

The Bulletin of the NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON

Vol. XIV No. 5

May 1981

NPSO ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be at the Mosier Grange in Mosier, Oregon, at 6:30 p.m. on May 9, 1981. Carl Urban will be our speaker for the evening. He is an instructor at Blue Mountain Community College, and he will show slides and discuss some of the rarer plants of the Steens, Blue, and Willowa Mountains.

Saturday's field trip will leave from the Grange Hall at 10:00 a.m. It will be in the Mosier area. Astragalus hoodianus and Lomatium suksdorfii will be some of the rarer plants to be seen.

Sunday's Directors' meeting will be in The Dalles. The location will be announced Saturday night. A shorter field trip to the Washington side of the river will follow this meeting. The exact route of this trip will depend upon how the season advances; details will be announced at the banquet.

Reservations were to be made by May 1.

Keith Chamberlain
P.O. Box 217
Mosier, Oregon 97040

NPSO ELECTION RESULTS

The NPSO election committee (Lang, Crawford and Southworth) has determined that the voting membership has elected:

David Wagner	President
Annie Kowalishen	Vice President
Paula Vincent	Secretary
John Christy	Treasurer
Veva Stansell	Board of Directors
Cynthia Roberts	Board of Directors
Stuart Garrett	Board of Directors

These fine people will take over their official duties at the Board of Directors meeting Sunday, May 10th following their installation at the Annual Meeting at Mosier, Oregon, May 9th. The organization is very fortunate to have such excellent members willing to hold office. The future of the organization appears to be very bright.

CHAPTER CALENDARS

EMERALD CHAPTER

Meetings:

Monday, May 4, 7:15 p.m., Eugene City Library. Dr. Franklin "Herm" Fitz, biology instructor, McKenzie River High School, Emerald Chapter member, and author of NPSO Bulletin, "Plant Family Profiles," will share some of his experiences and frustrations of putting together his research and discuss the mechanics of preparing herbarium specimens.

Monday, June 1, 7:15 p.m., Eugene City Library. Freeman Rowe, botany instructor at Lane Community College, will present a program on the "Natural History of Baja California." We will see slides and hear a discussion of the plants, animals and habitats of this area. Freeman has just returned following a three month visit to Baja California, where he has been a frequent visitor in early Spring.

Special Event:

The Emerald Chapter, NPSO, sponsored a table and display at the Oregon Wilderness Coalition fair at the Lane County Fairgrounds, May 2 and 3. The Coalition brings together interests dedicated to the protection of Oregon wild lands and waters.

Wildflower Walks:

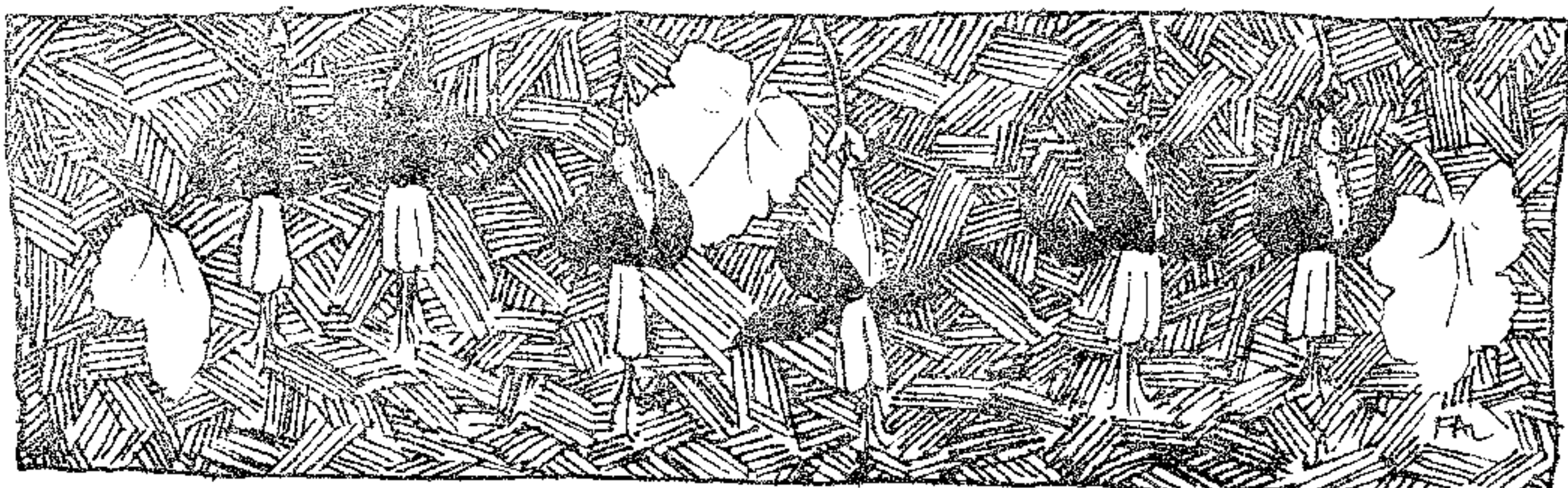
Dr. Dave Wagner, Director of the U of O Herbarium and NPSO President elect, leads a weekly wildflower walk through Alton Baker Park beginning March 5 through June 11. Meet at the north end of the footbridge over the Willamette River near Autzen Stadium at 12:30 every Thursday -- rain or shine. Call 686-3033 for further information.

Linda Johnson will lead a weekly wildflower walk from Hendrick's Bridge Wayside, April 1 - June 3, (Wednesdays) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. While compiling a list of plants seen, we will identify many kinds of flowering plants, emphasizing those newly in bloom. Rain or shine. Call 747-4048 for more information.

HIGH DESERT CHAPTER

Field Trip:

Saturday, May 2 -- An update of the Metolius River Preserve Plant list will be the object of this outing. Bring a sack lunch and meet at McDonalds lot at 9:00. Leader is Joyce Bork (389-5657).



WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHAPTER

Field Trips: (Contact Trip Leader for details)

Saturday, May 2 -- Rickreal Ridge/Morris Johnson. Trip Leader -- Clint Urey, (743-2802).

Saturday, May 9 -- 4-H Center/Audubon Nature Trail. Trip Leader -- Gus Rockafellar (581-5866).

Saturday-Monday, May 9, 10, 11 -- Silver Falls State Park Native Plant Show. On your own.

Saturday, May 16 -- Sheridan Area Boy Scout Camp. Trip Leader -- Jake Hurlbert (364-9774).

Saturday-Monday, May 23-25 -- Kalmiopsis Wilderness Weekend -- Trip Leaders -- Wilber Bluhm (393-2934).

Saturday, May 30 -- Silver Falls State Park. Trip Leaders -- Blanche Sweger (873-4693).

Saturday, June 6 -- Little North Fork. Trip Leader -- George Schoppert (859-2613).

Saturday, June 13 -- Bruno Meadows. Trip Leader -- Jack Bailey (394-2414).

Next Meeting:

Third Monday in September, details announced in August Bulletin.

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Meetings:

Monday, May 11, 7:00 p.m., Central Library, 801 SW 10th, Portland. Flowers of the Three Sisters. The program will be presented by Nancy Russell a member of the Portland Chapter of the NPSO. She is now Co-Chairman of the Friends of the Colubia Gorge and Conservation Chairman of the Portland Garden Club.

Field Trips:

Saturday, May 16 -- A Beginner's Guide to the Ferns of Oneonta Gorge. Roger Yerke, Leader. Meet at the State Motor Vehicles Department parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Roger, who is working on a book about ferns will lead this short hike (about 3 miles) and if time allows will contrast the south bank environment with the north bank by crossing the river and continuing on at an undetermined location. This trip will be a good introduction to the Columbia Gorge, its plants and the Native Plant Society.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, May 23, 24, 25 -- Cave Junction Area. George Lewis, Leader. Meet at Cave Junction Motel (or Inn or whatever, you can't miss it) at the junction of US 199 and State 46 at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. George has not worked out the exact details, but this area is unusually rich floristically and there is no end of possibilities. Lodging is available in Cave Junction. Campgrounds are also nearby.

Saturday, May 30 -- A Beginner's Trip to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Annie Kowalishin, Leader. Meet at the parking lot for the northern portion of the refuge at 9:00 a.m. Annie will define botanical terms and explain the use of keys in identifying plants. Also, she hopes to find Howellia aquatilis, a rare aquatic plant. This is an easy flat trail hike. Be sure to bring your binoculars. The birding is good.

Saturday, June 6 -- Blue Lake Ridge. George Lewis, Leader. Meet at OMSI parking lot at 8:00 a.m. for carpooling or 9:00 a.m. at the Wilson River Summit on Highway 6. This must be one of George's favorite spots. He has a long list of things to see (including wolves). Some of the plants he hopes to find include: Lewisia columbiana, Cladothamnus pyroliflorus, Synthryris schizantha and Chamaecyparis nootkatensis (Alaska Yellow Cedar) all of which are locally rare and at least two of which are on the Federal "watch" list.

Saturday, June 13 -- To Be Announced.

SISIKIYOU CHAPTER

Rules for Field Trips:

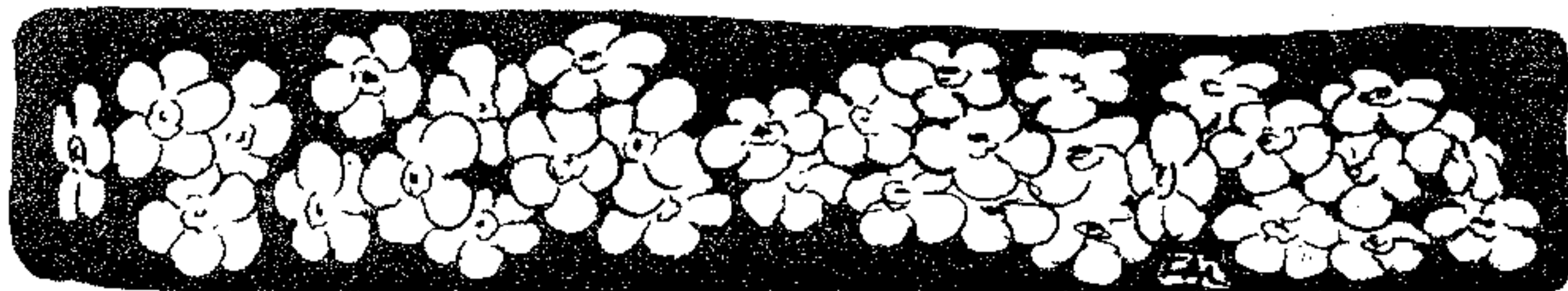
1. Please leave your pets at home.
2. Please don't pick flowers or plants, especially in sensitive areas.
3. Car owners will be paid 4¢/mile by each passenger for field trips, unless owners and passengers make other arrangements.
4. All participants will attempt to use scientific and common names whenever possible.

Field Trips:

Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3. On Saturday, California Nickel Corporation will conduct a tour of the Gasquet Mine Project for ten members of our chapter and ten members of the California North Coast Chapter. For those who wish to, we may stay overnight either at the Cave Junction Inn, or at a campground on the Wimer Road. On Sunday, Jaque Greenleaf will lead a trip to Eight Dollar Mountain, visiting serpentine areas and Darlingtonia bogs, in conjunction with the Illinois Valley Garden Club. If you wish to attend the Sunday trip only, we will meet in Selma at 10 a.m. Departures on Saturday will be at Bi-Mart, Ashland, 8 a.m. and K-Mart, Medford, 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 16. An easy half-day trip to Hollenbeck Hill Research Area on Dead Indian Road, to see the Cascades spring flora. Bring water and snacks. Leader, Cynthia Roberts. Departure from K-Mart, Medford, 9:00 a.m. and Bi-Mart, Ashland, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, May 23-25. Moderate three day backpacking trip along the Illinois River trail, which may be partially removed soon due to the construction of a Forest Service Road. Both nights spent six miles in at Pine Flats. Trip coordinator: Jennifer Riefler. Anyone wishing to leave Friday to occupy camping spaces at Pine Flat, contact Jennifer, 482-1500. Normal departures from Bi-Mart, Ashland, 7:00 and K-Mart, Medford, 7:30 a.m.



NEW COLUMBIA GORGE FLORAL SURVEY

The 1981 edition of a Survey of Wildflowers and Flowering Shrubs of the Columbia Gorge has been published by the Portland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Compiled by Russ Jolley and Lois Kemp, aided by observations by many others, this booklet is an update of two previous surveys and includes the names of over 800 species (all scientific Latin names). It covers the wildflowers and flowering shrubs (not trees, sedges, grasses or mosses) located along the Columbia River from the Sandy River east to The Dalles bridge, a distance of about 68 miles.

Since publication, Jolley has already discovered three more species, some slightly east of the present boundaries and plans an eventual extension of the survey into the easternmost part of the Gorge to Maryhill Museum.

For a copy, send \$1.00 to Shep Wilson, 2925 S.W. Fairview, Portland, OR 97201 or to Rhoda Lewis, 3723 S.E. Roethe Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222. Proceeds from book sales will go into the club treasury to promote further interest and protection of our native plants.

Abstracts available. Additional copies of abstracts presented at the Symposium Threatened and Endangered Plants: A West Coast Perspective, held at Southern Oregon State College, July 25-27, 1980, are available from the Biology Dept., Southern Oregon State College, Ashland, OR 97520. Cost: \$1.00. Make checks payable to the Native Plant Society of Oregon.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Siskiyou Chapter

Dorothy King Young, Ashland
Roger and Marylou Schnoes, Ashland

Emerald Chapter

David L. Predeek, Eugene
Bill Burton, Springfield

Blue Mountain Chapter

Joan Soderstrom, Hermiston
Roy and Rachel Sines, LaGrande
Norma Van Grunsven, Unity

Willamette Valley Chapter

Martha Blau, Salem
Judith M. Armstrong, Salem
Alice Andres, Albany
Sarah W. McDuffie, Salem

Mid-Columbia Chapter

Virginia Winegar, Tygh Valley

Portland Chapter

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Kathleen M. Serrell, Portland
Therese Falkner, Portland
Alice M. Purcell, Portland
Gary L. Blackburn, Portland
Elizabeth Grajek, Portland
Maryilyn Clark, Vancouver, WA
Esther H. Hurlbutt, Beaverton

ALLERGIC CONTACT DERMATITIS

There is a great deal of current interest in the flora, fauna, and other natural history interests, and just the beautiful amenities of having a place to walk in our sanctuary, The Miller Place, Oaks Bottom, and St. Mary's in the Portland area.

The medical profession has also developed a keen interest, but for a slightly different reason: Allergic Contact Dermatitis. The recognized world authority on dermatitis caused by sensitivity to plants, is Dr. John Mitchell, Botanical Dermatologist of Vancouver, British Columbia. His book, Plants and Plant Products Injurious to the Skin, was published in 1979.

Locally, Dr. Francis Storrs M.D., of the Dermatology Division, University of Oregon Health Science Center, has been involved in this unique medical problem, especially in the forestry related industries. Fallers, choke setters, pruners, truck drivers, resin harvesters, cabinet makers, and even workers making wooden matches may suffer severe dermatitis disability. The odd note to all of this is that even people who do not work in the woods can become sensitized and suffer the same disability from dermatitis--as long as 15 years after the initial exposure!

The culprits are now known. The main problem is a chemical called "Sesquiterpene lactones." There are about 250 of these compounds known from the Compositae family and from the genus Fruillania, the Liverworts, of which there are 5 species here in the Pacific Northwest.

I think the chemical discussion of the sesquiterpene lactones is beyond the province of this brief report, but most of the compositae plants that can cause dermatitis are common in our area, and in our gardens. For example: all of our species of Arnica, Arctium (burdock), Chicorium (chicory), Chrysanthemum (ox-eye daisy), Cosmos, Lactuca (lettuce), Calendula (marigold), Artemisia (garden tansy), and Achillea (yarrow).

What really seems interesting to me is that our 5 species of Fruillania liverwort (of which 2 are found here in the Willamette Valley and 3 in the Cascade Mountains) contain the same chemicals as the Compositae! The members of the Compositae and these liverworts (which are found on alder and rock of our sanctuary trails) are as phylogenetically distantly related as a sponge would be to an insect. To the biologist this points out the remarkable similarity of all living organisms at the biochemical level.

So, hikers, hunters, fishermen, plant buffs, and birdwatchers share a common malady with the forest harvest industry: a dermatitis sensitivity traced to an obscure liverwort, Fruillania franciscana, found on rocks and trees in many parts of the Pacific Northwest.

What is your defense? No more than whatever natural genetic endowment you might have to something like poison oak. What was it I heard someone say a few years ago at the height of pollution, food additive, and other environmental concerns... "Life is dangerous to your health..."

Glenn E. Walthall,
NPSO Naturalist, Portland

NPSO T&E PLANT COMMITTEE IS BUSY

Last summer Vern Crawford asked me to write up an article on what the NPSO T & E Plant Committee has been doing. It is a sign of how busy the committee work has gotten that I have delayed this long to finally get this article written.

In the two years since the committee has been in existence, the amount of business we have conducted has increased enormously.

Some of the specific tasks we have accomplished have been to compile a list of environmentally concerned organizations, a thick collection of information on T&E Plants, master lists and plants lists of many NPSO field trips, a fledgling slide collection, support to Ann Whitmyer in her efforts to introduce legislation, getting on the mailing lists for input to environmental impact statements of many agencies, supporting getting Darlingtonia californica on a prohibition list of international trade (and getting K-Mart's and Fred Meyer's support in stopping the selling of it), and lots and lots of correspondence in support of preserving our T&E flora. We are also in the process of finishing mapping most of the locales of these plants. We hope these maps will soon be available to our chapters.

Portland chapter has had a brief presentation on one T&E plant each month. We have almost used up the 500 sets of notecards, which turned out to be a moneyraiser for each chapter and the T&E committee.

NPSO has become a staunch and functioning advocate for our native flora within the past two years.

Annie Kowalishen

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 1981Portland Chapter

President	Shep Wilson 2925 SW Fairview Blvd. Portland, OR 97201
Vice President and Program Chairman	Don Barr 12438 SW Orchard Hill Road Lake Oswego, OR 97034 246-2785
Vice President and Field Trip Chairman	Dale Wagner 3335 NE 20th Avenue Portland, OR 97212 284-1309
Secretary	Virginia Diegel 16415 NW Brugger Road Portland, OR 97229 645-1344
Treasurer	Ann Lunn 3040 NW Parkview Lane Portland, OR 97229 645-7326

Wilamette Valley Chapter

President	Mariana D. Bornholdt 5084 Skyline Road S. Salem, OR 97302
Vice President (Programs)	Jack R. Bailey 39394 Brock Drive Scio, OR 97374

Secretary - Treasurer	Viola Sobolik 2120 Pioneer Road Dallas, OR 97338
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1981 Field Trip Chairman (appointed)	Clint F. Urey 6945 Glendora Way SE Turner, OR 97392
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Emerald Chapter

President	Charlene Simpson 2455 Alder Street Eugene, OR 97405 686-1094
Vice President	Linda Johnson 88278 Millican Springfield, OR 97477 747-4048
Secretary	Laramie Palmer 259 W. 23rd Avenue Eugene, OR 97405 343-6536
Treasurer	John Christy 960 Adams Street Eugene, OR 97402

Siskiyou Chapter

President	Vern Crawford 923 Harmony Lane Ashland, OR 97520 482-9196
1st Vice President (Programs)	Darlene Southworth 496 Beach Street Ashland, OR 97520 488-1034
2nd Vice President (Field Trips)	Jennifer Riefler 600 Conifer Way Ashland, OR 97520 482-1500
Secretary - Treasurer	Lisa Hirsch 262 Grant Street Ashland, OR 97520 488-0133

DIAMOND CRATERS

by Esther Helen Gruber

Diamond Craters is a 6-mile diameter shield volcano located 60 miles south of Burns, Oregon. Its vegetation consists of several distinct native plant communities in a diversity of soils. Altogether, the craters area contains 16,656 acres of public land near the center of Harney County, at the ecotone between the Desert Shrub, the Shrub-Steppe, and the Western Juniper Zones. I will briefly describe each zone.

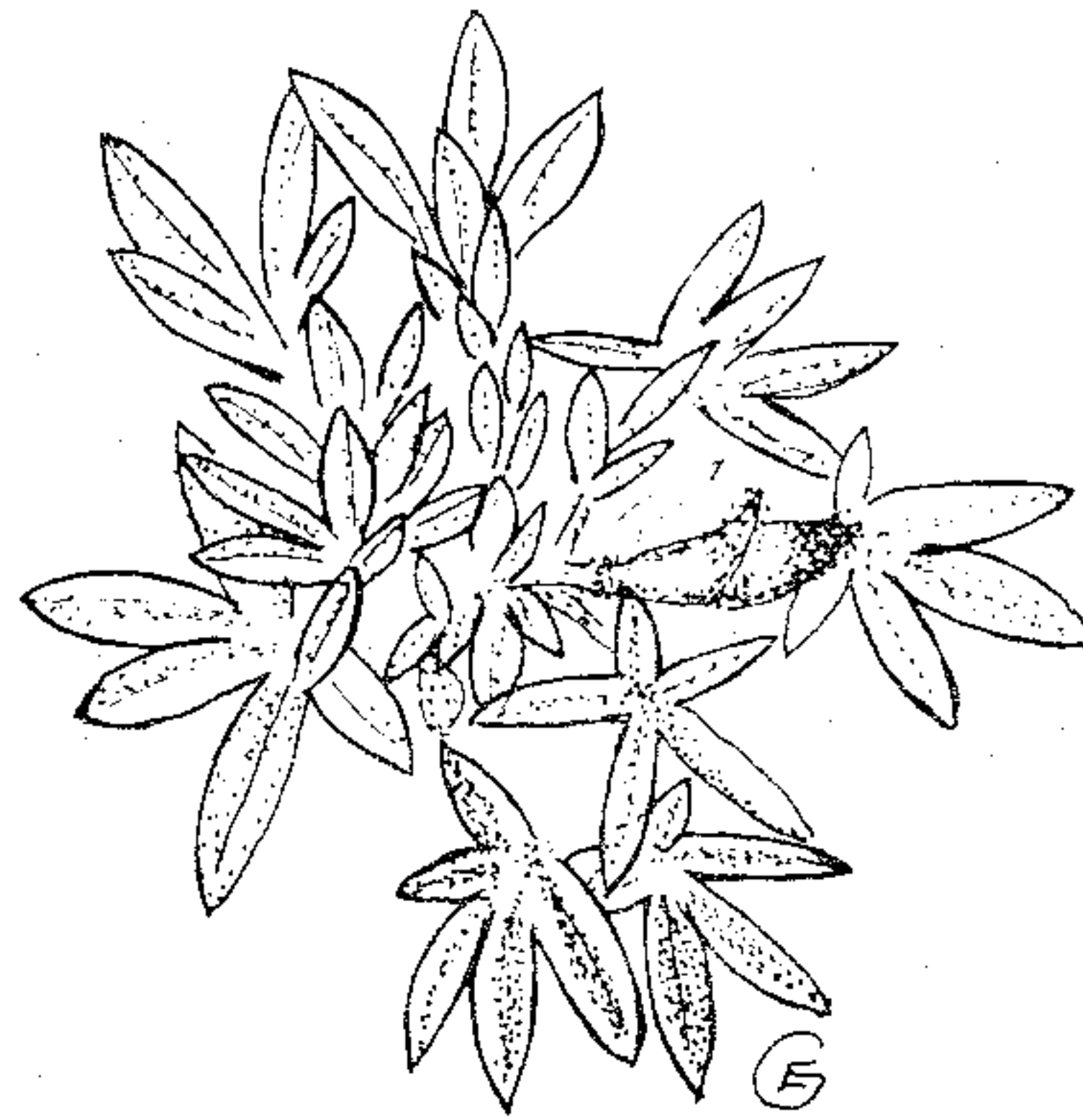
Greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus) is the most common shrub on the lower portions of the Desert Shrub Zone. In the more saline areas greasewood is less common and saltgrass (Distichlis stricta), marsh arrowgrass (Triglochin palustre) and borax weed (Nitrophilia occidentalis) are more common. At higher elevations in the Desert Shrub Zone on well drained rocky hillsides, budsage (Artemisia spinescens), spiny hopsage (Atriplex spinosa), spiny horse-brush (Tetradymia spinosa), and shadscale (Atriplex confertifolia) occur.

Most of the vegetation at Diamond Craters is typical of the Shrub-Steppe Zone. This zone is dominated by big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata). Other shrubs characteristic of the area are grey rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus), green rabbitbrush (C. viscidiflorus), grey horsebrush (Tetradymia canescens) little-leaf horsebrush (T. glabrata) and prickly phlox (Leptodactylon pugens). The young cinder-based soils support relatively undisturbed native bunchgrass communities including needle-and-thread grass (Stipa commata) thurber's needle-and-thread grass (S. thurberiana), bluebunch wheatgrass (Agropyron spicatum) and squirreltail (Sitanion hystrix). In the spring one can find a colorful array of blooming annuals. Threadleaf phacelia (Phacelia linearis), Anderson's larkspur (Delphinium andersonii), short-stemmed lupine (Lupinus brevicaulis), matted cryptantha (Cryptantha circumcissa), white eatonella (Eatonella nivea), Pursh's milkvetch (Astragalus purshii), small flowered blue-eyed Mary (Collinsia parviflora), desert paintbrush (Castilleja chromosa) and sandlily (Leucocrinum montanum) are among the species that color the craters' floors. In the wet spring of 1980, the dark, cindery soils became a patchwork of gold and purple due to large blooming populations of golden poppy (Canbya aurea), dwarf monkey-flower (Mimulus nanus), and Cusick's mimulus (M. cusickii).

Western juniper (Juniperus occidentalis) and big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata) are the dominants in the Western Juniper Zone and exist on the low peripheral flows in the northern portion and on the high northern slopes. Some of the junipers are more than 200 years old. In this more moist environment flourish the chocolate lily (Fritillaria atropurpurea), yellow bells (F. pudica), scapose silene (Silene scaposa var. lobata), dwarf onion (Allium parvum), and brittle-fern (Cystopteris fragilis).

The Wetland areas along the south and west edge of the lava flows reflects a diversity of communities: an intergradation between playas and fresh water marshes. In the summer of 1979 I found a grove of aspens (Populus tremuloides) at the southern edge of the flow, an unusually low elevation for aspens in the central Harney Basin. The older aspens are 50 to 60 years old, while the younger ones are 16 to 20 years old. In this area star-flowered solomon-plume (Smilacina stellata), Wood's rose (Rosa woodsia), and common chokecherry (Prunus virginiana) can be found. Poison ivy (Rhus radicans) was found in the shallow fissures of the low basaltic ridges surrounding the freshwater ponds on the southwest edge of the lava flow.

In surveying spring plants in 1980, a few species of special interest were found at Diamond Craters: inch-high lupine (Lupinus uncialis) and rigid nemacladus (Nemacladus rigidus). Lupinus uncialis has only 7 known sites in the Burns District. Five of these 7 sites are in barren areas of tephra soil at Diamond Craters. This small, state-listed annual has been rarely collected in Oregon and warrants further inventory to determine its status in the future. Nemacladus is a very small, inconspicuous plant that is difficult to discern in the field because of its purplish-tinged coloration that blends in with the substrate. It has 14 known sites in the Burns District, yet is probably more common than originally suspected.



Lupinus uncialis liats.

Diamond Craters is becoming an island of native vegetation surrounded by vast acres of wheatgrass seedings. Recently, the thin slabs of pahoehoe lava have attracted the attention of rock thieves who sell the lava as decorative facing stone. The area in which the trespassers entered with their heavy equipment shattered the pahoehoe to powder and left permanent scars. In order to preserve the area, in the spring of 1979 I compiled the first report for identifying Diamond Craters as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (A.C.E.C.). This federal designation allows the BLM to provide special management for areas of concern. As of this date, Diamond Craters has been approved as an Area for Environmental Concern, with a management plan element already prepared for the area.

In addition to the ACEC, my co-workers and I compiled a report for possible designation of the entire area as a Research Natural Area. Since our presentation to the Pacific Northwest Natural Area Committee at its November 16, 1979 meeting, consideration is presently being given for designation of the area as "Diamond Craters Outstanding Natural Area." This designation will allow both recreation and research to continue in the area. It is a vital designation for the future preservation of the area.

Diamond Craters affords the opportunity to preserve an area consisting of relatively undisturbed natural vegetation among geologic features of exceptional educational and scientific value. If you are interested in the future of the area or would like to visit Diamond Craters, contact:

Burns District
Bureau of Land Management
74 S. Alvord Street
Burns, Oregon 97720
Telephone: 573-2071

SISKIYOU CHAPTER

Meetings:

Thursday, May 7, 7:30 p.m., Room 171, Science Building, Southern Oregon State College, Ashland. Edible Wild Plants, Cindy Cripps. U.S. Forest Service, speaker.



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Contributions to the NPSO Bulletin or non-delivery notice should be sent to: The Editors, Native Plant Society of Oregon, Department of Biology, Southern Oregon State College, Ashland, Or 97520

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