

NPSO 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

2012 has been a great year for the Native Plant Society of Oregon. It has been characterized by effective adaptation and transition in key positions, while following through with ongoing initiatives. Our Mission Statement is proudly displayed on the masthead of our statewide print publication, *The Bulletin*. We are "*Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats.*"

Due to deaths and retirement, we lost long-serving committee chairs. In Publications, Norm Jensen, and in Rare & Endangered Plants, Les Gottlieb, have passed on. Our Membership Chair, Clayton Gautier, is now retired. We miss them sorely, and deeply appreciate their unstinting efforts and huge contributions to NPSO. We are so proud of those who have "stepped up" to carry on this vital work. Not only have they kept things going, they have done so with innovative, creative approaches to task, as well as exciting new initiatives. NPSO's new Citizen Science Program, coming from our Rare and Endangered Species Committee, is a shining example of how we have adapted and grown!

We had a hugely successful annual meeting hosted by the Siskiyou Chapter. During the meeting, we welcomed new NPSO fellows, installed state officers and directors, and had a lot of fun! Here's what the host chapter's president, Marcia Wineteer, had to say about it.

"Annual Meeting July 13-15 at the Deer Creek Center in Selma. Cindy Roche, Joan Seevers, Kristi Mergenthaler, Julie Spellitech, and Cecile Shohet expertly arranged the weekend's activities. Around 160 people registered with a half dozen more participating in the Saturday field trips. Activities included a social Friday night and talk by Dr. Susan Harrison on "Serpentine Plant Diversity in the California Floristic Province," 14 field trips on Saturday, a banquet Saturday night and talk by Dr. Linda Vorobik on "Siskiyou Wildflowers: Art and Inspiration," and the NPSO Board Meeting on Sunday. The field trips focused on higher elevation areas, but included a variety of locations that highlighted the diverse plant communities and botanical treasures of the Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion."

NPSO Conservation Efforts around Oregon...

NPSO conservation efforts continued unabated in the Mid-Columbia area, spearheaded by the Portland Chapter. Our preservation efforts at Catherine Creek were deeply appreciated by allied groups such as Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Conservation advocacy continued at the state level. For the past two years NPSO has opposed Portland General Electric's plan to introduce the catastrophic invasive species *Arundo donax* as a bio-fuel source for its Boardman coal-fired

energy plant. In 2012, at NPSO's behest, Oregon's Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a wide-ranging hearing on this issue. In addition to PGE, State Weed Board, and Oregon State University's Dean of Agriculture, NPSO testified alongside The Nature Conservancy, as well as Oregon's Invasive Species Council.

NPSO's research into the *Arundo donax* issue uncovered a violation of state procedure. The ongoing research by Oregon Department of Agriculture was being conducted under an expired rule. This disclosure during the Senate hearing resulted in subsequent statewide hearings before an administrative law judge. NPSO testimony helped shape the new rule.

During all of 2012, NPSO's Legislative Committee has developed legislation which is now pending before the 2013 session prohibiting the use of *Arundo donax* as a biomass fuel source. As a result of our legislative efforts, NSPO was invited, and joined, a national coalition headed up by the National Wildlife Fund opposing this use of *Arundo donax* on the national level.

See the NPSO website for a fuller treatment of NPSO's efforts in this matter.

New initiative from our Rare and Endangered Species Committee's Co-Chair Erin Gray....

The Native Plant Society of Oregon Citizen's Rare Plant Watch is a new program initiated in 2012 by the NPSO's Rare and Endangered Species Committee, where volunteers revisit historic populations of rare species, collect data on their extent and habitat, and contribute directly to the conservation of species throughout Oregon. Working together with the Oregon Flora Project, the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC), Federal and State agencies, we prioritize which plant populations are in need of field verification. This includes species for which little is known of range and or population size, or for which historic populations haven't been visited in years. Given the need for updated data on historical populations of rare species, the NPSO Citizen's Rare Plant Watch offers an invaluable hands on service to provide updated information on species' extent while involving volunteers in their conservation. Modeled after successful citizen-science projects such as the University of Washington Botanic Garden's Rare Care and the California Native Plant Society's Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, the Citizen's Rare Plant Watch will contribute all data to the Oregon Flora Project, ORBIC, and the land management agencies to increase understanding of rare species' current extent in Oregon.

For a program that was recently initiated, we already have over 40 volunteers all over the state who have expressed interest in participating. Collectively, we have documented 32 historical occurrences and documented 6 new occurrences! The Citizen's Rare Plant Watch volunteers are currently making plans for next season where we plan on doing species inventory at Silver Falls State Park and searching

for a rare species on the Table Rocks near Medford.

**More new, cool stuff....this time, thanks to Roger Brewer,
NPSOPortland Co-President**

New Reference Materials for NPSO
Trip Leaders

A Trip Leader's Checklist and new Sample Waiver Form are now available on the NPSO website. Find them at the State and Chapter Events page: <http://npsoregon.org/calendar.html>, in the Field Trip Notes section.

More inspirational volunteerism...NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Matt Morales!!!

Heartfelt gratitude and many thanks go to our long-serving Membership Chair, Clay Gautier. He kept this vital function performing flawlessly for many, many years. Now it's time for retirement and travel! Well done, Clay.

Now, we have a new face in this chair, who is already up to speed and continuing Clay's fine tradition of service to our society. He's Matt Morales and here's an excerpt from his message in the latest Bulletin. "Your membership and donations make it possible to carry out more of the many projects that are needed to pursue the goals of NPSO."

Memorial Funds and Scholarships supported by NSPO...

These are the charitable efforts and projects benefiting from NPSO support, both on the chapter and state levels. Here's another excerpt from Matt's message.

"It's also a good time to consider a tax-deductible contribution to our special funds. The Leighton Ho Memorial Field Botany Fund is used for research projects in western Oregon. The Rare and Endangered Plant Conservation Fund supports work with our most threatened plants. The Augusta Rockafellar and Jean Davis Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to a botany student at an Oregon college or university. You can also include a contribution to the Oregon Flora Project along with your dues. Your membership and donations make it possible to carry out more of the many projects that are needed to pursue the goals of NPSO."

NPSO Communications...challenges met, expectations exceeded!

We lost our dear, long-serving webmaster Norm Jensen far too soon. His legacy is enduring. At his memorial service, at the annual meeting, the deep respect we felt for him was clearly demonstrated. These were big shoes to fill, indeed, and in

a key position, as well.

Luckily for NPSO, up stepped Sunia Yang. Sunia has kept our website up-to-date and crisply professional. She has been instrumental in making sure our society's presence on the web is informative, easy to navigate, and esthetically appealing. She also manages our email and listserv functions, making sure we can communicate with each other, and that people can reach us. NPSO is very fortunate for her willingness to take on this crucial task.

Our communications team also needed another stalwart volunteer to step up into a key position. Erika Wedenoja is the new editor for NPSO's statewide print publication, *The Bulletin*. She is a local and international conservation volunteer with a background in management in the not-for-profit sector, including editorial duties. Many of our long-time members rely on *The Bulletin* to keep up with what's going on in our society. *The Bulletin* serves a dual role as a major monthly contribution to our website. Erika's volunteerism keeps this key function thriving!

Kalmiopsis: The Journal of the Native Plant Society of Oregon...

The NPSO journal, *Kalmiopsis*, contains in-depth articles on Oregon's native plants, stories of people who were and are part of our botanical heritage, book reviews, and more. The editor is Cindy Roché, PhD, and the editorial board is Rhoda M. Love, PhD, Frank A. Lang, PhD, and Susan Kephart, PhD. The *Kalmiopsis* is published annually. The current volume is Vol. 19, the most recent in a long line of academically distinguished efforts by our scholarly society!

Stay tuned for our scientific conference...

Our Rare and Endangered Species Committee Co-Chair, Cecile Shohet, is working on an NPSO-sponsored botanical conference featuring academic, agency, and not-for-profit groups. More to come!

Officers & Committee Chairs

State Officers

Directors (to 6/2013)...Linda Hardison, Frances Stilwell, Bruce Waugh
(to 6/2014).....Mary Beth Averill, Betty Bahn and Cecile Shohet

President..... Judi Sanders
Immediate Past President..... David Lebo
Vice President..... Billy Don Robinson
Secretary..... Lisa Blackburn
Treasurer..... Cyndi Dion

Chapter Presidents

Cheahmill (McMinnville).....Lisa Blackburn
Corvallis.....Alexis Brickner & Kevin Weitemier
Emerald (Eugene)..... David Predeek
Mid-Columbia..... Sara Wu
Portland.....Angie Moore/Roger Brewer
Siskiyou..... Marcia Wineteer
Umpqua Valley (Roseburg)..... Donna Rawson
Willamette Valley (Salem)..... John Savage
Wm Cusick (La Grand)..... Susan Geer/Dick Austin

State Committee Chairs

Budgets and Grants..... Dan Luoma
Conservation, East Side.....VACANT
Conservation, West Side..... David Lebo
Friends of OR Flora Project..... Linda Hardison
Legislative.....Billy Don Robinson
Membership..... Matt Morales
NPSO Fellows..... Jan and Dave Dobak
Rare & Endangered Plants.... Erin Gray & Cecile Shohet

Publications

Bulletin Editor..... Erika Wedenoja
Bulletin Production..... Jocelyn Duffy
Kalmiopsis Editor..... Cindy Roché
Webmaster..... Sunia Yang

Here's a sample of some of our annual chapter reports...

**Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO)
Mid-Columbia Chapter**

Mid-Columbia Chapter meetings 2012

Unless otherwise indicated, all chapter meetings occurred on the 2nd Thursday evening of each month before September and on the 3rd Thursday evening of each month from September on. Meetings were held in the Board Room, Building 1, Columbia Gorge Community College, The Dalles.

January, 2012. No meeting.

February 9, John Davis, retired biologist, active naturalist, and gifted photographer. *Moths I Have Known*

March 8, Bill Weiler, Conservation Consultant, author, and board vice-president of the Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute. *Oak Ecology*

April 12, Mark Krautmann of Heritage Seedlings in Salem. *Habitat Stewardship*

May 10. Bruce Lumper, Co-chair of The Dalles Watershed Council. *Stream Restoration Projects*

June 10, Sunday, Chapter Pot-luck & hike at Bloch/Rhodes home in White Salmon

June 14, Keith Karoly, Professor of Biology/Botany, Reed College. *Ecology and Evolution of Flowering plants*

July and August, no meetings.

September 20, Reports & photos from the NPSO Annual Meeting in the Siskiyou and planning for the White Salmon River Homecoming, Sept 29.

October 18 Jan and Dave Dobak of the Portland Chapter, *Wildflowers in Nevada, the Ruby Mountains, Great Basin National Park*

October 20, Saturday. We hosted the State Board meeting in Hood River.

November 15 *Need Plant data? -- The Oregon Flora Project Provides!* Linda Hardison of The Oregon Flora Project

December 20 *Field trips, past and future.* Holiday cheer & review of the field trips Don Hardin led in 2012, Discussion of field trips for 2013 season.

Mid-Columbia Chapter Field Trips 2012

January 21, Saturday, **Balfour Park** to watch the eagles and identify native & nonnative plants (Cancelled due to ice storm)

February 2, Thursday, **Columbia Hills State Park** early wildflower search, led by Carolyn Wright

March 31, Saturday, **Major Creek Rd.** led by Don Hardin

April 12, Thursday. **Lower Catherine Creek**, led by Don Hardin

April 19, Thursday, **Catherine Creek**, led by Krista Thie

May 5, Saturday, **Tom McCall Preserve**, led by Don Hardin

May 10, Thursday, **Weldon Wagon Trail**, led by Krista Thie

May 12, Saturday, carpool to **Silver Falls State Park** Wildflower Event, Salem (Cancelled due to lack of interest)

May 20, Sunday, **Chenoweth Table**, led by Carolyn Wright

May 31, Thursday, **Dalles Mountain and Spearfish Lake**, led by Don Hardin

June 9, Saturday, **Conboy Lake**, led by Don Hardin

June 10, Sunday, **Penny Ridge**. led by Will Bloch

June 14, Thursday, **Monte Carlo**. Led by Will Bloch, and joined by Keith Karoly

July 12, Thursday, **Lookout Mountain (WA) and USFS Rd. 4220**, led by Don Hardin

July 28, Saturday, **Sahalie and Umbrella Falls Trail** (near Mt. Hood Meadows ski area), led by Don Hardin

August 18, Saturday, **Lookout Mountain (OR)**, led by Don Hardin

A planned trip in September to Bird Creek Meadows was cancelled due to wildfires.

*The hikes led by Don Hardin and Krista Thie were offered in cooperation with the Suksdorfia Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society.

The January trip to Balfour was rescheduled and held on February 11 - there were 4 of us and we thought we weren't going to see any eagles

but finally spotted some flying around.

Portland Chapter Report for 2012

The Portland Chapter held nine evening meetings with invited speakers, attended by about 30 people on average, covering the topics of:

- New plant nomenclature as applied to plants of the Strawberry Mountains
- Fearless Latin: A Gardener's Introduction to Botanical Nomenclature
- The Use of Prescribed Fire on Native Prairies in the Willamette Valley
- Oregon Butterflies and Their Relationship to Flowering Plants
- Grand Ronde Ethnobotany: A brief discussion on traditional plants and their uses by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Rare plants, carnivorous plants and fragrant blossoms of the Siskiyou
- On the Pumice Plain- experimentation, observation, and modeling to understand insect herbivores and lupine colonization in the primary succession on the Mt. St. Helens Pumice Plain.
- Conifers of the Pacific Northwest
- Lichens of the Pacific Northwest and the effect of Climate Change

We will also hold our members' party on December 13 in which Chapter members show off pictures of their great plant and outdoor adventures of the previous year.

We continued our annual tradition of removing scotch broom from the Great Camas patch in Carson, Washington, returning it to its natural beauty. We provided financial support to a prison program to have inmates grow Kincaid's lupine plants, which are necessary for the habitat restoration for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly. In addition, we sponsored two botany students to attend the NPSO annual meeting. We have had several grass identification classes and a class on plant keying using Hitchcock. We averaged about one hike per week from March through July, with hikes continuing through October.

SISKIYOU CHAPTER, NPSO 2012 Summary Report, December 12, 2012 Prepared by Marcia Wineteer, President

The highlight for the Siskiyou Chapter in 2012 was hosting the Annual Meeting July 13-15 at the Deer Creek Center in Selma. Cindy Roche, Joan Seevers, Kristi Mergenthaler, Julie Spelltech, and Cecile Shohet expertly arranged the weekend's activities. Around 160 people registered with a half dozen more participating in the Saturday field trips. Activities included a social Friday night and talk by Dr. Susan Harrison on "Serpentine Plant Diversity in the California Floristic Province," 14 field trips on Saturday, a banquet Saturday night and talk by Dr. Linda Vorobik on "Siskiyou Wildflowers: Art and Inspiration," and the NPSO Board Meeting on

Sunday. The field trips focused on higher elevation areas, but included a variety of locations that highlighted the diverse plant communities and botanical treasures of the Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion.

This year we hosted a spring wildflower show at the Northwest Nature Shop and the much grander annual July 4th Wildflower Show in downtown Ashland. Approximately 50 people attended the spring wildflower show and approximately 1,000 people visited the display at the July 4th Wildflower Show. We tabled at two events – the Environmental Film Festival in Ashland and Save our Salmon at Valley of the Rogue State Park, hosted by Rogue Basin Coordinating Council. Approximately 100 people visited with our volunteers at the Film Festival and our volunteers interacted with approximately 20 people at SOS.

Other events that members participated in included identifying wildflowers for the Shady Cove Wildflower Show in May and pulling weeds for the Cooperative Weed Management Area's annual Let's Pull Together in June.

We had marvelous speakers at our nine meetings at Southern Oregon University with public turnout generally between 30 to 60 participants. For our December Potluck at the Talent Community Center we are having our first fundraiser – a silent auction and raffle.

This year the Siskiyou Chapter organized 10 hikes to local botanical hotspots, aside from the 14 hikes offered during the annual meeting weekend. Locations varied from the popular easy access trails at Cathedral Hills and Upper Table Rock to less well known locations such as Hinkle Lake Botanical Area and McDonald Basin. Hike leaders included professional botanists and knowledgeable community botanists. Thank you to everyone who led hikes this year and shared your special places and knowledge of native plants with us. Participation varied from 3 to 20+ for the hikes.

Our conservation chair wrote 8 letters in support of native plants to the following organizations:

- 1) ODA opposing approval of large scale planting of *Arundo donax* for biofuel.
- 2) Senators Wyden and Merkely asking them to discourage the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest from directing OHV use to the Signal Butte area in their proposed Travel Management Plan. Signal Butte is one of only two known populations of the recently described plant species Veva's Erigeron (*Erigeron stanselliae*), and it neighbors an ACEC on BLM land.
- 3) Senators Wyden and Merkely and Congressman Walden asking them to support continued funding for the BLM's native plant programs.
- 4) Oregon/Washington BLM director asking him to support the 20 year extension of the existing mineral withdrawal on 14 miles of the National Wild and Scenic Illinois River (from Deer Creek downstream to Briggs Creek) and ask that he recommend the extension to the Secretary of Interior.

- 5) Donna Mickley, District Ranger, Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest regarding the Ashland Trails Project asking her to only permit a proposed trail through The McDonald Peak Botanical Area if it is hiker only. The current proposal is for a mountain bike trail through the botanic area.
- 6) Medford BLM District Manager Dayne Barron regarding the Programmatic Integrated Vegetation Management Project (IVMP) Environmental Assessment asking that they make native plant conservation paramount in carrying out these proposed vegetation treatments.
- 7) Acting District Ranger of the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest regarding the Hinkle Lake Botanical Area to bring to attention the continued damage to the Botanical Area by OHV's and to respond to a proposal by the Forest Service to re-open a road that would provide more vehicle access to the Hinkle Lake basin.
- 8) Acting District Ranger of the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in response to the request for public comment on what to do about the continued damage to Hinkle Lake Botanical Area. We indicated our support of a continued closure of the forest road providing vehicle access into the Hinkle Lake Basin and proposed that the area be managed for non-motorized recreation.

Scholarship Awards Given to Outstanding Oregon Students

by Thomas Jenkins, Willamette Valley Chapter Scholarship Chairman

The Willamette Valley Chapter is pleased to announce the scholarship award winners for 2012. Each winner receives \$1,000 toward their fall term tuition. William "Billy" Matthews of Eugene has been chosen to receive the Jean Davis Memorial Scholarship. William is a Biology major at Lane Community College, and plans to pursue his Bachelor's degree at Southern Oregon University. Native plants are his passion. His research project on the phenology of Oregon Ash was published in the June issue of the NPSO *Bulletin*. William received very strong recommendations from his mentors and we are happy to help this outstanding student in achieving his academic goals. Lea Condon of Corvallis has been chosen to receive the Augusta Rockafellar Memorial Scholarship. Lea is a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Oregon State University, where she working toward her PhD. She has over 10 years of field experience and received very high praise from her mentors. Her current research relates to plant and soil crust recovery in fire-disturbed landscapes. Lea is an outstanding individual who is very deserving of this award.

"Thank you very much!" to those of you who have donated money in support of these scholarships.

Annual Meeting: The William Cusick Chapter

The William Cusick Chapter will be hosting the 2013 meeting of the Native Plant Society of Oregon in Baker City from Friday, July 26 to Sunday, July 28. Emphasis will be on the plants of the nearby Elkhorn Mountains with field trips planned for many of the high elevations. Some of the near alpine plants that may be seen are *Geum rossii* and *Lomatium erythrocarpum*, both found in Oregon only in the Elkhorn Mountains. While many of the field trips will take place at elevations of 7,000 feet, there will also be some trips at lower elevations. Save the dates and plan on attending the annual meeting in Baker City, and watch for more information in the next couple months!

END OF REPORT:

This report only begins to skim the surface of all the activities and fun NPSO members have enjoyed. By the way, it is a working document which will be included in our annual letter of application with EarthShareOregon. This part of the process is where NPSO turns all that activity and fun into about \$8,000 each year, furthering our charitable efforts. Not only are we, as a society, "*Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats*", we work hard to share this joy with current and future generations!