



Bulletin

of the

Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

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JULY 2014

Who's in that Name? Barton, McMahon, and Pursh

by Al Schneider

This article originally appeared in *Aquilegia*, Volume 33, Number 5 (Winter 2009), the newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society.

Following are brief biographies of Barton, McMahon, and Pursh, three eminent botanists of the early nineteenth century, who knew each other, worked together at times, and had connections to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Benjamin Smith Barton (1766-1815) was a physician, professor of botany at the University of Pennsylvania, author of *Essays Towards a Materia Medica of the United States* (1798-1804), the first book on American medicinal plants, and author of *The Elements of Botany* (1803), the first American botany textbook. Barton was a teacher and benefactor of many botanists including Frederick Pursh and Thomas Nuttall. Thomas Jefferson held Barton in such high regard that he asked him to teach botanical collecting techniques and taxonomy to Meriwether Lewis prior to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Barton actually wanted to participate in the Expedition, but he was 37 years old – considered much too old.

Bernard McMahon (1775-1816) was a nurseryman widely respected for his horticultural knowledge. McMahon is credited with publishing the first seed catalog in the United States and the first information about landscape design. Some of the Lewis and Clark Expedition planning was done in his home. He was instrumental in getting Frederick Pursh to work on the

Expedition's botanical collection, and he germinated and distributed seeds collected on the Expedition. In 1806, he wrote *The American Gardener's Calendar*, which became the standard gardening authority in America, going through eleven editions until 1857. It is still available. McMahon and Jefferson corresponded regularly. McMahon forward the newest vegetable and flower varieties to Jefferson, and Jefferson considered McMahon's *Calendar* his horticultural Bible. Thomas Nuttall honored McMahon in the genus *Mahonia* [*Mahonia aquifolium*, a synonym of *Berberis aquifolium* and

commonly known as Oregon grape, was designated as the Oregon State Flower in 1899], a new genus collected by Meriwether Lewis on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Frederick Pursh (1774-1820) was a botanist and plant collector who came to the United States from Germany in 1799 and who, by 1805, had begun collecting for Benjamin Barton. Barton, as noted above, had, at the request of President Jefferson, given botanical training to Lewis, but after the Lewis and Clark Expedition Barton was unable, because of his health and his predisposition to procrastination, to fulfill his responsibility to work on cataloging and describing Lewis's botanical collection. Both Barton and Jefferson's friend, Bernard McMahon, then suggested having Frederick Pursh organize

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Mahonia aquifolium, genus named for Bernard McMahon. Illustration from *Flora Americae Septentrionalis* by Frederick Pursh.

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The submission date is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue except for the Aug/Sept issue which is July 24 and the Dec/Jan issue which is November 24. Send submissions by e-mail to bulletin@NPSOoregon.org.

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.

Challenge Grant Supporting the Oregon Flora Project

The Oregon Flora Project is fortunate to be a program regularly supported by the Native Plant Society of Oregon. When the late Scott Sundberg approached NPSO in 1994, seeking support to develop a new flora for Oregon, the organization enthusiastically agreed to sponsor the OFP. That decision has led to two decades of support in the form of funding, volunteerism, and the sharing of information.

NPSO is again demonstrating its commitment to the OFP by offering up to \$10,000 in a challenge fund drive. All contributions made to the OFP between now and December 31 will be matched up to this amount. Challenge drives multiply the impact of all donations. They also demonstrate that both NPSO, as the match provider, and the contributing members are taking positive action to fulfill the Society's mission to support the study of Oregon's native plants and habitats.

With your support, the Oregon Flora Project will:

- Publish Volume 1 of the *Flora of Oregon* in Spring 2015
- Expand the content of the online Atlas and Photo Gallery
- Update the Oregon Wildflowers mobile app
- Support botanical appreciation and exploration by providing access to current information

Contributions can be made using PayPal on the OFP website, or with checks payable to either the Agricultural Research Foundation (see the back page for details) or NPSO. Please give your generous support to this important partner of the NPSO!



New NPSO Members

Please welcome these new members who joined NPSO between November 24, 2013 and June 15, 2014.

Cheahmill

Carrey Reynolds

Corvallis

Cathy Frischmann
John Miskella
Melissa Newman
Priscilla Spears
Christine Stanley

Emerald

Matthew Bayly
August Jackson
Alicia McGraw
Bettina Norden
Kathleen G. Soza

High Desert

Yvonne Babb
Duncan Brown
Toni Colotte
Ryan Franklin

Dayng Galash

Karen M. Garber
Marilynne Keyser
Susan Manley
Lyn Mattei
Patty Meehan
Edward Mierjeski
Kathy Parenteau
Dinah Russell
Amanda Stamper
Mary Thompson
Signe Timm

Klamath Basin

Tonia Allenger
Dewey J. Moore
Terry Smith

Members At Large

Jean Adamson
Diane & Dave Bilderback

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NPSO CALENDAR

State Notes

State Board Meeting

October, Date TBD

The next meeting of the NPSO State Board will be in Eugene, and will likely be scheduled for October 18 or 25.

Blue Mountain

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

Cheahmill

For more information, visit the chapter Web site, www.oregon-nativeplants.com. To be added to the e-mail list for upcoming programs and events, please contact cheahmillchapternpsocomcast.net.

Corvallis

For questions, information on upcoming events, or to be on the Corvallis chapter e-mail list, contact Jordan Brown at co_president@NPSOregon.org or 253-820-3934.

July 20, Sunday, 8:30 am

Field Trip: Middle Santiam Area Old-Growth Hike. Our destination will be either Scar Mountain trail (FS #3402) or South Pyramid Creek (FS #3403). Expect to enjoy 5-6 miles of mostly moderate grades to level traverses, old growth, meadow openings, and superb views! Bring lunch and normal hiking gear, including trekking poles if you use them. Location: meet at the OSU parking lot north of Burt Hall, which is west of the Beanery and bordered by 27th St. and Arnold Way. We will depart from Corvallis at 8:30 am. For more information (destination will be decided by the week of the hike), contact Loren Russell at 541-752-7558 or loren.russell@comcast.net.

August 9, Saturday, 7 am

Field Trip: Middle Pyramid Hike. We will hike two miles up to Middle Pyramid to see gentians and other wildflowers. It is a difficult hike toward the end. Wear sturdy shoes and appropriate

clothes. Bring a lunch and water. An alternative hike from the same trail head is the easy and beautiful South Pyramid trail. Location: meet at the OSU Wilkinson Hall parking lot across from The Beanery at 26th and Monroe for a 7 am departure. For more information, contact Louise at 541-753-0012 or patch1L@aol.com.

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. A sample waiver form is available at http://npsoregon.org/documents/NPSO_waiver.pdf. 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. You must pre-register for all events. 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. A trip leader checklist and sample waiver form are available at: <http://npsoregon.org/calendar.html>

Emerald

Visit the Emerald Chapter Web site at <http://emerald.npsoregon.org> to learn more about the latest chapter events, plant lists & botanical information about Lane County plants & the people who love them.

July 19, Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm

Field Trip: Upper Elk Meadows.

Alan Curtis leads this hike, located 30 miles from Cottage Grove. Elevation of the meadow is 4,000 ft. Over 200 species of vascular plants have been identified here. We expect to see *Frasera umpquaensis* and several orchid species on this hike. Surrounding the meadow is an old-growth forest of *Abies amabilis*, *Abies grandis*, and *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. We will walk 1.5 miles through moist meadow. Wear boots and bring lunch and water. Location: Meet at South Eugene High School. Contact trip leader Alan Curtis 541-345-2571 to register.

August 8, Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Field Trip: Tour of the Fish Lake Re-mount Station. In the upper McKenzie River drainage, caretaker Jim Denny takes us on a tour of an historic cluster of log cabins constructed more than a hundred years ago. Afterwards, botanist Jenny Lippert leads a walk down the old Santiam Wagon Road and through Fish Lake Meadow. Bring a lunch, water, sunscreen, and comfortable walking shoes. Location: meet at 8:30 am at South Eugene High School. We'll return to Eugene by 4:30 pm. For more information and to register, call Jenny at 541-225-6440.

High Desert

For information, visit the High Desert Chapter website: www.highdesertnpsoregon.org and Facebook page: Native Plant Society of Oregon: High Desert Chapter, or email highdesertnps@gmail.com.

Klamath Basin

This chapter has recently become active. For information, visit the Klamath Basin Chapter website: <http://klamathbasin-nps.com> or contact the chapter president, Melissa Schroeder pres@klamathbasinnps.com.

July 12, Saturday, 9 am - noon

Tour: Chiloquin Native Plant Garden. Joan Rowe will lead this tour to see native plants along the canal, native plants used as ornamentals in a garden, and an unirrigated 1/3 acre area that is being converted from weeds to native plants. Location: meet at 39560 Modoc Point Rd., just north of the Wood River Wetland parking area. Please drive all the way in and park in the circular section of the driveway. From Klamath Falls, take 97 north to Modoc Point Rd. (signed as Williamson River Resort Area turn off). Follow Modoc Point Rd for 10 miles. From Chiloquin, take 422 north to its junction with Modoc Point Rd., turn left and drive about 1 mile. The house is located on the Wood River Canal. For information, contact treas@klamathbasinnps.com.

July 26, Saturday, 9 am - noon

Field Trip: Big Meadow. Led by Sarah Malaby, we will explore the Big Meadow area, which provides habitat for 4 species of rare plants and an abundance of native shrubs and wildflowers. Easy to moderate walking. Location: meet at the junction of Hwy 140 west and Forest Road 3651. From Klamath Falls, take Hwy 140 west, turn right (north) at the sign for the Cold Springs Trailhead (approx 3.5 miles past the turn off to Rocky Point). From there we will car pool to the meadow, with stops along the way. For information, contact treas@klamathbasinnps.com.

Mid-Columbia

For information on the Mid-Columbia Chapter, contact Sara Wu at wusara96@yahoo.com.

The Mid-Columbia Chapter will not meet again until September 18. If you would like to help out with the

planning of the 2015 NPSO Annual Meeting, contact Dell at rhodes@reed.edu.

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.

Facebook: Take a look at our Facebook page. Native Plant Society of Oregon-Portland-Chapter. It will have the most up-to-date information on hike and other events as well as great plant pictures.

Meeting location: The Portland Chapter meets the second Thursday of most months in the Metro Building at 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland. Enter from NE Irving St. on the north side of the building and walk across the upper plaza to the entrance (not the door on 600 NE Grand Ave.). An attendant will let you in and direct you to the meeting room upstairs. Meetings and programs begin at 7 pm.

July 12, Saturday, 7 am (Portland) 9:30 am (Trailhead)

Field Trip: Browder Ridge. Browder Ridge is a neighbor to Iron Mt. We will hike 6.2 miles round trip with an elevation gain of about 1,500 ft. Depending on time and group energy, we may go another mile to the top of the ridge. Flowers we should see include *Anemone deltoidea*, *Lilium washingtonianum*, *Mimulus* spp., *Delphinium* spp., *Penstemon* spp., *Pedicularis bracteosa*, *Listera caurina* (synonym of *Listera banksiana*), *Corallorrhiza* spp., *Allotropa virgata*, and perhaps *Hemitomes congestum*. Bring good footwear, sunblock, lunch, and water. Return to Portland late afternoon. Location: meet at 7 am in Portland for carpooling or at 9:30 am at the Gate Creek Trailhead (see William Sullivan's book for a map and description or contact Tom Dyke). People wanting to stay overnight near Browder Ridge, join a possible hike on Friday, or sign up should contact Tom Dyke: tom-dyke1@gmail.com, 503-208-2341. For information about the Portland carpool and to sign up, contact Brent Miller,

foliosus@foliosus.com, 503-382-7605.

August 10, Sunday, 9 am

Field Trip: Salmon River. Trip length and duration will be determined by the group's interest but assume medium length, small to medium elevation gain, and a full day or nearly full day trip. Because less will be in bloom in August, we will also enjoy the beautiful river and mountain scenery. NW Forest Pass required for each vehicle. For more information, contact Roger Brewer at rogerbrewer@comcast.net or 503-789-5027.

August, Date and Time TBD

Field Trip: Boulder Lake/Bonnie Meadows. This hike in the Mt. Hood National Forest will likely be in late August. For more information, check the NPSO website, Portland Chapter, or contact Roger Brewer, rogerbrewer@comcast.net or 503-789-5027. The hike to Boulder Lake is short and easy. From there we will continue towards Bonnie Meadow (5 miles RT, 1,100 ft. elevation gain) but may not get all the way. If huckleberries are ripe, we will stop along the trail to pick some. Driving time from Portland is about 1:45.

Siskiyou

To join the Siskiyou Chapter email list: Send an email, from the address at which you want to receive announcements, to announce-join@siskiyou.npsoregon.org. No subject or message is required. You will get a confirmation email. If you would like to volunteer to lead a hike in 2014, make a suggestion, or provide feedback regarding the field trip program please contact Sasha Joachims at: sasharain71@gmail.com.

July 4, Friday, 10 am - 4 pm

Wildflower Show: Irene Hollenbeck Memorial. This annual show is coordinated by the Siskiyou Chapter and features over 300 species of flowers from the volcanic Cascades, the much older Siskiyou, and the valleys in between. Free admission. Location: Ashland Community Center, 59 Winburn Way (across from Lithia Park).

July 26, Saturday, 8:30 am

Hike: Big Red Mountain in the Summer.

Hike the PCT to see the mid-summer bloom. Expect to see Siskiyou willowherb, Lee's lewisia, velvet lupine, woodland beardtongue, lanceleaf stonecrop, bear grass, and many other species. Moderately strenuous, 5 miles round trip with nearly 1000' elevation gain. Terrain is mainly exposed serpentine rock, with some stretches of woodland. Bring water, lunch, hiking shoes, and sun protection. Location: meet in the Ray's Food Store parking lot in Talent. Leader: Alex Maksymowicz, 541-482-1964.

Umpqua Valley

Visit www.umpquavallemnativeplants.com for more information on chapter activities or to be added to our e-mail list.

Willamette Valley

For program information, contact John Savage at 503-399-8615 or Alexandra Ninneman at 503-391-4145.

July 12, Saturday, 7 am

Field Trip: Iron Mountain. Enjoy one of the best wildflower hikes in Oregon. Iron Mountain (near Sweet Home) has over 300 different species of flowers amid stands of trees and meadows. John Savage will lead the all-day hike over a seven-mile loop with elevation gain. Bring food and water. Free and open to the public. For more information and to register, call 503-399-8615 after 7 pm.

William Cusick

Visit our Web site at <http://williamcusick.npsoregon.org> or contact Susan Geer at 541-963-0477 or Emelie Montgomery-Jones at 541-963-3339 for updates and general information. Chapter notices

and communications are done primarily through a Google group. Members are reminded to contact Susan or Emelie if they want to be added to the Google group, or if they do not have internet access and want to be contacted by phone for events.

August 1, Friday, 10 am-2 pm

Field Trip: Wildflower Hike. As part of "Celebrating 50 Years of Wilderness" on Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, there will be a wildflower hike, led by a local botanist. Location: meet at the Main Eagle trailhead. Check the forest website for details: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wallowa-whitman/news-events/?cid=STELPRD3802707 or call the local Ranger District at 541-426-5546.

Volunteer Opportunity: Our chapter continues to work on weeding and re-vegetating Gangloff Park in La Grande. If you would like to help, call 541-963-0477.

New Members continued from page 2

- Stephen Brown
- Robert Carl
- Alexa Carleton
- Rebecca & Martin Chaney
- Bill Dochnahl
- Bruce & Diane Follansbee
- Christina L. Geierman
- Darota Haber-Lehigh
- Justy Leppert
- Robin McCreery
- Myra Monte Gerdemann
- Edward Nichols
- Michael & Sally Noack
- Al Solomon

- Mid-Columbia
- Lillian Osborne

- Portland
- Mary Ellen Andre
- Robert Baker
- Laura J. Barr
- Carol Benskin
- David Clay
- Julie Cudahy
- Kevin Geraghty
- Laura Graham
- Jamie Gray
- Virginia Hendrickson

- Jan Jeddeloh
- Robin Jensen
- Dawn Kropp
- Jeff Lesh
- Matthew Paroulek
- Luan Pinson
- Charles J. Schubert
- Sharon E. Streeter
- Thomas Torok

- Siskiyou
- Bridgette Cuffe
- Kevin M. Culhane
- Gary Grotrian
- Julie & Ron Kantor
- Peter Kleinhenz
- Meghan Pietila
- Joyce A. Woods

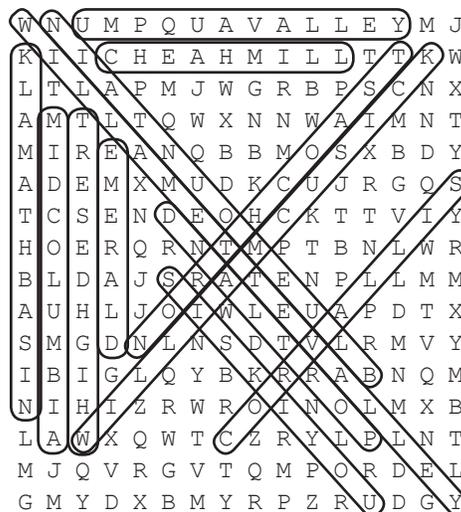
- Umpqua Valley
- Bergen Brell
- Alysia Gaye
- Tracy R. Pope
- Bruce Sherman

- Willamette Valley
- Timothy Bruce
- Wayne Estes
- Ken Hale
- Vicki & John Jorgenson

- Wm. Cusick
- Mary K. Cooke
- Tim & Sharon Hoffnagle
- Dana Skelly

NPSO Chapter Search Answers

The thirteen chapters of NPSO from June's puzzle are circled below



Who's in that Name?, continued from page 1 and describe the collection. In 1807 Lewis met Pursh, was very impressed, and paid Pursh about \$70 to begin working on the botanical collection. Pursh completed his work within a few years, but tragically, Lewis committed suicide in 1809, having himself written almost nothing about the Expedition and its botanical collection.

It is still not known what happened to all of the Lewis botanical collection after Pursh documented and described it. We know that Pursh returned most of the collection to McMahon and that Pursh took about four dozen specimens to England where he intended to combine information about them with his own collections and the work of many others in his own new publication on the flora of

North America. Pursh apparently did not properly credit those whose plant collections he used in his new book, and he actually took credit for finding plants that others had discovered. This led him into numerous conflicts, especially with Thomas Nuttall, whose botanical work Pursh pilfered.

Pursh was an alcoholic and apparently only the help of his friends kept him at the task of publishing his new flora. In 1814 he published *Flora Americana Septentrionalis, or a Systematic Arrangement and Description of the Plants of North America*, which included descriptions of 132 specimens from the Lewis and Clark Expedition. For nearly forty years this two-volume work was the standard botany of North America. It was superseded by John Torrey and Asa Gray's *Flora of North America*.

All but a few of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's botanical specimens which Pursh had taken with him to England were eventually returned to the United States. The total number of Expedition plants known now is about 232, all but eleven (those in the Kew Gardens Herbarium in London) are in the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia – where both Lewis and Pursh began their work on the plants that were collected on the Expedition.

Pursh died in Canada – young, drunk, impoverished and forgotten. The genus *Purshia* was named by Augustin de Candolle, and in Colorado we have two beautiful *Purshia* species: cliffrose and bitterbrush, *Purshia stansburyana* and *Purshia tridentata* [The latter species is also native to Oregon].



Citizen Science Project Tracks Pollinators

A new website, www.bumblebeewatch.org, aims to track and conserve North America's bumble bees. As pollinators, these bees serve an important role in the food cycle of our ecosystem. Unfortunately, bumble bees may be in decline due to habitat loss, insecticide use, disease, and climate change.

Bumble Bee Watch was created to enable citizen scientists to help by uploading photographs of bumble bees they see in their local areas. You may already have pictures of these bees, pollinating the native plants you photographed. Tips on how to photograph and ID bumble bees are on the website, though species identification is not necessary and will be verified by experts. The website also provides information about bumble bee ecology, ongoing conservation efforts, and a way to connect with other volunteers.

The information gathered will help locate rare or endangered populations of bumble bees, aid researchers in determining the status and conservation needs of bumble bees, and track species whose status is less well known.

Bumble Bee Watch is a partnership between the Xerces Society, Wildlife Preservation Canada, the University of Ottawa, the Montreal Insectarium, the Natural History Museum in London, and BeeSpotter.



Updated Sedges Guide Published

The second edition of the *Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest*, written by members of the *Carex* Working Group, is now available. Updates include eight additional species documented in the region since the guide was first published, along with an improved identification key, updated nomenclature and taxonomy, revised range maps, and improved illustrations. As with the first edition, this is a comprehensive field guide that contains identification keys, descriptions, more than 650 color photographs, and distribution maps for each species, providing users with helpful tools and tips for identifying the plants in the challenging *Carex* genus. Information about sedge ecology, habitat, management and restoration, ethnobotanical uses, and propagation enhances the guide's utility.

Co-author Barbara Wilson details some of the revisions as well as challenges of adhering to a set page count on the OSU Press blog. To find out which sections were left out or reformatted, if *Carex tiogana* made it into the second edition, and purchase copies online, read Barbara Wilson's blog post at:

<http://osupress.oregonstate.edu/blog/fitting-it-in-making-room-for-sedges-of-pacific-northwest%E2%80%94all-of-them>.

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Portland, OR 97280

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

- New Renewal
 Student – \$12 Regular – \$25 Family – \$35
 Sustaining – \$60 Patron – \$125 Life Membership – \$500
 Subscription Only (*Bulletin* and *Kalmiopsis*) – \$25 *Only for those who wish to subscribe, but do not want to have full membership status.*

CONTRIBUTIONS to NPSO are tax deductible.

Jean Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$ _____
Leighton Ho Memorial Field Botany Fund	\$ _____
Augusta Rockafellar Memorial Scholarship	\$ _____
Rare and Endangered Plant Conservation Fund	\$ _____
Friends of the Oregon Flora Project	\$ _____

Membership in the Native Plant Society of Oregon is open to all.

Membership applications, renewals and changes of address (include old address) should be sent to the Membership Chair. Changes of address may also be e-mailed to Membership@NPSOregon.org.

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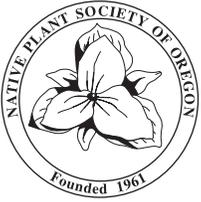
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Friends of the Oregon Flora Project

We have recently updated the content of our online tools. We have added over 10,000 new plant distribution records to the Oregon Plant Atlas. This includes observations, several thousand new specimens deposited at the Oregon State University Herbarium, and the complete Douglas County Museum Herbarium. There are also close to 6,000 new images added to the Photo Gallery, further expanding the number of species represented by a photograph.

The Oregon Flora Project is developing a comprehensive reference about the plants of Oregon that includes information shared via our website, and through the publication of a new, two-volume *Flora of Oregon*. Funding for the OFP comes exclusively from competitive grants and donations from organizations and individuals. Your support is a critical part of our budget.

Contributions can be made online using PayPal (www.oregonflora.org/supportOFP.php). Checks can be made payable to Agricultural Research Foundation (include "OFP" on the memo line) and mailed to: Agricultural Research Foundation, 1600 SW Western Blvd Ste. 320, Corvallis, OR 97333.