

Nature Trails

Published by the Eugene Natural History Society

Volume Forty-five, Number Five, May 2010



OSU moving cattle to experimental pastures on the Nature Conservancy Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, summer 2008. Photo courtesy Lynn Ketchum.

**Dr. Patricia Kennedy, Professor,
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife,
Oregon State University,
Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center,
Union, Oregon**

**"Can Cows and Birds Coexist in Northeastern
Oregon?"**

**Friday, 21 May 2010, 7:30pm, Room 100, Willamette
Hall, UO Campus**

Professor Patricia Kennedy is an expert in the ecology and management of birds, especially rare raptors and passerines in managed landscapes. She asks questions such as how landscape management influences bird populations and the composition of bird communities. She deals with conflicts associated with private and public land management and the ecological impacts of agricultural practices.

Kennedy's path to her career as a wildlife biologist began on the south side of Chicago. Her early love of animals generated her first career goal – to be a veterinarian. Her first job, while still in high school, was as a veterinary assistant. From that she moved up to zookeeper; she worked for two summers at the Chicago Zoological Park, more familiarly known as the Brookfield Zoo.



For her undergraduate study in ecology she chose to go to Colorado College, for its reputation, its location, and its block program (students take one class at a time, which makes possible in-depth experiential learning opportunities – three-week field trips in a biology class were not unusual). In the Autumn after her sophomore year, at the age of nineteen, she told her folks she wanted to go to Africa, to see wildlife in their native habitat. So, instead of the trip to Europe that marks the

passage to adulthood of many youngsters, Kennedy's parents watched her head off for Kenya (She said that, among other things, she had to worry about the white slave trade, but didn't talk to her parents about that). Because of her experience at the Zoo she was able to catch on with a touring company. I tried to imagine her standing up in the Land Rover, talking to a bunch of tourists three or four times her age: "On the left, there, notice the lion pride, sunning themselves after a hearty meal of gnu..." She said the older women in the groups she led would often want to rescue her from such a dangerous place.

After receiving her B.A. in biology/ecology from Colorado College she worked for the State of Colorado for six months doing raptor surveys, then got her first professional job, as staff ornithologist at an environmental consulting firm out of Ft. Collins, Colorado, developing Environmental Impact

Statements for the oil shale industry in the western part of the state. Two years of this sort of work convinced her she needed more experience. She wanted to stay in the West, wanted to learn more about raptors, and so went to the University of Idaho for graduate work with Don Johnson, a raptor expert. She worked on Coopers Hawks in the San Juan Islands in Puget Sound, looking at sexual dimorphism. Her project involved following prey delivery at nests, so she had to become adept at climbing trees and sitting still in a blind for long periods. Upon finishing her M.S. she was offered a three-year position in the Philippines working on the rarest eagle of the world – then named the Monkey-eating Eagle, now called the Philippine Eagle (better press). She said she would have stayed in the Philippines longer, but she found herself in the middle of a civil war. Her group was out in the bush toting loads of expensive optical equipment, very like carrying a big sign saying "ROB US"; this in fact did happen – at gunpoint. She stood it for six months, then came back to the U. S.

At that point in her life Kennedy considered her M.S. a terminal degree. But after several years working as a wildlife biologist in New Mexico for another private consulting firm she decided to go back to graduate school for her doctorate. She chose Utah State University, because she wanted to work with Jim Gessman, a physiological ecologist who looks at energetics in raptors. Kennedy wanted to link physiological ecology and population ecology in her research. Her Ph.D. project on Goshawks and Coopers Hawks was sited in New Mexico. She had her own funding – from the New Mexico Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Before her thesis defense had even occurred she was offered a faculty position at Colorado State University, which she accepted. In the ten years she was there she found that while there is much research devoted to the effect of grazing on native plants, not as much good science had been done on what grazing does to animals. It was that interest that led her to accept her present position.

Oregon State University was looking for an ecologist to join their Agricultural Research Center in Union, Oregon. This was an unusual thing – most scientists at Agricultural Experiment Stations are working on projects to improve yields of economic plants or animals, but OSU wanted someone to look at the effects of agricultural practices on the environment: how to bring more conservation value to agricultural lands.

Kennedy has been at the AES in Union for eight years now. She says it's the perfect job. She teaches her classes at Eastern Oregon State University, has few committee assignments, gets to do field work on projects that are important and that she loves, in a place where she can ski, hike, bird-watch, and garden. We are fortunate that Kennedy has agreed to travel from northeastern Oregon (Google maps says it's 385 miles from Union to Eugene) to speak to us. She will tell us about her work on the interaction of cattle grazing and wild bird populations in eastern

Oregon grasslands. Some of her work – well documented with exquisite photographs – is on the Zumwalt prairie. Please join us on Friday, 21 May 2010, at 7:30pm in Room 100 Willamette Hall on the UO campus for a most enjoyable, informative, and educational evening listening to Professor Kennedy's talk: "Can Cows and Birds Co-exist in Northeastern Oregon?"
John Carter

Return of the Humblebees by Reida Kimmel

One afternoon early in April I was walking home down the neighbor's old logging road when I spotted a bumblebee in the leaves under foot. This section of the road is right above my house, and the banks along the road are poorly vegetated. Last fall when I wrote about the life cycle of "humblebees", I speculated that the bare clay banks along the road above my house would be a perfect place for female bees to build over-wintering nests. Now there she was, the first bumblebee I had seen all season, crawling slowly amongst the leaves. Interestingly, earlier on the walk I had noted that the large Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium*) bush near the trail had come into full bloom. A lucky guess and a coincidence? I think not. The bumblebee had emerged in perfect time to find a large amount of her preferred food. By the end of April, our *Berberis darwinii*, very much a non-native species, was in full bloom, and a number of large bumblebees were gathering quantities of pollen from the golden flowers.

An ethical question arises when we try to plan gardens that will help to preserve our native bee species. Should we, can we, just grow native species? Are any West Coast or American species acceptable, or should one just grow local native species? Will non-native plants even attract

native bees or are our gardens starving our beneficial insects? Luckily a group of scientists led by professor Gordon Frankie at UC Berkeley have an urban bee garden research project. The WEB site nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens and Frankie's article with Jaime Pawelek in the April/May 2010 issue of Pacific Horticulture have extensive lists of non-native flowering plants, and cultivars of natives that provide the right balance of pollen and nectar for an amazing array of bee species, not just bumblebees, but other less well known species: leaf-cutting bees, digger bees, cuckoo bees, carpenter bees, sweat bees and others, many of which don't even look much like bees. Dr. Frankie says there are 81 bee species just in the Berkeley area.

From Frankie's 'very long' list, here are a few easy-to-grow, bee-friendly plants, already very common in Oregon gardens: borage, catmint, catnip, buckwheat spp., coreopsis, cosmos, dusty miller, clarkia, gaillardia, horehound, toadflax, rosemary, lambsears, lavender, and the many varieties of salvia. And here is some cheerful and easy-to-follow advice for gardeners. Leave some soil bare for bee nesting. Do not mulch everything. Leave weeds until they are done flowering. Save those brush piles. Sure you can hide the mess, but leave materials for nest building. And get down to the bees' level. Sit down by your garden and watch the insects. Marvel at their variety and beauty. Now that's great advice! Happy summer gardening!

President's Corner

Coda

by Tom Titus

Kim and I were transplanting lady slipper orchids (*Calypso bulbosa*) from the impending clearcut into the relative safety of the nearby old growth forest when a Swainson's thrush flew across the ravine. In a few weeks, their evening calls will spiral upward out

of the dark forest and then gradually fade with the evening light. My garden dirt remains sodden with record April rainfall, and the showers continue unabated. But we are Oregonians, waiting patiently, with maybe a touch of resignation, for spring. In the meantime, I thought it useful to reflect for a few moments on the past year.

We in the ENHS are botanists and ornithologists and herpetologists and entomologists and orchardists. But we are not archivists and don't keep official attendance records for our monthly meetings. Nevertheless, someone usually does a quick estimate before the talk begins, reminiscent of a wildlife biologist counting elk herds from a plane. In our estimation, Society talks have never been as consistently well attended over an entire year as they have been for the 2009-2010 lecture season. We haven't changed our publicity tactics. The desserts have been wonderful, but they have always been wonderful. We attribute the increased attendance to the quality of the speakers that have graced our podium and the excitement they have generated. We won't soon forget the poetic insights of Charles Goodrich, Nora Terwilliger's marine invertebrates, the Icelandic landscape of David Noakes, John Marzluff's biology and mythos of crows and ravens (artfully delivered during an ice storm), Rick Boatner's alarming animal invaders, Sue Beilke's enthusiasm for turtles, the geological perspective on climate change offered by Greg Retallack, and Dean Walton's depiction of floral diversity in freshwater tidal swamps (not to mention his unexpected results of family DNA testing!). Your Board has set the bar high, and we are on track to deliver on those expectations, with an outstanding slate of speakers in line for 2010-2011.

ENHS is a community organization that has long been active in promoting local natural history education. This year we maintained a well-received booth at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Mushroom Festival, inviting participants to engage with booth volunteers on a variety of natural history exhibits and posters. We expect a similar performance at our booth in the upcoming Wildflower Festival at Mt. Pisgah on 16 May. In April, a band of us came together for our annual Bike Path Cleanup between the Ferry Street and Washington-Jefferson Street bridges. This event, organized by immediate past president Dave Wagner, allows us to both improve our local greenway and promote the Society as an active participant in constructive environmentalism. We are solidifying the community role of ENHS by offering overnight natural history field trips. Whereas many other organizations offer various day trips,

ENHS is one of the few to offer multiday excursions. In our experience, trips of 24 hours or longer during which participants share food, lodging, and intimacy with the natural world lead to a sense of community that cannot be achieved on shorter excursions. This spring, we look forward to a two-day, two-night return to the Opal Creek Ancient Forest. Look for additional trips next year, including shorter ventures to places such as the Andrews Experimental Forest and our annual weekend-long spring outing in early June.

None of these events would have come to fruition without an outstanding Board of Directors. In my short tenure on the Board (only 13 years), I can't remember a time when we have been more effective. Board meetings have routinely featured two-hour sessions covering everything from *Nature Trails* content to new speakers to field trip planning to managing the Society bank account. Tim Godsil, our new webmaster, does not occupy an official Board position, but he has rejuvenated the ENHS website and begun to transform it into an effective tool for digital communication. Drop by <http://biology.uoregon.edu/enhs/frame.html> and have a look around. Join the list serve for electronic meeting notifications. Your Board is a cadre of very talented, experienced, energetic, and committed people with good ideas that they act upon. Please thank them when you get a chance. You will have an opportunity to approve next year's slate of Board members and our revised by-laws at the upcoming 21 May meeting.

As wonderful as your Board has been, the Society simply cannot function without the support of its members. Yes, we need your memberships; your money brings in quality speakers and keeps *Nature Trails* circulating. But we also need your enthusiasm, especially as it is expressed by showing up for the monthly lectures, hopefully with a friend. We trust that all of you will continue your support for Eugene's oldest natural history organization during the upcoming year.

(Editorial comment: On behalf of the Board and the Society members, thank you, Tom, for the excellent job you have done in this first year of your presidency. jc)

Don't forget the Wildflower Festival at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum! For details check the Events listing below.

Out and About

"Out & About" is a periodical encouragement to Eugene Natural History Society members to get out and experience our magnificent Oregon.

Tire Mountain Meadow



Spend a sunny afternoon among the butterflies and wildflowers on this beautiful mountain meadow northeast of Westfir.

Use the directions in [Finding Lane County Butterflies](#) published by the local chapter of the North American Butterfly Assn., where you can also learn about the many other local butterfly sites.

*Want more information about this location?
Contact Dave Stone at 683-6127*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Reminder: the May meeting is the annual meeting and members will be asked to vote on whether to accept the revised bylaws, and whether to accept the slate of officers and at-large board members.
2. Related to 1, above, the revised bylaws have been posted on our website. This means you can study them prior to the vote at the meeting!
3. Please come to the June potluck – it's not just for board members anymore (nor was it ever)! Read on.

ANNUAL ENHS POTLUCK PICNIC, 12 JUNE, 2pm.

Once again the Kimmels are hosting our annual ENHS potluck picnic at the farm on Fox Hollow Road. We will hold the event on Saturday, 12 June, rain or shine. Just bring a favorite dish or beverage to share and come prepared to watch some birds, walk around the wild area and the pond, pat the horses, socialize with the critters, or best of all, to sit outside or by the woodstove chatting with friends, old and new.

Here are directions to the farm, 30306 Fox Hollow Road.

If you are driving south on Hilyard St., ¼ mile after passing the 30th St. light, [see the Dari Mart] go left on W. Amazon Dr. [This turn is the next light after E. Amazon Dr. Both intersect Fox Hollow actually.] Go ¾ mile [see Calvary Chapel, which looks like a warehouse], turn right [approximately west] on Fox Hollow Road. Ignoring the street numbers, drive through suburbia into the countryside. In 4.7 miles you will see S. Willamette St. coming in on the right. *Drive on. In another 1.9 miles there will be a fire station on your right, and Macbeth Road will join Fox Hollow Road from the right. Bear Left, [southwest] staying on Fox Hollow Road. The road will curve downhill in a southerly and southwesterly direction.

In 1.1 more miles you will see our mailbox on the right [Kimmel, 30306]. Turn Left into our driveway and park by the barn, the garage, the front walk or on the grass beside the driveway.

You have now gone 8.7 miles from the intersection of 30th and Hilyard. The entire road is paved.

*If you are coming from Willamette St., just follow S. Willamette out into the country past Spencer's Butte Park to the stop sign and junction with Fox Hollow Road and follow the directions from *

If you are coming from West Eugene, go on Bailey Hill Road to Lorane Highway and turn left on Lorane Highway at Twin Oaks Church, just after Twin Oaks School. Go east on Lorane Highway to Macbeth Road, just past the Grange. Turn Right. Go 3.68 miles to the end of MacBeth, and turn right onto Fox Hollow. Go southwest down hill for 1.1 miles and turn left at our driveway.

Events of Interest in the Community

Lane County Audubon Society

Tuesday, 25 May, 7:30pm. "Experience the 'luxurious hothouse' of the Borneo rainforest." Bob Fleming and Jim Regali will share experiences from their recent trip to Borneo. Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St.

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

34901 Frank Parrish Rd., Eugene, 97405. Located off I-5 Exit 189, 15 minutes southeast of Eugene. Call Peg Douthit-Jackson at 541-747-1504 or email mtpisgjp@efn.org for more information or to sign up for any of the following Arboretum activities.

Sunday, 16 May, 10am-4pm Wildflower Festival and Plant Sale. Come for a day of wildflowers, music, food, crafts, and fun! Three to four hundred wildflowers, from asters to violets, will be on display, organized for attendees to get a close look. Top botanists of the region will be on hand to answer questions. Lots of plants, baked goods, and arts and crafts will be on sale, with proceeds supporting the Arboretum's work in habitat restoration and environmental education. There'll even be live music. Bring the entire family (except the dog) to enjoy the festival and explore nearby nature trails. Nature Tour Guides will weave folks through the trails, providing more information about the Arboretum's ecology and history. Co-sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Oregon and Lane Community College.

Saturday, 5 June, 8-10am. Bird Walk: Brilliant Blue. This walk, guided by Davey Wendt, focuses on finding one of the more spectacular birds of the Willamette Valley, the Lazuli Bunting. We also hope to see House Wren, Western Wood Peewee and Black-throated Gray Warblers along with anything else the tail end of migration brings. Rain or Shine. No registration required. Meet at the Arboretum Visitors Center. Fee: \$5.

Native Plant Society of Oregon, Emerald Chapter For more information call 541-746-9478. Contact ngap@emerald.npsoregon.org with questions.

Monday, 17 May, 7:30 pm. Jennifer Lippert, Forest Botanist from the Willamette National Forest, will present an overview of the Botany Program focusing on terrestrial restoration and invasive species projects and ending in a discussion about potential volunteer opportunities. EWEB Training Room at 500 East 4th Avenue, Eugene.

Saturday, 22 May, 8:30 am. Field Trip: Heckletooth Mountain. Just outside Oakridge, this low-elevation mountain trail passes through several flowery meadows, forest, and some interesting recovering burned areas before reaching the rocky viewpoint at the top. A wide variety of plants may be seen. The trail is under 3 miles round trip with 1,200 ' of elevation gain, but there are several steep stretches. Meet at South Eugene High 8:30am or Lowell Covered Bridge at 9:00am. Contact Tanya Harvey at 541-937-1401 or Wild.Iris@att.net to register or for more info.

Saturday, 5 June, 9am. Field Trip: Horse Rock Ridge. Alan Curtis will lead this tour of a steep, rocky meadow high in the Coburg Hills north of Springfield. There are wonderful views of the surrounding countryside and great botanical diversity. This is a 5-mile walk round trip. Bring water and lunch. Wear hiking shoes. For more information call 541-345-5531.

Saturday, June 26, 9am. Field trip: Sahalie Falls and Sand Mountain Lookout. We'll stop briefly to view Sahalie Falls and then continue to Sand Mountain and see alpine wildflowers and habitat restoration work. The Sand Mountain hike is about 3 miles RT and 800 feet elevation gain. Bring hiking shoes, warm clothing, snacks, and water. Meet at 9am at the South Eugene HS or Thurston area Albertsons (far NE Parking).

WREN For more on these activities call 541-683-6494 or email info@wewetlands.org.

Saturday, 29 May, 10am-2pm. Walkin & Rollin. Celebrate American Wetlands Month and explore the West Eugene Wetlands by biking or walking the Fern Ridge Bike Path between Beltline and Greenhill Rd. Along the way, local experts and organizations will have educational displays highlighting the many wonders of the wetlands. Learn about wetland plants, animals, and restoration projects. Participants also receive a Wetland Passport they can have stamped at each booth for a chance to win prizes in a drawing.

Tuesday, 8 June, 9-10am. Wetland Wander at Willow Creek. Parking turnouts along West 18th are available for this wander through The Nature Conservancy preserve near the corner of 18th and Bertelson Rd. FREE! WREN will provide binoculars.

Nearby Nature

Pre-registration required and space is limited for these programs. Call 541-687-9699, email info@nearbynature.org, or go to <http://www.nearbynature.org/programs/registration-forms>.

Saturday, 22 May, 9:30am-12:30pm. Walama Butterfly Meadow Work Party. Join the Walama Restoration Project (made up of Nearby Nature, the Citizen Planning Committee for the Whilamut Natural Area in Alton Baker Park, and Eugene Stream Team) as we work together to help restore this endangered habitat: Walama Butterfly Meadow (across from the Park Host Residence). Help remove invasive species, restore upland prairie, and create habitat for birds, butterflies and other insects. We will meet across from the Native Plant Nursery. We will be mulching and completing some annual maintenance as part of this ongoing project. No experience is necessary. Gloves, tools, instructions, and refreshments will be provided. For more information please contact Heidi Vasel at Heidi@walamarestoration.org or by phone @ 541-484-3939. An RSVP would be appreciated but is not required!

North American Butterfly Association

Saturday, 19 June, Beautiful Butterflies Part II: Monarchs and Other Beautiful Butterflies of Lane Co. will be presented in Cottage Grove in cooperation with Lane Community College by NABA officers John Hogan and Alison Center with Linea Lindberg. This, the second of two classes (the first was on 15 May), will be held at LCC in Cottage Grove at 1275 S. River Rd. (adjacent to C.G. High School). LCC's # is 541-942-4202. Please call to register. Includes a short field trip. Questions about classes: John Hogan 541-767-9793. email <<gopherjohnh@msn.com>

We welcome new members! To join ENHS, fill out the form below. You will receive *Nature Trails* through December of next year. Membership payments allow us to give modest honoraria to our speakers, as well as to pay for the publication and mailing of *Nature Trails*.

MEMBERSHIP FORM Mail checks to **Eugene Natural History Society**
P.O. Box 3082, Eugene OR 97403

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____
E-mail (optional) _____
City _____ State & Zip _____

ANNUAL DUES:	Contributing	20.00	
	Family	15.00	
	Individual	10.00	Generosity is Appreciated
	Life Membership	300.00	

Do you have any special experience in natural history? _____

Would you like to organize/lead field trips? _____

Teach informal classes? _____ Work on committees? _____

What natural history topics interest you for future talks? _____

Eugene Natural History Society
P.O. Box 3082
Eugene, Oregon 97403

ENHS Schedule of Speakers and Topics 2010-2011

21 May 2010 – Pat Kennedy – Ecologist: "Can Cows and Birds Coexist in NE Oregon?"

10 Sept 2010 – Bill Sullivan – Exploring Oregon's New Wilderness Areas

15 Oct 2010 – Randy Molina – Mushrooms

19 Nov 2010 – Bill Ripple – Yellowstone Wolves

10 Dec 2010 – Doug Robinson – Bird Ecology in Panama

21 Jan 2011 – Dennis Jenkins – Paisley Caves

18 Feb 2011 – Lynn Houck – Salamander Courtship

18 Mar 2011 – Scott Bridgham – Climate change/terrestrial ecosystems

15 Apr 2011 – Al St. John – Great Basin Reptiles

20 May 2011 – Robert Pyle – Butterflies

ENHS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2009-2010

President: Tom Titus titus@uoneuro.uoregon.edu 541-484-4477

First Vice President: Melody Clarkson jmclarkson@q.com 541-334-6883

Second Vice President and Immediate Past President: David Wagner davidwagner@mac.com 541-344-3327

Secretary: Reida Kimmel <rkimmel@uoneuro.uoregon.edu>

Treasurer: Judi Horstmann

Board: Ruth BreMiller, John Carter, John Fentress, Rebecca Hazen, Pete Helzer, Evelyn McConnaughey, Herb Wisner, Marge Zane

Nature Trails: Editor, John Carter, jvernoncarter@comcast.net 541-349-2439; Support Staff, Ruth BreMiller and Reida Kimmel