

Glide Wildflower Show

A
Community
Activity

Regina Miller
CSPA 405 K. Zug
June, 1969

Glide Wildflower Show

By ANDY ROCCHIA
Journal Garden Editor

'Smashing Success'

Behind that headline - - -

A woman who thought the 100 Valleys of the Umpqua were very beautiful - - and not just the valleys but the mountains too, most of which lie within the Umpqua National Forest. Some of her happiest moments were spent in the solitude of that forest, on the trails, exploring the meadows, and marveling at the diversity of plant life in the area.

Early in May of 1965, Mona Riley called this woman. It seems the Community Club of Glide was trying to create more interest in the community as a whole, featuring the diverse activities of the people and bringing them together more often. Luncheons, card parties, and an art show were all in the offing. Mona asked if there was anything the woman cared to do. Her reply, "There are so many beautiful plants in our area I think it would be nice to have a showing of these." Well, it seems a coffee hour had already been planned to be held at Idleyld Lodge and would the woman be able to put her idea together in time for that? Just three days to do it but it was agreed.

Two days of quick forays into the nearby country and not too far up into the mountains because of a late, slushy snowstorm, a call to the woman's friend, Audrey Young, for vases and help in arranging, and wonder of wonders they managed to get it all set up in time for the coffee hour.

Thirty-two guests viewed seventy one specimens arranged in assorted containers and labeled with botanical name, common name, and family. A few legends about some of the plants were printed up for added interest. Those who attended enjoyed it so much it was suggested the show be made an annual affair and invite others in the surrounding communities to share in the viewing.



Interest dwindled somewhat by the time the second year rolled around. As a result there was not very much publicity put out about the show. At that time Mona and the woman discussed whether or not it would be worthwhile to do it another year. As one resident remarked, "Once you have seen the show there wouldn't be much point in coming to it another year."

Mona disagreed with this idea and decided what was really needed was more widespread publicity. So the woman agreed to do it again another year and see if it would draw more people. If it did not, it was to be dropped.

The third year, 1967, Mona contacted a friend of hers in Portland who wrote articles for the Oregon Journal. This woman, herself much interested in native plants, wrote an article about wildflowers in Oregon and places to see them, the Glide Wildflower Show being mentioned. That third year saw attendance rise to 400. The community decided it would keep the annual event and planned to work harder the next year. Since many of those attending inquired about where to go for meals, it was decided that the ladies of the community club would serve sandwiches, a luncheon and a supper to accommodate the visitors.

The third year was also the first time the show drew visitors from other areas in Oregon besides the immediate surrounding communities. Some were so impressed they offered to help in the job of collecting and classifying the plants. Since that time, the Rev. Ammon Dishner and friends at Nesika Beach have collected southern coastal specimens for the show. From the Roseburg area, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wesley and Mrs. Perry Theille became much interested and have since done collecting in the inland valleys of southern Oregon. By extending the range and having more people to do the collecting we have been able to cover the area more efficiently and each year has seen the list of specimens grow. At the same time, the local people became more aware of their environment and every year since we have had various people bring in just one or two specimens that grow only in certain places. Some of the loggers now watch for special higher altitude plants and bring us specimens. It is really quite amazing on the day before the show to see where all the things come from and the amount of interest shown by all.

By the fourth year, 1968, news of the show had spread by word of mouth plus some very good advertising in many newspapers and Sunset magazine. Attendance rose to over fourteen hundred people. The ladies of the community

club ran out of food . By the time the weekend was over that community held one tired bunch of people. But happy ones!

This fourth year had seen a busload of members of the Native Plant Society from Portland, Oregon who were utterly delighted with the show. It had also been arranged for Mr. Jack Price, the district ranger at Glide, to accompany the group on a tour up the Little River area. The Forest Service has always cooperated, especially Mr. Price with identification. This year they gathered most of the tree specimens, identified same, and had a display with information on points of interest in the area. Two hundred and forty-three specimens had been collected and displayed. Now the community was really behind it.

Page 2, The News - Review — Tues., Apr. 30, 1968

Glide Wildflower Show Becomes Big Attraction

Page 16, The News - Review — Fri., May 3, 1968



CHARLEY COMMENTS

by
CHARLES V. STANTON
News-Review Editor Emeritus

County Hasn't Realized Wildflower Show's Value

Glide Wildflower Show 'Blossoms'

Into Major Event

GLIDE — The Glide Wildflower Show, which soon will be seen in its fifth annual version, is a unique activity which has grown from a tiny beginning to the status of a major Northwest attraction. People who never before had even heard of Glide read about the show in *Sunset* magazine last spring and came to visit in the North Umpqua community. Just 32 persons attended the first show, held in 1965 at the Idleyld Lodge. Four hundred persons attended the third annual show and in 1968 over 1,300 visitors signed the guest book at Glide Community Building where the show is now held.

Distant Points Represented

The 1968 visitors came from four states and points as far distant as London and Amster-

dam. Edward F. McDowell, president of the Native Plant Society of Oregon led a group of 27 members and guests from the Portland area including English botanist Harold F. Comber, member of the exclusive Linnaean Society of London. Professor of botany Frank Sipe accompanied a group from Eugene on a field trip to the North Umpqua area and included the Glide show. "Rave" comments were heard from professional and lay visitors alike.

Botanists, nature study groups, garden club members and many others came to see at close range the 243 native species collected, labeled with proper botanical names, and attractively displayed. Impressive in their uniforms were U. S. Forest Service personnel who ar-

anged a display of trees, cones and shrubs, staffed an information booth and provided forest tours to round out the show. The Glide Community Club is sponsor, with Mrs. Raymond (Reggie) Miller as originator, chairman and over-all "guiding light."

Seldom has a community gotten behind an activity as has Glide with its wildflower show. Inspired by Mrs. Miller, a former florist whose hobby is wildflowers, service clubs and individuals rallied to give support. A climax was reached last year when facilities were taxed to provide food for the visitors. Lines of people waited to be served meals — a service provided by women of the Glide Community Club. Visitors were cheerful in long waits and even

when supplies ran out.

Individuals and groups already are geared for this year's show when an even greater influx of visitors is expected. The show will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 26-27. As usual, there will be no admission charge. Profits come from luncheon and dinner served, a silver tea and food and plant sales held in the adjacent fire hall. North Umpqua Garden Club, the VFW Auxiliary, U. S. Forest Service, North Umpqua Home Extension, Glide Girls League and other groups and individuals help put on the show and provide services.

A new attraction this year will be a display of native rock provided by the Forest Service. Ranger Jack Price will again be in charge of free forest tours.

Sat., Feb. 22, 1969 — The News - Review Page, B-7



LADY SLIPPERS
Wildflowers Featured At Glide

The kitchen at the Glide Community Club during the year was remodeled to better accommodate the serving of large crowds. One hundred new china plates donated to the club by the North Umpqua Home Extension Unit are expected to ease the dishwashing problem. Public and private camps will accommodate visitors coming in campers and trailers.

Helping out this year will be more newcomers from California, Idaho and other points who are swelling the ranks of retired persons moving into the Glide - North Umpqua area over the past few years.

Although she is currently attending the University of Oregon working toward a degree, Mrs. Miller will be back and forth to oversee her pet project. Her

husband, Raymond, manual arts therapy instructor at the Roseburg Veterans Administration Hospital serves as a medium of communication as well as assisting with the show.

Mrs. Leonard Riley is publicity chairman. Working with the show this year will be Mrs. Perry Thiele and Mrs. Harry Wesley of Roseburg who will add their special artistic and horticultural talents to those of the Glide volunteers.

Word-of-mouth information spread by persons who attended last year's highly successful wildflower show plus publicity given the show in *Sunset* magazine, major newspapers in the state and other publications is expected to bring a record-breaking number of visitors to the Glide - North Umpqua area in April.



CHARLEY COMMENTS

By
CHARLES V. STANTON
News-Review Editor Emeritus

Glide's Wildflower Show Fine Community Activity

It's difficult these days to find enough people willing to do civic and community work to make a project successful. But that's not true in the Glide area.

Glide is making ready for its annual Wildflower Show, scheduled each year for the last week in April, and the word I receive is that it's almost impossible to find a resident who isn't busy at something connected with the show and its preparation.

I'm no authority on flowers or gardening. I enjoy flowers, their color and their perfume. But when it comes to identifying more than a dozen or so, I'm an ignoramus.

But, though I don't know my botany, I'm convinced that the Annual Wildflower Show at Glide is one of the finest community activities to be found anywhere. It's good to know, too, that it commands the respect, interest, cooperation and labor of so many residents of the area.

And, it might be added, the Glide show has grown so big that it is getting a lot of help from people throughout Douglas County and from many other places in Oregon and neighboring states.

Several years ago the Glide Community Club was casting about for some sort of a project. A wildflower show was suggested. The idea caught on. With but one exception the show has enjoyed a substantial growth each year.

Tours Planned

Last year's show indicated that this annual event has come of age. It was attended by more than 1400 people.

The Glide Community hadn't expected that many visitors. The supply of food for the lunches at the Community Building ran short. But within minutes housewives began arriving with more home-cooked foods, indicating the way in which everyone cooperates.

An attempt is made to offer something new each year. This year a feature will be guided tours — tours in which interested persons will be able to see their natural habitat.

Last year the show attracted a busload of flower lovers from Portland. The bus was directed on a tour up the Little River Road, where wildflowers normally are in abundance. The trip was so interesting that more extensive "Show Me" tours are planned for this year's entertainment and in-

The tours are sponsored by the Society of American Foresters. Maps are being prepared for visitors preferring to make the tours in their own cars. The Society is arranging to provide transportation for those who do not have their own vehicles.

It is anticipated the opportunity for visits to scenic areas, where wildflowers may be seen in their native surroundings, will be one of the major attractions of this year's show.

Growth Anticipated

The Glide area has many things to offer those who would "look around."

It is noted, of course, for the "Colliding Rivers." The North Umpqua River and Little River, or the East Umpqua as it was known in earlier days, meet head-on at Glide, claimed to be the only place in the world where this occurs.

(There is some dispute on this point. A similar collision of rivers is said by some to exist in Africa. However, there's nothing like it on the North American continent.)

The juncture of the two riv-

ers recently was made more scenic by construction of an observation walk, park facilities and a paved trail leading to an adjacent fossil bed on Little River. The improvement was made by the Wolf Creek Job Corps in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.

Near Glide, on both the North Umpqua and Little River, wildflowers and wild shrubs are to be found in abundance. It is expected that the warm weather of late March will prove beneficial to growth of spring flowers. Visitors to the Glide show, therefore, will have a real "treat" as they visit the spots being designated as places of particular interest.

And the Glide Community Club, which sponsors the event, is anticipating that this year's show will be considerably larger than last year's record breaker.

It presently is anticipated that the show, scheduled for April 26 and 27, will attract more than 2,000 visitors, from Oregon, California, Washington and Idaho where date for the show is being publicized.

Although the main part of the show is the same every year, we do try to vary the composition of it. For instance, one section is set aside to display the ferns and a few other plants that like the deep, mossy woods. We generally try to include water in some form; pool, water wheel, spray, etc. Audrey Young has been doing a tremendous job with this display. The Forest Service has had different displays each time. The show just past, 1969, saw a display of pressed specimens that Mrs. Perry Theille and Mrs. Harry Wesley have been working on for a number of years. Included were many flowers that bloom later in the season. The Society of American Foresters, which includes personnel of the U. S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, provided free guided tours in conjunction with the show. This worthwhile trip lasting three hours, was a combination multiple-use forestry and wild flower tour.

Another outgrowth of the 1968 show was the interest expressed by many people to learn more about the native plants. Through their interest the office of continuing education arranged for a botany course which was taught at Joseph Lane Junior High School in Roseburg by Mrs. James Stovall of Eugene. The classes were so arranged that the course would end the week before the wildflower show, thereby giving those who attended the class a chance for a good general review.

How many hours have been spent in preparation? How many miles have been covered, by car and on foot? How many lights burn late at night? They would be hard questions to answer. Also hard to enumerate would be all the people who really pitch in and help. At this point it includes a good part of the community of Glide, Oregon.

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By ANDY ROCCHIA
Journal Garden Editor

'Smashing Success'

Now you know what was behind the headline. Only time will tell what lies ahead of it. Parking is becoming a problem. There are outsiders who would like to set up concessions. The people of the community are aware of these problems and are looking for intelligent solutions.

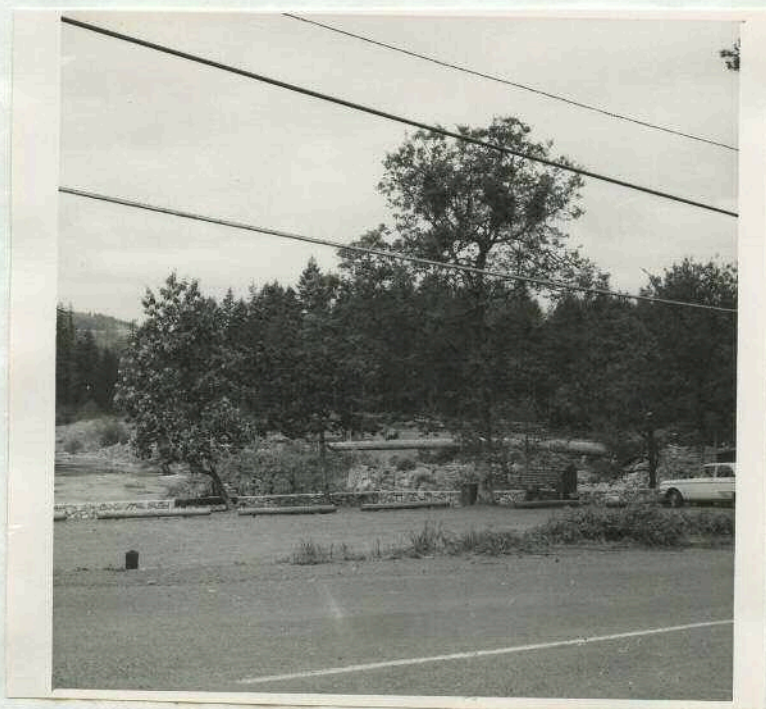


Glide Wildflower Show - 1969

A direct result of the interest created in native plant material is reflected in the development of the Colliding Rivers Viewpoint at Glide, Oregon. This piece of property was obtained by the Forest Service in 1939. Nothing much was done to the property until 1959 when the North Umpqua Garden Club in cooperation with the Forest Service did some beautification and erected two rustic signs calling attention to this spot. In 1961, the Forest Service graveled a parking spot at the viewpoint and installed a comfort station.



1961

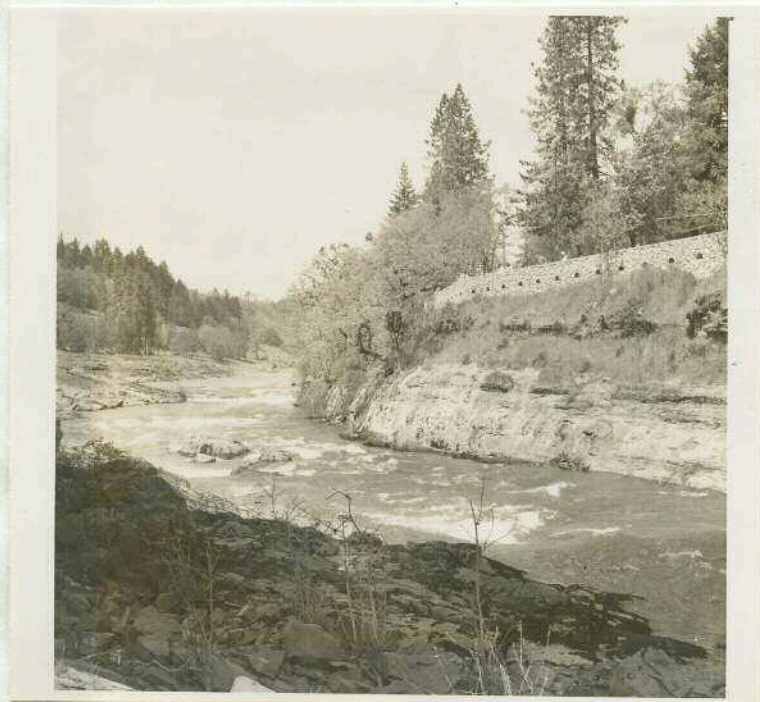


1969

Since the vertical rock overlooking the water was an extreme hazard for sightseers, the Wolf Creek Job Corps Center cleared the area and built the beautiful rock wall using rock from a nearby area. The 1961 picture does not do justice to the amount of brush that was on that piece of ground. To the Job Corps goes credit for the heavy brushing that was necessary before improvement could take place.



1961



1969

After the first rough draft all that was needed was the landscape architect's planting plan approved by the forest supervisor. This was drawn up and approved in February of 1969. From then on it was full speed ahead with everyone cooperating to get the viewpoint planted in time for the dedication which was set for Sunday of the weekend of the fifth annual wildflower show. The placque unveiled at the dedication attests to the time and money the community has put into the development of this site.



RANGER JACK PRICE and members of the Glide Garden Club study planting plan for new botanical garden at Colliding Rivers Viewpoint.



JOB CORPSMEN assisted with clean-up and planting at Colliding Rivers Viewpoint in Glide.



NORTH UMPQUA GARDEN CLUB has helped the Forest Service in planting of native shrubs and trees at Colliding Rivers Viewpoint.