

Manzanita

Newsletter of the Kane County Chapter
of the Utah Native Plant Society

November 2006 News

Note change in our regular meeting time



November Meeting: Tuesday, 14 November - Stalking Wildflowers in Cedar Breaks

I will discuss some recent botanical survey work I did in Cedar Breaks National Monument as part of the National Park Service's inventory and monitoring program. The slide discussion will include an overview of the monument's unusual geology, vegetation, and rich assortment of rare and unusual wildflower species. This will be a refresher on the plants many of you saw on our July expedition to Cedar Breaks and will hopefully whet the appetite of others to visit the monument in 2007. The meeting will conclude with our customary dessert potluck social and general merriment. The meeting will be held at the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument visitor center (located between Walkers and Holiday Inn on Hwy 89 east of downtown Kanab) at 7 PM. As always, admission is free and open to all.

November Manzanita Board Elections: In keeping with the season, we will have an election of a slate of officers to serve on the Manzanita Native Plant Society chapter board at the November meeting. It is not too late to stage a write in campaign or to formally announce one's interest in serving on this august board. To avoid reminding (and scaring off) those who have already agreed to run, I will wait to reveal the identity of the candidates until the meeting. Don't be late to miss the election night excitement, or take part in exit polling.

December Meeting: Our December meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5 and feature Dr. Mark Miller of the USGS/BRD who will discuss his research on the Shivwits milkvetch (*Astragalus ampullarioides*) in Zion National Park. Mark and his crack research team are investigating habitat and soil characteristics of this Endangered species to help solve some of the mysteries of its life history and aid managers charged with the plant's recovery. The meeting will also double as the society Christmas party, so be prepared to enjoy joyfulness and good cheer.

What is that plant on the masthead? Why, it looks like *Cymopterus minimus*, also called the Least spring-parsley because of its small stature. This species is one of the more than 30 local and regional endemics found in Cedar Breaks National Monument (indeed the type locality of the species is from Cedar Breaks). *Cymopterus minimus* is related to the more widespread and common Variable spring-parsley (*C. purpureus*) that many may be familiar with in the Kanab area (it is especially notable in the early spring for its dark green ferny foliage and yellow to purplish umbel of flowers and occurs commonly on Chinle barrens). Least spring-parsley can be recognized as a *Cymopterus* because of the wavy ridges on the mature fruits. Unfortunately, a similar dwarf umbel called *Lomatium minimum* also occurs in the Cedar Breaks area, but can be distinguished by its smooth fruits that lack raised ridges. Photo by W. Fertig.

October wrap: Thanks go to Amber Hughes, botanist with the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM for coming all the way from our sister chapter in Garfield County to address the October gathering of the Manzanita chapter. Amber discussed how to identify and control the state of Utah's 18 listed noxious weed species and answered a variety of questions about weeds in general.

Still Thinking About Joining the Utah Native Plant Society? Member or not, everyone is always welcome to our Manzanita Chapter events. Some of you may not know that there is a whole statewide organization, with its own bimonthly publication (the *Sego Lily*) covering interesting plants, wild places, and botanical news across Utah. For a limited time, you can download a free sample of the *Sego Lily* and see what you might be missing. Go to <http://www.unps.org/latestsego/Sego2006NovDec.pdf>

This edition of Manzanita was written by Walter Fertig. Reader submissions are always welcome. For more information on upcoming events, contact Walt Fertig at 689-0224 or walt@kanab.net. Chapter events and an archive of past Manzanita newsletters are also posted on the Utah Native Plant Society website at www.unps.org