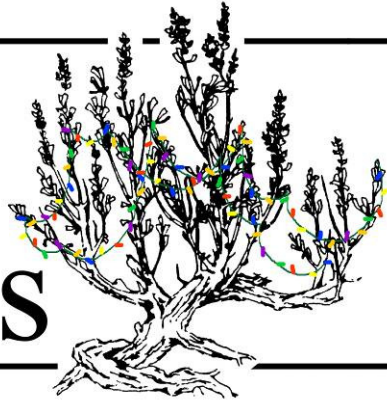


Sage Notes



... promoting interest in
Idaho's native flora.

Winter 2009 ❖ SAGE NOTES ❖ A Publication of the Idaho Native Plant Society Vol. 31 (4)

Announcing the 2010 Idaho Native Plant Society Calendar

The INPS 2010 Calendar became available for purchase in October. The initial printing of 200 calendars went quickly, so a second printing of 225 calendars was made in early November. If you have not ordered and wish to, please check with a chapter president or on the state website for calendar availability.

Twenty-four INPS members and family members around the state contributed photographs to a photo contest in July. From these photographs, a panel of judges and committee members selected photographs to be included in the calendar. In addition to the 13 excellent photos selected for the month pages, there are smaller inset pictures included on most calendar pages so many of the photographers have their work represented.

The sale of these calendars helps support INPS education and conservation efforts. These calendars not only make great additions to your home or office wall space, they also make excellent gifts for the holidays!

Chapter presidents in each locality may still have calendars to sell for \$10 each. You may visit the state INPS website at www.idahonativeplants.org and use your credit card to order using PayPal or you may complete the form and send the form with a check payable to INPS to the following address:

Calendar Order
Idaho Native Plant Society
PO Box 9451
Boise ID 83707

Please note that a shipping fee is applied to all requests for calendars mailed to your home or office. The website will indicate the shipping charge as it varies with the number ordered.



The cover photo of high country beargrass is by Marilyn George of Sandpoint Idaho.

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Sage Notes is in color on the INPS website:
<http://www.idahonativeplants.org/>

Letter from the President

Greetings Fellow Plant Enthusiasts,

I first want to thank those that read their *Sage Notes* and replied with some interesting comments. I look forward to any comments you are willing to give.

I also want to thank the Sah-Wah-Be Chapter for stepping up to the challenge of hosting the 1st Native Flora Workshop in 2010. Please see the announcement for the event in this issue of *Sage Notes*. Thank you to those who came to the first planning meeting and those who volunteered to be on the planning committee. We are well underway for making this a great opportunity for all native plant enthusiasts.

A question I asked the membership in my first letter was “How can we grow?” I felt that this question was also a call for me to get into action, so... I planned and held the first informational meeting to form a new chapter for the Idaho Falls area (see write-up in this edition). I am pleased to say that there were 32 attendees and we received 15 new members to INPS. I am planning a second meeting for November and hope to have a functioning chapter by January 2010.

Have you purchased a calendar yet? Nancy Miller had 200 printed in the first round and those have all sold. Another 225 calendars were printed in early November to fill orders and to have a few on-hand at each chapter for promotion. Thanks to the Calendar Committee; Nancy Miller, Marilyn George, and Ann Debolt, along with our four outstanding volunteer judges. Thanks to all the members that submitted photos for the contest. All I can say is WOW! We have some amazing visual artists among our ranks. I have only heard good things about the calendar and hope that some interested members will take on the task for 2011. Through efforts to give as many opportunities to purchase calendars as possible, Jody Hull and Paul Shaffer arranged to offer a PayPal option to purchase the calendar off the INPS website. Thanks to Jody and Paul for making this happen.

I am planning to attend the Kinnikinnick Chapter’s annual meeting on November 28th. I would like to learn more about how the chapter has decided to change its direction and mission to better represent how the members feel a Native Plant Society should work in the

Sandpoint area. My hope from attending this meeting is to gain a better understanding about the members of Kinnikinnick and interests of the Sandpoint Community. I would like my presence at the meeting to reflect a cooperative attitude in joining forces to educate, conserve and enjoy Idaho’s wonderful flora. I will report back to the INPS membership in the next edition of *Sage Notes* about the meeting.

Don’t forget to look for the “stamen in *Sage Notes*” again this edition. Last quarter’s winner was Lisa (Hahn) Harloe. Congratulations Lisa! The stamen was located on page 10, lower right hand corner of the photo of *Calochortus macrocarpus* var. *maculosus*. The next Book I am giving away is *American Meadow Garden: Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn* by John Greenlee. So remember, the first person to send an email to nativeplantlover@hotmail.com with the

correct location of the “stamen”  will get the prize.

I want to make one clarification about the book give-away that I received a question about. No INPS funds are used to purchase the books that I am giving away. This is solely my effort to get more input from members about what you would like to see in *Sage Notes*.

In closing, I would encourage you to keep-up the great work that you do for Idaho’s native flora, keep the comments flowing, and enjoy the winter by reading something about native plants that you might be able to share with the membership.

Enjoy the holidays with friends and family,

Wendy Velman
President, Idaho Native Plant Society

Insect Flower Visitors

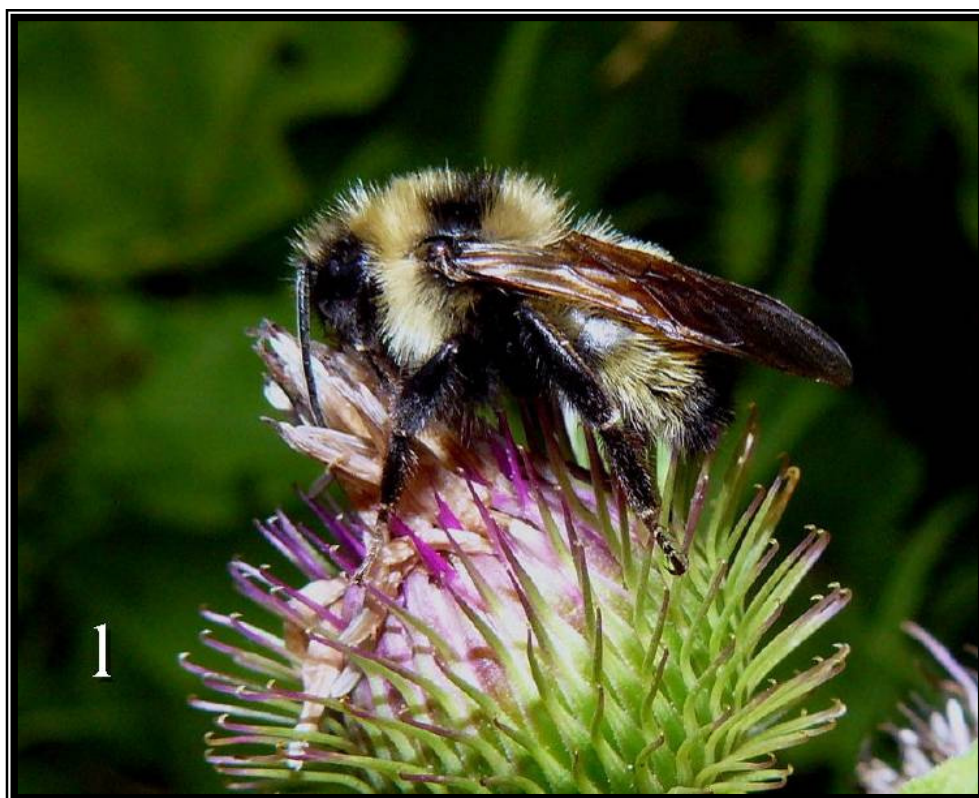
By Mal Furniss, White Pine Chapter

Why not "Pollinators?" you may ask. Well, for several reasons. First, that's a bit off my beat as a forest entomologist and, besides, "pollinator" seems too simplistic. Yes, no doubt most ... if not all ... of the insect flower visitors in this neck of the World do get some pollination accomplished. But, as I watch them, that doesn't seem to be the main item on their little minds. Rather, food and even sex are the motivators.

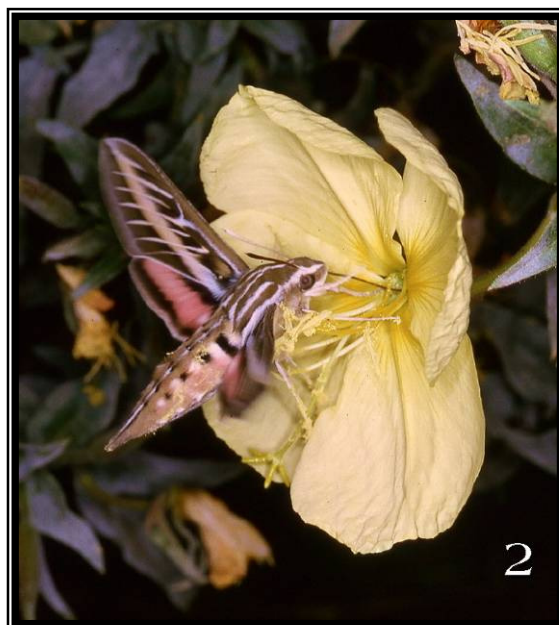
So, what then is this all about? Well, not a whole lot. For starters, now that I look further into it, the more I have to learn. There just seems to be no end to the kinds of insects involved, considering the diversity of plants and seasonal patterns just in my surroundings here on the Palouse and extending into the nearby forest. Pollination is not just for the bees, anymore!

With that, I merely seek to introduce the subject. You probably have observed many kinds of flower visitors yourself. Perhaps this article may promote your learning more about them as I do, rather by happenstance, in the field and around my premises. Intriguing stories await discovery. "You can observe a lot by just watching (Yogi)." In that regard, consider their biology, seasonal history, and where they may spend their immature forms as larvae. A little boning up beforehand on how to collect and preserve specimens will aid in their identification. Where would we be in regard to plant identification without a press? Leaves tucked into a pocket only to shrivel? At the least, practice stalking with your camera; an image often suffices ... like catch and release fishing.

2 This "hawk moth," *Celerio lineata* (Sphingidae), resembles a hummingbird while hovering and sipping nectar deep within an evening primrose flower at dusk in my yard. The larva is the tomato hornworm, named for the spine protruding from the rear of its back. It pupates on the ground.



1 The fabled honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, (Apidae) (a non-native insect) is often brought to mind in association with the subject of pollination. Perhaps rightly so in regard to some crops, but many other insects pollinate flowers during their activities involving securing nutrition and mating. Here, a bumble bee, *Bombus* sp.(Apidae), does its part. They nest in burrows in the ground and the adults provide food for their larvae.





3 A longhorn beetle (*Cerambycidae*) on *Solidago* sp. Some members of this family are attracted to flowers, perhaps requiring feeding prior to mating and reproduction.

And, by the way, most of the insects that I see on flowers around here are in the Orders *Hymenoptera* (bees, wasps, ants), *Diptera* (flies), and *Lepidoptera* (moths, butterflies). The "-ptera" in Order names means "winged." For these three Orders, the prefix refers to the kind of wings: "membranous," "two," and "scale," respectively. Insect family names end in "-idae." If untrained in the subject, begin by learning to identify them to the Order and family levels. That will bring much satisfaction and is often the level that I, as a specialist in bark beetles, find myself in the field.

The vibrant colors of both flowers and insects add much to their appeal and recognition. I have tried to select photos that do show the subjects as well as possible in black and white. To view these photos in color please visit Sage Notes online (<http://www.idahonativeplants.org/>). Consider this as a vignette or snippet of what awaits you should you quietly observe the insect visitors to flowers throughout the season in the wild and wherever flowers grow.

Acknowledgments: Frank Merickel, Manager, W.F. Barr Entomological Museum, U. Idaho provided information about *N. lutea* and reviewed a draft of the manuscript. He may be contacted at FMERICKE@uidaho.edu. Judy Ferguson identified the host plant in Fig. 3.



4 The "longtongued blister beetle, *Nemagnatha lutea* (Meloidae), congregated on thistle. The common name "blister beetle" derives from their having a body fluid that can cause blistering. Contrary to most beetles, which have mandibles for chewing, the mouth parts of this beetle form a tube almost as long as its body and which is used to extract nectar. The females lay eggs on flowers, which hatch into larvae that attach to visiting solitary bees and are carried to their nests where they parasitize their offspring.



6 This bee mimic is actually a flower fly, probably *Eristalis tenax* (Syrphidae), a resemblance better seen in color. Its body hairs are covered with willow pollen. The larvae live in organically contaminated water and have a "tail" extended into air for breathing. They are called rat-tail maggots.



5 I have seen these black *Anthaxia* (Buprestidae) beetles gathered on flowers such as Rocky Mountain Iris and dandelion where they readily mate. Insect plant visitors are opportunistic, visiting whatever flowers are available to them in space and time.



7 The checkered flower beetle, *Trichodes ornatus* (Cleridae), feeds primarily on pollen of various plants. It is shiny blue with either bright yellow or red markings on the wing covers. It lays eggs in nests of alfalfa leafcutting bees and preys on their eggs and larvae. Beetles of this family are typically predacious as adults and larvae; some with which I am familiar prey on bark beetles.

Carex Identification Workshop

By Karen Colson, Pahove Chapter

The Second Annual Pahove Chapter Plant Identification Workshop was a huge success. This year the Pahove Chapter, Boise State University (BSU), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hosted a two-day *Carex* identification workshop, held August 19-20, 2009. It was well attended, with over 20 participants from all over Idaho, as well as botanists from Wyoming and Montana! The workshop was held at BSU and provided a hands-on opportunity to learn about the taxonomy, ecology, and life history of this fascinating genus.

We could not have asked for more knowledgeable and engaging instructors. Dr. Barbara Wilson and Nick Otting of the *Carex* Working Group are true pioneers of *Carex* identification. Nick and Barbara lead the workshop by combining expert knowledge of local sedges with a light hearted and humorous approach to teaching. Their enthusiasm for sedge identification was contagious and captured everyone's attention. "The *Carex* Working Group instructors were first rate! Not only did they possess a comprehensive knowledge, they presented the material with humor and insight in an easily understandable format. The Field Guide to Sedges of the Pacific Northwest is a remarkable edition that promotes enthusiasm for identifying members of this genus that once felt intimidating." commented Cyndi Coulter from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The first day of the workshop was spent in the lab learning about sedge morphology and ecology and keying fresh specimens with an emphasis on distinguishing important and potentially confusing traits. Day two was spent keying species in the field, providing participants an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the distinct field characteristics and habitats. As anyone who has tackled sedge identification knows, sedges can be challenging since many of the differences between species are based on small, technical characters. Barbara and Nick helped make these differences more easily understandable and much less intimidating. The Field Guide to Sedges of the Pacific Northwest was the primary resource used to key sedges. Although this guide was created for Oregon and Washington, it is an extremely valuable resource for Idaho sedge identification as well. Not only does this guide offer comprehensive identification keys, it is very user-friendly, and offers species descriptions, distribution maps, beautiful color photographs and illustrations of all parts of plants, and valuable tools and tips for identifying plants in this genus. It is an essential resource for botanists interested in *Carex* identification. In addition to developing identification keys and teaching workshops on various difficult-to-identify species, such as sedges, willows, and grasses, the *Carex* Working Group conducts surveys, monitors rare plant populations, and develops vegetation assessment methods and ecosystem management plans.

We are extremely grateful to Nick and Barbara for taking the time to travel to Idaho and share their extensive knowledge with us. These local plant identification workshops provide an invaluable opportunity for professional and amateur botanists in our region and they would not be possible without the support and commitment of our partners and instructors. I'd also like to give a special thanks to Jim Smith and Dianne and Beth of BSU for not only providing the location and equipment for the workshop, but also for their generous assistance organizing the workshop-your commitment of time, energy, and resources made this workshop possible. Thanks also, to all of those that helped with the workshop: Cyndi Coulter, Danielle Clay, Chris Colson and of course all of the participants that made the 2009 workshop a success.

The College of Idaho has graciously agreed to host the next workshop to be held in summer 2010. The topic will be announced in Sage Notes so stay tuned for more details. If you would like to be included on our mailing list, please send your contact information to Karen Colson at trilliumkc@msn.com.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of The Field Guide to Sedges of the Pacific Northwest visit the *Carex* Working Group website at: <http://www.carexworkinggroup.com/pages/fieldguide.html>.

Roots, Fruits, and Shoots

By Barbara L. Wilson

Carex Working Group members who taught the sedge identification class thoroughly enjoyed the area, the people, and the sedges. We thank Boise State University and the Pahove Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society for sponsoring the class, with special thanks to Jim Smith and Karen Colson

Late season sedge expeditions usually involve high elevations and *Carex* of the section *Ovales* – the dreaded *Ovales*. We got to high elevations on Snowbank Mountain, a lovely place a long drive from Boise, and fully a third of the sedges we found for the class were *Ovales*: *Carex abrupta*, *C. illota*, *C. leporinella*, *C. microptera*, *C. multicosata*, and *C. pachystachya*.

We tend to assume that all *Ovales* with tight oval heads are either *C. pachystachya* or *C. microptera* until proven otherwise, so we were glad to find both on our field trip. *Carex pachystachya* grew at our lowest elevation site. It was fully mature, with thick, spreading, bronzy perigynia. *Carex microptera* grew at our mid and high elevation sites. Its perigynia were spreading a little bit – it was fully mature – but they were more numerous and crowded and less spreading than those of *C. pachystachya*.

Our mid-elevation stop was a classic montane upland meadow with both *C. microptera* and the "pseudo-*Ovales*" *Carex hoodii*. *C. hoodii* has a tight oval head like many *Ovales* species and the strong ribs on

each side of the perigynium could almost be called wings. But unlike the *Ovales* it has androgynous inflorescences. Students soon learned to recognize its green perigynia with shiny brown centers.

The most interesting *Ovales* for CWG members was *Carex abrupta*. It closely resembled *C. microptera* but its perigynia had long, strong veins on the ventral surface and were more broadly tapered to the beak. It was dominant in a meadow around a pond near timberline. The

uncommon
Ovales *Carex*

leporinella grew so thickly around the pond that it looked rhizomatous, even though it's a cespitose plant.

Also near timberline we found one plant of what we're used to calling *Carex multicosata*, an *Ovales* with a pale, shaggy head and perigynia with a distinctively oval shape and an odd thick surface texture. This species' name is changing. Eighty



Carex paysonis. Photo by Karen Colson

years ago, sedge expert Kenneth Mackenzie named both *Carex multicosata* and *C. pachycarpa* from Californian specimens. Both were high elevation, upland species with an odd, thick texture to the perigynia. Botanists confused them with each other and with other species (including *C. abrupta*). Pretty soon, botanists decided that *C. multicosata* and *C. pachycarpa* were the same thing. For the past year, CWG members and Seattle botanist Peter Zika have been studying these sedges. It turns out that once you remove all the misidentified specimens, the "Carex multicosata" fall into two groups, corresponding to Mackenzie's original ideas of *Carex multicosata* and *C. pachycarpa*. True *C. multicosata* grows from the southern Sierra Nevada north to Lassen Peak. *Carex pachycarpa* grows from the Yosemite area north to Idaho and Oregon.

One sedge confused the CWG members in a way that only experienced sedgeheads could have been confused. Several shoots with green perigynia were top-snatched from the edge of a river. We said, "Don't key the little ones – they're immature late-season shoots and will only confuse you." In many *Carex* species, each plant sends up several shoots early in the year. Then if conditions are good it sends up a second crop or even a third. The shoots from the second and later crop are different. They tend to have long inflorescence bracts, unusual elongated or shortened inflorescences, and abnormal perigynia. It's important to avoid trying to identify late season shoots – they don't key and only cause confusion. However, some students did examine the supposed late-season shoots and thought (correctly) that they were mature and different from the *Carex stipata* with which they were collected. The little shoots were not young late-season shoots of *Carex stipata* but small plants of *Carex arcta*. If the person gathering the specimens had been careful to collect Roots, Fruits, and Shoots (as all good sedgeheads should), we would easily have noticed that the *Carex arcta* heads came from different plants than the *Carex stipata* shoots.

We were glad to see that our Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest included all the species we found on our field trip. There were some shifts in abundance, though! In Oregon and Washington, we expect the dominants in moist or mesic areas around timberline to include *Carex scopulorum* var. *bracteosa* and *C. spectabilis*. On

Snowbank Mountain, these were replaced by the related *C. scopulorum* var. *prionophylla* and *C. paysonis*.



Mike McKim and Josh Rodriguez from Tetra Tech demonstrate proper quizzical form in keying a sedge at the workshop. Photo by Karen Colson

Only one species occurred at all of our low, mid, and high elevation sites – and it may not be a single species. The low elevation plant was surely *C. rossii*. The high elevation plant may have been *C. deflexa* but we can't be sure. We find more intermediate plants that we'd expect, so we've jokingly come to call them all *C. "derossiflexa"*. We've established a common garden of these plants and are trying to sort out the differences among them.

All in all, we had a good field trip that presented many interesting plants and demonstrated some of the frustrations and fun of sedge identification.

**Sah-Wah-Be Field Trip Report on the Justice Park/Scout Mountain Walk,
Monday evening, August 3, 2009
By Pauline Havens, Vice President Sah-Wah-Be Chapter**

This was the second of two plant walks at Scout Mountain in the Justice Park area, attended by 17 members and three guests. Shortly before our arrival, it had rained and the air was misty, but lovely and cool. We had left Pocatello about seven miles to the north in the valley's sweltering heat. Janet Bala, current INPS Vice President, botanist and a past president of our chapter, led the group, identifying and pointing out different characteristics of the many plants, shrubs, grasses and trees.

The walk began just off the parking area at the campground in a soggy meadow where we found many varieties of plants, some in bloom, others past their prime, such as sticky purple geranium, Richardson's geranium (lovely white blossoms), yarrow, cinquefoil, monkey flower, bog orchid, white clover, scouring rush, bedstraw, penstemon, and rye grass, just to name a few.

We came upon a large clump of chickweed with its pretty white blossoms and Janet stuck some in her hair, looking quite festive. Before leaving the meadow, one of our members found a beautiful monkshood hiding in the underbrush. Elderberry bushes were in flower, surprisingly, probably due to a cool, rainy June.

After exploring the meadow we walked along a road through the campground (and were joined by a couple from Oregon who were camping there) under a canopy of Douglas-fir and subalpine fir to one of the overlooks, identifying numerous plants, shrubs and trees along the way. There were large patches of common and Nuttall's sunflowers with an occasional heart-leaved arnica, lupine, Indian paintbrush, and fireweed.

Janet pointed out to us how to recognize an aster relative to fleabane. The aster's bracts are firm, narrow, sharply pointed and overlapping like shingles, while fleabane's bracts are equal in length and not arranged in overlapping rows.

Beside one campsite was a large open area covered with "gone by" Mule's ears, which earlier would have been an enormous blaze of yellow. The overlook, complete with a covered bench, gave us a beautiful view of the surrounding mountains and valley, complete with a lovely sunset. We heard, but did not see, sandhill cranes and numerous other birds.

Before leaving for home, our president, Linda Johnson, treated us to s'mores with ingredients that were left over from the INPS State Annual Meeting. She had prepared the treat at home, so a campfire was not necessary for a luscious finale to our plant walk.



Erigeron sp. left, *Aster sp.* right

"Janet pointed out to us how to recognize an aster relative to fleabane. The aster's bracts are firm, narrow, sharply pointed and overlapping like shingles, while fleabane's bracts are equal in length and not arranged in overlapping rows."

INPS Annual Dues/Membership Form

It's that time of year again to renew your INPS membership! If you have not already done so, please send this [form](#) along with your check to the address below or to your chapter treasurer.

Category 2010 Annual Dues

- ⇒ Patron \$100+
- ⇒ Sustaining \$35+
- ⇒ Household* \$22
- ⇒ Individual \$17
- ⇒ Senior Citizen \$10
- ⇒ Student \$10

Additional donation: _____

* Household memberships are allocated two votes

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter affiliation? (check one)

- ⇒ Calypso (Coeur d'Alene; please include \$6 newsletter dues)
- ⇒ Loasa (Twin Falls)
- ⇒ Pahove (Boise)
- ⇒ Sah-Wah-Be (SE Idaho)
- ⇒ White Pine (Moscow)
- ⇒ Wood River (Ketchum-Sun Valley)
- ⇒ None

Send dues to: INPS Treasurer, PO Box 9451, Boise ID 83707

Please cut out this form and send it along with your renewal check. Thank you and have a great holiday.

Book Review

By Wendy Velman

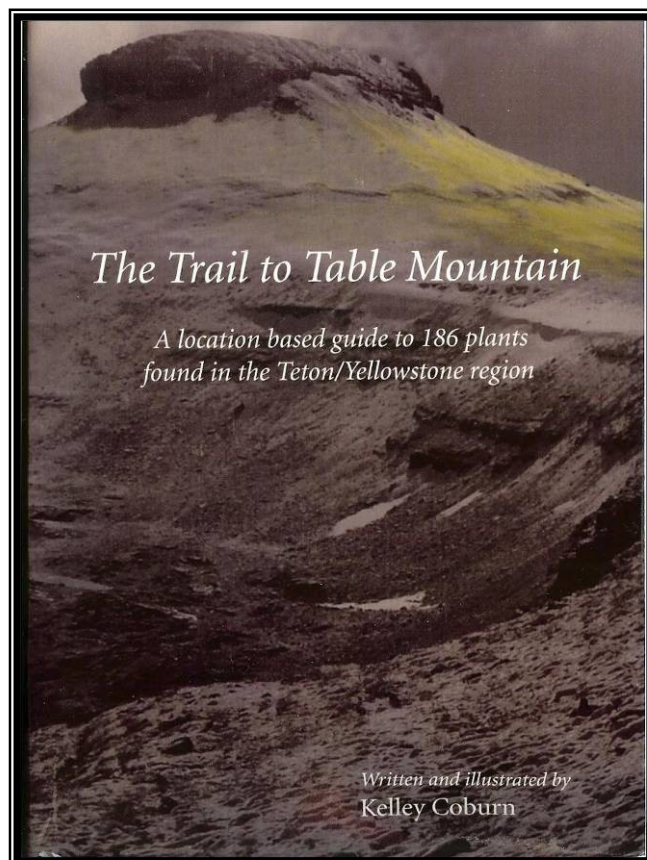
The Trail to Table Mountain: A location based guide to 186 plants found in the Teton/Yellowstone region

By Kelley Coburn

How many field guides have you looked at over the years? I guarantee you have never read anything like the new book by Idaho native, Kelley Coburn. Mr. Coburn has hiked the Table Mountain Trail for more than 30 years, and in one year, he hiked it every month of the year. His many years of hiking this trail make him a perfect example of how each person should follow their passion. Even though this trail is not in Idaho, I was reminded that you can only access it from Idaho.

Mr. Coburn uses a unique perspective of “meeting the plants as you go” lending to a wonderful meet-and-greet experience with the local plants encountered on the trail. He uses a mix of natural history, original poetry, and original illustrations to share his passion for this very popular hike that rewards one with a grand view of the Teton peaks. He also has a very conservation-minded tone throughout the book to promote the protection of these plants and their habitat on this widely popular trail.

If you have ever hiked this trail, this book will help you re-visit that plant friend that you may have become acquainted with. If you have never hiked the trail, this is a great way to experience the flora from a nice comfortable chair. I have always heard how grueling this hike can be if your only objective is to summit fast before a summer thunderstorm. However, I would like to take a leisurely walk and make some new friends along the way. I might even get lucky enough to have Kelley introduce me to some of his good friends.



An original poem from the book reprinted with permission from the author.

Sweey Cicely

*The architecture is impeccable
A sphere divided thrice
Each equidistant junction
Armed with a wickedly hooked device*

*The quarry might be a decent soul
Not the type to be found in cahoots
With an opportunistic hitchhiker
Always seeking for ten league boots*

INPS NEWS

1st Idaho Native Flora Workshop

The Sah-Wah-Be Chapter is pleased to announce the 1st Idaho Native Flora Workshop that will be held in Pocatello, March 23-24, 2010 on the Idaho State University Campus.

The workshop will be an opportunity to learn and network with fellow native plant enthusiasts and professionals. The intent is to help fill the gap between alternate years of the Idaho Rare Plant Conference held in Boise.

Planning is in the early stages. The planners are: Linda Johnson, Sah-Wah-Be Chapter President; Rick Williams, Ray J. Davis Herbarium Curator; Rose Lehman, Forest Service Botanist and INPS member; Cathy Frischmann, Sah-Wah-Be member; Janet Bala, INPS Vice President; and Wendy Velman, INPS President. If you'd like to help by volunteering, contact Cathy Frischmann, at [cathyberry13 at hotmail.com](mailto:cathyberry13@hotmail.com) or 208-406-4559.

The target audience for this workshop is any plant enthusiast who wants to learn more about native plants in Southeast Idaho and improve their field identification skills. We plan to have professional botanists from Southeast Idaho and surrounding states join us. We intend to offer two separate plant keying opportunities to attendees. Details about the workshops and registration will be posted on the INPS website in early December (www.idahonativeplants.org).

Tentative Conference Schedule

Monday, March 22: Evening social

Tuesday, March 23: Presentations on native flora in the Eastern Idaho area, an update on the Ray J. Davis Herbarium and Intermountain Herbaria Consortium, poster presentations, evening banquet and keynote address.

Wednesday, March 24: In the morning a presentation on NatureServe's ranking calculator, and updates on *Lepidium papilliferum*, *Astragalus mulfordiae*, and *Claytonia multiscapa*. The afternoon will include two different keying workshops.

The registration fee will be similar the Idaho Rare Plant Conference: \$35 (\$15 for students) for both days; and \$45 (\$25 for students) for late registration (deadline TBA). The keynote banquet will be around \$16-\$18 per plate.



Lepidium papilliferum (L.F. Hend.) A. Nelson & J.F. Macbr. Photo By: Sherri Hagwood

Lodging options, and agenda and registration information will be posted to the INPS website soon. Some lodging will be available at Sah-Wah-Be chapter member's homes. For information please contact Cathy Frischmann ([cathyberry13 at hotmail.com](mailto:cathyberry13@hotmail.com) or 406-4559).

Attendees will have ample time for networking and informal discussions at the Monday evening social, Tuesday evening banquet, and meals/breaks throughout the two days of presentations.

Do we have a new Chapter?

On October 21, 2009, Wendy Velman hosted an informational meeting in Idaho Falls to introduce the Idaho Native Plant Society to the Upper Snake River region. The meeting started with an introduction of INPS and what the society offers to the local community. A photo presentation from local Victor, Idaho native Kelley Coburn about his new book followed. Mr. Coburn showed slides of native flora and spoke about his inspiration to write *Trail to Table Mountain*. After the presentation, the 32 attendees were given the opportunity to purchase one of Mr. Coburn's books and have it autographed. Wendy Velman was also on hand to sell calendars and take membership applications and dues. Nine calendars were sold and 15 new members signed-up. Four existing members want to transfer their membership,

and four more want to have dual membership with the Sah-Wah-Be chapter. This resulted in a total of 23 members to initiate an Idaho Falls chapter. There will be another informational meeting with a presentation in November to provide an opportunity to other individuals that could not attend October's meeting. The hope is that by January 2010, a functioning chapter would be established to represent Idaho Falls and the surrounding area.

In Memoriam

Wilma Gluch, known to all as "Willie", passed away peacefully in her sleep this summer on the 4th of July. She was 89 years young. Willie was a charter member of the Idaho Native Plant Society, and cheerfully hosted board meetings at her cozy North End home back before there were separate chapters.



She was a regular attendee at monthly meetings, on field trips, and for many years, she and good friend Agnes Miller teamed up to register participants at the annual Rare Plant Conference. Willie was ever upbeat, friendly, interested, and interesting, and she will be missed by all who knew her.

2010 Annual Meeting to be held at Heyburn State Park. Mark your calendars!

Thanks to Sah-Wah-Be chapter for organizing the very successful 2009 INPS Annual Meeting in Island Park. Great job! The 2010 Annual Meeting has been scheduled for **June 11-13, 2010** and will be hosted by White Pine Chapter with the aid of other northern chapters. It will be held at Heyburn State Park which is located about 5 miles off Highway 95 near Plummer Idaho. The Park has three lakes and the St. Joe River runs along its eastern edge. Established in 1908, it is Idaho's oldest State Park. It was a gathering place for the Coeur d'Alene Indians and the location of a CCC camp. Heyburn State Park has several CCC shelters and numerous trails. The habitats are quite varied with ponderosa, hemlock and white pine forests, and extensive wetlands. The 72 mile Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes (a paved Bike

Trail) passes through the park close to Hawley's Landing Campground where RV and tent sites are already reserved for the 2010 annual meeting.

Field trips are in the planning stage, but we anticipate a trip to McCroskey State Park where we will view native flora, large hemlocks and Palouse Prairie grasslands. Also, a visit to the Clarkia area, a superb fossil site, owned by geologist Dr. Bill Rember (and where we will actually dig for the fossils) is also on the schedule.

More information and reservation forms will be available in the next Sage Notes and on the state website as our plans materialize. For those not wanting to camp there are several cottages which may be rented in the park (see the state park website), as well as motels in St. Maries (east of the park) and at the Coeur d'Alene Casino/Resort/Hotel (north of the park). Contacts are Nancy Miller (208-882-2877) and Janet Campbell (208-882-6409).

CHAPTER NEWS

Calypso Chapter

PREVIOUS EVENTS

Calypso Chapter members car pooled or met at Roman Nose Lake on Saturday, August 22, 2009, and were rewarded with an absolutely beautiful day for hiking. The Columbine (*Aquilegia flavescens*) was found near the upper lake. This is a population Calypso Chapter has been following for a number of years. Several other plants were added to the plant list. Lunch was once again eaten on the large rocks that have become our plant walk destination over the years. Huckleberries were in abundance and members grazed on these as we hiked along the trail.

The highlight of the October meeting was a presentation by Ms. LeAnn Abell, botanist with BLM, and past president of Calypso Chapter on "Rare Plants of the BLM's Cottonwood Field Office". Ms. Abell showed photos and verbally described habitats that may be host to rare or unusual plants. In other business, some field trips were discussed for the Spring of 2010. We will have the Tubbs Hill walk as usual in April. The exact date of this is to be decided at our March meeting.

Loasa Chapter

All INPS members and the public are welcome to attend Loasa's events. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month in room 258 of the Taylor Building at CSI. If interested or for further details, contact Kelvin Jones at (208) 886-7051.

PREVIOUS EVENTS

On a sunny day in October, members of Loasa Chapter went to the home of Layne and Bev Hall in Jerome, Idaho to collect and clean penstemon seeds. The Halls are Penstemon enthusiasts and over the years have learned to grow many species in their garden. Loasa members helped collect the seeding inflorescences. After enough stems were collected we moved into the Halls drying shed where they demonstrated how to air-dry the stems in preparation for threshing. Layne once employed a vintage 1900's 'Clicker' model threshing machine that he had restored, but has since upgraded to a table model, with electric motor, wooden wheels and gears. This small wonder efficiently separates the seeds from the chaff. For those who have never seen seed cleaning, it is an interesting and rewarding endeavor. Many thanks to the Hall's for a wonderful day!

Pahove Chapter

2010 Idaho Native Plant Society calendars are now available locally.

Please call Susan at 867-6188 or e-mail [susan.ziebarth at idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:susan.ziebarth@idfg.idaho.gov) to reserve or pick up your calendar. **These make great Holiday gifts!**

PREVIOUS EVENTS

September 17th, 2009: The Pahove chapter members would like to thank Rod Burke of the Idaho Botanical Gardens for accommodating our annual season kick-off pizza party even though it occurred during the Gardens concert series. The background music was a welcome added dimension to our meeting.

The Pahove chapter elections were held and the officers stay the same this year: President – Susan Ziebarth, Vice President - Karen Colson, Treasurer – Jody Hull (Jody is also the INPS State Treasurer) Secretary – Karie Pappani, Members at Large – Cyndi Coulter and Chris Colson.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Pahove Chapter hosts monthly meetings from September through April, usually on the 3rd
December 2009

Thursday of the month in the MK Nature Center Auditorium (with few exceptions). The address is 601 South Walnut in Boise. For more information please visit the website, <http://www.idahonativeplants.org/> or contact Susan Ziebarth [sziebarth at idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:sziebarth@idfg.idaho.gov).

December 17, 2009 – Join Salmon Claus and others at our annual Holiday Party, Potluck and Plant-themed white elephant gift exchange. The festivities and food will begin at 6:30pm at the MK Nature Center.

January 21, 2010 – Landscaping with Native Plants Series – Part 1: Trees and Shrubs. More details TBA.

January 20-22, 2010 – 2010 Idaho Horticulture Expo “the Best Little Show in the West” hosted by the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association.

February 18, 2010 – Landscaping with Native Plants Series – Part 2: Forbs and grasses.

March 18, 2010 – Ethnobotany with special guest Cyndi Coulter

April 15, 2010 - Open forum, panel members TBA.

Third week of April: We will be hosting our annual Earth Day Native Plant Sale. This year we are going to offer a “Members Only” Sale a day or two before the Saturday sale. Dates and times will be announced as we get closer to the event. Postcards will be sent to all members announcing the dates.

Sah-Wah-Be Chapter

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

All classroom meetings are held at 7:00 PM in classroom 204, of the Idaho Museum of Natural History, 5th St. & Dillon, ISU campus. Public is invited. For more information call 208-716-0218.

December 7, 2009 – A talk on evergreen trees. Membership renewals will be accepted for 2010.

January 11, 2009 – Welcome to the New Year with a talk on plants that use less water in a home yard without it looking unkempt.

February 1, 2010 – A mid-winter surprise.

March 1, 2010 – Sah -Wah-Be annual meeting. Everyone is invited to have dinner at 5:30pm at El Jacalito's with a business meeting to follow at 6:30pm. We will have a review of the past year and election of officers. Suggestions for field trips for the 2010 summer season will finish the evening.

March 23-24, 2010 – Native Flora Workshop

April 5, 2010 – Photo presentation by Sah-Wah-Be members and friends.

April 24, 2010 – Pocatello Environment Fair, Sah-Wah-Be will have an information table, hand out young plants and help children put seeds in a cup to take home.

White Pine Chapter

The White Pine chapter recently conducted an election for officers by mail-in ballot. The new President for 2010 will be Helen Yost and the new Vice President will be Elisabeth Brackney. Nancy Sprague will continue as Treasurer and Patricia Hine as Secretary. Janet Campbell and Nancy Miller will continue on the chapter board as well as Past Presidents.

PREVIOUS EVENTS

Chapter members wrapped up our season of outings on **September 26** with our annual potluck, held this year at Heyburn State Park, near Plummer. After sharing a wonderful lunch at the Lake Chatcolet picnic shelter, most of us explored the Trail of the Coeur d'Alene, an extensive "Rails to Trails" path along the lake, some of us on foot and others by bike. The deer and osprey were more abundant than flowering native plants, but the latter should be in full bloom next June, when the INPS 2010 annual meeting is held at this site with field trips to nearby areas.

On Saturday, **November 7**, about 15 members and guests of White Pine chapter participated in a Carex workshop with Joy Mastroguiseppe. Joy is a Herbarium Curator at Washington State University's Ownbey Herbarium and often teaches in the Botany Department. She is well known for her research not only on sedges but also as an ethnobotanist. She first gave a photo presentation of many sedges in their quite different habitats, often with close-up

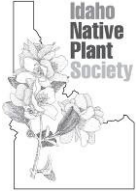
photographs of the key reproductive structures. Some sedges were aquatic species growing at or in the water's edge, others were found in quite dry environments – particularly dry in late summer. The photos often demonstrated whether the particular plant was gynaeandrous (the female flowers appear above the male flowers on the spike) or androgynous (with the male flowers situated above the female on the spike). Of course there had to be some dioecious as well to confuse the issue (with the male and female flowers on separate plants).

Joy had developed a key to eight groups of sedges potentially found in Idaho and Eastern Washington. We then examined the perigynia from the nearly 30 carex species through a microscope. Each perigynium with its achene (fruit) containing a single seed was quite unique in shape and look. Some perigynia were flattened, others more three-sided; some had distinctive beak or neck; some had wide and some had narrow wings or margins along the side of the enclosed achene. We attempted to key out the particular ones we had selected to the appropriate group based on these observed features. It was also interesting to compare the ones in a single group to see the features that made them more alike than those in other groups. Most of us came away with a better understanding of the complexity of this family and hope we have the opportunity for another workshop with Joy, and perhaps even a field trip.

Please see the White Pine chapter website at www.whitepineinps.org for updates to the schedule of events.

Wood River Chapter

Future Activities TBD: Contact chapter president Carol Blackburn at [blackburncr1 at yahoo.com](mailto:blackburncr1@yahoo.com) for updates.



Idaho Native Plant Society
 P.O. Box 9451
 Boise, ID 83707

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Sage Notes is published four times a year in February, May, September, and December by the Idaho Native Plant Society, incorporated since 1977, under the laws of the State of Idaho. Editor, Dylan Levy-Boyd. **Newsletter ads:** personal ads \$2; commercial ads \$5 for 1/8 page, \$8 for 1/4 page, \$15 for 1/2 page, and \$25 for full page. Ads should be sent with payment. **Submissions:** members and others are invited to submit material for publication. Articles in any form, even hand-written, are welcome, as is art work. Please provide a phone number in case there are questions. Material will not be returned. Send submissions directly to the editor, Dylan Levy-Boyd, 506 Center St. West, Kimberly, ID 83341, or <dylan at csr-inc dot com>. Submission deadlines are January 8, April 1, August 1, and November 1.

Officers: President, Wendy Velman; Vice President, Janet Bala; Secretary, Nancy Miller; Treasurer, Jody Hull. **Calypso Chapter**, P.O. Box 331, Careywood, ID 83809. President, Bob Lee; Vice President, Roland Craft; Secretary, Gloria Wurm; Treasurer, Janet Benoit; Newsletter, Phil Hruskocy. **Kinnikinnick Chapter**, 206 N. 4th Ave., PMB 162, Sandpoint, ID 83864. President, Carol Jenkins; Vice President, Jim Stern; Secretary, Konrad Dahlstrom; Treasurer, Ken Haag; Conservation, Carol Jenkins; Programs, Don Childress; Newsletter, Adrienne Lilly; Field Trips, Molly O' Reilly; Education, Nancy Fontaine. **Loasa Chapter**, 340 E 520 N, Shoshone, ID 83352. President, Kelvin Jones; Vice President, LaMar Orton; Secretary, Lois Rohay; Treasurer, Steve Paulsen. **Pahove Chapter**, PO Box 9451, Boise, ID 83707. President, Susan Ziebarth; Vice President, Karen Colson; Secretary, Karie Pappani; Treasurer, Jody Hull; Conservation, Chris Colson; Member-at-large, Cyndi Coulter, Ann DeBolt. **Sah-Wah-Be Chapter**, 146 South 17th Avenue, Pocatello, ID 83201. President, Linda Johnson; Vice Presidents, Penny Fazio and Pauline Havens; Secretary, Shirley Rodgers; Treasurer, Catalina Steckbauer; News, Linda Johnson and Ardys Holte; Members-at-Large, Mel Nicholls, Karl Holte, Dick Anderson; Past-President, Barbara Nicholls. **White Pine Chapter**, PO Box 8481, Moscow, ID 83843. President, Janet Campbell & Nancy Miller; Vice President, David Pierce; Secretary, Patricia Hine; Treasurer, Nancy Sprague; Conservation, Juanita Lichthardt. **Wood River Chapter**, PO Box 3093, Hailey, ID 83333. President, Carol Blackburn; Vice President, VACANT; Secretary, VACANT; Treasurer, VACANT.

The Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) is dedicated to promoting interest in native plants and plant communities and to collecting and sharing information on all phases of the botany of native plants in Idaho, including educating the public to the values of the native flora and its habitats. In keeping with our mission, it is the intent of the INPS to educate its membership and the public about current conservation issues that affect Idaho's native flora and habitats. **Membership** is open to anyone interested in our native flora. Send dues to Jody Hull, INPS Treasurer, Box 9451, Boise, ID 83707. Website address: IdahoNativePlants.org.

Category	2009 Annual Dues
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$35+
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$17
<input type="checkbox"/> Household *	\$22
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen	\$10

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State _____
 Zip _____ Telephone _____
 E-mail _____

Chapter affiliation? (check one)

- Calypso (Coeur d'Alene; please include \$6 newsletter dues)
- Kinnikinnick (Sandpoint; please include \$10 for Kinnikinnick Journal)
- Pahove (Boise) Sah-Wah-Be (SE Idaho)
- White Pine (Moscow) Loasa (Twin Falls)
- Wood River (Ketchum-Sun Valley)
- None. Those who do not live near a chapter are encouraged to join. We can put you in touch with other members in your area, and can coordinate with you on any state level activities you may wish to be involved in.

* Household memberships are allocated two votes