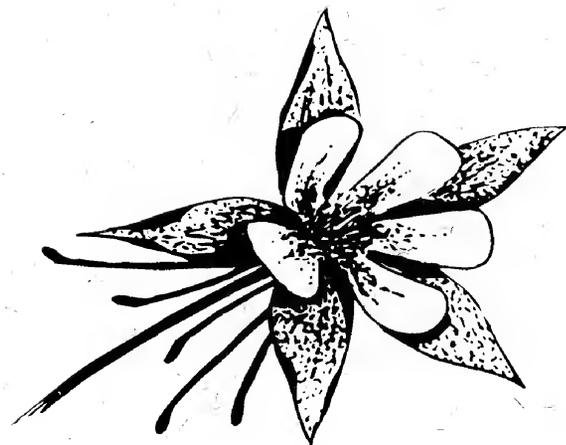


Aquilegia



Newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society

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

Volume 22 Number 3

Annual Meeting Edition

May—June 1998

1998 ANNUAL CoNPS MEETING September 18-20, 1998 Gunnison, Colorado Save these dates! YOU are invited!

Are you looking for an unusual learning opportunity? Do you need an excuse to spend a weekend in peaceful and friendly Gunnison country? Has it been awhile since you enjoyed the blazing gold of the fall aspens? Do you never have enough time to visit with your "botany" friends? If so, the Plateau Chapter encourages you to join us next fall for the Society's Annual Meeting!

With the help of USFS Biologist Gay Austin and our local District Office, we were very lucky to be able to line up two of the West's top scientists to help us learn to better appreciate and understand sagebrush country — a major ecosystem in Colorado and the West. Dr. E. Durant McArthur, from the USFS Shrub Sciences Laboratory in Provo, Utah will be our keynote speaker. Dr. McArthur has been doing research on *Artemisia* for more than 20 years and will help us as we learn to see sagebrush with "new eyeballs." In addition, Dr. Roger Rosentreter, Plant Ecologist from the state BLM office in Idaho, will join us for both our annual meeting weekend and for a very special one-day workshop and

field trip the preceding Friday (see announcement on page 4). In addition to being a noted lichenologist, Dr. Rosentreter is widely known for his work on microbiotic soil crusts. A fascinating mix of lichens, mosses, and algae, microbiotic soils are becoming known as critical to the health of many of the West's ecosystems.

But that's not all! In addition to Dr. McArthur and Dr. Rosentreter, a talented and knowledgeable group of local experts will teach us about common wildflowers of the sagebrush in the Gunnison Basin, habitat needs of the Gunnison Basin endemic sagegrouse, and native plants you can use in landscaping. Our own CoNPS Vice-President, Dr. David Buckner, will share information about how to restore disturbed sagebrush communities; and Colorado Natural Heritage Program Botanist Susan Spackman will enlighten us regarding those sagebrush ecosystem plants that are known to be threatened or endangered. Last, but not least, we will delve into the subjects of paleobotany and paleoecology with Dr. Steve Emslie

from Western State College. Dr. Emslie is going to share his fascinating research regarding a group of people who lived in the Gunnison Basin almost 6,000 years ago. What plants could they have eaten or utilized?

During the field trip on Sunday (10:30 AM to 2:30 PM), we are tentatively planning to visit several different sagebrush community types, see a sagegrouse lek (mating ground), investigate microbiotic soil crusts, and — by very special arrangement — be allowed to visit a newly-discovered and very important archeological site. All of these locations are close to Gunnison, but are on back roads that make carpooling impossible. Therefore, in order to protect our natural resources, we are asking everyone who wishes to join us for Sunday's field trip to sign up by August 20, 1998 for the bus that CoNPS will provide and for which we must ask a \$5.00 fee.

In addition to all of the above, you can expect to be able to enjoy our CoNPS book sale, posters, displays,

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1998 ANNUAL CoNPS MEETING

Tentative Agenda

Friday, September 18: Special Microbiotic Crust Workshop/Field Trip (NOTE: Space is Limited!)

- 9:00 - 4:00 Join Dr. Roger Rosentreter for this rare opportunity to learn about the lichens, mosses, and other components of microbiotic soil crusts. Dr. Rosentreter, one of the West's top scientists, is studying these crusts, which are proving to be more and more important in ecosystems all over the western U.S. After a morning indoors, we will take a field trip to nearby BLM and NPS lands. **Space is limited to the first 25 registrants!** To sign up, call Gay Austin at (970) 641-6264 (H) or (970) 641-0471 (W). Please bring a lunch and a hand lens.

Saturday, September 19: Annual Meeting (Aspinall-Wilson Center, Gunnison)

- 9:00 - 10:00 Registration
- 10:00 - 10:15 Welcome
- 10:15 - 11:15 Keynote Address: Sagebrush Ecology. Dr. E. Durant McArthur, Shrub Sciences Laboratory, USFS, Provo, Utah
- 11:15 - 11:45 Common Wildflowers of the Sagebrush in the Gunnison Basin. Kathy Warren, Botanist
- 11:45 - 12:15 Habitat Requirements for Sagegrouse. Sandy Hayes, Ecologist, BLM
- 12:15 - 1:30 Lunch (see enclosed registration form) and optional self-guided walk from the Aspinall-Wilson Center
- 1:30 - 2:00 The Role of Microbiotic Soil Crusts in Sagebrush Ecosystems. Dr. Roger Rosentreter, Plant Ecologist, Idaho BLM
- 2:00 - 2:30 Threatened and Endangered Plants of Sagebrush Ecosystems. Susan Spackman, Botanist, Colorado Natural Heritage Program
- 2:30 - 3:00 Native Plants for Landscaping. Gretchen Van Reyper, Landscape Architect and President, Plateau Chapter
- 3:00 - 3:30 Break (refreshments)
- 3:30 - 4:00 Restoration of Sagebrush Communities. Dr. David Buckner, Plant Ecologist, ESCO Associates
- 4:00 - 4:30 Paleoecology and Paleobotany of the Gunnison Basin. Dr. Steve Emslie, Adjunct Research Professor, Western State College
- 4:30 Concluding remarks and announcements

Sunday, September 20: Workshop and Field Trip

- 8:30 - 10:00 Hands-on Sagebrush Identification/Taxonomy Workshop (Aspinall-Wilson Center, Gunnison)
- 10:00 - 10:30 Break
- 10:30 - 2:30 Field trip to nearby public lands to learn about sagebrush and associated plant identification, visit a sagegrouse lek, look at lichens and microbiotic soil crusts, and visit a newly-discovered archaeological site. **NOTE: Pre-registration for the bus by August 20, 1998 is REQUIRED!** (Cost: \$5.00)

USEFUL INFORMATION

Directions to Aspinall-Wilson Center

The Aspinall-Wilson Center is adjacent to the Western State College campus. To get there, go to the MacDonald's which is located on U.S. Highway 50 on the east side of Gunnison; turn north on Adams Street (just to the west of MacDonald's); proceed north a short distance to Georgia St.; turn right (east) and you will see the Center a short distance ahead and to your right (south). There is a parking lot associated with the Center; you may also park across the street in the Western State College parking lots.

Lodging

Note: Tomichi Avenue is the name of US Highway 50 as it passes through Gunnison; all of the following motels, but not the B&B nor the campground, are either on or within a half block of Tomichi Avenue (US Highway 50).

Motels and Distance from Conference Center:

If you want to be within walking distance of the Center, your best bets are probably the Holiday Inn Express or Super 8 Motel. If you would like a kitchenette and don't mind an older, somewhat funky but clean motel, try the Mountain View Lodge, which is also within walking distance. If you want a nice motel with a very good restaurant (dinner only), try the Tomichi Village Inn (1 mile east of Gunnison). There are many other motels in Gunnison, including the Ramada Ltd. (970-641-2804), The Water Wheel Inn (970-641-1650), and the Econo Lodge (970-641-1000), all on the west side.

Holiday Inn Express (7 blocks)

400 E. Tomichi Ave.
Gunnison, CO 81230
(800) 465-4329
(970) 641-1288

Best Western Tomichi Village Inn (1 mile east)

41883 E. Tomichi Ave.
Gunnison, CO 81230
(800) 528-1234
(970) 641-1131

Super 8 Motel (6 blocks)

411 E. Tomichi Ave.
Gunnison, CO 81230
(800) 800-8000
(970) 641-3068

Days Inn Gunnison (27 blocks, on west side of town)

701 U.S. Highway 50
Gunnison, CO 81230
(888) 641-0608
(970) 641-0608

Mountain View Lodge (8 blocks)

117 N. Taylor St.
Gunnison, CO 81230
(800) 800-3395
(970) 641-1799

Bed and Breakfast:

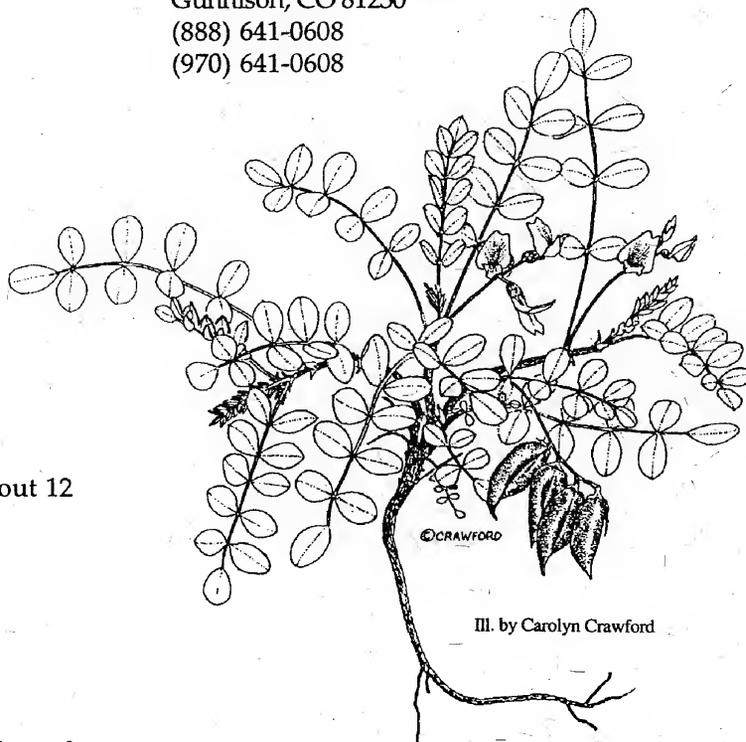
The Mary Lawrence Inn
601 N. Taylor
Gunnison, CO 81230
(970) 641-3343

NOTE: The Inn is located in a residential area, about 12 blocks from the Conference Center.

Camping:

KOA Campground
105 County Road 50
Gunnison, CO 81230
(970) 641-1358

NOTE: The Campground is located about 3 miles from the Center, on the south side of the airport and very close to the airport runway. However, night flights are infrequent.



Ill. by Carolyn Crawford

Astragalus wetherillii (Wetherill milkvetch)

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and refreshment breaks, as well as the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. We are also tentatively planning a "hands-on" sagebrush identification and taxonomy session before the field trip on Sunday morning between 8:30 and 10:00 AM.

The meeting will take place in a semi-rural setting on the east edge of Gunnison at the Aspinnall-Wilson Center, adjacent to the Western State College campus. Plentiful parking is available, motels are nearby (see page 3), and downtown Gunnison is only a 5 or 10 minute walk. We hope you'll mark these dates on your calendar, send in your registration and check, and "come on over!" The organizing committee consists of the following CoNPS Plateau Chapter members whom you may call for further information:

Paula Lehr, (970) 641-0671 (H)
 Gay Austin, (970) 641-6264 (H) or (970) 641-0471 (W)
 Kathy Warren, (970) 349-0743 (H)
 Gretchen Van Reyper, (970) 835-3268 (H)

NEXT AQUILEGIA DEADLINE APPROACHES

Please submit all contributions for the July-August issue of *Aquilegia* to Leo P. Bruederle (Department of Biology, Campus Box 171, University of Colorado at Denver, P.O. Box 173364, Denver, CO 80217-3364). NOTE: In addition to contributed articles and exciting news from the Board, Vol. 22 No. 4 will include announcements, Society and Chapter news, calendar of events, etc.

UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS!

A day-long workshop/field trip taught by one of the West's best-known authorities on both lichens and microbiotic soil crusts will be held on Friday, September 18, 1998, in Gunnison, Colorado, from 9:00 to 4:00 PM, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Colorado Native Plant Society. This special educational opportunity is made possible by the U.S. Forest Service Taylor River-Cebolla District Office in Gunnison. The workshop is intended primarily for agency people (BLM and USFS), but CoNPS members will be able to sign up on a limited basis. Registration is limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a fee of \$12.00 to cover Dr. Rosentreter's travel costs. The only way to register for this workshop is to call Gay Austin at (970) 641-6264 (H) or (970) 641-0471. Don't miss out! Call today!



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

Place
 Stamp
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