



John Weiser held an open house at his native garden on May 22nd.

NORTHERN NEVADA NEWS

Events subject to change. Visit nvnp.org for updates.

May 29 – Silver Springs. A trip to Churchill Narrows to see *Eriogonum diatomaceum*, a rare endemic restricted to the diatomaceous deposits in this area of Lyon County. For those leaving from Reno, meet at the Doughboy's Donuts shop located in the South Town Shopping Center at 57 Damonte Ranch Parkway by 8 AM. We will meet Carson City area members at the **Save Mart** at 3620 N. Carson St. (intersection of West College Parkway) and depart for Churchill Narrows at 9 AM. Contact Gary Monroe

at g.monroe@att.net or (775) 359-4863 or John Weiser at johnpweiser@yahoo.com or (775) 331-4485.

May 30 – Calpine, CA. The annual Memorial Day foray with Bill and Nancy Harnach. Explore the edges of the Feather River in Plumas County, California as it passes through Sierra Valley. Conducted for the local public, this will not be a typical NNPS field trip. We will meet the group under the bridge at the intersection of Highway 70 and

Co. Rd. A23 and be on-site by 10 AM. Those traveling from the Carson area should meet at the **Save Mart** at 3620 N. Carson St. (intersection of West College Parkway) at 7:50 AM to carpool. The group leaves for the **McDonald's restaurant** located at 120 Lemon Drive in north Reno by 8 AM. Those coming from Reno will meet at the same **McDonald's** at 9 AM.

We will leave the second meeting point at 9:15 AM traveling north on US 395 to Highway 70 (Quincy turnoff). Just past the town of Beckwourth is the Calpine turnoff (Co. Rd. A23). Turn left, cross over the bridge and promptly turn left at the end of the bridge, traveling downhill into the parking lot.

Contact Bill Harnach at billh@digitalpath.net or (530) 944-3464 or John Weiser at johnpweiser@yahoo.com or (775) 331-4485.

June 4 – Reno. 8 AM - 12 PM. May Arboretum Society plant sale.

June 5 – Plumas County, CA. A trip to see the vernal pool areas of Sierra Valley. This will be a joint field trip in conjunction with the **California Native Plant Society**. Meet at the **Calpine post office** parking lot, 131 County Road (between Calpine Ave. and Main St.) at 10 AM. Calpine is northwest of Reno off California highway 89. Contact Bill Harnach at billh@digitalpath.net or (530) 944-3464 or John Weiser at johnpweiser@yahoo.com or (775) 331-4485.

June 10-12 – Wild Horse. Located in Elko County on the Mountain City Ranger District north of Wild Horse Reservoir, Sunflower Flat is home to several rare plants species including

meadow pussytoes, Owyhee sagebrush, least phacelia, and Sunflower Flat buckwheat.

There are three camping options and one lodging option for this overnight trip:

- **Dispersed camping** at existing campsites within 100 feet of a road and more than 100 feet from water. No amenities, no fees.
- **Big Bend campground** which can accommodate tents and small trailers and campers. There are pit toilets and picnic tables but no water. Cost is \$8 per night. This campground will be our meeting spot and we will leave announcements about our planned activities here.
- **Wild Horse State Recreation Area**, about 35 minutes south at Wild Horse Reservoir. It can accommodate large RVs, offers toilets and showers, and is \$14 per night.
- **Dunns Wildhorse Ranch & Resort** is about 45 minutes south and offers rooms, an RV park, restaurant, convenience store, and gas. Call (775) 758-6472 for reservations. More lodging and dining options are available in Mountain City, about an hour west of Big Bend.

The main roads in the area are dirt and gravel, easily navigated by Subarus and mid-clearance vehicles. Some of the side trips may require higher clearance vehicles. A Forest Service district map is highly recommended to reference road numbers for navigation.

Janel will be working in the area from the afternoon of June 9th until the morning of June 12th - check at Big Bend campground for daily activities. **Meet at Big Bend Campground at 8 am each morning to discuss sites to visit during the day.**

Map Link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-f34WXvgPG2Oehnz7o9B4WC14Wg&usp=sharing>

Contact Janel Johnson if you have questions: jdjohnson@heritage.nv.gov, (775) 684-2911.

June 19 – Peavine Mountain, Reno. Our trip takes us to the only known place in Nevada where *Lilium kelleyanum* occurs – a creek on the north side of Peavine Mountain. Those traveling from the Carson area should meet at the **Save Mart** at 3620 N. Carson St. (intersection of West College Parkway) at 9 AM to carpool to the **McDonald's restaurant** located at 120 Lemon Drive in north Reno. Those coming from Reno will meet at the same **McDonald's** at 10 AM. High-clearance vehicles are suggested. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing. Insect repellent is strongly recommended as we will be around water. Most of the walking will be easy with just one steep slope along the way. Contact Gary Monroe at g.monroe@att.net or (775) 359-4863.

June 23-27 – Fairmont, MT. Annual **American Penstemon Society** meeting.

July 2 – Peavine Mountain, Reno. Travel to the summit of Peavine Mountain to see Phlox condensata and numerous other flowers in bloom. Those traveling from the Carson area should meet at the **Save Mart** at 3620 N. Carson St. (intersection of West College Parkway) at 9 AM to carpool to the **McDonald's restaurant** located at 120 Lemon Drive in north Reno. Those coming from Reno will meet at the same **McDonald's** at 10 AM. After meeting

up, we will carpool to Peavine. The road to the summit is generally a good one and four-wheel drive vehicles should not be required. Contact John Weiser at johnpweiser@yahoo.com or (775) 331-4485.

July 24 – Reno. BioBlitz at Idlewild Park, organized by the **Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation**.

August 13-14 or August 20-21 – Truckee, CA. A trip to Castle Peak to find *Lewisia longipetala*.

August 27 – Tahoe City, CA. Travel to Barker Pass southwest of Tahoe City to see *Epilobium canum* ssp. *Latifolium* and *Gentiana calycosa*.

September 15-19 – Baker, CA. The **Eriogonum Society** annual meeting.

SOUTHERN NEVADA NEWS

Southern Nevada Meetings are held in Henderson the first Monday of every month from 6:30-7:30 PM at the U.S. Geological Survey office at 160 North Stephanie Street.

June 7 – Henderson. Jaina Moan, executive director of Friends of Gold Butte, will present “Protecting Nevada’s Piece of the Grand Canyon: An Update from Gold Butte.”

If you would like email updates for Southern Nevada events, please email Cayenne Engel at cpepper3@gmail.com and ask to be added to the list.

KEY TO THE SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES OF *ERIASTRUM* (POLEMONIACEAE: LOESELIEAE) IN NEVADA

Dr. Sarah De Groot, a Margaret Williams Research Grant recipient, has developed the following key for species and subspecies of *Eriastrum* in Nevada. This is a subset of the taxonomic treatment she is developing for the ***Flora of North America***.

Notes about the key

1. Some couplets have overlapping ranges of particular measurements. If a plant falls into this zone of overlap, consider measuring a different plant, or several plants, and try to determine the general trend. Most plants should key to the correct species.
2. Geography, floristic region, and habitat are quite important in this key. Strive to note such information when making collections. However, species have been recorded far outside of what was thought to be their range, or in atypical habitat (although usually not both).
3. Floral zygomorphy or lack thereof is a key character for a few desert taxa that co-occur. It is wise to note such information prior to pressing.
4. Measurements of the stamens, anthers, and degree of exsertion past the sinuses need to be quite precise—best made by opening a fresh corolla under a microscope, or rehydrating a dried one. Measurements are mostly based on rehydrated or fresh material.

Key to the taxa of Eriastrum in Nevada

1. Anthers mostly 1 mm long and longer
 2. Plants of the Great Basin desert and east slope of the Sierra Nevada; corollas mostly radially symmetric *E. wilcoxii*
 - 2' Plants of the Mojave Desert or Colorado Plateau; corollas mostly bilaterally symmetric *E. eremicum*
 3. Leaves with 1–3 (occasionally 5) lobes; corolla tube + throat 7.5 mm long or shorter; stigma about 1 mm long; plants of the Colorado Plateau subsp. *zionis*
 - 3' Leaves with 3–9 lobes; corolla tube + throat 7.6 mm long or longer; stigma about 0.8 mm long or shorter; plants of the western Sonoran (California) and Mojave Deserts subsp. *eremicum*
- 1' Anthers mostly 1 mm long and shorter
 4. Heads usually with 3 or fewer flowers (total); upper stems, leaves, and bracts densely covered with short glandular hairs, sparsely woolly *E. sparsiflorum*
 - 4' Heads usually with 3 or more flowers per head (although only 1 flower may be open at a given time, additional buds or fruits are present in the head); upper stems, leaves, and bracts may be slightly glandular but not with dense, short, glandular hairs

5. Ovaries usually with 2 ovules per locule (sometimes 1 or 3); usually found in pinyon-juniper woodland or chaparral *E. signatum*
- 5' Ovaries usually with 2–7 ovules per locule; usually found in Mojave, Sonoran, or Colorado Plateau desert scrub
6. Plants growing almost exclusively on semi-stabilized sand dunes; filaments usually 0.75–1 mm long; upper stems markedly woolly *E. harwoodii**
- 6' Plants often in washes, flats, or gentle slopes, not usually on semi-stabilized sand dunes; filaments usually 1–3 mm long; upper stems sparsely woolly *E. diffusum*
7. Plants of the Colorado Plateau and southern Great Basin; corolla lobes white to pale blue (often, but not always, with reddish streaks), oval to oblong subsp. *utahense***
- 7' Plants of the Chihuahuan, Mojave, Vizcaíno, and Sonoran Deserts; corolla lobes white to sky blue, lacking reddish streaks, elliptic to obovate subsp. *diffusum*

**Eriastrum harwoodii* has not actually been documented in Nevada, but occurs fairly far east in California and potentially could occur in Nevada as well.

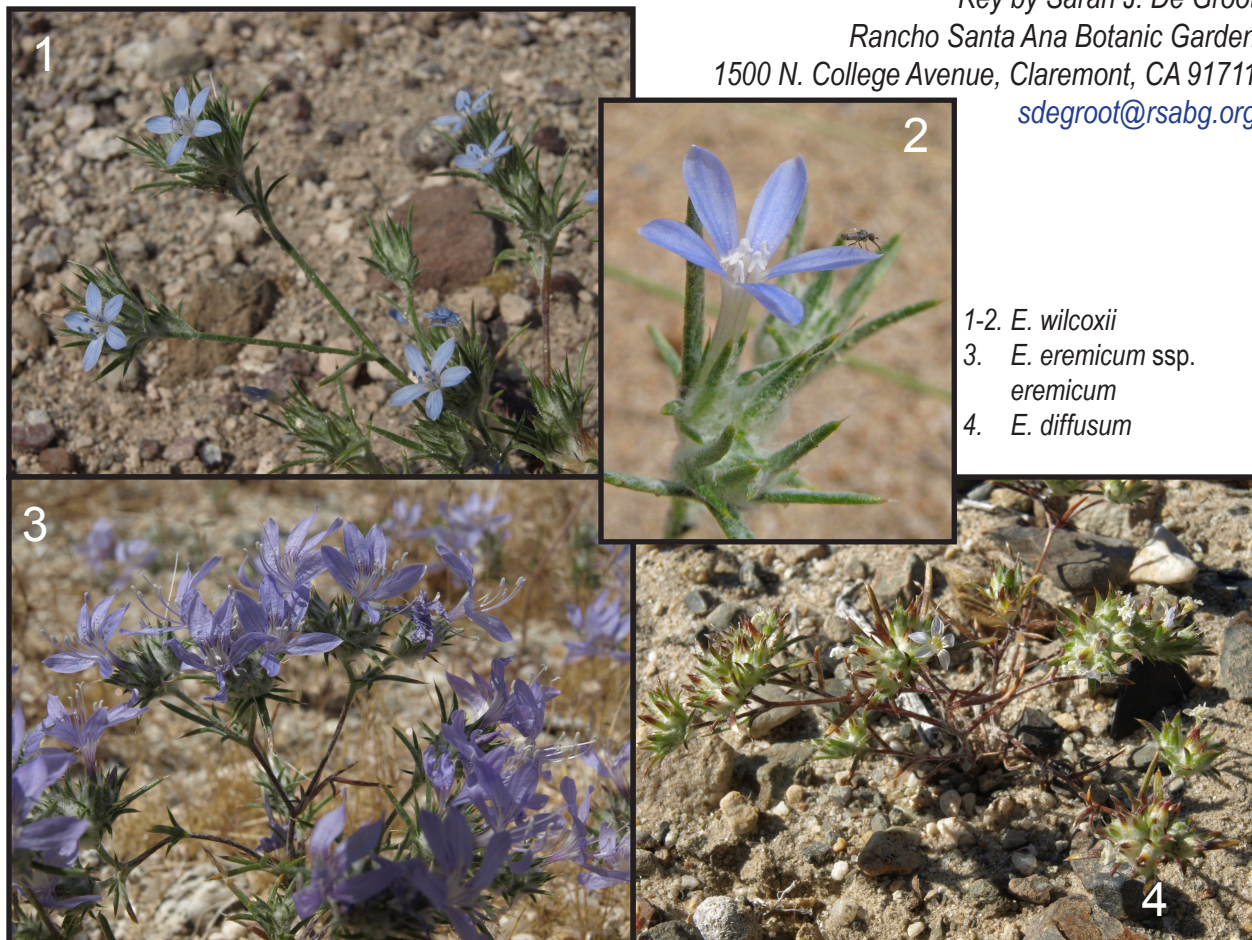
***Eriastrum diffusum* subsp. *utahense* is an unpublished name (De Groot, Aliso, in press).

Key by Sarah J. De Groot

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