

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

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

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 3

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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.

CHAPTER NEWS

Blue Mountain

9 Mar., Mon.

MEETING. 7:30pm in Morrow Hall, Rm. 130, Blue Mtn. Community College. Don Rydrych will present his wildflower slides and would like members help him identify them. We will also schedule field trips. For more information call Jerry Baker (566-2244).

Corvallis

10 Mar., Tues

MEETING. 7:30 pm in Corl House, 3975 NW Witham Hill Rd., Corvallis. Ethan Perkins will speak on "The Pollination Biology of Prairie Plants". For more information, call Duncan Thomas (752-6529).

14 Apr., Tues

MEETING. 7:30 pm in Corl House, 3975 NW Witham Hill Rd., Corvallis. Susan Kephart of Willamette University will tell us about her work on *Silene douglasii* var. *oraria*, a rare plant of coastal headlands. For more information, call Duncan Thomas (752-6529).

Emerald

7 Mar., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: Landscape architect Tom Lister will present his master plan for Eugene's Wayne Morris Ranch and lead a guided tour of the park. We will also explore the park pasture and examine the off-leash dog controversy as it relates to potential environmental damage. Lunch and drink optional as this walk will be completed by noon. Depart at 10am from the parking lot of South Eugene High School, corner of 19th and Patterson. For further information call Jenny Dimling (343-3242).

- 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).
- 21 Mar., Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** BLM botanist Nancy Wogen will lead a trip to the Mohawk Old Growth Research Natural Area located in the McKenzie Resource Area near Marcola. This RNA has a mix of old growth forest and small marsh communities. Bring lunch, drink and hiking shoes. Depart at 10am from the parking lot of South Eugene High School, corner of 19th and Patterson. For further information call Nancy (683-6111) or Jenny Dimling (343-3242).
- 11 Apr., Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** Michael McCabe, Willamette National Forest botanist will lead a trip to Bunchgrass meadows within the Warner Creek fire area of the Oakridge Ranger District. We will discuss a range of management and rehabilitation prescriptions as well as view the results of last falls initial rehab efforts. Participants should gain a better understanding of the complex issues involved in this fire restoration project. Bring lunch, drink and hiking shoes. Depart at 9am from the parking lot of South Eugene High School, corner of 19th and Patterson or meet at the Oakridge District Ranger Station on Hwy. 58 at 10am. For further information call Jenny Dimling (343-3242).
- 13 April, Mon. **MEETING.** 7:30pm in the Library, Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene. Dr. Kenton L. Chambers, Professor Emeritus of Botany from the Oregon State University Herbarium, will show slides and speak on the topic: "Does Every Species Really Count?" Come and hear a discussion of this very important concept in plant conservation. For more information, call Jenny Dimling (343-3242).

High Desert

- 24 Mar., Tues. **MEETING.** Jerry and Mike Igo of Mosier, Ore., will present a talk of their survey for Peck's locoweed in the Sisters-Redmond-Bend area last spring. Don't miss this interesting talk by two excellent botanists. Meet at 7:30pm at the Bend Senior Center on Marshall Street.

Mid-Columbia

- 4 Mar., 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

- 21 Mar., Sat. **FIELD TRIP.** Hike through the County Park at the Port. Meet at the Tillamook PUD at 10am to carpool.
- 31 Mar., Tues. **MEETING.** 7pm at the Carl Rawe Meeting Rm., Tillamook PUD, 1115 Pacific, Tillamook. We are continuing our plant morphology series, with members asked to bring a plant to key out.

Portland

- 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 time and meeting place for the field trip will be announced at the last class in flower identification. 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.

10 Mar., Tues. **MEETING.** 7pm at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. David Hale will present "Plants of Peru".

11 Apr., Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** On the Deschutes River Trail from river's edge into the sagebrush hills, about a 4 mile loop among fine flowers. Leave 8am from the SW corner of the 122nd & K-Mart lot. Drive is about 90 miles each way. Leader is Louise Godfrey (223-4785)

Siskiyou

12 Mar., Thurs **MEETING.** Anita Seda of the Illinois valley Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, will talk on "Thomas Jefferson Howell Memorial Drive. She will describe the development of public access to the unusual plants and vegetation of Eight Dollar Mountain in Josephine County. 7:30pm in Room 171 of the Science Building at Southern Oregon State College. The public is invited. For information, call David Kennedy (535-6383).

Umpqua Valley

12 Mar., Thurs **MEETING.** "Plants of the Oregon Coastal Dunes" 7pm in Rm. 311 of the Douglas County Courthouse, Roseburg.

21 Mar., Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** An all day trip to the Oregon Coast to view *Cordylanthus maritimus* var. *palustris* and to analyze *Ammophila arenaria* eradication efforts. Leave 8am BLM parking lot 777 Garden Valley Rd. Roseburg. or rendezvous at 10am at the Sentry Market lot in Coos Bay. Bruce Rittenhouse, BLM District Botanist will guide. A 4wd and low tide will be helpful or half-mile walk. Call Bruce (756-0100), or Richard (673-3709).

Willamette Valley

16 Mar., Mon. **MEETING.** 7:00pm in Rm. 225 at the First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street, Salem. Tom Kaye will talk about the "Reproductive Ecology of Bradshaw's lomatium". For more information, call Cathy Connelly (393-1834).

21 Mar., Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** Early spring flowers of the Mid-Columbia Gorge. Call Barbara Halliday (371-1025) or Frank Kolwicz (364-0490) for meeting place and time.

—April **FIELD TRIP:** A mid-week day trip to Minto-Brown Island, Salem. Call Clint Urey (581-1805) for date and details.

25 Apr., Sat. **FIELD TRIP WORKSHOP:** Learn to identify what you'll find on this year's field trips. Introduction to using simple identification keys, hands-on practice on a brief field trip as part of the workshop. Call Cathy Connelly (393-1834) for place and time.

William Cusick

10 Mar., Tue. **MEETING.** 7:30pm Rm. 201, Hoke Hall (Student Center), Eastern Oregon State College, LaGrande. Presentation by Jim McIvor of the Forest and Range Sciences Lab entitled "Insect involvement in the life of *Lupinus caudatus*, Kellogg's lupine."

11 Apr., Sat. **FIELD TRIP:** Martin Stein will lead a 10 mile round trip hike along the lower Imnaha River to the Snake River in the gorge of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Plants of interest in the area include: *Allium geyeri* and some endemic *Lomatiums*: *L. serpentinum* and *L. rollinsii*. Meet at the Safeway parking lot in Enterprise at 9am. For more information, call Marty (426-3443-H or 426-4978-W).

7 Apr., 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.

LEARN THE GENDER OF YOUR GENERA

The generic names of plants are derived from classical Greek and Latin, and in those languages there are three genders--feminine, masculine, and neuter. Nouns are the names of things; in Greek and Latin, every "thing" must be either a "she," a "he," or an "it." To the ancient Romans, for example, each tree was a feminine "she" (arbor), each shrub a masculine "he" (frutex), and each stone a neuter "it" (saxum). Modern languages that are derived from or related to Greek or Latin usually retain masculine and feminine gender for a great many nouns which, in English, have become neuter. In German, for example, every plant has a feminine root (die Wurtzel), masculine stem (der Stamm), and neuter leaf (das Blatt). French treats the stem as masculine (le tronc) and the root and leaf as feminine (la racine, la feuille).

Memorizing the genders of nouns is, to me, one of the hardest chores when learning a foreign language. In English, we have done away with most of the gender-labeling of nouns, and nearly every object that is not evidently a male or female animal is considered to be of neuter gender (and hence an "it"--the root, the stem, the leaf). Of course, a cow is still "she" and a bull "he," and sailors may affectionately refer to their ship as "she." Remember, too, that Jerome Kern wrote a song about "Old Man River, he just keeps rollin' along."

Because English has only the vestiges of gender-specific nouns, we may not realize how important gender is to the scientific naming of plants. Every plant has a two-word Latin name consisting of a "generic name" and a "specific epithet." As in the Latin language itself, each genus name has a particular gender, either feminine, masculine, or neuter. When you learned the name *Rhododendron macrophyllum* for the common western rhododendron, you may not have realized that the final two letters of the species epithet, -um, are a clue to the gender of the generic name. The word *macrophyllum* is an adjective meaning "large leaved" in Latin, and the -um ending is a neuter suffix in the nominative case; therefore, *Rhododendron* must be a noun of neuter gender. The grammatical rule being followed here says that an adjective must agree in gender with the noun it modifies.

For species epithets that are adjectives, the most commonly seen suffixes are the feminine -a, the masculine -us, and the neuter -um. Also quite common is the suffix -is, indicating either feminine or masculine, versus -e indicating neuter. Generic names of trees offer good examples of the feminine gender; with few exceptions (e.g. *Acer*, neuter gender), all genera of trees are feminine, even if their names end with the seemingly masculine suffix -us. Note the feminine endings on the specific epithets of Pacific yew, *Taxus brevifolia*, red alder, *Alnus rubra*, and western larch, *Larix occidentalis*. Generic names of shrubs and herbs, however, can be masculine, feminine, or neuter; no easy rules allow you to tell which is correct in a given case.

I might as well admit that my interest in this "problem" was stimulated by the discovery that I have consistently been using the wrong gender for two common plant genera in Oregon--devil's-club (*Oplopanax*) and woodland-star (*Lithophragma*). For both genera, the spelling of the specific epithets is incorrect in nearly all the floras and reference books for Oregon! *Oplopanax*, which "the books" say has neuter gender, is actually masculine; hence, the plant's name must be spelled *Oplopanax horridus* (not "*horridum*"). *Lithophragma* has almost universally been considered to be feminine (standard references use feminine species epithets like "*parviflora*," "*tenella*," "*affinis*," etc.), but it is actually a neuter name. This means that we must change the spellings of all its epithets to a neuter form. A complete list of *Lithophragma* species in Oregon therefore becomes: *L. affine*, *L. bulbiferum*, *L. campanulatum*, *L. glabrum*, *L. parviflorum*, and *L. tenellum*. In 1963, the monographer of this genus, Roy L. Taylor, pointed out that, because the Greek stem-word phragma (meaning fence or wall; compare "diaphragm") has neuter gender, the generic name *Lithophragma* (a compound word meaning "stone wall") must also be neuter, not feminine. The error goes back to 1840, when John Torrey and Asa Gray first published the genus name and assigned feminine gender to it. Their usage went against the classical (i.e. ancient Greek) gender of the word, and therefore it must now be corrected. Dr. Taylor's discovery has unfortunately been mostly overlooked in botanical works published since 1963.

A useful review of guidelines for assigning gender to generic names was published recently by Bruno Manara (Taxon 40:301-308, 1991). He echoed the advice given in the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (1988, Article 76), that "A generic name retains the gender assigned by its author, unless this is contrary to botanical tradition." The "unless" is a very big exception, however, because "botanical tradition" is considered to extend back to the writings of the ancient Greeks and Romans! This is what determines that *Lithophragma*, a compound name containing the Greek neuter stem-word phragma, cannot be feminine in gender as was previously thought.

Readers should be aware that not all specific epithets are adjectives agreeing in gender with the generic name. Some epithets based on personal names (e.g. *Dodecatheon hendersonii*, *Penstemon barrettiae*) have a suffix such as -i or -ae indicating possession (genitive case), irrespective of the gender of the genus. Other species epithets are nouns rather than adjectives and are called "substantive epithets." For these, the gender of the epithet is independent of the generic name. Examples in the Oregon flora include *Berberis aquifolium* (the epithet is an old out-of-use generic name, not an adjective), *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (same origin as above), and *Sidalcea hirtipes* (the epithet is a noun meaning "hairy foot").

As an exercise in identifying genders, here are three examples of Oregon plant genera, with sample specific epithets and their translations:

Amsinckia intermedia ("intermediate;" the -a ending shows that the genus name has feminine gender)

Amsinckia menziesii ("of Menzies;" the -i ending is the genitive [possessive] case in Latin and is masculine because Dr. Archibald Menzies was himself of male gender)

Amsinckia lycopsoides ("resembling Lycopsis," a genus of *Boraginaceae*; the -oides ending shows that the epithet is a substantive which need not agree in gender with the genus)

Mimulus guttatus ("spotted;" the -us ending shows that the genus name has masculine gender)

Mimulus washingtonensis ("from the state of Washington;" the -ensis ending is masculine)

Mimulus tricolor ("three-colored;" this adjective has the same spelling in all three genders)

Delphinium trollifolium ("with the leaves of Trollius," a genus of *Ranunculaceae*; the -um ending shows that the genus name has neuter gender)

Delphinium viridescens ("becoming green;" the -ens ending marks the epithet as a participle [a verb form], spelled the same regardless of gender)
Delphinium occidentale ("western;" the -e ending is neuter)

—Ken Chambers,
Corvallis Chapter

MAPS AVAILABLE

Did you ever want a decent map showing areas not included in government recreation maps, without spending a fortune on USGS topo maps? Here are a couple of low-cost alternatives:

OREGON ATLAS AND GAZETTEER, 1991.

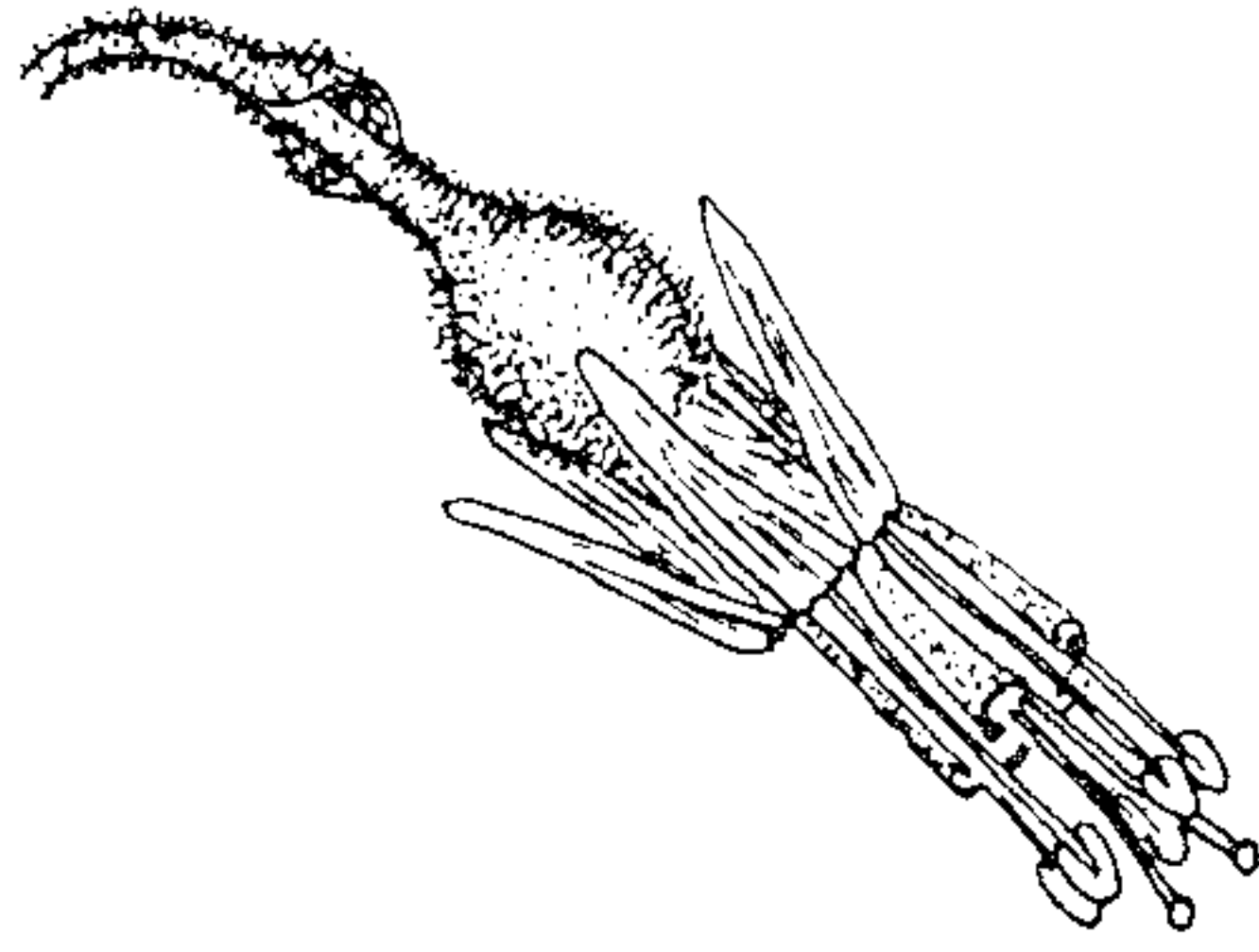
DeLorme Mapping, P.O. Box 298, Freeport, ME 04032. \$14.95, in most bookstores. Measuring about 12x15 inches, this atlas is like having a bound set of color USGS topo maps. The state is covered by 88 maps, the west half at a scale of 3/8 inch per mile (contour: 300 ft), the east half at 3/16 inch per mile (contour: 600 ft). Nearly every rural road is named or numbered, and features such as campgrounds and boat launches are included. The gazetteer includes listings of natural features, campgrounds, parks and wilderness areas, boat, bicycle and hiking routes, hunting areas, historic sites and museums, scenic drives, and boat launches. Township and range data are not included, and edge matching is not always consistent. It's still worth every penny.

ATLAS OF GENERAL HIGHWAY SERIES

County Maps, 1990. Oregon Department of Transportation, State Highway Division, Salem, OR 97310. \$7.50, ordered from ODOT.

Measuring 8.5x11 inches, the ODOT atlas is a spiral-bound, black-and-white rendition of individual counties, the larger ones broken into several sheets, all at a scale of 1/4 inch per mile. Most roads are named or numbered, and major landscape features are also shown. There are no contour lines or gazetteer. Township and range data are included, so this atlas can be used in conjunction with the DeLorme atlas to define your location. These maps are reductions of much larger folio-sized maps (complete set available for about \$90), so you sometimes need a hand lens to read the fine print! Nevertheless, it's a bargain.

—John A. Christy
Portland Chapter



ROADSIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY SIDALCEA RESCUE

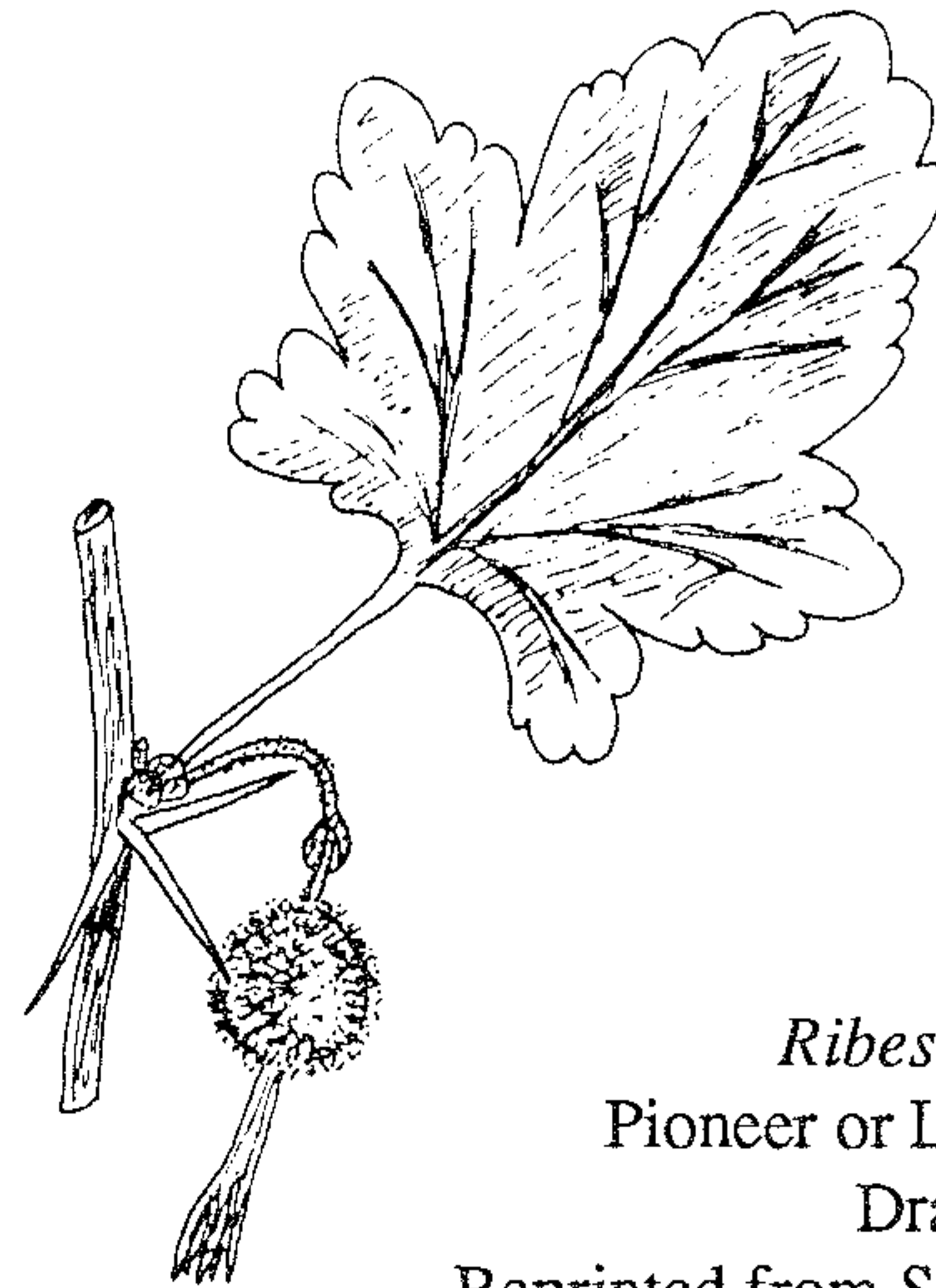
So far as we know, awareness is not something granted to vascular plants. So, it is unlikely that the population of *Sidalcea campestris* growing along the roadside in southeastern Lane County had any idea late last spring that its collective future was in doubt, threatened by a road realignment project. However, because of a cooperative effort by members of the Emerald Chapter NPSO and the staff of Lane County Department of Public Works steps were taken to save the stand.

On June 6th, 1991, prior to large scale excavation work for the road project, Emerald Chapter members Jennifer Dimling, Ed Alverson, Rhoda Love, Stephanie Shultz and Christa Chadwick met to dig up as many of the threatened plants as possible. They were assisted by David Dunlap, the Department's Vegetation Management Coordinator. All in all, about fifty plants were removed from the site and transported to a temporary home at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. There they were heeled in until the road project was finished and suitable weather for transplanting arrived.

The replanting was done January 18th, 1992 with another group of volunteers, some of whom had participated in the initial rescue. Joining Jennifer, Rhoda and David were Charlene Simpson, John Koenig, Bruce Newhouse and Mari Baldwin.

As far as the success of the effort is concerned, spring will tell the tale, when the volunteers will make an evaluation. If this project is deemed a success, other joint ventures between NPSO members and the conscientious staff of the Department of Public Works will be in the offing.

—David W. Dunlap
Vegetation Management Coordinator,
Lane County



Ribes lobbii, two views
Pioneer or Lobb's gooseberry
Drawn by Herm Fitz
Reprinted from Sept. 1980 *Bulletin*

UPDATE ON THE MT. HOOD MEADOWS EXPANSION PLANS

The Forest Service process approving the sizable expansion of Mount Hood Meadows Ski Area expansion continues its meandering way through the courts. A history of this process follows: Mt. Hood Meadows has been under a 20-year Master Plan originally approved in 1978. After 4 years of environmental and socioeconomic studies and public and agency input, a new Master Plan was approved by Mt. Hood National Forest Supervisor Mike Eddrington. The new plan expanded Meadow's day-use ski area and established Meadows as a year-round resort with a small city to support the envisioned heavy year-round use. A consortium of concerned organizations and individuals appealed this decision to the Regional Forester. In November he directed that impacts on American Indian social, economic and religious use of the area be given more study. In response, the Mt. Hood National Forest is surveying the ethnography of the expansion area, with completion of the study by early summer. Either a Supplemental Information Report (SIR) or a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) will result from the study. A SEIS will delay final decision until next year, rather than July otherwise.

Meanwhile, Meadows is continuing with area modifications previously approved under the 1978 plan if they fit in with the new proposal. Changes include a new lift west of Texas, rebuilding two ski trail sections, creating a new ski trail, and blasting Showoff Rock. Public comments on the EA for the lift will be accepted until Mar. 15th. Get information from, and send comments to: Ken Davis, Hood River Ranger District, 6780 Hwy. 35, Parkdale, OR 97041.

ELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee is pleased to offer the following candidates for positions on the state Board of Directors. Ballots are included in this issue of the *Bulletin*, and must be received by April 10 to be counted. Send ballots to: John A. Christy, 7050 SW Canyon Crest Dr., Portland, OR 97225. The ballot inserts are preaddressed and only need to be folded along the dotted lines, stamped and taped or stapled to be mailed. Results of the election will appear in the May issue, and those elected will be sworn in at the annual meeting at Malheur Field Station on June 6.

PRESIDENT (Vote for one):

LISA CROFT has a B.S. from the University of Hawaii, and an M.S. from the University of Washington. Her thesis was on the Holocene paleoecology of the John Day Basin. She was active in the Botanical Society of Hawaii before moving to southern California to work on the Cleveland National Forest. She has worked as botanist for the Ochoco National Forest for the last two years.

VICE PRESIDENT (Vote for one):

DAN LUOMA is the only incumbent officer on this year's slate. He has a doctorate from the Geography Department of Oregon State University, and has been NPSO VP for two years.

SECRETARY (Vote for one):

BRUCE RITTENHOUSE has a B.S. from Oregon State University, and an M.S. from Pocatello State University. His research subject was an endemic *Astragalus* in Idaho, and he was both a chapter president and state vice president of the Idaho Native Plant Society. Bruce is now botanist for the Coos Bay BLM District.

TREASURER (Vote for one):

NANCY WOGEN earned a B.S. from Oregon State in Wildlife and Vegetation Ecology. She did vegetation and entomological studies for the Forest Service research lab in Corvallis, and for OSU's Oak Creek Lab. Nancy worked as botanist on the Salem BLM District, and in 1989 was hired by the Eugene BLM District to manage their rare plant program and the special areas program.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE (Vote for three):

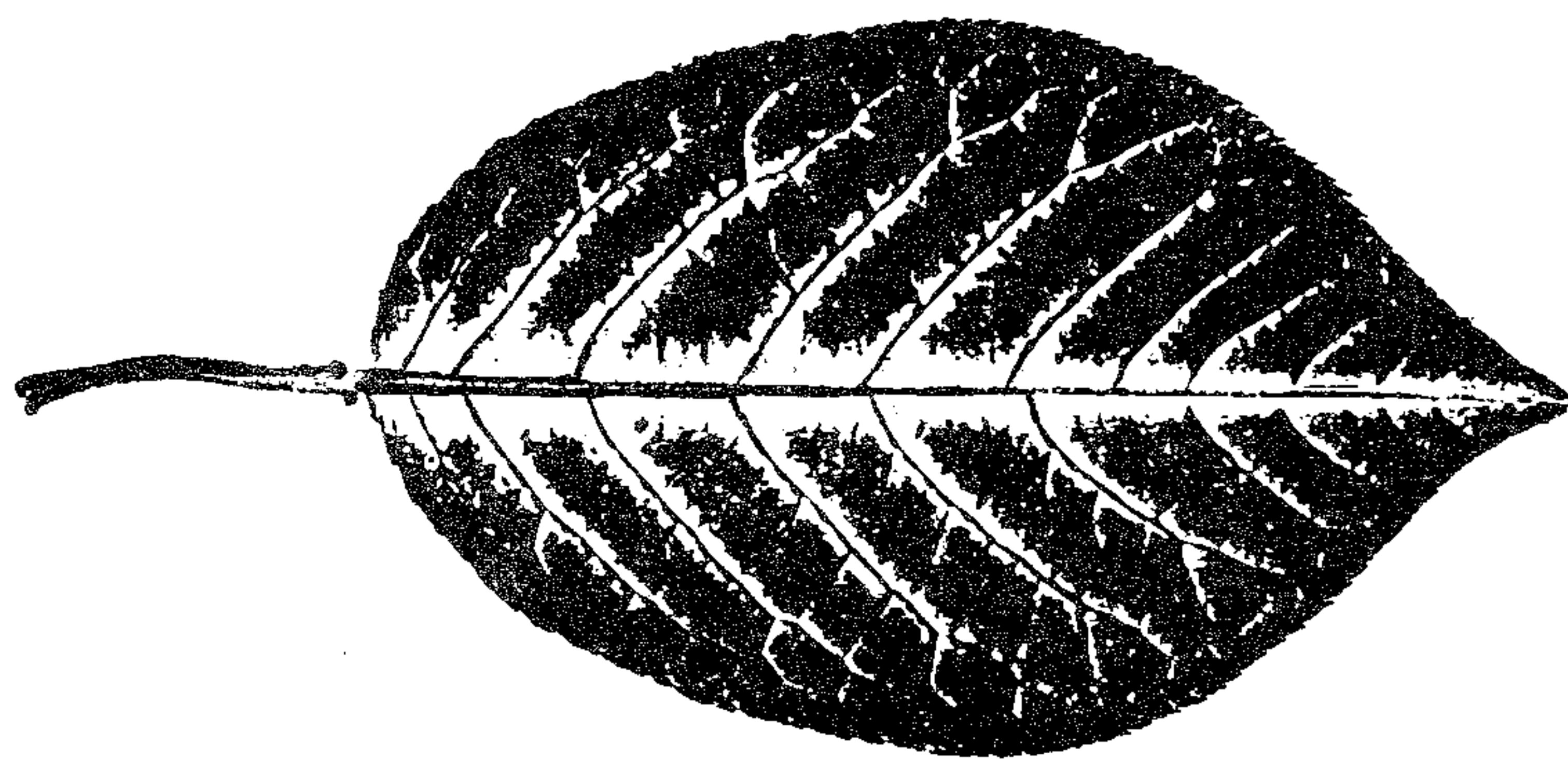
JENNIFER DIMLING most recently has been president of the Emerald Chapter. She is program botanist for the Willamette National Forest.

JERRY IGO is active in the Mid-Columbia Chapter, and is an expert on the flora of the Columbia River Gorge and the control of noxious weeds.

MARGIE WILLIS is active in the Willamette Valley Chapter, and served on the State Board in the past. She is natural resource planner for the Oregon State Parks.

PETER ZIKA lives in Corvallis and has served on the Board of Directors in the past. He is a partner in Salix, a botanical consulting firm.

-Submitted by John A. Christy



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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 leaf is from a native woody species.

Send your guess on a postcard to:

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

Christine Lorain Ebrahimi solved the February puzzle: alder buckthorn, *Rhamnus alnifolia*
A correction: Bruce Newhouse (not Rhoda Love) of Eugene solved the January puzzle.

SATURDAY FIELDTRIPS FOR THE '92 NPSO ANNUAL MEET

See the accompanying insert for dates and registration information. All field trips will leave from the Field Station parking lot at 8:15am after breakfast. We will carpool. You should bring a lunch (which can be provided by the field station with preregistration), warm clothes, raingear, and good hiking boots. A high clearance car is suggested. As distances are great, we will need to be sure everyone is back for the banquet which will start at 6:30pm.

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 mile drive from the Field Station and walking will be easy. Leader will be Nora Taylor of the BLM.

GREAT BASIN/PAIUTE ETHNOBOTANY

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

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 miles each way and hiking is 2 to 4 miles.

BOTANIZING AND BIRDING THE MALHEUR REFUGE

The Malheur NWR is known as 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.

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. Lead by BLM personnel.

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 rots in Harney County. A combination of moderate hiking and driving. Leader will be Stu Garrett.

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 receding floodwaters and revegetation on the refuge. A short drive with moderate walking.

THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has received a Challenge Cost Share Grant to develop interpretation for a rare plant that grows at one of their most heavily used recreation sites. The plant is Greenman's lomatium (*Lomatium greenmanii*), a species that grows only on Mt. Howard, on the Eagle Cap Ranger District. This is a place where the Wallowa Valley tramway brings 300 people a day in the summer. The area is showing signs of wear from all the people who wander uncontrolled; we want to encourage them to stay on the trail. There are thousands of individual plants of this species at the site, but this is the only place in the whole world that it grows. Here is the dilemma: do we actually play up the fact that there is a rare plant there, and that is why people need to stay on the trail? This is a great opportunity to actually showcase the plant and make a sell on rare plant conservation. But the other side of the coin is that by pointing out the rare plant, it may be making it vulnerable to vandalism, or to people trying to take some home to their garden. Would a better approach be to just stress the fragility of the whole area because of its sub-alpine nature, and not even mention the rare plant? If anyone has any opinions about or experience with this kind of thing, or can refer me to someone who does, please contact Paula Brooks at the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, PO Box 907, Baker, OR 97814 ([503]-523-6391). Any suggestions on interpretation for this kind of site would be appreciated also.

—Paula Brooks
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

