

Camassia

Natural Area



Project of the Oregon Chapter
of The Nature Conservancy

CAMASSIA NATURAL AREA

The Oregon Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is pleased to announce its first program of land acquisition in Oregon. Similar programs have been successfully carried out by other state chapters, resulting in the preservation of many thousands of acres of woodlands, grasslands, swamps, islands and other types of natural areas. The tract we have preserved is located at West Linn and has been named Camassia natural Area. Preservation of this area was desirable and urgent for the following reasons:

1. It has meadows and woodlands where such beautiful flowers as Erythronium (fawn lily), Camassia (camas), and Brodiaea (cluster lily), Plectritis (corn salad) and many others are abundant. Camassia and Brodiaea were once so plentiful in the Willamette Valley that they were important food items for the Indians; now, because of the spreading of cities and the cultivation of fields, they are becoming more and more difficult to find. A field of camas in blossom is a sight never to be forgotten.
2. There are woodlands where such native trees and shrubs as oak, madrone, syringa, ocean spray, Oregon Grape, salal and numerous others grow.
3. A number of species of plants rare in the valley grow here. These include kinnikinnic, dwarf huckleberry, quaking aspen and sphagnum.
4. Within the Camassia Area are a number of ponds containing frogs, salamanders and other types of aquatic life.
5. Members of the Audubon Society have noted an unusually large number of birds in the area. Lizards and many small mammals are also found and recently several deer have been observed.

6. The area is enhanced with many natural rock gardens where selaginella, mosses, ferns, sedums, orobanche and alum-root thrive.
7. One of the most significant features of the area is the excellent record it bears of the late-Pleistocene Missoula Flood, probably the most catastrophic flood of world history. This record includes completely scabbed areas, rock piles, channels and depressions. A number of fairly large ice-rafted granitic erratics were left here by the flood waters.

For these and other reasons this tract, comprising 22½ acres, has been deemed highly worthy of preservation by members of the Nature Conservancy, local residents and others who have seen it. We were able to purchase this land for what we believe was a reasonable price of four hundred dollars an acre. The national Board of Governors of The Nature Conservancy has granted us a loan of nine thousand dollars for the purchase of this property; of this amount around three thousand five hundred dollars has already been paid off. For the financing of the remainder we are depending on the generosity of those who recognize the great values of natural areas. The Camassia Natural Area is available for study projects by schools and colleges and for visitation by those who can appreciate the spiritual and aesthetic experiences only natural areas can afford. Already several colleges are using the area for research purposes.

If you wish to visit Camassia Natural Area contact Mr. Murray Miller, 656-6724, and he will be pleased to guide you to points of interest. You are free to enter the area at any time; the map on the reverse side of his brochure will serve as a guide to the area.

Name

Address

Pledge Amount

\$

Send to Mrs. Oscar Larsen, 5192 N. W. Broadway St., West Linn, Oregon.

VICINITY MAP OF
CAMASSIA NATURAL AREA
AND PART OF
CITY OF WEST LINN, OREGON

