

Dear Co-chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-chair McDonald, and Members Boyce, Hartman, Levy, Marsh, McLain, and Scharf,

I am pleased to endorse and urge you to support HB3173 which would establish and appropriate funding for Oregon Flora at Oregon State University. I am not a botanist but I am a native Oregonian with a life-long love of our beautiful and amazingly diverse wildflowers. Oregon Flora (oregonflora.org) is the preeminent and authoritative source of information on wild vascular plants that grow in Oregon including more than 4700 taxa, 72.5% of which are native to Oregon, as well as 115 species that are endemic to (and grow only in) Oregon. Oregon Flora documents that there are native plants in every county in Oregon—so native plants are in each of your districts. Oregon Flora is a highly valuable resource for Oregonians.

Oregon Flora's website, which requires continuous updating and maintenance, can help you identify wildflowers you've found by location through the Identify Plants tool (<https://oregonflora.org/checklists/dynamicmap.php?interface=key>). For example, if you were interested in plants near Fern Hill Wetlands in Forest Grove you could click on the map on the Identify Plants tool and get a list of the plants in that area. The generated list allows you to filter the by plant characteristics (if you like) or you can click on the name of each plant and get photos and a detailed description of the plant. Among those plants you might find *Erigeron decumbens*, Willamette fleabane or Willamette daisy, which is both endemic to Oregon and a rare plant (<https://oregonflora.org/taxa/index.php?taxon=4910>). If you were in Tualatin Hills Nature Park and saw an onion-like plant with pinkish or purple flowers, clicking on the Identify Plants map might lead you to conclude that you are looking at our native *Allium acuminatum*, Hooker's onion, that puts on quite a display from about May through July (<https://oregonflora.org/taxa/index.php?taxon=2599>). If you clicked the map in McDonald Dunn Forest (just north of Corvallis) the list generated might include *Cephalanthera austiniiae*, phantom orchid, one of our native orchid species with its dramatic white flowers that are particularly striking in dark forests (<https://oregonflora.org/taxa/index.php?taxon=3959>). In the Falls City area, a map click might list many plants including *Scoliopus hallii*, Oregon fetid adder's tongue, a tiny native flower which is endemic to Oregon (<https://oregonflora.org/taxa/index.php?taxon=8265>).

If, like many Oregonians, you like to hike and to see wildflowers when you do, you can find a hiking location with lots of wildflowers using the Inventories tool (<https://oregonflora.org/projects/index.php>) which contains numerous lists of plants found at various locations around our state. If you plan to visit Steens Mountain (as I did last summer) you could download the plant list from that area (<https://oregonflora.org/checklists/checklist.php?cl=44&pid=1>). That list includes *Castilleja pilosa* var. *steenensis*, Steens Mountain paintbrush (<https://oregonflora.org/taxa/index.php?taxon=12560>) which is endemic and native to Oregon and which I was happy to find last year. If the coast is more to your liking, you could download the list from Cape Blanco State Park

(<https://oregonflora.org/checklists/checklist.php?cl=5&pid=1>). There are many plants to see there including *Perideridia oregana*, eppaw or Oregon yampah (<https://oregonflora.org/taxa/index.php?taxon=7124>), a traditional food of Oregon's indigenous peoples. You could also explore Zumwalt Prairie in northeastern Oregon (<https://oregonflora.org/checklists/checklist.php?cl=47&pid=1>) where you would be very likely to encounter one of the varieties of *Eriophyllum lanatum*, Oregon sunshine, one of our most common native wildflowers (<https://oregonflora.org/taxa/index.php?taxon=5010>) as well as many other native plants. At the other end of the state you could download a plant list for Mt. Ashland-Siskiyou Peak Botanical Area (<https://oregonflora.org/checklists/checklist.php?cl=23&pid=1>) where you could find our native *Lilium pardalinum*, leopard lily (<https://oregonflora.org/taxa/index.php?taxon=6079>). Even right in the city you might find a plant list such as the one for Willamette Narrows in Oregon City (<https://oregonflora.org/checklists/checklist.php?cl=12&pid=1>) which includes *Asarum caudatum*, long-tailed wild ginger (<https://oregonflora.org/taxa/index.php?taxon=3011>), a native whose striking flowers tend to hide under the leaves. Whether you pick a spot on a map or select a particular wild location to visit, Oregon Flora can probably produce a plant list for you and help you identify the plants you find there.

Oregon Flora also has an elaborate tool to help you add native plants to your garden curated for your gardening conditions (<https://oregonflora.org/garden/index.php>). Plants are the basis of the food cycle for all animal life (including humans). Native plants are particularly important because they are adapted to and support the ecosystem where they are native influencing the biodiversity and ecological and environmental health of a region (<https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/media-center-public-room-national-native-plant-discovery.pdf>). Adding native plants to your garden, for example, supports many pollinators which in turn support not just Oregon's wild lands but also Oregon's agricultural communities.

Oregon Flora is not just an interactive website. Oregon Flora also has two volumes in print and is working on the third and final print volume which, while usable by anyone, have particularly detailed information that is especially helpful to botanists, including dichotomous keys for precise plant identification. Completing the third volume of the Flora as well as updating the ever-changing information on the web is expensive. You might click around on the website and discover entries (like *Delphinium pavonaceum*, peacock larkspur, <https://oregonflora.org/taxa/index.php?taxon=4514>, endemic to Oregon and rare) that say “[This taxon will be assessed for treatment in volume 3 of *Flora of Oregon*, which is not yet published.]”. Clearly there is more work to be done that can benefit all Oregonians. Oregon Flora has struggled for 30 years without funding from the state of Oregon, relying on grants and donations. It deserves to be state funded. I urge you to support HB 3173.

Judi Sanders

Corvallis, Oregon