

MANZANITA

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANE
COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
UTAH NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

July 2005 News

Upcoming July Events

July Monthly Meeting: Grass

Identification Workshop. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 5 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). Local botanist Walter Fertig (that's me!) will provide an overview of the morphologic traits of grasses and the mysterious names applied to these features (ligules, glumes, and lemmas, oh my!). The presentation will also include an overview of some of the common grass species found in the Kanab area. If you are a closet agrostologist or just want to be better informed the next time a neighbor questions whether your grasses are bunched or rhizomatous, you won't want to miss this meeting. Oh, and there will be desserts afterwards. As always, the meeting is open to the public.

Cedar Mountain Hike – Saturday, July 23: Our next field outing will be a botanical expedition to Cedar Mountain and the Dixie National Forest. Our ultimate objective will be to hike to Cascade Falls on the Markagunt Plateau, which offers great views of the north end of Zion NP. This hike is less than one mile and not especially strenuous, though it is rocky and hiking shoes are recommended. En route we will stop to observe wildflower meadows on Cedar Mountain and see what is happening in the timber as well. The expedition will commence from the parking lot of the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM visitor center in Kanab at 8 AM. For those living north of town, we will stop at the north entrance to Best Friends (dirt pulloff on the north side of the road, between the hospital and Hwy 89) at 8:30 AM.

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



Above: Lori's columbine (Aquilegia loriae) in full bloom near the entrance to Lick Wash, as seen on our 25 June 2005 hike (you should have been there!). The columbines will keep flowering over much of the summer, so it is still not too late to get out there and enjoy the show. Photo by W. Fertig.

Mark Your Calendars -

August 19-20: Expedition to Boulder and Escalante. Our trip will begin from Kanab on 2 PM Friday afternoon, August 19 with a stop in Red Canyon (off highway 12 near Bryce Canyon). We will spend the evening camping near Escalante (or in motels for those who are less adventurous). We will resume the trip on Saturday morning, August 20 at the new interagency visitor center in Escalante at 10 AM. After wending our way along Highway 12 over the slickrock, we will visit Deer Creek and The Gulch east of Boulder for a relaxing and cool day of summer botanizing. At Deer Creek we will be able to see the federally Threatened Ute ladies;-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). Depending on interest, there may be camping on Saturday night as well. See the next newsletter for more details.

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