



Hello, Society members. Our first newsletter of 2015 is devoted to the memory of Jim Reveal who passed away on January 9th. Noel Holmgren has written a lovely tribute to our friend.

Please come to our February meeting as UNR's Dr. Leger will demonstrate how herbariums play a critical role in understanding our plant communities.

In May we'll hold our annual garden party. If you would like to show off your collection, be sure to read the happening section.

Despite a Sierra snowpack that is less than 20% of normal, we're still planning on heading out to the field this summer. If we want to see anything more than last year's dried flower stalks, we'll need some creative ideas for field trips. If you have place in mind that would make a great Society destination or would like to lead a trip, please contact our field trip coordinator, John Weiser, at (775) 331-4485 or [johnpweiser@yahoo.com](mailto:johnpweiser@yahoo.com).

Need some new wall art? Our Eastern Mojave Wildflower posters are \$5 off now through February 14th at Amazon.com. You can also support NNPS by shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choosing NNPS as your charity.

Are you caught up on your Society dues? Membership dues account for 50% of our operating revenue. Last year we spent \$1,450 on research grants, \$1,700 on newsletters, and \$1,025 on new items for our store, all of which would have been impossible without our members' support. It's easy to check on your membership status – just go to [nvnps.org](http://nvnps.org) and login or click the Join tab.

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## NORTHERN NEVADA HAPPENINGS

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### MEETINGS

**February 5th 7:00PM – What can we learn from dry, dead plants?** Dr. Beth Leger, UNR Associate Professor and Associate Director of Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology Graduate Program, discusses the importance of herbarium collections and why we all should contribute specimens to our local herbarium.

The February meeting will be held in room 300G of the Fleischman Agriculture Building on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno. The building is north of the intersection of 9th Street and Evans Avenue. Park in the lot on the southeast corner of Evans and Record Way.

Enter the building under the breezeway on the west side near the street. There's

an elevator at the east end of the building. Meet on the third floor down the hall from the UNR herbarium in room 300G.

Social time starts at 7 PM and the program will start at 7:30. 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 Street at 5:30.

**Note:** The outside door will be automatically locked at 7:30 so don't be late!

**March 5th** – TBA

**April 2nd, 7:00PM** – Steve Matson, botanical photographer extraordinaire contributing to CalPhotos, will give a presentation titled Botanizing Big Pine. Join us for our last spring meeting of 2015.

**May 7, time and location TBA** - Show off your natives! Please contact Jan, (775) 233-2469, if you would like to host the annual garden meeting at your home this spring.

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## SOUTHERN NEVADA HAPPENINGS

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### MEETINGS

Southern Nevada Meetings are suspended while we search for a new program coordinator. Please contact Cayenne Engel at [cpepper3@gmail.com](mailto:cpepper3@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer to help organize meetings and get our group out in the field again.

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## SOCIETY BUSINESS

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Looking for something to do? We need members to assist with Society business:

**Newsletter Editor** – Assemble and edit field trip reports, announcements, and articles for the newsletter nine times a year. Access to publication software like MS Publisher or Adobe InDesign is desirable.

**Treasurer** – Keep track of the money brought in and spent each year. Deposit checks, pay bills, and reimburse members for expenses. Online account management will allow the treasurer to work from anywhere. As a non-profit, our tax reporting is a simple postcard.

**Online Store Keeper** - Maintain item listings, fill orders, answer questions, and look after the Society's online store.

If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions, please email Janel at [president@nvnp.org](mailto:president@nvnp.org).





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## **JAMES LAURITZ REVEAL (1941-2015)**

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### **A TRIBUTE TO MY FIELD COMPANION, COLLEAGUE, AND FRIEND**

*by Noel H. Holmgren*

Jim was born 29 March 1941 in the Washoe County Hospital near Reno, Nevada, the first of two children to Jack Liburn Reveal (1912-1988) and Arlene Hadfield Reveal (1916-2005). Prior to Jim's birth, Jack was working summers in the Elko County range survey with my father, Arthur Holmgren, while both were students at Utah State Agricultural College (now Utah State University). By 1941 Jack had graduated and the Reveals were living in Yerington, Nevada. Soon after Jim was born, they moved to California where Jack, as

part of the war effort, worked in the management of tree harvest in the coastal redwood forests.

Jim grew up in California. He attended kindergarten and first grade in Dunsmuir, then, in 1948, the family moved to the small Sierra Nevada resort town of Pinecrest, where his father served as a district ranger on the Stanislaus National Forest. While living in Pinecrest, Jim completed his schooling from grades two through twelve. His second and third grades were in a two-room school house in Long Barn, a ten-mile ride from home. In 1950 a one-room school house was established in Pinecrest, from which he and one other student graduated in 1955. From Pinecrest he rode the bus 30 miles to a high school in Sonora.

In 1951, at the age of ten, he began working summers for a high Sierra packer, working around horses and guiding pack

trips into the Emigrant Wilderness Area of the high Sierra Nevada of Tuolumne County, developing skills that have served him well on several occasions later in life. These early years in Jim's life are possibly fairly accurately reflected in the fictitious character of Jerrit Trover in the novel by Jim and his childhood friend, Joanne Knowles, whose *nom de plume* is Jo DeEds (DeEds & Reveal, 2013).

After graduating from high school in 1959 and a summer working on the Toiyabe National Forest, he entered Utah State University, majoring in forestry, and in Jim's own words:

*I arrived in Logan in the fall of 1959, majoring in forestry; my mother drove me there from California and took me around to meet all of her old professors. My father drove me to Logan in the fall of 1960, and one of his stops was the herbarium atop the botany building where we visited Art Holmgren; I was scheduled to take his plant taxonomy class in the spring of 1961 so meeting the professor was a nice touch. I listened to tales of the old days and looked around the fourth floor seeing all the tall cases filled with specimens. I had collected plants for my high school advanced biology class, and in anticipation of taking taxonomy I had spent the summer of 1960 collecting on the east side of the Sierra Nevada.*

*I was in Art's taxonomy course that spring, and about halfway through his class, and under the intense prodding of Arthur Cronquist who was in the West collecting plants for the Intermountain Flora project, I changed majors and was now a botany student and Art Holmgren's newest protégé. . . . In September of 1961 Noel*

*and I were in the field gathering plants in Dinosaur National Park for his dad. Later, in late September, we were sent to southern Utah to search for *Asclepias tuberosa* so that Robert Woodson of the Missouri Botanical Garden could drive West and gather specific populations without having to actually search them out.*

*Thinking back on the events of early 1964, I do not now remember when I learned that Noel and I would be collecting plants for the Intermountain Flora project. (Reveal, 2013)*

*I also don't remember the details that led up to this pairing, except for the fact that Dr. Cronquist and my father made the arrangements for Jim and me to use of the Intermountain Herbarium pickup and plant collecting equipment, and Cronquist had the funds on his Intermountain Flora NSF grant to pay mileage and \$7.00 per diem for each of us. We were thrilled.*

In June of 1964, as soon as school was out, Jim and I loaded the truck and headed out for an adventurous summer of field work, not realizing then that we would have those same opportunities for the following two summers as well.

The first two summers Jim was a masters student at Utah State, and the third season he had moved to Brigham Young University for his doctorate. That third season (1966) we were allowed to stray beyond the region boundaries to collect *Eriogonum* and *Castilleja* for our thesis studies.

The three years are described in more detail by Jim in *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* (Reveal, 2013).

I was the designated leader of the expeditions, so the collection numbers were mine. I did all the driving, but we both had



equal say in where we were to collect. It turned out to be the best division of labor, taking advantage of Jim's uncanny ability to spot interesting plants at highway speeds and my ability to negotiate the slower, but sometimes tricky, unmaintained, back roads.

We gathered 2,164 collections during the three years, 1,031 of them from Nevada. Among the 891 collections made in 1964, four from Nevada became types for names new to science. The numbers in parentheses are my collection numbers: two buckwheats, *Eriogonum nutans* var. *glabratum* Reveal (1037) from west of Deeth and *E. holmgrenii* Reveal (1576) from the ridge above Johnson Lake in the Snake Range, *Geranium toquimense* N. H. & A. H. Holmgren (1518) from a cirque just below Jefferson Peak in the Toquimas, and *Cirsium eatonii* var. *viperinum* D. J. Keil (1588), not far from the Holmgren buckwheat locality in the Snake Range.

In 1965 our collections included the types for *Primula nevadensis* N. H. Holmgren (2216) from Mount Washington in the Snake Range and *P. capillaris* N. H. & A. H. Holmgren (2154) from the Ruby Mountains.

In 1966 most of our collections were from out of state, but in Nevada our collections included types for *Castilleja sal-suginosa* N. H. Holmgren (2764) from Monte Neva Hot Springs, *C. dissitiflora* N. H. Holmgren (2772) from the White Pine Range, *Eriogonum heermannii* var. *clokeyi* Reveal (2990) from the Spring Mountains, *Draba oreibata* var. *serpentina* Tiehm & P. K. Holmgren (2761) from the Snake Range, and *Potentilla holmgrenii* D. F. Murray & Elven (2818) from the Snake Range.

In 1967, while I remained in New York working on my dissertation, Jim spent eight days in early June collecting in southeastern Utah with Johnnie Gentry (Cronquist's new graduate student) and Gerrit Davidse (a master's student of my father). Beyond that, Jim was taking short trips collecting eriogonums, often assisted by his first wife (Caroline Grace Powell Reveal). The summer concluded with a September trip into New Mexico and Texas with Gerrit Davidse.

Most of Jim's summer of 1968 was spent collecting on the Nevada Test Site for Dr. Janice C. Beatley (1919-1987), an ecologist working on the flora of that area. For eleven days in August 1968, I joined him, collecting in and around the Test Site. This time he did the driving and was owner of the collection numbers.

Eight of his collections became types, six of which he described himself: *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *vernum* Reveal, near Yucca Flat (Reveal 1139); *Townsendia jonesii* var. *tumulosa* Reveal, Las Vegas Valley (Reveal 1326); *Eriogonum cernuum* Reveal, Timber Mountain (Reveal 1501); *Machaeranthera ammophila* Reveal, Ash Meadows (Reveal & N. H. Holmgren 1882); *Grindelia fraxinopratisensis* Reveal, Ash Meadows (Reveal & N. H. Holmgren 1887), and *Eriogonum microthecum* var. *lapidicola* Reveal, South Belted Range (Reveal & N. H. Holmgren 1926); and two by other authors: *Astragalus beatleyae* Barneby, South Gold Flat (Reveal 1071); *Penstemon pahutensis* N. H. Holmgren, on Rainier Mesa (Reveal 1206).

Jim finished all the requirements for a Ph.D. in the spring of 1969. His thesis was a revision of the genus *Eriogonum*, consisting of 546 double-spaced pages, which represented a condensed version of an 1,800-page manuscript. Dr. Reveal



Jim (center with cowboy hat) at Sunday classroom at McGee Creek - 2011 *Eriogonum* Society, California

had a job waiting for him as Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, but before heading east he made a quick trip to southern Nye County to collect the type of *Eriogonum inflatum* var. *contiguum* Reveal (Reveal & M. E. Matthews 2157).

Promotions during his career at UM included Associate Professor in 1974 and full Professor in 1981. During his first few years he was able to concentrate his research on the first two volumes of *Intermountain Flora* and on his beloved *Eriogonum*. During a sabbatical in 1975-76, he spent six months working with his former major professor, Stanley L. Welsh (b. 1928), on the Utah Cruciferae (Brassicaceae).

Fieldwork during his University of Maryland years included *Eriogonum* hunting trips throughout the western United States and Mexico. Trips further afield include Panama (1979), the People's Republic of China (1981), and Nicaragua (1994), and, in retirement, a brief respite from *Eriogonum* collecting in the Eurasian country of Georgia (2005), where there are no *erigonomums*.

During the 80's and early 90's his research focus changed to studying the colonial flora of Maryland (1680-1725), which involved travel to England, including a year and a half (1990-1992) residence in London as Visiting Research Fellow at the Natural History Museum, studying specimens of American plants named by Carl Linnaeus.

During the 90's he was doing research and writing about history of botanical explorations in the west and on validating supra-generic nomenclature. The latter work earned him the name *The Great Validator*.

He retired in 1999 from the University of Maryland with the title Professor Emeritus and moved to a country home near Montrose, Colorado, where he and second wife, C. Rose Broome (b. 1939), had a couple horses and a truck that would pull a horse trailer and sometimes a large fifth-wheel trailer. The two of them traveled widely throughout the west collecting *Eriogonum* species and camping in style with the comforts of their fifth-wheel trailer. Back in the 60's, Jim and I would

dream about such comforts when for two summers we camped with a rickety, somewhat reinforced, plywood box, built to resemble a camper, anchored to the bed of the Intermountain Herbarium pickup truck. The trailer came in handy for one of his projects, which was following the path of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and collecting the plants observed by them. This resulted in the book *Lewis and Clark's Green World: the expedition and its plants*, co-authored with Earle A. Scott (Scott & Reveal, 2003).

Jim was a Research Associate at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science from 2001 to 2006, during which time he studied the collections of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Since 2003 he has been an Honorary Curator at the New York Botanical Garden, where he spent time doing library research and working on the Eriogonoideae for *Flora of North America* and Polygonaceae for *Intermountain Flora*.

In 2007 he and Rose opened yet another chapter in their lives, selling the Colorado farm and moving to Ithaca, New York, where he was an Adjunct Professor in Cornell University's Department of Plant Sciences and where he continued to work on *Eriogonum* and various other genera. He was a popular speaker. His CV lists more than 80 invited talks on a host of subjects in addition to *Eriogonum*, including biogeography, ecology, the Endangered Species Act, pre-Linnaean collectors in North America, and botany of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

One of the many remarkable things about Jim is his voluminous list of publications, which exceeds 530 titles of scientific papers and books. Even before completing his doctoral degree, he had 36 publications in print or in press, the first ten of

them in print before he had finished his masters degree.

Awards received include: Washington Academy of Sciences Outstanding Biologist for 1972 and again for 1978; the Edger T. Wherry Award from the North American Rock Garden Society in 2009; the Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award by the New England Botanical Club in 2009; the Outstanding Academic Book Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries for his 1992 book *Gentle Conquest: The botanical discovery of North America with illustrations from the Library of Congress* (Reveal 1992).

Jim was the mentor, leader, and inspiration of the Eriogonum Society. He was still actively working on various research projects in his office at Cornell University only two days before his sudden and untimely death on 9 January 2015. He was taken far too young. Rest in peace, Jim. We miss you.

## LITERATURE CITED

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