

Bulletin of the

Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

Volume 26 Number 1

January 1993

ISSN 0884-599

State News

Jan 9th, Sat.

State Board Meeting: 10 am 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

Jan. 4th, Mon.

Meeting, 7:30 pm in Room M130 of Blue Mountain Community College. We will elect officers and Marilyn Lieuallen will give her presentation of "Wildflowers of the Oregon Trail". For more information call Jerry Baker at 566-3381.

Corvallis

Jan. 11th, Mon.

Meeting, 7:30 pm at the Unitarian Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle Blvd., Corvallis. Speaker Paul Hammand will discuss "Conservation of Endangered Butterflies on Native Grasslands in Western Oregon". For more information, call Keli Kuykendall at 758-8409.

Emerald

Jan. 11th, Mon.

Meeting at 7 pm. Dr. Joy Belsky will give a slide/lecture titled: " 'Holistic range management'; its science doesn't bear close inspection." The holistic paradigm is a popular but flawed world-wide grazing management scheme.

Jan. 11th, Mon.

Lane County Rare Plant List Update. 7:00pm. University of Oregon Herbarium. Examine the local impacts of the recently freed national rare species listing "log jam". Contact Tom Pringle, 484-0669 to participate or share specific information.

High Desert

Jan. 26th, Tues.

Meeting, 7 pm at the Central Oregon Environmental Center. "The Great Basin of the Last 12,000 years" by Dr. Rick Miller of Oregon State University.

Feb. 23rd, Tues.

Meeting, 7 pm at the Central Oregon Environmental Center. "Ecology of Oregon Grasslands: What We're Not Hearing From Our Land Managers" by Dr. Joy Belsky, Range Ecologist for Cornell University.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR 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 or chapter representative about difficulty, mileage and terrain to be expected on field trips. Bring water and lunch. Participation is at your own risk. All NPSO field trips are open to the public at no charge (other than carpool mileage), and newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

NOTICE TO FIELD TRIP CHAIRS AND LEADERS:

The Forest Service and other agencies have set policies limiting group size in wilderness areas to 12. The reason for this is to limit human impacts on these often fragile areas. Each group using wilderness areas must be no larger than 12.

Klamath Falls

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

Mid-Columbia

Jan. 6th, Weds.

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

Feb. 3rd, Weds.

Meeting, 7:30 pm at the Mosier School. John Kallas of the John Inskeep Learning Center will present a program on edible weeds.

North Coast

For information, call Jim Winslow at 842-2246

Portland

Jan. 12th, Tues.

Meeting, 7 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson Street, Portland at . Paul Slichter will present a slide show on the plants found around Broken Top, South Sister, and the Tam McArthur Rim.

Watch your February NPSO *Bulletin*. for an announcement of our Winter Study Weekends on Saturdays Feb. 6th, 13th and 20th, 10 to noon in Portland.

Siskiyou

Jan. 21st, Thur.

Meeting, 7:30 pm in Room 171, Science Building, Souther Oregon State College. Bill Haight, Fisheries Biologist for the BLM, will present a program on the Jenny Creek Restoration Project. The public is invited. For information, call Linda Knight at 488-3608.

Jan. 23rd, Sat.

Herbarium Workday & Potluck Lunch, 9 am to 4 pm, in Room 214 of the Science Building at Southern Oregon State College (enter via the east entrance of the building, near the greenhouse). SOSC has 15 boxes of Forest Service herbarium specimens, collected in SW Oregon in the early part of this century. We will examine these specimens, update names, check current SOSC collections, and decide which specimens will become part of the college herbarium and which will be distributed to other herbaria. Very little keying will be done. Participants need no special expertise. Bring your potluck dishes and drinks for lunch. Disposable tableware will be provided. Even if you can't stay all day, we will have a task you will enjoy. For information call Wayne Rolle (776-4316) during normal business hours.

Jan. 28th, Thur.

Conservation Committee Meeting at Darlene Southworth's home at 496 Beach Street, Ashland. Bring any topics for consideration.

South Coast

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

Umpqua Valley

Jan 14th, Thur.

Meeting, 7:30 pm in Room 311 at the Douglas County Courthouse, Roseburg. Steve Erickson will present a program on Ramp Canyon. For information call Russ Holmes at 672-4635.

Williamette Valley

Jan. 25th, Mon.

Meeting, 7 pm in Room 225 of the First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street, Salem. **Please Note, this meeting is on a fourth Monday of the month so we can avoid a holiday conflict!** This will be our Annual Member's Slide Show or "Member's Melody". Please bring ten of your recent best slides or UFO's (unidentified flowering objects) for us to enjoy and / or help identify. For more information, call Kathy Connelly at 327-1212.

Feb. 22nd, Mon.

Meeting, 7 pm in Room 225 of the First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street, Salem. **Please Note, this meeting is on a fourth Monday of the month so we can avoid a holiday conflict!** Margie Willis will give a slide show on "Tropical Fruits and Flowers". Margie has participated in research and has travelled extensively in Central America. For more information, call Kathy Connelly at 327-1212.

Mar. 15th, Mon.

Meeting, 7 pm in Room 225 of the First United Methodist Church, 600 State Street, Salem.. Jerry Igo, an active Mid-Columbia Chapter NPSO member, will present a video on "Showy Wildflowers of Oregon". For more information, call Kathy Connelly at 327-1212.

William Cusick

Jan. 12th, Tue.

Meeting, 7 pm at the ESD Office, 2100 Main Street, Baker City. Randy Alanko, a member of the Penstemon Society, will present a program on penstemons of northeastern Oregon.

The previously announced Hells Canyon llama trip has been rescheduled to April 23rd to April 25th in order to fall on the weekend. For information, contact Berta Youtie at 962-3903.

Welcoming Our New Members....

The following are the new NPSO members from October 4th to November 1st, 1992:

Blue Mountain Chapter

Heidi Dobson
Valerie Geertson

Corvallis Chapter

Nancy Crocker
Nancy Post

Emerald Chapter (Eugene)

Dale & Margaret McBride
Anna Mokler
Marie Street
Kathy Thompson
Jenny Ulrich

High Desert (Bend)

Evelyn M. Brown
Al & Cindy Pagel

Mid-Columbia (Mosier)

Lance & Janis Holmberg

Portland

Robert A. Davies
Everett Dial
Gary J. Simantel

Willamette Valley (Salem)

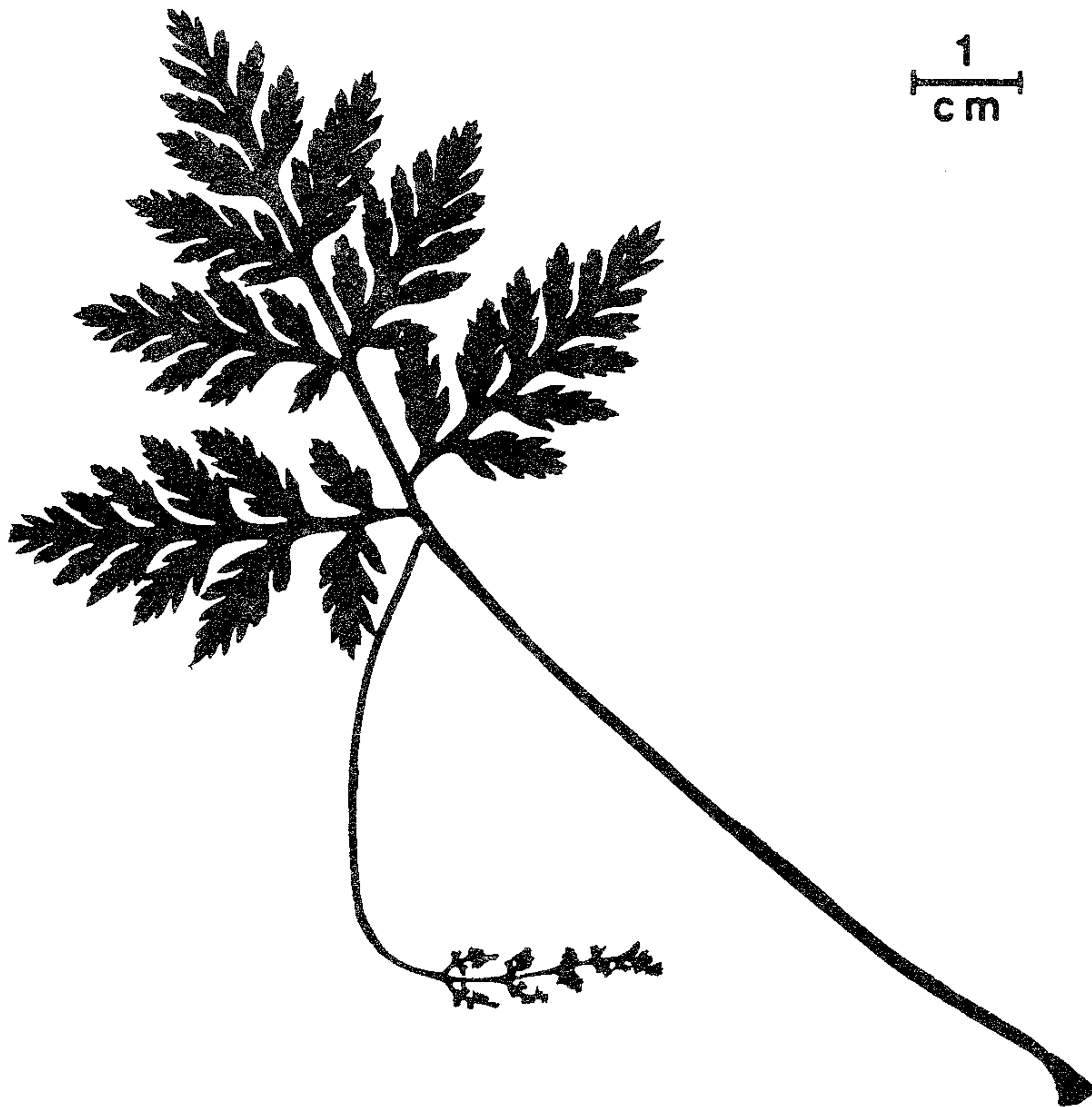
Jim Border
Susan Yamanaka

William Cusick (Northeast Oregon)

Deb Martin
Bonnie Rux

New Chapter Officers for Corvallis Chapter:

President: Duncan Thomas
Vice-President: Keli Kuykendall
Treasurer: Dan Luoma



THE PLANT PUZZLE

Sponsored by the Siskiyou Chapter

Do you recognize this native plant? The first person to give the correct scientific name will win a prize.

Send your guess on a postcard to:

Peter Zika
4230 NW Clubhouse Place #1
Corvallis OR 97330

Danna Lytjen of Corvallis solved the November puzzle. Her choice of four plants native in both western Oregon and in Baja: *Eschscholtzia californica* (California poppy), *Sarcodes sanguinea* (snowplant), *Abronia umbellata* (pink sand verbena) and *Salicornia virginica* (glasswort).

THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY IN THE NEW YEAR

As we enter 1993 the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) is entering a new phase of activity and commitment towards our mission of conserving, enjoying and studying the native flora of Oregon. We have several important conservation issues facing the Society that may require a new approach to ensure the protection of rare elements in our flora.

The first of these issues is our involvement with four other conservation groups in the suit against the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the listing of seven desert plant species threatened by gold mining. We as the Native Plant Society need to be involved in this suit as we are the most respected and qualified organization of advocates for our native flora. As Stu Garrett mentions in his column, we are not committed at this time as a party in the lawsuit but we are keeping our options open. The California Native Plant Society has been very successful with this approach and has removed the log jams preventing the protection of the rarest plants in California. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has settled all suits of this type out of court and we intend to work with them to provide the protection guaranteed to these rare plant taxa under the Endangered Species Act.

The second issue we will be dealing with early in the new year is the establishment of a NPSO grazing policy. Again, this is an issue at which I feel it is important for us to take a closer look.

We will be discussing both these issues at our Board meeting in January. If you have strong feelings on either of these issues, I strongly encourage you to either attend the meeting or let your chapter president or myself know your feelings. As we celebrate the return of the sun at solstice, the Christmas holiday and watch the turning of the New Year, I wish you a joyous season celebrating the diversity that is unique in Oregon.

—Lisa Croft
NPSO President

NPSO—ODA INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Oregon Department of Agriculture Conservation Biology Program (ODA) and The Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) expect to co-sponsor two internship positions for summer 1993 field work. The internships last approximately two weeks during which the intern works with ODA staff conducting research on endangered plants, often in remote parts of the state. Participants must be willing to travel, camp overnight, hike and work outdoors, often in inclement weather. Scheduling of the internship is somewhat flexible, and participants receive a \$300 stipend from both ODA and NPSO. By September 1993, each intern must write a description of their research activities to be published in the NPSO *Bulletin*.

In addition, ODA hopes to offer a **2 TO 3 MONTH** internship position in 1993. This position will acquaint the intern with several threatened and endangered species and all aspects of field research. The participant will receive a stipend of \$800 per month, and be expected to accompany ODA field staff on a regular, full-time basis. Funding for these positions is not yet secured, but we expect to have final confirmation no later than March 1993.

Anyone may apply. If you are interested, please contact:

Tom Kaye or Bob Meinke
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Plant Conservation Biology Program
635 Capitol NE
Salem OR 97310
(503) 378-3810

EASTSIDE CONSERVATION REPORT

The Eugene Rare Plant Conference was held on November 7th with over 100 attendees from the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) and various agencies. Over 170 plant species were considered and a number of additions, deletions, and changes were made in the rare plant list for Oregon. Jimmy Kagan of the Natural Heritage Database did an excellent job as moderator. The Database folks are ready to pass on the task of hosting the biennial conference and printing the book which is Oregon's official listing of rare species. The NPSO has offered to take over the job. The next meeting will be held the first weekend of November, 1994 in Bend and will be sponsored by the High Desert Chapter.

As our members are aware, cyanide heap leach mining for gold is being planned for Oregon. The planned Grassy Mountain Mine in Malheur county has just been taken over by Newmont Gold, Inc., which is the largest gold producer in the USA. When the price of gold rises, this mine WILL become a reality. Others will surely follow. In light of this prospect, the NPSO and four other conservation groups petitioned the US Fish And Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 seven of eastern Oregon's rarest plants (*Amsinckia carinata*, *Astragalus sterilis*, *Eriogonum crosbyae*, *Ivesia rhypara* var. *rhypara*, *Mentzelia mollis*, *Mentzelia packardiae*, and *Senecio ertterae*) which are threatened by this mining as well as by grazing, recreation (motorized and non-motorized) and other activities. The petition was submitted in October, 1991. The document has been highly praised by everyone who has seen it as well-written and based on sound science. The USFWS found it to be "substantial" at all levels of review within the agency. Unfortunately, they have missed the statutory one year deadline to respond to our petition and show no evidence that they plan to list these rare species. There are unsubstantiated rumors that the Bureau of Land Management and USFWS will try to replace the listing of several of these species with conservation agreements.

In consultation with NPSO President Lisa Croft and others, we have decided that this response is insufficient, and further action on behalf of these plants is needed. Therefore, in conjunction with co-petitioners Portland Audubon Society, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Concerned Citizens for Responsible Mining, and Oregon Natural Resources Council, we have authorized a Eugene attorney with experience in these matters to file a 60 day notice of intent to sue the Department of the Interior for missing the one year deadline. This filing doesn't constitute a suit and doesn't commit us to be a party to one. It simply maintains our option to do so. The NPSO Board will discuss further action at its next Board meeting. I feel that NPSO should pursue these listings vigorously. Please make your feelings known to Lisa, your Chapter President, or me. On a positive note, more habitat for *Astragalus tyghensis* is being protected from domestic livestock grazing partly as a result of NPSO concerns. The Tygh Valley milk-vetch is an Oregon endemic which is found on State Park lands along the White River in Tygh Valley. Sites and survey plots for this plant within the park were being heavily impacted by grazing. Calls and letters by NPSO to the State Parks Department helped to bring about a project which will fence this public land from cattle and help conserve the rare milkvetch. The Parks Department was cooperative and pro-active on this issue and they are to be commended.

—Stu Garrett
Eastside Conservation Chair

TO OBTAIN A SUMMARY OF THE RARE PLANT CONFERENCE

The biennial conference on Oregon Rare Plants was held on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene on November 7th, 1992. A total of 171 plant taxa were reviewed by plant experts and enthusiasts from Oregon and other states. A summary of the conference results can be obtained by writing the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, 1205 NW 25th, Portland, OR 97210. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

"WHERE CAN I BUY NATIVE PLANTS AND SEEDS?"

The answer to this commonly-asked question can be found in a neat little publication entitled Hortus Northwest: A Pacific Northwest Native Plant Directory and Journal. Although some NPSO members use this book regularly, others don't know of its existence. The current edition contains several articles of interest, a listing of northwest native plant and seed sources, and a cross index of nurseries listed for each available species. In other words, if you have a particular plant you are looking for, you can look up the plant, and the nurseries which carry the plant and / or seeds for starting it are listed. In my experience, the nurseries that send you the seeds give you no instructions on seed preparation or planting, so you're on your own. To assist with these questions, try Arthur R. Kruckeberg's superb book Gardening With Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest: An Illustrated Guide, available at bookstores or from the University of Washington Press, Seattle.

To order *Hortus Northwest*, contact Dale Shank at 266-7968 or PO Box 955, Canby OR 97013.

—Bruce Newhouse
Emerald Chapter

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER UPDATE

The Salmon and Sandy Wild and Scenic Rivers Environmental Assessments have been completed and published by the Salem District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Mount Hood National Forest. For both rivers the botanical / ecological resources have been found to be "outstandingly remarkable". This means that these river stretches are unique or very unusual in the region, and from a management standpoint need to be handled with care.

The Salmon River flows through a wide variety of life zones from its headwaters to its mouth, ranging from high alpine life zones at its headwaters on Mount Hood to westside Douglas-fir forest types along the lower river. Along the way, the river flows through communities including a large subalpine meadow complex, important riparian areas, narrow basalt canyons, and old-growth Douglas-fir forests. The number of and variety of life zones and plant communities in a relatively short stretch of river are remarkable in comparison with several other rivers in the four county area.

The Salmon River is located to the west of the Cascade Range and to the south of the Columbia River Gorge. From its origins on Mount Hood at Palmer snowfield, the river flows for 33 miles, through the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness and through eight miles of mixed BLM, Clackamas County and private lands, to its confluence with the Sandy River at Brightwood. The entire river is designated a Federal Wild and Scenic River.

The botanical / ecological resource of the lower Sandy River are considered "outstandingly remarkable" values because of the diversity of vegetation (plant species and communities), the presence of a unique low elevation old growth forest ecosystem, and its important scenic and wildlife values.

The Sandy River is located just south of the Columbia River Gorge, and empties into the Columbia River just northeast of Troutdale. A 12.5 mile stretch of the river from Dodge Park to Dabney Park is designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River. The same stretch of river is designated as a State Scenic Waterway as well.

For further information, contact Paul Norman, ZigZag Ranger District, Mount Hood National Forest (503-666-0700) about the Salmon River, or Bob Ratcliffe, Salem District BLM (503-375-5669) about the Sandy River.

—Larry R. Scofield
District Botanist
Salem District BLM

WHAT IS A NATIVE PLANT?

The following is from *The Plant Press*, Newsletter of the Arizona Native Plant Society, Summer 1992.

Does that seem like a dumb question? We all know without a doubt that a saguaro is a native plant while a salt cedar is not. Native plants are plants that belong here and we have united to protect them. Native plants are like love or sleep. If you are the type that has to define them, you obviously don't know what they are.

If you have ever tried to write an ordinance dealing with revegetation issues, you have probably had the embarrassing experience of discovering that you aren't so sure after all. Let's look at some attempted definitions:

1. Native plants are the "common plants generally found in an area". These include palo verde, desert marigold, mesquite saguaro, ponderosa pine, tumbleweed, lovegrass—whoops.
2. Native plants are "those plants that arrived in our area on their own and were not introduced by man". This raises problems of knowing what plants were actually introduced by man, especially pre-Spanish man. Perhaps mescal or a yucca was cultivated by the Hohokam. Does anyone have a good species list from 1066 or 1492?
3. Native plants are "those plants that arrived in an area on their own and were not introduced by man in the last 100 years". Isn't this one a bit eurocentric? What is botanically different about plants introduced by Anglos as opposed to O'Odham? Or is the difference the number of generations?

Now let's look at the dictionary definition of a native. "Being such by birth or origin." If we used that definition, an exotic plant would become native in the second generation, just as a native Arizonan is one born here even if the parents came from Peoria. (Although the only real Native Americans are those whose ancestors arrived here before the conquest.) That doesn't work.

How about "Originating, growing or produced in a certain place; indigenous as opposed to exotic or foreign". That has all the problems of the definition above, except it does not include those "introduced from outside". Since a lot of southern Arizona species arrived within the past 10,000 years, they wouldn't technically be indigenous. Actually, "indigenous" is probably closest to what we really mean, but would you prefer to belong to the "Indigenous Plant Society"?

"Who cares?" you say. "I know what I mean." Sure, but put that into an ordinance. Try telling someone in the construction business that they must revegetate with native plants, without telling him what natives are. And try taking him to court for the crime of planting a non-native, without being able to prove that plant really is non-native—to do that you need to know what a native is.

Of course you could just list them, but that brings up another problem. Any list is bound to exclude someone's favorite species unless it is many pages long. And one has to have good reasons putting plants on a list or leaving them off. I actually saw a list of native plants for Pima County which included the Canary Island Palm. Who an I to say that's not now native?

One legal attempt to define native referred to plants naturally found within a certain number of feet of the property in question. Plants may be native to riparian areas, but not surrounding lands. And that would mean that creosote flats would have to be revegetated with creosote where the landscaper might have preferred saguaros.

I think you get the picture. Now the Society has a position on revegetation and a strong statement of principles, it would help to know what we are talking about. If anyone has found a good working definition of "native plant" please send it to the Editor for further consideration. This right answer could make you a winner, especially if you're a "native" Arizonan.

