



Bulletin

of the

Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

VOLUME 34, No. 1

40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

JANUARY 2001

IT'S STILL RENEWAL TIME!

The NPSO membership year is January to December.

Check your address label on the Bulletin. If there's a 00 on the top line, we haven't received your renewal yet.

NPSO brings you field trips, programs, classes, and the monthly Bulletin. Your membership and donations make it possible to carry out more of the projects that are needed to pursue the goals of NPSO.

Summer Intern Report

Native Plant Conservation Program

by Jeremy Welty

The following is the second in a series of four articles written by this year's participants in the native plant conservation internship program, jointly sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

What follows is an article by Jeremy Welty. Jeremy is currently a senior at Oregon State University, majoring in botany and horticulture. We are grateful to Jeremy and the other interns for a successful field season, and thanks again to the NPSO for contributing to their botanical education and work experience.

Steven Gisler, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Working with native plants through this summer's internship really opened my eyes to a lot of environmental issues that our state is facing. This land which once was an unhindered ecosystem has been reduced to a patchwork landscape with fragments of undisturbed habitat, disconnected from the ecosystem they were once a part of. Since plants are linked very closely to what humans do in a specific area, they are facing problems they have never dealt with before. Unlike mobile creatures, plants cannot willfully move elsewhere and therefore rely on population diversity, reproduction and other such collective traits in order to survive.

This internship was more than just an experience, it brought issues to life. Throughout the internship, the other interns and I would spend a period of about a week with the leader of a project, working on different projects every week. Our tasks usually involved data collection from geographically widespread project sites. Since many of these sites were far from Corvallis, we often discussed the projects in depth while commuting. In addition, we

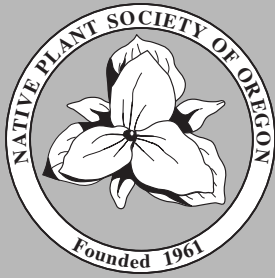
spent a lot of time discussing issues that dealt with native plant conservation. What I learned during this internship came both from these conversations and from the experience of working on the projects.

Early in the internship, we helped Kim Roberts, a graduate student at Oregon State University, take readings and measurements for her thesis project focusing on the re-introduction and conservation of the rare Oregon native, *Perideridia erythrorhiza*, the red root Yampah. Kim's project is being supported by ODA, and jointly funded by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. One of Kim's test plots was located near a public school in Roseburg. Upon arrival at this site we climbed out of our vehicle and walked along a freshly mown strip of the field towards the test plots. Along the way the brush had been cleared to create a track for school athletes to exercise on. When we reached the test sight, or what was now left of it, we realized that the mower had annihilated two thirds of the plants. All that we could do was photograph

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Native Plant Society of Oregon

World Wide Web

<http://www.NPSOregon.org>

Email Discussion List

To join send a message to majordomo@tardigrade.net, with the following in the body of the message: subscribe npsoc

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or correspond directly with Officers and Committee Chairs listed on the inside of the back page.

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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.

Quarterly State Board Meeting to be Held in Salem

January 20, Saturday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Olin Science Center, Willamette University, Salem

All NPSO members are welcome to attend the State Board Meeting. There will be coffee and more-or-less wholesome snacks in the meeting room, courtesy of the Willamette (i.e. Salem) Chapter of NPSO. The meeting agenda is usually pretty full, with only 1/2-hour for lunch. Board members usually brown-bag it in the meeting room, but Willamette University also has a nice cafeteria at Goudy Commons, just down Winter St. from Olin.

Directions:

From I-5, take Highway 22 exit, number 253. Go west on Highway 22 for about 1.5 miles. At 17th street, you'll start up an overpass. At the top

of the overpass, exit to the right, signed for Willamette U. Keep left as the exit divides. At the stop light, cross 12th St. on Bellevue St. Proceed on Bellevue to the first right turn, onto Winter St. Continue on Winter for a block. Olin Science Center is on the right side of Winter St., just before the intersection of Winter with State St. You may park for free on Winter St., State St. or in any Willamette University parking lot on weekends. There will be signs on the doors of Olin, directing you to the meeting room.



Flowers of *Silene douglasii*, or Douglas' Catchfly, named for explorer David Douglas. Photographed at Saddle Mountain, Clatsop County. Plants at Saddle Mountain are typically classified as var. *douglasii* but some plants at this coast range site exhibit the broader calyx and larger corollas of the rare coastal headland form, var. *oraria*. Plants are vulnerable at Saddle Mountain to browsing as evident for stems in the lower right corner of this photo.

State

January 20, Saturday

Board Meeting: 10:00 am. Olin Science Center, Willamette University, Salem. All NPSO members are welcome to attend. For more info see article on page 2.

June 8-10, Friday-Sunday

Annual Meeting: This year's Annual Meeting will be held in Corvallis. Details will be announced later.

Blue Mountain

January 8, Monday

Meeting: Marilyn Lieuallen will present a show of her flower slides. Meeting starts at 7:00 pm, at the Small Business Development Center office, SE 2nd & SE Dorian Ave., Pendleton.

Cheahmill

January 25, Thursday

Meeting: Discussion and examples of antique botanical books and prints 7:00 pm, Carnegie Room, McMinnville Public Library, 225 N Adams St., McMinnville. Mr. Phillip Pirages will lead a discussion and provide examples of rare and antique botanical books and prints. Mr. Pirages buys and sells rare books and prints at his business in McMinnville. While earning his doctorate in English literature at the University of Michigan in 1977, Mr. Pirages became interested in collectible books. What began as a hobby, has evolved into his full time business. Mr. Pirages will answer questions and the discussion will include a little about the pleasure (and potential profits) of selling and collecting antique books and prints. Items on display will be available for purchase. For more information call Rob Tracey at 503-843-2702.

Corvallis

January 8, Monday

Meeting: A floristic survey of Southern Spain, a talk and slide show by Loren Russell at 7:30 pm at the Avery House, Avery Park, Corvallis. For more information please contact Esther McEvoy at 754-0893.

Emerald

January 20, Saturday

Field Trip: Moss and lichen trip to Cascadia State Park led by local expert, Daphne Stone. This large beautiful park east of Sweet Home has easy flat trails through old growth forest

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.

along the Santiam River and tributaries. There are also small waterfalls. Meet at 9:00 am, at South Eugene High School. Dress for rain and cold and bring lunch, water, a plastic bag to sit on, and (if you have it) *Plants of the Pacific Northwest* by Pojar and MacKinnon. For more information call Peggy at 541-744-0439.

January 22, Monday

Meeting: Searching for Driftwood Valley. Rhoda Love will show slides as she presents a combination book review, biographical sketch, and botanical survey of northern British Columbia. She will outline her researches into the fascinating life of female ecologist Theodora Stanwell-Fletcher, author of the nature classic, *Driftwood Valley*. Included will be images of the trip Rhoda and her husband took to the British Columbia wilderness to find the places and plants mentioned in the book. 7:30 pm, Room 117, Science Building, LCC main campus, Eugene. For more information contact Nick Otting, 541-334-4499. Directions: Construction continues at LCC, so come a little early to find your way. Best place to park is on the east side of campus, near the south end of Eldon Schafer Drive (turn at the stop light on 30th Ave.). Just south of that parking area is a lighted walkway along the north side of the Science trailers, which goes right to the Science building.

February 10, Saturday

Workshop: Winter Twigs, led by Rhoda Love and Judith Manning from 9:30-2:30 pm at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. This workshop is cosponsored by NPSO and the Arboretum. Cost is \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members of these organizations. Participants are encouraged to purchase *Winter Twigs* by Gilkey and Packard. Limit 15 participants. For more information or to register, call the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum at 541-747-1504.

February 26, Monday

Meeting: Botanizing in the Mountains of Mexico. Nick Otting will present a sun-drenched slide show on the diverse flora of southern Mexico. The tropical rain forests of Vera Cruz and Chiapas are among the regions we will explore. 7:30 pm, Room 117, Science Building, LCC main campus, Eugene. For more information contact Nick, 541-334-4499.

March 19, Monday

Meeting: Oak Savanna and Wetlands Restoration in Buford Park. 7:30 pm, Room 117, Science Building, LCC main campus. Jason Blazar, Stewardship and Restoration Coordinator of Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah, will give us a slide-illustrated talk on current progress and future plans for enhancement & restoration of these native Park habitats. He'll also tell us what species might benefit from the changes. Directions: See Jan. meeting.

High Desert

Restoring Our Native Landscapes

Over the last 150 years the landscapes of Central Oregon have changed. The pine forests have fewer large trees, more smaller trees, and are being invaded by less fire-tolerant species such as white fir. The juniper lands have many more junipers and shrubs and fewer native grasses. The bunchgrass communities have more woody species and are being invaded by non-native species. Many riparian areas have lost vegetation and are not functioning properly. There is growing interest in trying to bring back these original landscapes. In a series of winter evening meetings we will hear from a number of restorationists. All of these folks have dirt under their fingernails with practical, on-the-ground experience. Some focus on replanting a backyard, others are restoring entire drainages and ecosystems. Challenges include reintroduction of fire, control of weeds, and restoring riparian function.

Please join us the fourth Tuesday of each month listed below as we learn about the challenges we face as we try to restore the land. All meetings will be held

at the Central Oregon Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend at 7:30 pm. Call Stu Garrett 541-389-6981 for more information. All are welcome.

January 23, Tuesday

Meeting: Rick Martenson and Karen Theodore will speak on backyard and area restoration. He is an enthusiastic native plant landscaper in Bend who has his own private company and has done numerous projects locally. Karen grows native plants at her wholesale nursery east of Bend. Both are experts.

February 27, Tuesday

Meeting: Maret Pajutee, botanist/ecologist with the Forest Service talks on naturoscaping and native plant sources. She relandscaped the area around the Sisters Ranger District Office and has years of experience with revegetation.

March 27, Tuesday

Meeting: Kelly Walker of Sunriver will talk about his efforts with Sunriver Landowners to use native vegetation to plant in developments in Sunriver. He will emphasize soil amendments, preparation, and plant selection.



TANYA HARVEY

A well-sculptured club mushroom. ID anyone? Fall Creek, Willamette NF

April 23, Tuesday

Meeting: Ecologist Bill Hopkins and Director Brad Chalfant of the Deschutes Basin Land Trust will discuss plans to restore and manage over 3,000 acres the Forest Service traded to Crown Pacific Lumber in 1999. This area will be managed under a conservation easement held by DBLT to enhance old growth ponderosa pine. Learn about the exciting things the Land Trust is doing locally.

Klamath Basin

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

Mid-Columbia

January 3, Wednesday

Meeting: Short Slide Show in Memory of Keith Chamberlain, and Organizational Meeting. What would you like to see this year for programs, field trips, and activities? How should we reach out to the community? Bring your ideas. 7:30 pm at The Discovery Center in The Dalles; take exit 82 off I-84 and follow signs.

February 7, Wednesday

Meeting: Sagebrush Desert Ecology. Jonathan Sol, The Nature Conservancy preserve manager for the Portland area preserves, will give us a slide show and talk on the sagebrush desert area of Eastern Oregon and Washington, and also update us on projects at the Tom McCall Preserve. If you would like to learn more about the plant communities of our own area and the area just to our east, this talk is highly recommended. 7:30 pm at The Discovery Center in The Dalles; take exit 82 off I-84 and follow signs.

North Coast

for information on the North Coast Chapter call Vivian Starbuck at 503-377-4141.

Portland

January 9, Tuesday

Meeting: Bring your own slides. We will be starting off the new year with our annual "Bring your own slides" meeting. We supply the slide projector. You supply interesting slides of plants, animals, insects, landscapes, and so on as well as the colorful commentary. 7:00 pm, Fireside Room (#355) of the First United Methodist Church located at 1838 SW Jefferson St., in Portland. For more information contact Skip Haak, 503-460-3198.

Siskiyou

January 18, Thursday

Meeting: Salt Marsh Restoration at the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. Craig Cornu, the South Slough NERR Stewardship Program Coordinator, will describe efforts over the last 4 years to restore the natural structure and function of estuarine wetlands at South Slough NERR, with emphasis on the recovery of emergent marsh vegetation. 7:30 pm in Room 171 of the SOU Science Building in Ashland. For more info contact Molly Sullivan at 541-512-1341.

Umpqua Valley

January 11, Thursday

Meeting: Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountains by Naoma Neyerlin. Douglas County Courthouse Annex, Roseburg, 7:00 pm. Call Richard Sommer at 541-673-3709 for more information.

Willamette Valley

January 13, Saturday

Work Party: Second Annual Work Party at the OSU Herbarium. We will be helping the Herbarium mount and file plant specimens and, for the computer literate, there will be an opportunity to input data for the Oregon Flora. Scott Sundberg and his staff will be on hand to guide us and we guarantee you will find this a fun and rewarding (not to mention warm and dry) "field trip." We will meet at the Herbarium at 9:00 am.; you can bring your own lunch to enjoy in the Herbarium lunch room, and we will wind up by 3:00 pm. Contact Judy Oliver by e-mail at bob@navicom.com or phone her at 503-371-8709 to reserve your place and get driving directions. There will be carpooling from Salem to the Herbarium.

William Cusick

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

The Oregon Flora Project Thanks YOU!

Last month we alerted the NPSO membership of an opportunity to receive \$10,000 in matching funds. The response has been tremendous—we exceeded our goal within six weeks from the start of the challenge. This is a powerful demonstration of awareness of the need for a new flora for our state. It also represents a commitment to support the Oregon Flora Project in its efforts to produce a topnotch Checklist, Flora, and Atlas for all plant enthusiasts. We are extremely grateful for your support and commitment to the Oregon Flora Project and encourage your involvement as we work towards completion of this important endeavor. Exciting news is that the matching donor has doubled the challenge amount to \$20,000 in response to your generosity. The Friends of the Oregon Flora Project is working through December to attract donations to meet this increased amount.



*Environmental
Federation
of Oregon*

Contributions at the Workplace Show Generosity and Concern ~ Thank you!

Due to the generous contributions of employees in over 70 Oregon businesses, the Environmental Federation of Oregon (EFO) is able to support organizations working to preserve and protect Oregon's natural heritage. NPSO, one of 31 non-profit organizations receiving funds from EFO, directly benefits from every successful fall fundraising campaign.

Through EFO's convenient workplace giving program, you can specify an amount to be withheld from your paycheck to be paid throughout the year. For the price of a weekly latte or movie, you can make a substantial annual contribution almost effortlessly. NPSO is a proud member of EFO, now celebrating its tenth year supporting Oregon's environment.

Thank you to those of you who contributed! For information on how to get involved, please contact EFO at 503-223-9015.

Native Plant Conservation Program

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the damage and take readings on the remaining plants.

I think possibly my favorite project of the summer was a trip to study the endangered *Oenothera wolffii*, Wolf's evening primrose. This attractive species grows primarily on dunes and slopes just above beaches in southern Oregon and northern California. This evening primrose has a simple beauty sporting sharp crisp lines and intense yellow petals. Aesthetically, it brings color to a mostly vegetative zone. Matt Carlson, the leader of this project, explained that our special concern with this species is that another (non-native) species of *Oenothera* has been introduced to the area and the two are hybridizing. The introduced species, *Oenothera glazioviana*, is an ornamental variety with extremely large yellow petals that resemble tissue paper. Since there is no protection status for hybrids under the federal Endangered Species Act, we were investigating how widespread hybridization has become, and if hybrid populations can be distin-

guished from genetically pure populations. This ODA project is being funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

From our preliminary searches, it seems that *Oenothera glazioviana* grows more inland than *O. wolffii*, often occurring along roadsides. The borders of these two different habitats frequently overlap. In these places we witnessed plants with a swarm of traits from both species. Having just completed a course in genetics at Oregon State University, I asked the question, "Why don't we just allow the diminishing populations of *Oenothera wolffii* to hybridize with the introduced species?" It seemed to me that, over time, the hybrid plants would evolve, and the best traits of each parent would be naturally selected for, and since the habitat for the *Oenothera wolffii* is disappearing, these new genes gained through hybridization may allow the species to grow in some new places. Steve Gisler, one of the ODA botanists I worked with, replied with the counter argument that conservation of the native *Oenothera wolffii* might be as simple as weeding out the introduced species before it encroaches on pure populations, and replacing hybrid populations with ones

established using pure seed or cultivated plant stock. He argued that we should at least make an effort to save our natural floral biodiversity before we simply give up and allow it fade away, using the "superior hybrid" argument as a convenient excuse for our laziness and the continuation of coastal degradation. He also pointed out that other members of the genus *Oenothera* have been used in traditional medicines for centuries, so loss of our native *O. wolffii* to hybridization might eliminate any future benefit that might be derived from its potential pharmaceutical properties.

Another project I found very interesting this summer involved *Pleuropogon oregonus*, the Oregon semaphore grass, which is listed as Threatened by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. It is only known from two locations in the world; one population (composed of several small patches) occurs in northeastern Oregon near LaGrande, and the other population is found in southern Oregon's Lake County. Both of these populations currently occur on private pasture land, though a portion of the Lake County population has been acquired by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The TNC land has been fenced off and left untouched for several years. The immediately surrounding population on private land is grazed yearly, and yet this part of the population was growing beautifully when I saw it this summer. It was apparent during our visit that the ungrazed semaphore grass on TNC land was not as lush or dense.

While we were collecting seed from this species, for use in ODA reproductive and cultivation studies (funded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), the rancher owning the field surrounding the TNC portion of the population unexpectedly came out to meet us. In conversation he pointed out the fact that the semaphore grass, which he humorously misnamed the "Sizemaphore Grass," was doing better being grazed. He mentioned that the cattle came through and prevented the accumulation of stubble and thatch, allowing the young semaphore grass to grow through, and that in contrast the

continued on following page



Wolf's evening primrose (Oenothera wolffii) is a state-listed threatened species limited to sandy habitats along the southern Oregon and northern California coast. In addition to habitat loss, interspecific hybridization with an introduced relative constitutes a primary threat to this showy, native species of our beaches. This can lead to increases in pest and disease pressures for rare native species, and result in their eventual extinction through displacement by hybrids.

Native Plant Conservation Program

continued from previous page

TNC land was littered with thick mats of decaying grass blades, preventing new grass from coming up. This rancher shared with us that he only grazes his cows here three weeks a year. He seemed to be well informed and since his land is very valuable to him, he hasn't allowed overgrazing to destroy the vigor of his field. His farming practices seem to benefit and sustain both the *Pleuropogon* population and his cattle. As botanists we came away from that conversation relieved about what the rancher was doing, but fearful that if (or when) the ranching practices change, this population may be destroyed.

The two positions regarding environmental conservation stand pitted on the battlefield and it seems that everyone who has any interest is forced to take a side, take a weapon, and fight against those who might stand in opposition. This is the great civil war that wages over our land as environmentalists and farmers, two brothers, fight fiercely against one another. Both parties riddled with fear, scared of the power the other possesses, and what

the outcome might be if their enemy should take full liberty wielding it. As the many skirmishes are fought, one side influences legislation leading to mandatory actions economically detrimental to producers, while the other side harbors thoughts that, if necessary, they will take action and purposefully eradicate rare plants on their land in fear of what the other side might legislate. This is an overdramatization, but I feel that it is necessary to communicate how many people taking these two sides feel about each other.

I have spent a lot of time personally talking with different farmers and ranchers, from all over the state, and there seems to be a continuity to what they said. They stand on the firm belief that we must produce food. If we don't grow the food to eat, we will go hungry. In addition, they see real danger ahead as we lose agriculture in this country and become dependent on other countries for food. Those who work the land are afraid of losing their way of life. I have heard more than one farmer in southern Oregon proclaim, "They (environmentalists) won't rest until everything out west is one big wilderness." Independent farmers grow crops and raise herds, not because there is a lot of money to be made, but be-

cause they enjoy farming. Successful land owners realize that the less money they have to spend on farm machinery and pesticides, the more they earn. Most importantly, many farmers know that healthy and productive land is their most valuable possession.

The environmentalists I have talked to realize that our ecosystem is only a shadow of what it once was. The effects of a poor environment are too numerous to count and aside from its inherent value (something no price tag can be put on), if our environment is destroyed, humans will not survive. Even if they did, would they want to live with the blood of our dying planet on their hands? How many species will disappear? How much genetic diversity will be lost? How much habitat will be destroyed? "No more!," the environmentalist emphatically answers.

I firmly believe that only after the environmentalists' primary focus becomes educating land owners and working with them on an individual basis to find sustainable solutions, only then will we be able to protect our environment in a sustainable fashion. Politics is how we have been fighting the battles. We must realize that legislation is only a temporary victory, and forced compliance can never take the place of a personal feeling of moral responsibility to our environment. The only way we are going to have any real success is through experiential education. This internship was exactly this to me, an experiential education. I learned so much simply driving around and witnessing the condition of our state. Once I saw the difference between health and sickness, I was able to see how much of our environment is not doing well.

The biggest thing that I learned from this internship is that we cannot separate ourselves from the natural world. Native Americans saw that people are a part of the ecosystem, and it was that mind set alive in each person that allowed them to co-exist with a healthy environment. I hope that mind set can one day be alive in the modern American and that we can find a way to also co-exist before we cease to exist.

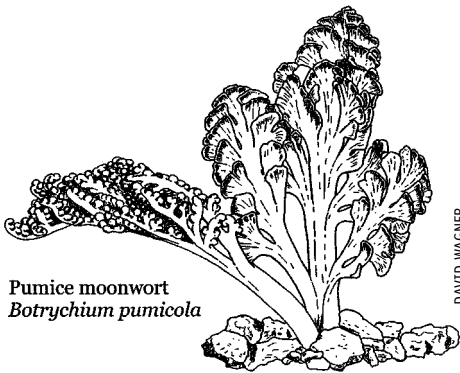


*During his internship, Jeremy assisted ODA with studies of hybridization in Wolf's evening primrose. Here he is shown standing in a population of the introduced species, *Oenothera glazioviana*, which can co-occur with Wolf's evening primrose, but has noticeably larger flowers. One objective of the ODA study was to measure and identify pure (non-hybridized) phenotypes of each parent species, to help evaluate the purity and conservation status of remaining populations of Wolf's evening primrose that may contain morphologically intermediate hybrids.*

Endangered Plant Publication Available

A small number of copies of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service publication "Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants of Oregon—An Illustrated Guide," by Robert Meinke (1982) are available upon request at no charge.

Please direct your inquiries to Dr. K. L. Chambers, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Oregon State University, 2082 Cordley Hall, Corvallis OR 97331-2902. E-mail: chamberk@bcc.orst.edu.



Pumice moonwort
Botrychium pumicola

Willamette Valley Nature Calendar for 2001 Available

Dave Wagner, Emerald chapter member and former NPSO president, has once again produced a lovely calendar that every naturalist will enjoy. This year the genus *Botrychium* is featured. The calendar is illustrated with black and white drawings of all 15 species of Grapeferns and Moonworts in Oregon. Lots of valuable information is included such as sunrise & sunset, average temperatures and rainfall, and animal and plant activity for each month.

The calendar is available in Eugene at the Museum of Natural History (U. of O. campus) and Down to Earth (5th and Olive) or you can send \$12.00 to Dave Wagner
PO Box 30064
Eugene, OR 97403-1064

Willamette Valley Butterfly Gardening

Bruce Newhouse and Eric Wold of the Eugene-Springfield Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association will discuss the keys to successful butterfly gardening in the Willamette Valley. Handouts will be provided that describe the most commonly encountered butterflies in the Eugene-Springfield area, along with the plants that are most suitable for attracting them.

The meeting will take place Monday, February 5, 7:30 pm at the Jefferson Middle School, 1650 W. 22nd, Room 21. If you have any questions, contact Eric Wold at 541-431-7388.

This will be the newly-formed chapter's third meeting. Meetings take place the first Monday each month. For information on future meetings check out the chapter's website at <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabaes>.

Mount Pisgah Arboretum Events

Saturday, January 6, 10 am - noon
Winter Warm-up Singles Hike at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Get a new perspective on the new year (and maybe meet a new friend!) while climbing Mt. Pisgah. Singles only please. Hot cider will be served. Leader: Tom LoCascio, Site Manager. Suggested donation: \$3 (MPA members free). Meet at Arboretum Visitor Center.

Saturday, January 20, 10 am-5 pm
Cedar Bark Basketry Workshop at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Instructor: Donna Crispin from U. of O. Craft Center. Take a break from the holiday rush to learn cedar bark basketry, from bark preparation and weaving, to completing a small basket to take home. Pre-registration required; call 541-747-1504. Fee: \$35 (\$30 Arboretum members).

Saturday, January 27, 10 am - 3 pm
Pine Needle Basketry Workshop at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Led by Pam Roberts, U. of O. Craft Center Instructor. Learn the historical uses and techniques of pine needle basketry, plus take home a basket you've created! This is a popular favorite; sign up early. Materials provided. Pre-registration required; call 541-747-1504. Fee: \$30 (\$25 MPA members).

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.

The "Atlas of Oregon Carex" is NPSO's first occasional paper. The Atlas has 128 location maps, one for each Carex taxon in the state of Oregon. Also included are a synonymy, fun facts about sedges, a history of the project, and Oregon geography maps. Send a \$5 check (made payable to NPSO) to: "Atlas of Oregon Carex", c/o Keli Kuykendall, 4550 S.W. Nash Ave., Corvallis, OR 97333-9301.

Medicine Mountain National Monument

by Peggy Robinson, Emerald Chapter

The Clinton administration is considering a proposal to turn most of the Diamond Lake District of the Umpqua National Forest into a national monument.

This area contains large tracts of old-growth and roadless areas currently slated for logging.

The proposed monument is 206,000 acres, located on the eastern half of the Diamond Lake Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest, in eastern Douglas County, approximately 50 miles east of Roseburg. A small section extends into the Rogue River National Forest to the south. The boundaries of the proposed monument are the Willamette National Forest to the north, the Oregon Cascades Recreation Area to the east, the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness and Crater Lake National Park to the south and the Boulder Creek Wilderness to the west.

The Mt. Bailey area contains some of the most spectacular ecological and geographic features in Oregon. The landscape has been shaped by very recent volcanic activity, particularly the explosion of Mt. Mazama 6,000 years ago. The presence of extensive ash deposits has created unique hydrological processes of considerable scientific importance. Precipitation infiltrates and is filtered by volcanic soil, and is then routed through an elaborate system of subterranean streams to form the headwaters of the Umpqua River. The cold and clear waters of the Umpqua are one of the premier fisheries in the United States.

More than a quarter of the proposed monument exists as old-growth forests, some of the finest examples of this ecosystem type in Oregon. In addition, more than 90,000 acres of the proposed monument is roadless wilderness. Most of the old growth and roadless areas are unprotected and currently threatened by logging and road building.

The proposed Medicine Mountain Monument also has considerable cultural and historical significance. People

have used the area for at least 7,000 years. Native tribes considered Mt. Bailey itself to be a location with considerable spiritual significance. There are more than a 190 known archaeological sites in the proposed monument.

The federal government's management of this area is currently inadequate to protect the unique scenic and geologic features of the area. The Forest Service continues to emphasize timber extraction as the major use of this area, even though more than 70% of the recreational use of the Umpqua National Forests occurs within the proposed monument.

The Forest Service's emphasis on logging and road building is also dramatically out of step with economic realities and the needs of local communities. Although logging on federal lands in eastern Douglas County has declined in the past 5 years, employment in the timber industry has actually increased. The timber company that purchased the only timber sale currently being logged within the proposed monument (The "Snog" timber sale) does not want to log it, and has repeatedly asked the Forest Service to be released from its contract.

Business people and economists agree that the solution to unemployment in Douglas County lies not in making more public lands timber available for logging, but by diversifying the economy of the area by adding new industries to the market. Growth in the travel, tourism and recreation industries in Douglas County currently exceed the state average and are continuing to grow. Designation of a monument and the protection of the area for the public's enjoyment will be a huge boon to the local economy and could provide hundreds of new jobs.

It is long past time that Oregon get more federally-recognized tourism and recreation destinations. At one point, the Mt. Bailey area was to be included as part of Crater Lake National Park. Designation of a monument in the Mt. Bailey area at this time will be a huge

asset to the citizens of Oregon.

The administration, as well as the Oregon congressional delegation needs to hear that this monument proposal has broad public support. Please take the time to write a letter.

People To Call And Write

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Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

George Frampton
Council on Environmental Quality
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Washington, D.C. 20501
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202-224-5244
<http://wyden.senate.gov>

Coyote Playa

by Holly Nielsen

I am a temporarily unemployed and vagrant botanist and a recipient of the NPSO field research grant for the 2000 season. I completed my research in an extremely remote part of SE Oregon, east of the Steens Mountains and the Alvord Desert, in a seldom-visited dry lake basin by the name of Coyote Playa. This Playa, along with its dune system and surrounding Great Basin Desert shrub and sagebrush communities, represents a part of Oregon and the northern Great Basin ecoregion that is extremely under-represented in herbaria and is in need of botanical exploration. My research focused on collecting all vascular plant species observed in the study area with the assumption that I would encounter many rare and unusual specimens. My vouchered specimens will subsequently benefit both herbaria and the Oregon Flora Project's databases.

Coyote Playa is a truly amazing place. It is isolated, even compared to the rest of SE Oregon, and silent in the heat of midday when your vision is blurred from heat radiation and nothing moves. There are many small beauties: The last pink-purple light before dusk outlines nuances in the landscape not visible during long hours of washed-out daylight. Animal tracks and wind-blown grass stems trace patterns in the dunes at night that are blown away every day in thermal gusts from the heating playa floor. I collected voucher specimens of over 100 species of plants, 10 of which are listed by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program as rare or threatened. The growing season is short here. I collected all species between early May and mid-June, after which point almost everything senesces. Winter annuals probably bloomed and senesced a little earlier than my first collections in early May. The flora of this remote area is not complete by any means. The Coyote Playa sand dunes are habitat for the most rare species, harboring listed species such as: *Malacothrix sonchoides* (sow thistle desert dandelion), *Chaen-*



HOLLY NIELSEN

Coyote Playa in early May with Steens Mountain in the background.

actis xantiana (desert pincushion), *Astragalus alvordensis* (Alvord desert locoweed), and *Abronia turbinata* (pink sand verberna), among others. Another rare species encountered was *Heliotropium curassivicum* (salt heliotrope) on the bare, hard-packed, alkaline clay playa floor. This is a tropical species that reaches the most northern outpost of its range here. Don Mansfield, of Albertson College of Idaho, has seen this same species growing in Australia!

Probably the most exciting encounter with a plant was with the rare perennial mustard *Lepidium montanum* var. *davisii* (Davis' peppergrass). I found this species on Little Coyote Playa, growing scattered on the barren playa floor. When my friend and I stumbled upon this population there was a wild horse herd at the water well near the playa, and some pronghorn nearby, but the exciting thing was that all the plants were in flower. In the quiet of the middle of the day, the sun blazing, these flowers were exuding a putrid odor attracting a variety of fly and wasp pollinators. Even more captivating, we observed small spiders hiding in almost every plant preying upon these pollinating insects!

I would like to thank the NPSO for offering field research grants to up-and-coming botanists like myself; to Jean Finley, BLM botanist for the Vale

District, who originally made me aware of the need for botanical collections from the Coyote Playa area; Don Mansfield, for his input concerning my voucher specimens and his Flora of the Steens that allowed me to easily key many specimens in the field; and to Lisa Hahn and Casey Pevey for their company and assistance in the field. Anyone hiring any botanists?

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The 2001 edition of the NPSO Membership Directory will be published in April. If you wish to receive a copy, add Two Dollars to your renewal payment.

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Oregon Flora Project Challenge Increased to \$20,000!

Thanks to the overwhelming support of NPSO members, the Oregon Flora Project has met the Challenge of raising \$10,000 in contributions to be matched by an anonymous donor! As of December 10, we have received over \$14,500. THANK YOU!! Our matching donor was impressed by this demonstration of support and has consequently offered to raise the challenge amount to \$20,000. The December 31 deadline remains, though. If you have postponed making a gift, or can add to your previous contribution for this important botanical project, now is the time! This significant financial boost will help fund several components of the Flora Project to completion. Please help us to meet this extended goal with a new or additional gift-every dollar counts-twice!

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