



Newsletter of the Idaho Native Plant Society • Promoting Interest in Idaho's Native Flora

The 13th Annual Idaho Botanical Foray

By Trista Crook, Collection Manager, Ray J. Davis Herbarium, Idaho Museum of Natural History

Twenty-four botanists and their friends and families gathered at Pine Bar Campground in the Caribou National Forest, about 9.5 road miles E of Wayan and 46 road miles NE of Soda Springs in SE Idaho, for the 13th Annual Idaho Botanical Foray, held from June 26-June 28, 2020. The Ray J. Davis Herbarium of the Idaho Museum of Natural History at Idaho State University hosted the event, with Janet and Ed Bala heading out on Wednesday to secure campsites at the small, but beautiful, campground. Most people arrived by Thursday evening.

The foray began in 2008 after Dr. Jim Smith (Boise State University) attended the Washington Botanical Foray and decided to start one in Idaho. The hosting institution rotates among the four largest herbaria in the state—the Stillinger Herbarium (University of Idaho), the Snake River Plains Herbarium (Boise State University), the Harold M. Tucker Herbarium (College of Idaho), and the Ray J. Davis Herbarium (Idaho State University). The foray brings amateur and professional botanists together to collect specimens for current research projects, as well as species that may be underrepresented in our herbaria or those which were collected 50 or more years ago. During this year's foray, we collected tissue samples and specimens of plants in the family Apiaceae (the carrot or parsley family) to support the phylogenetic research of

Jim Smith, Don Mansfield (College of Idaho), and Mary Ann Feist (University of Wisconsin). The result of our endeavors was an abundance of *Lomatium bicolor* (Wasatch biscuitroot or desert-parsley), but also the less common *Zizia aptera* var. *occidentalis* (meadow zizia).

The group collected plants from the Grays and Caribou Mountains, the Diamond Flat area, the Blackfoot Reservoir area, and the Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge. This region is part of the Middle Rockies ecoregion, dominated by cold valleys and partly forested mountains. The geology of the area is largely the result of volcanic and tectonic activity that continues to this day. As the crust of the earth shortened and the basin and range expanded, numerous faults developed. Frequent earthquakes and geothermal activity suggest active faults and moving magma in subsurface regions of the mountain range. The area is home to the Phosphoria Formation—a geologic feature containing the largest deposits of phosphate rock in the world.

Foray participants included Paul Allen, Derek Antonelli, Janet and Ed Bala, Daniel Botello, Beth Corbin, Trista Crook, Mark Darrach, Nikki and Roger Frey, Cara Hastings, Ben Legler, Rose Lehman, Steve and Monaquita Love, Don Mansfield, Wren Mansfield, Steve Martin, Phebian Odufuwa, Pam Reschke, Samantha Seabrook-Sturgis, Jim Smith, Rosemary Smith, Christy Thompson, Mason Tuttle, and Rick Williams. The following dogs were present: Nellie, Pearl, Prospero, Sofie, and Tsuga.

On Friday morning we pored over the maps and split into five groups. Janet and Ed Bala, Trista Crook, and Nikki Frey drove to the BLM's

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Letter from the President

I have been blessed through the period of COVID-19. My job was never at risk and I was able to generate income for my family. I have been able to stay busy and accomplish most tasks associated with my profession. Although both my wife and I contracted the virus, and suffered from symptoms for many weeks, ultimately, we recovered without suffering serious damage. I have lost to this virus very few people that I personally know and with whom I was close, although my son-in-law lost his father, and we have had to provide support to him as he deals with the fallout. In fact, there are times when I think the virus is having minimal impact on my life. But lately I am beginning to realize that is not at all true.

By nature, I am a quiet, reserved, private person. In fact, I have had to work hard throughout my life to create positive social interactions that help prevent me from becoming a total recluse. The pandemic, with its inherent demand for social distancing, is creating a very comfortable environment for the reclusive side of me. Conditions imposed by the virus are beginning to make myself socially irrelevant. Given my personal tendencies, I fear the impact of this situation. It is essential that I get out and rub shoulders with the people I know and love. I truly appreciate the members and chapters of INPS who have developed programs, even though delivered at a distance, that allow some interaction with like-minded people.

This has created a warm, bright spot in an otherwise cold landscape. I am beginning to generate hope that we can resume our societal interactions within a few months. It looks as though a vaccine for COVID-19 may be available to the general public before our scheduled summer annual meeting. Now that would be a huge breath of fresh air, and will allow each of us to abandon our imposed reclusive lifestyles. We constantly hear the term “new normal” as a description of our pandemic existence. I cringe a little when I hear that term. Nothing about the way we are currently living is normal, whether new or not. I suspect many of you feel the same. In me, the social realities we now live with, create a hunger to interact with people on a very basic level. I hope that by the date of our annual meeting this summer, we can participate in a safe, interesting, inspiring event—and give and receive a few emotional hugs. I am planning on being ready for the meeting and will seek vaccination as it becomes available. I am guessing I am not alone in that mindset. Maybe, just maybe, by next summer we can step out of our lonely homes and greet a world resplendent with wonderful people and beautiful native plants.

Stephen Love,
INPS President

2021 INPS Annual Meeting

The Sawabi Chapter in Pocatello, Idaho, is hosting the 2021 INPS Annual Meeting from **Friday, June 18 to Monday, June 21**. Activities will be based at the Mink Creek Group Site approximately 13 miles south from the center of Pocatello: <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233966>. There will be room for about 12 RVs at the site and unlimited tent camping. The Scout Mountain Forest Service Campground is 7 miles (16 minutes) away for those seeking a more traditional camping experience. A limited number of sites there are reservable through: recreation.gov. <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233968>.

Registration deadline is June 7. All registrants will be emailed with details about the Saturday and Sunday trips with the difficulty levels and trip leaders along with other information. The registration form can be found on the INPS website: <https://idahonativeplants.org/statewide-annual-meeting/>

Schedule of Events

(All events are contingent on the progress of COVID-19 in Idaho. A decision will be made on May 20 to cancel the event again if circumstances require it. Registration checks will be returned if the meeting is cancelled.)

Thursday afternoon

- Early Check-in/Registration/Information Packets, 12:00–6:00 pm, at the Mink Creek Group Site shelter.
- Plants in Camp Treasure Hunt, 4:00 pm.

Friday

- Check-in/Registration/Information Packets. 8:00 am–6:00 pm, at the Mink Creek Group Site shelter.
- Tour of Ray J. Davis Herbarium/Idaho State Museum of Natural History, 10:00 am–12:00 pm.
- Tour of Ray J. Davis Herbarium/Idaho State Museum of Natural History, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm.
- INPS Board Conference Call at the Herbarium, 4:30 pm.
- Potluck Dinner at Mink Creek Group Site, 6:00 pm.
- Botany Bingo, 7:00 pm.

Saturday

- Late Registration, 8:00 am.
- Field Trip to Allen Cabin, 9:00 am. A moderately inclined dirt path that meanders through mixed conifer/mountain mahogany/aspen forest and sage to a cabin for snacks, views and your own lunch. (4-5 hours, carpool)
- Plant Walk at Hell's Half Acre Rest Stop, 9:00 am. Paved path through a lava flow. (4 hours, carpool)
- Plant Walk at Cherry Springs, 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Paved path in a riparian area. (2 hours, carpool)
- Catered Dinner, 6:00 pm.
- Annual Meeting/ERIG Silent Auction/Elections, 7:00 pm.
- Guest Speaker, Mike Merigiano on Tall Forb Plant Communities, 8:00 pm.

Sunday

- Plant Walk at Pebble Creek Ski Area trail, 9:00 am. Walk up the switchbacking cat track through the flowered slopes of our local ski area. Moderately challenging. (4 hours, carpool)
- Tour of U of I Experimental Station, Native Plant Garden, Aberdeen, 9:00 am. (3 hours, carpool)
- Plant Walk at Scout Mountain Nature Trail, 10:00 am. Hilly dirt trail through Douglas-fir and sagebrush. (2 hours, carpool)
- Tour of U of I Experiment Station, Agricultural Research, Aberdeen, 1:00 pm. (3 hours, carpool)
- Plant Walk at Scout Mountain Bog, 2:00 pm. Paved road through Douglas-fir and riparian. (2 hours, carpool)
- Dinner on your own, 6:00 pm.

Monday

- Car Tour of Crystal Summit, 10:00 am. Drive on gravel road through sagebrush, aspen and Douglas-fir. Short walks. (2 hours, carpool) •

Travertine Park Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), at the request of the BLM Idaho State Botanist, Anne Halford. A rare lichen was reported from the ACEC, but no one found it during the exploration of the area. The ACEC includes a stretch of the Blackfoot River, so we collected a few riparian species, including *Cornus sericea* (red-osier dogwood), *Ribes aureum* (golden currant), *Drymocallis* sp., *Hymenoxys hoopesii* (orange sneezeweed), and several grasses. Trista found a few lichens, including *Cladonia*, *Peltigera* (pelt or dog lichen), and *Xanthoparmelia* (rock shield lichen).

Ben Legler, Paul Allen, and Derek Antonelli headed to Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, where they collected from a pond surrounded by a marsh dominated by *Spartanium eurycarpum* (broadfruit bur-reed), *Typha latifolia* (broadleaf cattail), and *Juncus balticus* (Baltic rush).



Lau Creek Trail, Pine Bar Campground. Photo by Trista Crook.

Floating in the water they also found abundant *Myriophyllum* (water milfoil), *Nuphar polysepala* (Rocky Mountain pond-lily), and *Utricularia vulgaris* (common bladderwort). They also collected from a wet meadow containing *Juncus balticus*, *Poa pratensis* (Kentucky bluegrass), *Argentina anserina* (silverweed cinquefoil), and *Valeriana edulis* (edible valerian). *Wyethia amplexicaulis* (mule-ears) and *Zigadenus venenosus* (meadow deathcamas) were collected from other moist meadows.

Jim Smith, Cara Hastings, Phebian Odufuwa, and Daniel Botello went to the Olsen Creek area off of Forest Service Road 244, where they found *Lomatium simplex* (Great Basin desertparsley) in a lodgepole pine forest with open meadows, *Lomatium multifidum* (carrotleaf biscuitroot) in open areas with steep rocky slopes, and *Lomatium grayi* (Gray's biscuitroot) in rocky, clay soil with aspen.

Don Mansfield led a group up Forest Road 095 (Olsen Creek Rd.) and Forest Road 107 with a goal to survey Stump Mountain. Steve and Monaquita Love, Mark Darrach, Beth Corbin, and Wren Mansfield accompanied him. In the end they decided to collect along a ridge south



Lomatium bicolor. Photo by Rosemary Smith.

of Flat Valley Creek and then near Hwy. 34. Steve Love and Beth Corbin were puzzled by a penstemon that they later keyed out to *Penstemon cyananthus* var. *subglaber* (Wasatch beardtongue), a variety new to Beth. They looked for plants in lodgepole pine-subalpine fir-aspen forests and clearings, as well as meadows and rock outcrops. There were also wetlands, wet draws, and seeps to explore. *Androsace* (rock jasmine), *Floerkea proserpinacoides* (false-mermaidweed), *Draba* (whitlow-grass), *Polygonum polygaloides* ssp. *Kelloggii* (Kellogg's knotweed), *Nemophila* (baby blue eyes), *Neottia cordata* (formerly *Listera* (heartleaf twayblade)), *Pedicularis groenlandica* (elephanthead lousewort), *Piptatherum exiguum* (little ricegrass), and *Hymenoxys* (rubberweed) were among the more than 100 species they found.

Rick Williams, Rosemary Smith, and Samantha Seabrook-Sturgis



Don Mansfield and Mark Darrach collecting along road. Photo by Beth Corbin.

collected along the Lau Creek Trail, which heads south from Pine Bar Campground. They collected in dry and wet meadows—sometimes with aspen—and in wetlands. A few of the species they found were *Mitella stauropetala* (smallflower miterwort), *Pedicularis bracteosa* (bracted lousewort), *Melica spectabilis* (purple oniongrass), *Dodecatheon pulchellum* (darkthroat shooting star), *Perideridia* (yampah), *Ipomopsis aggregata* (scarlet gilia), *Astragalus cibarius* (browse milkvetch), *Penstemon rydbergii* (meadow penstemon), *Erysimum capitatum* (sanddune wallflower), and *Ligusticum filicinum* (fernleaf licorice-root). They also found *Viola canadensis* (Canadian white violet), a species previously collected in a different part of Caribou County in 1996 and with only 22 collections from SE Idaho.

The following day, Jim Smith, Don Mansfield, Wren Mansfield, and Trista Crook began hiking up Caribou Mountain from Caribou City—a ghost mining town. After following various two-tracks, they eventually found the one they were looking for, where they collected several common species such as an



Pedicularis bracteosa. Photo by Pam Reschke.

Allium spp. (onion) and *Balsamorhiza macrophylla* (cut-leaf balsamroot). The trail meandered through Douglas-fir forests and open sagebrush meadows. In the quest for Apiaceae, Jim and Trista happened upon a patch of *Cymopterus* aff. *purpureus* (purple springparsley) that was not quite in flower, which may be a new state record. As for lichens, abundant *Peltigera* spp. grew along hillsides and in flat areas.

Derek Antonelli led a group through a lodgepole pine forest containing large beaver dams and meadows in the Diamond Flat area with *Poa bulbosa* (bulbous bluegrass), *Lupinus* sp. (lupine), asters, and *Trifolium* (clover). They found a small group of *Botrychium* (moonworts or grape ferns), which may be a rare species. They also found more potential *Thelypodium paniculatum* (northwestern thelypody) in a meadow.

Janet and Ed Bala and Pam Reschke also collected in the Diamond Flat area where they found *Polygonum*



Penstemon cyananthus subsp. *subglaber*. Photo by Beth Corbin.



Near Diamond Flat, FSR 365. Photo by Roger Frey.

bistortoides (meadow bistort), *Camissonia* (evening primrose), *Cirsium scariosum* (elk thistle), and *Penstemon procerus* (little-flower penstemon) at the edge of a flat meadow with red soil and travertine rocks.

Ben Legler, Beth Corbin, Samantha Seabrook-Sturgis, Cara Hastings, and Daniel Botello travelled to Old Baldy Peak where they collected in a variety of habitats ranging from a rocky, dry meadow on a gentle slope to a steep south-facing slope and Douglas-fir forests. They also collected in some areas with mining disturbance and old roads. *Leucopoa kingii* (spike fescue), *Stenotus lanuginosus* (woolly mock goldenweed), *Chanaectis douglasii* (Douglas' dustymaiden), and *Artemisia tridentata* subsp. *vaseyana* (mountain big sagebrush) were among the most common species. Less common species included *Castilleja* cf. *aplegatei* (wavyleaf Indian paintbrush), *Eriogonum brevicaulle* (shortstem buckwheat), and *Erigeron compositus* (cutleaf daisy). They also collected the mistletoe, *Arceuthobium americanum*, from a lodgepole pine.

Rain was in the forecast for Sunday. Upon waking, we packed up and started heading for our respective homes. However, before leaving, Trista Crook explored a narrow strip of phosphoria near Trail Canyon Road, finding a *Ranunculus* sp. (buttercup) and some interesting grasses and sedges in an aspen-Douglas-fir forest and sagebrush shrubland. She also collected a few macrofungi, including what is likely a *Coprinus* (ink cap), a polypore (shelf-fungus), and LBM (Little Brown Mushroom).

At Formation Cave ACEC, *Erythranthe guttata* (common yellow monkeyflower), *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle), *Ribes aureum* (golden currant), and *Deschampsia cespitosa* (tufted hair grass) grew in a marsh. On BLM land adjacent to Trail Canyon Road, boulders housed a variety of lichens, including one thallus of *Circinaria hispida* (syn. *Aspicilia hispida*, vagabond lichen, not collected), a species that is restricted to calcareous soils, and some umbilicate species. Some of the vascular plants growing in the area were *Petrophytum caespitosum* (rockmat), *Packera multilobata* (lobeleaf groundsel), and *Galium* (bedstraw).

We collected 624 vascular plant specimens, 28 lichens, one bryophyte, and four macrofungi, most of which are stored at the Ray J. Davis

Herbarium awaiting identification. Jim Smith's specimens are stored at the Snake River Plains Herbarium. Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, there won't be any workshops held this year for identifying the plants.

Thanks to Rose Lehman (USFS Botanist) for her support and helping us secure the campground, to Kara Green (USFS Soil Scientist) for suggesting and providing maps and details on areas with interesting soils, to Diane Wheeler (USFS Geologist) for suggesting areas of the Phosphoria Formation to explore, and to all of the participants who helped gather specimens.

Next year's foray will be hosted by Boise State University. Keep an eye



Rick Williams and Samantha Seabrook-Sturgis collecting along Lau Creek Trail. Photo by Rosemary Smith.



Pam Reschke, Rick Williams, and Samantha Seabrook-Sturgis pressing plants back at camp. Photo by Steve Martin.

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out in future *Sage Notes* for further information. Everyone is welcome to come along. •



Group Photo by Steve Martin.



Map of collection Area.

ERIG Announcement

INPS ERIG Solicitation for Proposals 2021

Every year the Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) awards grants through the Education Research Inventory Grant (ERIG) program. Since 2005, INPS has awarded over \$25,000 in grants of up to \$1000. Continuing in that tradition in 2021, the INPS will partner with projects that contribute to the appreciation, conservation, or knowledge of Idaho's native flora and vegetation. The purpose of the ERIG program is to stimulate and lend support to educational, research, and conservation activities that promote an appreciation for native plants and plant communities in Idaho. The Idaho Native Plant Society encourages you to submit a proposal for projects that may qualify. The deadline for submitting proposals is January 15, 2021.



Grant guidelines: The ERIG program is intended to support direct project costs. Grant proposals should not include expenses for salary and personal benefits, the purchase of personal equipment, equipment not dedicated to the project, or other expenses not essential to the project. Here are some examples of costs the grant may cover:

- Meals, lodging, and direct costs of travel.
- Indirect costs will not be funded.
- Supply and service expenses used for the sole purpose of the project (e.g., native plant material, interpretive signs, lab materials).
- Printing costs for public outreach material or research publications.

Application procedure and requirements: Proposals must contain the following information. Please be succinct:

1. *Project Title.*

2. *Contact Information:* Name, address, phone number, organization/affiliation, and email address.
3. *Project Description:*
 - a. Outline the project objectives, methods, and final product.
 - b. Explain how the project will benefit the appreciation, conservation, or knowledge of Idaho's native flora or vegetation.
 - c. Describe how the public will have access to the project.
 - d. Describe how project success will be evaluated.
4. *Itemized budget:* Outline an overall project budget, including the amount you are requesting (up to \$1,000). Include other funding sources.
5. *Timeline:* Please provide a timeline for completion of all major milestones associated with the project, including presentation of the results.

Project proposals must pertain to native plants of Idaho. Please limit grant requests to a maximum of \$1,000, and be aware that less may be awarded due to INPS budget constraints and the number of applications submitted. Recipients of these awards have a timeline of two years from the date of the written award to complete their projects. Successful applicants will be required to submit a final report to the INPS documenting project accomplishments and a summary of the project to be published in the INPS newsletter, *Sage Notes*. We encourage applicants to become an INPS member if they are not already, however membership is not a prerequisite to apply for or to receive an ERIG grant.

Please submit proposals by email to Bob McCoy at sawabi.inps@gmail.com or by post to: ATTN: ERIG Committee Chair, Idaho Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 9451, Boise, ID 83707. •

Chapter News

CALYPSO CHAPTER

When: Chapter meetings will remain suspended until after full COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Meetings are normally held the first Wednesday of March, April, May, and October at 7:00 pm.

Where: Meetings are held in the Wildlife Building, North Idaho Fairgrounds, Coeur d'Alene.

Contact: Derek Antonelli, ds.ca.antonelli@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Field trips take place during the spring, summer, and early fall. Assuming reasonable COVID-19 levels, small-group outdoor plant walks will begin in April. We are considering a spring field trip to The Nature Conservancy's Cougar Bay Preserve and a spring plant survey at the Antoine Peak Park. We are soliciting additional ideas for spring and summer field trips at this time. Chapter emails will provide details. Contact Derek to be added to the email list.

LOASA CHAPTER

When: Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Where: Taylor Building, Room 247, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls.

Contact: Bill Bridges, bridgesbill34@yahoo.com

PAHOVE CHAPTER

When: Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from September–April at 7 pm. Times, dates, and topics are tentative. Current information will be sent to members via email. Events are also posted on the Pahove Chapter page of the INPS website: <https://idahonativeplants.org/pahove/>

Where: Meetings are usually held at the MK Nature Center Auditorium, 600 S. Walnut St, Boise (For now, they will be Zoom presentations instead.)

Contact: For more information about Pahove Chapter activities visit the website: www.idahonativeplants.org or email Karie Pappani at pahove.chapter.president@gmail.com

Upcoming events

The Pahove board misses seeing everyone in person and appreciates your continued involvement in the chapter despite the cancellation of the bulk of our events and the substandard experience of having to meet over Zoom. We hope you have a great holiday season and wish you all the best in 2021. Happy New Year!

January 12: John Keeley—Nexus Between Wildfires, Climate Change, and Population Growth

February 9: Carol Wilson—Mistletoe

March 9: TBD

April 13: Jennifer Sowerwine—Biocultural Systems, Food Security, and Eco-cultural Restoration in the Klamath River Basin

SAWABI CHAPTER

When: Meetings are held on the first Monday night of October, November, January, February, March and May. Programs begin at 7:00 pm and refreshments are available afterwards. Each meeting begins with a short presentation on the plant family of the month.

Where: The Middle Fork Room of the Pond Student Union Building on the lower Idaho State Univ. campus.

Contact: Geoff Hogander, ghogande@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events

The Sawabi Chapter has discontinued all of its group activities for the time being due to COVID-19. Our usual summer plant walks were cancelled, and some members have been getting their "plant fix" through the Idaho Plant Society Community Group and Idaho Plants Group on Facebook.

Virtual Meetings: At our board meeting in August, we learned that our usual meeting room at Idaho State University will not be available this fall so we decided to try to conduct our fall/winter meetings using the virtual platform "Zoom".

Annual Meeting: We have reserved the same location at the Mink Creek group site for the 2021 INPS annual meeting for June 18–21. We're looking forward to hosting this gathering.

UPPER SNAKE CHAPTER

Contact: Kristin Kaser, kaser.kristin@gmail.com

WHITE PINE CHAPTER

When: Meetings are held once a month at 7:00 pm except during the summer. Field trips can occur most any month. Please check the chapter website at www.whitepineinps.org for events which may be scheduled or finalized after *Sage Notes* is printed; or email the chapter officers at whitepine.chapter@gmail.com.

Where: Great Room of the 1912 Building, 412 East Third St. in Moscow (between Adams and Van Buren).

Contact: INPS, White Pine Chapter, PO Box 8481, Moscow, ID 83843 or whitepine.chapter@gmail.com.

WOOD RIVER CHAPTER

When: Meetings are held on weekday evenings and wildflower walks generally on Saturdays. Times are announced in local news outlets and also in the chapter newsletter. Events are also posted on the Wood River Chapter page of the INPS website.

Where: Each meeting's location is noted in the announcement.

Contact: Subscribe to the newsletter by emailing Lisa Horton at 1gypsy2016@gmail.com. Address questions about programs to Kristin Fletcher at naturewalker7@gmail.com. •



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sage-editor@idahonativeplants.org

Submissions: Members and non-members may submit material for publication. Relevant articles, essays, poetry, news, announcements, photographs and artwork are welcome. Authors, artists and photographers retain copyright to their work and are credited in *Sage Notes*. Send all submissions electronically to the editor at the email address above. Please provide a phone number and/or email address with your submission. Submission deadlines are January 8, April 1, August 1 and November 1.

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