Bulletin of the Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

VOLUME 33, NO. 8 AUGUST 2000

Meeting Report: Biological Invasions! The Quiet Global Change

The 61st annual Biology Colloquium, April 12, 2000, Oregon State University. Hosted by Oregon Sea Grant and sponsored by the colleges of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry and the Research Office.

by Gail A. Baker, Emerald Chapter

April 12, 2000 found the Botany and Zoology students and instructors at Lane Community College heading up to OSU to attend this daylong colloquium. The colloquium raised our awareness about the impact of introduced, invasive organisms.

Plants become endangered for two main reasons: destruction of habitat and invasions of plants from one part of the world that establish themselves in a new locations crowding out native species. With widespread global trade, travel and disturbance by humans, other species can hitch rides almost anywhere and find places to establish themselves. According to the Colloquium speakers we should be concerned about introduced invasive species because they threaten biological diversity, cause human health problems, affect our food supply and economy and can potentially affect the course of evolution. Each of the nine presenters provided compelling examples supporting these concerns. Speakers were reluctant to give a generic profile of an invasive species but they did agree that an organism that is a compatible match with the habitat it is introduced to, has few or no predators in the new habitat and has a life history strategy that can survive the different variables of the new habitat and out compete native species has the potential to overwhelm an ecosystem. We need only to look at the Oregon coast to see the effects of European dune grass, Scotch Broom and Gorse.

What was most chilling to me was the repeated assertions that we are entering the "homogecene" epoch. This is characterized by a small group of species that are successful invaders globally that reduce regional biological diversity in the manner that chain retail outlets have obliterated economic uniqueness. It wouldn't matter if we were in the Pacific Northwest or Europe, we'd see the same few plants covering the landscape. A homogenized biota!!

Research by Peter Vitousek, of Stanford University, has clearly demonstrated that exotic species can alter ecosystem-level properties in the areas they invade. He spoke about alteration of nutrient cycling, changes in trophic structures and how new combinations of species alter disturbance frequencies such as fire intervals. Lori Lach, Cornell University, estimated the economic impact of these and other changes by invasives to be more than $130 billion annually.

On a hopeful note, Peter Moyle, UC Davis, gave an example of some moderate success with restoration of a riparian ecosystem where native species were regaining a foothold, but only after extensive research to help understand the ecosystem and learn how to manipulate it in favor of the natives. Dan Simberloff, University of Tennessee, ended by indicating ways in which we can put practices in place to curb invasions. At long last the problem of invasive species is gaining more attention and is not quite a QUIET change.

Biology Colloquiums at OSU are annual events and each year the topic and hosting department or college changes. The Colloquium required preregistration but there was no fee and lunch was provided. This was an invaluable opportunity for students and all attendees. (*See page 90 for an article by students who also attended.*)

Oregon Sea Grant:
seagrant.orst.edu/colloquium/program
Biological Invasions Journal:
www.wkap.nl/journals/biological_invasions

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Native Plant Society of Oregon

World Wide Web
http://www.NPSOregon.org

Email Discussion List Login
http://www.telelists.com/cgi-bin/lyris.pl?enter+npso

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Editor: Tanya Harvey

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Submission date is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue. The deadline for the September issue will be August 5th however.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors of the articles. They do not represent the opinions of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, unless so stated.

Bulletin Deadline Moved Up for September

The deadline for the September issue of the *Bulletin* will be August 5th as the editor will be out of town from the 10th on. Please submit your articles and calendar items as soon as possible or they will not be included.

And another reminder about submissions: please include the chapter or article name in the e-mail subject. It makes sorting through the many submissions much easier. Thanks!

Eastside Conservation Chair Still Needed!

The Native Plant Society of Oregon is still looking for a new Eastside Conservation Chair. Stu Garrett has been in this position for several years, and is moving on to other tasks—creating a space for an enthusiastic volunteer (or two!) who wants to work on behalf of NPSO on conservation issues. Recent examples are providing input for long-range conservation strategies for Steens Mountain, as well as providing occasional analysis and input regarding US Forest Service, BLM and State of Oregon policies affecting native plant habitats east of the Cascades.

If this interests you, contact Stu at garrett@coinet.com or Bruce Newhouse (President) at newhouse@efn.org

Oregon Sunshine on Mt. June, near Dexter

Bulletin Name

There hasn't been a lot of input about a new name for the NPSO Bulletin. A few suggestions have come up: "The Trillium", "Trilliums & Trails", "Oregon Sunshine" and, one that's already used by another group, "Oregon Grapevine". And there have been some votes for the status quo.

This is the last chance to send in your suggestions or opinions. Send them to the Bulletin Editor at bulletin@NPSOregon.org.

Advice to Those About to Move

DON'T—until you've told us your new address! The post office does not forward your *Bulletin* because it is mailed at bulk mail rates. Instead, the undelivered copy is destroyed with no notification to the senders. Mailing labels are printed up about the middle of the month for the following month's mailing. Please send your address change, including phone number and email, to:

NPSO
2584 NW Savier Street
Portland, OR 97210

Kalmiopsis Needs Assistant Editor

Kalmiopsis is the annual journal of NPSO, which contains a variety of interesting articles about Oregon botany and botanists. Our current editor would like an Assistant Editor to train, with the eventual goal of the Assistant becoming the Editor in time. Publication and editorial experience is a must; computer skills and email address mandatory.

This is a great opportunity for someone to get involved with botanical projects, events, and research occurring in Oregon. If you are interested, please e-mail the *Kalmiopsis* Editor, Linda Vorobik, at vorobik@rockisland.com.

Blue Mountain

For information on the the Blue Mountain chapter call Jerry Baker at 541-566-3381

Cheahmill

For information on the Cheahmill chapter call Kareen Sturgeon at 503-472-0866.

Corvallis

August 19, Saturday

Field Trip: Middle Santiam. Loren Russell will lead a field trip to a wetland area in the Middle Santiam. Please contact Loren at 541-752-7558 if you are interested or for more details.

Emerald

July 29, Saturday

Field Trip: Swamp flower and sedge expedition to Beaver Marsh at the edge of Diamond Peak Wilderness. Led by Nick Otting and Jenny Lippert. Meet 9:00 am at South Eugene High School. Bring hand lens, waterproof boots, and be ready for mosquitos. For more information call Nick, 541-334-4499, or Jenny, 541-465-6321.

August

No monthly meeting.

August 28, Monday

Meeting: Amanitas. 7:30 pm at Lane Community College, room to be announced. Look for more details in September *Bulletin*.

High Desert

Amateurs and experts are equally welcome! Unless otherwise noted (and please be sure you check!) all trips will depart from the north end of the main parking lot on the east side of Pilot Butte State Park off of Hwy 20 (Greenwood St.) in Bend at 8:30 am sharp. Please arrive a few minutes early to form carpools. On one-day trips we will normally return to the parking lot by 5:30 pm. Be sure your gas tank is full, bring plenty of water, rainwear, a sack lunch, a day pack, and sturdy shoes. Consider bringing layered clothing, sunscreen, a handlens, cameras, binoculars, etc. Weather may be severe, trails can be rugged, and roads are sometimes poor. Unless noted, roads should be passable by a normal clearance passenger sedan. Riders are encouraged to reimburse drivers a total of 25 cents per mile. Please be aware of user charges for the Deschutes National Forest. Please: no smoking, no picking or collecting of plants, and no pets. Remember, you participate at your own risk.

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. Participation is at your own risk. Please contact the trip leader or chapter representative about difficulty, distance, and terrain to be expected on field trips. Bring water and lunch. All NPSO field trips are open to the public at no charge (other than contribution to carpool driver) and newcomers and visitors are always welcome. National Forests require a Northwest Forest Pass for many field trip locations. Permits can be acquired at forest headquarters and ranger districts.

NOTICE TO FIELD TRIP CHAIRS AND LEADERS

The Forest Service and other agencies have set policies limiting group size in many wilderness areas to 12. The reason is to limit human impacts on these fragile areas. Groups using wilderness areas should be no larger than 12.

August 5, Saturday

Field Trip: Many Lakes/Cultus Lakes Basin. Join expert botanist/ecologist Reid Schuller on a moderate 5-mile round-trip hike on the Many Lakes Trail. This is a spectacular area in the Three Sisters Wilderness featuring bogs and lakes. Reid is the world's expert on sedges of the Central Oregon Cascades! Be sure to call early to reserve spot on the trip as only 12 people can travel together in the Wilderness. Be ready for mosquitoes! Meet at Pilot Butte Parking Lot at 8:30 am. Call Reid at home: 541-317-1901 or work: 541-317-0199 to do the required pre-registration.

August 26, Saturday

Field Trip: Broken Top Volcano. This is our annual trek to view the spectacular glaciated scenery and alpine wildflowers in the High Cascades west of Bend. This is a six-mile round-trip, moderate-to-strenuous hike with a 1,700 foot elevation gain. We will do mostly off-trail hiking through the Three Sisters Wilderness, so hiker numbers are limited to 12. Meet at Pilot Butte Lot at 8:30 am. Pre-registration is required! Call trip leader Stu Garrett for sign-up: eves 541-389-6981 The sooner the better!!

For more information, write or call field trip chairman, Stu Garrett, 1501 NE Medical Center Dr, Bend, OR, 97701, 541-389-6981 evenings. On trips where participant numbers are limited, preference will be given to NPSO members. Permission is granted to newsletters, newspapers, and magazines to reprint field trip information as long as enough information is provided to fully inform the public.

Klamath Basin

For information on the Klamath Basin Chapter, call David Lebo at 541-883-8393.

Mid-Columbia

August 2, Wednesday

Meeting: Alpine Wildflowers. 7:00 pm at the lovely house of Stuart and Mildred Chapin on the bluff overlooking the Columbia at 464 SW Eyrie Rd., White Salmon, Wa. Loren Russell of the Corvallis chapter will give us a slide show comparing flowers of the beautiful alpine areas of the Cascades, Steens, Wallowas, and the Alps. Call Stuart at 509-493-2823 for directions.

September 6, Wednesday

Meeting: Eliminating Yellow Star Thistle at Catherine Creek—a Success Story. 7:30 pm at the Discovery Center theatre, first The Dalles exit heading east on I-84. Marty Hudson, Weed Supervisor for Klickitat Co., Wa. will tell us how 5 acres of yellow star thistle was eradicated, and other stories from the weed front line involving knapweed, skeleton weed, and others. Bring your weed questions.

North Coast

Field Trip General Information: Unless otherwise stated, meet for carpooling or caravaning at the parking lot at the Tillamook PUD on 11th and Pacific at the south end of Tillamook. Bring lunch and beverage and no pets. For further information call or e-mail John Gerke at 503-842-5366 or johnroyal@juno.com or Janet Stahl at 503-842-8708 or jjs@oregoncoast.com.

August 20, Sunday

Field Trip: Cascade Head, Nature Conservancy Trail. Meet at 10:00 am at the Tillamook PUD parking or meet at 10:45 am at the parking lot off Hwy 101 near the crest of Cascade Head.

Portland

August

No monthly meeting.

August 5, Saturday

Field Trip: Elk Cove. This hike starts at Cloud Cap and goes along the Timberline trail to Elk Cove. It is 8-miles round-trip long with a 2000 ft. elevation gain. We'll pass through a wide variety of habitats while we look at *Anemone occidentalis*, *Mimulus lewisii*, pink mountain heather, Jacob's Ladder, a great paintbrush show and many more. Leave 8:00 am from Gateway/ NE 99th Ave. Park and Ride, southeast corner of parking lot. For more info. call Greg Stone 503-233-4761 or trip leader Beth Magnus 503-226-7919.

September 9, Saturday

Field Trip: Mt. Hood Timberline trail. USFS botanist Carol Horvath will take us on a tour through lots of alpine color. More details in September Bulletin or call Greg Stone 503-233-4761 or Carol 503-775-2650.

Siskiyou

For information on the Siskiyou chapter call Jim Duncan or Elaine Plaisance at 541-482-7629.

Umpqua Valley

August 12, Saturday

Field Trip: Crater Lake to see subalpine wildflowers and plant communities. Meet in the BLM parking lot, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd at 8:00 am. Call Jack Hausotter at 541-863-5347 for more information.

August 19, Saturday

Field Trip: Upper Cow Creek to see oak fern and other native plant species. Meet in the BLM parking lot, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd at 8:00 am. Call Jack Hausotter at 541-863-5347 for more information.

Willamette Valley

July 29, Saturday

Field Trip: Canyon Creek Meadows. Leader: Walt Yungen. Meet at 7:00 am in the parking lot of the K-Mart on Mission St. in Salem. We will carpool from there. The drive to the trailhead on the East side of the Cascades takes several hours, and the hike is 5 or 6 miles round-trip so be prepared for a day-long trip with varying temperatures. Food and water are essential, cameras are probably a good idea (both for flowers and for scenery). For questions, call Walt at 503-581-9511.

William Cusick

for information on the William Cusick Chapter call Frazier Nichol at 541-963-7870.

Ceanothus velutinous *and view of Three Sisters from Grasshopper Meadows north of Oakridge.*

The Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument

by Kelpie Wilson, Executive Director Siskiyou Project

Your help is needed to create a new National Monument in Oregon. The Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument would protect a million acres of the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion, identified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as one of eight centers of plant diversity in North America. The proposed monument encompasses one of the largest exposures of serpentine rock in North America, the Josephine ophiolite. This geological formation hosts a remarkable array of rare and endemic plants and unique wetlands called darlingtonia fens. Additional scientific values are emerging in the area with new research. Recent surveys identified a lichen species previously undescribed in the Western Hemisphere.

The proposed monument includes 27 botanical areas and many wild and beautiful rivers. One of those rivers is Rough & Ready Creek, site of the proposed NICORE strip mine. Mining is a huge threat to rare plant habitats. There are about 6,000 mining claims on the Siskiyou National Forest. Monument designation would help control the mining threat and also protect watersheds vulnerable to Port Orford cedar disease, a fatal, non-native fungus lethal to this endemic tree. The disease is carried in mud and soil on vehicles and equipment and in flowing water.

Below is a sample letter to President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. It is important to send a copy of your letter to Governor Kitzhaber as well. Please also send copies of this letter to your representative and Oregon's senators.

For more information, contact the Siskiyou Project at 541-592-4459. You can also check our website (www.siskiyou.org) for late-breaking news and to see an economic impact study of the proposed monument.

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear President Clinton and Vice President Gore,

Please proclaim a Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument in order to preserve and protect the nationally important scientific and historic values of the wild rivers of Oregon's Siskiyou Mountains and their globally outstanding biodiversity.

If nothing is done, mining, off-road vehicle use, logging and roads will destroy the ecological integrity of these fragile watersheds and put wild salmon, rare plants and unique forest communities at risk of extinction.

Future generations will thank you for your judicious use of the Antiquities Act to provide permanent protection to the Siskiyou's pristine mountain rivers and forests, a real gem in America's public lands legacy.

ADDRESSES

President William Jefferson Clinton
Vice President Al Gore
c/o George Frampton, Jr., Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Governor John Kitzhaber
State Capitol Room 254
Salem, OR 97310

Oregon Senators Smith and Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Oregon Representatives DeFazio, Blumenauer, Hooley, Walden or Wu
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

NPSO Items for Sale

Oregon's Rare Wildflower Poster depicts Punchbowl Falls and three of the Columbia River Gorge's endemic wildflowers. Text on the back describes the natural history of the Gorge and the mission of the NPSO. Available from Stu Garrett, 21663 Paloma Drive, Bend, OR 97701, 541-389-6981. Individuals may order posters at $12 each, plus $3 per order for shipping. Posters are mailed in tubes. Chapter treasurers may contact Stu for wholesale prices to chapters.

NPSO's Original Wildflower Poster depicts 13 Oregon wildflowers in a striking artist's rendition. Soon to be a collector's item. Available from Stephanie Schulz, 84603 Bristow Rd., Pleasant Hill, OR 97455, $5 each, plus $3 per order for shipping. Posters are mailed in tubes.

NPSO Membership Directory lists names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of NPSO members (April 1999). Available from Jan Dobak, 2584 Savier St., Portland, OR 97210.

The following student essay is a response to the information gained from the 61st annual Biology Colloquium. See front page article for more information on the Colloquium.

Garden Escapes: Risks of Gardening With Non-Native Plants

by Melanie O'Kniser & Tanja Petal, Botany Students, Lane Community College

Imagine walking through the Everglades National Park in Florida... there's no sign of birds or other animals... few if any insects are buzzing overhead. The walk through the Park is unnaturally quiet. What you see are huge stands of paperbark trees. An undisturbed Everglades ecosystem should have about 60-80 plant species, but after the paperbark tree invaded there were only three or four species left.[1] Paperbark tree is perfectly behaved in its native Australian habitat; however, it became highly invasive when introduced to the Everglades, wiping out native plants and consequently habitat for native wildlife. The tree is essentially the only life remaining in the forest.

While not all non-native plants are invasive, they all have the potential to be given the right habitat. An invasive plant can be defined as any plant, which displaces existing native populations thereby reducing the biodiversity necessary for a healthy sustainable ecosystem. Other words describing non-native plants are exotic, alien, nuisance or introduced.

There are benign ornamentals that won't do well outside of cultivation, but very little research has been done on how to identify potential escapees. It is difficult to determine what impact specific plants will have on an ecosystem, partly because the effects can take time to fully develop.[2] There are widely varying rates at which invasive species cause visible devastation, and human-assisted introductions of exotic species are increasing.

Consider some of the lovely exotics in your own garden, such as *Buddleia davidii*, the butterfly bush. While it does aesthetically enhance the garden and provide nectar for butterflies, it has escaped from cultivation near Oakridge, Oregon, on Salmon Creek, creating a monoculture (having only one species present) and displacing native butterflies.[3] Another example of an escaped garden plant is *Taraxacum officinale*, commonly known as the dandelion. It was introduced in Oregon in the 1850s by a Portland physician who recommended his patients raise this medicinal plant in their yards. *Digitalis purpurea*, or foxglove, appears to blend in nicely with other native flora, but it too is a garden escapee, originally hailing from Europe. *Vinca major* and *Vinca minor*, or periwinkle, are favorite ground covers for the garden that when released into the wild, displace the many native plants that animals and insects rely on for survival[3]. Allowing garden exotics to "go wild" and interfere with native plants is threatening to native wildlife. Studies have indicated that plants and their pollinators co-evolved over millions of years. The plants and animals are symbionts, each depending on the other for survival, so when our native ecosystems are dominated by invasive plants, it can affect the entire circle of life.

Garden escapes are just one com-

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Friends of the Oregon Flora Project

There are two ways to contribute financially to the Oregon Flora Project. One way is to donate to the Friends of the Oregon Flora Project, which transfers all funds to the Oregon State University Foundation, which in turn puts them into an account for the Oregon Flora Project. The other way is to donate directly to the OSU Foundation and designate the funds for the Flora project. Why do we prefer that donations be sent to the Friends group? The Friends submits grant proposals to foundations in addition to seeking contributions from individuals. A growing membership and strong fundraising record adds credibility to our group as we apply for larger grants. It also keeps you, the donor, informed about the Project via the *Oregon Flora Newsletter* subscription included with your Friends membership. Donating directly to OSU Foundation would be the preferred route for people whose employers offer matching funds for charitable contributions. All donations to the Oregon Flora Project are tax-deductible.

Thanks to an article released by the OSU Press service, media across the state are putting out the word about the Oregon Flora Project. Articles have appeared in several newspapers, and Dick Straw and Jim Duncan spoke about the Atlas Project in a television interview by a Medford station. This publicity is generating interest and attracting volunteers. If you would like to join those who are helping launch one of the biggest botanical undertakings in Oregon, we welcome you! Please contact Linda Hardison at (541) 745-5770 or at the Friends address:

Please make checks payable to:
Native Plant Society of Oregon

and mail to:
Friends of the Oregon Flora Project
P. O. Box 402
Corvallis, OR 97339-0402

Native Plant Society of Oregon Membership Form

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Address _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip+4* _____

Phone _____ *E-Mail* _____

Chapter (if known) _____

Is this a change of address? If so, please write your **old address** here:

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City _____ *State* _____ *Zip+4* _____

Please make checks for dues and contributions payable to:
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON

Send completed form and full remittance to:
Jan Dobak, NPSO Membership Chair
2584 NW Savier St.
Portland, OR 97210-2412

DUES include monthly *Bulletin* and *Kalmiopsis* when published. **Membership is for the calendar year. New memberships enrolled after September 1 include the following year.**

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☐ Student – $12 ☐ Regular – $18 ☐ Family – $24

☐ Sustaining – $50 ☐ Patron – $100 ☐ Life Membership – $500

☐ Subscription Only (*Bulletin* and *Kalmiopsis*) – $18 *Only for those who wish to subscribe, but do not want to have full membership status.*

CONTRIBUTIONS to NPSO are tax deductible.

Jean Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund $ _____

Leighton Ho Memorial Field Botany Award Fund $ _____

Rare and Endangered Plant Fund $ _____

Membership in the Native Plant Society of Oregon is open to all.
Membership applications, renewals and change of address (include old address) should be sent to the Membership Chair.

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Jan Dobak, Membership Chair
2584 NW Savier St.
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TIME DATED MAIL

Garden Escapes
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ponent of the invasive species dilemma. However, individual gardeners changing their habits can make a difference, one yard at a time. While supporting our native species and preventing the spread of exotic species, you can also reap the benefits with the beauty of our native flora, while at the same time learn about our native species. The Native Plant Society of Oregon, Emerald Chapter can provide a copy of "Noxious Invasive Vegetation of the Willamette Valley" and can advise gardeners how to obtain a list of alternative plants to known invasives. With all of us working together, we can keep our native flora and prevent the devastating affects of invasive species.

1 "Botanical Barbarians" Devine, Robert, *Sierra* Jan/Feb 1994

2 Dr. Greg Ruiz, Ecologist with the Smithsonian and keynote speaker at the OSU Biological Invasions Colloquium

3 *Native Plant Society of Oregon Bulletin*, Emerald Chapter, 1997

Events at Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, August 5, 10 am-noon: Medicinal Herbs Workshop.

Taught by Dr. Jan Gagnon, Master Gardener and Naturopathic Physician. Topics covered will include growing and use of medicinal plants. Slide show/discussion and Arboretum walk included. Fee: $15 ($12 MPA members). Pre-registration required; call 541-747-1504 to register or for details.

Wednesday, August 9, 2-4 pm: Elder Walk. (a new program for seniors)

Led by Tom Bettman. Elder Walks are easy, monthly strolls led by trained Arboretum nature guides, focusing on the ecosystems found at the Arboretum. Second Wednesday of each month; refreshments provided. $3 suggested donation for non-members. Meet at the Visitor Center, rain or shine. Call 541-747-1504 for details.

Saturday, August 19, 9-11 am: Going Buggy! Walk.

Led by Djibo Zanzot, Arboretum Nature Guide and former Peace Corps agriculture volunteer. Explore the world and life cycles of insects that inhabit the Arboretum—on land, in the pond, the air, and our glass-enclosed beehive. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Suggested donation: $3 (members free). Call 541-747-1504 for details.