

Colorado Native Plant Society



NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 Number 4
October-December 1982

"DEDICATED TO THE APPRECIATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE COLORADO FLORA"

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

20 January 1983 - Board of Directors meeting in Fort Collins. Contact the SECRETARY if you would like to come and see what the board does.

17 March 1983 - Board of Directors meeting in Denver. The board needs a meeting place for this meeting. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

19 May 1983 - Board of Directors meeting. Place to be announced later.

**ANNUAL MEETING
IF YOU DIDN'T ATTEND YOU SHOULD'VE**

If you did not attend the annual meeting on the 18th of September you missed an exciting day. All of the committees of the Society had very nice displays showing what they have been doing and guided tours of the Denver Botanic Gardens were also available in the morning.

After noon a short business meeting where among other things the new members of the Board of Directors were elected. They are John Anderson, Lloyd Hayes, Les Shader, Claire Semmer, and Les Shader.

Panayoti Callas gave a very fine talk about plants for "Native Rockscaping---The Last Resort of Gardening" that was accompanied by many excellent slides. Following Panayoti Callas was Dr. Beidleman. He presented an entertaining, informative presentation about Early Botanists in Colorado and surrounding areas. Dr. Beidleman showed many contemporary pictures of areas along with pictures of sketches of the same areas made during the early trips into this area. Some of the early artists were almost as good as a camera. If you have never heard Dr. Beidleman talk you missed a great experience.

At a short Board of Directors meeting after the annual meeting officers for the next year were elected. They are: Sue Martin, President; Bob Heapes, Vice-President; Eleanor Von Bargen, Secretary; and Myrna Steinkamp, Treasurer.

Any member of the Society is welcome to come to the board meetings but must make reservations as the meetings are usually held in homes and only a limited amount of space is available. Please make reservations by calling Eleanor Von Bargen.

The board is in need of a meeting place in Denver for the meeting on March 17, 1983. If you live in Denver and have a place big enough or know of a place big enough where about 20 persons could meet please call Eleanor Von Bargen and let us know.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR
1983 NOW DUE**

Because of the requirements of our bulk mailing permit, all members of the society are receiving dues notices, even though members may not owe any dues for 1983. If you are unsure of your membership status, look on the mailing label of this newsletter. If \$82 appears in the upper righthand corner, your membership expires on Dec. 31, 1982. To renew for 1983, please remit the appropriate amount together with the dues notice. If \$83, \$LIFE or \$N/A appear on the label, there is no need for any action on your part to maintain your membership through 1983; return the dues notice only to report a change of address, phone number, etc. Note, very recently paid memberships may not be shown correctly on the label; if you have doubts or questions, please contact the membership committee.

**ENDANGERED WILDFLOWER
CALENDAR**

For the second year, the Rare and Endangered Native Plant Exchange has produced an Endangered Wildflower Calendar to help finance their work. The 1982 calendar was outstanding with beautiful flower photos on paper of excellent quality. We can anticipate that the 1983 calendar will be similar. It is described as 10 1/4 by 17 inches when opened and it contains information about the unique features, reasons for endangerment and conservation plans for each of the flowers illustrated; a map of the United States showing the number of endangered plant species in each state; a list of selected reading materials; and full-page monthly calendars with space for notes each day of the month. It includes 14 full-color photographs.

To obtain copies of this calendar send your name, address and \$5.50 for each calendar (\$4.50 each for orders of 3 or more) to Endangered Wild Flower Calendar, c/o Biology Dept., Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY 11210.

**BIGGER IS BETTER,
OR EASIER TO READ?**

This issue of the newsletter should be a little bit easier to read for those of with us with trouble reading the fine print. The margins have been made smaller so that the material does not have to be reduced so much.

START A CHAPTER

If you have been thinking about or would like to have a chapter of the Colorado Native Plant Society in your area, it may be easier now. There has been some discussion at the Board of Directors meeting about lowering the number of members required to have a chapter. If you are interested contact Sue Martin, President.

The board of directors and committees of CONPS are anxious to learn about your interests and willingness to participate in the various activities of the society. Please take some time to fill out the pink membership survey form. Fort Collins Chapter members, please answer the question concerning how often you would attend meetings. Everyone, whether you plan to be active or not, please provide some constructive comments on making our good society even better. The questionnaire may be returned in the dues envelope provided.

CONPS memberships make great gifts for Christmas or New Years or whatever occasion arises. Think about giving one to a friend this year.

---Myrna Steinkamp
Membership Chairperson

Dolores River Field Trip Report

May 29-30.

The objectives of this trip were to view some of the unusual habitats and plants of the red sandstone country of western Colorado. The first day consisted of driving, and then walking into Coyote Wash, a major tributary of the Dolores River. A unique feature involved hiking bare-footed along the sandy bottom of Coyote Wash, surrounded by steep sandstone canyon walls. The objective of this portion of the trip was to see the rare Kachina daisy, *Erigeron kachinensis*, growing in sandstone cracks fed by seep water. The majority of the participants, about 20, reached the Kachina daisy site, and some of the more ambitious walked further down the wash to look at Eastwoods's mimulus, *Mimulus eastwoodiae*, growing in cliff seeps, and to see the confluence of Coyote Wash with the Dolores River.

The next day the group gathered at the Bedrock Store in order to visit several sites in the Paradox Valley near Paradox. The first stop was in the pinyon-juniper zone near Paradox to view a population of the spineless hedgehog cactus, *Echinocereus triglochidiatus* var. *inermis*, a Federally listed endangered species. The spineless hedgehog cacti were in full bloom, offering participants a fine opportunity to photograph this rare species. Other species flowering at this site with limited ranges in western Colorado included *Penstemon cyanocaulis*, *Chamaechaenactis scaposa*, *Astragalus coltonii*, and *Pedicularis centranthera*. Other conspicuous flowering plants included *Stenotus armerioides*, *Hymenopappus filifolius*, *Penstemon eatonii*, and *Castilleja chromosa*. The last stop was the Paradox town dump, where the group viewed the remarkable *Lupinus crassus*, a lupine with large fleshy leaves and whitish flowers. 1982 was a banner year for flowering shrubs. Among the most conspicuous species observed on this trip were cliffrose, *Cowania mexicana*; fendler bush, *Fendlera rupicola*; Utah serviceberry, *Aamelanchier utahensis*; and mahonia, *Mahonia haematocarpa*. A few participants concluded the trip by driving along the Dolores River to Gateway to look at populations of the columbine, *Aquilegia micrantha*, growing in cliff seeps. Many thanks to Jim Ratzloff, who organized the trip and led the group, and to the adventurous participants, many of whom drove and walked long distances to see some of the wilder places in Colorado.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

The next issue of the newsletter will contain a list of all the plants that have been collected and identified at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in the last two years. There may be a few plants that were collected this summer that will not have been pressed, mounted, and delivered to Dr. Weber to identify, but most of the work is done.

For the second issue next year it is hoped that a list of reference books on Colorado plants

ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS OF COLORADO:

Tallgrass Prairie in the Front Range Foothills

Tallgrass prairie plants neck-high and waving in the wind is not the usual image of the eastern Colorado plains, yet many early Colorado ecologists, such as Frederick Clements, Arthur Vestal, Stephen James, and Francis Ramaley, mention the occurrence of tallgrass prairie species on mesas, gravel terraces, and floodplains in the foothills of the Front Range.

Most of this land has since yielded to the plow or to housing developments, but it is still relatively easy to locate a few plants here and there of big bluestem, *Andropogon gerardii*; switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*; yellow Indian-grass, *Sorghastrum nutans*; and little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*. Though these species are in no danger of extinction, the prairie itself has not fared so well.

Will Moir, former range ecologist at Colorado State University, first alerted other ecologists in 1972 about the existence and demise of tallgrass prairie remnants in the Boulder area(1), reporting that a 20 acre remnant on the outskirts of Boulder had just been bulldozed. Since Moir's study there has been little concerted effort to locate and study additional remnants. Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory (CNHI) is now beginning an intensive search for tallgrass prairie remnants along the length of the Front Range in Colorado. Preliminary efforts have resulted in the location of 6 remnants in the Boulder area, varying in size from 1 to 15 acres.

If you like to spend your weekends biking or exploring the rural roads of the foothills plains area, you could help locate additional examples of this important part of Colorado's natural heritage. Fall is one of the best times to find these remnants, as big bluestem is tall and red, and easy to spot. I will take folks, who would like to volunteer, out to the remnants we have located so you will know what to look for. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact me at 866-5885 or drop a note to CNHI, 1550 Lincoln St., Room 110, Denver, CO 80203.

(1) Moir, W. H. "Tall grass prairie in Colorado and its aesthetic value," The Second Midwest Prairie Conference, ed. J. H. Zimmerman. Univ. of Wisc. Arboretum, Madison, 1972, pp. 40-46.

---Bill Baker

will be ready. This list will contain information as to what level the books are intended for, i.e. whether they are suitable for one who knows very little about plants or for the professional botanist or some level in between. There will also be a brief description of the contents and organization of each book indicating what kind(s) of keys, tables, lists, etc. are included. If you have any favorites, especially ones that not all of us would be familiar with, drop a note to your EDITOR and let him know about them.

Phacelia submutica
Field Trip Report

May 22-23.

The objective of this field trip was to locate additional populations of *Phacelia submutica*, a tiny annual species known only from the barren clay slopes near DeBeque, in Mesa county. The field party, consisting of approximately 20 people, led by Barry Johnston, covered an extensive area of potential habitat. The results of the inventory far exceeded expectations. Several additional populations numbering in the thousands of individuals, were located in appropriate habitats on public lands (BLM) west of DeBeque in the vicinity of Coon Hollow and Pyramid Rock. Precise locations for these newly discovered populations may be obtained from the Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory. The spectacular results of this survey, in the light of the limited number of previous records for *P. submutica*, point out how effective the Colorado Native Plant Society can be in adding to the knowledge about rare species. Special thanks go to Barry Johnston, who organized the survey, and to Walt Kelley, whose field work prior to the field trip helped focus inventory efforts.

**A NEW THREATENED
SPECIES FOR COLORADO**

The Parachute Creek-Rifle-Piceance Creek area continues to yield new botanical treasures for Colorado. Now we have *Mentzelia argillosa* Darlington, described in 1934 from Sevier County, Utah. This species is on the threatened list for Utah, since it grows in a restricted part of Sevier County on gypsiferous clay hills and its area is continually being depleted by mining operations. *M. argillosa* was sent to me by Joe Clark, working for Harner-White consultants, in mid-August. As soon as I could find the time, I joined him and Rick Harner over in Parachute Creek, where the plant has been found growing abundantly on steep clay-shale scree slopes of the Green River Formation. It is certainly not very restricted in its area on the Anvil Points area and is an extremely interesting species. It is low, about a foot or less tall, and forms clumps of grayish-green plants with yellow flowers less than an inch long. Each stem goes down about 8-10 inches into the ground as a fleshy, elastic, contorted caudex. The clumps of caudices are then attached deep in the ground to a thick, fleshy, elastic rhizome about a half inch thick, that goes for several feet, we never found the end of one, and the various clumps are thus interconnected. This combination of peculiar fleshy elastic caudices and rhizomes is a very characteristic adaptation of many perennial scree slope plants in unrelated families. A few of these are: *Stellaria irrigua*, *S. americana*, *Senecio fremontii*, *Ligularia porteri*, and *Eriogonum leiomerus*.

---Dr. William A. Weber
Univ. of Colorado Museum

**MANUAL OF THE PLANTS
OF COLORADO**

For those of you who haven't heard, H. D. Harrington's book Manual of the Plants of Colorado has been reprinted as a large size paperback (about the size of the hardback). The cost is approximately \$40 and it is for sale at the CSU bookstore in Fort Collins and is surely also available at other places.

**YELLOW LADY'S SLIPPER
ALIVE AND WELL**

This summer, following leads from several sources, I finally located a large number of Yellow Lady's Slipper orchids, *Cypripedium calceolus* L. var. *pubescens* (Willd.) Correll, in Larimer Country, west of Fort Collins. Four rather distinct groups of plants were located with at least 30 plants in bloom in each group and many other plants that were not in bloom.

In the same general area were a large number of Columbines, *Aquilegia caerulea* James, in full bloom. An unexpected bonus was finding the Spurless Columbine, *A. caerulea* var. *daileyae* Eastw. The stems and leaves of this plant looked like the regular Columbine but the petals and sepals were all blue to purple instead of having the blue and white coloring of the regular Columbine. Also, the petals and sepals were all in a plane instead of having the sepals in a plane and the petals in a cup shape. Of course as the name implies these Columbines have no spurs projecting from the back of the flower.

I plan to lead at least a chapter field trip to see these orchids this coming summer and possibly some other orchids (*Listera cordata* var. *nephrophylla* and *L. cordata* var. *cordata*) just west of Cameron Pass.

---Les Shader

Piceance Basin Field Trip Report

June 26-27.

The objective of this trip was to investigate the plant communities and rare plant species of the Piceance Basin west of Meeker. The group of 25 participants was led by Bill Baker and Karen Wiley Eberle. Bill used his experience from working on a plant community survey and rare plant inventory in the Piceance Basin to explain the geology, the past history of the vegetation of the Piceance Basin, and factors that change vegetation composition: fires, grazing, big game browsing, chaining. The group drove up the west side of the basin to the Cathedral bluffs, where some spectacular wildflower displays among the sagebrush were seen. The group then visited several rare plant sites, including populations of a new species of meadowrue, *Thalictrum*, and an assortment of oil shale region endemics, *Aquilegia barnebyi*, *Festuca dasyclada*, *Astragalus lutosus*, and *Sullivantia purpusii*. On the second day the participants visited the Plant Material Center in Meeker where a variety of native plant species are being tested for suitability for disturbed land rehabilitation. The group was given a comprehensive tour of the facilities by Sam Stranathan of the Soil Conservation Survey. A great deal was learned at the Plant Material Center, and a followup trip in the near future will be planned. Thanks go to Bill and Karen for organizing the trip, and to Sam Stranathan, who graciously provided a tour the Plant Materials Center

COSC--BINGO!

Under Colorado law, non-profit organizations may set up bingo games as a source of revenue. The Colorado Open Space Council (COSC) is beginning a bingo game in January. COSC is a coalition of Colorado environmental groups of which Colorado Native Plant Society (CONPS) is a member. Through its own staff, a paid lobbyist, and volunteers, COSC works with the Legislature and Congress on environmental issues affecting public land and health, such as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, toxic waste disposal, energy development, logging, etc. These issues often have an impact on native plants.

According to Kent Hanson, the bingo coordinator, other groups have made as much as \$1,000 in an afternoon with a well-run game. COSC is hoping to generate a sizeable portion of its \$150,000 annual operating budget through bingo. The COSC game will be at 64th and Wadsworth, Denver, Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 o'clock. Volunteers are needed for one Sunday a month (four people per Sunday). This is a new and potentially significant source of revenue that would lessen COSC's dependence on donations. Any bingo enthusiasts who would like to support important environmental work in Colorado should contact Kent at 722-2982.

---John Anderson
CONPS Representative to COSC

Some Publications of Interest

I recently had occasion to search for sources of common names for native plants. The professional botanists among us will know the two publications I found, or rediscovered, but you hobbyists may not. And, if you are like me, some of you hobbyists may have a problem remembering scientific names.

These publications contain no illustrations nor keys. They will not help you identify plants. They will be useful to most of us only if we know a scientific or common name and want to learn its other name.

The first publication is USDA Forest Service, General Technical Report RM-20, "Principal Range Plants of the Central and Southern Rocky Mountains; Names and Symbols." It lists plants under 4 headings: grasses, grasslike plants, forbs, and trees and shrubs. The main listing is by scientific name followed by both approved and "other" common names. A separate index to common names makes it convenient to start with a common name and find the corresponding scientific name. I estimate the main list includes more than 4,000 different plants. The index to common names contains more than 3,500 names.

The second publication is a rediscovered old timer. Standardized Plant Names was prepared by the Editorial Committee of the American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature. It was first prepared in 1917 and published in 1923. The second edition, which I consulted, was revised and published in 1942. At that time the Editorial Committee consisted of Harlan P. Kelsey and William A. Dayton.

Standardized Plant Names includes the names of plants from all over the world that are used in horticulture in the U.S.A. That includes all the horticultural varieties known at the time of compilation. The "list" has 667 pages, each of which has 3 columns of plant names. Each natural species and variety is listed twice, one under its scientific name and again under its common name. For example, lodgepole pine will appear under *Pinus contorta latifolia* and under Pine, lodgepole. Varieties are given common names only.

Standardized Plant Names includes 63 special lists, some of which may be helpful to you. For example, cactus genera, drug plant names, fruit and edible nut names, lumber trade names, plant patents, poisonous plants, to name a few.

The first publication is available from the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, 240 W. Prospect, Fort Collins, CO, 80526. Standardized Plant Names was published by the J. Horace McFarland Co., Harrisburg, PA., and is probably out of print. It can be found at University libraries and probably at the Denver Botanic Garden library.

---Lloyd Hayes

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SCHEDULE OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

LIFE	\$250.00
SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION	50.00
FAMILY OR DUAL	12.00
INDIVIDUAL	8.00
STUDENT OR SENIOR	4.00

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please direct all contributions and articles to the EDITOR in care of the Society's mailing address.

Deadlines for the NEWSLETTER are the first day of January, March, May, July, September, and November with publication the last day of the month. The 4 issues March through September will be published without fail, the January and November issues will be published as material is available.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND INFORMATION

Please direct all membership applications, renewals and address changes to the MEMBERSHIP Chairperson in care of the Society's mailing address.

Please direct all other inquiries regarding the Society to the SECRETARY in care of the Society's mailing address.

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