



Bulletin

of the

Native Plant Society of Oregon

Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study of Oregon's native vegetation

VOLUME 36, NO. 11

DECEMBER 2003

IT'S RENEWAL TIME!

The NPSO membership year is January to December. Now is the time for members to renew. A remittance envelope is included in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Or use the membership form on the inside back page.

It's also a good time to consider a tax-deductible contribution to our special funds. The Leighton Ho Memorial Award is used for research projects in western Oregon. The Rare and Endangered Plant Fund supports work with our most threatened plants. The Jean Davis Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a botany student at an Oregon college or university. You can also include a contribution to the Oregon Flora Project along with your dues.

Your membership and donations make it possible to carry out more of the many projects that are needed to pursue the goals of NPSO: NPSO brings you field trips, programs, classes, the monthly *Bulletin*, and *Kalmiopsis*.

Note for New Members: If you joined since September, you are already enrolled for 2004. (See your address label.) You don't need to renew now.

Note for Earthshare Contributors: If you are receiving the *Bulletin* because you have designated part of your contribution to NPSO, your membership will continue for one year from the time of your contribution; you don't need to send a renewal payment now.

Summer Intern Report

Effects of the Biscuit Fire on Umpqua swertia (*Frasera umpquaensis*)

by Becky Kessler

The following is the first in a series of articles in which NPSO/Institute for Applied Ecology interns discuss their activities during the 2003 field season. Interns participated in monitoring, restoration and other research projects conducted by IAE staff throughout Oregon during the past summer. These projects focused primarily on threatened and endangered plant species and invasive weeds in the Siskiyou, coastal areas, the Cascades, and the Willamette Valley. In this article, Becky Kessler presents recent results of wildfire effects on Umpqua swertia in the Siskiyou Mountains. Internships are jointly funded by NPSO, IAE, and federal agencies. For more information on internship opportunities, please contact IAE at kayet@peak.org, 541-753-3099 or visit www.appliedeco.org. Thanks again to NPSO for contributing to botanical education and work experience.

Tom Kaye, Institute for Applied Ecology, Corvallis, Oregon

In This Issue

Remembering Leighton Ho	120
Chapter Calendar	121
NPSO Items for Sale	122
Other Events	123
State Board Candidates for 2004 Needed!	123
Grant Proposals Requested.....	126
300th Copy of "Henderson" Sold!.....	126
NPSO Contacts.....	127

Umpqua swertia (*Frasera umpquaensis*) is a striking member of the Gentian family, standing up to a full meter tall in flower, with luminous green leaves and sweet smelling panicles of greenish- to purplish-white 4-petalled flowers. There is something refreshingly edible-looking about its whorled leaves which are restricted to low-growing bushy rosettes when not in flower. Umpqua swertia is quite at home in the bright light and cool breezes of the Siskiyou Mountains just south of the Rogue River on lands managed by the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This is also where monitoring plots to track long-term population trends of this rare plant are located. The plant's appearance was further enhanced during our visits this year by the contrast of its bright leaves against darkly charred ground, trees and

continued on page 124