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## 2015 PHOTO CONTEST

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Voting for our fourth annual photo contest begins on October 1st. Logon to [NVNPS.org](http://NVNPS.org) and chose your favorite wildflower photos. The most popular entries will be used to create the 2016 NNPS Calendar.

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 from our online store.

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## NORTHERN NEVADA NEWS

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See [NVNPS.org](http://NVNPS.org) for updated meeting details.

**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.

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## SOUTHERN NEVADA NEWS

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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) to help organize meetings and get our group out in the field again.

## BOTANIZING NOTEBOOK: *ERIOGONUM RUPINUM*



**E**riogonum, wild buckwheat, is the second largest genus in Nevada where it is represented by 79 species and 110 taxa. They come in many forms - from diminutive

annuals to five-foot-tall shrubs. Their habitat ranges from wind-blasted mountaintops to alkaline valley soils and from sand dunes to sheer rock cliffs. Some are among the earliest spring flowerers while others don't put on a show until late in the fall. A fascinating group of plants to say the least! There is even a unique society dedicated solely to the genus.

One of my favorites is a late summer and fall flowerer, *Eriogonum rupinum*, commonly

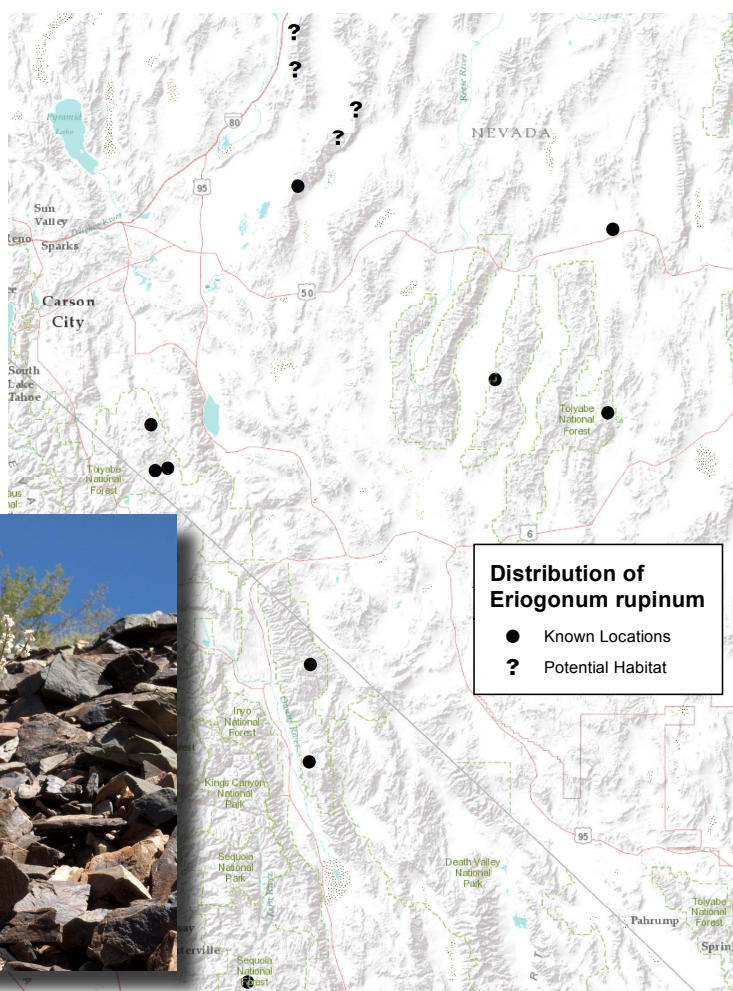


named Wyman Creek wild buckwheat after a stream near where it can be found in the White Mountains at the western margin of the Great Basin.

This is an herbaceous perennial that has basal leaves and a much-branched inflorescence. Its distribution in Intermountain Flora reads:

*White Mts., Mono Co. s. to the Inyo Mts., Inyo Co., Calif., e. through Mineral and Esmeralda Cos. to s. Lander and n. Nye Cos., Nev. . . (Reveal, 2012).*

In recent years I have found *E. rupinum* in the hills along the East Walker River east of Sweetwater. From there it occurs north into the Pine Grove Hills at least as far north as Pine Grove Canyon. All of these locations are in Lyon County.







This past spring, Jan Nachlinger and I were botanizing the west side of the Stillwater Range in eastern Churchill County and we encountered *E. rupinum* in Fondaway and Pete canyons. The plants were not collectable as they were just the basal leaves topped by last year's inflorescences, so we took a trip back to the area in late August where we found *E. rupinum* in full flower. The flowers have cream colored tepals which abundantly occur in involucre that are spaced along erect branches. In mass it is quite a showy plant. They were being swarmed by multitudes of insects. There were only a few other species in flower in the Stillwater Range so the insects' choices were limited this late in the season.

This latest find makes me wonder if the plant occurs still farther north. I can envision it in more canyons in the Stillwater Range and perhaps it even may reach the Humboldt Range in Pershing

County. Time and further explorations will tell.

Other wild buckwheats that we noted in the Stillwaters during our two trips included the perennials *Eriogonum heermannii* var. *humilius*, *E. elatum* var. *elatum*, *E. inflatum* var. *inflatum*, *E. microthecum* var. *laxiflorum*, *E. ovalifolium* var. *purpureum*, and *E. umbellatum* var. *nevadense*, and four annuals: *E. maculatum*, *E. palmerianum*, *E. pusillum*, and *E. watsonii*.

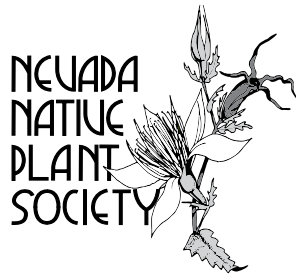
### Literature Cited

Reveal, 2012. Polygonaceae, pp 196-387.  
In: N.H. Holmgren, P. K. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal & collaborators. Intermountain Flora 2 part A: 1-729. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Story by Arnold Tiehm  
*E. rupinum* photos by James Morefield

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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 \$\_\_\_\_\_

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