

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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## CHAPTER NEWS

### IMPORTANT NOTE TO FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Field trips take place rain or shine, so proper dress and footwear are essential. Trips may be strenuous and/or hazardous. Please contact the trip leader for information about difficulty, mileage, and terrain. Participation is at your own risk. Bring water and lunch. All NPSO activities are open to the public at no charge (other than carpool mileage), and friends, newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

**Notice to field trip chairs and leaders:** The Forest Service and other Federal agencies have set policies limiting group size in wilderness areas to 12. The reason for this is to limit the human impact on these fragile areas. As we are often in the position of asking them to follow their rules and regulations for conservation of our natural resources, it's time for us to do the same. Each group using wilderness must be no larger than 12.

### **Blue Mountain**

14 July, Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** to the Tucannon River north of Dayton, Wa. Leader, Karl Urban. Leave at 8am from the BMCC Greenhouse in Pendleton. For information call Bruce Barnes (276-5547).

### **Corvallis**

11 June, Mon.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm in Room 4083, Cordley Hall, OSU, Corvallis. A talk on "Forest Plants of Cameroon" by Duncan Thomas.

16 June, Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** to Mary's Peak. Leave at 9am from the parking lot across from the Monroe St. Beanery, Corvallis. Bring rain gear, lunch & hiking clothes. Contact Esther McEvoy (754-0893) for further info.

14 July, Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** to Iron Mountain. Leave at 8am from the parking lot across from the Monroe St. Beanery, Corvallis. Bring rain gear, lunch & hiking clothes. Call leader Dan Luoma (758-8063) for more info.

### **Emerald**

11 June, Mon.

For more information on field trips, call Sally Claggett at 484-0199.

**MEETING.** 7pm at the Westmoreland Community Center, 1545 W. 22nd. George Atiyeh will speak on Opal Creek.

### **High Desert**

14 July, Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** to Iron Mountain. One of Oregon's classic wildflower hikes, located just north of the Santiam Highway. A moderate 2 mile hike each way on a good trail with 1500 ft. elevation gain. Please call trip leader to register. Trip leader: Marge Ettinger (382-2255).

## Mid-Columbia

6 June, Wed.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Mosier School. Cheryl McAffrey, State Office botanist for the BLM, will give us an overview of the BLM's Botany Program.

1 Aug., Wed.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Mosier School will be a very special guest: Dr. Robert Pyle, leading authority on butterflies of the Pacific Northwest, speaking about "Butterflies: Flying Flowers". This is one program you won't want to miss! More about it in next month's *Bulletin*!

## North Coast

2 June, Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** to Yaquina Head. Leave at 9:am from the PUD parking lot in Tillamook. Bring lunch & water. The BLM will give us a tour of Yaquina Head. For information call Al Krampert (842-2308).

7 June, Thurs.

**MEETING.** 7pm, meet at Tillamook Bay Community College Parking lot. We will carpool to the Rainforest Nursery where Joan Saeger will give a tour of the nursery and talk on propagating native plants.

## Portland

2 June, Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** to Badger Creek. We will botanize along the School Canyon Trail on a ridge above the creek, in open grasslands, and pine-oak woodlands. Leave at 7:30am from the K-Mart parking lot at NE 122nd and Sandy. Leader: Rick Brown (222-1146).

9 June., Sat.

**ANNUAL MEETING.** No field trip! See you at the meeting!

12 June, Tue.

**MEETING.** 7pm at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Linda McMahan, Executive Director of Berry Botanic Garden, will give a slide presentation on native plants being preserved at botanical gardens throughout the United States while she was director of Botanical Garden Programs at The Center for Plant Conservation.

16 June, Sat.

Friends of the Columbia River Gorge hiking weekend. We are offering a 6.5 mile **FIELD TRIP** on the Pacific Crest Trail from Ft. Rains past Gillette Lake to Greenleaf overlook. Leave at 8:30am from the DOT parking lot near 60th and Glisan or 9:30am at the Ft. Rains Historical Marker 1 mile west of the Bridge of the Gods on Washington SR 14.

23 June, Sat.

**AROUND THE MOUNTAIN** annual flower show of the Portland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon Saturday and Sunday June 23rd & 24th at the World Forestry Center. No field trip.

30 June, Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** to Falcon Valley, visiting Laurel Rd., Willard Springs and/or the upper Klickitat River. Leave at 8am from the NE 122nd and Sandy K-Mart parking lot. Leader: Mike Fahey (206-694-2902).

## Siskiyou

2 June, Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** to Babyfoot Lake. Anita Seda, botanist for the Galice and Illinois Valley Ranger Districts of the Siskiyou National Forest, will lead a field trip to Babyfoot Lake Botanical Area. This glacial cirque lake is just inside the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. We will be looking for *Lewisia* species as well as enjoying this picturesque lake. This will be a 3 to 4 mile round trip on trails with some off trail browsing. Meet at Medford K-Mart at 8am or in Selma at the Selma Market at 9am. Info. John Erwin (476-2462).

14 June, Thur.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm in Rm. 171, Science Bldg, Southern Oregon State College. Joan Sievers will speak on current sensitive plant monitoring in the Medford District BLM. Her talk will be accompanied by exciting new slides and results of the monitoring.



16 June, Sat. FIELD TRIP to Round Top Butte Preserve. Darren Bergias of the Nature Conservancy will lead a hike at Round Top Butte Preserve and proposed research natural area. Rouge Valley lowland plant communities and early summer wildflowers will be seen. The hike will emphasize native grasses and fire ecology. Meet at Medford BLM, 3040 Biddle Road (one mile south of Medford Airport) at 9am. For info. call 482-8196. (Difficulty: moderate.)

23 June, Sat. FIELD TRIP to Miller Lake. Barbara Mumble of the Applegate Ranger District will lead this hike on Oliver Matthew's Trail to Miller Lake. Unusual species we will see are Brewer's Spruce, Matthews Cypress, Sadler Oak, and *Ribes marshallii*. Meet at 8:30am at the Williams Hwy. Safeway or at 9am at the town of Applegate, in the parking lot of the park. Info. John Erwin (476-2464). (Difficulty: Easy to moderate.)

## Umpqua Valley

21 June, Thurs. MEETING. 7pm at the BLM Office, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg. Russ Holmes will speak on the Roseburg BLM rare plant program.

30 June, Sat. FIELD TRIP. *Calochortus coxii* and other rare plants occurring on the BLM's Roseburg District. Leader: Russ Holmes (672-4635). Leave at 8am from the BLM parking lot, 777 Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg.

## Willamette Valley

If you want to hear about unscheduled mid-week trips to places near or far, call Clint Urey (581-1805) or Barbara Halliday (371-1025).

2 June, Sat. FIELD TRIP. for rare and endangered plant monitoring in Polk and Yamhill counties. This will be an opportunity to take part in the state-wide NPSO R/E project and help "count noes" to determine the current status of these plants. Mostly drive-by surveying with little walking. Leave at 8am from South Salem K-Mart. Leader: Wilbur Bluhm (393-2934).

9 June, Sat. FIELD TRIPS in conjunction with the NPSO Annual Meeting. Plan to attend!

16 June, Sat. FIELD TRIP to the Metolius River. A stop at the headwaters of this famous river, then follow the River Trail downstream from Bridge 99. Approx. 4 mi. round trip, easy walking. You MUST call trip leader Jim Versteeg (363-7397) or Barbara Halliday (371-1025) if you plan to attend.

24 June, Sun. FIELD TRIP to the Valley of the Giants, Oregon's largest known stand of record-size Douglas firs. In the Coast Range, 60 mi. west of Salem. Leader: Larry Scofield (787-3833, Dallas). Leave 8am from South Salem K-Mart or 9am from City Hall, Falls City.

16 June, Sat. FIELD TRIP to Whetstone Mountain, in the Little North Fork of the Santiam River drainage. A long and strenuous loop, 8-9 mi. total. First 2 mi. uphill, then a gradual hike down via Opal Creek area. Leave 8am from South Salem K-Mart. Leader: Tom Cherick Jr. (284-5156, Portland) or in Salem, call Barbara Halliday (371-1025).

7 July, Sat. FIELD TRIP to a wetlands area near I-5 and Highway 22 in Salem. A new area for us--come explore! Leave 8am from South Salem K-Mart. Leader Dale Groff (223-6808, Portland) or in Salem call Barbara Halliday (371-1025).

## William Cusick

----- For information, contact Karen Antell (963-0267).

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**ANNUAL MEETING AND STATE BOARD MEETING**  
**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH AND 10TH**  
**AT BAKER'S BAR M RANCH, ADAMS, OREGON**

All NPSO members are invited to attend the State Board meeting which will be held in conjunction with our Annual Meeting June 8th thru 10th at the Bar M Ranch 31 miles east of Pendleton.

Following the dinner which begins at 6:30pm Saturday, we will have Chapter Reports, a Membership Report, Awards, Swearing in of new officers (see accompanying article on new officers), announcements, and our main speaker.

Beginning at 9am Sunday, we will have a regular business meeting of the Board. All voting members of the Board including new officers and Chapter presidents should plan to attend.

All Board members should bring their copy of the minutes of the January 27th meeting in Eugene, which was mailed to you February 24th. By now you should have received a preliminary agenda. If you have last-minute agenda items, please call them in to Secretary Rhoda Love (345-6241) as soon as you read this, so that she can make up a revised agenda.

See you all at the meeting!

Rhoda Love, NPSO Secretary

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**NEW STATE OFFICERS CHOSEN**

The following individuals will take office June 9th at the NPSO Annual Meeting:

President: Stephanie Schulz  
Vice President: Dr. Dan Luoma  
Secretary: Sue Vrilakas  
Directors at Large: John Christy  
                                  Tom Kaye  
                                  Kathy Schutt

We extend our thanks to all who ran for office and those who serve as committee chairs. All the outgoing officers deserve a hearty round of applause for their efforts this past year!

The name chose by the membership for NPSO's occasional publication is *Kalmiopsis*. Rhoda Love is winner of a copy of *Northwest Trees*.

---Margary Willis and Mary Anne WestFahl,  
NPSO 1990 Election Committee

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**NEW MAILING COMMITTEE NEEDED  
FOR NPSO *BULLETIN***

The NPSO has lost its *Bulletin* Mailing Committee. Sara Barnum, longtime former Mailing Committee head, has generously offered to temporarily keep the *Bulletin* rolling out, but cannot do so for long. A new Committee needs to be found soon. One person willing to assist the operation but not direct it may be available. Two experienced mailers are willing to help train a new Committee Chair and assist at first.

This is a job for two people once a month. It entails picking up the newsletters at the printer in SE Portland, placing computer-sorted labels on them, and taking them to the Postoffice. This should take several hours total for the 750 or so mailed each month.

Interested? Contact Sara Barnum at 639-3353.



## **KALMIOPSIS: THE JOURNAL**

The NPSO membership has selected the name of Oregon's own endemic ericaceous shrub genus to serve as the title of our annual journal. Our current plans for the magazine-style journal is to have an October 1990 deadline for manuscripts with publication planned for midwinter of 1991. Though there are still many decisions to be made (selection of a printer, who will handle mailings, subscriptions, and advertising, how will we produce camera ready copy), the editorial committee of Stu Garrett, Susan Kephart, Rhoda Love and Frank Lang feels confident that we can produce a magazine that the society can take pride in.

We plan to have articles on endangered plants, plant identification, botanical history, and newly described Oregon plants, among other topics. At this point we are inviting authors to submit articles. As a matter of policy we will not publish any article describing new taxa or nomenclatural changes, until the botanical changes have been published in an appropriate publication.

Please address any comments, ideas, offers of help, ect., to:

Frank A. Lang, 535 Taylor St., Ashland, OR 97520, (503)-482-5235H or 482-6341W.

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### **OLD GROWTH FORESTS: TREASURE IN TRANSITION**

This new exhibit has been widely praised for its impact and balanced handling of its controversial subject. The World Forestry Center staff created the 6,000 sq.-ft. exhibit to give an objective view of management of our remaining old growth forests. The multimedia show uses photographs, a slide presentation, dioramas, models and specimens from the forests. It defines old growth itself, examines forest succession, forest ecology, forest uses, and discusses the economic and environmental impact of future management options. It goes on an American and Canadian tour after finishing its Portland run Nov. 4.

## **AROUND THE MOUNTAIN**

**Portland Chapter's  
Annual Flower Show  
at**

**The World Forestry Center  
June 23rd and 24th**

This year Mt. Hood and nearby areas have been chosen as the focus of the Portland Chapter's annual flower show. Exhibits and slide shows will center on the flora of Mt. Hood and the Columbia River Gorge. The show will run from 10am to 5pm each day. It is free after admission to the WFC. The well-received "Old Growth Forests: Treasure in Transition" exhibit can be seen at the same time (see accompanying article). WFC admission is \$3 for Adults and Seniors and Students \$2, with WFC members and children under 6 free. Additional parking will be available at the Sylvan Exit with shuttle buses to the WFC, OMSI (new dinosaur exhibit!) and the zoo. Address is 4033 SW Canyon Blvd. For more information call 228-1367.

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### **Slide Show Schedule for "Around The Mountain"**

#### **SATURDAY JUNE 23rd**

10:30am--Plants of Seeps, Hanging Surfaces, and Other Wet Places--Bonnie Brunkow  
11:30am--Native Plants From Paradise Park to Eden Park--David Dobak  
12:30pm--Heath Family and Other Flora of Mt. Hood--George Lewis  
1:30pm--Native Plants From Paradise Park to Eden Park--David Dobak  
2:30pm--Wildflowers from the Gorge to Mt. Hood--Mike Fahey

#### **SUNDAY JUNE 24th**

11:30am--Flowers on the Columbia Gorge Side of Mt. Hood--Vance Terrall  
12:30pm--Heath Family and Other Flora of Mt. Hood--George Lewis  
1:30pm--Flowers within the Mt. Hood Loop--Carroll Dubuar  
2:30pm--Wildflowers from the Gorge to Mt. Hood--Mike Fahey  
3:30--Timberline Flowers on Mt. Hood--Bryan Boyce

## THE GENUS LEWISIA - - A REVIEW

*The Genus Lewisia*, by Brian Mathew. Timber Press, Portland, Or, 1989. 151 pgs. \$29.95.

It seems remarkable that an important new taxonomic treatment of a genus of attractive plants of the Western United States should be written by a British horticultural authority. Such is the situation with *Lewisia*, whose classification hasn't been revised by an American botanist since 1932.

As revealed in this fine book by Brian Mathew, *Lewisia* species have been cultivated in Europe, especially Britain, since very early in this century. In the 1930's F. W. Millard, West Sussex, England, was cultivating and hybridizing some 8 species of Western American lewisias, winning many prizes with his creations at garden shows of the Royal Horticultural Society. The ease with which *Lewisia* species under cultivation can be cross-fertilized to give spectacular hybrid forms has endeared the genus to rock garden enthusiasts in Europe and the United States.

This book is beautifully illustrated with watercolors of some 13 cultivated *Lewisia* species done by Christabel King, numerous photographs of flowering specimens taken in their natural habitats, and line drawings showing floral details of many of the species. The book's introductory chapters cover, in relatively brief format, such subjects as the history of the genus, the morphology of the plants, their pollination, and their cytology. One chapter covers the techniques for pot cultivation of the various species, providing useful guidelines for anyone interested in growing lewisias as a hobby. With a few exceptions, according to Mr. Mathew, the species can be grown in "2 parts peat and 1.5 parts grits, plus a good slow-release fertilizer".

The main body of the book consists of a taxonomic treatment of the genus, with the illustrations mentioned above, distribution maps, and a bibliography of taxonomic & horticultural references. In this revision, 19 spp. are recognized, plus 2 natural hybrids (*L. leeana* x *L. cotyledon*, and *L. triphylla* x *L. nevadensis*), and a long list of garden hybrids and named cultivars.

The species are arranged in 2 subgenera (Subgenus *Strophiolum* for *L. tweedyi*, subgenus *Lewisia* for the remaining species); the latter subgenus is divided into 6 sections (five of these being newly named by Mathew). Species most familiar to Oregon botanists will no doubt be the succulent, evergreen *L. columbiana*, *L. cotyledon*, *L. tweedyi*, and *L. leeana*. The Bitterroot, *L. rediviva*, is of course familiar to all; *L. oppositifolia*, *L. triphylla*, *L. pygmaea*, and *L. nevadensis* are deciduous species that will be known to botanists who have hiked the mountains of the state. The geographical of many other taxa, especially in the Sierra Nevada of California, is very localized--to the extent that some probably should be assigned the status of rare or endangered. No fewer than 10 species appear to have restricted distributions of this type. In his single paragraph chapter on "Conservation", Mathew states "...there is no excuse for digging up *Lewisia* plants on a large scale, even in the case of the relatively common and widespread species". In Oregon it would seem good advice not to dig these plants in nature under any circumstances, lest the pressure of collecting for horticulture push more species towards extinction.

The map of distribution given for the genus as a whole (page 38) omits large areas of the range of *L. rediviva*, and does not even match, in detail, the maps given for other individual species. The basemap of California in the taxonomic section strangely omits the San Joaquin River and its tributaries in the Sierra Nevada; this makes it difficult for the reader to assign the marked occurrences of six species with any accuracy.

This book is highly recommended; it provides a useful summary of the classification of *Lewisia* species, and, most importantly, it is very attractively illustrated.

---Kenton Chambers, Corvallis Chapter



## 1990 NPSO BUDGET

(January 1 – December 31)      Adopted by the  
Board of Directors, January 27, 1990.

### Estimated Income:

Membership dues	\$10,000.
Environmental Federation of Oregon	5,000.
R/E Fund	500.
Interest	300.
Notecards	300.
Posters	500.
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>17,600.</b>
Balance brought forward	5,985.
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$22,585.</b>

### Anticipated Expenses:

Bulletin	\$4,750.
Environmental Federation of Oregon	3,500.
Chapters share of dues @ 35%	3,500.
Occasional Papers, start up	2,500.
Research Grants (4 @ \$400.)	1,600.
New Notecards	900.
Posters	720.
Board and other committees	600.
R/E (incl. 1 \$400 grant)	500.
Conservation committee	450.
Roster	400.
President	400.
Secretary	300.
Legislative committee	200.
Membership chair	200.
Annual meeting–Banquet speaker	200.
R. & E. Species Conf.	100.
ONRC	100.
Nat. Res. Def. Council	100.
Brochure	100.
Fees and Taxes	80.
Treasurer	70.
Desert Conference XII	50.
Natural Areas Association	25.
Walker Creek Wetlands	25.
Wildflower Research Center	25.
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>21,395.</b>
Balance Forwarded (savings)	1,190.
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$22,585.</b>

State board members and committee chairs attending state board meetings are reimbursed for mileage over 100 miles per meeting (non-cumulative) @ 21¢/mile.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERATION of OREGON

The beginning of the 1990's marks two milestones in the evolution of NPSO. First, we will reach the \$10,000 level in membership dues. This is due to increasing membership and a slight increase in rates. We are able to continue improving the *Bulletin*, provide support to research projects, and start a botanical journal.

Secondly, we have joined a fund raising group which promises to be a major source of income in the years ahead. The Environmental Federation of Oregon (EFO) is an umbrella organization whose purpose is to raise money for environmental groups in Oregon. The Federation's primary fund-raising tool is workplace solicitation, or payroll deduction plans, similar to the way United Way represents health and human services organizations.

Most employee pledge campaigns are limited to umbrella groups like EFO. When an employer grants permission, the Environmental Federation of Oregon will run a campaign alongside United Way and other umbrella groups. Contributions may be designated to one or more organizations or left undesignated. The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Rivers Council, Portland and Salem Audubon Chapters, Oregon Trout, Sierra Club Foundation, 1,000 Friend of Oregon, OSPIRG Education Fund, The Wilderness Society, Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, Oregon Natural Resources Council, Northwest Environmental Advocates, Headwaters, and the Oregon Environmental Council comprise the rest of EFO's membership.

Our initial dues to EFO were \$1,000, which covered participation in the fall Combined Campaign for State of Oregon and Multnomah County employees. The campaign was an unparalleled success and our share of the proceeds will be about \$5,000. In order to

establish a solid foundation for EFO's growth into more work-sites, an increase in dues was necessary.

Last year was a fall-only effort with a 1/2 time coordinator. With a full-time coordinator and a half-time assistant, EFO is poised to greatly expand efforts to gain access to payroll deduction campaigns. NPSO members can help in several ways: 1) become involved in our EFO committee (each chapter will need to have at least one member) — we are required to contribute 100 hours per year towards EFO's efforts, 2) ask your employer to consider including EFO in a payroll deduction plan, 3) if you already have the opportunity to contribute through EFO, write to the head of your organization (e.g. the governor) and express your appreciation for having the choice.

The main demographic target for EFO seems to be people who are not members of environmentally oriented organizations but want to contribute towards improving the environment. One thing must be made clear -- contributions through EFO can not be used to obtain or renew membership in NPSO. There was some unanticipated confusion this year about the status money designated to NPSO through EFO. EFO simply raises funds for its member organizations and is not involved in membership activities. Our society is chapter based and member oriented. By joining EFO we are able to participate in fund raising without losing our grass roots character. Hopefully, we will eventually raise enough money to hire a part-time person to help with many of the time consuming tasks such as putting out the *Bulletin* and maintaining the rare plant database.

Our all volunteer organization is overwhelmed keeping up with a growing organization as it is. The payroll deduction process is an unwieldy way to track membership and we receive only the names of those who requested acknowledgement. Thank-you to all who contributed; and because of the confusion, those who requested acknowledgement (and donated enough money) will be given vouchers for next years membership. In the future, all contributions through EFO will be considered over and above membership dues. All memberships must go through Mary Falconer.

## NPSO Funds Research

The Leighton Ho Memorial Field Botany Award has been linked with matching funds from The Nature Conservancy to increase the effectiveness and stature of the award. This year, research carried out under the award will attempt to locate and survey all populations of *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's catchfly, pink family – *Caryophyllaceae*) on Clear Lake Ridge in Wallowa County where TNC recently acquired a 3,560 acre preserve. The Clear Lake Ridge Preserve was originally identified for the protection of unique mid-elevation freshwater playa lakes which contain the only known greater yellowlegs nesting site in Oregon.

*Silene spaldingii* is a regionally endemic plant, restricted to the palouse grasslands of Oregon, Washington (18 sites), Idaho (1 site), and western Montana (6 sites). In Oregon, there were a number of historical collections made by William Cusick between 1890 and 1910. In 1980, Bonnie Heidell relocated one of Cusick's sites by Wallowa Lake. Jimmy Kagan of the Oregon Natural Heritage Program located ten new populations in 1989. Oregon populations are restricted to the Wallowa Valley area and occur in two plant associations. Most sites are in the Idaho fescue-junegrass association (*Festuca idahoensis*-*Koeleria cristata*). A few sites are in a rare prairie sagebrush/Idaho fescue (*Artemisia ludovicica*/*Festuca idahoensis*) community. Throughout its range, only 3 populations of *Silene spaldingii* have more than 100 plants.

This year's study (under the direction of Berta Youtie, TNC Land Steward for eastern Oregon) will also focus on aspects of flower and seed production. Predation of flowers and capsules may be a major factor limiting population size because *Silene spaldingii* does not spread vegetatively. [Thanks to Berta for providing the information used in this article.]

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NPSO's Rare and Endangered Plant Fund is providing financial support to Thomas Baxter so that he can participate in a study of *Thelypodium eucosmum* (Arrowleaf thelypody), a candidate



for State and Federal listing as a Threatened species. *Thelypodium eucosmum* is restricted to Wheeler, Grant, and Baker counties where it is found on dry slopes in the Juniper-sagebrush (*Juniperus occidentalis/Artemisia tridentata*) series of plant communities. The work will involve a comprehensive search for populations of the species over approximately 10,000 acres in the BLM Prineville District. After potential sites are identified from aerial survey by helicopter, ground searches will be made. Once populations are located, observation and careful documentation of the number of individuals, age structure of the population, phenology, associated species, habitat, pollinators, and seed predators will be made. The study is being guided by Bob Meinke, program leader of the Conservation Biology Program, Oregon Department of Agriculture and lead in the field by Tom Kaye, staff botanist. The BLM Prineville District is providing critical logistical support, particularly helicopter time. By covering the expenses for a student such as Thomas, NPSO allows him to gain valuable experience with professional botanists while his help increases the effectiveness of the survey. Bob Meinke and NPSO encourage interested individuals to initiate study proposals or inquire about participating in Oregon Department of Agriculture, Conservation Biology Program surveys with the help of an NPSO grant.

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NPSO grant support is not limited to studies of rare plants. Dr. Charles Halpern, a postdoctoral research associate with the Forest Science Department at Oregon State University, has received support to purchase materials for his study of species interactions during secondary succession. The study site will be chosen from one of seven mature to old-growth Douglas-fir stands in the Blue River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest that are scheduled to be clearcut this summer. Specifically, the study will determine to what extent and in what manner the native species, *Epilobium angustifolium* (Fireweed), and the introduced species, *Senecio sylvaticus* (Woods groundsel), interact to influence successional dynamics. The second part of the study will look at the effects of *Rubus ursinus* (Pacific blackberry), *Ceanothus velutinus* (Cinnamon bush), and *C. sanguineus* (Redstem ceanothus) (all native species) on the develop-

ment and structure of the plant community. Previous studies (initiated in 1962 at the nearby H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest and the subject of Dr. Halpern's thesis under the direction of Dr. Jerry Franklin) show that these species are among the most important to dominate a site during early stages of succession in the Western Cascades.

The study will be carried out by removing different combinations of the target species from test plots and recording the response of the remaining species. Results from the study will show us the effects of competition between *Epilobium angustifolium* and *Senecio sylvaticus*. On a broader scale, we will see how the plant community responds to removal of key species of different life-form, history of origin in the community, and duration of importance in the community. Given that vast tracts of our landscape are destined to experience cyclic logging, this study should explain a great deal about the composition of plant communities we usually pass by on the way to field trip sites.

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Malheur Field Station, in conjunction with the BLM Burns District, is creating a *Flora of Steens Mountain*. The first phase will be publication of a short version of the flora arranged according to ecological zones. It will be part of a nature guide series to Steens Mountain published by the BLM and should be available within two years. The complete *Flora*, to be published at a latter date, will include more information such as biogeographic relationships and maps. NPSO approved financial support for this project several years ago. This summer our support will enable Dr. Don Mansfield (College of Idaho), Ruth Moorhead, and Karl Holte (both of Idaho State University) to begin the final phase of field work and data entry. Karl Urban (Blue Mountain Community College) and Lucile Housley (Director of the Malheur Field Station) are also involved with the project.

Steens Mountain is recognized as a center of endemism; for example *Castilleja steenensis*, *Cirsium peckii*, and *Eriogonum chrysops* occur only there, and is noted for its geographically isolated (disjunct) populations of species more common to other regions.



## BITS AND PIECES

### ---News and Information From All Over

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Sarah E. Greene  
Research Natural Area Scientist  
Pacific Northwest Region, USFS

Dear Mr. Boyce:

I read with some dismay Rhoda Love's article "We Cannot Relax Our Efforts to Save Oregon's Redwoods" (*NPSO Bulletin*, Vol 23, #4). She states, based on personal experience, that the usual management practice regarding Research Natural Areas (RNAs) is to log all around them, and then salvage any resulting windthrow. There are, indeed, clear-cuts adjacent to Forest Service RNA boundaries in Oregon, but I know of no RNA that has clear-cuts around its entire boundary. As for salvage, the Forest Service policy states in its manual that no salvage can occur in an RNA. If a tree happens to come down across a trail or road, it may be removed to allow passage, but any portion of the tree within the RNA boundary must remain on the ground. The same is true for danger trees; they may be felled but must be left in place, i.e. not removed.

The Research Natural Area program needs all the help and support it can get. The program is poorly funded and generally not well understood or accepted by managers. I might add Chetco Ranger Michael Frazier is one notable exception. Misinformation like Ms. Love's only alienates managers further and makes the program appear useless in the eyes of the public. NPSO's support, including Ms. Love's, for the RNA program has been and is important. But incorrect information expressed in outrage is not at all helpful.

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-- AND A RESPONSE  
FROM RHODA LOVE

Bryan Boyce called me last night and told me that you had taken exception to a statement in my article "We Cannot Relax our Efforts to Save Oregon's Redwoods". Bryan read me your letter and I thought it sounded excellent. I had to go back and read my article, and I do agree that shouldn't have used the phrase "the usual practice" is to

log up to RNA boundaries. I should have said that I have seen instances where logging appears to be in this pattern. The folks at ONRC, who have been protesting such timber sales, have aerial photos which show some BLM RNA's in Western Oregon with only a single timber stand remaining before they would be islands in a clearcut sea. And, as you know, I have been most upset to see this pattern of logging at the Elk Meadows RNA where I have done some of my research.

I also inadvertently left out an important clause when I failed to write that when the major features of an RNA are destroyed, the RNA may be removed from protected status and then salvage could proceed. As I'm sure you know, from past correspondence we have had, I am a strong supporter of the RNA concept and only wish we could have more of them and that they could be larger with more protected buffer areas around them. When I wrote the piece in question it was at a time when certain forces were calling for weakening of the Endangered Species Act and for logging in Wilderness Areas and National Parks. I had also recently heard from sources within federal agencies that attempts were being made to weaken protection for RNA's. So, although I may have done it somewhat clumsily, I was hoping to improve the awareness of our members that once established, an RNA would not necessarily remain protected unless the public kept an eye on it to be sure its values did not become eroded.

I very much appreciate the hard work you have done over the years to get these areas established. And, in fact, I have just recommended to the Lowell District of the Willamette National Forest that Patterson Mountain Prairie be set aside as a Botanical RNA, and it looks as though that idea may move forward, which pleases me very much.

Basically, I feel sure that you and I are on the same side. I appreciate your writing to the *Bulletin* to correct my faulty wording. Please put my poorly chosen phrases down to a hasty response which was in no way intended to be a negative judgement against the RNA concept which I wholeheartedly support.



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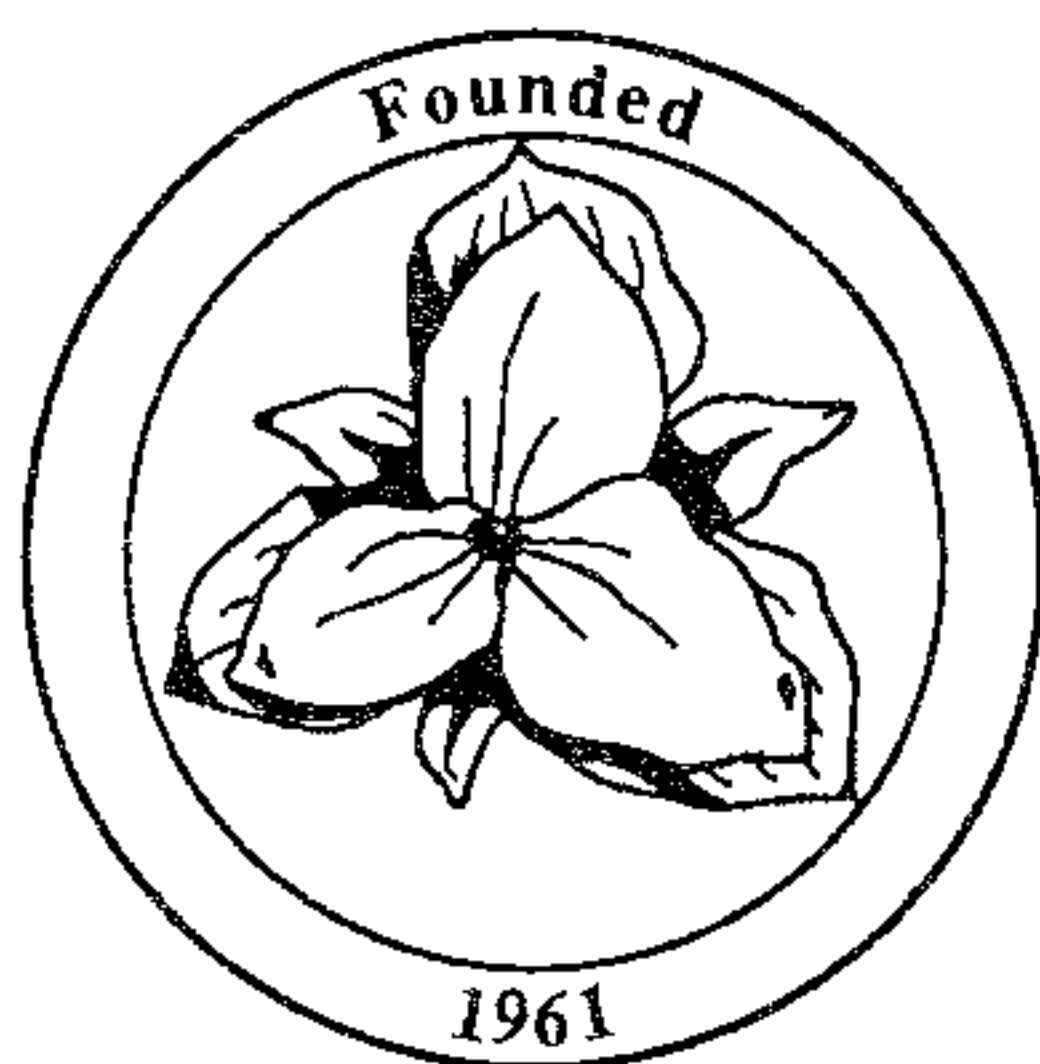
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