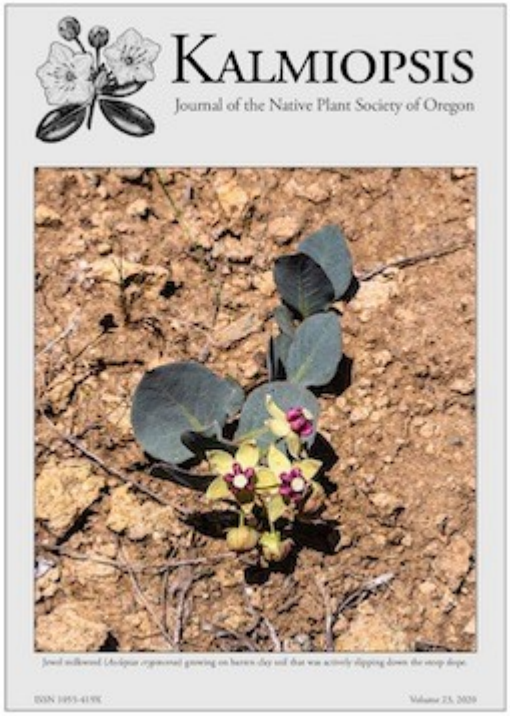
Announcing the arrival of Volume 23 of *Kalmiopsis*



The NPSO Publications Committee is pleased to present the new issue of our journal, *Kalmiopsis*. The journal is now published as pdf files, which will remain indefinitely on the NPSO website, so you can download the files onto your own devices for easy off-line reference or print a copy of individual articles. If you want a print copy of the entire journal, it is available as print-on-demand from Lulu.com. NPSO members can get it at cost by emailing the publications chair and requesting access to the publication at LULU. If chapter members pool their orders, they can save on shipping costs. Non-members may purchase it through LULU.com bookstore. In contrast to last year's focus on history, the articles in this issue of *Kalmiopsis* emphasize current discoveries and conservation issues.

For the editorial and table of contents, click here.

— Cindy Roché and Kareen Sturgeon

Plant of the Year: Yellow Sandverbena (*Abronia latifolia* Eschsch.)

by **Patricia Whereat-Phillips**

I grew up near the southern edge of the Coos Bay dune sheet. There are many green "old friends" I love to meet while hiking in the ta'an (a Hanis Coos word for dunes): a Port Orford cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) growing above a dune lake, purple flowered seashore lupines (*Lupinus littoralis*), wild strawberries (*Fragaria chiloensis*), among many others. But one beach-hugging plant has stood out for me, not only for its bright yellow flowers, but especially for its strong sweet smell: the yellow sandverbena. I can't recall any other native beach or dune plant that has such strongly scented flowers.

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Milkweeds are NOT Weeds

by **Cindy Roché and Frank Callahan**

Milkweeds are species of the genus *Asclepias*. Botanists of a certain age learned that *Asclepias* were members of their own family, Asclepiadaceae. Now the genus has been folded into the dogbane family, Apocynaceae, which is represented in Oregon by four genera: *Apocynum*, *Asclepias*, *Cycladenia*, and *Vinca*. Linnaeus named the genus *Asclepias* in 1753, honoring Asklepios, legendary Greek physician and god of medicine.

The "milk" part of the name derives from their milky sap. The "weed" part of the name probably derives from the old English term used to denote grasses and herbs. It might also refer to the more recent meaning of weed, "toxic plants or plants having no useful

value." If we had it to do over again, perhaps we would call our *Asclepias* species "milkplants."

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The Discovery of *Monardella angustifolia* at Leslie Gulch

by **Don Mansfield**

Leslie Gulch in southeastern Oregon has been a source of botanical curiosity for decades—ever since the new road was punched down Runaway Gulch from the vicinity of Succor Creek in the early 1970s, replacing the old wagon road from Rockville to Watson. Leslie Gulch is a caldera (an old collapsed volcanic eruptive center) containing outcrops of volcanic ash-tuff of assorted colors and is home to several endemic plant species. And just in the past few years, Mark Elvin, Barbara Ertter and I described another new species endemic to Leslie Gulch—*Monardella angustifolia*, narrow-leaved monardella (Elvin et al. 2014). It is reasonable to ask: how can new species still be found? I shall attempt to answer that question in this article by describing the process by which this new species came to our attention and how it came to be described.

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How Wildflowers Could Help Save Sage-grouse

by **Cindy Roché and Stu Garrett**

Sagebrush (*Artemisia*) steppe once covered about 170 million acres across the western United States. In western North America, this habitat supported populations of greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) estimated as high as 14 million birds (Dumroese 2020). The arrival of Euro-Americans began a saga of unmitigated disaster for the greater sage-grouse. Half of the sagebrush steppe habitat has been lost entirely. The process started with conversion to agricultural

uses, primarily a combination of domestic livestock grazing and irrigation projects. More recently, losses are primarily due to urban sprawl, energy projects, infrastructure, and wildfires. As a consequence, the total number of greater sage-grouse in the US has declined by 97 percent, to only 400,000 birds. The entire population in Oregon is estimated at only 14,200 birds (Foster and Vold 2020).

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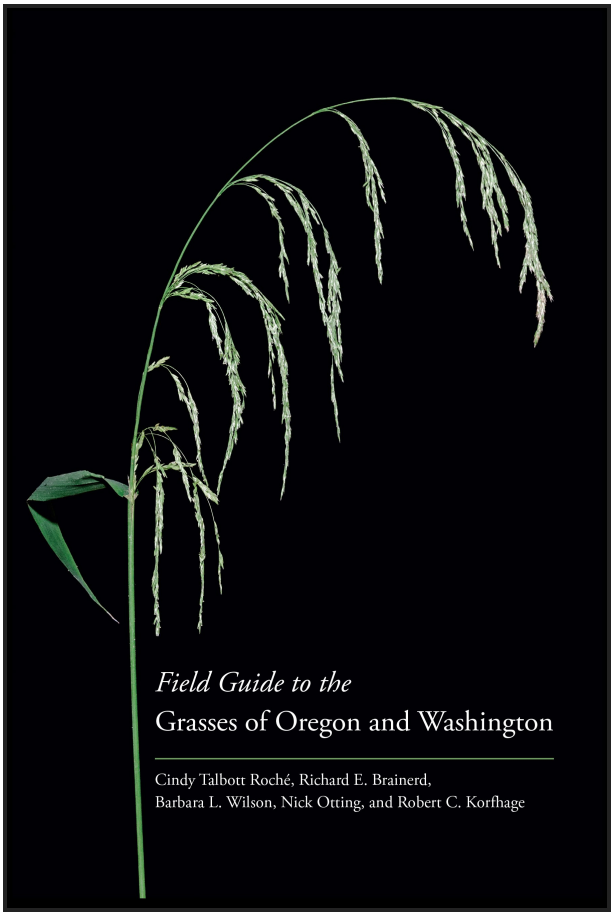

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