

Annual Message from your Board

President: Dan Luoma, Vice President: Dave Garcia

Highlights from 2022

Virtual State Board meetings took place and it looks like they are here to stay, reducing our carbon-footprint and, best of all, meeting with more Chapter leaders and members.

Chapters thrived by offering virtual monthly programs, often recorded, that could be attended from any geographic location and time zone. Could this be one of the reasons for a substantial increase in membership? Currently 1,186 folks (an increase of 71 members) are showing their support for NPSO. We were sorry to see the Mid-Columbia Chapter officially dissolve this year, but we are happy to welcome back a new, revitalized South Coast Chapter. In-person field trips and events are slowly returning, while virtual offerings continue.

The **Annual Meeting is Coming!** Mark your calendars for June 2-4, 2023. It will be based in Eugene Oregon and hosted by the Emerald Chapter: "**Botany in an Age of Community Science**". This gives us all an opportunity to finally congratulate newly awarded **NPSO Fellows** Tanya Harvey (2021), Lisa Blackburn and David Wagner (both 2020)

NPSO is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. Your annual membership dues and donations help fund a variety of activities such as: Chapter activities, publications, contributions to Oregon Flora, website hosting/maintenance, and professional fees. Accomplishments in conservation and study of our flora are notable, including activities of the Oregon Citizen's Rare Plant Watch program and the Field Research Grants program. Four \$1,000 Field Research Grants were awarded for the following investigations: *Seed Germination and Banking of Species Native to the Oregon Coast 2022* by Dr. Gabriel Campbell. *Investigating shrub-grass interactions in big sagebrush ecosystems* by Rachel R. Renne. *Sexual Dimorphism in Oregon's Polyploid Wild Strawberries* by Sebastian Mortimer. *Non-destructive age estimation for Artemisia cana and Artemisia arbuscula* by Francisco Chavez. The Willamette Valley Chapter's Jean Davis and Augusta Rockefeller Scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year were awarded to 10 students majoring in a wide variety of plant-related fields.

Chapter Tidbits

In addition to the Scholarship awards offered through Willamette Valley Chapter, Portland Chapter has updated their Chapter Bylaws, Corvallis Chapter continues to maintain a native plant garden surrounding the Avery House, Avery Park and Emerald Chapter has happily and gratefully recruited some younger volunteers for committee positions.

Going Forward

Spurred on by the generous donation of longtime member Barbara Fox, we have formed a Strategic Planning Working Group that is addressing various aspects of capacity building in order to help NPSO more successfully meet its goals.

In our integrated world of virtual and in-person events, communication and outreach are key and many layered. The Membership Committee is working with all chapters to improve and expand communication to all NPSO members and the public. For updates and details about NPSO State and Chapter activities please visit the NPSO website <https://www.npsoregon.org/index.html>

Susan Dornfeld helping spreading newspapers before barking the paths around the Avery Native Plant Garden, Corvallis Chapter

