



# Bulletin

of the

## Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2006

### Stalking the Ancient Asparagus: a.k.a. *Spiranthes porrifolia*

by Lucy A. Dueck

**B**ack in 1949, William T. Baker collected specimens of an orchid he thought was *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* (hooded ladies'-tresses) from a meadow not far from Agness, Oregon, in Curry County. Those specimens later ended up in the University of Idaho herbarium, but were re-identified there as *Spiranthes porrifolia* (creamy ladies'-tresses) by Dr. Charles Sheviak of the New York State Museum, who specialized in studying *Spiranthes* taxonomy.

Baker's specimens proved to be an invaluable link for a current DNA study of *Spiranthes* orchids that I've undertaken the last four years, together with my collaborator, Dr. Ken Cameron of the New York Botanical Garden. I needed to collect samples from all 26 *Spiranthes* taxa that are listed in *Flora of North America* online, plus one newly described species, as well as a close relative to root the 'family tree' of this genus. However, *S. porrifolia* remained elusive, despite engaging several West Coast contacts to find and collect it. As with most terrestrial orchids, this one is fickle about appearing every year, especially during these times of climatic change.

Luckily, two herbariums allowed me to take small leaf parts of *S. porrifolia* specimens in their collections for genetic analysis. But the results were perplexing—in one of the three plant genomes (the only one I got to work), the sample from San Diego matched the widespread *S. romanzoffiana*, while Baker's Oregon sample matched the rare and unique *S. infernalis* from Nevada. Were these cases of misidenti-

fication, or links to distant relatives?

While attending the Native Orchid Conference (NOC) meeting in June 2006, conveniently held in Ashland, Oregon, I heard that the local *S. porrifolia* looked suspiciously like *S. infernalis*. Now I had to get fresh samples of it to test the validity of Baker's old specimen! One group member offered a location for *S. porrifolia* in Agness, and another member provided the name of a local botanical specialist, Veva Stansell. I contacted Veva and made arrangements to meet her in Agness on the last day of the conference. She even knew of the exact site where Baker had collected his sample, so we planned to check both areas.

However, I ran into some roadblocks that day—literally. The only route over the coastal mountains, a one-lane gravel road, sported a new "Road Closed" sign, which I ignored and drove around—after all, Veva and her friend Kay Butler were waiting on the other side. After getting chewed out by a road crew boss at the crest for interfering with construction, I finally met up with my two local guides and we were off to Baker's site. The expansive wet meadow, dotted with oaks, failed to yield any sign of *S. porrifolia* to the three of us, though it had produced blooming plants in recent years. Next, we checked the site pointed out on the map to me by the NOC member that was farther towards the coast. It had begun to rain by then and the site looked unlikely to the local guides, so I checked it out alone, but

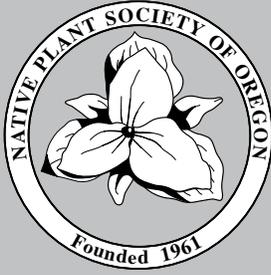
had no luck. By this time my disappointment began to show, and Veva remembered she had taken a sample last year from the meadow site for a USFS herbarium specimen. So we stopped by the USFS in Gold Beach and she graciously loaned me her specimen to sample. Driving back to Ashland via the Redwood Highway that evening, I was pleased that I didn't get totally skunked, but a fresh sample from that area would have been more dependable for a complete analysis.

Much to my surprise, I got a call en route that another NOC member had also crossed the mountains that day and had actually found a few

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## Native Plant Society of Oregon

### World Wide Web

<http://www.NPSOregon.org>

### E-mail Discussion List

To join send a message to [majordomo@tardigrade.net](mailto:majordomo@tardigrade.net), with the following in the body of the message: subscribe npsos

### General Business Address

P.O. Box 902  
Eugene, OR 97440

or correspond directly with Officers and Committee Chairs listed on the inside of the back page.

### Membership Inquiries Only

Clayton Gautier  
3927 Shasta View St.  
Eugene, OR 97405-4442

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Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors of the articles. They do not represent the opinions of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, unless so stated.

## Rare & Endangered Plants Committee

Oregon has ten species on the Federal list of R&E plant species and 29 on the State list (with nine overlaps). The state-wide R&E Committee wishes to monitor these species and to determine which additional species warrant listing. We would like to develop educational programs that describe the state's flora and to increase our conservation activities by providing appropriate and specific information about local plants to city and county committees on management, planning, and parks and recreation.

If you are interested in learning more about R&E plants and helping to increase public awareness of our wonderful flora, contact Les Gottlieb (Siskiyou Chapter) at [leslie@ashlandhome.net](mailto:leslie@ashlandhome.net) or 541-488-0731.

## NPAW Coordinator Needed

May 1-8, 2006 marked the second annual Native Plant Appreciation Week (NPAW). The list of activities included wildflower shows, plant hikes, art exhibits, plant sales and impressive slide shows. With Governor Kulongoski's support, this statewide event is building society recognition as well as helping to increase membership. We need a new NPAW coordinator as I am taking on duties as the Corvallis chapter president. The new coordinator will encourage chapter presidents to schedule events, facilitate the production of a poster, and work with the webmaster to provide online information. If you have any questions please contact Matt Blakeley-Smith at [mattbs@peak.org](mailto:mattbs@peak.org).



*Big Summit Prairie in the Ochoco Mountains is well known for its outstanding displays of mule's ears (Wyethia sp.) in spring. But after they're gone the area still yields many botanical delights including this stunning display of big pod mariposa lilies (Calochortus eurycarpus).*

*For more about the Ochocos, see p. 86.*

TANYA HARVEY

## Blue Mountain

For information on the Blue Mountain Chapter call Jerry Baker at 541-566-2244.

## Cheahmill

**September 28, Thursday, 5:30 pm Potluck Barbecue & Meeting at Miller Woods.** Kick off the fall schedule with a tour of Miller Woods and a barbecue. 5:30 pm tour, 6:30 pm dinner and slide show of the history and future of Miller Woods by Tim Stieber of the Yamhill County Soil and Water Conservation District. The property was donated to the district and its vision statement reads, "A Unique Place to Learn about Natural Resources." Flyers and e-mails will be sent out in early September with more information on the barbecue. Miller Woods is located off Orchard View Rd, four miles northwest of McMinnville. For more information on Miller Woods, see YC SWCD website: [www.yamhillswcd.org](http://www.yamhillswcd.org), and hit programs. For more information and reservations call 503-472-6902.

## Corvallis

**September 2, Saturday, 8 am Field Trip: Cascade Head.** Come explore one of the finest examples of coastal prairie in Oregon. Enjoy magnificent views of the Pacific as we hike to the summit of this prominent headland. Be prepared for cool breezes and fog. We'll picnic at the summit, so bring lunch and water. Meet at the OSU parking lot SW of the Beanery, 26th and Monroe, Corvallis. Please contact Matt Blakeley-Smith at [mattbs@peak.org](mailto:mattbs@peak.org) or 541-752-1091.

**October 9, Monday, 7:30 pm Meeting: A Brief Photo Essay of Hawaiian Endemic Flowering Plant Genera.** Dr. Gerald Carr will share insights into his many years of Hawaiian

plant research. Avery House, Avery Park, Corvallis. For more information contact Matt Blakeley-Smith [mattbs@peak.org](mailto:mattbs@peak.org) 541-752-1091

## Emerald

*Please note all Emerald Chapter presentations will now be held at the Eugene Water and Electric Board Training Room at 500 East 4th Avenue in Eugene. From the Fifth Street Market go one block north and one block east. For more info call David at 541-746-9478.*

### IMPORTANT NOTE TO FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Field trips take place rain or shine, so proper dress and footwear are essential. **BRING WATER AND LUNCH.** Trips may be strenuous and/or hazardous. Participation is at your own risk. Be prepared to sign a release form indicating this. For a sample copy check out the NPSO website. Please contact the trip leader or chapter representative about difficulty, distance, and terrain to be expected on field trips. Dogs are not allowed. 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. National Forests require a Northwest Forest Pass for many field trip locations. Permits can be acquired at forest headquarters and ranger districts.

### 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. Groups using wilderness areas should be no larger than 12.

**August 20, Sunday, 5 – 8 pm**

**Event: Morse Ranch Potluck/Picnic.** We have reserved the picnic shelter at the Morse Ranch in South Eugene. NPSO members and families are invited. Bring a table setting and dish to share. There will be a Board Meeting at 6:30 pm at the shelter. For more information call Dave at 541-345-5531.

**September 7, Thursday, 9 am**

**Herbarium Work Party: Assist with mounting and organizing specimens in the Rowe-Love Herbarium at Lane Community College.** Meet in the Science Building Rm 117 from 9 am to noon. Refreshments provided. No background necessary and all assistance is appreciated. Learn some valuable collection and preparation skills and contribute to adding to our collection of over 3000 specimens. Notable and historic herbarium specimens from the Herbarium will be on display. Contact Gail Baker, Science, Lane Community College, 541-463-5085 or [bakerg@lanec.edu](mailto:bakerg@lanec.edu).

**September 18, Monday, 7:30 pm**

**Meeting: The Genus *Erythronium* in Western North America,** by Ed Alverson, Willamette Valley Stewardship Ecologist for the Nature Conservancy. When not exploring the far corners of the Willamette Valley, Ed has been roaming the west in search of fawn lilies, avalanche lilies, and their kin. Oregon and northern California are the global center of *Erythronium* diversity, with 20 of the approximately 32 species found worldwide. 7:30 pm, EWEB Training Room at 500 East 4th Avenue, Eugene.

**October 16, Monday, 7:30 pm**

**Meeting: Planning Native Plant Restoration for Public Parks,** by Pat French, Willamalane Parks Planner. Pat describes invasive species control and restoration strategies for Eastgate Woodlands and other public recreation settings. 7:30 pm, EWEB Training Room at 500 East 4th Avenue, Eugene.

## High Desert

For information on the High Desert Chapter call Berta Youtie at 541-447-8166.

## Klamath Basin

For information on the Klamath Basin Chapter, contact Sarah Malaby, 541-884-5703, smalaby@cs.com.

## Mid-Columbia

**August 10, Thursday, 7:30 pm**

**Meeting: Seed Collection and Propagation.** There is still time to collect seeds this season for some native grasses and most perennial forbs. Bring seeds for exchange if you have collected any. Mike Igo presenter. The Commodore Building, Downstairs Conference Room, 3rd & Court Street, The Dalles.

## North Coast

Wanted, new members for our group, located in Tillamook County. Trips subject to suggestions. Please phone Janet Stahl at 503-842-8708.



TANYA HARVEY

*Late summer is aster season. When out in wet meadows, look for Aster (Canadanthus) modestus, great northern aster. It is easy to identify by its glandular involucre and abundance of anthocyanins in the stem and bracts.*

## Portland

For information on the Portland Chapter call Steve Roelof at 503-260-9487.

## Siskiyou

**August 5, Saturday, 4 pm**

**Field Trip: Bigelow Lakes Botanical Area and Mount Elijah.** This is the classic late afternoon-late night hike that Lee has been leading for many years. We will watch the sunset and may see everything from rare plants to resident long-eared owls. Bring water, dinner, warm clothes, flashlight, and good hiking shoes. Moderate 5-mile hike. Recommended reading: Don Begnoche, *Siskiyou Sundays*, pp. 101-106; Mary Paetzl, *Spirit of the Siskiyou*, pp. 118-155. Meet at 4 pm at Illinois Valley Visitor Center, Cave Junction, half a block from Hwy 199 on Hwy 46; return by midnight. Leader: Lee Webb, 541-479-6859.

**August 12, Saturday, 8 am**

**Field Trip: Sugar Creek Research Natural Area (Klamath NE, California).** Visit one of the world's leading areas for conifer diversity. We should see about 15 species of conifers on a gradual climb of about 2.5 miles to Sugar Lake. Further exploring above the lake is exciting but optional, depending on the group. In addition to conifers, expect to see the limited Salmon Mt. wakerobin in fruit and sugarstick. Meet at 8 am behind Oil Stop on Ashland St., just west of the Ashland BiMart/Shop 'n Kart parking lot, about 1/4 mi west of I-5, exit 14; or, meet at 9:30 am in the gravel parking lot on the north side of USFS office in Fort Jones, CA (jct. of Hwy 3 and Scott River Rd). Leader: Marla Knight, 530-468-1238.

## Umpqua Valley

**August 10, Thursday, 7 pm**

**Meeting: Plants and Views from Utah's High Deserts.** Sam Friedman, chapter president, will present a slide show featuring his recent trip to Utah's

famous canyon country. The program will include pictures of some of southwest Utah's unique landscapes and plants from National Parks and other scenic areas. Mercy Education Bldg., 2459 Stewart Parkway, Roseburg. For more information call Sam Friedman at 541-673-0589.

**August 12, Saturday, 8:30 am**

**Field Trip: High Meadows of Mount Bailey and Diamond Lake.** Mt. Bailey, at 8,368', overlooks the western edge of Diamond Lake. At its base and around Diamond Lake are lush mountain meadows supporting a healthy assortment of wildflowers. Bring your camera and try your hand at some excellent wildflower photography. Meet in the NE corner of the parking lot behind the Douglas County Court House, 1036 SE Douglas Ave, Roseburg. For more information call Richard Sommer at 541-440-0612.

**August 19, Saturday, 9 am**

**Work Party: Native Plant Garden at the VA Hospital.** Bring your imagination, love for gardening, shovels and gloves, and spend a fun morning helping design and layout our new native plant garden at the Roseburg VA. Meet at the VA Hospital parking Lot A. For more information call Ron Hatt at 541-863-7024.

**September 9, Saturday, 8:30 am**

**Field Trip: Oregon's Tallest Sugar Pine.** Enjoy the last golden days of summer by visiting the tallest sugar pine in Oregon. Meet in the NE corner of the parking lot behind the Douglas County Court House, 1036 SE Douglas Ave, Roseburg or at the Tri City McDonalds, Exit 103 at 9 am. For more information call Sam Friedman at 541-673-0589.

**September 14, Thursday, 7 pm**

**Meeting: Designing Native Plant Gardens.** A special guest, to be announced, will present a show on native plant gardening. We'll also discuss the VA Hospital's native plant garden. Mercy Education Bldg., 2459 Stewart Parkway, Roseburg. For more info call Sam Friedman at 541-673-0589.

**September 16, Saturday, 9 am**

**Work Party: Native Plant Garden at the VA Hospital.** Meet at the Roseburg VA Hospital parking Lot A for a gardening workday. Bring shovels and gloves. For information call Ron Hatt at 541-863-7024.

## Willamette Valley

**August 12, Saturday, 7 am – 6 pm**

**Field Trip: McNeil Point.** John Savage, chapter president, will lead a hike to McNeil Point near Rhododendron in the Mt. Hood area. This all-day, seven-mile hike will take you through lush forest areas to meadows filled with a variety of mountain wildflowers. The hike will be slow paced with some elevation gain. Bring food and water. For more information, please call 503-399-8615. Free and open to the public.

**September 21, Thursday, 7 pm**

**Program: Rare and Endemic Plants of the Pacific Northwest.** Phyllis Gustafson will show pictures and give a talk about the rare and endemic wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest. Gustafson is co-author of the recently published *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*, a comprehensive guide to more than 1,200 flowers. Gustafson ran a small seed collection business specializing in northwest native plants and worked with natives in the nursery industry for more than 20 years. Straub Environmental Learning Center, 1320 A Street NE in Salem (next to Olinger Pool, near North Salem High School). The program is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 503-399-8615.

## William Cusick

For information on the William Cusick Chapter call Frazier Nichol at 541-963-7870.

## NPSO Items for Sale

***Vascular Plants of Lane County, Oregon: An Annotated Checklist*** Emerald Chapter, NPSO. More than 1,740 species and varieties representing 39% of the 4,460 plants currently recognized by the Oregon Flora Project are listed with information on habitat, ecoregion, occurrence frequency, and native or non-native origin for every species. To order, send **\$15** payable to Emerald Chapter, NPSO to Lane County Checklist, Emerald Chapter, NPSO, PO Box 902, Eugene, OR 97440-0902.

**The Atlas of Oregon Carex** was NPSO's first Occasional Paper. The Atlas has 128 location maps, one for each Carex taxon in the state of Oregon. Also included are a synonymy, fun facts about sedges, a history of the project, and Oregon geography maps. **Price: \$5.**

**Louis F. Henderson (1853-1942): The Grand Old Man of Northwest Botany** by Rhoda M. Love. NPSO's second Occasional Paper is the only existing publication with detailed coverage of the long and fascinating life of this John Muir-like western character. Included: 56 pictures, 133 notes, chronology, list of plants named for Henderson. Fourth printing, February, 2004. **Price \$10.**

To order either or both Occasional Papers, send check for the appropriate amount (made payable to NPSO) to: **Occasional Papers, Native Plant Society of Oregon, PO Box 902, Eugene, OR 97440-0902.**

**NPSO Membership Directory** lists names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail address of NPSO members (April 2005). Available from Jan Dobak, 2921 NE 25th Avenue, Portland, OR 97212-3460. **\$3 postpaid.**

**Oregon's Rare Wildflower Poster** depicts Punchbowl Falls and three of the Columbia River Gorge's endemic wildflowers. Stu Garrett, 21663 Paloma Drive, Bend, OR 97701, 541-389-6981. **\$12 each**, plus \$3 shipping per order. Posters are mailed in tubes.

**NEW Salal T-shirt.** Attractive forest green t-shirts with botanical drawing of *Gaultheria shallon* in cream-colored ink by Carlton, OR artist and Cheahmill Chapter member, Marilynn Karbonski. High quality t-shirts, S-XL, short sleeve **\$15 plus \$5 shipping.** To order, call Jennie Sue Dunn-Dixon at 503-472-1745.

**"Land of Umpqua" T-Shirt** featured at the 2005 Annual Meeting is available again through the Umpqua Chapter. It depicts the delightful *Calochortus umpquaensis* illustrated by Dorothy Schattenkerk and in cream, purple, yellow, and green. Arched over the top in black letters are the words "Land of Umpqua", and underneath it says, "Native Plant Society of Oregon." The shirts are **\$16 plus \$5 shipping** and come in light gray, beige, pink or light blue in sizes M, L, and XL. To order call Ron Hatt at 541-863-7024.



## OTHER EVENTS

### Berry Botanic Garden Events

To register or to get more information on events at Portland's Berry Botanic Garden, visit [www.berrybot.org](http://www.berrybot.org) or call Kris at 503-636-4112x22.

#### Annual Fall Plant Sale September 23, Saturday, 11 am – 3 pm (10 – 11 am members)

More than 20 specialty vendors are expected, offering thousands of unusual plants for the avid plant collector and the casual gardener. The event will showcase plants native to the Pacific Northwest, specialty alpine plants, dwarf conifers and bonsai, and perennials.

### WREN West Eugene Wetlands Events

#### Family Marsh Walk August 23, Wednesday, 7 pm

Have you ever wondered what the West Eugene Wetlands is like at night? Families are invited for an evening walk into the wetlands to discover the evening wildlife, enjoy the night skies and just listen to the natural quiet. Wear comfortable shoes and dress in layers (it can still be windy and cool). Meet at 7pm at the end of Royal Ave at the gate west of Fisher Rd. To register, call Holly McRae at 541-683-6494 or e-mail [wew@wewetlands.org](mailto:wew@wewetlands.org).

#### WREN Volunteer Orientation September 19, Tuesday, 6 – 7:30pm

Do you enjoy working with kids in the outdoors? Do you want to learn more about the rare, native Willamette Valley habitats? Join us for an informal meeting to find out more about volunteer opportunities with WREN's education program in the West Eugene Wetlands. Contact Liz Myers at 541-683-6483 for more information & registration.

### North Mountain Park Nature Center Events

620 N Mountain Ave., Ashland  
To get more information and to register or buy tickets, call 541-488-6606 or visit <http://ashlandparks.recware.com> or [www.ashland.or.us/northmountainpark](http://www.ashland.or.us/northmountainpark).

#### Seed Collecting September 9, Saturday, 9 – 11 am

Learn how you can reproduce your own plants from seed you have saved. This is incredibly rewarding, not to mention the money you'll save! You will go home with seeds you have collected from the N MT Park gardens. Join instructor Jennifer Ewing for this fun class. Jennifer has taught a variety of gardening classes throughout the Rogue Valley and works as a consulting gardener. Ages: 12 - Adult. \$5/person.

### Siskiyou Field Institute Courses

To learn more about our courses or to reserve your place, visit our website, [www.thesfi.org](http://www.thesfi.org), or call 541-592-3777.

#### Smith River Discovery Weekend August 25 – 27, Del Norte County, California

Discover the wild and scenic Smith River. Explore the river's clear turquoise waters, which provide habitat for wild salmon. Camp at beautiful Rock Creek Ranch, snorkel with native fish, explore the unique geology and botany of the area, and visit redwood forests. Tuition: \$150.

#### Klamath River Traditional Ecological Knowledge Raft Trip September 7 – 10, Near Happy Camp, California

Leave the modern world behind and drift back in time. Join biologist Frank Kanawha Lake on a three-day river trip on the beautiful Klamath River. Frank will share his understanding of the implications of historical indigenous environmental land and water management practices on biodiversity across the landscape. Tuition: \$410.

#### Mushrooms! October 27 – 29, Deer Creek Ranch near Selma, Oregon

An introduction to the mushrooms (edible and non-edible) of Pacific Northwest forests, with an emphasis on field identification, and each species' ecology: preferred habitat, role in the forest, life cycle, etc. Tuition: \$125.

### Whitebark Pine: A Pacific Coast Perspective

#### August 27-31 Southern Oregon U., Ashland

Whitebark pine is a keystone species in high elevation forests of the Pacific Coast. It not only provides critical wildlife habitat and watershed protection, but evokes the beauty and majesty of the special places where it resides.

This conference will explore the ecology, population structure and genetics, wildlife interactions, disturbance regimes, threats, and challenges of managing whitebark pine and other high elevation five-needle pines in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California. The program includes speakers, organized debate, contributed papers and posters, and field trips. Conference information and Call for Papers and Posters is available at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/wbpine](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/wbpine).

# NPSO Members Enjoy 2006 Annual Meeting in McMinnville

by Karen Sturgeon, Cheahmill Chapter

It was one of those lovely late spring weekends. About 100 NPSOers gathered for the 2006 Annual Meeting, which was held at Linfield College in McMinnville June 9–11 and was hosted by the Willamette and Cheahmill Chapters. Mild temperatures and a cloud cover made for great field trip weather.

Wilbur Bluhm escorted a group of 13 to Mt. Hebo where they saw

## Nearby Nature Event

### Fall New Volunteer Orientation September 12, Tuesday, 6:30–8 pm

Love nature? Enjoy kids? Learn all about leading school nature walks in Alton Baker Park in Eugene this fall as well as other Nearby Nature volunteer opportunities. No experience needed—free training provided. Meet from 6:30–8 pm at EWEB (500 E. 4th Ave., Eugene). For more information contact Nearby Nature at 541-687-9699 or [info@nearbynature.org](mailto:info@nearbynature.org), or visit [www.nearbynature.org](http://www.nearbynature.org).

## Mt. Pisgah Events

34901 Frank Parrish Rd. (off of Seavey Loop Rd.), Eugene. For more information or to register call 541-747-1504 or visit [www.efn.org/~mtpisgah](http://www.efn.org/~mtpisgah).

### Writing About the Land

August 26 & 27,  
Saturday & Sunday, 10 am–3 pm

Join nature writer Carol Ann Bassett and explore the relationship between nature and culture. Topics include home places, native plants, rivers, forests, wetlands, ethnobotany and wildlife. Participants will read and discuss a selection of essays by prominent authors and write a 1,000-word personal nature essay that captures how we live in and relate to the land. Fee: \$45 (\$40 MPA members.) Reading materials provided upon registration.

two rare plants, *Anemone oregana* var. *felix* and *Erythronium elegans*. They also visited a meadow that is home to the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly and its host plant *Viola adunca*. They located a population of crown vetch, *Securigera varia*, documenting its northernmost occurrence (to-date) in Oregon and first sighting in Tillamook County.

Rob Kimmich led a small group to Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge where they identified 46 species, including *Clarkia purpurea*, *Brodiaea coronaria*, and *Triteleia hyacinthina*. Robert Porath's group went to Yampo ACEC where they found a large number of *Cimicifuga elata* in addition to healthy populations of *Lupinus sulphureus* var. *kincaidii*, *Trillium albidum*, *Sidalcea campestris*, *Lilium columbianum* and a few *Corallorhiza maculata*.

Dave Hanson and Rob Tracey led some hearty souls on a scramble up a basalt ridge at The Butte ACEC to see a grove of 300 year old *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, some over 7.5' DBH. Then, they traveled a short distance to Deer Creek County Park, a wet prairie whose restoration is currently being managed by the Yamhill Basin Council. Among other species, the group identified *Wyethia angustifolia*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Perideridia oregana*, *Lomatium dissectum*, and *Lupinus sulphureus* var. *kincaidii*.

Six NPSOers took a relaxing walk with Marilyn Karbonski through Airport Park where they saw many *Lilium columbianum* and benefited from Marilyn's expertise with lichens. From there, they visited the Gahr Farm where they spent several hours meandering through the many ponds and canals of a wetland area. They added 27 new species to the growing plant list for this site.

John Savage led a dozen members to the 150-acre Nature Conservancy Kingston Prairie Preserve where they were met by

TNC ecologist Greg Fitzpatrick who described the interesting restoration work being done there. The group identified 75 plant species, including *Erigeron decumbens* var. *decumbens*, *Delphinium oreganum*, *Lomatium bradshawii* and many more, and Rhoda Love was able to photograph the childhood homestead of William Cusick.

Karen Sturgeon and 11 others went to the coast where they were met by TNC ecologist Debbie Pickering for a great hike on Cascade Head. As the group ate lunch and took in the spectacular views from the top, Debbie explained the complexities of managing this site for the Oregon silverspot butterfly, its host plant *Viola adunca* and for the federally-listed *Silene douglasii* var. *oraria*.

All in all, everyone spent a delightful weekend enjoying Oregon's native plants and habitats and learning about their conservation.



*Lilium columbianum*, known as *Columbia* or *tiger lily*, is the most common lily in western Oregon. Its bright orange flowers are always a welcome sight.

TANYA HARVEY

# A Weekend of Flowers in the Ochocos

by Tanya Harvey, Emerald Chapter

The Emerald Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society is a group of gardeners and flower lovers from the Eugene and Corvallis areas. Each summer we try to spend a weekend exploring a different mountain area in Oregon. In early July this year, a group of 11 of us (including several who are also NPSO members) headed for the Ochoco Mountains, just east of Prineville. The Ochocos are a mix of cool conifer forest and open wildflower meadows that, although right in the center of the state, are not that well known outside the area.

At the suggestion of Stu Garrett of the High Desert chapter of NPSO, we stayed at the very pretty Deep Creek Campground just east of Big Summit Prairie, situated in a beautiful ponderosa pine forest. Although the main season of bloom had passed at that elevation, we were surprised at how much was in flower just in the campground and along the creek, includ-

ing large lavender patches of *Erigeron* (*peregrinus?*), lovely white clumps of northern bedstraw (*Galium boreale*) much showier than its inconspicuous westside relatives, the strange low-growing elk thistle (*Cirsium scariosum*), and the rare endemic Peck's mariposa lily (*Calochortus longebarbatus* var. *peckii*). A district plant list provided by Forest Service botanist Mark Lesko helped in our attempts to identify many unfamiliar plants. Thanks also to John Koenig of Emerald chapter who gave me a copy of butterfly, bird and plant lists he'd made from his trips to the Ochocos. Our campground host was a terrific, feisty 80-year-old woman named Jeanne Gammel. She lives there half the year (spending winters along the southern coast) and was a wealth of information on the area and its plants, especially their ethnobotanical uses.

The weather was gorgeous as we headed out Saturday morning to Lookout Mountain, the highest point in

the Ochocos at 6926'. There are many possibilities for trail routes, but we followed Bill Sullivan's directions in *100 Hikes/Eastern Oregon* and started at the Independent Mine trailhead. The relatively gentle 7-mile loop trail begins in shady forest with many familiar understory plants like queen's cup (*Clintonia uniflora*) and baneberry (*Actaea rubra*). Soon the terrain opens up to large meadows with plenty of wildflowers to keep us happy. While we had obviously missed an early season show of balsamorhiza (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*) and Brown's peony (*Paeonia brownii*), there were many penstemons (*P. speciosus* and *gairdneri* among others), paintbrushes (*Castilleja applegatei* and others), bright yellow patches of *Helianthella uniflora* whose flower heads face the sun, and beautiful pinky-purple tapertip onions (*Allium acuminatum*). Our timing was also perfect for a glorious show of lupines of several species including silvery lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*).



TANYA HARVEY

The white flower stalks of roundleaf alumroot (*Heuchera cylindrica*) line the cliff edge at the top of the well-named Lookout Mountain. The expansive view takes in much of central Oregon and most of the High Cascade peaks.

One highlight (for me at least) was the discovery of several caterpillars of what were probably silvery blue butterflies (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*) which were being tended by ants while eating lupine seedpods. I'd read about the complex symbiotic relationship of some blue species to ants, but had never seen it in person. Ants get honeydew excreted by the caterpillars and in return they protect the caterpillars from other insects and in some species the ants may even bring the caterpillars into their dens to feed on their larvae.

When we reached the top, the clear skies allowed us to see the entire valley stretched out in front of us as well as many of the High Cascade peaks. On my previous two trips to the mountain the sky had been obscured first by smoke from a forest fire and then by clouds, so it was a real treat to finally see the spectacular view. The rockier summit area was filled with the low-growing, rock-loving plants treasured by rock gardeners including a number of buckwheats (*Eriogonum* spp.), sedums (*S. lanceolatum* and *S. stenopetalum*), King's sandwort (*Arenaria kingii*) and a short yellow paintbrush (*Castilleja oesbia* or *C. thompsonii* perhaps). We also admired the showy red-splashed seed pods of balloon milk-vetch



TANYA HARVEY

*Ella, the youngest member of our group, seen here admiring skyrocket (*Ipomopsis aggregata*), enjoyed her outing, but was unimpressed with her parents' knowledge of latin names.*

(*Astragalus whitneyi*). The cliffs at the edge of the summit were decorated with more penstemons, roundleaf alumroot (*Heuchera cylindrica*) and the stunning purple flowers of silky phacelia (*Phacelia sericea*).

Sunday we took a more relaxed approach, beginning the day with a short walk across the road to see gorgeous elegant death camas (*Zigadenus elegans*) in perfect bloom along a creek. From there we drove to the southeastern corner of Big Summit Prairie to see what we could find. Big Summit Prairie is famous for its spring show of white and yellow mule's-ears (*Wyethia helianthoides* and *W. amplexicaulis*). So late in the season we didn't think we would see much, so a huge swath of cobalt blue meadow larkspur (*Delphinium burkei*), brilliant red skyrockets (*Ipomopsis aggregata*) and large patches of showy downingia (*Downingia elegans*) in dried up vernal pools were happy surprises. Buds of sagebrush mariposa lily (*Calochortus macrocarpus*) proved that the summer had still more to offer.

With the long drive ahead, only a few of us made the last stop to a roadside meadow filled with false hellebore (*Veratrum californicum*) on the western end of the Prairie. We saw a number of additional species including western jacob's ladder (*Polemonium occidentale*), more beautiful species of paintbrush (*Castilleja miniata* and *parviflora*) and, what might have been the highlight of the weekend, hundreds of big pod mariposa lilies (*Calochortus eurycarpus*), their large, burgundy-splotched, white flowers waving in the wind. What a terrific way to end a great trip. I can't wait to get back to the Ochocos to see the earlier show!

## Volunteers Needed!

The Institute for Applied Ecology in Corvallis and the RESTORE Partnership are seeking volunteers to assist with our Threatened and Endangered Species Reintroduction and Education program. We need help cleaning the seeds of Kincaid's lupine, Willamette daisy, and Nelson's checkermallow as well as many other common natives to prepare them for grow-out programs in local schools. For more information, contact Jen Cramer at 541-753-3099 or [jcramer@peak.org](mailto:jcramer@peak.org).



TANYA HARVEY

*Butterflies can be abundant in the Ochocos. Here two fritillaries have chosen to nectar on fleabanes passing over the nearby buckwheat, another butterfly favorite.*

## Stalking the Ancient Asparagus

*continued from page 79*

plants of *S. porrifolia* near Agness, but farther up the road! However, somehow he didn't know I needed samples, so all he took was pictures. But I wasn't ready to give up on getting fresh samples, and neither was Veva. Although she herself began suffering from a bad back, she enlisted two other local friends, Barbara Mumblo from the Forest Service, who rechecked both bona fide Agness sites to no avail, and photographer Don Heller, who finally found some budding plants at the 'wrong' site I'd checked in the rain initially; Don did collect some samples for Veva to send on to me. Then about a week after I got home, I received a small envelope in the mail with this note: "Enclosed are flower + a leaf *S. Por. Luv, Agnes*" from a joking British NOC member who had later gone to the 'right' Agness site. These three Oregon samples, together with ones another volunteer and I collected

separately down in California, are being processed, sequenced, and compared to all other *Spiranthes* now. Soon we will know if Baker's sample was right, if there is a gradation in the relatedness of *S. porrifolia* along the West Coast, or if one original sample was a case of mistaken identity.

By the way, all orchids are ancient relatives of the Asparagales (asparagus) family, as shown genetically by scientists at the Kew Royal Botanical Garden in England. Can you see the resemblance to asparagus in the photo of budding *S. porrifolia* taken near Agness, Oregon?

*Lucy Dueck has an M.Sc. and works as a Research Professional in Molecular Ecology at Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, a field outpost of the University of Georgia on the Savannah River Site near Aiken, SC. Her Spiranthes molecular phylogeny project was partially funded by a grant from the American Orchid Society.*



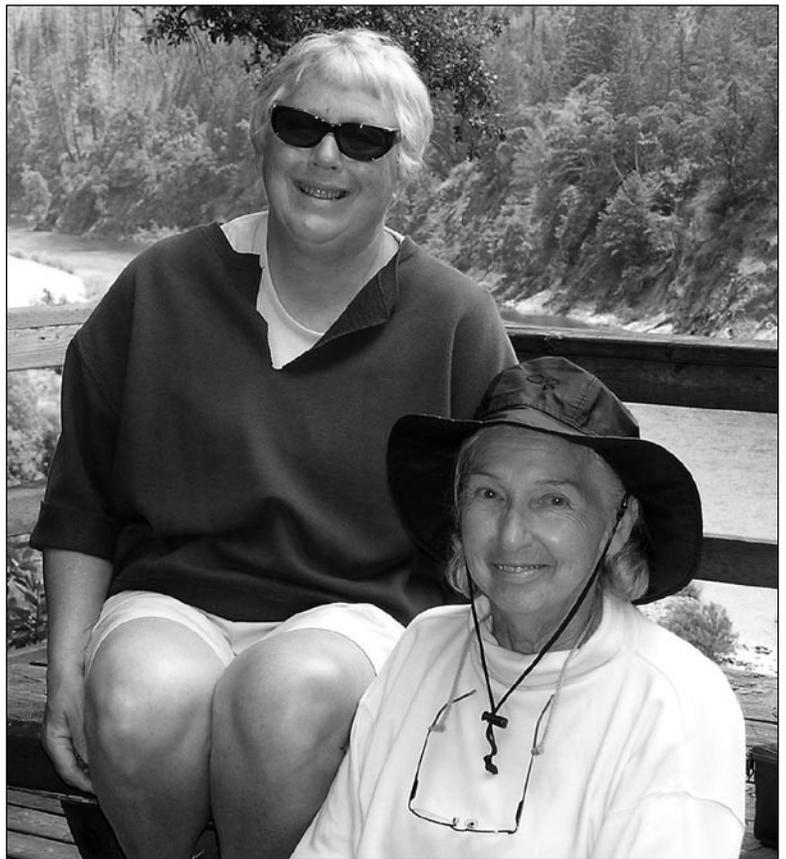
STEFAN AMBS

*Budding Spiranthes porrifolia, taken at the 'right' site near Agness OR, resembling its ancient relative—asparagus*



MARK LAROCQUE

*The Spiranthes porrifolia from Agness OR in 1993 (L), and *S. infernalis* from NV in 2003 (R), were similar in appearance.*



LUCY DUECK

*Intrepid local botanical guides Kay Butler and Veva Stansell, who helped me search for Spiranthes porrifolia in Baker's original site near Agness OR.*

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## Friends of the Oregon Flora Project

This summer, the Oregon Flora Project will be sharing with the public several features that have been the focus of our efforts for quite some time. For the Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist, we have compiled the changes that each author proposes in their taxonomic treatment of a genus, and will submit these to the Checklist Advisory Board and Checklist

Project Leaders for their feedback. This will allow us to produce a draft of the Checklist detailing all Oregon plants, their accepted names, and their synonyms; this will be available on our website. The Atlas will also see progress: we will also be uploading over 30,000 new records to the Atlas database and implementing some minor improvements to the mapping program.

We were recently awarded \$10,000 from OSU's General Research Fund to fund a proposal to complete the Poaceae (Grass Family) component of our morphology database. We are especially pleased, as this represents the first direct support from the University in the twelve years of the project's existence.

Your financial support is always appreciated and welcomed. A few copies of *Ever Blooming: The Art of Bonnie Hall* remain as acknowledgements of gifts of \$300 or more. Contributions of any amount can be made out to NPSO, with "OFP" on the memo line, and mailed to: P.O. Box 402, Corvallis, OR 97339-0402.



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