

KANE COUNTY NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

January 2005 News

****Note****

The date of the January meeting has been changed to Monday, January 10 (instead of Tuesday, January 11 as reported last month) due to a scheduling conflict with the GSENM room.

News

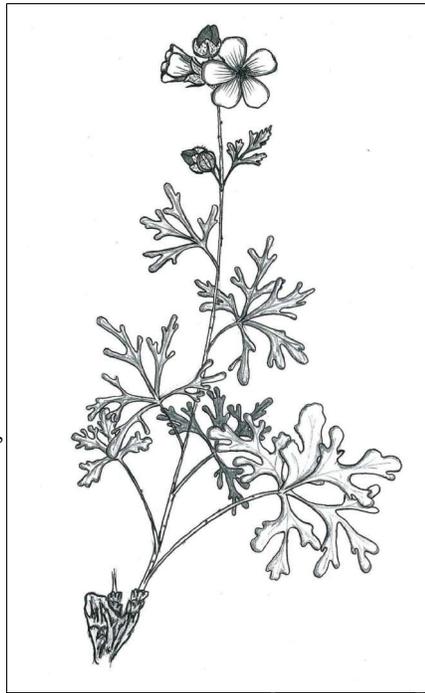
Kane County Chapter Officially

Recognized Astute readers of the January/February issue of *Sego Lily* will already know that our Kane County Chapter has been officially recognized as the newest chapter of the Utah Native Plant Society. We recently passed the 20-member threshold and look forward to adding even more. Inaugural members in the greater Kanab area include: Alyssia Angus, Marilyn Cox, Tom Carter & Marcia Martin, Stephen & Nicola Dahl, Jana de Peyer, Robert Dye and Donna Koster, Barbara Farnsworth (Springdale), Walter & Laura Fertig, Jo Flynn, Jan Gisler, Jorja Hernandez (Glendale), Amber Hughes, Catherine Ives, Jen Kauffmann & Tom Forsythe, Anne Mejia, Cathie Myers, Mike & Arlea Satter, Carolyn Shelton, Becky Stark (Bryce Canyon), Peggy Stone & Gary Hodges, Kathy Walls, and Barb Warner.

Name the Chapter Contest It is not too late to nominate a plant species as the group mascot and to come up with an appropriate name for our group in the “name the chapter” contest described at the last two meetings and in the December newsletter. To date the following suggestions have been made:

<i>Artemisia</i>	Manzanita
<i>Camissonia</i>	Mariposa
Chinle chia	Red Rocks
<i>Cleomella</i>	Sacred Datura

New names can still be submitted by email (walt@kanab.net) or phone (644-8129) or on the day of the January meeting (Jan 10). Voting will take



obemallow

(*Sphaeralcea fumariensis*) is an orange-red flowered member of the Mallow family (Malvaceae) that is known only from clay soils (often derived from burned coal seams) on the Kaiparowits Plateau and Buckskin Mountain area of Kane County, Utah. It was unknown to science until being described as a new species by Drs. Stan Welsh and Duane Atwood of Brigham Young University in 2001. This species closely resembles Gooseberyleaf mallow (*S. grossulariifolia*) but has much longer and coarser hairs on its stems and leaves. These hairs resemble miniature stars (“stellate” in botanese) when viewed under a hand lens and give the foliage a slight grayish-white appearance. Illustration by Elaine Kneller

place at the meeting and the winner will receive a valuable door prize.

Upcoming Events

January Monthly Meeting: Seeds of

Success Our next meeting will be held on Monday January 10 (note change in date) at 7 PM in the public meeting room on the highway side of the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM Visitor Center (next to Holiday Inn). Laura Fertig, botanist with the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM, will be the featured speaker and will discuss the Kew Garden’s Millenium Seed Collection project and the BLM’s Seeds of Success program. From 2002-2004, the

monument sponsored teams of student interns to comb the Colorado Plateau looking for seed of desert plant species for the Kew Garden's international desert seed bank and for use in restoring public rangelands. This meeting is free and open to the public.

Botany 101: At the insistence of several vocal and persuasive members, I'll be providing a 15 minute refresher course on basic plant taxonomy and identification skills prior to our regular meeting time. This will begin at 6:45 – so arrive early for a good seat – or come at 7PM if you would rather (there will be no hard feelings). First topic: the do's and don'ts of the Linnaean classification system.

Chapter Business: Now that the group is officially sanctioned, we will need to formally establish a few officers. In particular, we will need a chapter president, a treasurer, and a note-taker for meetings, and a small group to coordinate and plan events. To date, these tasks have been done by a steering committee consisting of Jana de Peyer, Anne Mejia, Jan Gisler, Carolyn Shelton, and Walter Fertig. If anyone is interested in participating in this group, please contact one of the members of the steering group.

Native Plant and Xeriscaping Workshop, February 5, Zion NP Dr. Susan Meyer will be conducting her annual native plant and desert xeriscaping gardening workshop in Zion National Park on Saturday, February 5 from 10 AM through mid-afternoon. The workshop will include a morning hike and slide show to identify common native plants and conclude with an afternoon hands-on demonstration of plant propagation techniques in the Zion greenhouse. All participants will leave with a tray of their very own hand-planted seeds for their home gardening use. The class costs \$25 and you must pre-register as space is limited. Call 435-772-3264 to register or get more information.

7 February 2005 meeting Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 7 February 2005. The program has not yet been finalized, but you know you won't want to miss it.

Recap

December Meeting Our holiday extravaganza featured a show-and-tell on wildflower field guides, floras, and technical manuals available for the

southern Utah-northern Arizona area. I have included a digital copy of the handout as an attachment to those who receive this newsletter by email and will happily provide a hard copy or email copy to anyone on request. As usual, the meeting featured a wonderful array of desserts which left me at least 1 pound heavier at meeting's end.

Seed Collecting Safari Unfortunately, our seed-collecting outing for Buckskin Mountain had to be cancelled due to several days of rainy weather that made the roads impassable. Thanks to the intrepid members (the Dahls) who gamely showed up, seed bags at the ready. We will try to re-schedule the seed safari early in 2005 (while sagebrush seed remains).

Websites to Check Out The National Wildlife Federation and eNature have a new educational website describing and illustrating native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs that are available for home gardening use. The web-based guide also describes non-native species that may become troublesome and should be discouraged. Check it out for yourself at http://enature.com/native_invasive/native.asp.

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.