

## Georgia Mason: Eleven Summers Alone in the Willows

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(Adapted from an essay that will appear in *Plant Hunters of the Pacific Northwest*, edited by A. R. Kruckeberg and R. M. Love)

Georgia Mason (1910-2007) was an Easterner who had lived in Oregon for only three years when she set out in 1961 to compile a flora of the Willowa Mountains in the northeastern corner of our state. She left her home and teaching position in New Jersey in 1958 to work on a Master of Science degree at Oregon State College (now OSU). At the time of her move she had been teaching grades one through nine in the New Jersey public schools for twenty-seven years, and there is strong evidence in OSU files that she expected to return to that occupation after completing her advanced degree. However, the glorious scenery of our mountain West must have caused her to change her plans, for she remained here for the rest of her life. Georgia Mason became one of Oregon's major plant collectors and published two local floras before she died in Eugene three years ago at the age of 97.

Mason, whose birth name was Georgia Mavropoulos, was born in West Orange, New Jersey, on March 16, 1910, the middle of three daughters of Greek immigrants Peter and Bessie Mavropoulos. Georgia attended high school and college in her home state, studying to become a public school teacher. In 1931, still in New Jersey, she began teaching grades one through seven in Wallington, remaining there for ten years. It is said that she changed her name to Mason at this time so that it might be more easily pronounced by her pupils. After completing college correspondence courses in science, Mason moved to Passaic to teach General Science to grades six through nine. She taught there for 17 years throughout World War II and the Korean conflict. However, Georgia's life would suddenly change because, on October 4, 1957, on the barren steppes of Kazakhstan, the Russians launched Sputnik I and transformed the world!

When the Soviet Union reached space before the United States, America took a good look at its educational system and did not like what it saw, especially in the field of science teaching. Plans were quickly made at the Federal level to improve the training of scientists—notably in the public schools. The National Science Foundation offered incentives for teachers, and Georgia Mason, after 27 years of teaching in New Jersey, applied for and was awarded a grant to study for a Masters of Science degree at Oregon State College across the country in Corvallis. Georgia was a private person who left few written records of her activities—not even a collecting

notebook—thus I have attempted to piece together an account of her life in our state from University of Oregon files, notes she left at the University of Arizona, OSU transcripts, herbarium records of her plant collections, and brief correspondence. Her niece, Susan Teller of New York, and various people who knew her in Oregon also provided recollections, for which I am grateful.



Georgia Mason, age 48, as she appeared when she entered Oregon State College in 1958. This is the only photo known to exist from her time in Oregon; courtesy of Valley Library Archives and Special Collections.

### “On to Oregon!”

In September 1958, Georgia Mason (age 48) climbed into her green 1954 Chevrolet and left Clifton, New Jersey, for Oregon. In Corvallis, she rented an apartment near campus and registered for Botany 411, Entomology 412, Education 507, and Natural Resources 421 and 590. Although OSU records show that her New Jersey Superintendent clearly expected her to return at the end of the two-year course of study, except for brief visits to the East, she would live in the West for the remainder of her life. In the Botany Department at OSC, Georgia soon met Dr. Helen Gilkey and her students. Gilkey was 72 years old and retired when Georgia arrived in 1958, but was still actively writing botanical publications and working in the herbarium most days. She had previously published *Livestock-Poisoning Weeds of Oregon*, *Aquatic*

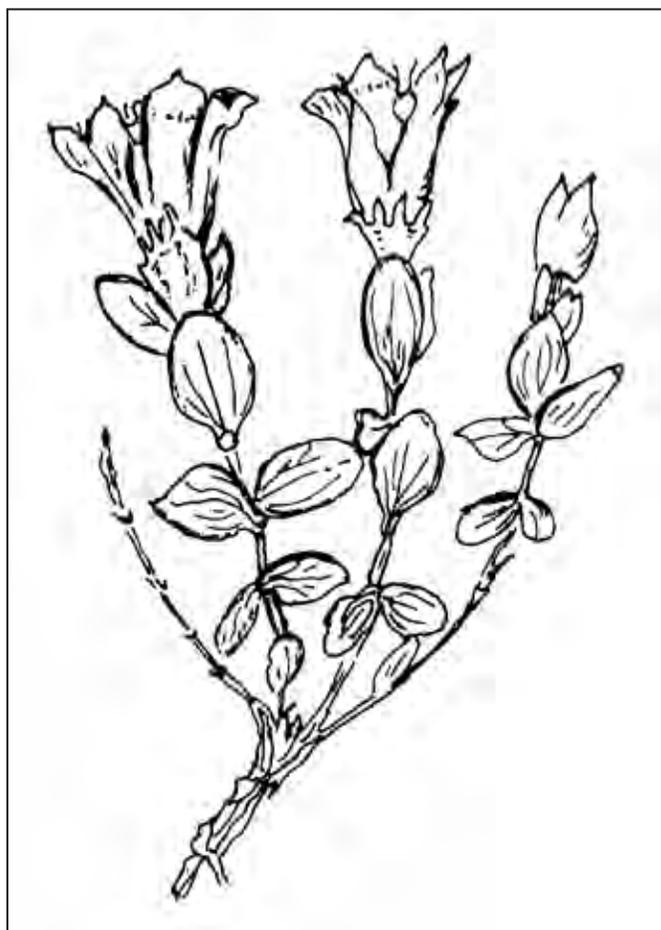
*Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, and *Weeds of the Pacific Northwest*. Helen encouraged other women to seek careers in botany as she had done. Her students Patricia Packard and La Rea Dennis were co-authors with her of publications such as *Winter Twigs* and *Handbook of Northwest Flowering Plants*, and Dennis was writing a Masters thesis on the flora of Mount Ashland. Georgia Mason had entered an academic world where women were respected and encouraged to publish floristic works. It is likely that the newcomer was both impressed and inspired by these interactions.

Another important connection for Georgia was established that same year, when, in one of her classes, she met fellow graduate student and PhD candidate, George Van Vechten. Like Georgia, Van Vechten was from the East (New Jersey and Vermont), where he had earned his Master's Degree at Rutgers. At OSC, he was doing research for his thesis on the geology and ecology of the Three Sisters Mountains of central Oregon. He and Georgia were laboratory partners and began to study together. He remembers her as “very outgoing and a lot of fun to be with.” (Van Vechten, pers. comm. 2008). When the snow melted in the Three Sisters high country,

George invited Georgia to go hiking and plant collecting with him. At some point they chartered a plane to fly over the rugged peaks to photograph the glaciers and forests. Once, they were snowed in during an early fall storm and spent the night at Sunshine Shelter. In March 1960 they took a spring break trip to botanize in the Southwest, hiking and collecting at Lake Mead, in Death Valley, and the Grand Canyon. After Georgia was introduced to the thrill of backcountry explorations and plant collecting, it is not surprising that, at the end of her two years of graduate work in Corvallis, she chose not to return to teaching public school in New Jersey!

### Georgia Discovers the Willowa Mountains

Georgia received her Master of Science Degree from Oregon State College in August 1959 and began to collect plant specimens in western Oregon. That winter she made a very short visit to her family in New Jersey. In June of the following year, George Van Vechten completed his PhD and left Corvallis to teach at Eastern Oregon College in La Grande, located in the foothills of the Willowa Mountains. He recalls that Georgia visited him there and that the two hiked into the Willowa high country. Georgia's niece told me that her aunt truly fell in love with the mountains at this time. OSU herbarium records indicate that Georgia began her serious study of the Willowa flora in the spring of 1961;



Georgia's drawing of mountain gentian, *Gentiana calycosa* appeared on page 269 of her flora. This may well have been her favorite Willowa species. Used by permission from the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History.



Georgia collected *Gentiana calycosa* on September 6, 1964, near Chimney Lake, elevation 7,500 feet. Photo of OSU herbarium sheet by Gene Newcomb.

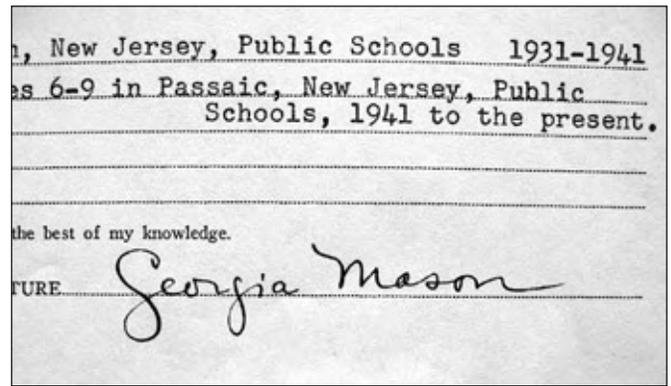
Kenton Chambers, newly hired Associate Professor of Botany and Curator of the OSU herbarium, recalls Georgia working on her Willowa specimens in the herbarium at that time (Love 2008). Oregon Flora Project records show that she collected in Willowa, Union, and Baker Counties from April to the end of August that first summer. I do not know when Mason began to contemplate compiling a flora of the area, but it seems reasonable that the example of Helen Gilkey and her students LaRea Dennis and Patricia Packard persuaded Georgia to undertake this project. At the time she was 51 years old and most likely living on savings, although this situation temporarily changed the following year.

In the introduction to her Willowa Flora and the accompanying map, Georgia Mason described the vast and rugged territory she covered during eleven summers of botanical collecting in the Willowas. She wrote that she concentrated mostly on that portion of the Willowa Mountains designated as Eagle Cap Wilderness (established in 1940), an area of roughly 350 square miles dominated by 9,838-foot Sacagawea Mountain. Four major streams arise in this area and flow in a north-northwesterly direction: the Minam River, the Willowa, the Lostine, and Hurricane Creek. Besides Eagle Cap, other high peaks Georgia explored were Chief Joseph Mountain, Aneroid Mountain, Petes Point, Sentinel Peak, and the 9,826-foot Matterhorn, with, as she wrote, "a gleaming limestone dome at its peak." "Though rugged," she declared, "all these trails are accessible to the hiker." (Apparently, even when that hiker was a rather diminutive person in her 50s, carrying collecting gear, probably including an awkward

tin vasculum.) According to UO records, Georgia was five feet one inch tall and weighed 120 pounds. The lowest elevation included in her study area was Wallowa Lake. "From here," she wrote, "trails lead into the high country." Other points of entry she used were at the ends of the roads at Hurricane Creek, Sheep Creek, Lostine River, Bear Creek, and Eagle Creek (Mason 1975).

### A Lean Time and a Sense of Humor

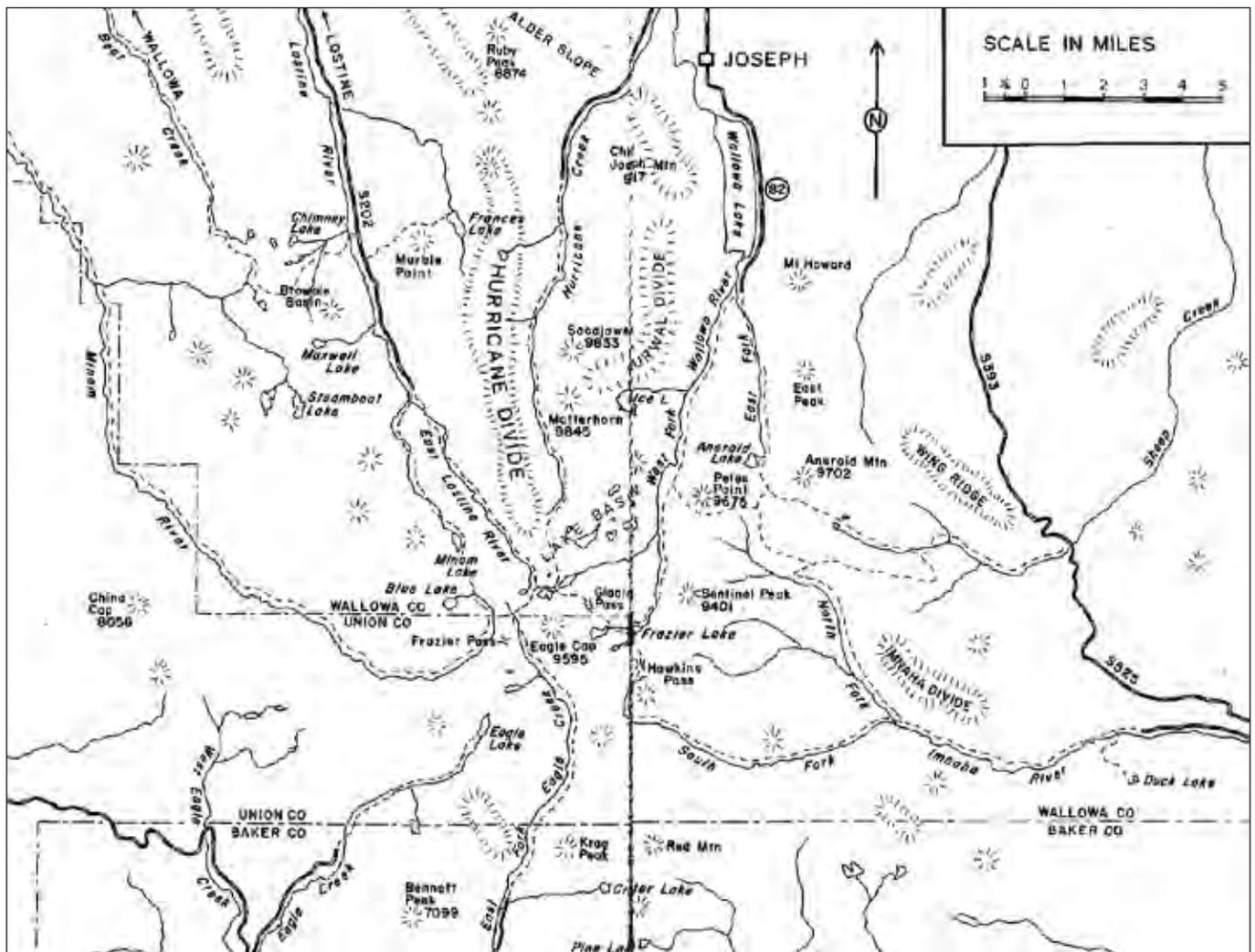
The University of Oregon in Eugene hired Georgia Mason as Acting Assistant Curator of the UO herbarium during the sabbatical leave of Curator LeRoy Detling during the 1961-1962 academic year; University records indicate that her total remuneration was under \$4,000 (Personnel records, U of O Archives and Special Collections). Georgia moved to Eugene, rented an apartment near campus, and took charge of the day-to-day running of the herbarium, which was then part of the Museum of Natural History near the University Science Building where Cascade Hall is located today. She spent most of each summer in the Wallowa Mountains, collecting over 300 specimens in both 1961 and 1962. The former was an exceptionally busy year for her; she collected heavily in eastern Oregon as well as in the Three Sisters area, in Washington State, Nebraska and Wyoming. At this time, she and Van Vechten lost touch with each other; he



Georgia Mason's signature as it appears on her Application for Admission to Oregon State College (now OSU) on January 30, 1958. Courtesy of Valley Library Archives and Special Collections.

believed that she had moved back to New Jersey.

Upon Curator LeRoy Detling's return to the herbarium in the fall of 1962, Georgia once again became unemployed, but chose to remain in Eugene, which would be her home for the remainder of her life. University of Oregon records show that she lived in at least three rental properties between 1962 and 1964. Since Georgia spent summers in the Wallowa Mountains, and was receiving



Map of the Wallowa Mountains by John Christy from Georgia's Flora. Used by permission from the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

no salary, it is likely that she gave up her apartments during the summer months. She apparently lived on savings for eight years, 1962 through 1969, as she did not enjoy salaried employment in Oregon until she returned to the University of Oregon herbarium as Acting Curator from 1970 to 1976. Meanwhile, she worked steadily on her Wallowa Flora.

Georgia was not the first plant hunter to botanize extensively in the Wallowa Mountains. William Conklin Cusick (1842-1922) collected heavily there between 1875 and 1915 (Love 2007a) and William Hudson Baker (1911-1935) spent summers there in 1952, 1953, and 1955 (Love 2009). Cusick's specimens were available for study at the U of O herbarium in Eugene and Baker's at OSU in Corvallis.

In March 1967, Georgia wrote to Dr. Chambers from the Arizona herbarium in Tempe. Her detailed collecting notes still on file there indicate that she was making use of their facilities to identify and prepare labels for her hundreds of pressed specimens from northeastern Oregon. In the Introduction to her 1975 Flora of the Wallawas, she thanks Dr. Donald J. Pinkava and Elinor Lehto of Arizona State University "for use of the herbarium facilities at Tempe during 1967-1970." She also did research at the University of Idaho and at Washington State University. Why she did not work at an Oregon herbarium during these years is one of several of mysteries about her life.

From Oregon Flora Project records, notes she left in the herbarium at Arizona State University, and several letters saved by Dr. Chambers, we are fortunate to know other details about Georgia Mason's activities during this unemployed period. These

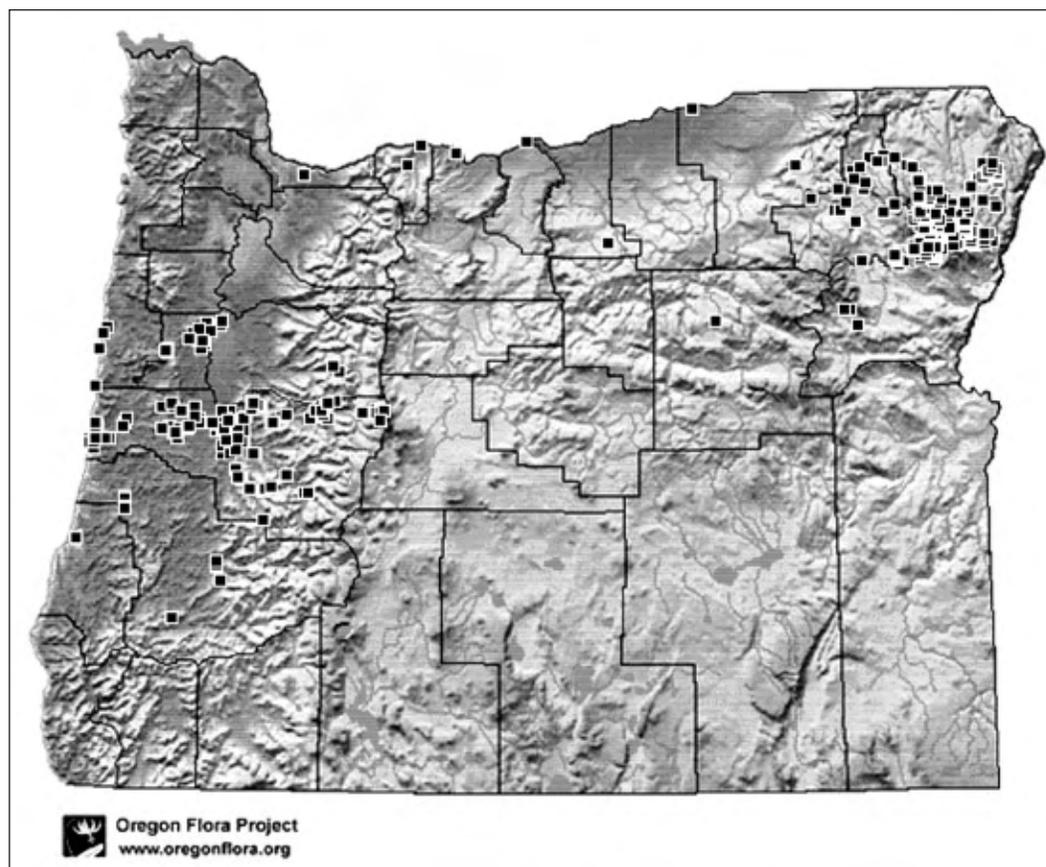
records show that she collected in the Wallowa Mountains each year between 1961 and 1971, spending entire summers in the mountains she loved for a full decade until she was over 60 years of age. During this period, in 1967 and again in 1969, Ken Chambers corresponded with Georgia about collections she was donating to the OSU herbarium. On June 27, 1967 she wrote to Dr. Chambers from Joseph, Oregon: "I'm literally drowning in specimens I brought back here to Joseph so I can send them off to their destinations.... I want to thank you again for the use of your herbarium, the textbooks, the shelf space, the microscope, and the pleasant associations..." It seems clear from this letter that Georgia was essentially homeless during the summers; her detailed collecting records strongly suggest that she spent the majority of her nights in campgrounds. Dr. Chambers replied to thank her for the 1,210 specimens she had thus far donated to OSU.

In a July 6 letter that same year Georgia wrote to Dr. Chambers: "Since the U. of Oregon gives me no support financially would you be willing to accept specimens sent C.O.D. by cheapest possible means?" Later, in June of 1969 she writes him a note from Lostine which, at the end, reveals a wry sense of humor: "We had a collision of 2 electrical storms about a week ago with resulting hailstones 1 ¼" diameter and oceans of water which has broken bridges, overflowed all creeks, rivers, lakes and resulting mudslides in the mountains have closed 3 of the 4 major trails up into our mountains...the Forest Service thinks those 3 trails may not be opened at all this summer! Rough on those happy 'hunters' who haul in cases of beer!" Like other botanists before and after her, Georgia Mason attempted to locate "head of Keystone Creek, 9000 feet,"

where W.C. Cusick collected the original specimen of *Lomatium greenmanii* on August 4, 1900; however, she was unsuccessful, stating in her Flora, "apparently not collected since the type collection" (Mason 1975). It is not clear whether she studied the type specimen, named in 1938 by Mildred Mathias and archived at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California.

### Employed Again: the University of Oregon

In 1970, Georgia Mason's lean financial period came to a temporary end when she was once again hired by the University of Oregon as Acting Curator of the herbarium following the death of LeRoy Detling. She held this non-teaching position for seven years during which time her salary



Map of Georgia Mason's collecting sites in Oregon, courtesy of the Oregon Flora Project. Each dot represents numerous collections. Georgia Mason has over 4,500 pressed specimens in the Oregon State University herbarium.

— P.O. Box 53, Lostine, Ore. June 17, 1969  
 Dear Dr. Chambers —  
 Thank you for your recent letter and the information about Dr. Hitchcock's new Vegetative Grass Key. That should be a great help to all of us, especially me!  
 I'm sorry some of the plant material I sent you was in such bad shape — but it shatters easily and did so even before I sent it!  
 At long last I'm sending you the data on 13 sheets sent a year or two ago (!). Since I don't have a typewriter here in the Wilderness I've written out some of the labels and sent along blanks for your secretary to type. I'm sorry about this but I seem to be surrounded by all sorts of difficulties, obstructions etc.

June 1969 letter from Georgia Mason to Ken Chambers, mailed to Corvallis from Lostine during one of her all-summer collecting trips in the Wallowa Mountains. (Also available is a July 6, 1967 letter in which she verifies that the UO gives her no financial support.)

rose from \$3,700 to a reasonable high of \$12,900 (UO Archives and Special Collections). According to David Wagner, who followed her as Curator, Georgia accomplished a prodigious amount of work. She continued to gather data for her Flora of the Wallowa Mountains, collecting on the Lostine River and at Target Springs in 1970, and in 1971 at Lick Creek and near the town of Wallowa, as well as in Lane County. These were to be her final full summers in the Wallowa Mountains. In Eugene that year she also mounted, labeled, and accessioned the approximately 3,000 specimens collected by Oregon botanist Lilla Leach, incorporated the approximately 3,800 collections of Eugene dentist-botanist Orlin Ireland, acquired much-needed herbarium cases, prepared new genus covers, and formally accessioned hundreds of specimens (Wagner 1994).

When David Cole of the University's Anthropology Department became Georgia's Department Chair in 1971, he advised her that her primary responsibility should be to complete and publish her Wallowa Flora (David Cole, pers. comm.). The book needed an artist, so Dr. Cole arranged for his 19-year old son, David Eric Cole, to draw plant illustrations. Young Cole, who had just graduated from high school and was waiting to join the navy, completed 600 or 700 drawings for the book that summer; his remuneration was one dollar per drawing. The younger David

Cole remembers Georgia telling him that during her Wallowa summers, she made friends with some of the elderly miners she met during her summers in the mountains (David Eric Cole, pers. comm. 2008).

John A. Christy of the Oregon Nature Conservancy remembers meeting Georgia in 1972 when he first began learning Oregon's flora and fauna. He writes, "At the time, the University's Museum of Natural History was pretty much a darkened morgue with ancient exhibits...I might have met Georgia as she was passing through the exhibit hall...Later, while discussing *Hamamelis* with Georgia in 1974, I happened to sketch a flower in order to illustrate a point. When she saw I could draw, she hired me on the spot to do some illustrations and the map for her Wallowa book.... Georgia had no work-study students in the herbarium, but methodically puttered on chores all by herself with her customary blue lab coat and a small lab cart. She kept busy annotating Wallowa material, sending out loans, and single-handedly labeling new genus folders for the entire collection. She was not given to chatter, but [told me] some interesting stories about the Wallowas and her collecting there" (Christy, pers. comm.). John Christy was paid five dollars per drawing and completed approximately 75 illustrations and the map for the book between January and March 1975.

At the time Mason was working on her catalogue of Wallowa plants, other major Northwest floras were appearing: *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States* by Leroy Abrams and Roxana Ferris (1923-1960); the second edition of Morton Peck's *A Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon* (1961); and C. Leo Hitchcock's five-volume and single-volume works (1955-1973).

I knew Georgia Mason slightly during her final years at the University of Oregon herbarium shortly before her retirement. I began work on my PhD in the fall of 1975, Georgia's last official year at the University. Mine was an ecology project involving insect feeding on hawthorns, and I visited the herbarium from time to time to borrow collecting materials. I found Georgia to be friendly and helpful, if perhaps a bit brusque. She was usually busy mounting, curating, and filing specimens. Several of Georgia's hand-written letters survive in the UO Personnel files; one, dated June 21, 1972 contains her wish for the future of the herbarium: "I do sincerely hope that financial conditions at the University will make it possible to continue the invaluable existence of both the Herbarium and the Museum for the benefit of untold students of life on earth into the indefinite future." (UO Archives and Special Collections)

Georgia's 411-page *Guide to the Plants of the Wallowa Mountains of Northeastern Oregon* was published by the Museum of Natural History of the University of Oregon in December 1975 and reprinted with additions and corrections in 1980. The second edition remains in print and is available at the Museum in Eugene.

During her final two years as Herbarium Curator at the University of Oregon, Georgia collected and catalogued wetland and weedy species of Eugene and Lane County. She reluctantly retired in 1976 at the age of 66 when David Wagner was hired as Curator. Dr. Wagner has written, "After retirement she kept a door key and came into the herbarium to work evenings and weekends. She did not stop coming until all her collections were mounted. After that she stayed away feeling she might be in the way despite my encouragement for her to work there as much as she wished. I know she was rather bitter towards the UO over being forced into retirement. She would have continued happily for another ten or twenty years." What nei-

ther Wagner nor Mason could foresee at this time was that the U of O herbarium would cease to exist only a dozen years later when its 100,000-specimen collection was moved to Oregon State University (Wagner 1994). Georgia Mason was listed in University of Oregon Catalogues as Honorary Curator until the specimens were moved to Corvallis in 1993. As stated earlier, she deposited no collecting notebooks at either college.

### Life Following Retirement

About the time of her retirement from the University of Oregon, Georgia showed her appreciation to the Botany Department at Oregon State University in Corvallis by contributing \$5,000 as an endowment to finance student work in the OSU herbarium. Known as the “Georgia Mason Herbarium Fund,” the 1978 gift has been invested to provide funds for student workers to participate in the day-to-day operating activities of the herbarium and its programs. Georgia stipulated at the time that her donation be used to “assist students who are interested in plant taxonomy, and to support research and teaching in this field of botany.” Probably she had in mind Dr. Gilkey’s and Dr. Chambers’ kindnesses to her over the years. (Helen Gilkey had died at age 86 in 1972.)

Georgia Mason’s second and last book, *Plants of Wet to Moist Habitats in and Around Eugene Oregon*, was self-published in 1982 and sold in bookstores and by mail from her home. The 207-page, spiral-bound book, copies of which are filed in the UO Special Collections and at the Lane Community College Library, is out of print and difficult to obtain today. For a number of years after retirement, Georgia Mason taught adult education field botany courses at Lane Community College in Eugene and led local plant walks, frequently to wetland sites. Otherwise, an increasingly reclusive person, she lived quietly with her dogs in various rented apartments in Eugene. She spent a number of years in a modest duplex in Eugene’s Danebo neighborhood. Some of those who had known Georgia at the University lost track of her, but her Danebo neighbors remember her as a quiet, reserved, and private person who nonetheless loved animals, birds, and gardening.

### Georgia Mason’s Legacy

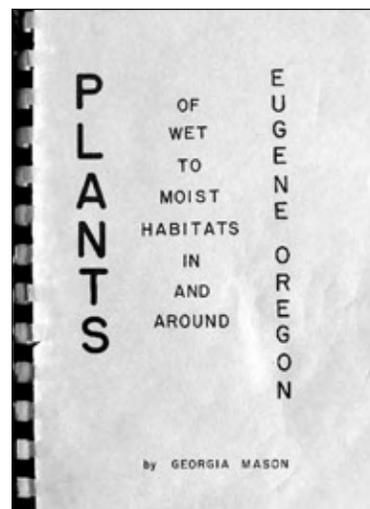
What can be said of Georgia Mason’s botanical legacy? For over a decade, from 1961 through 1971, she collected, alone and unpaid, in the rugged Willamette Mountains. Her book on the area’s flora has not been superseded and is in print and in use today. Oregon Flora Project records reveal that, with 4,549 herbarium specimens to her



Frances Lake and the upper Lake Creek drainage, located about two miles east of Lostine River. Georgia collected here on August 12, 1964. According to her records, flowers seen here in August included species of *Arnica*, *Silene*, *Phacelia*, *Arabis*, *Ranunculus* and *Potentilla*. Photo by Ed Alverson.

credit, Georgia Mason is far and away the most assiduous of Oregon’s female collectors. Among all Oregon collectors to date, she ranks fourth in number of collections after Morton Peck of Willamette University, and L. F. Henderson and LeRoy Detling of the University of Oregon. During the writing of her Willamette flora, because she lacked the background to name species, Georgia Mason was careful to send problem specimens to taxonomic experts to be identified. A few of her herbarium sheets were found to be mislabeled when the University of Oregon herbarium was moved to Oregon State University, and botanists Kenton and Henrietta Chambers have located and annotated these with the correct names. Despite these errors, with eleven full summers of collecting alone in the rugged Willamettes, and with two published floras (Mason 1975, 1982) to her credit, Georgia Mason *née* Mavropoulos, a former grade school teacher born in New Jersey the child of Greek immigrants, may rightfully claim a place in the pantheon of Oregon botanists.

Georgia was no longer living in Eugene’s Danebo district at the time of her death on October 8, 2007 (Love 2007b). It is not known where in the area



Cover of Georgia Mason’s book, *Plants of Wet to Moist Habitats in and Around Eugene Oregon*, self-published in 1982 and now out of print but available in the University of Oregon Special Collections and the Lane Community College Library.

she lived during her final years; her niece, Susan Teller, came to Oregon from New York City to handle the final arrangements. Georgia Mason was quietly cremated and there was no funeral. Susan Teller has told me that she and Georgia were always very close friends and that she is the person commemorated in Georgia's Wallowa Flora:

To Susan  
whose confidence,  
encouragement  
and unflagging interest  
have made this flora possible.

### Afterword

In January 2010, the Native Plant Society of Oregon petitioned the Wallowa National Forest to name a geographic feature for Georgia Mason. We were subsequently informed that such a dedication could not be considered until the honoree had been deceased for at least five years. We plan to renew our petition in 2012, one hundred and two years after the botanist's birth.

### Acknowledgements

I sincerely thank the following for their invaluable help with the researching and writing of this essay: Georgia's niece Susan Teller of New York; the Arizona State University herbarium staff: D. Pinkava, Elizabeth Makings, and L. Landrum for Mason collecting records; Elizabeth Nielsen, OSU Valley Library Archives and Special Collections for the Mason photo and official records; George Van Vechten, David Cole, David Eric Cole, David Wagner, John Christy, Charlene Simpson, Judith Manning, Marcia Cutler, and Cheshire Mayrsohn for recollections; James Fox and Heather Briston of the University of Oregon Knight Library Archives and Special Collections for Mason's UO employment records; Professor Emeritus Kenton Chambers for his recollections and letters; Aaron Liston, Richard Halse, and Stephen Meyers for use of OSU herbarium resources; Oregon Flora Project staff: Linda Hardison, Thea Cook, Katie Mitchell, Gene Newcomb, and Jennifer

Sackinger for Mason's Oregon collecting records and images; Bernadine Croco for genealogy; Ed Alverson for photos; Gene Yates, Jenifer Ferriell, and Paula Brooks of the Wallowa National Forest for their support; Pam Endzweig for University of Oregon permissions. Clayton Gautier and Judith Manning improved the historic photo of Georgia. I thank Cindy Roché, Kenton Chambers, Frank Lang, and Jennifer Love for editorial comments. I dedicate this essay to the botanists at Oregon State University—Georgia Mason never forgot the friendship, respect and support she received at OSU and neither shall I.

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Sketch of Georgia Mason as she appeared in the field following her retirement from the University of Oregon. The artist is Judith Manning of Eugene, a participant in several of Mason's Lane Community College botany classes.

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### Georgia Mason's Eleven Summers in the Wallowa Mountains 1961 through 1971

Mason's earliest and latest collected taxa for each season, based on Oregon Flora Project data.

1961. Earliest: April 11 at Deal Canyon near LaGrande, Union County: *Dodecatheon conjugens*. Latest: August 30 at Sunshine Lake, Wallowa County: *Aster occidentalis*.
1962. Earliest: June 23 along Hurricane Creek: *Fragaria virginiana* var. *platypetala*. Latest: September 28 at Wallowa Lake Moraine: *Madia gracilis*.
1963. Earliest: May 20 on the Joseph-Imnaha Highway: *Lithophragma parviflorum* var. *parviflorum*. Latest: October 13 outlet from Duck Lake: *Sparganium angustifolium*.
1964. Earliest: May 18 above Lick Creek Road: *Primula cusickiana*. Latest: October 30 at the Wallowa Lake west moraine: *Epilobium brachycarpum*.
1965. Earliest: May 27 junction of Falls and Hurricane Creek: *Juniperus scopulorum*. Latest: October 6 along the Wallowa Power House Road: *Crepis capillaris*.
1966. Earliest: May 27 at Target Springs: *Ranunculus orthorhyncus* var. *platyphyllus*. Latest: September 21 Falls Creek-Hurricane Creek area: *Artemisia ludoviciana*.
1967. Earliest: July 13 on the east moraine above Wallowa Lake: *Piperia unalascensis*. Latest: September 16 on the Hurricane Creek Trail: *Botrychium virginianum*.
1968. Earliest: July 14 on the John Henry Lake Trail: *Castilleja viscidula*. Latest: August 24 on the Polaris Trail near Tenderfoot Pass: *Castilleja fraterna*.
1969. Earliest: May 27 on the Lostine River Road 10 miles south of Lostine: *Draba nemorosa*. Latest: September 14 on the Black Marble Quarry Road southwest of Enterprise: *Rosa nutkana* var. *hispida*.
1970. Earliest: May 25 at the bridge over Lostine River: *Corydalis aurea* ssp. *aurea*. Latest: September 8 at the same site: *Agoseris glauca* var. *glauca*.
1971. Earliest: June 27 in the Target Springs area: *Castilleja oresbia*. Latest: August 30 at Blue Lake south of Minam Lake: *Castilleja chrysantha*.



Front cover of Georgia Mason's *Guide to the Plants of the Wallowa Mountains*, second printing with additions, March 1980. Georgia's 411-page flora is available for sale at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History. Contact: Terry Church, Museum Store Manager, tachurch@uoregon.edu



Rhoda Love demonstrates a vasculum, the metal container used by botanists before the invention of plastic bags. The empty tin vasculum weighs approximately five pounds and is considerably heavier when filled with plant specimens layered with wet grasses. This vasculum was recently surplus property at the Oregon State University herbarium and is now the author's much-prized souvenir of the past. Photo by Bryan Haynes.