

Bulletin of the
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY of OREGON

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

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November 1987

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1987 The Year of the Oregon Endangered Species Act

CHAPTER NEWS

Blue Mountain

17 Nov., Tues.

Meeting, 7:30pm. Blue Mountain Community College, Morrow Hall, Rm. 105. Agenda to be determined. For information, contact Bruce Barnes (276-5547).

Corvallis

9 Nov. Mon.

Meeting, 7:30pm. Cordley Hall, Room 2087, OSU. Julie Kierstead will present a program on the Berry Botanic Garden's role in conserving Northwest plants.

Emerald

9 Nov., Mon.

Meeting, 8:00pm. Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard, Eugene. "Pockets of Diversity: Oregon's Research Natural Areas." Sarah Greene, a Research Forester from the USFS, Corvallis, will introduce you to the many special habitats that are being preserved in the Northwest.

14 Dec., Mon.

Christmas Social. Dessert Potluck and Slide Show. The holiday social will be at Island Lakes Condominium Club House at 7:30pm. Bring a Christmas dessert to share and 6 - 10 slides to show. Call Charlene for more information (465-1059).

High Desert

For information, contact Joyce Bork (389-5579).

Mid Columbia

4 Nov., Wed.

Meeting, 7:30pm at the Mosier School. Program feature: The Nature Conservancy Preserves in Oregon, Current and Potential. Slides and speaker(s) will focus on the preserves' unique characteristics including special vegetation, wildlife, and habitat.

2 Dec., Wed.

Meeting, 7:30pm at the Hood River Valley High School's "Little Theater", 1220 Indian Creek Road, Hood River. Peter Frenzen of the Mt. St. Helens Ranger District Office at Amboy, Washington, will present a program on the "Rejuvenation of Mt. St. Helens - The Wildlife and the Vegetation Comeback!" Don't miss this special presentation!

North Coast

For information, contact Clara Fairfield (842-4362).

Portland

- 7 Nov., Sat. Field Trip to the Columbia River Gorge. Meet at the K-Mart at 122nd and NE Sandy, south end of the parking lot at 8:30am. Leader: George Lewis (292-0415).
- 10 Nov., Tues. Meeting, 7:00pm. First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Dave Dobak will present a slide show on "Yellowstone - Summer and Winter".
- 14 Nov., Sat. Field Trip. Explore three lakes in the Battleground area of Washington. There will be a bus available to take us. Advance sign up is necessary. Meet at the Jantzen Beach parking lot near the NW end at 9:30am. Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. John Bonebrake. Bring warm clothes, lunch and thermos. Return: Mid-afternoon. For information, call Charlene (284-3444). We shall discuss geological features and the botanical aspects.
- 21 Nov., Sat. Field Trip to the Partridge Tract, a TNC property with a short hike to the stream and a view of a lovely waterfall. Depending on the weather, a car shuttle may be arranged for those hikers who wish to follow the stream. Meet at the K-Mart on 122nd and NE Sandy at 10:00am. Leader: Katherine Snouffer (246-6572).
- 4 & 5 Dec. Leach Garden Winter Display & Bazaar at 6704 SE 122nd Avenue. Take Foster exit from 205 and proceed east to 122nd, then turn south for a short drive to the white bridge crossing Johnson Creek.
- Happy Holidays from your field trip friends. A special thanks to Louise Godfrey for her advice and counsel.

Siskiyou

- 12 Nov., Thur. Meeting, 7:30pm. Room 171, Science Building, SOSO. Local Weaver of over 20 years, Molly Hamner, will present a unique program on wool dyes and native plants. Molly will share the charm of gathering and working with plants as a source of dye and which plants (and plant families) yield which colors. She will also cover conscientious collecting techniques. Samples will be available of wools dyed from plants as well as the plants themselves. Bring questions and your own experiences.

Willamette Valley

- 16 Nov., Mon. Meeting, 7:30pm. First United Methodist Church, corner of SE Church and State Streets, Salem. (Use the Church Street entrance). Dan Luoma, President of NPSO, is studying mycorrhizal relationships for his Ph.D. He will present a program on "The Mysteries of the Monotropoideae." Don't miss it!

Wm. Cusick

For information, contact Rachel Sines (963-0674).

NPSO RECEIVES AWARD

The Native Plant Society of Oregon received the Oregon Natural Resources Council's Organization of the Year award for its role in passing the Oregon Endangered Species Act of 1987. The award was presented by ONRC's Associate Director for Conservation, Andy Kerr, in a ceremony during the fifteenth annual ONRC Conference at Malheur Field Station. Special note was made of the efforts of NPSO Legislative Chairman Esther McEvoy and Conservation Chairman Julie Kierstead. Kierstead, who presented a workshop on the new law earlier in the day, accepted the award on behalf of NPSO. The award itself, an attractive mounted certificate in blue and white, will be presented to NPSO's Board of Directors at its October meeting.

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

Conservation and Management of Rare and Endangered Plants, Proceedings of a California Conference, edited by Thomas S. Elias, with an introduction by Jim Nelson, is just off the press! Advance orders are now being shipped. The 640 page, 8½ by 11 inch volume is an outstanding topical collection of papers presented at the California Native Plant Society Symposium in Sacramento last November. This was the largest conference on rare and endangered plants ever held in North America.

Copies are available from CNPS at \$24.95 for softbound and \$45.00 for hardbound. Payment must accompany orders and include CA sales tax as required plus shipping at \$1.75 for the first copy, \$.75 for each additional copy. Mail to: California Native Plant Society, 909 Twelfth Street, Suite 116, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Legislative Notes

Even though there are two years before the next legislative session, it is time to begin working on amendments. We shall need to concentrate our efforts on a few key issues. I am planning the next legislative meeting for:

Saturday, November 7th
Forestry Sciences Laboratory
3200 Jefferson Way
Corvallis
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The agenda has not been set for the meeting and I encourage you to send me ideas on amendments. I am especially interested in any ideas on funding the program. Contact me if you are interested in attending the meeting. (754-0893)

Esther

Esther Gruber McEvoy
State Legislative Chair

POSITION AVAILABLE

Information Systems Manager
Center for Plant Conservation, National Office
in Boston

Responsibilities: Provide support to the Director of Botany and Information Systems. Duties will include some systems design and programming as well as data entry (especially while learning the computer system). The Information Systems Manager will serve as liaison between the data system and the staff and provide continuity in the absence of the Director of Botany and Information Systems. S/he will be working with nine relational databases and will assist in the development of compatible plant records systems among the Participating Institutions of the Center. The Center for Plant Conservation, located at the Arnold Arboretum, was created in 1984 to develop and maintain a network of programs at leading botanical gardens and arboreta dedicated to the preservation and study of U.S. endangered plants. Currently the Center's network includes 19 botanical gardens and arboreta working to preserve and propagate some 3,000 kinds of rare and endangered plants nationwide.

Qualifications: Strong botanical training and some experience or training on a computer (especially a micro) necessary.

Salary: \$17,000 to \$20,000.

To Apply: Send letter of application, resume, and names of three references to Pamela Thompson, Administrative Manager, Center for Plant Conservation, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. For more information call (617) 524-6988.

A GUIDE TO SELECTED WEEDS OF OREGON IS AVAILABLE

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has published a 106 page loose leaf manual of 289 color photos and text depicting 96 different weeds which present problems to agriculture and other activities. It was prepared by Robert Hawkes, Tom Whitson and LaRea Dennis. The book costs \$12 and can be ordered from Weed Control, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, 635 Capitol Street N.E., Salem, OR 97310-0110.

ENDANGERED WILDFLOWERS - 1988 CALENDAR

These calendars will once again be available for 1988. They feature full color photographs of 16 American wildflowers that are threatened or endangered. This wall calendar is 8½ by 23 inches when open. Each photograph is accompanied by a discussion of the taxon and the factors that cause it to be threatened. Also included is general information on endangered plants. The price is \$6.95. Order from: American Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BLUE MOUNTAIN
Rob Mrowka

CORVALLIS
John Knott
Jane Smith

EMERALD
Marjorie Ogle
Stephanie Schulz

HIGH DESERT
Susie Kurtz

MID COLUMBIA
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NORTH COAST
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PORTLAND
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Kathy Adams
Bandon Public Library
James Robinson
Marjorie Stober

WILLAMETTE VALLEY
Frank & Lois Haskins
Ann K. Lamb

MEMBER AT LARGE
Robert Moses

Wildflowers in the Garden

This article was published as a pamphlet by the Plant Conservation Project, Natural Resources Defense Council, 1350 New York Ave., N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005.

Introduction

Many gardeners love to grow our beautiful and interesting native wildflowers. Unfortunately, if we are not careful, our love for these plants can lead to overexploitation that can decimate the species in the wild.

Over-exploitation is a problem because many wildflowers offered for sale by mail-order catalogs, nurseries, and garden centers have been collected from the wild rather than propagated in nurseries. Wildflowers offered for sale by general purpose catalogs and garden centers are particularly likely to have been collected rather than propagated because these outlets must buy their merchandise in wholesale quantities from a variety of suppliers. Smaller nurseries that specialize in wildflowers can often propagate the plants they sell — although not all do so.

Most gardeners will wish to ensure that their own purchases do not contribute to depletion or extinction of a wild species — especially one that they admire enough to plant in their gardens! Many gardeners may wish to avoid purchasing any wild-collected plants — especially since most can be obtained from propagators if one makes a little effort. Unfortunately, little is known about commercial trade in North American wildflowers; many gardeners may not even be aware that plants they see in catalogs and retail outlets may have been collected. Natural Resources Defense Council has begun a study of this trade in order to learn its extent and impact on particular species and to educate gardeners.

Other types of plants are also often collected from the wild, but they are not addressed in this brochure. These include ferns, shrubs, carnivorous plants, and cacti and other succulents.

Wildflower species almost always collected from the wild (most can be propagated by specialists)

Species	Number of Catalogs Offering
pink ladyslipper orchid <i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	8
large-flowered (snow) trillium <i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	13
Jack-in-the-pulpit <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	19
Dutchmen's breeches <i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	
crested iris <i>Iris cristata</i>	15
bloodroot <i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	18

Impact of the Trade

Although we do not yet know the size of the trade in wildflowers, it is clearly quite large and involves hundreds of species. At least 50 nurseries offer wildflowers through mail-order catalogs. Many other plants are sold by retail nursery and garden centers. Some wildflowers are sold nationwide as roots or corms packaged in plastic bags with a cardboard cover showing an attractive photograph of the plant in habitat. It is probable that several hundred thousand plants of the most popular species are sold each year through these various mechanisms. The trade in seeds, primarily of prairie species, must reach the millions. Unfortunately, some of the most popular species are nearly always collected from the wild rather than propagated. The pink ladyslipper orchid is one example. No one has yet discovered how to propagate this lovely flower in commercial quantities. Yet it is sold by 8 mail-order catalogs, including those with the largest circulations; and by virtually every retailer that handles wildflowers, either directly or as an outlet for the plastic packages. According to records examined by law enforcement officials, in the 1970's one Michigan couple supplied up to 100,000 ladyslipper orchids per year to retailers — all wild-dug in the area.

Ladyslipper orchids are not considered endangered in the United States or Canada, although some species are protected in particular states or provinces. However, orchids and certain other types of plants are extremely vulnerable to overcollecting because of their ecological requirements and life histories. Other vulnerable types include members of the following families: Portulacaceae (including the *Lewisia*

Wildflowers that can be propagated in commercial quantities, but are often collected

Virginia bluebells <i>Mertensia virginica</i>	12
cardinal flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	19
fairy candles <i>Cimicifuga</i> species	
shooting stars <i>Dodecatheon</i> species	12+
trout lilies or dogtooth violets <i>Erythronium</i> species	7+
<i>Hepatica</i> species	10+
bird's-foot violet <i>Viola pedata</i>	8

It is not yet known to what extent members of the composite or aster family are obtained by collecting seed from the wild, rather than from cultivated sources.

and *Claytonia* genera); violets; Amaryllidaceae (including *Brodiaea* and *Triteleia*); Araceae (Jack-in-the-pulpit), gentians; lilies; Ranunculaceae (including columbines and larkspurs); and the parasitic plants, such as the Indian paintbrushes, *Castilleja*. Collecting of these and other vulnerable plants may well cause severe population declines, at least in local areas.

Among the approximately 600 species of North American herbaceous wildflowers sold by the 46 catalogs surveyed, only the Tennessee cone flower, *Echinacea tennesseensis*, is now listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The plants in trade are presumably propagated.

The Nature Conservancy has assigned ranks of either G-2 or G-3 to at least two dozen additional species. The former includes species found in only 6 to 20 occurrences or subject to other factors making them very vulnerable throughout their ranges. Species labeled as G-3 are either very rare throughout an extended range, restricted to a small range, or threatened by other factors; these species are limited to 21 to 100 occurrences. Among the species classified as G-2 or G-3 are a white monkshood, *Aconitum reclinatum*; Occonee bells, *Shortia galacifolia*; the lakeside iris, *Iris lacustris*; a shooting star, *Dodecatheon poeticum*; royal catchfly, *Silene regia*; and the yellow mission-bells, *Fritillaria pudica*.

Many of the more widespread species are considered by The Nature Conservancy or Canadian botanists to be rare in certain states or provinces. If these areas of rarity happen to coincide with centers of heavy collecting pressure—such as the southern Appalachians and the northern Mid-West—local populations of the species may be particularly vulnerable.

Many attractive plants sought for the horticultural trade are also collected—often in very large quantities—for human consumption or as “medicinals.” This trade, very poorly studied, is known to include ladyslipper orchids, may-apple, bloodroot, golden seal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), wild leek (*Allium tricoccum*), and ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*).

Other Considerations

Poor Survival

Many wildflowers are difficult to re-establish in the garden once they have been dug from the wild. This is particularly true of ladyslipper orchids, which depend on soil micro-organisms to process nutrients. They rarely live long after transplanting, even when it is done promptly by experts. Other types of plants that do poorly when removed from the wild include gentians; hepaticas; bloodroot and other Papaveraceae; Dutchmen's breeches, squirrel corn and others of the Fumaraceae; and the parasitic Indian paintbrushes.

Even more easily satisfied plants may die if they are allowed to dry out during storage and shipping, as often occurs in the larger establishments that depend on contractual suppliers. Why waste your money on plants that will probably die?

Invasive Exotics

Another complication is the danger of helping to spread invasive, weedy plants into new environments where they may cause severe disruption. Commercial mixes of “wildflower seed” often contain species native to Europe, some of which have become severe problems—for example, purple loosestrife. Other mixes contain species native to other parts of the United States which could become weeds if introduced into other parts of the country. Please try to limit your purchases to seeds of species which are native to your local area, so that you do not disrupt native ecosystems this way either.

Legal Protection

Legal protection for wildflowers in trade is inadequate. In the United States, the U.S. Endangered Species Act prohibits collecting from federal lands only, not other lands; and requires a permit for interstate commerce in propagated plants. At present, only one species, the Tennessee cone flower, is protected under this Act. A few other species may be listed in future years.

Many of the wildflower species in trade are protected by law in some states. In general, these laws regulate commercial trade and collecting without permission of the landowner. These laws are supplemented by the federal Lacey Act, which outlaws interstate trade or export of native wild plants collected or possessed in violation of the law of the state of origin. So far, dealers in orchids (as well as ginseng and cacti) have been convicted under this law.

Several species of wildflowers are traded internationally. Orchids, trilliums, *Erythronium* lilies, and other species have been exported to The Netherlands and perhaps elsewhere. Plants may be collected in Canada to supply the U.S. market.

International trade is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, called CITES. At present, CITES protects all orchids, a few other wildflower species, and ginseng. CITES allows trade in such species, listed in Appendix II, but only after the country of export has determined that the trade will not harm wild populations of the species and has issued a permit. Despite CITES, Canada reports no exports of ladyslipper orchids, but they may be occurring. For more information about CITES, write to NRDC and ask for the brochure “Your House Plants Are...”

What You Can Do

If you wish to help conserve North American wildflowers in their native habitats, refrain from collecting such plants yourself, and buy only from those who propagate. One good source is sales of propagated plants sponsored by native plant societies. Many nurseries now propagate native plants, even such difficult species as large-flowered trillium. To obtain lists of nurseries that propagate the plants they sell, contact the native plant society in your state or the following centers:

American Horticultural Society
P.O. Box 0105
Mt. Vernon, VA 22121

New England Wild Flower Society
Hemenway Road
Framingham, MA 01701

North Carolina Botanical Garden
University of North Carolina
Totten Center 457-A
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society
P.O. Box 844
Annandale, VA 22003

National Wildflower Research Center
2600 FM 973 North
Austin, TX 78725

Wildflower species are threatened by habitat loss even more than overcollecting. To help promote conservation, join interested national conservation organizations and the native plant society in your area.



Plant Conservation Project
Natural Resources Defense Council
1350 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005

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STATE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

NPSO Wildflower Posters & Pins Susan Kofahl
P.O. Box 151, Mosier, OR 97040; 478-3576

Notecards George Lewis
8230 SW Cashmur Lane, Portland, OR 97225; 292-0415

T-Shirts Nadine Smith
1128 Jackson St., Eugene, OR 97402; 344-6478

ALPINE MIGRANTS ON MOUNT ST. HELENS

How geological events affect the distribution of plant species was a subject fresh in our minds at the time of Portland Chapter's field trip on Oct. 3. (We had read Stuart Garrett's article in the current Bulletin).

At Sheep Canyon, on the west side of Mount St. Helens, we noticed two plants that evidently were swept into new habitats by mudflows during the eruption of May 18, 1980. This narrow ravine, once heavily forested, was deeply scoured and the vegetation is returning slowly to the steep canyon walls.

On the overlook plateau where we lunched, elevation just under 4,000 ft., Lupinus lepidus var. lobbii was plentiful, somewhat lower on the mountain than usual.

A little higher along the trail were half a dozen plants of Collomia debilis var. larsenii, recognized by its distinctive foliage and typical phlox-family seed capsules. The seed had already dispersed, so perhaps there will be more another year (and probably there are more now than we observed). We see the lovely mound of gray-green foliage and pale violet flowers on Mt. Adams at about 7,000 ft.

Will these transplants survive at this lower elevation? Both are alpines of open scree. We should watch for them, from year to year, as the surrounding forest moves back to reclaim its once-green canyon.

Please put Sheep Canyon on your futures list. Thanks to our leader that day, Carroll Dubuar, it's a trip we'll gladly repeat next season.

From I-5, exit at Woodland to Hwy. 503, continue past Yale Park and turn north on Rd. 81, then north on Rd. 8123 to the signed Toutle Trail No. 238. Roads are paved almost all the way.

The trail follows an easy grade past Blue Lake, through a varied forest including some fine old-growth silver fir and noble fir, and in about three miles brings you to the stark view of what happened to the upper drainage of the Toutle River seven years ago. Along the way, the occasional seepages, dry banks and open slopes suggest a fine plant list for early and mid-summer. And with more diligent search, you may find other migrants from above timberline.

--Louise Godfrey

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 14382 Marion Road, Turner, OR 97392; 769-4669
 Wm. Cusick (LaGrande Area) Rachel Sines
 504 C Ave., LaGrande, OR 97850; 963-0674

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chair Mary Falconer
 1920 Engel Ave. NW, Salem, OR, 97304; 585-9419
 Membership in the Native Plant Society of Oregon is open
 to all. Membership applications & changes of address
 (including old address & zip code) should be sent to the
 membership chair.

BULLETIN

Editor Jan Anderson
 1960 Lovejoy #2, Portland, OR, 97209; 248-9242

The NPSO Bulletin is published monthly. Copy is due by
 the 10th of the month & should be sent to the editor.
 News, articles, photos, drawings, & non-copyrighted
 materials are welcomed.

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Bulletin is not typeset; therefore typed,
 camera-ready copy is much appreciated. But
 no submission will be rejected because it is
 not typed. Please proofread & check facts.
 DEADLINE: 10th of each month

FORMAT: Copy should be typed in 4 1/4 inch wide
 columns, of any length. Author's name & chap-
 ter affiliation (or other organization) are
 typed at the end of the article. There is no
 standard paragraph treatment; one of these
 is suggested:

* for long articles, double space between
 paragraphs, but do not indent the first
 word of the paragraph

* for short articles or short paragraphs,
 when double spacing looks odd, indent
 the first word of the paragraph instead

Type your own headline, centered, all caps.
 In case of special formats, e.g. plant keys,
 you are free to choose the layout.

CREDITS: For each submission, provide

* title

* author--specify whether byline is desired
 for news items

* instructions as to whether item is to be
 used in entirety or excerpted at editor's
 discretion

* source & date if item is not original

ILLUSTRATIONS: black & white prints, ink
 drawings, woodcuts, halftones, et al. We
 welcome small doodles as well as larger
 efforts. Please give source & date, if not
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SCIENTIFIC NAMES should follow Hitchcock &
 Cronquist's Flora of the Pacific Northwest
 where possible. Use of both scientific &
 common names is encouraged. Genus & species
 names are underlined or italicized.

RETURN OF ORIGINALS: Manuscripts & illustra-
 tions will not be returned unless it is
 requested.

The Bulletin is published as a service to
 NPSO members & the public. Your suggestions
 & comments are always welcome.

#

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON MEMBERSHIP FORM

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IS THIS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS? If so please
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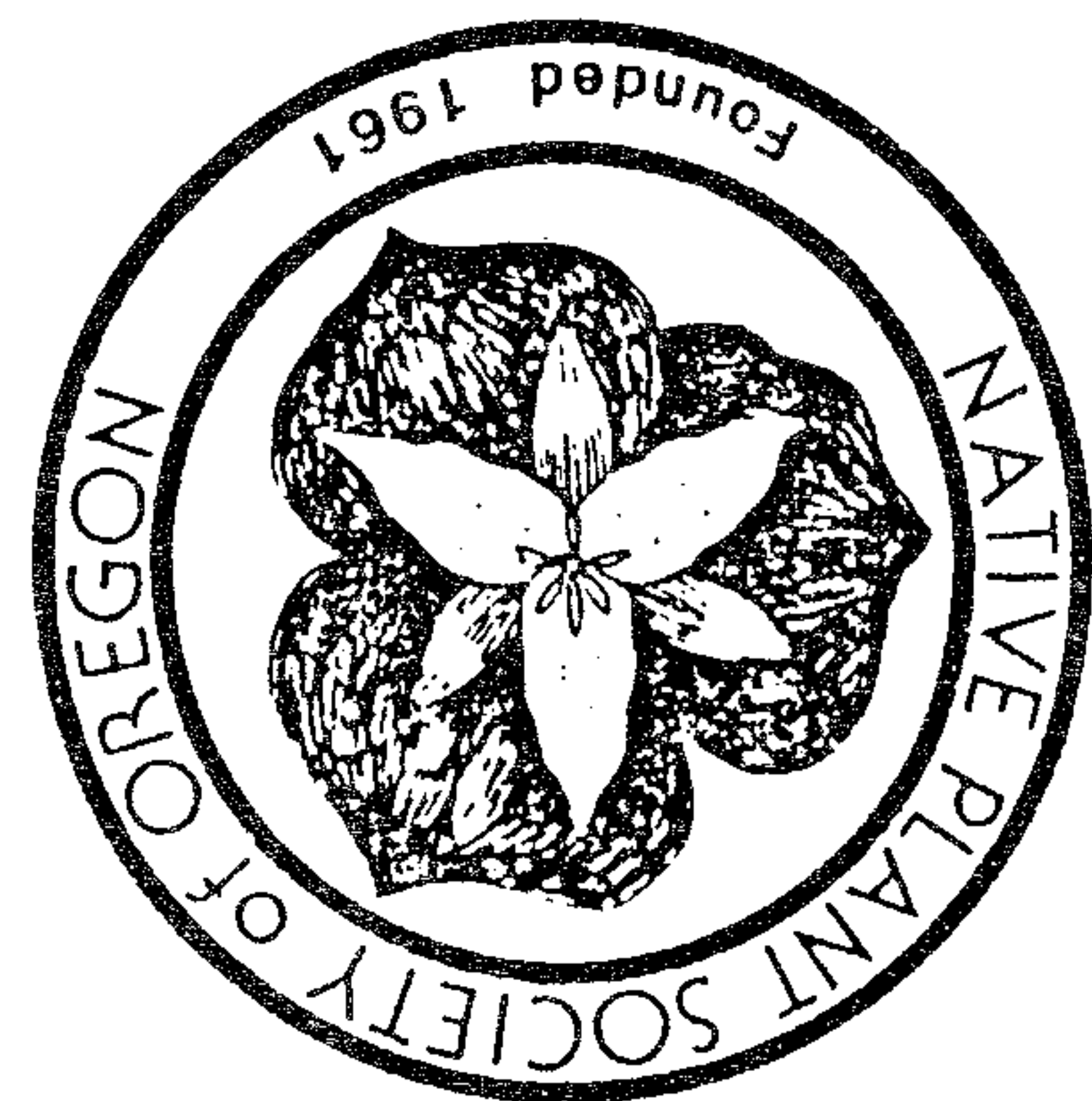
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 Please make checks for dues & contributions payable to NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON. Send completed form
 & full remittance to: MARY FALCONER, NPSO MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, 1920 Engel Ave. NW, Salem, OR 97304.

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