

Bulletin of the  
**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
OF OREGON**

Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study  
of Oregon's native vegetation

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VOLUME 25 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1992

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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. Each group using wilderness must be no larger than 12.

### Blue Mountain

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For information, contact Jerry Baker (566-2244).

### Corvallis

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CORVALLIS CHAPTER NOW MEETS ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, RATHER THAN ON MONDAYS.**

11 Feb., Tues.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm in the Corl House, 3975 NW Witham Hill Rd., Corvallis. Jim Weber will talk on "Botanical Similarities between the Pacific Northwest and the Upper Great Lakes". Jim will discuss present day distributions in the light of changes in distribution patterns during the Holocene. Contact Duncan Thomas (752-6529) for further information.

22 Feb., Sat.

**WORKSHOP.** "Winter Plant Propagation"--Work with hardwood cuttings and seed dormancy. 1 to 3pm at Loren Russel's house 3420 SW Willamette, Corvallis. If interested in attending call Loren at 752-7558.

### Emerald

10 Feb., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm in the Library, Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene. Dr. Daphne Stone, an expert on lichens, mosses and liverworts, will show slides and speak on: "The Ecology of Lichens and Some Interesting Lichens of Alaska, Oregon, California and Georgia." Dr. Stone's new brochure, Lichens and Mosses of Mount Pisgah Arboretum, will be available. For more information, call Jenny Dimling (343-3242).

15 Feb., Sat.

**FIELD TRIP:** Daphne Stone will lead a short walk to view some of the common mosses, lichens and liverworts of Mt. Pisgah Arboretum as a follow up to her talk of Feb. 10th. Her new brochure, Lichens and Mosses of Mount Pisgah Arboretum, will be available. Meet at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum office at 10am. Lunch and drink optional as this walk will be completed by noon. For more information, call Daphne at 344-3274.

15 Feb., Sat. **WILLOW CREEK WORK PARTY.** Volunteers needed for a morning of woody plant removal at TNC's Willow Creek Reserve in west Eugene. Meet at 9:30 am at the bridge over Willow Creek on West 18th, 1/2 mile west of Bertelsen Rd. Bring work gloves, loppers or hand saw. For more information, call Ed Alverson, 687-5586.

9 March, Mon. **MEETING.** 7:30pm in the Library, Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene. Ellen Deehan Clark, Lane Community College Botanist, will show slides and speak on "Belize: Mayan Jungle and Coral Reef." Ms. Clark will discuss her recent explorations of the rain forest jungle and the shoreline of this Central American country on the Caribbean. For more information, call Jenny Dimling, 343-3242.

## High Desert

25 Feb., Tues. **MEETING.** 7:30pm at The Bend Senior Center on NE Marshall. The High Desert Chapter will have their annual "Share-a-Slide" show. Bring up to 10 of your favorite recent shots and share them with us!

## Mid-Columbia

5 Feb., Wed. **MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Mosier School. Mike Fahey will present a program on Seeds of Columbia Gorge Native Plants.

4 March, Wed. **MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Old West Gallery, upstairs above Mel'o's Camera Shop, 312 East 2nd St., The Dalles. Use Alley entrance and park in Coast to Coast lot from 3rd St. Professional photographer Wilma Roberts, FPSA, will present a creative impression of wildflowers titled "Along Nature's Path".

## North Coast

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**FIELD TRIP.** Date and location to be announced. For more info., call Jim Winslow (842-2246).

25 Feb., Tues. **MEETING.** 7pm at Tillamook PUD Meeting Room, 1115 Pacific, Tillamook. Program to be announced.

## Portland

11 Feb., Tues. **MEETING.** 7pm at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Linda Hardie-Scott will speak on "Wildflowers of the Deserts of Southern California".

8 Feb., Sat. **WORKSHOP.** Dean Longrie, Regional Botanist for the USFS Pacific Northwest Region will provide a program on the "Botany Programs in the Pacific Northwest National Forests". The workshop will be held in Room 201, First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland at 10am.

22 Feb., Sat. **WORKSHOP.** Molly Sullivan, botanist for the Columbia River Gorge District of the Mt. Hood National Forest, will present a workshop on clubmosses. She will also describe techniques used in searching for and monitoring rare plants. The workshop will be held in Room 201, First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland at 10am.

7, 14, 21, & 28 Mar., Sat. **WORKSHOPS AND FIELD TRIP.** Jerry Igo of the Mid-Columbia Chapter of the NPSO will present a series of three workshops and a field trip on four successive Saturdays in March. The workshops will cover wildflower identification with emphasis on flowers of the Columbia River Gorge. Jerry will lead a field trip on the last Saturday of March to show many of the flowers discussed in the classes. The classes will be from 10am to noon. They will be held at the Leach Botanical Garden Manor House, located at 6704 SE 122nd Ave., Portland. These classes are jointly sponsored by the Portland Chapter of the NPSO and the Leach Botanical Garden. Jerry Igo is a well-known naturalist with a broad background in native plants.

## Siskiyou

20 Feb., Thur. **MEETING.** 7:30pm in Room 171, Science Bldg., Southern Oregon State College. Dr. Ed Guerrant of the Berry Botanic Garden in Portland will describe his research work on isozymes in a lecture titled "Should *Fritillaria gentneri* be considered a good species?" For information, call David Kennedy (535-6383).



10 Feb. to 28 Feb.

**Art Exhibition.** "Endangered Flora of the Siskiyou". Printings by James Hutchinson on display at the Other Art Gallery at SOSOC.

## Umpqua Valley

13 Feb., Thur.

**MEETING.** Russ Holmes, BLM botanist, will discuss opportunities for volunteer summer projects. 7pm in Room 311 of the Douglas County Courthouse, Roseburg.

22 Feb., Sat.

**FIELD TRIP.** Key the gymnosperms in Stewart Park, Veterans Administration grounds and adjacent territory. It will take a half-day's stroll to cover them all. Bring a lunch and if the weather is nice we can go afield to look at native broadleaf trees. Meet 8am BLM parking lot, 777 Garden Valley Rd, Roseburg.

## Willamette Valley

17 Feb., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7pm at First United Methodist Church, Room 225, 600 State St., Salem. Susan Wilcox will speak about Berry Botanic Garden (in the Portland-Lake Oswego area) with special emphasis on native plants within its collection. For more info., call Kathy Connelly (393-1834).

## William Cusick

11 Feb., Tue.

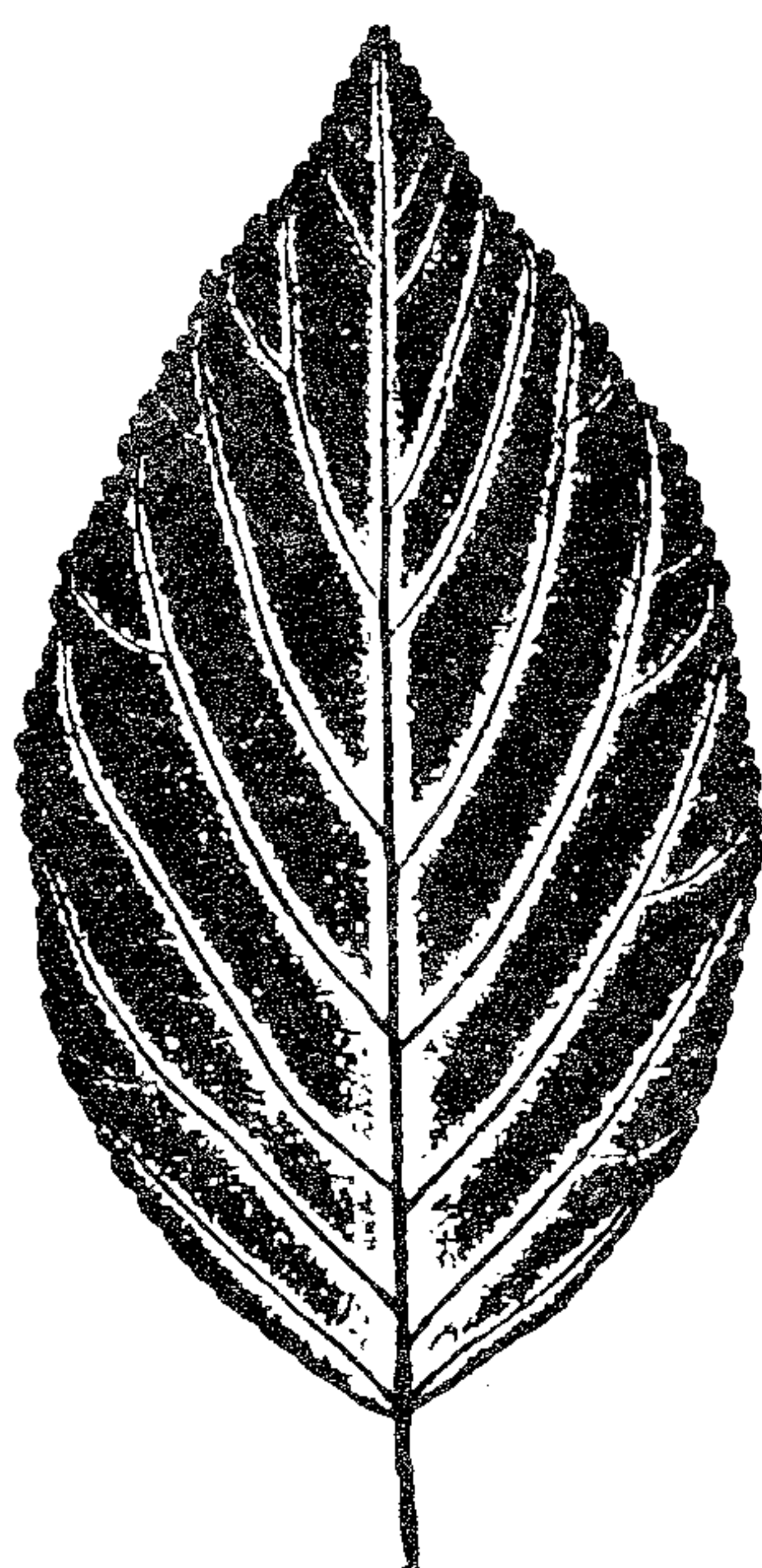
**MEETING.** 7:30pm Forest and Range Sciences Lab, C Street and Geckler Lane, LaGrande. Two Cusick Chapter members will share their experiences with plants of the tropics. Marty Stein will talk about the ethnobotany of the Philippines and Kent Coe will present a program on plants in Botswana.

10 March, Tue.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm Forest and Range Science Lab, C Street and Geckler Lane, LaGrande. Presentation by Jim McIvor of the Forest and Range Sciences Lab entitled "Insect involvement in the life of *Lupinus caudatus*, Kellogg's lupine."

7 April, Tue.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm ESD office, 2100 Main St., Baker City. Charlie Johnson, Zone Ecologist, US Forest Service, Baker, will present a slide show on endemic plants of the Blue Mountains. For more information call Bob Ottersberg, 963-4907.



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### THE PLANT PUZZLE

*Sponsored by the Siskiyou Chapter*

Do you recognize this plant?  
The first person to give the correct scientific name will win a prize. The illustrated leaves are from a native woody species.

Send your guess on a postcard to:

Peter Zika  
4230 NW Clubhouse Pl. #1  
Corvallis, OR 97330

Rhoda Love of Eugene solved the January puzzle: *Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*, hazelnut or filbert.



## HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF *PAXISTIMA*?

Since early in this century, botanical taxonomists have operated under a well defined set of rules (the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature) which is designed, among other things, to stabilize the spelling of the generic names of plants. In an ideally perfect world, we might by now have applied these rules evenly to all genera, eliminating the annoying variations in spelling which I have discussed in some earlier articles in this *Bulletin*. Given the tremendous volume of botanical literature worldwide, however, which must be accounted for all the way back to 1753 (the date of Linnaeus' *Species Plantarum*), no wonder some "technically incorrect" generic names are still in common use.

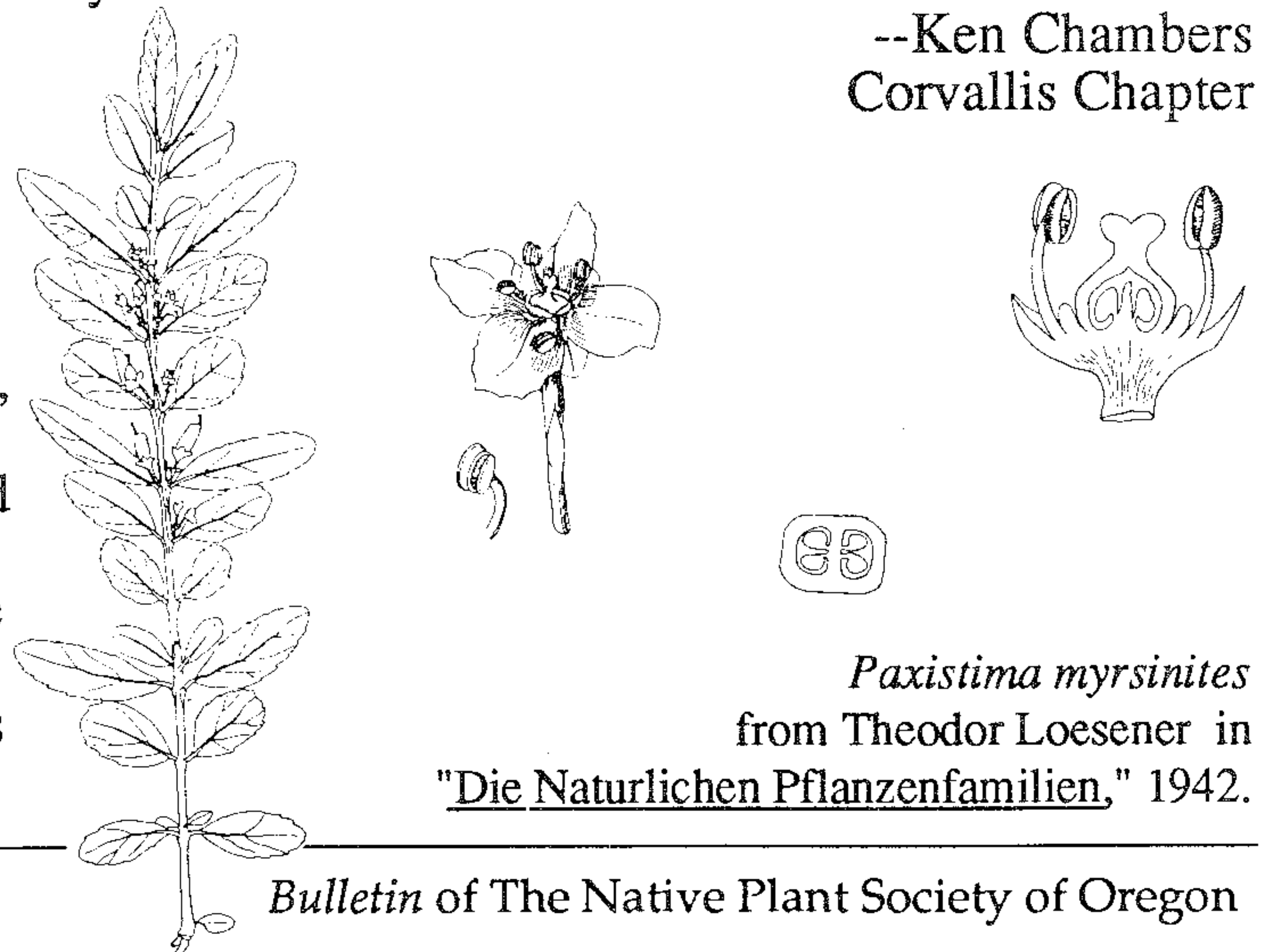
If you don't recognize the name *Paxistima*, it is because this spelling is the correct version of one you are probably familiar with: *Pachistima* (whose common names include mountain-box, myrtle-boxwood, and Oregon-boxwood). The correctness of the former spelling is strictly determined by the rules of nomenclature, and the problem supposedly was laid to rest as long ago as 1949. Unfortunately, *Pachistima* has continued to be used in so many authoritative reference books that I and many other taxonomists have been unaware that there was any question about its spelling. Having recently been alerted to this problem, I will explain how it happened and urge that in the future we all adopt the correct spelling.

The difficulties began in 1818, in the publications of a most eccentric early American naturalist, Constantine Rafinesque (1783-1840). A man of bizarre genius whose work was mostly scorned by his contemporaries, Rafinesque proposed an overwhelming number of "new genera and species" of plants in more than 1000 publications; his new generic names alone total over 2700. His work was so erratic, however, that botanists of the time could make little sense of it; some believed him mildly insane. To give you an impression of his approach, imagine a person perpetually running up hill and down dale, pointing excitedly at plants, mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, and mollusks, shouting "...this one's new, and that one's new, and that one's new...I'll give it this name, that name, and that name...!!" Not until 1949 was a complete index made to the plant names proposed by Rafinesque, and much of his bibliography consists of extremely rare publications available in only a

few botanical libraries. The matter of *Paxistima* versus *Pachistima* was explained in this index (but even the index contained a typographic error which added to the problem!). As published in 1818, the name *Pachistima* was accompanied by no generic description; it was what taxonomists call a "naked name" which cannot be used (the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature defines such names as "illegitimate"). However, in a much later publication (1838) Rafinesque mentioned this genus again, and at that point he did give an adequate Latin description--but remarkably, he changed the spelling to *Paxistima*! It was typical of Rafinesque to be rather cavalier in the spelling of his proposed names; he apparently felt free to change his mind at will, probably on the theory that, since he was the describer and namer of each plant, it was his right to call it whatever he wished. To add further to the comedy of errors, the Rafinesque index referred to above gives, on a different page, still another spelling--*Paxistema*--which is simply a misprint. In summary, *Paxistima* of Rafinesque is a legitimately published name, dating from 1838, which has been accepted by nearly all subsequent botanists but given the illegitimate 1818 spelling, *Pachistima*.

The usual interpretation of the classical derivation of this name is that it was composed from the Greek words for "thick" and "stigma" (in which case "*pachystigma*" would be a better spelling). Another Rafinesque eccentricity was that he liked plant names short, and therefore he often deleted letters or syllables when making compounds from classical Greek and Latin words. Rafinesque, that intriguing figure from early 19th Century science, continues to baffle us even now, more than 150 years after his death.

--Ken Chambers  
Corvallis Chapter



*Paxistima myrsinites*  
from Theodor Loesener in  
"Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien," 1942.



## NPSO '92 ANNUAL MEETING: MALHEUR FIELD STATION

Mark your calendars! The High Desert Chapter (Bend) will host this year's NPSO annual meeting Friday, Saturday and Sunday June 5th-7th at Malheur Field Station. Plan to arrive at the Station by Friday night, so you will be fresh for Saturday's field trips. Driving time from Portland is about 7 hours, from Bend 3 1/2 hours. Saturday night's Annual Meeting and banquet will feature awards by NPSO President Stephanie Schulz and a fascinating slide presentation by expert ethnobotanist Lucille Housley, director of the Field Station. The quarterly Board meeting is Sunday for those wishing to attend.

Don't miss this year's Annual Meeting!!!!

### Saturday's Field Trips

#### The Narrows ACEC/*Stephanomeria* exclosure

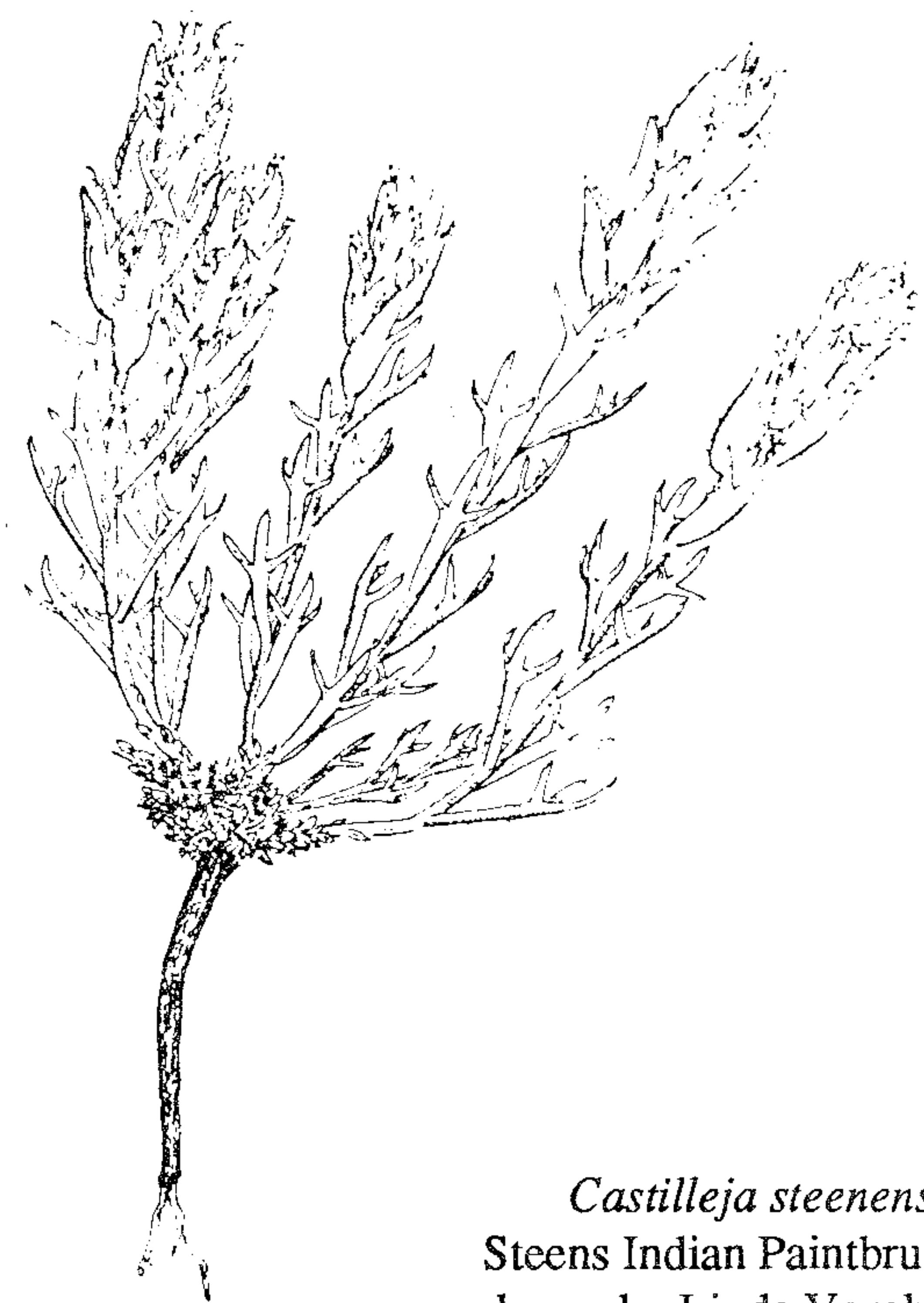
This site contains the only known location for one of Oregon's three federally listed endangered plants, the Malheur wirelettuce. We will hopefully be able to see this annual in bloom, learn of the recovery plans by BLM/USFWS, and survey for new plants. This spot is a 15 minute drive from the Station and walking will be easy. Leader: Nora Taylor, BLM.

#### Botanizing and Birding the Refuge

The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is one of the best birding spots in the nation. Accomplished natural historians, Dick and Marge Ettinger, will share some of their favorite birding areas and look at some of Malheur's native marsh vegetation on this trip down the Center Patrol Road. A nice mix of driving and easy walking.

#### A Different Approach to Ranching

The Fred Otley family has agreed to show us their approach to current ranch management. We will see how juniper control, prescribed fire, rotation grazing, and riparian protection are utilized by this ranching family with early roots in Harney County. A combination of moderate hiking and driving. Leader will be Stu Garrett.



*Castilleja steenensis*  
Steens Indian Paintbrush  
drawn by Linda Vorobik

from Threatened & Endangered Vascular plants of Oregon

#### Ponderosa Pine Ancient Forests

USFS ecologist Bill Hopkins will take us to the southernmost Blue Mountains to see and discuss the ecology of the remnant stands of Oregon's yellow-bellied pine forests. Driving time is 1 1/2 hours one-way and hiking is 2-4 miles.

#### Great Basin/Paiute Ethnobotany

Ethnobotanist Lucille Housley will lead us to the Stinkingwater Pass area where traditional native American uses of local plants will be discussed. A 2 hour one-way drive with moderate hiking of 2-4 miles.

#### Riddle Ranch/Rooster Comb RNA

This area on the Little Blitzen River has recently been acquired by the BLM. There is much history and good botanizing in this area. This ranch is located on the lower slopes of magnificent Steens Mountain. Probable leaders will be BLM personnel.

#### Marsh Recovery

Botanist Sherry Spencer of PSU has been studying the recovery of lowlands from the flooding of the 1980's. Join her to see how the receding floodwaters are permitting revegetation on the refuge. A short drive with moderate walking. (This field trip is not yet confirmed.)



## OREGON'S WETLANDS

Loss of wetlands is a major environmental concern nationwide, statewide, and locally. Different sources estimate that Oregon has lost between 38 and 50% of its wetlands since "settlement", primarily due to diking (coastal, estuarine, and valley) and draining for agricultural land use. The loss and degradation of wetlands has slowed somewhat in recent years due to protective state and federal regulations; however, Oregon's wetlands continue to be impacted by development pressure, grazing, and farming.

Efforts to protect Oregon's wetlands are occurring at different scales. The Nature Conservancy is working with federal, state, and local agencies to preserve biologically significant wetlands. John Christy (wetlands biologist, Oregon Natural Heritage Program) is conducting an inventory of wetlands west of the Cascades, seeking those that are intact and functional enough to be viable wetland systems. John's field work has revealed some interesting wetland remnants that he will continue to study for preservation/conservation potential.

The fate of one Willamette Valley wetland, Lake Labish, was the topic of John's presentation at the October Corvallis chapter meeting. Lake Labish, once an expansive wetland near Salem, was drained and partially converted to onion fields in the 1920s and 30s. John described his study of soil maps and search through records--botanical and historical--to delineate the past expanse of Lake Labish. This story is fairly typical of Willamette Valley wetlands. John noted that the few high quality wetlands remaining in the Willamette Valley area are located in the upper parts of watersheds, where conversion to agricultural land use has been more difficult.

At local levels, community awareness about local wetlands is gradually increasing. The "Mid-Valley Wetlands Workshop", organized by citizens concerned about wetlands in Linn and Benton Counties, was held in Corvallis on Oct. 12. The workshop served as a forum to inform both local politicians about the concern for local wetlands, and landowners, who are affected and frustrated by the complex permitting process, helping both to be involved in wetland conservation. At this workshop, Ed Alverson (ecologist, Nature Conservancy) described the natural history of Willamette Valley wetlands with an informative

slide presentation, noting the rare plant species that occur in different types of local wetlands. Reed Noss (conservation biologist, private consultant) discussed wetlands as "biological corridors" and the importance of watershed protection to maintenance of biodiversity. Local officials explained the role of state and county governments in wetland planning. Presentations were followed by two separate discussion groups. Since most Willamette Valley wetlands are on private land, involvement of landowners is critical to wetland protection. This meeting spawned much interest. Follow-up activities, including organization of another workshop, are underway.

"Wetlands Under Siege" was the title of an informative meeting held in Portland on Nov. 16. The major topics were wetland delineation, and how proposed changes in the EPA delineation manual could change wetland protection. Organized by The Wetlands Conservancy, a Portland-based citizens' group, the well attended gathering featured speakers (from US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Division of State Lands, and environmental consulting firms), a panel discussion, and a field trip (very wet) to compare the 1987 manual and the proposed delineation manual. Speakers urged participants to submit comments on the proposed changes in the national wetlands delineation manual, and to become involved in developing local Wetlands Conservation Plans.

Much of Federal wetland regulation is based on the Clean Water Act (Section 404). In the last year, 4 major wetland bills have been introduced in Congress, all of which would weaken wetland protection under the Clean Water Act. Several bills are being drafted. Conservationists look forward to a bill we can endorse (instead of opposing all the time). Several state laws provide protection for certain types of wetlands. Oregon policy concerning wetlands was established in Senate Bill 3 (1989), which contains authorization for the development of local Wetland Conservation Plans. The implementation of all legislation depends on wetland definition, which is why the Delineation Manual is such an important issue.

On behalf of NPSO, I submitted comments on the proposed changes to the manual, and wrote in opposition to pending federal legislation (HR1330, HR404). I will continue to follow proposed wetlands legislation. Please contact me if you would like more information regarding protection of Oregon's wetlands.

--Kate Dwire  
Westside Conservation Chair



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SETTLES SUIT OVER NON-LISTING OF ENDANGERED PLANTS

The following article, abridged from Vol. 22, No. 1 of the *Bulletin of the California Native Plant Society*, relates the experiences of the California group in suing over non-listing of endangered plant species. It is reprinted here to provide background information that may relate to our own petition with the US Fish & Wildlife Service to list 7 Oregon Endangered plant species. See p. 144 in the Dec. 1991 NPSO *Bulletin* for information on our petition.

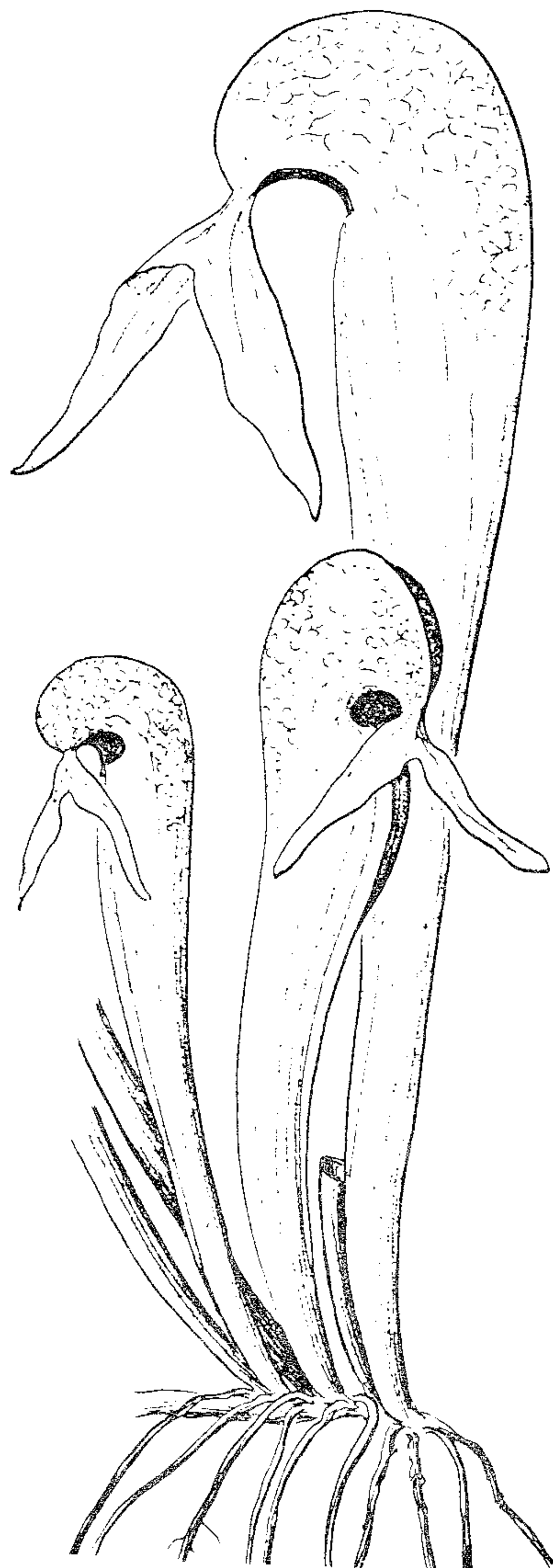
In a major victory for California's endangered plants, CNPS has settled its suit against the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) over non-listing of Federal Category 1 candidates. The settlement provides for the Federal listing of all 159 category 1 candidates (in California) within the next 4 1/2 years, or by March 31, 1996. Prior to this lawsuit, FWS had listed a total of 33 plants species in the 17 years since the enactment of the Endangered Species Act. At that rate, listing of the Category 1 candidates would have taken nearly 80 years. Since nearly half of the Category 1 candidates nationwide are found in California, this suit makes significant progress in addressing a nationwide problem of rare plant decline.

Although the judge ruled in CNPS's favor in the suit and awarded costs and attorney fees to CNPS, the settlement emphasizes the spirit of cooperation that exists between CNPS and FWS regarding eventual listing of these vulnerable plants, and facilitates this cooperation through annual meetings between FWS and the interested public.

On November 6th, CNPS representatives attended the first of the annual meetings to evaluate FWS's listing progress. In 1990 and 1991 the Service proposed 12 plant species of vernal pools and coastal dunes for listing. In addition listing packages are completed for 18 coastal, vernal pool, and San Bernardino Co. limestone plants. The settlement agreement specified 25 new listings of C1s by the end of 1991 and only 22 of the 30 mentioned above are C1s, so in 1992 FWS proposes to list 3 taxa in addition to the 30 specified by the agreement. For 1992, FWS proposed the following six listing packages based on threats and geography. The basic packages are acceptable, and we are very pleased that FWS is responding promptly and professionally to our suit.

Both CNPS and FWS agree that vulnerability to extinction is greater for some Category 2 plants and non-candidates than for the 159 Category 1s addressed in the suit, and both parties would prefer the most endangered plants to be listed first. The matter has now been turned over to attorneys for both sides to agree on the substance, format, and mechanism for modifying the agreement to permit more listing flexibility.

The Rare Plant Program has assumed the lead coordination role in CNPS's efforts to assist the FWS in meeting the listing goals specified in the suit. Among other activities, CNPS plans to influence Congress to appropriate funds for essential listing staff as requested by the two California Field Offices, lobby FWS Director John F. Turner for critical flexible funds to support listing, and help FWS prepare listing packages.



*Darlingtonia californica*  
drawn by Jeanne R. Janish  
From Hitchcock & Cronquist's  
*Flora of the Pacific Northwest*



**RARE PLANT FIELD REPORT**  
***CORDYLANTHUS MARITIMUS***  
**spp. *PALUSTRIS***

Ahh, summertime on the Oregon coast! What could be more beautiful? Nature's perfect blending of rough rocky intertidal zones and smooth sandy shores, both areas abundant with life. I have always been amazed by the variety of fauna and flora present in coastal ecosystems. Thanks to Rhoda Love, Tom Kaye, the Native Plant Society of Oregon, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), I was recently able to explore and study two of Oregon's coastal salt marshes.

I am currently a science major at Eugene's Lane Community College, and intend to transfer to Oregon State University and major in botany. When Rhoda mentioned to me last winter that the NPSO and ODA were seeking interested individuals to participate in botanical internships, and I discovered that one of the internships was to be located on the Oregon coast, I immediately applied.

Imagine my joy when I received a letter from Bob Meinke congratulating me on my selection. This valuable field experience in my intended field of study would mean a week on the coast. I was to work with Tom Kaye of the ODA's Natural Resources Division on an ODA-Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cooperative project establishing long-term monitoring plots for populations of *Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *palustris*, the salt marsh birds-beak. This species is a candidate for both state and Federal endangered species listing, and my week would be spent in furthering the study of several plant populations.

I set out on August 1st with Tom Kaye and ODA staffer Sarah Brady in our State of Oregon shiny white, 12 miles to the gallon, 4-door pickup truck, which we headed west. Most of the first day was spent driving and getting set up at the University of Oregon's Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB), and in a meeting with the BLM, Coos Bay District. I should mention at this point how helpful the Coos Bay District BLM and specifically Dennis Phillips (the district botanist) were. Without their help, our work would have gone quite a bit slower. After the BLM meeting, Tom took Sarah and me out and introduced us to *C. maritimus* and its habitat, and finally we returned to OIMB to prepare for the next day's work.

Now I knew that as happy as I was to be on the coast and as easy as the work we were going to do sounded, there would be a catch. Unfortunately, that catch came when Tom awakened me at 6:30 am. Not being a morning person, I was quite dazed. But after one soggy waffle, three cups of coffee, and a banana, I finally woke up and we began the day.

We started our work on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay. This is a sand pit owned by many different land owners, including the BLM, and is subject to many uses. After we had passed the pulp and paper mills and the sanitary waste treatment ponds, we were treated to the most obnoxious sight and sound I believe I had seen in quite some time. Hundreds and quite possibly thousands of people were tearing around on these beautiful sand dunes on their off-road vehicles (ORV's), blazing across dunes and salt marshes as if they owned them; their two, three and four-wheeled vehicles creating sounds almost as pleasing to the ears as shoes that are four sizes too small are to the feet. Here was the real problem.

We found *maritimus* populations that had been mapped previously. This short figwort family member seemed to be everywhere within a certain part of the salt marsh ecosystem---except in the wheel tracks of ORVs. We noted an odd coloring in some of the plants (yellow spots on the white petals rather than the usual purple). Tom speculated that in this area a simple gene mutation had occurred so the yellow was no longer masked by the plant's normal purple coloring. He pointed out that not only were the spots on the petals not purple, but on those plants all trace of purple was absent. The North Spit population is the only known group to contain yellow-flowered plants.

After doing a simple walking survey of the area, we began to record actual data. We first set up several carefully placed permanent transects that would allow Tom and the BLM to monitor the movement of these threatened annuals around the spit for many years to come. We set to work counting the number of *C. maritimus* plants within meter squares along our transects, noting the presence/absence of related species and whether or not the area was disturbed by man. This part of the job became quite time-consuming---happily because there were so many *C. maritimus* plants to count. We took most of two whole days to record all the necessary data from the North Spit. Toward the end of the second day on the North Spit, we called it quits so we could set up a monitoring transect at the University of Oregon's



Metcalf Marsh in Charleston. This somewhat pristine area had a sizable population and we set up a permanent monitoring site so that ambitious university students could help with the effort to protect this plant from extinction.

By the end of the third day, two things had become obvious to me. First, the *Cordylanthus* did not grow in areas that ORVs had passed over. You could see thick patches of the plant broken up by wheel ruts almost everywhere you turned. Second, some ORV drivers were not aware of the fragility of the salt marsh ecosystem that they enjoyed. This could be inferred by noting the large number of ruts crisscrossing the salt marsh.

On the fourth day, we had the opportunity to set up a transect in a pristine salt marsh habitat (thanks to Dennis). He took us and our equipment across the bay in his boat to a small dredge island where two *Cordylanthus* plants had been observed in 1990. Imagine our surprise when we found literally thousands of undisturbed plants thriving in their ORV and pollution free environment. On this dredge island, I was first able to completely see the stages of salt marsh succession, from only small patches of *Salicornia virginica* to complete salt marsh plant communities that also included *Distichlis spicata*, *Limonium californicum*, *Jaumea carnosa*, and *Deschampsia cespitosa*. In this relatively undisturbed environment, I noted that the *C. maritimus* tended to grow larger and branched more, thus reinforcing the idea that if the species is listed as endangered and its environment is protected, it will begin to thrive again.

To finish up the project in Coos Bay area, we took soil salinity samples, noted soil profiles, and recorded relative amounts of plant species within 20 x 50 cm square Daubenmire plots. We did this twice on the south end of the spit and then proceeded to the main entrance of the spit (where most of the ORV and pollution occurs). We started where the bay begins to narrow and moved 500 meters north for each new test site. What Tom was hoping to get from this information was a rough sketch of how salinity, soil profiles, and plant communities change as we moved away from the ocean. This would help characterize the environment in which *Cordylanthus* occurs, and possibly give an idea as to where new populations of *C. maritimus* could be started. I also had the chance in to try something completely new to me--I swam in the Pacific Ocean (or rather I stood in the Pacific Ocean) and shivered happily. I also happened upon a beautiful present for my girlfriend---a wholly intact sand dollar.

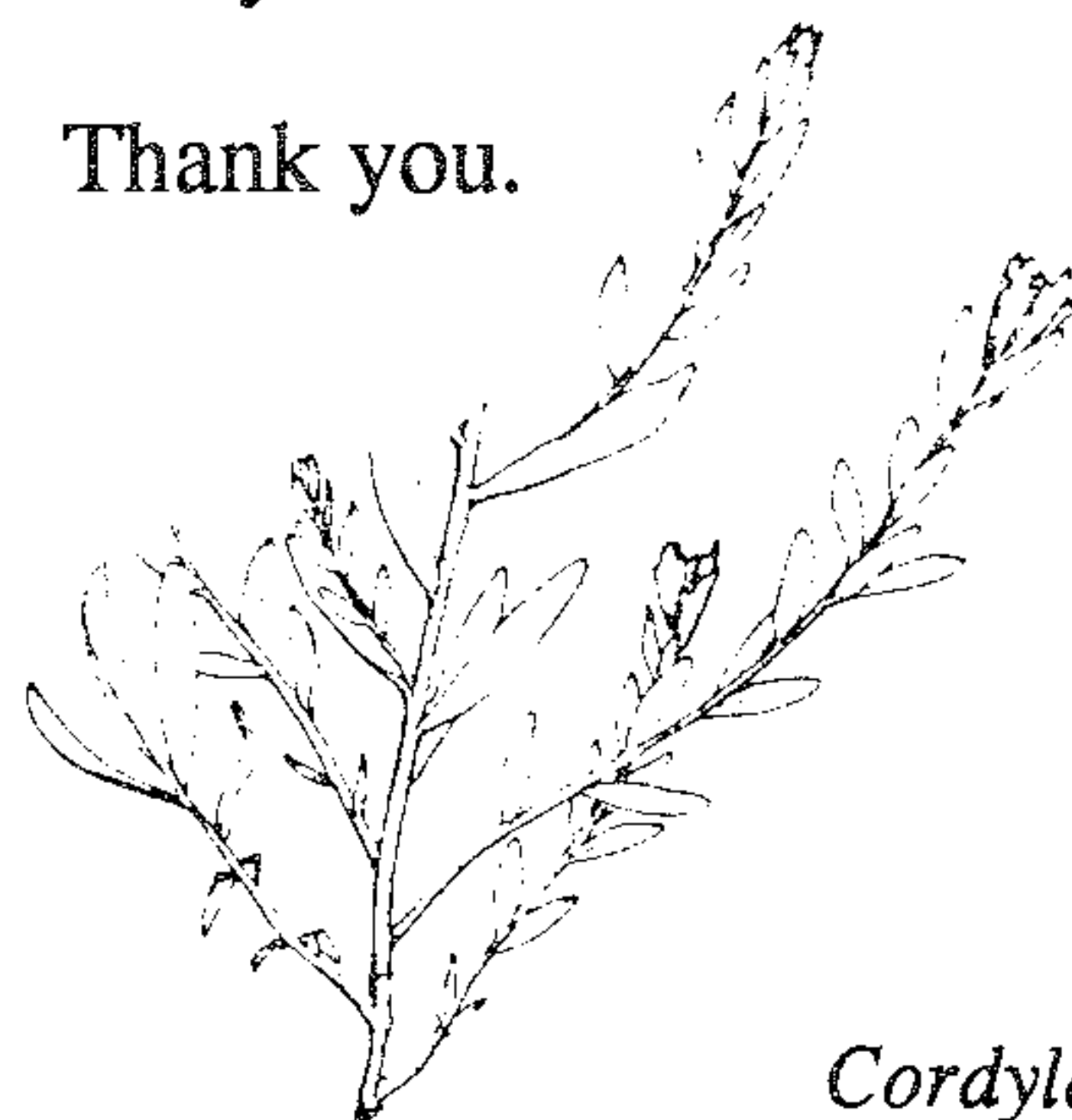
On the fifth and sixth days we drove from Coos County to Tillamook County to the northernmost known population of *C. maritimus*. It is on Netarts Spit in Cape Lookout State Park and is surrounded by some of the most beautiful land I have ever seen. We rented a boat across from the area where the plants had been seen, and proceeded to sputter across the bay. We landed in the most pristine area I had seen yet and found thousands of plants, many of them quite large. We set up our transects and recorded the necessary data, and then Tom sent Sarah and I out to estimate the number of plants present on the spit. Our rough estimation of the population size here at Netarts Spit was 4,000 plants, quite a sizable population growing in an already protected environment.

And we were done. All that was left to do was to drive home and sleep (until 1:30 p.m. the next day). I finally awoke with the knowledge that I had participated in valuable work for the environment. Despite the fact that even if *C. maritimus* is listed as a state and federal endangered species, it may not be completely protected. I rest easier at night knowing that there are many people out there who really do care for even the smallest members of our world. I guess some people would consider it a real tragedy if these beautiful salt marshes and their surrounding dune areas were closed to ORV traffic. But I know that they could find another place to play with their toys. Sooner or later people will realize that the planet and its "lesser" organisms are not just ours for the taking. When that realization occurs (to quote a popular song from the 1950s), "What a wonderful world it will be".

In conclusion, I would like to thank Tom Kaye, Sarah Brady, the Native Plant Society, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Coos Bay District BLM, Dennis Phillips, and especially Rhoda Love. The joint internship program is an incredibly valuable one, and I would urge the NPSO to keep it up. Remember, the youth of today are the botanists of tomorrow.

Thank you.

---Eric Peterson, Eugene



*Cordylanthus maritimus* spp. *palustris*

From Threatened & Endangered Vascular plants of Oregon



## BUSH & ADMINISTRATION RETREAT ON WETLANDS WARPATH, BUT THE FIGHT IS STILL ON

"I want to ask you today what the generations to follow will say of us 40 years from now. It could be that they will report the loss of many millions acres more of wetlands. The extinction of species. The disappearance of wilderness and wildlife. Or they could report that, sometime around 1989, things began to change. That we began to hold on to our parks and refuges. That we protected our species. And that, in that year, the seeds of a new policy about our valuable wetlands were sown--- a policy summed up in three simple words: 'no net loss'. I prefer the second vision of America's environmental future."

This quote was delivered by then Vice-President Bush to the Waterfowl Symposium on June 6th, 1989. It is his campaign promise to help in the preservation of not just wetlands but also wildlife, wilderness and endangered species. At the time he was posing as The Environmental President.

Recently, through the Council on Competitiveness chaired by Vice-President Dan Quayle, the President proposed to change the legal definition of wetlands to suit political purposes. That was proposed despite the objections of wetlands experts from four Federal agencies. These new rules would, if implemented, completely eliminate the legal presence of all wetlands in 29 states, and that of at least half of all surviving wetlands nationally. One professional in wetlands management stated that "the proposed revisions are inconsistent with established tenets of wetlands ecology". Others who have worked with the proposed new manual used the terms "scary", "absurd", "inflexible" and "unworkable".

A study prepared by 40 scientists and funded by the Environmental Defense Fund and the World Wildlife Fund was critical of the new rules. The report, released January 16th, states that the rules would cause severe economic and environmental damages by increasing flooding and water pollution and by allowing development and destruction of extensive habitat areas for a variety of endangered species and other wildlife. The study concludes that the new rules would force spending of billions of dollars on new water treatment facilities to replace the filtering abilities of lost wetlands, and lead to billions more in losses from flooding once presently protected wetlands were turned to other uses.

A government interagency team set up to field test the new definitions stated "The proposed revisions represent a departure from the scientific understanding of wetlands ecology". The team found "no basis" for the changes, either in the "scientific literature, nor...(in) the field testing". They stated that the changed definitions fail to identify "well-recognized wetland ecosystems". They found the proposed manual of wetlands delineation internally inconsistent and difficult to apply, and wrote that the delineation methods "are scientifically unsound, are unworkable...and will lead to greater costs, uncertainty and delay." The proposed method of wetlands delineation would define away half of our remaining wetland acreage. The Bush Administration forbade release of this report (despite a supposed opportunity for public comment), but in time-honored Washington fashion, it was leaked despite Official efforts to prevent it. In the resulting furor, the Administration backed away from this whole proposal, and declared that a new effort to redefine wetlands would be undertaken.

The collapse of this line of attack on our nation's wetlands protection methods does not mean conservationists can relax their watch on the regulation of wetland areas. The Hayes Bill (HR1330) is still before Congress. This would designate the Army Corps of Engineers as the only regulatory agency overseeing dredging and filling of wetlands, eliminating the EPA's current ability to veto Corps' decisions. It also declares that Section 404, which is widely used to protect wetlands from destruction, is not a wetlands protection provision at all but rather is intended to encourage economic development. And it also redefines jurisdictional wetlands. The current method of wetlands determination, based on scientific methods combining plants, geology and hydrology, was worked out by several government agencies. The alterations of the Hayes Bill would create a three-tiered ranking system for wetlands (low, medium and high value), eliminate protection for 'low value' wetlands and arbitrarily limit the amount of land in the high value range to no more than 20% within any one county, and require the government to buy all lands in the high range. This impractical bill is designed to make regulation of wetlands both limited and costly. And it is only the most damaging of several congressional bills under consideration.



Attempts to knock down wetland protection regulations at the Federal level undermine state and local efforts here in Oregon and elsewhere. Two wetland conservation plans in Oregon have only recently been finalized, for the West Eugene wet prairie remnants and the Portland-area Columbia River South Shore. These land use approaches identify wetlands and give fair warning of needed preservation efforts. Twelve years ago, through the efforts of a local 'Friends' organization, Hedges Creek Marsh in Tualatin, the largest surviving wetlands complex in Washington County, was made subject to a City of Tualatin Wetland Protection Ordinance which has functioned well ever since. Solid local and regional wetlands protection and land use planning efforts like these will be jeopardized if arbitrary political changes are made in wetlands regulations at the Federal level. By hamstringing the Federal level protection upon which we depend, those who favor irresponsible development will be allowed to accelerate the demise of wetlands areas nationwide.

Wetlands are uniquely valuable, productive areas. They are home to many native plants, both rare and common. Many birds, fish and other wildlife cannot exist without them, and many more are partially dependent upon them. The current serious decline of our waterfowl populations nationwide is largely due to the already large-scale destruction of wetlands. Nationwide, we have already lost an estimated 53% of our original wetlands to farming, urbanization, roads and other development. Our current inadequate protection system is allowing the loss of an estimated 290,000 acres each year.

Because of the central value of wetlands to our nation's ecosystems, and the strength of the current attack upon their conservation, it is important to let your congressmen know that you value and care about these crucial areas and want more protection for them, not less. Mention the importance of wetlands and the benefits they provide. President Bush should be reminded of his "no net loss" promise. Ask for better funding of wetland acquisition and restoration. To contact your public officials on this or other issues, see the list of addresses and phone numbers in the next column. An excellent source of information about wetlands and their preservation is The Wetlands Conservancy, PO Box 1195, Tualatin, OR 97062 (503-691-1394). Many other conservation groups have their own body of information and strong interest in the preservation of our crucial wetlands.

--Bryan Boyce

## CONTACTING YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Wishing to make your views known to your elected representatives in Congress? Here are the numbers to write or call:

For letters specifically on wetlands issues, the following is of use:

Mr. Gregory Peck  
Wetlands Regulations (Mail Code A-104f)  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M St. SW  
Washington DC 20480

Write to Representatives Les Aucoin, Bob Smith, Ron Wyden, Peter DeFazio, and Mike Kopetski at:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
US House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
Phone them via the Congressional  
Switchboard at 202/224-3124.

Write to Senators Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood at:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
US Senate  
Washington DC 20510  
Phone them via the Congressional  
Switchboard at 202/224-3124.

Also:

President George Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington DC, 20500  
The White House Switchboard number is:  
202/456-1414.

The most effective letter is knowledgeable but written with obvious personal conviction. Letters following any obvious format that is repeated by many writers carry less impact with the staff which reads them. Concrete information is important, but so is intensity of feeling. Incorporate both if possible.



## BITS AND PIECES

---NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM ALL OVER

### MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM SEEKS NATURE GUIDES

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum is starting the eleventh year of its Outdoor Education Program. Weekday mornings April 22nd to June 5th, 1992, volunteers will guide school children on nature walks at the Arboretum. The walks emphasize ecological concepts. Guides teach about life cycles and adaptations of the plants and animals in the Arboretum, and about the interdependence of all life.

The success of this valuable program is due to the volunteer guides, who give their time, energy and love to the children. More guides are needed! Volunteers receive free educational materials as well as free natural history training from the Arboretum. Volunteers attend one indoor training session (March 13th or 19th, 9:30 to noon at the Lane County Extension Auditorium, 950 W. 13th, Eugene), and two outdoor training sessions (April 8th and 9th, 15th and 16th at the Arboretum). No previous experience required. At the sessions volunteers will be presented with many ideas and activities that will help them to lead a successful walk. In the winter months additional guide training walks are offered, as well as CPR and first aid training. On Saturday, Feb. 21st, at 10am, Rick Fraga, LCC professor, will teach Forest Ecology.

If you are interested, call the Education Coordinator, Fran Rosenthal, at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum office (747-3817) or home (686-8741).

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### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIVE PLANT ENTHUSIASTS

The Garden Club of America (GCA), in cooperation with its affiliates in Portland, Tacoma and Seattle, and with Berry Botanic Garden, Pacific Crest Outward Bound, and the Wind River District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, will sponsor a volunteer program this coming summer to assist in rare plant studies. The GCA has provided a grant to sponsor this program to have volunteers assist in information gathering about threatened and endangered species. Examples include monitoring *Sisyrinchium sarmentosum* and

*Pleuricospora fimbriolata*, inventorying botanically interesting areas, and surveying timber sales areas and potential recreation sites for T&E plants.

There will be two 5-day sessions, July 20-24 and July 27-31. Food and rustic lodging will be provided. Volunteers should be in good physical health and interested in native plants. KP chores will be shared. For more information, contact Kate Swabey, 6132 SW 45th Ave., Portland, OR 97221 (244-5684).

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### Sponsorship of Audubon PBS Specials Successfully Hit by Timber, Beef Interests

Its been twice now. The National Audubon Society has had the temerity to create and air a program on a controversial environmental subject, and the sponsor of the series has been attacked for its support of it. In both cases the result has been loss of the sponsor for the Audubon series. "Rage over Trees" provoked the timber interests into a campaign that resulted in the pullout of the Stroh Brewery from the sponsorship. The recent special "The New Range Wars", despite covering the ranchers point-of-view as well as that of environmentalists, resulted in an all-out campaign by the National Cattlemen's Association and the National Inholder's Association to persuade GE to drop its sponsorship of the series. Weapons used were threats of boycotts of GE products and a massive letter writing campaign. Soon after this began GE dropped sponsorship of the program, effective in a year. They claim this has nothing to do with the cattle lobby.

These are essentially attempts to keep preservationist's viewpoints from reaching the public on the PBS airways, and from commercial channels as well. Due to the length of time before GE actually is out of the sponsorship, some letterwriting supporting their continued backing of the series may still be of use. Each program in the series reaches 20 million Americans. It is important to keep this viewpoint before the nation. Write to: Mr. Jack Welsh, Chairman of the Board, General Electric, 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06431 (203-373-2871).



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The NPSO *Bulletin* is published monthly as a service to NPSO members and the public. Contributions of all types are welcome.  
**DEADLINE: Copy is due with the editor by the 10th of each month.**  
**Submissions can be in any form.** Author's name & affiliation are at the end of the article. Double space between paragraphs. For special materials (e.g., plant keys) choose an appropriate format, keeping in mind that readers may wish to carry your article pasted inside their favorite field guide. Formatting assistance is available from your editor. All *Bulletin* articles now go into the new NPSO database via computer. Camera-ready copy is not used, with rare exceptions.  
**Computer output:** The editor prefers articles submitted on Macintosh or IBM disks, or via modem. Contact the editor for details.

**Illustrations:** Line drawings, prints, and high contrast B&W prints are useable. Some Macintosh graphics can be used also. Contact the editor about our current needs, or send them along with your article.  
**Credits:** If the item is not original, name and date the source. For original items, identify the author and indicate, for news items, if a by-line is desired. Indicate whether the item is to be used in its entirety or excerpted at the editor's discretion.  
**Scientific Names:** Nomenclature should follow *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, by Hitchcock et al., when appropriate. Use both scientific and common names if possible. *Italicize* genus and species, or underline.  
**Return of Originals:** Submissions are not returned unless requested.

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 Membership applications, renewals, and changes of address (include old address and zip code) should be sent to the Membership Chair.

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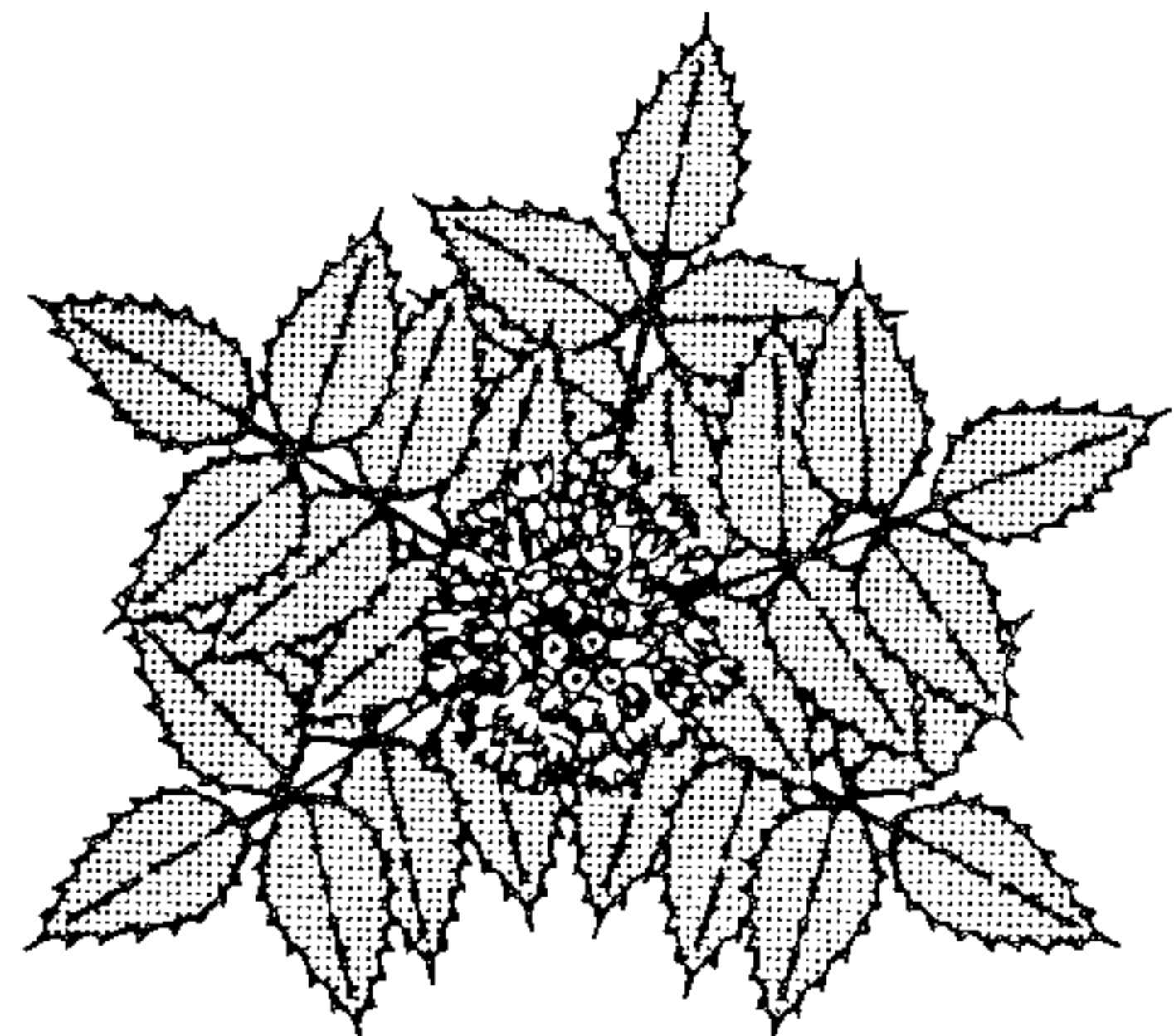
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