



Bulletin

of the

Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

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JULY 2003

Erna Gunther: Author of *Ethnobotany of Western Washington*

by Christine Colasurdo

The following article is adapted from a biography of Erna Gunther, which is one chapter in a multi-author book tentatively-titled *Northwest Plant Hunters*, edited by Rhoda Love and Art Kruckeberg and due out from University of Washington Press. The biography also appeared in the winter 2003 issue of *Columbia Magazine*, published by the Washington State Historical Society.

As a girl growing up in Brooklyn in the early 1900s, Erna Gunther was richly immersed in foreign cultures, learning French from her Alsatian grandmother and German from her father. She earned a Bachelor's degree in 1919 in English from Barnard College, but by 1920 the future author of the

much-loved *Ethnobotany of Western Washington* had focused on a much different geographical area than Europe. In 1920, Gunther became fascinated by the Pacific Northwest, which seemed a "sheer wilderness" to her at the time, and began studying under Franz Boas at Columbia University. Her schoolmates included Margaret Mead and Leslie Spier, whom she married upon graduating. Gunther completed her Master's degree in anthropology by writing a thesis about the Tlingit basket collection in the American Museum of Natural History. She ended her thesis by admitting that "All these conclusions are reached from a study of the basketry as it stands finished and far away from the place where it was made." So she went west.

In 1922 Gunther gave birth to her first son, Robert, then joined the University of Washington faculty in 1923 with her husband, who along with Edward Sapir was studying the Wishram Indians of the Celilo Falls area on the Columbia River. Soon after—even as Gunther gave birth to her second son Christopher in 1926—she started her doctoral work on several Puget Sound tribes, and completed her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1928. By that time, her sons were two and six years old, her husband had left the University of Washington for an academic post

in Oklahoma, and her elderly parents had passed away. In 1929 Spier was offered the directorship of the Washington State Museum (now known as the Burke Museum at the University of Washington). Headed for the South Seas, he turned it down and recommended his wife instead. Gunther accepted the position, but by 1930 found herself divorced, a single parent, and solely at the helm of a tiny, disorganized museum sailing straight into the Great Depression. She endured condescension from colleagues who asked why she wasn't "home cooking."

But Gunther was a small woman of enormous talent. Standing only 5'2", she refused to be intimidated. She plunged into academia, remaining director of the Burke Museum until 1962, and a professor at the University of Washington until 1966, when she began teaching at the University of Alaska. Her lifelong fascination with Northwest native tribes led to her authoring several books, appearing on a weekly television show, and advocating for Indian civil rights.

For plant enthusiasts, Gunther's interest in native basketry resulted in groundbreaking research in ethnobotany. In the late 1920s Gunther became friends with Ada Markishtum, a Makah basketmaker from Neah Bay.

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Native Plant Society of Oregon

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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.

Editor's Note

Submission Information for Next Issue

A reminder that next month's *Bulletin* will cover the last half of August and September. The submission date will be pushed back two weeks to **July 24**. You should receive this issue the second week of August. The following issue will return to the usual schedule with a submission date of September 10th and should arrive by October 1st. I hope you all take the time to get out and enjoy the flowers this summer. That's what I'll be doing!

New Membership Committee Sought

After a record-breaking run of twelve years, the membership committee has decided it's time to pass the torch to others.

A new membership committee is sought. Although one person can do the job, it works much better when a couple share the work. The tasks require as much as 20 person-hours per month during the height of the renewal season (December and January) and as few as 4 person-hours per month in the summer and fall (August to November).

You will be receiving membership applications and checks, updating the membership database, and depositing the checks at a Wells Fargo Bank branch. You will be sending thank-you letters to contributors of \$75 or more. Monthly, you will print labels for *Bulletin* mailing, and advise the editor and mailing committee about print quantity. Quarterly, you will compile a list of recent new members and send it to the editor for inclusion in the *Bulletin*. Quarterly, you will report to the state board of directors (current membership and any other items of interest); your attendance at board meetings may be helpful. Annually, you will e-mail an address file to the company that mails *Kalmiopsis*. Every other year, you will compile, have printed, and mail the *Membership Directory*. You will be mailing membership information to prospective members who inquire by mail, telephone, or e-mail.

Your address and telephone number will become contact information for the Society, as most "cold calls" involve membership information requests. Calls on other subjects will be received, and you may advise the callers to contact various state and chapter officers.

A computer (Microsoft Windows) with internet access is necessary. Accuracy, timeliness, patience, and attention to detail are desirable traits.

You will meet many interesting people, and make a great contribution to the Society. Honor and glory will be yours.

Please contact Jan or Dave Dobak (503-248-9242; Membership@NPSOregon.org), or Bruce Newhouse (541-343-2364; newhouse@efn.org).



Iris bracteata and *Cerastium arvense* at Rough and Ready Botanical Wayside near O'Brien.

Blue Mountain

July 5, Saturday, 8:00 am

Hike: Ukiah to Heppner. Jean Wood, botanist with the Umatilla NF, will lead the trip, with several stops along the way. Meet at the NE corner of Pendleton's Safeway parking lot. Call Jean, 541-278-3931 (work phone) to let her know you are going.

July 19, Saturday, 8:00 am

Hike: Mt. Howard, Wallowa Lake. Bruce Barnes will lead the all-day trip. We will drive to Wallowa Lake and take the tram to the top, where there is a fairly level one-mile trail around the top, with great views and lots of flowers, and benches to rest on. Bring a sack lunch and money for the tram ticket. Call Bruce, 541-276-5547, if you are going.

Cheahmill

June 28, Saturday, 8:30 am

Field Trip: Mt. Hebo. Carol Bickford, a retired BLM wildlife biologist, will lead this moderate hike. Expect to see grassy meadows, rocky outcrops, a sphagnum bog, and spruce-fir forests. On sunny days this hike offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Coast Range and high peaks of the Cascades. We'll pass through meadows that are home to the largest known population of Oregon's endangered Silverspot butterflies. Meet at the Linfield Ave. entrance to Murdock Hall on the Linfield College campus in McMinnville. For more info or to pre-register call Kareen Sturgeon at 503-472-0866.

Corvallis

For information on the Corvallis Chapter, contact Esther McEvoy at 541-754-0893.

Emerald

July 12, Saturday, 8:30 am

Field Trip: Horsepasture Mountain. Join Bruce Newhouse and Jenny Lippert on a visit to one of the most beautiful rock gardens on the Willamette National Forest. We will walk up the trail to the summit of Horsepasture Mountain (1.2 miles, moderate to difficult grade, gravelly trail). While at the summit, we will look for some rare, unrelocated species, do a little manual control on some nonnative species that were planted outside the old lookout, enjoy superior views of the Three

IMPORTANT NOTE TO FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Field trips take place rain or shine, so proper dress and footwear are essential. Trips may be strenuous and/or hazardous. Participation is at your own risk. Be prepared to sign a release form indicating this. For a sample copy check out the NPSO website. Please contact the trip leader or chapter representative about difficulty, distance, and terrain to be expected on field trips. Bring water and lunch. 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. National Forests require a Northwest Forest Pass for many 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.

Sisters and eat lunch. Meet at South Eugene High at 8:30 am. Bring lunch, water, gloves, a camera and a wide-brimmed hat. For more information call Jenny Lippert at 541-225-6440.

July 20, Sunday, 9:00 am

Field Trip: Lowder Mountain in the Three Sisters Wilderness. Tanya Harvey will take us to see summer flower displays on Lowder Mountain. If there's time we'll also check out nearby Quaking Aspen Swamp. 5.6 miles round trip with 900 feet elevation gain. Meet 9:00 am at South Eugene High School or 9:15 am at front corner of Albertsons parking lot at 58th and Main in Springfield. Wilderness status limits attendance to 12. For more information or to register call Tanya at 541-937-1401.

August 2, Saturday, 8:00 am

Field Trip: Bear Mountain Trail in the Diamond Peak Wilderness. Barbro McCree will lead us up the Bear Mountain Trail to see wildflowers and great views from 6000 feet elevation. 4 miles round trip. Meet 8:00 am at South Eugene High School or 9:00 am at the Middle Fork Ranger Station. Return to Eugene by 6:30 pm. Wilderness status limits attendance to 12. For more information or to register call Barbro at 541-782-3919.

August 9, Saturday, 8:00 am

Field Trip: Canyon Creek Meadows. Melting snowfields on the northeast slopes of Three Fingerted Jack create a lush subalpine meadow filled with flowers in summer. The rare *Elmora racemosa* may be in bloom on the barren glacial moraine higher up. Round trip hiking distance is 7 miles with an elevation gain of 1,000 feet. Bring lunch and water. Wear good boots. This wilderness field trip led by Rob Weiss and Dave Predeek will be limited to 12 participants. Meet at South Eugene High School at 8:00 am. To RSVP call Rob at 541-563-3947 or Dave at 541-345-5531.

September 22, Monday, 7:30 pm

Meeting: Conserving the Future—Protecting Natural Areas. Ryland Moore, Managing Director of McKenzie River Trust, speaks on conservation and stewardship of natural areas in Lane and Douglas counties. Come see slides of these outstanding pieces of land, including newly-acquired Big Island and Green Islands on the McKenzie River. Room 115, Science Building, Lane Community College, (turn off of 30th Ave. onto Eldon Schafer Drive, drive up the hill, park above buildings and walk down. Science building is on southeast corner of campus.)

High Desert

Unless otherwise noted (and please be sure you check!) all trips will depart from the north end of the main parking lot on the east side of Pilot Butte State Park off of Hwy 20 (Greenwood St.) in Bend at 8:30 am sharp. Please arrive a few minutes early to form carpools. On one-day trips we will normally return to the parking lot by 5:30 pm.

July 12, Saturday, 8:30 am

Field Trip: Canyon Creek Meadows. Flowing off the north face of Three Fingered Jack, this montane/subalpine forest/meadow mosaic is a favorite wilderness destination for hikers and wildflower enthusiasts alike. Join us for this 7 mile (round trip) easy-to-moderate hike in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. Group size is limited to 12 people and priority will be given to NPSO members. Pre-registration is required! Call trip leader Reid Schuller for sign-up: 541-317-0199 (days), 317-1901 (evenings) or Dave Ledder 541-383-7646 for more information.

August 2, Saturday, 8:30 am

Field Trip: Gold Lake Bog/Waldo Lake. We'll visit a variety of montane habitats, including a classic bog ecosystem, upper elevation mixed conifer forests, and recently burned areas. Be prepared to do some easy hiking through Gold Lake Bog Research Natural Area, and around portions of Waldo Lake. Be sure to bring a sack

lunch, water, sun screen and bug dope. Mountain weather can change quickly, so bring rain gear and warm clothing as the weather dictates. This will be a jointly-sponsored trip between the local Audubon chapter and the local NPSO chapter. Call trip leaders Reid Schuller 541-317-0199 (days), 541-317-1901 (evenings); or Dave Ledder 541-383-7646 for more information. The sooner the better!!

August 23, Saturday, 8:30 am

Field Trip: Broken Top Volcano. This is our annual trek to view the spectacular glaciated scenery and alpine wildflowers in the High Cascades west of Bend. This is a six-mile round trip, moderate-to-strenuous hike with a 1,700 foot elevation gain. We will do mostly off-trail hiking through the Three Sisters Wilderness, so hiker numbers are limited to 12. Meet at Pilot Butte Lot at 8:30 am. If we can't go to Broken Top we will hike Black Crater. Pre-registration is required! trip leader Stu Garrett for sign-up: 541-389-6981 eves. The sooner the better!!

Klamath Basin

For information on the Klamath Basin Chapter, contact Sarah Malaby, 541-884-5703, smalaby@cs.com.

Mid-Columbia

July 2, Wednesday, 6:30 pm (Note earlier meeting time)

Event: Potluck Dinner on picnic tables outside at the Discovery Center. Afterwards we can go for a walk and look at native plants on the site. Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Exit 82 off I-84 in The Dalles and follow the signs.

August 6, Wednesday, 7:30 pm

Meeting: Grasses of Our Area. This will be a grass identification workshop with freshly-collected specimens. Members from other chapters are invited to study with us. Also Mike will keep us current on seed collection. Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Exit 82 off I-84 in The Dalles and follow the signs.

September 3, 7:30 pm

Meeting: Trees to Know in Oregon. A workshop in tree and shrub identification, working with fresh specimens. Members from other chapters are invited to share in our study. Also Mike will keep us current on seed collection.

North Coast

For information on the North Coast Chapter, contact Janet Stahl at 503-842-8708 or jjs@oregoncoast.com.



Calichortus uniflorus is a lovely small pink mariposa lily of the Siskiyou area.

TANYA HARVEY

Portland

July 6, Sunday, 10:30 am

Field Trip: South Prairie Bog. Visit a unique natural cranberry bog west of Troutlake, WA and see what is blooming. We will also stop at the ice cave and the lava arches on the way. Meet at the Troutlake Ranger Station in Troutlake, Washington at 10:30 am. Call Barbara Robinson for more information at 541-296-5334.

July 8, Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Meeting: Phylogeny of *Sisyrinchium*.

Lisa Karst will present her preliminary dissertation work on phylogeny of *Sisyrinchium* (Blue-eyed grass and Yellow-eyed grass). *Sisyrinchium*s are found throughout the Western Hemisphere, with the highest concentration of species in Argentina. Lisa's work so far has focused on the North American representatives, of which there are 37 species. Oregon's species include *S. bellum*, *S. idahoense*, *S. sarmentosum*, *S. hitchcockii*, *S. californicum*. Grass widows are a closely related genus represented in our region by *Olsynium douglasii* var. *douglasii* and var. *inflatum*. Fireside Room (#355) of the First United Methodist Church located at 1838 SW Jefferson St. in Portland. For more information contact Dee White, 503-775-2909.

July 12, Saturday, 8:00 am

Field Trip: Rainy Lake and North Lake. Explore conifer forests and wet lake shores at the edge of the Hatfield Wilderness west of Mt. Defiance. Search for northern star flower, alpine mitrewort, musk monkey flower, candy stick and sundew. We will drive to the lakes, and possibly hike a little toward Mt. Defiance. Easy walking, maybe four miles. Leave Gateway/NE 99th Ave. Park and Ride, southeast corner of parking lot, at 8:00 am. Second meeting place Hood River Bridge McDonalds at 9:00 am. To sign up, call Paul Slichter, 503-661-3292.

July 19, Saturday, 8:00am

Field Trip: McNeil Point. One of the premier wildflower hikes on Mt. Hood, with fields of flowers and great mountain views. We'll see Washington lily, pasque flower, jacob's ladder, and great displays of avalanche lily and small-flowered indian paintbrush. Eight miles and 2100 ft. elevation gain. Leave Gateway at 8:00 am. This is a wilderness area so limit of 12. To sign up or for more information, call Beth Magnus at 503-226-7919.

August 9, Saturday, 7:30 am

Field Trip: Killen Creek Trail. Explore the beautiful north side of Mt. Adams. About two miles gets us to meadows of broadleaf lupine and indian paintbrush, and spectacular views of Adams and Rainier. Depending on time we may head for the alpine tundra at 7000 ft, or a lower lake basin. Up to 9 miles and 2400 ft. elevation gain. Limit of 12. Call Paul Slichter to sign up. Leave from Gateway Park and Ride at 7:30 am, and from Troutlake Ranger Station at 9:00 am.

Siskiyou

July 4, Friday, 10:00 am

Event: 4th of July Wildflower Show features Siskiyou Flora. The Siskiyou Chapter of the Native Plant Society will again host its annual Irene Hollenbeck Memorial Wildflower Show in Ashland's Lithia Park on the 4th of July from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The show will be held in the Ashland Community Center across from Lithia Park at 59 Winburn Way (Grey Bldg. with White Pillars) as part of Ashland's renowned and enthusiastic celebration of the 4th. Over 200 flowers from Jackson and Josephine Counties will be shown, each with its common and scientific name. For more information call Jim Duncan at 541-482-7629.

July 5, Saturday, 9:00 am

Field Trip: Grouse Gap (Mt. Ashland). Meet at east side of Ashland Bi-Mart parking lot next to Tolman Creek Road (intersection of Ashland St. and Tolman Creek Rd., 1/4 mi west of I-5 exit 14). Leader: Alex Maksymowicz 541-482-1964. This field trip is a follow-up to the July 4 NPSO flower show in Ashland. Walk through flower-filled alpine meadows and identify common wildflowers, including several native orchids, in both dry and wet habitats on decomposed granite. Easy 2-mile walk along the Pacific Crest Trail.

July 12, Saturday, 9:00 am

Field Trip: Mt. Ashland Summit and NW Ridge. Meet at east side of Ashland BiMart parking lot next to Tolman Creek Road (intersection of Ashland St. and Tolman Creek Rd. about 1/4 mile west of I-5 exit 14). Leaders: Noelle Jordan 541-201-0115 and Jamie O'Donnell 541-552-1872. Walk the upper limits of the Ashland Watershed to look for rare or special plants, such as *Lupinus aridus* ssp. *ashlandensis*, *Horkelia hendersonii*, *Eriogonum diclinum*, *Kalmia polifolia*, and *Saussurea americana*. We will see an abundance of beautiful plants typical of upper elevation eastern Siskiyou—*Eriogonum umbellatum*, *Castilleja arachnoidea*, *Erysimum capitatum*, and *Polygonum bistortoides*. Easy to moderate 2-3 mile hike with one steep climb.

July 13, Sunday, 9:45 am

Field Trip: Fish Creek Valley (Rogue-Umpqua Divide). Meet at 9:45 am at the Union Creek Store on Hwy 62 between Prospect and Crater Lake; alternative meeting place: 10:00 am at the intersection of Hwy 230 and forest road 6560, on the way to Diamond Lake. Leader: Clint Emerson, District Botanist, Umpqua NF 541-498-2531, ext 389. We will drive about 10 miles to the Fish Creek Valley trailhead. Two hundred feet off the road the trail enters the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness, where we will see lush wet meadows bordering Fish Creek. Within the meadows are many species of the

Asteraceae family, *Sidalcea* spp., *Hypericum alsinoides*, *Oxypolis occidentalis* and several other common wet meadow species of the area. The next stop will be a population of *Hazardia whitneyi* ssp. *discoidea* that is being impacted by off road use. At this site are other interesting rocky opening species like *Chaenactis douglasii*, *Hieracium greenei* and *Sedum* spp. We will do some hiking in the wilderness and stop at Hummingbird Meadows on the way back to the highway. Easy to moderate 3-4 mile hike.

July 19, Saturday, 8:00 am

Field Trip: Alex Hole Botanical Area, Condrey Mountain Roadless Area (Siskiyou Crest). Meet at east side of Ashland BiMart parking lot next to Tolman Creek Road (intersection Ashland St and Tolman Creek Rd 1/4 mi west of I-5 exit 14); note early meeting time. Leader: Shannon Clery, 541-482-1417, shannon@siskiyou.org. Alex Hole is a dramatic cirque basin on the north face of Condrey Mt. on the Siskiyou Crest, surrounded by beautiful mountain hemlock forest. The schist geology provides an excellent habitat for rock-loving plants such as *Saxifragopsis fragarioides*, four species of *Lewisia*, and *Sedum rosea* ssp. *integrefolium* (the only Siskiyou site for this maroon-flowered stonecrop found in the Sierras and Great Basin.) Seepy areas are also the sites of more water loving subalpine wildflowers, including four species of *Mimulus*. Long, rough drive, but a short walk to the plants. A short but steep, off-trail scramble will access more species in the basin.

July 26, Saturday, 10:00 am

Field Trip: King Mountain Summit (East of Wolf Creek, Josephine Co). Meet in gravel parking area just beyond the church and general store in the town of Golden. To reach Golden, take Wolf Creek exit on I-5 (20 mi north of Grants Pass) and go right on Coyote Creek Rd 3 mi. Leader: Eleanor Pugh 541-866-2665. We should find Washington and tiger lily and may see the rare Siskiyou fritillary and Umpqua phacelia in bloom, as well as a natural rock garden with rock beardtongue and

several species of stonecrop and phlox in this remote, fascinatingly beautiful BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Participants may also wish to walk into the Coyote Creek wetlands and view the Golden church. Easy 1-mi hike. Recommended reading: Don Begnoche, *Siskiyou Sundays* pp.53-56.

August 2, Saturday, 10:00 am

Field Trip: Dutchman Peak/Observation Peak. Meet at Star Ranger Station in the Applegate Valley, 7 mi south of Ruch on Upper Applegate Rd. Leader: Barbara Mumblo, 541-899-3855(w). Visit two easily accessible Botanical Areas in Rogue River National Forest and see rare plants and beautiful wildflowers still in bloom when lower elevations are hot, dry, and bloomless. Short, easy walks.

August 9, Saturday, 7:45 am

Field Trip: Crater Lake National Park. Meet at 7:45 am east side of Ashland BiMart parking lot next to Tolman Creek Road (intersection Ashland St and Tolman Creek Rd 1/4 mi west of I-5 exit 14); note early meeting time; alternate meeting place: 10:00 am at Park HQ in Crater Lake NP. Leader: Dr. Michael Murray, Terrestrial Ecologist, and Wendy Coleman, Biological Technician, Crater Lake NP, 541-594-3072. At the spectacular Rim, we will examine whitebark pine which are

being killed by the non-native blister rust disease. We will also observe tree invasion and the hardy subalpine flora of the pumice meadow at William's Crater. After lunch, a walk on the historic Castle Crest Wildflower Loop will reveal many showy spring-fed wildflowers among old-growth fir and mountain hemlock. Easy to moderate, short walks totaling 1-2 miles.

Umpqua Valley

June 28, Saturday 11:00 am

Event: Pot Luck at Jack and Katherine Hausotter's place on 4925 North Myrtle Road, Myrtle Creek. View *Lilium occidentale*. For more information call Jack at 541-863-5347.

Willamette Valley

For information on the Willamette Valley chapter, please call Bob and Judy Oliver at 503-371-8709, or Wilbur Bluhm at 503-393-2934.

William Cusick

For information on the William Cusick Chapter call Frazier Nichol at 541-963-7870.

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OTHER EVENTS

Willamette National Forest Wildflower Walks

Wildflower Hike to Three Pyramids July 12, Saturday, 9:00 am

This beautiful but steep trail climbs 1600 feet in two miles to the top of the Middle Pyramid. Enroute we will see old-growth noble fir, lush meadows, and rock garden species, including the rare Gorman's aster. Meet at Sweet Home Ranger District at 9:00 am. Bring lunch and water; transportation is provided. Fee \$10.00 (\$5.00 with Golden Age/Access Card). Please sign up in advance by calling Alice Smith at 541-367-9215.

Annual Iron Mountain Weed Pull August 2, Saturday, 8:00 am

Join a dedicated group of volunteers to pull St. John's-wort from the slopes of Iron Mountain, a wildflower hotspot that is home to three rare plant species. Meet at Sweet Home Ranger District office at 8:00 am. Bring lunch and water and plan to enjoy the views from the lookout. Please call Alice Smith at 541-367-9215 to sign up in advance.

Berry Picking Bonanza August 30, Saturday, 9:00 am

Learn firsthand about all kinds of berries, from the many types of delectable huckleberries to the poisonous baneberry. We will drive to several different sites on the Sweet Home Ranger District to find many different kinds of berries, ending at the best berry-picking place. Meet at the Sweet Home Ranger District at 9:00 am. Bring lunch and water; transportation is provided. Fee \$10.00 (\$5.00 with Golden Age/Access Card). Please sign up in advance by calling Alice Smith at 541-367-9215.

Berry Botanic Garden Events

Portland's Berry Botanic Garden has a number of native plant oriented events. To register or to get more information on these and other events at the garden call Kris at 503-636-4112x22 or visit their website at <http://www.berrybot.org>.

Lolo Pass Wildflower Hike July 3, Thursday, 9am

Hike a beautiful section of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail near Zig Zag. View Mt. Hood and lovely woodlands filled with rhododendrons and bear grass. Shale cliffs will be popping with penstemon, Indian paintbrush and larkspur. We'll walk at a leisurely pace, enjoying views, snapping pictures. The route is about 3 miles long. Pack a lunch, for we have a favorite outcropping for a luncheon stop. \$10.

Alpine Trough Construction July 27, Sunday, 1pm-3pm

Troughs are ideal for small space gardening, or for those who want a few alpine without a ton of rocks. Please bring a rigid container of your desired shape, with a volume of no more than 12x18x6 inches, and a pair of rubber

gloves. Dress for the weather—the class takes place outdoors, under cover. Class fee includes a handbook on troughs—if you already have the book, you may receive a plant instead. \$25.

Elk Meadows Wildflower Hike July 31, Thursday, 9am

Much of the trail leads through a sheltering forest with trillium, vanilla leaf, arnica and huckleberries. See Engelmann spruce, more common in the Rockies than in the Cascades, and beargrass, lupine, queen's cup lily, red indian paintbrush, columbine and more. The high point features outstanding views of Mt. Hood and a lovely alpine meadow. Moderately difficult all-day hike. 7 miles round trip and while the elevation gain is less than 1,000 ft, there are several stream crossings that require caution. \$10.

NABA Butterfly Field Trips

Important Note: Field trips may involve rough or slippery terrain, so proper attire and footwear are essential. Participation is at your own risk; we will ask you to sign a release form to this effect.

4th of July Butterfly Count: Browder Ridge, Central Cascades July 19, Saturday, 8:00 am

Our 3rd annual count in the meadows of the central Cascades will again be organized by Eric Wold. Last year, three teams visited five sites and recorded 38 species and over 1600 individual butterflies. Trails range from easy to moderately difficult, depending on which team you're on. Meet at the Campbell Senior Center parking lot (155 High Street, Eugene) at 8:00 am. We plan on returning by 6pm. Pre-registration required, and there is a \$3 fee to participate. To register contact Eric (541-431-7388, or canoe@epud.net).

Late Summer Butterflies at Blair Meadows August 9, Saturday, 9:00 am

The Blair Lake meadows, which lie to the west of Waldo Lake near the Willamette Pass, provide some of our best late summer butterflying. Neil Björklund will lead our group through the meadows and huckleberry thickets (whose delicious berries we sampled last summer, while spotting 18 butterfly species). Meet at the Campbell Senior Center parking lot (155 High Street, Eugene) at 9:00 am. Space is limited to 15 people. Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Neil at 541-344-2053 or neilb@efn.org.

Mount Pisgah Arboretum Events

Seavey Loop Rd., Eugene, call 541-747-1504 for information or to register.

Personal Nature Essays Workshop at Mount Pisgah Arboretum July 19, Saturday, 10am-3pm & July 20, Sunday, Noon-3pm

Has your life been shaped by an experience with nature? Some of the best nature writers use personal essays to bring their experiences in the natural world to life. Contribute to this tradition of personal nature essays in this two-day writing workshop. Led by Carol Ann Bassett, professor in the U. of O. Journalism School and accomplished nature essayist. Work with other aspiring writers in a beautiful landscape, and put your own experiences down on paper. Fee: \$45. Pre-registration required.

Iron Mountain Wildflower Hike July 25-27

As part of the Oregon Natural Resources Council's (ONRC) July 18-27 Wilderness Week 2003 events, there will be an Iron Mt. hike to the Old Cascades proposed Wilderness Area Saturday/Sunday, July 26-27, led by ONRC's Southern Oregon Field Representative, Wendell Wood.

Wildflower identification will be the emphasis on popular Iron Mountain/Cone Peak Trails in the Willamette National Forest. There will be two 1.5-mile hikes on Saturday, and a mostly all down hill, 3-mile hike on Sunday (with car shuttle). Saturday afternoon will include a visit to an outstanding old growth grove of Alaska Yellow Cedar and more meadows in the Echo Mountain Basin. A plant list with both common and scientific names will be provided for everything likely to be seen.

ONRC's hikes in the Iron

Mt./Echo Mt. unit of the proposed Old Cascades Wilderness are located to the north off Hwy. 20 up the South Santiam River and east of Sweet Home. This area comprises one of six surrounding roadless areas, of which only one is formally designated as Wilderness. The Old Cascades' remarkable botanic diversity is best seen in early summer on the Echo Mountain-Iron Mountain ridge which boasts over 300 species of flowering plants.

Participants will camp Friday and Saturday nights at House Rock Campground (room permitting) and meet to carpool for the trailheads at 9:00am both days.

Please RSVP by contacting Nanci Champlin in ONRC's Portland office 503-541-283-6343 ext. 203 or at nc@onrc.org. For more information on this and other Wilderness Week events see ONRC's website www.onrc.org.

Bush Administration Continues its Attacks on Our Public Forests

by Peggy Robinson, Emerald Chapter

The Bush administration's efforts to open up our public forests to increased logging continue unabated. One administration strategy is to significantly weaken the protections provided by the NW Forest Plan. Of special interest to NPSO is the effort to discontinue the surveys required by the plan for hundreds of rare species associated with older forests. Discontinuing these surveys will destroy the scientific underpinnings of wildlife conservation and will re-open thousands of acres of old-growth forest to logging. As usual, the preferred alternative in this EIS is "no action." Send comments before July 10 to:

Survey and Manage EIS
Argonne National Laboratory
EAD/900
9700 S. Cass Ave.
Argonne, IL 60439

As you probably know, the Bush administration is dramatically changing

the rules for environmental review of logging projects aimed at reducing the risk of wildfires. At the end of May the House passed a disastrous bill on this topic (HR 1904). Therefore it is crucial that we get Senator Wyden to oppose the companion bill when it comes before the Senate.

Please call Senator Wyden at his local office or in Washington (202-224-5244) and ask him to support common sense legislation that:

1. Provides funding for fuels treatments within 1/2 mile of communities, in all land ownerships
2. Ensures agency accountability through meaningful citizen participation
3. Maintains long-standing environmental safeguards and judicial oversight.

Ask him to oppose legislation that:

1. Allows the Forest Service to conduct large-scale, environmentally-damaging logging projects without considering any alternatives or environmental impacts;
2. Logs at least 20 million acres of National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands;
3. Logs municipal watersheds;
4. Expedites the logging of roadless, wild forests;
5. Exempts logging, including 1,000 acre clearcuts classified as "silvicultural assessments," from any and all environmental review;
6. Eliminates the right of citizens to appeal U.S. Forest Service logging projects; and
7. Imposes unprecedented limitations on judicial review.

The Fervor of *Lysichiton americanus*

by Stephanie McKnight, Lane Community College

"At the end of winter there is a season in which we are daily expecting spring. Methinks the first obvious evidence of spring is the pushing out of the swamp willow catkins, then the pushing up of the skunk-cabbage spathes." Henry David Thoreau

On a warm and fragrant spring day, in a moist forest, you can detect the pungent intrusion of *Lysichiton americanus*, commonly known as skunk cabbage. The intrusive fumes can persevere throughout your day, following your senses to bed in a corrosive persistence. This plant in the Araceae family is a relative of the beautiful calla lily (*Zantedeschia*), playful jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema*), common houseplant (*Philodendron*) and the famous Titan Arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*). These plants are more familiar to tropical and subtropical regions but the range of *L. americanus* is from coastal Alaska into Northern California. It occurs in saturated, sodden low areas of swamps, stream banks, seepage areas, marshes, fens, bogs, or moist forests. The large fan-like lustrous leaves form a basal rosette, surrounding a conspicuous glowing yellow spathe, a modified leaf enclosing the spadix inflorescence (1). In early spring, rove beetles (*Polecomalium testaceum*) can be found dwelling on the inflorescence, taking advantage of the unique heat producing capabilities of the Araceae family, and in turn pollinating the small flowers (2). An interesting aspect of the plant tissue of skunk cabbage, are the calcium oxalate crystals, which act as instantaneous irritants to those who ingest them.

Despite the crystalline structures and its overwhelming aroma, *L. americanus* has been a beneficial resource for indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest. In particular, the leaves reaching up to 1.5 meters long were used for assisting food collection and preparation (3). The leaves thick waxy texture was an advantageous lining in baskets, for picking and drying of berries of salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and elderberries (*Sambucus racemosa*). In some parts of the Pacific Northwest the large leaves were used to cover bulbs such as *Camassia quamash* during cooking or roasting (4).

Occasionally, you can delve into a population of *L. americanus*, and see that every leaf has been ravaged, and the ground in which the plant grew is upturned and devastated. Common herbivores of the skunk cabbage are bear and elk, that will demolish a small area foraging for the underground rhizomes of the brilliant plants (4).

Due to its pervasive smell, and intolerable uncooked form, *L. americanus* was not a significant food source for native people, but was of importance as a supplemental material. During spring when food supplies were short, or in times of extended famine many native people of the Pacific Northwest relied on the rhizomes and leaves (5). The leaves can be boiled several times, or the rhizomes can be cooked underground for long periods in order to destroy the crystalline structures, which would impair consumption. Both structures of the plant would be eaten sparingly while awaiting the new growth of more enticing food sources (1).

The Kathlamet people from northwestern Oregon have a myth concerning the origins and significance of the *Lysichiton americanus*.

'In the ancient days, they say, there was no salmon. The Indians had nothing to eat save roots and leaves. Principal among these was the skunk-cabbage. Finally the spring salmon came for the first time. As they passed up the river, a person stood upon the shore and shouted: "Here come our relatives whose bodies are full of eggs! If it had not been for me all the people would have starved." "Who speaks to us" asked the salmon. "Your uncle, Skunk Cabbage," was the reply. Then the salmon went ashore to see him, and as a reward for having fed the people he was given an elk-skin blanket and a war-club, and he was set in the rich, soft soil near the river' (1). For a brief history of the naming of this plant by western botanists please see the article "How do you spell *Lysichiton*? (6)".

Lysichiton americanus is an invaluable species, which provides warmth, protection and sustenance for its pollinator (the rove beetles), food for bear and elk, and has in the past relieved famine and provided resources for indigenous people. These aspects reveal how one single organism can influence and involve a multitude of complexly interrelated events in an ecosystem.

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Editor's Note: This plant was one of the many studied by Edna Gunther (see front page article) and included in her popular and enduring reference book *Ethnobotany of Western Washington: The Knowledge and Use of Indigenous Plants by Native Americans*.

Erna Gunther: Author of *Ethnobotany of Western Washington*

continued from page 73

Along with her husband Luke, Ada Markishtum had lived through a period of great change for her tribe, when traditional ways were being destroyed by white acculturation. Gunther was impressed by the couple's relatively intact knowledge of indigenous flora and fauna. Ada showed Gunther which plants were used for each basket, and how they were harvested and prepared. Over the next decade, Gunther compiled a survey of how Washington tribes on the west side of the Cascades used indigenous plants. The result was the 1945 publication of *Ethnobotany of Western Washington*.

The academic paper was so popular that in 1973 the University of Washington Press republished it as a

book, with illustrations, corrections, and appendices added by Gunther. The 1973 edition has remained in print for three decades and is now in its seventh reprinting. *Ethnobotany of Western Washington* stands as a precious glimpse at how nineteen different tribes—from the Klickitat Indians along the Columbia Gorge to the Lummi near the Canadian border—used more than a hundred different species of plants. The slender book explains how rosehips were chewed by the Klallam as a breath freshener, and how soapberries were whipped by the Makah into a delicious, frothy dessert. Within its fifty pages, readers are plunged into a not-so-distant time when sword ferns were tied together to form mattresses, spruce roots were plied into water-tight baskets, and camas bulbs were dug up from vast meadows every spring.

After Gunther died on August 25,

1982, the Burke Museum began work on its Erna Gunther Ethnobotanical Garden. Completed in 1984 with help from the Seattle Garden Club and other groups, the rectangular garden in front of the museum is a living memorial to a lively spirit whose legacy continues to enrich us all

Outdoors writer and NPSO member Christine Colasurdo is the author of *Return to Spirit Lake: Journey Through a Lost Landscape* (about Mount St. Helens) and *Golden Gate National Parks: A Photographic Journey*. As a child, she frequently visited the Portland Art Museum and retains vivid memories of its Pacific Northwest Indian collection, which Erna Gunther originally helped catalogue and arrange.

NPSO Items for Sale

Vascular Plants of Lane County, Oregon: An Annotated Checklist by C. Simpson, J. Koenig, J. Lippert, R. Love, B. Newhouse, N. Otting, S. Sundberg, D. Wagner, and P. Warner. Emerald Chapter, NPSO. This new county checklist includes more than 1,740 species and varieties representing 39 percent of the 4,460 plants currently recognized by the Oregon Flora Project at Oregon State University. It also includes a color map of Lane County's five major ecoregions; and information about rare and endangered species, noxious weeds, and escaped cultivated plants. Information is included for every species on habitat, ecoregion, occurrence frequency, and native or non-native origin. To order, send **\$15** payable to Emerald Chapter, NPSO to Lane County Checklist, Emerald Chapter, NPSO, PO Box 902, Eugene, OR 97440-0902.

NPSO Membership Directory lists names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail address of NPSO members (April 2003). Available from Jan Dobak, 2921 NE 25th Avenue, Portland, OR 97212-3460. **\$3 postpaid.**

Camas Tee Shirt from Cheahmill Chapter. Beautiful moss green or tan tee shirts with botanical drawing in color of *Camassia quamash* by Carlton, OR artist and Cheahmill chapter member Marilyn Karbonski. Short sleeve, high quality, **\$15 plus shipping.** For ordering information call 503-852-7230, or send order to PO Box 291, Carlton, OR 97111.

The "Atlas of Oregon Carex" was NPSO's first Occasional Paper. The Atlas has 128 location maps, one for each Carex taxon in the state of Oregon. Also included are a synonymy, fun facts about sedges, a history of the project, and Oregon geography maps. **Price: \$5.**

"Louis F. Henderson (1853-1942): The Grand Old Man of Northwest Botany" by Rhoda M. Love. NPSO's second Occasional Paper is the only existing publication with detailed coverage of the long and fascinating life of this John Muir-like western character. Included: 56 pictures, 133 notes, chronology, list of plants named for Henderson. Third printing nearly sold out. Order your copy today! **Price: \$10.**

To order either or both Occasional Papers, send check for the appropriate amount (made payable to NPSO) to: **Occasional Papers, Native Plant Society of Oregon, PO Box 902, Eugene, OR 97440-0902.**

Oregon's Rare Wildflower Poster depicts Punchbowl Falls and three of the Columbia River Gorge's endemic wildflowers. Text on the back describes the natural history of the Gorge and the mission of the NPSO. Available from Stu Garrett, 21663 Paloma Drive, Bend, OR 97701, 541-389-6981. Individuals may order posters at **\$12 each**, plus \$3 per order for shipping. Posters are mailed in tubes.

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 Membership applications, renewals and change of address (include old address) should be sent to the Membership Chair.

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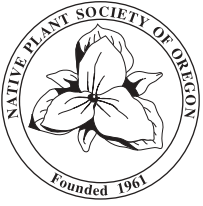
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TANYA HARVEY

Baneberry (Actaea rubra) a common woodlander, at Lowder Mt. in Lane County.

CoastWatch Helping with Sidalcea Search

by Rhoda Love, Emerald Chapter

CoastWatch volunteers are helping look for Henderson's checkermallow this summer. CoastWatch-Mile by Mile is a project of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition (OSCC). These volunteers—they may be individuals and/or groups of any size—adopt a mile of Oregon coastline, become stewards for that mile, and walk it at least four times a year reporting on its health. This summer, the CoastWatch folks have offered to help look for *Sidalcea hendersonii*, the gorgeous wildflower of scattered Oregon estuaries, which may be disappearing from our state.

We are grateful for the help of this dedicated group, and one way we can thank them is to support their efforts. If you live on the coast and would like to join the cadre of coast-watchers, you will find information below. However, one need not live on the coast to care about its health, so if you wish to join the OSCC, you will find that information below as well.

You can join the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition for \$20 individual or \$10 Student/Low Income. For information, write to OSCC, POBox 1344, Depoe Bay, OR 97341. For information on how to volunteer for CoastWatch-Mile by Mile, e-mail: orshores@teleport.com. They tell me they would love to have more plant-lovers in their group!