

Vernal Pool Information Network
May 11, 2017
Native Pollinator Presentation
2-4 pm
At
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

Attendees: Sam Friedman, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service); Craig Tuss, Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG); Craig Harper, Medford Water Commission; Karen Hussey, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC); Kristi Mergenthaler, SOLC; Judson Parsons (interested Land Owner).

Presenters: Kathleen Donham, Southern Oregon University (SOU) and Kristina Lefever, Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

Objective of meeting: share information about native pollinators in the Rogue Valley area with an emphasis on the vernal pool habitat type.

Background of the Presenters:

Kathleen Donham graduated from the University of Kansas in 1974 in biology. But she had bills to pay, so she went back to school and got a degree in nursing. She has been an RN for forty years. But Kathleen quit working full time when her children were born and went back to school at SOU. In 1994 she finished the SOU Environmental Education program and specialized in entomology. From 1997 until 2011, Kathleen worked with Dr. Carol Ferguson on pollination research projects with sensitive plants including lady slipper orchids, fritillaries, Sidalcea, Yreka phlox, meconella, and Cook's desert parsley (Cook's Lomatium). She enjoys introducing the public and particularly young people, to what E.O. Wilson calls "the Little Things that Run the World".

Kristina Lefever moved to the Rogue Valley in 2012 and immediately became enamored with the region's flora and fauna, especially our pollinators. At the same time she was becoming aware of the unprecedented decline of all pollinators and the associated implications for our food system and our ecosystem. Kristina's expertise is in teaching about our native bees, butterflies, flies, wasps, beetles, and hummingbirds, and the plants and habitats that best support them. She and her husband turned their barren property in Ashland into a pollinator garden, with many native plants, trees, and dandelions, but of course it's never finished. She intends to leave more bare (unmulched) soil to provide nesting areas for native bees! Kristina is a certified Jackson County Master Gardener, a member of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley, and Chair of Bee City USA Ashland. Her dream is that everyone's yard will include a little or a lot of pollinator habitat, even if it's just a pot of lavender on the porch.

Summary:

Although we had a small group, the presenters did a great job of providing a vast amount of information regarding native pollinators and generating a lot of discussion among the participants.

This set of presentations provides a good connection to other groups in the area that share some common interests in seeing vernal pool habitat conserved for not only the species associated with vernal pool complexes, but as vital habitat for our native pollinators. The presentations are provided as linked PDFs to this summary.

Links to Presentations:

[Pollinators for Vernal Pools](#)

[Pollinators of Vernal Pool Plants](#)

Other Happenings

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) pollinator garden Near McAndrews Road in Medford, Oregon. During the late winter and early spring of 2017 staff from ODOT, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates ((SOMA) planted several native pollinator plants and milkweed in a 1,000 square-foot, raised bed on ODOT managed land south of McAndrews Road and the Bear Creek Greenway in Medford, Oregon. See photo below.



Photo: In early April, staff from ODOT, Service and SOMA planted several native pollinator plants and milkweed in a raised bed on ODOT managed land south of McAndrews Road and the Bear Creek Greenway in Medford, Oregon. Photo taken by Craig Tuss.

Medford Railroad Park Pollinator Garden: Located at 799 Berrydale Avenue, in Medford, Oregon, this 49 acre parcel once housed the City's sewer treatment plant. Seven developed acres now encompass the round concrete settling tank, which is storage for several of the clubs which operate at the site. In 1979 an agreement was made with the City of Medford and the Southern Oregon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society to begin development of this unique park. This unique attraction is operated by: the Southern Oregon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society; the Southern Oregon Live Steamers; the Morse Telegraph Club; the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club; and the Medford Garden Railroaders. Park attractions include: full size cars, a caboose, a hopper car, Medco's "Four Spot" Willamette Locomotive, HO Scale Track/Trains in the clubhouse, a working telegraph system to send and receive telegrams in the compound, and an operating outdoor Garden Railway. The Park contacted staff at the Roseburg Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the possible addition of a Monarch butterfly/pollinator garden in an approximately 1,200 square foot area the Park is restoring. In early May 2017, a small grant of \$700 was awarded to the Park through the Rogue Valley Council of Governments from the Service. The grant will be used to purchase native plants and soil amendments and interpretive signage for the garden area. The park received more than 40,000 visitors annually.

SOMA, May 9, 2017, 5:30 pm to 9 pm. "Our Western Monarchs: How are they? Where are they?" Southern Oregon Monarch advocates (SOMA) convened a session at the Science Building on the Southern Oregon University (SOU) Campus with information tables and presentations. Partners included SOU Biology Club, SOMA, Pollinator Project Rogue Valley, Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds,

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and Native Plant Society of Oregon. The presentations featured Dr. David James of Washington State University. The SOU Facilities folks provided free milkweed seedlings to anyone who wanted them.

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy's Rogue River Preserve: SOLC is in the very final stages of due diligence in for the purchase of the Rogue River preserve. Everything has been completed, including the release of the mineral rights from the Dept. of State Lands (just happened last week (May 18)). SOLC is working closely with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) on the final closing documents. OWEB is reviewing the SOLC's Baseline report and has reviewed all the financial documents and is now looking at the updated title report. SOLC is looking for a June closing; however, they do have an extension from the landowners through August, just in case something crops up unexpectedly. Once OWEB approves the baseline and final title report, their attorney will start drawing up the closing papers. USFWS and Doris Duke will also give their final approval. Grant funds will go into the escrow account in anticipation of closing on or before June 30, 2017. The Oregon State of the Lands Report (produced by the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT)) featured the Rogue River Preserve and was released just two weeks ago. You can find it on COLT's website. A huge thank you to all of you for your advice, ideas, suggestions, edits, networking and time on this outstanding project. On June 3, SOLC is holding their Annual Member Picnic and Annual Meeting at the Preserve. For more information please go to: (<https://www.landconserve.org/heart-of-the-rogue/>).