



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

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

## **Bulletin**

March 2026 Volume 59, No.2





Gold star (*Crocidium multicaule*). Lane County, Oregon. April 3, 2013. Photo by Tanya Harvey, 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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## April is Native Plant Appreciation Month





### How Will You Celebrate?

Every April, members of the Native Plant Society of Oregon celebrate the remarkable diversity, beauty, and importance of Oregon’s native plants. Native Plant Appreciation Month (NPAM) is a time to reconnect - with the land, with each other, and with the plants that make Oregon home.

Oregon has officially designated April as Native Plant Appreciation Month (ORS 187.317), and there’s no single “right” way to celebrate.

### Wear Your Support and Invite Others to Join Us

One of the easiest ways to celebrate NPAM is to wear it proudly. Our limited-edition NPAM shirts and sweatshirts are waiting for you on [Bonfire](#). These shirts feature [Camassia quamash](#), common camas—one of our most widely dispersed and culturally significant native plants.

- Short- and long-sleeve tees
- Hoodies and crewnecks

- Multiple colors and sizes



Whether you're out on the trail, attending a talk, or running errands, these shirts spark conversations - and help support NPSO's education and conservation work statewide.

You can find all of the styles, colors, and sizes on our Bonfire page:

<https://www.bonfire.com/native-plant-appreciation-month/>. Order soon to receive them before April. Shirt design and illustration by Julia Lont, a.k.a. Blue Camas Press, [www.julialont.com](http://www.julialont.com).

### Increase Your Knowledge and Skills



Join our webinar "Appreciating Oregon's Native Plants on iNaturalist" on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Jess Beauchemin and James Mickley, both NPSO members and iNaturalist [Ambassadors](#), will take us on a native plant journey across Oregon's diverse

eco-regions and provide tips for making clearer, more useful iNaturalist plant observations.

You'll learn:

- What makes Oregon's native plants so diverse and fascinating
- How to create high-quality plant observations on iNaturalist
- Simple techniques to improve photos and data, no matter your experience level

Participation is open to everyone - curious beginners and seasoned observers alike. If you don't yet have an iNaturalist account, we recommend [signing up](#) in advance so you're ready to participate.

Registration for the webinar is required:

<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/HZUmyUmOQmq69YSwEfl7hQ>

## Notice and Record: Join the Florablitz April 1-30



After you've been to the webinar, you should be primed to participate in our [iNaturalist Florablitz](#) by observing and identifying native plants using iNaturalist. You can participate even if you don't join the webinar. Each observation contributes to our shared understanding of Oregon's flora and supports conservation, research, and education efforts.

You can participate anywhere in the state - even your own neighborhood counts. Take pictures of wild vascular plants and upload them to iNaturalist. If you don't know the names of your plants, someone will try to identify them. If your plants are identified as native, they will be in the project. Even if yours are not native, they will add to our botanical knowledge through the [Flora of Oregon Vascular Plants project](#). Every observation counts - even one!

April is peak noticing season. Spring ephemerals, early shrubs, and emerging perennials are all waiting to be documented.

## Learn Locally with Your Chapter

Throughout April, NPSO chapters celebrate NPAM with:



- guided walks and hikes
- talks and presentations
- workshops and hands-on learning opportunities

Check NPSO's [events calendar](#)

or your local chapter's calendar and join an event - connect with friends and make

new ones. NPAM is also a great time to invite a friend who's curious about native plants but hasn't attended an event before.

Photo: Field trip to Jackson-Frazier Wetlands. Photo by Suzanne Ortiz.



### Connect with Partners



Glide Wildflower Show 2025. Photo by Judi Sanders.

Many of our partner organizations also host April events focused on native plants, habitat restoration, and botanical education. Participating in partner talks, projects, and community science efforts is another meaningful way to celebrate NPAM and strengthen our shared network. We all have parts to play in conserving our native flora. Wearing your NPAM shirt is one way to make an even bigger impact! Watch for a list of these in the April *Bulletin*.

### However You Celebrate, You're Part of It



Whether you buy a shirt, join the webinar, upload a single observation, attend a chapter walk, work on a partner restoration project, or simply pause to admire what's blooming nearby, you're participating in Native Plant Appreciation Month.



Spring is unfolding and April is our invitation to notice, learn, and celebrate the native plants that make Oregon home. - *Judi Sanders*

Carey's balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza careyana*). April 23, 2025. Photo by Rachel Hopkins.

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## Conserving Seed from One of the Smallest Poppies in the World

*Editor's note: This is the second in a series of three articles describing the conservation efforts for at risk plant species accomplished by Oregon Department of Agriculture's Native Plant Conservation Program and their partners in 2025. Next month's article will detail monitoring and seed collection efforts for the priority species Ochoco lomatium (*Lomatium ochocense*).*

White meconella (Oregon fairy poppy) (*Meconella oregana*), a contender for the smallest member of the poppy family (Papaveraceae), was added to Oregon's list of threatened and endangered plants in 2023. While the diminutive annual has a large range, spanning from British Columbia down to California, the species is restricted to specific habitats: open grassy areas with minimal woody cover and shallow gravelly loam soils, often near vernal seeps or small streams. Standing barely two inches tall with flowers smaller than a pencil eraser, this member of the poppy family is easy to overlook. Yet in the Columbia River Gorge, on grassy slopes between 200- and 1,200-foot elevation (Figure 1), it persists as a part of Oregon's unique botanical heritage.

Since 2023, ODA has been working to better understand the status of this species in the Gorge. There appears to be boom and bust years, with some sites having been noted as extirpated in the past, only for plants to be observed again by botanists several years later.

Our mission in 2025 was to collect and conserve seed from multiple populations, creating a safety net against local extirpation while also providing material for future germination and cultivation research. This task was daunting - the plants are so small and its flowering

window so brief that we worried we'd lose track of the plants once they transitioned to fruit, or worse, arrive at our collection sites only to discover seeds had already dropped. We teamed up with volunteers from Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust to assist us in phenology checks every three to five days between late March and late April.

In late March, when the tiny white flowers first appeared, we marked clusters of the poppy with nails that had the heads painted red with nail polish (Figure 2) - our attempt at relocating the plants while not attracting too much attention from the public. During early visits, *M. oregana* plants appeared to have only one or two flowers, but they



produced additional buds and flowers over time as conditions allowed (Figure 3). This evidence of sequential blooming would likely have been missed without consistently revisiting our markers during phenology checks.



Figure 2 (left): Clusters of *M. oregana* marked with red nail. 2025. Photo by Dani Marshall. Figure 3 (right): *M. oregana* plant with multiple flowering stems. 2025. Photo by Brooke Morrow.

Through our monitoring and collection of *M. oregana* across several sites, patterns emerged that increased our understanding of this species. In fully exposed areas, the plants progressed quickly through their lifecycle, their basal leaves already yellowing as pods matured by mid-April. In shadier microhabitats, populations lingered in flower, developing seeds more slowly. We learned to read the signs: when maturing seeds had visibly swelled in the bright green pods and the pods began to twist, seed was likely to be released in a matter of days.

The distinctive ring at each pod's base (Figures 4 and 5) became a helpful diagnostic feature that distinguished *M. oregana* from the surrounding vegetation. As pods matured, this ring would lighten to brown, another signal in nature's subtle timeline. We documented how pods progressed from bright green, plump, and smooth to twisted and dull green (Figure 5), finally splitting from the top down.





Figure 4 (left): *M. oregana* showing distinctive ring. 2025. Photo by Dani Marshall. Figure 5 (right): *M. oregana* seed pods with ring at base of pod. 2025. Photo by Brook Morrow.

Following the Center for Plant Conservation's Best Practices, we carefully collected from multiple maternal lines at each site, never taking more than 10% of available seed. A single plant can produce hundreds of tiny poppy seeds (Figure 6), making even small collections valuable for conservation.

Our crew successfully monitored and collected maternal lines from four sites in the Gorge. We also surveyed three additional Oregon Biodiversity Information Center occurrences to assess population status - one site supported plants but in numbers too small for ethical collection, while no plants were found at the other two sites, suggesting possible local extirpation. This year's fieldwork deepened our understanding of the species' status across the Columbia

Gorge and refined our knowledge of optimal collection timing and techniques. While some seeds will enter long-term preservation storage, we hope to work with partners to establish cultivation protocols, with the ultimate goal of producing seed in quantities sufficient for population augmentation or reintroduction efforts where the species has been lost. We look forward to continuing our *M. oregana* seed collection efforts in southern Oregon next year, as part of our CPC conservation collections effort! - Dani

*Marshall and Brooke Morrow*



Figure 6. *M. oregana* seed. 2025.  
Photo by Brook Morrow

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## OregonFlora

OregonFlora staff member Thea Jaster collaborated with former Oregon State University Herbarium curator and volunteer extraordinaire Richard Halse to publish a checklist of Benton County. The article title and its abstract follow:

Halse, R. R., & Jaster, T. (2025). Vascular plants of Benton County, Oregon, U.S.A.: A checklist. *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas*, 19(3), 347-374. <https://doi.org/10.17348/jbrit.v19.i3.1431>



“The vascular flora of Benton County, Oregon, is reported based on the databases of the OregonFlora synonymized checklist and O.S.U. Herbarium databases and field collections. A total of 1213 terminal taxa were found representing 542 genera in 116 families. In Benton County can be found 25% of Oregon’s flora.”

We are beginning to integrate select iNaturalist records into the OregonFlora dataset. Focusing on taxa that have fewer than five field photos or have fewer than twenty mapped occurrences in our website content, we are targeting a list of approximately 1,700 taxa. This complements the work of the iNaturalist Committee to broadly share knowledge about Oregon's vascular plants.

You’re familiar with OregonFlora’s connections to native plant gardens and pollinators; did you know wineries are also in our sphere? OregonFlora director Linda Hardison will be at the LIVE (Low Input Viticulture and Enology) Annual Meeting this April. LIVE supports environmentally responsible winegrowing and provides certification to growers demonstrating sustainable and ecologically sound practices. Her presentation, in collaboration with entomologist David James, is titled Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest and their Benefits.

Your financial support is always appreciated. Contributions to OregonFlora can be made online through our [PayPal](#) account, or by sending a check to the address on our [Donate](#) page. - Linda Hardison, Director

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## NPSO 2026 Annual Meeting May 29-31



Tolmie's cat's ear (*Calochortus tolmiei*) at Kingston Prairie, one of the 2026 Annual Meeting destinations. Photo credit: NPSO Willamette Valley Chapter.

The Willamette Valley Chapter is delighted to host the next NPSO statewide Annual Meeting May 29-31, 2026, at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem, Oregon.

### Schedule Overview:

- **Friday, May 29:** Participants will be able to choose from nine self-guided field trip options and attend an informal mixer from 4:00-6:00 pm at the [Pringle Community Hall, 606 Church St SE, Salem, OR 97301](#). Light appetizers and



non-alcoholic refreshments will be provided.  
Attendees should bring a sack lunch and water.

THE VALLEY

- **Saturday, May 30:** There will be twelve 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. Lunch and dinner will be included. Our keynote speaker will be Greg Archuleta, cultural educator and member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, on Indigenous uses of Willamette Valley native plants.
- **Sunday, May 31:** The nine self-guided field trip options will repeat on Sunday and participants are welcome to round out the Annual Meeting activities at a no-host brunch at [Lively Station, 3635 River Rd S, Salem, OR 97302](#). The NPSO state Board of Directors will meet in Isaac's Room, Story Hall, 299 Cottage Street, Salem OR 97301 on Sunday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Registration for the meeting will open Saturday, March 14, 2026, on a first-come, first-served basis. Check the [NPSO state website](#) on or after this date for the registration link and additional details, including registration costs, a schedule of activities, lodging recommendations, and a field trip sign-up form. Attendance is limited to the first 150 members who register.

For more information email [wvnpsso@gmail.com](mailto:wvnpsso@gmail.com) or call John Savage at 503-779-5414.

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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.

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## Oregon Mystery Plant

### Last Month's Mystery Plant Revealed

Congratulations to Karl Anderson, Carla Cole, Bruce Waugh, Aaron Ashdown, Paul Slichter, Kathy Pendergrass, Bruce Newhouse, and Mike Splain for recognizing last month's Mystery Plant as *Romanzoffia tracyi*, Tracy's mistmaiden. Tracy's mistmaiden will be

assessed for treatment in Volume 3 of *Flora of Oregon*. According to *Flora of the Pacific Northwest, Second Edition*, this perennial in the Hydrophyllaceae family has densely brown woolly tubers at its base. It is found on rocky coastal bluffs from southern Vancouver Island to northern California.



Tracy's mistmaiden. Photo by Katherine Sayce.

## **New Mystery Plant** **Do you recognize this plant?**

This beauty was photographed by Kareen Sturgeon in the Rough and Ready Creek watershed in Southwest Oregon on May 9, 2014. Send your identification to the editor at [bulletin@npsoregon.org](mailto:bulletin@npsoregon.org).



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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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## ***Fritillaria gentneri* - 2025 Report** **Oregon Department of Agriculture, Native Plant Conservation Program**

As has been the tradition in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Native Plant Conservation Program (NPCP) for over two decades, 2025 field projects started in earnest with trips to southwest Oregon in April for work with the endangered Gentner's fritillary (*Fritillaria gentneri*).

This showy lily from Oregon counties Jackson and Josephine and northern California has been the focus of NPCP conservation efforts that have resulted in real progress toward recovery. In addition to partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and numerous non-federal public land managers on protection and recovery efforts, NPCP has continued to work closely with the Bureau of Land Management's Medford District as most of the populations occur on their lands.

In about 2002, NPCP began developing techniques to collect and propagate wild Gentner's fritillary plants for use in population expansion and creation efforts. Since Gentner's fritillary produces nearly no viable seed in the wild, an atypical propagation approach is required. The process involves carefully marking flowering plant stems during transplant monitoring in the spring, which is the only time plants are flowering and can be definitively identified as Gentner's fritillary and not confused with one of the other two closely related fritillaries (*F. affinis* and *F. recurva*) that it often grows with. Marked plants are excavated in late summer after they naturally die back above ground, and the rice-grain-size bulblets that form on the surface of the main bulb are removed for off-site cultivation while the main bulb is replanted to continue growing in the wild. The bulblets are planted in flats and cultivated for several years before the plants are returned to the wild. We've been partnering with J. Herbert Stone USFS Nursery to care for the transplant stock in Central Point, OR. In 2025, we collected bulblets from three populations from two of the four recovery unit regions that span the range of the species.





This large flowering Gentner's fritillary is a wild plant that was marked in spring for excavation later in the summer, after it has died back for the year, to collect bulblets for off-site propagation of transplant stock. April, 2025. Photo credit Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Transplanting takes place in early fall and was focused in two population centers in 2025. The several weeks of transplant monitoring that we conducted in spring show that our recovery efforts have resulted in the establishment of thousands of additional individuals in the wild. These proactive efforts along with diligent protection and management by partners help ensure this plant will continue to persist into the future. Over the next two years, we look forward to conducting a comprehensive assessment of the recovery transplanting efforts to clarify how much it has helped secure the status of the species as its federal listing status is being reconsidered.

Another exciting endeavor with Gentner's fritillary, a pilot study focused on developing methods to better understand the true size of natural populations, is nearing completion. Since immature plants present themselves as single leaves that can't be differentiated from the other two more common fritillaries that it grows with, only flowering plants can

be identified to species and counted towards recovery. Unfortunately, flowering individuals only make up a small fraction of the entire population, resulting in significant underestimations of the amount of endangered Gentner's fritillary plants in the wild.

Partnering with renowned plant genomics researcher and retired Director of the Oregon State University Herbarium, Dr. Aaron Liston, we developed techniques to determine the identity of non-flowering plants and applied them in several significant populations across the range. While the complexities inherent in Gentner's fritillary and the habitats where it occurs put some constraints on how broadly applicable our results are, it also led to innovations and an expanded understanding of this enigmatic plant. Ultimately, we were able to demonstrate that there are many thousands of plants in the wild that we have not been able to detect until now. Thankfully, this means Gentner's fritillary is in better shape than we could demonstrate before. - *Jordan Brown, Program Lead Conservation Biologist, Oregon Department of Agriculture - Native Plant Conservation Program*

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

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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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## Join a NPSO Working Group to Expand Opportunities in Botanical Education and/or Gardening with Natives!

Help plant the future for the NPSO! Our members tell us that their top interests are learning more about native plants and gardening with natives. Finding more ways to serve these interests emerged among our most important goals during our Strategic

Planning session last fall. Our volunteer organization needs volunteers like you to help make this happen! Bring your creative ideas and energy and join one or both of these working groups. Please use the NPSO [contact us](#) link and let us know which working group(s) interest you. We will connect you with like minds for botanical brainstorming and blooming opportunities!

**Botanical Education Working Group-** There are so many exciting ideas for this working group! The group has met just a few times. First goals include: hosting a workshop at the annual meeting this year and working towards planning quarterly learning opportunities. Join in to help make it happen and add your ideas!

**Gardening With Natives Working Group-** This group is just getting started and is a real growth opportunity for NPSO! -*Rachel Werling*

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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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Oregon Rare Species Spotters (formerly Citizens' Rare Plant Watch) volunteer training will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Portland metropolitan area. New and returning volunteers for the rare species monitoring program can sign up to join in this annual volunteer training. We will go over what Oregon Rare Species Spotters do, how you can participate, methods for rare species population monitoring, and get some practice monitoring plant populations on site. Please email [ndunkirk@pdx.edu](mailto:ndunkirk@pdx.edu) to register for the training. Space is limited so please RSVP as soon as possible. -*Nora Dunkirk*

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Please join the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W 13th Avenue, Eugene, OR for our guest speaker program presented by Amy Champion. This month's topic is "*Boost Biodiversity in Your Garden with Insect-Friendly Habitat.*" For more information about the group or this event, visit our [website](#) or email us at [info@thehardyplantgroup.org](mailto:info@thehardyplantgroup.org). -*Reprinted Courtesy of the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group*

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# State Notes

**Sunday, March 29, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm**

**Meeting: Quarterly NPSO Chapters Round Table**

**Organizer: Rachel Werling**

Calling all NPSO chapter leaders! Join us for the Spring Chapter Round Table. The NPSO is working to strengthen our chapter connections. There is much to learn from each other! Zoom links and agendas will be sent to chapter presidents, and the meeting is open to all members with an interest in the leadership of our organization(s). Reach out to your president for the link and join us for the conversation!

**Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Presentation: Appreciating Oregon's Native Plants on iNaturalist**

**Presenters: Jess Beauchemin and James Mickley, NPSO members and iNaturalist Ambassadors**

**Location: on Zoom; registration**

**link: <https://oregonstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/HZUmyUmOQmq69YSwEfL7hQ>**

Join Jess Beauchemin and James Mickley for an interactive, one-hour webinar that blends native plant appreciation with practical skills for using iNaturalist. Whether you're brand new to the platform or already documenting plants in the field, you'll come away with tips for making clearer, more useful plant observations and a deeper understanding of Oregon's native flora.

You'll learn:

- What makes Oregon's native plants so diverse and fascinating
- How to create high-quality plant observations on iNaturalist
- Simple techniques to improve photos and data, no matter your experience level

Participation is open to everyone—curious beginners and seasoned observers alike. If you don't yet have an iNaturalist account, we recommend signing up in advance so you're ready to participate.

Sponsored by the NPSO iNaturalist and Native Plant Appreciation Month Committees.

Registration required:

<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/HZUmyUmOQmq69YSwEfL7hQ>

**Wednesday, April 1, 12:01 am - Thursday, April 30, 11:59 pm**

**Event: 2026 Native Plant Appreciation Month Blitz**

**Leader: Native Plant Appreciation Month**

**Location: online in iNaturalist:**

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2026-native-plant-appreciation-month-blitz>

April is Native Plant Appreciation Month. As one form of celebration, the NPSO is sponsoring a Florablitz to discover native wild (not cultivated) vascular plants in Oregon during the month of April 2026. Join us by submitting your photographed native vascular plant observations to iNaturalist. Your participation not only facilitates your enjoyment of our spring native plants but further improves botanical knowledge. No experience is necessary. Everyone is encouraged to participate! All of your uploaded native vascular plant observations that are photographed in Oregon during all of April 2026 will be included automatically. You don't have to "join" the project, but you may do so if you like.

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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@NPSOOregon.org](mailto:ch_president@NPSOOregon.org).

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

**Thursday, March 12, 9:00 am - 11:00 am**

**Work Party #313: 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.

**Thursday, April 9, 9:00 am - 11:00 am**

**Work Party #314: 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.

**Saturday, April 11, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm**

**NPSO Cheahmill Chapter Meeting and Presentation: "Bring Back the Pollinators"**

**Presenter: Bob Shaw, Xerces Society**

The Cheahmill Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon will be hosting an in-person meeting on Saturday, April 11 from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm at the McMinnville Library Carnegie Room.

The meeting will include a presentation about native pollinators by Bob Shaw, a volunteer "ambassador" from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. He is also a master gardener and active in Portland's Backyard Habitat program.

We've all read about the declining populations of bees and other pollinators. They are clearly facing challenges from habitat loss and pesticide use, even climate change. By managing our gardens, parks, and other green spaces with pollinators in mind, we can transform our towns and cities to support the insects that are essential for a healthy environment—and if we all do something, together we can have a big impact. Learn about the Xerces Society at: <https://www.xerces.org/>.

## **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://www.facebook.com/CorvallisNPSO).

**Sunday, March 1, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Event: Work Party at the Avery Native Plant Garden**

**Leader: Esther McEvoy**

**Location: Avery House Nature Center, Avery Park, Corvallis**

Come help get the garden ready for spring. Bring gloves, rake, clippers, and energy. Contact Esther for more information or to RSVP at 541-990-0948 or [estherco@peak.org](mailto:estherco@peak.org).

**Thursday, March 12, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Event: Sustainability Coalition Fair**

**Location: CH2M Hill Building, Oregon State University**

Our chapter will have a table with beautiful displays and maybe T-shirts for sale.

We need a few volunteers to help set up the display, talk to attendees at the table, and take the display down. The fair is great promotion and visibility for the Native Plant Society because it had over 500 attendees last year who are interested in aspects of sustainability. Contact Esther to help at [esthermcevoy975@gmail.com](mailto:esthermcevoy975@gmail.com).

**Friday, March 13, 7:30 to 8:30 pm \*Note date change to Friday rather than our usual Monday**

**Presentation: Cryptic Lineages and Morphological Stasis in a Rare Genus of Mycoheterotrophic Plants**

**Presenter: Ash Gill, M.S.**

**Location: Cordley Hall Room 2602, Oregon State University or by Zoom (registration link below)**

Join us for a presentation on an investigation of hidden genetic diversity and fungal host affiliations in *Pityopus californicus*.

Understanding the evolutionary processes leading to the formation of cryptic lineages is increasingly of interest as efforts continue to reconcile such lineages to established species concepts. Parasitic plants offer compelling case studies on this topic due to their severe morphological reductions and obligate reliance on other organisms for establishment and survival.

In our study, we examined *Pityopus*, a monotypic genus of mycoheterotrophic plants in Ericaceae that parasitize ectomycorrhizal fungi. Our goal was to investigate whether molecular divergence in this group is deserving of species-level recognition and whether lineage formation is related to the parasitic lifestyle. By integrating field samples with herbarium specimens, we assembled a representative dataset from across the range of this rare taxon for genomic and morphological analysis. Our findings reveal four discrete lineages of *Pityopus* in morphological stasis with range overlap, and a wider array of host affiliates than previously known. Due to the lack of clear diagnostic features, we fail to delimit any new species in *Pityopus* but acknowledge the presence of cryptic lineages that should be conserved. We also demonstrate the efficacy of DNA barcoding for lineage identification. This study provides an example of morphologically similar yet reproductively isolated cryptic lineages that persist in sympatry.

To attend by Zoom, register in advance for this meeting here:

<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/1ACjMfLRRlqZBBwb8OsoVw>

## **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>

**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!

**Saturday, April 11, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Presentation: Amazon Community Center Events: Botany Workshop and Plant Walk**

**Presenter: Steven Yeager, NPSO President**

**Location: Amazon Community Center, Mark Lewis Imaginarium, 2700 Hilyard St, Eugene**

Come explore the beauty of botanical language. Learn the botanical terminology you will need to identify plants growing in your garden or local forest! Designed to give

participants the skills to understand botanical descriptions in herbal texts and gardening books, and become familiar with important vocabulary for the identification and appreciation of plants. We'll investigate plant anatomy and plant family characteristics. The class will include a slide show and short plant walk time permitting. Please bring a hand lens (loupe) if you have one.

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

**Friday, April 17, 7:00 pm \*Please note this is a Friday meeting, not Monday.**

**Presentation: Oak Savannah Communities**

**Presenter: Heron Brae**

**Location: Room 221 Allen Hall, University of Oregon campus.**

Heron is an experienced botanist, wildcrafter, andrewilder with a demonstrated history of working in professional and community environmental services. She is skilled in teaching, research, community organizing, and inspiration, and has two decades of experience in field work studying medicinal and edible plants from an ecological and ecocultural perspective.

This meeting occurs together with the Eugene Natural History Society. See <http://eugenenaturalhistorysociety.org/> for updates.

## **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>.

## **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.**

We had our first Board meeting of 2026 and welcomed our new president and new committee chairs and members. 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 Upcoming Programs: Second Thursday of every month**

**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**

A presentation covering the past twenty years of Oregon white oak restoration and fire suppression in the east Columbia River Gorge. Brance will discuss the role historic fire suppression has played in the reduction in Oregon white oak habitat and restoration of these habitats over the past twenty years, along with associated effects.

Zoom Registration Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meetingRef=OeCtC9ptSd6T4Tjz1jdcdA>

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

Hopefully the return of the sun will encourage you to check out our [NPSOPDX26 Marching Into Spring Bioblitz](#). How is your bud identification these days? Take a guess and then let the iNaturalist community help you narrow down the choices.

Please remember to check out the statewide project on [Flora of Oregon: Vascular Plants's Journal · iNaturalist](#). During the recent ID-A-Thon, Tyler Pedersen won his Bronze standing. Here is an Interview with Tyler, who shares how he [Turns Curiosity into Community Science](#), composed by Judi Sanders, another ID-A-Thon placemaker.

#### **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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXFI2J9yp2AYmUzNz0jLLSw). 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>

## **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>.

**Saturday, March 21, 10:00 am**  
**Field Trip: Group Visit to Stillwater Natives Nursery in Bandon**  
**Leader/Presenter: Gail Perrotti**  
**Location: 53701 Beach Loop Rd, Bandon, OR 97411**

[Stillwater Native Nursery](#) will be open by appointment only in 2026. The South Coast Chapter is hosting a group visit. Interns from local high schools will give a presentation at 11:00 am with time for shopping after the presentation. Carpooling is encouraged. For more information, to register, or get carpool information, contact Gail Perrotti at [gperrotti@earthlink.net](mailto:gperrotti@earthlink.net) or 541-414-9777.

## **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

**Saturday, March 21, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Field Trip: Silver Falls State Park**

**Trip Leader: Kim Maley**

Kim Maley, park interpreter for the Friends of Silver Falls, will lead an easy to moderate walk to view the lichens at Silver Falls State Park. Bring water, snacks, appropriate foot gear, and clothing for wet and cold conditions. Registration is required. To register and for more information, please contact John Savage at [wvnps@gmail.com](mailto:wvnps@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, Kristi Mergenthaler, 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

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