



# ***Native Plant Society of Oregon***

Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study of  
Oregon's native plants and habitats

## **Bulletin**

February 2026 Volume 59, No.1



Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*). Benton County, Oregon. January 18, 2010. Photo by  
Gerald D. Carr, Courtesy of Oregon Flora.

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If you have any questions, please contact us at [bulletin@npsoregon.org](mailto:bulletin@npsoregon.org).

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For membership inquiries, contact Rachel Werling, the Membership Chair, by [email](#), or send mail to P.O. Box 902, Eugene, OR 97440

**Save the Date! 2026 NPSO Annual Meeting May 29 to 31**

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## **Oregon's Native Plant Conservation Program Secures Genetic Heritage Through 2025 Seed Collections**

*Editor's note: This is the first in a series of three articles describing the seed collection from at risk plant species accomplished by Oregon Department of Agriculture's Native Plant Conservation Program and their partners in 2025. This first article gives a summary of the effort; the subsequent articles will detail survey efforts for two priority species: white meconella (Oregon fairy poppy) (*Meconella oregana*) and Ochoco lomatium (*Lomatium ochocense*).*

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Native Plant Conservation Program marked a significant milestone in 2025, successfully collecting seeds from twenty-five at-risk plant species across the state. This comprehensive conservation effort, supported by funding from House Bill 3409 (an energy efficiency and climate bill) and the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), employed two seasonal staff members (Figure 1) who traversed thirteen Oregon counties to secure seeds from some of the state's most vulnerable flora. Conservation seed collections serve as critical safeguards of genetic diversity, providing

insurance against extinction events, source material for restoration projects, and research opportunities to understand species' adaptive potential in changing environments. As habitat loss, climate change, and other anthropogenic pressures threaten plant populations, these ex-situ collections become increasingly vital for preserving biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem resilience.



Figure 1: The ODA crew in Wasco County surveying and collecting seed for the endemic Tygh Valley milkvetch (*Astragalus tyghensis*). Left to right: Brooke Morrow (seasonal crew lead), Jordan Brown (program lead), Belle Adolf (seasonal crew member), Dani Marshall (conservation biologist). May 20, 2025. Photo by Dani Marshall.

The collection initiative (Table 1) spans from the coastal dunes of Coos and Curry counties to the volcanic ash formations of Leslie Gulch in Malheur County, demonstrating the program's commitment to preserving the breadth of Oregon's diverse botanical heritage. With all necessary state and federal permits secured, the team was able to gather specimens from Benton, Coos, Crook, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Lincoln, Malheur, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, and Washington counties.

Table 1. List of species collected in 2025 with associated NatureServe rank, states and provinces where the species is found, and Oregon counties where ODA collected the seed in 2025. Species collected for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Department of Energy mitigation projects are included in the section at the bottom of the table.

Species	Common Name	NatureServe		County(ies) Collected
		Rank	Locations	
<i>Abronia latifolia</i>	yellow sandverbena	S3	BC, WA, OR, CA	Coos, Curry
<i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i>	beach wormwood	S1	OR, CA	Coos
<i>Astragalus cusickii</i> var. <i>sterilis</i>	sterile milkvetch	S2 (T2)	OR, ID	Malheur
<i>Astragalus tyghensis</i>	Tygh Valley milkvetch	S2 (T2)	OR	Wasco



<i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>palustre</i>	Point Reyes birdbeak	S2 (T2)	OR, CA	Coos
<i>Cryptantha leiocarpa</i>	beach cryptantha	S1	OR, CA	Coos, Curry
<i>Delphinium pavonaceum</i>	peacock larkspur	S1	OR	Benton, Marion
<i>Erigeron stanselliae</i>	Stansell's daisy	S1	OR	Curry
<i>Erythronium elegans</i>	coast range fawn-lily	S2	OR	Tillamook, Polk, Lincoln
<i>Gilia capitata</i> ssp. <i>chamissonis</i>	dune gilia	SNR (T2)	OR, CA	Coos
<i>Gilia millefoliata</i>	seaside gilia	S1	OR, CA	Curry
<i>Horkelia hendersonii</i>	Henderson's horkelia	S1	OR, CA	Jackson
<i>Ivesia rhypara</i> var. <i>rhypara</i>	grimy ivesia	S1	OR, NV	Malheur
<i>Kalmiopsis fragrans</i>	fragrant kalmiopsis	S2	OR	Douglas
<i>Lasthenia ornduffii</i>	large-flowered goldfields	S2	OR	Curry
<i>Lomatium bentonitum</i>	Bentonite biscuitroot	S1	OR	Malheur
<i>Lomatium ochocense</i>	Ochoco lomatium	S2	OR	Crook
<i>Lupinus lepidus</i> var. <i>ashlandensis</i>	Mt. Ashland lupine	S1	OR	Jackson
<i>Meconella oregana</i>	Oregon fairy poppy	S1	BC, WA, OR, CA	Wasco
<i>Mentzelia mollis</i>	smooth blazingstar	S2	OR, ID	Malheur
<i>Mentzelia packardiae</i>	Packard's blazingstar	S2	OR, ID	Malheur
<i>Monardella angustifolia</i>	narrow-leaved monardella	S1	OR, ID	Malheur
<i>Penstemon hesperius</i>	tall western penstemon	S1	WA, OR	Washington
<i>Phacelia argentea</i>	silvery phacelia	S2	OR, CA	Coos, Curry
<i>Tauschia howellii</i>	Howell's tauschia	S1	OR, CA	Jackson
<i>Astragalus applegatei</i>	Applegate's milkvetch	S1	OR	Klamath
<i>Astragalus collinus</i> var. <i>laurentii</i>	Lawrence's milkvetch	S1 (T1)	OR	Morrow
<i>Astragalus mulfordiae</i>	Mulford's milkvetch	S1	OR, ID	Malheur
<i>Hackelia cronquistii</i>	Cronquist's stickseed	S3	OR, ID	Malheur
<i>Lepidium davisii</i>	Davis' peppergrass	S1	OR, ID, NV	Malheur
<i>Plagiobothrys hirtus</i>	rough popcornflower	S1	OR	Douglas
<i>Pyrrocoma radiata</i>	Snake River goldenweed	S3	OR, ID	Baker

Note: Gray highlight = Oregon endemic. Bolded = no seed was previously stored in any known seed bank for long-term conservation. NatureServe ranks: S1 = Critically imperiled, S2 = Imperiled, S3 = Vulnerable, SNR = unranked, T1 and T2 = ranks applied to subspecies or varieties with T1 equivalent to S1, and T2 equivalent to S2. Locations: BC = British Columbia, WA = Washington, OR = Oregon, CA = California, ID = Idaho, NV = Nevada.

This effort represents ODA's contribution to a larger CPC initiative targeting 220 conservation collections from 130 priority species threatened on Department of Interior (DOI) lands across the intermountain, southwest, and Pacific Northwest regions. ODA will collect twenty-six of the fifty-nine Oregon plants identified for CPC collection during 2025 and 2026 (Figures 2, 3), focusing on rare species ranked S1-S3 by NatureServe indicating their critically imperiled to vulnerable status. ODA collection efforts across both years will include ten endemic plants and nine taxa with no previously banked seed.





Figure 2: ODA seasonal staff visited nearly all occurrences of elegant fawn-lily (coast range fawn-lily) (*Erythronium elegans*), shown in flower (left) and in seed (right). Left photo taken May 28, 2025, by Dani Marshall. Right photo taken July 31, 2025, by Brooke Morrow.



Figure 3: Seed collection of large-flowered goldfields (*Lasthenia ornduffii*) in Curry County (left) where it grows intermixed with seashore lupine (coastal lupine), (*Lupinus littoralis*), and is shown in flower and fruit (right). Left photo taken July 22, 2025, by Belle Adolf. Right photo taken July 7, 2025, by Dani Marshall.

The dual funding sources enabled complementary collection strategies that maximized conservation impact across different land jurisdictions. The CPC collections specifically targeted species on DOI lands—properties managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service—while HB 3409 funding supported early implementation of the [Oregon Native Seed Strategy's](#) Goal 4, which focuses on conservation seed banking for priority sensitive species. This broader mandate allowed ODA to extend collections beyond federal DOI lands to include Oregon State Parks and U.S. Forest Service properties, proving especially crucial for conserving threatened species with little to no existing seed bank representation regardless of land ownership.

Following CPC's Best Plant Conservation Practices, collectors aimed to gather seeds from fifty maternal lines per population to capture sufficient genetic diversity while never harvesting more than 10% of available seed. While securing collections from multiple sites was preferred, species with few populations or small population sizes necessitated limiting collections to avoid impacting dwindling populations.

Beyond the core conservation collections, the ODA crew also conducted extensive surveys to better understand the status and distribution of several priority species. For white meconella (*Meconella oregana*), we surveyed multiple known and historic populations through the Columbia Gorge to assess population health. We also brought together a collaborative team of ODA, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service employees to survey for Ochoco lomatium (*Lomatium ochocense*) across its limited range. Perhaps most intensive was our Tygh Valley milkvetch (*Astragalus tyghensis*) work, where we partnered with the Oregon Department of Transportation to survey four large occurrences in highway rights-of-way. These comprehensive surveys aimed to determine the true distribution and abundance of Tygh Valley milkvetch, providing data to inform monitoring strategies and assess whether permanent transects should be established for long-term population tracking.

The ODA team also collected rare-plant seeds as part of ongoing federally funded projects and mitigation efforts (see bottom of Table 1). This included seed collection for two federally endangered plants: Applegate's milkvetch (*Astragalus applegatei*) and rough popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys hirtus*), both of which have been the focus of ODA recovery actions for several years. These collections can provide critical genetic material for population augmentation and reintroduction efforts and help meet key down- and de-listing recovery criteria.

These conservation collections represent more than botanical specimens—they are insurance policies against extinction, climate change adaptation resources, and potential sources for future restoration efforts. As Oregon's native plant communities face mounting pressures from external threats, the ODA Native Plant Conservation Program's 2025 collections will ensure these remarkable species remain part of Oregon's natural legacy for generations to come. - *Dani Marshall, ODA Conservation Biologist*

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## Plan Now for Native Plant Appreciation Month



February is the perfect moment for NPSO chapters to begin planning for Native Plant Appreciation Month (NPAM) in April. NPAM is our largest statewide, coordinated education and outreach effort - a chance for every chapter, large or small, urban or rural, to connect people with Oregon's extraordinary native plant heritage. With a little advance



*Aconitum columbianum* by Amy Dessert

planning now, April can be a month of high-impact activities that inspire curiosity, stewardship, and community engagement. Now is the time for chapters to choose dates, line up partners, and begin shaping events that fit their local communities.

### Why NPAM Matters

Native Plant Appreciation Month is more than a celebration—it is an opportunity to reach new audiences, strengthen partnerships, and remind Oregonians that native plants are foundational to healthy ecosystems, resilient landscapes, and cultural history. Chapter events during NPAM often attract people who have never attended an NPSO activity before, making April an ideal time to grow awareness of both native plants *and* your local

chapter.

### Ideas to Fit Your Chapter and Your Landscape

Springtime enthusiasm is a powerful force. Where weather and access allow, guided hikes and neighborhood walks remain some of the most popular NPAM offerings. After winter, people are eager to get outside and see early blooms, emerging leaves, and pollinators returning to the landscape. Even short walks in parks, greenways, or urban natural areas can be rich with teachable moments.

April is also peak season for many restoration and stewardship projects. Chapters might partner with land managers, watershed

councils, or parks departments to participate in hands-on workdays. These activities not only benefit native habitats but also introduce participants to practical conservation skills and local restoration efforts.



*Castilleja brevilobata* by Mark Egger

If outdoor activities are limited in your area - or if you want to balance them with additional offerings - indoor and hybrid events can be just as engaging. Consider:

- A workshop or presentation on native plant gardening tailored to your local soils, climate, and plant communities.
- A chapter “show and share” meeting where members discuss what has worked (and what hasn’t) in their own gardens or restoration projects.



- An educational talk highlighting a local plant community, rare species, ethnobotany, or current conservation challenges.
- A hands-on or introductory session on iNaturalist, helping participants build identification skills while contributing to the statewide [NPAM bioblitz](#).
- A demonstration of [OregonFlora](#) and how it can be used for gardening decisions, field trip planning, or learning more about Oregon's vascular plants.
- A photography class on how/where to photograph our native plants could be very engaging.
- Be creative! Chapters know their communities best - what other fun or unique activities could you offer to spark interest in native plants?

These activities can be offered in libraries, community centers, schools, or online, whatever best serves your audience.

### Build Partnerships and Broaden Your Reach

NPAM is also an excellent opportunity to collaborate with other organizations in your community. Local libraries, garden clubs, watershed councils, parks departments, schools, nurseries, and conservation groups may be eager to co-host events or help promote them. Shared sponsorship expands your reach and reinforces the message that native plants matter across many sectors.



*Wyethia helianthoides* by Steph Spencer

### Start Planning Now

February planning pays off in April participation. Early scheduling helps with speaker availability, venue reservations, publicity, and coordination with statewide NPAM efforts. Even a single, well-planned event can make a meaningful contribution to NPAM.

Let's make this April a vibrant, visible celebration of Oregon's native plants. By planning now, your chapter can help ensure that Native Plant Appreciation Month continues to grow in impact, creativity, and community connection across the state. Every chapter's participation helps make NPAM a true statewide celebration. - *Judi Sanders*

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# OregonFlora

OregonFlora provides the public with a comprehensive resource about the plants of Oregon for nature enthusiasts, restorationists, land managers, scientists, and gardeners of all ages and levels of interest. The information within the three-volume *Flora of Oregon* books and the extensive database used to organize the information forms the foundation for our website, [oregonflora.org](http://oregonflora.org) and Oregon Wildflowers mobile app. These digital resources bring the beauty and diversity of Oregon's plant life to the public, and support additional botanical learning activities like NPSO's iNaturalist Flora of Oregon Vascular Plants project, Native Plant Appreciation Month, Adopt a Rare Plant program, and Citizens Rare Plant Watch.



Your financial support allows us to keep providing free access of digital information to the public. Our program relies on competitive grants and donations from individuals and groups to fund all of OregonFlora's direct operating expenses. The contributions people give of their time and financial resources are a critical part of our budget. If you would like to be a part of the team that keeps OregonFlora progressing, please contact us at [ofpflora@oregonflora.org](mailto:ofpflora@oregonflora.org).

Contributions to OregonFlora can be made online through our [PayPal account](#), or by sending a check to the address on our [Donate](#) page. Please make checks payable to the Agricultural Research Foundation and include "OregonFlora" on the memo line.

Your support is greatly appreciated! - *Linda Hardison, Director*

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## Take the Gardening for Nature Survey



Do you garden with native plants? The Institute for Applied Ecology would love to hear about your experience! Whether you have planted a small patch or reimaged your whole yard, your insights can help others create thriving habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

Our short survey (about 10 minutes), to be used solely for educational purposes, asks what worked well, what you'd improve, and what you have observed along the way.

Take the survey at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCTVQ3D>.

Your feedback will help shape recommendations for gardeners across North America. A summary of results will be shared in early 2026 on the Institute for Applied Ecology website. - Tom Kaye, *Institute for Applied Ecology*

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## Photo Gallery

Welcome to the *Bulletin* Photo Gallery! Share your photos of Oregon's native flora, field trips, restoration projects, work parties, and activities with other NPSO members. Send photos with the following information: species/event, photographer, names of any people shown in photo, date of photo, location, and any other information you would like to have included in the photo caption to [bulletin@npsoregon.org](mailto:bulletin@npsoregon.org). Please get consent from any people included in your photo prior to sending it.



A Shasta red fir, *Abies magnifica* x *Abies procera*, tree well at 7100' elevation along the Siskiyou Crest near McDonald Peak. Jackson County. April 5, 2023. Photo by Ken Berg, Siskiyou Chapter.

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## Oregon Mystery Plant

Last Month's Mystery Plant Revealed

Our last mystery plant is known and admired by many. Kathleen Sayce, Alan Armstrong, Jennifer Whipple, Jason Clinch, Julie Kierstead, Kristi Mergenthaler, Dave Garcia, and Richard Prusz, all correctly identified it as *Horkelia hendersonii*, commonly known as Henderson's horkelia. According to *Flora of Oregon*, Volume 2, this mat forming native perennial in the Rosaceae family grows in alpine areas, gravelly scree, ridges, flats, and slopes. In Oregon, its range is limited to the Siskiyou Mountains in Jackson County, where it is found on granite peaks at high elevation above tree line. It is also found in the adjacent Siskiyou County in California.



Henderson's horkelia. Photo by Jess Bechemumin.

## New Mystery Plant Do you recognize this plant?

This month's mystery plant was photographed by Kathleen Sayce at Cape Disappointment State Park on July 5, 2023. It was growing on basalt in the salt spray zone. Send your identification to the editor at [bulletin@npsoregon.org](mailto:bulletin@npsoregon.org).

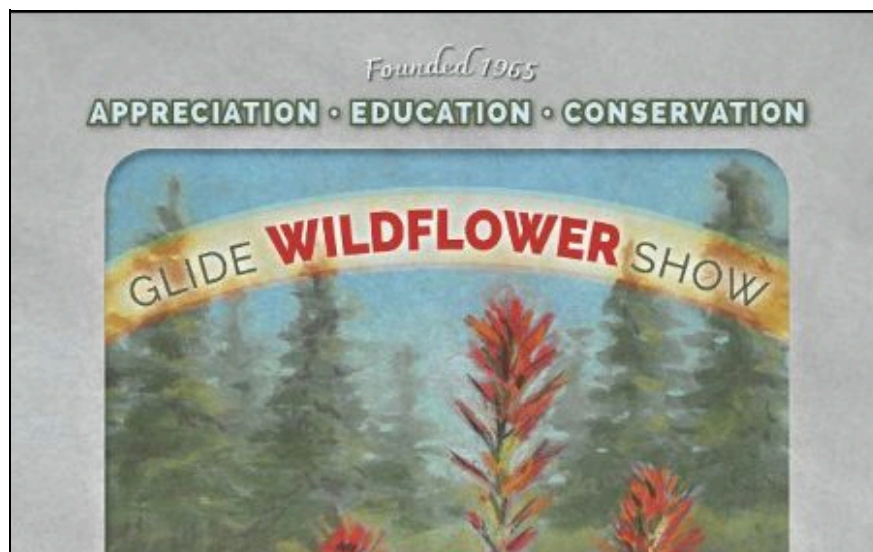




Do you have an Oregon Mystery Plant to share? Send it to the editor at [bulletin@npsoregon.org](mailto:bulletin@npsoregon.org) with species, location, and brief habitat information.

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## 2026 Glide Wildflower Show - April 25 to 26







For sixty-one years, the Glide Wildflower Show, April 25th-26th, 2026, has been the largest showcase of native flora in the Pacific Northwest.

**Features of the show include:**

- Over 400 species of wildflowers, shrubs, trees, mosses, lichens, and ferns, collected throughout Southwest Oregon, artfully displayed and labeled.
- Special displays of edible and medicinal plants, natural dyes, noxious weeds, beekeeping, and photos of endangered flowers.
- Roving botanists available to answer questions.
- Sales of books and field guides; food, drink, and homemade pies (a show tradition); and native plants.

**Special Presentations**

- Herbal Concepts and Pacific Northwest Medicinal and Edible Plants
- Geographical Aspects of Botany in Douglas County
- Using Native Plants in our Landscapes, benefits urban living and wildlife
- Tour the Show with a Botanist
- Guided Wildflower Walk

**The details:**

- Location: Glide Community Center, Glide, 17 miles east of Roseburg on Highway 138

- \$5 suggested donation per person
- 9:00 am to 5:00 pm both Saturday and Sunday, with a photographers-only hour from 8:00 am to 9:00 am
- Accessible building, entrance around back

Visit our website at [www.glidewildflowershow.org](http://www.glidewildflowershow.org) for more information. If you have questions or would like advice on planning your group's outing, email [info@glidewildflowershow.org](mailto:info@glidewildflowershow.org).

**For other local attractions and lodging:**

Roseburg Visitors Center is now Experience Roseburg~ 541-672-9731

- *Stormy Conco by for Glide Wildflower Show*

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## Scholarships Available for Students in Botany and Plant-Related Fields

The Willamette Valley Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon is offering \$500 and \$1,000 scholarships for sophomores, juniors, and seniors enrolled at an Oregon college or university for the 2026-2027 school year and who are majoring in one of the following fields of study:

- botany;
- horticulture with a focus on native plants;
- any biological, environmental, or natural resource science with a botany emphasis or;
- any biological, environmental, or natural resource science combined with a demonstrated intent to pursue studies or a career in a plant-based field focused on or related to native plants (e.g. ecology, systematics, sustainable natural resource management, conservation biology).

Half-time students are eligible.

A limited number of qualified applicants will be selected to receive the \$500 and \$1,000 scholarship awards. Applications will be accepted by mail or electronically until June 1, 2026.

Applicants must submit a completed application that includes name, address, email address, phone number, college or university name, and college/university address.

Applicants also must submit:

- a statement of academic and career intent, with a discussion of relevant coursework, extracurricular activities, and interests. Students' statement should show a demonstrated interest in native plants and the intent to pursue studies or careers related to native plants;
- One letter of reference from a person able to judge the student's ability to successfully complete study in the student's area of major study and;
- Full collegiate academic record (transcript).

Completed applications and documents can be sent by mail to:

John Savage  
Jean Davis and Augusta Rockefeller Scholarship Funds  
2114 Thoreau Avenue SE  
Salem, OR 97302

or by email to: [wvnpsogmail.com](mailto:wvnpsogmail.com). For any questions about the scholarship or to obtain an application form, contact John Savage at 503-779-5414 or at [wvnpsogmail.com](mailto:wvnpsogmail.com). -

*John Savage*

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## Small Field Grant Proposals Requested

The NPSO will continue to sponsor small field research grants. The objectives of the program are: 1) to stimulate basic field research into the biology and distribution of Oregon's native and naturalized flora and vegetation, particularly in the more remote areas of the state; and 2) to promote native plant conservation through better understanding of Oregon's flora and vegetation and the factors affecting their survival.

Research proposals are due by March 1, 2026. The program policy and guidelines may be downloaded from <https://www.npsoregon.org/documents/grantguide.pdf>. Questions about the guidelines may be directed to [luomad@oregonstate.edu](mailto:luomad@oregonstate.edu). - *Dan Luoma*

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## Key NPSO Committee Positions Open

The NPSO state board is seeking individuals to serve as chairperson for the Membership, Legislative, iNaturalist, Publications, and Conservation Committees.

The NPSO Board Handbook provides more information on the responsibilities of these positions. The handbook can be found at: [NPSO Handbook 2025.docx](#). If you are interested in these roles, please contact [president@npsoregon.org](mailto:president@npsoregon.org). Those who are



interested in the Membership Chair position may contact [membership@npsoregon.org](mailto:membership@npsoregon.org).  
-Steven Yeager

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## The Vine

The *Flora of Oregon* defines a vine as: "Trailing or climbing plant with a long, flexible stem, often supporting itself using tendrils." This section of the *Bulletin* is for those trailing stems and tendrils: short announcements, links to other articles, reminders, and other short items of interest to all NPSO members for which a full *Bulletin* article is not needed. Send your submissions to the editor at [bulletin@npsoregon.org](mailto:bulletin@npsoregon.org).

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Register for the 2026 Washington Botanical Symposium [HERE](#).

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Watch the full recording of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) 2025 Plant Conservation Symposium [HERE](#). In 2026, the Symposium will be in-person in Corvallis with the ODA Noxious Weeds Symposium. To be alerted to updates about the 2026 event and other plant conservation topics, please subscribe to the ODA plant conservation [GovDelivery email updates](#).

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## Chapter Notes

**Important Note to Field Trip Participants:** Trips may be strenuous and/or hazardous. Participation is at your own risk. Be prepared to sign a release form indicating this. A sample waiver form is available at [NPSO-Waiver-of-Liability-2015](#).

### Cheahmill

For questions, or to be added to the Cheahmill Chapter's email list for reminders of upcoming programs and events, please contact the Cheahmill Chapter President at [ch\\_president@NPSOregon.org](mailto:ch_president@NPSOregon.org).

Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NPSO.Cheahmill>.

**Saturday, February 28, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Work Party #312: Native Plant Garden at McMinnville Public Library**

**Location: McMinnville Public Library**

We will work around the Carnegie building with a friendly crew to maintain the beauty of this demonstration garden. Dress for the weather and bring gloves, bucket, and gardening tools if you have them. For more information, contact Catie Anderson

at [catie.fishback@gmail.com](mailto:catie.fishback@gmail.com) or 971-241-7634.

The library is located at 225 NW Adams Street (corner of Highway 99 W and SW Second Street), McMinnville, Oregon. The library parking lot may be entered from either Adams or Second Streets.

## **Corvallis**

For questions, information on upcoming events, or to be on the Corvallis Chapter email list, contact [co\\_president@NPSOregon.org](mailto:co_president@NPSOregon.org). Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/CorvallisNPSO](https://facebook.com/CorvallisNPSO).

**Monday, February 9, 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Program: An Update on Native Plant Studies from OSU's Garden Ecology Lab**

**Presenter: Gail Langeletto, Professor of Horticulture.**

**Location: Cordley Hall Room 2602, Oregon State University**

An entomologist by training, Gail is focused on developing a better understanding of how to design and manage gardens and parks within urban/suburban landscapes to maximize pollination, pest control, and human health and well-being. She is particularly interested in documenting the garden plants and practices that promote or impede biodiversity and ecosystem function. She is a professor of horticulture at Oregon State University, where she also serves as director of the BioResource Research program (an undergraduate major centered around student research experiences).

The Oregon State University Garden Ecology lab has engaged in an array of native plant studies over the past few years, including: identifying plants most attractive to local pollinators, determining the impact of native plant breeding (to produce native cultivars) on pollinators, and surveying native plant growers to better understand current operations and strategic needs. More recently, they have documented the plants (native and not) favored by syrphid flies in garden systems, and have audited pollinator gardens in the Eugene, Corvallis, and Portland metro-areas to better understand how gardeners are actualizing advice on planting for pollinators. In this talk, you will hear a brief recap of past studies and will get a first look at our newest data on syrphid flies and pollinator gardens.

Here is the link to register for the Zoom meeting.

<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/CNZZIuvkTb-yWifbYnQUtA>

## **Emerald**

For questions or to be added to the Emerald Chapter email list, email us at:

[em\\_president@npsoregon.org](mailto:em_president@npsoregon.org). For information about the Emerald Chapter and upcoming events, see: <http://emerald.npsoregon.org>. Visit our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/emerald.nps/>. Follow our Instagram page at:

[https://www.instagram.com/emerald\\_chapter\\_nps/](https://www.instagram.com/emerald_chapter_nps/). To view our YouTube channel,

visit: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb2piFmgIQTMhKR8H8iobTw>

**Monday, February 16, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Presentation: Determinants of Flammability and Fuel Treatment Options in Sagebrush Ecosystems of the Great Basin**

**Presenters:** Sydney Turner, MS student at Ellsworth Lab, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences, Oregon State University; Dr. Sofia Koutzoukis, Postdoctoral researcher at: Ellsworth Lab, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and

Conservation Sciences, Oregon State University, and US Forest Service Fire Science Lab

**Location:** Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83626265623?pwd=8OxgVFFvEnlOFcVXKow2SUQwxecKqYV.1>

Sydney Turner is an Oregon State University graduate student whose research focuses on fire ecology in sagebrush ecosystems, with an emphasis on how plant physiology and community arrangements influence fire behavior. The goal of her work is to improve our predictions of fire behavior and to support sagebrush ecosystem conservation.

Dr. Sofia Koutzoukis is a rangeland ecologist who is interested in any question that centers around restoration and resilience in rangelands in the Intermountain West. As a postdoctoral researcher, she is currently studying community change, fire behavior, and management options to mitigate degradation and restore sagebrush ecosystems experiencing pinyon-juniper expansion in the Great Basin.

The presenters will describe how the spread of highly flammable invasive grasses and expansion of pinyon and junipers across the Intermountain West has altered the fire regimes of sagebrush dominated ecosystems, threatening the functioning and integrity of these systems as well as the efficacy of wildland firefighting operations. Changing community composition affects fire behavior both bottom-up via changes in combustion and fire spread and top-down through changing management paradigms that match actions to ecological settings to promote favorable outcomes.

Among the fundamental drivers of extreme fire behavior is the interaction between the woody sagebrush canopy and the herbaceous understory. However, the climate conditions and spatial arrangements of these fuel types that promote extreme fire spreads remain largely unknown. To address this gap, the researchers are conducting combustion experiments to examine how fuel moisture and grass invasion affects sagebrush canopy flammability to inform more effective wildfire management in sagebrush ecosystems. Management actions, via woody and herbaceous fuel reductions, must match abiotic and biotic ecosystem conditions to reduce fuels without promoting further invasion. By quantifying change in vegetation cover and mapping where treatment options would be likely to have favorable outcomes, we can facilitate ongoing planning in high priority landscapes. Managing fuels and fire behavior requires ongoing investigation to all processes, both ecological and management-centered, that contribute to fire spread and behavior.

**Saturday, March 7, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Presentation: Amazon Community Center Events: Gardening With Native Plants**



**Presenters: NPSO Emerald Chapter Board members**

**Location: Amazon Community Center, Main Hall, 2700 Hilyard St, Eugene**

Have you wondered whether gardening with native plants is for you? This class is meant to be an introduction to the benefits of gardening with native plants, from planning your garden to selecting your plants. We will have a hands-on time where you can see what many commonly used natives look like this time of year as well as when they're in full bloom. You'll come away with some ideas about what plants you might want to incorporate in your home and where to find them.

For more information and to sign up, see "Special Interest" at: <https://rec.eugene-or.gov/OR/city-of-eugene-or/catalog>

**Monday, March 16, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Title: Bees as Botanists: The Specialist Bees of Western Oregon**

**Presenter: August Jackson, Oregon Bee Atlas, Oregon State University**

**Location: Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St, Eugene**

The Oregon Bee Atlas is currently leading the world in research on bee-plant interactions. Most native bee species need native plants to survive, but the diet breadth in bee species is wildly variable and much remains to be learned. From Sedum bees to Penstemon bees and Lomatium bees, a rich diversity of bee species found in western Oregon have specialized relationships with native plants and can be extremely picky about which pollen they will feed their young. In this vividly illustrated talk, we will explore the floral relationships of dozens of specialist bees, meet some bees (and plants?) new to science, and discuss ways to support bees in the home garden or community restoration effort.

August works with the Oregon Bee Atlas at Oregon State University coordinating a program for the inventory and monitoring of bees on National Wildlife Refuges in the Pacific Northwest. He is an expert in the identification of bees in Western North America and is responsible for identifying tens of thousands of bees from across the region annually. August is most interested in the relationship between bees and plants, and especially specialized relationships which have coevolved over thousands, if not millions of years. Prior to his work at Oregon State University, August worked for over a decade at Mount Pisgah Arboretum in Eugene and remains interested in all facets of the natural history of the region, but particularly flowering plants!

## **High Desert**

For information, visit our website: [www.highdesertnpsoregon.org](http://www.highdesertnpsoregon.org) or Facebook page: [Native Plant Society of Oregon: High Desert Chapter](#), or email us at [highdesertnps@gmail.com](mailto:highdesertnps@gmail.com). Find our latest field trip observations on iNaturalist, <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/high-desert-chapter-nps-field-trips>.

**Sunday, February 8, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Field Trip: Botany and Birds**

**Leader/Presenter: Mara Huang and Queer As Flock**

**Location: Weigand Dog Park at the Dry Canyon Trail (Redmond, OR)**

Come join the High Desert Chapter and Queer As Flock in this collaborative walk of identifying birds and plants together! We will be leisurely walking down the Dry Canyon Trail, a paved and flat path. We will walk approximately 2-3 miles in total. For more information contact [hdceventscoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:hdceventscoordinator@gmail.com).

**Thursday, February 19, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**Chapter Meeting/Presentation: Planting for People and Wildlife: Community Habitat Projects in Action**

**Presenter: Hannah Wuerfel, Habitat Restoration Coordinator at Think Wild**

**Location: Larkspur Community Center**

This presentation highlights two community-led restoration efforts in Central Oregon: the Backyard Native Habitat Consult Program, which helps residents transform their yards into wildlife-friendly spaces with native plants, and the Crooked River Native Plant Stewardship Project, which is creating a community native plant garden along the Crooked River in Prineville with the help of students from local schools. Learn how these projects support local biodiversity, enhance ecosystem health, and foster connections between people and the natural world through hands-on education and community engagement. We'll share practical tips for creating native habitat at home and ways to get involved with these ongoing projects! For more information contact [hdceventscoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:hdceventscoordinator@gmail.com).

## **Klamath Basin**

For information on the Klamath Basin Chapter, contact [kb\\_president@npsoregon.org](mailto:kb_president@npsoregon.org), visit our website: <http://klamathbasinnps.com>, or find us on Facebook: [\(13\) Klamath Basin Chapter - Native Plant Society of Oregon | Facebook](#).

Chapter meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of each month at the Klamath County Museum in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Presentations are held at the Meeting Room at the back of the Klamath County Museum (1451 Main Street).

The Native Plant Garden at the Klamath County Museum is a great example of how native plants can be incorporated into a garden setting. Volunteers help throughout the year to complete necessary weed abatement and maintenance to the existing plant beds. Typically, these workdays are Saturdays from 9:00 am - 11:00 am between April-August.

## **Portland**

**Pick up a stick in 2026. Let's build a forest of the future.**

The Portland Chapter (NPSO PDX) elections are over, and we have a rejuvenated board for 2026 and beyond. While we still have a few positions that haven't been completely claimed, there is always room for PDX members to join the committees. We would love to have your ideas and participation. If you have already noted an area of interest in our

Member Survey, one of the new chairs will be reaching out to you soon.

Please send an email of interest to [npsopdxchapter@gmail.com](mailto:npsopdxchapter@gmail.com) with a topic in the subject line.



PDX Chapter board meeting, December 2025. Photo by community center staff.

#### **PDX Chapter Upcoming Programs: Second Thursday of every month**

**Thursday, February 12th, 7:00 pm**

**Zoom Presentation: The Flora of New Zealand**

**Presenters: Virginia Bowers and Paul Slichter**

Virginia Bowers is an amateur plant geek and retired property coordinator for the Bureau of Environmental Services. Paul Slichter is a retired biology teacher and a member of NPSO, the Washington Native Plant Society, Bird Alliance of Oregon, and Vancouver Audubon Society.

We are in for a mid-winter treat as Paul and Virginia share photos from their separate trips to New Zealand.

Virginia will discuss some of the more distinctive native plants along with scientific explanations for their characteristics. In addition, she will focus on New Zealand plants that were (and still are) used by the Maori for food, medicine, basketry, and building.

Paul and Susan Saul take us on an all too brief look at the New Zealand flora of the Kauri and podocarp forests of the North Island to the subalpine and alpine and tussock grassland floras of both islands.

Experience the botanical wonders of New Zealand in this colorful and lively presentation. Register today!

Zoom Registration Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join-link>

Thursday, March 12, 7:00 pm

Presentation: Invasive Plants in the Gorge

Presenter: J. Brance Morefield, Botanist/Invasive Plant Coordinator

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Zoom Registration Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9tJfKwV6t7U?pwd=Zm9udC9pLSc6MTQ1pz1jdcdA>

#### **NPSOPDX26 iNaturalist News:**

If you are staying dry and cozy, then please help identify the observations that people made during 2025. Here is a link to a table showing what has happened in our Columbia watershed area: [NPSOPDX25 BioBlitz data table](#). Please help bring the number of identifications up by going to our [NPSOPDX25 Annual Collection of Projects](#) and adding yours.

Check out the results from the statewide NPSO [Flora of Oregon: Vascular Plants · iNaturalist](#) 3rd Annual Winter ID-a-thon, which ran from January 17 through January 25, 2026. Results have been posted in the Project Journal at [Flora of Oregon: Vascular Plants's Journal · iNaturalist](#).

Already in 2026, we were inspired by the yellows, oranges, chartreuse, greens, and grays we found out in the woods. Check out the latest [NPSOPDX26 New Year Novelties Bioblitz](#). The project's date range has been extended into February to catch the Lewis and Clark College's seventh annual Moss week; it is [Amossing!](#) It is also amazing to see how much you can learn about these bryophytes, etc. just by studying observations online, and using computer assisted technology, as well as good old human communication.

#### **General Information about NPSO PDX**

Welcome new NPSO Portland (PDX) members of the Portland chapter. Watch your inbox for two email newsletters a month, one from the State Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO), the *Bulletin*, and one from our local NPSO Portland PDX chapter, *The Calochortus*. Please note when searching for these newsletters in your email: the sender of *The Calochortus* is NPSO Portland, and for the *NPSO Bulletin*, the sender is Native Plant Society of Oregon. If you have any questions, please email your PDX board at [npsopdxchapter@gmail.com](mailto:npsopdxchapter@gmail.com).

Check our member [NPSO PDX PUBLIC EVENTS Calendar](#) for up-to-date information about registering for upcoming field trips, programs, and other events. Our social media postings can be found on Facebook, MeetUp, and Instagram and are for members and non-members alike. These sites are used for posting photos of field trips and popup events.

You can find back copies of *The Calochortus* at our website [portlandnativeplants.org](http://portlandnativeplants.org). There is a photo gallery from our many field trips and other information about our local chapter. We are hoping to update our events page soon. We also have links to our recorded programs and speakers on our YouTube channel: [Native Plant Society of Oregon - Portland Chapter](#). Just a reminder that although each chapter has a section on the state website, the information may not be as up to date as we like.



## **Siskiyou**

To sign up for the Siskiyou Chapter NPSO monthly eNews on a new platform: [sign up](#)

To view our YouTube Channel and watch past programs: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXFI2J9yp2AYmUzNz0jLLSw>

To join a native plant google group forum: [Siskiyou-Chapter-NPSO-plant-talk@googlegroups.com](mailto:Siskiyou-Chapter-NPSO-plant-talk@googlegroups.com)

To join our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/SiskiyouChapterNativePlantSocietyOfOregon>

**Thursday, February 19, 7:00 pm**

**Presentation: Flora of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park**

**Presenter: Matt Dybala**

**Location:** In-person presentation at the Siskiyou chapter meeting at Southern Oregon University Science Building, Room 161. Join us in-person or Zoom in from home. To register for Zoom, go to <https://bit.ly/npsotalks>.

California's largest state park, located on the western edge of the Sonoran Desert, features a highly diverse, drought-adapted ecosystem, ranging from creosote scrub and sandy washes to palm oases and cactus gardens. The flora is best known for its spectacular wildflower displays - including sand-verbena, desert sunflower, and dune primrose - which transform the desert floor into a colorful carpet following fall and winter rains. Beyond the flowers, iconic plants like red-flowering ocotillo, barrel cactus, and California fan palms thrive in this arid landscape.

Our chapter president, Matt Dybala, has been photographing and documenting unique plants growing within this 600,000-acre park over the past five consecutive years during

annual winter camping trips. He looks forward to sharing the unique botanical features, ethnobotany and ecology of this seemingly harsh, yet stunningly beautiful desert landscape.

**Sunday, February 22, 10:00 am -2:00 pm**

**Field Trip: Microworld of lichens, bryophytes, algae and fungi**

**Location: Pilot Rock trailhead**

**Trip Leader: John Villella**

Explore the fascinating microworld of lichens, bryophytes, algae, and fungi found around Pilot Rock in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument with expert bryologist and lichenologist, John Villella. This hike will focus on all the small vegetative organisms that make up the web of life in the forests around Pilot Rock. Lichens, bryophytes, algae, and fungi are often overlooked and under-appreciated, but they play essential roles in the local ecosystem. From nesting and foraging sites for forest animals, to forest nutrient cycling, to home for myriad microorganisms, you will come away with a new understanding and appreciation for the cryptic micro-species of the Klamath-Siskiyou region. Meet at the Pilot Rock trailhead at 10:00 am. For more information, please contact field trip coordinator Katelyn Detweiler at [Detweiler.katelyn@gmail.com](mailto:Detweiler.katelyn@gmail.com). To sign up, please follow the link: [Microworld of lichens, bryophytes, algae and fungi](#).

## South Coast

The South Coast Chapter covers Curry and Coos counties. Guests or members of other chapters are welcome at our events. To join our mailing list, please contact [secretary.NPSO.southcoast@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.NPSO.southcoast@gmail.com).

Visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/NPSOSouthCoastChapter>.

## Umpqua Valley

Check out our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/UmpquaValleyNPSO](https://www.facebook.com/UmpquaValleyNPSO). Not online? - call Donna Rawson at 541-643-0364.

**All Field Trips:** Reservations are required. We ask that you text or call Rod Trotter at 541-672-1907 or text or call Donna Rawson at 541-643-0364 to reserve a spot and again the night before the trip to confirm your plan to attend and to be sure the schedule has not changed. Please join us.

The meeting place for all trips is the West Side Native Plant Garden in Roseburg. This garden is off Harvard at the First United Methodist Church, just west of the Westside Community Gardens in Roseburg. From Harvard Avenue, turn onto W Keady Court. Just before you get to Fremont Middle School (850 W Keady Court), turn left and drive a short distance through the parking lot to the garden area. Alternate meet-up locations along the route can be arranged.

## Willamette Valley

Thursday, February 5, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

**Zoom Program:** The ups and downs of golden paintbrush, a rare plant with big wins but fresh troubles

**Presenter:** Dr. Tom Kaye

Dr. Tom Kaye will provide an update on the recovery of golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*). Golden paintbrush is a recently delisted threatened species that faces renewed threats to its survival. Dr. Kaye is Chief Scientist and Founder at the Institute for Applied Ecology, a nonprofit organization with a mission to conserve native habitats and species through research, restoration, and education. Registration is required. For more information and to register for this Zoom presentation, email John Savage at [wvnpsso@gmail.com](mailto:wvnpsso@gmail.com).

## William Cusick

Chapter notices and communications are done primarily through a Google group. For more information or to be added to the Google group, please contact Susan Geer at 541-963-0477 or [susanmgeer@gmail.com](mailto:susanmgeer@gmail.com). Our website is not currently functional.

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## Native Plant Interest Groups:

### Filipendula

For more information, visit our Facebook page: [NPSO-Filipendula Chapter](#)

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### NPSO State Officers

- President: Steven Yeager, [president@npsoregon.org](mailto:president@npsoregon.org)
- Immediate Past President: Dan Luoma, [past\\_president@npsoregon.org](mailto:past_president@npsoregon.org)
- Vice President: Jason Clinch, [vice-president@npsoregon.org](mailto:vice-president@npsoregon.org)
- Secretary: Kim Brown, [secretary@npsoregon.org](mailto:secretary@npsoregon.org)
- Treasurer: Sean Cawley, [treasurer@npsoregon.org](mailto:treasurer@npsoregon.org)
- Directors: Marshall Doak, Dick O'Donnell, Judi Sanders, Rachel Werling, and Megan Westby

### Committees & Chairs

- Budget Committee: [Marshall Doak](#)
- Bulletin Editor: [Faye Streier](#), Proofreaders: Kaitlin Andersen, Ken Berg, Camille Stewart
- Conservation: Vacant
- Field Research Grants Committee: [Dan Luoma](#)
- Friends Of The OregonFlora Project: [Linda Hardison](#)
- iNaturalist: [Gail Baker](#)
- Legislative: Vacant
- Membership: [Rachel Werling](#)
- NPSO Fellows: [Lisa Blackburn](#)
- Native Plant Appreciation Month: [Judi Sanders](#)
- Rare & Endangered Plants: [Jason Clinch](#)
- Webmaster: [Tom Pratum](#)
- More information about our NPSO Fellows [here](#).

Chapter Presidents and contact information [can be found here](#).



Website



Facebook