



## Bulletin of the Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

February 2021

Volume 54, No. 1



*Olsynium douglasii* var. *inflatum*.

First flowers of spring in January? This photo was taken January 14th, 2021  
in the Columbia River Gorge, East of Mosier, OR by Don Jacobson.

**We hope you enjoy the February eBulletin. Stay safe and healthy!**

### **Remember to Renew!**

The NPSO membership year is January to December. You can [renew online](#), or you can print out a [renewal form](#) and send it in with your payment.

*Member Categories and Information:*

Regular - \$25

Student - \$12

Family - \$35

Sustaining - \$60

Patron - \$125

Life Membership - \$500

Member benefits include the NPSO Bulletin (10 issues/year) & *Kalmiopsis* (usually once per year). Membership is for the calendar year. New memberships enrolled on or after July 1 include the following year.

Make a [donation online](#) (mail-in donations are also gratefully accepted - PO Box 902 Eugene, OR 97440). NPSO greatly appreciates your contributions to any of the following funds:

- The Leighton Ho Memorial Award is used for research projects in western Oregon
- The Rare and Endangered Plant Fund supports work with our most threatened plants
- The Augusta Rockafellar and Jean Davis Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to a botany student at an Oregon college or university
- You can also include a contribution to [OregonFlora](#)

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[New! Forward this Newsletter To A Friend](#)

If you prefer to read a hard copy, click on the link at the top of this email that says "view this email in your browser," and then "print" this e-newsletter as a PDF.

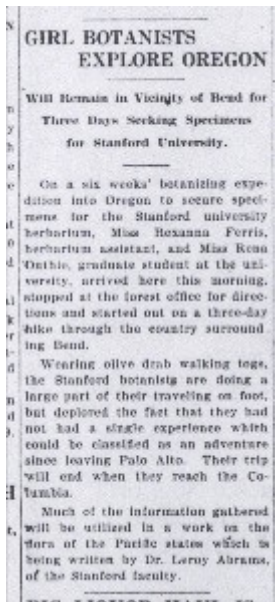
If you have any questions, please contact us at [bulletin@npsoregon.org](mailto:bulletin@npsoregon.org).

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# Writers Sought to Tell Stories of Historical Botanists in Oregon for Kalmiopsis

Anyone interested in researching and writing a biography of Roxana Ferris and Rena Duthie should contact the Kalmiopsis Editor at [kalmiopsis@npsoregon.org](mailto:kalmiopsis@npsoregon.org) for information on how to get started.

Dateline June 23, 1919. Bend Bulletin:



Rena Duthie



Roxana Ferris

In late June of 1919, two young women explored the region around Bend on foot as part of a six-week botanical survey of Oregon for the Flora of the Pacific States. What do we know about these two botanists? First, they were young women, not “girls.” In June 1919, Roxana Ferris was 24 and Rena Duthie was 27 years old. Also, Roxana was Mrs. Ferris, not Miss Ferris, married and with a daughter and a Masters degree. Rena Duthie had finished her Bachelor of Science degree and was working on her Masters degree at Stanford University. Typical of the era, the Bend Bulletin writers’ condescending tone continued with a comment on the women’s clothing (olive drab walking togs) and the expectation that a three-day hike through the country surrounding Bend would be quite an adventure for them. Because Roxana Ferris and Rena Duthie “deplored the fact that they had not had a single experience which could be classified as an adventure since leaving Palo Alto,” I would say that they were clearly seasoned field botanists.

No one has yet written a biography longer than a few paragraphs for either. Their lives would be fascinating to research.

## Native Plants In Public Spaces

The Cheahmill Chapter is pleased to share with NPSO members our two-year effort to establish native plant gardens in public spaces, specifically the new Yamhill County Public Works Department (PWD) building complex on Lafayette Avenue in McMinnville. This builds on our coordination with PWD over the years developing a comprehensive roadside vegetation plan for the County; developing an inventory of invasive plants, erosion, and native plant communities along County roadsides; as well as establishing native plants as part of major road construction projects.

NPSO members Rob Tracey, Dave Hanson, Jeanie Taylor, and Michal Wert worked with PWD staff to develop a general concept plan for 12 different planting beds around the new building and throughout the parking area. The project was done in 2 phases:

- Rob coordinated Phase 1, completed in June 2019, including 5 beds in front of the PWD offices. Six volunteers planted 556 plants and 32 different species. Rob, Dave, and Jim Kreutzbender maintained the gardens for 2 years.
- Jeanie coordinated Phase 2 in October 2020, planting 7 more beds with 3200 plants and 37 different species. Michal coordinated 18 volunteers for this several-day effort. Plants were sourced from Oregon nurseries.

In all, 286 volunteer hours were contributed to organize and plant 12 beds with almost 4,000 plants and 69 different species. Three significant aspects include:

- A demonstration garden with identification labels at the building entrance.
- A large wet prairie garden that collects runoff from half of the parking lot.
- A large rain garden that collects water from the roof and the remainder of the parking lot.



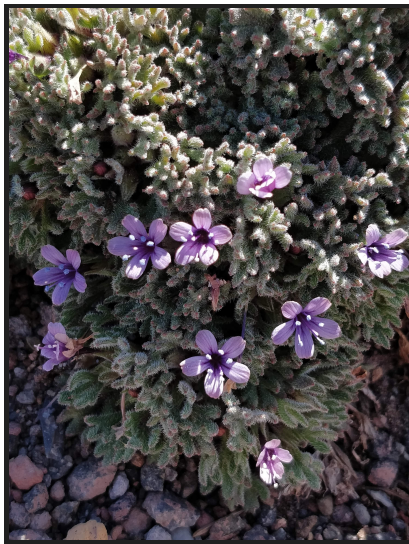
Large rain garden collects water from the roof and parking lot

PWD is currently soliciting bids for long-term maintenance of the native plant gardens.

Cheahmill Chapter members and volunteers also work with local schools to engage students in native plant landscaping projects and have maintained a native plant garden at the McMinnville Library for over 20 years. Establishing native plant gardens in public spaces is an important way to educate the general public about the beauty and ecological value of native plants, and to generate new awareness and interest for recruiting the next generation of NPSO members.

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## Oregon Mystery Plant



**Last month's mystery plant revealed:** The cushion plant pictured in the Dec-Jan eBulletin is Larsen's collomia (*Collomia larsenii*; syn. *Collomia debilis* var. *larsenii*), a member of the phlox family (Polemoniaceae). This specimen was photographed on the sparse talus slopes below Middle Sister in early August of 2020, in close proximity to other similarly-adapted, short-statured alpine species such as pussy paws (*Cistanthe umbellata*, Caryophyllaceae) and ballhead gilia (*Ipomopsis congesta*, Polemoniaceae).

- Lisa Schomaker

### New mystery plant!

This minuscule mystery was photographed in the sagebrush steppe near Vale, OR during the first week of June, 2020. When not in bloom, its densely hairy foliage is easy to miss and rarely extends more than an inch above the soil surface. But, its tubular flowers are bright pink with glowing yellow centers, and they can emerge in great numbers, drawing in the occasional wandering botanist.



Photograph by Lisa Schomaker

Do you have an Oregon Mystery Plant to share?  
Send it in to the editor: [bulletin@npsoregon.org](mailto:bulletin@npsoregon.org)

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## Plant of the Month: *Garrya elliptica*

*Garrya elliptica*, wavyleaf or coast silk tassel, is in the silk tassel family (Garryaceae), which has three species in Oregon. Wavyleaf silk tassel is a coastal species that grows from the central Oregon coast south to California. It is an erect, bushy, evergreen shrub reaching a height of 2-5 m. The cascading silvery catkins appear from December through early spring. Individual shrubs are either male or female, both with leathery dark green leaves that withstand salt spray. The males have more spectacular tassels, up to a foot long, as shown in this photo taken on January 21, 2021 at the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.



- Cindy Roché

## Harold Robinson Dies at age 88

Harold Robinson, prominent Smithsonian botanist, dies

Posted: 29 Jan 2021 09:05 AM PST

From Plant Press, Vol. 24, No. 1, January 2021. Harold E. Robinson, Smithsonian Curator Emeritus, passed away at the age of 88 on December 17, 2020, after suffering a major stroke earlier in the week. His contribution to the field cannot be overstated. The field of botany has lost a valued member of its community.

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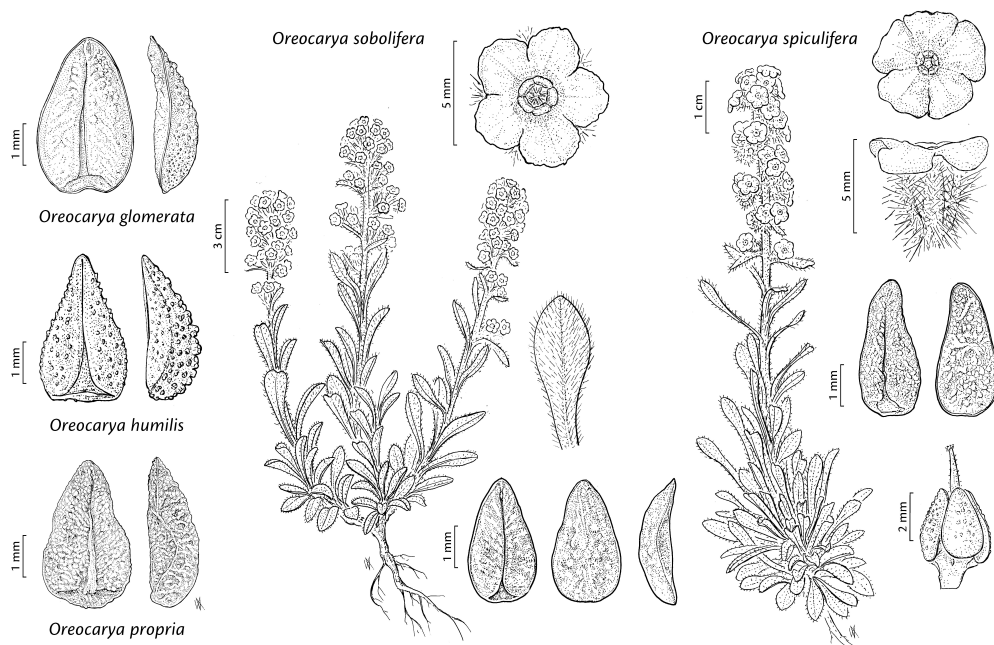
## OregonFlora



**Volume 2 of the *Flora of Oregon* is here!**

BRIT Press, our publisher, reports all pre-ordered copies of the book were mailed in January. The feedback we've gotten so far has been positive—the OregonFlora team is delighted to have the work be well-received. Don't yet have your copy? [Order it directly](#) from the publisher and see what people are talking about!

There are keys, descriptions, and distribution maps for 1,668 taxa. Almost half of them—785—have an associated illustration. This adds not only beautiful artwork to a reference dense with facts, it also helps users distinguish plants and quickly identify unknowns.



The front chapters that feature landscaping with native species and plant-insect interactions are matched with appendices giving details about hundreds of plant, butterfly, and pollinator species.

How does this volume help you pursue your interests or your work? Are there programs you're involved with that would benefit from knowing about OregonFlora and its plant diversity information? We'd like to hear from you!

Share your connections and applications with us at [info@oregonflora.org](mailto:info@oregonflora.org).

Your financial support allows us to complete Volume 3 of the *Flora of Oregon* and to keep the content of our [website](#) freely available for the public. Please give generously to OregonFlora through our online [link](#), or by mailing a check directly to our fiscal sponsor at: Agricultural Research Foundation, 1600 SW Western Blvd. Ste. 320, Corvallis, OR 97333 (payable to Agricultural Research Foundation, with "OFP" on the memo line). Your support is deeply appreciated!

Please give generously to OregonFlora through our online [link](#), or by mailing a check directly to our fiscal sponsor at: Agricultural Research Foundation, 1600 SW Western Blvd. Ste. 320, Corvallis, OR 97333 (payable to Agricultural Research Foundation, with "OFP" on the memo line). Your support is deeply appreciated!

*OregonFlora* was recently featured in an OSU College of Agricultural Sciences [video](#) and [press release](#). Feel free to share through your social media!

- Linda Hardison

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**Grant Proposals Requested**



NPSO will continue to sponsor small field research grants. Objectives of the program:

- 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.
- To promote native plant conservation through better understanding of Oregon's flora and vegetation and the factors affecting their survival.

Research proposals are due annually by March 1 [extended to March 15th for 2021]. The guidelines are available online at: <https://www.npsoregon.org/documents/grantguide.pdf>

Proposals and questions can be directed to Dan Luoma, Chair, NPSO Field Research Grants Committee - [luomad@fsl.orst.edu](mailto:luomad@fsl.orst.edu)

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## Research Study Participants Sought

Hello NPSO members. My name is Ashley Rohde and I am a graduate student at Utah State University. I am writing to invite you to participate in a study that I'm conducting as part of my dissertation research. I am reaching out to researchers, land managers, and conservation volunteers who actively participate in conservation actions. I am contacting you and other members of native plant societies because you have direct experience working on and thinking about conservation issues.

Specifically, I would like to know how the results of different types of scientific studies are put into action for conservation. I will compare how conservation practitioners use the results of molecular-based studies and abundance-based studies to inform conservation actions. This survey is of particular interest to me because, as a scientist, I want to be confident that the limited resources available for conservation research are used as efficiently as possible. Molecular techniques are used by researchers to answer questions about species of conservation concern, but their results may be difficult for practitioners without molecular training to interpret and implement. You do not need to have experience with molecular methods to take this survey!

My goal is to gather information about the perspectives of people with many different experiences.

If you are interested in participating in the study (which I hope you are), please follow the link below to complete a short survey. It should take about five minutes. Your answers are confidential, and you will not be asked to provide your name. Please only complete the survey one time. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the protection of human research participants at Utah State University has reviewed and approved this

study as protocol #9724. Every response provides the perspective of a person with unique experiences and opinions; I am happy to be able to include yours.

Thank you very much for contributing to this study!

Link:

[https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0wUwGmCL4jRcGxf](https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0wUwGmCL4jRcGxf)

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## Annual Meeting of Native Plant Society of Oregon cancelled

Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting of the Native Plant society of Oregon is cancelled. We regret this decision, but we want to keep our communities safe and healthy.

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## State & Chapter Notes

### State Notes/Announcements:

**Membership Renewal Note:** If you would like to join the Membership Committee and be part of the team, please contact [membership@nps.org](mailto:membership@nps.org) - *Margaret Conover, NPSO Membership Chair*

### NPSO Board Seeks Candidates

Please consider taking the opportunity to serve The Native Plant Society of Oregon by running for election to one of the state-wide officer or at-large board of directors positions. Officer positions include President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer who serve one-year terms. Three Directors at-large are elected annually and serve two-year terms. If you or someone you know is interested, please send information about potential candidates to Dan Luoma by email [daniel.luoma@oregonstate.edu](mailto:daniel.luoma@oregonstate.edu) for more information.

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### Chapter Notes:

#### Cheahmill

For questions, or to be added to the Cheahmill Chapter's email list for reminders of upcoming programs and events, please contact the Cheahmill Chapter President, Lisa

Blackburn at [blackburnlisag@gmail.com](mailto:blackburnlisag@gmail.com).

Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NPSO.Cheahmill/>.

**Saturday, February 27th, 10 - noon**

**Work Party: Native Plant Garden at McMinnville Public Library**

Spend a couple hours with a congenial crew and learn how the beauty, diversity and educational value of this mature demonstration garden is maintained with a minimum of effort. No experience is necessary. Winter chores include making design decisions as well as pruning, cleaning up, and weeding. Sometimes we have new species to plant! The garden includes nine ecological areas with sun and shade. Dress for the weather. Bring gloves, bucket and gardening tools if you have them. For more information, contact Catie Anderson at [catie.fishback@gmail.com](mailto:catie.fishback@gmail.com) or 503-435-2401.

Location: McMinnville Public Library, 225 NW Adams St. (corner of Highway 99W and SW Second St.), McMinnville. The library parking lot may be entered from either Adams or Second streets.

**Corvallis**

For questions, information on upcoming events, or to be on the Corvallis Chapter email list, contact [co\\_president@NPSOregon.org](mailto:co_president@NPSOregon.org). Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/CorvallisNPSO](https://www.facebook.com/CorvallisNPSO).

**Monday, February 8th, 7:30 pm**

**Zoom Meeting: Converting cow pastures to camas prairies: Dramatic changes coming to Mulkey Ridge and Bald Hill Farm in 2021**

**Presenter: Matt Blakely-Smith from the Greenbelt Landtrust**

Pre-registration is required. If you would like to join the meeting please send an email to [daniel.luoma@oregonstate.edu](mailto:daniel.luoma@oregonstate.edu) and indicate what your Zoom name is. We will be using the "waiting room" feature for enhanced security. You will receive an invitation to the meeting about one hour ahead of time. Unfortunately, requests for invitations after that point may be missed.

**Sunday, February 21st, 10:00 am - noon**

**Event: Native Plant Garden Work Party at Avery House, Avery Park**

Winter work in the garden. Come prepared for the weather and bring pruning shears, gloves and a mask. Contact Esther for more information at 541-990-0948 or [estherco@peak.org](mailto:estherco@peak.org).

**Emerald**

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

**Monthly plant meet-up:**

Join Emerald Chapter members on our monthly casual plant meet-up. Meet fellow plant lovers and nerd out about native plants! Our Plant Lover Rambles will be held in local wild spaces, rain or shine, year-round. All levels of botany and native plant expertise welcome. This is not a traditional plant walk led by an expert but a group adventure. Come ready to ask questions and share your knowledge of whatever plants we find. Due to public health concerns, we ask that attendees pre-register by emailing your name and contact number to [em\\_president@npsoregon.org](mailto:em_president@npsoregon.org). We ask that everyone wear a mask, social distance along the trail, and attend only if they are free of symptoms. **Note: This event is subject to cancellation by the governor's order.**

### **Share your botanical adventures**

#### **Online Program**

If you would like to share and recount your botanical adventures over the year, you are invited to submit 3-5 photos (instructions to be provided). Specifics will be emailed to the membership and posted on the Emerald Chapter website at <https://emerald.npsoregon.org/>.

### **Variety and beauty of fruits**

#### **Online Workshop**

**Presenters: Gail Baker & Steven Yeager**

Welcome the new year by exploring the variety and beauty of fruits, key to plant reproduction. We'll define a true fruit, botanically speaking, examine fruit diversity and the plant groups that are defined by their fruits, and learn how fruit colors, textures, sizes, ripening times and chemistry influence how their cargo, the seeds, are dispersed. Specifics will be emailed to the membership and posted on the Emerald Chapter website at <https://emerald.npsoregon.org/>.

### **Return to Crete: Wildflowers and History on a Mediterranean Island**

**February 15th, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

#### **Online Program**

**Presenter: Ed Alverson**

The Greek island of Crete is one of the largest of the Mediterranean islands. The island hosts a diverse landscape of beaches, mountains, gorges, and plateaus, and a flora that is the result of many millennia of interaction between nature and the island's residents. As a child, speaker Ed Alverson and his family lived on Crete for a year, and in 2019 he returned to explore the island's history and botany. Ed's presentation will highlight the many interesting features of Crete's flora, as well as the ways that traditional land uses sustain the native flora.

### **A Beginner's Adventures with iNaturalist**

**March 15th, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

#### **On-line Program**

**Presenter: Michael McKeag**

This will be an introduction to iNaturalist and an account of my early experiences using iNaturalist, illustrating its utility as a personal field guide, learning tool, mentor in your

pocket, and a springboard to exploration and intellectual adventures. This will be excellent preparation for your spring wildflower hikes and preparation for participation in the Mt Pisgah Arboretum Wildflower Bioblitz & the Glide Wildflower Show Bioblitz.

The link for these online presentations will be posted at <https://emerald.npsoregon.org> and will be emailed to Emerald Chapter members in advance.

View previously recorded NPSO Emerald Chapter Programs at <http://bit.ly/recordedmonthlyprograms>

## **High Desert**

**Wednesday, February 17th, 7:00 pm**

Lomatium Lore

**Online Program**

**Presenter: Barbara Wilson**

Oregon is a center of diversity for *Lomatium* (desert parsley or biscuitroots). We have undescribed species (ones that don't have scientific names yet), cryptic species (ones that have names but we wish they didn't because they look so much alike), highly variable species (or should we divide those up?) and even a few easy-to-recognize species. Most *Lomatium* are edible or have medicinal uses, but most species are too rare to sustain human consumption now. Why so much variation? Join us to learn about the contributions of Oregon's varied geography, Native American trading and cultivation, and *Lomatium*'s seed dispersal mechanisms to *Lomatium* evolution as we explore the intricate beauty of this lovely and confusing group of plants.

For information and to sign up for hikes, visit the High Desert Chapter website: [www.highdesertnpsoregon.org](http://www.highdesertnpsoregon.org) and Facebook page: [Native Plant Society of Oregon: High Desert Chapter](#), or email [highdesertnps@gmail.com](mailto:highdesertnps@gmail.com).

## **Klamath Basin**

For information on the Klamath Basin Chapter, visit <http://klamathbasinnps.com>.

## **Mid-Columbia (currently inactive)**

For information on the Mid-Columbia Chapter, contact [mc\\_president@NPSOregon.org](mailto:mc_president@NPSOregon.org).

## **Portland**

Our members receive *The Calochortus*, our monthly e-newsletter with field trips, programs, news, and events for the Portland area. If you are not receiving it, check your spam folder and notify [po\\_president@npsoregon.org](mailto:po_president@npsoregon.org) of any email address change. You'll also find our monthly programs and additional field trips posted on our Meetup page at <https://www.meetup.com/NPSO-Portland/>. Our Facebook page is regularly updated with current wildflower bloom status and photos at <https://www.facebook.com>

[/npsso.portland/](https://portlandnativeplants.org/). Visit our chapter website at <https://portlandnativeplants.org/>

Our monthly programs are now virtual, as of September 2020. Chapter members will find a link to register for our second Thursday Zoom presentations in each issue of *The Calochortus* newsletter.

**PROGRAM:**

Thursday, February 11, 7-9pm

**Program: 60th Anniversary of NPSO and Annual Officers' Election**

**Presenter: Willow Elliott, President of Portland Chapter / Guest members**

Description: Take a look back in time when NPSO was founded in 1961. We'll note major milestones and the members who championed those efforts. We will honor Fellows Award winners in our region, hear stories from some long time members, view historic photos, and vote for 2021-22 Board Officers.

You must register in advance for this meeting.

**PROGRAM:**

Thursday, March 11th, 7-9pm

**Program: Mountain Meadows, Islands of Diversity**

**Presenters: Zak Weinstein, Botanist**

Description: Learn about montane meadow restoration and ecology in Oregon. Montane meadows become imperiled as they are encroached upon by forest. Zak will share his experience monitoring a meadow restoration project on Mary's Peak where in 2015 he installed transects and began collecting data as a Corvallis NPSO grant recipient. He has since worked as an independent contractor of the Siuslaw National Forest with assistance from the Corvallis NPSO.

You must register in advance for this meeting:

\*Watch for the link in the March Bulletin. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with a link for your own use. Save it. **Do not forward or distribute this link.**

**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](mailto: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, make a suggestion, or provide feedback regarding the field trip program, please contact Katelyn Detweiler, [detweiler.katelyn@gmail.com](mailto:detweiler.katelyn@gmail.com). Join us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/SiskiyouChapterNativePlantSocietyOfOregon>

**Umpqua Valley**

Visit [umpquavalleynativeplants.com](http://umpquavalleynativeplants.com) for more information on chapter activities or to be added to our email list. Check out our Facebook page,

[www.facebook.com/UmpquaValleyNPSO](http://www.facebook.com/UmpquaValleyNPSO). Not online - call Donna Rawson 541-643-0364.

### **Willamette Valley**

For program information, contact John Savage at 503-779-5414, [wvnps@gmail.com](mailto:wvnps@gmail.com)

### **William Cusick**

Chapter notices and communications are done primarily through a Google group. For more information or to be added to the Google group, please contact Susan Geer at 541-963-0477 or [susanmgeer@gmail.com](mailto:susanmgeer@gmail.com). Find us on Instagram at [instagram.com/wm.cusick.chapter](https://www.instagram.com/wm.cusick.chapter). Our website is not currently functional.

## **Native Plant Interest Groups:**

### **Filipendula**

For more information, visit our Facebook page: [NPSO-Filipendula Chapter](#)

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## NPSO State Officers

- President: Dan Luoma, [president@npsoregon.org](mailto:president@npsoregon.org)
- Immediate Past President: Lisa Blackburn, [past\\_president@npsoregon.org](mailto:past_president@npsoregon.org)
- Vice-president: Lisa Blackburn, [vice-president@npsoregon.org](mailto:vice-president@npsoregon.org)
- Secretary: Steven Yeager, [secretary@npsoregon.org](mailto:secretary@npsoregon.org)
- Treasurer: Michael Hartman, [treasurer@npsoregon.org](mailto:treasurer@npsoregon.org)
- Directors: Gail Baker, Jason Clinch, Sarah Ratay, Dave Garcia, Linda Hardison, Bruce Waugh

## Committees & Chairs

- Budgets and [Grants](#): [Dan Luoma](#)
- Conservation: [Dawn Anzinger](#)
- Friends Of The Oregon Flora Project: [Linda Hardison](#)
- Legislative: [Vacant](#)
- Membership: [Margaret Conover](#)
- NPSO Fellows: [Cindy Roché and Kareen Sturgeon](#)
- Rare & Endangered Plants: [Jason Clinch](#)
- Publications: [Cindy Roché and Kareen Sturgeon](#)
- Bulletin Editors: [Laurel Burke and Jamie Menzel](#)
- Webmaster: [Sunia Yang](#)
- More information about our NPSO Fellows [here](#).

Chapter Presidents and contact information [can be found here](#).

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