



The Wasatch Wildflower

Newsletter of the Salt Lake Chapter
of the Utah Native Plant Society

Utah Ladyfinger

Astragalus utahensis

April 2009 News

“Wild species enrich the soil, cleanse the water, pollinate most of the flowering plants. They create the very air we breathe. Without these amenities, the remainder of human history would be nasty and brief.”

E.O. Wilson-*The Creation*

UNPS just had a very successful conference, held at the University of Utah, in which scientists from the southwestern states shared their research on rare plants. One focus was on the effects of global warming on shaping strategies to protect vulnerable plant species. A highlight of the conference was the award to Elaine York of the Nature Conservancy (and a UNPS life member) of a prestigious US Fish and Wildlife Regional Conservation Award for her work with the Dwarf Bearclaw Poppy and other rare plants of the St. George area. Congratulations, Elaine.

Wednesday April 1st, 7:00 pm REI (33rd East and 33rd South, SLC)

UNPS member and bee expert Ellen Hartz will give a presentation on bees and urban bee-keeping. She will discuss life history, colony collapse, maintaining a hive, and ways to attract bees to our urban gardens. She will bring a wooden beehive and a demonstration hive with live bees. Attendees will also get to try samples of honey which she collected from her hives.

May chapter meeting: We plan to meet jointly again with the Wasatch Rock Garden Society to hear Malcolm McGregor speak about Saxifrages from around the world. Details later

Field trips:

April 9th and April 18th, Corner Canyon: We are helping John Reynolds survey and identify plants of Corner Canyon, where Draper City is developing nature trails. The walks will take place at intervals through the Spring to catch different flowers as they emerge. Anybody interested in taking part should contact Bill Gray (801-532-3486; cyberflora@xmission.com). Beginners welcome.

May 29-31, San Rafael Swell: We will camp at the Wedge Overlook beginning Friday evening and spend Saturday and Sunday exploring the local flora and beauty of the Swell. We will have a potluck dinner Saturday evening. Please let us know if you are interested.

Purge your Spurge, REI, May 9, 10:00 – 3:00: Exchange the invasive Myrtle (Donkey-tail) Spurge from your garden in exchange for native plants. This is becoming an annual event, sponsored by the Bonneville Cooperative Weed Management Agency and its partners. For more information contact Salt Lake County Weed Program staff at 801-468-2861 or on the web at www.weeds.slco.org.

The success of the Chapter is dependent upon its members. If you have any ideas for events or topics, or want to give a presentation, please contact Kipp at kipp_lee@comcast.net or 801-638-0744. Any ideas or recommendations are welcome!

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