OREGON FLORA NEWSLETTER

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Dick Straw: autobiographical sketch

[Dick Straw of Talent, Oregon has been a prodigious provider of plant lists for the Oregon Vascular Plant Atlas Project. When I asked him for biographical information for OFN readers, he graciously responded with such an articulate account of his interesting life that I decided to let him tell his story in his own words. What follows is a somewhat edited version of what he sent me.]

I was born in 1926 in St. Paul, Minnesota, the oldest of three boys. My father was a civil servant, my mother's family among the early residents of the area. I attended high school in St. Paul. After graduation in 1944, I was drafted into the Army and served most of two years, mainly in Georgia, learning and teaching radio repair.

After discharge in 1946 I entered the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, graduating with a BA in zoology and a minor in botany. My major interest at the time was in birds. A master's program on the population biology of frogs was interrupted in 1950 when my National Guard unit was called for the Korean War where I served with a radio unit and later the U.N. Civil Assistance Command, doing crop surveys. I managed to collect a number of birds and published a minor paper on my return in 1952. I then entered the doctoral program at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, newly associated with the Claremont Graduate School. There, in 1955, with the help of the National Science Foundation, I received the first Ph.D. in botany awarded by that group, working with Verne Grant on pollination biology and taxonomy of *Penstemon.*

See Straw, page 14

Photo: Ben Krieg

Dick Straw

Some new names and clarifications for Oregon's flora

by Kenton L. Chambers

Under the category of new names, the author of the treatment of *Rubus* for the Checklist, Dr. Maxine M. Thompson, did a thorough review of European literature on this difficult genus, which revealed that the current Latin name of our most abundant, weedy species, Himalayan blackberry, is incorrect. In recently published floras such as *The Jepson Manual* (1993) and *Intermountain Flora, vol. 3A* (1997) this blackberry is called *Rubus discolor* Weihe & Nees, while Peck's *Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon* (1961) used the name *Rubus procerus* P. J. Müll. Dr. Thompson found that *Rubus* experts in Europe, such as Prof. H. E. Weber of Onasbrueck, Germany, prefer the name *R. armeniacus* Focke, saying that the above two names are either invalid or misapplied. The plant in question was native to Armenia, according to Prof. Weber, but was brought into cultivation early in the 19th century and selected for the production of large fruits. The species long ago escaped from gardens and became a weedy pest in many parts of the world, propagating entirely by asexual reproduction. In Oregon it seems capable of swallowing abandoned farmhouses and barns. In *The Jepson Manual* one finds the further ominous note, "[f]avored by rats for food, shelter."

A recently published monograph of *Vaccinium* section *Myrtillus*, our native single-flowered bush huckleberries, clarifies the status of three species, *V. alaskaense* Howell, *V. globulare* Rydb., and *V. coccineum* Piper, which have long been a puzzle to Oregon taxonomists. Based on over 20 years of biosystematic studies (morphological, genetic, and chromosomal analyses), Sam Vander Kloet and Timothy Dickinson (*Brittonia* 51:231-254. 1999) have reduced the number of recognized species in this group to seven, rather than the nine given in, for example, *Flora of the Pacific Northwest.* As a result, *V. alaskaense* becomes a synonym of *V. ovalifolium* Sm. and *V. globulare* is submerged in *V. membranaceum* Douglas ex Hook. Features that had been used to separate the members of these taxon-pairs (flower shape, length and angle of pedicels, time of flower appearance) proved to be developmentally variable and sensitive to environmental effects. *Vaccinium coccineum,* whose type came from Steve Peak in Josephine County, is indistinguishable from *V. deliciosum* Piper, according to

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Straw, from front page

I joined the faculty of the new California State College at Los Angeles in 1956, and remained there until I retired in 1981. During this time, the National Science Foundation provided six years of research support which funded three summers of field work in Mexico as well as extended field and herbarium work in the US. During 1963-64, I had a Fulbright fellowship in Peru with NSF support for an additional three months in the Andes with a team from Berkeley. Work on the genus *Calceolaria* which I began in Peru was suspended after my return to Los Angeles when I found myself in an administrative position. Except for a two-year stint as a contract staff member of the Peace Corps in Malaysia, I spent much of my subsequent career in administrative posts.

On my retirement in 1981 I took a position as an academic computing specialist at Southern Oregon State College in Ashland, finally retiring a second time in 1992 from my post as Director of Computing Services. Along the way I managed to publish a few things in *Penstemon* taxonomy, especially on Mexican species, as well as a theoretical paper on pollinator competition.

I am now thoroughly retired, and spend a good deal of time on botany, enjoying collecting and gathering data for the Jackson County species list and the Oregon Plant Atlas, plus geneology, much aided by the Internet. My wife, Dorothy, a nursing administrator, and I have four children and six grandchildren, all of whom live in the Northwest.

[I asked Dr. Straw how it happened that he was able to contribute so many species lists to the Atlas Project.]

I am no longer sure how I got involved in the project, but Scott Sundberg issued a request for plant lists, and Joan Seevers, BLM botanist in the Medford District allowed me to xerox a volume of survey lists from their records. Wayne Rolle and Tom Atzet of the Forest Service, Richard Callaghan, Barbara Mumblo, Frank Lang, Don Heinze, Jim Duncan, and others also contributed. Mostly I copied lists and sent them to Dr. Sundberg, though I did make a couple myself with Frank Lang's help. Botanical knowledge will be greatly enhanced when a new Oregon Flora emerges, so contributions to it are of great importance. Any efforts to hurry that day along are surely worth while.

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

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New names, from front page

Vander Kloet and Dickinson, and therefore it becomes a synonym of that species. Other Oregon taxa of section *Myrtillus* recognized by these authors are *V. parvifolium* Sm., *V. scoparium* Leiberg ex Coville, *V. myrtillus* L., and *V. caespitosum* Michx. Several additional *Vaccinium* species that were not part of their study also occur in the state.

Iliamna bakeri (Jeps.) Wiggins, family Malvaceae, is a rare species of the southern Oregon Cascades and northern California. Ira Wiggins, who monographed the genus in 1936 (*Contrib. Dudley Herb.*, 1:213-229), cited a 1923 collection from Swan Lake Valley, Klamath County, as the only known Oregon occurrence. Wayne Rolle, Richard Brock, Veva Stansell, and other sharp-eyed field botanists in Jackson County have found populations of an *Iliamna* that resembles *I. bakeri* but is taller and has a different form of leaf-lobing than in the published descriptions of that species. After examining all available specimens from the University of California herbarium, I believe that these Oregon plants do indeed represent *I. bakeri*. The species' description in *The Jepson Manual* (page 751) should be modified to give *I. bakeri* a height of *up to 12 dm* and upper leaves that are shallowly *to deeply* 3-*5* lobed. Its lower stem leaves are *cordate*-based, not "tapered to truncate." The most obvious difference I see between *I. bakeri* and our more common species *I. rivularis* (Douglas ex Hook.) Greene is that the calyx of the latter is less than 1 cm long, versus 1.3-2 cm in *I. bakeri.* The third species in Oregon, *I. latibracteata* Wiggins, differs from *I. bakeri* in having large accessory bracts accompanying the calyx. Its range is west of that of *I. bakeri*, extending from Jackson County to the coast.

Fuji Mountain in south Lane County yields botanical surprise

by

Charlene Simpson, Emerald Chapter, NPSO

Fuji Mountain, in the Waldo Lake Recreation Area, has been a destination for Emerald Chapter, Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO), field trips for the past several seasons. Situated approximately two miles south of Waldo Lake in south Lane County the 7,144 foot summit affords views on a clear day of the Cascades from Mount Shasta to Mount Hood. Fuji Mountain falls within the High Cascade geological province, and is one of a series of composite volcanoes, subsequently glaciated (Baldwin 1981).

The story of Fuji's botanical surprises begins in the early 1990s when Emerald Chapter members Phil Warner and Dale McBride first began hiking to Fuji to enjoy and photograph the gorgeous views and interesting alpine flora. On one trip, Dale noticed and photographed an interesting *Heuchera* at the summit, and for two years he encouraged fellow plant enthusiasts to return to the site. Finally in July 1998 a field trip was organized, and the "different" *Heuchera* was identified as the relatively uncommon *Heuchera merriamii*.

But Fuji held yet another treasure. On the same July 1998 field trip, Emeraldites, Dave Predeek and Dale McBride went to search nearby precipitous cliffs. They rejoined the main group with a sample of an unusual cinquefoil which was deposited on the rocks nearby where Charlene Simpson photographed it before it was placed in John Koenig's press. It did not key satisfactorily in floras we had brought and its appearance was outside our prior experience. Charlene noted the cespitose habit, densely villous trifoliate leaves and the deep yellow flowers and thought to herself that the identification would be a "piece of cake." Later research, using Abrams' *Flora*, described *Potentilla villosa* which seemed to fit, but Charlene was dissuaded by the published range: from Alaska through the North Cascades of Washington to Mt. Hood in Oregon.

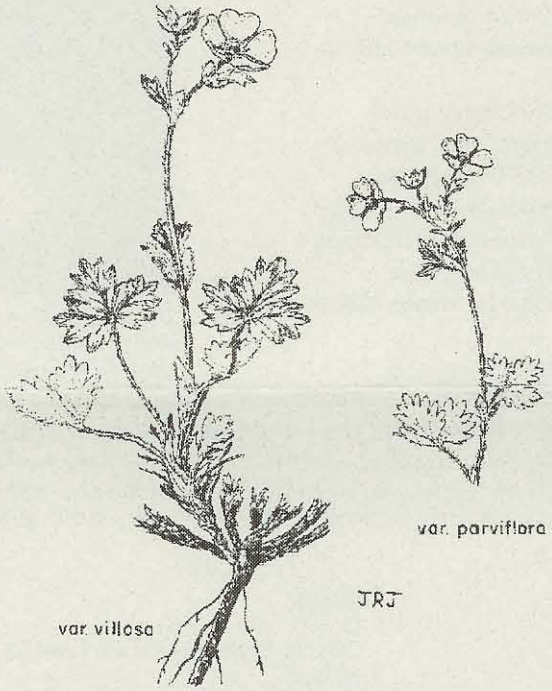
In the meantime John Koenig arrived at *Potentilla villosa* var. *parviflora* independently and confirmed his identification by checking collections at Oregon State University Herbarium. He noted, however, that the majority of collections were from outside of Oregon with locations far to the north of Fuji Mountain. One previous collection was from "tight crevices of Barrett Spurs," on the north side of Mount Hood, by McMullen, late summer, 1956 filed in the Peck Herbarium. Marty Stein, Mount Hood National Forest botanist, searched that area about two years ago without relocating the plant.

Summer 1998 ended and we moved on to other pursuits. The Fuji Mountain *Potentilla villosa* research was shelved and the collected specimen remained in John's press. Charlene added the species to the Lane County Flora Checklist.

A year later, in June of this year, Charlene began finalizing the Lane County Vascular Plant Checklist. With the help of Scott Sundberg of the Oregon Flora Project, attributes, including rarity, were appended to the list. When the rarity codes were attached Charlene was astounded to see that *Potentilla villosa* was considered extinct in Oregon. She removed the taxon from the Lane Checklist pending further research and broadcast the need for a 1999 trip to examine the plant more carefully to check the initial identification.

On August 5, 1999, Willamette National Forest botanist, Jenny Lippert, and other Forest Service personnel accompanied Emerald Chapter members to Fuji. Our plan was to make a second collection only if the population could support another taking, otherwise we would make do with the somewhat over-handled specimen in the press. When we arrived, only twelve individuals were counted and the decision was made not to collect again.

Charlene consulted Scott Sundberg, who suggested that Barbara Ertter, of the University of California at Berkeley, author of the *Potentilla* treatment for the *Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist*, might examine the specimen to verify the identification. To our delight she agreed, responding in September that, based on existing taxonomy, the identification of *Potentilla villosa* var. *parviflora* is confirmed. This is only the second known collection of this taxon in Oregon and perhaps the only population presently extant in our state.



When C. L. Hitchcock described Potentilla villosa *in* Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3, *he recognized the new var.* parviflora *based on a J. W. Thompson collection from Mt. Angeles, Clallam County, Washington. The new variety was segregated on the basis of smaller petal size, 5-8 mm, compared with petals 8-12 mm in var.* villosa. *He gave the range of var.* parviflora *as "coastal Alaska from about Juneau, south to the Olympics and Cascade mountains of Washington, and in the southern Rockies." Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish, courtesy of University of Washington press.*

Reference: Baldwin, E. M. 1981. *Geology of Oregon*. University of Oregon Cooperative Bookstore, Eugene, Oregon.

[Editors note: Please make the following changes to the article on L.F. Henderson in the last issue of the Oregon Flora Newsletter. *Henderson was Curator at UO for 15 years, retiring in 1939 at age 86. I apologize for the errors. R.L.]*

George Argus visits OSU

by Scott Sundberg

It was a delight this September to host a visit to OSU by Dr. George Argus. Dr. Argus, who retired from the National Herbarium, Canadian Museum of Nature (Ottawa) in 1995, is contributing taxonomic treatments of the willow genus *Salix* for the *Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist* and the *Flora of North America*, and is a member of the FNA Editorial Committee. He is well known for his life-long studies of willows as well as for his contributions toward rare plant efforts in Canada.

Dr. Argus was busy during his two-week stay in Corvallis. The first two days were devoted to travel and to collecting plants in the field. He then spent a day teaching a workshop on the identification of the willows of Oregon and Washington using his computerized key. Twenty-two people attended and learned how to use the key, which is written with INTKEY software. The key allows the user to identify vegetative, flowering, or fruiting specimens of this taxonomically difficult genus.

George spent the remainder of his visit examining and identifying specimens in the OSU Herbarium. In a period of twelve days he annotated approximately 2600 specimens, 1672 of which had been collected in Oregon. We have entered label data from the Oregon specimens into the OSU Herbarium database and are currently adding latitude and longitude coordinate information. This will soon allow us to map willow distributions in Oregon.

Dr. Argus' travel expenses were underwritten by the Oregon Flora Project, the OSU Herbarium, and the Oregon Coalition of Interdisciplinary Databases (OCID). Thanks, George for your visit and for volunteering your time to help with the Flora project. Thanks also to Danna Lytjen and Charlene Simpson, who helped collect willows, and to participants in the workshop, many of whom contributed to the Flora project and brought specimens.

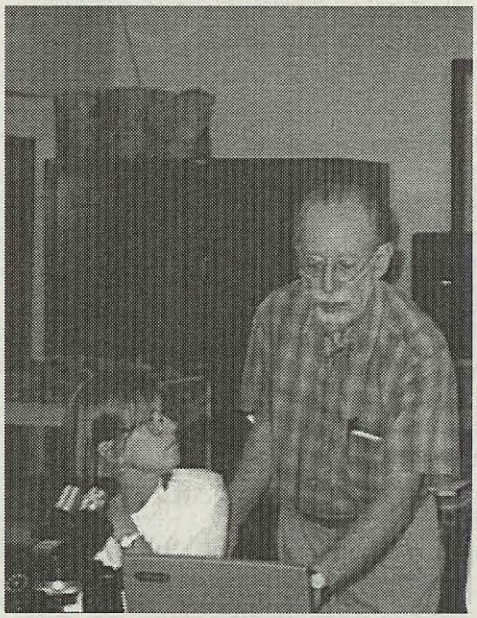


Photo: Rhoda Love

Dr. George Argus demonstrating his computerized key to the willows to Penny Lapham during the willow identification workshop.

Have you seen these taxa that are possibly extinct in Oregon?

In the article on page 15, Charlene Simpson tells of relocating *Potentilla villosa* var. *parviflora*, a taxon considered possibly extinct. The map on the back of this issue shows approximate localities for other plant taxa that are possibly now extinct in Oregon. Data are from the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP). Please be on the lookout for these taxa. If you think you have spotted one, please contact us or the ONHP.

Plant name	Counties	Year last noted
Agrostis hendersonii	Jackson	1930
Allium peninsulare	Jackson	1931
Allium robinsonii	Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla	1967
Androsace elongata ssp. *acuta*	Jackson	1887
Arenaria franklinii var. *thompsonii*	Gilliam, Umatilla	1940
Artemisia campestris var. *wormskioldii*	Sherman	1941
Astragalus californicus	Jackson	1930
Astragalus kentrophyta var. *douglasii*	Umatilla	1830
Calochortus indecorus	Josephine	1948
Carex comosa	Josephine, Multnomah	1945
Carex eleocharis	Baker, Klamath	1938
Castilleja levisecta	Linn, Marion, Multnomah	1938
Cicuta bulbifera	Klamath	1950
Clintonia andrewsiana	Curry	1976
Cryptantha leucophaea	Gilliam	1882
Howellia aquatilis	Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah	1977
Lomatium salmoniflorum	Wasco	1914
Lupinus sericeus var. *egglestonianus*	Sherman	1963
Microseris douglasii ssp. *douglasii*	Jackson	1889
Phacelia malvifolia	Curry	1884
Plagiobothrys lamprocarpus	Josephine	1921
Potamogeton foliosus var. *fibrillosus*	Harney, Klamath	1927
Salix laevigata (as *S. bonplandiana*)	Klamath	1940
Senecio porteri	Wallowa	1899
Stylocline psilocarphoides	Malheur	1943

Thanks

In September Jerry Igo, of NPSO's Mid-Columbia Chapter, issued his Oregon Flora Challenge, urging all chapters to raise funds for the Flora project from among their members. We affectionately refer to this as the "Igo Challenge." We are very grateful for donations from Mid-Columbia, Portland and Emerald chapters that have arrived in response to the challenge.

Thanks to the following who have recently contributed

Project news

by Scott Sundberg

We now list 4,426 Oregon species, subspecies and varieties in the Checklist database. Approximately 18% of Oregon plant taxa are non-native. Henny Chambers has recently submitted a manuscript of the Caryophyllaceae (pink family) checklist and a number of other treatments have been submitted. We are planning to publish a checklist of monocot families, other than grasses, early next year. The Asteraceae checklist will soon be online at our Web site. Watch for an announcement in this newsletter and in the NPSO Bulletin.

The Atlas project is progressing rapidly. We are now preparing a demonstration of the online Atlas. Over the summer, herbarium specimen label data for most tree species were entered into a database. The specimen database now has about 23,000 records and the database of sightings has about 160,000 records. Jason Alexander, database manager for the project, has also implemented a number of changes in the database structure and entry forms to make data entry and analysis more efficient.

Friends News

The Friends group continues to operate under the aegis of the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO), for whose support we are very grateful. Response to the flyer distributed last fall has been gratifying. Membership in the Friends is now over 100 and eleven Bonnie Hall prints have been sent to major donors. The Friends committee has been meeting regularly and currently has seven members. Our display appeared at the recent dedication of the Dr. Bonnie C. Templeton Conference Room and the Herbarium Preparation Room in Cordley Hall where it attracted a good deal of notice. The committee is currently designing a new display, outlining grant applications and pursuing other sources of funding. Many thanks to all our supporters. The Friends address is: Friends of the Oregon Flora Project, The Native Plant Society of Oregon, PO Box 402, Corvallis OR 97339-0402. Please make your checks out to NPSO.

The Asteraceae Checklist, published by the Checklist project in February 1998, is being reprinted. For those of you who have participated in or donated to the Oregon Flora Project, the Asteraceae Checklist is free of charge. Others may receive a copy in return for a donation of any amount to the Oregon Flora Project. Please use the form below and enclose your check to the OSU Foundation. (Our cost for printing and postage is approximately $4.00.)

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Would you like to make a donation?

Tax-deductable donations can be made to the Oregon Flora Project by sending a check made out to the Oregon State University Foundation to Scott Sundberg at the address on this page. Please note on the check that it is for the Oregon Flora Project. Your donations go primarily toward newsletter expenses and student wages.

☐ Please check here if you do not wish to have your name listed in our "Thanks" column or on our Internet web site.

☐ Please send the Asteraceae Checklist (include check if appropriate).

☐ Please put me on the *Oregon Flora Newsletter* mailing list.

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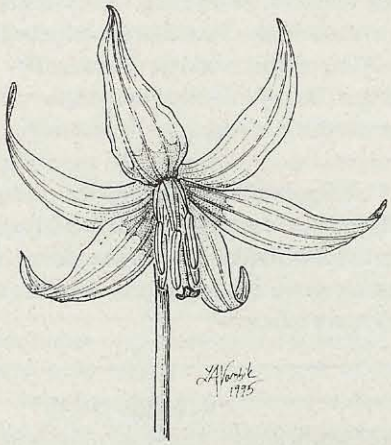
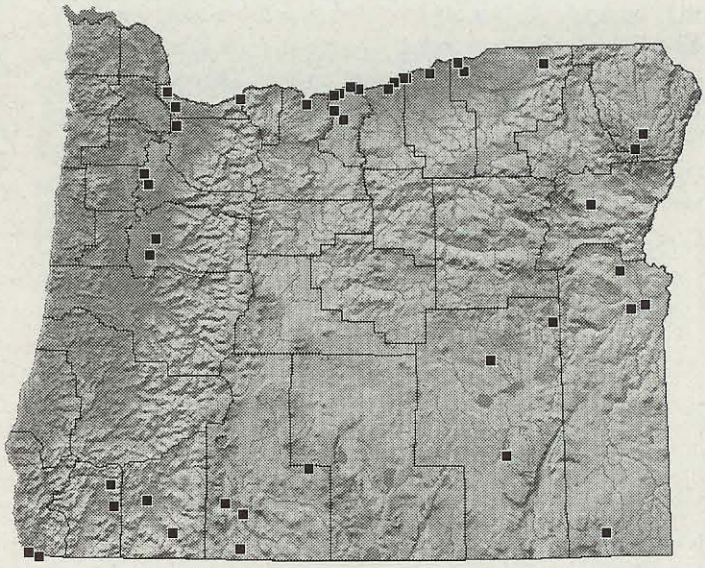


Did you know?

The following are presented in memory of our friend, Professor Bastiaan J. D. Meeuse of the University of Washington who died July 27, 1999 at the age of 83. Dr. Meeuse was one of this country's best known authorities on pollination.

- An interesting pollinator which often visits species of *Angelica*, as well as Queen Anne's lace and ivy is a bee-imitator, the drone fly, *Eristalis taenax*. The larvae of this fly mature in stagnant water such as is found in dirty bird baths.
- Ant pollination has rarely been observed, but it has been documented in dwarf owl clover, *Triphysaria pusilla* (formerly *Orthocarpus pusillus)*, the diminutive scroph which is common in Willamette valley meadows in very early spring.
- *Calypso bulbosa*, the fairy slipper orchid of our coniferous woods, employs pollination by deception. Young bumblebees are attracted by the color of the blossoms, but no nectar is offered. A bee several times fooled learns to stay away, but enough neophyte bumblebees continue to hatch to pollinate the flowers.



Possibly extinct Oregon plants

Historically known localities of plants now listed by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program as "possibly extinct" in Oregon. See page 16 for list of names.