

MEETING OVERVIEW



Mark your calendar! The Willamette Valley Chapter is delighted to host the next Native Plant Society of Oregon statewide Annual Meeting May 29-31, 2026, at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem.

Each year, NPSO members from across the state convene for a special event that includes native plant hikes, habitat restoration area tours, workshops, presentations, networking opportunities, a short business meeting of the membership, and an opportunity to meet the new slate of statewide officers.

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Meeting Overview

- **Friday, May 29:** Participants can choose from six self-guided field trip options and attend a mixer event in the Dye House at the Heritage Center followed by a no-host dinner on the Mezzanine at Ritter’s Housemade Foods in downtown Salem. Attendees should bring a sack lunch and water for the self-guided outing of their choice.
- **Saturday, May 30:** There will be 12 half- and full-day guided field trip options throughout the mid-Willamette Valley, Cascade foothills, and Oregon Coast, as well as two workshops and several presentations at the Willamette Heritage Center (see the meeting highlights and schedule on the next pages). Lunch and dinner will be included.
- **Sunday, May 31:** The six self-guided field trip options will repeat on Sunday or participants can opt for a guided native plant walk at the Deepwood Museum & Gardens and Bush’s Pasture Park. The Annual Meeting activities will wrap up with a no-host networking brunch at Lively Station in South Salem. The NPSO state Board of Directors will meet in Story Hall at the IKE Box Café in Salem from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Selected Meeting Highlights

- A keynote presentation with Greg Archuleta, cultural educator and member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, on Indigenous uses of Willamette Valley native plants.
- A two-part guided wildflower hike along the North Fork of Silver Creek at Silver Falls State Park and at a vernal wet meadow adjacent to the park with Oregon State Parks Interpretive Ranger Matt Palmquist.
- A native plant morphology workshop at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center with Steven Yeager, Executive Vice President of Mountain Rose Herbs.
- A nature talk with Rose Grimson, Environmental Science major at Willamette University and recipient of a Jean Davis Memorial Scholarship, about her work to measure and map soil health and native plant populations at natural areas stewarded by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.
- A tour of Willamette University at Zena, a 305-acre natural area owned by the university that supports academic research and environmental education and serves as a “living laboratory” for sustainability practices, with Director Weston Miller.

Registration

The cost to register for the 2026 Annual Meeting is \$169 per person. Registration for the meeting will open on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Visit the [NPSO Annual Meeting](#) webpage to access the registration link and field trip ranking form. (Please complete your registration before completing the field trip form.) Attendance is limited to the first 150 members who register. Lunch and dinner are included in the registration fee; lodging is on your own. (See the recommended lodging options in the Logistics & Lodging document available on the [Annual Meeting](#) webpage.)

Call for Presentations

Share your passion project! Do you have an Oregon native plant-related program, project, or initiative that you'd like to share with NPSO members at the non-host networking brunch on Sunday, May 31? Contact John Savage at wv_president@npsoregon.org or at wvnpsso@gmail.com for the presentation guidelines and a proposal form. Lightning talks are 5-10 minutes in length followed by five minutes of Q & A.

Call for Exhibitors

Do you have NPSO chapter activities or a native plant-related product, service, or nonprofit that you'd like to showcase at the Annual Meeting? Reserve your free tabletop display space in the exhibitors' area by emailing John Savage at the addresses above. Spaces are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Call for Field Trip Assistants

The Willamette Valley Chapter is seeking volunteers to assist our field trip leaders during the guided field trips on Saturday, May 30. Field trip assistant responsibilities include:

Before the trip:

1. Communicate with your leader to clarify responsibilities. (The leader or a WV Chapter member will contact you.)
2. At the meeting place, hold a lollipop sign advertising the trip.
3. Keep a list of participants. (This will be emailed to the leader in advance and provided to you at the group meeting site) and check them off as they arrive.
4. Have participants sign waivers, if this hasn't already been done.
5. Help organize carpools at the meeting site, if needed.
6. Distribute hard copies of the driving directions, plant list, and other helpful information (to be provided by the WV Chapter).
7. Make sure that all trip participants have cell phone numbers for you and the trip leader.

During the trip:

1. Take a headcount at the trailhead or parking area at the field trip site before the trip/tour begins.
2. Serve as a "sweeper" (bring up the rear) and make sure everyone remains accounted for.
3. Help ensure participants do not stray from the group or go off trail without the trip leader's permission.
4. Carry a first aid kit (to be provided by the WV Chapter) and make it available for use by the participants as needed.
5. Take a headcount at the trailhead or parking area at the field trip site after the trip/tour ends and before the participants depart.
6. Be a timekeeper and monitor the time so the trip is completed and participants are back at the meeting venue by 1:00 pm (for half-day trips) or 4:00 pm (for full-day trips).

Contact John Savage at wvnps@gmail.com or at 503-779-5414 if you are willing to assist the trip leader on one of the guided field trips. (Those signing up to be assistant leaders will receive priority consideration for their field trip choices as indicated on their field trip ranking form.)



Photo Credit: NPSO WV Chapter



Photo Credit: NPSO WV Chapter

About the NPSO Willamette Valley Chapter:

Based in Salem, the Willamette Valley Chapter is one of eleven chapters comprising the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Our chapter, like the others, is dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats.

Willamette Valley Chapter activities serve NPSO members residing in Salem, Marion County, and parts of Polk County. This region includes important botanical destinations such as Kingston Prairie, Silver Falls State Park, and Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge. However, our field trips are wide ranging, from the High Cascades and Columbia Gorge to the Oregon Coast.

Established in 1977, the Willamette Valley Chapter also organizes outreach activities at regional events, habitat restoration volunteer opportunities, and a lecture series. In addition, the chapter administers two scholarship funds for sophomore, junior, and senior students enrolled at an Oregon college or university and majoring in botany, ecology, conservation biology, horticulture, landscape architecture, or other plant-related fields: the Jean Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Augusta Rockafellar Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Join our Growing Community!

For more than 60 years, members of the Native Plant Society of Oregon have been visiting the wild places of Oregon to enjoy, conserve, and study their natural plants and habitats. Founded in 1961, NPSO has grown to more than 1,000 members (and counting)! Members receive announcements about plant walks, hikes, lectures, restoration projects, and other opportunities to learn about Oregon's native plants. To become a member of NPSO, visit <https://www.npsoregon.org/wp/membership/>.

2026 NPSO ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

All events will take place at the Willamette Heritage Center (WHC), 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, unless otherwise specified.

The Spinning & Card Rooms are located on the 3rd floor of the Mill Building at the Willamette Heritage Center with elevator access.

Friday, May 29, 2026		Location
1:00-5:30p	Self-Guided Field Trips <i>(See self-guided field trip sheet)</i>	Various Locations
3:30-6:30p	Early Check-In & Mixer <i>(Light appetizers & refreshments)</i>	Dye House, WHC
6:30-8:30p	No-host Dinner <i>(RSVP on the registration form; order from the regular menu)</i>	Ritter's Housemade Foods (Mezzanine)

Saturday, May 30, 2026		Location
7:00a	Exhibitor Set-Up Begins	Spinning Room, WHC
7:30a	Attendee Check-In Begins	Spinning Room, WHC
7:30a	Continental Breakfast Begins	Spinning Room, WHC
7:30a	Grab-and-Go Lunch Pick-Up Begins	Spinning Room, WHC
8:00a	Full-Day & Half-Day Field Trips Meet	Parking Area, WHC
8:30a	Full-Day & Half-Day Field Trips Depart	Parking Area, WHC
9:00a	Continental Breakfast Ends	Spinning Room, WHC
12:00p	Exhibitor Set-Up Ends	Spinning Room, WHC
1:00p	Half-Day Field Trips Return	Parking Area, WHC
1:15p	Native Plant Morphology Workshop Meets	Parking Area, WHC
1:30p	Native Plant Morphology Workshop Departs	Parking Area, WHC
1:45p	Grab-and-Go Lunch Pick-Up Ends	Spinning Room, WHC
2:00p	Native Plant Morphology Workshop	Ankeny Hill Nature Center
2:00p	Microwave Plant Pressing Workshop	Spinning Room, WHC
2:00p	Nature Talk - Rose Grimson & Jeremy Ojua: "People, Plants & Common Ground"	Card Room, WHC
3:15p	Nature Talk - Edward Cope: "On the Search for Oregon's Castilleja Species"	Card Room, WHC
4:00p	Full-Day Field Trips & Native Plant Morphology Workshop Return	Parking Area, WHC
5:30p	Buffet Dinner - Adam's Rib & LifeSource Natural Foods	Spinning Room, WHC
6:00p	Announcements/State Board Officers' Ceremony	Spinning Room, WHC
6:30p	Keynote Speaker - Greg Archuleta: "Traditional Ecological Knowledge of the Willamette Valley"	Spinning Room, WHC
7:15p	Closing Comments & Acknowledgements	Spinning Room, WHC
7:30p	Evening Program Ends	Spinning Room, WHC
7:45p	Exhibitor Load-Out Begins	Spinning Room, WHC
8:30p	Exhibitor Load-Out Ends	Spinning Room, WHC

Sunday, May 31, 2026		Location
8:00-9:30a	Guided Field Trip: Bush's Pasture Park & Deepwood Estate <i>(RSVP on the registration form)</i>	Mission Street Parking Lot, East Side
8:00a	Self-Guided Field Trips <i>(See self-guided field trip sheet)</i>	Various Locations
10:00a-12:00p	No-Host Networking Brunch & Lightning Talks <i>(RSVP on the registration form; order from the regular menu; to give a talk, email wvnps@gmail.com)</i>	Lively Station (Lively Room)
10:00a-2:00p	State Board Meeting <i>(Contact Steven Yeager for details)</i>	IKE Box (Story Hall)