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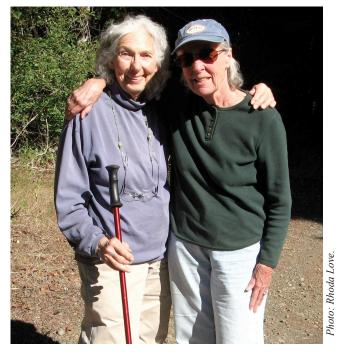
MARCH 2012

Erigeron stanselliae is a newly described species from Southwestern Oregon

by Kenton L. Chambers and Charlene Simpson

In July, 2009, we were privileged to accompany Veva Stansell on a trip to the Coast Range, east of Gold Beach, Curry County, searching for an unusual *Erigeron* that she had first collected in 1982, at the McKinley Mine area of Signal Buttes. Attention had been called to this odd plant by two collections housed in the OSU Herbarium, Veva's and one by Walt Schroeder from Flycatcher Spring, near Red Flat on the north fork of the Pistol River. Chambers had assigned them the name Erigeron eatonii var. plantagineus, but their location, only ca. 12 km east of the ocean, is far west of the next known site for var. plantagineus in eastern Jackson County. When Dr. John Strother, the monographer of Erigeron eatonii, later examined them, he annotated them "not E. eatonii, perhaps E. peregrinus alliance near E. cervinus." So, for over 15 years, they sat in an "undetermined" folder in the herbarium, awaiting further study.

To break this impasse, Veva was asked to lead the above See Erigeron stanselliae, page 11



Veva Stansell (l) and co-author Charlene Simpson (r) in 2010.

The genus Cyclamen in Oregon by Stephen C. Meyers

In October of 2011, in a quest not to waste what might be one of the last warm and sunny weekends of the year, I found myself botanizing in Beazell Memorial Forest, in Kings Valley, west of Corvallis. After a half hour of hiking into the forest, I came upon a small population of *Cyclamen* beside the trail. At that time, the sight of *Cyclamen* wasn't a great surprise to me. I had seen *Cyclamen* in gardens (as well as escaped nearby from said gardens) on countless occasions, and knew it wasn't a native species. Therefore, my initial reaction was "I haven't personally seen this genus this far from a garden, but I'm sure others have, and this isn't likely a particularly interesting discovery." As a result, I didn't collect a specimen, take a photograph or try to determine which species I had encountered.

A few weeks later I found myself swapping botany stories and discussing my Cyclamen find with my fellow Oregon Flora Project staff members Linda Hardison and Thea Cook. During that conversation, Thea mentioned that George Carroll, emeritus professor at the University of Oregon, had recently told her about an escaped population of Cyclamen later determined to be C. hederifolium in Eugene, and that he could provide us with a herbarium specimen. Again, thinking to myself that this wasn't a momentous discovery, I then casually examined the Cyclamen collection housed in the Oregon State University Herbarium and the records in the Oregon Flora Project database. Much to my surprise, I found that the OSU Herbarium contained only one Cyclamen specimen—C. pupurascens, collected by Dr. Barbara Wilson in Corvallis, 1997. Additionally, the OFP database contained no additional Oregon specimens from other herbaria, or any recorded observations.

In this same period, a discussion was started on the Native Plant Society of Oregon listserv (http://www.npsoregon.org/discussionlist.php), thanks to an initial post by Barbara Wilson. That discussion quickly garnered great attention and generated many thoughtful, intelligent and concerned questions. For example: Which species of *Cyclamen* are escaping in Oregon? How frequent and widespread are the escaped populations? What is the threat of the escaped populations to native species?

Obviously, the limited data we currently have concerning

Cyclamen cannot be used to definitively answer these questions, or to even speculate on answers. It is in cases such as this, however, that citizen scientists can contribute invaluable data. I therefore encourage you, our readers, to keep an eye to the ground in order to locate any escaped Cyclamen populations. If you locate a population, if possible, collect a specimen (including a cross section of the tuber). Make note of the exact location and obtain a GPS reading (Google Earth is a valuable and easily accessed resource for this). If a collection is not possible, identify the species and record the exact location. In either case, once you have obtained the necessary data and/or collection contact us at the Oregon Flora Project (ofpflora@ oregonflora.org) so that we may record your observation or arrange for your specimen to be accessioned into the OSU Herbarium.

Once you locate a *Cyclamen* population, how will you identify it to species? If escaped populations continue to be recorded, in the future, this may result in keys being published to identify which species are present in North America. Currently, no published North American flora,

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Erythronium oregonum logo and masthead designed by Tanya Harvey.

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Cyclamen hederifolium, collected by George Carroll. Note the cross section of the tuber, which is crucial to identifying this specimen to species.

past or present, provides a key to identifying *Cyclamen* to species level. In order to aid in species identification, I have written the following description and key, based on several European references (see below):

Cyclamen is a member of the family Primulaceae. It is distinguished from other members of Primulaceae, known in Oregon, by its strongly reflexed petals and nodding flower stalks. While at first glance this genus might be confused with Dodecatheon, Cyclamen species do not have an exserted style and anthers; rather they are included or only slightly exserted from the corolla tube. Additionally, Dodecatheon species arise from fleshy, fibrous roots, whereas Cyclamen species grow from tubers ranging in diameter from a centimeter to over a decimeter.

The *Cyclamen* genus contains over 20 species, of which over 15 are cultivated. Native to the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Middle East, most species are not cold tolerant. However, 4 cultivated species, with some cold tolerance, have the potential to escape and thrive in Oregon. These are *C. cilicium*, *C. coem*, *C. hederifolium* and *C. purpurascens*. In many cases the chief character separating species is the morphology of the tuber. Therefore, unearthing and examining this structure is usually necessary for proper identification.

See Cyclamen, page 14

authors, together with Dr. Henrietta Chambers, to Flycatcher Spring to search for a healthy population of *Erigeron* from which the full range of variability could be sampled. The habitat is a mixed woodland and shrub-land, on serpentine-derived soil. Trees include *Pinus jeffreyi*, *P. attenuata*, *P. monticola*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, and *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*, while associated shrubs are *Arctostaphylos nevadensis*, *Quercus*

vaccinifolia, Garrya buxifolia, Juniperus communis, and Ceanothus pumilus. The Erigeron plants occur in open areas on roadsides and grassy slopes, in gravelly, red-clay soil, and in loose mats of Arctostaphylos nevadensis, their flowering heads arising conspicuously on erect, leafless stems (see illustration). Plants in the open have short (7 cm), upwardcurving stems, and those shaded by the manzanita are strictly upright, reaching 2.5 dm in height.

A relationship with Erigeron cervinus was excluded on morphological and ecological grounds, but three species in Northwestern California seem to be related

to the Flycatcher Spring plants, namely E. lassenianus, E. robustus, and E. maniopotamicus. Chambers borrowed specimens of these from the UC Berkeley herbarium and compared their most critical morphological characteristics. The heads of *E. robustus* are significantly larger and have more florets than the Oregon plants, which in addition have glandular hairs on the involucre not present in E. robustus. Glandular hairs are present in E. lassenianus, but its stems are leafier near the heads and are more densely stiff-hairy than our plants. The involucre of E. maniopotamicus, a species limited to Humboldt and Trinity Counties, lacks glandular hairs, its leaves are stiff-hairy to almost woolly, and it is absent from serpentine habitats. The leaves and stems of the Flycatcher Spring plants have only a few scattered hairs or are completely smooth, their stems lack leaves below the head (see illustration), and their known habitats are always on serpentine. Traits like those mentioned here are the key differences that separate closely related species belonging to the so-called Erigeron eatoniicomplex, according to Dr. Strother.

Because of these morphological and ecological differences, plus the geographical separation from the three Californian relatives, the Oregon plants were judged to be a distinct, new species. It was formally published (Chambers 2011) with the name *Erigeron stanselliae*, in honor of Veva Stansell, who had discovered the species and who led us to the population from which the type specimen was collected.

The new species, with only two known localities, is very

rare. A census needs to be made of the total number of plants, and searches should be done in other near-coastal serpentine habitats to expand its known range, if possible. It was a pleasure to name the species for Veva Stansell, a Fellow of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, whose vigorous field work over several decades has contributed so much to our knowledge of the floras of Southwestern Oregon and Northwestern California.



Erigeron stanselliae, growing up through a mat of Arctostaphylos nevadensis. From the type locality in Curry County.

A native of Pistol River, Veva Stansell is a long-time student and enthusiast of Southwestern Oregon flora (Tipton 1997, Timm 2010). She was born on July 20, 1929 in Gold Beach. In 1936 her family moved to a farm on the south bank of Pistol River where, except for a time in Gold Beach, she lived until recently.

Veva has had a long-time association with the OSU Herbarium. She sent collected specimens for accessioning, corresponded about unusual finds, and provided plant lists for the Oregon Flora Atlas as a regional coordinator. Simpson recalls countless day excursions and camping trips with Veva spanning a period

of 25 years. She considers Veva her mentor for Southwestern Oregon flora, highlighted by the trip to find the rare *Erigeron*. Another valuable botanical excursion led by Veva was to Low Divide Road in northwestern Del Norte County, in 2000, accompanied by the authors, Susan Kephart, and Henrietta Chambers. Our quarry was *Silene serpentinicola*, an endemic taxon of serpentines in Northwestern California and adjacent Oregon. A study of the collections of this "species" taken on our trip led eventually to the publication of a new nomenclatural combination, *S. hookeri* subsp. *serpentinicola* (Chambers and Meyers 2011).

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Oregon Flora's Inaugural Advisory Board has Formed!

by Lynda Boyer, Executive Secretary

The Oregon Flora Project Advisory Board met for the first time in September of 2011. The Advisory Board members were chosen because they broadly support the mission of the Oregon Flora Project. Their backgrounds match the diversity of users of the Flora: researchers, educators, ecologists, wildflower enthusiasts, and government agency workers (see table below). At our first meeting we learned how the Flora Project (OFP) came to fruition.

The board's strategic goals are to seek fresh and innovative ways to increase funding and to integrate new perspectives into the work conducted by OFP such as outreach to community and non-profit organizations, computer programming, web-based presentation of information and science writing and marketing. Of critical importance is securing adequate funding for the preparation and publication of the long awaited new *Flora of Oregon* by 2015.

At our first board meeting we were eager to learn the funding strategies used thus far. It is often challenging to navigate a tangled web to ensure compliance with the many grant requirements. Linda Hardison, OFP Director, candidly explained the current budget and funding sources. Then the board began a lively discussion of possible new sources of funds, from traditional grants and funding appeals, to creating a business model that would place a monetary value on the information provided by the Oregon online Atlas.

At our next meeting we will have another chance to lend our support for the Project via exchange of ideas and action items that ensure the long-term, sustainable future for the Project.

OFP ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Gail Baker, Eugene

Assistant Professor of Biology at Lane Community College (LCC), Gail's recent activities at LCC are stewardship of the Rowe-Love Herbarium, native landscape project surrounding the Science-Math Building and preservation of the native mixed conifer-oak forest on campus. Gail has taught introductory plant science courses for non-majors and currently teaches majors biology and botany courses that emphasize research, especially phenology. These courses foster the importance of becoming scientifically literate citizens and providing a foundation for students who wish to pursue science related careers. Gail's activities are highlighted on the LCC Biology web site at www.lanecc.edu/science/biology/NaturalResources.html

Lynda Boyer (Executive Secretary), Salem

Native Plant Manager and Restoration Biologist for Heritage Seedlings Inc., Lynda has a Master's degree in Plant Biology from Portland State University. Since 2001, Lynda has enlarged the native plant program at Heritage to encompass the production of over 100 species of native Willamette Valley prairie grasses and forbs for seed which is used on numerous restoration projects throughout the valley. She also facilitates restoration of 250 acres of oak and prairie habitat and 50 acres of riparian habitat on company properties. Sharing knowledge is a core value of the company. Their website can be visited at www.heritageseedings.com.

Jeff Cook (Vice President), Eugene

Senior Applications Developer for Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), Jeff has developed web-based and Microsoft Access-based applications for LCOG, the Cities of Eugene and Springfield, the Metropolitan Policy Organization, Lane Transit District and Central Lane 911, among others. As a volunteer, Jeff has helped develop websites for the Oregon Flora Project and Ridgeline Montessori Charter School.

Sam Friedman, Roseburg

Botanist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Roseburg District, Sam received his Masters degree in 1996 from Arizona State. In his current position, he specializes in endangered species recovery for the district, assisting in recovery plan development for numerous vernal pool and wet meadow species in Southwestern Oregon. He has been president of the Umpqua Valley Chapter of NPSO and served a term on the NPSO board of directors.

Aaron Liston, Corvallis

Dr. Liston has been a Botany professor and Herbarium Director at OSU since 1991. Aaron has conducted systematic studies in several plant genera, including *Astragalus, Lupinus, Thalictrum, Trifolium* and *Pinus*. His current research focuses on the application of genomic approaches to phylogeny and speciation in *Asclepias* and *Fragaria*.

Dan Luoma, Corvallis

Dan is a Professor of Forest Mycology in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society at OSU. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecological Plant Geography from OSU. In 2004, Dan was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by Lane Community College, Eugene, Oregon. The award recognizes its recipients for their achievements in their chosen profession and their service to the community. Dan's research covers several integrated research projects in the field of Forest Mycology and he teaches a variety of mycology courses at OSU. Outreach to forestland owners, managers, and users (for example, through the Swiss Needle Cast Co-op) is also an important aspect of his educational endeavors.

Carol Savonen (President), Philomath

Retired (emerita) from OSU, Carol became interested in science writing while working as a field biologist and environmental educator for more than a decade. She was on the Faculty at OSU for 20 years as a science and garden writer and, currently, writes a weekly gardening column for the Salem *Statesman Journal*.

Joan Seevers, Ashland

Joan has been a District and state botanist for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for 33 years. Throughout her tenure Joan has worked extensively on conservation and recovery of endangered species, development of native plant material, and native plant community/habitat management. Currently, she is organizing the field trips for this summer's NPSO annual conference.

Paul Slichter, Portland

A retired biology teacher at Gresham High School, Paul is now a self-proclaimed "nature bum." His favorite travels take him mostly

See Advisory Board, page 14

In Search of the Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine

by Stephen C. Meyers and Kyle A. Leonard

If one were to ask a hypothetical, local botanist for a list of ten native plant species commonly associated with the Willamette Valley, obvious candidates come to mind. Among these obvious choices might be the ubiquitous Douglas-fir and salal. Or perhaps rare endemics such as Nelson's checker-mallow and Kincaid's lupine. My own personal list, if generated five years ago, would have likely included these species. Yet absent from my list, and probably absent from that of our hypothetical botanist would have been ponderosa pine. I, like many other local botanists, assumed that the valley's occasional, scattered ponderosa pine originated from seeds collected elsewhere. In this I was mistaken.

My initial understanding of, and resultant interest in, valley ponderosa pine was spawned by a paper published in *Northwest Science* by Hibbs et al. (2002). In this paper the authors document the fact that ponderosa pine was an abundant component of the valley ecosystem from at least 11,000 years ago until the mid-1800s. The authors further suggest that the reduction of ponderosa pine populations was largely caused by land use patterns (e.g. farming, housing developments, fire suppression), and the subsequent ecological succession of species such as Douglas-fir, following the influx of immigrants in the past 160 years.

Despite today's lack of many large stands of ponderosa pine in the Willamette Valley, local interest in this species does exist. A good example of this is the Willamette Valley



An example of Pinus ponderosa, thriving in the wet soils of the Willamette Valley in Corvallis.

Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association (WVPPCA). The mission of this group is not only to conserve the remaining populations of valley ponderosa pine, but also to expand the number of native trees planted in Willamette Valley tree plantations. This latter undertaking is an effort to encourage and capitalize on the growing "buy local" movement.

As part of their conservation efforts in 2002 the WVPPCA undertook a project to document potential native stands of ponderosa pine in the Willamette Valley. While they did not claim to have located all stands, their survey did locate over 950 stands ranging in size from one to over 100 trees.

When contacting the WVPPCA to obtain this data, I became aware of a local interest in formally naming valley ponderosa pine. Several individuals I talked to voiced a question I also asked, namely, "Has the ecology of the Willamette Valley, being different from other regions in which ponderosa pine is typically found (as a result of rainfall and temperature), resulted in the evolution of a taxon, locally, that is morphologically and/or genetically unique?"

Enthused and encouraged by our shared interest Kyle Leonard and I, armed with the stand data obtained from the WVPPCA, began visiting Willamette Valley stands in 2007, collecting specimens and recording morphological data. During the subsequent five years we amassed data from 50 populations (as well as data from many pine populations outside the valley). Initially we focused on the most obvious and easily recordable traits, such as needle length and width, cone length and width, tree height and bark characteristics.

While we were quickly able to find morphological characteristics unique to pines found west of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges, including the Willamette Valley, we found none completely unique to the Willamette Valley alone. At this point we extended our morphological data gathering to less obvious characters, such as cone shape, needle color, cone prickle position, cone scale color and cone scale length-to-width ratios. Unfortunately, these traits also proved inadequate to differentiate the valley pines from other west side populations in southern Oregon and California.

This, however, does not mean the end of research concerning valley ponderosa pine. Ann Willyard (a former graduate student at Oregon State University and currently a professor at Hendrix College in Arkansas), along with her student Kristen Finch, are analyzing ponderosa pine DNA from the Willamette Valley. Although the work is ongoing and not yet completed, thus far they have found some differences between valley ponderosa pine and those from outside the region. Whether this work will result in formal description of the variety remains to be seen.

Coincidently, as Kyle and I were collecting data over the past few years, two California botanists were doing similar research on ponderosa pine (Haller and Vivrette, 2011). However, their study area encompassed not only the Willamette Valley, but the entire coast of North America west of the Cascades and Sierra Nevadas. Their work has

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Project News

by Linda Hardison

If the work of the Oregon Flora Project were compared to running a marathon, I would assert that we are well into the middle of the race—ticking off the miles, maintaining our pace, and strategically planning the steps to move us toward a winning finish.

We have completed the conversion of our databases to postgreSQL, and are now able to seamlessly update the information in our website tools. Because we perform a number of quality control steps on all data we release, there will always be a delay between the completion of our latest research and its incorporation into the online Checklist, Atlas, or Photo Gallery; our database conversion has now shortened that time period. Look on our website for an updated version of the Checklist and herbarium specimen images of almost 600 unique taxa at the end of this month!

The formation of an advisory board has now become a long-anticipated accomplishment. It was a great honor to have our board members accept the invitation to participate, and to recognize the expertise and enthusiasm each brings in support of the Oregon Flora Project. Enjoy reading about these amazing people in Lynda Boyer's article elsewhere in this issue. The advisory board meets three times each year with members serving two-year terms.

How have you used information from the Oregon Flora Project? Here are some recent applications that we are aware of:

- The Eugene Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association is developing a booklet to aid in the identification of Buckwheat Blue butterflies. There are unique associations of butterfly species with buckwheat (*Eriogonum*) species, which are used as a host plant and/or nectar source.
- The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service sponsors interns in many divisions of their agency. Last summer, intern Bridget Chipman (a former OFP student worker) developed the publication "A Guide to Transitional Wetland Plants and Common Weeds of the Willamette Valley" as her capstone project. The OFP Atlas and Photo Gallery provided critical information for this work.
- An Oregon State University course in Dendrology, newly adapted as an online course, will be using OFP images in its curriculum. Instructors and researchers throughout the Colleges of Forestry, Agriculture, and Science use OFP data to support their teaching and research.

The Oregon Flora Project is making its social media debut! We now have a page on Facebook—look for "Oregon Flora Project" within the Facebook search feature (be persistent!), "like" us, and share your thoughts. Manuscripts of floristic treatments for the *Flora of Oregon* are steadily coming in, and we are seeking reviewers. Skills needed to assist in this task include a familiarity in the use of dichotomous keys, and (at minimum) a general knowledge of your chosen plant group. If you would like to help, please contact Dr. Stephen Meyers at *meyersst@science.oregonstate.edu*.

to the Gorge and Central and Eastern Washington. There he hones his botanical skills generating plant lists for these special wild places and indulges his hobby of wildlife and plant photography. He also spends much of his time as a rare plant volunteer for Rare

Rob Soreng, Washington DC

Care.

Research Associate, Department of Botany, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Robert grew up in Eugene, earned a BS at OSU, and was inspired to study grasses by Ken Chambers. His principal research interest is grass taxonomy, in particular, the genus *Poa*. He has conducted molecular research on relationships among grasses at all hierarchical levels. He now devotes his time to studying these plants in the herbarium and field.

José Vega, Corvallis

Marketing Manager for Datalogic Group, José's educational background is in engineering. His experience ranges from owning and operating an engineering and manufacturing company to his current position as worldwide manager of field marketing for a mobile computer manufacturer. He operates a small organic berry farm on his acreage in Corvallis.

Cyclamen, continued from page 10

- 1. Tubers usually over 4 cm in diameter; flowers appearing in late summer or autumn before or after leaves have developed.

 - 2' Flowers appearing after leaves have developed; tubers rooting from base; petals pink to reddish ... *C. cilicium*
- 1' Tubers less than 3.5 cm in diameter, rooting from all sides or base; flowers appearing at various times of the year after leaves are developed.



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resulted in the description of a variety of ponderosa pine within the "Pacific portion" of the overall species' natural range, which includes the Willamette Valley. Mirroring the range of the variety, Haller and Vivrette have chosen to use the name *Pinus ponderosa* var. *pacifica*. Unfortunately, this name violates the priority rule of botanical nomenclature. The name that should be used is *P. ponderosa* var. *benthamiana* (name previously applied in 1876 and typified in 1996, to pines in western California). But that is another story for a future article.

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Thanks

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Anonymous, Islands, I

How can I contribute?

Donations to the Oregon Flora Project are a critical part of our operating budget. Funds are routed to the OFP through the Agricultural Research Foundation (ARF). The ARF is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support scientific research and programs at OSU. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Your checks to the Oregon Flora Project can be made payable to the Agricultural Research Foundation. Please include "Oregon Flora Project—4482" on the memo line.

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We thank the Native Plant Society of Oregon state organization in addition to its Umpqua Valley Chapter for their support. A gift was given in memory of Bonnie Hall by Jim Hall.



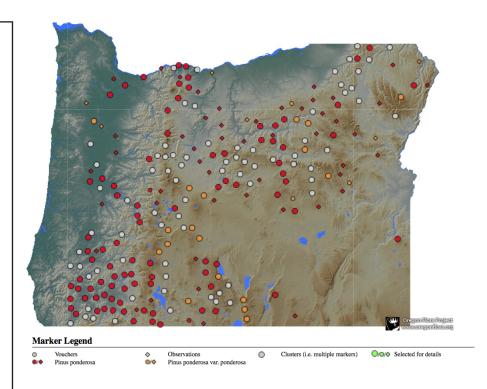
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Did you know?

- The name *Erigeron* is derived from the Greek [eri =early, and geron=old man], presumably referring to the grey pappus that forms in many species relatively quickly after flowering.
- The needles of ponderosa pine, like all pine species, contain high amounts of vitamins A and C. In Scandinavia, a tea made from pine needles ("tallstrunt") was historically drunk during the long northern winters to prevent scurvy.
- The science of botany has a long tradition of naming plant taxa (e.g. *Erigeron stanselliae*) after accomplished and respected botanists. Linnaeus, however, once broke from this custom by naming a species in the Aster family--*Siegesbeckia orientalis*--in "honor" of a vocal critic of his work (Johann Georg Siegesbeck). Linnaeus himself thought of this plant as a small, ugly, odorous weed.



Distribution of *Pinus ponderosa*. From the Oregon Plant Atlas, www.oregonflora.org/atlas.php.