFP" on the memo line.