

Marjorie Larsen Ettinger (1924-2019) and Richard Howard Ettinger, M.D. (1924-2014) “Are the flowers smiling at you today?”

Susan Ettinger (Harless) Schneider
Bend, Oregon

One bright spring day in 1979 found Marjorie “Marge” (the botanist) and her husband, Richard “Dick” (the photographer), immersed in their botanical work, oblivious to their surroundings. Dick was lying on his stomach to photograph a plant under a tiny white umbrella that diffused the light to get the best details. Suddenly, they were faced with two serious-looking young Indian men. Botanizing in the “middle of nowhere” on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, they had heard no



Marge and Dick Ettinger in 2003. Photo by Janine Robberson from a sailing trip to Prince William Sound in Alaska.

sound of the men’s approach. One of the men demanded, “What are you doing here?” Dick explained their unusual-looking actions. The men did not seem satisfied with their explanation. Dick and Marge were starting to worry, for they were in terrain that had been off-limits to “outsiders” (non-Indians) since the treaty of 1855. But Marge and Dick had earned the trust of the Tribal Council and had permission to be there. Once Dick presented the document from the Tribal Council, the young men relaxed and left soon after, as silently as they had approached. The word apparently circulated on the Reservation, because from then on, whenever they came across tribal members during their research, they were always greeted in a warm, friendly manner. The most memorable greeting they received was “Are the flowers smiling at you today?”

But now we need to go back in time and trace the history of the land that became the Reservation and describe how Marge and Dick became the botanist/photographer team exploring it.

The Warm Springs Reservation

The protected tribal lands of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation encompass the deep canyons of the Deschutes and Metolius rivers and extend to the upper reaches of Mt. Jefferson and the foothills of Mt. Hood. Certain parts of this region had for millennia provided passage for many indigenous peoples for hunting, fishing, gathering and ceremonial trading. Their livelihood depended on native plants and animals, but the details of this knowledge

remained within their culture, passed from one generation to the next. Columbia River tribes, as well as Great Basin tribes, shared trade goods in many places. The busiest trade routes were close to the rivers flowing into the Columbia River, such as the north-flowing Deschutes River, which forms the eastern boundary of the Reservation. Shells, baskets, dried salmon and venison were some of the most frequently traded items.

In 1854-1855 the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Oregon Territory negotiated treaties with various tribes. Even though tribal members did not perceive their lands as “real estate,” a commodity to be bought and sold, in 1855 the Warm Springs and Wasco bands agreed to the terms in order to retain some of their ancestral lands. The Treaty of 1855 was not ratified by Congress until 1859, when the final agreements were signed for occupation by the Warm Springs and Wasco tribes. Members of the Paiute tribe were re-located there in 1879.

The early flow of over-landers (emigrants from the east) began in 1843 and headed west past this part of the Oregon Territory to claim prime lands in the Willamette



Mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*) wood was hardened by heat as it was made into root digging sticks. Photo by Cameron Kerr at the High Desert Museum.

Valley. When those fertile lands were occupied, emigrants looked to settle in eastern Oregon. But by then the Reservation lands had been defined by treaty for several decades, making them off-limits to settlers' claims. From the time the treaty was ratified in 1859, non-Indians found it difficult to obtain any access to the Reservation.

While the native peoples knew the land and drew their livelihood from its resources for untold generations, the first botanical explorer to leave written records of his travels was Dr. John Strong Newberry, who traveled through the area in 1855 (before the treaties were ratified). That year was a time of much unrest between native people and explorers, prospectors and potential settlers, contributing to fear and mistrust on both sides. Despite this, Newberry, serving as physician, geologist and botanist for the U.S. Pacific Railroad Survey, documented more than 600 species of plants as part of his attempt to discern those phenomena "which have controlled the radiation of species from their original centers of creation." [see article on J.S. Newberry on pages 10-19.]

It was not until 1949 that the first road (Highway 26) was paved through the Reservation. The Confederate Tribes of the Warm Springs acquired the nearby hot springs in the 1960s and in the following decade opened



Mountain mahogany flowers. Photo by R.H. Ettinger on May 1, 1976 near Smith Rocks.

a resort (Kah-Nee-Ta), with a golf course, food, and lodging. In 1967, the Tribe built a plywood plant and lumber mill which, along with logging, provided jobs for tribal members (and others). However, as a whole, the Reservation lands were not subjected to the disturbance and destruction of native habitats that occurred in the surrounding areas open to widespread development.

Botanical Exploration on Reservation Lands

It was nearly 100 years after Newberry passed through the area in 1855 that the first scientific investigation connected to botany was conducted. In the early 1950s, Dr. David French and his wife, Dr. Kathrine French, were allowed to begin research on the Reservation. The Frenches studied cultural elements, linguistics, and ethnobotany of the three cultures of the Reservation: the Wasco (Warm Springs), Sahaptin, and Paiute tribes. Beginning in the mid-1980s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded botanical/ecological studies on the commercial forest lands (see Richard Helliwell sidebar). Madras resident Melvin Ashwill found fossils in some of the ash exposed by the road cuts of the Warm Springs Canyon road through the Reservation. He began working on exposed paleoflora specimens, documenting a rich fossil plant history that spanned from 35 to 5.3 million years ago. His important work demonstrated that oak (*Quercus* sp.) "is one of the most persistent fossil species found on the Reservation" (Ashwill 1983).

The Biscuitroots

Many of the important sources of sustenance for Native Americans in the arid West are plants with roots, bulbs, or corms. Most are members of the Apiaceae (celery or carrot family) with common names of biscuitroot, desert parsley, Indian cous or yampah. Widely distributed, they are nutritious and can be easily dried for winter use. Helliwell listed 21 additional edible plant species on the Reservation (Helliwell 1988).

Each year tribal women celebrated the "first foods" of the season by ceremonially digging roots with sticks made of mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*) hardened by slow heat for strength. The best digging sticks were gifted to new young women joining the task. The women dug up the long, tuberous root from the soil and cleaned off the dirt before putting it into their baskets. During the digging, pieces of viable root were placed back into the



Digging tools and skills for extracting edible roots were passed down from experienced older women to tribal girls. Photo by Cameron Kerr at the High Desert Museum.

ground to maintain the population for future harvests. This practice, which botanists call intensification, increased the yields of certain plants in areas where they grew best: “We give back a portion of what we’re given” (French 1952-58).

As one enters the plains north of the town of Warm Springs, one *Lomatium* of particular interest filled the fields with its thick, mustard-colored blossoms. French tried to key it out, but felt that it differed from already-described taxa. He turned to the resources of his former student at Reed, Dr. Robert Ornduff at Berkeley, to study it. The closest fit appeared to be *Lomatium cous*. He determined that the “thickened, but elongate root is within the range of variation of both *L. watsonii* and *L. cous* but is more readily included with the former” (Ornduff and French 1958). The following year

Mathias and Constance (1959) published it as a new species, *Lomatium frenchii* Math. & Const. Since then, other botanists determined that it fits within the range of variation of *L. watsonii*, and subsumed it into that species. In other locations, Native Americans recognize differences between *Lomatium* populations that are not currently recognized by taxonomists; perhaps more detailed DNA studies can determine whether *L. frenchii* is a variant of *L. watsonii* or a separate taxon.

In the mid-1950s when French first found this *Lomatium* on the open fields north of the Warm Springs Canyon, their bright flowers formed waves over the fields in the spring. Sadly, the intervening sixty years have taken their toll on the plants at Warm Springs. The fields that once were abundant sources of traditional foods have succumbed to the tragic fate of overgrazing by the wild horse overpopulation on the Reservation. Denuded fields are now full of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*).

The Ettingers’ Path to Central Oregon

Both Marge Larsen and Dick Ettinger were born in Aurora, Illinois, in 1924. They attended the same grade school and met when they were in the third grade, going on to attend East Aurora High School together. Both of their fathers were working for the Burlington railroad in different capacities throughout the Great Depression. As a girl Marge had malaria and was often afflicted with swimmer’s ear which left her hearing severely impaired.

During their early years, Dick was placed a year ahead in school, graduating from East Aurora High School in



Lomatium watsonii is described as “much like a small form of *L. cous*, with yellow flowers and a thickened elongate taproot.” Photo by Paul Slichter.

Dr. David Heath French (1918-1994)

Anthropologist, linguist, and ethnobotanist

**Dr. Kathrine “Kay” McCulloch Story French
(1922-2006)**

Cultural anthropologist

During World War II the Warm Springs Tribal Council began to extend Reservation privileges to students. The first was Thelma Drake Cliff at the University of Oregon who wrote her PhD thesis in 1942 on the historical formation and governance of the nearly 652,160-acre Reservation.

The next student was ethnobotanist David French who was born in Bend, Oregon, and attended Reed College for three years (1935-1939). When Morris Opler, his mentor at Reed, moved to Pomona College and Claremont Graduate School in 1938, French followed him and completed his BA at Pomona in 1939 and his MA at Claremont in 1940. French also did archeological field work directed by Dr. Luther S. Cressman, Professor at University of Oregon in Eugene. Cressman is best known for discovering the 10,000-year-old sagebrush sandals in a cave near Fort Rock, Oregon.

David French earned his PhD at Columbia University, where he was heavily influenced by the work of Franz Boaz, who directed that research be characterized by meticulous and thorough anthropological recovery ethnography, conducting linguistic and ethnographic research in tandem. French's dissertation fieldwork was

done at Isleta Pueblo in the Southwest in 1941-42. He defended his dissertation in 1943 but because of World War II, he did not receive his PhD until 1949. David married fellow student Kay Story in 1943. World War II interrupted their studies, and they worked for the War Relocation Authority, monitoring conditions at relocation centers for interned Japanese-Americans until 1946.

Kay Story also studied at Pomona College, where she received her BA in philosophy and anthropology in 1942. In addition, she was concurrently pursuing a PhD at Columbia University. Her thesis was on the “Cultural Segments and Variation in Contemporary Social Ceremonialism on the Warm Springs Reservation, Oregon” (French 1995). After completing her degree in 1955, she and her husband embarked on learning more about the reservation's botanical resources. Ethnobotanical studies (how indigenous people use the plants that grow around them) had not been done at Warm Springs. Starting in 1949 they spent more than twenty years compiling that knowledge.

David joined the faculty at Reed College (1947-88) and Kay began working at the University of Oregon Medical School (later Oregon Health Sciences University). Their work on linguistics, ethnobotany, and multicultural communities became widely recognized by their peers. Living in a lovely home on Woodstock Blvd. in Portland, Oregon, across from the campus, they hosted many late-night discussions with groups of students. (They were also known for not answering a phone call before noon.)

During their Warm Springs visits they recognized a species in the parsley family (Apiaceae), which had unusually long tubers, providing more food per plant than other species (Ornduff and French 1960). Mathias and Constance (1959) named it *Lomatium frenchii*, but it was subsumed into *Lomatium watsonii* because it differed in only minor characteristics (Hitchcock *et al.* 1977).

The Frenches' most significant publications were ethnobotanical surveys of which plants were not used or eaten, and



From left, Kay French, student Jane Shell Raymond, and David French in 1964. Photo courtesy of Reed College special collections.

a long 1961 monograph-length article on cultural change at Warm Springs (French 1961). David and Kay wrote several definitive articles for the Smithsonian Institution's *Handbook of North American Indians* featuring Plateau linguistics, subsistence, naming practices, and the Wasco-Wishram-Cascades peoples (French and French 1998). In addition to their own publications, David French's students at Reed published six significant works on the Warm Springs and Burns Paiute tribes. In 1988 the American Anthropological Association honored him with their prestigious Distinguished Service Award.

The Frenches supported the Ettingers' botanical exploration of the entire Warm Springs Reservation, encouraging them to expand the survey beyond their own collections around the occupied areas, by promoting the full botanical survey to the Warm Springs Tribal Council. After David's sudden death in 1994, Kay arranged for Marge to curate David's ethnobotanical collection. She remounted all of his plants, and along with Kay's help, established an herbarium at the Museum of Warm Springs. Kay died in 2006. Much of their ethnobotanical research was never published, including three huge volumes of hand-written notes, which have been electronically transcribed and placed in the archives of the Museum of Warm Springs (French 1952-58). Dr. Robert E. Moore (a former student) was hired in 2008 to curate a full basement of collected works, which now reside, meticulously noted and labeled, in 110 boxes at the University of Washington Special Collections Library.



The type location for *Lomatium frenchii*, collected by David French a mile northwest of Mill Creek on the Warm Springs Reservation, is peripheral to both the ranges of *L. watsonii* and *L. cous*, the two species it resembles. French's lomatium keys to *L. watsonii* because of its connate bractlets below the flowers and fruits. Photo by Paul Slichter.

1940, at the age of 16. He entered a 5-year combined college/medical school program as an Army private at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago as World War II was brewing in Europe. In 1942, Marge entered Milliken College in Decatur, Illinois, where she studied science and dietetics for three years in a college bereft of the men who had gone to war. Each was the first college student in his/her family.

Dick and Marge married on June 9, 1945, a month after the end of World War II. After the war, Dick entered an internship at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, and a year later, he joined a private medical practice in Chicago. Their first child was born in 1947. When the Korean War began in June 1950, Dick re-enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC, for three years of additional training in internal medicine and research. When they returned to Chicago after his discharge in 1953, they soon found themselves longing for a different life. Thus, in snowy January 1954, Dick, now pushing 30 years old, began a tour of western cities, seeking a place to re-establish his practice. He traveled alone, driving through Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, and western Oregon.

While he was visiting in Portland, Oregon, he was told that the medical group in a town named Bend was seeking another internist. He drove southeast from Portland over the mountain pass at Mt. Hood, then headed south on US Highway 26, through the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. This road cuts through dense forests for over a half hour before breaking out onto the open sky of the High Desert. Mt. Jefferson burst into the skyline, framing the open shrubland shining in the sun. Down the Warm Springs Canyon, he traveled past the small reservation town of Warm Springs where he crossed the new bridge over the Deschutes River and ascended again to greet the open sky filled with even more volcanic mountains along the western skyline. The tiny farming towns of Madras and Redmond passed quickly, and he entered Bend from the north.

It was a cold, bright snowy day. He was looking for the hospital he had heard about on what was then known as Hospital Hill. He ascended the small cinder cone hill to a parking lot. And a view! What a view! From that hill, he could count at least seven mountains peaks over 9,000 feet high. It wasn't that the mountains were higher or closer there than in places he'd already visited. Seattle and Tacoma certainly had Mt. Rainier, and even nearby Bellingham, where his in-laws had moved, had Mt. Baker.

Richard D. Helliwell

Richard Helliwell came to the Warm Springs Reservation in 1985 as a botanist/plant ecologist for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Forestry Department. He had a BA in anthropology (University of Maryland, 1979) and BS in biology (Southern Oregon College, 1985), and later pursued further botanical study at Oregon State University, 1987. Over the next two years, Helliwell worked with forester Frank Marsh to develop a plant association guide for the commercial forest lands of the reservation, including the work of Jean Rodgers, who had left by the time Helliwell arrived (Marsh *et al.* 1987). After that, he spent two years conducting ethnobotanical studies through the tribe's Culture and Heritage department.

Using previous collections in the reservation's forestry department and his own field work, Helliwell compiled a list of economic forest plants. For each species, he reported its distribution range, fire sensitivity, value for livestock and wildlife, and cultural significance (Helliwell 1988). The latter was derived from his work with David French to include the Native American names for culturally significant plants used by each of the three tribes on the reservation. The other principal outputs were two reports: "Ecology and management of piaksi (*Lewisia rediviva*), xauš (*Lomatium cous*), and lukš (*Lomatium canbyi*)" and "Ecology and management of sawitk (*Perideridia gairdneri*) and camas (*Camassia* spp.)."

In addition to the two publications, he recognized the need for a well-organized study herbarium for the Reservation, for which he carefully identified and labeled 600 specimens. This collection is available for study by contacting the tribal Department of Forestry offices in Warm Springs. Helliwell left the Warm Springs Reservation in 1989 and has since worked as a botanist for the Mt. Hood, Ochoco and Umpqua National Forests.



Cascade Peaks. Photo by Robert Korfhage.

It seemed that stunningly high volcanic peaks were everywhere, but none had the impact on him like the view from Bend.

The first view of the central Oregon Cascades is likely to catch a person such as Dick or Marge off-guard, especially if you are from a place that is flat, such as most of Illinois. Approaching from any direction, whether the two-lane road winds through thick, ancient coniferous forests or creeps across treeless lake beds filled with sagebrush, you are unprepared for the sheer magnificence of the view. This view of the mountains against the western sky immediately captivated Dick.

To top it all off, the town had charm as well. While looking for a parking space, he'd passed a gorgeous chestnut horse harnessed to a red one-horse open sleigh, tied to a parking meter. It turned out that one of the doctor's cars was not able to navigate the snow, so he had borrowed the rig from a neighbor in order to make his rounds for patients. Dick found a community of extremely well-trained, compatible physicians who welcomed him warmly. Within two weeks of settling on practice arrangements, he arrived back in Bend with Marge and their three children.

In stark contrast to Dick's arrival, Marge entered Bend during a temperature inversion that maintained a dense fog that didn't disperse for several days. But when the inversion lifted, she was just as amazed as he had been with the view of the glorious mountain peaks on the western horizon. Bend was nearly the same size as Aurora, Illinois, the town Dick and Marge had grown up in: both had about 10,000 residents, healthy downtowns, and good schools. It was exactly the fit they were looking for. He promised her then, that by the time they were old, they would know every plant, every bird, every peak, every animal that they encountered between the city and the mountain tops.

The city of Bend was also young, just going on 50 years old, having been chartered in 1904. It could have been called "just a logging town," as many western logging towns were. A map from 1904 in timberman Samuel Johnson's Redmond office showed Oregon with penciled-in roads and logging areas in the area between Bend and California. The area held billions of board feet of ponderosa pine, spruce, and Douglas-fir. Most of the families who helped to build Bend were from third generation lumbermen, many from the upper Midwest where timber stands had been depleted. Much of the lumber was shipped elsewhere in response to the post-war housing boom.

As Dick began to build his medical practice, Marge was busy shepherding their five children (whose ages spanned 11 years) and creating community through volunteer activities. Offerings by the locally-funded Central Oregon Community College (COCC) enticed them to attend evening classes, including geology, US history, and botany. Most of the instructors became life-long friends, as they filled in the gaps of their lean education during

the war years. Dick once registered as a graduate student in order to take a geology class from his favorite professor, Dr. Bruce Nolf.

Dick already had many photographic skills when he was introduced to Swedish botanical photographer Torkel Korling in 1965. An avid and world-recognized botanical print specialist, Korling was spending a few days in the Bend area with friends from Illinois, and he enthusiastically shared his methods with Dick (Boylan 1998). Thereafter, Dick used a 12-inch opaque white umbrella to diffuse the light on plants, with lovely results.

Central Oregon Community College: learning, teaching, and the herbarium

In 1965 Marge took a biology/botany class from Associate Professor Harvey Waldron and learned to key out plants with the new *Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon* (Peck 1961) she had received as a birthday gift. Over 50 years later, she still had the book, where the inscription on the front page read: "August 10, 1965. With all of our amazement, admiration and love, Dick." Dick and Marge also began to take botany trips together, gathering plants they expected to find and relishing the ones new to their studies. Marge collected the plants after Dick photographed them. As Marge began bringing in plants to key out, Waldron offered to mentor her further by showing her how to curate an herbarium. He had a small personal collection, and many of his students left their important botanical collections in his care. She volunteered to mount the specimens in the small collection stored in an old file cabinet. However, no space for an herbarium had been allocated on the COCC campus (which opened in 1964).

Early in the spring of 1965, the first plant was entered into the herbarium accession card catalogue: *Viola adunca* var. *bellifolia*. Space for an official herbarium was finally dedicated in 1970 in the newly constructed Ochoco Hall. Marge eagerly began curating the plants and recording the data. The first 153 plants were collected by Waldron, his wife Genevieve, or his botany students. Marge's first entry in the accession book was dated August 6, 1976: *Mimulus moschatus* Dougl. By 1996 the accession books included 2,835 specimens, each recorded in her careful handwriting. Since then the collection has grown to over 6,000 specimens, now housed in COCC's new Science Center, and the data are compiled on a computer. In 1998, Marge and Dick decided to create an endowment fund for curation of the Herbarium. In 2000, at the 50th anniversary of COCC, the herbarium was named for its founder, Harvey Waldron. By that time, donations to the Etingers' endowment fund were adequate to assure the safekeeping of its botanical collections. The herbarium's current curator is Christine Ott-Hopkins, professor emerita at COCC, who taught botany and biology courses from 1993 to 2013. She started working with Marge in 1993 to identify which plants should remain in the Waldron Herbarium and which should be transferred to the Museum at Warm

COCC Herbarium named

In honor of its founder, the Harvey M. Waldron, Jr. Herbarium was formally named in a recent presentation. Waldron taught Botany and Biology at the College for more than 25 years, retiring in 1985. The Herbarium began with fewer than 200 dried and labeled plant specimens, and now houses more than 4,000. After Waldron retired, it was curated by Marge Etinger for many years, and is now managed by Dr. Christine Ott-Hopkins. An endowment established by Dick and Marge Etinger will fund the ongoing preservation of this important floral heritage of Central Oregon well into the future.

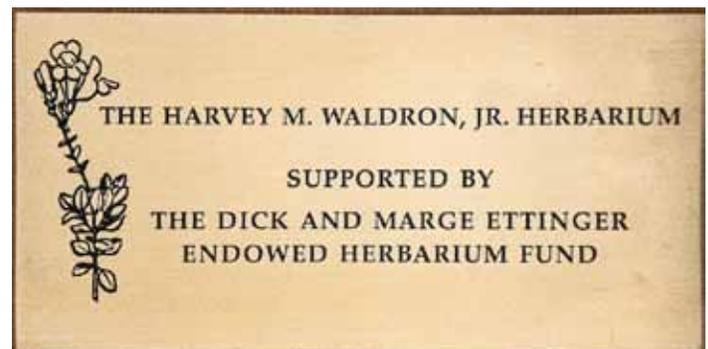


Harvey and Genevieve Waldron and Dick and Marge Etinger at Herbarium naming.

The COCC Herbarium became the Harvey Waldron Herbarium in 2000. Article from COCC Foundation Legacies, Summer 2000.

Springs, the newly created museum on the Reservation. Marge and Christine spent many hours together repairing, identifying, and cataloging the nearly 3,500 specimens they curated. They treasured their friendship and collegiality, and deep love of botany. When the herbarium at the University of Oregon closed and sent a load of central Oregon specimens to COCC, they worked together to accession them. The next step for this herbarium will be to add it to the Consortium for Pacific Northwest Herbaria, so its information will be available online.

In 1984, Marge had an opportunity to teach Taxonomy of Plants, and Waldron had carefully prepared



Plaque outside the COCC Herbarium. Photo by Robert Korfhage.



Margie Ettinger with Penstemon on the Warm Springs Reservation, mid-1990s
Photo by Christine Ott-Hopkins.

her for her first classroom experience. Unfortunately, her hearing deficit impeded her, and she never tried teaching again. Instead, students sought her out in the herbarium for private coaching and mentoring, at which she excelled.

In 1983 OSU offered a Bachelor's of Liberal Studies (BLS) degree program through COCC, so she and other students who hadn't finished their degrees signed up. The classes were filmed in Corvallis, and a telephone connection allowed the Bend students to ask questions as the class was being taught. She finished her BLS at age 63, the oldest graduate of OSU in 1987.

As she gained proficiency in keying out plants, the youngest of her three sons, Bill, began to share her enthusiasm. He later went on to earn a PhD and is now a professor at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. He recalls the following story:

"My mother had been a fan of flowers since before I can remember. She always wanted to know what a certain flower was. She had field guides on regional wildflowers and took them everywhere. But she really became actively involved in botany in the late 1960s or early 1970s. She took some botany courses from COCC, and then began to seriously key out wildflowers. The act of keying a flower is intensive. It often requires samples

of the root, stem, flowers and often seed as well. The root needs to be examined to see if the plant is a perennial, biennial, or annual. The stem is examined closely to note if the plant is prostrate or erect, as is the arrangement and shape of leaves, and if there are any short hairs or pubescence. The flowers are picked apart to see how many petals there are, the petal arrangement, if they are fused together or separate, the number of pollen-producing stamens, their arrangement, and the type of ovary and pollen-receptive stigmatic surface. It takes time to learn the skills and vocabulary necessary to key a flower out, it takes years to be able to discern the fine differences in the plant keys and to become adept at it, and it can take hours of time on an individual flower. She was particularly cautious in her identifications. She sent several recalcitrant plants off to others to double check her identification.

I was particularly excited to take my first plant systematics course in college. I could finally appreciate the high level of her training, her patience, and her skill. For several seasons I took a summer job as a fire guard for the Malheur National Forest in eastern Oregon. I took a dissecting scope, flower book, plant press, and note pads out with me during these summers. When I found plants that I didn't know I would sit down after work and try to figure them out. One time I had a particularly difficult plant to key out. I spent several evenings fretting over the plant without any progress. Finally, I called mom on the phone. While I chatted with her, she had me describe where I found the plant, how it grew, and what the roots, stems, leaves and flowers looked like. Next, she had me sit down with the flower under a dissecting scope. She led me through a dissection of the flower. We began the process of keying it out. She was going through her copy of the book (Hitchcock and Cronquist 1973), while I went through mine. It was obvious at an early stage that I had misidentified the type of ovary in the flower. From that point on I could have spent the rest of my life on the flower and book, and never reached a correct identification. We had a good laugh over that. Once she had me on the correct track, I identified my first globe mallow. I am pretty sure she knew what the flower was an hour earlier, but she made me work for it and learn from the process."
—Bill Ettinger

The High Desert Museum

In 1978 Marge began attending Native Plant Society (NPSO) meetings, where she met Dr. Stu Garrett and others who shared her interest in plants. At a High Desert Chapter meeting, Caryn Talbot Throop presented a slide show about a proposed museum focusing on the natural history of the lava plains. Caryn lingered to meet the

attendees, including Marge and Dick who subsequently attended more meetings held to develop the High Desert Museum. At the meetings, Caryn outlined future needs for the museum, one of which was “to create the appropriate native plant communities as context, settings, and subjects for the exhibitions on the Intermountain West that they had envisioned.” She sent her new botanist friends to collect plant materials: “Marge was one of the most active in gathering seeds from the specified locales and elevations. She was meticulous and prolific over a couple of seasons.” Later, Marge assisted with some transplanting and tending of the native plants (always from public lands, by permit).

Botanical Exploration of the Warm Springs Reservation

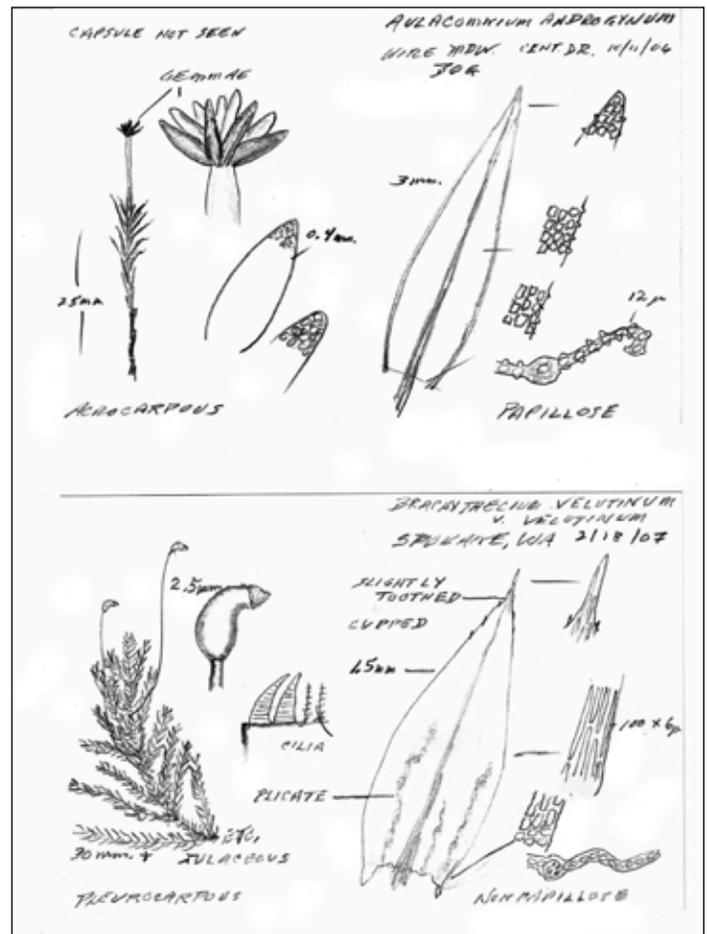
As they gained botanical expertise, the Ettingers increased their efforts to reach parts of Oregon they had not previously explored. In 1979 another opportunity presented itself, opening the doors to an area that had never been fully explored by botanists, the Warm Springs Reservation. The Tribal Council approved the Ettingers’ research proposal, thanks to the help of their neighbor and friend, Owen Panner, who, as the Tribal Council’s lawyer, vouched for their integrity.

Thus, from 1979 through 1996, the Ettingers explored and documented the area’s botanical diversity. Marge’s collection of 1,784 specimens are stored in the COCC Herbarium, with an additional 436 specimens at the Museum of Warm Springs. Their botanical collection provided a more complete botanical assessment of the Reservation, building on earlier studies by the Frenches and Helliwell. For more than fifteen years they were allowed full access to the Reservation, often traveling by horseback or on gravel roads with their trusty Jeep Wagoneer. It was a rare and wonderful opportunity. George Schneiter, who lived on the Reservation after retiring from Oregon State University Extension Service, often accompanied them.

The Ettingers published the results of their investigation in an Oregon Plants, Oregon Places article in *Kalmiopsis*: “Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon: Botanical Description and Floral Checklist” (Ettinger and Harless 1995). Dick took the cover photo for the journal of a statue at the Warm Springs Tribal Council Building. The statue, created by Richard Breyer of Seattle, depicts a Warm Springs woman elder digging food plants.

Mosses

Following their years working on the Warm Springs Reservation, Dick became interested in understanding bryophytes. His accumulated specimens and associated data began in 2004 and ran through 2008. Christine Ott-Hopkins, biology professor at COCC, shared her find of the moss *Buxbaumia* near the McKenzie River with Dick and Marge. The next weekend, the three of them went



Moss drawing by Dick Ettinger.

back to re-locate specimens so Dick could photograph it. Although Dick’s moss collections are focused in central Oregon, they span from Arizona to Alaska. The complete list includes 503 specimens, drawings and photographs. They are now housed at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

The Ettinger Legacy

In 2014 Dick passed suddenly at age 90; Marge followed him five years later in 2019 at the age of 94. Her final botanical determination, when she was 94, was of a lovely chocolate lily, collected by her 8-year old great-granddaughter, Abbie Mollat, on James Island, Washington. Always an eager teacher, she passed on her love of botany to her children, grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. The Ettinger descendants, along with the students she mentored and those who continue to use the COCC herbarium, all benefit from Marge and Dick’s enthusiasm for botany, photography, and the natural world around them. As a final gift, the family requested that donations in Marge’s honor go to the Waldron Herbarium Endowment Fund at COCC. This is a legacy that truly keeps on giving, because, without a curator, small herbaria are often abandoned and cease to exist.

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Checked lily or chocolate lily (*Fritillaria lanceolata*) collected on April 23, 2018 by Abbie Mollat (age 8) at West Cove, James Island, Washington and keyed out by Marge Ettinger (age 94). Photo by Wendy H. Mollat.