



Bulletin

of the

Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

VOLUME 46, No. 7

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

A Grand Day Exploring Bristow Prairie's Varied Habitats

by Tanya Harvey, Emerald Chapter

This article was excerpted from Tanya Harvey's "Plants and Places" blog. The original article, posted online July 2, 2013, and other stories of botanizing in the western Cascades, are available at <http://westerncascades.com/blog/>.

On Friday, June 28, Emerald Chapter members John Koenig, Gail Baker, Clay Gautier, and I went up into the Calapooya Mountains to explore Bristow Prairie. It was a great day with all kinds of interesting discoveries. As we drove along the ridge on Road 5850, my companions spotted what I had looked for but missed on all my previous trips: the trailhead for the north end of the official trail. I'm so glad it really exists and will have to check it out sometime. But it is still much closer to what I find most interesting, to start from the middle where

the meadows reach the road. Right away, we saw many of the wonderful tiny annuals I wrote about last year. We were going to stop in the first shade to eat lunch as soon as possible, but with all the pretty flowers in the meadow, it took quite a while. As we continued on toward my first destination, the south-facing bald on the Lane County side, there were fewer plants in bloom, but there were a number of *Lilium columbianum* in bud and lots of false hellebore (all three of our species of *Veratrum* can be seen here, but damned if I know how to distinguish them out

of bloom).

The rocky bald was in its prime. The soil was still moist from the recent rains, and all the annuals looked really fresh. Many of these tiny beauties are uncommon and were new to my companions, including candelabrum monkeyflower (*Mimulus pulsifer*), mountain blue curls (*Trichostema oblongum*), and whisker brush (*Leptosiphon ciliatus*). There were also many beautiful perennials. The buckwheats were picture perfect, both sulphur

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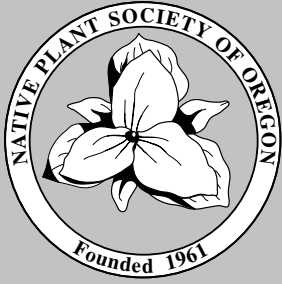


TANYA HARVEY

John, Clay, and Gail on the floriferous, steep, rocky bald.

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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

Matt Morales
P.O. Box 80714
Portland, OR 97280

Bulletin of the Native Plant Society of Oregon

Editor: Erika Wedenoja
Layout Artist: Jocelyn Duffy

ISSN 0884-599. Published 10 times per year. Subscription price specified in Membership Form printed on inside back cover page of this issue. Date and issue number on page 1.

The submission date is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue except for the Aug/Sept issue which is July 24 and the Dec/Jan issue which is November 24. Send submissions by e-mail to bulletin@NPSOregon.org.

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.

High Desert Chapter Revival

Hallelujah! The NPSO High Desert Chapter is back up and running following a several year hiatus.

The revival was spearheaded by Desiree Johnson, a Bend resident who has a master's degree in botany. Johnson is the chapter's president. "I almost jumped for joy when I heard the chapter was coming back and offered to help any way I could," said Susan Berger, who is now the chapter's vice president. Other officers include: Christina Veverka, secretary and Sara Garvin, treasurer.

The group has been leading regular plant/flower hikes throughout the summer, and will start this winter to plan for next year's calendar of activities. "There is talk to try and resurrect the local wildflower show that use to be hosted by the Sunriver Nature Center — it's been gone a couple years now," said Berger. "It would be great to have a show to showcase the beautiful flora of our region."

The High Desert Chapter has a website at www.highdesertnpsoregon.org and a Facebook page, "Native Plant Society of Oregon: High Desert Chapter." For more information, you may also contact the chapter at highdesertnpso@gmail.com.

Share Your Annual Meeting Photos and Stories

Do you have fond memories of this year's Annual Meeting in Baker City and the Elkhorns? Perhaps you saw intriguing species on your field trip, caught up with old friends, or volunteered to help the event run smoothly. Whether your memories are in text, photos, or illustrations, we invite you to share them in the October *Bulletin*. NPSO armchair travelers are waiting for you to submit your articles and/or high resolution images by September 10 to bulletin@NPSOregon.org.



The Elkhorn mountains as seen from Vinegar Hill, the highest peak of the Greenhorn mountains.

DAN LUOMA

NPSO CALENDAR

State Notes

NPSO State Board Meeting. The next board meeting will be in October, hosted by the Portland Chapter. Date, time, and location to be determined.

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 cheahmillchapternpsocomcast.net.

August 20 & September 17, Tuesdays, 5 - 7 pm

Work Party: McMinnville Library Native Plant Garden. NPSO has responsibility for maintenance of the demonstration native plant garden at McMinnville Public Library. It is beautiful this year! Volunteers learn to ID both native plants and weeds. Bring work gloves and tools. For more information, contact Susan Williams at helgesusan@comcast.net.

September 26, Thursday, 7 pm

Talk: Protecting Fender's Blue Butterfly on Private Lands in Yamhill County. Amie Loop-Frison of the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District will discuss the District's recent efforts to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) focused on the recovery of species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) that inhabit upland prairies, including Fender's blue butterfly and Kincaid's lupine. Discussion will include how the HCP is designed to allow landowners within the county to comply with the ESA while engaging in land management activities. Location: Carnegie Room, McMinnville Public Library, 225 NW Adams St. (corner of HWY 99W and SW 2nd St.). Parking lot entrances on Adams and 2nd Streets. Information: Luke Westphal, 971-388-9200 or lwestpha@gmail.com.

Corvallis

For questions, information on upcoming events, or to be on the Corvallis chapter e-mail list, contact Alexis Brickner or Kevin Weitemier at co_president@NPSOOregon.org or 208-921-0827.

Emerald

Visit the Emerald Chapter Web site at

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. A sample waiver form is available at http://npsoregon.org/documents/NPSO_waiver.pdf. 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. A trip leader checklist and sample waiver form are available at: <http://npsoregon.org/calendar.html>

<http://emerald.npsoregon.org> to learn more about the latest chapter events, plant lists & botanical information about Lane County plants & the people who love them.

September 16, Monday, 7:30 pm

Meeting/Talk: Landscaping Nature's Way. Whitey Lueck will guide us in thinking about our garden and urban landscape. Most conventional landscapes, both residential as well as commercial, set themselves *apart* from the region's natural landscape, rather than making them *a part* of that landscape. Learn how and why we got to this point, and what we can do--in addition to planting regionally native plants--to make our cultivated landscapes more nature-friendly, as well as easier to care for. Location: EWEB Training Room, 500 E 4th Ave., Eugene. For more information, call 541-349-9999.

Starting Thursday, October 17, Emerald Chapter Programs will meet at a NEW location and day. The new location will be announced in the next *Bulletin* and on the Emerald Chapter website.

Save these new Thursday meeting dates! October 17, November 21, December 19.

High Desert

This chapter has recently become active. For information, visit the High Desert Chapter website: www.highdesertnpsoregon.org and Facebook page: Native Plant Society of Oregon: High Desert Chapter, or email highdesertnps@gmail.com.

Klamath Basin

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

Mid-Columbia

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

There will be no chapter meeting in August.

September 19, Thursday, 7 pm

Meeting: Plans and Projects. Members will report from the Annual Meeting, held July 26-28 in Baker City. Elizabeth Stanek will update us on the work she and others have been doing to clean up and maintain "Chicken Charlie Flat," the 5-acre I-84 native plant wayside created and formerly tended by Russ Jolley. Finally, there will be a planning discussion for the 2015 Annual Meeting. Location: Room 1.366, Building 1, Columbia Gorge Community College, The Dalles.

Portland

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

Meeting Location: The Portland Chapter meets the second Thursday of most months in the Metro Building at 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland. Enter the building at the south end of the upper plaza on Irving St. (not the door on 600 NE Grand Ave.). An attendant will direct you to the meeting room upstairs. Informal meeting is at 7 pm. Formal meeting and presentation begin at 7:15 pm.

The Portland Chapter will not meet in August.

September 12, Thursday, 7 pm

Program Meeting: Ethnobotany and Land Management Techniques. Bonnie Shoffner, restoration volunteer coordinator from Metro, will describe land management techniques, such as controlled burns, that were used in the past by Native Americans to keep prairies open. She will also talk about ethnobotany projects where she teams with students. Location: Metro Building, see above for details. Contact: Mary Smith at alphiesmith@comcast.net or 503-288-4340.

October 10, Thursday, 7pm

Program Meeting: Denali National Park - Flora and Fauna. Come join naturalist Paul Slichter for an evening of adventure deep in Denali National Park. He will display images and video of the diverse array of wildflowers, animal life (both big and small), and horizon-to-horizon views of the tundra, as well as close-ups of the Alaska Range. Location: Metro Building, see above for details. Contact: Mary Smith at alphiesmith@comcast.net or 503-288-4340.

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 2013, make a suggestion, or provide feedback regarding the field trip program please contact Sasha Joachims at: sasharain71@gmail.com.

September 19, Thursday, 7 pm

Program: David Douglas at Work in Southern Oregon. During a decade of collecting (1823-34), Scottish naturalist David Douglas developed relationships with fur trade and tribal families that greatly enhanced the flora and fauna he sent back to his employer in England. This presentation by author Jack Nisbet will follow Douglas' adventures in the Pacific Northwest, with particular focus on a fall 1826 trip to the Umpqua country. Jack wrote *The Collector*, - a biography about David Douglas that received the Book of the Year award by the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association. Since then, Jack

and his wife Claire have assembled "David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work," which will be on display at Tacoma's Washington History Museum through February 2014. Location: Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, Science Building, room TBA, 84 Fourth St., Ashland. For up-to-date details, join the Siskiyou Chapter e-news; see above for directions on how to subscribe.

Umpqua Valley

Visit www.umpquavalleynativeplants.com for more information on chapter activities or to be added to our e-mail list.

Willamette Valley

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

August 31, Saturday, 7 am - 6 pm

Field Trip: Jefferson Park. John Savage will lead a hike to Jefferson Park in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness about 20 miles beyond Detroit. This is a difficult hike (10 miles with 1,800 foot elevation gain) to view a wide range of forest, meadow wildflowers, and spectacular Mt. Jefferson. Hike is free and open to the public, but limited to 11 people. Bring food and water for lunch at Scout Lake. For registration and additional information: call 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.

Botany and Nature Books for Sale to Benefit NPSO!

The estate of Shep Wilson, a former president of the Portland Chapter, donated his library of botanical books and related items to NPSO. The State Board decided to sell the donated books to members and others interested and dedicate the funds to the state level of NPSO. Some books were sold at the Annual Meeting; the remaining titles are listed online: <http://www.npsoregon.org/wilsonbooks.html>. Books are listed by author, title, edition, and price (based on average prices on amazon.com). Contact Cyndi Dion, treasurer@NPSOregon.org, to purchase books—they will be sold to the first requester as of August 18. Cyndi will provide the details for payment and retrieval of the books. Deadline for purchase requests is October 1, 2013.

OTHER EVENTS

Rowe-Lowe Herbarium

September 12, Thursday, 9 am - Noon

Work Party: Rowe-Love Herbarium.

Assist with mounting and organizing specimens in the Herbarium at Lane Community College. 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 3,000 specimens. To find out more about the Rowe-Love Herbarium, please visit the following sites: www.lanec.edu/archives/OH-NelsonJK.html and www.lanec.edu/archives/OH-LoveR.htm. Location: Science Building, Rm 117, Lane Community College, Eugene. For more information, contact a work party guide: Susie Holmes, holmess@lanec.edu or Gail Baker, bakerg@lanec.edu.

Siskiyou Field Institute

September 25-27, Wed. - Fri.

Class: A Closer Look at Rare and Sensitive Bryophytes and Lichens.

The Pacific Northwest region's diverse lichen and bryophyte population includes many species officially recognized as rare and/or sensitive by state heritage programs and the federal government. Instructor Scot Loring will address these species in classroom discussions and lab work, and will also cover species newly discovered in the region. Learn about bryophyte and lichen habitats and how to distinguish species through notable characteristics and common look-alikes. Location: Deer Creek Center, Selma. Tuition: \$225.

Advance registration required, call 541-597-8530 or visit www.thesfi.org.

October 27, Sunday

Class: Edible Mushrooms of the Southern Cascades. Search the

woods with instructor John Teem and learn to safely identify and collect edible mushrooms of southern Oregon. Discover key characteristics for identifying many of the following: boletes, corals, oysters, chanterelles, and matsutakes. Poisonous mushrooms known to occur in the area will also be reviewed. Use all your senses and your hiking muscles as you develop skills to recognize which mushrooms to harvest and which to leave behind. Location: Highway 62 / Southern Cascades. Tuition: \$50. Advance registration required, call 541-597-8530 or visit www.thesfi.org.

Scrambled Species Answers

Did you ID these native plants of the Elkhorns at July's Annual Meeting?

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. aievs gnioriod | Ivesia gordonii |
| 2. poetsnenm ntusvues | Penstemon venustus |
| 3. mluaimot umaoprehtcyrr | Lomatium erythrocarpum |
| 4. iatgnean oclasyac | Gentiana calycosa |
| 5. uemg isorsi | Geum rossii |

Seeing Double: Employers Are Matching Your Donation through EarthShare

Wouldn't you love it if you made a \$100 donation to NPSO and it suddenly became \$150, or \$200? That is what happens when employees of the companies listed below donate through EarthShare Oregon giving campaigns.

Some local companies that match employee charitable gifts to EarthShare:

Allstate
American Express
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Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects
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Axiom
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Kaiser Permanente
McKenzie River Broadcasting
Microsoft
Nike
Norm Thompson Outfitters

NW Natural
ODS Health Plans
Organically Grown Co.
Piper Jaffray
Portland General Electric
The Standard
Toyota
United Health Group
Wal-Mart
Zimmer Gunsul Frasca

If you work at one of these companies and donate to NPSO through EarthShare – your donation will be increased up to 100% without any extra effort from you. By giving through payroll contribution, you can give a larger gift by spreading the payment out over a year's time. No personal checks to write or credit card numbers to give out...the money is automatically donated from your regular paycheck.

You can still designate your dollars to come to us – and, when they reach us, there will be many MORE dollars supporting the programs you love!

To learn more about EarthShare Oregon and its workplace giving campaigns, visit earthshare-oregon.org.

A Grand Day, continued from 1
(*Eriogonum umbellatum*) and northern buckwheat (*E. compositum*). Gail found an unusual and very attractive pink-flowered one. I've seen them looking pinkish in bud, and many turn reddish as they fade, but these were quite fresh. There were many pretty hotrock penstemons (*Penstemon deustus*) that were more compact than I'm used to. Many farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia amoena*) were in bloom, but they were so much smaller than those on Tire Mountain and elsewhere in the county that there was some question as to their species until we looked carefully at their upright, glabrous buds.

There are lots of odd things happening in this area, perhaps because this is the transition zone between the California and Northern Floristic Zones, but oddest of these is the variation in the cat's ears. Elegant cat's ear (*Calochortus elegans*) is a very small-flowered species common in Douglas County but not recorded for



TANYA HARVEY

Calochortus elegans has very small flowers, so this is most likely at least a hybrid of it.

Lane County and rarely farther north, west of the Cascade Crest. From Lane County north, mountain cat's ear (*C. subalpinus*) is the common species, but it peters out around here with very few records in Douglas County. Tolmie's cat's ear (*C. tolmiei*) is found in both directions, but it tends to be at lower

elevations. I have studied this population before, and I'm no expert, but I would call it a hybrid swarm. The flowers cover the gamut of the three species, from small thumbnail-sized blossoms to ones twice the size. There are ones with purple markings, yellow markings, even reddish ones, and some are solid white. Some have strongly pointed petals, while others are much more rounded. The amount of fringe and hairs also varies greatly. The trouble is that the individual flowers seem to have characteristics of more than one species at a time. I looked carefully at several, and the nectaries seem to resemble those of *C. elegans*, so along with the small size of many, I'm pretty sure that we at least have some genes of *C. elegans* in Lane County, even if we can't say for sure if there are any pure ones. Whatever is going on here, it is really fun to see so many variations. And there seemed to be thousands of them in bloom in both the bald and drier parts of the meadows. I've posted more photos of them at <http://westerncascades.com/2013/07/03/unusual-variability-of-cats-ears-at-bristow-prairie>.

From the bald, we headed down the main meadow past some unexpected patches of wetland flowers. Then came a short bushwhack into the woods to find the hidden lakes. Thankfully, we found them with no problem. I'm calling them North and South Secret Lakes for the obvious reason that you can't see them from anywhere. We had a fun time exploring them, mainly the south one on the Douglas County side of the county line, which coincidentally appears to run between them. John and I ended up bushwhacking through a brushy area of willows and blooming creek dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) at the far end of the lake. There was some shrubless wetland on the far side that was filled with gorgeous tall bluebells (*Mertensia paniculata*). Elk had made a maze of paths through here, leading to a small creek.

We decided to leave our boots on for the short trek up to the meadow and through a brief boundary of forest around the main lake. The north side we popped out on was very wet, and there was no getting near some pretty

cottongrass, so we headed to the other side where there were lots of elephant's head (*Pedicularis groenlandica*). On the way, we passed a small patch of sundews (*Drosera rotundifolia*) that I had never noticed before. Heading back up from the lake, I spotted a much more unusual addition to the list, a very small annual called false-mermaid (*Floerkea proserpinacoides*) that I'd only seen a few times before, much farther south. It seemed awfully close to the county line, so, since it would be a new county record, I double-checked the maps, but I believe it is just over on the Douglas County side—darn! It was getting quite late, so I did not spend any time trying to find it farther north in the meadow. That will have to wait for another trip.

With all the cool things we'd seen, we thought we had done pretty well and were ready to head home when we reached the car. It was much later than any of us had realized. But the excitement was not over yet. While snacking and milling around the car, I went to check out the damp ditch on the other side of the road. I noticed some of the little orange-yellow blossoms of bog St. John's wort (*Hypericum anagalloides*). Clay had asked about it earlier in the day when we saw the little leaves creeping about the wetland, so I called him over to see the flowers. While bending down to show him, I spotted some very tiny clusters of yellow-green balls, rather grape-like—a grapefern or moonwort (*Botrychium*)! It was least moonwort (*B. simplex*), the same species that grows at Waterdog Lake. This is only the second place I've ever seen it. I was thrilled, to say the least. Late though it was, we couldn't just leave without looking at these more carefully. We counted several dozen, but there could well have been more. They seemed to disappear as soon as I stood up. I also marked what appeared to be the ends of the narrow strip they were growing in, so Molly Juillerat, the Forest Service botanist, could find them later.



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DUES include monthly *Bulletin* and *Kalmiopsis* when published.

Membership is for the calendar year. New memberships enrolled after July 1 include the following year.

☐ New ☐ Renewal

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☐ Sustaining – \$60 ☐ Patron – \$125 ☐ Life Membership – \$500

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Membership in the Native Plant Society of Oregon is open to all.

Membership applications, renewals and changes of address (include old address) should be sent to the Membership Chair. Changes of address may also be e-mailed to Membership@NPSOregon.org.

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TREASURER..... Cyndi Dion 897 Hillview Dr., Ashland, OR 97520-3517; treasurer@NPSOregon.org; 541-482-8603

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

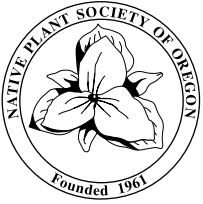
CHEAHMILL Lisa Blackburn ch_president@NPSOregon.org; 503-538-3976
CORVALLIS..... Alexis Brickner & Kevin Weitemier co_president@NPSOregon.org; 208-921-0827
EMERALD (Eugene)..... Mary Beth Averill..... em_president@NPSOregon.org
HIGH DESERT (BEND)..... Desiree Johnson hd_president@NPSOregon.org
MID-COLUMBIA Sara Wu 595 Hearthside Lane, Goldendale, WA 98620; wusara96@yahoo.com; 509 773 7127
PORTLAND Nancy Chapman..... po_president@NPSOregon.org; 503-234-0162
SISKIYOU Marcia Wineteer si_president@NPSOregon.org; 541-582-3896
UMPQUA VALLEY (Roseburg)..... Donna Rawson 4134 Goodrich Hwy, Oakland, OR 97462-9636; uv_president@NPSOregon.org; 541-459-2821
WILLAMETTE VALLEY (Salem) John Savage 1645 Church St SE, Salem, OR 97302-2908; wv_president@NPSOregon.org; 503-399-8615
WM CUSICK (La Grande) Susan Geer susanmgeer@gmail.com
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STATE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BUDGETS AND GRANTS Dan Luoma..... 5 NW Edgewood Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330; 541-752-8860
CONSERVATION, EAST SIDE..... Vacant
CONSERVATION, WEST SIDE..... David Lebo president@NPSOregon.org; 503-622-3191 ext. 639
FRIENDS OF OR FLORA PROJECT Linda Hardison..... 2082 Cordley Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-2902; hardisol@science.oregonstate.edu; 541-737-4338
LEGISLATIVE Billy Don Robinson bdmeme@gmail.com; 503-515-1708
MEMBERSHIP..... Matt Morales P.O. Box 80714, Portland, OR 97280; membership@NPSOregon.org
NPSO FELLOWS..... Jan and Dave Dobak..... jddobak@pcez.com; 503-248-9242
RARE & ENDANGERED PLANTS Erin Gray & Cecile Shohet ecgray830@gmail.com, cshohet@gmail.com

PUBLICATIONS

BULLETIN EDITOR..... Erika Wedenoja..... bulletin@NPSOregon.org
BULLETIN PRODUCTION..... Jocelyn Duffy..... jocelynduffy@yahoo.com
KALMIOPSIS EDITOR..... Hope Stanton..... kalmiopsis@NPSOregon.org
WEBMASTER Sunia Yang syang895@yahoo.com



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Native Plant Society of Oregon
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Friends of the Oregon Flora Project

A new version of the Checklist—Version 1.3—will be published online in August. This presents all of the nomenclatural changes and species additions within the Oregon Flora Project since the publication of Version 1.2 in March 2012. A summary of checklist updates will also be posted on the website checklist page. Our OFP online tools—the Atlas and Photo Gallery—will also reflect this version of the Checklist.

We continue to work with Oregon State University's web designers to develop and release an improved version of our website.

There is now a way to acquire a beautiful piece of original artwork and further the progress of our new Flora: as an acknowledgment of your gift of \$400 or more you will receive a matted, framed pencil sketch of one of the plants illustrated by John Myers for the Flora of Oregon. Each sketch is the basis for an inked drawing that will grace the Flora. There are a limited number of illustrations that will be offered—check the OFP website for a list of the sketches that are still available. Don't miss out on this opportunity to own (or give) outstanding botanical artwork while demonstrating your support of the OFP! For details, contact Linda at hardisol@science.oregonstate.edu.