

MANZANITA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

THE KANE COUNTY CHAPTER OF
THE UTAH NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

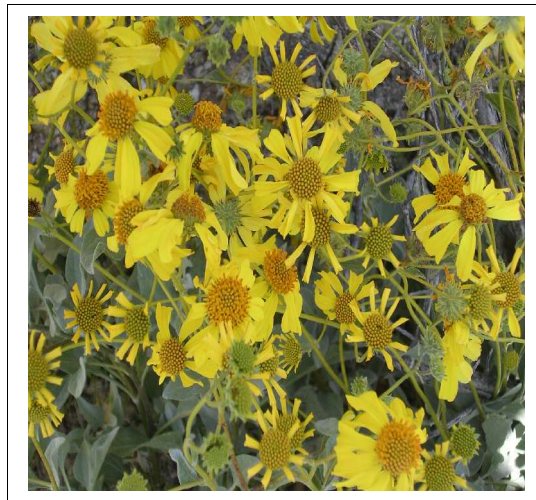
April 2005 News

Upcoming Events

April Monthly Meeting: Use of Native Plants by the Kaibab Paiutes by Glendora Homer. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 4 at 7 PM (UT time) in the public meeting room of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Visitor (next to the Holiday Inn and golf course). Glendora Homer of Pipe Spring National Monument will discuss how the Paiute people used native plants in their daily lives and will give a demonstration of basketweaving with yucca fibers. We will also have a short business meeting before hand and the usual dessert treats. As always, the meeting is free and open to the public.

There will be no Botany 101 this month due to Spring Break.

April 16 Virgin River Field Trip: Lee Hughes, ecologist with the Arizona Strip BLM, will lead our first field trip of the year to see spring wildflowers in the Virgin River Gorge area outside St. George on Saturday, April 16. The St. George area is especially rich in Mojave Desert wildflowers more typical of southern Nevada and southeastern California. Lee will guide us to the Woodbury Study Site and Desert Tortoise enclosure on the Beaver Dam slope, and then on to the overlook above the Virgin River and Beaver Dam Creek. With all the rain this winter the wildflower bloom should be especially good. Among the plants we hope to find are purple sage, brittlebush, desert marigold,



Above: Incensio or White brittlebush (Encelia farinosa) is extremely uncommon in Utah, barely creeping into the state near St. George (this photo was taken in west-central Arizona), but is one of many Mojave species that we hope to see on the April 16 field trip. Photo by Laura Fertig.

desert chicory, mariposa lily, Joshua tree, creosote bush, birdcage primrose, Fremont pincushion, and snowball verbena.

The field trip will commence from the St. George BLM office/visitor center on Bluff Street at 9:30 AM. From Kanab, take the Bluff Street exit off I-15 in St. George, turn left at the traffic light onto Bluff Street, then proceed through the next two lights and around a gentle curve in the road – the BLM office is a large tan building on the left with ample parking and landscaping. Members are encouraged to carpool from Kanab.

Mark your Calendar

April 9: Utah/Arizona Horticulture Workshop, Kanab City Library, 9-12 AM, with Horticulture Tour of Kanab with Barb Warner from 1:45-3:30 PM. Morning session will feature talks on gardening tips, fertilizer, native plants of southern Utah, earth-friendly landscaping, and fruit trees. The workshop is sponsored by the Fredonia Natural Resources Conservation District, Kanab Beautification Committee, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Mohave County, Utah State University

Extension-Kane County, and Kanab Center for Field Studies.

May 2: Denise Louie, botanist/ecologist for Zion National Park will describe plant revegetation efforts in the park.

May 14: John Spence, ecologist for Glen Canyon National Recreation Area will lead a field trip for early spring wildflowers in the Glen Canyon Area. Details are still pending – look for info in the May newsletter.

June: Smokey Mountain and Lick Wash field trips, Grand Staircase-Escalante NM

July: Kaibab Plateau with ethnobotanist Phyllis Hogan

August: Field trip/camp out at Calf Creek and Deer Creek near Boulder.

Chapter Business

Chapter Elections: By acclamation, the members in attendance at the 7 March meeting approved the slate of officers who volunteered (or were volunteered) to serve on the Manzanita chapter board. These new officers (elected for a one-year term through March 2006) are:

President: Walter Fertig

Vice President: Jana de Peyer

Treasurer: Anne Mejia

Secretary: Jan Gisler

At large Board Members: Carolyn Shelton and Barbara Warner

Recap

March Meeting Thirty Kane County plant lovers were treated to a presentation by local educator/gardener/KCFS exec/woman about town Barbara Warner on her Kanab xeriscaping experiences at our 7 March meeting. Barb described the benefits of developing a site plan before embarking on a landscaping project (see following article adapted from her talk). She also discussed plans for a community xeriscaping project along Highway 89 at the east entrance to town and how our group might work with the city Beautification Committee, Master

Gardeners, extension service, and others to help make this a reality.

Simple Steps for Xeriscaping

[By Barbara Warner, compiled from CSU Extension Service website and from a presentation by Allysia Angus, GSENM landscape architect]

Step 1: Create a Site Map

Record on your Site Map

- Existing Structures
- Traffic Flow (paths, walkways, driveways, etc.)
- Existing vegetation

Step 2: Site Analysis

Evaluate your existing conditions using a panoramic photo, if possible, and your site map. Ask yourself these questions:

- What are the drainage patterns?
- What are the wind patterns?
- What is the sun exposure?
- Where do you enter the space?
- Where do you view it from?

Step 3: Use Analysis

“Design is about space and how we move through it”

- Determine how the space is used and how you want the space to be used
 - Do you want some grass for kids to play on?
 - Do you need space to work that might need to be graveled or rocked instead of planted?

Step 4: Schematic Planning

Decide where specific use areas will be located.

- Evaluate drainage, sun, shade and wind factors for each use
- Determine whether or not you will want to screen different use areas

Step 5: The Master Plan

Pull together all of your work in Steps 1–4 in a "final" design plan that delineates:

- Existing structures
- Path and driveways
- Vegetation that already exists
- Drainage patterns
- Sun/wind exposure
- Specific use areas
- How you move through the space
- Where your views are

You will need this plan to create a planting and irrigation plan... in steps 6 and 7.

Step 6: Planting Plan

Choosing plants to fit your master plan.

- Use plants appropriate for the area/region
 - Water-wise, drought tolerant plants are well suited to Kanab
 - Choose plants that are tolerant of Kanab's climate zone
 - Don't use noxious plants (Tamarisk, Russian olives, thistles, etc.)

-In order to put the right plant in the right place in your design be sure to evaluate the location you want to put it for:

- Sun-shade
- Soil type
- Drainage
- Wind

Step 7: The Irrigation Plan

Design the irrigation system to fit your master plan.

- Remember that when xeric gardens are establishing themselves... plants require more water than they will need in the future. You may only water your plants for the first year, then let nature take over.
- You should evaluate using a drip watering system, which is much more efficient in xeric environments

Step 8: Phasing in the Landscape Design

Once you have your plans done through Step 7, evaluate your plan to decide:

- What must be done at once
- What sequence you will need to follow
- What can be done in the longer term

As an example... in Susan Meyers landscape they began by getting rid of grass in small areas they wanted to plant and adding soil amendments of sand and gravel. After a season or so they started killing all of their large grass lawn and started creating paths and planting beds.

Step 9: Maintaining the Landscape

- Weeding: Xeriscaped gardens still need to be weeded. Especially when native plants are establishing themselves they need the competition removed.
- Mulch: Dead yearly growth needs to be removed each year but can be used as mulch around the plant until spring. Other mulch you can use includes bark, straw.

Join the Utah Native Plant Society

Membership categories:

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Senior \$12
Individual \$15
Household \$25

Make check payable to Utah Native Plant Society and send to:

Membership,
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This edition of the Kane County Native Plant Society news was written by Walter Fertig, Carolyn Shelton, and Barb Warner. Reader submissions are more than welcome! For more information about upcoming events, contact Walt Fertig at 644-8129 or walt@kanab.net.