



Native Plant Society of Oregon

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

WHO WE ARE

The Native Plant Society of Oregon is the only non-profit organization in our state dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats. In fact, we are the only statewide group focusing solely on plants, a major component of our natural environment. Oregon is a fantastic place to explore. Our state supports ten diverse ecoregions and more than 4,500 native plant species from the Willamette Valley to the Klamath Mountains and from the Columbia bar to the Owyhee Valley. Since our founding in Portland in 1961, NPSO has consistently provided educational opportunities for the public and advocated for Oregon's native flora.

VOLUNTEERS

As an entirely volunteer organization of approximately 900 members, NPSO relies on the generous time donated by our members for all activities. We are indebted to our officers, organizers, presenters, field trip leaders, publication editors, and the many other folks who make NPSO a reality.

FIELD TRIPS

Part of NPSO's mission is the enjoyment of Oregon's native plants and habitats, thus field trips are among our major activities. Our thirteen chapters offer numerous hikes throughout the year to explore the biodiversity and natural wonders of Oregon. Socializing with people of like interests, learning about and searching for little-known plants, and appreciating our native habitats—from coastal headlands to alpine meadows, from old-growth forests to the high desert plateau—these are among the main offerings of our organization.



TANYA HARVEY

This view of Black Butte and Erigeron cascadensis blooming atop Big Squaw Mtn. shows some of what makes the Land of Umpqua so special.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our delightful 2005 Annual Meeting was hosted by Umpqua Valley Chapter in Roseburg, June 24–26. Each year's meeting provides an opportunity to explore a fascinating Oregon region through field trips, plus a chance to meet new plant lovers and to socialize with folks not seen since the previous Annual Meeting. This year's meeting banquet was held at the Phoenix School, with long-time NPSO member Dr. Dan Luoma of Corvallis our banquet speaker. Dan provided a thought-provoking presentation which emphasized the position of Douglas County as a botanical crossroads. The audience enjoyed his photos of the area's unique plants and the botanists who discovered them.

NATIVE PLANT APPRECIATION WEEK

Oregon's first annual Native Plant Appreciation Week was held May 1-8, 2005. The event was launched by an official proclamation signed by Governor Kulongoski. Chapters offered a variety of events to celebrate the week, encouraging participants outside our organization to learn more about Oregon's unique flora. Special thanks to Matt Blakeley-Smith for his energy and enthusiasm in organizing this.

OREGON FLORA PROJECT

The Oregon Flora Project (OFP) is the major recipient of grant monies from the NPSO State organization and many chapters. NPSO voted a decade ago to support the Oregon Flora Project in as many ways as possible until completion of a new Flora of Oregon. An NPSO Committee, Friends of the Oregon Flora Project, coordinates outside fund-raising. The OFP, centered at the Oregon State University Herbarium, will publish the new Flora as well as making available supporting programs on the internet. Already available to the public is the very useful electronic *Oregon Plant Atlas*, and soon to come will be a prototype field guide and photo gallery. In addition to financial support, NPSO also provides volunteers for this exciting project.

PUBLICATIONS

Our newsletter, the *Bulletin of the Native Plant Society of Oregon*, receives complimentary reviews. It is published 11 times per year providing organizational news, notice of chapter meetings and events, articles on native plants and habitat, conservation, and reports from recipients of the NPSO field research grants. In addition, as part of our goal of collaborating with other environmental organizations and increasing the educational opportunities for our members, NPSO advertises events from other like-minded groups. An archive of the *Bulletin* is available on the NPSO web page.

Volume 12 of the NPSO's handsome annual journal, *Kalmiopsis*, was published in June, 2005. Our journal continues to be a showcase for the Oregon flora and a valuable scholarly resource. The lovely cover photograph of *Fritillaria gentneri*, a federally endangered lily, was donated by Albert Gentner, Jr. Each NPSO member is mailed a copy of *Kalmiopsis* in early summer, and extra copies are distributed to chapters where they are available for new members or for those who wish to acquire additional copies. Volume 13 will appear in the summer of 2006.

NPSO Occasional Papers began in 1999 with the publication of the *Atlas of Oregon Carex*; our second paper, *Louis Henderson: The Grand Old Man of Oregon Botany*, followed in 2001. Both publications are in print and available to members and others; see ordering information in each month's *Bulletin* and on the NPSO web page. A third paper, tentatively titled *Changes in the Flora of Portland, Oregon, 1875-2005*, by John Christy and Angie Kimpo is in preparation, with plans for publication in early 2006 in partnership with Portland Metro.

FIELD RESEARCH GRANTS

In 2005, NPSO funded four research projects and one cost-share project. Funds for the grants come from membership dues, donations from Earth Share of Oregon, and direct donations to the NPSO grants program. Reports from field grant recipients are published in the NPSO *Bulletin* when projects have been completed.

The 2005 grant projects and awardees are listed below:

Flora of the Hawks Mountain area, Harney Co., Oregon.
Holly L. Nielsen.

The distribution of *Pinus albicaulis* in the Klamath-Siskiyou Region of Oregon.
Michael Murray, Crater Lake National Park.

Pollination, reproduction, and herbivory threats to *Astragalus peckii* (Fabaceae).
Elizabeth Martin, Oregon State University.

Augmentation and reintroduction of populations of Henderson's Checkermallow (*Sidalcea hendersonii*) on administratively secure public lands.

Melanie Gisler. Institute of Applied Ecology. (The Leighton Ho Field Botany Award.)

A retrospective study of Greene's Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus greenei*) and livestock grazing in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument—Phase III: Completion of Strategic Field Surveys.

Evan Frost, Wildwood Consulting.

FINANCES

NPSO finances are in excellent shape thanks to good financial planning by our Treasurer Candice Guth, our Budget Chair Dan Luoma and our Budget Committee. NPSO's income, which comes primarily from membership dues and our share of Earth Share of Oregon (ESOR) funds plus member donations, is sufficient to carry on our programs, and our spending does not exceed our income.

CONSERVATION

Darlene Southworth, NPSO's West Side Conservation Coordinator, has been active this past year representing NPSO on issues that go beyond individual chapter concerns. Dr. Southworth has written the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife protesting their announced plans to introduce mountain goats to federal lands in the Columbia Gorge. Her letter stated that the NPSO Board believes vegetation monitoring, including a baseline plant survey, should be included as part of the cost of reintroduction, and that for actions on federal land the federal NEPA process should be followed. She also has written a letter in coordination with the Washington Native Plant Society and the Native Plant Conservation Campaign to the US Forest Service Region 6 forester and the Oregon/Washington US Bureau of Land Management state director expressing concern for the decreasing number of botanists in the federal agencies in Oregon and Washington. Letters to our Oregon Senators and Representatives were written in support of the federal Endangered Species Act, which is under threat at the present time in the US Congress. Bruce Newhouse, Immediate Past President of NPSO, journeyed to Washington D.C. in July as part of a "fly-in" to support the Endangered Species Act.

We continue to hope that a person from the east side of our state will volunteer to be NPSO's East Side Conservation Coordinator. Perhaps this post could be shared by several people, who might be willing guide NPSO through the many issues that face the largest part of Oregon. Thanks to the High Desert Chapter for covering a large swath of central Oregon on conservation issues including the Wilderness Study Area southeast of Bend, and to Berta Youtie for serving as an NPSO representative on the BLM John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Committee.

RARE & ENDANGERED PLANTS

In 2005 NPSO continued its support of student education through the Institute of Applied Ecology by providing \$2,000 for summer interns who carry out rare plant field work. You can read about their activities in the regular reports they provide to the NPSO *Bulletin*. The NPSO R&E Committee is presently without a chairperson, although there are several people willing to serve on the committee, and several chapters (Emerald Chapter is a fine example) maintain an updated inventory of their rare species. We hope that in 2006 an NPSO member will step forward to lead this very important committee. NPSO maintains a special fund to be used for R&E efforts.

An Example of R&E concerns: In the last few years, Henderson's checkermallow, (*Sidalcea hendersonii*), a beautiful estuarine species, has generated much concern as it has disappeared from 90% of its historic range in Oregon. An NPSO petition to list the checkermallow as a threatened species under Oregon State Endangered Species Act has been denied based on its greater abundance to the north. Rhoda Love, of the State R&E Committee, is leading an effort to address this weakness in the state law. In the meantime research into restoration possibilities has begun with the work of Melanie Gisler, mentioned above.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Strategic Planning Committee, which formed in late 2002 as a result of organizational planning by the Board of Directors, has been attempting to strengthen NPSO by working on our internal communication. Recently, the committee completed the *NPSO Handbook* which includes job descriptions for all state Board positions.



RHODA LOVE

*NPSO has been lobbying to gain protection for Henderson's checkermallow (*Sidalcea hendersonii*), a rare estuarine species.*

EARTH SHARE OF OREGON

NPSO has long been a member of a consortium of state and national conservation organizations which exists under the umbrella of Earth Share of Oregon (ESOR). ESOR carries out fundraising in Oregon workplaces during the fall giving campaign, which was once limited to such entities as United Way. Monies raised are divided between participating conservation groups. NPSO's share of ESOR funds is generally dedicated to student grants and donations to the Oregon Flora Project. NPSO displays the ESOR logo on all our printed materials.

CHAPTERS

Thirteen far-flung chapters are the heart of NPSO, offering a variety of informational presentations, workshops, field trips, and opportunities to be involved with Oregon's native plants and habitats. The following summarizes chapter activities in 2005. Check your monthly *Bulletin* for names and addresses of Chapter presidents, and visit the NPSO website for up-to-date information on chapter activities.

BLUE MOUNTAIN CHAPTER is centered in Pendleton, the heart of Oregon's Blue Mountain and Umatilla River country. The chapter co-hosted, with the William Cusick Chapter, our 2004 Annual Meeting in La Grande. They offer regular meetings and field trips in this beautiful northeast corner of our state.

CHEAHMILL CHAPTER calls McMinnville home and is centered between Portland and Salem, its territory stretching from the Willamette Valley to the coast. A busy and active chapter, Cheahmill held a successful wildflower show and plant sale in 2005. As part of Native Plant Appreciation Week, they hosted tours of their native plant garden at the local library. They will team up with Willamette Valley Chapter in Salem to host the 2006 Annual Meeting.

CORVALLIS CHAPTER is located in the western Willamette Valley between the Coast Range and Cascade crest. Their territory includes botanically rich Mary's Peak, old-growth forests of the Coast Range, and Iron Mountain in Linn County with its fabulous displays of bright summer flowers. The chapter was active in 2005 with interesting speakers, numerous field trips, an annual plant sale, and high participation in the first Oregon Native Plant Appreciation Week.

EMERALD CHAPTER, centered in Eugene, covers a territory which includes the southern Willamette Valley and reaches from the Pacific Ocean to the Three Sisters. The chapter offers regular meetings, field trips, and workshops. As always, they assisted with the May Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Wildflower Festival, and this year updated their chapter by-laws to conform to the requirements of state law. They are active in outreach with the City of Eugene on issues ranging from conservation to the publication of guidebooks on gardening with native plants.

HIGH DESERT CHAPTER, centered in Bend, holds public meetings during late winter and spring. Field trips range throughout the High Desert Region, which includes the beautiful Metolius and Deschutes River regions including Smith Rock State Park, as well as the eastern slope of the Cascades. Trips often incorporate conservation activities such as eradication of noxious weeds.

KLAMATH BASIN CHAPTER is centered in Klamath Falls. The area includes the Crater Lake region as well as Klamath Lake, and the Klamath-Sprague River areas. Though small, the chapter holds occasional field trips each year.

MID-COLUMBIA CHAPTER meets in The Dalles with an area of interest that includes the Columbia Gorge with its early spring display of colorful flowers, as well as the sagebrush steppes of the Columbia Basin Ecoregion. The chapter attracts members from nearby Washington state as well as Oregon. Members had an active year with regular speakers, workshops, and field trips. Their popular annual April wildflower show in Mosier drew hundreds of visitors.

NORTH COAST CHAPTER, is centered in Tillamook and takes in Oregon's northwest coast, the mouth of the Columbia, Saddle Mountain, and areas made famous by early botanical explorers. The Chapter has been inactive recently, but they hope to attract enough new members to once again offer meetings and field trips.

PORTLAND CHAPTER is situated within Oregon's largest metropolis, however, its area takes in the Columbia Gorge, Tualatin Hills, the Willamette River, Mount Hood and other rich botanical regions. The Chapter has recently elected a new president and offered a full calendar of interesting programs and events this year. They are looking for ways to attract more members to their meetings.

SISKIYOU CHAPTER serves NPSO members from throughout Southwest Oregon. The area includes the Siskiyou-Klamath ranges, southwest coast, Illinois River Valley, Kalmiopsis Wilderness and other areas rich in endemic species. This year the chapter hosted over twenty wildflower hikes, three flower shows, well-attended meetings, and an outing where participants removed alien weeds. The chapter is developing a student scholarship program at Southern Oregon University.

UMPQUA VALLEY CHAPTER is centered in Roseburg and encompasses Douglas County, an area of high botanical diversity. The area includes the Pacific Coast with dunes and marshes of the Coos Bay area, Diamond Lake, and valleys of the Umpqua River. The chapter provides regular public programs and field trips, as well as assisting with the Glide Wildflower Show each April. Additional kudos go to Umpqua Valley folks for recruiting many new members this year, as well as providing a memorable Annual Meeting.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHAPTER is centered in Salem with their area of interest stretching from the coast near Lincoln City to the old-growth forests near Breitenbush and Mt. Jefferson. Chapter members have had an active year, sponsoring well-attended programs as well as workshops on landscaping with native plants. They have also been involved in local ivy eradication and creek-side restorations. They awarded NPSO's annual Jean Davis scholarship of \$1000 to Roxanne Nanninga, a Linfield College undergraduate in botany.

WILLIAM CUSICK CHAPTER (named for one of Oregon's early plant collectors) is a small chapter which encompasses a large territory in the sparsely-settled far northeast part of our state. While centered on the town of LaGrande, their area takes in the Willowa Mountains and the Snake and Imnaha Canyons. The group is too scattered to hold regular meetings, but a strong core membership is always willing to provide answers to botanical questions about their region.

NPSO OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Board of Directors: Names of NPSO Board Members are published inside the back cover of the NPSO *Bulletin* each month. Board elections take place early in each calendar year, and new officers and directors are installed at the Annual Meeting each summer.

Chapter Presidents and State NPSO Committee Chairs: Names of Chapter Presidents and State NPSO Committee Chairs and information on how to contact chapters can be found inside the back cover of the *Bulletin* each month.

Send change of address notices and membership requests to:
Native Plant Society of Oregon
Clayton Gautier, Membership Chair
3927 Shasta View St.
Eugene, OR 97405-4442

NPSO Web Site: www.NPSOOregon.org



The rugged High Desert country seen from Smith Rock State Park