



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

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

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1992

ISSN 0884-599

Native Plant Society of Oregon PO Box 902, Eugene OR 97402
Membership inquiries: Jan Dobak, Membership, 2584 NW Savier St., Portland OR 97210-2412
For more society information, see the inside back cover.

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.

ITS RENEWAL TIME!

The NPSO membership year is January to December. Now is the time for members to renew.

But first....check your address label on the *Bulletin*. You might already be paid for 1993. If there is a 92 on the top line, you need to renew now.

A remittance envelope is in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Or use the membership form on the inside back page.

NPSO brings you field trips, programs, classes, the monthly *Bulletin*, and the annual *Kalmiopsis*.

This is also a good time to consider a tax-deductible contribution to our special funds. The Leighton Ho Memorial Fund is used for summer research projects in western Oregon, and is a matching grant in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy. The Rare and Endangered Plant Fund supports work with our most threatened plants. Contributions can also be made to the NPSO General Fund.

Your membership and donations make it possible to carry out more of the many projects that are needed to pursue the goals of NPSO.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY TO BE PUBLISHED

The 1993 edition of the NPSO Membership Directory will be published in April. Anyone who wishes to receive a copy should add one dollar to their renewal payment.

If you wish to have your address or telephone number or both withheld from publication in the Directory, please make a prominent note on your renewal form.

STATE NEWS

9 Jan., Sat.

STATE BOARD MEETING: at Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Avenue, Portland. Hosted by the Portland Chapter. Directions: from I-84 take the 122nd Street exit and drive south to the garden. From I-205 take Foster Road exit and drive east to 122nd and turn right onto 122nd. Go 1/4 mile to Leach Garden parking lot, which is across the Johnson Creek Bridge. All members are invited.

CHAPTER NEWS

Blue Mountain

* * * * *

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

Corvallis

14 Dec., Mon.

MEETING. Unitarian Fellowship at 2945 NW Circle Blvd. Corvallis. December is our annual Members' Slide Show, so bring 12 of your favorite slides and a dessert to share. Call Keli Kuykendall for more information (758-8409).

Emerald

14 Dec., Mon.

MEETING. Our Annual Members' Slide Show. Bring your ten recent best slides and some snacks to 1575 Washington, Eugene. Refreshments provided. **CORRECTION TO NOV. ANNOUNCEMENT:** we'll vote on which Monday to hold our meetings in 1993 (hopefully both to avoid conflicts with Corvallis Chapter, and still 7 pm. at Morse Ranch!) beginning in January.

12 Dec., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: "Plants with Hidden Marriage" Dr. David Wagner on Oregon cryptogams (his element!). 10 am at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Nature Center. \$2 donation to Mt. Pisgah Arboretum (30th exit off I-5, east; follow signs). Bring your hand lens for fun with mosses, liverworts and ferns.

13 Dec. Sun.

HABITAT REHABILITATION FESTIVAL AND IVY FEAST: 2 - 4 pm. Meet at north end of Autzen Foot Bridge, East Alton Baker Park, Eugene. Bring gloves and clippers, rain or shine. For information call Dave Wagner, 356-3033.

19 Dec., Sat.

FIELD TRIP: Twig keying and Identification at Buford Park / Mt. Pisgah Arboretum with Dr. Rhoda Love. 10 am to noon at the Nature Center. Cosponsored by Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Bring your hand lens and a pocket knife or hand pruners.

High Desert

* * * * *

For information, call Cindi O'Neil (389-3085)

Mid-Columbia

2 Dec., Wed.

MEETING: 7:30 pm at the Mosier School. Keith Chamberlain, Mid-Columbia Chapter President, will present "Some Interesting or Little Known Plants From Oregon and Washington". If you still have seeds for our project at the Mosier Interchange, bring them to the meeting.

6 Jan., Wed.

MEETING: 7:30 pm at the Mosier School. Jerry Igo, Mid-Columbia member will present "Showy Wildflowers of Oregon", a new video especially suited for cold winter nights.

North Coast

5 Dec., Sat.

POTLUCK MEETING: 11 am at Betty Stone's, 6800 5th Street, NW, Cape Meares. Bring salad, hot dish or dessert and own service. Also, people may bring binoculars for possible birding trip to Bay Ocean Spit. Call Betty (842-4350) or Jim Winslow (842-2246) for more information.

Portland

8 Dec., Tues.

MEETING: 7 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St, Portland. Berta Youtie, Northeast Oregon Stewardship Ecologist for The Nature Conservancy, will present a slide show and program on TNC preserves in northeast Oregon.

Siskiyou

17 Dec., Thurs.

MEETING: 7:30 pm in Room 171, Science Building, Southern Oregon State College. Don and Molly Skillman will present a synchronized slide show of wildflowers and scenery observed on their 1700-mile hike from Mexico to Ashland along the Pacific Crest Trail. For information call Linda Knight (488-3508).

South Coast

For information on the pending formation of this chapter, contact Bruce Rittenhouse (888-9328).

Umpqua Valley

10 Dec., Thur.

Richard Sommer will host a Christmas party at Hillcrest Vinyard, 240 Vinyard Lane. Please bring finger foods and your own table service. The public is welcome. Richard Sommer will present a program on his trip to Canada. For information, call Richard Sommer (673-3709).

Willamette Valley

* * * * *

For information, call Kathy Connelly (327-1212).

William Cusick

15 Dec., Tue.

Meeting: 6 pm ESD Office, 10100 N. McAllister, Island City. Potluck and slide show. Bring a dinner dish and three slides—one slide is your favorite shot of a native plant, another is one you want help identifying and the third is one you think nobody can identify. Prizes for best guesses or most stumped experts. For information, call Bob Ottersburg (963-4907).

NPSO NOTECARDS AVAILABLE

Our notecards feature seven rare plants drawn by Julie Kierstead plus one created by Eugene artist Valerie Sloane. Printed on pastel parchment-style paper in beige, grey-blue and green with matching envelopes, these notecards make lovely gifts. The collector quality works include Gentner's fritillary (*Fritillaria gentneri*), Kamchatka lily (*Fritillaria camchatcensis*), red clintonia (*Clintonia andrewsiana*), Myrtle Creek mariposa (*Calochortus coxii*), Barrett's penstemon (*Penstemon barrettiae*), rough popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys hirtus*), triplet lily (*Triteleia laxa*) and Gorge daisy (*Erigeron oregonus*). Available through your local NPSO chapter; ask at meetings or see the Society Information page (p. 117) for the number of your chapter president. For more information contact Nancy Fredericks at PO Box 127, North Bonneville WA 98639 {(509) 427-8778}.

NPSO T—SHIRTS

How about a NPSO T-shirt?!! On hand are long sleeve (L & XL) with NPSO logo in blue, *Polypodium* in grey, Trillium in jade or *Viola glabella* in teal. These are available through your local chapter, or they can be ordered through Jenny Dimling at PO Box 902, Eugene OR 97440, or call in an order at (503) 343-3242. Deadline for ordering the the 20th of December.

NPSO WINDOW STICKERS

These decals feature our trillium logo in green on an opaque white background, made to go on the inside of your car or other windows. They can be ordered from the High Desert Chapter, c / o Stu Garrett, 21663 Paloma Drive, Bend OR 97701. Minimum order is 5.

FINDING RARE PLANTS BY COMPUTER

What can rare and endangered chapter chairs do during the winter? Readers of the Bulletin may recall efforts last month to protect populations of *Lomatium bradshawii* identified in previous field seasons at the Short Mt. Landfill in Lane County.

Although I have since worn out my welcome at the site, the U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled (EPA vs. Dow Chemical) that aerial photography can provide admissible evidence in court, and best of all, does not constitute trespass.

I decided to let my computer do some 'field work'. First, I obtained a high resolution color infrared contact print from USGS and scanned it into my MacIntosh at 600 dots per inch. Using a spot at Mt Pisgah where *Lomatium bradshawii* has been intensively studied by Tom Kaye, I set the tolerances on the magic wand tool in Adobe Photoshop software so that only the tiny patch of rare plants was selected. Next, the computer searched the rest of the photo for the signature of *Lomatium* habitat (individual plants are far too small to be seen). I then loosened the tolerances to find secondary habitat, repeated the search, and filtered the results with a hydric soil map.

To my astonishment, several other known sites popped up on the screen, including two landfill sites found by CH2M Hill! Even more exciting was a big new site west of the freeway. The computer thinks there could be up to twenty times as many plants there as Mt. Pisgah (which is the second largest known population left). Of course, an area might provide proper habitat but the plant could be extirpated there or never have colonized it. I won't know for sure until next spring.

Lomatium bradshawii is federally endangered and I am enthusiastic about the possibilities of identifying critical habitat for its recovery plan in this way. While it is feasible to search the whole Willamette Valley, the method is limited to non-forested areas where the plant is not in the understory.

—Tom Pringle
Emerald Chapter R&E Chair

Computer-predicted site for
Lomatium bradshawii
near Dillard Rd and I-5



PLANT CONSERVATION RESOURCE BOOK AVAILABLE

The Center for Plant Conservation has updated their publication listing individuals and organizations involved in conserving this country's native plants. The 1992 Plant Conservation Directory lists over 500 professionals and offices involved in such efforts, and summarizes state plant conservation laws. Included are resource-level contacts who can provide information about rare and endangered plants, permitting procedures and government programs, contacts in state Heritage Programs, Native Plant Societies, and other private organizations pursuing plant conservation.

To order, send check or money order for \$15 per copy to: Center for Plant Conservation, Missouri Botanical Garden, PO Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166. —Abridged from Fall 1992 *Kelsey*, Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society

MONTIA DIFFUSA UPDATE

Some of you are aware that large populations of *Montia diffusa*, branching montia, were observed following the 1988 Shady Beach Fire on the Rigdon Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest. They became evident in 1989 while surveying the proposed salvage areas for Sensitive Plant Species.

At the time, *M. diffusa* was on the US Forest Service Region 6 Sensitive Plant List; the taxon considered rare but stable in Oregon and throughout its range, according to the Oregon Natural Heritage Program. In order to proceed with the proposed salvage harvest, it became necessary to conduct additional surveys to determine that adequate populations were present in areas that would not be disturbed by salvage activity. We found widespread occurrence in areas affected by the fire, at all elevations and aspects except those areas that experienced extreme burn. Vigorous populations were noted in burned units that had been clearcut in recent years and stocked with conifers.

After the fire, seven long-term vegetation succession study areas were established. Sites with pre-fire data were chosen, representing the variety of plant associations and burn intensities within the project. Plots were laid out along 100 ft. intersecting transects protected by a 300 ft. radius no-cut area. Only one study area, a severely burned location, did not include *M. diffusa*. In addition, the plots were duplicated in adjacent salvaged areas to allow comparison between the two treatments. *M. diffusa* was not found in the comparison plots.

A gradual decline in size and numbers of *M. diffusa* has been noted during the annual data collection at these sites. 1992 is the first year that we did not find the species. I have encountered it at a few locations elsewhere on the district, always with evidence of some wildfire disturbance.

In a letter thanking us for a *M. diffusa* specimen sent to the OSU Herbarium, Dr Kenton Chambers noted it is probable that ants disperse the seeds since they are attracted by the small food-body on the side of each seed. This coincides with our ob-

servations; removal of the duff layer exposed the stored seeds which resulted in a tremendous response of flowering plants the following season, but no plants found at those sites where the seed source was apparently destroyed by intense heat. Perhaps it has taken these three years for recovery of the ant population to fully utilize the numerous seeds produced by this annual.

A related situation has been reported from the 1991 Warner Creek Fire. This fire occurred on the Oakridge Ranger District in the Salt Creek drainage, which is adjacent to Hills Creek, site of the origin of the Shady Beach Fire. Surprisingly, no *Montia diffusa* was found during the Sensitive Plant surveys of Warner Creek Fire Project!

—Evelyn Everett
Emerald Chapter

EXPERIENCE HELLS CANYON AND ITS ENDEMIC FLORA WITH THE WALLOWA LLAMAS SPONSORED BY THE WILLIAM CUSICK CHAPTER

Possible trip dates are April 18th to 20th, and April 21st to 24th. The cost will be \$375 per person for the three day expedition. Wallowa Llama Outfitters will provide everything but your sleeping bag and pad. The llamas will carry up to 20 pounds of personal gear.

TRIP ITINERARY:

At 8 am we will leave Halfway, Ore., and head down to Hells Canyon Dam. We will boat down to Butler Bar just above Wild Sheep Rapids on the Idaho side, hike 4 miles and camp at Granite Creek for two days. A day hike towards the rim of the canyon will take us through several vegetation zones. On the third day we will hike 5 miles downstream to Bernard Creek where the boat will pick us up and transport us back to Hells Canyon Dam.

If interested in this expedition, contact:

Berta Youtie
PO Box 1188
LaGrande OR 97850,
or call (503) 963-4907

PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED ON FIRE MANAGEMENT

In October 1991, the Warner Creek Fire started east of Oakridge, Oregon where it burned nearly 9000 acres, all within a Habitat Conservation Area. (HCA) designated for the protection of the Spotted Owl. The Forest Service is currently developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this area, and has chosen a preferred alternative and is now accepting public comment.

The Eugene Register-Guard reported the Warner Creek Fire as started by an arsonist. The Forest Service is awaiting the completion of an investigation. Meanwhile, the agency has stated that it will not consider the probability of future arson in forest planning (DEIS p.1-9). Despite the origin of this fire, this management plan may set a precedent on how to treat burn areas in the future.

The stated function of this HCA (HCA 0-10) is to "recreate a relatively unfragmented, natural landscape" and to "maximize the amount of superior (spotted owl) habitat". Likewise, the need for the proposed management action is the recovery of owl habitat and to increase knowledge of owl habitat and owl habitat recovery.

However, the agency preferred alternative allows the harvest of 1200 acres of the Warner Creek Fire. This management option has the second highest blow-down risk (ten times the risk of six of the eight plans' blow-down risk), and is the second lowest in area of quality "Owl Foraging Habitat" after 100 years. It also presents the second highest risk of damage to other threatened or endangered species, has the second highest risk of water quality and habitat damaging soil / debris torrents, and the second highest allowable cut.

If you are concerned over this issue, please write the Forest Service before December 22nd, 1992 to indicate the importance of the probability of future arson, and the need to more strongly protect sensitive species. Send your comments to:

Warner Public Affairs Officer
Oakridge Ranger Station (782-2291)
46375 Highway 58
Westfir OR 97492

—J.S. Foster

SIX COUNTIES — SIX PATHS

As the January 15, 1993 deadline for county ordinances enacting the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan approaches, there are a variety of scenarios which could occur.

A county can submit an ordinance regarding both General Management Areas and Special Management Areas (SMA) for the respective county. The Gorge Commission, by a majority vote including three members of each state, then has 90 days to determine if the ordinance is consistent with the Management Plan. If the ordinance is deemed consistent, the Secretary of Agriculture then has 90 days to review the SMA portion. If the ordinance is approved by both the Commission and the Secretary, we can expect implementation within six months of the January 15 deadline.

If a county does not submit an ordinance by the deadline, the Commission must make a determination that the county has failed to comply with the Act and must enact an ordinance for that county. A county can at any time submit an ordinance, which would begin the review process as mentioned above. The incentive for a consistent county ordinance lies in the economic and recreation development funds made available by the Act.

Presently each Gorge county is approaching the ordinance development process at a different pace:

Multnomah County has submitted a draft ordinance to its Planning Commission. Following public comment and review, the Multnomah Planning Commission will recommend a Final Draft to the County Commissions. They will then hold public hearings prior to submitting a final document to the Gorge Commission.

Hood River County will soon begin drafting a county ordinance and will follow a public involvement process similar to that of Multnomah County. This is stipulated with the provision by the county that an agreement can be reached in regard to county lands located east of Hood River along the abandoned Historic Columbia River Highway.

The **Wasco County** Planning Commission and Citizen Advisory Group has completed review and public hearings of the county ordinance. Wasco

County Commissioners have withheld final approval until concerns regarding the county's taking liability are resolved.

Klickitat County has notified the Gorge Commission that they will not develop an ordinance. As outlined in the Act, the Gorge Commission must develop and implement the county's ordinance.

The **Skamania County** Planning Commission has begun development of the county ordinance. They will be working with the public on this through a series of ten workshops and hearings. There will be also an advisory ballot in November asking voters for their opinion in regard to Skamania County's drafting of an ordinance.

Clark County has requested an extension due to staff and budget limitations. The Gorge Commission has not replied.

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge will continue to work with residents to facilitate their participation. The involvement of local residents will continue to be an essential component in the success of strong county ordinances. They look forward to the development of effective land use ordinances and need your involvement. Call Tamra Lisy, Education Outreach Coordinator, at (503)241-3762.

—Reprinted with slight revisions
from the Fall 1992 Newsletter of
Friends of the Columbia River Gorge

ABERT LAKE HYDRO PROJECT?

A quixotic scheme to help satisfy Colorado and southern California's energy greed has been conceived at the expense of Oregon's scenic and biologically unique Abert Lake and Abert Rim. A California engineer has applied for permission for a \$2 million study to determine the feasibility of the project.

The concept of the project is relatively simple, but the magnitude is stunning. Water would be pumped to the top of Abert Rim during times that more energy is available than is being used. Then, during times of energy shortage the water would be released back to Abert Lake to produce elec-

tricity. If the project were to go forward Abert Lake would undergo the following changes. The lake would be transected into three ponds separated by 30 foot high dikes totaling about six miles in length. Water would be pumped from one section into another, then filled with fresh water (Abert Lake is more saline than the ocean). Abert Rim (a BLM Wilderness Study Area) would undergo even more drastic alterations. Two 36 foot diameter "power shafts", two large "surge shafts" and one 30 foot diameter access shaft would all extend from the base of the rim to the top of the rim 1600 feet higher. A 500 by 100 foot, 200 foot high cavern would be mined beneath the rim for the powerhouse. Several tunnels would be carved from the powerhouse to the lake, one housing a paved two lane road 1.5 miles long. On top of the rim a converter station, 46 miles of power lines, 23 miles of road and Oregon's largest dam away from the Columbia River would be constructed.

Abert Lake hosts Oregon's highest concentration of nesting snowy plover, a State listed Threatened Species. It provides brine shrimp, alkali flies and algae for countless numbers of migratory shorebirds, waterfowl and other wildlife. Peregrine falcons, a Federal Endangered Species, use the area and may nest there. The proposed project would jeopardize these animals because their habitat would be irreparably harmed.

Recognizing the unique and important values of the area, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has recommended that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission deny the exploratory application and has proposed that Abert Lake be designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) has requested intervener status in the permit process. Although the project appears ludicrous, it cannot be ignored. ONDA will watch the process closely and will litigate if necessary.

What can you do to help? The most important thing you can do is to visit Abert Lake and Abert Rim and record the dates and purpose of these visits. In order for ONDA to have status as an "interested party" and be able to appeal or litigate we must be able to show that our members use and enjoy the area. Please send ONDA any documentation you might have of visits and they will be kept on file.

—Reprinted with slight revision from
"Desert Ramblings", newsletter of the
Oregon Natural Desert Association, Fall 1992

