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Rhoda M. Love, a long time member of NPSO, became an NPSO Fellow in 2001. She has served as a member of the *Kalmiopsis* editorial board since its inception in 1991, has published biographical articles on Northwest botanists Ken Chambers, Louis Henderson, W.N. Suksdorf, A.R. Sweetser, Lilla Leach, and Lincoln Constance. This is her sixth article in *Kalmiopsis*; she also edited the late Robert Ornduff's article on Thomas Jefferson Howell and contributed sidebars to several articles. She is currently working on a book with Art Kruckeberg, *Plant Hunters of the Pacific Northwest*.

Book Reviews

Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest

Wilson, B.L., R.E. Brainerd, D. Lytjen, B. Newhouse, and N. Otting. 2008. Corvallis (OR): Oregon State University Press. 431 p. ISBN 978-0-87071-197-8 \$35.00

Few plant groups strike greater fear into the hearts of amateur (or even professional) botanists than graminoids, especially sedges. (Admittedly, willows and some composites run a close second.) Help with Oregon sedges arrived last summer and as a bonus, the book includes Washington as well. The five botanists who created the *Field Guide to Sedges of the Pacific Northwest* are known formally as the Carex Working Group and informally as the "Sedgeheads." Their collective wit and wisdom about the genus *Carex* has resulted in an excellent book that takes much of the pain, misery and uncertainty out of sedge identification (except, perhaps, among the "dreaded ovals").

The Guide begins with a general discussion of *Carex* ecology, ethnobotany, morphology, nomenclature and classification. Morphology is clarified in the section, "Sedge Parts," using Jean Janish's pen and ink illustrations of "sedge anatomy" (reprinted from Volume 1 of *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*). Preceding the key to 153 species is a "how to use it" section with pointers for negotiating a long, complicated dichotomous key.

The species accounts are conveniently arranged in alphabetical order by scientific name. There are two pages for each species, one page of text with a distribution map and a facing page of remarkable color photographs and line drawings that illustrate various characteristics, either of the plant or its habitat.

The text page begins with scientific and common name,

section within the genus, and which keys you might have used for identification. Next is a list of key features, a complete description, habitat and distribution, identification tips, and comments. Tips for identification discuss look-a-like species and comments include ethnobotanical notes, impacts of grazing, ecological importance.

Facing the text are close-up color photographs: perigynia with a millimeter scale, the scale-like structures that subtend the perigynia; the inflorescence, a habit drawing or photograph (rarely an herbarium specimen) and a habitat photograph.

Discussions of Excluded, Extirpated, and Not (Yet?) Discovered Species, Sedges with Distinctive Traits and Habitats, Collecting Sedges, and Ethnobotanical Uses prove that this tome emanated from years of passionate immersion in the world of sedges. The 26 lists of sedges with distinctive traits or habitats are a wonderful gift to incorrigible folks who always try to circumvent methodically working their way through dichotomous keys. There are lists for plants with hairy leaves, "gigantic" or hairy perigynia, and any number of unusual traits. Plus, there are lists for sedges from specific habitats, such as serpentine fens. And, when you get to the end, there is a comprehensive index, for that time you forgot the scientific name of Wonder Woman Sedge and want to look it up!

This 6- by 9-inch book will fit in any backpack, but might be a bit heavy for some as a field manual. Go to www.carexworkinggroup.com/index.html for updates, corrections, or to add your own suggestions observation or corrections.

The book compares favorably with the *Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges* (EG Hurd, NL Shaw, J Mastrogiuseppe, LC Smithman and S Goodrich 1998, USDA Forest Service Gen Tech Report RMRS-GTR-10). The formats are somewhat similar and

many of the same species are covered. The addition of distribution maps and field photos of habit and habitat are a definite step up. Although some of the close-up images in Intermountain Sedges are superior, it lacks the field perspective. If you've ever attended a sedge workshop with the Carex Working Group, the only thing you'll miss in this book are the wonderful regional keys. After using those, it is difficult to go back to a state-wide key. At any rate, this book's comprehensive coverage of the sedges takes us one step closer to an Oregon Flora.

Our experience identifying sedges using the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest keys were mostly positive and successful, although members of the "dreaded" Ovales group still gave cause for head scratching, but not hair pulling. To use this sedge key (or any other) with maximum ease be sure to have plenty of unmounted material that you are not worried about tearing apart. Look for rhizomes when collecting and include them when taking specimens. Also, if your sedge specimen is immature, follow the advice of the Sedgeheads and throw it over your shoulder (don't try to key it).

—Frank A. Lang and Cindy Roché, *Siskiyou Chapter*

Flowers of the Table Rocks

MacKinnon, S.K. 2007. Medford (OR): author published. 433 p. ISBN 978-0-9814590-0-4 \$36.95 [Available from tablerockbook@charter.net]

Like most wildflower enthusiasts, I can't pass a bookstore without stopping and checking out the nature shelves for the latest field guides on wildflowers. When traveling, I often look for field guides that are specific to that area. Although I like to browse the shelves, I don't usually buy wildflower picture books because more often than not they feature only the most common, showy species and are poorly organized with low quality photographs. Typically, they must be used alongside a flora because the keys (if present) lack so many taxa. As you can see, I'm highly selective in my book purchases and don't clutter my bookshelves with every new book that comes along!

However, I recently discovered the "the perfect wildflower field guide" for the Medford area: *Flowers of the Table Rocks*. You don't need a PhD to use it, either. An amateur botanist herself, the author presents the details she had to learn to identify plants, so the book contains the information about plant anatomy that most PhD botanists hold between their ears. This book could be used as text to help any amateur flower lover become a better botanist.

This 443-page self published guide "for the amateur botanist and the wildflower enthusiast" contains stunning, sharp photographs, an easy-to-use key to families, botanical descriptions with accompanying photomicrographs, detailed information on habitat and plant physiology, and a wealth of information about the Table Rocks.

The Table Rocks, the two prominent geologic structures just north of Medford, are an extremely popular destination for local residents. They are home to more than fifty plant families comprising over 300 species, 85 percent of which are natives. Thus, the book serves as a guide for low elevation habitats in much of Jackson and Josephine counties. Using the simple key, one can quickly move into a family (the book is organized by plant families) and then into those species that occur on the Table Rocks.

Unlike most field guides that offer a single picture per plant, this book features multiple photographs (some through a dissecting microscope) of each species that clearly show distinctive floral parts, buds, leaves, and fruits. Many of the photos include measurements of scale and key plant characteristics are labeled. And, for those looking for the unusual telltale characteristic, this book even offers an odor test for some species.

The author has included tables showing month of flowering for each species as well as a table listing common names and the meanings and derivations of scientific names. She also indicates taxa listed by state and federal agencies as rare and endangered, as well as those that are noxious weed species.

The spring flora of the Table Rocks is the primary draw for thousands of visitors every year. Whether it is your first Table Rock hike or you are a regular visitor, this book is a "must have" for easily identifying every plant you find there. But the other benefit that puts this book a notch above any other is the knowledge you can gain about plant morphological characteristics and terminology used in keying. In short, if you want to learn more about botany while identifying plants, this is the book for you.

—Bob Korfhage, *Siskiyou Chapter*

The Bristlecone Book

Lanner, R.M. 2007. Missoula (MT): Mountain Press Publishing Co. 117 p. paper. ISBN 978-0-87842-538-9 \$12.00

Ron Lanner, after a career as a research forester and teaching tree biology, is sharing his love of trees, especially coniferous trees, by writing natural history books that interpret science for general readers. The latest is his bristlecone book that gives the life story of "three cousins" of Foxtail Pines (subsection Balfourianae of the genus *Pinus*). *Kalmiopsis* readers learned about *Pinus balfouriana* three years ago in Frank Lang's article about John Jeffrey. Foxtail pine was named for Professor John Balfour, who helped bankroll Jeffrey's explorations. Bristlecone pine achieved fame in 1958 when Edmund Schulman "christened it the world's oldest known living thing" in the National Geographic Magazine. At that time only one species of bristlecone pine was recognized: *P. aristata*. In 1970, Dana K. Bailey gave compelling reasons that the famous, long-lived Great Basin bristlecone pine differed enough from the Rocky Mountain bristlecone pine (*Pinus aristata*) to be given its own name. He named it *Pinus longaeva* to honor its longevity. Dana realized that the differences merited a new species when he was on the US Forest Service Interpretive Trail to the ancient stand of bristlecone pine below Wheeler Peak, Nevada (in 1986 it became Great Basin National Park). For this reason, we call this trail to the ancient Bristlecone Grove, The Discovery Trail, in Dana's honor.

Lanner has done a nice job of compiling everything he knows about the three pines and weaving it into an entertaining story. The illustrations, both color photos and line drawings, are a perfect complement to the narrative. I like his sense of humor as well. For example, when telling us how *Pinus aristata* was named in 1862, he described Dr. George Engelmann as a "mad-about-conifers St. Louis physician who was influential in making western American conifers known to science while anxious patients languished in his waiting room." While it may not be true, it's fun to imagine.

The bristlecone pines range across the highest peaks of the

Intermountain West into California. Lanner includes a description of the single location of foxtail pine in Oregon, on Arnold Peak (reported by Frank Callahan, but now extirpated). Southern Oregon NPSO chapters routinely visit localities in northern California where foxtail pine grows: the Scott, Marble, Salmon, Trinity, Yolla Bolly mountains and the Trinity Alps.

This is a perfect little book to carry on a vacation to read in the campsite or at the top of the peak when pausing for some relaxation. It can heighten your appreciation for the natural environment and satisfy your curiosity about trees we see only near the tops of the mountains.

—Ron Mastrogiuseppe, *Klamath Chapter*

Biology and Evolution of Ferns and Lycopytes

Ranker J.D., and C.H. Haufler, eds. 2008. Cambridge University Press. 480 pp. \$135.00 hardback, \$63.00 paper.

This book is the latest word on the biology and evolution of ferns and club-mosses from fern experts around the world. The editors and their contributors represent a “Who’s who” of fern scientists today. The editors divide the subject into four parts: Development and Morphogenesis, Genetics and Reproduction, Ecology and Systematics. Each part is divided into chapters that are written by recognized experts in the field. Some chapters have a single author; others, multiple authors. The first thing I did was to see if my PhD research on the evolution of the *Polypodium vulgare* complex was included. I looked, and there it was, neatly summarized on page 309 in Haufler’s chapter on Species and Speciation. This book is not for beginners, although it might be a place do selective reading about the ecomorphology of fern gametophytes or the biological and evolutionary implications of the antheridiogen system. However, it is a book that every serious fern researcher should own, if only for the book’s extensive bibliography and comprehensive presentation of modern fern research. If you can’t afford the book, make sure your library buys a copy to be available to all readers, beginners even. —Frank Lang, *Siskiyou Chapter*

Mabberley’s Plant-Book: A Portable Dictionary of Plants, their Classification and Uses

Mabberley, D.J. 2008. 3rd Ed. Cambridge University Press. 1021 p. ISBN-13-9780521820714 \$85.35, hard cover.

I must have been in graduate school when I discovered J.C. Willis’ *A Dictionary of the Flowering Plants and Ferns*. I found it a remarkable compendium of information about vascular plants: their characteristics, classification, and uses (ethnobotany). Willis, and later H. K. Airy Shaw, put the dictionary through a series of editions, and each one included more and more plant information.

In 1987, D. J. Mabberley of Cambridge University took the dictionary to new heights with the publication of *The Plant-Book: A Portable Dictionary of Vascular Plants* with a second edition ten years later. In 2008, a third edition is available, with a new title *Mabberley’s Plant-Book: A Portable Dictionary of Plants, their Classification and Uses* and an additional 1,650 or so new entries.

The title change from “Vascular Plants” to just plain “Plants” reflects the addition of ecologically and economically important

moss genera, including, for example, *Sphagnum*. As in any dictionary, entries are in alphabetical order by genus, family, well-known common name, or botanical term, which might also be a common name (nut, for example).

Mabberley uses a modern approach to classification and nomenclature. He generally follows Kubitzki’s *The Families and Genera of Vascular Plants* with modifications to take into account new information from molecular studies. Do not be surprised at new names for old groups or old names for new groups. He recommends the use of Labiatae, Compositae, etc. over their newer names Lamiaceae, Asteraceae. On the other hand, *Trillium* is placed in the Melanthiaceae and not the Trilliaceae or the Liliaceae as most of you learned. Melanthiaceae is also where you will find *Veratrum* and *Xerophyllum*.

The book is an odd shape 5 x 9 x 1.75 inches (12.5 x 23.5 x 4.5 cm), hard bound, and has a nice dark blue ribbon for keeping your place, but small enough to be “portable.” Font size is small (you do have a hand lens, right?) and printed on 1021, thin, quality paper pages. Understanding the abbreviations will take a while. If the book had a flexible cover, I would call it a botanical bible. The high price is worth every penny if you want to have maximum botanical information on your shelf in a single book. I use my copy frequently. —Frank Lang, *Siskiyou Chapter*

Field Guide to Shrubs of Southwestern Oregon

Bennett, M. and J. Walker. 2008. Corvallis (OR): OSU Extension Service and Middle Rogue Watershed Council. 80 p. spiral bound, 5 x 7 inches; \$7. [Available from OSU Extension office at 569 Hanley Road, Central Point (776-7371) or 215 Ringuette, Grants Pass (476-6613) or from the Middle Rogue Watershed Council, 543 NW “E” St., Ste. 201, Grants Pass, OR 97526; mrwc@charterinternet.com]

Like the *Field Guide to Sedges*, this shrub guide was conceived by a group of individuals with common interests. The “Shrub Club,” a group working with landowners and agencies on watershed and small woodland projects, needed a field guide for shrubs in southwestern Oregon. So they created one, or perhaps they assigned the task to two of their members. Max Bennett, OSU Extension Service Forester, took the lead on writing the text and Jan Walker has first credit on the photos.

The guide primarily covers common native shrubs, but includes three important invaders: our two “wild, non-native” blackberries and Scotch broom. The 56 entries are presented in alphabetical order by scientific name. There also is an index in the back of the booklet organized alphabetically by common name. The index isn’t entirely consistent (for example, Himalayan blackberry is listed under “b” and Scotch broom is listed under “s”). Luckily, the list is short enough that the reader can quickly scan both pages to find the desired entry.

In the introductory pages we learn that a shrub is a woody plant less than 20 feet tall at maturity, with several trunks. The guide excludes trees that sometimes grow as shrubs, such as canyon live oak and includes some woody vines (which don’t exactly fit the previous definition). The intended coverage is the Klamath Mountains Ecoregion, which is shown on a map on page 5, followed by a two page illustrated glossary of plant parts and several pages of simple keys presented like “organizational charts” (lines and boxes).

Two or three color photos of each shrub show different stages of development and parts of the plant: catkins or flowers, leaves, twigs, bark, thorns, fruits, plant habit. Below the photos, the authors tell the relative size at maturity and the type of habitat (e.g., chaparral, coniferous forest), followed by descriptions of its leaves, twigs, flowers, and fruit, and some notable trait often dealing with horticultural possibilities, uses by humans or wildlife, or similar species not covered in detail.

If you expect the guide to be comprehensive, you will be disappointed by the number of native shrubs that fail to appear in its pages. Botanically savvy readers might prefer to have plant families listed, or that the gooseberry, rose and willow species be dealt with individually, rather than lumped (e.g., *Salix* spp.). That aside, this is a great little field guide; easy to use, good photos, fits in your pocket or pack, and includes most of the common shrubs in southwestern Oregon. In addition, it could serve as a reference for learning about native shrubs for landscaping.

—Cindy Roché, *Siskiyou Chapter*

Plain Green Wrapper: A Forester's Story

McCormick, R.J. 2009. \$19.95 ISBN: 978-0-578-02601-5
Self Published. Available from lulu.com

In *Plain Green Wrapper*, Ron McCormick chronicled his life in the Forest Service for two audiences: his personal family and his Forest Service “family.” For the former, he hoped to give his children and grandchildren a better understanding of his life, and for the latter, to contribute to a national museum of US Forest Service history. He is successful in both of those endeavors, and in a third one as well: giving insight into the difficulties public land resource managers face in finding a balance between opposing factions, and the frustration of seeing one’s hard work negated by swings of the political pendulum. Rather than becoming bitter, he has come up with a model that would serve, to some degree, to buffer resource management decisions from short-term political extremes.

This personal story tells how a boy from a small town in Ohio discovered that he loved the outdoors and pursued a career with the Forest Service, which culminated as Supervisor of the Siskiyou National Forest in southwestern Oregon. Perhaps only a small percentage of boys in the 1940s who loved to hunt and fish ended up in the Forest Service, but a high percentage of the foresters in the 60s and 70s had been boys who loved the outdoors. His experiences were in many ways typical of his generation of foresters, so his story will resonate particularly with readers who are or have been Forest Service employees (CR). The book is not great literature; errors in grammar and awkward sentences abound. But “outdoor boys” have rarely been polished writers, and his writing is clearly from the heart, revealing the integrity and courage of the author.

McCormick recounts the trials and tribulations of a forester who tried to find the middle way between rigid environmentalists out to save every single tree and a vindictive timber industry out to cut every tree, standing or not, down or up for green timber or salvage. The chronicle is both personal and professional: two marriages, children, schooling, employment, moving from position to position on seven National Forests, projects, successes, and setbacks.

His account of developing consensus for the management of \$8 Mountain in Josephine County was of particular interest to one of

us (FL) who was involved in the process mentioned as “an eminent professor of botany from Southern Oregon University,” as a field trip leader there. The field trip, in McCormick’s view, was important in developing a common knowledge base, appreciating the resource, understanding the issues, discovering common values and fostering mutual respect among members of the group. Consensus was greatly facilitated by McCormick’s hiring Bob Chadwick to guide the disparate group. It was a pleasure to be reminded of Chadwick’s consensus building techniques and gentle ways.

The stories paralleled what many public agency employees experienced, particularly in attempting to get a broader approach to managing ecosystems. I (TA) particularly enjoyed the last part of the book where he writes about where we should be and how we should get there. At a meeting in Grants Pass years ago, he introduced his idea for a Federal Public Land and Resources Board, similar to the Federal Reserve, to act as a shield between the Forest Service and the short-term thinking of the current congress and administration. His approach of inclusion was necessary, but not sufficient. When courts decide, management is based on politics rather than science. Perhaps this Board could pull together science and public demands in a productive rather than a destructive way.

—Cindy Roché, *Frank Lang and Tom Atzet, Siskiyou Chapter*

Williams Area Trail Guide

Roether, E. 2006. Williams (OR): author published. 64 p. spiral bound. ISBN 0-9779727-0-4 \$12.00 [Available at Williams General Store, Oregon Books in Grants Pass, and Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland]

In southwestern Oregon, hiking is a year-round activity; we select the area and elevation depending on the season. Based on a tip offered by David Wagner on the NPSO listserv last spring, Bob and I hiked the Enchanted Forest trail. The wildflowers were out, but not many hikers; not until we reached the upper end of the trail did we encounter other people. There we met Evelyn Roether with her friends, and she told us about the trail guide for the Williams area that she had published.

The first fourteen pages of the guide briefly describe the Williams Creek watershed, land ownership, geology, climate, plants, animals, first people, fur trade, gold mining, logging, and current residents. Two pages are devoted to a list of the featured trails and a vicinity map showing their locations. The heart of the book features descriptions of fifteen trails. There is a hand-drawn map showing the trail and major topographical features, followed by a difficulty rating, distance, elevation gain, accessibility season, name of the USGS quad map, and a narrative about the trail. At 5½ by 8½ inches, it fits easily into a daypack.

Some of these trails are featured in other guidebooks, but because Evelyn focuses on such a small region, she includes trails that no one else does. This is a great little book to inspire you to get outside and explore the terrain “out in our backyard.”

—Cindy Roché, *Siskiyou Chapter*