



Bulletin of the Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

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State News

June 16 -18

Fri. - Sun.

Annual Meeting: Hosted by the Portland Chapter, at Brightwood near Mt. Hood. Dr. Linda Ann Vorobik, NPSO member for many years, formerly editor of the Bulletin and chief illustrator of The Jepson Manual, will be the speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. Her topic will be "Assembling a state flora -- challenges of producing The Jepson Manual." Details and registration form were in the March Bulletin.

September

State Board Meeting: Date and place undetermined at this time.

Chapter News

Blue Mountain

Meeting: No meetings in the summer. (Please attend the NPSO annual meeting).

June 3, Sat.

Field Trip: Westminster Woods, near Emigrant Springs, to assist in compiling plant data to be used in the master plan for the camp's development, to protect sensitive areas.

June 10, Sat.

Field Trip: Frazier Campground, area east of Ukiah. Led by Jerry Baker. Meet at NE corner of the Safeway parking lot, at 8 A.M.

Corvallis

Meeting: No meetings until October, but watch this space for field trips.
(Please attend the NPSO annual meeting).

Emerald

June 3, Sat.

Field Trip: To the Oregon Country Fair site along the Long Tom River, with Phil Warner, 345-5380. Special plant: *Triteleia howellii*. Meet at S. Eugene H.S. parking lot at 10 A.M.

Meeting: No meeting in June. (Please attend the NPSO annual meeting).

June 17, Sat. **Field Trip:** Olallie Ridge Trail. A joint Obsidian/NPSO trip led by Dave Predeek, retired, McKenzie District, WNF. Approximately 7 mi. R.T. hike. Meet at S. Eugene H.S. parking lot, 8 A.M. Call Dave, 345-5531, for more information.

June 24, Sat. **Field Trip:** Dr. David Wagner, 342-4169, will lead us along the North Fork, Smith River, to see *Epipactis gigantea*, the chatterbox orchid, and other delights. Trip includes driving circuit on forest roads. Meet at S. Eugene H.S. parking lot, 8 A.M.

High Desert

Meeting: No meetings until September. (Please attend the NPSO annual meeting).

June 24, Sat. **Field Trip:** Deschutes River at Cline Falls. We will travel to several areas along the river to assist the State Parks Department, City of Redmond Parks, and others in a survey for Estes wormwood (*Artemisia ludoviciana* ssp. *estesi*), a rare plant that grows only along the Deschutes River in central Oregon. We will learn about plans to protect this species. Call trip leader Stu Garrett, 389-6981 evenings, for details.

July 8, Sat. **Field Trip:** Metolius Basin. Members of the California Native Plant Society will be in central Oregon and Cindi O'Neil will take them to some of our favorite spots in the Black Butte/Sisters area. Perhaps a hike to the top of Black Butte will be part of the trip. Call Cindi O'Neil, 389-3085 evenings, for information.

July 22 - 23
Sat. - Sun. **Field Trip:** Augur Creek Ancient Forest. This is the last, best stand of old growth ponderosa pine left in central Oregon. It has been the source of a continuing struggle for protection. The Forest Service has agreed to set aside part of this magnificent area as a Research Natural Area. We will have an overnight campout to visit this special spot. Call trip leader Bill Hopkins, 389-3330 evenings, for details.

Aug. 5, Sat. **Field Trip:** Broken Top Volcano. This is our annual trek to view the spectacular glaciated scenery and alpine wildflowers in the high Cascades west of Bend. 6 mi. R.T., moderate to strenuous hike, with 1,700 ft. elev. gain. We will do mostly off-trail hiking through the Three Sisters Wilderness, so hikers are limited to 12. **Pre-registration is required!** Call trip leader Stu Garrett, 389-6981 evenings, to sign up.

Mid-Columbia

June 7, Wed. **Meeting:** 7:30 P.M. Mosier School. Carol Wilson, a professor of botany at Whitman College, will talk about her research on native irises.

North Coast

Meeting: No meeting in June. (Please attend the NPSO annual meeting).

June 17, Sat. **Field Trip:** Ledbetter Point, at Ledbetter State Park and National Wildlife Refuge, on Long Beach Peninsula, in Washington. Take Wash. Hwy. 101 north to Hwy. 103 at Seaview, Wash. Continue north on 103 to Ledbetter State Park. Meet at 10 A.M. in northernmost parking lot of the Park. Moderate hiking to sand dunes, fresh and salt-water marshes, to examine plants unique to these areas. Possibly see *Sidalcea hendersonii*. Take lunch, dress for potential rain/mosquitoes. For directions and more information call trip leader, botanist Kathleen Sayce, at 206-665-5292.

Portland

Officers: New officers are: Sue Allen, president; Mike McKeag, vice president for field trips; Maya Muir, vice president for programs; Marvel Gillespie, secretary; Jean France, treasurer.

- June 3, Sat. **Field Trip:** Beginner flower I.D. trip to Oneonta Creek trail in the Columbia Gorge. Forest flowers and ferns. Expert botanists can help newcomers. Leisurely hike, with moderate elev. gain. Drive is 60 mi. R.T. Meet, 9 A.M., ODOT, 60th & NE Glisan, or 10 A.M., restroom at Ainsworth State Park picnic area. Take water, lunch, dress for weather. Contact person: Charlene Holzwarth, 284-3444.
- June 11, Sun. **Field Trip:** Visit vernal ponds in Horsethief Lake State Park (on the Washington side of the Columbia River near the Dalles Dam) with Russ Jolley. Hike 2 mi. R.T., elev. gain 200 ft. Stop at the Washington end of the Dalles Bridge, en route, to find *Cleome lutea*. On the way home, stop to visit a vernal pond on national forest land along the Dalles Mt. road. Driving: 174 mi. R.T. Meet at 8 A.M., ODOT, 60 & NE Glisan, or 9:15 A.M., Hood River Inn parking lot (exit 64) Contact Dee White, 227-2581, for more information.
- June 13, Tues. **Meeting:** 7 P.M. First Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Linda Hardie will show and discuss some of the floral treasures of The Nature Conservancy reserves in Oregon. The meeting room will open at 6:30 for socializing.
- June 24, Sat. **Field Trip:** See one of the most colorful displays of alpine wildflowers, at Iron Mountain, in the Cascades., with Wilbur Bluhm, 293-2934. Great views of both Cascade ranges from 5500 ft. summit in the Old Cascades. Graded trail, 800 ft. elev. gain, 2 mi. R.T. (Optional route: 1 mi. up and 2 mi. down, for those who wish.) Take lunch, 10 essentials. Equip for day hike in alpine terrain. Joint trip with Willamette Valley (Salem) Chapter. Meet: S. Salem K-Mart at 8:00. (Take I-5 south to N. Santiam Hwy./Mission St. exit. K-Mart about 1 mi. west on Mission). To car-pool from Portland area, meet Mike McKeag, 642-3965, at 7:00, Tualatin Fred Meyer (just off I-5 at Tualatin exit).

Siskiyou

- June 3, Sat. **Field Trip:** Barbara Mumblo will lead this trip to the New London Trail to Stein Butte. Moderate to strenuous hiking. Meet at the Star Ranger Station at 9 A.M. Call Barbara, 899-1812 days, for more information.
- Meeting:** No meeting in June. (Please attend the NPSO annual meeting).

South Coast

- July 15, Sat. **Field Trip:** Roman Nose Mountain and Kentucky Falls Trail. Meet at Reedsport Safeway, on Hwy. 101, 9 A.M. Call Bruce Rittenhouse, 888-9328, for information.

Umpqua Valley

Officers: Richard H. Sommer, president; Allan Romeril, vice president; Russ Holmes, secretary/treasurer.

- June 8, Thurs. **Meeting:** Picnic, 6:30 P.M., at Powell Point-Tyee, opposite Myrtle Island RNA, on the Umpqua River. Come anytime after 3 P.M. to enjoy the river and its inhabitants. BBQ chicken and drinks provided. Call Mildred Thiele, 673-5397, for information.

June 24, Sat. **Field Trip:** Wild Rose Point, at 5296 ft. elev., up the N. Umpqua River. Meet at the BLM parking lot, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd., at 7:45 A.M., for car-pooling, with 8 A.M. departure. Call trip leader Allan Romeril, 673-4194, for more information.

Willamette Valley

Meeting: No meetings until September. (Please attend the NPSO annual meeting).

Officers: Anyone willing to be president, vice president or secretary of our Chapter should call me, Mark Quistad, 399-9680, and leave a message if I am not there. Now I have an answering machine, it should be easier to reach me. Thank you.

June 3, Sat. **Field Trip:** Clackamas iris (*Iris tenuis*) field trip. Easy hike. Meet at 8 A.M., at the S. Salem K-Mart parking lot, Mission and 25th Sts. SE. Call trip leader Wilbur Bluhm, 393-2934, for details.

June 24, Sat. **Field Trip:** Iron Mountain in "Old Cascades," with Portland Chapter, for one of best mountain wildflower shows. Moderate hike, about 5 mi. R.T. Meet at 8 A.M. S. Salem K-Mart parking lot, 25th and Mission Sts. SE. Call Wilbur Bluhm, trip leader, 393-2934, for details.

July 1, Sat. **Field Trip:** Marion/Ann Lakes, at middle elevation in Cascade Mountains. Hike moderate, about 5 mi. R.T. Meet at 8 A.M., S. Salem K-Mart parking lot, 25th and Mission Sts. SE. Call trip leader Wilbur Bluhm, 393-2934, for more information.

Wm. Cusick

Meeting: No meeting in June. (Please attend the NPSO annual meeting).

June 3, Sat. **Work Party:** Help eradicate noxious knapweed at the Tom McCall Preserve in the Columbia River Gorge. Meet at Rowena Crest at 9:30 A.M.

June 10 & 11
Sat. & Sun. **Work Party:** You are invited to hike 6 mi. downhill in a spectacular riparian canyon. Help us pull noxious weeds along the way. On Sunday, view sensitive species on the ridge. Camp for the weekend in the Clear Lake Ridge Natural Area. Contact Berta Youtie at 962-3903.

June 10, Sat. **Field Trip:** 9 A.M. We plan to continue construction of the Cusick Interpretive Trail. Trail excavation, laying in the gravel bed and final grading along the trail will complete the first stage of construction. We will also begin working on the pioneer style landscaping around the old cabin.

June 17, Sat. **Work Party:** Please help protect the rare pink thelypody that only grows in the Baker Valley. Meet at the North Powder Cafe at 9 A.M.

June 24, Sat. **Field Trip:** Biologists Katie Boula, Phil Howell and Kari Yanskey will spend the morning discussing the ecology of an aspen stand near Ukiah. We will get an in-depth look at the vegetation, as well as at the birds and other wildlife attracted to this diverse setting. In the afternoon, we will have an opportunity to take part in ecological monitoring of the aspen population. Meet at the Safeway parking lot in La Grande at 8 A.M.

June 24 - 25
Sat. - Sun. **Field Trip:** Visit Blue Mountain Natural Resource Demonstration Areas in Grant

County. Tour The Nature Conservancy's Middle Fork John Day Preserve and the Morning Hill Tree Farm in Bear Valley. Camp and barbecue on Saturday night at the Preserve. Call Berta, 962-3903, or the Barkers, 542-2525.

July 8, Sat.

Field Trip: Ladd Marsh wetlands tour. We plan to observe some of the last remnants of Grande Ronde Valley floor plant communities. We hope to compile a species list as we go, that can be used by ODFW in management of this area. Meet at the Forest and Range Lab parking lot, 8 A.M. Call Bob Ottersberg, 963-6043, for information.

July 28 - 30
Fri. - Sun.

Field Trip: Alpine wildflowers in the Wallowas. Paula Brooks will lead this trip into Frances Lake to look at the unique alpine and sub-alpine vegetation that occurs with limestone and marble. Trip will start in Lostine on Friday morning. Prepare for back-pack camping in the wilderness. Call Paula, 963-2195, to reserve a place, since wilderness groups are limited to 12 people.

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.

Guidelines for Contributors to the Bulletin

The NPSO Bulletin is published monthly, as a service to members and the public.

All kinds of contributions are welcome. **Copy due by the 10th of the month.**

CREDITS: Identify author and affiliation. If it is not original, cite the source and date.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Line drawings, prints and high contrast black-and-white prints useable. Some McIntosh graphics can be used. Contact editor for current needs, or send illustrations with article.

BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE: Follow "Flora of the Pacific Northwest," by Hitchcock, or "The Jepson Manual" where appropriate.

FORMAT: Submissions can be in any form. Use of a modem is not possible at this time.

For further details, consult the editor.

ORIGINALS: Submissions are not returned, unless requested.

President's Column

After much thought, I regrettably must resign my position as state president of the NPSO. With increased work commitments, the time to organize the upcoming symposium, and family commitments, I need to relinquish my office at this time. I am unable to perform the duties as NPSO president at the level I expect, and continue to do everything else. I am fully committed to the upcoming symposium this November, and as it draws near I see it taking more time. I will stay in office until July 15, or until a replacement is found. I have enjoyed my time as NPSO president, and will continue to support NPSO in its activities.

This coming summer there will be a debate on the Endangered Species Act in Congress. There are some early reports that a bill has been drafted by lawyers for timber, mining and grazing interests which will effectively "gut the act," making it difficult to protect listed species. I encourage all of you to stay informed, and to write your congressperson supporting a strong ESA.

One other item I would like to address is our membership. For the last few years our membership numbers have been relatively static. I encourage every NPSO member to try and recruit one new member before the year is over. I know of many people who are interested in becoming members but have never been aware of the NPSO.

I hope everyone is getting out and enjoying the wildflowers. It should be a banner year with all the precipitation we have had (at least on the coast).

Bruce Rittenhouse
NPSO President

Membership Directory Published

NPSO's 1995 Membership Directory was mailed in early May. Anyone who paid for a Directory but did not receive one should call or write the Membership Committee.

A few additional Directories were printed, and are available from the Membership Committee for two dollars.

Oregon Flora Project News

The past three months have been an active period for the Oregon Flora Project. In January we received a generous grant of \$2000 from the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Other notable activities included formation of the Checklist Advisory Board, planning for an Oregon vascular plant atlas, invitations to outside contributors to the Checklist, and work on the Checklist draft. Several botanists from outside the Checklist group are preparing treatment of families, and most families have been assigned.

The Checklist database now has 4349 accepted taxon names (species, subspecies and varieties) and 868 synonyms, and continues to change nearly daily. The number of accepted taxon names has decreased over the past few months, partly due to the removal of redundant entries and general cleaning up of the list, but the number of synonyms has increased with the submittal of treatments of several small families and 51 genera of Asteraceae.

The Checklist Advisory Board has been recently formed. People on the Board will help primarily by reviewing draft treatments in the Checklist, or will be involved in the project in other ways.

Meetings have been held to explore possibilities of producing an atlas of Oregon vascular plants using a database of locality information. We have approached the Douglas County flora group and the Lane County checklist group and several individuals to see if there is interest in such a project. Although details of the project have not been worked out, the response has been generally positive. A tentative database structure has been developed, and methods for gathering data are being explored.

Scott Sundberg

(Reprinted from: Oregon Flora Newsletter, Volume 1, number 2, April, 1995, page 9)

"...up's the word; and a world grows greener"

The Elkhorn Mountains The Other Botanical Wonderland of Northeastern Oregon

When people think of northeastern Oregon and wildflowers, they probably first think of the Wallowa Mountains, or Hell's Canyon. Although these are both beautiful and amazing places in their own right, there is another equally awesome botanical wonderland that is worth a visit, the Elkhorn Mountains.

The Elkhorn Mountains are a little explored range that is part of the larger geographic area known as the Blue Mountains. The Elkhorns were originally an island arc in the Pacific Ocean millions of years ago. Those islands collided with the mainland; the resulting uplift created mountains composed of granite, limestone and metamorphic rocks. In addition, the area was heavily glaciated during the ice age. The highest peak is Rock Creek Butte at an elevation of 9,106 feet. The northeastern facing flank of the Elkhorns has a wet and cool climate that supports many species of plants that are more normally found in the Cascade Mountains. The southwestern facing flank is generally much warmer and drier. It supports species typical of the southern Blue Mountains. The high peaks and open, rocky slopes are home to many sub-alpine species of plants that are also found in the Wallowa and/or Rocky Mountains. The many bogs, springs and creeks offer unspoiled riparian areas that support many interesting water-loving plants. Most of the area is not currently grazed by domestic ungulates. Baker City obtains its water from the Elkhorns. It is so pure there is no need of filtration. The combination of climate and geology provides habitat for several species of rare plants. The plants discussed below are just a sampling of the species that can be found in the area.

Species generally found only in the Cascades

The moist northern-facing slopes and abundance of ungrazed springs, seeps and creeks provide good habitat for several species of plants that are fairly uncommon in the Blue Mountains, but very common in the Cascades. These species include:

Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) and fool's huckleberry (*Menziesia ferruginea*) are found along some of the creeks and moist areas on the lower slopes of the Elkhorns. These species are also found in the Wallowa Mountains, and in the more northern Blue Mountains, but they are near the

southern edge of their range for the Blues here.

Cascade azalea (*Rhododendron albiflorum*) is only found in a few spots in the Elkhorns. It is not found in the Wallawas, and there are no other sites in the Blue Mountains. This species is common in wet areas of the Cascades, and is also found in a few areas of Montana.

Typical Blue Mountain forested habitats

The dry, south-facing slopes and many rocky ridges and outcrops provide habitat for common species of plants that are typical of the Ponderosa pine and dry Douglas fir plant association types. Some of these include:

heart-leaf arnica (*Arnica cordifolia*)
pinegrass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*)
tailcup lupine (*Lupinus caudatus*)
elk sedge (*Carex geyeri*)
sagebrush buttercup (*Ranunculus glaberrimus*)
grass-widow (*Sisyrinchium inflatum*)
fawn lily (*Erythronium grandiflorum*)
shrubby penstemon (*Penstemon fruticosus*)

Sub-alpine habitats

The open, rocky slopes typically found at high elevation support many pretty and interesting species. These include:

white-bark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*)
timberline buttercup (*Ranunculus eschscholtzii*)
little-flowered penstemon (*Penstemon procerus formosus*)
Jacob's ladder or skunk-leaved polemonium (*Polemonium pulcherrimum*)
silky phacelia (*Phacelia sericea*)
red stonecrop (*Sedum roseum*)
rhexia-leaved paintbrush (*Castilleja rhexifolia*)
glandular paintbrush (*Castilleja glandulifera*)
coiled parrot's beak (*Pedicularis contorta*)
alpine springbeauty (*Claytonia megarhiza bellidifolia*)

Riparian areas and wet meadows

The extensive wet meadows, and unspoiled streams support the following species:

Large mountain monkey-flower (*Mimulus tilingii*)
Lewis's monkey-flower (*Mimulus lewisii*)
Case's corydalis (*Corydalis caseana* var. *cusickii*)
elkslip or marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*)
Sitka burnet (*Sanguisorba sitchensis*)
small bur-reed (*Sparganium minimum*)
swamp onion (*Allium validum*)

Ferns and fern allies

A wide variety of common and unusual ferns and related plants are found in the Elkhorn Mountains. They include the following species:

green spleenwort (*Asplenium viride* aka *A. trichomanes-ramosum*) This is the second known location of this species in Oregon.

Cascade rock brake (*Cryptogramma cascadenis*) is a newly described species that is also known from the Willows and Cascades.

spreading wood fern (*Dryopteris austriaca* aka *D. expansa*) is fairly common in the Cascades, but has only been found in northeastern Oregon at a few sites in the Willows, and a few sites in the Elkhorns.

male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) is known from two populations in the Elkhorns. One of these has over 1000 plants and is the largest, most extensive population known in the Willowa-Whitman National Forest.

oak fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*) has been found at a few sites in the northern Blue Mountains, but the location in the Elkhorns is the furthest south it is known in the Blues.

Bridge's cliff brake (*Pellaea bridgesii*) is a Forest Service sensitive species, found exclusively on argillite (a metamorphic sedimentary rock) in the southern Elkhorn and Willowa Mountains. It is not found elsewhere in Oregon.

Other ferns and related plants are:

lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)

alpine lady fern (*A. distentifolium* aka *A. alpestre* var. *americanum*)

lace lip fern (*Cheilanthes gracillima*)

brittle bladder fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*)

Brewer's cliff brake (*Pellaea breweri*)

sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)

mountain holly fern (*Polystichum lonchitis*)

stiff clubmoss (*Lycopodium annotinum*)

Watson's selaginella (*Selaginella watsonii*)

Bolander's quillwort (*Isoetes bolanderi*)

crenulate moonwort (*Botrychium crenulatum*)

mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*)

mountain moonwort (*Botrychium montanum*)

leathery grape fern (*Botrychium multifidum*)

northern moonwort (*Botrychium pinnatum*)

least moonwort (*Botrychium simplex*)

rattlesnake fern (*Botrychium virginianum*)

Rare and unusual plants

Several species of rare plants that the Forest Service designates as sensitive call the Elkhorn Mountains home. The Sensitive designation means that Forest Service managers try to ensure the continued viability of these species of environ-

mental concern. In addition to the rare species already mentioned, there are:

American thorough-wax (*Bupleurum americanum*) and Ross's avens (*Geum rossi* var.

turbinatum) two species common in the

Rocky Mountains, but that reach the western edge of their range in the Elkhorns.

red-fruited lomatium (*Lomatium erythrocarpum*)

is a fairly newly described species only

known from two locations in the Elkhorns --

and nowhere else in the world.

Brandege's onion (*Allium brandegei*)

Sierra onion (*Allium campanulatum*)

low northern sedge (*Carex concinna*)

northern tway-blade (*Listera borealis*)

VISITING THE ELKHORNS

One of the reasons the Elkhorns are so unexplored botanically is that much of the area is accessible only with a 4x4 vehicle and nerves of steel. Most of the roads into the higher parts of the mountains are actually old mining roads, and are not driveable with a regular car. Half the challenge of visiting some of the more remote areas is just getting there with your undercarriage intact. Since most of the Elkhorns is not a wilderness area, mountain bikes, 4-wheeler ATV's, or dirt bikes provide alternative modes of transportation. For real westerners, horses and mules work too. In spite of the accessibility problem, there are two readily reached areas that offer great hikes and beautiful flowers. The lower elevation areas start blooming in late May, while the best time for higher elevation sites is late July through August.

ANTHONY LAKES AREA

Anthony Lakes offers excellent viewing opportunities for all people interested in wildflowers. Sub-alpine wildflowers can be found here, and many wetland plants grow around the lake, and in the surrounding marshes. A campground is next to the 7,000 foot elevation lake, and an easy trail surrounds it.

Nearby trails offer many hiking and backpacking opportunities. Some recommended areas are the north end of the Elkhorn Crest Trail, Hoffer Lakes, the Lakes Lookout, Crawfish Lake, Van Patten Lake, and Dutch Flat Creek trail.

To get to Anthony Lakes, from I-84 at the North Powder exit, follow the signs to Anthony Lake (west on County Road 101). Approximately 20 miles up the paved road you will reach the Antho-

ny Lakes campground. There is a Forest Service guard station there, where you may obtain maps and information about the area.

MARBLE PASS AND TWIN LAKES

Marble Pass accesses the southern end of the Elkhorn Crest Trail, and Twin Lakes. The Elkhorn Crest Trail is challenging for mountain bikes, and is not recommended for children or those afraid of heights; you ride three miles, park your bike and hike the last mile down to Twin Lakes. There are several moist meadows here, fishing opportunities, and a chance of seeing mountain goats. There is an alternate route into Twin Lakes from the Sumpter side of the mountains. (Check at the Ranger District for directions.) The route to that trailhead is also negotiable to regular cars -- with a careful driver.

The Marble Pass road can be driven by regular cars, but high clearance and/or a patient driver are helpful. The road is gravel and full of potholes and water bars. From Baker City west out Pochontas Road and follow signs to the Marble Creek picnic area. Stay on the main road to the top of the pass (FS road 6510). The Elkhorn Crest trail heads north, and the cutoff down to Twin Lakes is well marked.

For more information on road conditions, or other places to visit, contact the Baker Ranger District, 3165 10th St., Baker City, OR 97814, (503) 523-4476. They have three packages of information on various trails in the Elkhorns. (1) Trails accessed from the Elkhorn scenic byway (hwy 73) and the Elkhorn Crest trail (north end of the range). (2) Trails accessed from the Elkhorn scenic byway (hwy 73). (South end of the range, near Sumpter). (3) Trails accessed from roads west of Haines. (Center of range, out of Baker City). For more particular information on particular species or types of habitats, contact the author at the Wallowa-Whitman Supervisor's Office, P.O. Box 907, Baker City, OR 97850, (503) 523-6391.

Next time you drive down I-84, or visit historic Baker City, make that effort to explore one of Oregon's under-appreciated wonderlands -- the Elkhorn Mountains. Who knows, you may find a new location of a rare plant, or just appreciate the beauty in relative solitude.

Paula Brooks
William Cusick Chapter

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERATION AND NPSO

The Native Plant Society of Oregon receives a good proportion of its budget from the Environmental Federation of Oregon. EFO raises money by participating in the charitable giving drives of businesses; funds received are then dispersed among member organizations. In addition to providing a financial boost to environmental groups, EFO helps build bridges between the business and conservation communities.

As summer approaches, EFO is looking for volunteers to lead field trips for employees at those businesses. From June through August, EFO offers these walks to thank people for their support. Sarah Sameh of EFO believes that trip leaders who could talk about native plants would be especially appreciated. And it would present an opportunity to speak to a new audience about the issue. Most hikes would need to be on weekends for a day or half a day, although an hour and a half at noon at sites near the workplace might also be possible. Some easy, child-friendly hikes would be appreciated.

From Grants Pass to La Grande, NPSO members can help this effort. Employers such as the state of Oregon are part of the program, as are the cities of Corvallis, Ashland, Portland and Eugene. In Eugene, in addition, participating businesses include the Oregon Research Institute, Umpqua Counseling Center, Funk and Associates, Eugene Water and Electric, EPUD, and University of Oregon. Portland has an array of employers, large and small, public and private, including Tri-Met, the public schools, Metro, the Nike Corporation, and Sequent Computer Systems.

EFO added nine companies to their roster last year, and will be doing outreach to new ones in the fall. Here again, NPSO can help. Anyone interested in joining this effort may receive training in giving presentations in August. The advantage is that while employees may give their money to the general fund, they can earmark it for the organization whose representative they hear speak.

Anyone interested in either opportunity should call Maya Muir, the new liaison between NPSO and EFO, at 786-2831, for details.

Maya Muir

