Book Reviews

Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives

by Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons. 2007. 220 pages, 176 color photos, 2 line drawings, 1 color illustration. Timber Press, Portland (OR). ISBN 978-0-88192-844-0, $29.95, hardcover.

Elegant and exquisite, lacking only the perfume, describes the *Calochortus* in Gerritsen and Parsons' new book. The bountiful images that fill this long-awaited book make it a must-have for wildflower connoisseurs. In their description of the evolutionary relationships in this North American genus, the authors introduce chloroplast DNA in *Calochortus* for the first time in a popular book. Readers thus have the opportunity to look at the correlation between cpDNA and morphology and geography. Oregon and Washington readers will be shocked at the grouping of *Calochortus howellii* and *C. lyalii*, two species separated by large geographical distances. The book follows Ownbey's treatment of sections (Calochortus, Mariposa, and Cyclobothra), each with their own subsections. Although the book includes some dubious taxa; which according to conversations with Ron Parsons, will be relegated to other taxa: *C. panamintensis* is actually *C. invenustus*, and *C. foliosus* is *C. spatulatus*.

Chapter three covers the history of *Calochortus* discoveries and really brings the book to life. All that is lacking are portraits of some of the key individuals, Marion Ownbey and David Douglas, for example.

For the most part, the images are excellent, especially considering the difficulties of travel and field photography in Mexico. In spite of the hazards, Ron did a top notch job and my only criticism is that a stark, lifeless, black background detracts from some of the pictures, especially *C. tiburonensis*. Only a few photographs are poorly illuminated or too busy (*C. fuscus* and *C. cernuus* by Hugh McDonald and *C. nitidus* by Bob Weller). Winning the beauty contest, hands down, is *C. venustus*, with 23 photos of this species alone. Parsons realized that it takes that many photos to give readers an idea of its dazzling variety of color and patterns.

The final chapter discusses cultivation of *Calochortus* from seeds and bulbs, including advice on soil mixes. There is a list of sources for plant materials in the US, UK, Australia and Canada. Growing *Calochortus* from seed takes patience because many years may elapse before plants flower, but the final results are well worth the effort.

In summary, this book is a bargain considering the miles of jeep trails and mountains climbed, as well as the time and effort to get the perfect photos. The accurate descriptions of the species and engaging stories behind the scenes match the quality of the images. I can only congratulate the two authors on a job well done and Timber Press on producing this fine book.

–Frank Callahan, Siskiyou Chapter.

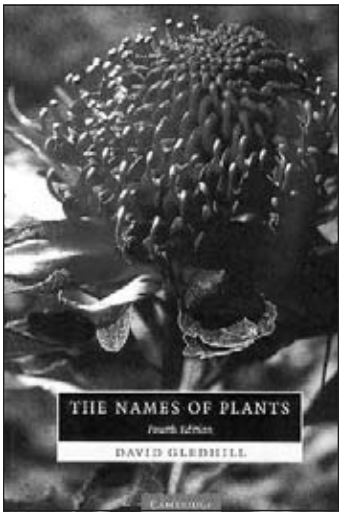
The Names of Plants, Fourth Edition

by David Gledhill. 2008. 426 pages, line drawings, maps, bibliography, index. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-68553-5, $45.00, paper.

In this reference book for botanists and horticulturalists, the glossary section has been considerably enlarged in the fourth edition. The book now includes over 17,000 names or components of plant names. The book has two parts.

The first 29 pages describe how naming plants has changed over time and why the changes were necessary, starting with the rich and imaginative language of common names and proceeding through the current international standards for botanical and horticultural plant names. The section on common names tells how some common (vulgar) names, considered too vulgar, were cleaned up for publication, e.g., "jack-in-the-pulpit" replaced "priest's pintle." The evolution of the current taxonomic system is explained, as well as the rules of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature and the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. This section explains that generic names are nouns and the specific epithets are adjectives that must agree in gender, number and case, for those of us who did not have the opportunity to study Latin in school. Rules for categories below the rank of species (subspecies, varieties, subvarieties, and forma, and for hybrids, synonymy and illegitimacy are summarized. Although most of us are not actively involved in naming plants, an understanding of how and why it is done may help us avoid errors in using plant names.

The glossary that gives us the meanings of the names is the fun part of the book. It includes Latin and Greek descriptive names, as well as names that come from other languages, places, and people, everywhere on earth. The entries for people do little more than identify the persons and their period in history, because a more comprehensive treatment would greatly increase the size of the book. The author makes no claim that this section is all inclusive, but my cursory searches indicate that it lacks only recently named taxa in our flora. For example, among the taxa in this issue of *Kalmiopsis*, one will find that *hindsii* is named for Richard Brinsley Hinds, surgeon naturalist on the HMS *Sulphur* expedition (1836-42) under Sir Edward Belcher. *Asarum hartwegii* is named for Carl Theodor Hartweg (1812-71), who collected for the RHS in Central America. In *Asplenium trichomanes-ramosum,* the entry for *trichomanes* lists "hair scarcity (Theophrastus' name for maidenhair spleenwort) and (the protrusive soral axes)"; for *ramosum*: "much branched." However, the new *Botrychium* (little bunch, like a cluster of grapes), *yaaxudakeit* is not listed, nor is *wagneri* for green-flowered wild ginger.



I find only two drawbacks to the book, neither serious. The print is so small that I had to dig out my reading glasses and turn up the light source. Second, the glossary is a one-way street. You cannot, for example, decide on an English meaning for describing a plant and look up a Latinized epithet for it. For that you might consult Stearn's Botanical Latin (2004, Timber Press). The Names of Plants can satisfy one's curiosity as a quick reference for the meaning or origin of a plant name, or provide many hours of casual browsing.

–Cindy Roché, Siskiyou Chapter.

Northwest Trees, Anniversary Edition

by Stephen Arno, drawings by Ramona Hammerly. 2007. 258 pages. Mountaineers Books, Seattle (WA). ISBN 978-1-59485-0410-7, $18.95, softcover.

The first thing you notice about the Anniversary Edition is the larger size and the gold on brown jacket drawing by Ramona Hammerly. Nothing on the front cover or the credit page identified the drawing as California black oak, but it just couldn't be anything else. That's how good Ramona Hammerly's line drawings are. (I confirmed this by finding the cover illustration again on page 188 in the entry for California black oak.) This new paperback is larger than the previous edition (1977): 7x10 inches compared to 3¼ x 8½ inches. The geographic range has also been expanded to what Arno calls "The Greater Northwest," which includes southern British Columbia, western Alberta, all of Washington and Oregon, most of Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming (Yellowstone National Park). In addition to increasing the number of species, Arno also added new information on ecology, with the intent it be used for improved forest stewardship. Thus, the entry for each species has a brief general introduction, followed by a description of where it grows, its appearance and ecological role, and ends with a section of human history section that relates fascinating anecdotes.

There are two illustrated keys, one for conifers and one for broad-leafed trees. Both are well done, albeit a number of species are left out—but I'll get to that later.

In the conifer section, I was disappointed to see that the national champion Western white pine (*Pinus monticola*) near Lake of the Woods was omitted. The human history for sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) includes David Douglas's description of an Oregon tree that measured 18.4 ft in diameter (this is the largest diameter for any pine species on the planet) and 215 ft tall. Unlike Arno, I don't doubt his figures, as Douglas also sketched the tree in his notes. A sugar pine cut in the 1950s near Nickel Mountain in Douglas County measured 15 ft. dbh, but was only 184 ft. tall. The largest sugar pine in the Prospect area was 12.5 ft. dbh (less bark) and 266 ft. tall. The largest western larch (*Larix occidentalis*) listed was over 7 ft in diameter and 162 ft tall. Oregon's Burnt Corral larch gets no mention, despite its diameter of 6.9 ft and height of 225 ft.There is also the "lumpfest" of grand fir (*Abies grandis*) with white fir (*Abies concolor*), and Noble fir (*Abies procera*) with Shasta red fir (*Abies magnifica* var. *shastensis*), which confuses readers and leaves them thinking that there is a hybrid swarm of Noble-Shasta firs in southwestern Oregon, when for the most part there are two distinct species. The maximum size attainable by Port Orford-Cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) is underestimated. In 1965 BLM timber cruiser Eric Rutquist and I measured a stump in Coos County 17 ft. in diameter 12 ft above the base. The Textbook of Dendrology (Harlow & Harrar, 5th ed.) lists a Port Orford-Cedar 16 ft in diameter and 225 ft. tall.

With the expanded geographical coverage of the book, Arno added several new conifers, including Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), Brewer spruce (*Picea breweriana*), Modoc cypress (*Cupressus bakeri*), redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). It is slightly curious that the text is in a different font for the additional species, and the descriptions are shorter. Should Arno decide to do a third edition, he should include gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), which grows in southern Oregon and Washoe pine (*Pinus washoensis*), whose range extends from northern California and Nevada and southern Oregon north into southern British Columbia.

Among the broad-leaved tree species that could be included in the next edition are Suksdorf's hawthorn (*Crataegus suksdorfii*), western wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*), Hinds walnut (*Juglans hindsii*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), whiteleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscida*), hairy or Columbia manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*), the silktassels—wavy leaf (*Garrya elliptica*) and Fremont's (*G. fremontii*), and Pacific rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*). Lest you protest that Pacific rhododendron is just a shrub, I saw the 16½ ft-long bole of one on a log truck in Brookings, Oregon, that measured 3 ft in diameter at the base and 1½ ft in diameter at the top. It had been cut from the Winchuck River drainage in the redwoods.

This softcover book isn't built tough enough for field use; my copy already has a tear on the spine. However, I definitely rate this book as a best buy—the art is outstanding and the history of the trees and commercial logging are well covered. Reading it should fill you with wonder for our native trees, and inspire you to go out and explore what's still out there—let's go for a hike!

–Frank Callahan, Siskiyou Chapter.

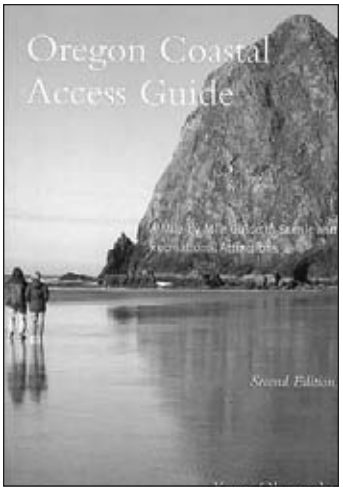
Oregon Coastal Access Guide: A Mile-by-Mile Guide to Scenic and Recreational Attractions, 2nd edition

by Kenn Oberrecht. 2008. 368 pages, B&W photographs, maps, bibliography, index. Oregon State University Press (a co-publication with Oregon Sea Grant). ISBN 978-0-87071-293-7, $22.95, paper.

"It's like looking at a road map of the Oregon coast with a high powered microscope." That's what you will say after using this 0.1-mile by 0.1-mile guide of the spectacular Oregon coast line.

Whether you go to the Oregon coast on a regular basis or are planning a vacation, you will want to have this book close at hand (in your vehicle or backpack) for quick reference. A whole suitcase of resources bound into a single volume, this book covers hundreds of scenic opportunities and recreational attractions along the 363.1 miles of Oregon's Pacific coast.

The book follows U.S. Highway 101, beginning in Astoria (Astoria-Megler Bridge) and ending at the Oregon-California border. It is organized from north to south, with each county as a separate chapter. It includes maps, county history, "must stop" sites, interesting side trips, geologic and historic features, campgrounds, picnic areas, trail heads and viewpoints among a host of other information.



Kenn Oberrecht has undoubtedly spent many years and miles gathering detailed information on beaches, light houses, trails, natural areas, campgrounds, boat ramps, picnic areas and cultural and historical sites. Tucked in between the mile by mile information are informative narratives about Oregon's salt marshes, estuaries, marine birds, seals and sea lions, and some coastal Oregon history. There are even thirteen pages dedicated to locating, identifying, digging and preparing clams.

In addition to knowledge about the natural features of the coast, the author also shares information about coastal climate, weather, tides, sneaker waves, shoreline hazards, killer logs and tsunamis to assist the traveler in having a safe trip.

Next time you head to the Oregon coast to do some botanizing, take this book along. It will not only help reach your destination of floral interest, but the information about the surrounding areas will enrich your travels. In addition, following the book's suggestions may lead you to explore new areas and discover additional botanical treasures.

–Bob Korfhage, Siskiyou Chapter.

Northwest California, A Natural History

by John O. Sawyer. 2006. 264 pages, illustrations and color photographs. University of California Press, Berkeley (CA). ISBN 978-0-520-23286-0, $75.00, hardcover.

We now have a choice of three books that cover various aspects of the Klamath Ecoregion: Dave Raines Wallace's 1983 *The Klamath Knot*; John Sawyer's 2006 *Northwest California: A Natural History*; and James Agee's 2007 *Steward's Fork: a sustainable future for the Klamath Mountains* (also reviewed in this issue).

Of the three books, Sawyer's book seems to be have the most information about northwestern California (and adjacent southwestern Oregon). There are chapters entitled: The Klamath: Land of Mountains and Canyons; The North Coast: Land of Towering Trees; High and Low: Looking for Patterns in Vegetation; Beyond the Ancient Meeting Ground; Regimes of Fire; Agents of Change; The Status of Northwest California Today; and Northwest California's Biological Future.

Sawyer's 40-year experience of teaching and research as a faculty member at Humboldt State University shows. His personal, on-the-ground experience in the Klamath Ecoregion is evident in his discussions that often mention his graduate students who did thesis research about the subject at hand.

Sawyer writes: "Natural history books are always overflowing with facts. They introduce you to the richness and detail of an area. I hope my presentation has brought some order, and in doing so, has made the facts more accessible." That is true up to a point. There are 23 tables, 17 maps, 7 figures, and 26 color plates in the book. They are informative for the most part, mostly well selected, and mostly correct. That is the good news. The bad news is that there is no list of titles to tables, maps, figures, or plates anywhere in the book. However, in the index, entries with page numbers in bold face refer to a table. The author refers to maps, figures, and plates in the text. A titled list would have been very helpful in locating information.

There are some errors. In the prologue in the discussion of the Klamath Mountains, reference is made to Map 2: "They contrast strongly with the neighboring younger rocks of the Cascades (Map 2)." Map 2 is titled Watersheds of Northwest California (with no mention of the Cascades). Callahan is misspelled Callihan in Map 5. I did not continue proofreading.

Literature is not cited in the text, but the selected reading section is more or less divided up by chapter heading. When a statement is made in the text for which I would normally expect a citation there is nothing, and to devine a source I had to guess from the list in the selected reading section.

The selected reading lists good references that are not necessarily well known. The author does us the favor of listing 37 of his students' unpublished theses, available at the Humboldt State University library. Topics are ecological or floristic and most are specific to northwestern California.

As I read the book, I kept wondering if there was a race to publication with the Agee book; that might account for lack of tables and the large sections of white space that begged for illustrations below the major headings.

What is in it for Oregon botanists? The similar climate, geology, flora, and fauna continue north beyond 42°, so much of what Sawyer writes applies to southwestern Oregon as well as northwestern California. Of the three books mentioned above, Sawyer's book would be my choice for natural history and interpretation despite its shortcomings. What would stop me from buying the book is the $75 price tag. Wait for the soft cover edition, or try the downloadable eBook version at ebooks.com for $15.95.

–Frank Lang, Siskiyou Chapter.

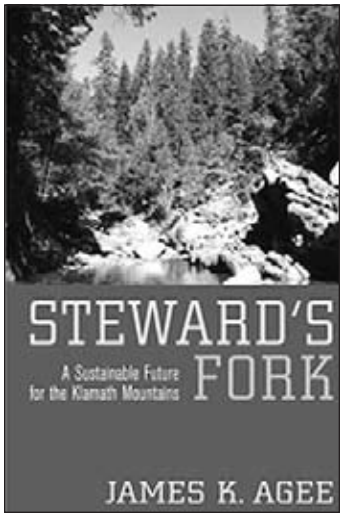
Steward's Fork: A Sustainable Future for the Klamath Mountains

by James K. Agee. 2007. 294 pages, 21 b/w photographs, 18 line illustrations, 7 maps. University of California Press, Berkeley (CA). ISBN 978-0-520-25125-0 $39.95, hardcover.

The title "Steward's Fork" is a play on words that underlies the premise of the book's main theme: "Stewardship" of a landscape that Agee clearly knows and loves. He uses fond childhood memories of the Stuart Fork of the Trinity River with considerable clarity and skill to tell about the physical and biological history of the Klamath Mountains.

Although the major area of concentration is the Trinity and Marble Mountains of California, much of his discussion is also of interest to people who care about the land beyond the Klamath Mountains.

To tell the truth, I nearly gave up on the book early on. When writing about the plants of the past (page 26) he wrote, "The primary conifer was bald cypress, and its angiosperm associates (plants that have seeds enclosed in a closed ovary, like a rose) fig, holly ..." Sorry, but all I could think was that he had the genus *Rosa* in mind. The "ovary" wall is the hypanthium and the "seeds" are individual fruits that do have a real ovary wall derived from the ovaries of the plant's many pistils.



In Chapter 4, *A Rose by Any Name*, Agee starts discussing the rich diversity of the Klamath flora, and then shifts to a favorite whinge of many ecologists I have known: common and scientific names of plants. "Plant names are often mysteries intended to throw the average person off the track and maintain a professional niche for taxonomists," writes Agee. Jim, to what audience are you pandering? Then he complains about common names based on names of states: Oregon grape, why not California Grape; Oregon ash, why not Washington ash. He does call Oregon white oak, Garry oak, for which he is to be applauded; but fails to champion Kellogg oak for California black oak which occurs in Oregon. I nearly tossed the book at this point, but fortunately forged on.

Chapter 5, *My Botanical Contest with Miss Alice Eastwood*, is a story about Agee's efforts in 1962 to retrace and duplicate or best Eastwood's collecting survey in 1900 along Canyon Creek, a tributary of the Trinity River. Agee is able to work in a lot of history and information about the region in his telling of the tale.

Other chapters cover wild creatures of the Klamath Mountains, the factors of change, indigenous peoples and their impact on the ecosystem, the impact of mining, livestock grazing, water issues, and modern myths and monsters (including murder, Bigfoot and other oddities). Final chapters cover the author's views on how humans can provide proper stewardship for a sustainable future for the Klamath Mountains. He does not paint a hopeless picture.

I found much of value in the book that makes it more than a regional piece, particularly in his descriptions of how humans have used and abused the land. Read it to learn about mercury use in early gold mining and its modern legacy, the impact of water projects, the history of land ownership and the railroads, plans for river restoration and more.

However, I was surprised that I could find no reference to David Raines Wallace's 1983 classic *The Klamath Knot*, a book that covers the natural history of the Klamath Mountains in a different way.

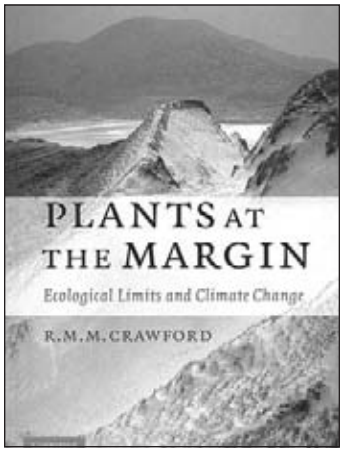
I liked his writing style, particularly things he witnessed, as this flood: "Redwood Creek, which one could easily wade in summer, was a raging 30 feet deep and perhaps 300 feet wide. A large redwood came down the creek broadside and swept into a red alder grove on the east bank. Without slowing down, it snapped off the stems of perhaps fifty or sixty alders. Even today, I get shivers when I remember the roar of the water and the explosion of the alder grove."

You know, I get shivers reading Agee's description. I also shiver at the price, but it is worth the investment if you are interested in the Klamath Mountains.

–Frank Lang, Siskiyou Chapter.

Plants at the Margin, Ecological Limits and Climate Change

by R.M.M. Crawford. 2008. 478 pages, color photos, graphs, maps, bibliography, indices. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-62309-4, $80.00, hardcover.



Are you interested in climate change, biogeography, demography, reproductive biology, physiology, and genetics of plants? How about plant ecology? Are you a traveler, armchair or not, who takes notice of what you see on the natural landscape and tries to make sense of it? If you are, this is the book for you.

R.M.M. Crawford has studied plant interactions with their environments around the world; Scotland, Scandinavia, North and South America, and the Arctic, particularly. He uses his vast experience and knowledge to illustrate how plants at the edges (margins) of their ecological range shed light on how they might respond to global climate change as they have in the past.

The book has many examples, illustrated with color photographs backed by well-chosen charts, graphs and maps from a vast array of references. The illustrations are mostly excellent with only a few pixelated charts and maps, to be forgiven, for they serve their purpose well. There are a few typographical errors (just enough to gladden the heart of prigs everywhere, but not enough to be an embarrassment). *Pinus moticola* not *monticola* or mixing the common name for holly and ivy with their respective botanical names, for example.

I enjoyed discussions and photographs of places I have been, Patagonia most recently. One of the first things I do when I get a new book is leaf through it looking at the illustrations. Figure 1.2 was a photograph of two natural treelines in Patagonia. The caption read, "Fig. 1.2 *Limes convergens* as seen in two…." I knew the genus *Nothofagus* but not *Limes.* Fig. 1.3 also featured *Limes convergens* from Vermont. It started to dawn on me that *Limes convergens* might not be a plant at all, but something else. A quick read of the text revealed that *Limes convergens* is a synonym for *ecotone*. Such is the nature of a worldwide approach to science.

Crawford divides the book in parts, *The Nature of Marginal Areas*, *Plant Function in Marginal Areas*, and *Marginal Habitats–Selected Case Histories*, including an interesting discussion of *Man at the Margins.* His world-wide interest brought me new perspectives and insights concerning the problems of climate changes and how plants and many animals including humans might cope in the future. I recommend the book to you in spite of its $80 price tag. It would look good on your coffee table, anyway.

– Frank Lang, Siskiyou Chapter.