

**Wildflower Show Presentations Abstracts and Presenter Bios**  
**June 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**

**Christina Ververka – Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am – 9:30am**

*District Botanist, Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest Service*

Christina received her B.A. from the University of San Diego in Biology and Marine Sciences and her M.S. from Idaho State University with a focus on Botany and Restoration Ecology. Christina has served as the District Botanist for the Crescent Ranger District since 2008 and her work focuses on rare plant conservation, invasive plant control, conservation, education, and restoration projects. She has also served as a Naturalist Resource Coordinator with the Oregon Department of State Lands and as the Assistant Botanist with the Lassen National Forest. Christina has lived in Central Oregon for 14 years and loves everything outdoors including mountain biking, paddle boarding, downhill skiing, scuba diving, hiking and camping.

**Unique and Rare Plants of the Deschutes National Forest**

The Deschutes National Forest is home to several endemic plant species that are found nowhere else in the world. This presentation highlights some of these rare and beautiful plants, and explains how Central Oregon's unique geology and climate contribute to botanical endemism. Also presented is a photographic display of other rare and uncommon botanical species that have been discovered by botanists in our local forests, from carnivorous wetland plants to strange mushrooms and truffles.

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**Hailee Newman**

*Naturalist, Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory*

Hailee has been a “plantophile” since she was a child, but has developed a more technical appreciation of plants through being an avid gardener, science geek, and self-taught herbalist. Hailee has a Bachelors degree in science from the University of Oregon and has worked as a naturalist at the Sunriver Nature Center since May of 2013.

**Food and Medicinal Uses of High Desert Plants**

**Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:45am – 10:45am**

The arid and often frigid climate of the High Desert makes it difficult for many plants to survive. The plants able to survive and thrive in Central Oregon do so because of special adaptations. Many of these adaptations also happen to make these plants useful to humans in a variety of ways including as food, medicine, shelter and tools. This presentation will outline the many fascinating human uses of several local plants. You'll never look at your back yard the same way again!

**Native Plant Propagation**

**Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:45am – 10:45am**

Looking to landscape your property with low maintenance plants while sticking to a

budget? Looking to provide more habitats for wildlife or to attract pollinators? Would you rather have a yard full of vibrant wildflowers than grass? In this talk you'll learn the benefits of incorporating native plants into your home garden or landscape as well as the tools to be able to propagate native plants yourself for very little money. The talk will cover collection, storage and proper germination of seeds as well as how to propagate native plants through other means. Don't miss your chance to learn how to bring the beauty of the forest into your own backyard!

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**Linda Hardison – Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 8:30am – 9:30am**

*Director of the Oregon Flora Project*

Linda grew up in Texas and received her undergraduate degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. She moved to the Pacific Northwest to attend graduate school at the University of Washington where she received her Ph.D. in botany in 1995. In 1996, she made Corvallis, Oregon her home and began her post-doctoral position in the Botany & Pathology Department at Oregon State University. Linda has been director of the Oregon Flora Project since 2005. Linda is a mother of a teenaged son and enjoys backpacking and wrangling chickens. She recently began piano lessons after a 35-year hiatus!

**The Oregon Flora Project**

The Oregon Flora Project is an effort to produce a comprehensive resource about the ~4,500 vascular plants that grow in Oregon without cultivation. Information is shared through our website, [www.oregonflora.org](http://www.oregonflora.org), and included interactive mapping, a photo gallery, rare plant fact sheets, plant classification details, and the *Oregon Flora Newsletter*. The overarching goal of the Project is the publication of new *Flora*, or plant identification manual; it will be the first such statewide reference in over 50 years. Having accurate information about plants supports many different pursuits, including landscaping and gardening, land use policy development, restoration efforts, and biodiversity studies. With more information comes a greater appreciation of the natural resources surrounding us.

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**Nate O'Meara, M.A. – Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 11:00am- 12:00pm**

*Landscape Bed and Color Supervisor for Millsite Landscape Services in Bend, Oregon*

Nate has a diverse background in horticulture, environmental education, and ethnobotany. He is a lifelong desert gardener and has worked as a nurseryman, permaculture farmer and the Curator of Horticulture at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Working as an ethnobotanist and agricultural anthropologist, he has conducted farm restoration projects as well as documented traditional plant knowledge among peoples of the Caribbean, Native American, and Hispanic communities. Nate teaches college level courses on botany, ecology and plant materials for landscape architecture and owned and operated a gardening consulting and care company in Arizona.

**Gardening for Wildlife**

Imagine turning your backyard into a wildlife sanctuary! Join Nate O'Meara, M.A. as he shows you how to create and care for a habitat garden that provides wildlife food, water, cover, and places to raise young. During the presentation, we will discuss how gardening for wildlife can attract pollinators, enhance soil fertility, and decrease pests, browsing, water use, and labor.

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**Bridget Callahan – Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am – 12pm**

*Wilderness Campaign Organizer at Oregon Wild*

Bridget is a native Oregonian and has a background in political organizing and clean energy development. She supports the work to expand protected Wilderness designation to threatened areas in Oregon; particularly the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal, and the Kalmiopsis wildlands.

**The Wilderness Act at 50 – How Oregon fell behind and what we can do about it.**

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the gold standard for protecting our most important natural treasures. This landmark offers a special opportunity to celebrate past victories, consider the value of Wilderness, and explore current campaigns to expand Wilderness protections in Oregon. Oregon Wild seeks to engage and grow the public support for expanded Wilderness through a series of public slideshows. We will highlight the world class scenic landscapes of the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal, and explore the “found nowhere on else on earth” botanical treasures of the Kalmiopsis wildlands, both of which are currently threatened by logging, mining and off road vehicles.

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**Stu Garrett – Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 12:15pm – 1:15pm**

*Co-founder of the local chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon*

Dr. Garrett has a long-standing interest in natural history, particularly local botany and geology; and is concerned with the protection of Oregon's special places. He practiced family medicine in Bend from 1978 – 2012. He co-founded the local chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon and served as president of both the local and statewide NPSO organizations. He has served on the state boards of The Nature Conservancy, the Oregon Environmental Council, and the Native Plant Society of Oregon. He was chairman of the Citizen's Committee, which successfully sought the Congressional designation of the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. He is author of *The Newberry National Volcanic Monument: An Oregon Documentary* and has written on numerous other historical and natural topics. He has led natural history fieldtrips for The High Desert Museum, The Nature Conservancy, NPSO, Sierra Club, and a variety of other regional and statewide groups. In 2001, he was declared “Earth Hero” by the Central Oregon ????. He was named Oregon's Doctor-Citizen of the Year by the Oregon Medical Association in 1991 and Bend's Citizen of the Year in 1990 by the Bend Chamber of Commerce. In 2003 he won the Donald Kerr Award from the High Desert Museum given yearly for volunteer efforts to conserve Oregon's High Desert ecosystems.

## **Geobotany of Oregon**

Plants and rocks naturally go together. But why and how? What's the big deal about soil? Oregon is an extremely diverse state and it has equally diverse plant life. Visit unusual and out-of-the way spots in Central Oregon and all over the state and learn about the rocks and plants that thrive there...some are found NOWHERE else in the world!

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### **Rick Martinson – Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 12:15pm – 1:15pm**

*President and Co-owner of WinterCreek Restoration*

Rick is president and co-owner of *WinterCreek Restoration*, a landscape and nursery business specializing in ecology based landscapes and native plants. His previous experience includes working as a botanist for potential wilderness area studies under RARE II in the Northwest, to leading a team to study the human impacts on pre-settlement condition in the upper Midwest. He has worked on ecological analyses in a broad range of environments around the country and uses knowledge gained from his work to design and install award-winning landscapes focused on ecological principles and resource conservation. Rick is also a PhD candidate at Oregon State University developing a degree program in Restoration Horticulture. This program blends the fields of restoration ecology and horticulture to incorporate ecological concepts in the design and construction of created landscapes.

### **Landscaping with Native Plants in central Oregon**

Central Oregon presents many challenges to successful gardening and landscaping. Utilizing native plants is one method to create beautiful areas well adapted to our climate and your specific site. We are fortunate to live in such a uniquely diverse area and awareness of the huge range of native plants can add to the enjoyment and success of gardening in this challenging area. This course will present some basic ecological concepts related to native plants and central Oregon, and will introduce many species of plants that have proven successful in landscapes throughout the region. Bring your notebooks!