



Bulletin of the  
**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
OF OREGON**

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

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## CHAPTER NEWS

### IMPORTANT NOTE TO FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS:

Field trips take place rain or shine, so proper dress and footwear are essential. Trips may be strenuous and/or hazardous. Please contact the trip leader for information about difficulty, mileage, and terrain. Participation is at your own risk. Bring water and lunch. All NPSO activities are open to the public at no charge (other than carpool mileage), and friends, newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

**Notice to field trip chairs and leaders:** The Forest Service and other Federal agencies have set policies limiting group size in wilderness areas to 12. The reason for this is to limit the human impact on these fragile areas. Each group using wilderness must be no larger than 12.

### Blue Mountain

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For information, contact Jerry Baker (566-2244).

### Corvallis

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CORVALLIS CHAPTER NOW MEETS ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, RATHER THAN ON MONDAYS.**

11 Feb., Tues.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm in the Corl House, 3975 NW Witham Hill Rd., Corvallis. Jim Weber will talk on "Botanical Similarities between the Pacific Northwest and the Upper Great Lakes". Jim will discuss present day distributions in the light of changes in distribution patterns during the Holocene. Contact Duncan Thomas (752-6529) for further information.

22 Feb., Sat.

**WORKSHOP.** "Winter Plant Propagation"--Work with hardwood cuttings and seed dormancy. 1 to 3pm at Loren Russel's house 3420 SW Willamette, Corvallis. If interested in attending call Loren at 752-7558.

### Emerald

10 Feb., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm in the Library, Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene. Dr. Daphne Stone, an expert on lichens, mosses and liverworts, will show slides and speak on: "The Ecology of Lichens and Some Interesting Lichens of Alaska, Oregon, California and Georgia." Dr. Stone's new brochure, Lichens and Mosses of Mount Pisgah Arboretum, will be available. For more information, call Jenny Dimling (343-3242).

15 Feb., Sat.

**FIELD TRIP:** Daphne Stone will lead a short walk to view some of the common mosses, lichens and liverworts of Mt. Pisgah Arboretum as a follow up to her talk of Feb. 10th. Her new brochure, Lichens and Mosses of Mount Pisgah Arboretum, will be available. Meet at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum office at 10am. Lunch and drink optional as this walk will be completed by noon. For more information, call Daphne at 344-3274.

- 15 Feb., Sat. **WILLOW CREEK WORK PARTY.** Volunteers needed for a morning of woody plant removal at TNC's Willow Creek Reserve in west Eugene. Meet at 9:30 am at the bridge over Willow Creek on West 18th, 1/2 mile west of Bertelsen Rd. Bring work gloves, loppers or hand saw. For more information, call Ed Alverson, 687-5586.
- 9 March, Mon. **MEETING.** 7:30pm in the Library, Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene. Ellen Deehan Clark, Lane Community College Botanist, will show slides and speak on "Belize: Mayan Jungle and Coral Reef." Ms. Clark will discuss her recent explorations of the rain forest jungle and the shoreline of this Central American country on the Caribbean. For more information, call Jenny Dimling, 343-3242.

## High Desert

- 25 Feb., Tues. **MEETING.** 7:30pm at The Bend Senior Center on NE Marshall. The High Desert Chapter will have their annual "Share-a-Slide" show. Bring up to 10 of your favorite recent shots and share them with us!

## Mid-Columbia

- 5 Feb., Wed. **MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Mosier School. Mike Fahey will present a program on Seeds of Columbia Gorge Native Plants.
- 4 March, Wed. **MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Old West Gallery, upstairs above Mel'o's Camera Shop, 312 East 2nd St., The Dalles. Use Alley entrance and park in Coast to Coast lot from 3rd St. Professional photographer Wilma Roberts, FPSA, will present a creative impression of wildflowers titled "Along Nature's Path".

## North Coast

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- FIELD TRIP.** Date and location to be announced. For more info., call Jim Winslow (842-2246).
- 25 Feb., Tues. **MEETING.** 7pm at Tillamook PUD Meeting Room, 1115 Pacific, Tillamook. Program to be announced.

## Portland

- 11 Feb., Tues. **MEETING.** 7pm at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Linda Hardie-Scott will speak on "Wildflowers of the Deserts of Southern California".
- 8 Feb., Sat. **WORKSHOP.** Dean Longrie, Regional Botanist for the USFS Pacific Northwest Region will provide a program on the "Botany Programs in the Pacific Northwest National Forests". The workshop will be held in Room 201, First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland at 10am.
- 22 Feb., Sat. **WORKSHOP.** Molly Sullivan, botanist for the Columbia River Gorge District of the Mt. Hood National Forest, will present a workshop on clubmosses. She will also describe techniques used in searching for and monitoring rare plants. The workshop will be held in Room 201, First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland at 10am.
- 7, 14, 21, & 28 Mar., Sat. **WORKSHOPS AND FIELD TRIP.** Jerry Igo of the Mid-Columbia Chapter of the NPSO will present a series of three workshops and a field trip on four successive Saturdays in March. The workshops will cover wildflower identification with emphasis on flowers of the Columbia River Gorge. Jerry will lead a field trip on the last Saturday of March to show many of the flowers discussed in the classes. The classes will be from 10am to noon. They will be held at the Leach Botanical Garden Manor House, located at 6704 SE 122nd Ave., Portland. These classes are jointly sponsored by the Portland Chapter of the NPSO and the Leach Botanical Garden. Jerry Igo is a well-known naturalist with a broad background in native plants.

## Siskiyou

- 20 Feb., Thur. **MEETING.** 7:30pm in Room 171, Science Bldg., Southern Oregon State College. Dr. Ed Guerrant of the Berry Botanic Garden in Portland will describe his research work on isozymes in a lecture titled "Should *Fritillaria gentneri* be considered a good species?" For information, call David Kennedy (535-6383).

10 Feb. to 28 Feb.

**Art Exhibition.** "Endangered Flora of the Siskiyou". Printings by James Hutchinson on display at the Other Art Gallery at SOSOC.

## Umpqua Valley

13 Feb., Thur.

**MEETING.** Russ Holmes, BLM botanist, will discuss opportunities for volunteer summer projects. 7pm in Room 311 of the Douglas County Courthouse, Roseburg.

22 Feb., Sat.

**FIELD TRIP.** Key the gymnosperms in Stewart Park, Veterans Administration grounds and adjacent territory. It will take a half-day's stroll to cover them all. Bring a lunch and if the weather is nice we can go afield to look at native broadleaf trees. Meet 8am BLM parking lot, 777 Garden Valley Rd, Roseburg.

## Willamette Valley

17 Feb., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7pm at First United Methodist Church, Room 225, 600 State St., Salem. Susan Wilcox will speak about Berry Botanic Garden (in the Portland-Lake Oswego area) with special emphasis on native plants within its collection. For more info., call Kathy Connelly (393-1834).

## William Cusick

11 Feb., Tue.

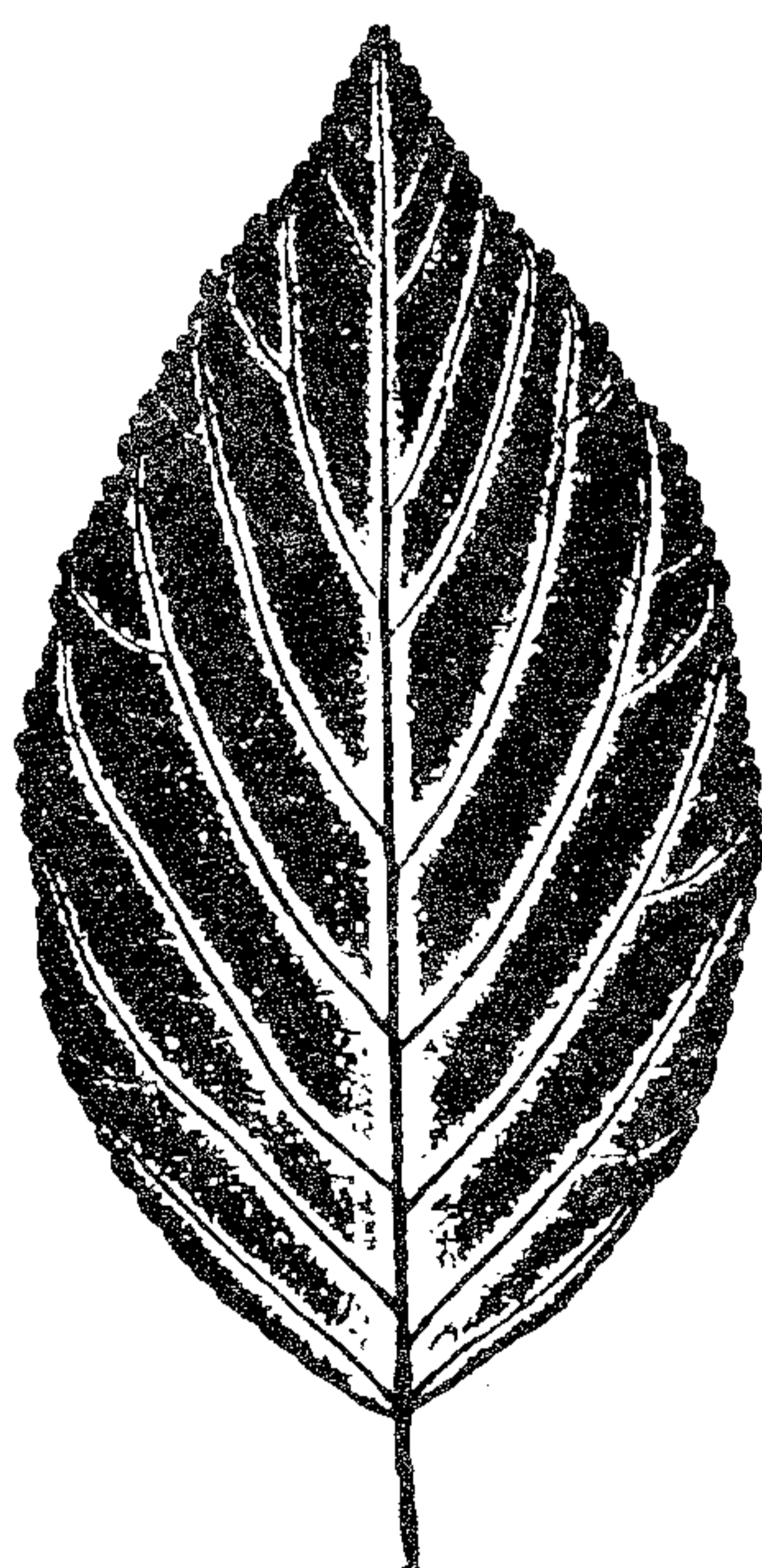
**MEETING.** 7:30pm Forest and Range Sciences Lab, C Street and Geckler Lane, LaGrande. Two Cusick Chapter members will share their experiences with plants of the tropics. Marty Stein will talk about the ethnobotany of the Philippines and Kent Coe will present a program on plants in Botswana.

10 March, Tue.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm Forest and Range Science Lab, C Street and Geckler Lane, LaGrande. Presentation by Jim McIvor of the Forest and Range Sciences Lab entitled "Insect involvement in the life of *Lupinus caudatus*, Kellogg's lupine."

7 April, Tue.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm ESD office, 2100 Main St., Baker City. Charlie Johnson, Zone Ecologist, US Forest Service, Baker, will present a slide show on endemic plants of the Blue Mountains. For more information call Bob Ottersberg, 963-4907.



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### THE PLANT PUZZLE

*Sponsored by the Siskiyou Chapter*

Do you recognize this plant?  
The first person to give the correct scientific name will win a prize. The illustrated leaves are from a native woody species.

Send your guess on a postcard to:

Peter Zika  
4230 NW Clubhouse Pl. #1  
Corvallis, OR 97330

Rhoda Love of Eugene solved the January puzzle: *Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*, hazelnut or filbert.

## HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF *PAXISTIMA*?

Since early in this century, botanical taxonomists have operated under a well defined set of rules (the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature) which is designed, among other things, to stabilize the spelling of the generic names of plants. In an ideally perfect world, we might by now have applied these rules evenly to all genera, eliminating the annoying variations in spelling which I have discussed in some earlier articles in this *Bulletin*. Given the tremendous volume of botanical literature worldwide, however, which must be accounted for all the way back to 1753 (the date of Linnaeus' *Species Plantarum*), no wonder some "technically incorrect" generic names are still in common use.

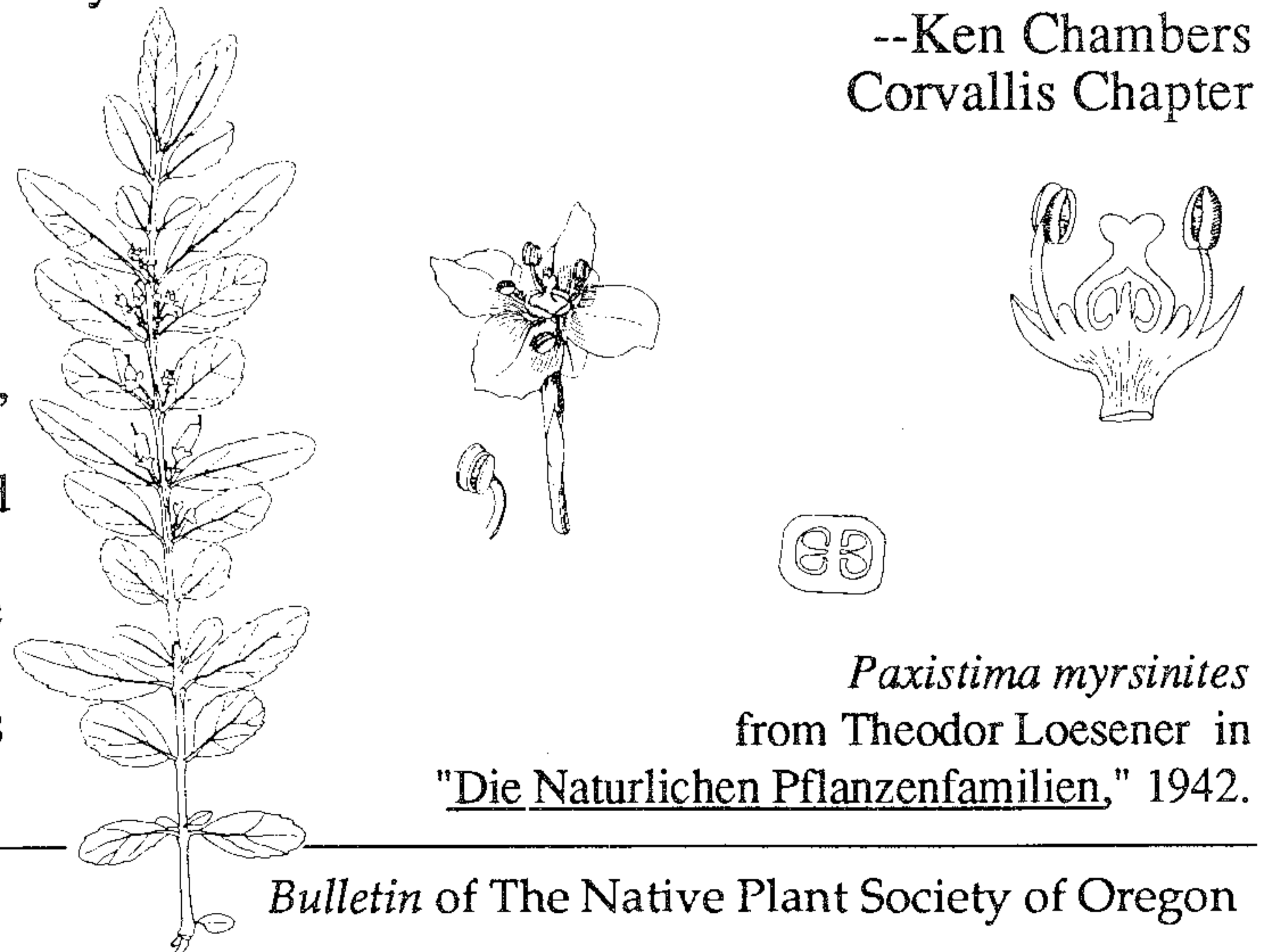
If you don't recognize the name *Paxistima*, it is because this spelling is the correct version of one you are probably familiar with: *Pachistima* (whose common names include mountain-box, myrtle-boxwood, and Oregon-boxwood). The correctness of the former spelling is strictly determined by the rules of nomenclature, and the problem supposedly was laid to rest as long ago as 1949. Unfortunately, *Pachistima* has continued to be used in so many authoritative reference books that I and many other taxonomists have been unaware that there was any question about its spelling. Having recently been alerted to this problem, I will explain how it happened and urge that in the future we all adopt the correct spelling.

The difficulties began in 1818, in the publications of a most eccentric early American naturalist, Constantine Rafinesque (1783-1840). A man of bizarre genius whose work was mostly scorned by his contemporaries, Rafinesque proposed an overwhelming number of "new genera and species" of plants in more than 1000 publications; his new generic names alone total over 2700. His work was so erratic, however, that botanists of the time could make little sense of it; some believed him mildly insane. To give you an impression of his approach, imagine a person perpetually running up hill and down dale, pointing excitedly at plants, mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, and mollusks, shouting "...this one's new, and that one's new, and that one's new...I'll give it this name, that name, and that name...!!" Not until 1949 was a complete index made to the plant names proposed by Rafinesque, and much of his bibliography consists of extremely rare publications available in only a

few botanical libraries. The matter of *Paxistima* versus *Pachistima* was explained in this index (but even the index contained a typographic error which added to the problem!). As published in 1818, the name *Pachistima* was accompanied by no generic description; it was what taxonomists call a "naked name" which cannot be used (the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature defines such names as "illegitimate"). However, in a much later publication (1838) Rafinesque mentioned this genus again, and at that point he did give an adequate Latin description--but remarkably, he changed the spelling to *Paxistima*! It was typical of Rafinesque to be rather cavalier in the spelling of his proposed names; he apparently felt free to change his mind at will, probably on the theory that, since he was the describer and namer of each plant, it was his right to call it whatever he wished. To add further to the comedy of errors, the Rafinesque index referred to above gives, on a different page, still another spelling--*Paxistema*--which is simply a misprint. In summary, *Paxistima* of Rafinesque is a legitimately published name, dating from 1838, which has been accepted by nearly all subsequent botanists but given the illegitimate 1818 spelling, *Pachistima*.

The usual interpretation of the classical derivation of this name is that it was composed from the Greek words for "thick" and "stigma" (in which case "*pachystigma*" would be a better spelling). Another Rafinesque eccentricity was that he liked plant names short, and therefore he often deleted letters or syllables when making compounds from classical Greek and Latin words. Rafinesque, that intriguing figure from early 19th Century science, continues to baffle us even now, more than 150 years after his death.

--Ken Chambers  
Corvallis Chapter



*Paxistima myrsinites*  
from Theodor Loesener in  
"Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien," 1942.

## NPSO '92 ANNUAL MEETING: MALHEUR FIELD STATION

Mark your calenders! The High Desert Chapter (Bend) will host this year's NPSO annual meeting Friday, Saturday and Sunday June 5th-7th at Malheur Field Station. Plan to arrive at the Station by Friday night, so you will be fresh for Saturday's field trips. Driving time from Portland is about 7 hours, from Bend 3 1/2 hours. Saturday night's Annual Meeting and banquet will feature awards by NPSO President Stephanie Schulz and a fascinating slide presentation by expert ethnobotanist Lucille Housley, director of the Field Station. The quarterly Board meeting is Sunday for those wishing to attend.

Don't miss this year's Annual Meeting!!!!

### Saturday's Field Trips

#### The Narrows ACEC/*Stephanomeria* exclosure

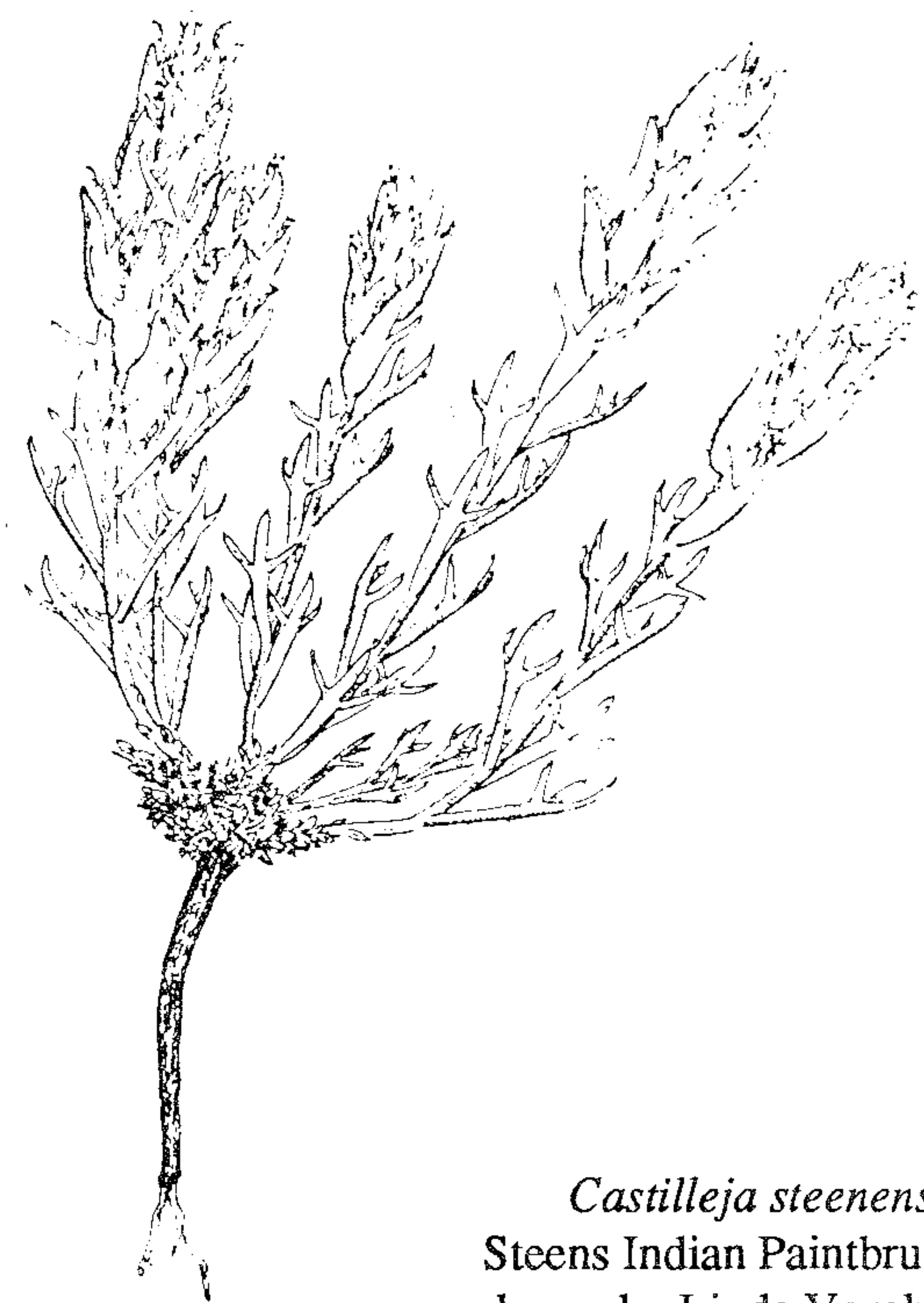
This site contains the only known location for one of Oregon's three federally listed endangered plants, the Malheur wirelettuce. We will hopefully be able to see this annual in bloom, learn of the recovery plans by BLM/USFWS, and survey for new plants. This spot is a 15 minute drive from the Station and walking will be easy. Leader: Nora Taylor, BLM.

#### Botanizing and Birding the Refuge

The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is one of the best birding spots in the nation. Accomplished natural historians, Dick and Marge Ettinger, will share some of their favorite birding areas and look at some of Malheur's native marsh vegetation on this trip down the Center Patrol Road. A nice mix of driving and easy walking.

#### A Different Approach to Ranching

The Fred Otley family has agreed to show us their approach to current ranch management. We will see how juniper control, prescribed fire, rotation grazing, and riparian protection are utilized by this ranching family with early roots in Harney County. A combination of moderate hiking and driving. Leader will be Stu Garrett.



*Castilleja steenensis*  
Steens Indian Paintbrush  
drawn by Linda Vorobik

from Threatened & Endangered Vascular plants of Oregon

#### Ponderosa Pine Ancient Forests

USFS ecologist Bill Hopkins will take us to the southernmost Blue Mountains to see and discuss the ecology of the remnant stands of Oregon's yellow-bellied pine forests. Driving time is 1 1/2 hours one-way and hiking is 2-4 miles.

#### Great Basin/Paiute Ethnobotany

Ethnobotanist Lucille Housley will lead us to the Stinkingwater Pass area where traditional native American uses of local plants will be discussed. A 2 hour one-way drive with moderate hiking of 2-4 miles.

#### Riddle Ranch/Rooster Comb RNA

This area on the Little Blitzen River has recently been acquired by the BLM. There is much history and good botanizing in this area. This ranch is located on the lower slopes of magnificent Steens Mountain. Probable leaders will be BLM personnel.

#### Marsh Recovery

Botanist Sherry Spencer of PSU has been studying the recovery of lowlands from the flooding of the 1980's. Join her to see how the receding floodwaters are permitting revegetation on the refuge. A short drive with moderate walking. (This field trip is not yet confirmed.)

## OREGON'S WETLANDS

Loss of wetlands is a major environmental concern nationwide, statewide, and locally. Different sources estimate that Oregon has lost between 38 and 50% of its wetlands since "settlement", primarily due to diking (coastal, estuarine, and valley) and draining for agricultural land use. The loss and degradation of wetlands has slowed somewhat in recent years due to protective state and federal regulations; however, Oregon's wetlands continue to be impacted by development pressure, grazing, and farming.

Efforts to protect Oregon's wetlands are occurring at different scales. The Nature Conservancy is working with federal, state, and local agencies to preserve biologically significant wetlands. John Christy (wetlands biologist, Oregon Natural Heritage Program) is conducting an inventory of wetlands west of the Cascades, seeking those that are intact and functional enough to be viable wetland systems. John's field work has revealed some interesting wetland remnants that he will continue to study for preservation/conservation potential.

The fate of one Willamette Valley wetland, Lake Labish, was the topic of John's presentation at the October Corvallis chapter meeting. Lake Labish, once an expansive wetland near Salem, was drained and partially converted to onion fields in the 1920s and 30s. John described his study of soil maps and search through records--botanical and historical--to delineate the past expanse of Lake Labish. This story is fairly typical of Willamette Valley wetlands. John noted that the few high quality wetlands remaining in the Willamette Valley area are located in the upper parts of watersheds, where conversion to agricultural land use has been more difficult.

At local levels, community awareness about local wetlands is gradually increasing. The "Mid-Valley Wetlands Workshop", organized by citizens concerned about wetlands in Linn and Benton Counties, was held in Corvallis on Oct. 12. The workshop served as a forum to inform both local politicians about the concern for local wetlands, and landowners, who are affected and frustrated by the complex permitting process, helping both to be involved in wetland conservation. At this workshop, Ed Alverson (ecologist, Nature Conservancy) described the natural history of Willamette Valley wetlands with an informative

slide presentation, noting the rare plant species that occur in different types of local wetlands. Reed Noss (conservation biologist, private consultant) discussed wetlands as "biological corridors" and the importance of watershed protection to maintenance of biodiversity. Local officials explained the role of state and county governments in wetland planning. Presentations were followed by two separate discussion groups. Since most Willamette Valley wetlands are on private land, involvement of landowners is critical to wetland protection. This meeting spawned much interest. Follow-up activities, including organization of another workshop, are underway.

"Wetlands Under Siege" was the title of an informative meeting held in Portland on Nov. 16. The major topics were wetland delineation, and how proposed changes in the EPA delineation manual could change wetland protection. Organized by The Wetlands Conservancy, a Portland-based citizens' group, the well attended gathering featured speakers (from US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Division of State Lands, and environmental consulting firms), a panel discussion, and a field trip (very wet) to compare the 1987 manual and the proposed delineation manual. Speakers urged participants to submit comments on the proposed changes in the national wetlands delineation manual, and to become involved in developing local Wetlands Conservation Plans.

Much of Federal wetland regulation is based on the Clean Water Act (Section 404). In the last year, 4 major wetland bills have been introduced in Congress, all of which would weaken wetland protection under the Clean Water Act. Several bills are being drafted. Conservationists look forward to a bill we can endorse (instead of opposing all the time). Several state laws provide protection for certain types of wetlands. Oregon policy concerning wetlands was established in Senate Bill 3 (1989), which contains authorization for the development of local Wetland Conservation Plans. The implementation of all legislation depends on wetland definition, which is why the Delineation Manual is such an important issue.

On behalf of NPSO, I submitted comments on the proposed changes to the manual, and wrote in opposition to pending federal legislation (HR1330, HR404). I will continue to follow proposed wetlands legislation. Please contact me if you would like more information regarding protection of Oregon's wetlands.

--Kate Dwire  
Westside Conservation Chair

