



# NEWSLETTER

**FORMERLY KNOWN AS NORTHERN NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

**Vol. 38, No. 1**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

## **NORTHERN NEVADA HAPPENINGS**

### **MEETINGS**

We meet in the lab across the courtyard from the herbarium at 920 Valley Road. Social time starts at 7:00 pm and the meeting commences at 7:30 pm. From I-80 take the Wells Avenue exit, go south on Wells and immediately turn right on 7th St. At the stop sign turn right on Valley Road. After the overpass over I-80 take the first entrance on the right into the parking lot. Bear left and look for the courtyard on your right. 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.

**FEBRUARY 2nd 2011 - Michelle Hunt** with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Reno will present **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Schoolyard Habitat & Outdoor Classroom Program.**

**MARCH 1st 2011** - Second meeting for 2012.

**APRIL 5th 2011** - Final spring meeting for 2012.

## **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 Cayenne Engel at [Cayenne.Engel@unlv.edu](mailto:Cayenne.Engel@unlv.edu) or at 865-250-7625 if you want to be added to the email list.

## **GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR BOTANICAL RESEARCH**

### **NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Margaret Williams Research Grants for Botanical Research**

The **Nevada Native Plant Society (NNPS)** Margaret Williams research grants program will annually award up to two grants of not over \$1000 each.

These grants are designed to facilitate basic botanical research and increase our understanding of Nevada's native and naturalized flora. The research should cover some aspect of our flora from single species to whole communities or ecosystems. Research can include, but is not limited to, disciplines such as conservation, landscape analysis, ecology, biogeography, or taxonomy.

## **CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES**

Written proposals are to be submitted to the Small Grants Program chairman. Research proposals should be concise and to the point!! Each proposal should contain a title, objectives, methods, expected final product, a brief statement of applicant's qualifications, and a project budget for how **NNPS** funds will be spent. If applicant is a student an accompanying letter from their advisor is required (maximum of one page). Inclusion of an e-mail address will facilitate notification. Deadline is 1 February 2012.

Costs covered by these grants include travel, lodging, meals, services such as computer time, graphics, phone, copying, and film and processing. Non-eligible costs include equipment, wages, typing, and costs unrelated to the project.

A decision will be reached by 1 March 2012. All applicants will be notified of the committee's decision. The committee may decide not to fund a grant in any given year.

Successful applicants will be required to discuss their research results with **NNPS**. This can be through an article for our newsletter or by giving a presentation at an evening **NNPS** meeting.

Support in the form of a **NNPS** Margaret Williams Grant will be awarded only once for any one project.

We would prefer proposals be emailed to Jim Morefield at [jdmore@heritage.nv.gov](mailto:jdmore@heritage.nv.gov) They can also be snail mailed to the following address.

Nevada Native Plant Society, Small Grants Chair, P.O. Box 8965, Reno, NV 89507-8965

## **ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, January 30th at Bonnie and Leif Larsen's house. Dinner will be served at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:15. A dinner of pasta, green salad, French bread, and cookies for dessert will be provided by the Larsens. They are asking all participants to contribute \$5. For directions and to RSVP contact them by phone (775) 972-0583 or email [rocco649@charter.net](mailto:rocco649@charter.net) no later than the 25th. Be warned - If you fail to do this they may not have enough food for you. If you wish something to drink other than coffee, tea, or water you'll have to bring that as well.

Agenda Items: Please submit agenda items to Janel Johnson by the 24th. She will be out of town later in that week so last minute items will have to wait until the meeting. Committee Chairs: Please submit a quick report for your committee's activities for the year, particularly if you will not be attending the meeting.\*

## NVNPS OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2012

## OFFICERS

**President:** Janel Johnson (775) 684-2911 (w) president@nvnp.org

**Vice President:** Sarah Kulpa vicepresident@nvnp.org

**Recording Secretary:** Pat Neyman (775) 265-7918 (h) secretary@nvnp.org

**Treasurer:** Leif Larsen treasurer@nvnp.org

**Corresponding Secretary:** Arnold Tiehm (775) 329-1645 (h) membership@nvnp.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS (with expiration date)

**Elizabeth Bergstrom** 11/14 (775) 884-8154 (w) ebergstrom@fs.fed.us

**Cayenne Engle** 11/14 (702) 774-1461 cpepper3@gmail.com

**Ann Pinzl** 11/13 (775) 883-0463 (h) apinzl@sbcglobal.net

**DeVon Ekenstam** 11/13 (702) 378-0624 (h)

**Fred Edwards** 11/12 (702) 515-5258 (w) Fred\_S\_Edwards@blm.gov

**Stan Shebs** 11/12 (702) 822-0019 (h/c) stanshebs@earthlink.net

## CHAIRPERSONS

**Archivists:** Ann Pinzl (775) 883-0463 (h) & Sue Wainscott (702) 455-3859 (w)

**Conservation:** Joseph Betzler (702) 575-4385

**Field Trips:** Jim Boone jlboone@aol.com & Stan Shebs stanshebs@earthlink.net

**Grants:** Jim Morefield (775) 684-2902 (w) grants@nvnp.org

**Hospitality:** Bonnie Larsen (775) 972-0583 & Lesley DeFalco (702) 564-4507 (w)

**Horticulture & Loring Williams Memorial Garden:** Carol Thomas (775) 747-3272 (w) (775) 345-0161 (h)

**Newsletter:** Arnold Tiehm (775) 329-1645 (h) membership@nvnp.org

**Past President:** Sonja Kokos (702) 326-5564 (w) sonjakokos@yahoo.com

**Photography:** Gary Monroe (775) 359-4863 (h) and Joseph Betzler

**Posters:** Fred Edwards (702) 515-5258 (w) Fred\_S\_Edwards@blm.gov

**Programs:** Jan Nachlinger (775) 849-2804 (h), Gary Reese greese@logansimpson.com & Jennifer Brickey jennybe2@hotmail.com

**Publications:** Fred Edwards (702) 515-5258 (w), Hermi Hiatt, Sonja Kokos, Jim Morefield, Ann Pinzl, Arnold Tiehm & Sue Wainscott

**Rare Plants:** Jim Morefield (775) 684-2902 (w) rareplants@nvnp.org & Fred Edwards

**Scribes:** Stan Shebs & Bruce Lund (702) 839-5563 (w)

**Webmaster:** Janel Johnson (775) 684-2911 (w) webmaster@nvnp.org

NVNPS web site is [www.nvnp.org](http://www.nvnp.org)

## A COUPLE OF MOJAVE DESERT COMPOSITES

by Arnold Tiehm

In early April of 2010 I attended the Nevada rare plant meetings in Las Vegas. It was a pleasant break to go from the cold of Reno to the Mojave Desert where things were in flower! After the meetings I went botanizing in the Eldorado Mountains east of Searchlight and west of Lake Mojave. Some of the washes were ablaze with yellow *Encelia*, pink *Opuntia basilaris*, and a variety of smaller flowered plants that were just as pleasing to the eye. My previous experience in that general area was a morning in the Newberry Mountains with Margaret Williams and an afternoon near Nelson with Margaret and Jeanne Janish. So being the Mojave Desert novice that I am, I proceeded to have an

argument with a jumping cholla (*Cylindropuntia bigelovii*). It isn't fun trying to get back to the car with a cacti pad embedded in your Achilles heel and even less fun trying to remove it. I knew there was a reason I haven't spent much time that far south!! Toward evening of my second day I encountered an annual member of the composite or sunflower family (Asteraceae) that was totally unfamiliar to me. It had large clasping leaves and vegetatively reminded me of *Malacothrix coulteri*. The flower heads were tall and narrow and did not contain many flowers. I do not carry a flora in the field so I just collected it and filed it away for future study. Two days later I was in Las Vegas visiting Pat Leary and told him I had found a strange dandelion tribe sunflower. After I described it we checked his numerous floras and checklists and we were unable to identify the plant. The next morning I removed the specimens from the plant press, opened the sheet, and we were both immediately struck by the fact that it did not belong to the dandelion tribe. The involucre bracts were in one row and all the same length. I said it looked like a *Senecio* and Pat said yes, *S. mohavensis*. I then realized that if it was a member of the dandelion tribe it would of had milky juice. I was once told that a good scientist should never miss the obvious. Well, I certainly missed *Senecio mohavensis'* lack of milky juice.

*Senecio mohavensis* is one of only two annual *Senecios* in Nevada. The other is the introduced weed *S. vulgaris*. Just to the north of Nevada in eastern Oregon is an endemic annual, *S. erittrae* (Cronquist, 1994). I have looked for this in Nevada and so far have not been able to locate a population. It turns out that *S. mohavensis* is most closely related to *S. flavus* of the Saharo-Arabian and Namibian deserts of Africa and Asia (Liston et al., 1989). The interesting study by Liston et al. showed that *S. flavus* is a diploid while *S. mohavensis* is a tetraploid. They also did electrophoretic studies of 13 enzymes which revealed the close relationship of *S. mohavensis* and *S. flavus*.

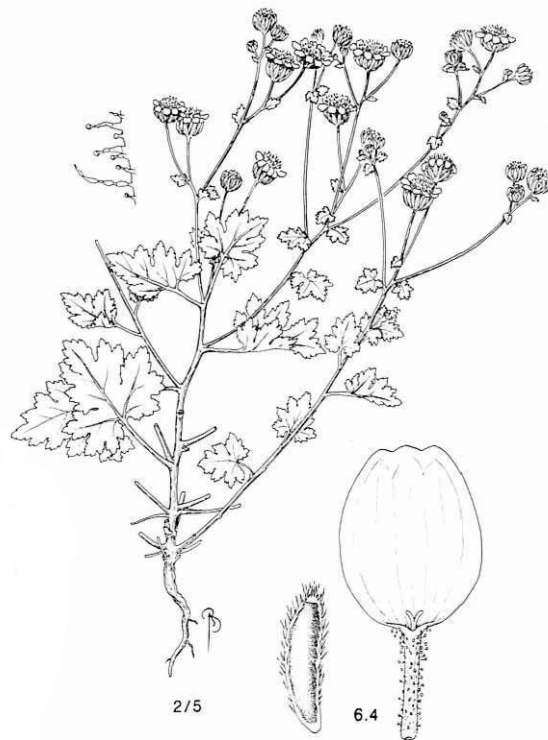
I found some other plants that I had only read about or had seen on herbarium sheets and were grateful to see them with their feet in the ground. Among these was another annual member of the sunflower family, *Perityle emoryi*. I first found a few individuals of this sticky, white-rayed jewel on a steep hillside some distance from one of the few roads penetrating the area. I was delighted the next day when I was driving up a broad wash and was accompanied by *P. emoryi* for over a mile. A check of Intermountain Flora yielded a rather interesting distribution: "s. Calif. to s. Nev. and sw. Utah, where barely entering our range in Washington Co., s. to Baja Calif. and Sonora; common about Lake Mead, and extending up the Colorado River to the Little Colorado in Coconino Co., Ariz.; disjunct in Chile and Peru" (Cronquist, 1994). I am always intrigued by temperate plants that occur in both North and South America. There sure are a lot of tropical areas between the deserts.

The following illustration is from Intermountain Flora 5: 105. 1994.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Cronquist, A. 1994. Asteraceae, pp. 1-496. In: A. Cronquist, A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal & P.K. Holmgren. Intermountain Flora 5: 1-496. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Liston, A., L.H. Rieseberg & T.S. Elias. 1989. Genetic similarity is high between intercontinental disjunct species of *Senecio* (Asteraceae). Amer. J. Bot. 76: 383-389.\*



Perityle emoryi

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Laura Eisenberg, Las Vegas, NV.  
 Eric Eldredge, Fallon, NV.  
 Michelle Hunt, Reno, NV.  
 Seanna Larson, Las Vegas, NV.  
 Kendra Olcott, Elko, NV.  
 Bruce Reynolds, Henderson, NV.  
 JohnYoung, Las Vegas, NV.

The May NNPS meeting in Reno is traditionally (3 years running now) hosted by a local member willing to share their home garden as an informal setting. We need a volunteer to host this year's May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, so please call Jan Nachlinger at 233-2469 if you are interested. Thanks.\*

Nevada Native  
Plant Society  
P.O. Box 8965  
Reno, NV 89507-8965

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