NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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2015 Wildflower Calendar Photo Contest entry by Stephan Crandall

2016 Wildflower Calendar Photo Contest

The annual NNPS photo contest is coming up next month. The submission period will be open from September 1 through September 22 this year. Winning photos will be featured in the 2017 NNPS calendar. Details and past winners will be available on our website.

Northern Nevada News

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

September 16-19 – Desert Studies Center, Baker, CA. The **Eriogonum Society** annual meeting. This year we celebrate the Mojave at the Desert Studies Center, a field station of California State University, located within the Mojave National Preserve at the oasis of Soda Springs. The desert near the center boasts a plethora of plants with a nice variety of Eriogonum. Sessions will be led by Ben Grady, Arnold Clifford, and Jim Andre. Registration is $100 per attendee and is limited to Eriogonum Society members.

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.

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.

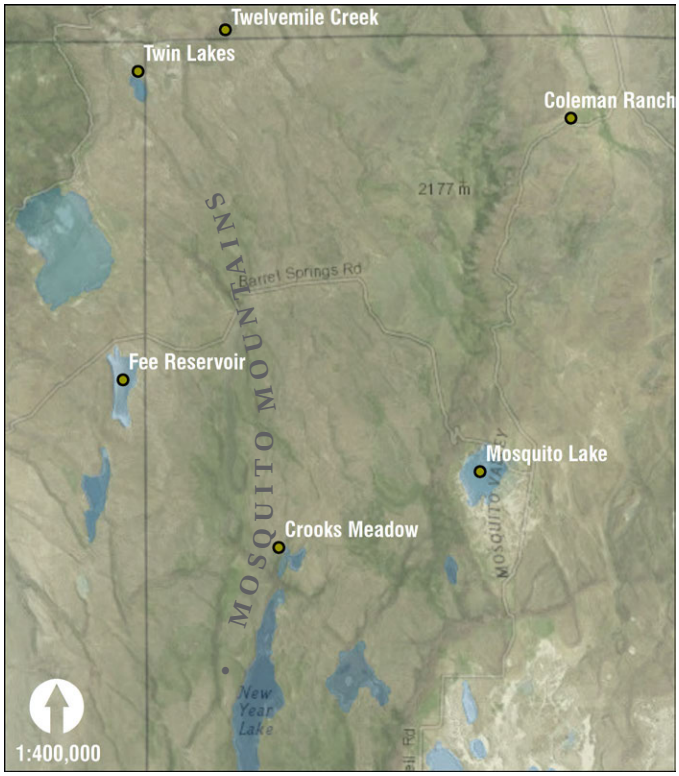
Events subject to change. Visit nvnps.org for updates.

Botanizing Notebook: The Mosquito Mountains - Part I

The name **Mosquito Mountains** was coined by McLane (1978) for a low mountain range in extreme northwestern Washoe County. It lies north of **Hayes Canyon Range** with **Sand Canyon**, just north of Vya, being the dividing point. The Mosquito Mountains spill into California and extend about five miles into Oregon. Hayes Canyon Range and Mosquito Mountains collectively form the **East Warner Mountains** of Holmgren (1972).

The Mosquito Mountains are a low range reaching a height of under 7,200 feet (McLane, 1978). The western half forms a rather flat plateau as does the northeast portion and as such it is a rather non-descript mountain range. The north end is traversed by a graded gravel road which runs from Ft. Bidwell, California to **Mosquito Lake** and **Long Valley** in Nevada. This is called the **Barrel Springs Road** after a spring on the west side of the range. Just south of the range there is another graded gravel road from Cedarville, California to Vya, Nevada. Around these two major roads are a series of slow and slower dirt roads and a good amount of private land.

I had previously botanized the southern end around **Crooks Meadow** and **Crooks Lake** and areas near the Barrel Springs Road. The northeast end always looked interesting to me. This area has the most relief and a lot of springs. Last summer I was at **Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge** and drove up the Long Valley road toward Adel, Oregon and looked at this area from afar. I noted that it was private property owned by the **Coleman Valley Ranch**. So this spring I approached the owner and received



Clarkia rhomboidea

Silene menziesii

permission to botanize on the ranch. As usual, I grabbed my partner in chlorophyll crime, Jan Nachlinger, and we spent 25th-27th of May on the ranch. We found some interesting plants but were basically too early for most of the flora. So we took another trip to the Coleman Valley Ranch and spent 21st-25th of June on and near the ranch with essentially no other people encountered. Our timing on this second trip was impeccable. Since our first trip the weather had been cool and there had been some extensive rain showers so the flora was in its glory.

From the ranch house we proceeded west and botanized up a canyon with an intermittent creek and some aspen groves. At the first stop we were greeted by ***Clarkia rhombidea*** (see NNPS newsletter 23(6):2 for an account of *Clarkia* in Nevada). What a great start to what would turn out to be a phenomenal trip. There were lots of other things in flower including three species of ***Trifolium***, ***Silene menziesii***, and all four feet of ***Turritis (Arabis) glabra***. Botanizing farther up the canyon produced a number of other plants with the most interesting being an annual ***Juncus*** that has yet to be determined and an interesting looking perennial *Juncus* that was not in flower - more on the perennial later. Near the end of the day we noted a large area of steep dark-red volcanic scree slopes. These

Hemizonella minima

Clarkia lassenensis ▲▶

were too extensive to give justice to so we camped nearby under a fabulous Milky Way that night.

In the morning we tackled the steep slopes in earnest. One of the first things we noted were the numerous ***Eriogonums***. By the end of our exploring we had found eight species:

- ***E. caespitosum***
- ***E. heracleoides* var. *heracleoides***
- ***E. nudum* var. *pubiflorum***
- ***E. ovalifolium* var. *purpureum***
- ***E. sphaerocephalum* var. *halimoides***
- ***E. strictum* var. *anserinum***
- ***E. umbellatum* var. *modocense***
- ***E. vimineum***

In the middle of these we ran into ***Hemizonella (Madia) minima***. Were we surprised? You bet! Jan and I are working on a list of all of the plants that only get into Nevada in the Sierra Nevada's Carson Range. Well, we had *Hemizonella* on that list and obviously it now needs to be removed. Its existence in northern Washoe County is not unreasonable as *Intermountain Flora* lists its distribution as:

Wash. and adj. n. Idaho and s. B.C., s to Calif.; barely entering our range in the vicinity of Bend, Deschutes Co., Oregon (Cronquist, 1994).

◀ ▲ ▼ ***Allium amplectens***

After a couple of forays to the closer slopes we ventured farther afield and scrambled into a very steep drainage that had a little water in it and several mosses for Jan to collect. Close to the moist areas was the other Nevada ***Clarkia*, *lassenensis*** – a spectacular find! We had been botanizing the slopes for over five hours when I dropped down a little to look at a rock outcrop. There was nothing in the rocks but just to the side was a mostly dry hanging seep that was covered with white flowers. These turned out to belong to an ***Allium*** that was unknown to us. Once home I got out the new first volume of the *Flora of Oregon* and determined it to be ***A. amplectens*** (Otting et al., 2015). It was previously known from northern California, Washington, British Columbia, and Oregon not far north of where we found it. Always nice to find a plant new to Nevada!

The rest of the day, and part of the next, were spent in the higher areas where we went to the Oregon line, hitting all of the meadows, streams, and small ponds. Everywhere we went it was Flower City! I cannot say we got anything outstanding during this stretch but lots of nice material and by now my plant presses were bulging and the dashboard was covered by Jan's drying mosses (the things I have to put up with traveling with a moss collector!).

On the third morning we descended to the foothill areas southwest of the ranch and collected a plant that was only in leaf on the previous trip, ***Hieracium scouleri***. This is the second collection

***Hieracium scouleri* ▲ ▼**

Cordylanthus capitatus

from Nevada with the first being from **Bald Mountain** on Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. We saw *H. scouleri* in several canyons on the ranch and also collected it the next day in **Twelvemile Creek** near the Oregon border. What was a big surprise was what was growing with *Hieracium*, ***Cordylanthus capitatus***. I only had records of this from Elko County. It is known from as close as southern Oregon and northeast California so its presence in northern Washoe County merely filled in a blank spot between its known occurrences.

From there we went north of the ranch house toward **Coleman Valley Reservoir** and botanized a dry drainage. Here we found the above mentioned perennial *Juncus* and it was in good fruit. Once home, again using the new *Flora of Oregon*, it became evident that the plant was not one I knew (Zika, 2015). It turned out to be ***J. trilocularis***, a plant that was not described until 2012 (Zika, 2012). In the original publication one Nevada collection was mentioned, Washoe County, twenty miles east of Cedarville, California, 3 July 1935, F.P. Sipe s.n. However, this collection was immature and identification was not certain. Well, now it is positively a member of the Nevada flora. I plan on taking an August trip back to the ranch and will try to make another collection at the above mentioned seep.

Story by Arnold Tiehm
Photographs by Jan Nachlinger

***Juncus triloculari*s ▲ ▼**

In part II, our intrepid botanizers find a little weed, gather moss, and make some exciting discoveries.

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