



Bulletin

of the

Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

VOLUME 42, No. 1

JANUARY 2009

What Have NPSOers Been Up To In 2008?

Maybe this January issue of the *Bulletin* finds you relaxing in front of the fire, hot toddy (or hot chocolate) in hand, as the rain or snow beats on the window and the native plant nursery and seed catalogs pile up at your feet. Maybe your relaxed mind wanders pleasantly, dreaming of the spring to come and the new plant species to discover. At some time in this pleasant interlude you may wonder, idly or otherwise, what NPSO chapter members in other parts of Oregon have been doing. Well, wonder no longer, for we'll now hear from several Chapters on just that very subject:

CHEAHMILL CHAPTER held its annual Wildflower Show and Education Day in May, which featured blooms in vases, a plant sale, native plant garden tours and "Stump the Plant Chumps" (*this sounds like a great idea!...Ed.*) And, we made plans for the year at our Annual Meeting and Potluck, which was held at Miller Woods. A concept we're very proud of is our Partners in Purpose program: we've got a long list of nearby projects, workshops, events and contact information for other organizations whose purposes have much in common with ours.

To sharpen our knowledge of plants we have a 10-minute discussion each meeting about a chosen plant-of-the-month, a well-received part of our program. Work parties are held every month to maintain the native plant garden surrounding the Carnegie Building at the McMinnville Library, and since notice of these work parties has been appearing in the *Bulletin* more people have shown up for them. Several field trips were held in the spring, and one

at this writing in the fall of the year. We hope attendance for field trips will go up again in the coming year!

EMERALD CHAPTER had quite a year, with activities in far-off meadows to cities and everywhere in between. Spring found us helping plant thousands of trees with the McKenzie River Land Trust at Green Island. There was a hike in Buford Park, a tour of potential

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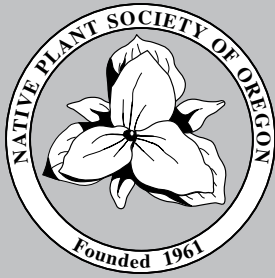
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IT'S STILL RENEWAL TIME

The NPSO membership year is January to December. Many of you have already renewed, but if you haven't yet, please do so before February 15 to ensure you do not miss out on any of the *Bulletins* or on the 2009 issue of *Kalmiopsis*. (It's a good idea to check the address label on this issue of the *Bulletin* before you renew: if it shows 2009 or a later date, e.g., 2010 along the top, you are all set for the coming year and don't need to renew now.)

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

Notice for Earth Share contributors: It's not necessary to send in the membership form unless you wish to become a regular member of NPSO. You'll continue to receive the *Bulletin* for one year from the time of your contribution.



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, with the following in the body of the message: `subscribe npsos`

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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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.

2009 NPSO Annual Meeting

Mark Your Calendars!

June 5–7

Hosted by
Corvallis Chapter

Yachats

More Information
Soon!

Early *Kalmiopsis* Going Online

Thanks to the efforts of Cindy Roché, who provided the printed copies, and of Leslie Gottlieb, who is scanning all the pages, we will soon have all the issues of our journal, *Kalmiopsis*, available online on the NPSO website. All the later issues have been there for years, but Volumes 1-6 have not, because they were produced in non-electronic form. As of early December 2008, all of Volume 1 had been scanned, with a JPEG image being made for each page. Those page images were then converted and combined into the standard PDF format. Volume 1 has been uploaded to the state website, with the remaining issues expected to be available there by the end of January. Look under "Newest Site Updates" on the right of the home page (www.npsoregon.org) for a link to the latest uploads.



TANYA HARVEY

Sometimes plants get confused. Here boreal sandwort (Minuartia rubella) is blooming quite well—in December! The many dried stalks prove that it already had bloomed as usual in June. At least 6 more sandworts were also sending out flowers. Whatever the conditions are that trigger these out of season blossoms, no other species were fooled here at 4600' on Mt. June in Lane County. Hopefully they will survive not being dormant as a major cold snap has arrived.

State

January 24, Saturday, 10am–2pm

Board Meeting: The Willamette Valley chapter will host the Quarterly State Board of Directors Meeting at the Straub Environmental Learning Center, 1320 A St. NE (near Olinger Pool) in Salem. Maps showing the location and suggested driving routes can be downloaded at: www.fsl.orst.edu/mycology/maps/StraubCenterMaps.html.

Blue Mountain

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

Cheahmill

For more information visit the chapter website: www.oregon-nativeplants.com

January 22, Thursday, 7 pm

Program: New Book Presentation and Plant Lovers Discussion. Local artist Wendy Thompson and NPSO member Laura McMasters will give a short presentation on their recently published book, *Kaleidoscope*, which offers day-tours of nature in Yamhill County. Then a roundtable discussion will give everyone present a chance to share and ask questions about choosing, planting and caring for native plants in their own gardens. Order forms for the Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District's big annual native plant sale on February 12-14 will be available; for more information visit www.yamhillswcd.org/proj_events/native_plant.html.

January 25, Sunday, 10 am–noon

Work Party: Native Plant Garden at the McMinneville Library. Bring your garden tools and join us in the first work party of the year. For more information please contact Susan Williams at 503-538-1865 or helgesusan@comcast.net.

Corvallis

To join the Corvallis e-mail list to receive notification of upcoming events, please e-mail mattbs@peak.org

January 12, Monday, 7:30pm

Meeting: A Habitat for Humidity—How to Build and Plant an Artificial Wetland. If you like to grow native plants, there are many that are garden-worthy but require constant moisture to survive or prosper. Many gardens incorporate “water features” as amenities, but these are usually small ponds and waterfalls, and not really designed

to grow wetland plants. Loren Russell has played around with so-called garden bogs over the years, and 2 years ago he built his most ambitious to date, about 80 square feet that accommodates 40+ taxa, perhaps 1/4 native. In this talk, he will discuss how to site the bog, and technical issues such as the appropriate liner, soil mixes, and irrigation. He will also show some of the native plants [and some exotics] suitable for bog gardens. Meeting to be held at the Avery House Nature Center, Avery Park, Corvallis. Questions? matt@appliedeco.org

January 17, Saturday, 10 am

Workshop: Growing Native Plants from Seed. We'll teach you the techniques required to start growing more plants than you'll know what to do with! Bring seeds of native plants that you have collected and share your bounty with other members. Also bring tags and lots of small pots or seedling trays. We'll provide soil and extra seed. Meet at the Institute for Applied Ecology, on the corner of 6th and Jefferson in Corvallis.

Emerald

January 12, Monday, 7:30 pm

Meeting: Hydrophytes, Water-Loving Plants Found in Wetlands in and near Eugene. Drawing from her 30-year slide archive, Charlene Simpson, Emerald Chapter's R & E Chair, will discuss the types and value of wetlands in and near Eugene and the adaptations of plants found in these habitats. She'll explore the origins of Willamette Valley clay soils and discusses aerobic and anaerobic respiration, comparing these processes with photosynthesis. She'll conclude with a brief look at biological pollutants—invasive exotic species that out-compete natives in the wetland environment. EWEB Training Room at 500 East 4th Avenue, Eugene. Call 541-746-9478.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Field trips take place rain or shine, so proper dress and footwear are essential. **BRING WATER AND LUNCH.** 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. Dogs are not allowed. 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 some 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.

February 12, Thursday, 7:30 pm

(Note the change to Thursday from Monday)

Meeting: Biogeography of Arctic and Alpine Plants. Dave Predeek, who has traveled widely to the Alps, the Arctic, and various high Northwest mountain areas, will show his pictures of similar plant communities occurring in these three regions. The program will be held in the EWEB Training Room at 500 East 4th Ave., Eugene. For more information call 541-345-5531.

February 21, Saturday, 9 am–1 pm

Field Trip: Mt. Pisgah. View early wildflowers and see habitat restoration work on the floodplain of the Coast Fork of the Willamette. Along the 3-mile walk (total), *Enemion stipitatum* (dwarf isopyrum) should be blooming. Participants should bring snacks and water. Meet at 9 am at South Eugene High School or at 9:15 am at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. For more information, call 541-345-5531.

High Desert

To be added to the e-mail list for upcoming events, please contact Maria Britton at mebritton@bendbroadband.com. For questions or more information, please contact Eileen Obermiller at hd_president@NPSOregon.org.



TANYA HARVEY

Like tiny wooden tulips, the seed caps of Penstemon rupicola remain into the winter.

Klamath Basin

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

Mid-Columbia

Because of unpredictable mid-winter weather, no meeting is scheduled for January.

North Coast

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

Portland

If you would like to receive the chapter's semi-official e-mail newsletter, The Calochortus, e-mail Don Jacobson at donjphoto@gmail.com.

January 8, Thursday, 7 pm

Meeting: Plants and Traveling in Northern Chile. Dave Dobak will show slides from a trip to Chile. Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church on SE Belmont at SE 54th. Enter the church parking lot from SE 54th.

Siskiyou

January 15, Thursday, 7:30 pm

Program: Revisiting Whittaker: Vegetation Change in the Siskiyou. Matthew Todd will describe an ongoing review of Whittaker's 1950s vegetation studies. In addition, Mr. Todd and two of his students will discuss how this work is incorporated into a high school biology curriculum. SOU Science Bldg., Room 171. Contact Kristi Mergenthaler at 541-535-3659 for more information.

Umpqua Valley

Visit www.umpquavalley.npsoregon.org for more information on chapter activities.

January 8, Thursday, 7 pm

Program: Plants of Korea. Jim Long will give a presentation about various

plants he encountered on his mid-November 2008 trip to Korea. Meetings are held in Room 1, Mercy Education Building, 2459 NW Stewart Parkway, Roseburg.

January 10, Saturday, 10 am

Work Party: VA Native Plant Garden. Weather permitting, fall planting and garden clean-up will continue. Bring tools, gloves, lunch and water, and join us for a few hours of satisfying fun. Park in the employee parking area near the Transitional Care Unit (TCU) on weekends; the garden can be seen from there. For more information or to learn more about the garden itself, call Donna Rawson at 541-459-2821 or check the Chapter website.

Willamette Valley

January 15, Thursday, 7 pm

Program: Urban Tree Care. Urban trees, including the ones in our backyards, are good indicators of our ecological health. Kristin Ramstad, Community Assistance Forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry, will talk about ways to ensure healthy trees, including proper watering in summer, fertilization, signs and causes of tree stress, mulching, basic planting and pruning procedures, and how to hire an arborist for large jobs. The program is co-sponsored by the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center, and will be held 7–8:30 pm at the Learning Center, 1320 A St., next to Olinger Pool near North Salem High. Registration is required (call Lisa Olivares, 503-391-4145); cost is \$5. For program information contact John Savage, 503-399-8615.

William Cusick

Chapter meetings will resume in February 2009. Programs are planned for the latter part of February, March, and April 2009; future issues of the Bulletin will have additional details. Visit our website at <http://williamcusick.npsoregon.org> for updates and general information.

Grant Proposals Requested

The Native Plant Society of Oregon will continue to sponsor small field research grants.

The objectives of the program are:

- 1) to stimulate basic field research into the biology and distribution of Oregon's native and naturalized flora and vegetation, particularly in the more remote areas of the state, and
- 2) to promote native plant conservation through better understanding of Oregon's flora and vegetation and the factors affecting their survival.

Persons interested in applying for funding can obtain a copy of the program policy and guidelines from:

Dan Luoma, Field Research Grants Committee Chair
3740 NW Harrison Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97330

The link on NPSO's web site is www.npsoregon.org/grants.html. Research proposals are due by March 1st of each year.

NPSO Items for Sale

Native Notecards. Beautiful, high-quality notecards with art by McMinnville NPSO member Terry Peasley are being sold by the Cheahmill Chapter. See the cards at www.terrypeasleyart.com/pages/cards.html. Eight cards are available through NPSO: trillium horizontal, trillium vertical, fawn lily, red columbine with hummingbirds, varied thrush on oak, kingfisher on red osier dogwood, Bewick's wren on Douglas spirea, and western tanagers on oak. The cost is \$3 each including envelopes, or 4 for \$10. Contact Marna Porath at P.O. Box 726, Amity, OR 97101, marna@onlinemac.com or 503-835-1042.

T-Shirt Closeout. Dark green salal T-shirts from the Cheahmill Chapter in McMinnville are selling for \$5 each. Short sleeve. Sizes: small, medium, large. Contact Marna Porath at P.O. Box 726, Amity, OR 97101, marna@onlinemac.com or 503-835-1042.

Your Name In Lights!!!

by Cindy Roché, *Kalmiopsis* Editor

Well, maybe not in lights, but fame awaits you when you become an author in *Kalmiopsis*! Volume 15 of *Kalmiopsis* has been published, which means that I'm looking for articles for volume 16. Do you have an inside scoop on Oregon's native flora that you'd be willing to share with fellow plant enthusiasts? We normally publish two series articles: Plant of the Year, and Oregon Plants, Oregon Places, as well as articles about historical botanists and other features related to native plants or plant communities in Oregon. Look at recent issues of *Kalmiopsis* for length and content of articles; maximum length is 5,000 words. I would like to extend a particular invitation to authors writing about parts of Oregon not recently covered in *Kalmiopsis*. Contact me for a copy of "Instructions to Authors" or to place your name on a call list for reviewing new books. Cindy Roché, P.O. Box 808, Talent, OR 97540, kalmiopsis@npsoregon.org.

NA Rock Garden Society Presentation

Central Idaho Penstemons and Other Plant Gems

January 10, Saturday, 1 pm

The Emerald Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will host a slide presentation by American Penstemon Society and NPSO Corvallis chapter member Louise Parsons. Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St., Eugene. Door prizes and refreshments afterwards. Free and open to the public. For more information call Jim Regali at 541-484-1284.



TANYA HARVEY

Rydberg's penstemon (*Penstemon rydbergii*) is a tall species found across much of the west. Although normally found east of the Cascades, beautiful, large colonies can be seen in the Rogue-Umpqua Divide, including here in the meadows at Rattlesnake Mountain.

OTHER EVENTS

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

34901 Frank Parrish Rd. (I-5, exit 189 to Seavey Loop Rd.), SE of Eugene. For more information or to register, call 541-747-1504 or visit www.efn.org/~mtpisgah.

Winter Warmup Singles Volunteer Work Party

January 4, Sunday, 12:30–3:30 pm

Wildflower Garden Spruce-Up at the Arboretum! Help plant, weed, and work in the Garden while meeting other outdoor-loving singles. This is a fun job for people of all ages and strengths! Meet in front of the Arboretum Visitor Center. Bring a water bottle, outdoor clothes, and a smile. RSVP or find out about more work parties by e-mailing Tom at pisgah4@epud.net.

Finding and Harvesting Edible Mushrooms Workshop

January 11, Sunday, 10am–4pm

Join mushroom enthusiast Josiah Legler and learn where and when to look for edible mushrooms, sustainable harvesting methods, field guide use, permitting and more. We'll meet at MPA, then carpool to a mushrooming location 45 minutes away. This class will prepare you to find and harvest mushrooms on your own, but we won't harvest what we find on class day. \$20. Registration required.

Lichen Dyeing Workshop

January 17, Saturday, 12–4 pm

Create color with lichen, with botanist Cheshire Mayrsohn! Seek out and identify lichens, learn about the mordants that make dye “stick” to yarn and cloth, then create rich, colorful dyes and dyed samples. \$40. Registration required.

Nature Photography in a Digital World

February 1, Sunday, 1–4 pm

Well known nature photographer David Stone of Eugene will discuss how to take stunning nature pictures with a digital camera, as well as how to choose a good digital camera in the first place. \$25. Registration required.

WREN West Eugene Wetlands Walks

Meadowlark Prairie

January 13, Tuesday, 9–10 am

Wetland wanders are casual walks through various West Eugene wetlands sites each second Tuesday of every month. WREN will provide binoculars. For more information call Holly McRae at 541-683-6494 or hmcrae@wewetlands.org.

Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District

Native Plant Sale

January 23, Friday

(last day to pre-order plants)

A large variety of native plants is available to choose from, at low prices. Plant pick-up day is Saturday, February 7. More information is available from Alice Fairfield, Coordinator, 541-753-7208 or visit www.bentonswcd.org/projects/treesale.

North Mountain Park Nature Center

620 N. Mountain Ave, Ashland, www.northmountainpark.org. To register visit <http://ashlandparks.recware.com> or call the Nature Center at 541-488-6606.

Nature and Landscape

Drawing for Beginners

January 10, 11, Saturday & Sunday, 9 am–2:30 pm

In this right-brain-oriented drawing class, author and illustrator Irene Brady will teach tools, tips, and techniques to let you enjoy the creative process and increase your drawing skills. Learn how to design and draw landscapes with lakes, rivers, and mountains. Practice creating grasses, textured rocks, trees, and shrubs for your landscape foregrounds. Take home a lavishly illustrated workbook full of exercises and techniques. Bring a lunch; all other supplies are provided. To learn more about the instructor and class, visit www.Nature-WorksPress.com. Classes will take place at The Grove, Otte/Peterson Room, 1195 East Main St, Ashland. \$70.

Nature Sketching Details, Shading & Texture

January 24 & 25, Saturday & Sunday, 9 am–2:30 pm

This two-day class is perfect for artists with a little experience and a desire to improve their artistic abilities. Author and illustrator Irene Brady will demonstrate techniques for shading shapes found in nature and showing fur, realistic eyes, and other textured natural objects. Although we won't leave the classroom, you'll also learn techniques for drawing outdoors. You'll receive an illustrated workbook full of tips and pointers, including exercises you can work through later to improve your nature sketching. To learn more about the instructor and class, visit www.Nature-WorksPress.com. Classes will take place at The Grove, Otte/Peterson Room, 1195 East Main St, Ashland. \$70.

In Memoriam

Marvin Cox 1930–2008

by Sam Friedman

The long-time lily enthusiast and NPSO member Marvin Cox of Roseburg passed away Friday, November 28, 2008.

He became fascinated at an early age with the colorful lilies (including the endangered western lily) which grew around his boyhood home, the southern Oregon coast near Bandon. At the time its youngest member, Marvin joined the American Lily Society and spent much of his life from then on growing and researching lily species as well as many other unusual, exotic, and native plants. Anyone lucky enough to wander through the gardens of one of his homes was sure to come away with a sense of awe and delight.

Marvin also had a strong interest in *Calochortus* species. While out in the field one day in Douglas County, he spotted an unusual flower, which turned out to be a new species and was given the name *Calochortus coxii* after its discoverer!

Of late, Marvin had been struggling with Parkinson's disease. His wife Julie took wonderful care of him, and we hope that she will stay in touch and that we can be of some help and comfort to her. We all will miss him greatly.



SAM FRIEDMAN

Calochortus coxii



ERIC NEYERLIN

Marvin and Julie Cox enjoying themselves at the NPSO Umpqua Valley Chapter native plant show, May 2008.

What Have NPSOers Been Up To?

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conservation acquisitions in Eugene's South Hills, and many restoration work parties. We were busy as bumblebees on balsam root preparing for the Wildflower Festival at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, a colorful success with 400+ plants, educational booths, and hikes. In summer, the Native Gardening Awareness Program continued to steward their native garden plot and update a guide to local native plant nurseries. The NPSO annual meeting was very rewarding, both for meeting other chapter's members and for visiting the many western Cascades destinations at the peak of wildflower bloom.

The rainy season brought a fascinating array of slideshow presentations from "Invasive Plants and Their Control" to "A Look at Rare and Beautiful Woods From Around the World" and "Insects of the Pacific Northwest." Local experts gave talks on endangered

plants and how managers are starting to restore diverse Willamette Valley meadow habitat and restart critical ecosystem functions. Our conservation committee has responded with helpful comments to a flurry of large-scale land management plans. Each of us has many projects like these to inspire us, and we wouldn't want it any other way!

HIGH DESERT CHAPTER, founded in 1979 by Stu Garrett and Joyce Bork, has since that time offered a variety of field trips, hikes, and lectures featuring native plants and their habitats. This past year, led by Robert Marhiene, we viewed the impact on Fly Creek of the hot Eyerly Fire. Tim Deboodt led a tour and discussion about the impacts of junipers on the watershed, and Reid Schuller showed us meadows of native flowers at Big Summit Prairie. We hiked through blooming fields of heather to the summit of Broken Top with Stu Garrett. Glaze Meadow wildflowers

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What Have NPSOers Been Up To?

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were experienced with Maret Pajutee; at the USFS Seed Extractory we learned the complex process of cleaning native seeds. And last but not least, thank you Karen and Rick for the great tour of your beautiful gardens and for generously hosting our annual BBQ!

Several interesting happenings are planned for 2009, including restoration plantings, tours, and presentations featuring the Oregon Flora Project and two members' program about the Gobi Desert. An informational blog is being set up for us at <http://highdesert.npsoregon.org/blog> to share links, an calendar of events, and opportunities to share field trip thoughts and photographs. We hope to have the blog functional by January. Share your suggestions or willingness to host an event by contacting Eileen at 541-350-7436 or Eileen@dappleearth.com.

MID-COLUMBIA CHAPTER continued to meet regularly in 2008, with speakers ranging from plant-species experts, such as Charlene Simpson, who talked about orchids, and Ginny Maffitt, who talked about penstemons, to speakers on more general topics, such as Jurgen Hess, who talked about landscaping with native plants, and Dave Braun, who spoke about his work on vernal pools on Burdoin Mountain. We also had three or four more local speakers who were popular with the group.

The April wildflower show was successful, thanks as usual to Mike and Jerry Igo's leadership. In 2009 we're tentatively planning for a wildflower show but have not yet made firm arrangements. In July, we had a delightful potluck at Dell and Will Bloch's home in White Salmon, where Will gave us a tour of his plant propagation nursery, we had lots of wonderful food, and best of all, got a chance to visit. Our membership has increased slightly, and we're pleased that many people are coming from White Salmon and other Washington State towns. We're well positioned to be a bi-state organization and are thinking about ways to increase cross-river activities and meetings.

SISKIYOU CHAPTER "elected" officers in May (actually, they volunteered). Cindy Roché is secretary, Kristi Mergenthaler is program coordinator, and Connie Battaile is publicity coordinator. Native Plant Appreciation Week was celebrated at the Northwest Nature Shop with a wildflower exhibit and the handing out of native plant seed packets, courtesy of Dan Bish at Plant Oregon Nursery. Our monthly meetings had an excellent lineup of speakers, and our annual 4th of July Wildflower Show in Ashland, with well over 200 plant species shown, continued the tradition of being a popular success. We received many visitors, donations, and came away with a handful of new members.

Special thanks are due Connie Battaile, Vera Gottlieb and Jim Duncan for their hard work at the Southern Oregon Herbarium, which consisted of building on the accession database and sprucing up the collections.

UMPQUA VALLEY CHAPTER

began 2008 by planning our 2nd plant sale in May, held at the County Museum where we set up displays, talked with customers and encouraged native plantings in landscapes. The spring also brought several field trips which never failed to produce great wildflower displays! Our many amateur photographers keep alive the beautiful flower memories on disk for future meetings. In July, on the hottest day of the summer, the annual picnic was combined with a field trip; we were lucky, though, to eat our picnic lunch in a cooled Canyonville restaurant. December brought our annual holiday potluck, where we enjoyed delicious food, great memories, and good friends.

Ongoing projects include our native plant garden at the Veterans Administration complex in Roseburg, where we have a sunny 40 x 100' landscape area. Member Ron Hatt designed the garden, in which we have placed donated plants in several beds. 2008 marked the third year of developing the garden, which is being expanded, and keeps us very busy! We're brainstorming ways to encourage students to become involved with NPSO and other Douglas County conservation projects.

Our members come from varied backgrounds, including teaching, so it was a natural fit to get involved with schools and design curriculum projects to give credits while teaching about Oregon resources.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHAPTER

received a 501(C)3 designation from the IRS in 2008. Events included sponsorship of classes on native conifers, wildflower identification, mushroom identification, beginning entomology, map and compass basics, and landscaping with natives. In addition, we sponsored a native plant garden tour, multiple work parties at its oak savanna/riparian restoration site, and took field trips to Silver Falls, Dog Mountain, Bush Park in Salem, Kingston Prairie, Iron Mountain, and Crescent Mountain. In December, Dr. Morris Johnson, retired professor emeritus at Western Oregon University spoke about how the indigenous people of our region made use of native plants for food, shelter, medicine, clothing, hunting, and religious ceremonies.

A \$1000 scholarship was awarded by the chapter to Todd Dalotto, a student at Oregon State University. Gina Bono, a Lane Community College student, also received a \$1000 scholarship.

WILLIAM CUSICK CHAPTER had several interesting meetings in 2008, and held four field trips in the spring and summer months. In February, Jenifer Ferriel spoke about research in natural areas. In March, Donna Patterson talked of William Cusick and of maintaining his gravesite in the town of Union. The role of beaver in wetland restoration was the topic of April's program presented by Suzanne Fouty. In September, Cindy Kranich spoke about the plants of Baldy RNA, and in October, John Stevenson talked about the USFWS program of cooperatively restoring TE species' habitat on private land.

Field trips included two in May, to Strickler RNA led by Jenifer Ferriel, and to HCNRA, led by Susan Geer. In July, Gene Yates led a trip to Mainstem Eagle Creek, and in August, Jenifer Ferriel led a trip to Cougar Meadow.

Cultivars of Oregon Native Flora Are Popular in the Trade

by Wilbur L. Bluhm, Willamette Valley Chapter

More than 3,380 cultivars of Oregon native plants have been in the nursery trade at one time or other. Perhaps a couple hundred of the total are hybrids. Most of the cultivars and hybrids are now available through a variety of sources, including retail and mail order nurseries, arboreta and botanic gardens, individuals, and other miscellaneous sources.

“Cultivar” is a shortening of “cultivated variety.” While a significant number of cultivars of Oregon natives originated in the state, many more were discovered elsewhere, e.g., in Europe (especially in the British Isles), in central and eastern United States, in British Columbia, and in California and Washington, to mention the major contributors. Nearly all cultivars are plant selections that will not come true from seed and, therefore must be vegetatively propagated. Common means of propagation are by cuttings, micro-propagation (“tissue culture”), and budding or grafting.

For several years I’ve searched the literature to find the named cultivars of native Oregon flora. Sources include the many nursery catalogs, nursery trade publications, arboreta and botanic gardens, university research stations and professional staff, public and private gardens, gardening magazines, horticultural and botanical books, plant societies, and private individuals. My actual count of the cultivars is a conservative 3,383 as of November 15, 2008. There are surely a number of others I’ve not found, and more will be found in the future.

Species that most readily deviate from the norm naturally provide the most cultivars. Oregon’s champion is *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*, Port Orford Cedar, or Lawson Cypress. No less than 408 cultivars have been named. Van Gelderin & van Hoey Smith, 1989, *Conifers*, 2nd Edition picture an amazing 107 of them! *Royal Horticultural Society Plant Finder* listed 187 cultivars in the 2002-2003 edition, including 61 “new” cultivars. Krussmann in *Manual*

of *Cultivated Conifers*, 1985, lists 238 cultivars of this species!

Many named cultivars come from other Oregon natives. After *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* the following plant species have the greatest number of cultivars: *Dasiphora fruticosa*, (*Potentilla fruticosa* in the trade), 172; *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (includes varieties *glauca* and *menziesii*), 142; *Juniperus scopulorum*, 110; *Achillea millefolium*, 87; *Thuja plicata*, 83; *Acer negundo*, 81; *Pinus flexilis*, 77; *Athyrium filix-femina*, 60; *Pinus ponderosa*, 50; *Rubus idaeus*, 55; *Ribes sanguineum*, 50; *Callitropsis nootkatensis*, 44; *Helenium autumnale*, 39 (some are hybrids); *Sequoia sempervirens*, 39; *Rhododendron occidentale*, 38; *Dryopteris filix-mas*, 37; *Helianthus annuus*, 37; *Penstemon fruticosus*, 37; *Cornus sericea*, 35; *Eschscholtzia californica*, 35; *Phlox cespitosa*, 34; *Erigeron speciosus*, 32; *Lewisia cotyledon*, 31; *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, 30; *Picea engelmannii*, 30; *Armeria maritima*, 29; *Sidalcea malviflora*, 27; *Epilobium canum* ssp. *canum*, 26; *Berberis aquifolium* (*Mahonia aquifolium* in the trade), 25; *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*, 25. The remainder of the cultivars are attributed to 337 other diverse native taxa.

While a significant number of cultivars of Oregon natives originated here, many more were discovered elsewhere, e.g., in Europe—especially in British Isles, central and eastern United States, British Columbia, California, and Washington, to mention the major contributors.

The traditional nursery industry accounts for most of the introduced cultivars, which are selected for a variety of traits. Most of them are variations in seedlings either from chance occurrences, selected from a specific parent, or produced through controlled pollination. Many are sports or deviations with differing characteristics that have appeared in nurseries or in the wild.

Don Howse of Boring, Oregon, writing in the fall 2008 *Conifer Quarterly* of American Conifer Society, describes the late Edsal Wood’s methods

of plant selection for introduction (Wood, a respected nursery grower near Aurora, Oregon, introduced many new plants to the trade during his lifetime, and is typical of many nursery growers). “Fulfilling a contract, Ed grew seedlings of *Tsuga*... in nursery flats.... Whenever I visited Ed there were several thousands of seedlings growing in the flats.... As the young seedlings developed, Ed looked over the flats and selected out any that appeared dwarf, dense, prostrate, or different in any way. Seedlings with white variegation or cream-colored tips seemed to occur with some regularity. He’d also set aside these seedlings and continue to grow them on to be evaluated.”

From some native plants and cultivars have come “cultivariants”, plants that display a certain growth habit based on the position of the propagule, i.e. cutting, on the mother plant. For example, a cutting taken from a side branch of an upright growing plant will tend to form a spreading plant.

A number of “plant finders” who search native habitats and populations have found specimens that differ from their species, and often the specimens

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TANYA HARVEY

If it could be propagated efficiently, this unusual double mountain cat's ear (Calochortus subalpinus) might be a good candidate for horticultural introduction.

Cultivars of Oregon Native Flora

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are mutations. The types of plants looked at are many: deciduous and broadleaved species, herbaceous species, grasses and grass-like plants, water plants, and so on. The mountain states are often the locale for plant finders exploring for conifer cultivars. Jerry Morris of Colorado, a notable conifer searcher, has found many deviations from the normal growth of conifers which are now cultivars in the trade. He has also found a number of broadleaf plants for introduction. Doug Wills of Sandy, Oregon discovered the much sought-after *Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia* 'Chief Joseph,' a pine that is green in summer but displays golden yellow needles in winter, in the Blue Mountains in northeastern Oregon.

Numerous dwarf conifer cultivars are also the result of mutations, originating as they often do from "witches' brooms" (typically like a "bundle of twigs," a proliferation of shoots, growing from a site on a branch) where the growth rate on one part of the plant is significantly slower than on the rest of the plant. Occasionally a witches' broom will be found growing from another witches' broom! Witches' brooms can be caused by insects, which act as vectors of mutation-causing organisms, feeding upon the plants. In the native Oregon rhododendron, witches' brooms can be the result of either of two fungi (*Exobasidium vaccinii* or *E. vaccinii-uliginosi*), possibly carried by insect vectors. These are but a few of the many causes of mutations among the natural world's great variety of plants.

Plant finders include both professionals and amateurs. It is unknown which of the two may be the most productive. The finders typically take their finds to nursery growers for growing and introducing into the trade, some perhaps hoping for potential profits from royalties. Most, however, will not realize royalties. Plants that are patented, trademarked, or registered under U.S. patent and trademark laws, and named in accordance with *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated*

Plants, are those on which royalties are most likely to be paid.

A few specialty nurseries regularly introduce new plants that are cultivars of Oregon natives from their selection, breeding, and production programs. One of the best known is Terra Nova Nurseries, Canby, Oregon, which annually introduces a dozen or two new plant cultivars, one or two of which is occasionally an Oregon native. Various arboreta and botanical gardens also contribute to the introduction of native flora cultivars. Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation, Inc. (no longer in existence) in San Martin, California selected and introduced native cultivars, some of which were of species growing in Oregon.

Possibly one of the better-known Oregon native cultivars is *Acer circinatum* 'Warner Monroe' or *A. c.* 'Monroe'. The late Dr. Warner Monroe, a Warner Pacific University philosophy professor and member of the Portland Chapter, NPSO, found this dissected-leaf vine maple about 40 years ago in the McKenzie River drainage. We saw the original plant near the White Branch Youth Camp along the McKenzie Pass Highway, where the 1999 NPSO annual meeting was held. Upon finding this vine maple, Dr. Monroe contacted the late J. D. Vertrees of Roseburg, a worldwide authority on Japanese maple species, who did some propagation of these species. It was he who gave the vine maple its 'Warner Monroe' appellation. Vertrees suggested Dr. Monroe take the plant to Greer Gardens, a nursery in Eugene, which had greater capability to produce and market it than did Vertrees. The rest is history.

I personally have found but one unusual plant. It is a very dwarf *Picea engelmannii*, Engelmann spruce, that grows in the Oregon Cascades. An Oregon nurseryman who specializes in conifer called it one of the most dwarf, and the shortest needled, *P. engelmannii* he had seen.

Questions often surface in programs on the use of native plants. A common one is should cultivars of natives be treated as native plants? Their origin is certainly native. The issue is whether the uniformity of cultivars is

acceptable in native plantings. It becomes a uniformity vs. diversity issue. Diversity is championed by those who know and appreciate the native flora. Benefits of diversity include the contribution to conservation of native fauna. Diverse germplasm often give a plant more flexibility in adapting to changing conditions, diverse habitats, or potential outbreaks of pest populations. High levels of variability within a plant's genome also reduce the chances that plants will suffer the deleterious effects of highly inbred populations, where hidden recessive traits can cause stunting or early mortality.

Furthermore, the use of diverse native populations generally avoids the introduction and spread of a monoculture in the wild, one that may have potential to threaten the diversity of existing populations. For this reason, in recent decades native cultivars have gained in popularity among gardeners and are being used in diverse habitat restoration projects.

Hybrids of Oregon native taxa are of nearly insignificant numbers compared with the number of introduced cultivars. However, the hybrids may pose a relatively larger problem with introduction and use than cultivars because of the potential of introducing new genotypes into the wild via hybrids that can sometimes cross breed with native species, or compete with them.

It's no surprise that a great majority of the public prefers plant uniformity over plant diversity in their gardens and landscapes. Why? Perhaps because of greater consistency in the traits these cultivars display. "Truly natural vegetation is often rather messy and disorganized to people with a 'garden' mentality," as Dr. David H. Wagner once noted in a paper. Retailers have long known this as well. This preference is often readily discernible when visiting local retail nurseries and observing the plant offerings. In the end, this, and the desirable characteristics of the cultivars, is why cultivars proliferate and sell.

The author is indebted to Dr. Susan Kephart for her assistance.

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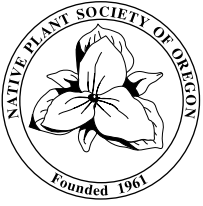
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