

Manzanita

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

October 2006 News

****Note Change in Normal Meeting Time ****

October Meeting: Wednesday, 11
October – Noxious Weeds of Utah by Amber Hughes. We return to our indoor meeting schedule with a special Wednesday night presentation by Amber Hughes, botanist with the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Escalante. Amber will discuss the state's noxious weeds and efforts to curtail their rampant spread. The meeting will be held at the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument visitor center at 7PM, followed by potluck desserts and general revelry. For those who may have forgotten over the long summer, the visitor center is located on US Highway 89 east of downtown Kanab, between the Holiday Inn and Walker's truck stop.

Election Time Draws Near: The time has come to elect or re-elect members to the Manzanita Chapter board. There are at least two openings on the board that need to be filled. Board responsibilities include periodically meeting for lunch to discuss geopolitics, literature, the arts, Stanley Cup trivia, and if time permits, chapter business. Anyone interested in running or willing to nominate someone else should contact the chapter president by email or phone (walt@kanab.net or 689-0224). We will elect a new slate of officers at the November meeting but will not be using the Diebold electronic voting machines.

November Meeting: Tuesday, 14
November, 7 PM – So as not to conflict with local and congressional elections, our November meeting will be postponed to the second Tuesday of the month (14th) when I will be giving a presentation on “Stalking Wildflowers in Cedar Breaks”.

Summer Wrap Up: 10 hearty souls braved a balmy summer evening and gorgeous sunset to explore the Coral Pink Sand Dunes on the evening of August 7. Unfortunately, we were too late to see Welsh's milkweed in bloom, but we did observe



Above: Bracken fern (Pteridium aquilinum) grows in great profusion above Sand Spring on the east side of Coral Pink Sand Dune north of Kanab. This species has one of the largest ranges of any plant species, occurring on all continents except Antarctica. Young bracken fiddleheads and their scaly rhizomes are widely eaten in Japan and New Zealand, but have recently been found to have carcinogenic properties. Bracken has also been implicated in poisoning of livestock in Australia. Photo by W. Fertig.

several other unusual sand dunes species and a nice display of Rough mules-ears (*Wyethia scabra*). Near Sand Spring we found a large colony of Bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) covering the sandy slopes above the spring. We also found a small patch of Golden tickseed (*Coreopsis tinctoria*), a species not previously recorded in the wild in Utah (though this population probably represents a garden escape).

On the evening of September 11, a large and enthusiastic throng gathered for an evening stroll in Pugh Canyon at the base of the Vermilion Cliffs on the outskirts of Kanab. The yellow-flowered Thompson's buckwheat (*Eriogonum corymbosum* var. *thompsoniae*) was in full bloom on clayey banks along the trail. This local endemic was named in honor of Kanab's first pioneer botanist, Ellen Powell

Thompson (the sister of Colorado Plateau explorer John Wesley Powell). A small subset braved the setting sun to reach the waterfall and enjoy a display of Glaucous aster (*Aster glaucodes* var. *pulcher*).

The Chapter's fall plant sale on 23 September generated a large turnout for the Kanab Farmer's market. Special thanks go to Janett Warner of Wildland Nursery and Merrill Johnson of Great Basin Natives for bringing a selection of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers for sale and for donating a percentage of their proceeds to the Kanab chapter.

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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 689-0224 or walt@kanab.net.