

# Glide Wildflower Show

Glide, Oregon

April 25 and 26, 2015

The Glide Wildflower Show celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 25 and 26. Approximately 3,000 participants were able to take in the brilliant colors and fragrances of over 700 plants, mosses and lichens; assembled into their respective families.



The Glide Wildflower Show is an annual non-profit event that has been held in Glide, OR since 1965 and is organized by volunteers and plant enthusiasts. Each vascular plant was displayed in its own unique vase with a printed label telling the viewer it's common, scientific, and family name. Mosses and lichens were housed in display cases, while the ferns had their own special grotto.

The Glide Wildflower Show was founded by Reggie Miller in 1965. The original display was collected from her property and arranged and identified all by herself. Her enthusiasm for wildflowers became contagious and soon she had many volunteers assisting her each year. The show is a non-profit event that focuses on education. The show relies on donations and is managed by approximately 200 volunteers. No other town in Oregon produces a wildflower event of such proportion, magnitude, and style.

In the week before the show, volunteers with Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees spent some of their time roaming across hillsides, mountain forests, creeks, ditches, wet prairies, seeps, springs, oak woodlands, coasts, and even backyards from the Columbia Crest to the Oregon Coast and from central Oregon and into northern California, collecting and packing plant specimens in ice chests. The USFWS Roseburg Field Office also participated prior to the event identifying numerous plant specimens. During the event USFWS botanist, Sam Friedman, was present to answer questions about the wildflowers including the rare, threatened, and endangered plants.

The local Wolf Creek Job Corps provided lunch to volunteers and helped directing traffic in parking lot during the show. The busiest and possibly most dedicated volunteers at the event were the vasers. The vasers find a home for plants as they are identified, scooping up each plant, choosing an appropriate vase from wide assortment of various hand-me-down vases, arranging the plant into an elegant and artistic display, and bringing the vased plant to the portion of the table where its plant family belongs.



*Photo: Sam Friedman, USFWS*

“It was an extraordinary year for wildflowers in 2015”, said Glide Wildflower Show president, Jeanne Moore, “a new plant collection record was made”. *Photo: Sam Friedman, USFWS*