



# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 40, No. 2

MARCH 2014

## NORTHERN NEVADA HAPPENINGS

### MEETINGS

#### NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE

We meet down the hall from the UNR herbarium in room 300G of Fleischman Agriculture, at the University of Nevada. This is just north of the intersection of 9th St. and Evans Ave. The elevator is located at the east end of the building. You can park just east of this in the lot on the southeast corner of Evans and Record Way. Social time starts at 7 pm and the program will start at 7:30 pm. If you would like to join any of the speakers for dinner beforehand, meet at Carrow's Restaurant on the northwest corner of Wells Avenue and 6th St. at 5:30 pm. NOTE: Enter the building under the breezeway on the west side. The outside door will be automatically locked at 7:30.

**MARCH 6th - Tom Schweich**, an independent botanist living in the California Bay Area is currently studying the flora of the Mono Basin. He will provide a presentation on his project, A Checklist Flora of the Mono Lake Basin, Mono County, California and Mineral County, Nevada.

**APRIL 3rd - Kara Moore** with the University of California, Davis will speak about rare plants in Ash Meadows.

## SOUTHERN NEVADA HAPPENINGS

### MEETINGS

Meetings are on the first Monday of every month starting at 6:30 pm. They are held at the U.S. Geological Survey office at 160 N. Stephanie Street in Henderson. Contact Matt Hamilton (702) 468-2251 if you have any questions or would like to be added to the notification by email list, [mojave0827@aol.com](mailto:mojave0827@aol.com)

**MARCH 3rd - UNLV grad student Eric Chameroy** will speak on his graduate work - Facilitation and competition within the spiny hop sage and Joshua tree nurse plant association.

**DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES**

**Prompt payment of dues is always appreciated.**

## 2014 NEVADA RARE PLANT WORKSHOP

The 2014 Nevada Rare Plant Workshop will be held in Reno all day on Thursday the 3rd of April and the first half of Friday the 4th of April. If the number of presentations or other agenda items demands, we can expand into either Friday afternoon or Wednesday afternoon. As always, THE AGENDA SHAPE AND SIZE WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

If you plan on attending please contact Jim Morefield [jdmore@heritage.nv.gov 775-684-2902] ASAP with the following information:

Topic(s) you wish to present to the group (~20 min. unless otherwise requested). Please follow up ASAP with an abstract.

Names/topics of other presenters you would like to suggest.

New or previously considered plant taxa in need of review by the group (and the issues needing review).\*

## CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, AND OTHER EVENTS

### Botanical Illustration of Desert Flora

[https://www.extension.ucr.edu/enroll/catalog/olr\\_course\\_details.php?crsid=245](https://www.extension.ucr.edu/enroll/catalog/olr_course_details.php?crsid=245).

This is a 1-credit, weekend course for artists, botanists, native plant conservationists & art teachers – **only \$ 325 - including room & fresh cooked meals**

This field study is based at the Desert Studies Center (of California State University) located within the Preserve at Soda Springs (Zzyzx), about a three-hour drive from Riverside. The course fee includes two nights' lodging, and meals starting with breakfast Saturday through lunch on Sunday. Upon enrollment, you will be sent detailed information via email about the Center and what to bring. High clearance or 4WD vehicles are desirable but not required. Visitors not permitted.\*

### Western Monarch Monitoring Workshop

North American monarch butterflies need your help! In partnership with the Monarch Joint Venture, The University of Minnesota Monarch Lab presents a two-day monarch monitoring workshop focusing on western monarch populations and citizen science monitoring.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, June 6th, 1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m. and Saturday June 7th, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (please plan on attending both days of the workshop)

LOCATION: River Fork Ranch (TNC), 381 Genoa Lane, Minden, NV 89423 (near the historic town of Genoa in the Carson Valley)

COST: Free (recommended \$20 donation for lunches and snacks)

RSVP: Please e-mail to ssangame@umn.edu to confirm your attendance and receive a link to the online registration form. The workshop is limited to 25 participants.\*

**The University of Nevada, Reno**  
College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources  
and College of Science  
announce the opening of the new  
**MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**

March 5, 2014; Open House 4:00 - 6:00 PM; Fleischmann Agriculture • Room 300

Join us for a tour of our outreach exhibits, collection space, and new teaching lab; explore the historic plant, animal, and insect collections that have been hiding behind locked doors; and interact with undergraduate and graduate researchers and volunteers who are excited to share the wonders of our natural heritage with you!

About The Collection

For the first time in the University's long history, we have integrated the research and teaching collections of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources and the College of Science into a single natural history museum. Located on the third floor of the Fleischmann Agriculture building, the museum holds irreplaceable specimens of plants and animals that are used in research, teaching and outreach. Collections date back as far as the 1890s, and represent a unique snapshot of the flora and fauna of our region and beyond!

The museum holds over 92,000 plant specimens of great historical and scientific value, as well as a growing collection of local and tropical insects and more than 10,000 mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Our museum is the result of decades of collection by University of Nevada, Reno faculty, volunteers and students, and it showcases the wealth of our natural heritage.

**HELP US GROW THE NNPS ONLINE STORE**

The NNPS has been looking to grow the number of publications available for purchase from our Online Store. As a potential addition, NNPS has available a member-authored pictorial flora of the wildflowers in the northeastern region of our state.

At 450 pages with 61 families and 435 individual species represented, the book would be too costly for standard publication. However, it has been suggested by NNPS staff that there may be a potential to convert this publication to an e-book format.

It should be noted, that any future proceeds from the sale of this publication would be 100% directed back to the NNPS.

We are looking among our members for anyone who is familiar with the e-book conversion process and might be able to help with this project.

If you can help, or know of resources or third-party vendors who might be able to provide this service, please consider contacting:

Janel Johnson @ [president@nvnp.org](mailto:president@nvnp.org)

Mary Winter @ [m.winter23@yahoo.com](mailto:m.winter23@yahoo.com)

## AMERICAN PENSTEMON SOCIETY GRANTS

The American Penstemon Society is seeking to fund small projects that focus on scientific or horticultural aspects of Penstemon, especially those that promote conservation or public appreciation. Grants of up to \$1000 are available. The deadline for application is March 31, 2014, with funds distributed in May.

More information about the American Penstemon Society can be found at [www.apsdev.org/](http://www.apsdev.org/) or contact Dorothy Tuthill via email (dtuthill@uwyo.edu) or mail (Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center, Dept. 4304, University of Wyoming, 1000 E. University Ave., Laramie, WY 82071)

## CHORIZANTHE RIGIDA

by Arnold Tiehm

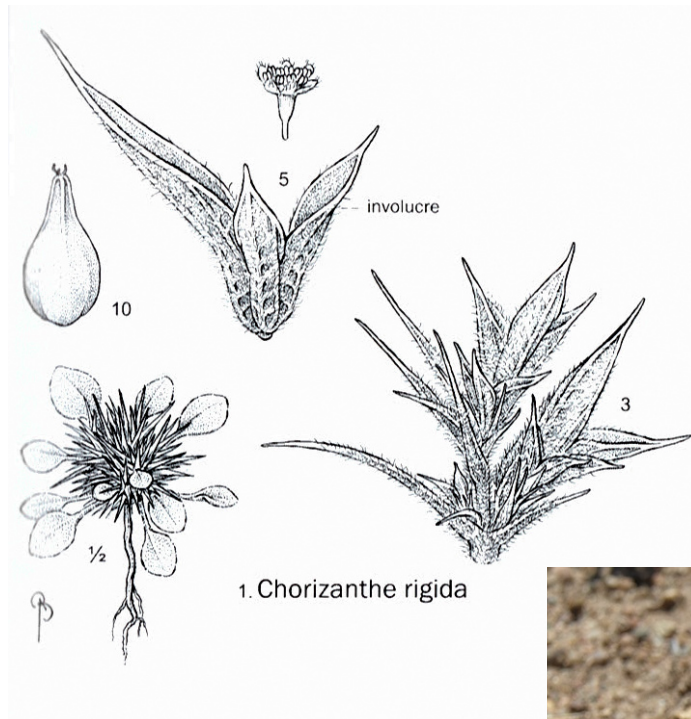
*Chorizanthe* is a member of the *Eriogoneae* subfamily of the Buckwheat Family, Polygonaceae. This subfamily has the flower groups usually subtended by bracts which form an involucre, has stems without swollen nodes, and does not have ocrea. Ocrea are fused stipules which form scarious sheaths that surround the stem. The largest genus in the *Eriogoneae* is *Eriogonum*. *Chorizanthe* is separated from *Eriogonum* by the former having spine tipped involucre.

*Chorizanthe* is a genus of about fifty species that occur mostly in western North America. Actually that statement should read mostly in California. There are also some members of the genus in southwestern South America. In Nevada we have four species, one of which has two varieties: *brevicornu* var. *brevicornu* known from Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral, and Nye Counties; *brevicornu* var. *spathulata* known from Churchill, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Pershing Counties; *corrugata* known from Clark County; *rigida* known from Churchill, Clark, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, and Washoe Counties; and *watsonii* known from all counties except Churchill and Clark. I would bet that *watsonii* is in Churchill County and that it so far has avoided being captured in a plant press.

Of the four species in Nevada *C. rigida* is far and away the easiest to recognize. Here the involucre has sharp spine tips, the bracts subtending the involucre have spinier tips, and even the leaf petioles can be pointed and spine-like. In the spring *C. rigida* appears to be a clump of needles on top of a rosette of long petioled, hairy leaves. It has a yellowish-green look to it and the plants are quite noticeable, especially when they are in dark volcanic gravel habitats. By the end of the summer the plants have turned a purplish color and have gone from being spiny to being downright nasty. They form skeletons which can persist for a number of years and they seem to never lose their spininess. I am not a big one for common names and the two I found for this plant are most appropriate. *Spiny chorizanthe* certainly paints a picture while *devils spineflower* seems to tell the whole story.



The following illustration is from Intermountain Flora 2A: 383. 2012.\*



*Chorizanthe rigida* plant in flower by J. Morefield.

*Chorizanthe brevicornu spathulata* plant in flower by J. Morefield. ↓



*Chorizanthe watsonii* plant in flower by J. Morefield. ↑

Nevada Native Plant Society

PO Box 8965  
Reno NV 89507-8965

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing  
Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Renewal

Newsletter preference: ☐ Paper ☐ Electronic

- Individual, family or group for one year .....\$15.00
  - Individual, family or group for three years ..\$40.00
  - Student or senior citizen, each year .....\$10.00
  - Life membership .....\$450.00
- Dues are for the calendar year in which you join.  
Membership expiration dates are on the mailing labels.

Gifts, and bequests are tax deductible.

Your donation in any amount is appreciated \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable and mail to: NNPS • P.O. Box 8965 • Reno, NV 89507