



Native Plant Society of Oregon

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

Bulletin

May 2026 Volume 59, No.4



Sand-lily (*Leucocrinum montanum*). Photographed near Peter French's Round Barn near the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon. May 2025. Photo by Karen Sturgeon.

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If you prefer to read a hard copy, click on the link at the top of this email that says "view this email in your browser," and then "print" this e-newsletter as a PDF. A PDF is also uploaded to the NPSO website - look for the link in the right-hand column.

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

2025 Strategic Planning Executive Summary and Report

The NPSO held its first Strategic Planning Session in decades in October 2025. This session was featured in the [Dec. 2025/Jan 2026 Bulletin: NPSO 2025 Strategic Planning Session: Charting a Sustainable Future](#). The NPSO board approved the 2025 Strategic Plan and final report at their Jan 24, 2026, meeting. The executive summary of the report is printed below and can be found on the [NPSO administrative page](#). The full forty-page report is available upon request from secretary@npsoregon.org.

Watch for future articles containing strategic planning working groups' updates, calls to action, and progress. NPSO members are encouraged to respond to these calls for participation to be involved with sculpting our future! -Rachel Werling

Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) Strategic Planning Session, October 17-19, 2025, Siskiyou Field Institute, Selma, Oregon

The Native Plant Society of Oregon convened its 2025 Strategic Planning Session at the Siskiyou Field Institute in Selma, Oregon, bringing together fourteen board members including chapter presidents and representatives, and committee leaders.

Purpose

The purpose of the Strategic Planning session was to identify strategic goals for a sustainable future direction, strengthen organizational capacity, and align the organization around a shared vision and conservation approach.

Process

Facilitated by Rachel Werling, Organizational Development Consulting Contractor, the planning process combined large-group discussions, small-group exercises, and consensus-driven goal setting. Friday evening began with a review of 2024 member and board survey data and a SWOAR (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) assessment to ground participants in a refreshed perspective of current conditions.

Saturday focused on mission and vision alignment, NPSO's approach to conservation, and the organization's structural and staffing needs and possibilities. Sunday's session synthesized goals and identified key priorities, action steps, and accountability mechanisms.

Key Outcomes and Goals

The group identified fourteen priority goals and one additional unprioritized goal. The table that follows lists the overall rank of each goal.

Rank	Goal	Agenda Category
1	Increase Botanical Education	SWOAR: Aspirations
2	Continue to Explore other Options for Structure	Organizational Structure
3	Gardening Focused Working Group	SWOAR: Opportunities
3	Articulate Role for "first hire" including defining adequate Treasurer Support	Staffing and Fundraising Considerations
4	Improve Board Mentorship	SWOAR: Weakness
4	Create Fundraising (Development) Working Group	Staffing and Fundraising Considerations
5	Inclusivity Working Group	SWOAR: Weakness
6	Strengthen Volunteer Rare Plant Monitoring	SWOAR: Aspirations
6	Continue to promote and support Chapter Round Table or Council	Organizational Structure
6	Annual Meeting: Articulate new State/Chapter roles, explore other Annual Meeting elements	Organizational Structure
7	Improve Conservation Committee (More members, Improve Process & Communication, guidelines)	Conservation
8	Implement Better Data Capture Policies (Chapter reports include metrics)	Staffing and Fundraising Considerations
9	Review and Refine Relationship between Conservation and Legislative Committees	Conservation
9	CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Module (currently Wild Apricot) Research Working Group)	Staffing and Fundraising Considerations

The narrative executive summary below captures the priorities according to the portion of the strategic planning in which they originated.

SWOAR Organizational Assessment Summary

Participants conducted a SWOAR assessment (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) to ground the planning process in a shared understanding of NPSO’s current strengths, challenges, and future possibilities. The organization’s strong conservation ethic, engaged and knowledgeable membership, and solid financial resources were affirmed as core strengths. Key challenges included volunteer shortages, aging leadership, and the need to strengthen diversity and inclusion. Opportunities centered on expanding collaboration with educational partners, tribes, and community programs, while aspirations highlighted growth in conservation influence, outreach, and organizational capacity.

Priorities include:

- Increasing botanical education
- Gardening education initiatives

- Improving board mentorship
- Expanding inclusivity efforts
- Strengthening volunteer-driven rare plant monitoring

Mission and Vision Alignment

Participants affirmed NPSO's continued commitment to native plant study, education, enjoyment, and conservation, emphasizing the Society's science-based, nonpartisan approach. Work began on new draft vision and values statements to more fully express the organization's aspirations for impact and inclusion.

Conservation and Advocacy

The group clarified that NPSO's conservation role is primarily science- and education-driven, with advocacy focused on supporting native plant communities through constructive partnerships, non-partisan public engagement, and credible, respectful communication.

Priorities include:

- Developing clear communication guidelines for conservation positions and public statements.
- Improving the Conservation Committee by expanding its membership to include multiple participants, ensuring broader input, shared responsibility, and balanced review of all communications to align with the NPSO's conservation role.

Organizational Structure and Capacity

Participants reviewed options for NPSO's federated structure and considered models used by peer native plant societies. There was recognition of the variety of experiences, challenges and capacities among the chapters, and a desire to identify flexible solutions to fit these circumstances and improve the organization's function.

Priorities include:

- Continuing evaluation of organizational models to address sustainability and efficiency.
- Continued support and development of the Chapter Round Table (or other structure) to improve communication channels among chapters and with the state board and continue to examine these options.
- Annual Meeting: articulate a new relationship between the state and chapters to enhance efficiency and capacity.

Staffing and Capacity Building

Examining the limits of an all-volunteer model in supporting continued organizational health, participants discussed options for part-time staffing or contracted administrative support.

Priorities include:

- Defining initial staff or contractor roles that could provide continuity, communication, and volunteer and membership support. This should include effective support for the Treasurer role, as a premiere priority.
- Establishing a funding strategy to support initial staff support.
- Building development and fundraising capacity to sustain these efforts.
- Reviewing CRM (Customer Relations Management) software options (current is Wild Apricot) to optimize outreach and data management.

The table below organizes the goals with colors according to the section of the strategic planning agenda in which the goal was generated to provide context for the goals.

Agenda Category	Goal	Total Prioritization Score
SWOAR: Aspirations	Increase Botanical Education	110
SWOAR: Opportunities	Gardening Focused Working Group	90
SWOAR: Weakness	Improve Board Mentorship and Succession Practices	85
SWOAR: Weakness	Inclusivity Working Group	80
SWOAR: Aspirations	Strengthen Volunteer Rare Plant Monitoring	70
Mission and Vision	Action: Create Working Group to Wordsmith: Steven Yeager to lead	
Conservation	Improve Conservation Committee (More members, Improve Process & Communication)	50
Conservation	Review and Refine Relationship between Conservation and Legislative Committees	15
Organizational Structure	Continue to Explore other Options for Structure	105
Organizational Structure	Continue to promote and support Chapter Round Table or Council	70
Organizational Structure	Annual Meeting: Articulate new State/Chapter roles, explore other Annual Meeting elements	70
Staffing and Fundraising Considerations	Articulate Role for "first hire" including defining adequate Treasurer Support	90
Staffing and Fundraising Considerations	Create Fundraising (Development) Working Group	85
Staffing and Fundraising Considerations	Implement Better Data Capture Policies (Chapter reports include metrics)	35
Staffing and Fundraising Considerations	CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Module (currently Wild Apricot) Research Working Group)	15

Implementation and Accountability

The group ranked strategic goals by priority and identified potential champions for each area. Follow-up actions include integrating the goals into board work plans, developing clear metrics for success, and communicating the plan to chapters and members in early 2026. A google spreadsheet is being used for tracking progress on the strategic goals.

Conclusion

The session fostered renewed unity, clarified direction, and generated actionable goals

that will guide NPSO's evolution as a respected, science-based, member-driven organization. The resulting plan positions NPSO to strengthen its internal structure, sustainability and effectiveness and continue its mission to study, enjoy, and conserve Oregon's native plants. - *Rachel Werling*

Oregon Flora

We have added a new feature to the interactive maps on the OregonFlora website: you can now select a background layer showing land ownership. There are seven ownership categories that can be chosen, either individually or altogether: Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, State of Oregon, Local government, Other Federal lands, Tribal, and Private. Other layers you can display on maps show geology, county lines, and ecoregions. There is also a suite of base maps to choose from, with options including Google-style maps, topological, or satellite imagery. View the options you can select from by clicking/tapping on the "layers" icon (which looks like a stack of paper) in the upper right corner of our maps.

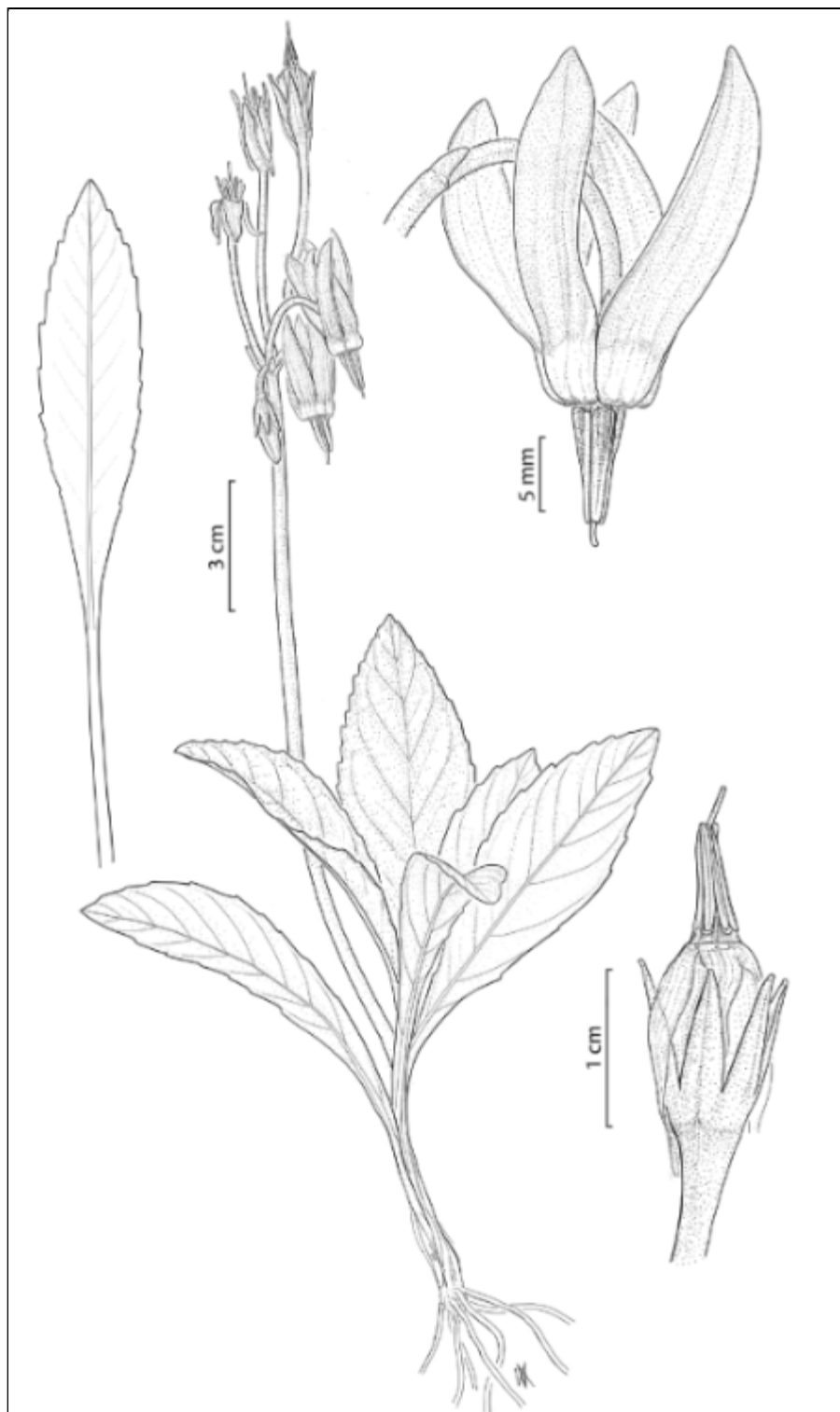


Give those colorful Land Ownership and Geology layers a moment to load—there's a whole lot of information to convey! - and then enjoy these visual ways to add context to the plant occurrence information that OregonFlora shares.

Thanks go to our programmer, Brian Phan, and database manager/GIS expert Katie Mitchell for implementing these features.

We are in the final editing stages of yet another section of Volume 3 of the *Flora*—this one containing the primrose family, or Primulaceae. Author Kevin Weitemier, with contributions from the late Kenton Chambers, is referencing analyses using chloroplast DNA that indicate the genus *Dodecatheon* (shooting stars) is best categorized as a section within the genus *Primula*. He writes “Despite the striking floral morphology that makes the shooting stars so distinct (an adaptation to buzz-pollination by bees), the morphology when not in flower is closely allied with other members of *Primula*.” OregonFlora nomenclature will reflect this update, aligning us with other floras of the Pacific Northwest and West Coast. Below is the illustration of *Primula* (*Dodecatheon*)

austrofrigida by artist John Myers that will accompany the floristic treatment in *Flora of Oregon* Volume 3.



Your financial support is always appreciated, especially as we enter the final stretch of completing the three-volume book form of the *Flora*. 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

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. Please get consent from any people included in your photo prior to sending it.

Oregon Mystery Plant with Correction

New Mystery Plant Do you recognize this plant?

Correction and Last Month's Mystery Plant Revealed

Profound apologies to all and especially to Kareen Sturgeon for the errors your editor made related to last month's Mystery Plant. The Mystery Plant was *Penstemon acuminatus* var. *latebracteatus*, sharp leaved penstemon. It was photographed on the dirt road to Mickey Hot Springs on the east side of Steen's Mountain, not near Peter French's round barn. Congratulations to Paul Slichter for correctly identifying the Mystery Plant. This taxon will be assessed for treatment in Volume 3 of *Flora of Oregon*.

According to *Flora of North America*, sharp leaved penstemon occurs on sandy soils (including dunes) and in sagebrush and shadscale communities in Oregon, Nevada, and Idaho. Kareen observed that her site was notable because the plants were confined to patchy sandy soils - a reminder that species such as this persist by locating the scattered soil patches they require.

I accidentally included a second photo which was not a photo of the Mystery Plant. The second photo was *P. speciosus*, showy penstemon. Thanks to Bruce Waugh for correctly identifying this species.



Sharp leaved penstemon. Photo by Kareen Sturgeon.



Kimberly St. Hilaire photographed this green leaved shrub in oak woodland along Marlow Road in Eugene, Oregon on April 2, 2026. Send your identification to the editor at bulletin@npsoregon.org.

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

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. For any questions about the scholarship or to obtain an application form, contact John Savage at 503-779-5414 or at wvnpsso@gmail.com. -
John Savage

Key NPSO Committee Positions Open

The NPSO state board is seeking individuals to serve as chairperson for the Membership, Legislative, iNaturalist, and Publications 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. Those who are interested in the Membership Chair position may contact membership@npsoregon.org.
-Steven Yeager

Alternate *Bulletin* Editor Needed

If you enjoy editing, layout, and coordinating with other NPSO members, please consider volunteering to be the alternate editor for the *Bulletin*. The alternate editor would produce part or all of the *Bulletin* if I have an emergency or am traveling. In particular, I'll be out of the country during the second half of September 2026 and will need help finishing the October *Bulletin*. Although this role will not be frequent, it is important and offers the satisfaction of contributing to the timely dissemination of news and information for our NPSO membership.

At present, I use Mailchimp and devote roughly 15-20 hours each month to working on the newsletter. I'll provide training, and there is a step-by-step handbook for reference. Please email bulletin@npsoregon.org if you are interested. -Faye Streier, *Bulletin* editor

Oregon Rare Species Spotters May Outings



White rock larkspur (*Delphinium leucophaem*). Iron Mountain, Curry County, Oregon.
June 5, 2025. Photo by Nora Dunkirk.

[Oregon Rare Species Spotters](#) (ORSS, formerly CRPW) invites NPSO rare plant enthusiasts to help document some rare plants in May. Join Nora on an outing in the Gorge. Alternatively, we are looking for volunteers in the Portland area to adopt a species at Iron Mountain for an independent outing!

Sunday, May 17, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Rare Plant data collection Field Trip to Monitor *Penstemon barrettiae* and *Lomatium suksdorfii*

Leader: Nora Dunkirk / ORSS

Location: The Gorge near Mosier

Register: email Nora to sign up at ndunkirk@pdx.edu

Friday, May 29, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Rare Plant data collection Field Trip to Monitor *Erigeron oreganus*

Leader: Nora Dunkirk / ORSS

Location: The Gorge near Hood River

Register: email Nora to sign up at ndunkirk@pdx.edu

Independent assignment (you choose day and time in May)

Rare Plant data collection Field Trip to Monitor *Delphinium leucophaeum*

Leader: Nora Dunkirk / ORSS

Location: Iron Mountain, Lake Oswego

Register: email Nora to sign up at ndunkirk@pdx.edu - Nora Dunkirk

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.

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Susan Harrington is an Oregon-based oil painter whose work focuses on native and endangered plant species of the western United States. In May 2026, she will be presenting a solo exhibition of her paintings at [Waterstone Gallery](#) in Portland's Pearl District titled *Resilience Is Our Nature*. The exhibition centers on endangered native plants and draws parallels between botanical resilience and our shared human experience in an era of environmental and social change.

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Please join the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W 13th Avenue, Eugene, OR, for our guest speaker program presented by David Hedberg. This month's topic is "*Heritage Trees in Oregon History*." For more information about the group or this event, visit our website at www.thehardyplantgroup.org/events or email us at info@thehardyplantgroup.org.

-Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group

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.

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

Tuesday, May 5, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Work Party #315: Native Plant Garden at McMinnville Public Library

Location: McMinnville Public Library

Help NPSO and Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District maintain the Native Plant Garden at McMinnville Public Library. Bring gloves, bucket, and gardening tools if you have them. 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.

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. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/CorvallisNPSO.

Friday, May 1, 6:00 pm

Field Trip: Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture

Leader: Will Pearson

Location: 843 SW 35th Street, Corvallis

Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture is an excellent learning laboratory for sustainable horticultural practices in both rural and peri-urban landscapes. Many projects have taken place over the years mixing both native and ornamental species into the landscape. Currently, great camas and western sweet cicely are especially prevalent. Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture is pollinator friendly and home to demonstration beehives. Join Will for a tour of the center and get new ideas about how you might incorporate more native plants into your landscape.

Monday, May 11, 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Program: Emerald Ash Borer: A Threat to Our Forest

Presenter: Matt Mills

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

Matt Mills of the Oregon Department of Forestry will be sharing information on emerald ash borer (EAB). Emerald ash borer (*Agilus planipennis*) is an invasive wood-boring beetle from NE Asia and is responsible for the death and decline of tens of millions of ash trees in North America since 2002. EAB was discovered in Forest Grove, Oregon in 2022 and has been found in additional counties since.

This presentation covers how to prepare for EAB's arrival, including its biology and life cycle, signs and symptoms, current distribution, impacts on communities and natural areas, and planning steps.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/IQ8qY6KGSu25nptan6ovOw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Date: Saturday, May 16, 9:00 am - about 11:00 am

Field trip: Woodpecker Loop, Finley Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Judi Sanders

Location: Woodpecker Loop Trail, W.L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge

We will meet at the Woodpecker Loop parking lot. This will be a relatively easy hike primarily through wooded areas. We are likely to see mariposa lilies, irises, buttercups, monkeyflowers, snakeroot, fringe cups, waterleafs, checkermallow, cow parsnip, sword fern, ninebark, camas and more! Bring water and dress for the weather. For more information, email Judi: judi.sanders@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 24, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Field Trip: Oak Creek Preserve, Greenbelt Land Trust

Leader: Carolyn Menke

The Oak Creek Preserve (acquired in 2023) is a key addition as it connects habitat on Greenbelt properties with Oregon State University property and MacDonald Forest. For more information on the preserve, see: [Oak Creek Preserve | Greenbelt Land Trust](#)

Meet at 9:00 am at the Oregon State University Oceanography parking lot (between NW Arnold Way and NW 27th Street (entrance) in Corvallis) to carpool. Contact Esther for more information at esthermcevoy975@gmail.com.

Emerald

For questions or to be added to the Emerald Chapter email list, email us at: 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/. To view our YouTube channel, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb2piFmgLQTMhKR8H8iobTw>

Sunday, May 3, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Event: First Annual Habitat Haven Native Garden Tour

Locations: Native plant gardens in the Eugene vicinity

This is a self-guided tour of eleven gardens that have been certified as high quality habitat for birds and pollinators, with most plants being native. This tour is a great way to see which native plants are used and get ideas for designs for your own garden. Gardens are found in South Eugene, River Road, and Northeast Eugene.

Gardens are found in South Eugene, River Road, and Northeast Eugene.

Once you make a donation to Habitat Haven, you will receive a map of gardens. Gardens are open for four hours. You may pick where to start and end.

NPSO volunteers will be at many gardens helping point out the natives and where they grow best.

Tickets are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/habitat-havens-backyard-habitat-garden-tour-tickets-1980294480098>.

Saturday, May 9, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Field Trip: Bikes To Bloom: Wildflower Walks

Location: Bake Stewart Park, Dorena

Discover spring wildflowers with a local expert as your guide, and explore a rare, remnant prairie and oak habitat along Dorena Lake and the Row River bike trail. Bikes to Blooms is a free event featuring activities for families and nature enthusiasts, including a morning bird walk, guided and self-guided wildflower walks, and educational booths hosted by local organizations. Bike or drive to find us. Please leave dogs at home!

Schedule

8:00 am: Guided bird walk

9:00 am - 1:00 pm: Educational booths and self-guided walk materials

10:00 am, 11:00 am, and 12:00 pm: Guided wildflower walks

For additional event information, visit coastfork.org, Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Facebook page (@CoastFork), or call the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council office at 541-767-9717.

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Volunteer Outreach: Westmoreland Park Wetlands Enhancement Work Party

Leader: Nancy Bray

Location: Westmorelands Park, East wetland on Polk St., South of the pickleball courts on W. 20th Ave, Eugene

This work party in Westmoreland Park wetlands continues our start to remove invasive meadow foxtail before it goes to seed, and we need a lot of volunteers to help! There are tasks for all ages and physical abilities. We meet on Polk St. just south of the pickleball courts. Parks & Open Space coordinates the work parties and provides all the tools.

These wetlands to the east and west of the Dr. Edwin Coleman Jr. Center have significant native plants including two species with the largest populations anywhere in Eugene. Our wetlands enhancement project is now in its fifth year and is showing great progress in helping the native plants to flourish. We hope you can join us!

Please RSVP to braynj@gmail.com if you can help out at one or both work parties so we can let Parks & Open Space know how many tools to bring.

Saturday, May 16, 2026, 9:00 am
Field Trip: Blue Mountain County Park
Leader: Ed Alverson

The 268-acre Blue Mountain County Park is located along Mosby Creek southeast of Cottage Grove. Its mostly forested landscape contains a diverse assortment of lowland forest wildflowers, with a few prairie species mixed in. We will explore the older forest along a 1-mile loop on the valley bottom, and if time allows, explore an old logging road to a more open viewpoint.

Meet at South Eugene High School at 9:00 am. Bring water and snacks, sturdy footwear, and rain gear as needed. Sign up [Here](#).

Sunday, May 17, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Event: Mount Pisgah Wildflower Festival
Location: Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Emerald Chapter helps collect plants, set up the show, and will maintain a booth at the show on Sunday May 17. All botanists can add plants to the i-Naturalist project "Lane County Wildflower Show Florablitz" ([2026 iNat Florablitz project](#)) any time between May 12 and 16, 2026. The focus of the Florablitz is on flowering plants in bloom in Lane County, Oregon.

For more information, see: <https://mountpisgaharboretum.org/festivals-events/wildflower-music-festival/>.

Friday, June 5, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm
Field Trip: Lily Lake Trail
Leader: Bob Hladky and Armand Rebishke

Join Armand Rebishke, Siuslaw National Forest botanist/ecologist, and Bob Hladky, Emerald Chapter secretary and former Siuslaw National Forest botanist, on a walk around Lily Lake, north of Florence. We will meet at 10:00 am at Lowes in west Eugene near the tall trees to carpool or at Baker Beach Campground at 11:30 for a picnic lunch. After lunch, we'll walk the loop trail and venture off trail to see several rare plants including *Lycopodium inundatum* (bog clubmoss) and *Vaccinium oxycoccus* (swamp cranberry) in a boggy wetland and *Schoenoplectus californicus* (California bullrush) near the junction of the stream and the lake. Bring a lunch, water, and rubber boots for the bog unless you are comfortable walking in wet boots! Sign up [here](#).

High Desert

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

Saturday, May 2, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Field Trip: Botany Bonanza at Chimney Rock

Leader: Ben Snyder

Location: Chimney Rock Trailhead

Gather at the Chimney Rock trailhead on the Crooked River (blm.gov/visit/chimney-rock-trail) at 9:00 am, departing up the trail at 9:15 am for this native plant field trip. The hike begins near the river and winds about 700 feet to the top of the bluffs. We'll walk about three miles round trip, at a relaxed pace. The group will hopefully be checking out *Lomatium* spp., *Ribes* spp., *Sedum* sp., *Salvia* sp., *Woodsia* sp., and the abundant sagebrush buttercups among many other wonderful plants. Wear your favorite hiking footwear. Bring water and snacks; we'll be taking a break at the eponymous pillar of basalt.

Join this classic spring hike with your fellow plant lovers!

The location is about an hour's drive from Bend. Please indicate if you'd like to share your email with other participants so you can make carpool arrangements with hdceventscoordinator@gmail.com.

[RSVP here!](#)

Saturday-Sunday, May 2-3, 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Event: Restoration Field Work Opportunity (Highland)

Leader: David Cevallo

Location: 1500 SW Chandler Ave, Bend, OR 97702

This project is testing seed sourcing approaches for dryland restoration using native grasses. We are working in both lowland and highland environments because they

represent different climate conditions. In general, lowlands are warmer and drier, while highlands are cooler and wetter. Under climate change, many highland areas are expected to become warmer and drier, so we are interested in understanding whether ecotypes from drier environments may also be useful for restoration in places expected to become drier in the future. Volunteers may help with site layout, direct seeding, transplanting seedlings, labeling treatments, watering plants, and general field logistics. Overnight camping is required. Please contact David if you're interested in volunteering: cevalloj@oregonstate.edu

Sunday, May 17, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Field Trip: Miller's Property Botany Walk

Leader: Marilyn Miller

Location: 60587 Barlow Trail, Bend, OR 97702

Join the High Desert Chapter on this botany walk on Miller's property. Marilyn and Craig Miller have graciously allowed us to take a stroll on their 10-acre property. Please park on the street as it will be difficult for all of us to park in their driveway.

Marilyn is a Master Woodland Manager, a certified naturalist, and vice-chair of the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project. She is one of the original founders of the collaborative and holds the environmental seat. She owns Miller Conservation Consulting. She has been doing various bird surveys (and some mammal) for the past 25 years. She has been advocating for wildlife habitat on our public lands for years. For fun Marilyn and Craig spend their time birding, hiking, and traveling.

Craig is a retired emergency room physician. Craig helped form Oregon Natural Desert Association almost 40 years ago and has been handling the organization's Geographic Information Systems for 25 years. Craig is an expert birder.

[RSVP here!](#)

Wednesday, May 20, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Event and Presentation: May Chapter Meeting

Presenter: Jarod Lemos

Location: Larkspur Community Center

At the meeting Jarod will present: "Prineville Bureau of Land Management - Integrated Invasive Plant Management Environmental Assessment, 2026"

Saturday, May 23, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Event: Jefferson Lake Trail invasive weed removal

Leaders: Holly Scott and Beth Johnson

Location: Jefferson Lake Trailhead

Volunteers needed to pull cheatgrass on the Jefferson Lake Trail

The Jefferson Lake Trail is a part of Mt. Jefferson Wilderness located in the Metolius Basin. The trail travels through a beautiful old growth forest, crosses a lava field with views of Mt. Jefferson, and after two miles enters the B & B Fire affected landscape.

Holly Scott and Beth Johnson, the Sisters Ranger District botanist, have been working together for the last several years to control weeds on the Jefferson Lake Trail. Holly has been pulling the cheat grass invading along the trail, with the goal of eventually eliminating it. She is doing a great service to our wildlands here and deserves our help.

When she started, cheatgrass extended from the parking lot along the trail for 3.25 miles in intermittent patches. Holly's efforts have reduced the cheatgrass to patches occurring from 1.75 miles to 2.25 miles from the trailhead.

We meet at Ashley's Furniture parking lot (Cascade Village on North side of Bend) at 7:30 am for carpool, then stop in Sisters at the Village Green southwest corner at 8:00 am. It is a 1 hour 15-minute drive from Bend to the Jefferson Lake Trailhead. It will be a 1.5 to 2 miles hike into the area where we will start pulling weeds. We will turn around at 2:00 pm or before, planning to be back to Bend between 4:00 pm and 4:30 pm. Recommended personal protection equipment: long sleeve shirt and pants, sturdy footwear (some rocky areas), gloves are nice since there are some wild blackberries/roses, hat for sun, snacks/lunch and at least two liters of water. If you have a 5-gallon bucket please bring it along, we have some extras otherwise. We will provide heavy duty plastic bags.

[RSVP here!](#)

Klamath Basin

For information on the Klamath Basin Chapter, contact 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](#).

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 helped throughout the year to complete necessary weed abatement and maintenance to the existing plant beds. Typically, we meet alternating Sundays from 9:00 -11:00 am between April-August.

Meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of each month at the Klamath County Museum.

Our 2026 schedule of walks and activities is drafted and is expected to be updated as necessary (please refer to our website). Presentations are held at the Meeting Room at the back of the Klamath County Museum (1451 Main St.).

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 am

Event: Annual Native Plant Sale

Our annual native plant sale has been promoted on our website, Facebook, our email distribution list, the local newspaper, and radio in partnership with the Klamath County Museum. The goal is to provide the local community with a variety of native species suitable for the Klamath Basin. The Chapter sold approximately 1,350 plants in 2025. This year's sale features sixty-seven species, approximately 1,500 plants, with 80% propagated in Klamath Falls in partnership with the Klamath County Master Gardeners. The rest will be sourced from Winter Creek Restoration and Nursery in Bend. Seed sowing and transplanting began in January and continues to date for a select number of native plants. This event includes a variety of native flowering plants and shrubs in 3.5" and 1-gallon pots. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the native plant sale. Email klamathbasinnpso@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Late May-early June

Leader: Sarah Malaby, retired U.S. Forest Service botanist

Sarah will lead a field trip to explore the native flora along the Moore Park trails, one of the Klamath Falls city parks.

Early July

Leader: Sarah Malaby, retired U.S. Forest Service botanist

Sarah will lead a field trip to experience the botanical diversity within Miller Island Wildlife Refuge just south of Klamath Falls.

Late July

Leader: Dan Hawkes, retired U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer

Dan will lead a field trip to share the beauty offered at Little Shasta Meadow Botanical Area in nearby northern Siskiyou County, California.

Early August

Leader: Kerry Johnston, Bureau of Land Management botanist

Kerry will lead a field trip to either Yainax Butte or the Klamath River Canyon both of which are Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within Bureau of Land Management lands.

Portland

Exploring the best that Spring has to show, from the Coast to the Gorge, the Portland Chapter is bursting with ways to get outside as we celebrate growth and beauty.

PDX Chapter Upcoming Programs: Second Thursday of every month. Watch for associated in-person events each month.

Thursday, May 14, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

May Program: Resilience Is Our Nature: Honoring Endangered Plants on Canvas
Presenters: Susan Harrington and Nora Dunkirk

Susan Harrington, a full-time artist in the Portland area, will share her current work and process spanning the simple joy of being present in nature, to the creation of what she refers to as “plant portraits.” Susan’s oil paintings are a commentary about the endangered and native species of plants in the western United States threatened by urban expansion, agriculture development, wildfire, and climate change.

The program will also include Nora Dunkirk, with an update on the successes of Oregon Biodiversity Information Center and Citizen’s Rare Plant Watch in 2025, new tools, aspirations, and plans for a name change in 2026.

Additional Waterstone Artist Talk with Susan: May 17

Throughout May, Susan will be presenting a solo exhibition of her paintings at [Waterstone Gallery](#) in Portland’s Pearl District titled [Resilience Is Our Nature](#). The exhibition centers on endangered native plants and draws parallels between botanical resilience and our shared human experience in an era of environmental and social change. On Sunday, May 17, Susan will give her in person Artist Talk. We hope other NPSO members will join her and view all of her stunning and remarkable paintings in person.

Zoom Registration

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/5bkJL4fzT7mJIS1t7lFf8Q>

Thursday, June 11, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

June Program: [Gardening With Natives: The Oregon Flora Way](#)

Presenter: Jeanne Standley, South Coast Chapter Board Member

Jeanne Standley will share her love of gardening with natives and experience using the [Oregon Flora: Garden with Natives](#) interactive website. Join Jeanne as she deftly shows you how to find the right plants for your various garden ecosystems. Check out the South Coast Chapter Calendar for information on their Open Garden Tour in June.

Sunday, June 7, 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Event: Special PDX Conservation/Stewardship Film Screening Event

Location: Portland State University - 5th Avenue Cinemas

Join the Portland Chapter of NPSO and Portland State University’s Plant Science Club at a live screening of one of the episodes from the documentary: “[Thinking Like Water](#).” “Thinking Like Water” is a five-part series that focuses on the inspiration and work of Bill Zeedyk. The episode that we will be airing is “1000 Acts of Restoration: All About a Bird.” This episode illustrates the power of people working together to repair the environment and promote native plant ecosystems, which in turn support life in all its forms.

NPSOPDX26 iNaturalist News:

After all the focus on our treasured native plants, it's time to celebrate all angiosperms with our annual [NPSOPDX26 May "Wild" flower BioBlitz](#).

Here is the link if you missed the [Appreciating Native Plants](#) with iNaturalist Ambassadors, Jess B. and James M.. If you are new to iNaturalist or just want to learn more about how to put some of the many iNat features to work, download the app and get started.

General Information about NPSO PDX (Portland Chapter)

Welcome new NPSO PDX Members of the Portland chapter. Watch 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. Check our Member Only [NPSO PDX PUBLIC EVENTS Calendar](#) for up-to-date information about registering for upcoming field trips, programs, and other events.

More Information:

- You'll also find our monthly programs and additional field trips posted on our Meetup page at [Native Plant Society of Oregon - Portland Chapter | Meetup](#).
- Our Facebook page is regularly updated with current wildflower bloom status and photos at [Native Plant Society of Oregon-Portland Chapter](#).
- **Our monthly programs are now virtual.** Members will find links to register for our second Thursday Zoom presentations in each issue of the state *Bulletin* and *The Calochortus*. Previous recordings can be found on our [Native Plant Society of Oregon - Portland Chapter YouTube channel](#).
- Instagram - linktr.ee/npsopdx
- Visit our chapter website at [NPSO Portland Chapter website](#) for archived newsletters, program recordings, and merchandise in our shop.

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/UCXFI2J9yp2AYmUzNz0jLISw>

To join a native plant google group forum: Siskiyou-Chapter-NPSO-plant-talk@googlegroups.com

To join our Facebook

page: <http://www.facebook.com/SiskiyouChapterNativePlantSocietyOfOregon>

Friday, May 1, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Spring Wildflowers of the Cathedral Hills

Location: Sky Crest trailhead at Cathedral Hills Park, Grants Pass

Trip Leaders: Doranne Long and Paul Cianciolo, Bureau of Land Management Botanist

Join Doranne Long and Paul Cianciolo for a wildflower hike in the Cathedral Hills. The group will walk the 0.8-mile Madrone Trail, which is of moderate difficulty. Copies of the *Wildflowers of Cathedral Hills* brochures will be available. Please meet at 1:00 pm at the Sky Crest parking lot, which is the north entrance to Cathedral Hills.

Directions to Sky Crest Trailhead: From Highway 199, take Highway 238 south 0.2 miles. Left on Harbeck Road for 0.3 miles. Left on Grandview Avenue for 0.3 miles. Right on Sky Way; 0.7 mile to trailhead. Restrooms are available at the trailhead. Be aware there is abundant poison-oak and ticks. To register for this free event, go to [Identify Wildflowers of Cathedral Hills](#).

Saturday, May 2, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Field Trip: Buck Rock East Tunnel

Leaders: Barbra Settles and Al Collinet

Meeting Location: CVS Pharmacy, 2341 Ashland St., Ashland

The hike is 5.7 miles roundtrip with 967 feet in elevation gain mostly along old fire roads. Options for shorter distances exist if necessary. Enjoy the huge early spring bloom of buckbrush, *Ceanothus cuneatus*. We should be able to find a number of our flower friends in this mixed forest at an elevation of about 3600 feet. We will check out the east entrance of the partially completed railroad tunnel constructed for the Oregon and California Railroad. Bring the most powerful flashlight or headlamp that you have for the best viewing. The interesting history of these tunnels will be discussed. For more information you can search on the internet for "The Buck Rock Tunnel Archaeological Site."

Please register in advance by contacting siskiyouplants@gmail.com

Thursday, May 7, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Field Trip: Hobart's Bluff

Leader: Rachel Werling

Hobart's Bluff Trail is a gorgeous and accessible way into the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument and features the beautiful botanical diversity for which our region is known. The route follows the Pacific Crest Trail, meandering through meadows and woodlands

and along ridges, culminating with a stunning panoramic view of the Bear Creek Valley. The hike will be three miles altogether, with our end point at an elevation of 5,502 feet. Most of the trail is fairly level, but the last half mile climbs about 200 feet to the bluff and overlook. Register [here](#) with Eventbrite.

Thursday, May 14, 7:00 pm

Presentation: Analyzing the Impacts of Free-Range Cattle on Mountain Meadows in the Scott River Watershed

Presenter: Courtney Akers

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>.

Courtney Akers, the 2025 recipient of Siskiyou Chapter NPSO's Frank A. Lang student grant, is an environmental science and policy major completing her senior year at Southern Oregon University. She used this grant to fund her capstone research project, a comprehensive field study focused on assessing the impacts of free-range cattle on biodiverse mountain meadows, streams, and wetlands. The 2025/2026 study focuses on two sub watersheds nestled in California's Scott Valley: Cabin Meadows and Rock Fence. These watersheds contain a variety of meadows with differing hydrogeomorphic types, including fens, that support a plethora of heterogeneous plant communities. The subalpine meadows in this region provide sanctuary for rare and sensitive species found in the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion, such as *Darlingtonia californica*.

The Scott River Watershed Council (SRWC), a local conservation organization, has observed degradation in these habitats, largely due to hydrological disruptions, sediment transport, and ecosystem deterioration. With support from the SRWC, Courtney has investigated how free-range cattle contribute to this habitat deterioration, and will share her research methodology, results, and conclusions. This study provides key insights into cattle behavior in these sub watersheds. The SRWC intends to use these findings to identify concentrated impact areas and develop targeted, cost-effective restoration strategies.

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Field Trip: Sterling Mine Ditch Trail from Deming Gulch

Leader: Al Collinet

Meeting Location: Walmart Supercenter at 1360 Center Drive in Medford in the SE corner of the parking lot next to Center Drive. Alternatively, you can meet the group at the Deming Gulch Trailhead at about 9:35 am, accessed on Bureau of Land Management Road 39-2-17 from Sterling Creek Road.

The plan is to walk the Sterling Mine ditch for about three miles north and return. There is very little elevation gain for this hike as the trail follows the ditch. We plan on doing some scouting of this hike to see if we can get access to the Deming Gulch fire scar. There are a number of small roads in the area we might use. We may even move the hike

to sections of the Jack-Ash trail if our research finds a better botanizing experience. The hike will take place at this time and at this general area no matter what exact location is decided.

For a complete Plant List use this link:

<https://oregonflora.org/checklists/checklist.php?cl=9871&pid=2>

Please register in advance by contacting siskiyouplants@gmail.com

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.

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

Umpqua Valley

Check out our Facebook page, 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, May 9, 11:00 am and 12:00 pm

Sunday, May 10, 11:00 am and 12:00 pm

Field Trip: Silver Falls State Park

Leaders: Willamette Valley Chapter NPSO Members

As part of the Silver Falls State Park Mother's Day Birding and Wildflower Festival, members of the Willamette Valley Chapter of the NPSO will lead one-hour wildflower walks near the South Falls.

Meet at the South Falls Stone Circle at 11:00 am or 12:00 pm on Saturday or 11:00 am or

12:00 pm on Sunday for the start of the walks. For more information about the festival, visit <https://stateparks.oregon.gov/index.cfm?do=things-to-do.event&eventId=48881>.

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. 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)
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- 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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