

Park Creek Coming Into Bloom: June 6th, 2012

by Tanya Harvey

A version of this article was originally posted on the author's website. For more reports on plant hunting in the Western Cascades, as well as plant lists and site information, visit it at www.westerncascades.com.

Last year, when Mark Turner was looking for places to photograph shrubs for his upcoming book *Shrubs* of the Pacific Northwest, I suggested he visit the Park Creek Basin near Three Pyramids. There are lots of interesting shrubs growing within a short distance of the roadside. Not only was he successful photographing the shrubs he was looking for, he also discovered a very rare one: *Ribes triste*, known as swamp red currant or wild red currant. I located the plants later in the summer (see Rare Currrant at Park Creek), but

was anxious to see them in bloom. I also wanted to see the flowers of some odd little willows I'd found on that trip.

I decided to head up there on Wednesday, June 6. Sabine Dutoit accompanied me. I was concerned about the timing, as I hadn't been that far north yet this year, and there's no telling where the snow level is in a cool spring like this. Last year, Mark saw them in perfect bloom on June 23, but in 2001 we were about a month behind "normal". It's been cool and damp this spring but not as extreme as last year, so I figured I might hit it right. I used to be quite good at figuring out when a particular plant might be in bloom, based on spring weather, winter snowpack, and past experience at a variety of locations. But the last few years, the nasty springs had really thrown off my phenology radar. It seems I might be back in business—my timing was

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Snow remains on Three Pyramids beyond Park Creek



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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.

Meet us in the Siskiyou Mountains! Annual Meeting July 13-15

by Cindy Roché, Siskiyou Chapter

As host for the 2012 NPSO Annual Meeting, the Siskiyou Chapter is looking forward to Native Plant friends from far and wide joining us July 13-15 for a botanical extravaganza. Friday evening kicks off with a social, complete with our own NPSO *Calochortus howellii* wineglasses and a talk by Linda Ann



Vorobik. The Siskiyou Mountains are practically Linda's second home, so "Siskiyou Wildflowers: Art and Inspiration" is a program you won't want to miss. Those who registered early had to agonize over the decision of choosing just one among fourteen intriguing field trips centered in the high western Siskiyou Mountains. Even though half of the field trips filled up quickly, it may still be difficult to select just one insider-guided tour on Saturday. In the evening our caterer will serve a superb meal (bring your wineglass again) and Susan Harrison will tell us about Serpentine Plant Diversity in the California Floristic Province (which extends into southern Oregon). Attend the NPSO Board meeting from 9 am to 1 pm on Sunday, or spend some more time exploring the region. See the latest updates at the website: http://siskiyou.npsoregon.org/2012annualmeeting/.

Norm Jensen Commemoration: July 13th

The NPSO Community is invited to spread Norm Jensen's ashes with his family prior to the beginning of the annual meeting on Friday, July 13th. We will meet at a specified location on Eight Dollar Mountain at 4 PM, an hour before the social hour is set to begin. Please email Cecile Shohet (cshohet@gmail.com) if you would like meeting place information.



Norm at Woodcock Fen

NPSO Needs a New Membership Chair

NPSO needs a new Membership Chair! - if you are looking for a way to make a significant contribution to the Society, have a few hours a week of spare time, and enjoy working with computers, then please let the out-going Chair, Clayton Gautier (cgautier@comcast.net) know you are interested. A general description of the duties and responsibilities can be found in the NPSO Board Handbook (http:// npsoregon.org/documents/NPSO-BoardHandbook.pdf). Clayton will be happy to provide additional details and answer any questions you might have.

NPSO needs a new NPSO Bulletin Editor

NPSO is seeking an editor for the *Bulletin*. This position requires editing skills and monthly e-mail correspondence with chapter presidents, board members, and other NPSO community members. The editor must be willing to commit 8 to 12 hours to each issue. The *Bulletin* is published 10 times per year. The editor must have computer skills, e-mail access, and a personal computer. Layout and graphics are not a part of the Editor's position. If you are interested, please contact president@npsoregon.org.

State Notes

July 13-15, 2012

Annual Meeting and State Board Meeting, Selma, OR. Join us for a botanical extravaganza in the Siskiyou Mountains. In addition to the annual meeting, all are invited to attend the NPSO Board meeting from 9 am to 1 pm on Sunday, or spend some more time exploring the region. See the latest updates at the website: http://siskiyou. npsoregon.org/2012annualmeeting/

Blue Mountain

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

Cheahmill

For more information, visit the chapter Web site, www.oregon-nativeplants.com. To be added to the e-mail list for upcoming programs and events, please contact cheahmillchapternpso@comcast.net.

July 10, Tuesday, 5-7 pm Work Party #152: Native Plant Garden, McMinnville Library. Summer work parties are a great way to catch up with friends and see what the garden's native plants are up to! We remain focused on weeding and ongoing maintenance of the garden specimens. Newcomers are welcome! Contact: Susan Williams, 503-538-1865, helgesusan@ comcast.net.

Corvallis

For questions, information on upcoming events, or to be on the Corvallis chapter e-mail list, contact Esther McEvoy at co_president@NPSOregon.org or 541-754-0893.

July 7, Saturday, 8 am

Hike: Iron Mountain. Spectacular wildflowers with over 200 species of vascular plants recorded along this botanically rich trail west of Santiam Pass. The all-day hike will be 5 miles through moderately difficult terrain. Bring good boots, lunch, and water. Meet at the

NPSO CALENDAR

OSU parking lot SW of The Beanery, 26th and Monroe, Corvallis. Information: Dan Luoma at 541-752-8860.

Emerald

Visit the Emerald Chapter Web site at http://emerald.npsoregon.org to learn more about the latest chapter events, plant lists and botanical information about Lane County plants and the people who love them.

July 21, Saturday, 8 am-4 pm Field Trip: Upper Elk Meadows. Alan B. Curtis will lead a hike to Upper

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. You must pre-register for all events. National Forests require a Northwest Forest Pass for some 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. Elk Meadows, 30 miles from Cottage Grove. Elevation of the meadow is 4,000 feet. Over 200 species of vascular plants have been identified here. Of special interest is *Frasera umpquaensis* at its most northerly known location. Surrounding the meadow is an old-growth forest of *Abies amabilis, Abies grandis*, and *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. We will walk about 1.5 miles through moist meadow. Wear boots and bring lunch and water. Location: Meet at South Eugene High School. Contact: Alan Curtis, 541-345-2571.

September 17, Monday, 7:30 pm

Meeting: Stephen Meyers presents, "What's in a Name? Recent Major Changes in Taxonomy that affect the Oregon Flora." Are you puzzled by all the botanical name changes and shifting of plants to new families. Dr. Meyers from Oregon State University gives us the latest scoop on plant classifications. Location: EWEB Training Room, 500 E. 4th Avenue, Eugene. Information: Mary Beth Averil, 541-349-9999.

Klamath Basin

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

The following wildflower field trips are sponsored by the Klamath Basin Chapter of the Native Plant Society, Klamath County Museum, Fremont-Winema National Forest, and Crater Lake National Park. For all trips it is recommended that you bring sturdy shoes or boots, plenty of water, sun screen and/ or a hat, and a lunch. Be prepared for mosquitoes at most sites. Contact the trip leaders for more information.

July 7, Saturday, 9 am

Hike: Marin's Dairy led by Vicky Liskey. This area is west of highway 97 between Dorris and MacDole. It is easy access from our cars. Meet at the Midland rest stop at 9 am and car pool from there. Bring a lunch. Registration required. Open to the public. Information and registration: Vicky, 541-891-7019, liskeygh@aol.com

July 14, Saturday, 9 am-12 pm

Hike: Short Creek Area with Missy Anderson. We will follow Short Creek, heading south along FS Rd. 3100 and ending up on the Westside Rd. There will be some walking off-trail for short distances. Of course mosquito repellant will likely be needed! Meet at Sevenmile guard station, which is near Sevenmile Creek, at the junction of Nicholson Road and Forest Roads 3200/3100. To get there go to Fort Klamath, turn west onto Nicholson Road and go 4 miles, until you reach FS land, then turn right (north) onto FS Rd. 3200. Information and registration: Missy Anderson - Forest Service Chiloquin District Office, 541-783-4001.

July 21, Saturday, 9 am-12 pm

Hike: Dry Creek with Sarah Malaby. The trip will consist of approximately 1 mile of easy walking on the Dry Creek Snowmobile Trail. We did this trip last year and not many people came, but it is a great area to view forest wildflowers, so we are giving people a second chance to attend. Meet at the Great Meadows Sno-park at 9 am. The Sno-Park is off Highway 140 approximately 30 miles west of Klamath Falls, near the Dead Indian Memorial Road junction. From there, we will caravan to the field trip site at Forest Road 3640-020. Information and registration: Sarah Malaby, 541-884-5703.

August 4, Saturday, 9 am-12 pm

Hike: 4-Mile Lake Area with Missy Anderson. We will mainly be exploring the interesting riparian and boggy habitat around Bull Swamp. There are no trails through this area and walking will be moderate to difficult in places (e.g. climbing over downed logs and through wet areas, etc). Rubber boots/waders (or shoes you don't mind getting wet and muddy) are recommended. Mosquitoes are expected, so bug spray/net would be good too. Meet at the junction of Highway 140 and FS Rd 3661 (this is the road to 4-Mile Lake, about 1/2 mile before MP 35). Information and registration: Missy Anderson - Forest Service Chiloquin District Office. 541-783-4001.

August 18, Saturday, 9 am-12 pm

Hike: Crater Lake Garfield Peak Trail with Jen Beck. Hike is 3.4 miles round trip and a strenuous climb (1000' elevation gain) to the summit of Garfield Peak along the Crater Lake rim. Meet near the east end of the Crater Lake Lodge at Rim Village. Please note that participants will need to pay a \$10 entrance fee or have a park pass. Information and registration: Jen Beck - Crater Lake National Park, 541-594-3072

Mid-Columbia

For information on the Mid-Columbia Chapter, contact Sara Wu at wusara96@ yahoo.com.

July 12, Thursday, 8 am

Hike: Lookout Mountain (WA) and USFS Road 4220. Located about 14 miles from Stabler up the Wind River Highway, Lookout Mt presents spectacular views and the area provides vibrant mid-summer wildflower displays. Easy hike. Meet at the Bingen Park and Ride on Hwy 14 just west of the north end of the Hood River Bridge. Contact Don Hardin, donhardin0@gmail.com, 509-493-4819 for details and to register. Note that this is a change from the destination listed in the June Bulletin.

Portland

If you would like to receive the chapter's semi-official e-mail newsletter, The Calochortus, e-mail Don Jacobson at donjphoto@gmail.com.

Facebook: Take a look at our Facebook page. Native Plant Society of Oregon-Portland-Chapter. It will have the most up-to-date information on hike and other events as well as great plant pictures.

July 2, Monday

Field Trip: Saddle Mt. Join Roger Brewer to explore this botanic gem near the coast, with species including *Dodecatheon dentatum, Corydalis scouleri*, and many others. If we make it to the summit and the weather cooperates, we'll be treated to a view from Mt. Rainier to Mt. Jefferson. Full day. Difficult although we will go at botany pace (slow). 160 miles RT. Contact: Roger Brewer, rogerbrewer@comcast.net, 503 789 5027.

July 6, Friday

Hike: Larch Mt. This is a moderate to strenuous hike that consists of an approximately 6.4 mile loop with an elevation gain of 1,300' through both meadow and old growth forest. We will also view wildflowers that have emerged within the last several weeks from the recent snow melt. Contact: Ron Klump, ronklump55@comcast.net for more information or to sign up for the hike.

July 7, Saturday

Field Trip: Iron Mt. Iron Mountain is a botanical paradise so wonderful, there's a book about it: *Wildflowers of* the Western Cascades, by Ross & Chambers. The mountain is home to 18 different community types, and at the beginning of July the meadows are in full bloom. Expect to see several Sedum and Castilleja species, Lilium washingtonianum, Orthocarpus imbricatus, and more. Spectacular views. Moderate 3.4 mile hike round-trip with 1200' elevation gain. 260 miles RT. USFS pass required (or bring \$5 in cash). Contact: Brent Miller, 503-382-7605, foliosus@foliosus.com to register.

July 31, Tuesday

Hike: Lookout Mountain is east of Hood River Valley. We'll hike the loop from High Prairie up to the top of Lookout Mountain, down to Gumjuwac Saddle, and back up to High Prairie. A variety of forest, meadow, and rocky outcrops with great plants. The hike is 7 miles with 2,000 ft elevation gain. Round trip drive is 150 miles paved, 12 miles gravel. NW Forest Pass required. To register and to receive meeting location information, contact Ron Klump at ronklump55@comcast. net.

Siskiyou

To join the Siskiyou Chapter email list: Send an email, from the address at which you want to receive announcements, to announce-join@siskiyou.npsoregon.org. No subject or message is required. You will get a confirmation email. If you would like to volunteer to lead a hike in 2012, make a suggestion, or provide feedback regarding the field trip program please contact Sasha Joachims at: sasharain71@gmail.com.

July 7, Saturday, 9 am

Hike: Mt. Ashland. Enjoy the early summer bloom on Mt. Ashland. We'll visit the summit area, Rabbit Ears, and Grouse Meadows. Expect 1-2 miles of easy walking with modest elevation gain. Meet behind the Oil Stop on Ashland St., just west of the BiMart/Shop 'n Kart parking lot in Ashland, about 1/4 mi west of I-5, exit 14. Leader: Alex Maksymowicz, 541-482-1964.

August 4, Saturday, 8:30 am

Hike: Observation Gap and Cow Creek Hollow (about 1 mile along the PCT south of the road to Dutchman Peak fire lookout). From swaths of *Epilobium siskiyouense* along the Pacific Crest Trail to the unusual blooms of *Saxifraga odontoloma* in wet meadows, floral riches of all sorts abound in this wonderful area where cowbells usually provide a musical accompaniment.

Ashland Parks & Recreation

July 14, Saturday, 10 am-2 pm Hike/Lecture: Edible & Medicinal Plants of Grizzly Peak. Examine medicinal and edible plants with Clinical Herbalist Jon Carlson in the Cascade Mountains. Hiking difficulty will be easy to moderate. Open to all levels. \$35. Meet at the Grizzly Peak Trailhead. Register online at www.ashland. or.us/register or call the Nature Center at 541-488-6606.

Siskiyou Field Institute

July 7-10, Saturday-Tuesday

Course: Crash Course in Flowering Plant Families with Linda Ann Vorobik, PhD. Brush up on your botany skills with this plant identification class. Morning lab and slide lectures whet appetites for afternoons in the field. Some Parking is very tight at Cow Creek Hollow, so try to avoid bringing large vehicles. Meet 8:30 am behind the Oil Stop on Ashland St, just west of the BiMart/Shop 'n Kart parking lot in Ashland, about 1/4 mi west of I-5, exit 14, or 9:45 am in the library parking lot in Jacksonville. Information: Alex Maksymowicz, 541-482-1964.

Umpqua Valley

Visit www.umpquavalley.npsoregon. org for more information on chapter activities.

Willamette Valley

For program information, contact John Savage at 503-399-8615 or Alexandra Ninneman at 503-391-4145.

July 8, Sunday, 7:30 am

Field Trip: Iron Mountain. Enjoy one of the best wildflower hikes in Oregon. Iron Mountain (near Sweet Home) has over 300 different species of flowers amid stands of trees and meadows. John Savage of the Willamette Valley

OTHER EVENTS

botany experience strongly recommended. Cost: \$250, advance registration required. Contact: 541-597-8530, www.thesfi.org.

July 16-18, Monday-Wednesday

Course: Wildflower Photography with a Pocket Camera with Mark

Turner. Photographer Mark Turner will help you learn new ways to photograph flowers and take charge of your pocket digital camera. Cost: \$150, advance registration is required. Contact: 541-597-8530, www.thesfi.org.

July 22, Friday

Course: Botanizing Big Red Mountain with Kristi Mergenthaler. Want a taste of high elevation serpentine botany and ecology on the eastern Siskiyou Crest? We'll meet lovely rare plants like Lee's lewisia, Siskiyou lewisia, split-hair paintbrush, and Siskiyou willow-herb. Bring your camera! Cost: \$50, advance registration is required. Contact: 541-597-8530, www.thesfi.org. Chapter of the Native Plant Society will lead the all-day hike over a seven-mile loop with elevation gain. Bring food and water. Free and open to the public. Information and registration: 503-399-8615 after 7 pm.

July 15, Sunday, 8 am

Field Trip: Kingston Prairie Preserve.

This 52-acre Nature Conservancy Preserve southeast of Stayton is the best example of native prairie remaining in the central Willamette Valley. Sponsored by Willamette Valley Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon and Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center, the hike is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Registration and information: John Savage, 503-399-8615 after 7 pm.

William Cusick

Visit our Web site at http://williamcusick. npsoregon.org or contact Laurie Allen at 541-805-0499 for updates and general information.

July 27-29, Friday-Sunday

Course: Intermediate Plant Identification: Asteraceae and Graminoids. This workshop is aimed at students interested in honing their identification skills for members of the sunflower family and the graminoids (grasses, sedges, and rushes) of Western and High Siskiyous. Vorobik's Crash Course or other plant ID class is prerequisite. Tuition for this class is \$225, advance registration is required. Information: 541-597-8530, www.thesfi.org.

Wild Food Adventures

July 14, Saturday, 9 am-12 pm Workshop: Wild Fruits of Northwest Forests. Come join us learn about wild fruits and other edible plant parts found in northwest forests. Cost: \$25 -\$40. Enrollment is limited - register in advavnce to reserve a place. To register and for more information: Wild Food Adventures, 503-775-3828.

Park Creek, cont. from page 1

perfect!

We made a few stops along the first stretch of Lava Lake Meadow Road 2067. There were patches of snow on the left, north-facing sides of the road, but thankfully otherwise the road was clear. There were huckleberries and several different willows blooming in the wet ditches along the road. Marsh marigolds (Caltha leptosepala) were beginning to bloom along with the very first shooting stars (Dodecatheon *jeffreyi*). Before you get to the bridge, there is a gated off road to the left that shortly crosses the main creek. While there admiring the first blooming bluefly honeysuckle (Lonicera caerulea), highbush cranberry (Viburnum edule), and bog birch (Betula glandulosa), Sabine was excitedly trying to get me to see some wildlife-a pair of sandhill cranes! Perhaps they were grumpy about our presence because they started conversing in their strange, crackling voice that sounds so primitive it makes me want to look around for dinosaurs. As great as the plants were, that had to be the highlight of the day. I sometimes hear them flying over my house in the fall, but I hardly ever see cranes up close on the ground. We watched them for a while but finally decided to let



What Tanya Harvey think is Mackenzie's willow (Salix prolixa). Male flowers are on the left, female on the right.

them have their privacy.

Next we stopped at the odd little opening along the main Road 560 just past the first bridge (Be careful around here, some of the roads seem to have the same numbers-at one time they must have looped around and connected. We'd already passed another road 560 just a mile or so from Hwy 22). This looks manmade, surrounded as it is by berms. The little 2-4' willows I'd seen last year were in perfect bloom and so pretty. The male flowers had cherry red anthers, the females had red styles. The branches and bud scales were also red—quite showy by willow standards. I struggled to key them out at home, but with the help of Barbara Wilson of the Carex Working Group, I now believe they are Salix prolixa. I'd admired the lovely red-suffused flowers of this species along Amazon Creek in Eugene, but those plants were probably three times of the size of the little ones here. I attended a willow workshop put on by the Carex Working Group in April at OSU, so I'm excited to get back to learning more about willows. They are so tricky. These ones showed no sign of the stipules or glaucous leaves mentioned in the keys, but the photo I took at this spot last August showed quite prominent stipules and very pale undersides to the leaves. If I wasn't sure there was only one type of willow in this small spot, I'd never have thought these were the same plants. I want to see them again in a few weeks to how they look as they develop from the very early to later stages.

Finally on to the main goal of the trip, we stopped at the second bridge along Road 560. It only took a few minutes to find the Ribes triste. It was also in perfect bloom. What a relief. It has really pretty dangles of flat, deep red flowers. The plants are wrapped around old trunks and under trees and shrubs, neither creeping nor erect. They seem to prefer a bit of shade. After relocating most of the plants I saw last year, we wanted to cross the creek to see if there were more on the other side. No chance this time of year. The water was quite deep and very cold, although I did spot one Ribes triste on the far side of the creek with



A more northern species, Ribes triste is quite rare in Oregon. If anyone sees this plant, please let Tanya know!

my binoculars.

We went back to the bridge and tried to follow along the other side from there. This was a maze of channels with tricky holes with water rushing under the seemingly firm ground. We decided to postpone exploring this part for another trip. We did see lots of skunk cabbage in bloom, some oddly growing right in the rushing water. Usually it seems to prefer slow-moving streams. There were also pretty buttercups (Ranunculus populago), both marsh and early blue violets (Viola palustris and V. adunca), and some early Suksdorf's paintbrush (Castilleja suksdorfii). Lots of pretty Oregon windflower (Anemone oregana) in various shades of pink, white, and lavender graces the drier areas. So much to see even during this first wave of flowers. I look forward to returning several times this summer.



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Friends of the Oregon Flora Project

One of our goals this year is to redesign the Oregon Flora Project website. We anticipate having search results provide access to all the maps, photos, and nomenclature for any plant of interest in one place. Volunteer Jeff Cook is undertaking this significant task.

Big things are happening within the Rare and Endangered Plants committee of NPSO and the OFP is excited to be a part of it! Co-chairs Erin Gray and Cecile Shohet are organizing outings this summer to search for sensitive plants; participants will be contributing data and photographs to several agencies, including the

OFP. Your participation will help the OFP improve existing fact sheets as well as develop new ones for taxa we lack in our rare plant guide (www.oregonflora.org/rareplants.php).

We welcome your contributions of species lists and digital images. Visit our website, or contact Wilbur Bluhm, our NPSO-Atlas coordinator, for tips on how to submit your information.

Financial contributions can be mailed directly to: Agricultural Research Foundation, Oregon State University, 100 Strand Ag Hall, Corvallis, OR 973311-2219. Please make checks payable to the Ag. Research Foundation, and include "Oregon Flora Project—4482" on the memo line.