Cous (Lomatium cous) with bitterroot (Lewisia rediviva) and spring draba (Draba verna) near the North Fork of the Cooked River, Ochoco Mountains, Oregon. March 26, 2022.

Photo by Jill Welborn

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If you have any questions, please contact us at bulletinnpso@gmail.com.

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To subscribe to the NPSO email discussion list, visit https://www.npsoregon.org/discussionlist.php

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For membership inquiries, contact Willow Elliott, the Membership Chair, by email, or send mail to P.O. Box 902, Eugene, OR 97440.


Largest Lithium Deposit in North America holds Ancestral Stories of Climate Change in the McDermitt Caldera

The following article by Nikki Hill is based on research that was partially supported by funds from the NPSO’s Field Research Grants program. Kudos to Nikki for making the extra effort to provide these insights on their project. Their work illustrates the kind of research that NPSO supports via your membership and donations. This type of project harkens back to the earliest days of NPSO’s field research grants program when we were
particularly interested in documenting the flora of special places such as Wilderness Study Areas. This study looked at the flora of an area of conservation concern with the added perspective of a focus on culturally important plants. - Dan Luoma

Sunset from the eastern edge of McDermitt Lithium Project looking toward Disaster Peak. May 23, 2023. Photo by Nikki Hill.

The sagebrush sea has held my attention, longing, and direction for going on eleven years. The smell of *Artemisia tridentata* is one from my childhood that, when I inhale it, fills me with the serenity of vast connection on my nomadic journey. I have spent my 30s following the seasons of wild food plants within the high desert of the Great Basin, returning to places annually while also expanding my range. These cyclical wanderings have been a seeking to understand human kinship within the fabric of ecology: how we belong and how we can come to remember this as we reassess our social/environmental relations and seek out the keys for a sustainable lifeway going forward.

Culturally important plants are those that hold fundamental roles in foraging and ceremonial practices that shape a cultural identity. Their persistence speaks to a longstanding cultivation, one in which horticultural tending has ensured the mutual survival of both plants and people. They are like fingerprints of cultural ecology, and the patterns of their occurrence in the landscape are telling stories of a deep interdependence, resilience and sophisticated collaboration with niches, topography, and climate.

My endearment for the various culturally important plants of the high desert led me to the more remote reaches of the sagebrush sea in far northwestern Nevada and southeastern Oregon. I first heard about the McDermitt Caldera when a camp was set up at Thacker Pass—known by local Paiute people as *Peehee Mu’huh*—in resistance to the development of a large-scale lithium mine. It had been a region that my mentor had
mentioned as a corridor of travel where one could find food and water when navigating around the Alvord Desert; an area where the culturally important plants were present in abundance, having sustained a nomadic lifeway on foot or horseback for centuries. With the heat on to secure resources for a “green energy” transition, nearly the entire McDermitt Caldera has been staked out by lithium claims.

In April of 2023, I organized a Lithium Lands Fellowship with the non-profit educational organization Groundwork. Our intention was to floristically document the McDermitt Lithium Project claim held by Jindalene Resources, which potentially contains the largest lithium deposit in North America. This area is a giant sagebrush bowl just below the Northern rim of the McDermitt Caldera, held by the Oregon Canyon and Trout Creek Mountains. It is currently threatened by plans to increase exploratory drilling for mine development and has little-to-no floristic documentation on record. Our fellowship sought to connect people, plants, and data by sinking into the area for a five-week period. To do so, we set out with a map of the claim area on a relational tracking endeavor.

Surveyors in the Indicated Resource Zone of McDermitt Lithium Project with perennial Payne Creek and Disaster Peak in the background. April 17, 2023. Photo by Lauren Stazinsky,

Plant tracking. The concept may land a bit funny at first, like, how do you follow plants? Don’t they stay where they are? It may be more accurate to say tracking plant patterns, but to do so one does end up tracking where the plants lead.

It was a very delayed spring following an exceedingly wet winter. We drove through a blizzard in central Nevada, arriving to news of blown-out access roads and a 19 degree
Fahrenheit temperature. Once we scouted and set up camp, the winds were a constant blustery companion, attesting to the presence of three different climate zones in McDermitt Valley, apparently all interacting to create their own weather in this sagebrush bowl. Our beginning botany lessons began while the floral realm was holding tight in vegetative buds. The geophyte food plants, however, had already appeared, attesting to their high desert adaptations to start early! Each day we would pick up these plant trails and describe where they were found.

We started loosely mapping the patterns of the various culturally important plants, marking where they started and faded as best we could. But descriptions serve as a better map, in part because of the persistent presence of these plants: it’s not just one patch here and there, but a repeating pattern along the topography. Yellow bells (*Fritillaria pudica*) showed us how the adobe clay hills wick moisture from below to sustain mucilaginous starchy bulbs through their summer dormancy. Sprawling spring parsley (*Cymopterus longipes var. ibapensis*), its longevity ensured by a three-foot taproot, entertained us with the anatomical adaptations of developing a tall stilt to outpace and rise away from the scorching heat of the southern clay exposures, while flowers borne on tall upright stalks elegantly bend back to touch the soil surface as the seeds ripen, placing them perfectly for wind driven ground dispersal aided by their papery sails.

Micro terraces, created by cryptobiotic soil crusts, denote a very thin layer of life that remembers the seabed floor: a microcosm of diatoms and algae residing in a leathery skin of liverworts and lichens, becoming photosynthetically active only when wet in their ocean flashback. Here, marine creatures are called to mind in emerging bitterroots (*Lewisia rediviva*) resembling sea urchins, while the wavy leaves of two-edged onion (*Allium anceps*) seem shaped by some unseen current. These plant beings lead us further into layers of old stories, of densities along volcanic rock flows hinting at both the shaping of place by eruptions of fire and the persistence of lakes fifteen million years past. Strewn petrified wood of winged elm (possibly *Ulmus alata*) and tanoak (*Notholithocarpus sp.*) speaks to a much wetter climate before the precipice of the Sierra Nevada range blocked the ocean moisture currents.
Perennial Mine Creek which runs through the center of McDermitt Lithium Project.
April 21, 2023. Photo by Nikki Hill.

Of particular interest in this region, so prominent on the hills of western Nevada up into southeastern Oregon, are the rocky talus zones that resemble giant scratches. It was by tracking the presence of Bolander’s yampa (*Perideridia bolanderi* and other *Perideridia spp.*) that we illuminated their utility in this landscape. Yampa species have roots that taste like nutty carrots and are culturally important plants for a variety of Native American tribes across the western U.S. Yampa can often be tracked up dry, rocky seasonal drainages. They have a particular requirement in these arid lands for landscape niches where seasonal water lingers a bit longer than the surrounding zones. These talus zones act as important micro niches in this arid environment as well: holding snow, water, and coolness to buffer plants from the hot dry conditions of summer. White rims could be seen along the talus edges later in spring, showing the intimate relation of water held by rock for yampa to bloom *en masse*. These natural niches were noticed by ancestral indigenous people following their food plants, and tending would have involved some degree of anthropogenic lithic rearrangement to enhance wild plant niches and support seasonal subsistence.

I had the good fortune to bring an archaeologist out to the site later that spring. By returning to places where yampa was the densest, and tracking obsidian and chert fragments, we were able to find lithic diagnostics that point towards 8000 years of human habitation and a possible upland village site. This tracking thread aligns with a story of climate change from the Middle Archaic period in the Great Basin when the lakes began to dry out and people adopted lifeway adaptations higher up in the watersheds.

The sagebrush sea is keeping time, not in minutes and days, but in relations and adaptation. The story of the landscape is broader than a particular site, as these stories...
have roots that walk between them. However, the memory held in the hills gets fragmented with the fragmentation of the landscape. The ways in which humans of the Great Basin found resilience in these upland plant niches could hold valuable clues to illuminate a new chapter of continuance in the face of drastic changes we face today. How will we remember the bigger movements of the ocean if we destroy the memory of the water?

This area of the McDermitt Caldera contains some of the last suitable dancing grounds for Greater- Sage Grouse, is considered critical rearing ground for Lahontan cutthroat trout to seed the rest of Nevada, and has cultural significance in need of further representation. If the sagebrush sea also calls your name, this area is worthy of a visit with some time to sink in to the layers of deep time, migrations, and resilience, and to help protect it for future generations of humans, animals, and plants alike. - Nikki Hill

State Membership Welcomes New Members!

The team of the NPSO State Membership Committee includes all chapter presidents, membership chairs or secretaries, and our skilled database manager, Kaitlin Andersen. We strive to keep you informed of the benefits of being a member of a great organization going on sixty-three years strong as the source many rely on for native plant identification and conservation.

Welcome to all new members who've joined since November 2023! You should have received the state Bulletin newsletter in December and February (we don't publish in January). We hope you register for the statewide Annual Meeting being held in May (see the details in this issue of the Bulletin).

If you chose any of the membership levels other than Regular and Student level, did you know you can add one more person’s name and email address to receive the State Bulletin and use the Members Directory? Just go to https://nativeplantsocietyoforegon.wildapricot.org/ and either log in with the email address you used to join and click on “View Profile” to add your spouse or 2nd person to share NPSO with.

How do you access the Members Directory? The link is on the same landing page after you log in and is located below the “green box”. You can message anyone in your chapter or around the state that agreed to be in the private directory without going on the Internet! Ask for a ride to a meeting or plan a flower hike together…it’s easy!
Thank you all for your ongoing support of NPSO. -Willow Elliott, State Membership Chair, and Kaitlin Andersen, Membership Database Manager

NPSO Annual Meeting, May 17-19, 2024
Spirit Mountain Lodge, Grand Ronde

View of Salmon River estuary from Cascade Head. Photo by Kareen Sturgeon.

The Cheahmill and Corvallis Chapters invite you to the NPSO Annual Meeting to be held on May 17-19, 2024, at the Spirit Mountain Lodge in Grand Ronde, Oregon. This venue, situated between the mid-Willamette Valley and the coast, enables us to offer field trips in the Willamette Valley, at the Oregon Coast, and in the Coast Range.

Since the United Nations General Assembly recently declared 2021-2030 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to “massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems...,” it is fitting that the theme for the 2024 Annual Meeting is “Ecological Restoration and Conservation of Willamette Valley, Coast Range, and Coastal Landscapes.”

In June 1842, Charles Wilkes of the United States Exploring Expedition (1838-1842) described what is now Yamhill County’s Eola Hills as being “covered with wallflowers, lupine, scilla, and quantities of ripe strawberries.” Another member of the expedition wrote in his journal of a “prairie all luxuriantly clothed in a rich and heavy coat of vegetation and latterly clothed in flowers, the upland in yellow and the valleys in purple.” As is true elsewhere in the Willamette Valley, historically extensive prairies and oak savannas have been replaced by urban, commercial, and agricultural development, with only a small fraction of the historic landscape remaining. Today, less than 10% of the pre-settlement forest and less than 1% of the prairie and oak savanna landscapes...
remain. Recently, conservationists have worked to preserve what remains and, where possible, to restore degraded areas. This is the focus of the 2024 NPSO Annual Meeting.

Field trip leaders include representatives from agencies and organizations involved in conservation, restoration, and management of many of the sites we visit. This includes representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Institute for Applied Ecology. We will visit oak savannas, prairies, coastal forests, and estuaries, many of which are being restored or actively managed for culturally significant plant species or for the protection of state and federally listed species. Because wine production is a major agricultural land use in the Willamette Valley, and two-thirds of Oregon’s wineries are located in the Valley, two trips include a visit to a winery which is preserving Oregon white oaks on their property.

**Schedule**

The meeting will start on Friday, May 17 with registration opening at 11:00 am in the Spirit Mountain Lodge (near the main entry). On Friday afternoon, we will have a selection of half-day afternoon field trips. That evening will feature a social hour, banquet, and speaker. The Friday night speaker, Dr. Tom Kaye, Executive Director and Senior Ecologist at the Institute for Applied Ecology, will discuss “The remarkable recovery of endangered plants and butterflies: Four stories of hope and uncertainty in the Willamette Valley.” This talk examines the conservation of four endangered species and the perils they still face. His nonprofit organization has worked to restore populations of Bradshaw’s lomatium, Fender’s blue butterfly, golden paintbrush, and Nelson’s checkermallow in partnership with several other organizations (including NPSO) and agencies for over two decades, with substantial conservation impact. Tom will explain their successful approach and why these species need continued care and attention.

Saturday, late registration will open at 7:30 am, and pre-ordered sack lunches will be available so you can join your field trip group promptly. On Saturday we will host our traditional all-day field trips and have an evening banquet. Our Saturday night banquet speaker is Dr. David G. Lewis, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and who is a descendant of the Takelma, Chinook, Molalla, and Santiam Kalapuya peoples of western Oregon. He currently teaches full time in Anthropology and Native Studies at Oregon State University. Dr. Lewis has researched the tribal histories of Northwest Coastal peoples, specializing in the Western Oregon Tribes. He served as the director of the Southwest Oregon Project Collection at the University of Oregon and was the Culture Department manager of the Grand Ronde Tribe for eight years. He recently published the book: *Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley*. He will discuss “Kalapuya tribal culture
and the Willamette Valley environments in which the Kalapuya lived.” He will present research reconstructing their environment after 180 years of settler changes. The presentation will also address the removal of water and return of cultural fire and what this means to tribal descendants today.

Sunday we will host several short half-day morning field trips. The NPSO State Board will also meet that morning, and all NPSO members are invited to attend.

Field Trips
Refer to the meeting website (http://annualmeeting2024.npsoregon.org) for full descriptions of field trips, plant lists, trip leaders, and other information. For questions about field trips not answered on the website, email annualmeeting@npsoregon.org. Meeting location and times for the field trips are given below. Information on alternative meeting places for some field trips is available in the full trip description on the meeting website.

Friday Afternoon Field Trips: 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Gather at the parking lot west of the Lodge at 12:30 pm.
Saturday Field Trips 9:00 am to 4:00 pm- for most trips. Gather at the parking lot west of the Lodge at 8:30 am.
Sunday Morning Field Trips 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Gather at the parking lot west of the Lodge at 8:30 am.

Meeting Registration
Fees for the Annual Meeting include a per person registration fee of $35 if received by April 17, 2024 ($50 after April 17). The Friday evening dinner buffet (optional) will feature a “Tour of Italy” with classic baked beef lasagna, penne pasta with marinara and alfredo sauces, tender shrimp, grilled chicken breast, seasonal vegetables, and garlic bread. It includes tossed green salad with condiments and dressing, two chef’s selected salads, warm rolls and butter, a chef’s choice dessert, freshly brewed coffee (decaf on request), and assorted teas. The cost is $41.00. The Saturday box lunches (optional) include a choice of sandwiches: deli (ham, turkey, Swiss), roast beef, grilled chicken, or veggie. They include potato salad, apple, baby carrots, and a cookie. The cost is $20.00. The Saturday dinner buffet will feature oven baked salmon on a red cedar plank, topped with a sweet basil aioli. It includes tossed green salad with condiments and two dressings, two chef’s selected salads, garlic mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetable, warm rolls, butter, chef’s choice dessert, freshly brewed coffee (decaf on request), and assorted teas. The cost is $44.50. All meals have a mandatory 17% gratuity included in the cost. Lodging is on your own, and the Annual Meeting website explains lodging at
Spirit Mountain Lodge and other locations. The registration form allows you to indicate first, second, and third choices of field trips for each day and requested meals.

Registration must be submitted online, and the waiver form and your fees received in the mail by April 17, 2024, in order to qualify for the early registration fee of $35. After that date, the registration fee increases to $50. The last date to have your registration received (including fees and waiver form) is May 7, 2024, unless the meeting fills before that date. The registration form is here. After completing and submitting the form, you must download, print, and sign the waiver form here. Mail your completed waiver form (one for each person) and check for fees to: Dan Luoma, Attention: NPSO Annual Meeting, 5 NW Edgewood Dr, Corvallis, OR 97330. Make your check payable to “Corvallis Chapter NPSO.” There will be no refunds after May 8th.

Three student stipends not to exceed $200 each will be offered to allow high school, undergraduate, or graduate students to attend the 2024 Annual Meeting at Spirit Mountain Lodge in Grand Ronde, Oregon. More information can be found at: Annual Meeting - Student Stipend Application (npsoregon.org).

Since only current NPSO members can attend the Annual Meeting, if you are not a member, click here to join https://nativeplantsocietyoforegon.wildapricot.org/.

For more information
The annual meeting website is: http://annualmeeting2024.npsoregon.org/. This site contains additional details about the venue, lodging and meals, alternative lodging, meeting schedule, meeting speakers, meeting field trips, registration, and student stipend applications. Questions? Contact annualmeeting@npsoregon.org. -Judi Sanders

Friends of OregonFlora

OregonFlora is developing a comprehensive resource about the plants of Oregon for nature enthusiasts, restorationists, land managers, scientists, and gardeners of all ages and levels of interest. The information within the three-volume Flora of Oregon books and the extensive database used to organize the information forms the foundation for our website, oregonflora.org
and Oregon Wildflowers mobile app. These digital resources bring the beauty and diversity of Oregon’s plant life to the public with thousands of photographs, interactive maps, and intuitive identification tools—ideal companions for the start of another field season!

Your financial support allows us to keep providing free access to digital information to the public. Our program relies on competitive grants and donations from individuals and groups to fund all OregonFlora’s direct operating expenses. The contributions people give of their time and financial resources are a critical part of our budget. If you would like to be a part of the team that keeps OregonFlora progressing, please contact us at ofpflora@oregonflora.org.

Contributions can be made online (OregonFlora Donate) or mailed to: OregonFlora, OSU Dept Botany & Plant Pathology, 2701 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, OR 97331. Please make checks payable to the Agricultural Research Foundation and include “OregonFlora” on the memo line. - Linda Hardison

April is Native Plant Appreciation Month!
It’s March now, but next month is April—Native Plant Appreciation Month. This will be the perfect opportunity to go outside and enjoy some of our early native flowers. Last year April was pretty rainy (well, it is Oregon after all), but it’s an El Niño year so we might get drier weather. And certainly, a little rain isn’t going to stop you from exploring the native wildflowers that paint our landscape in the spring. You might go it alone, take a friend, or join a hike organized by your local NPSO chapter.

While you are out and about, don’t forget to join NPSO’s Native Plant Appreciation Month Florablitz 2024 in iNaturalist. Our Florablitz will run through April collecting wild flowering plant observations. Point your phone at the QR Code, or follow the link to: NPSO’s Native Plant Appreciation Month Florablitz 2024. You could join as an observer or an identifier and help us record what’s happening in our beautiful state. Also, you don’t have to actually “join” the project; you can just submit your observations to iNaturalist, and if they meet the taxa, dates, and location criteria, they will automatically be added to the project. Not yet a member of iNaturalist? You can join here: iNaturalist.

There are also many other ways to celebrate Native Plant Appreciation Month. April might be a great time to add some native plants to your garden. Or maybe you have bigger aspirations and want to join a restoration
project or work on a community native garden. If it really is too cold and rainy, you can learn more about our native plants in Oregon Flora. What other ways can you think of to celebrate Native Plant Appreciation Month? -Judi Sanders

2023 Citizen’s Rare Plant Watch Summary and Donation Update

As many of you may know, Citizen’s Rare Plant Watch (CRPW) is a citizen/community science project involving the use of volunteers to monitor rare plant populations throughout the state of Oregon. The program was initiated and managed by NPSO Rare and Endangered Plants Committee members in 2012 but has since been hosted and managed by Portland State University’s Rae Selling Berry Seed Bank and Plant Conservation Program (RSBSB) since 2016. NPSO members have been closely involved in assisting and building this project since then and continue to volunteer during field monitoring site visits. RSBSB provided an update in their recent newsletter summarizing some of their CRPW outings from 2023 (along with other conservation news).

Last year, the NPSO State Board authorized the donation of $1,000 from the Rare and Endangered Plant Fund to CRPW with the intent of sponsoring a field monitoring site visit. More specifically, our donation went to a monitoring trip led by Kris Freitag to the Mt. Hood National Forest in search of pale blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium sarmentosum). A short summary of the season and details from that specific trip from Kris are below. - Jason Clinch, NPSO Director-at-Large and Rare and Endangered Committee Chair

We are grateful to the NPSO for the generous donation we received this year in support of CRPW. Our small groups were able to monitor fourteen rare plant populations, and individual volunteers documented an additional twelve populations of sensitive species for CRPW. One such vulnerable population took us to Little Crater Lake in the Mt Hood National Forest.

Pale blue-eyed grass, (Sisyrinchium sarmentosum) (photo by Kris Freitag) grows in the meadow area around Little Crater Lake. The last record of a visit to assess this population in the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center’s database is from 2011. But seven polygons (subpopulations) in about one square kilometer comprise that “element occurrence,” and likely not all of these were assessed during the last
recorded visit. Our team of five monitoring volunteers visited all seven subpopulations during our trip there in early July 2023.

*S. sarmentosum* is a narrow endemic in Oregon and Washington and is therefore listed as a regionally sensitive species. It favors wet meadows that contain a mix of low forbs, grasses, sedges, and scattered shrubs—oftentimes in sites where the plant diversity is higher, between flowing water and near-monocultures of dense sedges. It is difficult to see the small star-like pale blue to violet flowers against the riot of summer vegetation. With practice, we were able to key in on not only the flowers and globular fruits, but the particularities of the blade-like leaves and stems. Where we found the plant, we made a rough count and marked each grouping using mapping apps.

An important complication is the apparently increasing hybridization of *S. sarmentosum* and *S. idahoense*, Idaho blue-eyed grass. Indeed, we found areas where the characteristics, particularly the tepal colors, were mixed and where it seemed likely that *S. sarmentosum* had given way to *S. idahoense* or had even been misidentified earlier. Where we were able to collect seeds, the seed coat surface of the apparent hybrids was smoother than the less ambiguous individuals. Although none of us were experts in the distinctions, we were careful to make notes about our observations for the report to the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Biodiversity Information Center.
We found that in the largest polygon originally surveyed, much of the meadow had grown in with dense, tall sedge stands, leaving little area for any *Sisyrinchium sp.*, and we found none there. However, we found good stands of the plant in smaller subpopulations and even stands that appeared to be unambiguous. It was heartening to find the right kind of habitat and to spot one after another of the pale blue flowers after tramping through acres of dense sedges.

The NPSO State Board and Rare and Endangered Plants Committee are happy to announce continued support of CRPW through another $1,000 donation from the Rare and Endangered Plant Fund to sponsor another monitoring site visit in 2024! To find out more about CRPW and other opportunities at RSBSB, contact Kris at kfreitag@pdx.edu. To find out more about the NPSO Rare and Endangered Plant Committee and projects we work on, contact Jason at rareplants@npsoregon.org. -Kris Freitag

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Photo Gallery

Welcome to the *Bulletin* Photo Gallery! Share your photos of Oregon's native flora, field trips, restoration projects, work parties, and activities with other NPSO members. Send photos with the following information: species/event, photographer, names of any people shown in photo, date of photo, location, and any other information you would like to have included in the photo caption to bulletinnpso@gmail.com. Please get consent
Oregon Mystery Plant

Last Month's Mystery Plant Revealed

Last month's Mystery Plant was *Gnaphalium palustre*, lowland cudweed. According to *Flora of Oregon*, lowland cudweed is found in mixed woodlands, shrublands, grasslands, lake margins, riverbanks, pastures, dunes, marshes, dry beds of vernal pools, roadsides, and disturbed areas. It flowers from May to October and is found in all Oregon ecoregions. In addition to Oregon, it is found in California, Washington, Nevada, north to British Columbia, northeast to Saskatchewan, east to Nebraska, southeast to New Mexico, and south to Mexico.

Photo by Jennifer Barker

Do you have an Oregon Mystery Plant to share? Send it to the editor at bulletinnpso@gmail.com

We are Still on the Hunt for a Vice
President and Treasurer for the State Board!

If it does not feel like the right fit for you, perhaps you know someone who might fit the bill? Email us to let us know! Every board position is supported by the other twenty-plus members: the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, the immediate past president, the presidents of the eleven chapters, and six directors-at-large. An additional five non-voting board members are appointed to manage specific activities such as membership and publications.

The vice-president’s main responsibility is providing support to the president and having good organizational/facilitation skills. The treasurer maintains the financial records using QuickBooks Online and serves on the budget committee.

Elections to the board are held in April, and service begins with the Annual Meeting in late spring or early summer. The five officers serve a one-year term and may be reelected without limits.

In recent years, the Board of Directors has followed a practice of meeting four times a year, usually on a virtual platform (Zoom). The board meeting held following the Annual Meeting is conducted in person, with a “hybrid” option.

Board members are expected to attend board meetings, to actively participate on the board and in decision-making, and to serve on one or more committees or working group such as Budget, Conservation, Field Research Grants, Friends of Oregon Flora Project, Legislative, Nominations, Fellows, Website, etc.

Please email Kim Brown at secretary@npsoregon.org if you are interested in either of these positions and want more information. - Kim Brown

Glide Wildflower Show- April 27-28, 2024
Greetings from the Glide Wildflower Council to Oregon’s NPSO Chapters! The Glide Wildflower Show will be held on April 27-28, 2024. Being over fifty years old, this show is the largest showcase of native flora in the Pacific Northwest.

Features of the show include:
- Over 600 species of wildflowers, shrubs, trees, mosses, lichens, and ferns, collected throughout Southwest Oregon, artfully displayed, and labeled
- Special displays of edible and medicinal plants, natural dyes, noxious weeds, beekeeping, and photos of endangered flowers
- Roving botanists available to answer questions
- Sales of books and field guides; food, drink and homemade pies (a show tradition); and native plants

Presentations from knowledgeable speakers will include:
- Medicinal and Edible Plant Uses - Steven Yeager, Mountain Rose Herbs in Eugene
- Tribal Uses of Native Plants
- Moss Diversity in the Pacific Northwest
- Tour the Show with a Botanist - Dr. Ken Carloni, retired Umpqua Community College professor of botany
- Guided Wildflower Walks - Glide Wildflower Show collectors

The details:
- Location: Glide Community Center, Glide, Oregon seventeen miles east of Roseburg on Highway 138
- $5 suggested donation per person
- 9:00 am to 5:00 pm both Saturday and Sunday, with a photographers-only hour from 8:00 am to 9:00 am
- Accessible building, entrance around back

Visit our website at www.glidewildflowershow.org for more information. If you have questions or would like advice on planning your group’s outing, email info@glidewildflowershow.org.

For other local attractions and lodging:

We hope to welcome your NPSO chapter this year! - Serena Van Vranken for Glide Wildflower Show

American Penstemon Society Seeks Grant Applicants

American Penstemon Society grant applications are sought for 2024 special projects and for graduate student penstemon research. For more information about these grant opportunities, please visit: https://penstemons.org/index.php/society/grants

- Jason Clinch, NPSO Director-at-Large and Rare and Endangered Committee Chair

2024 Washington Botanical Symposium

University of Washington Botanic Gardens and the University of Washington Herbarium at the Burke Museum are pleased to announce the 2024 Washington Botanical Symposium (in-person with online option) on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm PST, Seattle, WA. Sponsored by Washington Native Plant Society.
Willamette Valley Chapter Scholarships Available for Students in Botany and Plant-Related Fields

The Willamette Valley Chapter of NPSO is offering $500 and $1,000 scholarships for sophomores, juniors, and seniors enrolled at an Oregon college or university for the 2024-2025 school year and who are majoring in one of the following fields of study:

- botany;
- horticulture with a focus on native plants;
- any biological, environmental, or natural resource science with a botany emphasis;
  or
- any biological, environmental, or natural resource science combined with a demonstrated intent to pursue studies or a career in a plant-based field focused on or related to native plants (e.g. ecology, systematics, sustainable natural resource management, conservation biology).

Half-time students are eligible.

A limited number of qualified applicants will be selected to receive the $500 and $1,000 scholarship awards. Applications will be accepted by mail or electronically until June 1, 2024.

Applicants must submit a completed application that includes name, address, email address, phone number, college or university name, and college or university address.

Applicants also must submit:

- a statement of academic and career intent, with a discussion of relevant
coursework, extracurricular activities, and interests - the statement should show a
demonstrated interest in native plants and the intent to pursue studies or careers
related to native plants;

- one letter of reference from a person able to judge the student’s ability to
  successfully complete study in the student’s area of major study; and
- full collegiate academic record (transcript).

Completed applications and documents can be sent by mail to:

John Savage
Jean Davis and Augusta Rockafellar Scholarship Funds
2114 Thoreau Avenue SE
Salem, OR 97302

Completed applications and documents can also be sent by email to:
wnpso@gmail.com. For any questions about the scholarship, or to obtain an application
form, contact John Savage at 503-779-5414 or at wnpso@gmail.com.

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Chapter Notes

Cheahmill

For questions, or to be added to the Cheahmill Chapter’s email list for reminders of
upcoming programs and events, please contact the Cheahmill Chapter President
at ch_president@NPSOregon.org.

Check out our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/NPSO.Cheahmill.

Friday, March 1, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm and
Saturday March 2: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Event: Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District 2024 Native Plant Sale
Location: Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, McMinnville

Online orders can be placed for the native plant sale from the Yamhill Soil and Water
Conservation District at https://yamhillswcd.org/nps/. You can also sign up for
volunteering for the event with this link.

Saturday, March 23, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Work Party: Native Plant Garden at McMinnville Public Library
Location: McMinnville Public Library

Spend a couple hours with a congenial crew and learn how the beauty, diversity and
The educational value of this mature demonstration garden is maintained with a minimum of effort. No experience is necessary. Bring gloves, bucket, and gardening tools. Dress for the weather. For more information, contact Catie Anderson at catie.fishback@gmail.com or 971-241-7634.

The library is located at 225 NW Adams Street (corner of Highway 99 W and SW Second Street), McMinnville, Oregon. The library parking lot may be entered from either Adams or Second Streets.

**Corvallis**

For questions, information on upcoming events, or to be on the Corvallis Chapter email list, contact co_president@NPSOregon.org. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/CorvallisNPSO.

**Monday, March 11, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Program:** Gardening for the Bees (and the Birds), and an Introduction to the Xerces Society

**Presenter:** David Kollen, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

**Location:** Room 2602, Cordley Hall, Oregon State University Campus, 2701 SW Campus Way or via Zoom

This program will include:

- an introduction to pollinators and their importance in natural systems and our food system;
- native bee diversity and natural history;
- some butterfly and moth natural history;
- threats facing pollinators;
- how we can play a role in pollinator conservation, both in general and in our own landscapes and communities; and
- opportunities to get involved in community science activities for those interested in going above and beyond.

Dave is a Xerces Society Ambassador and in that role is involved in educational and outreach work. Additionally, he is an Oregon Master Naturalist and Master Melittologist Apprentice. His involvement in community science includes the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas, the California Bumble Bee Atlas, and the Oregon Bee Atlas. Dave also writes pollinator-focused articles for the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs newsletter, Mahonia.

Preregister for Zoom at [https://oregonstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvceqrpzsqGtVgVJF63Yx7zw5SGdbFcfp9](https://oregonstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvceqrpzsqGtVgVJF63Yx7zw5SGdbFcfp9) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Saturday, March 30, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**
Event: Work Party at the Avery Native Plant Garden
Leader: Esther McEvoy
Location: Avery House Nature Center, Avery Park, Corvallis

Come help with spring cleanup in the gardens. Dress for the weather and bring gloves, shovel, and clippers. Contact Esther for more information or to RSVP at 541-990-0948 or estherco@peak.org.

Emerald

Visit the Emerald Chapter website 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.

Monday, March 18, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Presentation: Culturing Native Plants in the Pacific Northwest
Speaker: Michelle Osgood, Assistant Horticulturist at the U.S. Forest Service Dorena Genetic Resource Center
Location: Amazon Community Center, Main Building, 2700 Hilyard St, Eugene, Oregon

Featuring funky ferns and quirky Quercus, U.S. Forest Service horticulturist Michelle Osgood shares techniques about propagating ferns from spores, collecting wild seed, growing resilient native plants, and out planting them into the wild or even your own backyard.

Saturday, March 30, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Field Trip: Ramble
Location: Buford Park, East Entrance

Rambles are casual walks where participants identify and share knowledge of plants they encounter as a group. All levels of experience are welcome. All we ask is that you are interested in plants! We’ll walk along a gravel access road and established trails. The approximate round-trip distance will be three miles. There should be an abundance of early wildflowers. Since parking at the East Trailhead is limited, we’ll meet up two miles away at the Pisgah Public Market in Pleasant Hill and carpool from there. From southbound I-5, take exit 188 for OR58 East, “Oakridge-Klamath Falls,” and continue on OR58 for just under four miles. The Pisgah Public Market is on the left as you enter Pleasant Hill. Please call Karl Anderson at 505-257-0554 if you have questions. Sign up here.

Saturday, April 13, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Field Trip: Brice Creek Trail
Leader: Bruce Waugh

Join State Board member Bruce Waugh hiking in an old growth forest on a streamside trail through a scenic, rocky canyon. We will primarily see forest flora with the
occasional rocky bald. It is a three-mile round-trip on an easy to moderate trail. Due to the narrowness of the trail and steep drop offs, this hike is not suitable for those with vertigo or balance issues.

If participants are interested in seeing the native plant gardening and restoration Bruce has been doing on his oak woodland property outside of Cottage Grove for the past eight years, he is willing to show folks around after the walk.

Meet at South Eugene High School at 19th and Patterson Street in Eugene at 9:00 am or at Row River Nature Park in Cottage Grove at 9:30 am. Bring lunch, water, boots, rain gear, and hiking poles if desired. Sign up here

High Desert

For information, visit our website: www.highdesertnpsoregon.org or Facebook page: Native Plant Society of Oregon: High Desert Chapter, or email us at highdesertnpso@gmail.com. Find our latest field trip observations on iNaturalist, https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/high-desert-chapter-npso-field-trips.

Tuesday March 26, 7:00 pm
Presentation: Butte Biogeography: Tree Distribution in the Mountains of Central Oregon
Speaker: Bob Earle
Location: East Bend Library, 62080 Dean Swift Road

The presentation will look at disjunct populations of trees in the mountains (popularly called “buttes”) of Central Oregon. While considerable data has been collected about trees in the Cascade Range, less is known about tree species on the smaller mountains of the high desert of Central Oregon. Through many field trips, the speaker attempted to fill in the missing data. He will discuss possible reasons for the locations of the trees and reveal interesting patterns in tree distribution that he discovered.

Bob Earle is a member of our High Desert Chapter who arrived in Bend during the pandemic and spent many days exploring the buttes in Central Oregon. He teaches Geographic Information Systems and Physical Geography (Landforms, Weather, Climate, Biogeography) at Central Oregon Community College.

Wednesday, April 24, 4:00 pm
Event: High Desert Chapter Spring Social and Chapter Meeting
Location: WinterCreek Nursery, 63405 Deschutes Market Road, Bend

Come meet our incoming board members and enjoy a spring afternoon perusing WinterCreek’s extensive native plant selection. More details coming soon.

Klamath Basin

For information on the Klamath Basin Chapter, contact kb_president@npsoregon.org,
visit our website: [http://klamathbasinnps.com](http://klamathbasinnps.com), or find us on Facebook: ([13] [Klamath Basin Chapter - Native Plant Society of Oregon](https://www.facebook.com/klamathbasinnps/)) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/klamathbasinnps/).

## Portland

Our members receive *The Calochortus*, our monthly e-newsletter with field trips, programs, news, and events for the Portland area. If you are a Portland Chapter member and not receiving it, notify us at [npsopdxchapter@gmail.com](mailto:npsopdxchapter@gmail.com). You'll also find our monthly programs and additional field trips posted on our Meetup page: [meetup.com/NPSO-Portland/](https://www.meetup.com/NPSO-Portland/). Our Facebook page is regularly updated with current wildflower bloom status and photos: [facebook.com/npsopdxportland](https://www.facebook.com/npsopdxportland). Visit our chapter website at [portlandnativeplants.org](http://portlandnativeplants.org) for archived newsletters and to register for current programs. View recordings of past programs on our YouTube channel. Join one of our iNaturalist projects: [inaturalist.org/projects/npsopdx-collective-annual-projects](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/npsopdx-collective-annual-projects). Follow us on Instagram: [instagram.com/npsopdx/](https://www.instagram.com/npsopdx/).

Members will find links to register for our second Thursday Zoom presentations in each issue of the *Bulletin*, in *The Calochortus* newsletter, and on our social media channels. The Portland Chapter does not host Zoom Programs in July and August.

**Saturday, March 6-9, various times**

**Conference: 77th Annual Meeting of The Northwest Anthropological Conference**

**Location:** University Place Hotel & Conference Center
This year's theme of building bridges reflects the collaboration and connection needed in all fields and practices of Anthropology. Two of our NPSO Portland Chapter members will be speaking at the event, Dr. Gabriel Campbell and Dr. David G. Lewis. We hope you can make it! Register and find more information here.

Thursday, March 14, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Program: Forests During the Time of the Mastodons: Ziegler Reservoir Fossil Site
Presenter: Dean Miller, Data Analytics Trainer and Quaternary Paleobotanist
Location: Zoom

In 2010, during the construction of a reservoir near Snowmass Village, Colorado, bones of mammoth and other extinct species and a rich assemblage of vertebrate, plant, and other fossils were unearthed. Miller takes us on an insider’s journey into the intriguing and revealing world of paleontological and paleobotanical specimens found at the site, especially fossil conifers and their cones. His research on conifer macrofossils provides insights into the successional forest stages throughout the Pleistocene in Colorado. The Snowmass discovery offers insights into poorly understood climatic and ecological changes during the late Pleistocene at high elevations.

Register for this Zoom event here. When you register, you will receive an email with the Zoom link to join. Save it!
Tuesday, March 26, 10:00 am  
**Hike: March BioBlitz: Marching into Spring**  
**Hike Leaders:** Lecia Schall and Cheryl Brock  
**Location:** Whipple Creek Regional Park

Please join Lecia Schall and Cheryl Brock as we March forth into Spring at Whipple Creek Regional Park near Ridgefield, WA. This hidden gem is a 300-acre park with lots of crisscrossing graveled trails which border the Whipple Creek drainage. We will be looking from the treetops of this unique, temperate Douglas-fir and grand fir forest, down to the soggy ground for signs of spring. Which are the first plants to flower and leaf out? This easy 2-3-mile hike will follow the main loop, and explore some of the extra features and loops, like cedar groves and a stone mill. It could be muddy, so please wear proper footwear. Once we have our guest list, we can arrange carpooling. Contact Lecia (Lisa) schalllecia@gmail.com to RSVP. Be sure to sign up for our NPSOPDX24 March BioBlitz so you can track your observations: Marching into Spring BioBlitz.

After the hike, there will be an optional trip a bit further north to do the drive-through at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

**April is Native Plant Appreciation Month**

Join the Portland Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSOPDX) for a variety of Native Plant-related activities: Hikes, Workshops, Programs, and more. Check our [Website](#) and [Google Calendar](#) for more details.

The NPSO Portland Chapter gets ready to launch its fourth annual iNaturalist Bioblitz for the 2024 Native Plant Appreciation Month! Help us document the existence and phenology (life stage) of native plants in the greater Portland area and the Columbia River Gorge during the months of March, April and May. This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy and protect Pacific Northwest natives. If you haven't already, please download the iNaturalist app, available for iPhone or Android, and at iNaturalist.

Join this year's iNaturalist NPSOPDX24 Native Plant Appreciation BioBlitz 2024 and compare this year’s observations to the previous ones on our Collective NPAM page projects [here](#).

**Monday, April 1, 5:00 pm**  
**Hike: April BioBlitz Hike: April Fools Appreciate Native Plants, Even When They Can’t See Them.**  
**Hike Leader:** Lecia Schall  
**Location:** Canemah Bluff Nature Park

Join Lecia Schall and one of our new Hike Leaders on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 5:00 pm for one of the kick-off events for Native Plant Appreciation Month, at the very special oak and vernal pools habitat at Canemah Bluff Nature Park just south of Oregon City, OR. This easy 1-2-mile hike will take us across the basalt bluffs and into the woods,
where we will see a variety of oak habitat and plant associations, from prairie to woodland and forest.

This is a Metro Park, so no dogs are allowed. There are limited facilities, but restrooms should be available at the Canemah Children’s Park. There is limited parking, so we might want to carpool from somewhere nearby. Contact Lecia (Lisa) schalllecia@gmail.com to RSVP. Sign up for the iNaturalist: NPSOPDX24 April BioBlitz ahead of time so your timely photos and observations can be added to our database: Native Appreciation Month BioBlitz.

Thursday, April 11, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
**Zoom Presentation: Native Plants of Oregon’s Northern Coastal Range**  
**Presenter:** Kira Taylor, Naturalist  
**Location:** Zoom  

Kira shares her knowledge and enjoyment of hiking in the northern Oregon Coast Range. She will highlight the region’s native flora and fauna, as well as give us an insider’s view of several incredible hiking trails.

Register for this Zoom event here. When you register, you will receive an email with the Zoom link to join. Save it!

**Siskiyou**

To sign up for the Siskiyou Chapter NPSO monthly eNews on a new platform: [sign up](#)  

To view our YouTube Channel and watch past programs: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXFI2J9yp2AYmUzNz0jLlSw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXFI2J9yp2AYmUzNz0jLlSw)

To join a native plant google group forum: [Siskiyou-Chapter-NPSO-plant-talk@googlegroups.com](#)  


**Program: Getting Wild Restoring Biodiversity in Our Gardens and Yards**  
**Thursday, March 21, 7:00 pm**  
**Speaker:** Grace Florjancic  
**Location:** Southern Oregon University, Science Building, Room 161, Ashland  

Planting native plants is crucial to ecosystem health and to preserving and protecting life on earth. Plant choice matters, and choosing native plants helps to restore and ensure vital ecosystem services in our landscapes. Based on the work of Dr. Doug Tallamy, this presentation outlines steps you can take to create healthy, productive gardens and to help save our disappearing pollinators and birds.

Grace Florjancic is the Agricultural Master Gardener and Home Horticulture Coordinator
for Oregon State University’s Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center. Lynn established and runs the native plants nursery at Jackson County Extension Campus.

This program will also be provided as a zoom for folks who cannot attend in person. To register for the zoom: [https://bit.ly/npsotalks](https://bit.ly/npsotalks).

**Bald Mount Plant Hike**

**Sunday, April 7, 9:30 am**

**Leader: Wayne Rolle**

The Siskiyou Chapter of the NPSO is hosting a botanical field trip along the ridge of Bald Mountain. Bald Mountain is located above 5,000 feet in elevation between Talent and the Little Applegate watershed. This will be an opportunity to see the locally rare Henderson's biscuitroot (*Lomatium hendersonii*) and a few other early wildflowers that make up the diverse native flora of the area. Hike participants will enjoy great views of the Siskiyou Mountains. The hike is of moderate difficulty. Meet for carpooling in the south parking lot of Talent Elementary School (corner of Wagner Creek Road and Schoolhouse Road) at 9:30am. To register: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/botanical-field-trip-to-bald-mountain-tickets-838899339507?aff=oddtdtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/botanical-field-trip-to-bald-mountain-tickets-838899339507?aff=oddtdtcreator)

Email the trip leader Wayne Rolle at wrolle@mind.net if more information is desired. All NPSO field trips are free and open to the public.

**South Coast**

The South Coast Chapter has been recently re-established, with membership from both Curry and Coos counties. Guests of members of other chapters are welcome at our events. To join our mailing list, please contact our chapter president Charmane Mitchell at: cmainie@gmail.com.

Visit our Facebook page at: [https://www.facebook.com/NPSOSouthCoastChapter](https://www.facebook.com/NPSOSouthCoastChapter).

**Saturday, March 23, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Field trip: Skunk cabbage walk**

**Leader/Speaker: Eric Dean, South Slough Reserve Education Program Specialist and Gail Perrotti - gperrotti@earthlink.net**

**Location: South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, 61907 Seven Devils Road, Charleston, OR 97420**

See the skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) in bloom. We will meet at the interpretive center. Our walk options are either a 1.6-mile walk which includes downhill and flat terrain on good trails or boardwalk. The other option would be a little over two miles with some uphill added to first option. If desired people, can add to that on their own and make it a 3.5-to-4-mile hike. After the hike, enjoy a brown bag lunch at the interpretive center picnic tables.
**Umpqua Valley**


**Willamette Valley**

**Thursday, March 21, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm**  
Virtual Program: Bigleaf Maple Sugaring

The bigleaf maple syrup industry in Oregon is small but growing. Join Eliza Nelson, founder and director of the Oregon Maple Project, as she talks about the process of tapping bigleaf maple trees and then producing a delicious, local syrup for market. For more information and to register for this Zoom presentation, email John Savage at [wvnpso@gmail.com](mailto:wvnpso@gmail.com).

**Friday and Saturday, March 22 and 23, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
Field Trip: Deepwood Museum and Gardens Native Plant Sale

Members of the Willamette Valley Chapter of the NPSO will lead flower walks to view the Oregon fawn-lily (*Erythronium oregonum*) and other blooming wildflowers on the Deepwood Nature Trail at 10:00 am and 12:00 pm on both days of the Deepwood Museum and Gardens Native Plant Sale. The walks will start near the Deepwood parking lot. For information about the plant sale and flower walks, visit the event webpage at [https://deepwoodmuseum.org/events/annual-events/](https://deepwoodmuseum.org/events/annual-events/) or call 503-363-1825.

**William Cusick**

Chapter notices and communications are done primarily through a Google group. For more information or to be added to the Google group, please contact Susan Geer at 541-963-0477 or [susanmgeer@gmail.com](mailto:susanmgeer@gmail.com). Our website is not currently functional.

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**Native Plant Interest Groups:**

**Filipendula**

For more information, visit our Facebook page: [NPSO-Filipendula Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/NPSO-Filipendula-Chapter-188313171143000)

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**NPSO State Officers**

- President: Steven Yeager, [president@npsoregon.org](mailto:president@npsoregon.org)
- Immediate Past President: Dan Luoma, [past_president@npsoregon.org](mailto:past_president@npsoregon.org)
- Vice President: Lisa Blackburn, [vice-president@npsoregon.org](mailto:vice-president@npsoregon.org)
- Secretary: Kim Brown, [secretary@npsoregon.org](mailto:secretary@npsoregon.org)
- Treasurer: Michael Hartman, [treasurer@npsoregon.org](mailto:treasurer@npsoregon.org)
• Directors: Gail Baker, Stephen Meyers, Jason Clinch, Dave Garcia, Alexis Larsen

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• Budgets and Grants: Dan Luoma
• Conservation: Dawn Anzinger
• Friends Of The Oregon Flora Project: Linda Hardison
• Legislative: Dave Garcia
• Membership: Willow Elliott
• NPSO Fellows: Vacant
• Rare & Endangered Plants: Jason Clinch
• Bulletin Editor: Faye Streier, Proofreaders: Kaitlin Andersen, Ken Berg, Camille Stewart
• Webmaster: Tom Pratum
• More information about our NPSO Fellows here.

Chapter Presidents and contact information can be found here.

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