OREGON FLORA Newsletter

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1 | OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY | FEBRUARY 2003

Albert N. Steward (1897-1959): twenty-six years in China and Curator of the OSU Herbarium

by Rebecca Huot

Dr. Albert Newton Steward lived in China as an educational missionary from 1921 to 1950. He founded the Department of Botany at Nan ching University, where he taught botany and helped local farmers. After the infamous Japanese Rape of Nan ching, Steward sent his wife and children to America, but chose to remain behind to assist the beleaguered Chinese. During WWII he spent three years in an internment camp, after which he lived several more years in Communist China. Upon his return to America in 1950, he became Associate Professor of Botany, Curator of the Herbarium, and Associate Botanist at the Agricultural Experiment Station at Oregon State College (OSC), where he remained until his death in 1959. Among Steward's botanical publications are two major keys: *Manual of Vascular Plants of the Lower Yangtze Valley, China* (1958) and *Aquatic Plants of the Pacific Northwest with Vegetative Keys* (1960).

Whether tramping through China's Midwest provinces of Kweichow and Kwangsi with his eldest son to gather herbarium specimens, or shepherding his youngest son, who suffered from respiratory problems, to Joshua Tree National Park and the Salton Sea in Southern California to "bake the bugs out of him,"

See Steward, page 4

Photo: OSU Archives

Every summer Steward participated as the expert in a "Stump the Expert Contest," where he was confronted with peculiar plants. He never met a species he could not identify and each year he received a prize, his favorite being the straw hat worn here at a 1954 Range Management Field Camp.

A new plant family for Oregon

by Henrietta L. Chambers

As I began working on the genus *Parnassia* for the checklist, I was mystified that I could not find it in the *Intermountain Flora*. Naturally I looked in the Saxifragaceae, and when it was not there, I assumed the genus was absent in the intermountain region. However, in the herbarium I found that we had specimens from Steens Mountain, which is part of that area. In the *Intermountain Flora* index, I found the family Parnassiaceae and lo, the mystery was solved! Noel and Patricia Holmgren did the treatment, and it is from this source that I have taken most of my information.

It is exciting when a new plant species is discovered in our state, as that may mean a new genus or family to add to our totals. That is not the case here. One species of *Parnassia* was collected on the northwest coast of America more than 200 years ago (1792) by Archibald Menzies and was named *Parnassia fimbriata* by K. D. Koenig in 1804. The genus was placed in the family Parnassiaceae by Leroy Abrams in his *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States*. Abrams was probably influenced by Britton and Brown's *Illustrated Flora of the United States and Canada* (1913). Recent studies by D. R. Morgan and D. E. Soltis (1993), based on *rbcL* sequence data, show that *Parnassia* is very distant from other genera in the Saxifragaceae. Thus I am following the lead of Abrams and the Holmgrens by placing it in its own family.

We have three species of grass-of-Parnassus in Oregon. The common name is derived from Mount Parnassus in central Greece and was used for a plant reported by Dioscorides, the famous first century Greek physician. That plant was probably *P. palustris*, the species with the widest distribution in the genus. The most common and widespread taxon in western North America is *Parnassia fimbriata* (fringed grass-of-Parnassus), which occurs throughout western North America from Alaska as far south as New Mexico. In Oregon, it is found from the central Cascades to the Wallowa Mountains. It grows in meadows, wooded seeps, along stream banks and lakeshores. The species name comes from the numerous petaloid protuberances (fimbriae), which are 1-5 mm long and arise on the petal margin from the base of the petals to the middle. The oldest collection of this species in the OSU Herbarium was made in 1906 at Updyke Falls, Deschutes County, near Tumalo. There are many collections from the Wallowa Mountains at 5200 to7200 foot elevations.

Of the three Oregon parnassias, *P. fimbriata* has the broadest leaves. These are widest below the middle and cordate-based. The basal leaves have prominent veins and show a similarity to our native lily of the valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*). A single small, sessile leaf appears near midlength on the flowering stem (see illustration). The 5 staminodes, which alternate with the stamens, are fleshy, club-shaped, and have short marginal protuberances, mainly near the top.

See Parnassia, page 2

Parnassia, continued from front page

California grass-of-Parnassus, *Parnassia californica*, occurs in northern California and in the Siskiyou Mountains of Josephine and possibly Curry Counties. It grows in swamps, moist woods, and darlingtonia bogs. The oldest collection is one by Thomas Howell in 1889; the label reads "Oregon Coast Mountains, 42nd parallel." *Parnassia californica* has ovate to lance-ovate leaves with tapering bases and a single flowering stalk with a small, sessile bract above mid-length. The staminodes have numerous long, slender filaments with yellow, glandular tips. The most obvious difference that separates *P. californica* from *P. fimbriata* and *P. cirrata,* is that its petals lack fimbriae.

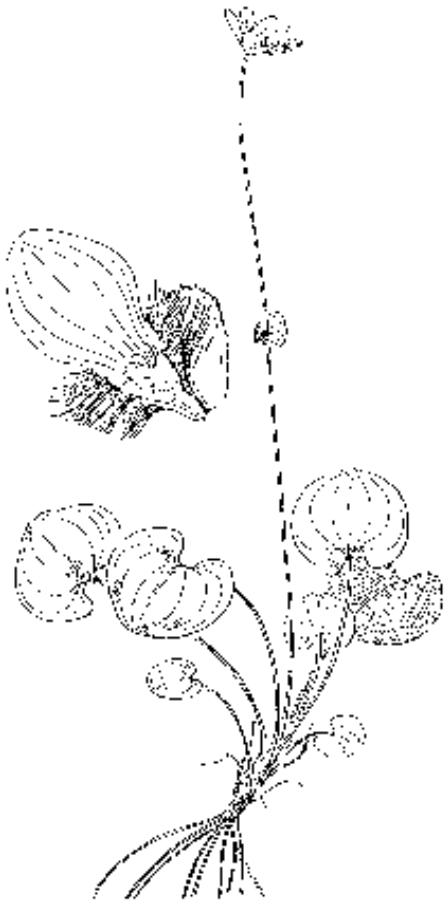
Cascade grass-of-Parnassus, *Parnassia cirrata* var. *intermedia* grows in the Cascades of southern Washington and Oregon, Steens Mountain, southern Idaho, and north and central Nevada. It too likes wet habitats such as bogs, mires, grassy lake borders, shaded stream banks, and wet meadows. It combines some of the features of the above-mentioned species: it has the fimbriate petals of *P. fimbriata,* and the staminodes with long slender filaments topped with glands which are characteristic of *P. californica*. The oldest collection in the OSU Herbarium was by L. F. Henderson in 1884, in wet sphagnum at Lost Lake in Hood River County. The typical variety has a more southerly distribution in the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains of California.

Another western species, *P. kotzebuei*, does not occur in Oregon, but is found in nearby states. The species is circumboreal in its distribution and occurs as far south as the mountain regions of Washington, Idaho and Montana. The OSU Herbarium has several collections from Alaska, and they show a plant with much smaller flowers and leaves than our Oregon taxa.

Key to Oregon *Parnassia*

1. Petals with entire margins; leaves tapering at base; staminodes with 15 or more globose-tipped filaments . . . . . *P. californica*
1. Petals with marginal fimbriae; leaves with cordate bases; staminodes various
   2. Staminodes with 7-10 slender globose-tipped filaments . . . . . *P. cirrata* var. *intermedia*
   2. Staminodes fleshy, club-shaped with short marginal protuberances, not globose-tipped . . . . . *P. fimbriata*

Reference: Phylogenic relationships among members of Saxifragaceae sensu latu *based on* rbcL *sequence data.* Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. *80: 631-660. 1993.*



Fringed grass-of-Parnassus (Parnassia fimbriata). *Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish from Hitchcock, et al.,* Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. *Courtesy of University of Washington Press.*

Erythronium oregonum logo and masthead designed by Tanya Harvey.

The Oregon Flora Newsletter is published three times a year by the Oregon Flora Project and the Oregon State University Herbarium. The Editor is Rhoda Love and the Production Assistant is Tyler S. Norby.

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New names and hybrids among Oregon spiraeas

by Kenton L. Chambers

It is getting to be an unusual event when an established name for a well-known species is overthrown by nomenclatural technicalities. This happened recently, however, to the common Oregon subalpine pink spiraea, *Spiraea densiflora* Nutt. It had been overlooked that, when John Torrey and Asa Gray published this name in 1840, they only mentioned it in passing and did not accept it as a new species. The name is therefore invalid, and we must adopt the later name *Spiraea splendens* Baumann ex K. Koch, published in 1875 and based on cultivated plants grown in Germany from seeds collected in California.

Further difficulties with *Spiraea splendens* arise when one tries to apply the varietal distinctions proposed by C. Leo Hitchcock in *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. Hitchcock named two varieties of "*Spiraea densiflora*" based on the fine puberulence seen on the leaves and inflorescence of some individuals—his "var. *densiflora*" being the nearly glabrous form, and "var. *splendens*" being the more puberulent one. When this varietal concept was transferred to *Spiraea splendens,* the varieties took the names "var. *rosea*" and "var. *splendens*," respectively. Having recently examined well over 100 herbarium specimens of *S. splendens*, I am convinced that such pubescence differences are insignificant; the feature is minute, variable, and has no geographical coherence. We need not trouble ourselves with varietal names in this species.

Another species of Oregon spiraea recognized in *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* is *Spiraea pyramidata* Greene. It was suspected by Morton Peck, P. A. Rydberg, and others (see Peck's *Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon,* ed. 2, pg. 421) that this is a hybrid taxon rather than a good species, and that it refers to sporadic crosses between the white-flowered *Spiraea betulifolia* Pall. (shinyleaf spiraea) and the pink-flowered *S. douglasii* Hook. (Douglas' spiraea). This hypothesis was confirmed by William J. Hess in 1969 (*Sida* 3:298-308), who found that *S. xpyramidata* plants are partially pollen-sterile and occur only in disturbed habitats in contact with one or both of the parental species. The hybrids are recognized by their pyramid-shaped inflorescence, about as wide as high, versus the flat-topped inflorescence of *S. betulifolia* and the narrow, elongated one of *S. douglasii*. *Spiraea xpyramidata* has scattered occurrences from the northern Willamette Valley and the Columbia Gorge east to Idaho and north to British Columbia. Its flowers may be white or pink.

I was led to this study of *Spiraea* by the reported occurrence in Lane County of a second hybrid spiraea, *Spiraea xhitchcockii* W. J. Hess & N. A. Stoynoff. Discovered near Scott Lake on the McKenzie Pass, this hybrid was proposed by Hess and Stoynoff to be a cross between *Spiraea splendens* "var. *rosea*" and *S. douglasii* var. *menziesii* (Hook.) Presl. It has pink flowers and an inflorescence intermediate between the rounded, sub-capitate one of *S. splendens* and the narrow, elongated one of *S. douglasii*, and it was found growing together with these two species at the discovery site. We intend to use the name *S. xhitchcockii* for any hybrid between the two species, regardless of what varieties one thinks the parents represent at a given locale. In my review of our herbarium's holdings of Oregon spiraeas, I found four additional specimens of this previously unrecognized hybrid—one from the Santiam Pass, Jefferson County, two from Crater Lake National Park, and one from Huckleberry Lake on the Rogue/Umpqua Divide, Douglas County. The accompanying illustration shows the latter hybrid and the *S. splendens* parent growing with it. A further oddity about this hybrid is that the name *Spiraea subvillosa* Rydb. was at one time thought to apply to it (see the Morton Peck reference, above). However, I examined the type specimen of that name, collected in the Columbia Gorge by Thomas Howell, and found it to be a plant of *S. xpyramidata* instead.

Spiraea xhitchockii*, left, and* S. splendens*, right, collected together and mounted on the same sheet in the University of Oregon Herbarium. The collection is by Douglas C. Ingram, August 5, 1924, from a "wet meadow, Huckleberry Lake, Umpqua Forest, altitude 5000 feet." The two specimens were identified as* Spiraea densiflora *by L.F. Henderson.*

Since I have led you this far into the mysteries of Oregon *Spiraea*, let me mention one final peculiarity involving our most common species, *Spiraea douglasii*. This well-known plant is generally accepted as having two varieties, var. *douglasii* and var. *menziesii*, differing by a conspicuous feature of leaf pubescence, namely dense but minute woolly hairs (tomentum) on the underside of var. *douglasii* leaves. Tomentulose-leaved var. *douglasii* is common west of the Cascades in Oregon but ranges east of the mountains to Lake County in the south and Wasco County in the north. Plants with glabrous leaves, representing var. *menziesii*, extend from central Oregon east to Idaho and north to Alaska but are also found in the Willamette Valley. These latter populations may be intermediate toward var. *douglasii* in an unusual way—namely, their leaf pubescence is developmentally correlated such that the lower leaves of the stem are glabrous below, while the upper leaves, especially those near the inflorescence, are tomentulose! This characteristic was noted 64 years ago by Louis Henderson, in annotations that he wrote on herbarium specimens collected at Big Fall Creek, Lane County.

Similar plants occur near Corvallis and on the coast; instead of being intermediate throughout, these putative hybrids are *menziesii*-like in their lower leaves and *douglasii*-like in their upper ones. It appears that gene expression—"pubescence genes" being turned on or off—is affected by cues from the environment or by the stage of leaf development. The botanical explorer Elihu Hall, who visited the Willamette Valley in 1871, reported his observation (*Bot. Gaz.* 2: 86. 1877) that "…(t)his [var. *menziesii*] is evidently the same as the foregoing [*S. douglasii*], modified in its characters solely by its habitat—when growing in water it becomes the smooth *S. menziesii*." Whatever the environmental and genetic complexities are, a taxonomic puzzle exists when it comes to attaching varietal names to these strange spiraeas.

Steward, continued from front page

or undertaking, as he described it, a "2,400 mile jaunt" through Washington, British Columbia and Idaho to survey aquatic plants, Steward was a dedicated botanist. He was also a humanitarian who earned the respect of many people from many different cultures.

Albert Steward was born in 1897 in Fullerton, California and spent his earliest boyhood there. The remainder of his childhood was spent in Okanogan County, Washington. He entered OSC in 1917 and completed his BS degree in Botany by special arrangement as a Botany instructor at the University of Montana. He married Celia B. Speak in 1918; they had six children.

Upon Steward's graduation in 1921, the couple joined the Methodist church and became educational missionaries to China where Steward established the Botany Department at the University of Nan ching and became its acting head. In 1926, the family returned to America to allow Steward to undertake graduate work at Harvard. There he earned both MS and PhD degrees with a focus on eastern Asian Polygonaceae. At Cambridge, money was tight and Albert worked nights as a janitor to support his wife and children. At harvest time, he and Celia shopped at outdoor markets at sundown to get the cheapest prices on produce which they then canned at home.

Returning to Nan ching in 1930, Steward became a professor of botany, establishing the herbarium and undertaking numerous collecting expeditions. During his 26 years in China, Steward collected more than 40,000 specimens. He set up plant exchanges between the University of Nan ching, Harvard, OSC and the University of California at Berkeley. The fact that these plants were safe in American herbaria became important for Steward during the later writing of his Lower Yangtze Valley flora, because, as he was leaving China for the last time in 1950, the Communists confiscated his collections.

Steward, who was fluent in Chinese, was fully integrated into the Chinese community. He enjoyed riding his pony Buckey into the countryside to talk with local farmers about crop improvement. By breeding various native varieties of rice, he was able to develop a strain that produced two crops a year rather then one, thus helping alleviate hunger in the area. Steward was a person of integrity and strong moral character who lived his life as a practicing Christian. Wishing to develop informal relationships outside the classroom, the Stewards held Saturday evening social gatherings for students and other young adults where hymns were sung, refreshments offered and intellectual discussions encouraged. But it was Celia who was crucial in developing social bridges and relationships since Albert was often socially shy.

The Japanese invaded China in 1937 bringing drastic changes for Steward. He sent his family to California but made the decision to remain behind. The botanist had not only embraced Chinese culture and gained the esteem of local farmers and intellectuals, but he earned the respect of the invaders as well. At one point, a vehicle carrying Japanese soccer players backed into the University gates damaging them. Steward, who was temporarily acting as head of the University, asked the Japanese to pay for repairs, but they refused. Although Japanese military officials became involved in the dispute, Steward continued to insist that they pay to mend the gates. In the end, the Japanese gave in and paid. This incident, along with his previous work in China, gained Steward the grudging respect of the invaders; therefore, instead of sending him to a detention center along with many other foreigners, they placed him under house arrest for several years.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Japanese sent Albert to an internment camp in Shanghai. The inmates were not physically mistreated, although food was scarce and of poor quality. Steward, who loved the flavor of coffee, learned to "enjoy the aroma of coffee" so that others might drink his share, and he encouraged his fellow internees to leave insects in the flour because the women wasted time picking them out and they were a good source of protein! The Japanese essentially left the prisoners to themselves, so, to keep the adults and children occupied, Steward organized a high school and acted as superintendent and teacher of Biology. The school was so well taught that several graduates later gained admission to Oxford.

After the war, the Communists took over China and many missionaries left the country. Steward, however, chose to remain under the leftist regime. Until new missionaries could relieve him, the botanist held three administrative positions: overseeing Nan ching University, the University Hospital, and the University Theological Center. His aim was to keep the university running smoothly and to prevent important positions from falling into unfriendly hands. During this time, he traveled to America for a brief visit, returning to China in 1947 with Celia and the two youngest children who remained in China for a year. His youngest daughter, then ten years old, recalls riding a blue Schwinn bicycle on the Nan ching wall on Sundays with her father.

During his final two years in China, Steward played the critical role of protecting professors who had survived the Japanese invasion from the false accusations of the Red Chinese government which claimed that those who survived must have been traitors. However, by 1950 Steward's presence was becoming troublesome to the accused professors, and he was respectfully asked to leave. On his departure he was forced to give up his precious bundles of botanical specimens. After 26 years of service, Steward was unhappy to leave China in this manner, yet he hoped for a chance one day to return and retire in the country to which he had given so much.

When Steward arrived in the United States in 1950, his eldest son recognized him only by his wicker suitcase! But the botanist quickly became immersed in academic life in the Pacific Northwest. Helen Gilkey, OSC Herbarium Curator, convinced Steward to continue his teaching and work at the college. He received a Guggenheim fellowship to complete research for his Flora of the Lower Yangtze. In 1951 Gilkey turned over the herbarium curatorship to Steward but remained as Professor Emerita, working with Steward on keys to the aquatic plants of the Northwest. One of his favorite activities at this time was his extension work where he excelled at weed identification. In 1958, after Celia had typed five drafts of the 621-page key, the Lower Yangtze Valley flora was published. It was the first flora of the area and was immediately put to use as a college textbook in China.

Steward maintained strong ties to friends and former students in China. He assisted Chinese students in America with recommendations and introductions, with obtaining and filling out forms, and with housing and employment. Albert Steward has been described as a quiet man of enormous integrity who cared about people. He passed away in 1959, never having returned to China, but leaving an admirable legacy that spanned continents.

Special thanks to Mrs. Elisabeth Steward and Drs. Ruth and Del Shirley for sharing their memories and Dr. Aaron Liston, for making available the newly discovered files of Dr. Albert Steward, my great-grandfather.

Albert Steward gazing over the Nan ching Wall, 1936.

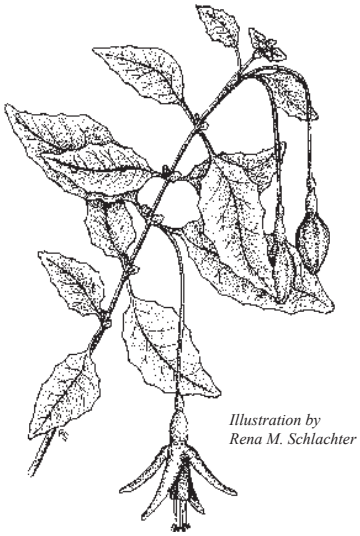
Photo: Steward family

New Oregon records

by Scott Sundberg

Here we continue to report on plants that are "new" for Oregon.

Viburnum plicatum Thunb. (Caprifoliaceae)
Japanese snowball (exotic)
General distribution: Native to China and Japan, escaping cultivation in Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania (http://plants.usda.gov).
Oregon locality: Multnomah Co., moist wooded area immediately west of Roslyn Lake.
Comments: Japanese snowball is on the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Region list of plants of local concern that should be monitored (http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wildlife/range/weed/index.htm). It is well established at the Roslyn Lake site in an area dominated mostly by native vegetation. Numerous mature shrubs over ten feet tall and many seedlings and saplings were seen. It appears to be invasive in this area. It was first collected outside of cultivation in Oregon by Scott Sundberg.



Hardy fuchsia (Fuchsia magellanica).

Fuchsia magellanica Lam. (Onagraceae)
hardy fuchsia, earring flower (exotic)
General distribution: Native to Chile and Argentina, escaping cultivation in many areas, including several in California (Hrusa et al. 2002, *Madroño* 49:61-98).
Oregon localities: Coos Co., Coos Bay (Zika *et al.* 2000, *Madroño* 47:144-145); Curry Co., Brookings and along Route 635 near York Creek (Zika *et al.* 2000); Lane Co., about 5 miles north of Florence along Sutton Creek Road, about 1 air mile west of Hwy. 101 (Bruce Newhouse, pers. comm.); Tillamook Co., southeast of Pacific City along Brooten Road (Sundberg). Wes Messinger has also reported a fuchsia naturalizing along Highway 101 "at a creek mouth between Heceta Head and Cape Perpetua" that may be this species.
Comments: Hardy fuchsia likely occurs in many other areas along the Oregon coast where the climate is mild and apparently well-suited for the species. A quick search on the Internet revealed that there are concerns about it becoming, or it has already become, invasive in Hawaii, Australia, Madagascar, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Hardy fuchsia is a deciduous shrub, clambering over other vegetation to a height of 6-10 feet, with opposite leaves, and numerous, drooping, red and purple flowers.

Vascular Plants of Lane County Oregon: additions, deletions, changes.

by Charlene Simpson

When the authors of Emerald Chapter NPSO's publication *Vascular Plants of Lane County Oregon: An Annotated Checklist* went to press in April 2002, we realized that our work was unfinished. Our introductory material warned readers that the Checklist was a "snapshot in time;" however, we did not anticipate how rapidly changes would occur. Within six months, additional information had arrived from three sources: new discoveries from 2002 field searches; new records as a result of the Oregon Flora Project's huge specimen county databasing effort this past summer; and ongoing research by Oregon Flora Checklist authors who continue to examine specimens and make taxonomic decisions.

We announced plans in October 2002 to make available periodic updates to the Lane Checklist. At that time Emerald Chapter NPSO posted a downloadable copy of the first installment of updates to their website. The update listed five new Lane County species based on field searches: *Cynoglossum officinale, Lathyrus sylvestris, Lathyrus tingitanus, Montia chamissoi,* and *Silene bernardina* var. *rigidula*. Eighteen additional species have been added as a result of Oregon Flora Project specimen databasing. One newly described hybrid, *Spiraea xhitchcockii*, is now included (see page 3). Three new taxa have been added as a result of corrections and annotations. And finally, there have been eight nomenclatural transfers, changes, and reassignments in the genera *Lotus, Lupinus and Spiraea*.

We are now at work on a second installment of updates and plan its release in March 2003. It also will be posted in downloadable format at Emerald Chapter's website and be available in hard copy at Emerald Chapter events. The next installment will list at least two new species, *Carex nebrascensis* and *Fuchsia magellanica*, from field searches, as well as changes based on recent Oregon Flora Project treatments of the Juncaceae and genera *Elmera*, *Galium*, and *Saxifraga*. Other new information will come from matches with Oregon Plant Atlas and Specimen databases. Lane Checklist group participants thank the Oregon Flora Project for ongoing support and encouragement as we continue to refine the Lane County Checklist. To view the current additions and/or to order a Checklist, please see the Emerald Chapter NPSO web site: www.EmeraldNPSO.org

Photo: Tanya Harvey

Silene bernardina *var*. rigidula *was added to the Lane Checklist as a result of field work in the Summer of 2002.*

Challenge drive a success!

by Linda Hardison

The generosity of hundreds who support the Oregon Flora Project has made our 2002-2003 Challenge Drive a great success! Our initial challenge was to raise $12,500 in 2002 in order to receive matching funds of $2500 from the NPSO and $10,000 from an anonymous donor. We handily met this goal, and thus qualified for the donor's offer of another $10,000 to match money raised in January 2003. I am delighted to announce that we also met the January goal, and have received a total of $35,802 in donations to the Challenge Drive! Coupled with the $22,500 of matching funds that stimulated this fundraising effort, the Oregon Flora Project begins the year with $58,302!

Our deepest thanks go to everyone who contributed. We received donations from seven NPSO chapters and 268 people, with many giving in both calendar years. Seventy-three donors were new to the Oregon Flora Project. During the Challenge Drive, several people asked to begin receiving the *Oregon Flora Newsletter*, which is now mailed to over 800 individuals, agencies, and libraries.

The Oregon Flora Project is approaching a phase in which several aspects of the project are being readied for use by the public. This has taken several years of hard, behind-the-scenes effort, and we constantly remember that the work could not have been accomplished without the financial support and volunteerism of many people. As you use the resources provided through the Oregon Flora Project, we hope that each of you feels a sense of satisfaction from the support that you have provided, and a sense of responsibility to continue that support until the Oregon Flora Project is in full bloom!

We sincerely thank each contributor, the NPSO, and our extremely generous anonymous donor for making this Challenge Drive a success.

Linda Hardison is one of our most valued volunteers. She serves as Chair of the Friends of the Oregon Flora Project, and she did the bulk of the work for nearly all aspects of the Challenge Drive, from planning and advertising the drive, to acknowledging donations. Thanks, Linda. We appreciate your hard work! — Scott Sundberg

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Thanks

Photos: Rhoda Love

Emerald Chapter members at Volunteer Work Day
Left to right: Ben Ross, Dave Predeek, Lynda Boyer, Joan Ojerio, Carol Link, Charlene Simpson.

Emerald Chapter, NPSO's Volunteer Work Day helps ready the online Atlas and Photo Gallery!

by Thea Cook and Scott Sundberg

On Saturday, January 25th, the Native Plant Society of Oregon's Emerald Chapter led a crew to Corvallis to take part in a volunteer work day for OFP, an annual tradition inspired by Dave Predeek, coordinator of the event. They were welcomed by the Flora project team, who eagerly anticipated the day as an opportunity to meet supporters, give a project update, get a lot of work done and enjoy a day spent with good people.

After an introduction by Scott Sundberg and Ann Willyard, we split into two groups. Dave, Jim Reed, Ben Ross, and Nate France tested the online Atlas and checked for dots on the distribution maps that looked suspicious (see map on page 8). This helped us find errors in the database and gave Scott some ideas on ways to modify the program to make it more useful to the average user.

Carol Link, Charlene Simpson, Lynda Boyer, Tanya Harvey and Joan Ojerio selected "show stopper" slides, photos that will provide a valuable resource for plant enthusiasts while also turning newcomers on to Oregon's natural flora. These photos will be part of the core collection in our plant photo gallery, soon to be available on the web. They also transferred slides to holders for archival storage.

Photo: Julie Kierstead Nelson

Bunchberry (Cornus unalaschkensis)

Thanks to Dave Predeek for leveraging volunteer time, energy and expertise to bring us closer to the launch of these online tools. Kudos also to our supporters for donating a day to the Oregon Flora Project!

Contact Thea Cook at (541) 737-2445 or cookthe@bcc.orst.edu if you are interested in volunteering. "Volunteer Tuesdays" are held on a regular basis and there are many other opportunities to participate.

Would you like to make a donation?

Tax-deductible 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.

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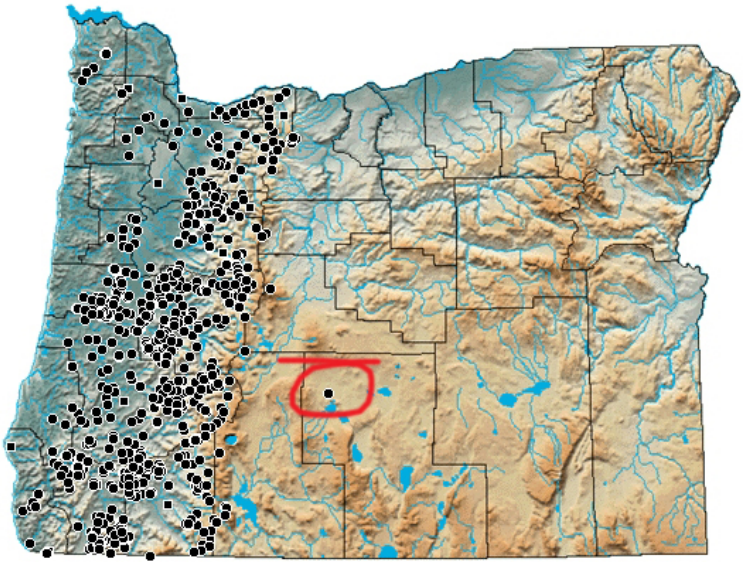
2002-2003 Challenge a success! *See p.6*

Did you know?

- At least 65 new species and varieties have been published based on plants that Albert N. Steward collected in southeastern China. Twelve of these new species were named in honor of Steward.
- Steward named seven new species, one variety, and made two new combinations.
- Steward also contributed to our knowledge of the Oregon flora. To date, 830 of his Oregon collections have been entered into the OSU Herbarium database.

Information from the International Plant Names Index, Harvard University Herbaria, New York Botanical Garden, and Oregon State University Herbarium databases. For more details, see:
www.oregonstate.edu/dept/botany/herbarium/steward



Oregon distribution of inside-out flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*)

Volunteers investigated locality dots that seemed out of place on maps such as this. In our database of over 227,000 records, errors can come from original data, its interpretation, or data entry. In this case the locality information was incorrectly entered as Range 13 East instead of 13 West. Most errors are caught during routine error checking, but some slip through. Volunteers can help enormously!