

Busy Week Botanizing in La Grande at the NPSO Annual Meeting

by Kent Coe, William Cusick chapter

The 2004 annual meeting of the Native Plant Society of Oregon was held in La Grande on June 25th through June 27th and was co-hosted by the Blue Mountain (Pendleton) and

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William Cusick (La Grande) Chapters. The weekend of festivities started with a couple hours of botanizing at Emigrant Springs State Park on Friday afternoon with about 25 intrepid plant fanatics. *Cypripedium montanum, Taxus brevifolia* and *Lupinus sabinianus* were some of the highlights. Friday night was registration, along with finger foods, socializing and jazz music provided by Hideki Nokariya on guitar, Luke McKern on drums and Jack Niedermann on bass.

Most of Saturday was spent on various field trips. The Hurricane Creek hike into the Eagle Cap Wilderness was lead by Susan Geer and Jerry Hustafa of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, and was very popular. Another popular field trip was scheduled to hike in the alpine area of Anthony Lakes, but due to snow, was moved to the North Fork of Catherine Creek and was lead by Wallowa-Whitman botanist Gene Yates. Paula Brooks took people along the Lostine River, looking for *Botrychium* species, of which they saw four.

Eastern Oregon University botany professor Karen Antell and Dick Kenton of the Plantworks led people through Ladd Marsh looking at restoration of wetlands. Danna Lytjen and Nick Otting came from Eugene to focus a field trip on the carices and salices of northeast Oregon. Again, due to the phenology of the plants, the trip was modified, and combined with the Ladd Marsh field trip. Andy Huber of the Oregon State University range department lead participants to his property near Elgin and then up Phillips Creek and into the Blue Mountains. Ron Kelley of the EOU science faculty showed NPSO members Summit Road to Indian Rocks where numerous *Lomatium* species were seen. Jerry Baker of the Blue Mountain Chapter led the trip to Cusick Creek as well as Thief Valley, and past Catherine Creek State Park. The Morgan Lake field trip, led by Kent Coe, spent the day at the nearby City of La Grande park.

Saturday night's banquet featured a menu of chicken cordon-bleu, salads and cheesecake. The after-dinner festivities where emceed by Berta Youtie, with Bruce Newhouse giving a farewell address. Bruce Barnes was the featured speaker presenting a program on his interactive plant keys for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. (See http://www.xidservices.com/FID)

Sunday ended the get together with half day field trips back to Summit Road in the Blue Mountains and to the PlantWorks, a local native plant nursery, while the Board of Directors for NPSO met on the EOU campus. Next year the Annual Meeting is scheduled to be in Roseburg, hosted by the Umpqua Chapter. See you then.

For plant lists from the North Fork Catherine Creek and Morgan Lake field trips e-mail Kent Coe at kcoe@orednet.org.



Native Plant Society of Oregon

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http://www.NPSOregon.org

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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.

Editor's Note Submission Information for Next Issue

Next issue we're back to the normal schedule. Please send all your submissions and articles for the next issue by September 10. To help streamline the process please use the format and order you see in the current *Bulletin*. No need to put the year, but please include date, day, time and contact information with full area code. And please put which chapter the events are for and "NPSO" in the e-mail subject so it will not get lost among the hundreds of e-mails I receive each week. Thanks!

Be On The Lookout . . .

... for NPSO members who might be candidates for one of the positions on the Officer's slate or Board of Directors that will be filled for year 2005. I know, I know, we just got through installing for 2004. But nominations must be made in time for the committee to report to the President December 1, 2004. Time flies!

The elected positions are as follows: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary (one-year terms), and three Directors-at-Large (two-year terms). You must ask the nominees permission to put their name on the ballot. Nominees will be asked for a short biographical paragraph. There are four board meetings a year, one of which is the Annual Meeting, and you're going to that anyway, aren't you?

As an Officer or Board Member you will receive rewards: the association with interesting plant-centric folks and the knowledge that you are helping to conserve the flora of Oregon. Maybe even fame and glory, who knows?

Nominating Committee, Chair Dan Luoma, Dick Brainerd, Esther McEvoy, Veva Stansell.



Horsemint (Agastache urticifolia) may not be bright red but its tubular flowers are irresistible to hummingbirds as well as butterflies and sphinx moths. Along the Buck Canyon trail in the Rogue Umpqua Divide Wilderness where this photo was taken, large numbers of Rufous hummingbirds were fighting over patches of the pale lavender flowers.

State

October 16, Saturday

Board Meeting: The Siskiyou chapter will host the fall board meeting in Ashland. Watch for more information on time, place and directions in the October *Bulletin*.

Blue Mountain

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

Cheahmill

September 23, Thursday, 7:00 pm Meeting: Burning Forests—Humans and Fire in the Pacific Northwest. William Robbins, Oregon State University Emeritus Distinguished Professor of History, and Chautauqua scholar, will discuss the interplay of history and landscape; specifically, the cultural, ecological and economic role played by fire in the PNW. Mr. Robbins's program is made possible by funding from the Oregon Council for the Humanities, an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. OCH is dedicated to providing opportunities for life-long learning in communities throughout Oregon. For more information about OCH or Oregon Chautauqua please call Carol Hickman at 503- 241-0543. Meeting at 7:00 pm, Carnegie Room, McMinnville Library, 225 N. Adams St. For more information on the Cheahmill chapter contact Susan Williams at 503-538-1865 or helgesusan@comcast.net.

Corvallis

For information on the Corvallis Chapter call Marilynn Karbonski at 503-852-7230.

Emerald

September 9, Thursday, 9:30 am Herbarium Work Party: Assist with mounting and organizing specimens in the Rowe-Love Herbarium at Lane Community College. Meet in the LCC Science Building (Bldg 16) Rm 117 from 9:30 am to noon. Refreshments provided. No background necessary and all assistance is appreciated. Learn some valuable collection and preparation skills and contribute to adding to our collection of over 3000 specimens. Contact Gail Baker, Lane Community College, 541-463-5085 or bakerg@lanecc.edu.

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. September 20, Monday, 7:30 pm Meeting: Forests, Fire and Politics: Lessons from the Wild Siskiyou. The largest logging project in the modern history of our National Forests is bringing a spotlight on the botanicallyrich Siskiyou Wild Rivers Area in southwestern Oregon. From the management of roadless forests to fire risk reduction, the "Biscuit Fire Recovery Project" is the single most important forest management project in the country. In this interactive slide presentation, we will explore the special qualities of the wild Siskiyou, current political issues and fire ecology. Speaker Rolf Skar has served as campaign coordinator for the Siskiyou Regional Education Project for two and a half years. Having worked on environmental issues professionally for more than seven years, Rolf has also volunteered for a variety of conservation campaigns in Oregon. 7:30 pm, Room 115, Science Building, Lane Community College, 4000 30th Avenue East, Eugene. The College is just west of Interstate 5 on 30th Avenue; the Science Building is at the southeast corner of campus with generous free parking.

October 2, Saturday, 8:00 am Field Trip: Moss and Lichen ID at Coast. Rob Weiss and Dave Wagner will lead a 4 mile tour through shore pine forest at Sutton Creek to study rare species such as *Limbella fryei* and *Leioderma sorediatum*. Bring hand lens, lunch and boots. Meet at 8:00 am at South Eugene High School or at 10:00 am at the FM-Fuel Stop at Fred Meyers in Florence. Northwest Forest Pass required. For more information contact Rob Weiss at 541-563-3947

or Dave Wagner at 541-344-3327.

High Desert

August 14, Saturday, 8:30 am

Field Trip: Broken Top Volcano. Our annual trek to view the spectacular glaciated scenery and alpine wildflowers in the High Cascades west of Bend is a six-mile round-trip, moderate-to-strenuous hike with a 1700' elevation gain. We'll 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. If we can't go to Broken Top we will hike Black Crater. Pre-registration is required! Call trip leader Stu Garrett for sign-up: eves 541-389-6981. The sooner the better!!

Klamath Basin

For information on the Klamath Basin Chapter, contact Sarah Malaby, 541-884-5703, smalaby@cs.com.

Mid-Columbia

August 4, Wednesday, 7:30 pm Meeting: On Top of the Cascades: Subalpine wildflowers, Shrubs & Trees. Bring your favorite specimens and some ripe huckleberries. Also ongoing seed collection information for native plant gardening. The Dalles Chronicle Meeting Room, 317 E. 3rd, The Dalles.

North Coast

For information on the North Coast Chapter, contact Janet Stahl at 503-842-8708 or jjs@oregoncoast.com.

Portland

For information on the Portland Chapter contact Mandy Tu at imtu@tnc.org.

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 2003). 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 Marilynn 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 Muirlike western character. Included: 56 pictures, 133 notes, chronology, list of plants named for Henderson. Fourth printing, February, 2004. 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.

Siskiyou

All trip participants will be required to sign a disclaimer. For more information about any trip, call the trip leader.

August 7, Saturday, 10:00 am

Field Trip: Dutchman Peak/Observation Peak (west of Mt Ashland). Visit two easily accessible Botanical Areas in Rogue River National Forest and see rare plants and beautiful wildflowers still in bloom when lower elevations are hot, dry, and bloomless. Short, easy walks. Meet 10:00 am at Star Ranger Station in the Applegate Valley, 7 miles south of Ruch on Upper Applegate Rd. Leader: Barbara Mumblo 541-899-3855 (w).

Umpqua Valley

For information on the Umpqua Valley Chapter call Ron Hatt at 541-863-7024.

Willamette Valley

August 14, Saturday, 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Field Trip: McNeil Point. We will view mountain meadow flowers in the Mt. Hood area. Plan for a long day and bring a lunch. For more information, call John Savage (503-399-8615).

William Cusick

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

Great Opportunity to Serve NPSO!

o you love NPSO? Do you live or work near the Portland area? NPSO is looking for someone to serve as our NPSO representative at Earth-Share. What is EarthShare? EarthShare is a federation of leading non-profit environmental and conservation organizations that work to promote environmental education and charitable giving through workplace giving campaigns. NPSO receives a large proportion of its annual income from EarthShare. We need a representative that will attend EarthShare meetings (in Portland) every month. For more information about this opportunity, please contact Shane Latimer at slatimer@jsanet.com.



Calochortus eurycarpus seen at Morgan Lake just outside of La Grande.



NPSO members Paul Slichter, Wilbur Bluhm and Ed Myers botanizing near Mt. Emily during the recent NPSO Annual Meeting in La Grande.

BY GAIL BAKEF

HOTOS I

Willamette National Forest Outings

The Willamette National Forest is offering various guided hikes to pick berries, view wildflowers, enjoy scenery and learn about the history of the area. Some hikes are free and some have a nominal fee to cover costs like transportation.

South Pyramid Trail August 20, Friday, 8 am

As a link between the Old Cascades Trail network and the Middle Santiam Wilderness trail system, this difficult 5.4-mile trail drops off the base of South Pyramid and follows the creek that shares the same name. Hikers will experience younger forests until the trail drops through a beautiful oldgrowth forest. Meet at Sweet Home Ranger District at 8 am. Bring lunch and water, hiking boots, appropriate clothing. Transportation is provided. \$10 (\$5 with Golden Age/Access card).

Berry Picking Bonanza August 27, Friday, 9 am

Learn to recognize all kinds of edible and poisonous wild berries. Short easy hikes at several locations on the Sweet Home Ranger District, culminating in a great huckleberry picking area. Meet at the Sweet Home Ranger District at 9:00 am. Bring lunch and water; transportation is provided. \$10.00 (\$5.00 with Golden Age/Access Card). Trip Leader: Botanist Alice Smith. To participate contact Joanne West at 541-367-9206. Sign up early as this event is limited to 20 people.

Nearby Nature Volunteer Orientation

September 14, Tuesday, 6:30-8 pm

Learn about becoming a park nature guide, helping with school programs, working on ecological restoration and more! Meet at the Park Host Residence in Alton Baker Park in Eugene (between the dog run and new community gardens), 541-687-9699.

Judge Waldo* Hike Daly Lake/Pyramid Creek September 10, Friday, 8 am

Retrace the steps of Judge Waldo on this moderate 3.5-mile hike. Meet at Sweet Home Ranger District at 8 am. Bring lunch and water, hiking boots, appropriate clothing. Transportation is provided. \$10 (\$5.00 with Golden Age/Access card). To participate contact Joanne West at 541-367-9206.

Judge Waldo* Hike South End Waldo Lake September 17, Friday, 9 am

Follow the route of Judge Waldo's party from Shadow Bay boat ramp to his Camp Edith on the south short of Waldo Lake on this moderate 3-mile hike. Meet at Middle Fork Ranger District at 9 am. Bring lunch and water, hiking boots, appropriate clothing. Transportation is provided. \$10 (\$5.00 with Golden Age/Access card). To participate contact Carol Winker at 541-782-5318.

Judge Waldo* Hike Santiam Wagon Road September 24, Friday, 9 am

Follow Judge Waldo's trail from Fish Lake to Clear Lake, the headwaters of the McKenzie River. Meet at McKenzie River Ranger District at 9 am. Bring lunch and water, hiking boots, appropriate clothing. Transportation is provided. \$10 (\$5.00 with Golden Age/Access card). To participate contact Eric Bergland at 541-822-7235.

*Judge John B. Waldo, a native Oregonian, was born in 1844. He graduated from Willamette University in 1870 and was elected to the Oregon Supreme Court in 1880. Throughout his years in government and up until his death in 1907, Waldo was a steadfast defender of Oregon's "free and untrammeled wilderness." He cherished the High Cascades and could easily be called the "John Muir of Oregon."

Special Lewis & Clark Exhibit: A Passion For Plants

July 17 ~ November 15, 2004 Maryhill Museum of Art, Goldendale, WA

During their journey through the Northwest, Lewis & Clark documented 45 native plants. Their journal entries about the plants are a unique combination of science and art. Included in the exhibit are photographs of original Lewis and Clark Herbarium sheets, plant study specimens, early 20th century hand-tinted photographs by celebrated Northwest photographer Albert Barnes, historic Native American objects decorated with or fabricated from those plants alongside contemporary works of art by Northwest artists Rebecca Allan, Ineke de Lange, Ron van Dongen, Kay French, and Stephan Soihl who were inspired by the same plants.

Maryhill Museum of Art is open daily from 9am to 5pm, through November 15, and is located on Washington Scenic Route 14 just west of US 97. General admission is \$7, seniors \$6, children under 17 \$2. For more information call 509-773-3733 or go to www.maryhillmuseum.org.

Day of Service & Fun at Henry Hagg Lake

September 18, Saturday

SOLV-sanctioned Debris Removal Event & Afternoon of Play in the Park in honor of Clean Up the World Day at Henry Hagg Lake, Scoggins Valley Park, in Gaston. There will be a full day of events such as a Native Plant Hike, Natural Gardening Techniques for the New and Experienced Gardener, Birds & Butterflies, fishing, boating, skiing, biking, and more. Free!

RSVP is required to plan enough food everyone. For more information call 503-493-6918 Ext. 3 or e-mail letters@thebeckersonline.com.



The tall pale yellow wands of Pedicularis bracteosa are a common sight in moist subalpine meadows and can be found in moist forests as well. There was a particularly good show of them this summer in the wet meadows of Olallie Mountain in the Three Sisters Wilderness.

Friends of the Oregon Flora Project



www.oregonflora.org

For many, photographing native plants is one of the pleasures that comes with an awareness of Oregon's botanical treasures, whether they are found in your back yard or on a high country field trip. Would you like your photographs to become part of a resource that will benefit many?

The Oregon Flora Project will be launching its Photo Gallery in the new year, and we welcome your photographic input. A preliminary information sheet about the photo gallery and how to contribute images can be found at:

www.oregonflora.org/oregonphotogallery.html. This site has lists of the taxa which the Flora Project has images of, and taxa for which we have none. Take these lists on your next outing, and see how many plants that you photograph may be just what the Photo Gallery needs!

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

A Little Help From Our Friends

The fall fundraising season upon us—and you can help. Not only with money, although that's always appreciated—but with good will. NPSO is a member of Earth Share of Oregon (ESOR), a nonprofit organization that raises funds for 66 environmental groups through workplace giving campaigns in over 75 businesses and public agencies in Oregon. Is there an Earth Share campaign where you work?

This is a great opportunity for NPSO to reach out to new audiences and potential supporters. How can you help? By expressing your support for Earth Share in small ways at your workplace.

Earth Share is looking for people who would be willing to:

- Hang up a few beautiful ESOR posters
- Keep ESOR brochures at your desk as a resource
- Send an informational email to your friends reminding them that the campaign has started
- Inform co-workers about ESOR volunteer opportunities

One of the most powerful things you can do to support conservation work across the state is to increase the circle of ESOR supporters at your own workplace. If you'd be willing to help in these simple ways, or if you have your own ideas for increasing the success of ESOR's campaign in your workplace, please contact Patty Lyons, ESOR Campaign Director at 503-223-9015, pal@earthshare-oregon.org or visit www.earthshare-oregon.org.

Highlights of the Quarterly State Board Meeting, June 27 in La Grande

by Leslie Rossmell, Secretary

M any thanks to the impressive joint effort of the Blue Mountain and Wm Cusick chapters for organizing this year's Annual Meeting and hosting the Board meeting in La Grande. The meeting was well attended, with many new faces and board officers. Meeting activities and reports are briefly noted here. Please contact Leslie Rossmell to request draft minutes for a complete report.

Trudy Toliver, Executive Director of EarthShare of Oregon (ESOR), kicked off the meeting with a presentation and question and answer session about ESOR and NPSO roles. Trudy outlined the many ways we can increase contributions to NPSO, such as members' making presentations to participating employers. We are grateful for Rhoda Love, Bruce Newhouse and Linda Hardison for making regular presentations at ESOR events. Shane Latimer, ESOR liaison, pointed out that NPSO benefits from several generous ESOR donors who have earmarked NPSO. Such donors have increased each year. According to Dan Luoma, about 14% of our unrestricted budget is from ESOR. Shane Latimer has served as our ESOR liaison for several years and is seeking a replacement. For details please contact Shane at slatimer@jsanet.com.

Les Helgeson has volunteered to be chairperson of the Legislative Committee and Matt Blakeley-Smith has volunteered to promote a Native Plant Awareness Week in Oregon for 2005. Ron Hatt, Umpqua Valley president, proposed creating NPSO membership cards. Vendors could give discounts or donations to members who have membership cards. Ron will work with Clay Gautier, the membership committee chairperson, to establish a process and ground rules for distributing membership cards. Clay Gautier reported membership is up by 50. In April, NPSO received a record number of field research grant proposals. Dan Luoma reported several chapters donated over \$3000 to support four more research projects beyond our budget.

Darlene Southworth, West Side Conservation Chair, drafted a letter of concern for NPSO Board and Chapters regarding Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's plan to reintroduce mountain goats into the Columbia River Gorge. Darlene works with chapters on specific issues in local areas to coordinate and assist in a concerted NPSO response. Members receiving the NPSO listserve have appreciated Darlene's conservation e-mail notices and requests in the past few months.

Rhoda Love received responses to NPSO petitions to protect Henderson's Checkermallow, Sidalcea hendersonii, in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Plant Conservation Biology Program stated the NPSO petition "presents sufficient scientific and related evidence to justify a full status review." A similar petition to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); received a less positive reply. The USFWS anticipates making an initial finding in Fiscal Year 2005 as to whether the petition warrants action. Summer field work includes surveys in Oregon and Washington, reintroductions, and potential habitat purchases by The McKenzie River Trust of Eugene.

Linda Hardison, Friends of the Oregon Flora Project, will work with the OSU Foundation on a challenge grant program this winter for the Oregon Flora Project. We hope to secure a major donor for matching funds! Scott Sundberg and his team at the Oregon Flora Project continue to add data to the Atlas database in preparation for public release of the Atlas mapping program. Launching of images in a photo gallery is slated for the end of year.

Cindy Roché received rave reviews for the latest *Kalmiopsis*, a special theme issue of Oregon Plants, Oregon Places. The issue was a partnership with the Bureau of Land Management. Consideration of future *Kalmiopsis* theme issues and partnerships will be taken up at the October board meeting. Rhoda Love is coordinating a possible Occasional Paper by John Christy of the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center focusing on Oregon botanist Martin Gorman's 1926 flora of the Portland area. A discussion of the interesting contrasts between Portland's present and past flora is also under consideration.

The Strategic Planning Committee has been busy developing an operations handbook for smoother transitions between incoming and outgoing officers and between chapters and the state Board. An Annual Report will be produced this fall for the *Bulletin*, a membership survey is under consideration for 2005 and discussion of a part-time staff position is ongoing. The end goal is to strengthen our organization, increase our activities and influence, and increase membership.

Our chapters reported busy field trip and events season—too numerous to adequately cover here! Watch for the new Annual Report coming this fall for Chapter Highlights!

Eastside Conservation Coordinator Still Needed

We still need a Conservation Coordinator/Chair for the Eastside. Responsibilities include working with chapters and the state board to identify and participate in public input on federal, regional, state, and local conservation-related issues that affect Oregon. 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 the position, please contact the president at president@NPSOregon.org.

Solidago canadensis: a North American Native Plant Invading Europe

By Mark van Kleunen, originally published in Menziesia, the newsletter of the Native Plant Society of British Columbia

M ost of you will know about the threat that alien invasive plants such as Scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius) and ivy (Hedera helix) impose to the native flora and ecosystems of British Columbia. However, it might be less generally known that some of the plants that are native here are less innocent than they look and are invading other continents. For example, the yellow monkeyflower (Mimulus guttatus) has been introduced as an ornamental species from western North America into eastern North America, New Zealand and Europe. The species has escaped from gardens into natural riparian habitats where it may impede stream flow. In the United Kingdom there has been a fivefold increase in the range of the yellow monkeyflower during the last 20 years (Truscott et al. 2002), showing that this species is on its way to conquering Europe.

The yellow monkeyflower, however, is still relatively innocent when compared to Canadian goldenrod, Solidago canadensis. This species was introduced into Europe in the 17th century and is now recognized as one of the most aggressive weeds in Europe. As the story goes, the Canadian goldenrod was first planted in the botanical gardens of London, and from there it was distributed to other botanical gardens and nurseries throughout Europe. Now the species can be found from northern Italy to southern Scandinavia along roadsides and railroads and in old fields, and it still has not reached its potential range. Moreover, the species has also been introduced into Asia and Australia.

Although many species have been introduced from one continent to another, only a small fraction of them have become invasive with disastrous consequences for native ecosystems. It is, however, still unpredictable why some species become invasive and others not. Based on the observation that many invasive species appear to grow

taller in their invasive ranges than in their native ranges, it has been hypothesized that these plants may be so successful because they lack natural herbivores and pathogens in their new ranges (Crawley 1987). This has inspired other people to also introduce natural herbivores and pathogens as biological control agents. Based on this so-called enemy release hypothesis other biologists hypothesized that invasive plants may have undergone evolutionary change in their new range (Blossey and Nötzold 1995). They argued that because natural enemies are absent in the new range, plants there do not need their resistance mechanisms anymore. Moreover, because resistance mechanisms cost resources, plants that lack resistance mechanisms might invest more resources into growth and the production of more offspring. As a consequence plants with low resistance but high growth rates are expected to take over in the new ranges.

I tested this so-called EICA (evolutionary increased competitive ability) hypothesis for the Canadian goldenrod (van Kleunen and Schmid 2003). I grew plants from ten North American (native) and nine European (invasive) populations in a garden in Zurich, Switzerland to test for differences in growth and reproduction. In addition, I also tested for differences in resistance against herbivory. To do this, I simulated herbivory on half of the plants by clipping half of the leaves and by spraying them with the chemical jasmonic acid which induces similar responses in plant as herbivory by insects.

To my surprise, I did not find a higher rate of growth and reproduction for European plants compared to American plants, but that rather the reverse was true. European plants grew less tall and had smaller inflorescences than American plants. Moreover, plants from both continents did not differ in resistance to the simulated herbivory treatment. The lower growth rate and reproduction of European plants to that of American plants suggests that European plants may have suffered from inbreeding when the population was still small shortly after the species arrived in Europe. This makes it even more remarkable that the Canadian goldenrod is so invasive in Europe. Probably the life history characteristics of the Canadian goldenrod including its tall stature, the production of a large number (> 10,000) of seeds and perennial rhizomes, have pre-destined this species to be a successful invader.

Literature

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- Truscott, A. M., L. Newell, and P. E. Hulme. 2002. Distribution of monkey flower—*Mimulus* guttatus—along the tributaries of the River Dee, Aberdeenshire. Page 9 in Abstracts of the British Ecological Society Annual Meeting at the University of York, UK.
- Van Kleunen, M., and B. Schmid. 2003. No evidence for an evolutionary increased competitive ability (EICA) in the invasive plant *Solidago Canadensis. Ecology* in press.

Field Trip to Beatty Creek **Research Natural Area**

by Gail Baker, Science Division, Lane Community College

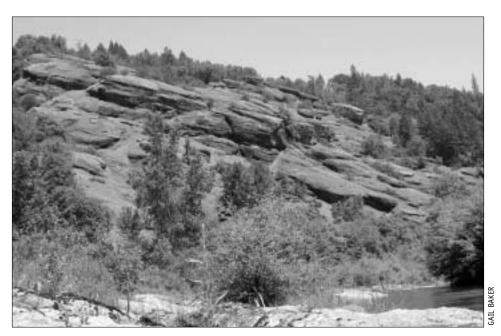
T aving enjoyed the piece on Beatty Creek Research Natural Area (RNA) in the most recent issue of NPSO's journal Kalmiopsis, I took a trip with three others to explore the possibility of including this site in my field trip itinerary for spring field botany courses at Lane Community College. On June 16th the landscape was at the tail end of the spring season—obvious from the golden hues of dried grasses, the predominance of fruit on both annuals and perennials, and the spots of pink aggregations of species of "farewell-to-spring," Clarkia gracilis, C. amoena and what appeared to be a swarm of intermediates between the two, plus summer-blooming purple Brodiaea elegans.

Nonetheless we were able to enjoy many species in fruit and add some plants to the list published in the recent Kalmiopsis (2004, 11:54-59). We were also able to get a clearer idea about access to the site and the variety of habitats. The directions for "Visiting Beatty Creek" in Kalomipsis were clear and the "unmarked pullout" seems to be the location from which the photo on page 54 was taken.

Where we had difficulty was the "scramble around and over the rock outcrops." For us it proved to be a steep hike to the top of the open hillside where the trail seemed to dead-end with no possibility of reaching the Jeffrey pine savanna or exploring the interior of the site. We then followed the Beatty Creek trail until it ended abruptly in a large

open camping area. We were able to avoid the abundant poison oak on either side of the trail; however cross-country hiking through this forest is not recommended.

It was nice to see the variety of understory plants along the creek, especially the California bay, Umbellularia californica, heavy with fruit. We ate lunch in the shade along Cow Creek



Beatty Creek Research Natural Area



Clarkia amoena

just below the RNA, an area with a rich diversity of plants including a healthy population of Epipactis gigan*tea*, (Orchidaceae), and a most amazing display of approximately 15 merganser chicks running up the creek! We recommend incorporating this area within the RNA in the future. Note for other explorers: a mid-May or earlier visit to Beatty Creek might find the flowers in peak bloom. For our next visit we would like to have clearer directions about how to navigate further into the Natural Area.

We found three species to add to the published list. We used both Hitchcock and Jepson to key plants, relying more heavily on Jepson. The following were in flower at the time of our visit. The last two species are introduced.

Clarkia amoena ssp. huntiana Kickxia elatine (in flower & fruit) Vitis vinifera (identified from its bisexual flowers)

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Valley of the Giants

by Susan Aldrich-Markham, Cheahmill chapter

The Cheahmill (McMinnville) and L the Corvallis chapters combined for a field trip on May 23, 2004, to Valley of the Giants. This is a BLM Outstanding Natural Area of ancient forest in the Coast Range, near the source of the north fork of the Siletz River. Some of the Douglas firs and western hemlocks are 400-450 years old and more than 20 feet in circumference. Trees this large were unusual even in the pre-settlement era because the Coast Range was periodically devastated by large fires. Also, the Valley of the Giants is one of the wettest places in the state, with up to 300 inches of rainfall per year.

The good news is that Valley of the Giants is not much visited. As a result, this 51-acre parcel has remained pristine and free of non-native plants. The bad news is the reason it is so rarely visited is that it's so hard to get to. While VOG lies only 14 miles as the crow flies west of Falls City, the unpaved road is 31 miles, circuitous and rough, and takes over an hour to drive. It passes through privately-owned industrial timber land with active logging operations. There are numerous other roads to get lost on if you do not have a very good map. Visiting VOG on a weekday, when log trucks are likely to be using the roads, is not recommended.

One highlight of the field trip was just outside VOG along the road. This was a huge wet rock face, covered with tiny water-loving plants, including common monkey flower (*Mimulus* guttatus), small-flowered alum root (*Heuchera micrantha*), columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), Montia parvifolia var. parvifolia, and Romanzoffia californica. Hiking the 1.3 mile loop trail inside the VOG gave us a rare glimpse of a western Oregon forest relatively untouched by humans—an experience well worth the day's drive.