NPSO Fellows Award
Guidelines and Criteria for Nominations

For all those dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats

The Fellows Award is a prestigious honor bestowed by the Native Plant Society of Oregon on members who have made exceptional contributions to the Society. The award, which comes with a **certificate of recognition*** and lifetime membership in the Society, was proposed by Shane Latimer of the Portland Chapter in 1997. Shane was inspired by the dedicated service of John Robotham, who answered an urgent plea in 1993 from the NPSO Board for an editor for the *Bulletin*. Rhoda Love and Veva Stansell were instrumental in organizing the selection process. The first three fellows were recognized at the 1998 Annual Meeting in Mosier. Nominations may be made for one individual, a couple or a group of individuals who have worked together for NPSO. Multiple awards have been conferred in some years. Through 2014, biographies of Fellows were published in the NPSO journal, *Kalmiopsis*; from 2015 forward, biographies and photos of recipients will be posted on the NPSO website, (*http://www.npsoregon.org/fellows.html*) and appear in a NPSO Bulletin article.

Nomination Deadline and Procedures

Nominations for the Fellows Award can be made any time throughout the year but not later than December 31 to the Fellows Committee at *fellows@npsoregon.org*. Nominations should include an essay (Word document, [.docx], or rich text format [.rtf]) describing the nominee's NPSO endeavors to advance the Society's stated mission: "dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats". The nominator should also provide a good quality digital photo of the nominee that is suitable for publication. Completed nominations will be evaluated by the Fellows Committee using the criteria listed below and the Fellows Committee recommendation will then be sent to the State Board at the first Board meeting of the year.

Once the nomination has been approved by the NPSO State Board, the Fellows Committee and NPSO State President will send congratulations to the nominee(s) and invite them to the Annual Meeting where the Fellow Certificate will be awarded.

***The certificate of recognition** will be printed for presentation at the Annual Meeting. The nominee has the choice to receive the certificate framed on a plaque or in paper form only. The nominee should let the Fellows Committee know the choice once approved by the State Board.

Suggestions for Those Writing the Nomination

Please start as early as possible so you can meet the December 31 deadline with a fully completed final draft of your Nomination essay. You may want to interview the person you wish to nominate and share the **Criteria for NPSO Fellows Award** as a checklist. The person does not have to meet ALL the criteria. Then draft your essay and perhaps share with the nominee for revisions. It is recommended this be completed by November. The Fellows Committee and the NPSO Board will then have the full polished nomination to review and set the award process in motion to be finalized before the Annual Meeting. Very minor revisions can be accommodated

post submission before the Annual Meeting award presentation and posting on the NPSO website.

Guidelines for preparing the essay and Nomination author checklist

- Read past Fellows awards essays posted on NPSO state website Fellows – Native Plant Society of Oregon https://www.npsoregon.org/wp/fellows/ for style and content.
- Review **Criteria for NPSO Fellows Award** listed below and address ones relevant to nominee(s).
- Summarize the nominee's background relevant to native plant appreciation
- Describe service to NPSO at Chapter and State levels, including length of service dates
- Describe contribution to conservation and study of Oregon's native plants & habitats
- Write a draft nomination essay and have it reviewed by others before you submit it to the Fellows Committee
- Submit a good quality digital photo of the nominee that is suitable for publication
- Submit FINAL nomination essay any time during the year but no later than December 31to fellows@npsoregon.org

If the Nomination is approved by both the Fellows Committee and the NPSO State Board, the NPSO President will contact the Nominee and ask if the Nominee would like their Fellow Certificate mounted on a plaque or in paper form only.

Criteria for NPSO Fellows Award

The person must be a current member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon.
The length of service is very important, so be sure to include dates for all activities. For example, if the nominee held an office for multiple terms or taught for several years, provide these activities and dates. Awards are not usually made posthumously; however posthumous awards will be considered in extraordinary circumstances and on a case-by-case basis.

Category 1 Nominee's background

Summarize the nominee's

a. Chapter affiliation and length of membership in NPSO.
b. Interest, support or expertise with Oregon native plants

And the following when relevant to native plant study, appreciation, & conservation

c. Education (degrees, institutions attended, and locations).
d. Alternative education experiences and workshops
e. Career or work experience.

Category 2: Service to NPSO

A. Chapter activity
1. Aided in founding or resurrecting a chapter

2. Held one or more Chapter offices
3. Led field trips or plant identification workshops
4. Supervised organizing or was on a committee for an Annual Meeting
5. Presented a program for a chapter meeting
6. Participated in chapter activities, such as volunteering at local herbarium, assisting with a wildflower show, plant sales, working in native plant demonstration garden, or donating their artwork for NPSO logos, t-shirts, websites or promotional materials.

B. State activity
    1. Held one or more State offices
    2. Edited or served on editorial board of the *Bulletin, Kalmiopsis* or NPSO website
    3. Served as NPSO webmaster or web design committees
    4. Participated in state level activities such as
        a. served on committee for updating the NPSO handbook,
        b. wrote a policy statement,
        c. lobbied for native plant causes,
        d. fundraising
        e. budget, nominating or similar State level committees
        f. wrote articles for *Kalmiopsis* or the *Bulletin*
        g. presentation or workshop speaker for annual meeting
        h. a committee or coordinator positions listed in the NPSO Handbook.

<u>Category 3 Contributions to the "conservation and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats</u>"

1. Demonstrated botanical competence in Oregon's native flora and habitats
2. Volunteered at agency or educational institution
3. Participated in community events sponsored by other environmental organizations (*e.g.*, Weed Eradication Events, Watershed Council events, Public Lands Days) for activities relevant to native plant conservation, riparian restoration, and native plant gardening and landscaping
4. Volunteered for conservation projects such as rare plant surveys and maintenance of RNA or ACEC
5. Wrote or reviewed treatments, or provided species lists, for the Oregon Flora or FNA
6. Contributed photos to the Photo Gallery of Oregon Flora
7. Wrote article about Oregon native plants and habitats for the public in newspapers, magazines, or journals in either print or online format
8. Taught class or workshop on native plants for youth and/or adults
9. Mentored students in botany
10. Recruited new members to NPSO
11. Represented NPSO on community committees to advocate for native plant conservation (*e.g.*, Watershed Councils, County or State Parks)

Revised 7/2026 by Fellows Committee: Lisa Blackburn, Gail Baker, Jenny Lippert (chair)