



Red Rock Canyon Glory with calico cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*) by Elizabeth Carmer¹

Nevada Native Plant Society 2016 Wildflower Calendar

Thank you to everyone who contributed entries and voted in our 2016 Wildflower Calendar photo contest. This year's calendar features a cover photo by Elizabeth Carmer and additional photos by Stephan Crandall, Larry Crawford, Betsy Fadali, Rachel Fletcher, Ray Fletcher, Janel Johnson, Sarah Kulpa, Gary Monroe, James Morefield, Jan Nachlinger, and Gareth Pearson.

The 2016 calendar is on sale now at the NVNPS.org online store. You may also pick your copy up in person in Reno or Carson City and save the postage - just email Janel (president@nvnps.org) to arrange this. The calendars will also be available at the November 5th meeting - just \$12 for members.

NORTHERN NEVADA NEWS

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 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 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. See NVNPS.org for meeting updates.

SOUTHERN NEVADA NEWS

Southern Nevada Meetings are suspended until a new program coordinator is found. Please contact Cayenne Engel at cpepper3@gmail.com if you are interested in this position.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The new membership dues are now in effect and are noted on the membership form on the last page. The increased dues will help cover Society costs, the largest of which is printing and mailing the paper edition of this newsletter.

UNR HERBARIUM UPDATE

In the fall of 2013 the Reno herbarium was moved to the new Museum of Natural History located in room 300 of the Fleischman Agricultural Building. This is a very familiar place for NNPS members who attend society meetings in the lab room just down the hall from the museum. The new location is blessed with ample space, large work tables, three computer stations, three dissecting scopes, and high windows that afford a nice view and let in ample light creating an open, comfortable working environment.

The twenty herbarium cases we've add in the two years since our move have allowed us to expand and relieve specimen overcrowding. The close proximity to the main campus has attracted the help of many UNR undergraduate students, both paid and unpaid, and the herbarium is often teeming with activity.

We have made great progress in building a database of the collection and are now adding images of specimens to the records. Our collection contains more than 93,000 specimens of which 52,000 have been added to the database and over 7,600 have been imaged. After scanning all our type collections and those of the genus *Penstemon*, we began working in alphabetical sequence with *Asteraceae* and have now reached *Ericameria*.

Each newly imaged specimen is added to the database with a bar code number and its name. The rest of the information can be entered by calling up the image and filling in the blanks from the collection label. This allows for remote data entry and we have several volunteers who are compiling records from the comfort of their homes.

Local NNPS members may remember Mary Winter who wrote a local flora for northeastern Nevada. She gave an enthusiastic talk about her book for NNPS on the 5th of March, 2009. I had seen an early draft of the book and sent Mary some editorial comments, updated plant determinations, and an enthusiastic “keep up the good work.” This led to a large exchange of emails about her book and we eventually met in the early spring of 2009. She led Jan Nachlinger and me to *Orogenia linearifolia* which she had discovered around Carlin and this was the first Nevada record for this very early flowering plant. She went on to collect many herbarium specimens for the Reno herbarium and they are a great addition to the collection.

Sadly, Mary passed away last winter. She remembered the herbarium in her estate plan and we now have a generous endowment, the earnings from which will help support operations in perpetuity. Thank you, Mary.

Please contact Arnold Tiehm, atiehm@att.net or (775) 742-9180, if you are interested in volunteering your time at the herbarium. There is a lot to be done and knowledgeable and enthusiastic help is always appreciated. If you are interested in donating to the herbarium, perhaps as a charitable year-end donation, go to

supportnevada.unr.edu/cabnr.

Simply click on Designation and scroll to Museum of Natural History. Please mention the herbarium in the comments box if you want all of your donation to go to the herbarium.

Story by Arnold Tiehm



Herbarium specimen image, *Balsamorhiza platylepis*

BOTANIZING NOTEBOOK: *BIDENS (ASTERACEAE) IN NEVADA*

When we last left our intrepid hero, he and Jan Nachlinger had made a late August trip to the rugged Stillwater Range of eastern Churchill County where they had earlier found a population of Eriogonum rupinum. The botanizing adventurers were delighted to see the buckwheats in full-flower and covered with swarms of insects drawn to the late-season food source. We now continue the story as our explorers begin their return trip . . .

Just east of the town of Stillwater our attention was drawn to the main Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge canal. As we are in a drought it was not surprising to find the canal dry. The startling variety of plants growing on the now exposed bottom of the canal as well

as the now easily accessible opposite bank beckoned. Among the most common plants was *Bidens frondosa* which was just starting to flower. Of the three bidens (commonly known as beggartick) in Nevada this is the only one with compound leaves and the only one without ray flowers. It is widespread in Nevada and I have records from Churchill, Douglas, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Ormsby (Carson City), and Washoe Counties.

Following the canal excursion, our next stop was the Carson River on the west side of Fallon. We walked out on the bridge and viewed the drought-shrunken river that was little more than a trickle. Among the plants on the mud banks was an abundance of *Leersia oryzoides* (Poaceae) and a tall *Persicaria* (Polygonaceae). Excited, we grabbed our collecting tools and headed down to the water. I made a nice collection of *Leersia* and the *Persicaria* which turned out to be *lapathifolia*. While we were



Bidens cernua, l. left, with rays and simple opposite leaves; *B. frondosa*, upper right, no rays and compound leaves.

botanizing the area we noticed a tall composite that was just in bud. I thought it was a *Bidens laevis* which is a surprise because the only record I have of *B. laevis* from Nevada is Crystal Springs in Lincoln County. This is also the only location noted for the Intermountain Region in Intermountain Flora (Cronquist, 1994). I returned to the location in early September and found that the last trickle of flow had stopped and the Carson River was now dry. However, the bidens did not mind and some specimens were a full two meters tall and in full-bloom. My



Bidens cernua

earlier identification turned prophetic as the plants were indeed *B. laevis*. Perhaps *B. laevis* is more places in Nevada but we just haven't searched late enough in the season to find it.

After Jan and I left the Carson River we stopped along the Truckee River east of the Painted Rock exit on I-80. We had noticed large populations of the water fern *Azolla* and wanted to see if they had produced spores. When we got to the plants, we were disappointed as we could not find any spores. Along the banks of

the river there was a population of *Bidens cernua*. This plant *B. laevis* are similar in that they both have simple leaves and ray flowers. They differ in *B. laevis* having more and larger rays and in simply being a much larger plant. *Bidens cernua* is the most widespread *Bidens* in Nevada and I have records of *B. cernua* from Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Humboldt, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Ormsby, and Washoe Counties.

Curiously, another bidens, *B. vulgata*, is listed for Nevada in Flora of North America (FNA) which was published in 2006 (Strother & Weedon, 2006), yet I have no records of this species from Nevada. I have found specimens labeled *B. vulgata* and so far they have turned out to be *B. frondosa*. In Intermountain Flora, Cronquist (1994) lists *B. vulgata* as only occurring in the Intermountain Region along the Snake River Plains in Idaho. I asked John Strother about the FNA Nevada reference and he said it was already in the distributions when he received the manuscript. Until a verified Nevada specimen of *B. vulgata* turns up I am going to put *B. vulgata* in an "excluded" list.

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.
- Strother, J.L. & R.R. Weedon. 2006. *Bidens* pp. 205-218, In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee. Flora of North America 21: 1-616. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.

Story by Arnold Tiehm
Photos by Jan Nachlinger

Nevada Native Plant Society
PO Box 8965
Reno NV 89507-8965

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