



Sego Lily

Newsletter of the Utah Native Plant Society

Fall 2023 Volume 46 Number 4



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Intermountain Botanical Foray 2023 – Desert Experimental Range

By Julia Hobbie

What could be better than spending a long weekend botanizing in the cold desert ecosystem of Millard County, UT? How about doing so with over thirty other botanical enthusiasts!

In 2023 we were lucky enough to get to visit the Desert Experimental Range (USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station) in Millard County, UT. A huge thank you to our hosts at the Forest Service, Sarah Barga and Rob Heckman! This research station was established in 1933 to study Great Basin cold desert rangeland. The



Foray participants on the Tunnel Springs Mountains, looking south

We did exactly that at the first annual Intermountain Botanical Foray this June. The Foray is a new program organized out of the Intermountain Herbarium at Utah State University: Each year we will coordinate a botany trip that is open to botanists of all types and levels of experience. We will visit a different region of the Intermountain West each year to document the local flora and build community among botanists. Details of the 2024 Foray are being ironed out now—we will post details at usu.edu/herbarium/—hope to see many of you there!

ecosystem is mostly salt-desert shrubland in the valleys and alluvial fans, with a low point at the Pine Valley Hardpan dry playa (5,075 ft elevation). Hills and mountains culminate in the Tunnel Springs Mountains (8,457 ft); the slopes are dominated by pinyon, juniper, and mountain mahogany.

This year's Foray benefitted from an unusually wet winter which resulted in greener vistas—and more orange as well due to a superbloom of *Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia*. The team collected 264 herbarium specimens and made over 1700 observations on

Cover photo by Julia Hobbie.



The inaptly named *Cymopterus basalticus* (it usually occurs on dolomite); and *Sphaeralcea caespitosa*.



Trifolium friscanum, endemic to four mountain ranges in Beaver and Millard Counties; and *Micropuntia pulchella*, a geophytic, “deciduous” cactus.

iNaturalist, comprising 200 plant species. Check out our iNaturalist project here: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/intermountain-botanical-foray-2023-desert-experimental-range>.

It was especially neat to see a number of narrow endemics such as *Cymopterus basalticus* (dolomite spring parsley), *Sphaeralcea caespitosa* (tufted globemallow),

Eriogonum eremicum (limestone buckwheat), *Physaria occidentalis* v. *cinerascens* (Tunnel Springs Mountain bladderpod), *Penstemon nanus* (dwarf beardtongue), and *Penstemon concinnus* (Tunnel Springs beardtongue).

Trifolium friscanum (Frisco clover) was spotted up in the mountains, and down in the alluvial fans we saw my new favorite cactus, *Micropuntia pulchella* (sagebrush cholla).



Rhinotropis intermontana; *Myriopteris gracilis*.

This is a petite cactus with pink flowers that is sometimes called “deciduous” because it sheds its pads in winter and dies back to an underground tuber.

Two other favorites were the delicate flowers and spiny

participant spotted *Lewisia maguirei*, previously unrecorded from Utah! This species grows on rocky slopes at high elevation and was previously only known from Nevada. We also recorded two probable new county



Lewisia maguirei, a new record for Utah; and *Linum puberulum*, a new record for Millard Co.

branches of *Rhinotropis intermontana* and the only fern of the trip, *Myriopteris gracilis*, which we didn’t see until the very last morning.

One of the most exciting moments was when one

records and nine additional species likely new to the DER (see chart).

Two hybrids offered fun puzzles and resulted in much



Probably *Eriocoma hymenoides* x *E. arida*; *Eriogonum shockleyi* x *E. eremicum*, displaying similar features to when *E. shockleyi* hybridizes with *E. natum*.



Foray participants marveling at a *Micropuntia* tuber.

discussion. An *Eriocoma* hybrid was first identified as *E. x bloomeri*, but that would require a parent of *E. occidentalis*, which is not present near the DER. We settled on a

likely ID of *Eriocoma hymenoides* x *E. arida*. And one unusual *Eriogonum* individual was finally identified as *Eriogonum. shockleyi* x *E. eremicum*.



Terraria haydenii, discovered in 2021; petroglyphs at the DER



2023 Participants: Matt Realá, Matt Berger, Adair Schruhl, Anna Miera, Chinedum Anajemba, Rob Heckman, Marguerite Trost, Andrey Zharkikh, Maddie Houde; Meghan Slocombe, Bebe Suepukdee, Natasha Pagel-Aprill, Beth Haney, Margaret Haney; Caldonia Carmello, Jerry Schneider; Montana Horchler, Otto De Groff, Julia Hobbie, Will Pearce, Carl Rothfels, Elana Feldman, David Adelhelm, Kris Valles. Not pictured: Lan Wei, Zach Nielsen, Leo Harden, Kai Briem, Bryce Silver-Bates, Jamey McClinton, Janel Johnson, Bailie Bautch-Breitung.

New records:	(Based on Intermountain Biota and Utah Flora 5th ed.)
<i>Lewisia maguirei</i>	Not reported from Utah
<i>Linum puberulum</i>	Not reported from Millard Co
<i>Sisymbrium loeselii</i>	Not reported from Millard Co
<i>Alyssum desertorum</i>	Reported from Millard Co, but not DER
<i>Centaurea virgata</i>	Reported from Millard Co, but not DER
<i>Chylismia scapoidea</i>	Reported from Millard Co, but not DER
<i>Descurainia incisa</i>	Reported from Millard Co, but not DER
<i>Erythranthe rubella</i>	Reported from Millard Co, but not DER
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	Reported from Millard Co, but not DER
<i>Nama demissa</i>	Reported from Millard Co, but not DER
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	Reported from Millard Co, but not DER
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Reported from Millard Co, but not DER

This was a great opportunity to benefit from each others' expertise, and we organized each day's excursions so that there was at least one person more familiar with the flora in each group.

There were a few trips outside the boundary of the DER, including an *Eriogonum*-focused trip and a trip to see the tiny mustard *Terraria haydenii*, which grows in rocky alkaline substrates of the Wah Wah mountains and was only discovered in 2012. After morning and afternoon botanizing trips, we spent each evening pressing and identifying our collections, with much collaboration and some debate. There was also plenty of time to indulge in the occasional non-botanical activity, such as checking out the local petroglyphs, relaxing by the campfire, and

scorpion hunting with a blacklight.

The Foray was a wonderful chance to come together with others who are equally enthusiastic about plants and to explore this unique ecosystem. We hope you will consider joining us in 2024! Details for 2024 will be posted at usu.edu/herbarium once determined; or email julia.hobbie@usu.edu with any questions.

Photos from Lan Wei (group photos, *Cymopterus*, *Trifolium*, *Rhinotropis*, *Myriopteris*, *Lewisia*, *Eriogonum*), Julia Hobbie (*Sphaeralcea* 1, *Micropuntia*, *Terraria*, petroglyphs), Carl Rothfels (*Sphaeralcea* 2-4), Matt Berger (*Eriocoma*), and Will Pearce (*Linum*).



Bonus quiz question: How many *Sphaeralcea* taxa are represented in the three observations above from the DER? (We don't know the answer...)

Ty Harrison Service Award 2023

by Bill King

On September 14, 2023 the UNPS Board of Directors voted to give the Ty Harrison Service award at the annual meeting to Larry and Therese Meyer for their outstanding record of almost twenty years of promoting the goals of UNPS. Ty was a Westminster University professor and UNPS board member who spent almost every waking moment promoting the use of native plants in our landscapes.



Therese Meyer was a conservation horticulturist at Red Butte Gardens and later a wildlife biologist for the Utah Division of Natural Resources at the Great Basin Research Center in Ephraim, Utah and later in Salt Lake City. With Alyce Hreha, she completed a 5 year monitoring study of the rare Siler pincushion cactus, *Pediocactus sileri* (for more on this rare plant see *Sego Lily* 2008, Vol. 31 #3 and *Sego Lily* 1999 Vol. 22 #5), and published the results in 2001. In 1995 Therese joined the UNPS

board and headed up the conservation committee and was the perennial secretary for the board. She also organized rare plant meetings and led field trips to the Little Sahara sand dunes.

Larry, who holds a PhD in genetics from the University of California and an MD degree from the University of Miami, is a retired professor of internal medicine and dermatology at the University of Utah and the VA Hospitals in Salt Lake City. He was a director and researcher of genomic medicine for all the VA hospitals. In January, 2017 he became the chief officer of specialty care services for the Veterans Health Administration in Washington DC. Larry joined the UNPS board of directors in 1999, a few years after Therese, and became president in 2001 and later chairman of the board. He also served as editor of the *Sego Lily* newsletter for a number of years. To this day, Larry lists UNPS on his resume under projects.

When it became apparent that UNPS had failed to file its annual reports with the state of Utah for several years and had become inactive in 1998, Larry and Therese came to the rescue and filed new incorporation articles and reincorporated UNPS.

The amazing thing is that while Larry and Therese led their professional careers and raised their great family, they always had time to help out with UNPS goals and projects. For years they even hosted the UNPS board meetings at their house and provided the most wonderful food from their slow cookers.

While Larry and Therese left the board in 2017 when Larry took on the new position with the VA in Washington DC., they have remained lifetime members and supporters of UNPS and continue to attend chapter meetings on Zoom. Meanwhile they have moved to the bay area and built their dream retirement home at the Circles in Santa Cruz, CA.

Larry's father had been a California forester. However, they have retained their cabin at Brighton and will likely return each summer for the big bloom. Look for them on the trails of Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Many thanks to Therese and Larry for their years of service to the Utah Native Plant Society.

New UNPS Treasurer, Franci DeLong

UNPS is pleased to welcome Franci DeLong as the new volunteer state treasurer for the organization. She is a lifetime member of UNPS and has been a member since 1995. Many of you may already know her from Salt Lake Chapter meetings and our Rare Plant Meetings.

A transplant from the east coast, Franci immediately fell in love with Utah's mountains and deserts, especially the wonderful native plants. She decided never to leave and now feels like a native herself. Franci has worked in the computer industry and subsequently owned one of the first landscape companies in Salt Lake City that specialized in low water, sustainable landscapes, Xeriscape Design, LC. She is now retired but still helps friends with their landscapes - for wine or chocolate! She has a master's degree in mathematics and has kept the books for her business.



Franci has wasted no time becoming familiar with the accounts of UNPS, has them well organized and has filed some necessary reports with the state of Utah. She will also stay in contact with the treasurers of the chapters across the state.

Much appreciation for Franci for her willingness to take on this important position on the UNPS board of directors.

Volunteering for UNPS

by Diane Ackerman

Each year UNPS starts a new year with new board members.

All board members are volunteers, and we are hoping to expand on this wonderful pool of talent. The board consists of members from throughout the state and they meet the second Thursday of most months via Zoom. Bill King, board chairperson, explained at our last meeting, "Volunteers do not have to be a board member to attend or assist on the board. Your membership," he further explains, "affords you the opportunity to get involved and contribute. One caveat is that as a non-board member, you would not be able to vote."

There are currently ten committees: Conservation, Education & Outreach, Horticulture, Invasive species, Newsletter, Rare Plants, Small Grants, Publicity/Communications/Website, Membership and Annual Summary of Activities.

One immediate need is someone to maintain the UNPS Facebook page. In addition, our book group needs a coordinator for the monthly Zoom meeting where we discuss books we read as a group. We are looking for a coordinator for this small group to help facilitate each month's discussion.

To learn more about what is needed, you can contact UNPS President, Cathy King, cathy.king@gmail.com.

UNPS is on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube

Thanks to Steve Hegji, the UNPS has successfully established a presence on Instagram, a popular social media platform. Steve has provided wonderful content that is both informative and visually appealing, including his own high quality photography of our flora while educating the public on each highlighted species. Posts relate to themes relevant to UNPS, from a series on our spiny plants to orchids of Utah. Reminders of upcoming meetings and events are also included. If you have access to Instagram, be sure to follow the UNPS account listed under the handle name @utahnativeplantsociety!

UNPS needs a volunteer to maintain our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=utah%20native%20plant%20society>. The UNPS YouTube channel has 55 recorded presentations: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx07-R3WWYQCGZYpgb3Khdw>

Steve Hegji's Camera

by Steve Hegji

Albion Basin at the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon has become a very popular destination for wildflower seekers in July through August. Since the majority of visitors hike up to Secret Lake, a real treat with a bit more solitude is the hike to Catherine Pass and up the ridgeline to Sunset Peak. You'll pass through at least half a dozen habitats, with the reward of a stunning view from the top of Sunset Peak. Along the way it's not at all difficult to see 50+ species of wildflowers. This baker's dozen of photos will provide you a sampling of what you might see.



Anticlea elegans is aptly named as "elegant." But beware - all parts of this plant are poisonous!



Packera wernerifolia is a charming, low growing, high elevation plant. There is a species of *Packera* just about everywhere in the US and Canada.



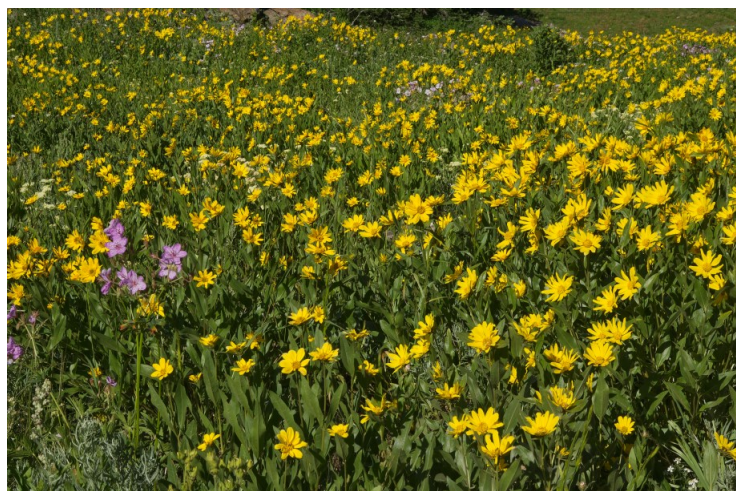
This combination is a friendly grouping of *Monardella*, *Orthocarpus*, and *Ivesia*.



Epilobium canum ssp. *garrettii* - A group of these plants just off the trail creates a hummingbird battleground!

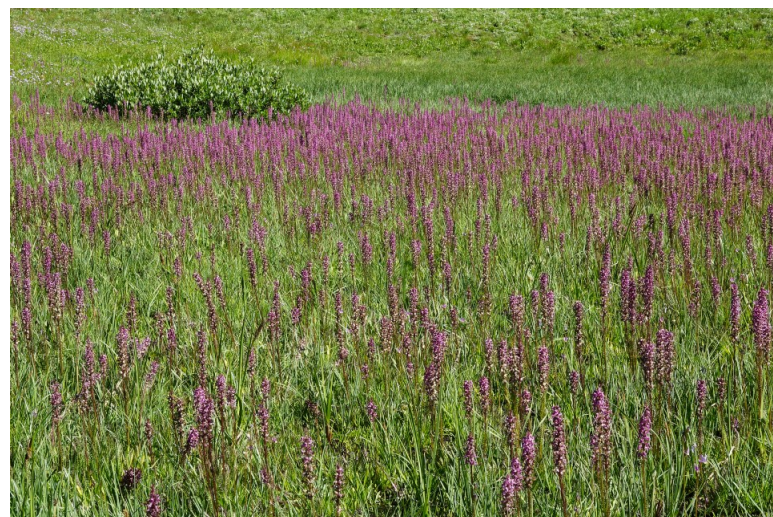


Erigeron leiomerus - how much more perfect a daisy do you want? *Ipomopsis tenuituba* is now its own species instead of a variety of *I. aggregata*. *Cirsium eatonii* is a beautiful, well-armed, high elevation thistle.



Eucephalus engelmannii is a tall plant commonly leaning over the trail.

Helianthella uniflora is one of our more common plants and is often found in large colonies.



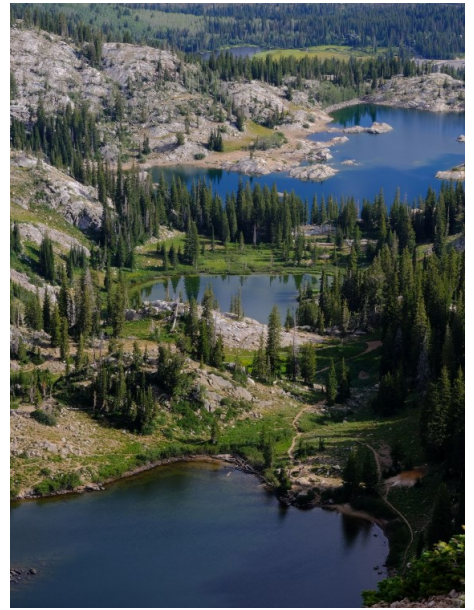
A sea of *Pedicularis groenlandica* in the wet meadow halfway up the trail



Ericameria discoidea is a shrub with a wonderful combination of copious yellow flowers with hairy white stems and dark green leaves.



Linum kingii is one of the special treats of the hike to Catherine Pass.



North View from Sunset Peak - view from Sunset peak down into Brighton.

Utah Valley University/Vineyard City Collaboration

Amber Rasmussen, UNPS board of directors member and city council member for Vineyard City in Utah County reports about the unveiling of the collaboration between Utah Valley University Professor Ashley Egan and Vineyard City which occurred on October 10, 2023.

“We are labeling native plants along a portion of our [Utah] lakeshore trail after Dr. Egan and her students

worked over the summer to identify natives and create QR code information for them... We will bring attention to native plants, pollinators, and the need for more students and people to explore the world of botany and related sciences.”

For more details, see link to *Daily Herald* article below.

<https://www.heraldextra.com/news/community/2023/oct/28/uvu-students-vineyard-city-collaborate-to-create-plant-walk-along-utah-lake-trail/>



Dr. Ashley Egan and others. Photo by Jay Drowns.



Walking trail signage. Photo by Amber Rasmussen.

UNPS Annual Meeting Report

by Cathy King, President UNPS

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Utah Native Plant Society was held via Zoom on Saturday, October 21, 2023. One of the main purposes of this meeting is to elect a new board of directors for the coming year of 2023-2024, which was accomplished, see the list of board members below.

After a short business meeting, including a report from the treasurer, a review of accomplishments from the past year and the aforementioned election, Bill King made a presentation of the Ty Harrison Service Award to Therese and Larry Meyer for their many years of service to UNPS (see article on page 8).

The speaker of the meeting was Marc Coles-Ritchie and



Annual meeting speaker Marc Coles-Ritchie.

was introduced by Cathy King. In addition to his serving as chair of the UNPS board for the past couple of years, we also are pleased to congratulate him in his new position as ecologist/science coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). His presentation, "Plants of Grand Staircase-Escalante," took us on a virtual tour of the GSENM highlighting the native plants with his wonderful photos and insightful commentary.

Utah Native Plant Society Board of Directors 2023-2024:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Diane Ackerman | Bill King |
| Ron Bolander | Cathy King |
| Franci DeLong | Kipp Lee |
| Robert Fitts | Amber Rasmussen |
| Susan Fitts | Tony Stireman |
| Jacqueline Grant | David Wallace |
| Kati Gyulassy | Andrey Zharkikh |
| Jared Higgs | |

New Officers

elected at board of directors meeting 11/9/2023:

- UNPS President- Cathy King
- Vice President- Jackie Grant
- Secretary- Diane Ackerman
- Treasurer- Franci DeLong
- Chair- Bill King

UNPS Annual Report 2023: Accomplishments and Activities

Prepared by Bill and Cathy King

• UNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the appreciation, preservation, conservation and responsible use of the native plant and plant communities found in the state of Utah and the Intermountain West.

- Board of Directors comprised of 17 volunteer members.
- Membership of almost 400 that includes over 80 lifetime members.

Meetings:

- Utah Rare Plant Meeting March 7, 2023 with fifteen presentations. Dr. Mary Barkworth from

Utah State University received the UNPS Lifetime Achievement Award.

- Utah Rare Plant Meeting next year is Tuesday, March 5th, 2024, save the date!
- The Salt Lake virtual chapter meetings (so actually statewide meetings) are available on the UNPS YouTube channel.
- Canyonlands Chapter had several field trips, including a hike to the Pack Creek Fire area.
- Fremont Chapter has been active with meetings.
- Utah Valley Chapter held meetings and field trips, including one to see *Viola beckwithii*.
- Newly activated Summit County/Park City chapter has had several well attended meetings.
- The newly activated San Rafael/Price chapter had several field trips including one led by the BLM to

see *Pediocactus despainii* and *Cycladenia jonesii*.

Small Grants Committee Awarded:

Three research grants of \$2,000 each were awarded this year:

- Project Eleven Hundred/ Mary O'Brien, researching the dependence on pollinators and exposure to mountain goats in the La Sal Mountains *Senecio fremontii* var. *inexpectatus*. Thomas Meinzen, a graduate student at Montana State University, is the primary field researcher.
- Shannon Lencioni, a graduate student at Northern Arizona University, using phytochemical diversity to assess browsing impacts on Arizona Willow (*Salix arizonica*) which grows in Utah, New Mexico and Arizona and is a Forest Service Sensitive species. UNPS has had a long interest in *Salix arizonica*. The late Duane Atwood wrote an article in our Segó Lily newsletter in 1995 entitled "Where have all the Arizona Willows gone."
- Ava Brinkley, a graduate student at Northern Arizona State University, using field work morphometrics and DNA extraction, will take a closer look at the *Astragalus newberry* complex, especially *A. loanus* and *A. welshii*.

Applications for grants must be submitted by April 15, 2024. If you would like to see more research grants next year, please donate on our website at unps.org.

Fundraising:

- A record number of donations this year led by a challenge grant from a generous UNPS member that raised substantial funds for the research grant fund.
- UNPS poster sales are an important source of revenue for UNPS.

Poster reprint:

- Led by Bill Stockdale and assisted by the original artist David Gardner, over 3,000 copies of the Wildflower Poster were reprinted this year. David Gardner made adjustments to the colors in the printing process to produce an even more vivid and beautiful poster.

Horticulture/Gardening with native plants:

- Answered many native plant questions.
- Wrote a letter to support the decorative use of

native plants in an HOA in support of the new state law.

- Staffed tables at the Red Butte Garden plant sale, REI, and Logan.

Invasive Weed Control:

- David Wallace led the Fifth Annual Weed Pull in Logan Canyon in cooperation with the Logan Ranger District, Bridgerland Audubon Society and Logan City.
- Utah Valley Chapter participated in the Purge the Spurge weed pull in Slate Canyon in Provo.

Advocating for native plant protection/conservation:

- Made comment to the Bureau of Land Management on the proposed Conservation and Landscape Health Rule.
- Signed onto the Center for Biological Diversity letter to protect the critically endangered *Eriogonum tiehmii* from a lithium mine permit.
- After a group effort by UNPS, BLM canceled its plans to destroy the old growth juniper forest at Indian Springs in the Henry Mountains.

Social Media:

- UNPS book group discussed titles of interest to native plants and ecology.
- UNPS Facebook page has 2,400 followers.
- 55 videos on UNPS YouTube Channel, 149 subscribers, 5,470 views.
- UNPS Instagram managed by Steve Hegji has 385 followers

Newsletter, the Segó Lily:

- In publication since 1978.
- Published online four times a year.
- Articles welcome. Without volunteer authors among the UNPS community, there could be no newsletter.

This is a broad overview and by no means a comprehensive list of all our activities and achievements in the past year. Any questions you might have, feel free to contact Cathy King or Marc Coles-Ritchie:
cathy.king@gmail.com
colesritchie@gmail.com

Second Bloom?

by Bill King

Marc Coles-Richie, in his great talk on the plants of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, (GSENM), at the UNPS Annual Meeting, made mention a number of times in his talk of a second bloom this year. UNPS has received many reports over the years of a secondary or fall bloom in the mountains and deserts of southern and central Utah. We have had multiple reports from the Boulder area. Usually these have been reported in late August through October. While multiple species have been reported, the secondary bloom is never as widespread or as strong and not all of the mature plants of a particular species bloom.

We think the plants of the second bloom are responding to fall conditions that sometimes simulate spring– that is similar temperature, precipitation and day length. This year, thanks to a strong monsoon, hurricane Hilary and tropical storm Harold, a good deal of GSENM received over 2 inches of precipitation from August 10 to September 2 followed by a warm period. Kodachrome Basin/ Tropic received 2.8 inches in that time period.

If you have seen what you think is an out-of-the-ordinary secondary or fall bloom in Utah any year, please contact us as we would like to write an expanded *Sego Lily* article about them. If you have photos, that would be super.

Thanks, Bill King, mzzzyt@aol.com, 801-582-0432

Utah Wildflower Poster Reprinted

Earlier this year, Bill Stockdale spearheaded the effort to reprint over 3,000 copies of the wildflower posters that are sold by the Utah Native Plant Society to help fund our organization’s activities and efforts and also intended to increase public awareness and appreciation for Utah’s unique natural flora. UNPS first published the very popular Utah Wildflowers poster in 1988 and it has been selling steadily ever since.

Working with David Gardner, the artist of the original artwork for the poster and other members from the board of directors, the poster was printed by Paragon Press. David’s input was invaluable in proofing the colors of the poster, contributing to an outstanding final product with accurate color reproduction.

This beautiful wildflower poster is a full color representation of botanically accurate watercolor illustrations of 28 Utah native species by (UNPS member and former board member) David Gardner with calligraphy by Pamela Johnson. It measures approximately 23” x 34” and is perfect for framing to be used in a wide variety of settings.

The Utah Wildflower poster can be ordered from our website at <https://www.unps.org/index.html> under “Posters” on the menu. Or check out the list of retail stores that also have the poster for sale. If a store is close to you, it can save you the cost of shipping.

You may have an old version of this poster hanging on your wall and this newly printed version will surprise you with its vibrancy. Maybe you deserve a gift to yourself today!

The Utah Native Plant Society Wildflower Poster pictured here is a perennial favorite and we ship it from our website at <https://www.unps.org/index.html>. However, the

cost of packing and shipping the poster has gotten expensive and you can save a lot of money on shipping if you live close to one of the retail store locations where the posters are sold locally. These retail store locations do not ship, if you want a poster shipped to you, order from <https://www.unps.org/index.html>.

The Wildflower Poster makes a great gift for your friends and family and of course, for yourself!

Here is where you can buy the UNPS Wildflower Poster in retail store locations:

Salt Lake City:
Natural History Museum of Utah
The Museum Store
301 Wakara Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
801.581.6927

Red Butte Garden Gift Shop
300 Wakara Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
801.585.0556

REI
3285 East 3300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84109
801.486.2100

Ogden:
Rainbow Gardens Gift Shop
1851 Valley Drive
Ogden, UT 84401
801.621.1606

Springdale:
Zion National Park Visitor Center
Springdale, UT
435.772.3256



Grow Native

Cercocarpus ledifolius, the curl-leaf mountain mahogany

by Cathy King



Cercocarpus ledifolius in the garden of Bill and Cathy King.

Every garden, including a native garden, needs trees and shrubs to give structure and definition. *Cercocarpus ledifolius*, commonly known as curl-leaf mountain mahogany, fits the description of either tree or shrub growing from typically 3 to 15 feet tall, like a shrub, but can get as tall as 35 feet, like a tree. And it is a handsome addition to your native garden that really represents the flora of the West.

The common name “mahogany” is misleading because it is actually a member of the rose family, the common name comes from its very hard, mahogany colored wood. And yes, it does grow in the mountains of Utah. You have likely seen it along the ridgelines where it is often browsed by deer and gives it the distinctive appearance of a tree from the savannas of Africa.

The narrow dark green, leathery leaves are evergreen



Cercocarpus ledifolius at right grows naturally in the Wasatch Canyons. It is widespread in the American West from Washington to California, west to Wyoming, Arizona, and New Mexico. Photo by Tony Frates.

and curl inwards a little, particularly in the heat and dryness of the summer months but not in an unattractive way. The dark green contrasts nicely with the silvery color of the bark of the tree. If you might happen to accidentally scrape the bark, the mahogany color of the wood below is revealed.



Tiny leaves of *Cercocarpus ledifolius*. Photo by Andrey Zharkikh.

At its younger stage, curl-leaf mountain mahogany will typically have numerous trunks which gives its shrubby appearance. If you want to develop more of a tree, select the strongest trunks and remove the rest, limbing the branches up to allow it to develop into the shape of a tree.

The flowers that appear in the spring are rather insignificant with small white petals and prominent yellow stamens but the seeds are especially attractive,



The curious twisting, feathered tail of a *Cercocarpus ledifolius* seed. Photo by Craig Odegard.

covering the tree in curly seedheads that have a clever corkscrew shape that are designed to drill themselves into the ground wherever they might land after being carried off by the wind. Mountain mahogany doesn't cause a problem with self-sowing, though, as any unwanted seedlings are easily removed.

It has the distinct advantage of being a drought tolerant, or xeric, shrub/tree. Of course, it must be watered well the first year or two to get it established as is true of all plants.

I highly recommend curl-leaf mountain mahogany. It is a personal favorite and many people ask about it as they walk by my garden. It should be available at most local nurseries or from online sources.

References:

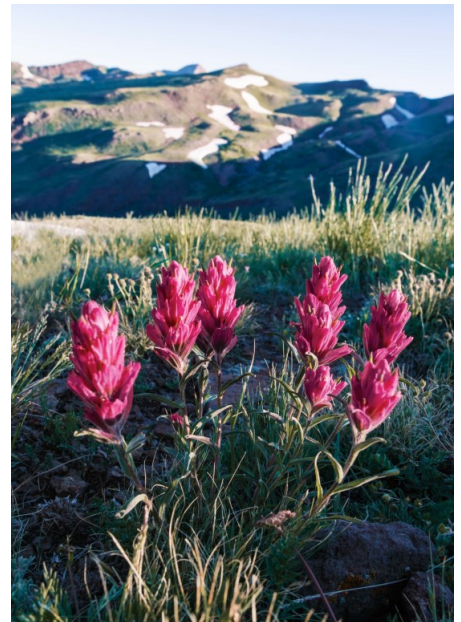
Meyer "et al.", 2009 *Landscaping on the New Frontier: Waterwise Design for the Intermountain West*, available online at unps.org.

https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/cercocarpus_ledifolius.shtml

<https://extension.usu.edu/rangeplants/shrubs-and-trees/curl-leaf-mountain-mahogany>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/database/feis/plants/tree/cerled/all.html#INTRODUCTORY>

Zach Coury Photos



Townsendia condensata The only (known) location in Utah of this very unique *Townsendia*, found in gravelly soils at high elevations in the Tushar mountains. Beaver County 20 July 2023. *Orthocarpus holmgreniorum*, Cache County 15 September 2023. *Castilleja parvula*, Beaver County 20 July 2023.

Your Membership

Your membership is vital to the Utah Native Plant Society. It is important that your information is correct and up to date for notifications and the delivery of The Segó Lily newsletter.

Any questions about your membership, Contact Tony Stireman, tstireman@gmail.com.

Leaves have fallen... It is time to consider another issue of the Utah Native Plant Society *Segó Lily* which relies mostly upon articles from the society's membership. Please submit articles of your native plant stories and photos from hikes and field trips, conservation activities... whatever might be informative and interesting to fellow members.

The *Segó Lily* editors can use most any text format for articles (**PDFs can be troublesome**). Photos are always best submitted in original resolution and as individual files separate from text. You can indicate desired positioning within a document. We are looking forward to hearing from you. For submissions and/or questions: newsletter@unps.org or cathy.king@gmail.com.



Utah Native Plant Society

Utah Native Plant Society
PO Box 520041
Salt Lake City, UT, 84152-0041.

To contact an officer or committee chair write to:

Webmaster: unps@unps.org

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Webmaster inquiries at unps@unps.org

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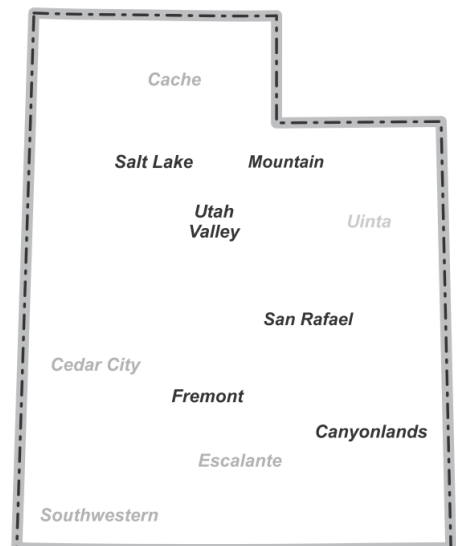
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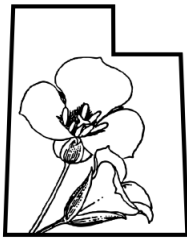
Submit articles to Cathy King:
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UNPS Chapter Map *Inactive





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