

To protect what we have in Oregon we need to know exactly what it is we have. These words are the reason we need to protect the OregonFlora.

In 2014 I served on the 'Task Force on Pollinator Health' HB 4139. One of the important goals HB-4139 addressed was how to protect and enhance our pollinators Oregon has. A critical component was we did not know how most plants are pollinated and by whom. The Task Force did not deal with these important components. They would be covered by the OregonFlora and the Oregon Bee Atlas. The Oregon Bee Atlas came about due to HB-4139. The OregonFlora already established provided important scientific based information and accurately identified and curated plants. Why is this so important? Land managers need the up-to-date plant taxonomy and distribution info OregonFlora provides so they can effectively respond to noxious weeds, rare species, and plant selection for wildfire recovery, restoration projects, and urban native plant gardening/landscaping.

I am a volunteer instructor for the Oregon Master Gardeners program, Oregon Naturalist program, Oregon Bee Atlas program, and the 4-H program. I do numerous public outreaches for our communities' members at Farmer's Market, Gardens Clubs, and others. I need and use and need the resources that OregonFlora provides. I believe in this important program. Kris (my wife) will continue our support OregonFlora for its value to the people of Oregon. Oregon needs to support this irreplaceable 'Gem' that took thousands of hours of work to build.

OregonFlora has increased the scientific literacy of Oregonians with easy-to-use online resources. OregonFlora' data informs Master Gardener and Naturalist programs, pollinator conservation, Native Plant Society of Oregon activities, backyard habitat certification, wildflower shows, Conservation District native plant sales, and natural areas/nature centers.

Richard Little