

Colorado Native Plant Society



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 6

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1980

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

OFFICERS 1979-1980

President: Lloyd Hayes
Vice-President: J. Scott Peterson
Secretary: Sue Martin
Treasurer: Myrna Steinkamp

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann Armstrong (81) Boulder	494-0545
Bob Bowman (80) Ft. Collins	491-6524
Miriam Denham (80) Boulder	442-1020
Virginia Dionigi (80) Hygiene	776-2609
Tom Eamon (81) Golden	279-1076
Hugo Ferchau (80) Gunnison	
Lloyd Hayes (80) Ft. Collins	226-5365
Bob Heapes (81) Parker	841-3978
Sue Martin (81) Ft. Collins	226-3371
J. Scott Peterson (80) Ft. Collins	491-6524
Mark Phillips (80) Lafayette	828-3021

COMMITTEES

EDUCATION	Virginia Dionigi
HORTICULTURE & REHABILITATION	Mark Phillips
LEGISLATIVE	vacant
MEMBERSHIP	Myrna Steinkamp
PUBLICATIONS	J. Scott Peterson
THREATENED & ENDANGERED	Bill Harmon

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & INFORMATION

Please direct all membership applications, renewals and address changes to Myrna Steinkamp, Membership Chairperson, CONPS.

ADDRESS

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

SCHEDULE OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

LIFE	\$ 250.00
SUPPORTING	50.00
SOCIETY	25.00
FAMILY	12.00
INDIVIDUAL	8.00
STUDENT & RETIRED	4.00

Nonmembership subscriptions to the Newsletter are \$ 4.00.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please direct all articles of interest to the CONPS to Dieter Wilken, Editor, CONPS. Deadlines for the 6 bimonthly Newsletters are the end of January, March, May, July, September and November.

1980 ANNUAL MEETING

It was a pleasure to meet with the 55 members who participated in the 1980 Annual Meeting at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

The program consisted of three parts, comprising a brief business meeting and two informative and illustrated presentations.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of an honorary life membership to one of our most respected members, a founding member and first president of the Society, Dr. John Marr of the University of Colorado.

Bob Heapes donated a beautiful, framed color photograph of the orange Paintbrush, *Castilleja integra*, as a door prize. The fortunate winner was Dieter Wilken.

Intermission took us for refreshments hosted by Ann Armstrong and educational displays. Exhibits included a presentation by the Applewood Seed Company of Denver and a continuous color slide show prepared by Bob Heapes from the Society's field trips.

Most Society activities have been detailed in newsletters during the year. Certainly the highlights of the field season were our four trips planned and coordinated by Bob Heapes. The trips took participants to the High Plains Conservation Center, Pikes Peak/Mueller Ranch, Piceance Basin/Raven Ridge and Niwot Ridge.

The Society donated \$ 50 to support "Operation Wildflower" sponsored by the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs.

The CONPS poster, designed by well-known CSU poster artist, John Sorbie, was printed as a publicity and fund-raising venture. We also sought further public exposure by our participation in the Life Vision Environmental Fair, sponsored by the Colorado Open Space Council and Denver University.

The Society joined with 9 other similar organizations in forming the Western Association of Native Plant Societies.

During 1980 the Society cooperated with such organizations as The Colorado Open Space Council and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program

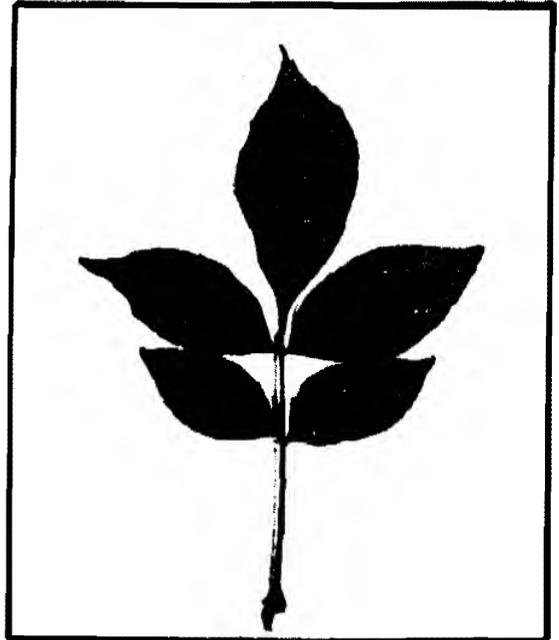
The officers and continuing Board members thank retiring Board members Virginia Dionigi, Miriam Denham, Hugo Ferchau, Scott Peterson and Mark Phillips. Virginia and Miriam consented to run for a second term and were reelected along with new Board members Mary Edwards, Scott Ellis and Lloyd Hayes.

The featured speakers of the Annual Meeting were Dr. Eldie Mustard, Wildlife Biologist with the USDA Soil Conservation District who discussed "Preservation of Wetland Habitats" and Dr. Carse Pustmueller, Director of the Colorado Natural Areas Program, who described the objectives and

activities of the Natural Areas Program with an excellent slide presentation.

Finally, our thanks go to Tom Eamon for arranging and coordinating the program.

--- Lloyd Hayes



ACTIONS BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On September 11, 1980, the BOD formalized a previous informal practice: new members who join after September 1 of any year will be considered full members throughout the entire following year.

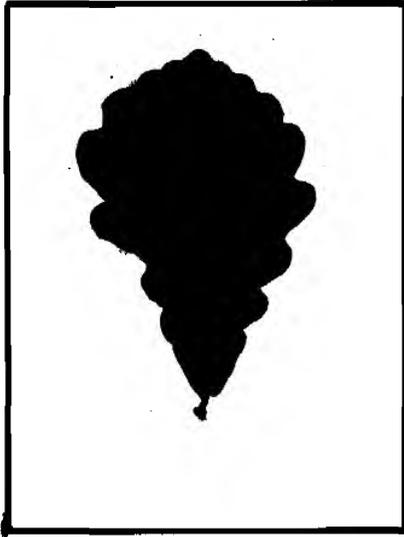
Scott Peterson was authorized to attend a meeting of the Association of Western Native Plant Societies in Phoenix, Arizona on October 11-12, 1980.

On October 25, the following officers were elected to serve for the 1980-1981 term:

President: Lloyd Hayes
Vice-President: Scott Peterson
Secretary: Sue Martin
Treasurer: Myrna Steinkamp

In order to emphasize the needs and problems associated with native plants of the western slope of Colorado, a position of West Slope representative was authorized by the BOD. The BOD is actively seeking a member of the Society who can fill this position.

The Education Committee was authorized to complete two sets of photographic slides and tape cassettes which will comprise a native plant educational program designed for sale to school districts and similar groups.



PRESENTATION OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The presentation of an Honorary Life Membership was made on behalf of the Society by Miriam Denham to Dr. John Marr of the EPO Biology Department, University of Colorado, Boulder.

The following represents the text of the presentation:

Those of us who have known Dr. Marr for a few years will always think of him as the Arctic and Alpine Institute, which he helped to establish and directed for 16 years. The Institute was an outgrowth of a graduate program in mountain ecology at CU, Boulder. To meet the needs of a winter research class, the Science Lodge below Niwot Ridge was converted for survival and winter field studies so that different ecological units and atmospheric conditions could be compared. His 1961 "Ecosystems of the East Slope of the Front Range in Colorado" has become a classic. Today, however, he is more interested in talking about his current studies of timberline tree islands than his many past accomplishments and publications. His recent work and activities include a publication on "Mechanisms for movement and migration across the landscape", his "Laboratory of Mountain Ecology" and the direction of graduate students and environmental impact studies.

Dr. Marr was one of the people instrumental in the formation of the Colorado Native Plant Society and was its charter President in addition to being a member of the Board of Directors.

1980 CONPS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Much of the work of the Society takes place in the Society Committees. Major activities of these committees are reported below.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Beth Painter, Sue Martin and Myrna Steinkamp comprised the committee during 1980. 1980 began with 153 members. Of these, 115 rejoined with the membership at the end of 1980 comprising 157, with the addition of 42 new members. The committee is actively planning a membership drive and solicits all advice regarding its plans.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Ann Armstrong, Miriam Denham and Virginia Dionigi were kept busy in 1980 with 3 major tasks.

The first was to obtain a list of members interested in committee or other work pertaining to the Society's activities. In so doing they prepared a questionnaire submitted to the membership and compile responses which are now on file. Second, the committee planned and arranged the booth at the Life Vision Environmental Fair, reported in the May-June Newsletter. Third, they began the preparation of a library of colored photographic slides of the Colorado Native Flora. Incorporated into an audio-visual program, the first program, soon to be released, is designed for use in elementary schools. It will be available for purchase and possibly on loan to Colorado Schools. In addition, Bob Heapes, Paula Lehr and Lloyd Hayes are to be credited with contributions to the project.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE: Despite a continuing shortage of articles and items of interest, the Newsletter was published in 6 issues this year. Scott Peterson arranged for the design and publication of the first CONPS poster, of which a number have now been either sold or distributed.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES COMMITTEE: With the concurrence of the BOD, Chairman Bill Harmon accepted a personal contract with the Colorado Natural Areas Program and the Natural Heritage Program to gather data on specified Colorado plants that may be eligible for inclusion in the Federal Endangered Species Program. Bill administered two field teams and independent researchers during much of the summer of 1980. After his return this fall, Bill has started on a revision of the Colorado list of sensitive, threatened and endangered species.

HORTICULTURE AND REHABILITATION COMMITTEE: Mark Phillips and Lloyd Hayes served on this committee during 1980 and reviewed, on behalf of the Society, the "proposed Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board". Their comments and criticisms were referred to the BOD and are summarized in the March-April Newsletter.

FORT COLLINS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Fort Collins Chapter remains the only active chapter in the Society with Bob Bowman serving as Chair. The local chapter met on November 17 for an illustrated presentation by Joe Friedlander, Range Science, CSU on his research of Rare and Endangered Plants in Mesa Verde National Park. The last meeting of the year was on December 11 and was highlighted by The Colorado Natural Areas Program multi-media slide presentation hosted by Dr. Carse Pustmueller. This program was much enjoyed at the annual meeting of the Society and revisited again by local chapter members with great interest.

FOUND AT THE ANNUAL MEETING: A man's wool jacket, "Woolrich" brand, size large, was found at the conclusion of the annual meeting at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Please contact Sue Martin (226-3371 home; 482-7717 office).



NOTICE: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

For those members whose address labels end with "PAID THRU: *80" a self-addressed envelope is enclosed so that you may renew your membership for 1981.

Please renew promptly so that you can continue to receive the news of the society activities for 1981.

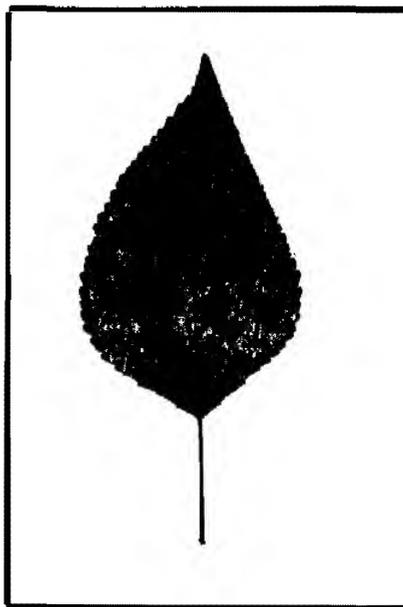
If you note a discrepancy with regard to your address label please contact the Membership Chair, Myrna Steinkamp via the Society's P.O. Box address

THE NEWSLETTER

Beginning with 1981 and Volume 5 the CONPS Newsletter will have a new editor in the person of Beth Painter, who will be responsible for preparing each number and sharing the frustrations of the current editor in finding sufficient material for inclusion. Since Beth is married to the current editor, these frustrations will be shared more commonly than usual!

Every attempt will be made to make the Newsletter more interesting to the general membership and several articles are now being prepared for the next two numbers. However, it is the membership which best provides the current events and their news regarding the activities of the Society and you are all urged to contribute. Whether your contributions may be personal experiences or knowledge of other's, amateur or professional observations or the activities of other organizations with an interest in the Colorado flora, please contribute for 1981!

--- Dieter Wilken



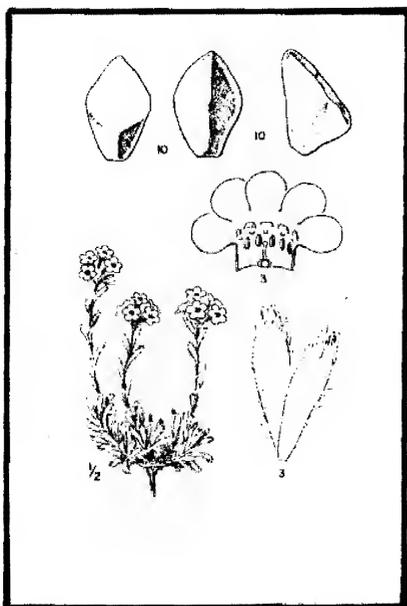
VARIATION IN THE ALPINE FORGET-ME-NOT

In July, 1980, Ruth Nelson brought me 2 living plants of *Eritrichium aretioides*, the ALPINE FORGET-ME-NOT, from Loveland Pass which were interesting not only in that they represented the white and blue floral form, but because the flowers of the white plant were exactly half the size of those in the blue plant. The measurements were as follows:

Normal Blue Flowers		Small White Flowers
6 mm	diameter	3 mm
2 x 2 mm	petal	1.3 x 1.2 mm
1.8 x 1.7 mm	tube	1.3 x 1.2 mm
0.8 mm, stout	style	1.0 mm, slender
2.8 mm	calyx	2.0 mm
0.5 mm	anthers	0.6 mm

There was no evidence of floral dimorphism (i.e. different forms) as to the insertion of the stamens and the observed style length difference may not be significant.

We saw these 2 types in the field on Hoosier Ridge, where another variable was height of the flowering stems. Some of the very long stems have been used as a basis for the name *E. elongatum*. It seemed that the small-flowered plants were growing in drier ground and it may be suggested that the dry situation creates a threshold response in the flower buds resulting in small flowers. The wet and dry sites form an intricate mosaic, and one must get down under the plants to determine the soil moisture situation.



We have also seen these 2 flower sizes in *Eritrichium* and in *Myosotis* in the Bering Strait region of Alaska. The monographer, Lore Lechner-Pock, in a monograph published in 1956, wrote, under the name *E. villosum* (I translate): "...Very small-flowered specimens also occur, in which the corolla length only reaches 1.5 to 2 mm. Herder in 1872 referred to these as as the variety *parviflorum*... Also in *E. aretioides* from the Rocky Mountains I have found small-flowered plants among the normal ones. The corolla tube is 1.5 to 2 mm long, and the base 0.8-1.3 mm wide, in the middle 1-2(-2.4) mm wide, and somewhat narrowed above. The diameter of the white or blue petals is (3.5)4 to 7(8) mm"

Someone should investigate this phenomenon from an ecological and a developmental morphology standpoint. This certainly would be an ideal subject for a postgraduate thesis. Meanwhile, do not be alarmed at seeing these different flower sizes and colors. They do not indicate two different species!

--- William A. Weber

REPRINTS OF NEWSLETTER VOLS 1-4

In response to requests for old issues of the Newsletters, Volumes 1-4, 1976-1980 from several libraries and botanical gardens, the editor is planning to have complete sets prepared through a photocopying service. Costs will be kept minimal only if complete sets are produced. The cost has been estimated at about \$4.00. If any member would like to obtain a complete set beginning with the first CONPS Newsletter, please respond by March 1, 1981 and the editor will make arrangements. Please write through the Society P.O. Box. Requests for individual issues or volumes can not be honored.

--- Dieter H. Wilken