

Colorado Native Plant Society

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



NEWSLETTER

Volume II No. 6

November-December 1978

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All correspondence and inquiries regarding activities of the Society should be addressed to Charles Olmsted, Box 1195, Boulder, CO 80306.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND INFORMATION

Sue Martin, USDA Crops Research Lab, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO 80523.

SCHEDULE OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

Life	\$250.00
Supporting	50.00
Society	25.00
Family	12.00
Individual	8.00
Student & Retired	4.00

The CONPS Newsletter is sent to all other Native Plant Societies in exchange for theirs. Nonmembers may subscribe to the Newsletter for \$4.00.

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Dieter H. Wilken, Dept. of Botany & Plant Pathology, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO 80523.

The editor seeks articles of interest to all aspects of Society activities. Such articles should not generally exceed 4 typewritten, double-spaced pages, although consideration will be given to longer articles if space permits.

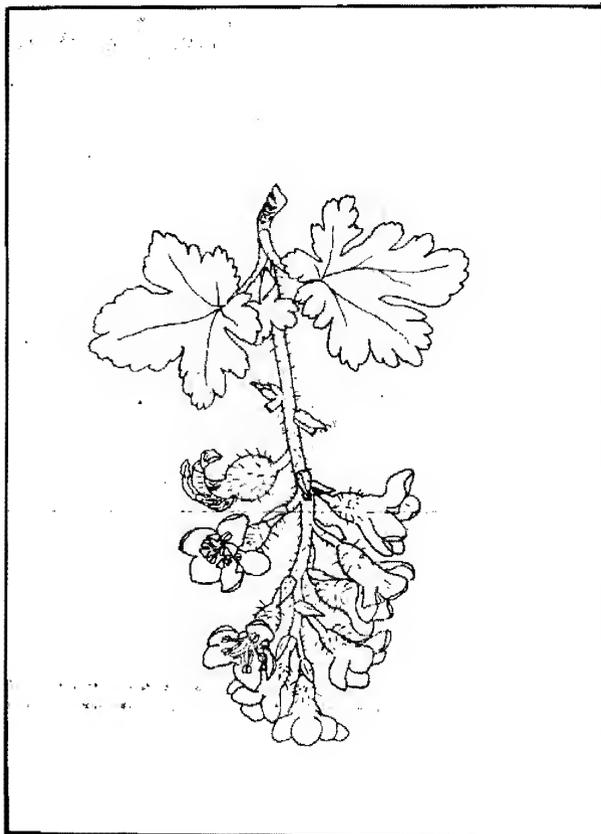
Deadlines for the 6 bimonthly newsletters are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The committee will continue to work closely with other Society committees during 1979, keeping an eye on pending legislation and offering suggestions for appropriate legislation. The Federal Endangered Species Act, which was in jeopardy shortly before the congressional recess, was reauthorized and funding was restored. According to the "Audubon Leader", October 27, 1978, "The final action on the bill came during the Congress's hectic wrap-up marathon. In the early morning hours of Saturday, October 14th, the House passed a bill that would have been disastrous for the Act. Senate conferees held out for a stronger bill, however, and a compromise was accepted Sunday, a few hours before adjournment." As passed, the Wyoming Grayrocks Dam and the Tellico Dam (of SNAIL DARTER fame) must be considered within 90 days of the date the bill is signed, rather than completely exempted as the House wanted. In addition, there will be a 7 member review committee for all potential exemptions and the bill is reauthorized only for 18 months. Strong citizen support is needed to keep the Endangered Species Act from becoming endangered! At the state level, individuals and organizations have been working since last May to broaden the legislative protection of native plants. Presently, the Colorado State Forest Service has the responsibility for protecting forest resources from fire, insects and diseases.

The State Agriculture Department protects plants useful to man (i.e. crops). The Wildlife Commission and the State Parks Board have power to adopt rules for the preservation of vegetation. Several wildlife statutes cover protection of wildlife "environment" and "ecosystems". Unusual examples of vegetation and habitats of rare and endangered plants are among the factors considered when natural areas are designated under the new Natural Areas Program. What is now proposed are amendments to Title 33 of the Colorado Statutes, which would place the responsibility for research and protection of threatened and endangered native plants under the jurisdiction of the Wildlife Commission and the Division of Wildlife. The CONPS Board of Directors recently voted to endorse these amendments and will work for their passage. Please contact Libby Goodwin if you would like a copy of the proposal or would be available to write letters or speak at hearings. Libby Goodwin may be reached at 449-6227 (Boulder) before 7:00 AM or after 7:00 PM. Her address is 2885 17th Street, Boulder, CO 80302.

---Libby Goodwin



A COLORADO STATE GRASS?

Do you think Colorado should have a State Grass? Grasses, more than any other single group of plants in Colorado, are sufficiently important to deserve a representative place with our State Tree, Flower, Wild Animal and Bird. To do something about this lack of gratitude or recognition for the plants that do so much to stabilize and develop soil, grow forage and provide scenery, the Colorado Section, Society for Range Management, has taken action to get a State Grass designated for Colorado.

Members of Colorado Native Plant Society are invited to mail their favorite candidates for State Grass to:

Walter Jacobowski
415 Macon
Canon City, Colorado 81212

No special ground rules have been written for what the State Grass should be but the species would be expected to have attributes for forage value, erosion control, wide distribution, and a respectable image or reputation. It's important too, I think, that the grass be a native of Colorado.

---Tom Eaman

GROWING A COLORADO NATIVE SHRUB,
KINNIKINNICK or BEARBERRY
(ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI)

KINNIKINNICK is a low, evergreen, prostrate shrub with tiny, leathery leaves. The leaves are reddish when young, glossy dark green when mature, and bronze in the Fall. The branches tend to root wherever they touch the ground. KINNIKINNICK forms a low mat from 6 - 12 inches high and spreads slowly. The flowers bloom from April to June, depending on the plant's location. The tiny, waxy, pink to white urn-shaped flowers are disposed in a short, few-flowered raceme. The fruit is a berry with 4-10 hard seeds. The berries are about 1/4 inch in diameter and red when mature. The seeds are presumably dispersed by birds and mammals which eat the fruits. The number of seeds per pound ranges between 26,800 and 58,000. Seeds may mature from June through early Fall. Fruits may be collected by hand or picked off the ground but only after they are fully mature. Seed can be separated from the pulp by maceration in water, followed either by flotation (the seeds sink) or by fanning when dry.

Seed can be stored for 1 year in dry, airtight containers, followed by stratification and planting the following year. The seeds have very hard coats and germinate erratically, even with pretreatment. Several methods may be used to help break dormancy. For field planting it is best to soak the seed in concentrated sulfuric acid for 2 - 5 hours. CAUTION: concentrated sulfuric acid is dangerous and should be judiciously used. Wash all containers and seeds in water after treatment and keep acid away from skin. For stratification following the acid treatment: (1) warm stratify at 25° C for 60 - 120 days followed by (2) moist stratification at 3° - 5° for 60 - 90 days. Seed can be stratified in a medium of sand, peat or a mixture of peat, loam & perlite. The type of stratification may have an effect on the biological activity within the seeds particularly during warm stratification.

Both softwood and hardwood cuttings will root somewhat easily and many nurseries prefer this type of propagation over seed germination for KINNIKINNICK. A high degree of hybridization with other species of Arctostaphylos, largely on the western slope of Colorado, allows the selection of certain desirable horticultural forms only by this type of propagation. KINNIKINNICK survives well in direct sun and dry soils as well as on moist, shaded sites. It grows best where the soil is coarse and sandy or rocky, well-drained and slightly acid. Avoid planting this shrub on heavy, clay or alkaline soils.

KINNIKINNICK has had many uses. Berries were used by pioneers to make ciders and jellies. Indians used parts of the plant for medicinal purposes, teas and a type of tobacco. Extracts of the leaves have been used to cure leather and as a lotion for ameliorating the effect of POISON OAK or SUMAC.

Seeds are available locally from:
Hardi Gardens, 6506 South Broadway, Littleton, CO
South Denver Evergreen Nursery, 1534 South Broadway, Denver, CO
More distant sources are:
Lawyer Nursery, Route 2, Box 95, Plains, MT 59859 (also seedlings)
North Plain Seed Producers, P.O. Box 9107, Moscow, ID 83843

The information contained within this article has been extracted from several articles and the personal experiences of the authors. More detailed information may be obtained from Kim ories, Range Science Dept., CSU 80523.

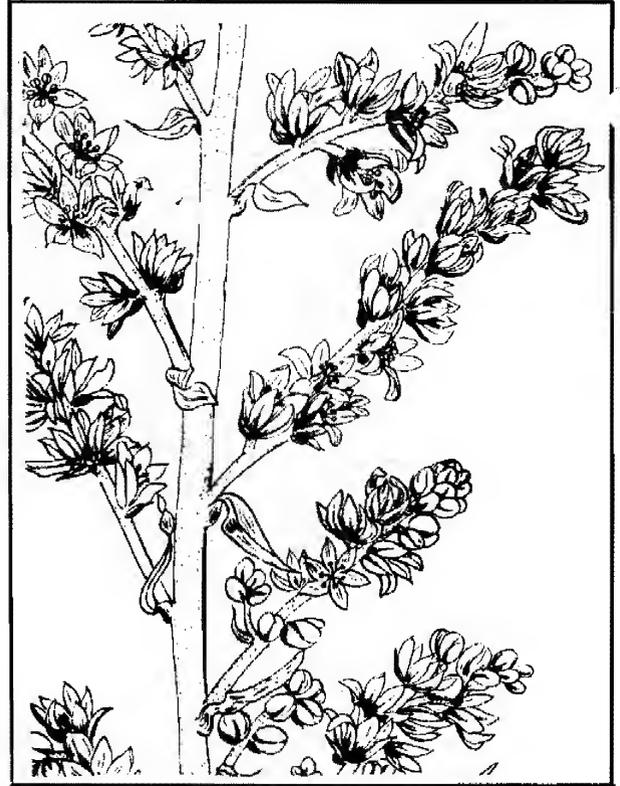
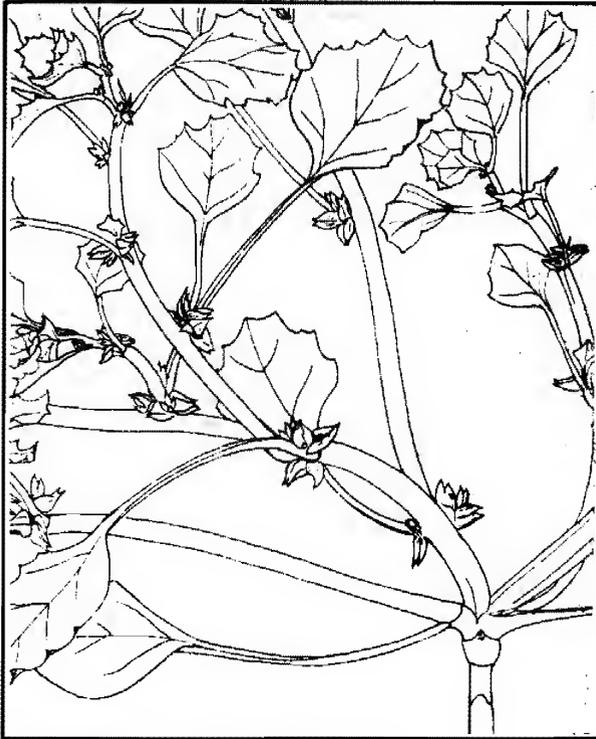
---Gail Evans & Kim Vories



ITEMS OF INTEREST

An article entitled "The Return of the Native" by Carol Smyser appears in the December issue of Organic Gardening and contains information of interest to the landscape gardener. The author is also offering \$ 25 for stories acceptable for use in a forthcoming book on native plants.

The next general membership meeting of the Society is planned for Saturday, April 7 at the Denver Botanical Garden. Details will appear in future issues of the Newsletter.



FINANCIAL REPORT
OCTOBER 15, 1977 - OCTOBER 14, 1978

INCOME	
Membership dues	\$ 1438.50
Interest	73.75
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1512.75</u>
EXPENSES	
Newsletter	\$ 453.24
Meetings	244.18
Rehabilitation Committee	65.81
Colorado Open Space Council dues	50.00
Endangered Species Committee	41.25
Local Chapters	19.20
Miscellaneous	20.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 893.68</u>
CURRENT ASSETS	
Savings	\$ 1340.12
Checking	461.53
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1801.65</u>

---Kim Vories, Treasurer

COLORADO STATE PARKS PASS

The annual pass is now available by mail. Passes ordered by mail will be sent by the Division of Parks & Recreation registration unit within 2 working days after receiving the mail request. The annual pass allows admission to 32 state parks and recreation areas. Costing \$ 10, the pass is valid from January 1-December 31, 1979. Cars with annual passes on their windshields may enter state parks and recreation areas an unlimited number of times during the year, whereas a daily admission without the pass is \$ 2.00. Colorado residents aged 64 or over may request the Aspen Leaf Passport, which is a lifetime pass for \$ 2.00. Annual passes are also available at all parks, recreation areas and offices of the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Please mail me an annual parks pass. I understand that only the original pass, costing \$10 can be sent by mail, but that I can buy the \$1 multiple for other vehicles registered in my name at any park or DPOR regional office after receiving my original pass.

PLEASE PRINT:
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

LICENSE NO. _____

(Pass cannot be issued without license number.)

I bought an annual pass last year: Yes No.

Fill out and mail with \$10 check payable to Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to: DPOR Registration Unit, P.O. Box 231, Littleton, CO 80160.

Colorado residents aged 64 or over should not use this form, but should inquire about the \$2 Aspen Leaf Passport.