

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

Volume 21 No. 7

July 1988

ISSN 0884-5999

CHAPTER NEWS

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Field trips will take place rain or shine so proper dress and footwear is essential. Trips may be strenuous and/or hazardous. Please contact the trip leader for information about difficulty, mileage and terrain. You participate at your own risk. Bring water and lunch.

Blue Mountain

For information contact Bruce Barnes (276-5547).

Corvallis

For information contact Dan Luoma (758-8063).

Emerald

9 July, Sat.

Field trip to Elk Meadows, a BLM Research Natural Area at 4000' on the border of Lane & Douglas Cos. We'll see Sidalcea cusickii & Frasera umquaensis. BLM Botanist Peter Zika, will lead (687-6691 days, 896-3853 eve. before 9pm). Depart South Eugene High School at 9:30am.

High Desert

9 July, Sat.

Field trip to Cultus Creek/Many Lakes. This proposed RNA off Century Drive is scenic and has old growth pine and spruce. Large springs and bogs are of interest. Moderate hike of 2 miles. Leader is Bill Hoskins (389-3330). Depart 8:30am from McDonalds Restaurant in Bend.

16 July, Sat.

DATE CORRECTION. Field trip to Iron Mountain, a classic Cascades wildflower hike of 6 miles on a good trail. Leaders are: Marge Ettinger (382-2255) and Julie Robertson (388-1903). Depart from McDonalds Restaurant at 8:30am.

13 Aug., Sat.

Field trip to Broken Top. An annual trip to see a spectacular display of alpine wildflowers. A 5 mile moderate to strenuous hike with a 1500 ft. elevation gain. Leader Stu Garrett (389-6981). Depart McDonalds at 8:30am.

Mid Columbia

6 July, Wed.

Meeting at 7:30pm at Mosier School. "A Lomatium Extravaganza". Ethnobotanist, Gene Hunn from the University of Washington will present a program with slides on our various native Lomatiums. Samples will be discussed and species determinations made.

No August meeting! Field trips and possible picnic will be planned at July's meeting.

North Coast

- 7 July, Thur. Meeting, 7:00pm at the State Office Building, 3600 Third St., Tillamook. There will be a plant discussion on the Rosaceae.
- 17 July, Sun. Field trip to Hebo Lake. Meet at Hebo Grade School Parking lot at 1:30pm. Contact Clarice Maxwell (842-7023) for more information.
- 4 Aug., Thur. Meeting, 7:00pm at the State Office Building, 3600 Third St., Tillamook.

Portland

- 2-4 July Field trip to Orcas Island. Barb Fox is leading this trip. Contact her for information (659-2445).
- or
- Field trip to Siskiyou Mountains, Dutchmans Peak. Contact George Lewis (292-0415) for more information. Also see directions in last month's Bulletin.
- 9 July, Sat. Field trip to Wahtum Lake, Anthill Trail. two and one-half miles or longer if desired. Leave Gateway MAX Park-and-Ride at 8:00am. Regroup at Hood River Inn (Now Nendels) at 9:30am for drive to Wahtum Lake. Leaders: George Jeffcott and Herb Armentrout (658-2751).
- 12 July, Tue. Meeting, 7:00pm. First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Bryan Boyce, horticulturist with Kurisu International, will present a program on "Front Range Flora of Colorado" with comparisons to the Cascades flora.
- 16 July, Sat. Field trip to Monument Peak. Leave K-Mart parking lot in Tualatin at 8:00am. (Exit off Salem Freeway - I5, turn right and right again. Leader: Bryan Boyce. Contact Vance Terrall (281-2119) for further information.
- 23 July, Sat. Field trip to Silver Star Mountain. Leave the Park & Ride at the 134th St. Exit off of I-5 six miles north of Vancouver at 8:00 am. Be prepared for 3 miles of rough Forest Service road. Leader is Ed Robinson of the Wash. Native Plant Society.
- 30 July, Sat. Field trip to Mt. Adams and Bird Creek Meadows. Leave Gateway MAX Park-and-Ride at 8:00 a.m. Meet at 9:15 at the Hood River Inn (now Nendel's) parking lot for regrouping. A stop will be made at the store at the north end of the Hood River Bridge to pick up people from Washington. Leader: Keith Chamberlin of the Mid-Columbia Chapter. Contact Vence Terrall (281-2119) for further information.

Siskiyou

- No monthly meetings until September.
- 24 July, Sun. Field trip to Mt. Eddy, California. Rigorous hiking to 9000 ft. elevation. Lots of subalpine rare species. Leader: Wayne Rolle (482-0093). All participants should call Wayne in advance. Also, anyone interested in making it a two-day camping trip should contact Wayne. For the one-day excursion, meet at Ashland Bi-Mart at 8:00 a.m.

Willamette Valley

- Unscheduled mid-week trips will be arranged by telephone tree, depending on weather, season, and interest. To sign up, call Clint Urey (743-2802) or Barbara Halliday (371-1025).
- 9 July, Sat. Field trip to Triangulation Peak, Central Cascades. Moderate, 4.5 mile round-trip. A flower garden! Leave South Salem K-Mart at 7:30 a.m. 1½-2 hour drive to trail head. Leader: Frances Schaeffer (393-7492).
- 16 July, Sat. Field trip to Bachelor Mountain, Central Cascades. Moderate hike, 4 mile round-trip. Great display of flowers, good views. Leave South Salem K-Mart at 8:00 a.m. Leaders: Heike and Wally Eubanks (390-2257).
- 24 July, Sun. Field trip to The Butte Research Natural Area in the Coast Range. An interim zone between the Coast Range and Willamette Valley resulting in an interesting flora. Great views of the Willamette Valley and Cascades. Moderate hike. Leave South Salem K-Mart at 8:00 a.m., or main entrance to Polk Co. Fairgrounds in Rickreall at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Larry Scofield (787-3833).

30 July, Sat.

Field trip to Ramona Falls and Yocum Ridge, Mount Hood. 3-hour round-trip to Ramona Falls; strenuous 13-mile round trip to Yocum Ridge--but more flowers higher up! Leave South Salem K-Mart at 7:00 a.m. Leader: Bill Egan (393-2131).

Wm. Cusick

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

IN MEMORIAM -- CAROLYN SIMMONS

In 1961, Carolyn Simmons was among the few wildflower enthusiasts who attended the organizational meeting of the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Shortly afterward it became evident that a functional system must be formed in order that the simple business operation of this newly formed group could be conducted. At that time Carolyn became the first elected president of NPSO. Through the years she was most active in this organization, always fostering the theme of wildflower preservation and conservation. Eager to learn more about unfamiliar plant families, such as mosses and lichens, she became an outstanding member of these study groups.

Carolyn had moved from Texas to Oregon in 1961, where her interest in native plants and birds continued. In 1971 she became a part of the Outdoor Program of the Portland Public Schools, and for the next ten years taught Plant Resources to sixth graders.

For the past few years Carolyn was unable to attend meetings and on April 21 of this year left us for that great unknown world. Her loss is deeply felt by all who knew her. She will always be remembered.

-- Ruth M. Hansen

FOREST SERVICE AGREES TO FENCE OUT TRESPASS CATTLE

An article in the May issue of the NPSO Bulletin discussed the impact of trespass cattle on a vernal pond near the Dalles Mountain Road, in the east end of the Columbia Gorge. This 60-acre parcel has come under Forest Service management, specifically that of the Mt. Adams Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

On May 12, 1988, District Ranger James Bull visited the area, together with District Botanist Marty Stein, Wildlife Biologist Walt Peterson, Range Conservation Officer Debbie Couch, from the Soil Conservation Service, and Russ Jolley, NPSO Portland Chapter Conservation Chair. The special concern was for protection of the population of Machaerocarpus californicus, listed "Sensitive" by the Washington Natural Heritage Program.

The result of the field trip was a decision by the Forest Service to fence the parcel to exclude the trespass cattle. Also, no new grazing permit would be issued.

Fencing cannot take place until a survey team has established the precise location of the boundaries. This will take place this summer. The goal is to have at least the western boundary fenced before the start of next year's grazing season, thus excluding the trespass cattle in 1989.

The Ranger also indicated that during the fencing operation, "...assistance in packing the rocks necessary to build the fence will be gladly accepted." The rocks are needed for "rock jacks" to hold the fence posts, since digging post holes in solid basalt is close to impossible. NPSO members who are willing to carry rocks for the fencing project will be more than welcome. Notice of the impending fencing party will appear in the Bulletin, probably this fall.

Russ Jolley - Portland Chapter

RE-WRITTEN ROSTER READY!

The brand new, 1988 NPSO Membership Roster is ready! In fact, by the time members read this, they may already have received their copy of the new membership list. Rhoda Love cut and pasted the roster together from a computerized list of members supplied by Shep Wilson, this from memberships processed by Mary Falconer. Julie Kierstead provided the illustrations.

The 20-page booklet has a tan cover and now replaces the green 1985 edition. The new roster contains names, addresses and phone numbers of all NPSOers who were members in good standing as of April, 1988. Sara Barnum and her committee of hard-working bulk-mail experts very kindly took on the job of distributing a roster to each member. Many thanks to everyone who helped get our re-written roster ready! Rhoda

4th ANNUAL ELKHORNS AMBLE FUNDRAISING HIKES

Friday July 22 and Saturday July 24 the Oregon Natural Resources Council, Friends of Lake Fork, and the Grande Ronde Resources Council will hold the 4th Annual Elkhorns Amble at Anthony Lakes Lodge and Campground at the base of the magnificent Elkhorn Mountains.

Registration is \$10. For more information call 820-3714 (Prairie City), 963-3339 (La Grande), 523-6117 (Baker), 344-0675 (Eugene).

BULLETIN ENTERS THE COMPUTER AGE

Thanks to a generous (\$1,500.) grant from The Portland Garden Club, our *Bulletin* has entered the arena of desktop publishing. A letter of appreciation has been sent to Mrs. Frederick Horstkotte, Jr., Community Participation Chairman of The Portland Garden Club. Julie Kierstead played a pivotal role by making the existence of the Garden Club's program known to us and Rhoda Love wrote the proposal that got the grant. Our gratitude goes to Julie and Rhoda for their efforts.

Additional thanks go to The Computer Store (of Corvallis) for recognizing the non-profit, educational nature of our organization. In support of our work, The Computer Store sold us our hardware and software package at a savings of about \$1,000. Our new capabilities will allow the *Bulletin* Editor to more easily produce a better quality product that will improve the effectiveness with which we communicate about the native flora of the Pacific Northwest.

We have obtained a Macintosh SE microcomputer and FullWrite Professional, an application that combines word processing, page layout, and graphics capabilities. Currently, submissions may be made in FullWrite, Microsoft Word, MacWrite, MultiMate/Advantage, and ASCII file formats. As the budget allows, we will acquire the capability to accept submissions in Apple II and IBM/compatible formats. Persons who wish to use the computer to prepare materials for the *Bulletin* must make arrangements with the *Bulletin* Editor. Use of the computer will be at the convenience and discretion of the *Bulletin* Editor.

Dan Luoma, President

THE PORTLAND GARDEN CLUB

Member of the Garden Club of America

1132 S.W. VISTA AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97205

May 15, 1988

Dr. Rhoda M. Love
Grants Chairman
Native Plant Society
393 FulVue Drive
Eugene, Oregon 97405

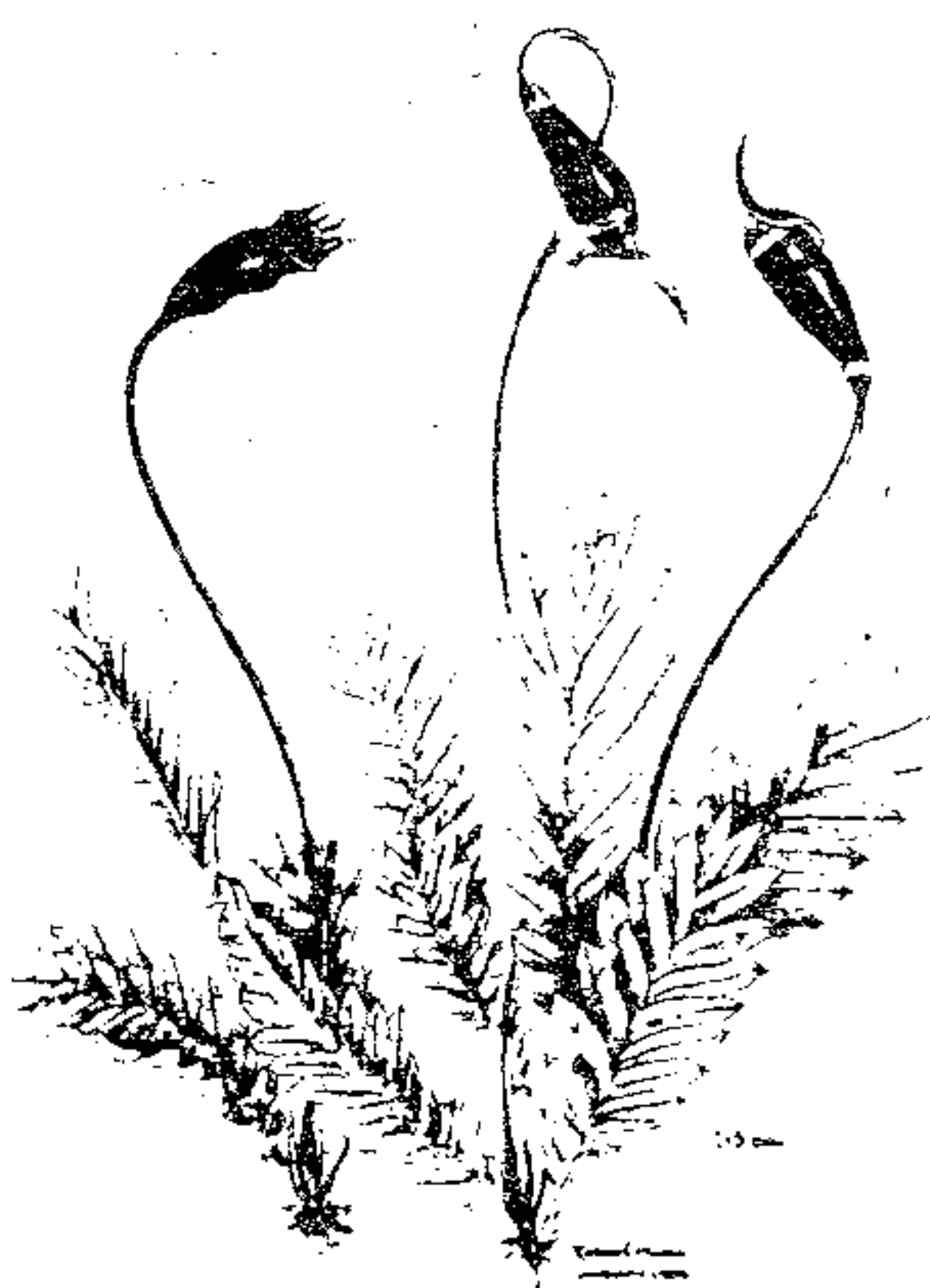
Dear Dr. Love.

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Portland Garden Club, through its Community Participation program, has awarded the Native Plant Society of Oregon a grant in the amount of \$1,500 to be used for the purchase of a MacIntosh Plus computer with appropriate publishing software.

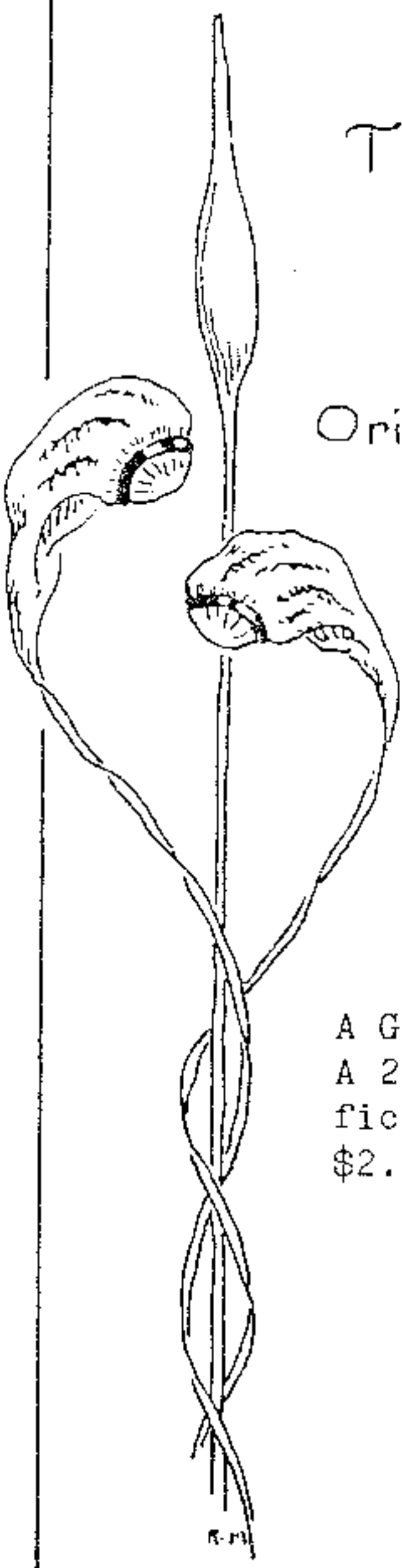
The Portland Garden Club strongly endorses the work you do, and are pleased to be able to offer our support.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frederick Horstkotte, Jr.
Community Participation Chairman



Fissidens taxifolius Hedw.
Northern hemisphere

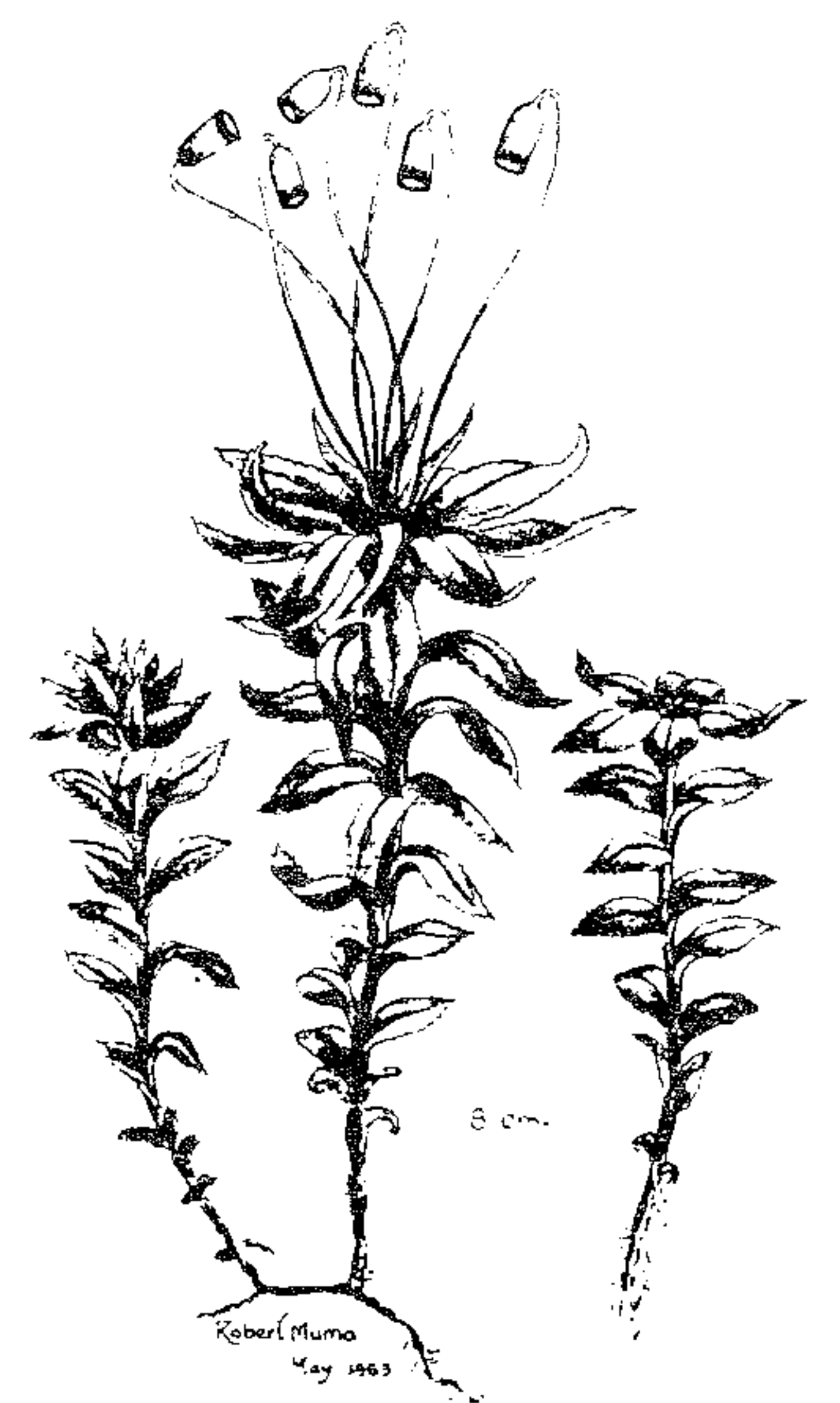


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OREGON OLD GROWTH GETS TEMPORARY REPRIEVE

- by Art Farley, Lane Co. Audubon Society
Reprinted from "The Quail", May 1988.

On Wednesday, 20 April 1988, Judge Helen J. Frye ruled in Federal District Court at Portland to dismiss a suit brought by Lane County Audubon Society and a consortium of other environmental organizations against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The suit, filed in last October, was in response to a decision by the Oregon State Director of the BLM in February 1987 not to issue an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the effects of BLM timber management plans upon the northern spotted owl population. An Environmental Assessment issued at that time did not disclose or consider significant, new information regarding this decision. The plaintiffs believed this was in direct violation of the National Environmental Protection Act.

The sole basis for the court's decision in Portland was a paragraph slipped into a continuing budget resolution by Senator Hatfield that passed Congress last December. The section attempts to prevent courts from reviewing any, including illegal, conduct of the BLM. In this case, plaintiffs present evidence that new information sufficient to warrant an EIS has become available and that current BLM policy is damaging to the survivability of the northern spotted owl population in Oregon. From the court opinion, "research projects have generated significant new information regarding the spotted owl." And then, "old growth timber on BLM lands in western Oregon will be logged at a rate that will foreclose Secretary Hodel's ability to provide meaningful protection for the northern spotted owl and other old-growth dependent species. New resource management plans scheduled for 1990 will be too late to stop the irreversible effects of current old-growth forest destruction." Unfortunately, the judge then ruled that the section of the continuing resolution introduced by Senator Hatfield ties the Court's hands from considering the evidence and doing anything about it.

On 21 April, plaintiffs filed an appeal of the decision for dismissal with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The following day, they filed for injunctive relief pending appeal with the same Court. The injunction requests that no sales of old growth timber be allowed within a 2.1 mile radius of inventoried spotted owl habitat areas on land under BLM management. This would affect less than 12,000 acres of timber over the next two years. The BLM sells over 1 billion board feet of timber per year from Oregon. The injunction would affect less than one percent of this total, yet this is timber critical for all species primarily dependent on old growth forest for their survival. Plaintiffs are confident on appeal that the language of the continuing resolution will be found not to apply to this case and that the original case will be heard successfully.

- by Wendell Wood, Oregon Natural Resources Council.

On 18 May 1988, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an order halting all old growth forest logging on western Oregon Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The old growth groves enjoined by the Court

were described as forest trees 200 years of age or older. Any old growth timber sales currently under contract (an almost two year supply under current rates of cutting), as well as future fire salvage sales, are unaffected by the injunction.

Oral arguments are scheduled to be presented before the Ninth Circuit Court on 19 July 1988. By the issuance of this injunction it is hoped the Court will ultimately overturn the lower court's decision and require multiple use management on western Oregon BLM lands.

Conservationists are now concerned that Senator Mark O. Hatfield and Congressman Les AuCoin may attempt to write more specific language to undo this lawsuit should the appeals court ultimately rule that the BLM acted illegally. It is therefore up to the public to insist that Congress not intervene solely in the interest of the clearcut industry.

WEEVIL ON THE WAY OUT

The Bureau of Land Management's Salem district managers who have long fought a losing battle with encroaching Scotch Broom now have an ally on the horizon.

Formerly, hundreds of Boy Scouts and other volunteers were recruited each year by Jay Grant of BLM's Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site to pull out by the roots some of the acres and acres of Scotch Broom, without much success. "It comes back almost as fast as we pull it out," Grant says.

The new ally, slightly smaller than your standard-size Boy Scout, is the Scotch Broom seed weevil, Apion fuscirostre.

The weevils, first introduced in Oregon in 1981, do not kill or weaken existing plants, but check their spread by destroying most of the seeds. Developing larvae eat one or two seeds in each pod in which the female laid eggs. Superior flying ability of the adults lets them infest isolated plants without human help.

Weevil populations have increased enough for redistribution to western Oregon forests says Glenn Miller, Oregon Department of Agriculture noxious weed specialist. Efforts are underway to establish nursery sites throughout western Oregon.

Persons interested in obtaining the insects or more information may contact Miller at the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salem, phone 378-4987.

— Ray Naddy; Reprinted from BLM News, 4/88.

Collecting seeds and growing your own plants can add another dimension to the joy of gardening. Even if you only continue to watch the plants after they finish blooming, and then search for seed you will be amazed at the diversity of seed pods and seed. The drawings on the right by F.H. Hillman, taken from the Nevada State University Agricultural Experiment Station Bull. No. 38, 1897, show examples of some seeds of Nevada plants. The seeds are shown both natural size and enlarged -- no scale is given.

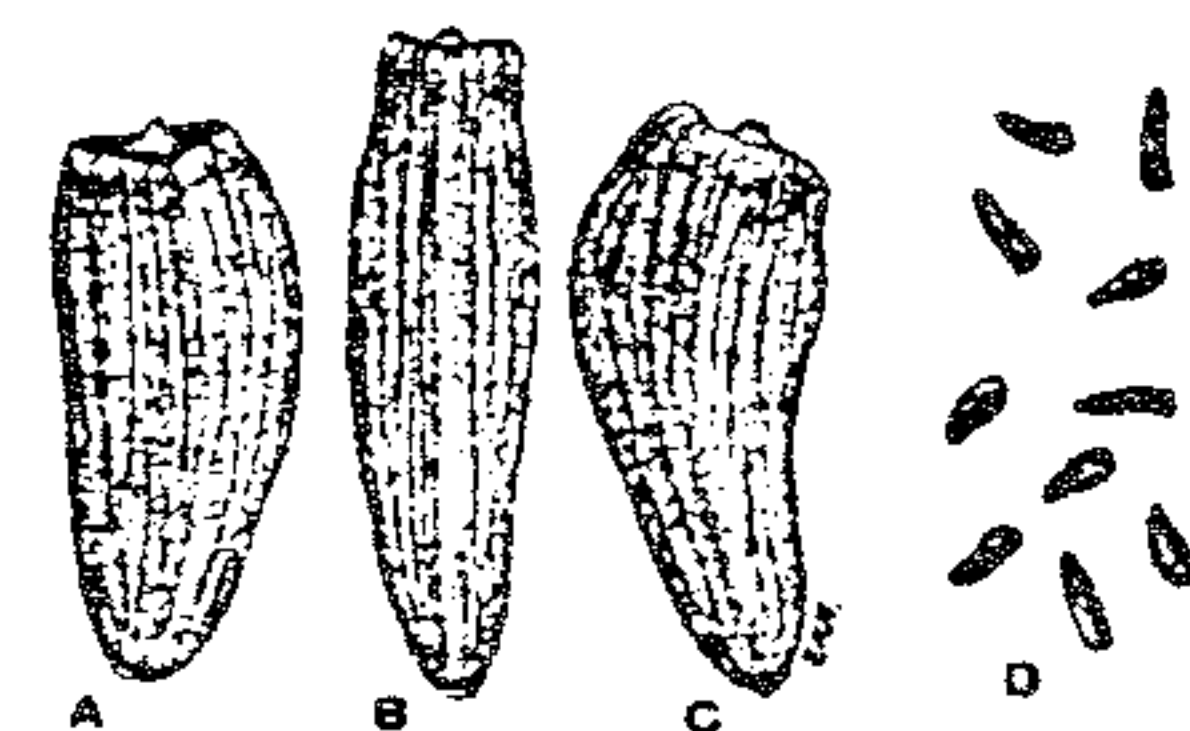
It is frustrating and disappointing to go on a seed collecting hunt only to find that the flowers dried up without making seed or that the seed pods are empty. But it is even more disappointing, and infuriating, to have someone give you seed heads containing only chaff or immature seed. Those of you who are experienced seed collectors know whereof I write, and need read no further. The purpose of this article is to help the others of you avoid the pitfalls. It is easy if the seed shakes out of a pod neatly like columbine or shooting star seed. But usually the dried flowers (including pods or seed coverings) must be crumbled to release the seed, and it will be mixed up with chaff. Blow the chaff away carefully, usually if the seed is large, you will be able to feel it and see it. Hopefully with a hand lens you will be able to recognize smaller seed -- in a dry year, the seed may simply shrivel up and not mature.

Although it may seem early, actually now is the time to begin to think about which seeds you would like to collect, either to grow yourself or to pass on to a seed exchange. The first step is locating the plants from which you would like to collect seed. If the plants are in your garden, it is relatively easy -- all you have to do is watch the plant as it matures and periodically check on the ripening of the seed. Collecting seed from plants in the wild is more difficult and if you do not locate the plants when they are flowering, unless you have had a great deal of experience, the plants are much harder to find and to identify after the blossoms are gone. Find a source where the plants are abundant. Timing is crucial -- seeds collected when immature often have low viability and vigor, and seeds of many native plant species shatter soon after ripening. A good rule of thumb is that it takes about six weeks for the seed of most plants to ripen. But there are many exceptions to the rule: the seed of the first flowers on a lewisia plant usually ripens before the last flowers bloom; the same is true of the seed of composites (remember dandelions); phlox plants have to be watched closely, almost daily as the flowers are drying up, the pods can burst open and the seed flies into oblivion overnight; the lower pods on lupine stems can burst and expel their seed while the upper flowers are still in bloom; etc. Finding ripe seed is not an art, it is a challenge, and often it is a matter of repeated trips to your seed source. Some pods remain upright and hold in the seed even when the stems are dry and the seed is mature -- penstemon, calochortus, paintbrush, and others are like this -- have your paper bag right at hand, and do not tip the pods over until the bag is underneath. Just be sure to scatter some seeds for next year.

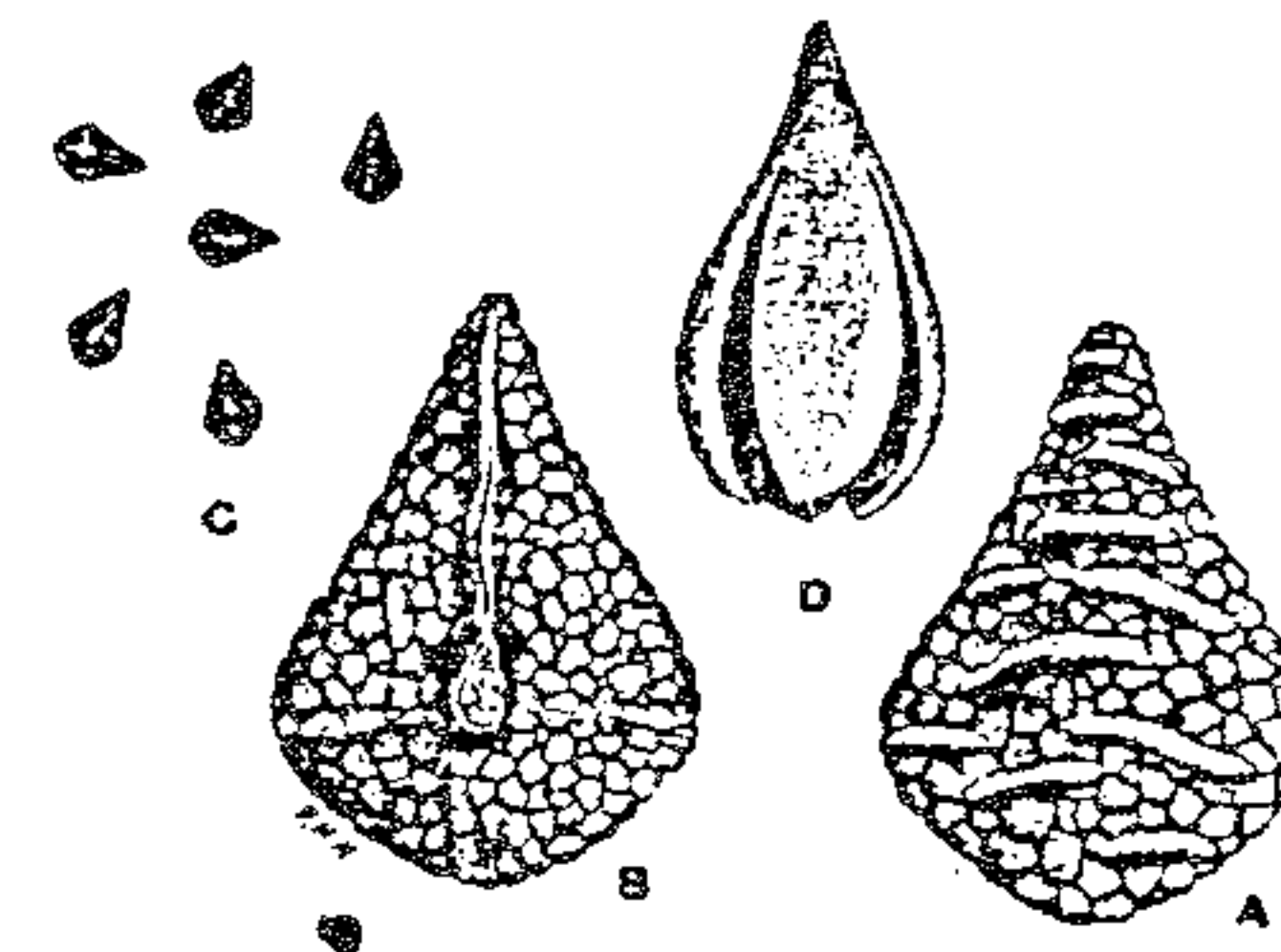
James and Cheryl Young in their book discuss the sequence of seed development:

a. Soft dough stage: if the seed is pinched between the thumb and forefinger, the inside of the seed will be squeezed out (if the seed is large); very small seed will simply be squashed.

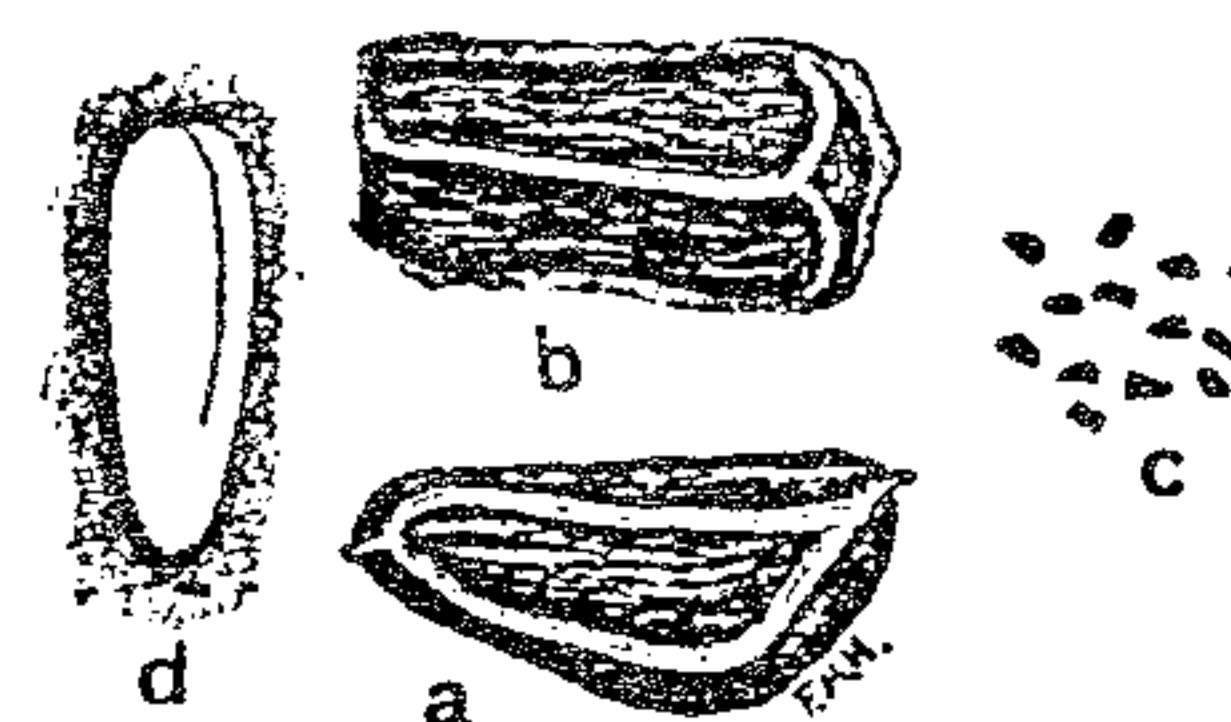
b. Hard dough stage: bite the seed, once the soft dough stage is completed, fully mature seed is generally very hard to the bite. Usually ripe seed is no longer green in color, but is tan or brown or black. Seed collection should begin with the transition from soft to hard dough stage. The chance of obtaining plump, fully matured seeds can be increased by cutting stems with seed pods, rather than stripping the pods from the plant. In some species, this method will allow seed maturation to continue. Care must be taken to spread out the plant material so that it dries



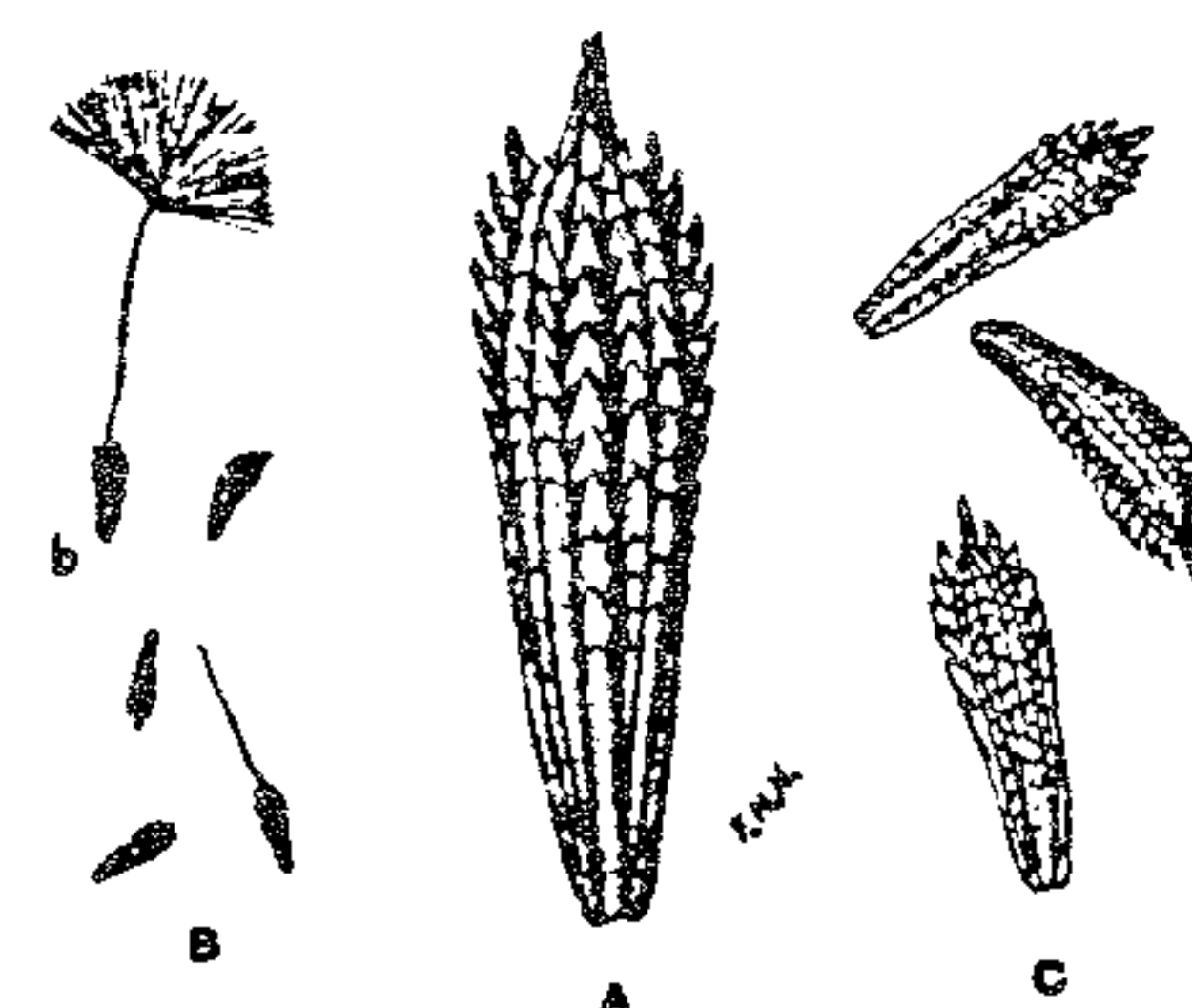
Gum-weed
Grindelia squarrosa



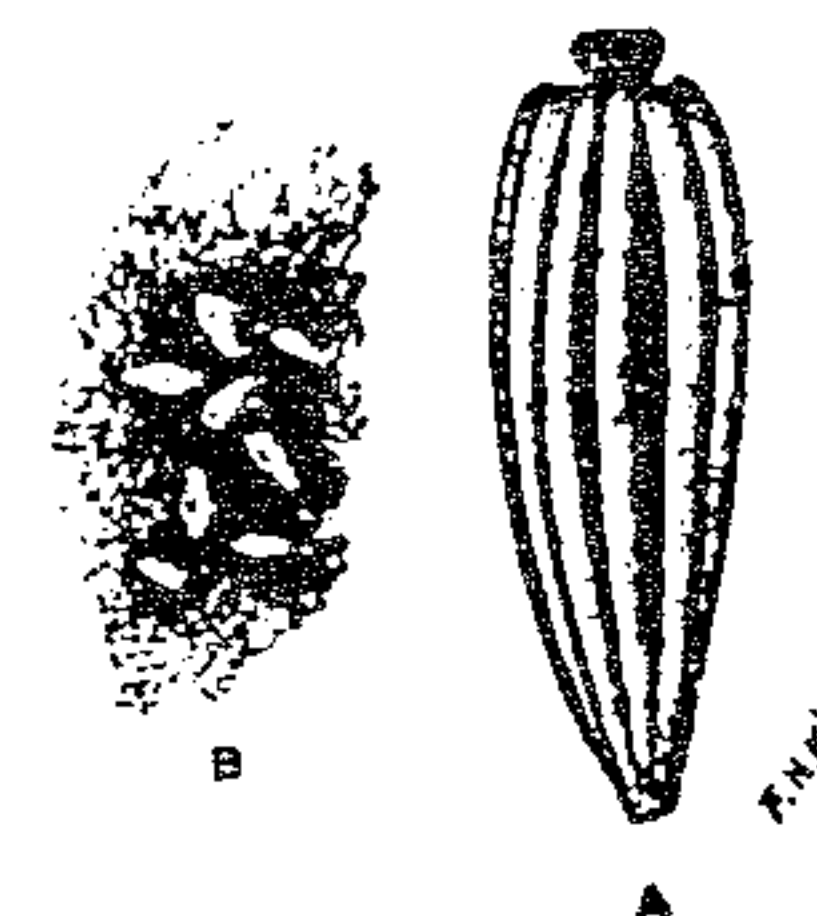
Fiddleneck
Amsinckia tessellata



Yellow Evening-primrose
Oenothera elata



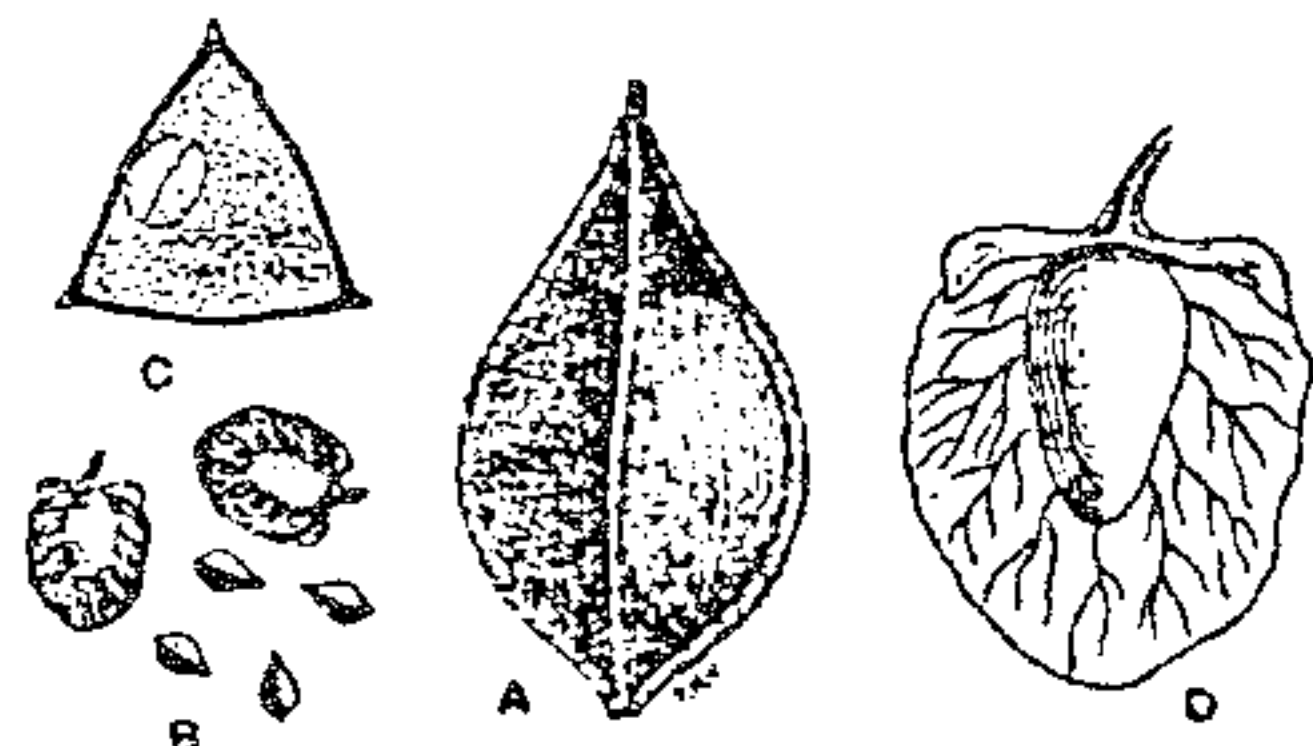
Dandelion
Taraxacum officinale



Ox-eye Daisy
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum



Buttercups
Ranunculus sp.



Curled Dock
Rumex crispus



Cinquefoil
Potentilla sp.

uniformly and the seed does not mold. If the seed is immature, it may continue to ripen if the flower stems are put in water. (Some say that adding a little sugar to the water helps.)

c. Maturity: obviously the ideal stage to collect seeds. Unfortunately, maturity and seed pods breaking open may occur at the same time. The seed of many plants is violently ejected when the pods break open and the seed is dispersed widely. For instance, it is almost impossible to find phlox seeds after the pods have broken open. To make sure of getting some viable seeds, repeated collections may be necessary. These collections should extend from the latter part of the soft dough stage until all seed is mature. The period of optimum seed collection can be extended by starting the seed collection at low elevations and following the plants upslope as they mature. If the seed pods on a south-facing slope have already shattered, it may be possible to find the same kind of plants on a north or east-facing slope with collectible seed.

Areas burned by wildfires are excellent for seed collection for several seasons after the burning. This is due to natural plant succession, the response of many species to a reduction in competition, and nutrient changes brought on by the fire.

Keeping records of your collections is extremely important. If you are collecting several species in different bags at the same time, take care not to mix up the seeds. Collect seed only from healthy plants with desirable attributes, i.e., vigorous growth under adverse conditions such as drought or salinity, dense vegetative growth, or high seed production.

Plastic bags or wax-coated paper containers should never be used to store seed. The moisture content of freshly collected material is often quite high, and nonporous bags can trap this moisture causing the seed to mold or rot. Sometimes it is expedient to collect seed in plastic bags, but transfer it to large paper bags as soon as possible. It is best to clean the seed as soon as it is dry, sometimes insects are inadvertently collected with the seed (or eggs hatch as in legumes) and the seed will be damaged. A simple method to clean seed is to rub the collected materials over a coarse screen. A more efficient method is to rub the materials between two wooden paddles covered with rough rubber matting. Either method loosens the seed from the chaff. Care must be taken not to crush the seed. The chaff can be removed by winnowing or by sifting through a series of screens (strainers) with different sizes of mesh. Thoroughly dried seed can be stored in closed paper bags or dry glass jars in a cool place, add some moth balls if insects are suspected.

This brief article cannot answer all your questions, for more information consult the book: Collecting, Processing, and Germinating Seeds of Wildland Plants. 236 p. by James and Cheryl Young. Copies can be obtained from them: [phone 702-747-3037] 600 Akard Circle, Reno, NV 89503.

Reprinted from the "Newsletter" of the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society, June 1988.

EXCERPTS FROM NPSO GUIDELINES AND ETHICAL CODE:

Encourage members to grow native plants only from seeds or cuttings.

Collecting for whatever purpose should be done as inconspicuously as possible. Casual observers may not understand the reasons for collecting and may feel license to do likewise.

Collecting must never endanger a plant population. Collect seeds or cuttings in preference to whole plants. Avoid excessive collecting.

Seeds should not be sold. Growers must exercise discretion in collecting seeds and cuttings to avoid endangering a plant population.

A CHECKLIST AND KEY TO PRUNUS IN WESTERN OREGON

Wild plums and cherries are a showy part of our spring flora in western Oregon. So it is surprising that our floras don't include several naturalized species. This is apparently the first report of escaped P. persica and P. cerasifera from western Oregon. In spring of 1988 I documented wild plants of each from the Eugene area in Lane County. These flowering specimens will be deposited in the herbarium of the University of Oregon.

Dr. David Wagner, the herbarium curator, and Alan Curtis, former BLM botanist, have located wild populations of P. spinosa in Lane County, although Hitchcock and Cronquist (1981) did not record it west of the Cascades, and Peck (1961) did not list it in Oregon.

Below is a checklist of the Prunus in our area. Notes on fruit color and common names are based on the literature. Species escaped from cultivation are marked with an asterisk (*).

CHECKLIST OF PRUNUS IN WESTERN OREGON

TAXA	[FRUIT COLOR]
<u>Prunus avium</u> L. * (sweet cherry)	[yellow, red]
<u>P. cerasus</u> L. * (sour cherry)	[red]
<u>P. cerasifera</u> Ehrh. * (cherry plum)	
var. <u>cerasifera</u>	[red, yellow]
var. <u>pissardii</u> Koehne	[red-purple]
<u>P. demissa</u> (Nutt.) Walp. see	
<u>P. virginiana</u>	
<u>P. domestica</u> L. *	[yellow, green,
(cultivated plum, common plum)	blue-black,
	blue-purple]
<u>P. emarginata</u> (Dougl.) Walp.	
var. <u>mollis</u> (Dougl.) Brew.	
(bittercherry)	[red]
<u>P. laurocerasus</u> L. *	
(common cherry-laurel)	[black-purple]
<u>P. persica</u> (L.) Batsch *	[red, yellow]
<u>P. spinosa</u> L. * (blackthorn, sloe)	[blue, black]
<u>P. subcordata</u> Benth. (wild plum,	
Klamath plum)	
var. <u>subcordata</u>	[red-purple]
var. <u>oregana</u> (Greene) Wight	[dark red]
var. <u>kelloggii</u> Lem. *	[yellow]
<u>P. virginiana</u> L. (common	
chokecherry)	
var. <u>demissa</u> (Nutt.) Torr.	[red, purple,
	black]
var. <u>melanocarpa</u> (Nels.) Sarg.	[blue-purple,
	black]

The sequence of flowering among the introductions this year seems to be: P. cerasifera, P. persica, P. avium, P. domestica, P. laurocerasus, and P. spinosa. I have not seen P. cerasus.

In the key to species, P. mahaleb L. * (perfumed cherry) keys to P. emarginata. It can be distinguished, if found, by: acute leaves are nearly as broad as long, fruit black or yellow, petals 4-7.5 mm, (glabrous? calyx); while P. emarginata has blunt leaves longer than broad, red to black fruit, flowers 12-19 mm across, and a pubescent calyx.

Flowering Prunus can usually be identified with confidence if old pits can be located beneath the plant.

General references:

- Bailey, L. H. 1949. Manual of Cultivated Plants. MacMillan Publishing Co., New York. 1116 pp.
- Groh, H. and H. A. Senn. 1940. Prunus in Eastern Canada. Canad. Journ. Res. C 18: 318-346.
- Hedrick, U. P. 1911. The Plums of New York. Rep. New York Agr. Exp. Sta. 18 (for 1910) II. 616 pp.
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Peter F. Zika
Emerald Chapter



P. spinosa

(Illustrations on this page are from Hitchcock et al., *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*; used with permission from the publisher.)

**MOENCHIA ERECTA, THE MYSTERY
CARYOPHYLL, REVISITED**

by Rhoda Love

If I had any sense at all, I would not tell this story on myself, for it only shows how faulty my memory has become. However, it also shows how stubborn a botanist can be in pursuit of the name of an unknown plant, and it shows how our botanical knowledge advances step by stumbling step when we take the time to communicate with one another.

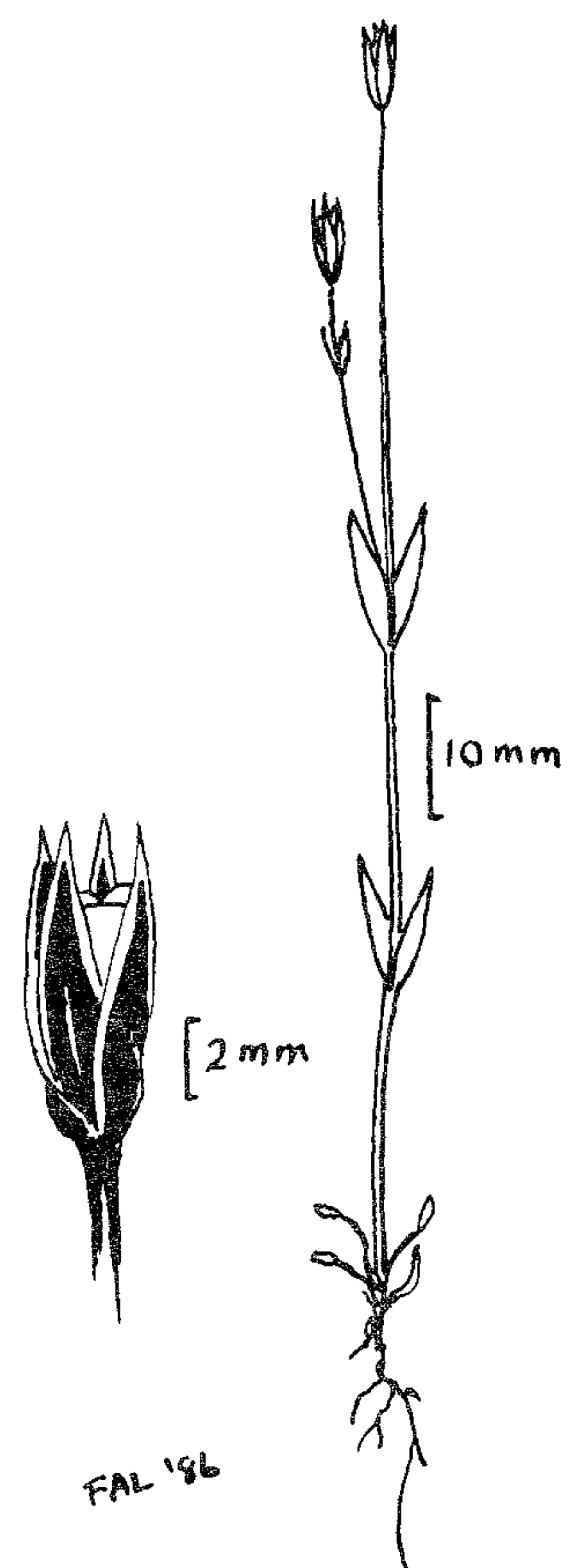
Two years ago, in these pages, Frank A. Lang of Southern Oregon College published a delightful article entitled "New or Unusual Southwest Oregon Weeds, Part II, *Moenchia erecta*, the Mystery Caryophyll." (NPSO Bulletin, June, 1986, page 66.) I read the article carefully and with much interest at the time, as I have always been interested in weeds. The article told the story of Frank's discovery of a little, 4-merous, weedy, *Arenaria*-like caryophyll at Round Top in Jackson County, which could not be keyed in Hitchcock, Munz or the first edition of Peck. Frank finally identified his weed as the European import, *Moenchia erecta*, in Tutin's, *Flora Europa*. Subsequently he mentioned the plant to Kenton Chambers of OSU who knew the species and reported that it could be keyed in the second edition of Peck. So much for events in 1986.

This spring I have been teaching systematic Botany at Lane Community College here in Eugene. Coming down the steps from the parking lot through a weedy and grassy area of the LCC campus one morning in April I bent down and picked a dainty little caryophyll to illustrate its opposite leaves and swollen nodes to my class. Looking more closely, I saw that the tiny plant, which looked like an *Arenaria*, was 4-merous. Just then a colleague of mine, a fine botanist, who shall remain nameless to protect his reputation, wandered by and I said "What's this little 4-merous caryophyll outside the door?" "Oh, that's *Arenaria pusilla*," he replied. "But it's 4-merous," I objected as he hurried off. I thought I heard some muttering about "phenotypic plasticity."

Of course I tried to key the plant in all my available Floras — including an ancient and crumbling first edition of Peck — to no avail. Throughout, something kept nagging at me. In my mind I associated the answer to the puzzle with a Living Oregon Botanist, but who? I kept turning the problem over and over in my mind. Then, at the end of May, I had occasion to attend a meeting of botanists at OSU. At the end of the meeting when we were throwing out miscellaneous questions, I turned to Ken Chambers and asked, "Do we have a 4-merous *Arenaria*?" "*Moenchia*," he replied, and memory came flooding back! The article by Frank Lang! I couldn't wait to get home!

I have now reread Frank's article — it's as delightful as I remember it — and it ends with a plea for Bulletin readers to keep their eyes open for *Moenchia* and to report if, when, and where it is found. So, I am reporting that the plant is alive and well in Lane County on a grassy hillside (not a wet seep, as in Jackson County). I wonder where the little *Moenchia*-kin will show up next? Be sure to report here if you spot it.

MOENCHIA ERECTA



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Editor Jan Dobak
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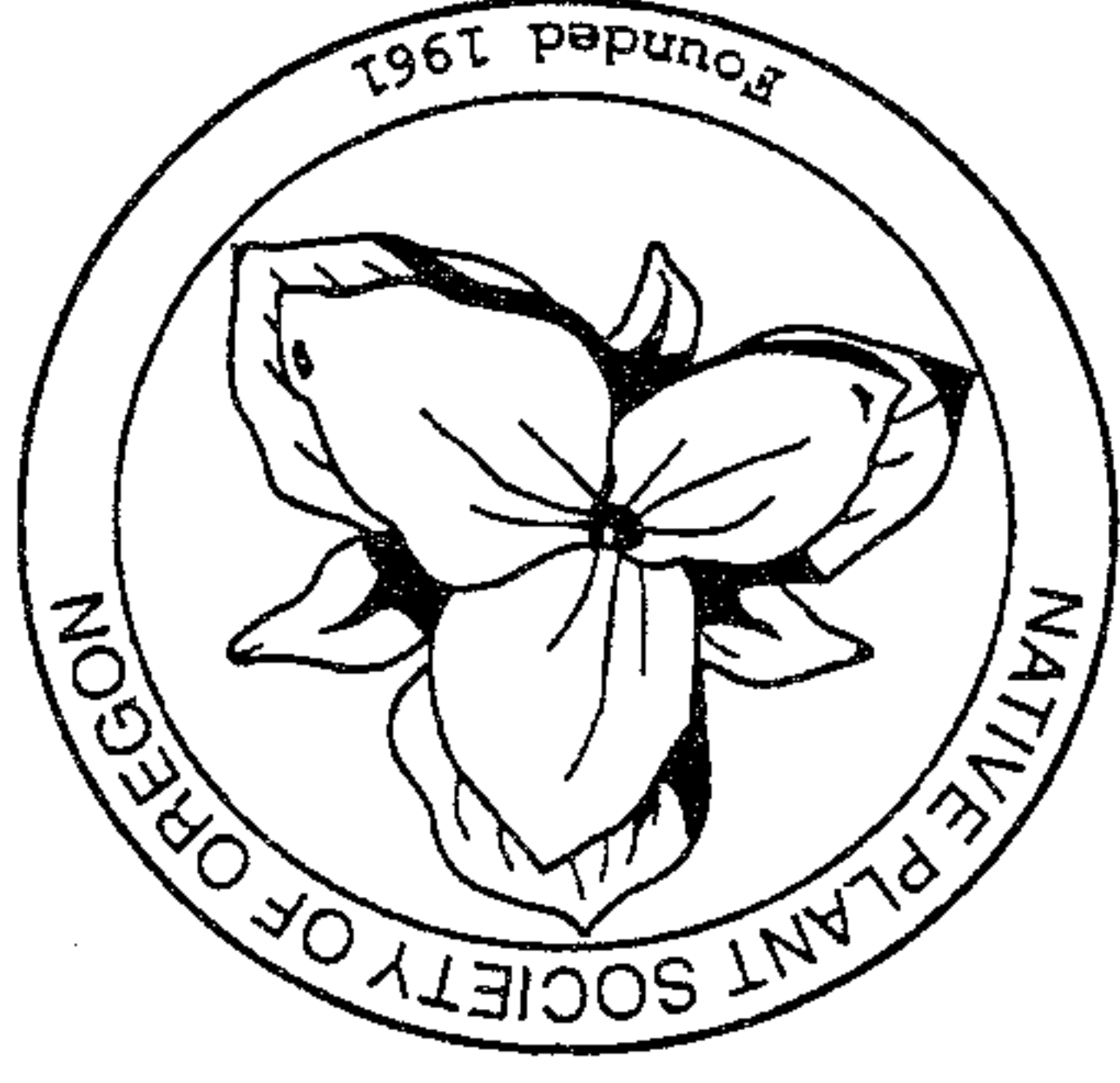
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