

# 2013 INPS / American Penstemon Society Joint Annual Meeting

Stephen Love, 2013 Meeting Arrangements Chair

## Invitation from the American Penstemon Society

The American Penstemon Society (APS), an international organization established in 1945, made the decision to come to Idaho for their 2013 annual meeting. In a benevolent gesture, they extended an invitation to the Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) to conduct a joint meeting in Boise. This will be a unique and exciting opportunity to meet with professional and amateur botanists from North America and other parts of the world and a great chance for us to show off the naturalistic beauty and ecological uniqueness of the Gem State.

Members of the American Penstemon Society are working with members of the Pahove Chapter of INPS to plan and conduct the meeting. This should make it possible to meet the needs of both organizations. However, because APS issued the invitation, and to avoid confusion, the meeting format will largely follow APS tradition. This means that the meeting will depart from what INPS has normally done in the past. A few differences include: meeting events



will be based out of hotel facilities, meeting dates will include a timeframe from Friday afternoon through Monday evening (if you choose to participate in the post-meeting tour, otherwise it is over on Sunday evening), and the meeting committee is arranging for a larger portion of meal and event expenses (meaning the registration fees will be higher). Hopefully, the opportunities provided by the meeting will balance out the greater commitment by INPS members in time and money. We encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful event, in spite of the departure from INPS tradition.

Included in this article is a detailed itinerary and description of events for the annual meeting. At the end of the article, you will find an application form, complete with instructions for submitting your registration.

## Meeting Dates

The meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 21 through Sunday, June 23. An optional post-meeting tour of the Hell's Canyon region will be conducted on Monday, June 24.

## Lodging

Please make your own reservations for lodging. Information concerning lodging options is detailed below.

The Owyhee Plaza Hotel will be the base facility for the 2013 APS/INPS meeting. All business meetings, banquets, and presentations associated with the meeting will be held at this location. The Owyhee Plaza has given APS and INPS members a very affordable reduced rate for rooms (\$80 per night for single or double occupancy). **Rooms will be held at the group rate until May 31**, so please make your reservations early. Call the Owyhee Plaza reservation desk at 1-208-343-4611. (If it is within your budget to stay with us at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel, we encourage you to do so to help us meet minimum room quotas for use of their convention facilities.) The Owyhee Plaza Hotel is located at the northwest edge of downtown Boise; address is 1109 Main Street, Boise Idaho.

### Alternate nearby motels:

Safari Inn-Downtown, 1070 W Grove Street, Boise, Idaho 1-208-344-6556

Cabana Inn, 1600 Main Street, Boise, Idaho 1-208-343-6000

Budget Inn 2600 West Fairview Inn, Boise, Idaho 1-208-344-8617

### Campgrounds (for those with a preference for roughing it):

Elaine Walker, INPS Board Member, has reserved the group camp site at the Gray Back Gulch U.S. Forest Service Campground for those who want to stay and socialize with fellow plant aficionados. The INPS has agreed to cover the fees at this campground for three nights, thus allowing attendees to stay for free. This campground is located on Hwy 21 just south of Idaho City, about 36 miles from Boise. Visit on the web: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/boise/recreation/camping-cabins/recarea/?recid=5170&actid=33> to learn more about the Gray Back Gulch campground. Contact Elaine (email: [bat\\_hareem1@hotmail.com](mailto:bat_hareem1@hotmail.com), cell phone: 1-208-761-3957, or home phone 1-208-336-3983) if you need more information about Gray Back Gulch or other camping opportunities.

Two other campgrounds, listed below, are within convenient driving distance of the meeting events. If you wish to stay at one of these campgrounds, please make your own arrangements.

Boise Riverside RV Park (located in the city, privately owned), 6000 N Glenwood, Garden City, ID. Rates (may change): \$25 for a tent site, \$32 for an RV site). See: <http://boiseriversidervpark.com/> for more information.

Macks Creek Park Campground (located 25 miles northeast of Boise on the shores of Lucky Peak Reservoir, privately operated). Rates: \$10 for a tent or RV site. See website for more information: <http://www.visitidaho.org/lodging/public-lands-campground/macks-creek-park/>

## **Meals**

Meals associated with the Friday reception, the Saturday evening banquet, and the Sunday evening social are included in the registration fee. All other meals are on your own. Pack your own lunch and carry it with you on the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday field trips. Most field trips involve travel into very isolated areas, and it is essential that you carry enough food and water for an all-day excursion.

## **Welcome Reception**

On Friday afternoon, beginning at 4 pm, the Idaho Botanical Garden will host a welcome reception. The garden is located at 2355 Old Penitentiary Road near the northeast boundary of Boise. Food and beverages will be provided. At the gardens there will be an opportunity to have a guided tour of the Lewis and Clark native plant gardens and to see the penstemon trials.



## **Banquet**

The annual meeting banquet and business meeting will be held at the Owyhee Plaza on Saturday evening. A reception will start at 6 pm and the meal served at 7 pm. Following the meal, we will conduct short business meetings for both organizations and then be treated to a keynote speech by Dr. Don Mansfield. The following description of Dr. Mansfield's credentials was taken from his professional web site:

Professor Mansfield has been on the faculty at The College of Idaho since 1989. He teaches organismal biology, environmental science, field botany, plant physiology, and a course about plants and people entitled Murder, Medicine and Magic. His scholarly interests include the distributions of plants in southwestern Idaho and southeastern Oregon and the biology of rare plants. He is currently writing a flora of the Owyhee region of southwestern Idaho and southeastern Oregon. Recently Dr. Mansfield received a National Science Foundation grant to provide funds for student internships to image and database all 42,000 specimens of the College's Herbarium—one of the premier plant "libraries" for southwestern Idaho and surroundings.

## **Sunday Social**

For those who can stay and participate, there will be a social held at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel on Sunday evening. We will have a meal and view photographs of the meeting. Please take and share lots of photographs to make this a fun evening.

## Field Trips

You can select two of the three available options for field trips offered as part of the regular meeting agenda on Saturday and Sunday. You can also choose to attend the post-meeting, all-day tour of Hell's Canyon on Monday.

All Saturday, Sunday, and Monday field trips will leave from a parking lot located a few blocks from the Owyhee Plaza Hotel, address 1511 W Bannock Street, Boise. We will carpool to minimize the number of vehicles on the tours. If you choose not to drive, you will be able to leave your vehicle in the parking lot until you return from the field trip (no overnight parking at this site).

### Mores Mountain/Bogus Basin

Tour Leader: Ann DeBolt, retired U.S. Forest Service Botanist and Native Communities Specialist for the Idaho Botanical Garden.

Timetable: 8 am to 3 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: no restrictions.

Roundtrip Drive: approximately 40 miles.

This field trip involves a short drive north from Boise up Bogus Basin Road to Mores Mountain. Among the scheduled tours, this one includes the shortest driving distance (less than 20 miles, one way) but



requires some hiking to see the greatest diversity of plants. The proposed hike is only 1-1.5 miles, easy, and very scenic.

Mores Mountain is one of the higher peaks along the Boise Ridge, a range of relatively low mountains (highest peaks about 7,500 feet) extending from the foothill suburbs of Boise northward into the Boise National Forest. Located just south of Mores Mountain is Bogus Basin Ski Resort, a favored winter destination of local boarders and skiers. After snowmelt, this area becomes a succession of verdant forests and meadows. A number of penstemon species can be seen on this tour, including *P. payettensis*, *P. deustus*, *P. attenuatus*, *P. humilis*, *P. fruticosus*, and *P. wilcoxii*. Many other unique and/or locally endemic species may also be seen, such as *Mimulus cusickii* and *Lewisia sacajawean*.

### Reynolds Creek/Owyhee Front

Tour Leader: Beth Corbin, BLM Botanist.

Timetable: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: moderate clearance vehicles recommended.

Roundtrip Drive: 75 to 170 miles, depending on the route conditions will allow.





This field trip involves 36 mile drive west and then south of Boise on U.S. Highway 55 to Marsing, followed by another 20 miles southeast on U.S. Highway 78 to Reynolds Creek Road. Depending on weather and road conditions, the tour may stay mainly on the Owyhee Front or may continue into the crown of the Owyhee Mountains, stop at Silver City, a historic mining district, and possibly end up in Jordan Valley, Oregon.

The Owyhee Front, which includes the Reynolds Creek Drainage, is an ecologically unique region.

Elevation ranges from 2,300 feet at the Snake River to 8,400 feet at the top of Hayden Peak. The lower elevations include dry, sparse shrublands. As elevation increases, ecological zones change to western juniper woodlands and finally into Douglas-fir forests. This area is home to a number of rare plant species, including *Astragalus mulfordiae*, *Cymopterus acaulis* var. *greeleyorum*, *Eriogonum shockleyi* var. *packardiae*, and *Stanleya confertiflora*. One very rare penstemon is present on the Front, *Penstemon janishiae*, and we should be able to see this little beauty. A number of other penstemons are also common in the area, including a striking form of *P. speciosus*, plus *P. deustus*, *P. attenuatus*, and *P. fruticosus*.

#### Succor Creek/Leslie Gulch

Tour Leaders: Jean Finley retired BLM Botanist from Vail Oregon; and Stephen Love, University of Idaho Extension Specialist.

Timetable: 7 am to 5 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: moderate clearance vehicles recommended, but not absolutely required.

Roundtrip Drive: approximately 160 miles.

This route has some rough roads that may not be suitable for sedans (although

I have driven my Buick on all of these roads and never had a problem). This field trip involves a relatively long drive west and then southwest of Boise on U.S. Highway 95 across the Oregon border, then a loop back to the north on Succor Creek Road to Homedale, Idaho and ending up in back in Boise. Along Succor Creek Road there will be a side trip into Leslie Gulch. Much of the trip entails isolated country with no services or assistance.

The Succor Creek drainage is open, sagebrush country that includes areas of flat plains, rolling hills, and deep riparian canyons. Elevations range from 4,000 to 5,500 feet. Leslie Gulch is a spectacular feature of



this region with vertical red cliffs that could just as easily have been transported directly from southern Utah. Although plants appear dry and brown in the late summer, this region can have a spectacular flower season in the spring (this is one of those places that is dependent on good winter moisture to bring on the flowers). On this trip, you will see a couple of penstemon species that you have likely never before seen. One is *Penstemon miser*, a species limited to tuffaceous soils of this narrowly defined region, and the other is *P. cusickii*. Other penstemons common to the area are *P. palmeri*, *P. deustus*, and *P. speciosus*. A number of other rare or locally endemic species are present in the area, including *Senecio ertterae*, *Mentzelia packardiae*, *Ivesia rhypara* var. *rhypara*, *Astragalus sterilis*, and *Trifolium owyheense*. On the animal side, it is common to see herds of desert bighorn sheep along the road in Leslie Gulch.

#### Monday Post-Meeting Tour

##### Hell's Canyon

Tour Leader: Tony McCammon, University of Idaho Twin Falls County Educator and amateur ethnobotanist.

Timetable: 6 am to 6 pm.

Vehicle Requirements: moderate clearance vehicles recommended, but not required (I've had my Buick on these roads, too).

Roundtrip Drive: approximately 270 miles.

This is a long field trip that will take a full day. However, it will be more than worthwhile if you have never had opportunity to see the unique geography and ecology of the deepest canyon in North



America. The route of the field trip will go from Boise, northwest on Interstate 84 to the Oregon border, north on US Highway 95 to Cambridge, then northwest on Hwy 71 into the south end of Hell's Canyon. After driving more than 20 miles into the canyon the route climbs 4,500 feet up Kleinschmidt Grade and wends its way back to US Highway 95 at Council, then retraces the course back to Boise. A portion of this route is gravel and dirt, but most vehicles should be able to complete the drive without problem.

Although the most rugged and spectacular portions of Hell's Canyon are isolated from roads, the tour will still provide an opportunity to sample this remarkable realm. The elevation of the Snake River at the bottom of the canyon is about 1,000 feet and has unique ecological zones associated with the relatively warm, dry climate. Here we will find *P. triphyllus*, *P. glandulosus*, and many other unique species. On the grade out of the canyon, we hope to find *P. elegantulus* and other species

adapted to dry slopes and moist clefts. At the top of the canyon rim, we will cross into ecosystems dominated by heavy fir/spruce forests alternating with rocky meadows creating the possibility of seeing *P. gairdneri*, *P. payettensis*, *P. deustus*, *P. rydbergii*, *P. fruticosus*, and *P. wilcoxii*. We may have opportunity to see a few rare species outside the genus penstemon, including *Mirabilis macfarlanei* and *Phlox colubrina*.

### **Field Trip Preparation**

Most of the field trips take us into places with limited access to food, water, or other essential equipment. If you are driving, be sure to start each field trip with a full tank of gas. Make sure you have a good spare tire. All field trip participants - please bring the following:

Sack lunch

Water (at least ½ gallon per person)

Jacket

Wide-brimmed hat

Insect repellent

Good hiking shoes

And don't forget your camera and binoculars.

### **Annual Meeting Schedule**

#### Friday

1:00 pm – Board Meeting, APS (Owyhee Plaza Hotel)

1:00 pm – Board Meeting, INPS (Owyhee Plaza Hotel)

4:00 pm – Welcome reception at the Idaho Botanical Garden (food service begins at 6 pm)

#### Saturday

All field trips depart from the parking lot located at 1511 W Bannock Street, Boise.

7:00 am – Depart on the tour to Succor Creek/Leslie Gulch

7:30 am – Depart on the tour to Reynolds Creek/Owyhee Mountains

8:00 am – Depart on the tour to Mores Mountain/Bogus Basin

6:00 pm – Reception (Owyhee Plaza Hotel)

7:00 pm – Banquet, annual business meetings (APS, INPS), keynote speaker (Owyhee Plaza Hotel)

#### Sunday

All field trips depart from the parking lot located at 1511 W Bannock Street, Boise.

7:00 am – Depart on the tour to Succor Creek/Leslie Gulch

7:30 am – Depart on the tour to Reynolds Creek/Owyhee Mountains

8:00 am – Depart on the tour to Mores Mountain/Bogus Basin

7:00 pm – Social and slide show

Monday

All field trips depart from the parking lot located at 1511 W Bannock Street, Boise.

6:00 am – Depart for the post-meeting tour to Hell's Canyon. Scheduled return time 6 pm

**Registration**

Registration for the annual INPS meeting will open on March 1. We encourage you to register early to facilitate meeting planning, but will hold registration open until the meeting begins on June 21.

To register for the meeting, fill out and return the printed registration form included with this article. You can pay registration fees using one of two methods; include a check with the mailed registration form, or send the registration form separately then log onto the APS website ([www.apsdev.org](http://www.apsdev.org)), click on the Annual Meetings tab, and follow the instructions to pay using a credit/debit card.

Note: You must be a member of the American Penstemon Society or the Idaho Native Plant Society to attend the joint annual meeting. If you not a member of one of the societies and wish to attend, please fill out and submit the meeting registration, then go online to your society of choice and complete a membership application. Web site addresses: APS: [www.apsdev.org](http://www.apsdev.org); INPS: [www.idahonativeplants.org](http://www.idahonativeplants.org).