OREGON FLORA NEWSLETTER

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Veva Stansell, Curry County botanist

by Camille V. Tipton

Long-time plant enthusiast Veva Stansell knows there is much work to be done when it comes to cataloguing plants in Oregon. But the 67-year-old Southwestern Oregon resident welcomes the challenge.

"There are times I wish I lived closer to a University, but on the other hand there are advantages to living far away," said Veva, the Coos and Curry County Regional Coordinator for the Oregon Plant Atlas Project.

"One of the things that sparks the imagination is that this corner of Oregon has a lot of botanical secrets to be discovered yet," said Veva, who lives near Gold Beach, at Pistol River. "It hasn't been studied all that much. Who knows what will be found?"

Veva was born on July 20, 1929 in Gold Beach, to Otto and Elma Ismert. In 1936, her family moved to a farm near Pistol River where they raised cows and other

See Veva, page 2

Veva Stansell and son Dave, visiting their family homestead.

Atlas project update

by Bruce Newhouse and Scott Sundberg

The April 1996 *Oregon Flora Newsletter* contained an article about the beginning of field work to gather data for the Oregon Plant Atlas Project. Since that time, we've made great progress. Twelve volunteer regional coordinators are organizing field efforts to make plant lists for previously unexplored areas (see OFN April 1996). This field work is being coordinated through the Native Plant Society of Oregon.

Many Atlas trips occurred during the 1996 field season, and more are being planned for the next couple of years. Some trips occur even during the winter to record sightings of plants that are more visible then. For example, a group of Eugene botanists made a trip to record locations of canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) in Lane County. This evergreen species was not previously known to occur north of Douglas County. For the Atlas Project, listing locations for one or two uncommon plants (or plants uncommon in a given region) can be just as important as producing a longer list for a single site.

At the time of this writing, we've accumulated over 750 lists and know of hundreds more to come (see map, back page). Some of the more extensive sets of lists were sent in by Jenny Dimling from the Willamette and Siuslaw National Forest databases. Some lists have also been submitted in electronic form, most notably those sent by Lance Holmberg of the Mt. Hood National Forest and Wilbur Bluhm and Don Roberts of the Willamette Chapter of the Native Plant Society.

Since last October we have greatly improved the Atlas database. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Clay Gautier, a computer programmer and software test engineer, we now have an excellent system for placing lists in the database. So far over 17,500 records from 131 lists have been entered! With Clay's data entry form, this work now goes very quickly.

The Atlas Project is already producing some maps. For example, the Carex Working Group has recently run

See Atlas project, page 5

Veva, from front page

livestock. She graduated from Gold Beach High School in 1947 in a class of 16 students. In 1948, she married Bob Stansell. They raised their three sons in Gold Beach, and in 1970 the couple moved back to Pistol River. As this article was being written we learned that Bob Stansell lost a brave fight with lung cancer last December 6th.

Veva's interest in botany first stirred while she was trail-riding in Curry County's back country. Like many botany enthusiasts, she began to notice the differences between coastal and mountain plants.

"Wildflower books with pictures helped a little, but I had more questions than answers," she explained. "Time marched on, and when our boys were high school students, a young man named Fred Bowen joined the Gold Beach High School staff as a Biology teacher.

"Fred gave some evening classes in plant identification, and lo and behold, that little light bulb above my head began to flash. I discovered floras by Peck and Jepson, and Randall's *Manual of Oregon Trees and Shrubs*. A brand new world!"

Veva is currently the vice-president of the Native Plant Society of Oregon and has been involved with the organization since its early days.

Veva loves botanizing in her corner of the state. Without a doubt, she says, her favorite habitats are found on serpentine and peridotite soils where many species of broadleaf shrubs and the early spring blooms of *Erythronium* and *Trillium* can be found. "I also love the high Siskiyous and other Klamath Ranges, the mountain lakes and ponds with unknown monocots, *Lewisia* adorning knife-edge ridges, niches in the rocks where odd ferns cling," she said. "In winter, or when it's been too long between outings, daydreams of these places sneak in behind my eyelids and soothe me."

Although Veva is currently retired, she has held an assortment of jobs including waitress, janitor, laborer in plywood and stud mills, florist, nursery worker, botany technician for the Bureau of Land Management and Gold Beach Ranger District, and finally District Botanist for the US Forest Service (USFS) in Gold Beach.

Before her employment with the USFS, Veva became intensely interested in public land use and sensitive plants. These interests led to volunteer work with the USFS, The Nature Conservancy, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, Malheur Field Station, Jepson Herbarium, and various other agencies and conservation groups.

She received the Conservation Award from the Daughters of the American Republic; the USFS Regional Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species Habitat Management Award; and a USFS National Award for Individual Volunteer Service that included a trip to Washington, DC.

Since retiring, Veva has had more time to spend with her family, attend sports and other functions in which her grandchildren are involved, and read more books. "But most important is to continue to get out in the hills to explore new places and return to old favorites."

The Oregon Flora Newsletter is published three times a year by the Oregon State University Herbarium and the Oregon Flora Project. The Editor is Rhoda Love and the Production Assistants are Camille V. Tipton and Alisa Anderson.

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OFN moving to three issues per year

Beginning with the present issue, the *Oregon Flora Newsletter* will be published three times per year, in February, June and October. *---Editor*

Oregon Flora Project joins OCID

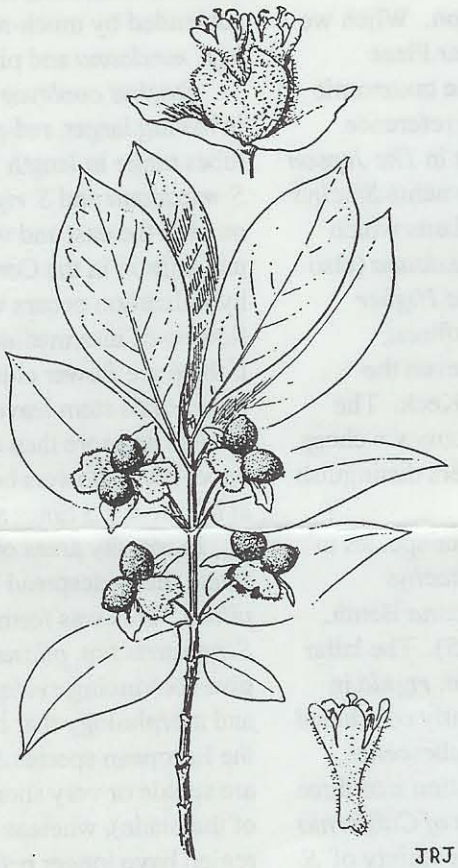
The Flora project has joined the Oregon Coalition of Interdisciplinary Databases. OCID's goal is to provide the framework for simultaneously accessing information from a variety of biological databases. Eventually it will be possible to view a map showing the Oregon distribution of a butterfly superimposed on that of its host plant! You can learn more about OCID by visiting its web site at http://www.nacse.org/ocid.

Notes on some honeysuckles and elderberries (Caprifoliaceae)

by Henrietta L. Chambers

I have just completed the treatment of *Lonicera* and part of *Sambucus* for the Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist and want to share a few of my observations. In regard to *Lonicera involucrata* (twinberry), I have departed from the treatments in several of the standard manuals and floras of the northwest and am following that of Lauramay Dempster in *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California.*

I recognize two varieties of *Lonicera involucrata* in Oregon that are separated geographically, but which have very few morphological differences that are apparent on herbarium specimens. Variety *involucrata* grows in moist places in mountainous areas throughout the state, while var. *ledebourii* is a coastal taxon, occurring from northern California to British Columbia. Hitchcock, in *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, recognized the two varieties, but gave the northern limit of var. *ledebourii* as Lane County, Oregon. However, this apparently was an error. The major morphological differences are flower size and color; but, as you might guess, immature flowers can be a problem, dried flowers may fade, and some herbarium specimens lack flowers. The flower size difference does not seem very great—only 0.5 cm — but the corollas are seldom longer than 1.5 cm in var. *involucrata* and 1.5-2.0 cm long in var. *ledebourii*. Thus, that 0.5 cm difference makes the corolla length one-fourth greater in the coastal variety. Additionally, the corollas are a pure yellow in var. *involucrata* but may be tinged on the outside with orange or red in var. *ledebourii*.



Twinberry, *Lonicera involucrata* var. *involucrata* (shown here) is the yellow flowered variety found in mountainous areas. Oregon's coastal twinberry, *L. involucrata* var. *ledebourii* has slightly larger corollas and flowers which may be tinged with orange. Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish from Hitchcock et al. 1969, *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, courtesy of University of Washington Press.

Moving to *Lonicera hispidula* (hairy honeysuckle), Dempster indicates that var. *vacillans* occurs from southern California to southern Oregon; however, in this case, I disagree. I found that the southern Oregon specimens lack the glandular hairs (or have very few glands on the corollas and flowering stems) that are so characteristic of var. *vacillans*. They are more like var. *hispidula*, which is widespread in Oregon (Klamath Mountains, West Cascades, Willamette Valley, and Columbia Basin). It appears to me that the southern Oregon plants show some gene exchange with var. *vacillans*, but are not representative of that taxon. I believe we have only var. *hispidula* in Oregon, but I have annotated some of our southern Oregon specimens *L. hispidula* var. *hispidula* with the notation "some genetic traits from var. *vacillans*."

We are going to have to accustom ourselves to a new name for one of our elderberries. The name of the common blue elderberry has fallen victim to the Rule of Priority (*International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*). *Sambucus mexicana* C. Presl ex DC. was published in 1830 (*Prodromus* 4:322) and has priority over *S. cerulea* Raf. which was published in 1838 (*Alsographia Americana* 48). It also has priority over the name used in Peck's *Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon*, *S. glauca* Nutt. which was published in 1841. Dempster correctly lists *S. cerulea* Raf. as a synonym under *S. mexicana* in *Jepson's Manual* and says "variable, currently impossible to split in unified sub-groups; detailed study warranted." Perhaps someone will take up her challenge!

This article and the following one on Stachys *are examples of things we have learned while working on the Oregon Checklist.* —*Editor*

Hedgenettles for the Oregon Flora Checklist

by Kenton L. Chambers and Henrietta L. Chambers

The hedgenettle genus *Stachys* is one of those atypical members of the mint family (Lamiaceae) which does *not* have a sage-like fragrance. The odor of the foliage is often described as "rank," defined in the dictionary as "malodorous with a strong smell that is not necessarily bad in quality." Stout, 4-angled stems and opposite leaves with cordate-based blades, plus a tendency to grow in wet places, give the plants a superficial resemblance to nettles (*Urtica*), but no stinging hairs are present.

Four species of *Stachys* occur in Oregon. When we reviewed the genus for the Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist, we found a disparity between the taxonomic treatment of two of the species in standard reference floras for the Pacific Northwest versus that in *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. The name *Stachys ajugoides* Benth. is used in that book for plants which have gone by the names *S. rigida* and *S. mexicana* (also called *S. emersonii*) in Peck's *Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon*, *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States*, and even the previous *A California Flora* by Munz and Keck. The purpose of this note is to discuss the taxonomy we chose to present in the Checklist and to help readers distinguish among the Oregon species.

There is no difficulty in recognizing four species in Oregon; the accepted names for these are *Stachys pilosa* Nutt., *S. cooleyae* A. Heller, *S. mexicana* Benth., and *S. rigida* Nutt. ex Benth (see key on p. 5). The latter two species were lumped as *S. ajugoides* var. *rigida* in *The Jepson Manual*, whose authors apparently concluded that there was too much intergradation in pubescence, flower color, and leaf shape to allow separation into three species. Willis Jepson himself, in his *Flora of California* (volume 3, 1943), had reduced *S. rigida* to a variety of *S. ajugoides*. In a publication perhaps overlooked by the California authors, the Canadian botanists G. A. Mulligan and D. B. Munro (in *Naturaliste Canadien*, vol. 116, 1989) not only separated *S. rigida* and *S. mexicana* from *S. ajugoides*, but also split out two new California species, *S. bergii* and *S. stebbinsii*. Chromosome numbers as well as leaf shape and pubescence play a major role in Mulligan and Munro's circumscription of these and other taxa.

We do not agree with the authors of *The Jepson Manual* that *Stachys mexicana* and *S. rigida* are a single species nor that they belong within *S. ajugoides*. There is little if any intergradation between these two taxa in Oregon. *Stachys mexicana* is principally on the immediate coast and in the Coast Range (rarely in the southern Cascades) and is distinguished by having some of its flowers borne in the axils of several pairs of long-petiolate upper stem leaves. *Stachys rigida* is common in the Coast Range, Cascades, and Siskiyous but is seldom found near the ocean; its lowest flowers may be in the axils of paired leaves, but these leaves are short-petiolate or sessile and are smaller than those of the main stem. In both taxa, the later-formed flower clusters are subtended by much-reduced bracts; flower color is pink in *S. mexicana* and pink varying to white in *S. rigida*.

Stachys cooleyae differs from both the above species in having larger, red-purple flowers, whose corolla tubes range in length from 15-25 mm, versus 6-14 mm in *S. mexicana* and *S. rigida*. The species is abundant on both the east and west flanks of the Cascades. It is uncommon in the Coast Range, where we believe some hybridization occurs with *S. mexicana*. In plants with flowers of intermediate size, we use the name *mexicana* if there are flower clusters in the axils of at least two pairs of petiolate stem leaves, and the name *cooleyae* if there is no more than one such floral cluster—the next upper set of flowers being associated with bracts that are at the most 1.5 times as long as the corollas.

In marshy areas of central and eastern Oregon is found the widespread North American species *Stachys pilosa*. This was formerly known in our regional floras as *S. palustris* ssp. *pilosa*; however, Mulligan and Munro give convincing evidence from chromosome numbers and morphology that it should be separated from the European species *S. palustris*. Its lower stem leaves are sessile or very short-petiolate (less than 1/5 the length of the blade), whereas plants of *S. rigida* in that same region have longer petioles on their lowest stem leaves.

Stachys bergii Mulligan & Munro (formerly called *S. rigida* ssp. *lanata* Epling) is a newly recognized species of Del Norte County, California, found mainly in the Smith River Canyon. It may well occur in adjacent Curry County, Oregon, up to 2,500 feet elevation in river canyons above the coastal fog belt. It is a small plant, 15-40 cm tall, found often (or always?) on serpentine. Its leaves are densely whitish tomentose or woolly below, with a petiole less than 1 cm long; otherwise it resembles *S. rigida*. Since it has not yet been collected in Oregon, we do not include it in the accompanying key. Oregon collectors, be on the lookout!

Thanks!

Key to Oregon species of *Stachys*
by K.L. and H.L. Chambers

1 Flowers red-purple; corolla tube 15-25 mm long; no more than one upper pair of large, distinctly petiolate stem leaves bearing flowers in their axils; Cascades and (less commonly) Coast Range .....*S. cooleyae*

1 Flowers pink-purple to white; corolla tube 6-14 mm long

2 Two or more pairs of upper, long-petiolate stem leaves bearing flowers in their axils; corolla pink-purple or pink; coast and Coast Range (rare in south Cascades) .....*S. mexicana*

2 Leaves subtending lowest 1 or 2 flower clusters sessile or very short-petiolate; corolla pink-purple to white; widespread but rare on the immediate coast

3 Leaves near base of stem with petioles 1/5 or more the length of the blade; teeth of calyx triangular, 1/3 or less the length of the tube (excluding spine-tip); both east and west of Cascades .....*S. rigida*

3 Leaves near base of stem with petioles none or less than 1/5 the length of the blade; teeth of calyx linear-lanceolate, more than 1/3 the length of the tube; east of Cascades .....*S. pilosa*

Illustrations of *Erythronium oregonum* on the front and back covers by Linda Ann Vorobik.

Atlas project, from front page

a set of draft "dot" maps for 124 sedge taxa. These maps can be viewed in the OSU Herbarium with the assistance of a Carex Working Group member.

We will keep readers posted on the progress of the Atlas Project. Meanwhile, if you have a bent for field work, exploration, and plant identification, let us hear from you. We will be delighted to put you in touch with the coordinator in the region you wish to explore. Also, if you would like to help with data entry, there is a lot to do.

You can reach Bruce Newhouse, coordinator for field surveys, at 2525 Potter St., Eugene, OR 97405; (541)343-2364; newhouse@efn.org or Scott Sundberg at the address on page 2.

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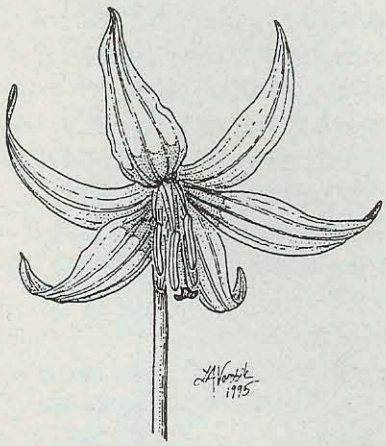

Did you know?

- Two of Oregon's best-known women botanists, Helen Gilkey and Lilla Leach were born in the same month of the year 1886 exactly one week apart, Helen on March 6 in Montesano, Washington, and Lilla on March 13 in Barlow, Oregon.
- The UO Herbarium was nearly moved to OSU in 1932. The State Board, in an effort to save $2,180,000 in Higher Education funds, determined to eliminate the sciences in Eugene. At the time the curators were L. F. Henderson at UO and Helen Gilkey at OSU. Evidently there was a reprieve, as the UO Herbarium did not move until 1993 and Henderson remained curator until 1939.
- Last summer, Veva Stansell found the noxious introduced weed, *Senecio mikanioides* near Pistol River on the Oregon coast. This African species, called "German ivy," should be eliminated whenever and wherever it is encountered. As Ken Chambers wrote to Veva: "You would probably do a favor to future weed-control persons by eradicating it now."

Number of species lists per block

Map showing number of lists so far received for each Atlas block.