



# Bulletin

of the

# Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

VOLUME 35, No. 11

DECEMBER 2002

## Propagation of Oregon Native Ferns

by Sue Mandeville, Emerald Chapter

It's estimated that Oregon might have as many as 50 species of ferns. This article is meant to describe a general method of propagating most common native ferns from spore, as well as introduce a series of short articles on individual Oregon native ferns.

The series starts with the Deer Fern, *Blechnum spicant* (*Blek-num spi-kant*), because it produces spore in the fall and the spore is readily available if you know what to look for. They are very hardy, relatively easy to propagate and easy to grow in the

garden. *B. spicant* occurs in coniferous forests in northwestern North America, Europe and Asia. It prefers a shady situation in acid moist soil, although it can take some sun with sufficient moisture.

It is an evergreen fern that has a large, flat rosette of elegant, dark green, leathery, fronds. The fern has two distinct forms of fronds, fertile and sterile (dimorphic). The spores are produced on the tall, thin, stiff, fertile fronds that grow from the center of the fern.

*continued on page 128*

## New Membership Directory in 2003

The 2003 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. If you wish to have your address or telephone number or both withheld from publication in the Directory, please make a prominent note on your renewal form.

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## IT'S RENEWAL TIME!

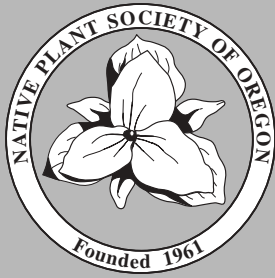
The NPSO membership year is January to December. Now is the time for members to renew. A remittance envelope is included in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Or use the membership form on the inside back page.

It's also a good time to consider a tax-deductible contribution to our special funds. The Leighton Ho Memorial Award is used for research projects in western Oregon. The Rare and Endangered Plant Fund supports work with our most threatened plants. The Jean Davis Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a botany student at an Oregon college or university. You can also include a contribution to the Oregon Flora Project along with your dues.

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

**Note for New Members:** If you joined since September, you are already enrolled for 2003. (See your address label.) You don't need to renew now.

**Note for Earthshare Contributors:** If you are receiving the *Bulletin* because you have designated part of your contribution to NPSO, your membership will continue for one year from the time of your contribution; you do not need to send a renewal payment now.



## Native Plant Society of Oregon

### World Wide Web

<http://www.NPSOregon.org>

### E-mail Discussion List

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

### General Business Address

P.O. Box 902  
Eugene, OR 97440

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

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### Bulletin of the Native Plant Society of Oregon

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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.

## 2003 Annual Meeting in John Day

The Portland Chapter will be sponsoring the 2003 NPSO Annual Meeting, based in John Day. That's not a new neighborhood of Portland—it's the real town of John Day near Strawberry and Aldrich Mountains.

We will convene Friday evening, June 20, for programs introducing us to the regional geology and flora. Saturday, June 21, will include all-day field trips, and the evening banquet, a brief business meeting, and a keynote program. The Board of Directors will meet Sunday morning, June 22.

More details and a registration form will be included in future issues of the *Bulletin*, but members may wish to book motel reservations early to be assured of choice of accommodation.

### Motels in John Day (listed first is closest to our meeting place):

Dreamers Lodge Motel, 144 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, 1-800-654-2849 or 541-575-0526, Fax: 541-575-2733, [www.grantcounty.cc/business.php/61](http://www.grantcounty.cc/business.php/61)

Best Western John Day Inn, 315 W Main St. John Day, 541-575-1700, [www.bestwestern.com/prop\\_38100](http://www.bestwestern.com/prop_38100)

Little Pine Inn, 250 E Main St., John Day, 541-575-2100

John Day Sunset Inn, 390 W. Main St. John Day, 541-575-1462

Traveler's Motel & Mini Mart, 755 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, 541-575-2076

### The RV Park at the fairgrounds in John Day:

Grant County Fair RV Park, 409 NW Bridge St, John Day, 541-575-2646

Tent camping information will be available in a future issue of the *Bulletin*.

### Other accommodation in Mt. Vernon, 10-minute drive west of John Day:

Blue Mountain Lodge Motel, 150 W Main St. Mt. Vernon, 541-932-4451

Mt. Vernon Motel & Trailer Park, 195 N. Mountain Blvd., Mt. Vernon, 541-932-4712, [www.grantcounty.cc/business.php/122](http://www.grantcounty.cc/business.php/122)



TANYA HARVEY

*Penstemon rupicola* is one of the most beautiful penstemons. Mount June near Dexter in Lane County is a terrific place to see rocky outcrops covered with bright magenta splashes of this stunning plant. It does very well in cultivation if given well-drained rock garden conditions. To learn more about native outcrop plants see book review on p.127. The first photos in the Oregon Flora project's new Photo Gallery will also concentrate on rock and alpine species (see p. 124.)

## State

**January 11, 2002, Saturday**

**Board Meeting:** The next State Board meeting will take place in Eugene. Exact time and location will be announced in the next *Bulletin*.

**June 20–22, 2003**

**Annual Meeting:** The Portland Chapter will host next year's meeting in John Day. See previous page. More information will be published later in the *Bulletin*.

## Blue Mountain

For information on the Blue Mountain Chapter call Jerry Baker at 541-566-2244.

## Cheahmill

**December**

No Meeting.

**January 23, Thursday, 7:00 pm**

**Meeting: Mid-Winter Social.** Bring finger food to share and some of your favorite botanical slides, photos, books, artwork etc. We'll plan to discuss ideas for future Chapter field trips and workshops. We'll provide warm beverages. The Social gives us a great opportunity to become better acquainted with like-minded individuals in our community! Members of the general public are welcome. 7:00 pm in the Carnegie Room, McMinnville Library, 225 N. Adams St., McMinnville. For more info contact Susan Williams at 503-538-1865 or helgesusan@attbi.com.

## Corvallis

**December 9, Monday, 7:00 pm**

**Meeting: Annual Holiday Dessert Potluck and Slide Show.** Please bring a dessert to share and 10-20 slides to show the members. We will meet at the Avery House, Avery Park, Corvallis.

## Emerald

**December 9, Monday, 7:30 pm**

(note: 2nd rather than 4th monday.)  
**Meeting: Annual Holiday Gathering & Do-It-Ourselves Slide Show.** Bring around 10 slides and a snack to share— both optional. Your Chapter will provide punch, green boughs & red berries. Place: Room 117, Science Building, Lane Community College, 4000 E. 30th Ave. Directions: At the stop light at 30th and Eldon Schafer Drive turn south on Eldon Schafer, drive up the hill, park above buildings and walk down to Science Bldg. at southeast corner of campus.

### 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. Be prepared to sign a release form indicating this. For a sample copy check out the NPSO website. 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.

**January 27, Monday, 7:30 pm**

**Meeting: Botanist in Paradise: New Zealand, Rarotonga, Thailand and Nepal.** Dr. David Wagner, former U. of O. Herbarium Curator and specialist in ferns, mosses and liverworts, traveled recently to several far-away Shangri-las. He will guide us up high mountains, through cloud forests and other lovely wild habitats, to see ferns, orchids, rhododendrons and other gorgeous plants in slides and "rubbings." Room 117 Science, LCC. See directions above.

## High Desert

For information on the High Desert Chapter, call Reid Schuller at 541-317-1901.

## Klamath Basin

For information on the Klamath Basin Chapter, contact Sarah Malaby, 541-884-5703, smalaby@cs.com; or Mike Cutler, 541-850-9012, cutler@cvc.net.

## Mid-Columbia

**December 4, Wednesday, 7:30 pm**

**Meeting: Wildflowers in The Columbia Gorge, an Historical Perspective.** A slide show out of the past, honoring the photographic works of Keith Chamberlain, Jeannice Merz, Wilma Roberts, Stuart Chapin, Emory Strong, Russ Jolley, Barbara Robinson, Nancy Russell, James Holloway, Jerry Igo, paintings by Albert Bierstadt, and line drawings by Meriwether Lewis. Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Exit 82 off I-84 in The Dalles and follow the signs.

**January 6, Monday, 7:30 pm**

Note, Monday!

**Meeting: Rock Fort, Where Lewis and Clark Stopped to Dry Out. October 1805 and April 1806.** with Lewis and Clark historian Ken Karzmiski, Michael Igo and Jerry Igo.

This site in The Dalles, Oregon has come under increased scrutiny as the Bicentennial of the Corps of Discovery approaches. How can we best research, preserve, and interpret this site? Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Exit 82 off I-84 in The Dalles and follow the signs.

## North Coast

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

## Portland

**December 10, Tuesday, 7:00 pm**

**Meeting: Slide Sharing.** Bring your slides in and share with us! We do this at the end (or beginning) of every year, so come and show us your beautiful slides! Fireside Room (#355) of the First United Methodist Church located at 1838 SW Jefferson St. in Portland. For more information contact Dee White, 503-775-2909.

## Announcing the Online Oregon Plant Photo Gallery!

*by Scott Sundberg and Linda Hardison*

The Oregon Flora Project is excited to announce that we are launching the Photo Gallery of Oregon plants. This collection of images can be accessed by visiting the project's web site at [www.oregonflora.org](http://www.oregonflora.org). Thanks to a seed grant from the North American Rock Garden Society, we are beginning the Photo Gallery with plant species suitable for rock gardens. Using additional funds from donors to the OFP, we recently purchased a slide scanner and are making digital versions of the OSU Herbarium's slide collection to add to the Photo Gallery.

Our goal is to feature photographs of all vascular plant species, subspecies, and varieties growing in Oregon outside of cultivation. Along with photographs of whole plants, we will include close-up images of features that help identify that plant.

We encourage people to participate in developing the Photo Gallery, either through donating photographs, or assisting in the cataloging and digitizing of collections. Contributing photographers will retain copyrights to their images, and will be acknowledged in the web site. The Photo Gallery will be an integral part of the digital version of the Oregon Flora. Follow our progress online as we develop this beautiful facet of the Flora Project!

For more information please visit our web site ([www.oregonflora.org](http://www.oregonflora.org)) and contact Linda Hardison at [hardisol@bcc.orst.edu](mailto:hardisol@bcc.orst.edu), 541-745-5770, or P.O. Box 402, Corvallis, OR, 97339-0402.

## Siskiyou

**December 12, Thursday, 6:30 pm**

**Meeting: Annual Holiday Party.** Come be merry while John Erwin and Frank Callahan awe you with amazing photographs of mariposa lilies (and champion trees) taken during their travels around the U.S. and Mexico, searching for every member of the genus *Calochortus*. Tour the rock museum too! Please bring a festive dish, dessert or drink to share. Crater Rock Museum, 2002 Scenic Ave, Central Point. (When traveling on I-5, take exit 35 and follow Highway 99 to Scenic Ave., turn left, go two blocks. If coming from Medford, take Hwy. 99 north, through Central Point, past the high school, and turn right at Scenic Ave. Go two blocks.) For more information call Shannon Clery at 541-201-0909.

## Umpqua Valley

**December 12, Thursday 6:00 pm**

**Meeting: The Annual Potluck at Hillcrest Vineyard,** 240 Vineyard Lane, Roseburg will precede a natural history slide presentation by Jack Hautotter. Directions: From exit 125 I-5 proceed west on the following roads, Garden Valley, Melrose, then north on Elgarose to Vineyard Lane. For more information call Richard Sommer 541-673-3709.

## Willamette Valley

*The Willamette Valley Chapter is looking for a President! Our bylaws limit the terms of the four officers to two years, so the current president is "termed out." If you're interested, please call Karl Anderson at 503-315-7329, or Wilbur Bluhm at 503-393-2934.*

## William Cusick

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



*Saxifraga bronchialis* is one of our prettiest saxes and a choice rock garden species.

TANYA HARVEY

### Mount Pisgah Arboretum Events

Seavey Loop Rd., Eugene, call 541-747-1504 for information or to register.

#### **Evergreen Wreath Workshop December 7, Saturday, 11am-12:30pm**

Create your own seasonal wreath using native evergreens, cones, and other natural materials. Ken Gillespie, a talented local florist, teaches this annual fundraiser for the Arboretum. You'll come away with new skills and a beautiful wreath perfect for decorating your home or as a unique gift. Fee: \$25. Pre-registration required.

#### **Drawing Mammals Workshop December 7, Saturday, 1-4pm**

Field experiences with mammals often leave us breathless and wanting more. In this class you'll practice sketching those quick but special glances and

### Butterfly Talk

#### **Butterflies of Western Mexico December 2, Monday, 7:30pm**

Andy Warren will present a summary of 14 years of butterfly study and research in western Mexico at the next meeting of the Eugene-Springfield Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. The talk will highlight several parts of western Mexico where extensive biodiversity studies have been conducted, and will detail the process of naming new species. Andy Warren is a doctoral candidate in entomology at Oregon State University, and one of the outstanding butterfly systematists in North America. He is co-author of the publication *Scientific Names List for Butterfly Species of North America, North of Mexico*.

The talk will be held in Room 21, Jefferson Middle School, 1650 W. 22nd, Eugene and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Eric Wold at 541-431-7388.

gestures. The second in the Arboretum's Art in Nature workshop series, Kris Kirkeby will help you master the use of pencil in sketching and making finishing touches. Fee: \$20. Pre-registration required.

#### **Sacred Geography: an evening Slide Show & lecture December 12, Thursday, 7-9pm**

Long before humans went into buildings to worship, they went out into the natural world. Join Rick Ahrens, Arboretum Nature Guide & LCC instructor, for a closer look at the symbology of trees and mountains and traditional creation stories as we explore both inner and outer landscapes of spirituality. Held at the Eugene Garden Club (1645 High St.) Suggested donation \$3-\$5.

#### **The Mysterious World of Galls December 14, Saturday, 10am-Noon**

Just what are those round growths on oak leaves and branches and wild roses? Break open the world of galls at this hands-on mini workshop for all ages with Harold Schyberg. Learn how galls are formed, what's inside, and their

ecological importance. Meet in the Visitor Center. Suggested donation \$3 per person, \$6 per family.

#### **Sacred Seasons: an evening Slide Show & lecture December 19, Thursday, 7-9pm**

Join Rick Ahrens, Arboretum Nature Guide & LCC instructor, for an examination of the connection between earth's seasons and our human celebrations. We'll explore the essence of holidays—as times when we reconnect to our selves, community, planet, and the spirit world—and how these celebrations fit into the great yearly round. Held at the Eugene Garden Club (1645 High St.) Suggested donation \$3-\$5.

#### **Winter Solstice Nature Readings December 21, Saturday, time TBA**

Join this gathering of nature and literature lovers to honor the solstice and share the beauty of the written word. Bring your favorite nature writings to share in a cozy setting with hot cider and good company. Suggested donation: \$2. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

### Nevada Wildflower Slide Show

#### **Ruby Mountains of Nevada January 11, Saturday, 1pm**

If you thought Nevada was all arid desert, think again. Stew Winchester, who teaches ecology and horticulture at Diablo Valley College in California, will present a terrific slide show on the Ruby Mountains of northeastern Nevada at the next meeting of the Emerald Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society. The Ruby Mountains are the wettest and most heavily glaciated mountains in Nevada. Along with the nearby East Humboldt Range they have the greatest diversity of plant species and richest alpine flora of any Great Basin range. Stew is very knowledgeable about both the botany and geology of many of our Western mountains and is a superb photographer.

Come to the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, Eugene. The talk is free and everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Holly Helton at 541-345-9103.

### Hello, NPSO!

by Bruce Newhouse

I hope the coming of the rains (finally!) finds you well, and thinking about how you can stay involved, or become more involved, in better protecting and restoring Oregon's native vegetation!

NPSO has had many successes over the last year, and I want to mention just a few to you.

In addition to NPSO's regular chapter activities such as monthly meetings, field trips, and providing information and input on native plant issues, we have a number of other recent successes for which we can be proud, at both the chapter and state levels!

Another excellent issue of *Kalmiopsis* (Vol. 9) is just off the presses, for which we thank our editors and their supporting cast. At this moment, our webmaster and *Kalmiopsis* editors are working to put past issues up on the web site for wide accessibility! The *Bulletin* is being maintained beautifully as our regionally-recognized newsletter, and our state web site continues to improve and expand. Several chapters now have their own web pages as well. And if you are not a member of NPSO's on-line chat group, please join in the fun. The instructions for joining are on our web site at [www.npsoregon.org](http://www.npsoregon.org).

The Siskiyou Chapter hosted a fabulous 2002 annual meeting at Green Springs, and the Portland Chapter is busy organizing the 2003 meeting to be held in John Day. NPSO is a co-sponsor of a rare plant conference in February at OSU, and the second Conference on Siskiyou Ecology to occur in June (see [www.siskiyou.org/sfi/abstracts.pdf](http://www.siskiyou.org/sfi/abstracts.pdf)). Our contributions from both state and chapter levels have provided big boosts to the Oregon Flora Project; check out their current status and new information available on their web site ([www.oregonflora.org](http://www.oregonflora.org)).

Here in Eugene, I am especially proud of the Emerald Chapter's Native Gardening Awareness Program, and

their lists of invasive natives, native shrubs for landscape use, and native nurseries and landscape contractors specializing in natives. Some of this is on the Emerald Chapter web site ([www.emeraldnpso.org](http://www.emeraldnpso.org)), and the rest will be up soon. Because of the great interest in landscaping with natives, and the dearth of local information available, I encourage other chapters to form native landscaping/gardening committees. We have gotten tremendous interest from members who are not on any other committees who participating on this one!

There are a few projects and areas for improvement for us ahead. After the fires this summer, state agencies put out planting lists containing some species of concern to NPSO because of their ability to persist and invade. Hopefully, we can develop a restoration policy which may be used in the future

by these agencies and others to guide species selection. I have put this item on the next state board meeting agenda, in the hope we can form a committee to develop this policy.

And lastly, for reasons unknown to me, several chapters are in need of officers. If you are an NPSO member concerned about preservation of Oregon's native habitats, and believe in education about, and enjoyment of, Oregon's native flora, please consider joining a chapter committee (or starting one!), or becoming a board member. It is rewarding, extremely helpful to NPSO and Oregon's native vegetation, and a whole lot of fun.

If you have any suggestions or ideas about how NPSO can better serve its members or protect native vegetation, please e-mail me at [president@NPSOregon.org](mailto:president@NPSOregon.org), or contact your chapter president.

### Do You Have Earth Share of Oregon at Your Workplace?

Market research has shown that 98% of Oregonians are concerned about the environment, which helps explain why contributions made through Earth Share of Oregon's (ESOR) annual fundraising campaign have been increasing almost every year since 1989. However, only a small percentage of Oregonians have the ability to support conservation organizations like NPSO through a payroll deduction contribution at their workplace. Wouldn't you like a simple, easy, and convenient way to support ESOR and its 70 member groups through your own workplace giving campaign? If your workplace doesn't have an ESOR campaign, we invite you to look into starting one. It's an easy way to make a difference for the earth and our community, and your co-workers will appreciate the expanded giving options! If your employer currently offers ESOR, spread the word to friends at other workplaces about ESOR and how they too can make a positive impact on our environment.

ESOR campaigns have many benefits both for the employer and the employee. Companies can demonstrate their commitment to the community, as well as their employees, by offering a broader set of charitable choices. To find out more about adding ESOR to your company's giving campaign contact Ron Shoals at ESOR: 503-223-9015 or [rrs@earthshare-oregon.org](mailto:rrs@earthshare-oregon.org); or visit [www.earthshare-oregon.org](http://www.earthshare-oregon.org). It's a great way to leverage your own commitment to the earth!

## New Encyclopedia Focuses on Western Alpines and How to Grow Them

by Loren Russell, *Corvallis Chapter*

*Alpine Plants of North America: An Encyclopedia of Mountain Flowers from the Rockies to Alaska.* 2002. Graham Nicholls. 344 pp. ISBN 0-88192-548-9 Timber Press, Portland. hardcover \$49.95. Available in bookstores or from the publisher, 503-227-2878, 800-327-5680, <http://www.timberpress.com>.

**A***lpine Plants of North America* covers a vast area from Alaska's Brooks Range to southern California and the southern Rockies. The author, who operates a small British nursery specializing in western American alpines, is familiar with many of the plants described both in the wild and in cultivation. He draws also on the experience of his collaborator Rick Lupp, who operates an alpine nursery near Tacoma, Washington.

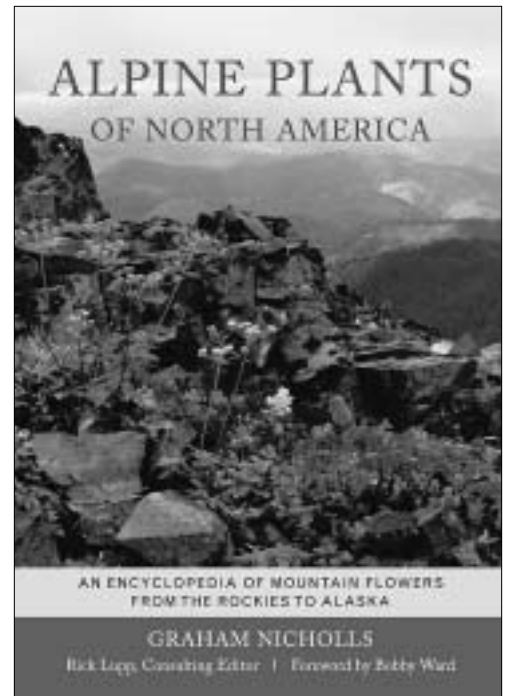
Nicholls' book opens with a definition of "alpine plant" (he follows the horticultural convention of alpine: small perennial herbs and subshrubs, generally those of outcrop, scree and meadow communities at or near timberline), and with a brief summary of the alpine mountains systems of Western North America. The latter is generalized, and primarily addressed to European and eastern North American readers, for whom our mountains all merge together as "the Rockies." This topic is a book in itself; for a non-technical reader, I recommend *Land Above the Trees*, by Ann Zwinger and Beatrice Willard.

The heart of the book is its "encyclopedia" of alpines, in which about 650 species in 54 genera are described in alphabetical order; many distinctive subspecies and varieties, as well as a few horticultural selections and hybrids, are mentioned. (Oregon, despite its limited area of alpine communities, is well represented, with about 200 species, third after California and Utah.) Notes on propagation techniques and cultivation requirements are given for each genus. About half of the species are illustrated by small color photographs dispersed through the text. Most photos are of wild plants, but about one-third

illustrate plants in cultivation; additionally, there are a number of habitat photos. Nicholls has excluded monocots, larger species of such genera as *Aquilegia* and *Delphinium*, and most of the small shrubs (shrubby penstemons and *Petrophytum* are included, however). He discusses most of the Western species in the genera traditionally grown by rock gardeners (*Saxifraga*, *Primula*, *Phlox*, *Lewisia*), but reflects diversity in the showier Western flora, including 56 species of *Penstemon*, 45 *Eriogonum*, 21 *Draba*, and 18 *Erigeron*. One of the great values of this book is its treatment of genera that are rarely cultivated and generally thought to be "difficult" (e.g., *Astragalus*, *Castilleja*). Some important alpine genera are omitted, such as *Heuchera*, *Romanzoffia*, and *Sedum*. The taxonomy used is generally current, though every horticulturalist's horror for generic novelties is shown in the preservation of *Zauschneria*.

The book concludes with a very brief section on cultivation; of greatest interest here are the descriptions of sand beds and raised scree beds. These, and the use of "hypertufa troughs" (cement planters, with peatmoss added to the cement mixture) are the best approaches to growing alpines in high winter-rainfall areas of western Oregon. Again, this chapter only skims the subject, and other texts on rock gardening should be consulted.

I find many of the recent books on "native plant gardening" to be repetitive, and nearly all emphasize the forest and prairie plants of the northeastern and north-central states. Few offer more than a nod to western American plants, and almost nothing on the alpine and subalpine plants, which I



admire in the wild and grow in my garden. Nicholls' book covers new ground, and makes available a great trove of previously unpublished gardening knowledge. It is an excellent complement to Kruckeberg's classic *Gardening With Native Plants in the Pacific Northwest*, and should be an essential reference for gardeners and horticulturists interested in these plants. Though this is hardly a field guide or flora, it has much to offer anyone with a general interest in plants of the Western mountains. In it we can compare our local flora with that of distant mountains, admire such oddities as the little "propeller plant" (*Draba stenopetala* of the Alaska Range), and marvel that such an extreme edaphic specialist as *Penstemon grahamii*, endemic to oozing oil shales in Utah's Green river formation, can settle down in cultivation.



*Deer fern, Blechnum spicant*

## Propagation of Oregon Native Ferns

*continued from page 121*

### Fern Propagation from Spore

The two most important requirements for propagating ferns from spore are sterile soil and patience.

1. In the case of *B. spicant*, collect 1-2 fertile fronds. Lay the fronds, spore side down, either in envelopes or between two pieces of paper. Allow to dry for 2-3 days. The spore will drop to the paper. Tap the edge of the paper to separate the spore (which is usually brown or black) from the chaff. Save in small envelopes and keep in a dry, cool place or for extended storage, keep in air-tight containers in your refrigerator (do not freeze, keep dry).
2. The spore will be destroyed by algae and fungus if you do not sterilize the soil, this is the most important step in the entire process. Clear, microwaveable deli containers with lids work well. Fill with 1-2 inches of commercially available potting soil. Sterilize the containers (with soil in them) and the lids in a microwave, long enough to get the soil steaming. Boil some water in the microwave while you're at it and once cool, transfer to a plastic spray bottle for later use.
3. Sow the spore thinly (can be difficult to do) on the surface of the sterile soil, cover with the air-tight lid, label and date, keep in a warm place

*continued on page 129*

## NPSO Items for Sale

**Vascular Plants of Lane County, Oregon: An Annotated Checklist** by C. Simpson, J. Koenig, J. Lippert, R. Love, B. Newhouse, N. Otting, S. Sundberg, D. Wagner, and P. Warner. Emerald Chapter, NPSO. This new county checklist includes more than 1,740 species and varieties representing 39 percent of the 4,460 plants currently recognized by the Oregon Flora Project at Oregon State University. It also includes a color map of Lane County's five major ecoregions; and information about rare and endangered species, noxious weeds, and escaped cultivated plants. Information is included for every species on habitat, ecoregion, occurrence frequency, and native or non-native origin. To order, send **\$15** payable to Emerald Chapter, NPSO to Lane County Checklist, Emerald Chapter, NPSO, PO Box 902, Eugene, OR 97440-0902.

**NPSO Membership Directory** lists names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail address of NPSO members (April 2001). Available from Jan Dobak, 2921 NE 25th Avenue, Portland, OR 97212-3460. **\$3 postpaid.**

**Camas Tee Shirt from Cheahmill Chapter.** Beautiful moss green or tan tee shirts with botanical drawing in color of *Camassia quamash* by Carlton, OR artist and Cheahmill chapter member Marilyn Karbonski. Short sleeve, high quality, **\$15 plus shipping.** For ordering information call 503-852-7230, or send order to PO Box 291, Carlton, OR 97111.

The "**Atlas of Oregon Carex**" was 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. **Price: \$5.**

**"Louis F. Henderson (1853-1942): The Grand Old Man of Northwest Botany"** by Rhoda M. Love. NPSO's second Occasional Paper is the only existing publication with detailed coverage of the long and fascinating life of this John Muir-like western character. Included: 56 pictures, 133 notes, chronology, list of plants named for Henderson. Third printing nearly sold out. Order your copy today! **Price: \$10.**

To order either or both Occasional Papers, send check for the appropriate amount (made payable to NPSO) to: **Occasional Papers, Native Plant Society of Oregon, PO Box 902, Eugene, OR 97440-0902.**

**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.



## Propagation of Oregon Native Ferns

continued from page 128

with adequate light, but not direct sun. Although supplemental heat is not required, spores sown in greenhouses or held on heat cables develop more rapidly.

4. After 1-3 months, the spores germinate and a green color develops on the soil surface. This will become prothallia, the sexual part of the fern life cycle. They appear as

wavy-edged bits of green, somewhat resembling small liverworts. Keep the prothallia moist by periodically spraying with the sterile water you previously prepared. After fertilization takes place, tiny fronds eventually grow. The tiny fern is now termed a sporling.

5. Transplant small bunches of either the prothallia (especially if they look too crowded) or the tiny sporlings into small trays/pots of sterile soil, because even at this

stage the sporlings can be overwhelmed by algae or fungus. The ferns are still only 1/4 to 1 inch in height.

6. When the sporlings develop larger fronds, transplant again into bigger individual containers. Sterile soil is not important now that the plants are showing some size.

### Blechnum Facts and Trivia:

- There are an estimated 160-240 species of *Blechnum* throughout the world. Most are tropical.
- It's reported that in the Pacific Northwest deer and elk eat *B. spicant* during winter.
- Some Blechnums, *B. spicant* is one, do not produce fertile spores every year, probably because of adverse growing conditions.
- Blechnums are in the same family as *Woodwardia* and *Doodia* ferns.

### References

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- Coombes, A. J., *Dictionary of Plant Names*, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 1991.
- Mickel, John T., *Ferns for American Gardens*, Macmillan Publishing Company, 1994.
- Cousens, M.I. "*Blechnum spicant*: Habitat vigor of optimal, marginal and disjunct populations and field observations of gametophytes." *Botanical Gazette* 142(2): 251-258. 1981.



SUE MANDEVILLE

Individual fronds of *Blechnum spicant*: Left, fertile fronds (the skinny ones), and right, vegetative fronds (the fat ones)

# OSU Herbarium Specimen Information Now Available Online!

by Aaron Liston and Scott Sundberg

The Oregon State University Herbarium Vascular Plant Specimen database is now online. Over 47,000 specimen labels have been entered to date, representing ca. 30% of the Oregon specimens in the herbarium. For most taxa, at least one specimen has been entered for each Oregon county it occurs in. All Oregon specimens have been entered for all conifer and most weed species, and for selected genera including *Allium*, *Carex*, *Festuca*, *Salix*, and *Senecio*.

Users of the database can search by scientific name, collector, date, and/or county. Searches also can provide information on collecting locality,

habitat, associated species, and elevation. Sensitive information, such as localities of rare plants, is not presented. Data in the specimen database, along with species distribution maps, will soon be available through the prototype online Oregon Plant Atlas. This will be announced on the OFP website in December.

The database was built over a period of several years as a collaborative effort between the OSU Herbarium and the Oregon Flora Project (OFP). The *Carex* Working Group, Dr. George Argus, and Dr. Barbara Wilson were major participants. Funding was provided by a number of grants, including

one from the Bureau of Land Management (to gather data on at least one county locality per plant taxon), as well as donations to the OFP from the NPSO and hundreds of individuals.

Please visit the database at [http://www.orst.edu/dept/botany/herbarium/db/vasc\\_plant.html](http://www.orst.edu/dept/botany/herbarium/db/vasc_plant.html) or via a link from the Oregon Flora Project site, <http://www.oregonflora.org>. Your comments are welcome!

## Eastside Conservation Coordinator Still Needed

The Eastside Conservation Coordinator/Chair position is currently vacant, and NPSO needs someone to fill that role. Responsibilities include working with chapters to identify and participate in public input on federal, regional, state, and local conservation-related issues that affect Oregon east of the Cascade crest. Letter writing, research, and occasionally meetings with officials or agency staff are typical duties of the position. A large time commitment is usually not required. If you are interested in serving NPSO in this position, please contact the president at [president@NPSOOregon.org](mailto:president@NPSOOregon.org).



Sitka willow (*Salix sitchensis*)

## Willamette Valley 2003 Nature Calendar Available

Dave Wagner, Emerald chapter member and former NPSO president, has once again produced a lovely calendar that every naturalist will enjoy. The calendar is illustrated by Dave with black and white drawings of a number of different Oregon native plants. 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 (University of Oregon campus) and Down to Earth (5th and Olive) or you can send \$15.00 to:

Dave Wagner  
P.O. Box 30064  
Eugene, OR 97403-1064  
541-344-3327

## Lane Checklist Updates Available

The Lane Checklist Group and the Oregon Flora Project have identified a number of new taxa, nomenclatural changes, and ID corrections affecting *Vascular Plants of Lane County, Oregon: An Annotated Checklist* published last Spring. The updates will be posted soon at [www.EmeraldNPSO.org](http://www.EmeraldNPSO.org). Hard copies will be available at Emerald Chapter meetings and events. The updates also will be printed in the February *Oregon Flora Newsletter*.

# NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON MEMBERSHIP FORM

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*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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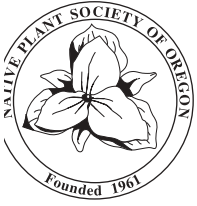
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Contributions made to the Oregon Flora Project Challenge Drive have twice the impact of a regular donation! The generosity of our anonymous donor and the NPSO make it possible to double \$12,500 in donations, with the possibility of more matching funds once this initial goal is met. Your contributions help fund Flora Project programs such as the Photo Gallery, which is described in this issue and is now available online.

All contributions to the Oregon Flora Project that are postmarked by January 10, 2003 will be matched.

Make checks payable to **NPSO** or the **OSU Foundation** (with Oregon Flora Project on the memo line) and mailed, along with this form, to the Friends of the Oregon Flora Project at the address below. Your contributions make the Oregon Flora Project happen—please be generous.

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