



Hulsea algida by Jan Nachlinger, one of the 2014 NNPS photo contest winners

2015 PHOTO CONTEST

Announcing our fourth annual photo contest! Send in your best shots of native plants, flowers, scenery, and field trips taken in Nevada or neighboring western states. Members may view and vote on submitted photos and the most popular entries will be used to create the 2016 NNPS Calendar. Each member

may submit up to four photos. Please do not submit photos that were entered in previous years.

Submitted photography must not contain watermarks, trademarks, or other personally identifiable markings. The photographers will be credited on the calendar. The original photos must be at



Trifolium macrocephalum by Matt Lavin, a 2013 photo contest winner

least 3,300 pixels wide and 2,500 pixels tall to print properly. The webmaster will contact photographers for original photos after the voting.

To help us order the correct number of calendars, we encourage members to pre-order. Pre-ordered calendars will be available at cost plus postage (or you may pick them up in person in Reno, Carson City, or Henderson and save the postage), but we will not know the final price until we have the order ready. We anticipate a printing cost between \$10 and \$12 depending on the number of calendars ordered. The calendar will also be available for purchase from our online store.

Submission Deadline September 30th, 2015. Voting for favorites will begin October 1st. You must log in to your account to create entries. Enter now at NVNPS.org! Good luck.

NORTHERN NEVADA NEWS

See NVNPS.org for updated meeting details.

Sept. 3 – The Flora of Sierra Valley

Bill Harnach, NNPS member and Sierra Valley resident, will give a presentation on the rich flora of Sierra Valley. Sierra Valley is a huge, down-faulted basin with Great Basin-like sagebrush vegetation but

west-side Sierran hydrology which flows into the Feather River system.

Oct. 1 – Ecology of Great Basin Forbs

Sarah Barga, UNR graduate student and recipient of the Margaret Williams Research Grant, will present a program about her research on the forbs of our region.

Nov. 5 – 2015 Field Trip Highlights

John Weiser, NNPS member and avid native plant gardener, will show highlights from this year's annual Eriogonum Society meeting field trips along with highlights from other NNPS trips.

Meet in room 300G of the Fleischman Agriculture Building on the UNR campus, north of 9th Street and Evans Avenue. Park in the lot on the SE 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 and down the hall from the UNR herbarium.

Social time starts at 7:00 PM and the program will start at 7:30. The outside door will be automatically locked at 7:30 so don't be late!

SOUTHERN NEVADA NEWS

Southern Nevada Meetings are suspended while we search for a new program coordinator. Please contact Cayenne Engel at cpepper3@gmail.com to help organize meetings and get our group out in the field again.

PECTIS PAPPOSA – AND A LARREA, TOO!

The wonderful rains we received in May and June have certainly turned a potentially poor botany year into a more than reasonable one. Granted, the rains did not help with the early flowers or make all of the deserts palates of color but they have provided some surprises.

The continuous low elevation region in western Nevada is known as the Lahontan Trough. Through this zone many Mohave Desert plants make their way north to our area and some continue as far north as southern Oregon. One such plant is chinchweed, *Pectis papposa* (Asteraceae). By mid-June this year the low hills between Weeks and Wabuska, the Truckee River Canyon east of Reno, and the Truckee Range northeast of Fernley were swathed in yellow flowering *Pectis*. The timing was a little earlier than usual but the plants did not seem to mind. *Pectis* reaches its northern distribution point in southern Pershing County. In some areas six-weeks grama grass, *Bouteloua barbata* was also present and this grass has its northern distribution point in Churchill County.

Jan Nachlinger and I had our first *Pectis* sighting on one of our yearly sojourns. We were on our way to central Nevada when we encountered the yellow flower masses between Weeks and Wabuska. After enjoying the sight, collecting a few other interesting botanical treasures, and snapping a lot of photos, we continued on our trip. On the way back we turned south at Fallon and then swung west along the north side of the Desert Mountains. The landscapes were dotted with color from both *Pectis* and desert trumpet, *Eriogonum inflatum*. The yellow-green buckwheat was present in



Pectis covered hillside

large colonies and was very conspicuous. After about 14 miles we came to Hooten Well. From there we turned south along the pole line road, bore west, and came out along the north side of Wabuska Hot Springs. The areas south of Hooten Well were especially floriferous and *Pectis* was far and away the color winner.

Avid readers of this newsletter may recall an article I wrote about *Larrea tridentata* (creosote bush) in Lyon County (NNPS Newsletter 24(6): 2. 1998) [I just noticed that in the previous article I listed the location as being in Churchill County when in fact it is in Lyon County]. There I told the story of Steve Ferrand contacting me about a single creosote bush he had discovered in Lyon County



Pectis papposa

and that he believed it could have been established from a seed dispersed from his vehicle during previous trips to the Desert Mountains. Well Jan and I found ourselves a mile or so from the site so we swung in and took a look. The creosote bush was looking well and was in flower and fruit. It's growing in the middle of the road which would put its long term survival in doubt. I am amazed that it has persisted this long. Maybe we have not had a cold enough winter to do it in.

by Arnold Tiehm

ON THE PATH OF LEMMONS IN SIERRA VALLEY

On June 13, fifteen plant enthusiasts arrived from near and far journeyed to a historical botanical site near Sierraville, California. The trip's leaders, Bill and Nancy Harnach, make their home in Sierra Valley and their field trips are always delightful – presenting the valley's botanical treasures from a local and historical perspective. Today's outing did not disappoint. Starting off, Bill told the history of the Lemmon family in Sierra Valley, the trip being in the area of Lemmon family ranches and where John Gill Lemmon, known as J.G. Lemmon, collected numerous plants in the 1800s. Born circa 1831 in Michigan, J.G. fought in the American Civil War and was captured and imprisoned in Andersonville in 1864. Released from prison in 1865, he went to Sierraville to stay with family members and recover his health. While there, he developed an interest in botany, corresponded with well-known botanists, and began collecting. While some of his recordings seem a little unreliable, he and his wife, Sarah Plummer Lemmon, made a good contribution to botanical studies and their collections are in the Jepson Herbarium at U.C. Berkeley.

The first plants seen as we left our vehicle were an excellent prickly poppy, *Argemone munita*, and the ever-thriving bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis*, which is a weedy morning glory. After Bill's talk, the group ambled down a dirt road, passing beehives, and into an area at the edge of a forested hillside. The forest thinned and sloped down to Sierra Valley, providing a pleasant view. Trees in the area were Jeffrey pines, *Pinus jeffreyi*; incense cedar, *Calocedrus decurrens*; and western junipers, *Juniperus occidentalis*.

Shrubs included mountain sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *Vaseyana*; mountain mahogany, *Cercocarpus ledifolius*; Manzanita, *Arctostaphylos* sp.; and bitterbrush, *Purshia tridentata*. Many areas were carpeted by Mahala mat, *Ceanothus prostratus*.

Among blooming herbaceous plants seen in the aster family were two balsam roots, *Balamorhiza hookerii* and *B. saggitatus*, some of their bright yellow sunflowers nipped off by an unknown herbivore. The rayless daisy, *Erigeron bloomerii*, and a hawksbeard, *Crepis* sp., also were present. Mariposa lilies, *Calochortus leichtlinii*, were in their prime. Interesting to see was western burnet, *Sanguisorba occidentalis*, a native species which has a relative, garden burnet, *S. minor*, a commonly-seen garden escapee. There was a buckwheat, *Eriogonum douglasii* var. *meridionale*, and hot rock penstemon, *P. deustus*. Especially fun to see was *Lomatium nudicale*, which has a swelling of the stem right under the flower, giving it a little platform. Good-looking grasses were onespoke danthonia, *D. unispicata*, and a wildrye, *Elymus* sp. Rabbit's foot milkvetch, *Astragalus purshii*, displayed white fuzzy seed pods, and woodland rockcress, formerly known as an arabis but now as *Boechera pinetorum*, had amazing long, thin seed pods.

When lunchtime arrived, we proceeded uphill on Lemmon Road to a riparian area on Lemmon Creek. Here we dined creekside among pines, firs, willows, and wild roses. Horsetails, *Equisetum* sp., displayed interesting sterile florets. Among blooming herbaceous plants were meadow



Eriogonum douglassii meridionale by Janel Johnson

penstemon, *P. rydbergii*; the showy milkweed, *Asclepias speciosa*; seep monkey flower, *Mimulus guttatus*; and Brewers bittercress, *Cardamine breweri*.

Departing our not-especially-cool creekside lunch spot, we might have gone home, but since Nancy and Bill invited us to stop by their home in Calpine, it naturally was decided to go there, and it naturally was decided to make a few roadside stops to see additional plants. Right along the road was Plumas ivesia, *I. sericoleuca*, endemic to California and listed as rare and endangered. It was about a foot tall with clusters of showy white flowers blooming profusely in the summer sun. Keeping it company was the buckwheat, *Eriogonum strictum*

var. *proliferum*, also showing off white flowers in characteristic umbels. After that excitement - rare and endangered! - we moved on to see the yellow flowers of two more buckwheats, *E. umbellatum* and *E. strictum* var. *anserinium*, then the reddish paintbrush, *Castilleja pilosum*, the blue lupine, *Lupinus arbustus*, and the whitish yampah, *Perideridia* sp.

Arriving at the Harnach home, we admired Nancy's natural hillside garden and sat around in the shade chatting and drinking water, a nice ending to a field trip on a warm day. We thank Nancy and Bill for their hospitality and this great outing.

by Bonnie Larsen



Bill Harnach pointing to *Ivesia sericoleuca* at a 2015 Eriogonum Society field trip to Sierra Valley, by Janel Johnson



Asclepias speciosa by Janel Johnson

Nevada Native Plant Society
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Dues are for the calendar year in which you join. Membership expiration dates are on the mailing labels. 2016 dues increase will take effect in November.

Gifts, and bequests are tax deductible.

Your donation in any amount is appreciated \$_____

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