

# Oregon endangered plant list grows



Winter just won't go away as freezing rain hit the area last Thursday night and Friday. The spring-like weather the Sandy area experienced earlier did not last long but sunny weather is expected again later this week.

Oregon has 395 species of rare, threatened and endangered native plants, a new State Land Board publication reports, and the number keeps going up as more people spread out over more of the land.

Some of the plants in danger of extinction are delicate, showy ones — such as wild orchids, lilies and stonecrops — that can't cope with radically changed environments and with thoughtless collectors and pickers.

Oregon has more kinds of seed plants — 4,000 — than any states except California and Texas. "Concern for the rate at which native habitats are disappearing and for the species of native plants which are becoming rare as a result, has increased dramatically in the past few years," the report notes.

"Species once abundant in the Willamette Valley are now found only in a few small remnants of the native grasslands. Maritime species are disappearing as the coastal region is developed. When mature forests are harvested for lumber, the plants dependent upon the old-growth ecosystem are lost.

"In eastern Oregon, old neglected cemeteries and other small pockets of undisturbed land become the refugia for native species

unable to compete with wheat fields and well-grazed ranch lands."

Six years in the making, the publication is based on a cooperative project involving more than 300 amateur and professional botanists. The 112-page summary, "Rare, Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants in Oregon," is termed "an interim report" because 130 species of plants are still under review and 12 more are on a "watch list" (due to declining numbers).

The authors are Jean Siddall of Lake Oswego, who is chairman of the Oregon Rare and Endangered Plant Species Task force; Kenton Chambers, professor of botany and curator of the Oregon State University herbarium; and David Wagner, director and curator of the University of Oregon herbarium.

Chambers produced the first list of rarely collected and geographically restricted Oregon plants in 1973.

That same year, Siddall was asked by the Pacific

Northwest Research Natural Areas Committee to compile a list of rare, threatened and endangered plants in Oregon. The parallel work of the two was soon combined and provided the foundation from which the new report was constructed.

Siddall spearheads the work of the amateur and professional botanists, ecologists and naturalists whose concern for native plants have prompted 22,000 hours of volunteer work on the project.

"This sets the report apart from those in other states where professional botanists alone have usually been the main source of information," Chambers said. "In Oregon, much of our knowledge about rare plants comes from persons whose hobby is to study, photograph or cultivate wild flowers."

Chambers and Wagner are the professional experts who check the identification of plants as they are reported to the project, and who advise on how the species should be classified.

The natural list of rare, threatened and endangered

plants — some of which are now protected by law — is issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Department of the Interior. A total of 178 Oregon plants are candidates for federal protection but only one species — Macfarlane's four-o'clock — has been officially listed to date.

The Siskiyou Mountains of southeastern Oregon have the greatest concentration of rare, threatened and endangered species in the state, the new report says. Next in numbers of rare plants are the Willamette Mountains and the Columbia Gorge. About one-fourth of the plants on the Oregon list are found in the Illinois River Valley alone.

One of the endangered plants in the Siskiyou is the fly-catching California pitcher plant (or cobra lily). People like it as a conversation piece for their home or garden, Chambers said, so they dig it up — illegally — and cart it away. It is difficult to grow from seed and it can't reproduce in nature fast enough to stand the illegal digging, the botanist said.

"Collectors have put it on the endangered list," Chambers said.

Oregon's forests contain several native orchids — Yellow lady's-slipper, California lady's-slipper, Clustered lady's-slipper and Mountain lady's-slipper — which are on the endangered list because "people can't resist picking them for some reason," says Chambers. "Taking the tops off kills the roots, however. They can't be dug up and transplanted because they'll only grow where the roots can connect to the right soil fungus in forest areas."

Perhaps the areas in greatest need of protection are the small pockets of natural vegetation in areas of the state where there is little native habitat left, the report stresses. These include a few remnants of native Willamette Valley grassland and a few native plants that have survived developments in the Columbia Basin.

The last 30-40 years have been tough on rare native plants as the number of Oregonians has steadily

increased and their activities have touched even the most remote areas, Chambers said.

Endangered plants need protection the same as endangered animals, he emphasized.

A few plants listed in the report probably are extinct, according to Chambers. "We have records of them in books and the herbarium — particularly for the years before the 1930s. But when we go back to the reported sites now, the plants are gone. There is a possibility that tiny patches may be found somewhere else before our more complete list is issued in two or three years."

The list is always in a state of change, Chambers said. Some plants are "rediscovered" after having been thought extinct. Some of the plants simply fade away. "They lose their adaptability over time, become prey to pests and diseases, and go down hill naturally. Some plants simply can't stand the competition of weeds and human activities, which for them are the 'last straw.'"

## Wellness workshop slated

A Wellness Workshop, featuring three local health care experts, will be presented at Clackamas Community College on Saturday, March 1.

The workshop, which is sponsored by the Focus on Women program at the college, will feature nutritionist Jane Abbott, holistic health care lecturer Carol Petersen and nursing instructor Carolyn Taylor.

Abbott has been a faculty member at Marylhurst and Portland and Mt. Hood community colleges. She is a registered dietician and frequent contributor of health care articles.

Petersen is an instructor at CCC in health and physical education. She is also a certified instructor in Alpha Awareness and speed reading.

Taylor is chairwoman of the nursing department at CCC. In addition, she is a psychiatric nurse practitioner and instructor in holistic health and therapeutic touch

techniques. The workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the college Community Center Mall. The registration fee is \$15, which includes the cost of lunch. For an additional \$2, Abbott will compile a personalized

computer nutrition profile showing what type of diet would be best for the individual.

For more information contact the college Community Services Office, 656-2631, ext. 208.

## This 'n that

by BARBARA ALLISON

Smoke gets in your eyes: A businessman and two associates boarded an Eastern Airlines 8 a.m. shuttle flight from Washington to New York recently, passed up the nonsmoking seats and sat in the smoking area. The businessman demanded that his section be made nonsmoking. The smokers became very unhappy. A call for a volunteer to change seats went unanswered. The nonsmoking section was expanded. The Civil Aeronautics Board says airlines must accommodate nonsmokers. When the shouting match continued into the flight, the pilot brought the plane down in Baltimore. Far from the madding crowd.

their children unusual first names, such as LeDon, Vondal, Maon and Osrow. But to John Forster, a rewrite man for the past five years on a Salt Lake City newspaper, it's caused problems, because there is no way of telling the gender when the name appears in print. So Forster compiled a list of odd names and offered his newsroom co-workers a contest with a dime entrance fee. The first one to guess all correctly would win the pot. No one entered!

Inflated: Sabar Dolok Pasaribu, 22, of Jakarta, Indonesia, was sentenced to seven months in jail for scattering nails on the street in front of his tire repair shop. His method was considered improper business practice. Tacky.

Doggie dilemma: Thor, a police dog in Davis, Fla., was suspended from the force when someone noticed that the teeth Thor had replaced by a veterinarian were shiny and sharp. The dog had broken off his front teeth, and it took six weeks for the new choppers to be fitted. The department was worried that a lawsuit might be instigated if someone was bitten by the sharp manmade teeth. But an insurance agent said Thor could go back to work, saying his new teeth posed no more problems than his regular ones. Give us a smile, Thor!

Ducking the issue: When natives of Peking learned that the price of Peking duck was being raised from \$1.46 for 1.1 pounds to \$2.13, they became very angry. The duck specialty is very popular in China. The public was so angry over the increase that the demand for the duck dinner declined to the point where it became necessary to lower the price to \$1.80. There's a lesson to be learned here.

Gendering interest: In Utah, where the most popular last names are Smith, Young, Jensen and Hansen, parents have given

## Tri-Met sets riders' record

Despite icy winter weather that normally keeps many travelers home, Tri-Met set another all-time record for riders carried in January. Figures released by the agency Monday pegged average weekday ridership at 151,000 for January — almost 30,000 more daily bus riders than January, 1979 when snow and ice also hampered travel.

Tri-Met General Manager Peter Cass told the Board Directors that the ridership figures indicated Tri-Met was continuing to attract new riders to the system. He said Tri-Met has already carried over three million more passengers than projected for the fiscal year.

January's ridership was 15.4 percent above projection, and 24.6 percent above January, 1979 ridership levels. Farebox revenue was \$1,319,500 for January, 21.8 percent above last year.

## Safety tips set

Water Safety Instructor courses will begin March 25 at Mt. Hood Community College. The classes will run through June and be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.

The courses are offered by the Safety Services Division of the American Red Cross. Persons wishing to attend the WSI classes must be 17 years of age at the time the class starts and have a current Advanced Lifesaving certificate.

Following successful completion of the WSI course, cardholders will be eligible to teach beginning through advanced lifesaving courses.

To register for the classes, contact Mike Popovich at 667-7238.

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