



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

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

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 4

APRIL 1992

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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.

CHAPTER NEWS

Blue Mountain

5 Apr., Sun.

For information on any Blue Mtn. Chapter activities, call Jerry Baker (566-2244).

FIELD TRIP: Upper Umatilla River--Thorn Hollow and Squaw Creek areas, to observe early Spring wildflowers. Leader: Jerry Baker. Depart from the Blue Mountain Community College Greenhouse at 8am, bring lunch and appropriate footwear for some walking.

6 Apr., Mon.

MEETING. 7:30 pm in Room 130, Morrow Hall, Blue Mountain Community College. We will continue to schedule future field trips, have further discussions concerning Karl Urban's wildflower coloring book and also gather ideas for Wildflower Awareness Week. Time permitting we will also view various members slides.

18 Apr., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: Harry Vincett will lead a trip to Central Oregon to observe *Pediocactus* and other endemics. Leave from the BMCC Greenhouse at 7am sharp! Bring lunch, refreshments and proper clothing, as this will be a fairly long day.

25 Apr., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge with Manager Kathy Cheap. Visit the area of the proposed native plant interpretive site, view the wildflowers of the area, and also the waterfowl and other avian species that patronize the refuge. Leave from the BMCC Greenhouse at 8am.

Corvallis

12 Apr., Sun

FIELD TRIP: Findley Wildlife Refuge to look at early spring wildflowers. Meet at 10am in the parking lot across from the Monroe Street Beanery. Bring raingear and lunch. Contact Esther McEvoy (754-0893) for more information.

14 Apr., Tues

MEETING. 7:30 pm in Corl House, 3975 NW Witham Hill Rd., Corvallis. Susan Kephart of Willamette University will tell us about her work on *Silene douglasii* var. *oraria*, a rare plant of coastal headlands. For more information, call Duncan Thomas (752-6529).

FIELD TRIP: To Illinois Valley and Eight Dollar Mountain. If interested contact Esther McEvoy (754-0893)

12 May., Tues .

MEETING. 7:30 pm in Corl House, 3975 NW Witham Hill Rd., Corvallis. Duncan Thomas will give a slide show on botanizing Africa's forests and savannas

Emerald

11 Apr., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: Michael McCabe, Willamette National Forest botanist will lead a trip to Bunchgrass Meadows within the Warner Creek fire area of the Oakridge Ranger District. We will discuss a range of management and rehabilitation prescriptions as well as view the results of last Falls initial rehab efforts. Participants should gain a better understanding of the complex issues involved in this fire restoration project. Bring lunch, drink and hiking shoes. Depart at 9am from the parking lot of South Eugene High School, corner of 19th and Patterson or meet at the Oakridge District Ranger Station on Hwy. 58 at 10am. For further information call Jenny Dimling (343-3242).

13 Apr., Mon.

MEETING. 7:30 pm in the Library, Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene. Dr. Kenton L. Chambers, Professor Emeritus of Botany from the Oregon State University Herbarium, will show slides and speak on the topic: "Does Every Species Really Count?" Come and hear a discussion of this very important concept in plant conservation. For more information, call Jenny Dimling (343-3242).

11 May, Mon.

MEETING. 7:30 pm in the Library, Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene. Art McKee, Site Director of the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest, will show slides and speak on a topic concerning the Andrews Forest and the New Forestry. His title will be announced here in May. For more information, call Jenny Dimling (343-3242). This will be our last meeting until September.

17 May, Sun.

WILDFLOWER SHOW. Wildflower Festival at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum in Buford Park, off Seavey Loop Road. Wildflower display by Emerald Chapter NPSO, posters, notecards and T-shirts for sale, food, plant sale, puppet show, guided trail walks, music, books for sale, etc. 10 am to 4 pm.

High Desert

For information, call Bill Hopkins (388-7434).

Mid-Columbia

1 Apr., Wed.

MEETING. 7:30pm at the Mosier School. John Christy of the Oregon Natural Heritage Program will discuss they types of wetlands found in the Northwest, emphasizing plant associations. He also will highlight the controversy surrounding how federal agencies define wetland boundaries.

12 Apr., Sun.

ANNUAL WILDFLOWER SHOW at the Mosier School, 10am to 4pm. Also you can drive the Cherry Blossom Tour Route and take in the annual Mosiers Firemen's Benefit smorgasbord dinner at the Mosier Grange Hall.

6 May, Wed.

MEETING. 7:30pm at the Mosier School. "Botanical Gardens and Native Plant Preservation". Linda McMahan, Executive Director of the Berry Botanic Garden, will give a slide presentation on the techniques used by botanical gardens to preserve native plants, including seed banks, research, and off-site living collections.

North Coast

28 Apr., Tues.

MEETING. Program to be announced. 7pm at the Carl Rawe Meeting Room, Tillamook PUD, 1115 Pacific, Tillamook.

FIELD TRIP: Call Al Krampert (842-2308) for information about Earth Day hike at Cape Lookout.

Portland

- 11 Apr., Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** On the Deschutes River Trail from river's edge into the sagebrush hills, about a 4 mile loop among fine flowers. Leave 8am from the SW corner of the 122nd & K-Mart parking lot. Drive is about 90 miles each way. Leader is Louise Godfrey (223-4785)
- 14 Apr., Tues. **MEETING.** 7pm at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Nancy Fredericks will speak on "*Calochortus*", rescheduled from an earlier date.
- 18 Apr., Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** Chetwood Loop Trail--see white oaks, a great variety of flowers and excellent views. Wear long trousers and long sleeves to protect against ticks and poison oak. Moderate 6.5 miles across open slopes. Elevation gain 1000ft. Meet at 9am, southwest corner of K-Mart parking lot at 122nd and Sandy. For more information call trip leader Mary Mason (227-4639).

Siskiyou

- 17 Apr., Fri. **MEETING.** "Botanical Areas in the Rouge River National Forest" will be presented by Barbara Mumblo, Botanist with the Applegate Ranger District. 7:30pm in Room 171 of the Science Building at Southern Oregon State College. For information, call David Kennedy (535-6383).

Umpqua Valley

- 9 Apr., Thurs. **MEETING** program to be announced. The UV Chapter meets every 2nd Thursday in the month in Room 311 of the Douglas County Courthouse, Roseburg. For information call Richard (673-3709).
- 11 Apr., Sat. **FIELD TRIP.** To Roman Nose and Kentucky Falls in the Siuslaw NF. Meet 7:45 am BLM parking lot , 777 Garden Valley Road for carpooling, leave 8 am. For information call Mildred Thiele (673-5397).
- 25-26 Apr., Sat. **GLIDE WILDFLOWER SHOW.** Our long-time dedicated crew needs volunteers to help collect, arrange or whatever. We are scheduling some of short field trips on Saturday and Sunday. For volunteers call Mildred Thiele (673-5397) or field trips call Richard Sommer (673-3709).
- 23 May., Sat. **FIELD TRIP.** To King Mountain Rock Garden via Wolf Cr, Coyote Cr to see *Fritillaria glauca*, *F. recurva*, *Lewisia pygmaea* var *nev.*, *Anemone oregana*. Meet 7:45 am BLM parking lot , 777 Garden Valley Road for carpooling, leave 8 am.

Willamette Valley

- 20 Apr., Mon. **MEETING:** 7pm in Room 225 of the First United Methodist Church, 600 State St., Salem. Dr. Winn Cudmore, a biology teacher at Chemeketa Community College, will give a slide show about old growth forests. Come join us to hear about this controversial topic! For more information, call Cathy Connelly (393-1834).
- 25 Apr., Sat. **FIELD TRIP/WORKSHOP:** 9:00–12:00noon. Learn to identify what you'll find on this year's field trips. Diana Bodtger, a botany teacher at Chemeketa Community College, will explain botanical terminology and introduce us to using identification keys. This will be a hands-on, laboratory type of workshop. Call Cathy Connelly (393-1834) for location.
- 2 May, Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** Clint Urey, one of the original founders of the Willamette Valley Chapter of the NPSO, will lead us in a walk around Independence Rock to view many beautiful wildflowers including the exotic blooms of fairy-slipper orchids. Call Clint Urey (581-1805) for place and time.
- 9 May, Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** Margie Willis will lead a 3 hour wildflower walk at Silver Falls State Park. We will meet at 2pm at the lodge in the park. This will be the same weekend that a wildflower show is held at the park, so plan to come early and see the show and then join our hike to the lower falls! You could turn around early and make this a short 1 hour walk. For information, call Margie (364-7772 or Kathy Connelly (393-1834).

18 May, Mon. **MEETING/FIELD TRIP:** Meet at 6:30pm in the parking lot of the Safeway located on Edgewater Road in West Salem to carpool to the Delbert Hunter Arboretum in Dallas. Or meet us at the entrance to the Arboretum in Dallas around 7pm. Members of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum will join us in a tour of the grounds. They have emphasized native plants in the assemblage of this beautiful garden. For more information call Kathy Connelly (393-1834).

23-25 May, Sat.-Mon. **FIELD TRIP:** Memorial Day Weekend trip to Southwestern Oregon. For further information, contact Wilbur Bluhm (393-2934).

William Cusick

7 Apr., 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.

11 Apr., Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** Tim Stein will lead a 10 mile round trip hike along the lower Imnaha River to the Snake River in the gorge of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Plants of interest in the area include: *Allium geyeri* and some endemic *Lomatiums*: *L. serpentinum* and *L. rollinsii*. Meet at the Safeway parking lot in Enterprise at 9am. For more information, call Tim (426-3443-H or 426-4978-W).

23 May, Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** Kent Coe will lead a walk at the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's Blue Mountain Crossing of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Area as a commemoration of Wildflower Week. Take a lunch and plan to leave from the LaGrande Safeway parking lot at 8:30am. For more information call Kent ([503] 962-7049).

Welcoming Our New Members...

These are our new members from the dates Dec. 7, 1991 to Mar. 7, 1992:

Blue Mountain Chapter:

Mike & Julie Black
Anne E. Douglas
David C. Powell
F. Vance Pumphrey
Jennifer Stein
Julie Van't Hul

Corvallis Chapter:

Bruce N. Hayes
Sherry K Pittam
Helen V. Smith
Marjorie Storm
Margriet Wetherwax

Emerald Chapter:

Doris Allen
Susan Barger
Frances Burns
Michael Fahy
Pat Ford
Pamela Good

Herb Kieklak
Floyd Lord
Glenn Meares
Alma Sapienza
Michael W. Shippey

High Desert Chapter

Elaine L. Ammann
Jennifer Doan-Scott
John & Elizabeth Horsnell
Jenifer Hutchinson
Beverly Meyer
Andrea Sandmann

Portland Chapter

Gordon Anthon
Dan & Karla Ayres
Roy & Kathryn Beaty
Judith Bradshaw
Carol T. Cole
Ernest & Claire Johnson
Lizzie King
Allan Lehman
Jane McGary
Mary Pakenham-Walsh
Irene Vlach
Linde Westling
Roger Yerke

Siskiyou Chapter
Christine Ebrahimi
James Hutchinson

William Cusick Chapter
Ed & Donna & Amanda Bottum
Melanie Crocker
Penny Hall
Gary O. Hathaway
Dianne Kiel-Jones
Tim & Pat Lichen
Ardis Waters

Willamette Valley Chapter

Tony Allen
Stephen Carter
Meredith Cote
Dave Garcia
Wallace W. Hansen
Claire Hibler
Mike Murphy
Barbara Slimak
Debra L. Sparber
Julie Knurowski-Thiel
Jonathan Yoder

TIPTOE THROUGH THE TALUS: A LOOK AT *AMSINCKIA CARINATA*, A MALHEUR COUNTY ENDEMIC

"Don't you have any rare plants that grow on level ground that we could study?" Jenny Holah asked Bob Meinke as the three of us crouched on a steep talus slope just outside of Harper, Oregon, in northern Malheur County. A few moments later, I watched my backpack accelerate before rolling to a stop at the base of the slope. If an average observer had happened to pass, they undoubtedly would have questioned what could have lured us to such an unlikely spot on a cold, blustery May day. However, if the observer had been a botanist familiar with the area, our motives would have been clear: we were there at the behest of the Bureau of Land Management to study *Amsinckia carinata*, the Malheur Valley fiddleneck, which is endemic to the distinct talus outcrops around Harper. *Amsinckia carinata* (*Boraginaceae*) is listed as a Threatened species by the State of Oregon and is a Candidate for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well. In fact, the species was thought extinct for many years, until several populations were rediscovered in 1984 by Elaine Joyal. Working with Oregon Department of Agriculture's Plant Conservation Biology Program on a grant from the NPSO, I hoped to learn more about the distribution and biology of this rare plant during our stay.

Before we could begin our work, Jenny and I had to learn to distinguish between *Amsinckia carinata* and *A. tessellata*, a weedy relative. At first, the two annual species appear virtually identical; both plants are about 25 cm. tall, with hairy leaves and yellow-orange flowers. However, Bob pointed out several differences between the two. *A. tessellata* tends to have narrower, hairier leaves and somewhat smaller flowers than *A. carinata*. If these subtle differences eluded us, we only needed to examine a plant's nutlets: *A. tessellata*'s are cobbled and rough, while *A. carinata*'s are unmistakably shiny and smooth. With this knowledge under our belts, we were ready to explore.

In spite of the drought, several populations of *Amsinckia carinata* were thriving in late May, and many plants were flowering. Though green-house tests confirm that the plant is capable of self-pollination, several bee species were visiting the small, dark yellow flowers. Other individual plants had already set seed, and we gathered their distinctive shiny nutlets for future studies.

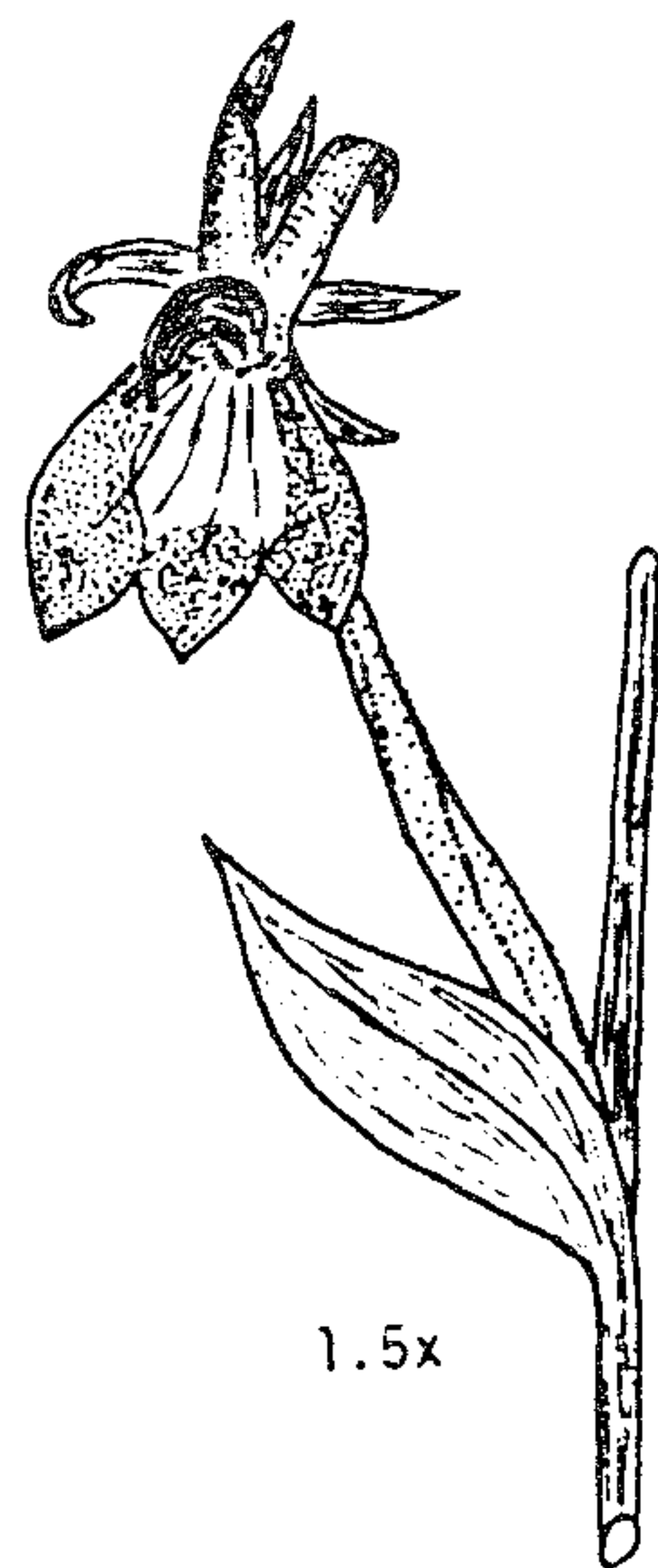
We arrived at our first *Amsinckia* site on a rather dismal morning and began a transect near the top of a bouldery outcrop. The small pieces of talus that covered the slope made any movement quite challenging. Near the top of the slope, the plant community abounded with *A. carinata*, as well as scattered individuals of *Amsinckia tessellata* and *Atriplex spinosa*, which quickly became known as "the devil bush." Anyone who has ever slid to an abrupt landing atop one of these spiny plants will understand the sentiment that led to this nickname. Since relatively little is known about *Amsinckia carinata*, we were interested in taking basic measurements on plants at different elevations along the slope. We determined the number of plants per unit area, their heights, the number of flowering branches, and the size and depth of the talus.

As we worked our way down several slopes, we found substantially less *A. carinata* and increasingly more individuals of the weedy *A. tessellata*. At the foot of some slopes, where the two species intermingled, there were several plants that appeared to be hybrids between *A. carinata* and *A. tessellata*. This phenomenon will be the subject of future study. As we worked, we questioned why these two *Amsinckia* species have different distributions along the length of the slope. Previous soil analyses had indicated that *A. carinata* tends to occur on soils comparatively high in sodium. The amount of sodium tends to decrease downslope where populations of *A. carinata* decreased relative to *A. tessellata*. This gradient might help answer our question on distribution. Another possible answer might be found in our talus measurements. Larger and deeper talus appeared to be correlated with increased density and increased reproduction in *A. carinata*. *A. carinata* may be better able to withstand the difficult environment near the tops of these slopes but is outcompeted in gentler environments. We cannot know for certain without experimental manipulations.

Our solitude near these rocky outcrops was occasionally interrupted by a passing animal. At one point, we were intently examined by a pronghorn, and later, Jenny had a chance encounter with a rattlesnake. While we did not directly witness any ambling bovines, we saw evidence of their presence in the neighborhood.

Domestic cattle have disturbed talus and compacted soil in the area, particularly at the base of the *Amsinckia* slopes. In addition, grazing has facilitated the introduction of Eurasian weeds, such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). This species, as well as *A. tessellata*, may compete with *Amsinckia carinata* in areas where the plant has spread downslope. While we cannot guess what the populations of *Amsinckia carinata* might have looked like before European settlement, current land use practices appear to pose a threat. The soil disturbance and non-native species associated with grazing may compromise the continued survival of this species. In addition, mining claims are evident along some of the talus slopes that support *A. carinata*. The major substrate disturbances associated with mining could have a devastating effect on *A. carinata*, since it is expected to be difficult, at best, for any reclamation effort to recreate the talus slopes the species appears to require for survival. Before this area is disturbed further, it is important to understand what impacts these disturbances may have on the survival of this endemic species.

—Lisa Lantz
 Department of Botany and Plant Pathology
 Restoration Ecology and
 Plant Conservation Biology Cooperative Project
 Oregon State University



Dowlingia elegans
 Showy dowingia
 Drawn by Herm Fitz

Reprinted from NPSO *Bulletin* Jan. 1983

NPSO 1992 BUDGET (JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31)

Adopted by the Board of Directors
 January 25, 1992

Estimated Income:

Membership dues	\$12,500.
Environmental Federation of Oregon	6,000.
Rare/Endangered Plant Fund	600.
Notecards	400.
Interest	300.
Leighton Ho Fund	200.
	<u>Sub-total</u> 20,000.
Balance Brought Forward	6,400.
TOTAL INCOME	\$26,400.

Anticipated Expenses:

Bulletin	\$6,000.
Environmental Federation of Oregon	5,500.
Chapters share of dues @ 35%	4,375.
Kalmiopsis	2,500.
Research Grants (4 @ \$400.)	1,600.
Membership chair	800.
Board and other committees	600.
R/E Committee	500.
Conservation Committee	500.
President	450.
Legislative Committee	375.
Secretary	350.
Treasurer	250.
Education Committee	100.
Cascadia Conference	100.
Annual meeting—Banquet speaker	100.
ONRC	100.
Nat. Res. Def. Council	100.
Fees and Taxes	80.
Desert Conference XIII	50.
Natural Areas Association	35.
Wildflower Research Center	25.
	<u>Sub-total</u> 24,490.
Balance Forwarded (savings)	1,910.
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,400.

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

--Dan Luoma, NPSO Vice-President

OREGON'S BIODIVERSITY: CAN WE SUSTAIN IT? THE HIGH DESERT CHAPTER'S 1992 FIELDTRIPS

Oregon's conservation challenge for the next century is apparent: Can we offer future generations an ongoing opportunity to enjoy our state's natural biological diversity? The answer is not clear, but lots of folks are considering the problem. The emphasis in conservation is shifting away from the preservation of small plots of land which focus on only one species to the management of larger chunks of landscape in the hope that this strategy will offer more protection to species and habitats. Both private groups and federal agencies have pioneered the protection of biodiversity in Oregon. The USFS and BLM through wilderness areas, RNA's, ACEC's, and other special conservation designations have protected millions of acres of land. The Nature Conservancy, a private non-profit group, has led the way in the non-governmental arena. We invite you to join us in our visits to a variety of these preserves in our 1992 field season.

The NPSO is a private, non-profit educational association whose members are interested in the enjoyment, study, and conservation of Oregon's native vegetation. Membership is open to all. Founded in 1961, NPSO includes over 900 members in 11 chapters statewide. We invite non-members to join us for our no-fee hikes. Amateurs and experts are equally welcome!

All Bend Chapter fieldtrips will depart from Juniper Park parking lot near the tennis courts at 7th and NE Franklin Ave. in Bend at 8:30am sharp unless otherwise noted. Please arrive a few minutes early to carpool. We will normally return to the parking lot by 5:30pm. Please be sure your gas tank is filled and bring along water, a sack lunch, a daypack, and sturdy footwear. Consider taking layered clothing, sunscreen, a hand lens, camera, binoculars, etc. Weather may be severe, trails can be rough, and roads are sometimes poor. Riders are encouraged to reimburse their drivers: 22 cents per mile is a suggestion. Please don't smoke. No picking or collecting of plants is allowed. Please leave your pets at home. You participate at your own risk. Please call trip leaders for more information.

The Lawrence Memorial Grasslands Preserve Sat., May 2. The Nature Conservancy owns and manages this 400 acre preserve which features a climax stand of native Oregon bunchgrasses and

wildflowers. This will be an easy to moderate four mile round trip hike to see the native meadow steppe ecosystem. Trip leader: Stu Garrett (389-6981 eves).

The Painted Hills, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument Sat., May 16. This area is managed by the National Park Service. One of three federal national monuments in Oregon, it preserves not only important aspects of biologic diversity in several rare plants but also protects amazing geologic resources. Easy hiking. Trip leader: Stu Garrett (389-6981 eves).

NPSO Annual Meeting at Malheur Field Station, Fri., Sat., Sun, June 5-7. This is the Society's annual get-together. It will be hosted by the High Desert Chapter and will feature a variety of excellent fieldtrips to interesting spots. A banquet dinner will feature Lucile Housely speaking on Paiute ethnobotany. See the NPSO *Bulletin* for details.

Forest Health and Sustainable Forest Management Sat., July 18. Some areas of the conifer forests of central and eastern Oregon are "ecosystems in collapse" according to the USFS regional forester. We will see the conditions that have led to this problem and understand the natural forces at work. Various approaches to the situation will be considered. Entomologists from the Deschutes National Forest will accompany us. Trip leader: Stu Garrett (389-6981 eves).

Broken Top Volcano/Three Sisters Wilderness Sat., Aug 15. Our annual hike to the spectacular display of alpine wildflowers and glacial geology at Broken Top. A five mile round trip moderate to strenuous hike with a 1500 ft. elevation gain, mostly off-trail through Three Sisters Wilderness. The number of hikers is limited due to USFS restrictions on wilderness travel. Call trip leader Stu Garrett (389-6981 eves) to preregister.

Contact Field Trip Chair Dr. Stu Garrett, 21663 Paloma Dr., Bend OR 97701 ([503] 389-6981 eves) for more details. On trips where participant numbers are limited, preference is given NPSO members. News publications are free to republish this listing but are requested to include enough information to fully inform potential trip participants.

SATURDAY FIELDTRIPS FOR THE '92 NPSO ANNUAL MEET

All field trips are Sat., June 6th, and will leave from the Field Station parking lot at 8:15am after breakfast. We will carpool. Bring lunch (which can be provided by the field station with preregistration), warm clothes, raingear, and good hiking boots. A high clearance car is best. As distances are great, we will need to be sure everyone is back for the banquet at 6:30pm.

THE NARROWS ACEC/STEPHANOMERIA ENCLOSURE

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 mile drive from the Field Station and walking will be easy. Leader will be Nora Taylor of the BLM.

GREAT BASIN/PAIUTE ETHNOBOTANY

Ethnobotanist Lucile Housley will lead us to the Stinkingwater Pass area where traditional native American uses of local plants will be discussed. 2-hr. drive one way & a moderate 2-4 mile hike.

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 each way and hiking is 2 to 4 miles.

BOTANIZING AND BIRDING

THE MALHEUR REFUGE

The Malheur NWR is known as 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.

RIDDLE RANCH/ROOSTER COMB RNA

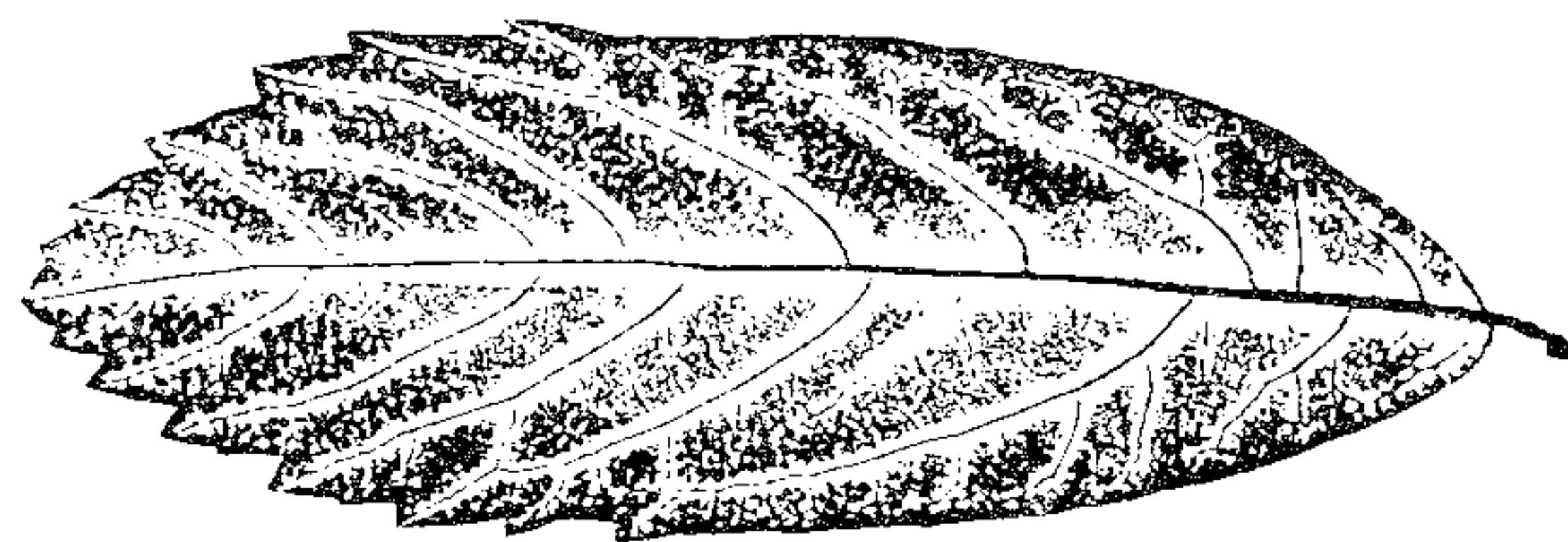
This area on the Little Blitzen River has recently been acquired by the BLM. There is much history and good botanizing in this area. This ranch is located on the lower slopes of magnificent Steens Mountain. Lead by BLM personnel.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO RANCHING

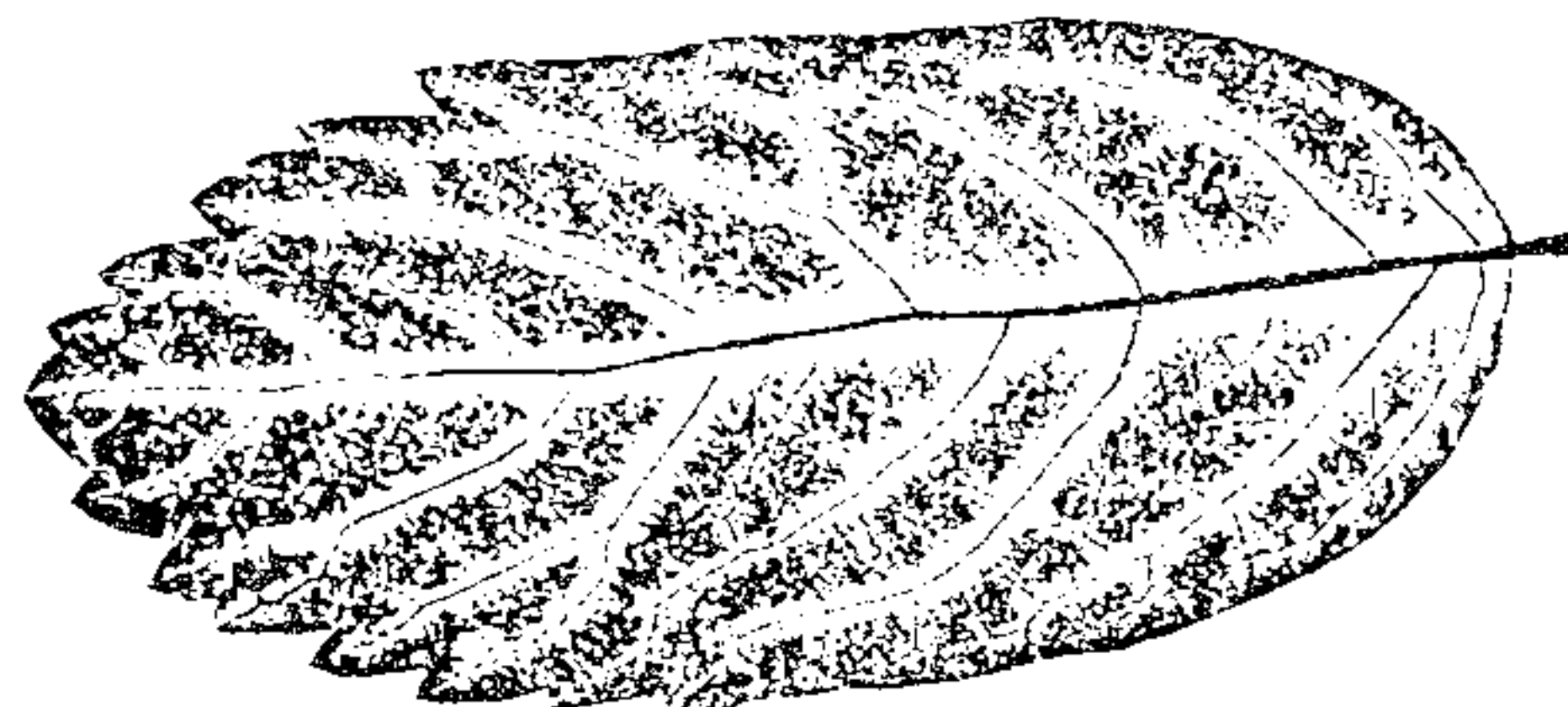
The Fred Otley family has agreed to show us their approach to current ranch management. We will see how juniper control, prescribed fire, rotation grazing, and riparian protection are utilized by this ranching family with early roots in Harney County. A combination of moderate hiking and driving. Leader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

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 receding floodwaters and revegetation on the refuge. A short drive with moderate walking.



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cm



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

Gordon Larum of Medford was first to solve the March puzzle: common chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*.

WILDFLOWER VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE EAST GORGE

When the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area was created in 1986, about a dozen parcels of BLM land in the East gorge became national forest land. The parcels are mostly grasslands which have been leased by the BLM for cattle grazing. The Forest Service is currently considering which of these lands should continue to be leased for grazing. Other potential objectives to be considered include protection/restoration of native grassland plant communities, and recreational use, including stiles and foot trails in an area of the Gorge where no other recreational opportunities exist.

Three of these parcels are located along Washington State Route 14, around 100 miles of easy driving from the center of Portland. Like islands in a sea of private land, these public lands are virtually unknown to the public, and have long been managed (read "overgrazed") as part of nearby ranches. Nevertheless, the public has a complete right to access these lands on foot, so long as existing fences or gates are not damaged.

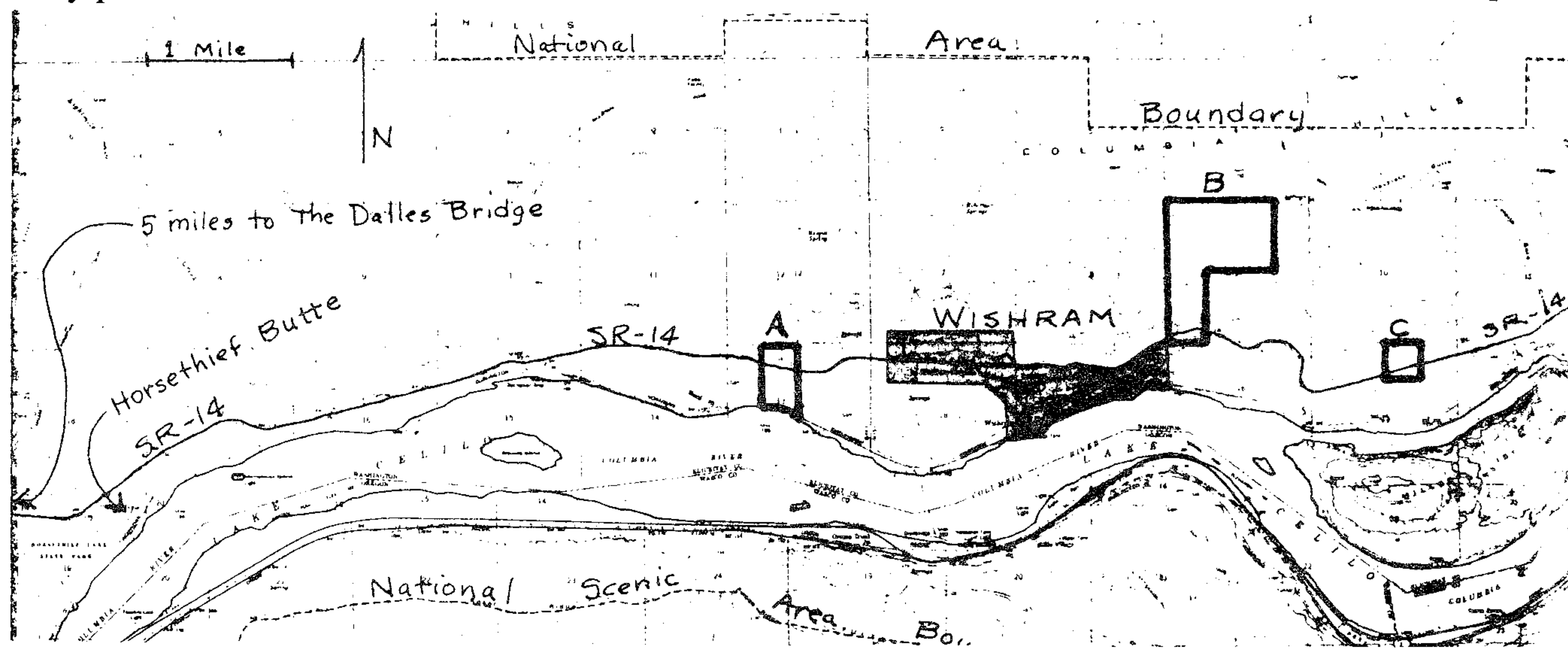
Parcel A (MP 91.35 to MP 91.60) Approximately 70 acres. Park at the turnout at MP 91.70. Approaching this parcel from the west, one sees a jagged line of rocks on the right. This is the east boundary of the parcel. A patch of bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*) is found at the west base of these rocks. Cactus (*Opuntia polyacantha*), sand-dune penstemon (*Penstemon acuminatus*), and The Dalles milk-vetch (*Astragalus sclerocarpus*) are among the many plants one can find.

Parcel B (MP 94.1 to MP 94.35) 320 acres. Park at the gravel turnout at the end of the guard-rail at MP 94.4. The lower slopes of this large parcel are pretty well lost to cheatgrass and other introduced weeds, but the gully near 94.2 has a population of Columbia milk-vetch (*Astragalus succumbens*) and a nice patch of bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*) farther up. One can climb this gully (watch out for rattlesnakes) to a dirt road which can be followed back down to the highway. Even better, climb another 200 ft. to the next bench. The elevation at the highway is 600 ft.; at the top of the parcel 2400 ft. As one climbs to the higher slopes, one sees less heavily grazed land, so the wildflower show improves dramatically, as do the views and sense of remoteness.

Parcel C (MP 95.9 to 96.15) 40 acres. Park at the gravel turnout east of the parcel. The parcel extends to the cliffs 500 ft. above the highway. Most of this area continues to be severely overgrazed, but there are good native plants in a few small places inaccessible to cattle, e.g., smooth desert-parsley (*Lomatium laevigatum*). This parcel is not fenced off from adjoining private land, so be careful to stay on national forest land.

When its raining in Portland, the weather is often dry and sunny in the semi-arid east end of the Gorge. So when you yearn for wide open spaces, go and take a look at these public lands.

—Russ Jolley
Portland Chapter



GOOD NEWS! NEW RECORDS SET!

It is nice to be able to give a federal land manager a pat on the back for a job well done. Such an opportunity has arisen for Superintendent Tom Schmidt of the Ochoco National Forest.

Schmidt's forest is (as best as I can determine) the first in the nation to have full-time and fully-trained botanists in the supervisor's office and in all the ranger districts. He has been a strong supporter of the forest's botanical and sensitive plant programs and realizes the importance of these aspects of the forest to Oregon's biological diversity. Let's hope his leadership in this area is soon followed by the other Forests in the region and the nation. I'd like to introduce the 'starting five' to NPSO readers.

Lisa Croft is the Forest botanist on the Ochoco National Forest. Her masters thesis from the University of Washington was on the Holocene paleoecology of the John Day Basin. She has held the position for several years and has worked hard as an advocate for sensitive plants and their habitats. Her support is another reason for the hiring of such an excellent team on the Ochoco.

Andrew Kratz is the District Botanist for the Snow Mountain Ranger District. His undergraduate degree in biology is from Occidental College and for his masters from Western Washington University he studied Sitka spruce in Olympic National Park. He has been president of the Eastern Washington Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society and president of the William Cusick Chapter (LaGrande) of NPSO.

Charlie Schelz has a masters in Botany and Plant Ecology and most of his professional experience has been in the intermountain west, particularly the Colorado plateau. His chief professional interests include photography, long-term monitoring, and the protection of rare and endangered species and communities. He is currently working in the Supervisors Office to integrate the botany program with the GIS and Natural Heritage computer databases and is involved in forest health issues.

Mike Simpson is the District Botanist for the Prineville Ranger District and the Crooked River Grasslands. He has a masters in Forest Ecology from the University of Idaho and studied Subal-

pine Fir/Beargrass habitats in central Idaho for his thesis. He has been active in the Idaho Native Plant Society.

Faye Streier is District Botanist for the Paulina Ranger District. Her BS is in Terrestrial Ecology from Western Washington University. She was most recently a botanist for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest and has been active in the Washington Native Plant Society.

Richard Helliwell has a BA in anthropology from the University of Maryland and a BS in Biology from Southern Oregon State College. He has worked for several years for the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, co-authoring a plant association guide and researching the ecology and management of plants of cultural significance. He is District Botanist for the Big Summit Ranger District.

NPSO is pleased to welcome these professionals to the Ochoco National Forest and looks forward to working with them to sustain and enhance the native plant riches of Central Oregon's fields and forests.

On a different topic, NPSO and five other conservation organizations petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service in October 1991 to list under the Endangered Species Act seven Eastern Oregon plant species threatened by cyanide leach mining. The petition was reviewed in Oregon and has been sent to Washington, DC for final review and recommendation. We should have the report in a matter of weeks.

—Stu Garrett
Eastside Conservation Chair



Sphaeralcea coccinea
Red globe-mallow
Drawn by Jeanne R. Janish
From Hitchcock & Cronquist's
Flora of the Pacific Northwest

VI SOBOLIK HONORED

Viola Sobolik, a charter member of the Willamette Valley Chapter, was recently recognized at the 35th annual Dallas Community Awards Banquet. She was presented with a Special Achievement Award for her tireless work with the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

Vi and nine others formed The Friends of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum several years ago, and she is the arboretum's curator. At the banquet, she was cited for "growing the arboretum from scratch". One of her nomination letters stated, "She has spent many hours on her knees planting the hundreds of bulbs and plants that soon will be in a showplace for all in the City of Dallas and State of Oregon to be proud of". The arboretum is said to be the only one in Oregon that contains strictly native flora.

At the same event, The Friends of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum received the Outstanding Organization Award. "They exemplify the Dallas spirit", said City Manager Roger Jordan. Vi was its first president.

Congratulations, Vi!

—Mariana Bornhold
Willamette Valley Chapter

HELP STUDY RECOVERY OF NATIVE PLANTS IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE BURN AREA

There will be a meeting April 7th, 1992 at 7pm to develop plans for volunteers to help with the evaluation of recovery of native vegetation in the areas burned last fall between Eagle Creek and Angel's Rest. The meeting will be at the USFS Columbia River Ranger District, 31520 SE Woodward Road, Troutdale, Ore. Molly Sullivan, Botanist for the Columbia Gorge district will provide maps and suggestions for activities where volunteers can be of help in this project. Everyone is welcome; if the date and time are not convenient for you, please call Molly at (503) 695-2276 to find out how you can participate.

—Michael Fahey
Portland Chapter President

EFFORT UNDERWAY TO MAP NATIVE *RHODODENDRON* DISTRIBUTION

To: Native Plant Society of Oregon

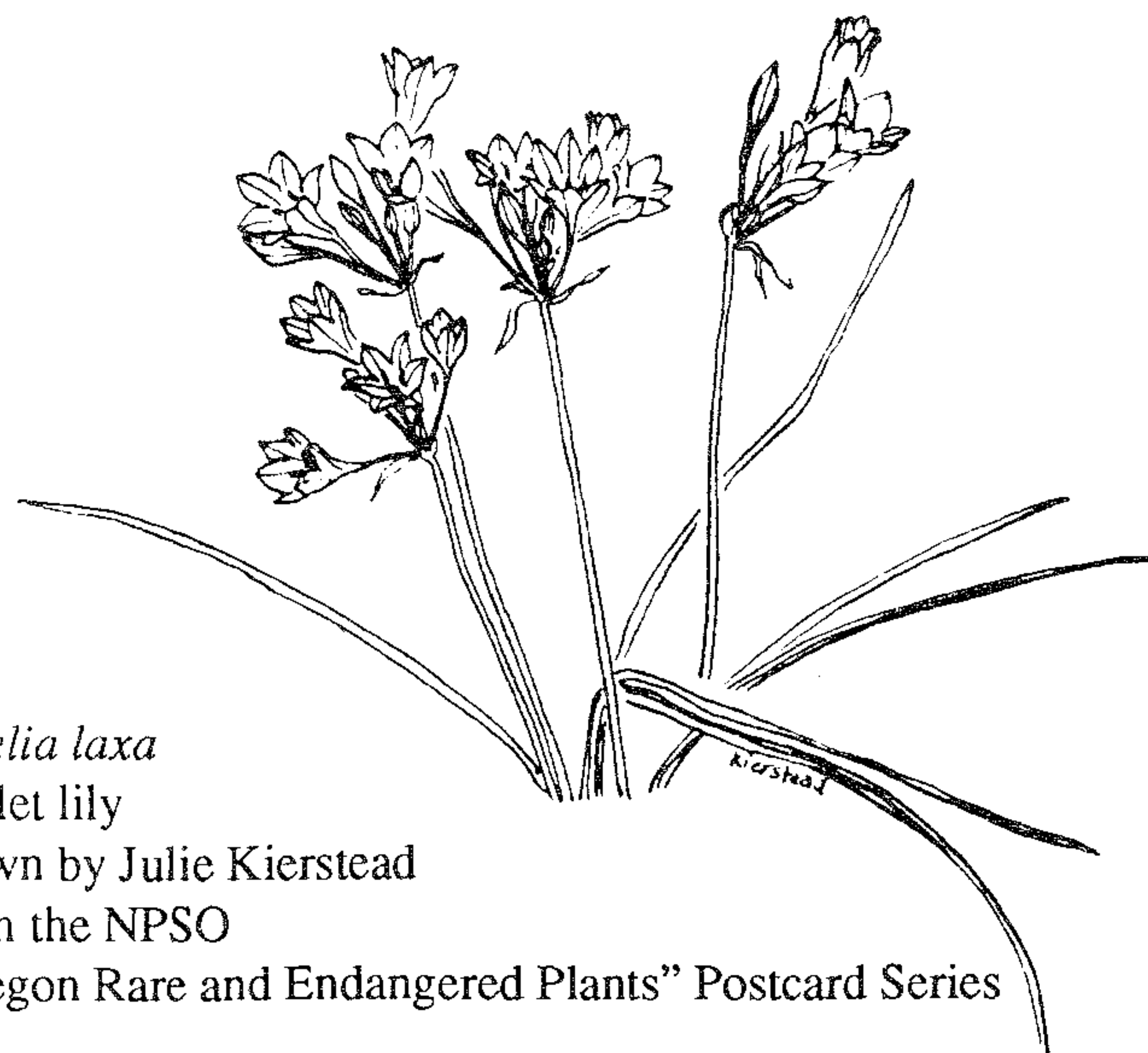
I am a member of the North Kitsap Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. I am working with others in the Society in an effort to draw distribution maps of the native western USA species of *Rhododendron*. We hope to have up to date maps drawn in time for the National Convention to be held in Tacoma in the Spring of 1993.

We are hopeful you or members of your group can provide information about the distribution of *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, *Rhododendron occidentale* and *Rhododendron albiflorum* in Oregon. I have contacted the National Forests and the Bureau of Land Management for help, and Mr. Michael R. Crouse, Deputy State Director for Lands and Renewable Resources suggested I contact you.

Any help you may be able to provide will be most appreciated. Any further references as to sources of information would also be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Henry R. (Hank) Helm
10674 NE Manor Lane
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
Home Phone: (206)-624-8673
Office Phone: (206)-842-5464



Tritelia laxa
Triplet lily
Drawn by Julie Kierstead
From the NPSO
"Oregon Rare and Endangered Plants" Postcard Series

BITS AND PIECES

---NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM ALL OVER

CLASSES AT MALHEUR FIELD STATION

Malheur Field Station, site of this year's NPSO Annual Meeting (June 5-7), is also known for its wide variety of classes, meetings and workshops. Many of the offerings include substantial field-work. The facility is a regional educational center supported by a consortium of colleges and universities. Offerings this season include, art, astronomy, botany, entomology, birding and mammalogy. Following are brief overviews of a few classes.

"Hot Spring Ecology", July 12-25, will visit 10 hot springs in as many days, concentrating on the study of thermobiology and hot springs ecology. "Lithic Technology" will emphasize the hands-on making of stone tools, their use, and study of wear patterns with an eye on understanding archaeological specimens. "Observational Astronomy" will allow you to learn the night sky in a clear, pollution-free area.

Introductory classes are available in botany, entomology and bird watching. Art classes are offered. A Elderhostel program offers educational programs tailored to students over 60.

Information on this may be had by writing:
Malheur Field Station
HC 72 Box 260
Princeton, OR 97721
(503) 493-2629

JUNIPER CONTROL AND ASPEN ENHANCEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management has begun an effort at controlling juniper trees on Steens Mountain in the BLM's Burns District. Aspen stands in much of the intermountain west are among the most valuable local plants communities. The groves are found in wet areas, and the lush undergrowth is heavily used by animals. In an initial effort, 18 volunteers spent two days chainsawing juniper out of a declining aspen grove. Volunteers came from Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and local ranches.

Many researchers believe that a combination of fire suppression and grazing has encouraged spread of juniper in much of Central Oregon. About half of the juniper trees in the Steens Mountain area are less than 15 years old, and the vast majority have sprouted since the initiation of grazing. Aspen and some other shrubs and trees do not compete well in thick woodlands of juniper. The once wide-ranging meadow steppe of Eastern Oregon has given ground to the juniper. Increased forage both for native wildlife and cattle is one of the reasons for juniper clearing also. The use of fire is advocated also, as juniper does not survive this well. In some situations, such as fragile soils or the presence of rare plants or animals, manual removal is done.

THIS SEASON AT TOM MCCALL PRESERVE

The Nature Conservancy is providing naturalist-guided tours at the spectacular Tom McCall Preserve on Rowena Plateau. This area combines one of Oregon's best wildflower displays with dramatic Columbia River Gorge vistas and landforms created by past catastrophic geologic events. A volunteer naturalist will be available at the preserve weekends through May 26th, 11am through 4pm. Hikers are reminded that conditions on the plateau are primitive. No restrooms are available, and pets are not allowed.

Please preregister for all events (228-9561). Guided walks are scheduled for Saturdays, April 4th and 18th, and May 2nd and 16th. Each walk will feature a new cast of flowers. Meet at the Preserve entrance at 1pm. A guided birding outing is planned for Saturday 8:30am April 25th. The area is noted for a wide variety of birds due no doubt to the diversity of habitats available.

Two Knapweed Pulls are scheduled for May 9th and June 20th. Elimination of the obnoxious weed aids in preservation of the area for its original inhabitants, our native wildflowers. These outings have always been a favorite of NPSOers. Bring trowels, weedpullers of any description, gloves, lunch, water, and energy. Please preregister for the pulls (228-9561). Meet at the Rowena Crest Viewpoint at 9am.

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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.

Membership in the Native Plant Society of Oregon is open to all.

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

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ Chapter (if known) _____
 Address _____ **Is this a change of address?**
 If so, please write your *Old Address* here: _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____ - _____
 Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

* **DUES** include monthly NPSO *Bulletin*. Full membership is for a calendar year, January through December. New memberships enrolled during September through December are charged a reduced "Quarter Membership" rate.

- | | | | |
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| () New | () Renewal | () Quarter Membership (Sep.-Dec.) \$3.00 | () <i>Bulletin</i> Subscription only \$12.00 |
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Jan Dobak, NPSO Membership Chair, 2584 NW Savier St., Portland OR 97210-2412.

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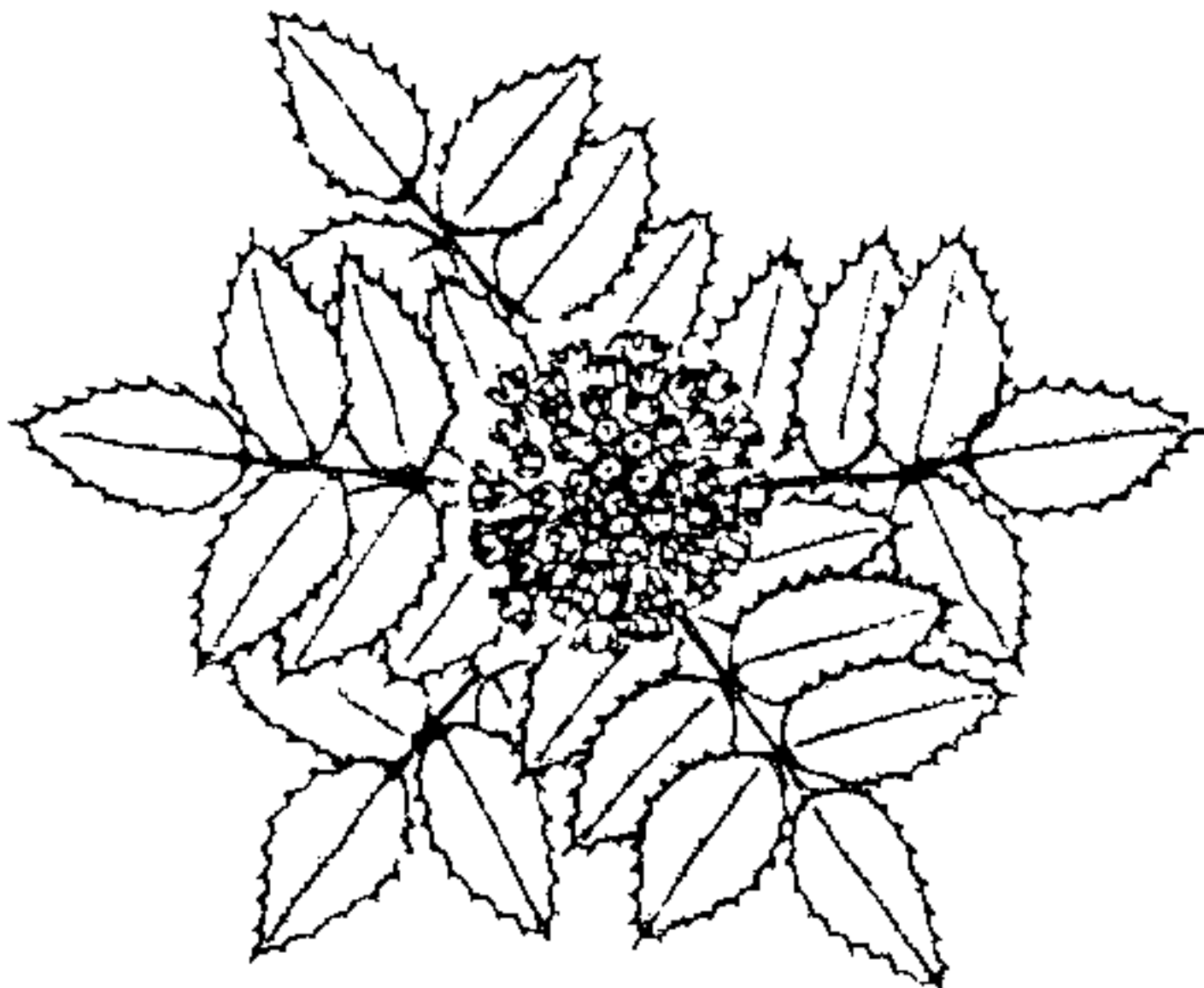
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