



Sharptooth angelica (*Angelica arguta*), a 2015 Wildflower Calendar Photo Contest entry by James D. Morefield

SOCIETY NEWS

2016 Wildflower Photo Contest –

Submissions for the annual NNPS photo contest will be open from September 1 through September 22. Winning photos will be featured in the 2017 NNPS calendar. Details are on our website.

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.

Missing Newsletter – The August newsletter was lost in the post. Reprints are included with this mailing.

Events subject to change.

Visit nvnp.org for updates.

NORTHERN NEVADA EVENTS

August 27 – Tahoe City, CA. Field trip to Barker Pass, southwest of Tahoe City. Our leaders will be John Weiser and Gary Monroe. We hope to see *Primula suffrutescens*, *Epilobium canum* ssp. *latifolium* and *Gentiana calycosa* and can expect great vistas of the Desolation

Wilderness to the west and Lake Tahoe to the east. This is a moderate hike on established trails and ridge tops.

Those traveling from the Carson area should meet at the Save Mart at the corner of College and N. Carson Street, in Carson City at 7:45 AM to carpool.

Our final meeting place will be at the McDonalds restaurant parking lot at 5148 Mae Anne Ave. in Reno at 8:30 AM. Exit I-80 at the intersection with West McCarran Blvd., turning right and continue north toward Mae Anne Ave. McDonalds is on the left before you reach the intersection with Mae Anne.
<https://goo.gl/maps/88T3foe2sQM2>

The road to the summit of Barker Pass is good and four-wheel drive vehicles should not be required. Contact John at johnpweiser@yahoo.com or (775) 331-4485 or Gary at g.monroe@att.net or (775) 359-4863.

September 1 – Julie Carville, author of *Linger in Tahoe's Wild Gardens* and *Hiking Tahoe's Wildflower Trails* will feature her new book, *Tahoe's Spectacular Wildflower Trails*, which includes 21 scenic wildflower trails and a wildflower and tree guide with color photographs. Books will be available for purchase (a perfect Christmas gift!).

October 6 – Mare Nazaire, a 2011 recipient of NNPS' Margaret Williams Research Grant will present diversification in *Mertensia*

(*Boraginaceae*), with emphasis on Nevada's species.

November 3 – Brian Smithers, PhD candidate in Ecology at UC Davis and a recipient of NNPS' Margaret Williams Research Grant, will speak on tree species range shifts above treeline in the Great Basin and our disappearing alpine habitat. We will also hold the annual election of society officers.

You are invited to join our speakers before the meetings for dinner at 5:30 at **Great Full Gardens**, 555 South Virginia Street.

Meetings are 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 starts at 7:30. The outside door will be automatically locked at 7:30.

SOUTHERN NEVADA EVENTS

Southern Nevada Meetings are held in Henderson the first Monday of every month from 6:30-7:30 PM (unless otherwise noted when holidays fall on first Mondays) at the U.S. Geological Survey office at 160 North Stephanie Street.

Our program coordinator is Lesley DeFalco. If you would like email updates for Southern Nevada events, please email her at defalco@usgs.gov and ask to be added to the list.

September 12 – Dr. Elisabeth Hausrath (Associate Professor, Department of Geoscience, UNLV) will present her research on interactions of snow algae, minerals, and microorganisms in low-nutrient snowy environments. Please note change of meeting date from the first Monday to second Monday due to Labor Day.

BOTANIZING NOTEBOOK: THE MOSQUITO MOUNTAINS - PART II

In part I, our intrepid botanizers traveled to the Mosquito Mountains in the extreme north west corner of the state on a mission of discovery. We pick up the story on the third day of the trip as our explorers approach Coleman Valley Reservoir . . .

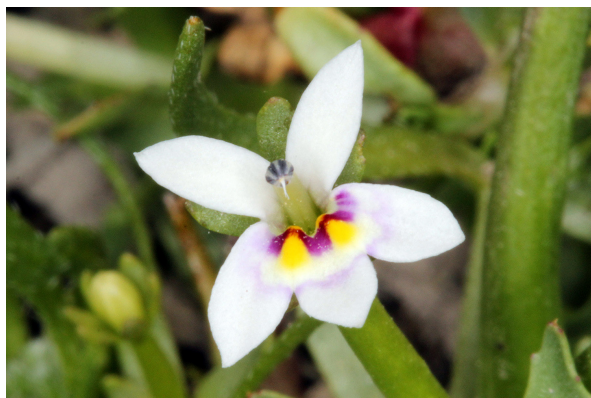
Story by Arnold Tiehm

Photographs by Jan Nachlinger

After exploring the dry drainage that was home to *Juncus trilocularis*, we then proceeded to a stock pond where we found, among others, *Alisma trivale* and then on to the reservoir where we picked up *Downingia laeta*.

Then it was back to the higher areas where on the previous trip we had seen *Physaria occidentalis* var. *occidentalis*. It occurred on a windswept ridgetop with low sage and phlox. It was only in flower on our previous trip so we did not collect it as you always need fruit to positively identify mustards. Unfortunately, on our return we were unable to find the *Physaria*. It would have been easy to make some small rock piles near the plants but we just figured if we found it once we could find it again. What was quite visible in flower proved to be undetectable in fruit. This is the third location for *P. occidentalis* var. *occidentalis* in Nevada with the other two being the **Yellow Hills** and **Division Peak** in Washoe and Humboldt Counties, respectively. Always something to go back for!

Our next destination was the flat western part of the Mosquito Mountains. We took the Barrel Springs road back west and then the slow pole line road north to near the Oregon border. We



▲▲▲ *Alisma trivale* and the author

▲▲ *A. trivale*

▲ *Downingia laeta*

then hiked into Twelvemile Creek which had looked interesting on Google Earth. The creek is located in a rather steep canyon but not steep enough to have sheer rock walls which are always interesting for plants. We had hoped to



▲ *Carex sheldonii* ▼ *Hesperolinon micranthum*



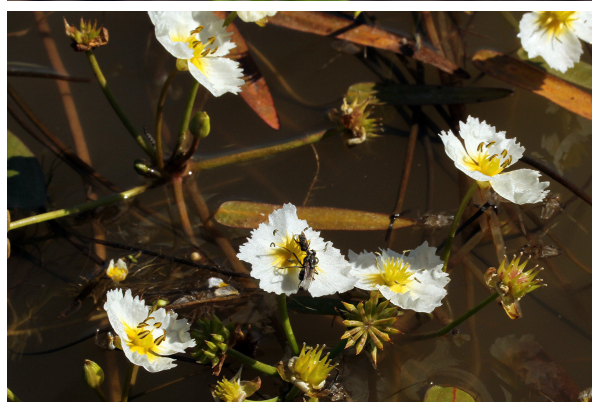
find some marshy areas along the creek and this sort of habitat simply did not exist - just some beaver ponds and sedge covered creek banks. We did find a nice population of *Hieracium scouleri* as well as a nice stand of ***Carex sheldonii***. I only had records of *C. sheldonii* from Elko County in Nevada so we could also chalk this one up to our “interesting” plants from the trip. In hiking out of the canyon we found ***Salvia aethiopis***. This is my first Nevada record and I find little pleasure in reporting another “weed” in Nevada. It is well known from adjacent California and Oregon.

Once out of the steep canyon we hiked west and a little south heading for **Twin Lakes** on the California border. On the way we crossed a fairly steep drainage that was still damp. Jan found some mosses to collect and I wandered up and down the wet areas searching for something of interest. I found several large clumps of a ***Persicaria*** which were not in flower. There were no red splotches on the rather large leaves and I was unable to identify it to species. This is certainly a plant that needs to be collected in flower as it might be ***P. pensylvanica*** which has not been collected in Nevada since the 1940s.

As Jan was still collecting mosses I wandered up the western juniper slopes of the drainage and came across a diffusely branched annual with white flowers. My first impression was that it was a very large flowered ***Linanthus*** (now placed in ***Leptosiphon***). Closer inspection revealed separate petals, three styles, and alternate leaves. After a few seconds of bewilderment I had an epiphany: ***Hesperolinon micranthum***. It is known from Oregon, California, and Baja California and one old collection from near Wadsworth. What an exciting

discovery: the second record for Nevada and the first time I had seen the genus with its roots in the ground!

After recovering from the excitement of *Hesperolinon* we continued our trek to Twin Lakes. We then dropped into a low expansive area that was dominated by *Ericameria nauseosa* var. *washoensis* and *Poa secunda* var. *juncifolia*. This interesting shrub is restricted to deep clay soils which form vertisols. In fact, the type locality for var. *washoensis* is just a little farther west near Barrel Springs. The flat had obviously been wet earlier as there was an abundance of *Downingia bacigalupii* in depressions among the shrubs. From there we made it uninterrupted to the eastern edge of Twin Lakes, a pair of small playas straddling the California / Nevada border. The playas were covered with water and colored yellow from an abundance of *Arnica chamissonis*. In these situations the lower and basal leaves are nonexistent as they would be underwater. The naked lower stalks are rather distinctive and it gives the appearance of being perched on a large pedicel. At the edge of the playas we discovered one of our worst nightmares: an invasive weed just getting established in Nevada, *Ventenata dubia*. It is an annual grass with widely divergent pedicels and in the field we thought it was a *Bromus*. Once back in the herbarium a quick check under a scope revealed the characteristic dimorphic



▲▲▲ *Downingia bacigalupii*
▲▲ and ▲ *Damasonium californicum*
▼ *Arnica chamissonis*





florets with the upper two being awned. I have heard rumors of its existence in Nevada but this is the first time I have had proof of its existence. Let's hope this plant is eradicated soon in Nevada with appropriate range management.

The following morning we dabbled off of the east side of the range and went to another playa, Mosquito Lake, located along **Ft. Bidwell Road**. Here we were greeted by one of my favorite water plants, *Damasonium californicum* (*Machaerocarpus californicus*). This member of the *Alismataceae* is known in

Nevada from Elko and Washoe Counties and although I have searched many wet spots I have not been able to find it in intervening Humboldt County. It has large white fringed petals and long beaked fruit that are in a single ring on the receptacle. Most distinctive! Also here was *Downingia insignis*, our third *Downingia* of the trip.

From there we went back west on Barrel Springs Road into California, and then took a slow rocky road on the east side of **Fee Reservoir** that eventually got up back into Nevada. We reached





Crooks Meadow in good shape and then discovered that the road toward **Crooks Lake** was very, very, very rocky and slow. We decided that we would have been better off walking the last half mile but there simply was nowhere to turn around. At the road summit we hiked northeast to **Frog Pond**. The pond was dry and was a mass of yellow ***Taraxia (Camissonia) tanacetifolia***. In fact we had noted the yellow color the day before from the high slopes of the Coleman Valley Ranch. At a distance of about five miles we could see the sunlit yellow narrow swath and with

binoculars it was quite evident. Just to the west of the dry pond was a moist meadow and here we found our fourth *Downingia* of the trip, ***D. bicornuta***. Also in the meadow was ***Alopecurus geniculatus*** which is only the second record I have from Nevada.

It has been over a decade since I was on such a floriferous and interesting botanical foray. Fields of flowers are always nice and interspersed with great finds and accompanied by a brilliant navigator made a most memorable trip.



▲▲ and ▲ *Taraxia tanacetifolia*
 ◀ *Downingia insignis*
 ▶ *Downingia bicornuta*



Nevada Native Plant Society
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