

NPSO FELLOWS AWARDS

Barbara Mumblo - 2018

Barb Mumblo's family lived in five different states (never more than five years at any location) during her father's US Air Force career. In 1975 she found her forever home in Oregon when she and her 6-year-old daughter visited Oregon. She was inspired to go back to school after participating in a plant hike on the Pacific Crest Trail at Mt. Ashland led by Dr. Frank Lang, a botany professor at Southern Oregon State College (SOSC, now Southern Oregon University). Barb finished her BS in Biology at SOSC in 1980 with enough classes in botany to qualify for botanist positions with the federal government. Her first job was a biological technician gathering field data and monitoring rare plants for the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from 1981-87. She then took a forestry technician position with the Rogue River National Forest which led to the District Botanist position on the Applegate Ranger District within a couple of years. There she was responsible for "all things botanical," including managing the programs for rare plants, invasive species, fire rehabilitation, and restoration projects for bitterbrush and in oak woodland communities. On New Year's Eve 2015 she retired as District Botanist from the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District (formerly the Applegate Ranger District), where she had served as botanist for 28 years, with occasional work on the Coast and the High Cascades. She is best known as an advocate for the region's rare and endemic plants and for her work on noxious weeds both as a professional botanist and as a volunteer.

For decades, Barb tirelessly tabled and presented community talks on identifying and controlling noxious weeds. She led or joined innumerable weed-pulling work parties and helped coordinate the annual Let's Pull Together educational noxious weed event with the Jackson County Weed Management Area. She took the lead in manually controlling a new threat, yellow floating-heart (*Nymphoides peltata*), in Little Squaw Lake, a project that involved removing plants and, with the help of scuba divers and volunteers in kayaks, covering the lake bottom with landscaping barrier fabric to prevent re-establishment by seed germination and rooting of fragments. Barb was

recognized for her incredible service and received the 2002 Special Recognition Award from the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the 2012 US Forest Service Region 6 award for Invasive Plant Manager of the Year for outstanding dedication, professionalism, and effectiveness in combating weeds in the Pacific Northwest Region.

She joined NPSO in 1988, so has been a member of the Siskiyou Chapter for 30 years. She has volunteered in so many capacities that the following listing may not include all of them. At the State level, she served as NPSO Director-at-Large in 1989-91. At the Chapter level, she was President twice (1991-92 and 1996-97), Secretary/Treasurer (1988-89), and Field Trip Coordinator for four years (1991-95). Barb has also helped coordinate annual meetings, led numerous plant walks, collected and identified plants for the Siskiyou Chapter 4th of July Wildflower Show for over 30 years and identified plants for the Shady Cove Wildflower Show for 20 years. She led wildflower walks for over 20 years on the Table Rocks as part of The Nature Conservancy/BLM guided hike series. She currently oversees the enormous task of coordinating

the Irene Hollenbeck Memorial July 4th Wildflower Show in Ashland. She has also volunteered to help plan the 2019 annual meeting hosted by the Siskiyou Chapter.

From her home in a forest in the Applegate Valley, Barb continues to volunteer in many ways to safeguard our beautiful natural plant communities. It is not unusual to hear that someone spotted Barb along a roadside pulling invasive weeds. Barb is an incredible asset to the Native Plant Society of Oregon and skillfully and humbly makes a difference in the community. —*Kristi Mergenthaler, Siskiyou Chapter.*

Linda Ann Vorobik - 2019

When Linda was just a baby, her parents bought 34 acres on Lopez Island, the perfect setting to learn about the natural world around her. She started by helping her mother in the garden, then expanded to surrounding natural areas. Her parents taught her the names of the native plants and gave her art supplies for birthday and holiday gifts, encouraging her natural artistic talents as well. She took every class that her favorite



high school teacher, Coleman Leuthy, taught: botany, chemistry, photography, and more. Based on her love of animals, she started college with the intention of becoming a veterinarian. She soon realized that ecology, botany and geology were more exciting and involved studying outdoors, and the labs smelled wonderful, not like the preservatives used for animal specimens. At Western Washington University in Bellingham, she acquired two mentors: Dr. Ron Taylor (author of *Sagebrush Country*) and Dr. Rich Fonda (vegetation of the San Juan Islands and the Olympic Peninsular river terraces). She completed a BA in biology with a minor in math in 1977. In 1978 she worked for The Nature Conservancy Natural Heritage Program and spent a year with Jean Siddall assembling the first rare plant list for Oregon. One weekend during that year she visited the Siskiyou Mountains and fell permanently under their spell. The summer of 1979 she went to Ketchikan, Alaska, to work as the sole field botanist for the Tongass National Forest. This was during the first year of her Fellowship with Dr. David Wagner, where she worked in the herbarium and assisted with the spring Systematic Botany class. Wagner encouraged both her artistic and botanical interests with his “zen-like approach to academics.” Linda went on to earn a PhD in Biology in 1985 with fieldwork in the Siskiyou Mountains. Her dissertation was *Hybridization and Reproductive Isolation between Sympatric Arabis (Cruciferae) in Southwestern Oregon*.

Linda took five art classes while in college. She tells us that, while she learned from wonderful art teachers in junior high and in high school, her experience in college was a different story. When she presented her first plant drawing to her college art teacher, he told her, “That’s not art.” But when she saw the botanical illustrations by Jeanne Janish in *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest* Linda realized, “I want to learn how to do this.” She showed Janish’s illustrations to Dr. Taylor in her systematic botany class and shared her interest in learning how to create illustrations like Janish. A couple weeks later, Dr. Taylor proposed that she create illustrations for his lab manual. Many drawings and a few months later, Linda had earned 9 credit hours creating botanical illustrations, and Washington Native Plant Society members are still using these illustrations in a botany primer. After graduation Dr. Taylor paid her \$100 to draw four new plates for the glossary of his lab manual. Later, Linda had the opportunity to learn from Janish in person at a one-day workshop at Southern Oregon University (sponsored by Dr. Frank Lang). Janish was kind enough to correspond with her afterwards and provided continual feedback about her work. Almost all of Linda’s professional botanical illustration is based on herbarium specimens, but you

wouldn’t know it by looking at them. She has developed the ability to transform dry flattened plants into illustrations that appear three-dimensional.

Thus, Linda juggles two specializations: plant systematics and botanical illustration. She is a Visiting Scholar at the University Herbarium at UC Berkeley and at the University of Washington in Seattle. (We are fortunate that her commute takes her through Oregon; her enthusiasm and generosity have enriched our knowledge of its flora.) She served as principal illustrator for *The Jepson Manual, Flora of North America* Vol. 25, and numerous other floras, and has illustrated many new species for a variety of authors. Since 1993 she has earned her living as a freelance botanist/botanical illustrator, and continues to conduct field research as well, no small feat in this world. She teaches botany and botanical illustration workshops in California, Oregon, and Washington, as well as an orchid-painting workshop in Hawai’i. In addition to scientific illustration, she creates fine art in the form of botanical watercolors, prints, cards, and silk scarves.

Linda has been an active member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon since her botanical interests shifted to Oregon.

As a graduate student at UO (1981-82), she edited the NPSO monthly Bulletin, when “cutting and pasting” was literally cutting and pasting paper for the layout. She was awarded the Jean Davis Memorial Award in 1983 by NPSO. She took over the editorship of our journal, *Kalmiopsis*, after David Kennedy’s last issue in 1996, and served in that position until 2002. During her tenure, she created artwork and gave the journal a classy new style. (She also edited the quarterly journal of the California Native Plant Society, *Fremontia*, from 2000 to 2006.) She has presented programs and led field trips for various NPSO chapters and state meetings. Her booth of artwork graces each annual meeting and she donates a percentage of the sales to the hosting chapter. Linda was among those who presented at the first conference on the ecology of the Siskiyou Mountains in 1997. This conference led to environmental educational and advocacy actions that eventually become KS Wild and the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI). Linda has been teaching summer classes at SFI for over 20 years: Botanical Illustration, Crash Course in Flowering Plant Families, Advanced Plant ID (with individual courses for composites and grasses). Linda credits NPSO Fellows Rhoda Love, Charlene Simpson, and Veva Stansell for encouraging her growth as a botanist; they shared their passion for and knowledge of plants on many wonderful botanical outings. —Cindy Roché, *High Desert Chapter*.

