



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

## INPS 2024—A Year in Review

By Michael Mancuso, INPS President

The Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) is an all-volunteer organization with approximately 600 members spread across the state in six chapters. Our mission is to promote interest and appreciation of Idaho's native plants, to widely share information about our native flora, and to work towards preserving this rich botanical heritage for future generations. Members and associated chapters help INPS meet its mission in a variety of ways throughout the year, including sponsoring or participating in educational opportunities, community outreach events, and conservation projects. The following summary is an account of INPS activities for 2024. I hope it shows that you are part of an engaged membership striving to fulfill the organization's mission. You pay dues to be an INPS member and therefore have an investment in knowing what accomplishments come from these funds. This review then also serves as a way for you to judge how well INPS is doing in meeting its mission.

Collectively, the six chapters sponsored 20 presentations for their memberships in 2024. Varied topics for these presentations included "Ecological Importance of Mature Juniper Woodlands" by Eva Stand and Steve Bunting; "Eastern Himalaya: Wildflower Diversity, Conservation and Tibetan Traditional Knowledge" by Bob Moseley; "Introducing Native Plant Gardens into your Home" by Peggy Faith; "From Backyard to Database: Trends and Insights from iNaturalist in Idaho" by Shawn Taylor; and "North Idaho Wetland Plants" by Derek Antonelli. Live attendance at these presentation numbered over 600 people, plus likely at least as many additional folks watching the presentations on Zoom or YouTube options.

Chapters sponsored approximately 25 field trips in 2024. Destinations varied from shrub-steppe foothills, to wetlands, to the lava fields at Craters of the Moon, and subalpine woodlands. Over 300 members and friends participated in the field trips.

Chapter members participated in a variety of community events aimed at sharing information and educating the public about native plants. The Calypso Chapter led a tree identification class for Selkirk Conservation that was attended by approximately 160 high school and elementary school students over two days. Calypso also led a plant walk for the Rathdrum Public Library attended by approximately 15 school age children and parents; taught a Master Naturalist class on plant identification and another on tree identification, each with an associated field trip. The White Pine Chapter hosted tours of 11 native plant yards in Moscow attended by approximately 90 participants. The Pahove Chapter participated in the Ada County

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**Letter from the President**

More than 75 INPS members rendezvoused at Three Island Crossing State Park on the outskirts of Glenns Ferry May 30–June 2 for the 2025 INPS Annual Meeting. Hosted by the Pahove Chapter, one of the best parts of the meeting was seeing old friends and getting to know new ones from across the state who share enthusiasm, curiosity, and joy over Idaho's native plants. The meeting also provided opportunities to learn from each other on field trips to locations most of us have never been to before. During these field trips we not only learned about new landscapes, but commonly made the acquaintance of multiple native plant species we have never seen before. This year's annual meeting was a chance to explore parts of the Snake River Plain and learn about some of the dry, low elevation habitats Idaho's native flora has adapted to—from sand dunes and lava rock outcrops, to slopes of desert shrubs or openings dominated by small annuals. I thoroughly enjoyed myself during the annual meeting and hope everyone else who made the trek to Glenns Ferry can say the same thing.

Of course the annual meeting did not just magically appear on the calendar. It took the dedicated hard work of a cadre of Pahove Chapter members to ensure the meeting's success. I want to personally thank each of them for all their time and effort—Karie Pappani, Ray Corbin, Chadwich DeFehr, Barbara Ertter, Don Essig, Peggy Faith, Vicki Henderson, Caroline Morris, Kirstin Severud, and Susan Ziebarth. I also want to thank all the field trip leaders—Barbara Ertter, Ty Clayton, Beth Corbin, Alan Crockett, Anne Halford, Lynn Kinter, Don Mansfield, Roger Rosentreter, and Sandy Smith. Other people stepped up to help with flipping burgers, cleanup, and other tasks during the meeting. An extra thank you to Don Mansfield for his enlightening keynote presentation on the flora of the Owyhee Region. The business meeting before the keynote talk provided status updates about several INPS statewide programs before ending with the re-election of myself as INPS president and Mary McClanahan as secretary. Thank you Mary for agreeing to serve another 2-year term.

I realize not every member could make it to the annual meeting this year. We missed you and will try again next year. Preliminary work is already underway for the 2026 annual meeting to be hosted by the Loasa Chapter based out of the Twin Falls area. As one of the smaller INPS Chapters, Loasa could use some extra hands organizing the 2026 annual meeting. Please let me or Steve Love (INPS Vice President) know if you are interested in assisting with a task or two for next year's meeting. We will get you in the loop to whatever degree you desire. I also want to acknowledge Mel Nicholls in this letter. Mel recently resigned from his Member-at-Large position on the INPS Board after 15 years of service to the organization. A member of the Sawabi Chapter, Mel was always a voice of reason and wisdom looking out for the best interests of the INPS membership. Thank you Mel.

With the season of longest days upon us, it is a great time to get outside and enjoy our native flora in all its color and splendor. I encourage everyone to take advantage of upcoming field trips and other events hosted by your local INPS chapter. Idaho's diverse landscapes allow you to explore, appreciate, and learn about new plants in many different settings, whether it be canyons, meadows, shady forests, urban greenbelts, or summit ridges. I wish everyone a great rest of the summer, with plenty of wildflowers along the way.

Sincerely,  
*Michael Mancuso*



## Sun Valley Resort Certified as Whitebark Pine Friendly Ski Area

Sun Valley Resort is proud to announce that it has been officially recognized as a Whitebark Pine Friendly Ski Area by the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation (WPEF). This prestigious certification highlights the resort's ongoing commitment to conservation, environmental stewardship, and public education about the importance of the threatened whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) and its critical role in high-elevation ecosystems.

The certification, awarded after a rigorous evaluation, recognizes Sun Valley Resort's efforts to integrate whitebark pine conservation into its operations. The resort's successful application involved collaboration with leading experts, including Sun Valley Resort's James Grant, Director Mountain Operations; Betsy Siszell, Sustainability Manager; Michael Fitzpatrick, Manager Mountain Guest Services; Mike Giesey of WPEF, as well as Debarah Taylor, a botanist with the U.S. Forest Service. Collectively, the teams developed a series of conservation strategies and educational initiatives to protect and promote the health of whitebark pine on Sun Valley's slopes and surrounding areas.

This past fall, Sun Valley Resort employees participated in a collaborative effort with the U.S. Forest Service to plant 500 whitebark pine trees in suitable locations on Bald Mountain (Mount Baldy). This initiative was a key element in achieving certification. The resort has also been working with NASA DEVELOP to determine the distribution of whitebark pine in the Intermountain West through spectral signature classification and pathogenic analysis to assess forest health within the region.

Additionally, the resort incorporated a new educational installation at Lookout Lodge. This interpretive installation educates visitors about this at-risk species that provides essential food for wildlife, and plays a pivotal role in maintaining the integrity of mountain ecosystems. Visitors can also learn about this species and our local ecosystem by participating in the resort's whitebark pine self-guided

ski experience or by attending one of the weekly complimentary ski tours offered by the U.S. Forest Service and Sun Valley Resort.

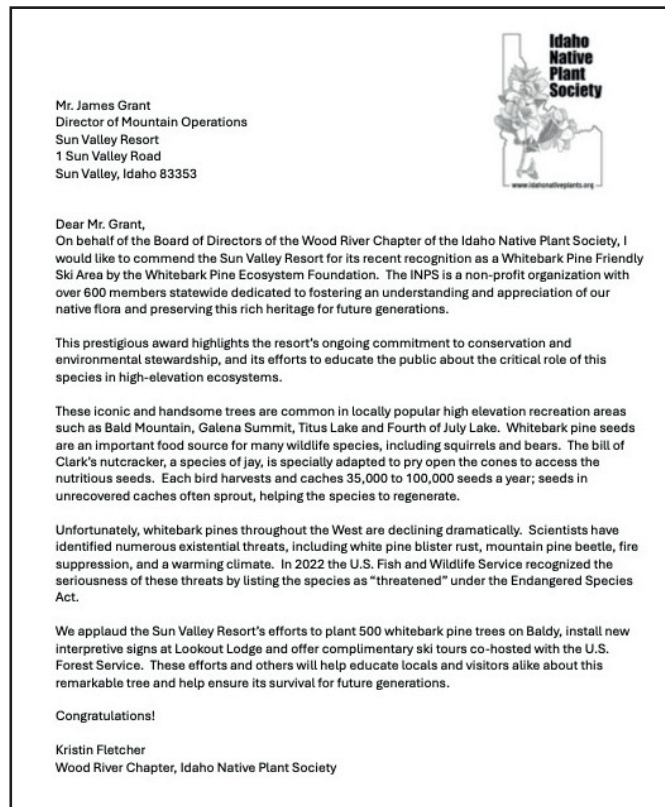
"The resort is honored to receive the Whitebark Pine Friendly Ski Area certification," said Pete Sonntag, Chief Operating Officer at Sun Valley Resort. "This recognition affirms the resort's commitment to preserving the biodiversity of our mountain environment and our dedication to educating our guests and community about the importance of protecting these vital ecosystems. We look forward to continuing our

collaboration with WPEF and other partners to safeguard the future of whitebark pine and the delicate balance of high-elevation habitats."

The certification is part of Sun Valley Resort's ongoing sustainability efforts, which aim to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the area while providing a world-class experience for guests. As a permittee of public lands, Sun Valley Resort will continue to integrate the Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery requirements into its management of whitebark pine, ensuring that the resort's operations align with best practices in environmental conservation.

"We are thrilled to welcome Sun Valley Resort into the group of elite ski areas committed to the conservation of whitebark pine," said Mike Giesey, Chair of the Ski Area Partnership Committee of the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation. "Their proactive approach and innovative strategies for whitebark pine preservation set a strong example for other ski areas across the country. Together, we can help ensure the survival of this important tree species for future generations."

Sun Valley Resort remains dedicated to its ongoing environmental initiatives, focusing on sustainability and biodiversity conservation, and looks forward to strengthening its partnership with WPEF to continue this essential work. For more information, please visit [www.sunvalley.com](http://www.sunvalley.com) or [www.whitebarkfound.org](http://www.whitebarkfound.org).



City Nature Challenge (an iNaturalist-based bioblitz); had a table at Boise's Earth Day event; hosted a Mother's Day Wildflower+ Show at the Idaho Botanical Garden, and also continued their upkeep of a native plant garden at Foote Park near Lucky Peak Dam. The Wood River Chapter had a table and led a wildflower walk at the spring opening at Silver Creek Preserve.

INPS members took part in conservation-related projects across the state in 2024. White Pine Chapter members were especially engaged, including establishing and weeding native plantings in a Memorial for Marjory Stage at Idler's Rest Preserve; monitoring vegetation on a prairie reconstruction and a pine savanna project; planting native plants and weeding for a habitat restoration project at private property ponds for water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*, a formerly federally listed Threatened species); planting Palouse natives in part of Harvest Park being established by the Moscow Parks and Recreation Commission; helping Latah County with planning and funding for native plants in Lloyd Park; and consulting with Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park staff about development plans for the Point Sublime prairie remnant. Wood River Chapter members formally and informally assisted with tours, weeding, installing signage, and other tasks at the Hailey Native Plant Arboretum. They also contributed to Idaho's Big Tree Program by measuring trees on field trips and submitting this data to University of Idaho's Big Tree database. Pahove Chapter members donated many hours to the Adopt-a-Plot habitat restoration program on the Boise River; assisted Dr. David Wagner on his team's caterpillar inventory in southern Idaho; and conducted rare plant population monitoring in the Boise Foothills. The Calypso Chapter worked on the committee rewriting the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society's "Landscaping with Native Plants" book.

Native plant sales by the Pahove and White Pine chapters both sold more than 1000 containers of native species. The sales greatly increased the number of natives planted in home gardens. The sales were also a means to generate funds the chapters used for local projects and events. The sales require hundreds of hours of volunteer time and effort to be successful, but represent one of the best ways to introduce the public to the wide range of native plant options for home landscapes.

INPS's Education, Research, and Inventory Grants (ERIG) program contributed funds to three projects in 2024. Funding recipients included the Idaho Botanical Garden for its *Eriogonum* (buckwheat) collection, the Mighty Monarch Conservation Group for a native milkweed propagation project, and a student at Yale University investigating native forbs in big sagebrush

ecosystems. Recognizing the importance of education to its mission, INPS initiated a Scholarship Program in 2023. In 2024, INPS awarded two \$2,000 scholarships to Idaho college/university students. These are students majoring in botany or a related field with interests and career goals that align with the INPS mission. All 26 students that applied for scholarships in 2024 received a free 1-year membership to INPS.

Two chapters made generous funding contributions to advance the INPS mission in 2024. The White Pine Chapter used its separate grant program to award more than \$3,000 to four recipients whose projects promote awareness and use of local native plants in landscapes in the north-central Idaho region. They also donated 224 native plants to nine local schools across Latah County. Pahove Chapter donated a total of \$5,000 to herbaria at Boise State University, College of Idaho, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho, to help them maintain and grow their plant specimen collections that document the flora of Idaho, and to a lesser extent, other areas, too. Pahove also donated \$950 for the Mary McGown Memorial pollinator garden at the MK Nature Center in Boise. Mary was a longtime member of INPS who passed away in 2020.

The INPS sponsors and maintains the Idaho Rare Plant List, and has done so for decades. This list is an important conservation tool used by federal and state agencies and other land management entities to help guide rare plant species conservation priorities and the funding of projects benefiting these species and their habitats. Much of the work related to the Idaho Rare Plant List is done by the Northern and Southern Idaho Rare Plant Working Groups, both led and dominated by INPS members who volunteer hundreds of hours doing research and making recommendations to ensure the Idaho Rare Plant List remains accurate and up-to-date. The culmination of all this time and effort is the Idaho Rare Plant Conference, held every other year, sponsored by INPS. The latest Conference, in February 2025, required many, many additional hours of work by a cadre of INPS volunteers. Much of the preparatory work for this latest Conference took place in 2024.

The Idaho Peaks Project is an INPS-led effort to better document the state's alpine flora. Started in 2022, six new peaks were inventoried in 2024, bringing the total to 27 summits. One way INPS supports this ongoing project is by reimbursing volunteers for fuel costs driving to and from the selected peaks.

INPS publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Sage Notes*, to help keep membership across the state connected to one another. Articles educate you about native plants and

related issues and also help you stay informed about INPS events and projects. The INPS website is another way we try to stay connected to each other. The website has a wealth of information about the organization and its activities and also contains links to many other sources of information pertinent to Idaho's native flora. A small group of volunteers works hard to keep website content updated and relevant. The INPS also sponsors and maintains a social media presence to help get the word out about native plants, including having Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube accounts. To help everyone feel welcome, most chapters sponsor a chapter dinner or some sort of social get together for members at least once a year. Then there is the statewide annual meeting held at a different location each year. It is a great opportunity to

spend time with fellow native plant enthusiasts from across Idaho. In 2024, Calypso hosted the annual meeting at Farragut State Park in Kootenai County, attended by nearly 100 INPS members.

The reality is that all of these activities and accomplishments require money—whether it be to pay for website maintenance fees, cloud storage fees for the Rare Plant Working Groups, printing and mailing of *Sage Notes*, printing handouts for community events, funding the ERIG and Scholarship programs, sponsoring the Idaho Rare Plant Conference, etc. The INPS is a collective voice that depends on YOU to make this voice effective and lasting. I hope this 2024 review shows you that INPS works hard to be a voice for Idaho's native plants and plant communities, and is worthy of your support. •

## Annual Meeting

### Hitch a Ride Along the Oregon Trail: 2025 INPS Annual Meeting

By Vicki Henderson, Pahove Chapter Board Member and State Membership Chair

The Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) 2025 Annual Meeting, hosted by the Pahove Chapter, was a celebration of native flora, geology, and history at Three Island Crossing State Park in Glenns Ferry, Idaho. This year's theme, "Hitch a Ride Along the Oregon Trail," blended botanical exploration along with Idaho's rich pioneer history for a fun and interesting weekend for attendees.

The gathering started off with a leisurely walk around the campground, led by botanist Barbara Ertter. The walk was followed by a mouthwatering barbecue of hamburgers and hotdogs expertly prepared by Ray and Chadwick of the Pahove Chapter. Campers provided an assortment of other foods to complete the meal.

Friday night brought a captivating presentation by Jerry Eichhorst, President of the Idaho Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA). Eichhorst's talk illuminated the Oregon Trail's history, weaving tales of the pioneers' struggles and triumphs as they traversed Idaho's rugged landscapes. Following his presentation, attendees embarked on a guided excursion to the south side overlook of Three Island Crossing where emigrants once braved the Snake River.



*Meeting of the state board to discuss business before the start of the annual meeting. Photo by Karie Pappani.*

Saturday, members set out on early-morning field trips to explore the region's flora and landmarks. The day's adventures culminated in a lively evening at the historic Glenns Ferry Opera Theatre. Generous INPS members donated an array of treasures—vacation stays, stunning artwork, books, and unique gift items—raising over \$2,000 to benefit the Education, Research, and Inventory Grant (ERIG) and INPS Scholarship programs.

The banquet that followed featured succulent chicken, flatbread, fresh vegetables, and delectable desserts from The Lobby Bakery. After dinner, elections were held for President and Secretary, both incumbents. Mike Mancuso and Mary McClanahan were reelected. INPS announced its 2025 scholarship recipients, awarding three students \$2,000 each to further their studies in botany and conservation. The evening closed with a colorful keynote address by Don Mansfield, "Highlights of the Flora of Owyhee County."

The 2025 INPS Annual Meeting was a fun dive into Idaho's plants, history and landscapes. Here's to another year of celebrating Idaho's native plants. We are excited for next year's meeting! •



*Eager listeners during Jerry's presentation on Friday night. Photo by Karie Pappani.*

...Photos continued on Page 6



**Hitch a Ride...** *Continued from Page 5*



Jerry led an evening excursion to see remnants and clues to the past Oregon trail. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Fortunate gorgeous sunset view during Friday evening's excursion. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument on field trip co-led by Carol Prentice and Anne Halford. Photo by Karie Pappani.



View east from Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument on field trip co-led by Carol Prentice and Anne Halford. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Cowpie buckwheat, *Eriogonum shockleyi*. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Getting ready for our banquet dinner on Saturday evening, inside the Opera House. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Banquet presentation on Owyhee Flora by Dr. Don Mansfield. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument Visitors Center. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Mariposa lily. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Fleabane, *Eriogonum compositus*. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Prince's plume, *Stanleya pinnata*. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Active and surprisingly photogenic leopard lizards. Photo by Karie Pappani.



Davis' pepperweed, a rare plant, observed in a playa on the biocrust field trip. Photo by Karie Pappani.

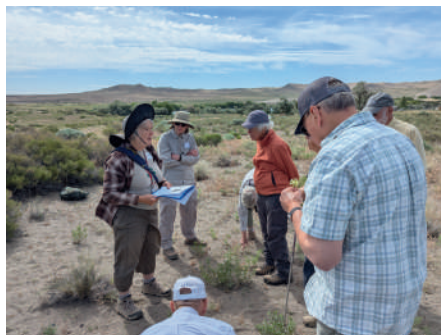


Roger, our fearless leader of the biocrust field trip. Photo by Kari Pappani.





*The group at Castle Creek. Photo by Beth Corbin.*



*Barbara showing off new variety of *Abronia mellifera*. Photo courtesy Beth Corbin.*



*Sunday Bruneau Dunes field trip. Photo courtesy Beth Corbin.*



*Sunday Bruneau Dunes field trip. Photo courtesy Beth Corbin.*



**Abronia mellifera* var. nov. Photo courtesy Beth Corbin.*



*Roger showing off a specimen. Photo courtesy Beth Corbin.*



*Group at the Sunday field trip near Bruneau River, at Sugar Valley. Photo by Beth Corbin.*



*Sunday Bruneau Dunes field trip. Photo courtesy Beth Corbin.*



*Saturday Simco Road Playa and Soil Crusts field trip. Photo courtesy Beth Corbin.*

## Announcement

### INPS Scholarship Committee Member Needed

By Michael Mancuso, INPS President

Education is key to advancing the INPS mission. In this light, INPS initiated a college/university scholarship program in 2023. The scholarship program is run by a committee of INPS volunteers whose responsibilities include advertising the scholarship, reviewing applications, choosing the scholarship recipients, coordinating with the selected students, coordinating with the INPS Treasurer to distribute the funds, and any necessary follow-up with the student. The INPS Board is currently looking to add one person to the scholarship committee. They will replace someone that is stepping away from the committee. Experience with scholarship administration is a bonus, but not a prerequisite to be a committee member. Please contact me if you are interested in being part of the INPS scholarship committee team ([president@idahonativeplants.org](mailto:president@idahonativeplants.org)). I will be glad to answer any questions you may have. •

### Mud Flat Oolite Field Trip

Article and Photos by Michael Mancuso, Pahove Chapter

The 2025 INPS Annual Meeting sponsored a range of field trip options. One was to the Mud Flat Oolite site located roughly 10 miles south of Grand View in Owyhee County. Mud Flat Oolite was selected as a worthy field



Mud Flat Oolite field trip participants.

trip destination due to its unique geology and diverse flora, which includes several species on the INPS rare plant list. The Bureau of Land Management has a set of interpretive signs at the Mud Flat Oolite trailhead that provide a nice overview of the area's geology as well as information on the rare plant species. Reading the signs, we learned that oolite is a sedimentary substrate made up of countless tiny, round ooids (egg stones) that form when calcium carbonate precipitates in concentric laminations around individual sand grains. And that the Mud Flat site is part of the Shoofly Oolite, one of the largest freshwater oolite exposures in the world. The outcrops range up to 40 feet thick and in places have eroded into odd and enticing shapes that play with your imagination. We began and ended the field trip at this trailhead on a pleasant, nearly cloudless Sunday, June 1.

The first part of the trail passes through flats dominated by greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) with some intermixed spiny hopsage (*Grayia spinosa*) and gray rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), and occasional small openings supporting annuals such as showy

townsendia (*Townsendia florifer*), whitestem blazing star (*Mentzelia albicaulis*), and dwarf monkeyflower (*Mimulus nanus*). A short, steep section of the trail led to a bench above the flats that had considerably more plant diversity. Some favorites included the desert shrub purple sage (*Salvia dorrii*) and perennial wildflowers such as Bruneau milkvetch (*Astragalus camptopus*), Franklin's sandwort (*Eremogone franklinii*), and prince's plume (*Stanleya pinnata*). Annual species such as Great Basin woollystar (*Eriastrum sparsiflorum*) and spotted langlosia (*Langlosia punctata*) required careful attention to see, in contrast to displays of numerous Cusick's monkeyflower (*Mimulus cusickii*) forming eye-catching patches of light-purple in several places. Ochre-flower buckwheat (*Eriogonum ochrocephalum* var. *sceptrum*) was the only rare plant species we encountered, being limited to a few individuals. Overall, we tallied 50 plant



Prince's plume surrounded by hundreds of small, light purple colored Cusick's monkeyflower plants.

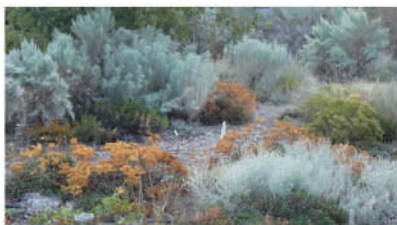
species in 18 plant families (Table 1), the large majority being native taxa. Alan Crockett and I led the field trip and were joined by Derek Antonelli, Edwin Budden, Alice Crockett, Jay Dorr, Linda Mazzu, Marilyn Olsen, and Deanna Schrell. It proved to be a rewarding field trip with colorful plants, interesting rock formations, and a team of fun folks. •



**Table 1.** Plant species list for Mud Flat Oolite field trip, June 1, 2025. \* = introduced species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Amaranthaceae</b>	<b>Amaranth</b>	<b>Lamiaceae</b>	<b>Mint</b>
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	four-wing saltbush	<i>Salvia dorrii</i>	purple sage
<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i>	shadscale saltbush	<b>Loasaceae</b>	<b>Blazing star</b>
<i>Grayia spinosa</i>	spiny hopsage	<i>Mentzelia albicaulis</i>	whitestem blazingstar
<b>Asteraceae</b>	<b>Aster</b>	<b>Onagraceae</b>	<b>Evening-primrose</b>
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>tridentata</i>	basin big sagebrush	<i>Chylismia scapoidea</i>	Utah suncup
<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>	arrowleaf balsamroot	<b>Orobanchaceae</b>	<b>Broomrape</b>
<i>Brickellia microphylla</i>	littleleaf brickellbush	<i>Aphyllon fasciculatum</i>	clustered broomrape
<i>Chaenactis douglasii</i>	Douglas' dusty maiden	<i>Castilleja chromosa</i>	desert paintbrush
<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	green rabbitbrush	<b>Phrymaceae</b>	<b>Lopseed</b>
<i>Crepis occidentalis</i>	western hawkbeard	<i>Mimulus cusickii</i>	Cusick's monkeyflower
<i>Ericameria nana</i>	dwarf goldenweed	<i>Mimulus nanus</i>	dwarf monkeyflower
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	gray rabbitbrush	<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	<b>Plantain</b>
<i>Malacothrix glabrata</i>	smoot desert dandelion	<i>Penstemon acuminatus</i>	sand-dune penstemon
<i>Tetradymia glabrata</i>	little-leaf horsebrush	<b>Poaceae</b>	<b>Grass</b>
<i>Tetradymia spinosa</i>	catclaw horsebrush	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass
<i>Townsendia florifer</i>	showy townsendia	<i>Bromus tectorum</i> *	cheatgrass
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i> *	yellow salsify	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	squirreltail
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<b>Borage</b>	<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	Great Basin wildrye
<i>Amsinckia</i> sp.	fiddleneck	<i>Poa secunda</i>	Sandberg bluegrass
<i>Cryptantha circumscissa</i>	cushion cryptantha	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	bluebunch wheatgrass
<i>Cryptantha spiculifera</i>	Snake River cryptantha	<b>Polemoniaceae</b>	<b>Phlox</b>
<i>Cryptantha</i> sp. (annual)	annual cryptantha	<i>Eriastrum sparsiflorum</i>	Great Basin woollystar
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	<b>Mustard</b>	<i>Langloisia punctata</i>	spotted langloisia
<i>Alyssum desertorum</i> *	desert alyssum	<i>Leptodactylon pungens</i>	prickly phlox
<i>Lepidium perfoliatum</i> *	clasping pepperweed	<b>Polygonaceae</b>	<b>Buckwheat</b>
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i> *	tumblemustard	<i>Eriogonum maculatum</i>	spotted buckwheat
<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>	prince's plume	<i>Eriogonum microthecum</i>	slender buckwheat
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Carnation</b>	<i>Eriogonum ochrocephalum</i>	ochre-flower buckwheat
<i>Eremogone franklinii</i> var. <i>franklinii</i>	Franklin's sandwort	var. <i>sceptrum</i>	annual buckwheat
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<b>Spurge</b>	<i>Eriogonum</i> sp. (annual)	
<i>Chamaesyce glyptosperma</i>	ribseed sandmat	<b>Rosaceae</b>	<b>Rose</b>
<b>Fabaceae</b>	<b>Pea</b>	<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	bitterbrush
<i>Astragalus camptopus</i>	Bruneau milkvetch	<b>Sarcobataceae</b>	<b>Greasewood</b>
		<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i>	greasewood

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# Key to the Species and Cultivars of *Philadelphus* (Syringa/Mockorange) Present in Southwest Idaho Gardens

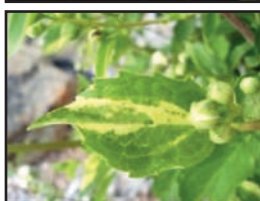
Key and Photos by Roger Rosentreter, Pahove Chapter

## Key A. For plants with flowers present.

1a. Flowers simple (a single whorl of 4 petals) – 2



2a. Leaves variegated (occasionally leaves may lack variegation) – *P. lemoinei* X 'Innocence'



2b. Leaves not variegated – 3

3a. Leaf size small, < 1/2 inch long, margins entire – *P. microphyllus* 'June Bride'



3b. Leaf size larger, > 1/2 inch long, margins entire or serrate – 4

4a. Leaf margins entire (some leaves can be slightly serrate) – 5  
*P. hybrid* 'Snowbelle'

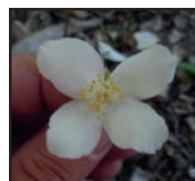


4b. Leaf margins are all slightly to strongly serrate – 6

5a. Leaves broadly-elliptical, leaf margins mostly entire, petals narrow, petals longer than wide – *P. lewisii*



5b. Leaves lanceolate wavy, leaf margins entire with some slightly serrate, petals rounded, petals wider than straight species – *P. lewisii* 'Blizzard'



6a. Leaves yellow-green – *P. coronarius* 'Aureus'  
Golden-leaf Mockorange



6b. Leaves green – 7

7a. Leaves green with red veins, leaves rough textured, 1st year stems very red, leaves broadly-elliptical – *P. lewisii* 'Cheyenne'



7b. Leaves green, lacking red veins, leaves soft textured, 1st year stems not red or only slightly reddish – 8

8a. Mature plant < 5 feet tall, leaves elliptical, ovate, young leaves lanceolate, leaves light green/green, stamens present, leaf margins slightly serrate, leaf texture soft – *P. virginialis* X 'Dwarf Snowflake'



Photo Idaho BLM Firewise



Photo Missouri Botanical Garden

8b. Mature plant >5 feet tall, leaves broadly-elliptical, leaf tip strongly acuminate – *P. tomentosus* Kashmir Mockorange



1b. Flowers double or triple (a double or triple whorl of 4 petals) – 10

9a. Flower double – 10



9b. Flower triple – 11





**10a.** Leaves dark green, lower leaf surface rough, stamens mostly lacking, petals as wide as long, petal margins smooth, short leaf petiole – *P. pekinensis* **Peking Mockorange**



**11a.** Leaves light green, lower leaf surface tomentose, long leaf petiole, stamens can be present but reduced, petals with undulate margins – *P. hybrid* **'Fallbrook'**



**12a.** Leaf margins entire or some with a single tooth – 13

**12b.** Leaf margins serrate to strongly serrate – 14

**13a.** Petals small < 1/2 inch, stamens reduced, leaves small, leaf margins entire – *P. lemoinei* X **'Monteau d' hermine' Dwarf Mockorange**



**13b.** Petals larger 2-3 inches, stamens lacking, leaf margins entire or some with 1 or 2 very shallow teeth – *P. hybrid* **'Snowbelle'**



**14a.** Leaves mostly < 1.5" long, leaves serrate, leaf texture soft, leaves narrowly elliptical, petals quilled (enrolled), stamens lacking, mature plant < 5 feet tall – *P. hybrid* **'Buckley's Quill'**



**14b.** Leaves mostly > 1.5" long, leaves strongly serrate with shallow teeth, leaf texture underside – rough, leaf broadly elliptical, petals flat, stamens reduced, mature plant > 5 feet tall – *P. virginialis* **'Minnesota Snowflake'**



## Key B. For plants with no flowers present.

**1a.** Leaf margins entire or with a single or a few teeth on each side – 2



**2a.** Leaves small < 1/2 inch, leaf margins slightly enrolled, lower side whitish, stems more herbaceous than woody – *P. microphyllus* **'June Bride'**



**2b.** Leaves larger > 1/2 inch, leaf margins not enrolled, lower side greenish, stems more woody than herbaceous – 3

**3a.** Leaves broadly-elliptical to ovate – 4



**3b.** Leaves lanceolate, margins wavy – 5



...Continued on Page 12

**4a.** 2nd year bark with circular cracks – *P. lewisii*



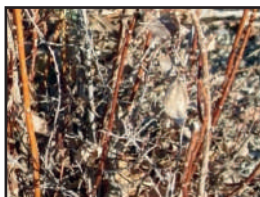
**4b.** 2nd year bark with lateral exfoliating strips – *P. hybrid 'Snowbelle'*



**5a.** Mature plants > 5 feet tall, bark brown somewhat circular exfoliating – *P. lewisii* 'Blizzard'



**5b.** Mature plants < 5 feet tall, bark red-brown platy as it exfoliates – *P. lemoinei* X 'Manteau d'hermine' Dwarf Mockorange



**1b.** Leaf margins slightly-serrate to strongly-serrate – 6

**6a.** Leaves yellow-green – *P. coronarius* 'Aureus'



**6b.** Leaves green or variegated – 7

**7a.** Leaves variegated – *P. lemoinei* x 'Innocence'



**7b.** Leaves green, not variegated – 8

**8a.** Young bark reddish – 9

**8b.** Young bark green – 11

**9a.** Leaves with red veins – *P. lewisii* 'Cheyenne'



**9b.** Leaves without red veins – 10

**10a.** Mature plants small < 5 feet tall, leaf tips slightly acuminate – *P. virginialis* X 'Dwarf Snowflake'



**10b.** Mature plants larger > 5 feet tall, leaf tips strongly acuminate – *P. tomentosus* Kashmir Mockorange



**11a.** Leaves dark green, short leaf petiole (< 1/8 inch long) – *P. pekinensis* Peking Mockorange



**11b.** Leaves light green to green, leaf petiole longer (> 1/8 inch long, except for water sprout stems) – 12

**12a.** Mature plant < 5 feet tall, leaves < 1.5" long, leaf margins strongly and deeply serrate – *P. hybrid* 'Buckley's Quill'



**12b.** Mature plant > 5 feet tall – 13

**13a.** Lower leaf surface tomentose – *P. hybrid* 'Fallbrook'



**13b.** Lower leaf surface not tomentose, leaves > 1.5" long, leaf margins strongly serrate but serrations are shallow, leaf broadly-elliptical – *P. virginialis* 'Minnesota Snowflake'





## Pruning *Philadelphus*

By Roger Rosentreter, Photos by Karie Pappani

*Philadelphus* develops its blooms on stems produced the previous year. To promote heavy flowering, prune branches immediately after flowering is over, typically in late June, so plants do not put resources into producing seeds. Cut back flowered stems to a side-shoot without flowers or a plump bud. Congested plants can be rejuvenated by removing one-in-three stems, starting with the oldest. Old and neglected plants can have all old stems cut back to ground level in the winter. You will lose some flowering shoots for next year, but the plant will be the better for it in subsequent years. Fertilizing *Philadelphus* is unnecessary; however, when applied after pruning, it may help encourage vigorous stem growth and flowering next year. •



## ERIG Announcement

### 2026 INPS Education, Research, and Inventory Grants Program

By Steve Rust, ERIG Committee Chair

The Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) is dedicated to promoting interest in collecting and sharing information on the native plant species populations, communities,



Volunteers work on milkweed propagation garden located at Kaniksu Land Trust's Pine Street Woods reserve.

and habitats of Idaho. The INPS Education, Research, and Inventory Grants (ERIG) Program seeks to stimulate and promote research, conservation, and educational activities which contribute

to the appreciation of, conservation, or knowledge of Idaho's native flora and plant communities.

Examples of past ERIG projects include studies about specific native species and their habitats, native plant demonstration gardens and arboreta, native plant propagation, pollinators, traditional use of native plants, and plant community restoration.



Sidney Fellows and Christina Stucker-Gassi pose while working on native plant restoration on Shoshone Bannock tribal lands.

The 2026 INPS ERIG Program application period is open. To learn about the application requirements, navigate to the ERIG Program on the INPS website: <https://idahonativeplants.org/erig-news/>. Grant applications for 2026 are due by December 29, 2025. •

## Nature Musings

### Hiking Footnotes from the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

By Frances Conklin

*A single bent limb  
yellow violets beneath  
sifts the sun like sand*

*Morel mushrooms sprout  
hidden in the forest dark  
damp earthy jewels*

*One wild strawberry  
smaller than a thrush's eye  
tastes like many more*

*Mountain ocean spray  
creamy white cascades afloat  
quenches poet's dreams*

*Grass-widows greet spring  
thrusting through fringes of snow  
I walk to the sky*

*Lichen dappled rocks  
blister across dried meadows  
earthly moon relics*

## 2025 INPS Scholarship Awardees

By Shawn Taylor, INPS Scholarship Committee

### **Siena Fox**

Siena will be starting her PhD this fall at Boise State University, studying Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. Despite being the daughter of a horticulturist, Siena's journey with native plants began during her time exploring the Boise foothills, where she discovered a passion for identifying native plant species and understanding the relationships between them.

She completed her associate's degree at College of Western Idaho before completing a bachelor's degree in Biology at Boise State. As an undergraduate, she conducted research on big sagebrush and its relationship with plant diversity, presenting her findings at the Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research. She has worked on various research projects, including investigating soil chemistry and microbial communities in sagebrush ecosystems, and participated in the Boise River ReWild Project with the Golden Eagle Audubon Society.

Her research has contributed valuable insights into plant community interactions in the sagebrush steppe ecosystem. Siena aims to become a research scientist within a federal or state agency, focusing on plant ecology and ecosystem disturbance in the western United States. She plans to extend her prior research to further study big sagebrush and how it interacts with local diversity.

### **Elizabeth Serocki**

Elizabeth discovered her passion for native plants while studying in the College of Western Idaho's Horticulture program, where she served as Horticulture Club president and supervised student employees in campus gardens and greenhouses. An early experience with Idaho Conservation Corps in 2017 sparked her interest in wild landscapes, which later flourished through volunteer work with various organizations including Idaho Firewise, Boise Parks & Recreation, and Idaho Rivers United. Currently, Elizabeth works with the Intermountain Bird Observatory (IBO) at the Diane Moore Nature Center, where she leads habitat restoration efforts and coordinates volunteer events. She began there as an intern in 2022, creating a vegetation management plan and organizing trail construction projects. Her work includes seed collection for the Golden Eagle Audubon Native Plant Network and propagating native riparian plants for Boise

River restoration projects. Alongside her IBO work, Elizabeth runs a small business providing urban gardening services to local businesses, incorporating native plant diversity and pollinator-friendly practices.

As she pursues her bachelor's degree at Boise State University, Elizabeth continues to expand her knowledge of native plant conservation. Her advisor notes her dedication to promoting biodiversity and educating others through community engagement. Elizabeth plans to continue working in native plant conservation in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest, with aspirations to expand her business to include restoration planning and consulting services.

### **Mackenzie Davidson**

Mackenzie will be starting her senior year at the University of Idaho pursuing a unique double major in Conservation Biology and Film & Television. Her interest in native plants began during high school while volunteering at the Idaho Botanical Garden, where learning about the endangered Mulford's milkvetch sparked a passion for plant conservation and education. This experience helped shape her vision of combining science communication with conservation work through documentary filmmaking.

As a summer intern at The Nature Conservancy's Silver Creek Preserve, Mackenzie maintained trails, educated visitors, and created videos highlighting conservation work. She also volunteered with Rinker Rock Creek Ranch conducting vegetative surveys to better understand rangeland biodiversity. Previously, she interned at the International Wolf Center in Minnesota, where she educated visitors about wolf behavior and conservation.

On campus, Mackenzie serves as president of the Conservation and Environment Club, organizing stream cleanups, volunteer trips, and conservation fundraisers. She participated in the Semester in the Wild program, spending three months at Taylor Ranch in the Frank Church River-of-No-Return Wilderness conducting ecological studies. After graduation in 2026, Mackenzie plans to pursue a career in science communication using films, hoping to make complex scientific information accessible to broader audiences. •



## Awards

# INPS Lifetime Membership Awarded to Barbara Ertter

By Karie Pappani, Pahove Chapter President

Barbara Ertter joins other noteworthy colleagues who have received the most honored recognition on behalf of the Idaho Native Plant Society. Some of those coming before her in recent years include Nancy Miller (2023), Michael Mancuso (2019), Ann DeBolt and Roger Rosentreter (2013), and Karl Holte (2010). This is a rare honor only a dozen individuals have received since inception of our Plant Society, dating back to the 1970s. As you read our nomination letter below, you will discover what it takes to reach this pinnacle of accomplishment and commitment to Idaho's flora. •



At the most recent Foray, with the newly described *Pyrrocoma ertterae* in Bear Valley. Photo courtesy Barbara.



Idaho Native Plant Society

From: Pahove Chapter

May 30, 2025

To: Board of Directors, State INPS  
P.O. Box 9451  
Boise, Idaho 83707

Dear INPS State Board,

The Pahove Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society formally requests that a Lifetime Membership be awarded to Barbara Ertter for her dedication to plant awareness, education, conservation, and preservation.

In 1977, Dr. Pat Packard, professor of biology and director of the College of Idaho herbarium, organized the Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS). The Pahove Chapter began soon afterwards. Barbara Ertter has supported the INPS since its inception and is considered a founding member, as a record of her paid membership dates back to 1978. A few years prior to that, Barbara was one of Pat Packard's students. After finishing at College of Idaho Barbara ventured to other states to pursue education and employment. She later returned to her hometown of Boise and by 2014 had joined the Pahove Chapter Board as a Member at Large. She continues in this capacity and has always been dedicated to the Idaho Native Plant Society.

It was during this time that Barbara ventured to other states to pursue education and employment. She later returned to her hometown of Boise and by 2014 she had joined the Pahove Chapter as a Member at Large. She continues in this capacity to date. She has always been and continues to be dedicated to the Idaho Native Plant Society.

Barbara has single handedly increased the awareness and education of Idaho's flora and brought attention to new species, rare plants in need of preservation, and to conservation of native plant communities and observations of our local landscape based on her research and study over the years.

We will begin by acknowledging her role in education, which is considerable. She brings in educational speakers locally and from out of state (Cleve Davis, Matt Lavin, Rob Laport, Ron Bitner, Israel Borokini, Trevor Caughlin, Jennifer Sowerwine to name several), gives presentations regularly to our Pahove Chapter (*A Naturalists Camino: Circumnavigating Spain by Bus, Train, and Foot 2025*, *Boise's Vanishing Flora 2024*, *Timothy E. Wilcox: Army Surgeon at Fort Boise*, *Boise's first resident Botanist/Naturalist 2023*, *New Discoveries and What's Cool on the Boise Front 2021*, *Floristics in Southwestern Idaho with Don Mansfield 2020*) and also at many other local venues. Barbara is heavily involved with the Southern Idaho Rare Plant Working group, providing valuable field information as well as systematic guidance on species developments. Plus she researches plants that are on our INPS Rare Plant List and she presents these findings at our Idaho Rare Plant Conference.

Barbara prompted and encouraged our chapter to host educational tabling events and/or activities for Rec Day, Earth Day, a City Treasure Hunt, City Nature Challenge, and other events. She also participated at those events. She hosted an Aquatics Workshop in October 2015.

The Wildflower Plus Show was held at the Idaho Botanical Garden for six years, bringing native plants, weeds, and other interesting natural history to the garden. This is a tremendous endeavor orchestrated by Barbara to enrich people's experience with the natural world around them and to specifically educate them about the plants found in the Treasure Valley.

Barbara continues her research with affiliations at the Snake River Plains Herbarium at Boise State University, at the Harold M. Tucker Herbarium and Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History at The College of Idaho. She coordinates twice a month for herbarium days to key plants and catalog Idaho's flora. She is also involved at the University Herbarium and Jepson Herbarium (University of California at Berkeley) as a valuable expert in plant taxonomy where she held the position of Curator of North American Flora.

She holds a pivotal role in selecting, coordinating, and leading field trips hosted by Pahove for our state annual meeting, including this year's and past year's in Boise and McCall. Her involvement leading field trips for the Botanical Society of America during their 2014 and 2023 conferences held in Boise was important to the success of these international-scale meetings. She also plans and leads wildflower walks for the public through the Pahove Chapter of INPS and also previously through the City of Boise, Parks and Recreation.

Barbara has written several articles for our statewide newsletter, Sage Notes. The following is a list of those articles from recent years (*Team Caterpillar*, *Christ Davidson Memoriam*, *Botany 2023*, *Wildflower Plus Show*, *Abronia Rescue*, *Lucky Peak Tabling Event*, *Timothy E. Wilcox: Army Surgeon at Fort Boise*, *Boise's first resident Botanist/Naturalist*, a three part series, and *Clarkia Fossil Beds*).

Her idea for and development of *Boise Front Nature*, a website with a wealth of information about native plants, trails, early Idaho history, with special articles (*Common Early Spring Flowers*, *Common Plant Galls of the Boise Front*, and *Common Mosses and Ground Lichens of the Boise Foothills*) and much more, can not be touted enough. She also has a social media presence on North End where she engages with the community. Not to mention that she was recognized in a program titled *Wildflowers* on Idaho Public TV, Outdoor Idaho.

Speaking now to the second part of her nomination based on significant discoveries of new species/subspecies, preservation of rare species, and conservation of our local biodiversity. Barbara is well known nationally and internationally for her work with *Ivesia*, *Horkelia*, *Potentilla*, *Juncus*, *Rosa*, and other genera. She has discovered distinct species (*Juncus luciensis*, *J. tiehmii*, *J. leiostermus* var. *ahartii*, *Oxytheca parishii* var. *goodmaniana*, *O. parishii* var. *cieneensis*, *Neviusia cliftonii* (described), *Pyrrocoma boiseana* var. *nov*, *Abronia mellifera* var. *pahoveorum*, *Potentilla hudsonii*, *Potentilla jepsonii* var. *kluensis*, *Potentilla maryae*, *Potentilla versicolor*, *Potentilla rubrae*, and more). Early on in the Boise Foothills, Barbara surveyed plants and commented on the Polecat Loop Pilot Program, Stuart Gulch, and much later a purple sage site in 2015 as a few examples. She spearheaded critical conservation efforts to protect and promote sand verbena habitat across the Boise Front and south of Boise by initiating the Boise Sand Verbena Strategy in 2016. She is more recently bringing awareness to populations of a new species of *Pyrrocoma* (goldenweed) in the Boise Foothills. Barbara assisted in a Pahove publication, *Ornamentals to Avoid*. She has been at the forefront of recognizing new invasive weed species in the Boise area, such as *Ludwigia*, *Hirschfeldia incana*, and *Imperata cylindrica* (Cogon grass), the latter which she helped raise the alarm to have the one patch eradicated and recognized for Early Detection, Rapid Response status. Her involvement in the California Native Plant Society and with Jepson Herbarium (UC Berkeley) brings a much broader perspective connecting us to conservation issues outside our own state that subsequently enhance our understanding of issues going on in our state.

Being a Boisean and Idahoan, Barbara has witnessed changes in her hometown and our state. She shares the joy, wonder, and beauty of plants with INPS members and the public and brings important topics and discussions to light based on her experience and expertise. She is beyond deserving of a Lifetime Membership as she has given her life to the study, the benefit, and the support of Idaho's flora.

Sincerely,

Karie Pappani  
Pahove Chapter President

## Del Wiens (1932-2025)

By Wendy Wiens, Photos courtesy Allison Wiens

Delbert “Del” Wiens—scientist, sailor, and storyteller—passed away in Boise, Idaho, on March 21, 2025, at the age of 92. He was born on July 9, 1932, in Munich, North Dakota. He spent his life exploring the natural world and investigating the underlying systems and mechanisms that give it both structure and complexity. As a botanist and a traveler, he set foot on every continent—drawn not only to beauty but to the stark and foreboding landscapes where life presses on in unexpected forms. After the death of his beloved wife Carol in 2022, Del often turned to their shared sailing photographs and stories, holding tightly to the adventurous life they shared together. Though steeped in scientific discipline, Del called himself a “compositionist,” always searching for a fuller perspective to the ways that organisms interact. He carried a personal kind of certainty—one he once shared through the words of Laurens van der Post: “The only thing you have to do is follow the meaning. The meaning will take you where you need to go.”



Del was born on a farm, in a town so small it held little more than a post office, a general store, and a gas station. He was the youngest of eight children born to Jacob John Wiens and Helena Wilms, descendants of Mennonite families who had emigrated from Crimea in the 1870s to escape military conscription.

His early childhood began in the shadow of the Great Depression and World War II, marked by farm labor, long winters, and moments of wild adventure—like setting off with a toy popgun across a neighbor’s field in search of rabbits at the age of four. His father, an ambitious and progressive farmer, owned one of the few threshing machines in the area. Harvest time brought neighbors together in cooperative labor. Del vividly recalled the clang of machinery and the steam from early tractors. Long tables were set for hearty meals prepared by the women—meat, potatoes, and always, gravy for which he gained a lifelong love. He remembered the workhorses by name—Chester and Prince—the sting of a stovepipe burn during a sleigh ride gone awry, and the smell of sausages being prepared after butchering time—the casings rinsed in water and blown clean by hand.

His memories from those early years stayed sharp—some endearing, some unsettling. He recalled sitting in a car on a gray autumn day, turning a buffalo nickel over and over in his small hands—a gift from his mother that quietly captivated him. But not all memories were comforting. His older brother Orville, troubled and at times cruel, left lasting emotional scars on him. At the age of six, Del’s family left the North Dakota farm for a new life in California. The departure was marked by a yard sale and the heartbreak of leaving behind a favorite toy wagon. His father built a plywood camper shell on the back of a Ford truck, and Del and his sister Dottie rode inside it, waving to people on the road through two small front windows above the cab. He never lost those early images—why some memories linger and others fade was a mystery he never tried to solve.

Even as a child, Del carried an inner compass that kept him searching for understanding. His father left during the war years, when Del was no older than ten, and that absence left an empty space in the story of his life. Still, he held tightly to what he could understand or rely on: a habit of close observation, a desire to figure things out, and moments of kinship. His bond with his sister Dottie was especially strong, and his connection with “brother Harry” offered a measure of safety and warmth. Even then, he seemed to experience life from just a step outside—gathering details, reflecting, and holding on to the impulse to make sense of things and follow meaning wherever it led.

As a botanist, educator, and global explorer, Del’s lifelong pursuit of knowledge took him far beyond the laboratory, herbarium, and library—into the heart of the natural world. He followed the intricate workings of plant life across continents and ecosystems. With a B.A. in Botany from Pomona College, an M.A. from the University of Utah, and a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University in California, he built a career grounded in rigorous scientific discipline and lifted by far-reaching inquiry. His scholarship carried both depth and vision, uniting scientific precision with a lifelong wonder at the inventive strategies of living things. He often said with quiet humor that plants “can do everything we can do, and they don’t even have to move.”

Del’s academic career began at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where he served as an assistant professor of biology. He was later awarded a prestigious Fulbright Lectureship in Ecuador, where he taught and held the title of honorary professor at the University of Guayaquil. After returning to the United States, he joined the University of Utah, where he became a professor of biology, curator, and



later director of the Garrett Herbarium. He also served as the primary advisor to fourteen graduate students. His research—spanning chromosomal variation, plant systematics, and mechanisms of extinction—was matched by a natural gift for teaching. Twice nominated for outstanding teaching awards, he was also invited to lecture internationally, including at Flinders University in South Australia and as a senior research fellow at the Botanical Research Institute of South Africa in Pretoria. At U of U, he helped shape academic policy through multiple terms on the university senate, graduate council, and a range of search and selection committees.

Del believed that real knowledge began in the field—with boots on the ground, in sand or mud, eyes trained on the living world. His field research took him across six continents and into some of the most remote ecosystems on the planet. With Carol and their three daughters by his side, he traveled overland in a Land Rover from the north of Africa to the Cape of Good Hope, documenting pollination systems and chromosomal patterns in African mistle-



toe plants. This landmark journey—across deserts, jungles, and savannas—was only one of many. His fieldwork extended from the Galápagos Islands to Papua New Guinea, from the Canadian Arctic to the highlands of Nepal. He also contributed to the Flora of Ceylon Project, co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Ceylon, where he

published several invited papers on tropical mistletoe species. Among his favorite discoveries were the long-nosed rodents of South Africa, which pollinate Protea plants in a rare and surprising example of non-flying mammal pollination—a subject that captivated both his scientific imagination and his delight in nature's ingenuity. After returning from the African bush, he'd often remark at the dinner table—after a day in the lab—that he'd found dead ticks floating in the fixative vials, in that pungent mix of acetic acid and alcohol where we'd preserved mistletoe buds...along with the occasional hitchhiker plucked off one of us.

Del's research was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Geographic Society, the U.S. Forest Service, and others. He co-authored several definitive works on mistletoes and evolutionary biology, including *Dwarf Mistletoes: Biology, Pathology, Systematics*, and *Mistletoes of Africa*,

both of which remain cornerstone references in botanical science. Over the course of his career, he authored or contributed to more than 100 scholarly articles, including publications in two of the most prestigious scientific journals in the world: *Science* (U.S.) and *Nature* (U.K.). He also discovered and described several previously unclassified species of mistletoe, expanding scientific understanding of plant evolution and parasitic specialization. His expertise led to frequent invitations to speak at international symposia, including Kew Gardens in London, the University of Melbourne, and the Botanical Research Institute of South Africa.

Del was a man equally at home with microscopes and mountain trails. Whether teaching “Plants and Society” to honors students or climbing through alpine forests in search of a rare bloom, Del brought keen insight and a hands-on approach to everything he did. He served on the Utah Governor's Environmental Advisory Committee, delivered public lectures on human ecology, and never stopped challenging others to think critically about the natural world. One of his most memorable ecology courses at the University of Utah included field trips to the Salt Lake City Landfill, where he asked students to examine what society discards—and what that reveals about how we live on the planet.

Even after retirement, Del remained a Research Associate at the White Mountain Research Station in California, continuing his studies with undiminished zeal. There, he focused on rare desert plants and developed new theories about genetic factors in extinction, particularly the role of embryo abortion and reproductive failure in small, isolated populations. Much of his work centered on *Dedeckera eurekaensis*, a pale yellow shrub known as July gold, found in the remote canyons of eastern California.

July gold had a personal connection for Del—it was discovered on July 4, 1974, by his mother-in-law, Mary DeDecker, a self-taught botanist and pioneering plant conservationist in California's Owens Valley. Mary's devotion to the native flora of the Eastern Sierra led to several plant discoveries, but *Dedeckera eurekaensis* stood out: it was recognized as a completely new genus, named in her honor by botanists John Thomas Howell and James Reveal. This rare distinction made her only the second botanist to have a new plant genus named in California since 1949. As Del



Continued on Page 18...

studied the fragile genetic dynamics of July gold decades later, his research carried forward her legacy—linking two generations of field botanists through a shared passion for understanding and protecting the plants of the Inyo Mountains and beyond.

Even in his final years, Del continued to challenge assumptions and expand the boundaries of scientific thought. At the age of 88, he published a major paper in the *Quarterly Review of Biology* (June 2020, Volume 95, No. 2, pp. 109–124) entitled “Validating the New Paradigm for Extinction: Overcoming 200 Years of Historical Neglect, Philosophical Misconception, and Inadequate Language.” The work reflected his enduring interest in how scientific paradigms shape knowledge and how outdated frameworks can blur what the evidence is trying to show. He often quoted Einstein, who said that whatever we know depends on the theory or perspective we use to understand it. For Del, science was always evolving—a living conversation he never stopped having.

Del’s life with Carol Wiens (formerly Carol DeDecker) spanned nearly 65 years—a partnership shaped by love, adventure, and an unrelenting drive to explore. Together, they traveled the world, raised three daughters, and built a geodesic dome home in Salt Lake City, Utah, with the help of friends and family. It was a place as original as they were—where a nutcracker would drum on the chimney at dawn, its rhythmic tapping echoing through the house like nature’s own alarm clock. Carol passed away in 2022, leaving behind an anchor-like strength and unwavering support that Del cherished to his last day. In the nearly three years that followed, he would sometimes be heard speaking to her picture, saying softly, “Oh Carol, why did you have to leave me?”

After retiring, Del and Carol sold their home in Salt Lake City and bought a 45-foot sailboat, embarking on a global voyage that would span nearly a decade, from 1996 to 2005. Together, they navigated vast oceans, typhoons, dangerous atolls and reefs in the Tuamotus, and even accidentally sailed into Russian territory—all in pursuit of boundless horizons. In a letter to a friend in 2004, Del wrote: “The Kenai Fjords, Prince William Sound, and Icy Bay were our favorite places. In September, we sailed into Port Townsend, WA—almost six years to the day since we left.” Then he added, “It wasn’t until we flew across the Pacific on a trip home from Singapore that we thought—wow, what a big ocean we’ve sailed across.” It was the kind of reflection only he could deliver—part jest, part pride, and all Del.

Del also loved writing and telling stories, especially about their years at sea. In his later years, he worked on a series of sailing vignettes, many of which he read aloud to family and friends. One story, titled “A Kushiro Welcome,”

recalled an encounter in the fog-enshrouded port of Hokkaido, Japan, where a lone man in an open motorboat approached them, shouting, “You follow me! You follow me!” He guided them safely into the harbor, then informed Del he would report their arrival. Shortly afterward, the stranger returned—this time with two vehicles. As he handed Del a set of keys, he said simply, “I leave one car here for you. You might wish to go somewhere. Here are the keys.” It was a gesture that stayed with Del for years, not just for its generosity, but for what it revealed about the kind of world he believed in.

One of the most personal stories Del ever wrote was titled “Canoeing in the Canadian Wilderness.” It chronicled a multi-week expedition with Carol and a small group through what he called the “largest land mass of our planet.” Though not alone, it was in this vast and untamed landscape that he experienced a moment of striking introspection. While traversing a remote region, Del came upon an ancient Indigenous burial site on a lonely hill, where a human skull lay partially buried in sand. “The cranium bore a dull sheen,” he wrote, “from the long erosive and cleansing power of wind, sand, rain, and snow.” He had long studied life through the lens of biology, but this encounter with death in such a stark, unguarded setting struck him in a different way. “The contexts were in acute contrast,” he reflected, “with anticipated death in the antiseptic confines of a modern hospital.” He continued, “Human bones—especially the skull—remind us of our mortality, and youth-oriented societies dictate against such thoughts.” The experience, he said, “released a long-imprisoned psychological genie.” What began as a physical expedition became something far deeper: a brush with mortality and mystery that stayed with him long after the paddles were stowed away. In that remote corner of the Canadian wilderness, Del’s scientific mind touched something quieter, more personal—a spiritual quest, unspoken, but unmistakable.

Del is survived by his three daughters—Paula, Wendy, and Alison—each of whom carries in her own way a part of his restless spirit, searching mind, and generous heart. He also leaves behind four grandchildren, who knew him as a storyteller, a thinker, and a man who never stopped exploring. Whether recalling a mistletoe blooming in a mountain forest, a stranger’s kindness in a foggy harbor, or a skull weathered by wind and time, Del lived his life in search of what was just beyond the next ridge—looking for the next idea, the next unanswered question. He longed for knowledge, truth, and love. He will be remembered not only for what he discovered, but for the depth of his longing and the way he followed it with wonder. •



## Chapter News

### CALYPSO CHAPTER

The public is invited to all chapter activities, which may change—watch chapter emails for updates. Contact Derek Antonelli to be added to email list.

**When:** The next chapter meeting will be October 1, 2025, at 7:00 pm. Chapter meetings are held on the first Wednesday evenings of March, April, May, and October.

**Where:** Meetings will be held in the IDFG Hunter Education Building, 2885 W Kathleen Ave, Coeur d'Alene.

**Contact:** For more information about Calypso Chapter activities, contact Derek Antonelli at [ds.ca.antonelli@gmail.com](mailto:ds.ca.antonelli@gmail.com), (208) 691-1070.

#### Past Events

**April 13:** English Point Trail Plant Walk.

**April 19:** Earth Day Event at the Coeur d'Alene Library. Calypso Chapter sponsored a booth and two wildflower walks.

**June 9–10:** The Calypso and White Pine Chapters held a joint plant survey at Heyburn State Park. About a dozen people participated from both chapters generating a detailed plant list for the park.

**June 12–15:** The Calypso Chapter held a four-day bioblitz event with the Pend Oreille Chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalists in Bonner and Kootenai counties. Over 1,400 iNaturalist observations were made consisting of over 370 species.

**July 12:** A Plant Walk was held at the at Doris Morrison Learning Center, Saltese Flats Wetland, Greenacres, Washington.

**July 17–21:** The Idaho Botany Foray to collect herbarium specimens was held at the Penn Basin Campground, Boise NF.

#### Upcoming Events

**August 16:** Plant Walk at Lake Darling in the Cabinet Mountains. Carpool from the northeast corner of the Hayden Walmart parking lot at 8:00 am.

**October 1:** Calypso Chapter meeting, 7:00 pm, Idaho Fish and Game Office. Presentation topic for this meeting has not been determined yet. Please submit suggestions.

### LOASA CHAPTER

**When:** Regular meetings are on pause currently.

**Contact:** For more information about Loasa Chapter activities, please contact Bill Bridges, [bridgesbill34@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgesbill34@yahoo.com). A big thank you to Samuel DeGrey for serving as Loasa Chapter President this past year and being involved with INPS.

### PAHOVE CHAPTER

**When:** Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month from October–April starting at 7:00 pm. Times, dates, and topics are tentative. Current information will be sent to members via email. Announcements are also posted on the Pahove Chapter page of the INPS website: <https://idahonativeplants.org/pahove/>

**Where:** Chapter presentations currently offer hybrid viewing formats, both in-person at MK Nature Center, 401 S Walnut St, Boise, and a Zoom link for at-home enjoyment.

**Contact:** For more information about Pahove Chapter activities visit the website: [www.idahonativeplants.org](http://www.idahonativeplants.org) or email Karie Pappani at [pahove.chapter.president@gmail.com](mailto:pahove.chapter.president@gmail.com).

#### Past Events

Chapter presentations for the 2024/2025 season ended with a spring flurry of events including an educational table on native plants at Franz Witte; wildflower walks; Boise City Nature Challenge; our Annual Native Plant Sale; a table at Earth Day; and then the big finale, our statewide annual meeting hosted by the Pahove Chapter. This was a huge endeavor that could only be accomplished with a strong board of volunteers. THANK YOUs (in reverse alphabetical order

because why not) to Susan Ziebarth, Kirsten Severud, Caroline Morris, Vicki Henderson, Peggy Faith, Barbara Ertter, Chadwick DeFehr, and Ray Corbin. With much gratitude to field trip leaders and to all other volunteers who make these events possible! We value you and couldn't do it without you! And thank you to all of our MEMBERS who supported our chapter by attending presentations and events that make it possible for us to continue our mission.

#### Upcoming Events

We will continue to keep you updated on botanical news and activities happening in our area over the summer. However, we do take a break from presentations from May–September. We look forward to seeing you all again in the fall!

### SAWABI CHAPTER

We welcomed the public to our chapter's informative spring programs and warm weather plant walks.

**When:** All plant walks and spring programs are no longer prescheduled but will be announced via email.

**Where:** Programs are presented in Pond Student Union Building classrooms, ISU Campus,ocatello.

**Contact:** For more information contact Paul Allen at [pokyallen@hotmail.com](mailto:pokyallen@hotmail.com).

### WHITE PINE CHAPTER

**When:** Meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of the month, September through April. Current information is posted on our chapter webpage:

<https://www.whitepineinps.org/WPschedule.html>

**Where:** Meetings are held in-person in the 1912 Center Lecompte Auditorium (2nd floor) in Moscow. Video recordings of meetings will be made available on our YouTube channel a few days after each meeting.

**Contact:** For more information about White Pine Chapter activities, contact us at INPS, White Pine Chapter, PO Box 8481, Moscow, ID 83843 or [whitepine.chapter@gmail.com](mailto:whitepine.chapter@gmail.com). Visit the chapter website (<https://www.whitepineinps.org/>) for upcoming event information. Visit our chapter YouTube channel (@whitepinechapterinps9555) to view past talks.

#### Past Events

**June 28:** Conservation Project Field trip, Sublime Point, McCroskey State Park.

#### Upcoming Events

Additional summer and/or fall field trips will be posted on our calendar on our webpage as they are scheduled.

### WOOD RIVER CHAPTER

Check out our new webpage and sign up for our new monthly email newsletter!

**When:** Typically we have talks in the cold months and walks in the warm ones. Non-members are welcome.

**Where:** Please see our website or email newsletter for detailed information on all of our upcoming events.

**Contact:** For more information about Wood River Chapter activities, check out our webpage at <https://idahonativeplants.org/wood-river/>. You can also contact us and subscribe to our newsletter at [woodriver@idahonativeplants.org](mailto:woodriver@idahonativeplants.org)

#### Past Events

So far in 2025 the Wood River Chapter has offered an active program of events with more planned throughout the summer. We kicked things off in May with a hike up a new trail overlooking the town of Bellevue. In June, we gathered to see and hear about wildfire restoration work at Rock Creek, a University of Idaho research facility. Later in the month we observed spring blooms at Craters of the Moon National Monument. Other events included the search for an elusive poppy at Baker Lake on July 19 and a hike up Baldy on August 2. •



## IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

PO Box 9451, Boise, ID 83707

[www.idahonativeplants.org](http://www.idahonativeplants.org)

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- ☐ Calypso (Coeur d'Alene)
- ☐ Loasa (Twin Falls)
- ☐ Pahove (Boise)
- ☐ Sawabi (Pocatello)
- ☐ Upper Snake (Idaho Falls) - *Inactive*
- ☐ White Pine (Moscow)
- ☐ Wood River (Ketchum/Sun Valley)
- ☐ No Chapter

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- ☐ Sustaining \$40
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Memberships run calendar year. New memberships enrolled after June 1 include the following year. **Renew or join online:** <https://idahonativeplants.org/membership/>

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