

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

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

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 8

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Native Plant Society of Oregon PO Box 902, Eugene OR 97402
Membership inquiries: Jan Dobak, Membership, 2584 NW Savier St., Portland OR 97210-2412
For more society information, see the inside back cover.

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

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For information call Jerry Baker (566-2244).

Corvallis

6 Aug., Thurs.

MEETING. 7:30 pm at Corl House. Conservation Committee meeting. Anyone interested in conservation issues of the region is welcome to attend.

8 Aug., Sat

FIELD TRIP. Canoe to a coastal pond in Lane County with Peter Zika to look for aquatics. Leave 8:30 am from the parking lot of the Monroe Street Beanery. Bring handlens, lunch and arrange for a canoe.

Emerald

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For information call Bruce Newhouse (343-2364).

High Desert

15 Aug., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: Broken Top Volcano in the Three Sisters Wilderness. Our annual hike to view the spectacular display of alpine wildflowers and glacial geology of Broken Top is an NPSO favorite. This is a five-mile roundtrip, moderate to strenuous hike with a 1,500 ft. elevation gain. We'll do mostly off-trail hiking. The number of hikers per group is restricted by USFS wilderness area regulations. **Preregistration is required!** Leader is Stu Garrett (389-6981, eves.)

Mid-Columbia

5 Aug., Wed.

MEETING. 7:30pm at the Mosier School. Debbie Champigny, Interpretive Specialist with the Zigzag Ranger District of Mt. Hood National Forest, will present the newly created slide program, "Celebrating Wildflowers", which has been showing at Timberline Lodge.

2 Sept., Wed.

MEETING. 7:30pm at the Mosier School. A presentation on the "Ethics and Issues of Reintroducing Rare Plants" by Tom Kaye of the Corvallis NPSO Chapter.

North Coast

15 Aug., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: A picnic will be held at 11am at Mignon Johanson's, 4590 Bay Ocean Rd., Cape Meares. Bring a dessert, salad or hot dish and table service. The field trip will be on Bayocean spit following the potluck.

* * * * *

There will not be a **MEETING** in August.

Portland

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MEETING. There is no Portland Chapter meeting in August.

For information on Portland Chapter field trips, contact George Lewis (760-2316).

Siskiyou

8 Aug., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: Hershberger Peak. Carol Harmount, Botanist for the Prospect Ranger District, will lead a trip to the Hershberger Lookout at 6200 ft. elevation on the Rogue-Umpqua divide. For a moderate to strenuous hike, you can hike to the top from Horse Camp, or drive to the top for a less strenuous outing. Leave from the Food-For-Less lot in Medford at 9am, or the Prospect Ranger Station at 10am. For information call Ginny Post (779-4102).

29 Aug., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: Frog Pond-Cameron Meadows/ Barbara Mumblo, Botanist for the Applegate Ranger District, will lead a strenuous hike. Frog Pond is in a lovely meadow at the base of Mt. Emily with great views of Red Buttes. Leave from Medford K-Mart at 8am, or Applegate Star Ranger Station at 8:45am. For information call Barbara Mumblo (899-1812).

South Coast

For information on the pending formation of this chapter, contact Bruce Rittenhouse (888-9328).

Umpqua Valley

8 Aug., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: A loop trip up Jackson Creek off of the South Umpqua River, including Bald Ridge, Tucker Gap, Huckleberry Lake, Huckleberry Gap, and the trailhead for Donigan Prairie to see *Spirea*, globe mallow, (*Illiamna latibractreat*), Umpqua swertia (*Frasera umpquaensis*), and oak fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*). Leave at 7:45am from the BLM parking lot, 777 Garden Valley Rd. For information, call Mildred Thiele (672-5397).

13 Aug., Thurs.

MEETING: 7pm in Room 311 of the Douglas County Courthouse.

Willamette Valley

16 Aug., Sun.

FIELD TRIP: Mt. Hood flowers on the Timberline Trail from Timberline Lodge to Zigzag Canyon and return. Fairly strenuous hike, but worth it! Contact leader Jim Versteeg (H-363-7397; W-326-3758 Portland) for details.

17 Aug., Mon.

MEETING / FIELD TRIP: We Plan to take a stroll around part of Minto Island. We are sure to see some common weedy species in bloom as well as viewing native plant foliage and fruits. We will also discuss the future fate of Minto Island. Meet at 7pm at the third (and farthest) parking lot down Minto Island Road, near the covered picnic area. Contact Kathy Connelly for more info (327-1212).

12 Sept., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: Breitenbush Lake—in the Cascades east of Detroit Lake. Beautiful area for fall colors. Leave from Dallas Safeway parking lot at 9am. Call Leader Wilbur Bluhm (393-2934) for details.

William Cusick

1 Aug., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: Bob Ottersberg will lead a trip to see how plant communities are related to soil types of the Willowa Mountains. Leave from the Richland Post Office at 8am. Call Bob (742-6200) for info.

MAJOR REVISIONS TO 1872 MINING LAW MAY BE ON THEIR WAY

On June 24th, the House Interior Committee passed a strong comprehensive reform bill that may lead to revamping of the outdated and environmentally damaging Mining Law of 1872. A flood of letters, calls and faxes to Committee members from pro-reform citizens is credited with helping win this crucial vote. This is the first time in the 120 year history of this law that the House Interior Committee voted to reform this hoary giveaway to special interests.

Mining interests and their elected supporters tried to block any action. Anti-reformers included a group appropriately calling themselves "People for the Worst!" (a self-inflicted satire on "People for the West!", a pro-environment group) tried to drown out citizen input by tying up phone and fax lines, and went to the extreme of picketing Committee Chair George Miller's home office. Anti-reform tactics were based on preventing a vote, and once this failed they had no substitute bill or alternative language available.

The final vote to pass reform bill HR 918, "The Mineral Exploration and Development Act" favored the bill 26 to 19. Votes on four separate issues and maneuvers were taken in the process; Peter DeFazio (D-OR) took the environmentalist position each time, while Robert F. Smith (R-OR) each time voted against reform of the old law. The voting was mostly on party lines, with all Republicans voting each time to prevent reform. Most of the heavy lobbying was of Democratic swing votes.

The vote sent the bill to the full House for consideration. Because a few provisions in the Interior Committee-approved Act referred to the USFS, the bill was referred to the Agriculture Committee, where a vote is likely in September if delays by anti-reform forces do not hamstring the process. It is important to success of the mining law reform movement to write both DeFazio urging continued support of reform, and to Smith urging him to support ending the current antiquated system allowing both degradation of the environment by mining and the failure of the US Government and taxpayersto benefit from the mineral wealth in the lands it holds. Their numbers, and those of some other elected representatives, are given on page 85.

High points of the proposed reforms include:

- 1) an end to giving land away by patenting, where land with valuable minerals could be taken off the government's hands for \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre;
- 2) a mineral royalty of 8% (a amendment for this was originally submitted by Oregon's DeFazio), the first ever requirement of real payment for removal of minerals from Federal land;
- 3) tight reclamation requirements and establishment of a reclamation fund using half of the royalties, combined with actual enforcement provisions, including enabling regulators to turn down mining proposals. These proposals would be the first ever reclamation requirements at the Federal level.

The Senate Energy Committee, which has jurisdiction over mining, was inspired by this to schedule debate on reform starting July 1st. As of this writing, the only known reform bill is S. 433, which was offered by Dale Bumpers (D-AR) in a weakened version in hopes of attracting more support. This ploy has failed, however, and no action is likely in the Senate before the next session.

If something like S. 918 makes it through both House and Senate and past the president, it would go a long ways towards cleaning up the mining industry, including open pit mining and cyanide heap leach mining.

So it looks like 1993 may be the crucial year for mining reform legislation. Meanwhile, input is still needed from citizens to Congress as noted above. Continued support of mining reform by the public now will translate into better chances for a strong law to finally be adopted.

It is heartening to see some of our (exclusively Democratic) Congressmen take a solid stand in supporting improvement of the laws governing mining. Requiring reclamation to help in repairing the inevitable ecologic disruptions of mining operations will go a long ways towards having mining operations pay for their own costs. The light 8% royalty combined with ending the patenting giveaway will in effect take mining off the welfare roles, and allow the US Government to profit slightly from mining of minerals it now owns. Giving the regulators the ability to enforce the rules is only common sense.

—Bryan D. Boyce

VERONICA BECCABUNGA – A LINGUISTIC HISTORY

If you have gone flower searching in late summer or early fall, you may remember seeing a tiny blue flower growing near water. In Alton Baker Park in Eugene, it blooms beside a duck pond, where Dr. David Wagner likes to point it out to people on his wildflower walks. *Veronica americana* is found in wet places, usually at low elevation, all the way across North America. The plant is a low-growing perennial with opposite, oval leaves on short petioles; it bears its racemes of flowers in the leaf axils. Each flower has three wide petals above, one narrow petal below, and two stamens—the typical “speedwell” shape.

This particular speedwell happens to be so closely related to one European species that it may soon be reclassified as *Veronica beccabunga* spp. *americana*. This brings up a question: What did Linnaeus mean when he used that odd word “beccabunga”? Was it a joke? Was it the name of some obscure eighteenth century botanist?

The answer turns out to be simple, if one can find the right dictionaries. I started out searching the Italian encyclopedias in the University of Oregon library. They list the word as the common name of two streamside plants, *Veronica beccabunga* and *V. anagallis*. One book traces the name to a Middle High German word, “bekebunge”.

Unfortunately, the only Middle High German dictionary available contained no such word, but of course Middle High German was spoken from AD 1050 to 1500, which gives room for change.

So OK, back to the Italian, using multi-volume dictionaries this time. One source refers the word to Low German, a modern dialect; each authority says “bunge” comes from a Middle High German word meaning ‘tuber’. Both dictionaries describe the two veronicas as streamside or swampland plants with hollow tuberous roots. Both also refer to the modern German “Bachbunge”.

Unfortunately that word does not appear in newer German dictionaries. So, back to the nineteenth century. The Middle High German dictionary defines “Bach-bunge” as “berula”, a word no one else seems to have heard of. According to the brothers Grimm, “bunge” means drum, and is related to “bangen” and “bingelin” (or as we say in English, bing, bang, bong).

A couple of German / English dictionaries make things clearer. “Bach” means a little brook and a dozen words begin that syllable, notably “bachbunge”, which means the brooklime, and “bachamsel”, which turns out to be the water ouzel.

Apparently the name spread from Germany, becoming “beccabunga” in Italy, “becabunga” in Spain, and “baechabanga” in Sweden. So now one can guess why Linnaeus picked the Italian form of the name: it sounded like the word he grew up with, but looked more like Latin. And, if we like, we can visualize the little brooks edged with blue-flowered, hollow-rooted plants, and possibly, water ouzels dipping among them.

—Robin Lodewick
Emerald Chapter

A BOTANICAL WORD PUZZLE

Hidden in this matrix of letters are the scientific names of 43 genera of trees, shrubs, and vines of Oregon. Names may run horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and may be spelled backwards or forwards. Some letters are shared among two or more names. *Sorbus* has been outlined to give you an idea of what to look for. An alphabetical list of the genera follows: *Abies, Acer, Alnus, Arbutus, Berberis, Betula, Celtis, Cornus, Cytisus, Ephedra, Ilex, Larix, Ledum, Lilium, Lupinus, Malus, Marah, Myrica, Oemleria, Paxistima, Phlox, Picea, Pinus, Populus, Prunus, Pseudotsuga, Purshia, Pyrus, Quercus, Rhamnus, Rhus, Ribes, Rosa, Rubus, Salix, Sambucus, Sequoia, Smilax, Sorbus, Thuja, Tsuga, Ulex, Vitis*. When you have circled all the names in the above list, enough letters will be left over to spell the name of a shrub you would probably like to club me with for inventing this devilish puzzle. Don't give up too soon. The solution will be published next month. By the way, excuse the inclusion of *Lilium*, not a tree or shrub but a name that happened to fit perfectly in one place in the matrix. Rate your results by the following scorecard:

40-43 Genius Level

36-39 Very Sharp

32-35 No Slouch

28-31 Passable

27 or below: I said the puzzle was devilish!

—Ken Chambers, Corvallis Chapter

THE PLANT PUZZLE

Sponsored by the Siskiyou Chapter

Give the scientific names of three woody species growing wild in Oregon, Maine and Tennessee. Each plant must grow wild in all three states, and each plant must be from a different plant family.

The first person to solve the puzzle will win a prize.

Send your guess on a postcard to:

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

Bruce Newhouse of Eugene solved the last puzzle: rock willow, *Salix vestita*.

S O R H U S U L U P O P
I S X A P U M A R A H S
T U A I U N U R E C A E
L N L O R I I I P I M U
E U I U S P L X R R A D
C R M Q H U I E L Y L O
O P S E I L L L S M U T
R I U S A M B U C U S S
N N R S E S N V A P O U
U U Y O U M I L H P A G
S S P B A T U L S A A A
I A U H I T O O J B L S
R R R S E X R U I N E A
E D A B I B H E U B D S
B E E G U T S S I I U O
R H C S U T Y R N L M R
E P I A X S U C R E U Q
B E P A M I T S I X A P

CONTACTING YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Wishing to make your views known to your elected representatives in Congress?

Write to Representatives at:

The Honorable Les Aucoin
2159 Rayburn Building
Washington DC 20515
Environmental Staff: Mark Gaede

The Honorable Bob Smith
118 Cannon Building
Washington DC 20515
Environmental Staff: Pete Thompson & Roger Taylor

The Honorable Ron Wyden
2452 Rayburn Building
Washington DC 20515
Environmental Staff: Peter Ravella

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
1729 Longworth Building
Washington DC 20515
Environmental Staff: Jeff Stier

The Honorable Mike Kokpetski
2159 Rayburn Building
Washington DC 20515
Environmental Staff: Alexandra Buell

Write to Senators at:

The Honorable Mark Hatfield
711 Hart Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Packwood
259 Russell Building
Washington DC 20510

WRITE WITH FEELING AND FACT!

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

NATURE OF OREGON INFORMATION CENTER

This innovative information center is intended to provide information to all kinds of users of Oregon's outdoors. Only recently opened, The Nature of Oregon Information Center carries thousands of maps, brochures and publications for those who want to hike, tour, camp, fish, pan for gold or find out more about the state. Also included is the Forest Services' Trail Information System (TRIS), a computerized listing of hiking trail information, and aerial photos and satellite images of much of the state. All 1,911 USGS topographic maps for Oregon are carried, as well as BLM, Geology, Forestry, Transportation and Water Resource Department maps.

The center has books available on many outdoor subjects. It carries materials from the many state and federal natural resource agencies. The information center is billing itself as a one-stop source for recreational and natural resource information.

The center is located in the State Office Building at 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 177, Portland OR 97232 (in the building with a dome). Hours are 10am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. The phone number is (503) 731-4444. The center is run by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

OREGON HIGH DESERT WILDERNESS MAP RELEASED

Emerald Imagery of Eugene has published a map of the Southeastern Oregon region that is covered by the proposed Oregon High Desert Protection Act. Production of *Visitor's Guide to Oregon High Desert Wilderness* was partially funded by grants from the Levinson and REI foundations, and was commissioned by a consortium of fifteen environmental groups, spearheaded by the Oregon Natural Desert Association of Bend.

The map details landforms in a graphic style. However, it lacks a description of the elevations so clearly shown in graduated colors. Also out-

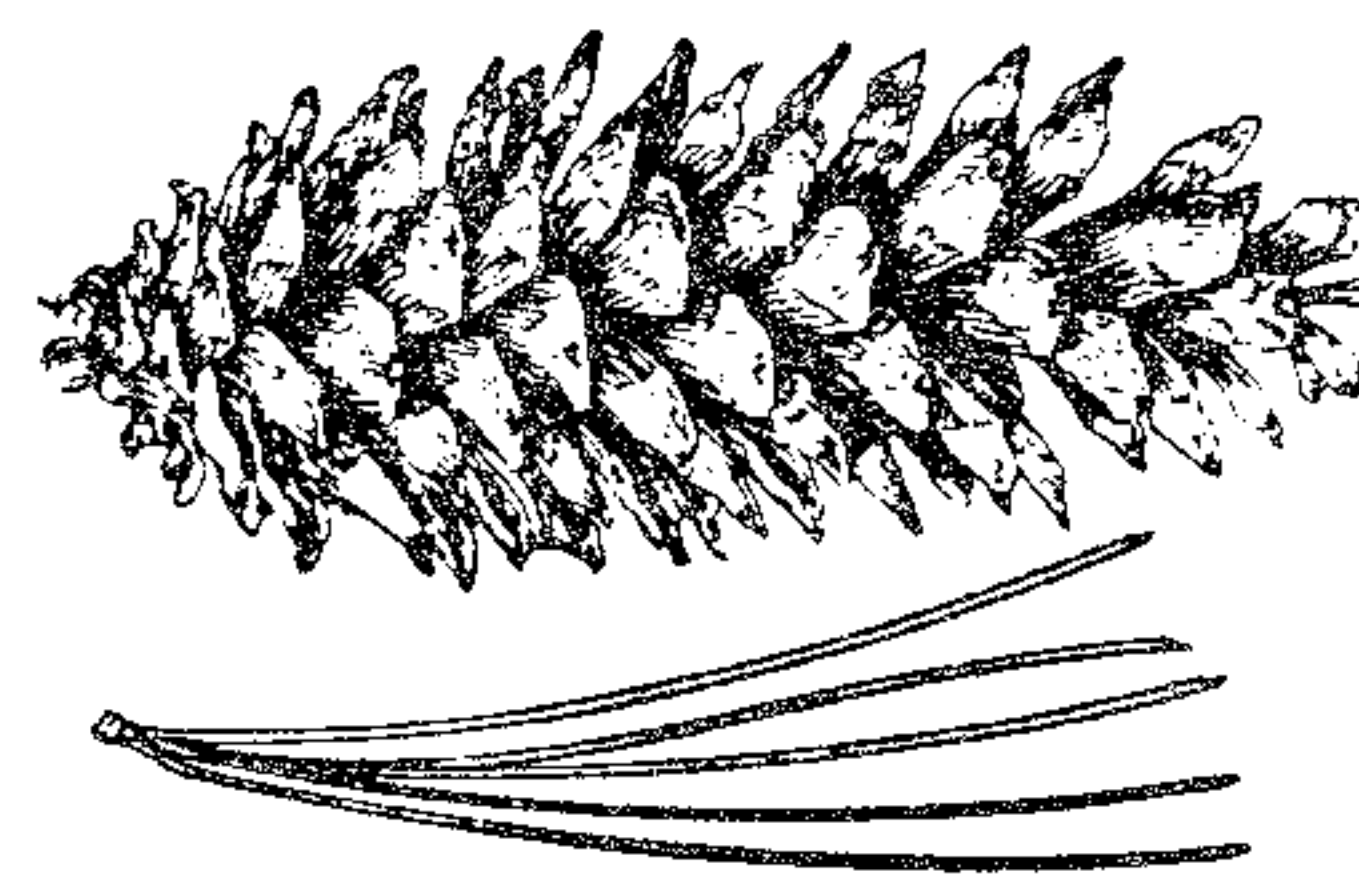
lined are lands proposed for protection under the Oregon High Desert Protection Act proposal. The proposed National Desert Trail is shown, as are important roads and highways of the region.

The back gives information about the many segments of natural areas which could be conserved under the act, as well as advice on travel in the isolated, little populated High Desert region. The area is for the most part south of Hwy. 26, east of Hwy. 31 and 97, extending to the state border. Isolated sections suggested for inclusion under the Act are scattered from just south of the Columbia to the Wallowas and to near Ashland.

Purpose of the map is to encourage more people to visit the wild, empty end of Oregon to see for themselves the high value of the High Desert wildlands. Developing a broad, informed constituency of people who have both visited the area and support its preservation is the goal of this mapping project.

The four-color map is entirely computer-produced with no underlying aerial or satellite image. Based on GIS mapping work by John Sharrard of Oregon State Service Center for Geographical Information Systems, the initial 390 megabyte file was transferred to a 32mb MacIntosh IICI for further work by Tom Pringle of Emerald Imagery. The final computer file was the size of 40,000 pages of text (about 3,400 months worth of NPSO *Bulletins*)! The computer output was reproduced as film negatives by Bruce Bayne and final printing was done by Koke Printing of Eugene.

The map can be ordered from Emerald Imagery, PO Box 3429, Eugene OR 97403 for \$4.95 plus 55¢ for mailing. It is available in bulk from the above or also from the Environmental Center in Bend. Contact them for volume discounts.



Pinus monticola

Western white pine

From Trees Yearbook of Agriculture 1949
United State Department of Agriculture

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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 _____

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- () Regular.....12.00 () Patron.....100.00
- () Family Membership.....18.00 () Life Member500.00

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 Rare and Endangered Plant Fund..... \$ _____

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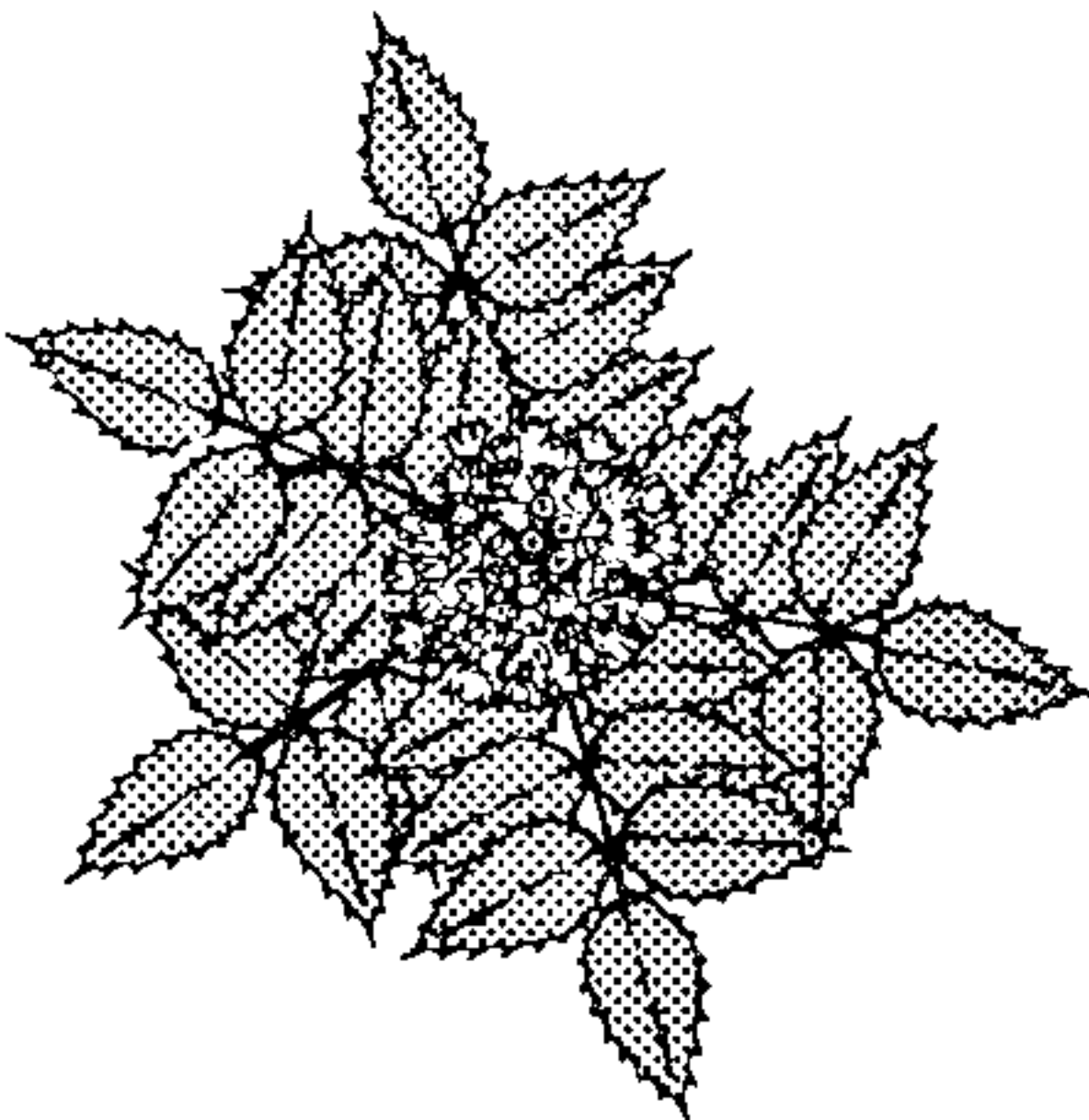
Jan Dobak, NPSO Membership Chair, 2584 NW Savier St., Portland OR 97210-2412.

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