



Bulletin of the Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

VOLUME 27

NUMBER 1

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State News

- Sat., Jan. 15 **State Board Meeting:** 10 am Salem. Oregon State Parks and Recreation Office, 1115 Commercial St. NE. Call Jim Crane, 393-0798, for more information.
- Sat., March 12 **State Board Meeting:** 10 A.M. Mosier. Call Lisa Croft, 447-5270, for more information. (Note: Generally take lunch to Board meetings.)
Annual Meeting. Ashland. Details to be announced.

Chapter News

Blue Mountain

For information, call Chapter President Jerry Baker (566-3381).

Corvallis

- Jan. 11, Tues. **Meeting:** 7:30 P.M. Room 2087 Cordley Hall, OSU campus. Steve Lindsey, Corvallis city planner, will speak on the Corvallis wetlands assessment and Berg Park.

Emerald

- Jan. 15, Sat. **Field Trip:** Ecology of Mount Pisgah; life in the dead of winter. 10 A.M. to Noon. Led by Ethan Perkins, sponsored by the Arboretum. \$2 per participant for "Arboretum Education Program." Bring binoculars and hand lens if possible. Call Ethan Perkins, 345-3944, for more information. (See next item for meeting places.)

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. Participation is at your own risk. Please contact the trip leader or chapter representative about difficulty, distance, and terrain to be expected on field trips. Bring water and lunch. All NPSO field trips are open to the public at no charge (other than contribution to carpool driver) 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 many wilderness areas to 12. The reason is to limit human impacts on these fragile areas. Each group using wilderness areas should be no larger than 12.

Jan. 22, Sat **Field Trip:** Winter twigs on Mount Pisgah Arboretum. 10 A.M. to Noon. Led by Rhoda Love. \$2 per participant for "Keys to Winter Twigs at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum." Bring pocket knife, hand lens and ruler. Meet at S. Eugene H.S. 9:30 A.M. or Mount Pisgah visitor's center, 10 A.M. Call Rhoda Love, 345-6241, for information.

Jan. 24, Mon. **Meeting:** 7 P.M. Loren Russell will speak on "Gardening with native plants" Morse Ranch Park. Directions from downtown Eugene: Take Willamette St. south to Crest Dr. (right through "Y" for Donald, between 32nd and 33rd Aves. E.) Turn right (W) on Crest and proceed about 4 blocks. Turn right into Morse Ranch parking lot. Walk east to the white farmhouse.

High Desert

Jan. 25, Tues. **Meeting:** 7:30 P.M. Central Oregon Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas. Ranotta McNair, Forest Service Nursery Manager, will speak on "Species Diversity at the Bend Pine Nursery." Call Cindi O'Neil, 389-3085, for more information.

March 22 **Meeting:** 7 P.M. Central Oregon Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend. Dr. Aaron Liston will speak on "Locoweeds of the world," with an emphasis on his studies of Oregon's species.

Mid-Columbia

Jan. 5, Wed. **Meeting:** 7:30 P.M. Mosier School. Jerry Igo, Columbia Gorge naturalist, will show another of his wonderful videos, "Thoughts of Spring."

Feb. 2, Wed. **Meeting:** 7:30 P.M. Mosier School. Darrel Lloyd of the Flying "L" Ranch will give a slide show, "Attack on Bird Creek Meadows," dealing with grazing problems on this beautiful Mt. Adams area.

North Coast

Jan. 25, Tues. **Meeting:** 7 P.M. Carl Rawe Meeting Room, Tillamook P.U.D., 1115 Pacific., Bill Miles from Bear Creek Artichoke will speak on methods of propagating plants from seed.

Portland

Jan. 11, Tues. **Meeting:** 7 P.M. Clair Siddall, NPSO member and experienced photographer, will discuss creative techniques for enhancing the artistic aspect of wildflower photography. Bring questions. First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland.

Siskiyou

Jan. 20, Thurs. **Meeting:** 7:30 P.M. Room 171, Science Building, SOSC, Ashland. George Shook, citizen forester and environmentalist, speaks on, "South Kalmiopsis: Biodiversity at Risk."

Feb. 17, Thurs. **Meeting:** 7:30 P.M. Room 171, Science Building, SOSC, Ashland. Dr. Frank Lang will give a slide show, "Alaskan Adventures," and will report on a conference, "Sampling the Green World," about utilizing botanical resources.

South Coast

For information call Bruce Rittenhouse (888-9328).

Umpqua Valley

Jan. 13, Thurs. **Meeting:** 7 P.M. Room 310, Douglas County Courthouse. Future field trips and speakers will be discussed. Naomi Neyerlin will show slides. Call Ted Schattenkerk, 679-6953, for more information.

Willamette Valley

Jan. 17, Mon. **Meeting:** 7 P.M. Room 225, United Methodist Church, 600 State St. NE, Salem. Members remember to bring slides for viewing, and Mark Quistad will give a short presentation on the relationship between botany and art according to Robert Irwin. For more information call 399-9680.

Wm. Cusick

Jan. 19, Wed. **Meeting:** 7 P.M. Forest and Range Sciences Lab, C Ave. & Geckler Ln., La Grande. Dennis Sheehy, international range science consultant, will talk on "Herding and grazing in Mongolia and Inner Mongolia: Comparing and contrasting the Mongolian and Chinese views of nature." Call Bob Ottersberg, 963-9660 for information..

Guidelines for Contributors to the Bulletin

NPSO Bulletin published monthly as a service to members and the public. All kinds of contributions welcome. **Copy due by the 10th of each month.**

CREDITS: Identify author and affiliation. If item is not original, cite source and date. Indicate if item is to be used in its entirety, or excerpted at editor's discretion.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Line drawings, prints and high contrast black-and-white prints are useable. Some MacIntosh graphics can be used. Contact editor for our current needs or send them along with your article.

BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE: Follow *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, by Hitchcock, or *The Jepson Manual* where appropriate. Use both scientific and common names if possible.

FORMAT: Submissions can be in any form, but at present the editor prefers hard copy. Use of a modem is not possible at this time. Editor follows *The Associated Press Stylebook*. For any further details consult editor.

ORIGINALS: Submissions are not returned, unless requested.

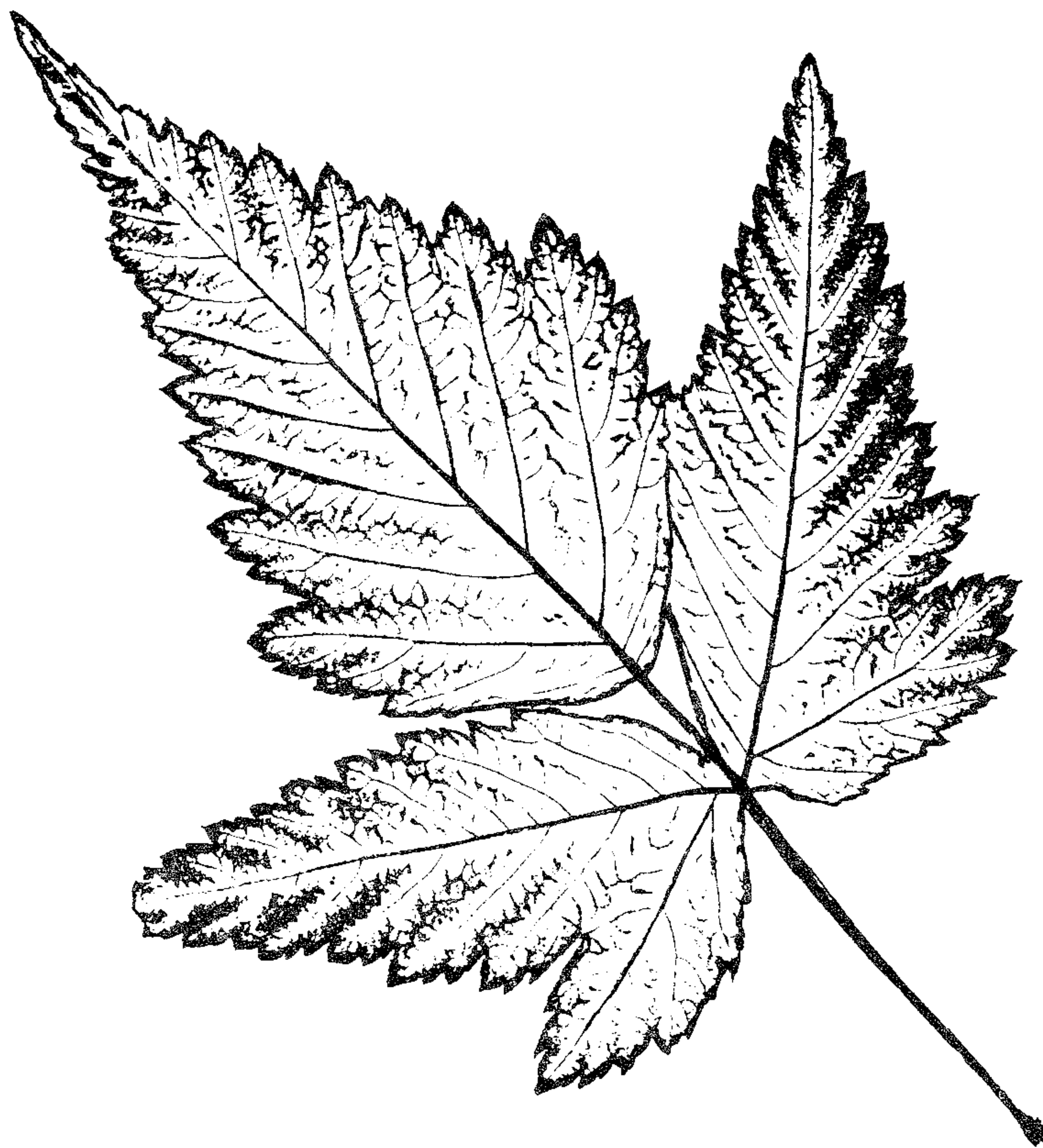
THE PLANT PUZZLE

Sponsored by the Siskiyou Chapter

Do you recognize this woody 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 Pl., #1
Corvallis, OR 97330



1
cm

Bruce Newhouse of Eugene was the first to solve the November puzzle:
Empetrum nigrum, black crowberry.

NPSO Items For Sale

Oregon's Rare Wildflowers Poster depicts Punchbowl Falls and three of the Columbia River Gorge's endemic wildflowers. Text on the back describes the natural history of the Gorge and the mission of the NPSO. Available from Stu Garrett, 21663 Paloma Dr., Bend, OR 97701 (503-389-6981). Individual may order posters at \$12 each, plus \$3 per order for shipping. Posters are mailed in tubes. Chapter treasurers may contact Stu for wholesale prices to Chapters.

NPSO Window Stickers are decals with NPSO's trillium logo in green over an opaque white background, for use inside car windows. Available from Stu Garrett (see above). \$1 each; minimum order is 5.

NPSO Notecards feature seven rare plants drawn by Julie Kierstead and one drawn by Valerie Sloane. They are printed on pastel parchment-style paper with matching envelopes. Notecards are sold through NPSO Chapters. For more information contact Lisa Croft, 699 W. 2nd, Prineville, OR 97704 (503-447-5270).

NPSO T-Shirts are available in various colors and designs. They are sold through NPSO Chapters.

NPSO's Original Wildflower Poster depicts 13 Oregon wildflowers in a striking artist's rendition. Soon to be a collector's item! Available from Stephanie Schulz, 652 W. 10th St., #1, Eugene, OR 97402 (503-485-1868). \$5 each.

NPSO Membership Directory lists names, addresses and telephone numbers of NPSO members (April, 1993). Available from Jan Dobak, 2584 NW Savier St., Portland, OR 97210-2412. \$2 each.

A Constitutional Amendment For Environmental Rights

The Oregon Plan for Environmental Rights is an organization formed to put an environmental rights amendment in the Oregon Constitution through the initiative process. It is seeking both signatures and organizational endorsements. Endorsement by the Native Plant Society of Oregon will be considered at the Board meeting in January.

The initiative provides:

“PARAGRAPH 1: The Constitution of the state

of Oregon is amended by creating the following new sections 41 and 42 in Article 1 (the Oregon Bill of Rights) to read:

SECTION 41: PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH. No state action shall unnecessarily infringe on the right of the people to a work place and environment protected from pollutants harmful to human health.

SECTION 42: PROTECTION OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS. No state action shall unnecessarily infringe on the right of current and future generations to the benefits of sustainable natural ecosystems, free from significant impairment.”

Is the amendment needed? Of course it is. Evidence of environmental degradation is all around us. Native plants have been displaced because of farming and grazing practices and by the spread of urban development. There are clear-cut slopes everywhere and soil from them washes into the streams below leaving degraded soil and polluted streams. Air and water pollution are continuing problems.

This is a Native Plant Society issue. Healthy and diverse plant populations are essential for sustainable ecosystems. State and local governments act primarily by enacting and applying laws. This amendment would permit citizens to have the Supreme Court review laws which permitted environmental damage.

It's also a policy statement. It can and will be used by legislators when shaping legislation and by state agencies and local governments when considering administrative rules and ordinances. And, as mentioned above, statutes, rules and ordinances which failed the environmental protection test could be reviewed by the Supreme Court.

Once it's in the constitution, the legislature could neither amend or repeal it. The constitution can only be amended by a vote of the people.

The language is pretty general but that's common for constitutional amendments. Any constitutional amendment is likely to remain in the constitution for some time and amendments are more likely to be applicable in the future if they are general rather than specific.

Jim Conley
Willamette Valley Chapter

A Summer Exploration of Plant Conservation in Oregon

During this past summer, NPSO helped sponsor four internships in conservation biology (over 40 individuals applied or expressed interest this year). The interns assisted the Oregon Department of Agriculture in summer research on rare and endangered species. Two internships were summer-long in duration, and were filled by Steve Gisler (Sublimity) and Melissa Peterson (Eugene). The other two lasted two weeks each, and were completed by Mary Garrard (Portland; sponsored specifically by the Portland Chapter of the NPSO) and Jill Van Winkle (Portland). As their final assignment, interns are required to write a narrative illustrating their work experience. The following article by Melissa Peterson is the third in the series. -- Bob Meinke

This morning I sit reminiscing about my summer adventures and experiences. I enjoy Oregon's unique landscape, flora and fauna that I have gratefully come to know, and I embrace the memories and knowledge which I have newly acquired. Another chapter of my life comes to an end, and I close the last page with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

My summer conservation biology internship with the Native Plant Society of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Agriculture began in early June. As a recent Linfield graduate in biology, I was eager to use this internship as an opportunity to further my knowledge of the natural history of Oregon and become more intimate with the flora, and inevitably the politics of conserving the flora of the Pacific Northwest.

Throughout the summer, I worked on a variety of different plants such as: *Cimicifuga elata*, *Mimulus pygmaeus*, *Mimulus tricolor*, *Horkelia congesta*, *Aster vialis*, *Luina serpentina*, *Haplopappus radiatus*, *Lupinus cusickii* and *Cordylanthus maritimus*. The projects involving these plants each had a different goal. Two projects which I found particularly interesting were the *Horkelia* and *Luina* projects.

The *Horkelia* project consisted of a taxonomic study of *Horkelia congesta* (Rosaceae), which has been described as subspecies *congesta* in the Willamette Valley, and subspecies *nemorosa* in the Ashland area. The plants growing in the Roseburg

area appear to share morphological characteristics of both the northern and southern subspecies. Because the Roseburg area plants have so many intermediate features, taxonomic identifications are difficult and often uncertain.

It is important to the BLM Roseburg District, which manages many areas of *Horkelia* habitat and several populations, to determine which subspecies (if either) of *Horkelia congesta* they have, because subsp. *congesta* is listed as a sensitive species.

I helped collect specimens from the different known populations so that an in-depth taxonomic study could be made, and I surveyed areas where *Horkelia* has grown historically for any remnant populations from which we could possibly collect. This project is ongoing and no conclusions have been drawn as yet.

Our work with *Luina serpentina* (Asteraceae) took place near John Day in the Malheur National Forest. *Luina serpentina* grows on loose serpentine/talus slopes, forming clumps that can grow greater than two meters in diameter and produce several hundred flowering heads. The research on *L. serpentina* was directed at finding a correlation between plant density in a population and the rate of reproduction, which is directly affected by seed fly larvae infestations. Preliminary results indicate there may be a correlation between the proximity of clumps of plants and the quantity of viable seeds produced. Plants occurring in higher densities may receive heavier larval predation. Low density populations suffered much less from larval predation and seed viability was good.

By working on so many different projects throughout the summer, I gained a fair idea of what is involved in the job of a conservation biologist. I learned that the concerns are seemingly endless and the work occasionally strenuous, and even tedious. But ultimately, the work can be gratifying when you feel you have helped preserve a bit of nature.

My summer internship has given me a greater appreciation and an enhanced understanding of the importance each and every component of a natural system holds. Even though my internship focused on rare and endangered plants, or possibly for that very reason, I do not feel I have become habituated to glorify threatened plant species. I have learned to appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of all plants growing in our precious environment. It is because we take certain components of our en-

vironment for granted, remaining ignorant of the complexities of nature, that we endanger these treasures of nature.

“In wildness is the preservation of the world.” -
- Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*.

-- Melissa Peterson

Forestcare Provision

One Solution to the Clearcutting of Forests on Privately Owned Land

There is a long history of deforestation in North Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and now in the Americas. In the last 200 years deforestation has spread across North America from the Atlantic Coast and Southern states, through the Midwest to the Pacific Coast. Forest destruction has almost circled the earth.

Is this the price of “progress?” It will be, if we accept it. Our past visions accepted cutting giant trees as pushing back the darkness, bringing light and civilization to a wild land. In the Paul Bunyan tradition land was cleared so crops could be planted and beasts of the forest banished.

As our visions change, we no longer see darkness as evil and threatening. We can let go of a child’s fear of the dark. We can learn to see darkness as nurturing, even comforting, so we can see stars again.

First, we can learn to recognize abuse of people and the environment. Second, we will realize that we can take action and even prevent “holocausts.”

We are just one couple living in a cottage in the forest. Since living in the forest we are changing our visions and actions. We have worked for several years with conservation and environmental organizations (STAND, ONRC, Sierra Club, etc.) to stop forest destruction. Our efforts to save the old growth and stop clearcutting often had a depressing effect on us. At extreme times we were “nay sayers.” It began to embitter us and erode our spirits.

Questions plagued us. How can we stop the widespread destruction and pollution we see around us? Does the human race carry the seeds of its

own destruction? Are humans aliens, or do we have a place on earth? What is that place? What good can we do?

We have owned forest land for about 30 years, beginning with 20 acres and slowly buying more until we had over 300 acres. We have maintained a healthy forest -- even planting about 18,000 trees. We have harvested timber selectively, without clearcutting. However, our love of the land and gentle approach did not insure the future.

We could maintain a healthy, beautiful and productive forest during our lifetimes. However, when we died there was a good chance it would be clearcut. (Often after a death, forest land is sold and clearcut.). As one of our neighbors remarked, after an adjacent forest which had been cared for with selective harvesting was sold and clearcut, “It will be clearcut in the end, so what’s the point [of caring for the land]?” This infuriated us. We began to search for a way to insure that our land would not be clearcut again.

We explored various options, the Nature Conservancy and other non-profit and charitable groups. Our land is not unique. It does not have any rare or endangered species. As a result these organizations were not interested in preserving it. We were amazed that no organization would take our beautiful and productive forest and guarantee to keep it that way.

In retrospect this was okay, because we wanted to find a solution to the abuse of ordinary forest land. These forests should occupy a large area in Western Oregon, remaining beautiful, healthy and productive. At the same time, society can only afford to preserve a small portion of the land base.

Then we realized that it was fairly common for private land to have deed restrictions or covenants. These are *perpetual* limitations on how the land can be used. These are voluntary restrictions common in subdivisions and housing developments, but are not yet common in rural areas.

We worked with an attorney, a forester and a realtor to write the Forestcare Provision. This is a carefully worded deed restriction with the purpose of maintaining a mixed species forest. It allows the selective harvesting of trees but prohibits clearcutting. It was designed to protect the land we live on after we die. However, the Forestcare Provisions are suitable for protection of a wide variety of forested land. We would like to share it with others. If you would like more information

about these deed restrictions, and the legal language, please let us know.

Curtin Mitchell & Victoria Meyer
P.O. Box 38
Lorane, Oregon 97451

P.S. We have recently sold two parcels, totaling over 120 acres, with the Forestcare Provision attached to the deeds.

Sidalcea Nelsoniana Finally Makes It

On Friday, February 12, 1993, in Vol. 58, No. 28 of the Federal Register, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced their final rule, listing *Sidalcea nelsoniana* as a Threatened Species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Known now only from restricted areas of the Willamette Valley and the adjacent Coast Range of Oregon and in Cowlitz County, Washington, Nelson's Checkermallow is a vulnerable native member of the Mallow (*Malvaceae*) family. Agricultural practices and land development have essentially eliminated available habitat for expansion of the plant's range. Only two of the remaining population centers are located on federal lands. In Oregon, eight sites on four population centers occur partially on state land. The other sites occur on county, city or private lands, and, for the most part, are unprotected from development and habitat conversion. Locations are disjunct and populations isolated.

Plowing, roadside mowing, conversion of habitat to agricultural lands, logging, recreational activities, stream channelization and water impoundment activity threaten portions of all remaining population centers. The city of Hillsboro has plans for water impoundment which will inundate habitat in the immediate vicinity of one center. Recreational motorcyclists at Devil's Lake Fork have disturbed the site there in recent years. Recent legislative efforts to delete Walker Creek, a tributary of the Nestucca River, from the state Scenic Waterway System, would remove existing protection from one of the Coast Range sites. These efforts are likely to be renewed in order to open the way for McMinnville Water and Light to build an additional reservoir which would inundate all plants at this location. Additionally, adjacent logging activities may have already adversely altered this mountain meadow's hydrological balance. Though the Bureau of Land Management has pro-

posed designating the site as an ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern), no long-term protective designation has been finalized.

Because *S. nelsoniana* occurs in both isolated wetlands and wetlands adjacent to waterways, some protection under the Clean Water Act now exists. Section 404, administered by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, requires that the Corps not authorize, fund or carry out any action that is likely to jeopardize a Threatened Species' continued existence. *S. nelsoniana* has also been listed as threatened under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. State statute prohibits "taking" of state-listed plants on state-owned or state-leased lands only. No legal protection exists for populations located in other areas under other ownership. Landowners can be alerted to the existence of the species, but protection remains voluntary. Many populations are small and isolated; about one-third contain 25 or fewer plants. Further, the species is gynodioecious; sex ratio may be the controlling factor in seed production.

Because locations of nearly all populations are easily accessible, *Sidalcea nelsoniana* is vulnerable to taking by collectors and to vandalism. FWS has wisely declined to designate critical habitat for the species at this time.

Sidalcea nelsoniana has survived as much adversity in the federal bureaucracy as it has in its native Northwest habitat. It was first collected by Elihu Hall in 1871 and described by Charles Piper in 1919 based on material collected by J.C. Nelson near Salem. Federal involvement began as a result of Section 12 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, which directed the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to prepare a report to Congress on plants considered to be endangered, threatened or extinct. On July 1, 1975, publication of this list in the "Federal Register" was accepted as a petition to review the status of the named plant taxa. In this report *Sidalcea nelsoniana* was petitioned for listing as endangered. On June 16, 1976, the Fish and Wildlife Service published a proposed rule to determine that 1700 vascular plants, including *S. nelsoniana* were in fact endangered. 1978 amendments to the ESA required that all proposals more than two years old be withdrawn, but giving a one year grace period to proposals already over two years old. Then, on December 10, 1979, a FWS "Federal Register" notice withdrew that portion of the June 16, 1976 proposed list that had not been made final.

Later, a December 15, 1980 FWS Notice of Re-

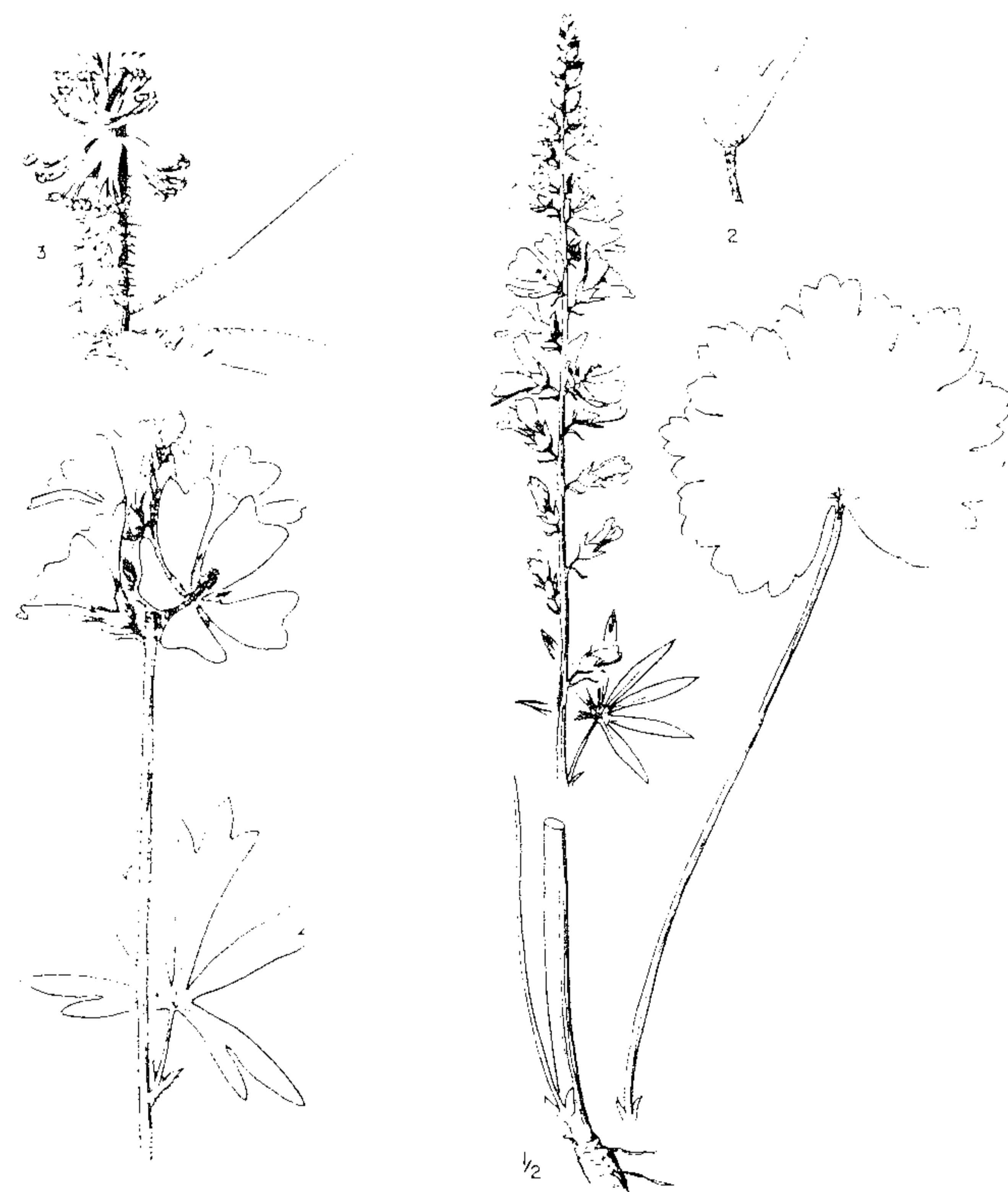
view included *S. nelsoniana* as a Category 1 candidate, indicating that sufficient information was available to support a proposal to so list the species at that time. But this status was changed to Category 2 in the November 28, 1983 Supplement, and remained as such in the September 27, 1985 Notice of Review. (A Category 2 candidate is a species for which listing may be appropriate but additional biological information is needed to support a listing proposal.). In the February 21, 1990 Notice of Review, its status was changed back to Category 1. We are told this was a result of additional information on the occurrence and status of the species with respect to biological vulnerability and threat(s).

Section 2(b) (1) of the 1982 ESA Amendments requires the secretary to treat all petitions pending on October 13, 1982, as having been newly submitted on that date. (This resurrected *Sidalcea nelsoniana* as a candidate species because the 1975 Smithsonian Report had been accepted as a petition.). However, in the Octobers of 1983 - 1990, FWS found that though the petition to list *Sidalcea nelsoniana* was indeed warranted, it was precluded by listing actions of higher priority. On June 7, 1991, FWS published a proposal to list *S. nelsoniana* as a threatened species, based in large part on information on the recent extirpation of a Willamette Valley population and on pending projects that would adversely affect remaining plant populations. Finally, science prevailed over politics with publication of the final rule on February 12, 1993. FWS has at last determined that *Sidalcea nelsoniana* really is a threatened species.

Anti-climactic perhaps, but unreported in the terse bureaucratise of the "Federal Register" notices is the long-standing battle enjoined by conservationists versus the establishment over this plant. Friends of Walker Creek Wetlands, supported by the Salem Audubon Society, National Audubon, the Oregon Natural Resources Council, the Native Plant Society of Oregon and other environmental groups have been arrayed in a long and bitter struggle against McMinnville Water and Light, CH₂MHill, Yamhill County, Oregon state natural resource departments and a Republican administration in the White House. And, for years, a vertebrate, *Strix occidentalis caurina* (northern spotted owl), has been in the limelight of conservation issues. However, repeatedly lost and found, sinking and swimming for nearly two decades in FWS backwaters, *Sidalcea nelsoniana* has survived the bureaucracy. But Friends of Walker Creek Wetlands will tell you that the struggle in real life, in

Northwest wetlands, mountain meadows and relict prairies is not over yet.; it is unending and will continue. Cities are growing and developers are hard to stop. Translocation advocates insist that the plant is easily established outside its known sites. And, no one can tell Oregon farmers how to manage their lands.

Mariana Bornholdt
Willamette Valley Chapter



Sidalcea nelsoniana
From Hitchcock et. al.
Flora of the Pacific Northwest

