

# Colorado Native Plant Society



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, No. 5  
October-December 1984

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

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter members check with the presidents of you chapters to get the latest details on chapter activities. Phone numbers are on the back page.

18 DEC, TUE, 7:30pm, Fort Collins Chapter meeting at Fort Collins Museum, 200 Mathews, entrance at rear of building. Panayotti Kelidas from the Denver Botanic Gardens will be the speaker. Topic---Rare Rocky Mountain Plants: How and If they should be grown.

09 JAN, WED, Boulder Chapter General Meeting--topic will be announced soon! Check with your chapter president

15 JAN, TUE, 7:30pm, Fort Collins Chapter meeting at Fort Collins Museum, 200 Mathews, entrance at rear of building. Speaker will be Rich Schroeder from the Audubon Society.

19 JAN, SAT, Boulder Chapter. Dr. Miriam Denham will conduct a workshop on the identification of plants in the Fabaceae (Pea) family, with special emphasis on the genus Astragalus those difficult Milk vetches you've possibly puzzled over! More details to low. Check with your Chapter President.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

Report on Rampart Range Road field trip of June 16, 1984:

Attended by six persons plus leader, Lee Barzee.

Many flowers seen from montane to sub-alpine, but special treats of seldom seen varieties drew "Oh's" and "Ah's" over *Adoxa*, *Petasites*, tiny, white, sweet-violets (*Viola renifolia*), and full-blooming colonies of *Calypso bulbosa*, including several pale, yellow-white specimens. Trip thriller: two large groups of *Lysiella obtusata*, last seen in this habitat on June 13, 1978 and just a single plant!

Many other recognizable plants were seen although not blooming yet, such as *pedicularis*, rose crown, sedum, dotted-saxifrage. Flowering list follows:

*Adoxa moschatellina*  
*Androsace septentrionalis*  
*Antennaria rosea*  
*Antennaria pulcherrima*  
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*  
*Caltha leptosepala*  
*Calypso bulbosa*  
*Corydalis aurea*  
*Erigeron compositus*  
*Fragaria* spp.  
*Lonicera involucrata* w/swallowtail butterfly  
*Luzula parviflora*  
*Mertensia lanceolata*  
*Penstemon* (two species)  
*Petasites sagittata*  
*Polygonum bistortoides*  
*Pseudocymopterus montanus*  
*Pulsatilla patens* a few still in bloom  
*Ranunculus* (two species)  
*Scutellaria brittonii*  
*Senecio* spp.  
*Thlaspi montanum*  
*Valeriana capitata*  
*Viola renifolia*  
"sun-loving sedge"  
"ebony sedge" in bloom  
plants of duckweed, water crowfoot;  
*Mniun* moss and liverwort;  
one little brown mushroom  
also seen: colorful bees and beetles,  
etc.  
heard many birds and FROGS!

Perhaps the photographers can show their resulting shots later - or even donate some?

---Athalie Barzee

## "HOW WAS THE ANNUAL MEETING?"

CONPS's annual meeting was held October 6, 1984, at Denver Botanic Gardens. After a short "State of the Society" presentation by 1983-84 President Sue Martin, Nevin BeBee of the host Metro Denver Chapter introduced the day's speakers. A superb program, "Native Orchids of Colorado," was presented by Lucian Long and Bill Jennings. Lu set the stage for what was to come by describing the geological history of Colorado, briefly touching on plate tectonics and its bearing on orchid distribution and evolution, and telling us about the out-of-print classic book on Colorado orchids, which was written by his brother. Bill Jennings then followed with beautiful slides showing the habitat and flower details for every native orchid presently known from Colorado! He further tantalized us by describing several orchids that conceivably might be found in the state. Had he suggested it, undoubtedly the entire audience would have set forth on an orchid-hunting expedition at the conclusion of the program!

Terms of five members of the Board of Directors expired as of the Annual Meeting: Ann Cooper, Lloyd Hayes, Sue Martin, Claire Semmer, and Les Shader. In addition, Bill Baker and Tamara Naumann resigned from the Board because they were leaving the state, and Dexter Hess resigned due to job commitments. After the refreshments break, President Martin announced the eight new Board members: Lee Barzee, Ann Cooper, Virginia Crosby, Scott Ellis, Bill Jennings, Velma Richards, Lorraine Seger, and Les Shader. CONPS thanks the retiring Directors who gave generously of their time and talents, and welcomes the new Board members.

Many thanks to Eleanor Von Barga for arranging the refreshments. Hats off, too, to Society Vice-President Harold Weissler, assisted by Lloyd Hayes, who made arrangements for the meeting and the excellent speakers.

---Sue Martin

## RED PAINTBRUSHES ON THE WESTERN SLOPE

How many years does it take for me to learn to open my eyes? Listen to this tale. The common perennial red paintbrush of the west slope is *Castilleja chromosa*. Harrington thought there was only one and so did I. A few years ago Elizabeth Neese was doing some work at Colorado National Monument and mentioned to my colleague there, Claudia Rector, that she was sure that we had something else that we were calling *C. chromosa*. The name wasn't taken down, but I was told. I let it fester in my mind but did nothing about it. Last winter I visited Logan and asked Leila Shultz what species she thought Elizabeth

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had had in mind and she suggested *C. scabrida*. Again, I just filed this away in my mind. A few weeks ago the "Inter-mountain Flora", Vol. 4, appeared with a key to them:

Stems erect or ascending, (1)1.5-4.5 dm tall, the scaly basal portion short and compact; corolla (16)20-32 mm long, the lower lip and most of the galea usually included within the calyx-tube. *C. chromosa*.

Stems usually decumbent, (2)0.7-1.5 dm tall, the scaly portion of the stem elongate; corolla relatively large, 25-45 mm long, the lower lip and galea evident, usually exerted from the calyx. *C. scabrida* Eastw.

What's more, the type was collected at Grand Junction in 1892, so we had to have it! Nothing to do but go and see, and most important, to find out what the ecology of each is.

It turns out that the two are very distinct. In addition to the characters given in the key, *C. chromosa* grows in deep soils of the sagebrush stands and adobe clays. It has a slender tap-root with a few flowering stems; the young roots are yellow when fresh, but they dry black. The bracts are broad and not narrowly divided, dull red, and they stand erect. The stems are not scaly because the root crown is near the surface of the soil; occasionally one finds a scaly stem base, if the root crown is buried.

In contrast, *C. scabrida* grows in crevices on sandstone rimrock. It has a massive root up to 3-4 cm thick, with very many spreading flowering stems; the young roots are white. The bracts are narrow and commonly have 5 narrow side lobes, bright orange-red, and they spread widely, exposing the flowers. The stems are scaly at the base mostly because the root crown is below the soil surface and the stems have a few inches of their length below the soil.

I have been looking at red paintbrushes at Colorado National Monument for almost 40 years and never noticed the difference, but neither did anyone else until Elizabeth set us straight. The lesson to all this is that all of us should try from the beginning to keep our eyes open, to learn all we can about the plant in the field, and to become sensitive to the habitat distinctions.

---William A. Weber  
Univ. of Colorado Museum  
Boulder CO 80309

## TWO RECEIVE NEW "SPECIAL MERIT AWARD"

At its May meeting the Society's Board of Directors established a new award, to be known as the SPECIAL MERIT AWARD. At the same time the Board selected the first two recipients, who exemplify perfectly the Board's intent to honor those who have given exceptional service to the Society. Tamara Naumann and Karen Wiley-Eberle were presented their award certificates at a gathering of Piceance Basin field trip participants (in mid-June, 1984). Both Tamara and Karen made several significant contributions to the Society, Tamara as Chair of the Conservation Committee (1982-84) and Board member (1983-84), and Karen as West Slope Representative, Board member (1980-82), and organizer and first President of the Yampa Valley Chapter. Karen, a talented botanical artist, also frequently contributed her work to Society projects.

Both Karen and Tamara, unfortunately, have left Colorado for work and studies elsewhere---we will miss them both, but we wish them well.

---Sue Martin

## SOCIETY AWARDS AN HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

William L. (Bill) Baker recently was awarded the Colorado Native Plant Society's highest award, an Honorary Life Membership. Bill was honored for his large contributions to our knowledge of Colorado's vegetation, and for his equally significant contributions to the Society through dedicated service on the Board of Directors. As Ecologist for the Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory, Bill was responsible for development of a statewide classification and inventory of vegetation types.

Knowing that Bill was leaving Colorado and would not be able to attend the Annual Meeting, where Society awards traditionally are presented, the Board decided to give Bill his certificate as part of the Piceance Basin field trip! On the evening of June 15th, 1984, President Sue Martin gathered many of the Friday night arrivals together and presented the certificate to a surprised Bill!

The Board has since received a letter of thanks from Bill, who commented that his pleasure in receiving the award was further enhanced by the beautiful watercolored Society emblem, the columbine, hand-painted on his certificate by Karen Wiley-Eberle, also an active Society colleague. CONPS thanks Karen for contributing her talents, and congratulates Bill on this well-deserved honor.

---Sue Martin

-----OFFICERS-----

President: Sue Martin 226-3371  
 Vice-Pres.: Harold Weissler 278-9186  
 Secretary: Eleanor Von Bargen 756-1400  
 Treasurer: Myrna P. Steinkamp 226-3371

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 Denver Metro, Nevin BeBee 733-1038  
 Fort Collins, Les Shader 484-0107  
 Yampa Valley, Susan Allard -

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-----REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS-----

CDSC: Ann Cooper

-----MAILING ADDRESS-----

COLORADO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
 P. O. BOX 200  
 FORT COLLINS CO 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 EDITOR in care of the Society's mailing address. There is a special need for small filler items such as some unusual information about a plant, a little known botanical term, etc. All contributions should include the author's name and address, but items will be printed anonymously if it is requested.

Deadlines for Newsletter material are the 1sts of the months of January, March, May, August, and November. The Newsletter will be mailed about the 15th of the same month.

-----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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