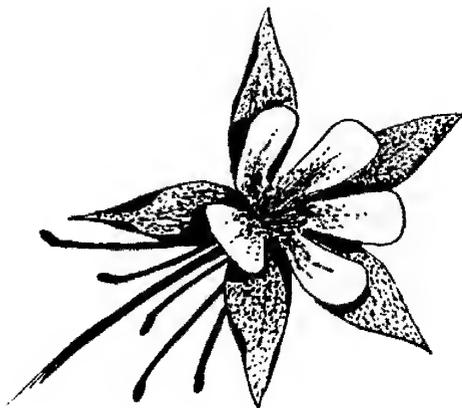


Aquilegia

Newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society



"... dedicated to the appreciation and conservation of the Colorado native flora"

Volume 12, Number 2

March/April 1988

A Special Spring Meeting!

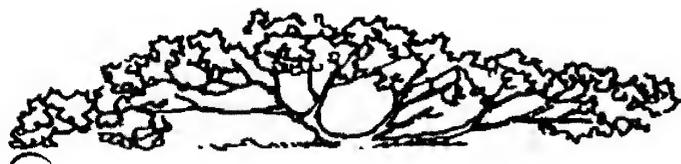
Mark your Calendars . . . May 14, 1988

WHY?? The Fort Collins Chapter has invited the Society to a special Spring Meeting!

To be held in Fort Collins on May 14th, the program will focus on Colorado's forests. The organizing committee, headed by Brian Geils and Derek Marchi, is assembling an exciting, all-day program that will include a look at what Colorado's forests were like in the past, their composition and extent today, and some speculation about what our forests may be like in the future.

Three options are planned for the morning session: a "Tree Tour" to see a variety of native trees in spring foliage; an indoor invited paper session related to the meeting theme, or a previously-announced workshop on Plant Communities of Colorado led by Sue Galatowitsch of the Colorado Natural Areas Program (see workshop descriptions).

Following a noon luncheon, the afternoon session will feature additional special presentations on the meeting theme. The committee has invited speakers who are very knowledgeable about Colorado's forests, assuring us of an interesting, lively and educational Spring Meeting. Watch for a special brochure about the meeting, which will be mailed about mid-April, and reserve May 14th for this special day in Fort Collins.



Calendar Overview

Additional information about calendar items will be found throughout this issue.

April 2 Identification of Cryptantha

Dr. Walter A. Kelley

April 6 Endangered Spp. Act hearing

April 23 Wildflower Photography

Leaders: Bill Jennings and Loraine Yeatts

May 14 CONPS Spring Meeting

Theme: Colorado's Forests

May 14 Colorado Natural Communities

Leader: Sue Galatowitsch

May 21-22 Prairie Field Trip

Leader: Rick Brune

May 28-30 Uncompahgre Plateau Trip

Leader: Elizabeth Neese

June 18-19 Roan Cliffs Field Trip

Leader: John Anderson

June 25 Pikes Peak Mistletoe Trip

Leader: Frank Hawksworth

July 16/17 Florissant Field Trip

Leaders: Mary Edwards, Bill Jennings

July 23-24 Hoosier Ridge Field Trip

Leader: Tamara Naumann

Workshops

Enrollment in workshops is always limited, so you must register in advance. Contact CONPS workshop coordinator for registration and workshop information: Bill Jennings, 360 Martin Dr., Boulder, 80303, 494-5159. Include your mailing address and phone number in your mail in your registration. Workshop fees: \$8 members, \$16 non-members. See Jan/Feb 1988 issue for additional workshop information.

Identification of *Cryptantha* April 2

Leader: Dr. Walter A. Kelley

Plants in the genus *Cryptantha*, usually called "miner's candle", are hard to identify, often requiring careful study of the nutlets. Dr. Kelley has investigated this group extensively and will show just what to look for when trying to key these plants. His series of slides and line drawings will aid in understanding nutlet terminology. Emphasis will be on the perennial species, particularly those of the western slope. Colorado State University, Plant Science Bldg. E112, Ft. Collins.

Wildflower Photography April 23

Leaders: Bill Jennings and Loraine Yeatts

This workshop offers a morning of instruction followed by an afternoon in the field photographing wildflowers using techniques from the workshop. Topics include differences in films and cameras, how and when to use flash, the interaction of depth of field and lens f-stop and how to deal with a tripod. At the Foothills Nature Center, 4201 N. Broadway, Boulder.

Colo. Natural Communities May 14

Leader: Sue Galatowitsch

Colorado's familiar life zones each contain a number of plant communities. Sue will explain what is meant by a natural community, how to recognize one, their importance to the diversity of the natural flora, and show examples of numerous northern Colorado communities. To be held primarily in the field, in conjunction with the Spring Meeting.



Endangered Species Act Hearing

Hearings on the Endangered Species Act and pesticide use will be held April 6 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 56. For information contact Ed Stearns, EPA Region VIII, at 293-1745.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Society's Board of Directors met on January 16, 1988 at the home of Gayle Weinstein in Denver. Business items included discussion of the spring statewide meeting in Fort Collins and future inclusion of advertising in *Aquilegia*. After remaining details are worked out, appropriate advertising will appear in future issues of this newsletter.

Jeff Dawson is the new chairman of the Field Trip Committee. Information on field trips for this year appears in this issue. In addition to other committee and chapter reports, the Board was informed of progress and problems in the preparation of the Colorado rare plant publication. Two members of the Board expressed interest in reviving the Colorado Springs chapter which has been inactive recently.

Winter Field Seminars at Roxborough State Park

Roxborough State Park and the Rocky Mountain Nature Association are presenting a series of seminars at the park this winter. Two of interest to members are described below. Both seminars are limited to 20 participants, take place at Roxborough Park, and will meet from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A \$40 registration fee includes materials, coffee and snack and a state park day pass. Bring your lunch and dress for current outdoor conditions.

Footsteps of the Ancients March 26

The foothills of the Front Range were inhabited thousands of years ago. Where did these prehistoric people come from? Why did they choose to live here? How did they make projectile points, hunt and prepare food? Marcia and Bill Tate, both directors of the Colorado Archaeological Society, will take you on a fascinating journey back in time to look at the lifeways of the ancients. Registration deadline is March 22.

Plant Taxonomy — Using Keys April 9

Do you find yourself searching through your plant guide each spring wishing you could identify the wildflowers you are seeing? If so, this seminar is for you. Vickey Trammell, biology and Rocky Mtn. ecology instructor for Arapahoe Community College, will share with you the basics of wildflower identification. You will learn to better understand flower structure and plant family characteristics and use these skills in identifying early spring wildflowers through use of a plant key. Registration deadline is April 5.

Cancellations are accepted with full refund up to the registration deadline. For additional information, call Roxborough State Park at 973-3959.

CONPS Field Trip Policies

The Society wishes to remind field trip participants of the guidelines for participation in Society trips. By joining a CONPS field trip you indicate acceptance of these policies.

1. Plant collecting is forbidden on CONPS field trips, with two exceptions:

(1) Collecting is permissible for scientific study (with the appropriate collecting permit, if one is required for the area in question). "Scientific study" means, for the purposes of this policy, study by a trained botanical scientist with an expectation that the study results will lead to published information; collected specimens will be deposited in a recognized, publicly-accessible herbarium.

(2) A trip leader or other person whose responsibility is to instruct trip participants may collect plants for immediate demonstration, explanation, or keying for full identification. Such collecting should be done inconspicuously (so that persons not with the trip group are not offended or motivated to do likewise) and with reasoned regard for any possible effect on the plant population. However, collecting of rare, threatened, endangered or sensitive species should never be done for instructional purposes.

2. Rides and Cost-Sharing Policy: Car-pooling and ride-sharing are encouraged on CONPS trips. All drivers who provide rides to others will graciously accept payment from passengers according to the following scale:

1 passenger (in addition to driver) 5 cents per mile
 2 passengers 4 cents per mile
 3 passengers 3 cents per mile
 4 passengers 2 cents per mile

Passengers should pay the driver at the conclusion of the trip, without being asked.

3. No pets are permitted on CONPS field trips. Pets trample plants, disturb wildlife, and annoy other trip participants. If pets must be brought along (although this is strongly discouraged), they must remain in or restrained to the owner's vehicle (i.e. walking about on a leash is **NOT** acceptable).

4. Field trips are designed primarily for adults, unless the trip description specifically states otherwise. Parents should consider the appropriateness of a given trip to a child. If a child is brought, the parent assumes full responsibility for keeping the child under strict control to prevent his/her damaging or disturbing the flora or fauna, or becoming a burden to the group. No child unaccompanied by a parent is permitted.

5. CONPS's expressed purpose is to promote appreciation and preservation of our flora. Use it lightly. Take care not to damage the very features you have come to see and enjoy. Take photographs, sketches, or other means of recording the plants you see, and do not pick plants or plant parts.



Dinosaur Finds

Betsy Neely

1987 turned out to be a great year for interesting plant finds in Dinosaur National Monument. I worked with Steve O'Kane and the Colorado Natural Areas Program on an inventory of the flora and species of concern of Dinosaur NM for the National Park Service. After a slow start with heavy spring rains (they're not kidding when they say the roads are impassable when wet!), we covered about one-third of the Colorado portion of the monument.

Of the 336 taxa collected in the early summer survey, 16 are considered to be of special concern to Colorado, and five of these represent new records for the monument. These include *Trifolium andinum*, *Oenothera acutissima*, *Cirsium ownbeyi*, *Astragalus hamiltonii*, and *Oxytropis besseyi*. Two species, *Astragalus hamiltonii* and *Enceliopsis nudicaulis*, are new records for the state. *Asplenium septentrionale* was collected on the west slope for the first time since it was found in 1937 in Box Canyon near Ouray. Dinosaur NM is rich in Uinta Basin endemics, with many other rare species occurring on the periphery of their ranges.

The massive Pennsylvanian Weber Sandstone formation, covering extensive areas of the Colorado side of the monument, supports the greatest total number of species and is richer in sensitive plant species than any of the other rock formations. Hanging gardens in alcoves near the Yampa and Green Rivers support rarities such as *Cirsium ownbeyi* and *Zigadenus vaginatus*, along with *Pellaea glabella* and *Aquilegia micrantha*. Canyon rims above the cliffs of the Yampa River support populations of the low-growing legume *Trifolium andinum* which forms large carpets. Several of these populations occur on the rims above cliffs with peregrine falcon aeries. We were lucky to observe Fish & Wildlife Service climbers drop down 500 ft. to nests to replace fake eggs with live laboratory hatched chicks. A highly unusual *Arabis vivariensis*, forming large mats up to 1/2 meter wide, occurs in the shade of pinyon-juniper near the campground at Echo Park.

Try a botanizing trip in May or June to Dinosaur NM. Echo Park campground, near the Green and Colorado Rivers, is an oasis in the summertime.

Colorado Fern Notes

Peter Root

An addition to the state's flora was made in July 1986 when Jim Montgomery and Peter Root found *Botrychium pinnatum* growing along US Route 550 near the southern boundary of San Juan County. This species occurs mostly from Alaska to the northwestern states but has also been found in northern Nevada. It should be looked for along roads and trails in the western mountains at elevations around 10,000 feet.

A plant survey in Rocky Mountain National Park conducted by Loraine Yeatts and others from the Denver Botanic Gardens' Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium produced more information about Colorado moonworts. *Botrychium echo*, *B. lunaria*, and *B. minganense* were found in the park for the first time. This is not surprising since all three species have been found near Cameron Pass which is just north of the park. *Botrychium hesperium* was also found during the survey. This species had been found in the past and confused with *B. boreale*, a Eurasian species. It is interesting to note that most collections of moonworts from the Colorado mountains have been made in disturbed areas along roads and trails. They should be looked for also where avalanches or other natural processes have disturbed the soil.

Although moonworts in Colorado have previously been found only in the subalpine zone, there is a possibility that one may be found at lower elevations. The prairie moonwort or dunewort (*Botrychium campestre*) has been found in sand dune or loess prairie habitats from Michigan to Alberta and Missouri. This species is even more difficult to find than other moonworts because it grows as a spring ephemeral among tall grasses.

The survey in Rocky Mtn. National Park also found additional populations of *Dryopteris expansa*, the spreading woodfern. This large and conspicuous fern had previously been known from Dream Lake and two other locations. It has now been found in other locations, the most striking of which is the south side of Loch Vale from just below the Loch to Glacier Falls. The plants are scattered in spruce woods and also common on a more open bank along the steep gorge below the Loch. How have botanists visiting the park missed seeing these plants? Perhaps this species is a new arrival in the park which is spreading into suitable habitats. It is widely distributed in the northern hemisphere, but the nearest known populations to those in Colorado are in the Yellowstone Park area. Suitable habitats for it at the upper Poudre Canyon and other areas north of the park should be examined.

Spring Field Trips

Prairie Field Trip

May 21-22

Come for one or two days and visit some of Colorado's northeastern prairies in all of their spring beauty. We will meet Saturday morning at 8 a.m. at the Briggsdale campground.

Areas to visit include a very nice Sandhills Prairie; a Little Bluestem Prairie proposed as a Research Natural Area and a nearby Scarp Woodland with a remnant population of *Pinus flexilis* and *Pinus ponderosa*; ephemeral, intermittent and perennial wetlands; a fossil stream channel; the popular Pawnee Buttes area; etc.

We should see well over 100 species of wildflowers plus numerous prairie grasses, a few prairie ferns, and possibly rare plants such as *Cryptantha cana*, *Parthenium alpinum*, etc. The trip is limited to 20 and reservations are required. For further information and to register, contact Rick Brune at 238-5078.

Rare Plants/Uncompahgre May 28-30

Leader: Elizabeth Neese

The focus of this trip will be the relationship of endemism and geology in the lower elevation badlands. We expect to see a number of rare and sensitive western Colorado species. We will meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday May 28 at the Visitor Center in Colorado National Monument. We will first look for *Cryptantha osterhoutii* and other species near the Visitor Center and then drop down out of the Monument, stopping at the Devil's Kitchen area to see *Lomatium latilobum*. We will then head toward Delta, and spend most of the day on the lower elevation badlands, especially Mancos Shale. Species to see include *Sclerocactus glaucus*, *Cryptantha elata*, possibly *Lomatium concinnum* and *Penstemon retrorsus*. We will end the day in the Delta area, probably camping at Sweitzer Lake, with hotels available in Delta for non-campers.

On Sunday, we will look at low elevation badlands on the way to Montrose, including a look at *Eriogonum pelinophilum*. We will then head toward the Uncompahgre Plateau, stopping at a Forest Service campground for the night (or at motels in Montrose for those not wishing to camp). On Monday, we will traverse the length of the Uncompahgre Plateau, stopping along the way, until we drop down into Unaweet Canyon near Whitewater, south of Grand Junction, in mid-afternoon.

Passenger cars will be OK. The stops on the trip will involve short walks of up to a quarter mile from the road, off-trail. Bring Weber's *Colorado Flora: Western Slope* and Young and Young's *Colorado West: Land, Geology, and Wildflowers*. Insect repellent may be necessary for protection from gnats. Water will be available at the campsites. Reservations required: 20 person limit. Call Jeff Dawson 722-6758

Summer Field Trips

↪ The Roan Cliffs June 18-19

Leader: John Anderson

This field trip will provide opportunities to see a State Natural Area, a new species and a double waterfall. We will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 18 at the Rifle Gap State Park campground. We hope to arrange to use the group campsite on Friday and Saturday nights; there is a state park camping fee.

At Mt. Callahan west of Parachute, we will see the State Natural Area on Occidental Oil Co. land, which contains a pristine wildflower garden of beardtongues, paintbrushes, locoweeds, composites and the only known occurrence of the new Parachute penstemon. To avoid damaging the natural area, we will park about a mile before and walk in along a level two-track to the site at 8400 ft. Lunch will be spent on the mountain. After returning to camp in the afternoon, there will be time to take the short trail to Rifle Gap Falls to see the double falls and the rich riparian zone.

On Sunday at 9 a.m. we will drive up the JQS Trail to view lush springs in the oil shale, the Anvil Points along with other oil shale outcrops, and look for new populations of the Parachute penstemon. Lunch will be at the BLM Anvil Points picnic spot. We will return to Rifle by midafternoon. Both sites involve driving in about twelve miles on dirt roads that are steep and rough in places. High clearance two-wheel drive vehicles will be needed. The JQS Trail is not passable if wet.

Reservations required: Call Jeff Dawson; 722-6758, evenings.

Pikes Peak Mistletoe/Conifer June 25

Leader: Frank Hawksworth, U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mtn. Station, Fort Collins.

Our tour will go south on the old Gold Camp Road for a short distance, back to the Springs, then up the Rampart Range road, to Woodland Park and return to the Springs (probably by 3 p.m. or so). This trip will enable us to see four species of dwarf mistletoe (those on limber pine, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir) and at least eleven conifers (lodgepole, limber, bristlecone, ponderosa and pinyon pines; blue and Engelmann spruce; white and subalpine firs; Douglas-fir and Rocky Mtn. juniper).

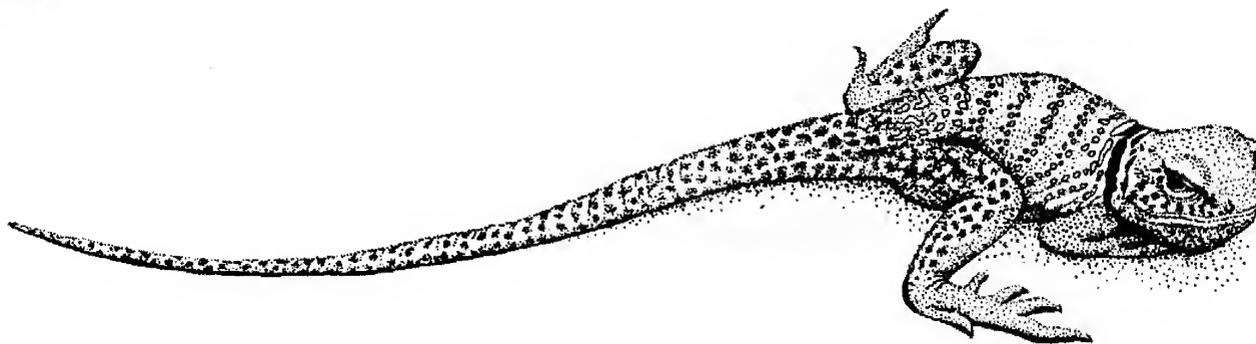
Meet Saturday June 25th at 10 a.m. at the parking lot at the west end of North Cheyenne Canyon where it joins the Gold Camp Road. This is about 5 miles west of the main drag (Rte. 115) in Colorado Springs. Reservations required: Call Jeff Dawson 722-6758.

Plan Ahead for July Trips

July 16 or 17: Florissant/Wildflower photography. Leaders: Mary Edwards and Bill Jennings.

July 23-24: Hoosier Ridge area/search for *Eutrema penlandii*. Leader: Tamara Naumann.

Design: Barbara Bash,



Collared Lizard - Crotaphytus collaris

Dues Reminder

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL! If it indicates "Paid through 1987" your membership has expired and this will be your last *Aquilegia*. Rush your renewal to the Membership Committee, PO Box 200, Fort Collins, CO 80522. We don't want to lose you - and you won't want to miss out on news of the spring and summer activities coming up!

Colorado Slide Shows

The Education Committee is completing production of its second slide show, on *Life in an Aspen Forest*. Additional slides needed are listed below, and Society photographers are urged to keep the show in mind when they are out botanizing, or going through their existing slide collections. The donation of many high quality slides by John and Mary Edwards, and special slides from several others, has helped to complete the collection, but gaps still exist. Slides on Kodachrome 64 are preferred. The committee hopes to complete the program by the end of this year: please review the list and let them know if you can help.

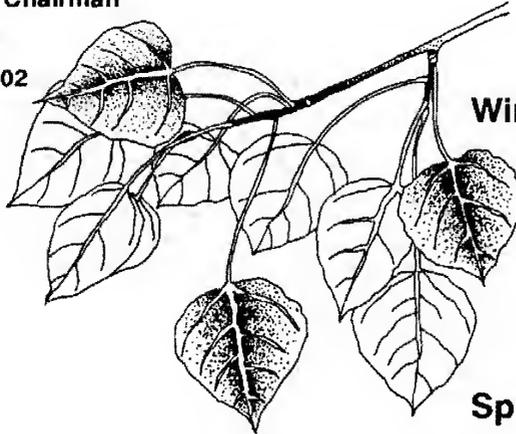
Each slide show contains about 80 slides, a tape cassette and a booklet. The shows are easy to use for informative presentations to a variety of groups. Several copies of the original slide/cassette program, *Colorado Life Zones*, are still available for sale. If you are interested, or if you have new slides to contribute, contact:

Miriam Denham, Chairman

2945 Third Street

Boulder, CO 80302

(303)442-1020



Aspen - Populus tremuloides

Aspen Slides Still Needed!

Winter:

- Frosted aspen branches
- Frosted aspen leaves/litter on ground
- Bird litter on snow
- Animal scat
- Footprints in snow
- Other signs of animal activity (already have elk and bear damage)

Spring:

- Close-up series of bursting female blossoms, ripening fruits and seeds (Have excellent male flowers and leaf unfolding)
- Close-ups of insects or insect evidence, e.g. leaf miner tunnels
- Good close-ups of birds in aspen
- Mammal slides - if not in aspen then in meadow with evergreens behind

Summer:

- Insects, birds, mammals as in spring
- Close-ups of pretty flowers close to aspen trunks
- Close-up of twig with mature leaves
- Aspen groves in summer, distance and closer-up
- Meadows with an aspen grove in the background

Fall:

- Lacking only close-ups of leaves, colored leaves on the ground and/or in water with ice

Unspecified Season:

- A good beaver dam
- Scenes of mature (large) aspen as in southwestern Colorado

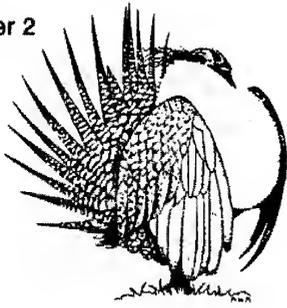
Contact Miriam Denham, 442-1020, if you have slides to donate.

Institute of River Ecology

July 10-15 at Buffalo Creek, Colorado

The Denver Audubon Society and the Colorado Division of Wildlife invite you to experience the Institute of River Ecology, now in its second year. Explore the ecological diversity, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the South Platte, one of Colorado's major rivers. Discover how many fish there really are on a secluded stretch of the river as you accompany fisheries biologists using advanced sampling methods. Find the birds that frequent streamside habitats in the mountains and on the plains. Do you want to know the latest on some of the major grazing, wildlife protection, and water issues affecting our streams and rivers? Join us, and discuss these topics with top experts on all sides of the issues. This is an exciting learning opportunity, one that you will remember for many years to come.

Registration is limited; the fee is \$350, covering all the week's expenses. University credit is available at the option of the participant. Dr. John Emerick of Colorado School of Mines is the principal instructor. Please address inquiries concerning the institute to: Susan Q. Foster, Director; Institute of River Ecology; PO Box 243; Jamestown, CO 80455; (303)442-6333.



Cloud Ridge Naturalists

Field Discovery Seminars

Over a dozen field seminars will be offered by Cloud Ridge Naturalists this season. A few of interest to CONPS members are briefly introduced below. Please contact Cloud Ridge directly for more information. The address is given below.

The Hills of Home

May 27-29

Subtitled 'A Natural History of the Foothills', this seminar offers a multi-disciplinary approach to getting to know our backyards — the foothills of the Colorado Front Range. The instructors and their specialties are: David Armstrong, mammals and biogeography; David Cooper, botany and plant ecology; Fran Enright, birds; and Susan Foster, freshwater biology. From the lodge at Sylvan Dale Ranch, participants will explore the many local ecosystems — the rich riparian zone along the Big Thompson River, the grasslands, the Dakota hogback, mountain shrublands, ponderosa pine forests and moist side canyons. Cost \$250, includes lodging and meals.

Nature Photography

June 10-11

Achieving high-quality results in nature photography requires specialized techniques and an understanding of when, why and how to use special lenses for maximum effect. The workshop includes an evening lecture and a full day in the field to provide opportunities for demonstration, hands-on use of different lenses and individualized instruction by Bob Rozinski and Wendy Shattil. Cost \$50.

Rocky Mountain Flora: North Park and the Park Range

July 15-17

Dr. William Weber is your guide to the varied habitats of North Park — a mosaic of sagebrush, alkaline bottomlands and willow-lined stream courses. The sagebrush-steppe flora of North Park contrasts with the moist subalpine forests of the nearby Park Range, which contain Northern Rockies plants found nowhere else in the Southern Rockies. The alkaline flats form ecologically distinct islands within the sagebrush ecosystem, harboring unusual species tolerant of drought and high soil salt concentrations. Cost \$125, includes instruction and picnic dinner. Seminar will be camping-based.

Plants of Marsh, Fen and Carr

July 23-24

This unique field seminar taught by Dr. David Cooper will focus on the identification of the major wetland and aquatic plant groups — sedges, rushes, bulrushes, spike-rushes — as well as recognition of water-loving, broad-leaved species such as duckweed, marsh marigold, the bog orchids and marsh trefoil. In addition to taxonomy, participants will examine ecological characteristics and adaptations of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants along an altitudinal gradient. Cost \$50; prerequisite, a tolerance for wet feet.

For registration information and details on these and other courses offered, contact:

Audrey Benedict

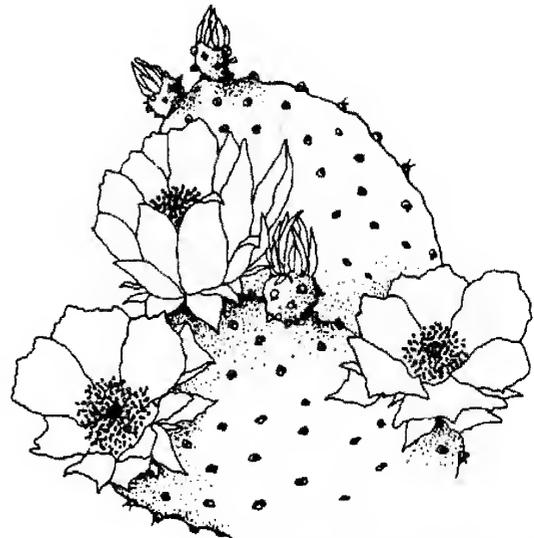
Cloud Ridge Naturalists

Overland Star Route

Ward, Colorado 80481

Phone 1-459-3248 day or evening

Illustrations by Barbara Bash in this issue were used with permission of Cloud Ridge Naturalists.



Prickly Pear - *Opuntia* sp.

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Ft. Collins	Derek Marchi	224-3324

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Workshops	Bill Jennings	494-5159

RETURN AND MAILING ADDRESS

Colorado Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 200
Fort Collins, Colorado 80522

Schedule of Membership Fees

Life	\$250.00	Family or Dual	\$12.00
Supporting	50.00	Individual	8.00
Organization	25.00	Student or Senior	4.00

Newsletter Contributions

Please direct all contributions to the newsletter to:

Peter Root
4915 West 31st Avenue
Denver, CO 80212

Deadlines for newsletter materials are February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15 and December 15.

There is a special need for short items such as unusual information about a plant, a little known botanical term, etc. Please include author's name and address, although items will be printed anonymously if requested.

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.

Non-profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit #1475 Denver, Colorado
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Time Value Material - Mailed on or about March 20