

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON

• OBJECTIVE •

To increase the knowledge of members and public in identification and conservation of the native plants of the Pacific Northwest.

Vol. XIII No. 8

AUGUST 1980

CHAPTER CALENDARS

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Field Trips:

Sat. Aug. 2 -- No trip scheduled.

Sat. and Sun., Aug. 9 & 10 -- Elkhorn Mtns. Bob Mienke, botanist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has worked in the area. Members of other chapters are encouraged to join us on this very promising field trip.

Sat. Aug. 16 -- Upper Regions probably of Mt. Hood. Annie Kowalishen, leader. This will be an overnight backpack trip. Confer with Annie to help plan our expedition.

Sat. Aug. 23 -- Cache Meadow. Rick Brown, leader. Meet at Roaring River campground 20 miles east of Estacada 10:00 a.m. Carpool at Tri-Met's Handyman park & ride lot 15550 S. E. McLoughlin Blvd. and Risley Avenue, Oak Grove, at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Brown is on staff of Jean Siddall's Oregon Rare and Endangered Plant Study Center.

Sat. Aug. 30 -- No trip schedule (Labor Day Weekend).

Sat. Sept. 6 -- Mt. Jefferson Park. Virginia Diegel, leader. Meet 10:00 a.m. at Detroit Dam 52 miles east of Salem on Rt. 22 (not the lower dam, Big Cliff). Carpool 8:00 a.m. in the K-Mart parking lot, Tualatin, near Exit 289 off I-5. The ten mile hike on Whitewater Trail is described by veterans of the route as easier than you might think.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHAPTER

Field Trips

All field trips for the rest of 1980 will depart from the west end of the Bush Park parking lot on the south side of Mission Street.

Sat., Aug. 9 -- Canyon Creek and/or Head of Jack Creek. Vi and Tony Sobolik, leaders. Meet at 7:00 a.m. Trail is not steep. Phone 623-2630.

Sat., Aug. 23 -- Ollalie Butte - Margaret Canary and Frances Schaeffer, leaders. Meet at Mehama at 8:30 a.m. Phone 854-3790.

Sat., Sept. 6 -- Breitenbush and Papoose Lakes - Wilbur Bluhm, leader. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Bush Parking lot on Mission Street.

SISKIYOU CHAPTER

(No meeting in August; next meeting Sept. 4)

Field Trips

Information for all field trips can be obtained from Wayne Rolle, 773-2524. He would be pleased to have suggestions for fall and winter trips to be schedule later in the year.

Sat., Aug. 2 -- Crater Lake, High Cascades. Gordon Larum, leader. Subalpine flora. Meet 8:00 at Bi-Mart, Ashland; 8:30 a.m. at K-Mart, Medford. Phone 772-1685.

Sat., Aug. 16 -- Greyback Mountain. Wayne Rolle, leader. Look for Gentiana setigera, campanulas, anemones. 2! miles uphill, oneway. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Bi-Mart, Ashland; 8:30 a.m. at K-Mart, Medford.

Sun., Aug. 31 -- Escape the Heat Potluck - Willie and Sue Sears -- 10798 Yank Gulch Road. 2:00 p.m. Call 773-2524 or 535-4542 for information.

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SUCCESSFUL SISKIYOU SHOW

The 4th Annual Irene Hollenbeck Memorial Wildflower Show held in Lithia Park, Ashland, as part of the City's 4th of July celebration was a great success. A variety of herbage was collected from the surrounding valley, Siskiyou and Cascade Mountains, and with the generous contribution of time and knowledge by so many, the plants were sorted and identified.

Thank you to Dr. Frank Lang for the use of the Southern Oregon State College facilities and help with plant identification; to Siskiyou Chapter President Joan SeEVERS who brought her Endangered Plant display; to Marcella Ring who once again shared her beautiful wildflower paintings. Special thanks to Shirley Rice for her patience and typing of the identification cards. And thanks to all those too numerous to mention whose tremendous efforts made this year's display the success it was.

Lisa Hirsch

OHS SEEKS ST. HELENS PLANTS

The Oregon Historical Society is compiling information about Mt. St. Helens as it was before 1980. . . all aspects, about the land and the people, are of interest, in writing and in photographs. NPSO's contribution will be the compilation of a plant list. Members with field trip records of plants from the Mt. St. Helens area may send them to Ann Whitmyer, 4346 SW Iowa, Portland, OR 97221. Other information may be sent to Tracy Robinson at OHS, 1230 SW Park Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

HART MOUNTAIN

On Friday, June 27, ten Siskiyou Chapter NPSO members, families and friends embarked on a delightful journey to the wonders of Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge near Lakeview. Our guide for the weekend was BLM Botanist Virginia Crosby who affably shared her knowledge of this most unique area and its flora. Thanks also to the Burns area folks who joined us. Among those plants of interest -- there were many -- the list includes: Erigeron linearis, E. chrysopsidis ssp. Austinae, E. bloomeri, E. pumilus, Eriogonum prociduum, E. ovalifolium, E. strictum, as well as the tiny Compositae Dimeresia Howelli, Lewisia rediviva, Penstemon speciosus and P. Roezlii Astragalus purshii, Ribes cereum. A special treat on Hart Mountain itself was Phacelia sericea. Some of our group were lucky enough to see some Antelope. Though prolific and hard working, the mosquito population was dealt with quite nicely with the comforting waters of the Hot Springs at our campground. Honorable mention goes to the flock of White Pelican that graced the sky as we bid farewell to our new friends and to a very special place.

Lisa Hirsch

HENLINE MOUNTAIN

Wally and Heike Eubanks led the Willamette Chapter field trip of June 14. Despite low hanging clouds and fog, nine members and guests went out to climb Henline Mountain. Rhododendron blooms and Beargrass provided cheerful spots of color in this grey landscape and some yellow Erysimum sent its fragrance into the cool air. It was a little too cold this spring for the Penstemon rupicola which usually covers the rocks below the Lookout. We saw a silktassel bush (Garrya fremontii), and Wilbur Bluhm had fun identifying Psoralea physodes which was not in bloom yet. We went clear to the top of Henline to look for Douglasia laevigata but did not find any.

IRON MOUNTAIN

Portland Chapter enjoyed a most beautiful trip to Iron Mountain (on the South Santiam) June 28. Some of our good finds along the trail: Sessile-leaved twisted stalk (Streptopus roseus); Stickseed forget-me-not (Hackelia microtha), both blue and white; huge concentrations of Mertensia paniculata; and on the rocky switchbacks, in full bloom, Hydrophyllum occidentale var. occidentale (being parasitized by Comandra umbellata). One of the great finds of the day were just two 3-cm. high Mimulus breweri, whose flower is only about 5mm. across. Polemonium pulcherrimum var. pulcherrimum was found in two outstanding clusters on the exposed south cliffs near the summit. Also, a great trail conversation piece was the interesting Heterobasidiomycete jelly fungus, Guepiniopsis alpinus. The edibility is similar to that of the apricot jelly fungus, Phlogiotis helvelloides and several other of the Tremellales: "a little bit left of tasteless." There are even Morrels here. Dicentra uniflora leaves were up, but no flowers were seen. Gilia aggregata was also only in bud. ("That clown" making notes, taking the photos, and a few plant parts for analysis, was me.) The view of the major peaks, from Rainier to Diamond Peak, was excellent.

If you are planning a trip to this area, remember to carry water as none is available anywhere along the trail. We identified over 50 species of plants, but one major drawback from a Portland point of view, with today's gas prices, was the distance. The one way drive of 150 miles for a 3 mile roundtrip hike may need to be evaluated.

Glenn E. Walthall

FOURTH OF JULY CAMPOUT AT GREEN MOUNTAIN IN THE BLUES

Eleven people from different points in Oregon gathered at Dave Wagner's camp at Green Mountain on the Mt. Emily Road. It was a damp cold morning and first we joined forces to find Charlene's hat which had been dropped in the woods. Then we inspected the be-draggled remains of a population of Lomatium Dr. Wagner had come to study. The leaves of every plant had been blackened, presumably by fungus.

Trekking through the woods en route to other meadows and other blackened Lomatiums, (only this specific one was affected) we saw a beautiful Polystichum lonchitis, and were thrilled to be able to photograph Corallorhiza trifida, Corallorhiza mertensiana and Lewisia triphylla.

In the afternoon Harry Oswald, President of the Blue Mt. Chapter, suggested a drive to Ruckle Ridge. We are sure everyone enjoyed the breathtaking view of the Grande Ronde Valley and the white capped Wallows. Everywhere we stopped the roadsides were gardens of Lomatium ambiguum, Eriophyllum lanatum, Haplopappus lanuginosus, Lupinus lepidus var. lobbii, and Delphinium nuttallianum. The weather now was lovely.

Trifolium macrocephalum and Astragalus whitneyi with its beautiful inflated pods were eagerly photographed. Eriogonum ovalifolium made lovely little patches of cream, red and yellow balls. The many species of Penstemon, including Penstemon davidsonii, P. gairdneri, and P. speciosus were eagerly studied by several of the botanists present.

Loading up to leave Ruckle Ridge, someone said, "Dave, isn't that one of your lomatiums?" In the packed soil of the roadway, we at last found him one with good leaves. And more nearby.

We hope everyone had a wonderful time. Ruckle Ridge has never been so beautiful before! There was even a rainbow to bid us goodbye.

Ruth Rouse

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

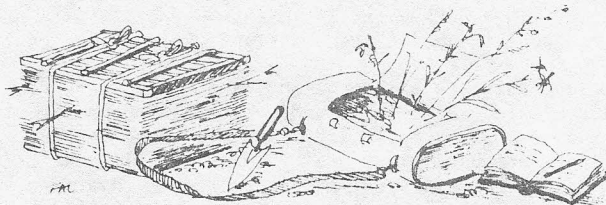
The T/E Plant Symposium is now over. It appeared to be a great success and accomplished one of my main goals for it, lots of different people (200) with a common interest in T/E plants had a chance to meet and talk and socialize. The presentations were interesting and delivered with enthusiasm. The flora of the high Siskiyou was glorious as those on the field trip, who made it all the way, well know. Hopefully it can become an annual (or at least every other year) event at Southern Oregon State College or elsewhere.

There has been considerable confusion in my mind concerning the composition of the board of directors. I think it has been straightened out (unless I am still confused). The current Board Members are Dave Garcia, George Lewis, and Dave Wagner, (continuing members); and Ruth Hansen, Herm Fitz and Karl Urban (new members). Since Dave is already on the board by virtue of being President of the Emerald Chapter we apparently have a vacancy to fill. According to the constitution this is accomplished by selecting a new member by a majority vote of the remaining board members.

This will be one of the tasks before the board at our next board meeting which will be held toward the end of September probably in Portland. More details will follow.

If you have any agenda items for discussion please get them to me by the end of the month.

Frank A. Lang
President



BOTANICAL PIONEERS

ARCHIBALD MENZIES: VANCOUVER'S GENTLE SURGEON-BOTANIST
Part 1 (con't)
by
Mariana D. Bornholdt

From May 7 to May 15, Vancouver, Menzies, and some of the ship's officers explored Admiralty Inlet and its bays. On May 8 they sighted and named Mount Rainer. At Port Townsend, the following day, Menzies encountered stands of *Quercus garryana* along the beach. On May 10, at what is today called Harmon Point, Menzies found "hazelnut trees" (*Corylus californica*) for the first time in the West. On May 11, he saw again a "beautiful new species of Vaccinium" (*Vaccinium ovatum*, evergreen huckleberry). On May 12, he noted a "*Rhamnus arbutus*" and a "*Ceanothus*" (*Cascara sagrada* and *Ceanothus velutinus*) "that were new to me." Before leaving Protection Island on May 18, Menzies also found a dwarfed prickly pear (*Opuntia polyacantha borealis*) in flat and sandy soil on the east side of the island.

From May 20 to June 5, Menzies travelled in a small boat party with "Lt. Puget" and Mr. Whidbey" to map the various arms of Puget Sound, reaching almost as far south as the present site of what is now the city of Olympia, Washington. At Hale Passage, Menzies encountered "for the first time in the West, American & Mountain Ash (*Fraxinus oregana* and *Sorbus sitchensis*). "On May 28, near Restoration Point, he observed Indians digging for "a Little bulbous root of a liliaceous plant", "a new genus of the *Tricandria monogine*" (*Brodioea* sp.) and also observed Candian Poplar (*Populus trichocarpa*, cottonwood).

Meanwhile, on June 4, the King's birthday, Captain Vancouver landed at Tulalip Bay on Possession Island and took possession of the country in His Majesty's name and named it New Georgia. The English colors were hoisted, and each ship fired a royal salute in honor of the occasion.

On June 6, the entire party anchored at the entrance to Admiralty Inlet, and Menzies journal records in detail the mixed conifer species, hardwoods, understory and shrubs of "the fine level Country . . . a beauty of prospect equal to the most admired Parks of England." He lists "purple rhododendron" (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*) and "many new and undescribed species" which he named:

Arbutus glauca (*Arbutus menziesii*)
Vaccinium lucidum
Vaccinium tetragonum
Lonicera Nootkagensis
Gaultheria fruticosa (*Gaultheria shallon*)
Spiraea serrulata
Rubus Nootkagensis

From June 7 to June 24, Vancouver's ships surveyed the eastern end of the Juan de Fuca Straits. On June 8 at Cypress Island, Menzies found on the rugged cliffs, a "well tasted wild onion (*Allium*) which grew in little tufts in the crevices of the Rocks with a species of *Arenaria* both new." He also noted there, *Lilium candense* and *L. camschatcense* (*Fritellaria camschatcensis*), "both esteemed by the natives as a favorite food." On June 11, on the south shore of Birch Bay, Menzies encountered Aspen Poplar (*Populus tremuloides*) and in the fields near the tents two new "Lillies", a pink-flowered *Allium* and a new species of *Melanthium* with "a thick set spike of pale green-colour flowers" (probably *Zygadenus venenosus*). A few days later, he came upon the fragrant mock orange for the first time in full bloom (*Philadelphus gordonianus*). On June 18, rowing with Lt. Johnstone across to a group of small islands, he found there Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), "new" species of *Epilobium*, *Polygonum*, and *Saxifrage*, as well as "Bullrushes" (*Scripus occidentalis*, tule), "of which large patches had been plucked by the Natives and were now laid neatly out upon the Beach to season them for making their mats."

Completing the circumnavigation of Vancouver Island, the party returned to Nootka on August 28. Here they encountered a sizeable Spanish expedition which included two botanists, Don Jose Mozmo and Sr. Escheverea, a natural history illustrator. These gentlemen informed Menzies that they were at work on a *Flora Mexicana* to be published by a Spanish Society of Naturalists, and were completing their last assigned location in the New World, quite unconcerned that title to the Pacific Northwest had passed to England. On October 1, the *Discovery* under Lieutenant Mudge sailed for England carrying dispatches, and Menzies sent home a collection of seeds "addressd to Sir Jos: Bks Bt for his Majesty's Garden."

On October 13, Vancouver's remaining ships left Nootka Sound for California, reaching San Francisco Bay in mid-November. Though ill, Menzies went ashore on November 15 to botanize, but found not a single plant in flower. Among the evergreen trees and shrubs he noted California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and two kinds of willows. Well-received by the Spanish commander at the Presidio of San Francisco, Vancouver's party visited the several missions in the area and reprovisioned, left on November 25 for Monterey Bay, where they remained until January 14, 1793. Still weak, Menzies continued his botanical pursuits, but at a reduced rate, depending for the most part on finds from the various parties exploring the area. Somewhat recovered by mid-December, he resumed his field work, only to be discouraged by the parched character of "this dry country." He was not to see the Pacific Northwest again until the following May.

FOR FURTHER READING

*Ewan, Joseph, Ed. A Short History of Botany in the United States. New York: Hafner Publishing Co., 1969

*Henry, James Frazier. Captain Cook's Artist Views the Nooka. Pacific Search 13:3 (Dec. - Jan., 1978-79).

*McKelvey, Susan Delano. Botanical Exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West (1790-1850). Jamaica Plain, MA: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, 1955.

*Menzies, Archibald. Archibald Menzies' Journal of the Vancouver Expedition. Extracts covering the visit to California with an introduction and notes by Alice Eastwood. Quart. Cal. Hist. Society 2: 265-340 (1924).

*Newcombe, C. F. Ed. Menzies Journal of Vancouver's Voyage, April to October 1792. Archives of British Columbia Memoir No. V. Victoria, B. C.: William H. Cullin, 1923.

PLANT FAMILY PROFILES

By Herm Fitz

The Saxifragaceae - SAXIFRAGE FAMILY

The Saxifrage Family, with about 50 genera and some 800 species, is spread mostly throughout temperate North America and Eurasia, but some representatives occur in the southern hemisphere. Some authors include in this family the Hydrangeaceae (Hydrangea Family) and the Grossulariaceae (Currant or Gooseberry Family), both of which are closely related families. Hitchcock includes the 4-parted herbs sometimes referred to as Parnassaceae (Parnassia Family) with the saxifrages, giving it subfamily status; I'd like to use the same classification. Thus the Saxifrage Family in Oregon includes 17 genera with about 65 species in two recognized subfamilies:

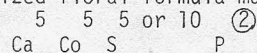
Parnassioideae - Parnassia Subfamily - A single genus Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia*), notably of bogs, wet meadows, and streambanks in montane to alpine regions, is contained in this subfamily. The ovary is of 4 carpels, forming a single chamber with parietal placentation. Petals are fringed on their lateral borders, and interesting staminodia (sterile stamens) alternate with the stamens. Flowers are single and terminal on the stalk.

Saxifragaceae - Saxifrage Subfamily - This subfamily contains most of the genera and species, frequently found in damp, mossy places. Oregon *Bensonia* (*Bensonia oregana*) occurs in the damp soil of the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon; Oregon *Bolandra*

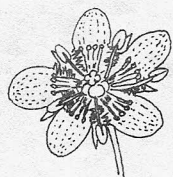
(*Bolandra oregana*) grows on moist mossy rocks, especially near waterfalls of the Columbia River Gorge and Snake River Canyon. Two species of *Boykinia* (*Boykinia*) are frequent in meadows, moist woods and along streams from the coast to the lower slopes of the western Cascades. Pacific Water Carpet (*Chrysosplenium glechomaefolium*), with 4 parted flowers lacking petals and having only 8 stamens, may be found in moist, springy or swampy places on the west side of the Cascades. In the higher montane to subalpine regions, on rocky ledges, crevices and talus slopes, grows the rare *Elmera* (*Elmera racemosa*). Several species of Alumroot (*Heuchera*) are widespread, often on rocky canyon walls, cliffs, gravelly streambanks or wooded hillsides. Leather-leaved Saxifrage (*Leptarrhena pyrolifolia*) prefers streambanks, wet meadows, or moist subalpine slopes in the high Cascades south to the 3 Sisters area. Prairie Star or Woodland Star (*Lithophragma*) occurs in drier areas: grassy hillsides, sagebrush desert, Ponderosa or oak woodlands east of the Cascade Crest, or in open, south-facing rock gardens on middle Cascade peaks. Species of Mitrewort (*Mitella*) are found commonly in many habitats in valleys, woods and meadows. The Umbrella Plant or Indian Rhubarb (*Peltiphyllum peltatum*) may be found in southwestern Oregon firmly anchored among rocks in and at the margins of cold mountain streams. Saxifrages (*Saxifraga*), the most numerous in the family with perhaps 27 species, are found in varied habitats, usually moist and rocky - cliff crevices, glacial moraines, gravelly meadows, talus slopes, alpine scree, wet banks or bogs. Two species of *Suksdorfia* (*Suksdorfia*) occur from foothills to subalpine slopes mostly east of the Cascades on wet mossy banks and rock crevices which are dry by midsummer. Oregon *Sullivantia* (*Sullivantia oregana*) is found on moist cliffs near waterfalls in the Columbia River Gorge and Lower Willamette. Fringe Cup (*Tellima grandiflora*) occurs along streams and in woods, generally on moist, humic soil, from the seacoast to medium elevations west of the Cascades. Varieties of Coolwort (*Tiarella unifoliata*) are widespread in damp woods and along streambanks. Finally, the well known Youth-on-Age or Piggy-Back Plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*) is found throughout the moist woods west of the Cascade Crest.

These plants are all herbaceous and mostly perennial, with simple (rarely compound), alternate (opposite in *Chrysosplenium*), typically palmately-lobed leaves. The flowers are usually several to many (single and terminal in *Parnassia*), perfect, regular, often with a free hypanthium. The calyx typically bears 5 lobes (4 in *Chrysosplenium*) and is often adnate (adhering to) the ovary at least part way. Petals are generally 5 (4 in *Tolmiea*, none in *Chrysosplenium*, some *Heuchera*), rather delicate, varying from linear or threadlike, spatulate and entire, to uniquely pinnately-divided into segments, appearing very lacelike or fringed. Stamens are usually 5 or 10 (8 in *Chrysosplenium*, 3 in *Tolmiea*). The pistil is highly variable, with the ovary of nearly distinct carpels (*Leptarrhena*, *Peltiphyllum*, and some *Saxifraga*) to wholly united and varying in position from totally superior (*Tolmiea*, *Tiarella*) to nearly completely inferior. Placentation is axile or parietal, depending on the union of carpels, which are most often 2 (3 in *Lithophragma*, 4 in *Parnassia*, 2-5 in *Saxifraga*). The fruit is either a capsule or a group of follicles.

The generalized floral formula may be written:



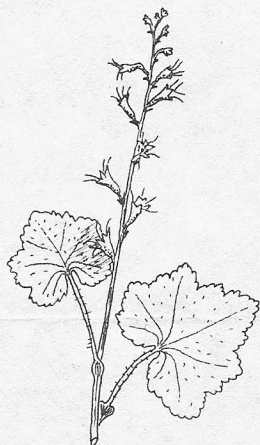
with exceptions noted above. When you encounter an herbaceous plant in a moist and mossy or rocky habitat with flowers fitting the above description in elongate racemes or branching cymes - especially if the ovary is neither clearly superior nor inferior - and if a hypanthium is present -- think possibly you have found a member of the Saxifragaceae - the Saxifrage Family.



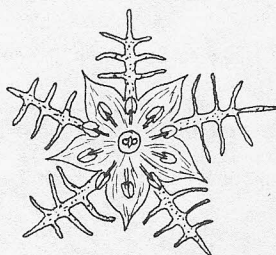
Flower of Fringed Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia fimbriata*) showing fringed petals, elaborate staminodia alternating with the fertile stamens.



Leaf and inflorescence of Large Boykinia (*Boykinia major*) showing cymose inflorescence, entire petals, and palmately-lobed leaves.



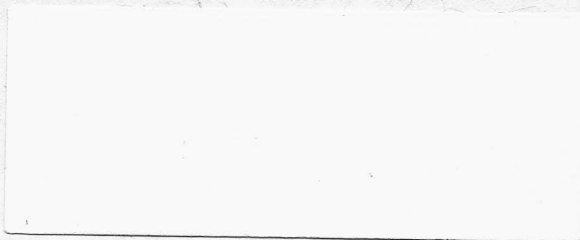
Inflorescence and leaves of Youth-on-Age (*Tolmiea menziesii*) showing typical palmately-lobed leaf and racemose inflorescence. Note also the 4 threadlike petals of these flowers.



Sketch of flower of Mitrewort (*Mitella sp.*) showing pinnately-divided, lacelike petals often found in the family. Flower is greatly enlarged.



Cutaway diagrammatic sketch of Alumroot (*Heuchera sp.*) showing typical partly inferior, single chambered ovary with parietal placentation.



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