

KANE COUNTY NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

December 2004 News

Upcoming Events

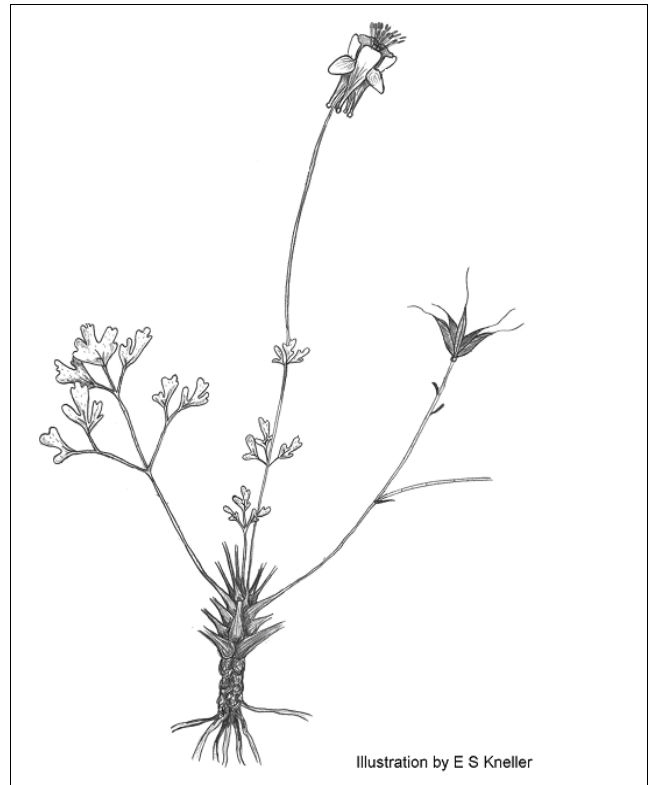
December Monthly Meeting: Holiday Dessert Potluck/Photo and Slide

Identification/Book Bonanza The next meeting of the Kane County Chapter of the Utah Native Plant Society will be held on Tuesday, 7 December 2004 at 7 PM in the public meeting room of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Visitor Center (next to the Holiday Inn and golf course). The meeting will be a combination holiday dessert potluck – photo/slide show. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite wildflower photos and slides to show off or have identified. I will also have a variety of wildflower guides and floras covering the greater Utah area on hand to assist people with identifying their photos (and perhaps give some ideas for gifts from Santa).

This meeting is free and open to the public.

Seed Collecting Field Trip to Buckskin

Mountain On Friday, 10 December 2004, Holly Beck and Walt Fertig will lead an expedition to Buckskin Mountain on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to collect seeds from Black sagebrush (*Artemisia nova*) or Big sagebrush (*A. tridentata*) for use in restoring degraded sagebrush grassland sites on the Monument. Kane County UNPS members are invited to participate. Plan to convene at the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Headquarters Office (across from the Parry Lodge next to the old library) at 9 AM. Transportation to the site will be provided, as well as bags for collecting seed and detailed instructions (Remove seed. Put in bag. Repeat). We plan to return by 1 PM. Dress appropriately for cold weather (warm coat, sturdy shoes, etc) and plan to bring a lunch and water.



plant species found only in Kane County, UT.

11 January 2005 meeting To avoid conflicts with major college bowl games (such as the Poulan WeedEater® Bowl between Northwest Central Michigan and Omaha Orthodontist College) and other holiday revelry, the January meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month (rather than the first Tuesday). Our program will be on the Seeds of Success program, a collaborative venture between The Royal Botanic Garden (Kew) of London and various partners around the world (including our very own Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument) to develop a seedbank of common desert plant species. Laura Fertig of GSENM will provide the details at 7PM, at the usual meeting site (GSENM visitor center).

News

UNPS Chapter Application Submitted

Our petition to have our group recognized as a chapter of the Utah Native Plant Society was submitted to the state office on 9 November, with signatures from 12 members. No word yet on whether our application has been accepted, though we are already listed as a chapter in the Nov/ Dec 2004 issue of the UNPS newsletter *Sego Lily*.

Name the Chapter Contest At our Nov 1 meeting, several members suggested that we come up with a catchier name for the local chapter and an appropriate mascot. Some ideas included “Camissonia Chapter”, “Mariposa Chapter”, “Chinle Chia Chapter”, and “Red Rocks Chapter” among others. The Chapter Steering Committee decided it would be appropriate to have a contest in which members suggest names and vote for their favorite. The person who comes up with the winning name will win a fabulous prize (still to be determined). So ... start thinking of some names and bring them to the next meeting or email them to me (walt@kanab.net). The final vote will be held at the January meeting.

Chapter Steering Committee In the interim until our local chapter is officially established, the following members have graciously agreed to act as a committee to organize monthly meetings and events: Jana de Peyer, Ann Mejia, Carolyn Shelton, Jan Gisler, & Walter Fertig.

November Meeting

I kicked off the winter meeting schedule for the Kane County Chapter with an address on the “Flora of Kane County” at our 1 November 2004 meeting. Prior to this, we held a short business meeting to discuss future speakers, potential activities, and possible field trip destinations. At least 24 members and others attended the meeting, probably as much for the wonderful assortment of potluck dessert items and good company as for the lecture.

For those interested in the various factoids presented in my talk (but didn't get a chance to write them down in the dark), here they are in the format of the *Harper's Index**

Rank of Kane County relative to all Utah counties in size of flora - 5
Percentage of all Utah plant species found in Kane County - 30%
Percentage of Kane County species represented by the 6 largest plant families - 50%
Percentage of species represented by the 94 other plant families found in Kane County - 50%
Number of plant species and varieties found in Kane County - 1310
Ratio of number of plant species to citizens in Kane County - 1 : 4.6
Number of plant species found only in Kane Co - 11
Ratio of non-native to native species in the Kane Co

flora - 1 : 12
Ratio of perennial herbs to annual herbs, trees, shrubs, and grasses in the Kane Co flora - 1 : 1
Number of Kane Co plants considered “rare or endemic” by the UT Conservation Data Center of the Division of Wildlife - 286
Number of these species listed as Sensitive by the US Forest Service or BLM - 25
Number listed as Threatened or Endangered under the US Endangered Species Act - 4

* Note to lawyers from *Harpers Magazine*, this is meant as an homage to your fine publication, not an infringement of various copyright laws.

Eleven plant species found only in Kane County:

Atwood's camissonia (*Camissonia atwoodii*)
Kodachrome bladderpod (*Lesquerella tumulosa*)
Paria iris (*Iris pariensis*)
Cronquist's phacelia (*Phacelia cronquistiana*)
Atwood's pretty phacelia (*Phacelia pulchella* var. *atwoodii*)
Cronquist's woody-aster (*Xylorhiza cronquistii*)
Lori's columbine (*Aquilegia loriae*)
Parunuweap clover (*Trifolium variegatum* var. *parunuweapensis*)
Smoky Mountain globemallow (*Sphaeralcea fumariensis*)
Higgins' spring-parsley (*Cymopterus higginsii*)
Tropic goldeneye (*Viguiera soliceps*)

Join the Utah Native Plant Society

Membership categories:
Student \$9
Senior \$12
Individual \$15
Household \$25

Make check payable to Utah Native Plant Society and send to:
Membership,
Utah Native Plant Society
PO Box 520041
Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0041

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