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SAGE NOTES

IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



VOL. IX NO. 2

DECEMBER 1985

PAHOVE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- December: No regular meeting this month, Happy Holidays.
- January 15: Boise meeting at 7:30 pm in Room 218, Science Educ. Building Boise State University. The program will be on Idaho's wetlands by Michelle Stevens. This is rescheduled from our cancelled November meeting.
- February 19: Caldwell meeting at 7:30 pm in the herbarium, Boone Science Hall, College of Idaho. The program will be on the life of Isabel Mulford, early day Idaho botanist, by Carol Prentice.

IDAHO'S SENSITIVE PLANT WORKSHOP REPORT

In spite of the unseasonably harsh winter weather, 27 individuals from northern, southeastern and southwestern Idaho, as well as Utah and Oregon, gathered in Boise on December 5 and 6 to review the status of candidates for the Federal T&E list and sensitive plants for the state watch list. This was the second such meeting for Idaho as jointly sponsored by INPS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The first, called a T&E Plant Species Meeting, held in November of 1984 considered only Federal candidates.

Bob Parenti, US Fish and Wildlife Service, discussed the rating criteria and set the ground rules for the meeting. Pat Packard, College of Idaho, acted as moderator in which 91 species on the Federal candidate list were reviewed and discussed. In addition, 9 more were recommended for inclusion on the list. Those species that received the most discussion and concern were *Allium aaseae*, *Astragalus mulfordiae*, *Mirabilis macfarlanei*, and *Physaria didymocarpa* var. *lyrata*.

On the second day, Steve Caicco, Idaho Natural Heritage Program, presented a list of 220 plants for consideration on a state sensitive plants list. Bob Mosely, The Nature Conservancy, moderated this portion of the program. Several species were dropped from the list after discussion, but several more were added by the group. Some of these species may warrant Federal candidate status, however, more field studies are needed before further recommendations can be made.

Charlie Johnson, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, provided insight into sensitive plant status in Oregon. Duane Atwood, US Forest Service, discussed the ratings of many species in Utah. Roger Rosentreter, Boise BLM District, provided extensive data on Southern Idaho species as well as range extensions into Montana. These are just a few who made significant contributions to the workshop.

Steve Caicco volunteered to send a summary of the workshop status recommendations to all workshop participants.

Participants felt that the meeting was productive and successful, and the group recommended continuing the tradition in 1986.

BOISE TREE TOUR A BIG SUCCESS

Thanks to Dick Lingenfelter and Roger Rosentreter, who organized and led the tour, and the Boise Tour Train, nearly a hundred people enjoyed an autumn spectacular in our city of trees. The weather on October 20th was ideal, and the fall colors at their best as a packed tour train meandered through the first bench residential area and finally along the Boise River. Dick and Roger shared the commentary and pointed out the more interesting and unusual forms of trees. Besides viewing many natives, the giant sequoia, bald cypress, Himalayan white pine, ginkgo, Chinese pagoda trees, golden tipped deodar cedar, and incense cedar were examples of exotics that have found a home in Boise.

The excellent turn out can be attributed to Dick's efforts in advertising the event, including local newspaper and TV coverage. Besides providing much good will and publicity for Pahove, it netted \$81 to our treasury.

"The entire venture was conceived and put together in two weeks," Dick said. "Several other people contributed their knowledge of local trees, including Bob Steele, Steve Gosset, and Fritz Kiefer. Selecting a route to provide the most interest in a limited period of time was the greatest challenge," commented Dick. "We should do even better next year."

And there are plans for a repeat performance next year. We can use your help in locating more unusual native and exotic trees in the Boise vicinity. Those specimens may be used on future tree tours or simply be added to our tree inventory database. Call Dick Lingenfelter at 344-7742, or write him at PO Box 5541, Boise, ID 83705.

WILDFLOWER REDISCOVERY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The American Horticultural Society presented its second Wildflower Rediscovery Awards to five individuals who rediscovered populations of species that were thought to be extinct, or found new populations of extremely rare species. Two of these were in our area.

Amsinckia carinata, a small annual herb in the Boraginaceae, or borage family, was rediscovered in Malheur County, Oregon, by Elaine Joyal. This rare species had not been seen since its original discovery by John Leiberg in 1896. Joyal, who rediscovered *A. carinata* in June 1984, used information from the label on a herbarium specimen to identify the pages of Leiberg's filed notebooks that referred to his discovery. Once she obtained copies of the appropriate pages from his journals and field notebooks, which are housed in the Smithsonian Institute archives, Joyal had the clues she needed to search for *A. carinata*. Joyal discovered several populations of the species, which seems to occupy an unique ecological niche; it grows in rocky soil and is intolerant of disturbance. The species is threatened by grazing, agriculture, and general surface disturbance.

Haplopappus insecticruris was rediscovered by Steve Caicco of the Idaho Natural Heritage Program. The species, which is found only in the state of Idaho, had not been seen since the 1940's, despite several intensive searches in the last 10 years. Following Caicco's discovery in 1984, the Idaho Natural Heritage Program hired Vince Lee to make another search for the species. Lee discovered 82 populations located in three Idaho counties. Botanists have now determined that *H. insecticruris* is much more common than they had thought, and the species is no longer considered endangered or threatened.

1986 ENDANGERED WILDFLOWER CALENDAR

The 1986 Endangered Wildflower Calendar, published by the American Horticultural Society, is now available. This attractive wall calendar (8 1/2" by 23" when open) features beautiful color photographs of endangered plants from all over the United States. A description of each endangered plant and the factors threatening it accompanies the photographs. The calendar may be purchased by mail at the retail price of \$6.95 (\$6.25 for AHS members) including postage and handling. Orders with a check or money order made out to AHS for the amount of purchase may be mailed to: Wildflower Calendar, AHS, PO Box 288, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

THE SCROUNGERS NOTEBOOK by Pat Packard

Yarrow. Achillea millefolium L.

Yarrow, a member of the Asteraceae Family, grows everywhere. In winter the dead, flat-topped inflorescences are conspicuous. The narrow, ferny leaves can usually be found at the base, live and green in the winter.

This was used by most Indians as a pain killer. Leaves were mashed and applied to sores and bruises on man or collar sores on horses on the Quinn River. Leaves or roots were tucked into an aching tooth (Trejo, 1974) or a pack of the whole plant was used hot on an earache. A tea was used for indigestion or headache, or at Owyhee, Nevada, for gas pains (Train, 1957). Its effectiveness in some of the later uses is not certain but it tastes so bad the original complaint may have been overshadowed. Jackman (1964) says early Oregon settlers used it to purify the blood, perhaps operating on the theory that anything that bad had to be good for you. Local Paiutes chewed the root to put on bee stings (Trejo, 1974). Unless the saliva is necessary for some critical alteration in the chemical makeup, I would prefer to smash it between two rocks.

Kearny and Peebles (1942) note that it was used by Arizona Indians in acute suppression of the menses. This species is variable physiologically - such a use locally has not been recorded.

In some places this has been recommended as a tea made from either the leaves or the flowers. I don't think I would even want to try our local material this way. One of our group, however, convinced some members of the 'counter culture' that a horrible over-boiled yarrow tea that he had prepared was narcotic and would produce a good high. Being thus convinced, one of them became very high after drinking the bitter brew. It was undoubtedly all in his mind.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY WORKDAYS

Come join us and lend a hand at the College of Idaho's Museum of Natural History monthly workdays. Volunteers are needed for a variety of Museum tasks. We need people to "adopt" old display cases for rebuilding/refinishing. Workdays are held all day on Saturdays, 7 am until evening. Scheduled workdays for 1986 are January 11, February 1, March 1, and April 5. Call Bill Clark at 375-8605 for additional information.

IDAHO NATURAL AREAS

By Charles Wellner & Bob Mosely

Preservation of natural areas in Idaho began 50 years ago with the establishment of Tepee Creek Research Natural Area on the Kaniksu National Forest. It is only within the last two decades, however, that most of the natural area preservation effort has taken place in the state. Established and recommended natural areas in Idaho, summarized in the following table, represent a cooperative effort by various volunteer, private, state, and federal organizations.

| Agency | Established | Recommended |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Forest Service | 20 Research Nat. Areas (RNA's) 2 Botanical Areas | 98 RNA's |
| Bureau of Land Management | 8 RNA's 2 Natural Areas 1 Outstanding Natural Area 4 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) | 42 RNA's 1 ACEC |
| National Park Service | 2 RNA's | |
| Department of Energy | 1 Environmental Park | |
| ID Dept. Parks & Recreation | 3 RNA's | |
| The Nature Conservancy | 5 Nature Preserves | |
| Totals | 48 | 141 |

Both the Forest Service and BLM are preparing plans for each National Forest and BLM Resource Area. These plans, which recently have been emerging for public review, include recommended RNA's and Botanical Areas on National Forests and RNA's and ACEC's on BLM land. We believe that at least two-thirds of the 141 recommended areas will receive favorable consideration in these plans.

A majority of the selection and recommendation of natural areas in Idaho has been done by the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee, a loosely-knit group of volunteer citizens. The Idaho committee has been active the last 12 years in cataloging and classifying elements of natural diversity in Idaho and in assisting the Forest Service and BLM in natural area selection and establishment. The Nature Conservancy recently initiated a Public Lands Program in Idaho to ensure protection of natural diversity on public lands by various means including natural area establishment.

The close cooperation between the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee, The Nature Conservancy, and land management agencies is working well toward the establishment of a network of natural areas that will ultimately encompass much of Idaho's natural diversity.

The authors: Charles Wellner is a member of the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee, and Bob Mosely is with The Nature Conservancy.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Vicki Saab Marks, Boise, ID
Rod Norum, Boise, ID
Melanie Miller, Boise, ID
Karle E. Holte, Pocatello, ID

Gretchen Van Ert, Bountiful, UT
Bill Little, Kimberly, ID
William Shalter, Utica, IL

PLANT PROFILES by Mary McGown

Dipsacus sylvestris Huds.

Family: Dipsacaceae

Fuller's teasel or gypsy's comb is widely dispersed throughout our area in moist or low lying areas. However, it is not a native, but an old world species that has become naturalized throughout the U. S.

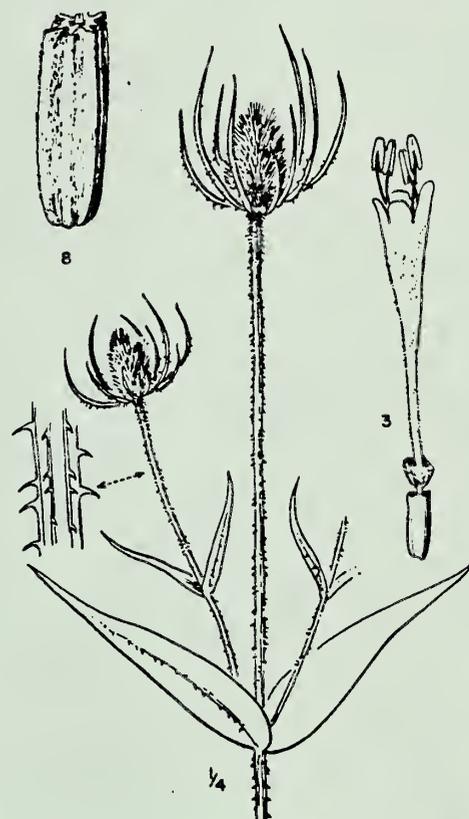
Dipsacus is the most common member of the family. Superficially it resembles a thistle. *D. sylvestris* is a biennial with a stout taproot. The plant generally dies early in its second season.

The heads are erect, dense and ovoid or cylindrical on long, naked peduncles. Each flower is subtended by two fused bracteoles which form an epicalyx. The calyx is 5-merous, cuplike, with a corolla of four or five united petals. The fruit is an achene.

The connate leaves are prickly, especially on the midrib on the underside. The entire plant usually is between one-half to two meters tall.

Teasel was used as a tool to raise the nap on cloth. Today, teasel is more commonly found in dried flower arrangements. Dried teasel heads are available in craft and floral shops. One owner of a craft shop in Boise said "large quantities" of teasel are available to him through a wholesale outlet. The store owner said teasel remains a popular addition to arrangements because paint adheres well to the heads and they can be sprayed with the most popular designer colors.

Teasel is easy to collect in late summer. Tie the stems together and hang upside down in a dry, warm, dark place for about two weeks.

*Dipsacus sylvestris*

Illus. from Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest by Hitchcock, et al.

A PERSONAL AD - I am conducting research on North American species of the genus *Allium* (onions), and search for information, seeds, and/or bulbs of Idaho native *Allium* species. In particular, I am searching for the following species: *A. nevadense*, *bisceptrum*, *douglasii*, *lemonii*, *parvum*, *madidum*, *brandegei*, forms of *cernuum*, color forms of *textile*, white form of *acuminatum*, *fibrillum*, *simillimum*, *aaseae*, *tolmiei*, *tolmiei* var. *platyphyllum*, and *tolmiei* var. *persimile*. Your help with any of these species would be appreciated.

Mark McDonough, 4725 119th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98006.

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Membership in the Society is open to all interested in our native flora. Dues are \$6.00 per year on an anniversary month/year basis. Send dues and all correspondence to I.N.F.S., Box 9451, Boise, ID 83707.

Red dots beside dues dates indicate that your dues have expired. You will receive only two issues after expiration.

DUE DATE FOR COPY MATERIALS FOR NEXT (FEBRUARY) NEWSLETTER IS JANUARY 20.

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