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MAY/JUNE 2004

Rare Plant Conservation Field Trip Scheduled in St. George, Utah

By Tony Frates and Susan Garvin

The Utah Native Plant Society Conservation Committee has planned a field trip to St. George on Saturday, May 1 to look at lands that would be initially impacted by the proposed Southern Corridor highway project and nearby habitat for several endangered species similarly threatened by development, recreational abuse, and invasive species in this endangered ecosystem. This trip will be led by one of the experts who have been studying this rare ecosystem for over 20 years. **If you are interested in helping us with the Southern Corridor conservation project or other Washington County rare plant conservation concerns**, (whether or not you can join us for the field trip), please call :

Tony Frates, Washington County Conservation Coordinator, at 801- 277-9240
or Susan Garvin, Washington County Public Relations Coordinator, at 801-756-6177
or send us an e-mail at unps@unps.org.

For more information about the proposed Southern Corridor project, see the News section at www.unps.org.



MAY/JUNE 2004

Rare Plant Conservation Field Trip Scheduled in St George Utah
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Utah P4

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**TNC Announcement : - Do you care about
the future of Utah's clean water, wildlife
habitat, family farms and community parks?**

Utahns for Clean Water, Clean Air & Quality
Growth is working to put Utah's first statewide
conservation initiative on the ballot. We need help your
help now to gather signatures for this historic effort!
Visit www.utahlands2004.org or call (801) 531-7304.

Additional materials will be available on UNPS web-
site soon.

WASHINGTON COUNTY PREPARES: SOUTH BLOCK PLANNING

by Tony Frates

There will be a public workshop on May 5, 2004 in St. George to discuss the "South Block" property, some 10,000 or so acres from Bloomington Hills to the Arizona border owned primarily by the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration aka SITLA. This area includes White Dome and the area where the Southern Corridor highway will initially be built. (For more information about the Southern Corridor, see the News section at www.unps.org). It includes almost all of the known habitat of the Holmgren milkvetch (*Astragalus holmgreniorum*) and critical habitat for the bearclaw poppy (*Arctomecon humilis*), both endangered species. Another federally listed species, the Siler pincushion cactus, *Pediocactus sileri*, will also be impacted along with several other rare and sensitive species which to date have been completely ignored such as the unique Parry sandpaper bush, *Petalonyx parryi*.

This meeting will be held at the St. George City Office Building, 175 E. 2nd North in St. George, Utah in the City Council chambers; however there will be three breakout sessions that will be held concurrently - the breakout sessions relate to: (1) White Dome - to be moderated by SITLA, (2) Residential neighborhood design and (3) Business park and transportation issues. Officials have indicated that rare plant species will only be addressed in connection with White Dome yet in fact rare plant species will be impacted in connection with all of these proposed activities.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide to the public a brief overview of a sustainable growth study that has been conducted to date and to receive public feedback.

A follow-up meeting will occur later this year on May 26 to present the information that was received during the May 5 workshop. It is unknown how the feedback and issues raised at the May 5 meeting will be capable of being assimilated and analyzed in such a short period of time.

The workshop is part of an initial \$20,000 EPA grant for to study improved development patterns in Washington County which was then piggy backed with a grant from the FWHA for \$50,000 to allow for additional study of sustainable growth and the impacts of that growth. That money somehow flowed to UDOT and then via a secondary contract to the City of St. George who in turn hired a planner to assist them in this study, Winston & Associates of Boulder, Colorado. This study has been in process for a while and the initial work done by the planner, referred to as the "St. George General Plan" is referenced at <http://www.winstonassociates.com> (see "Current work").

This activity has been happening subsequent to the approval of the new St. George airport (not yet built) and as the environmental impact analysis of the Southern Corridor project winds it way thru what may end up being a rote approval process.

SITLA had previously hired their own San Diego-based planner and has likely on its own spent tens of thousands of dollars in planning for development in the area. How the two different planners will work together exactly is unknown. Reportedly both planners are at least somewhat aware of issues relating to endangered plant and animal species.

Rare plants are typically indicators of a much broader, complex and delicate ecological system. Environmental impact assessments to rare plant species usually fail to consider critical interactions and

interdependencies upon which these and other species depend. Rare plant surveys (the only rare plant impact related activity which has been undertaken in connection with South Block planning or in connection with the Southern Corridor project to date) are only the beginning. Seed banks are for example of huge importance to the often boom and bust cycles of highly restricted desert endemics yet are typically overlooked.

The identification of pollinators (which more often than not are native bee species) which are critical to the survival of rare plants (which usually require cross pollination, i.e. most do not self-pollinate) and their habitat is typically ignored. The pollination ecology of the rare plant species impacted by rapid South Block development (which in turn will be vastly facilitated by the proposed Southern Corridor highway project) is not well understood. No study with respect to the nesting sites of the pollinators has been undertaken; no study has been conducted to determine what the impact of building roads will have on fragmenting the pollinator nesting sites from the rare plant habitats; no study has been conducted to determine what the impact of chemical sprays on nearby residential housing developments and introduced species will have on pollinators. Yet we know that the fragile pollination systems in place now are likely already stressed to the breaking point. These systems will instead likely be destroyed or fragmented to the extent that we will never know what we did not learn, and the school children of the state of Utah for whom the lands will supposedly be developed (and school children everywhere) will ironically never be able to learn about them.

Preliminary congressional funding for the Southern Corridor, even though not yet even officially approved thru the NEPA process, was requested on March 26, 2004. The entire area appears to be destined for fast track growth despite unanswered questions relating to what kind of population that area can support and without taking into account the long term (and 25 years ahead, the typical "long term" period considered in these kinds of studies, does not represent the kind of long term thinking that is appropriate).

It will be important for those concerned about open space, rare ecosystems, biological diversity and quality of life issues to attend the May 5 workshop. We can only hope that Washington County planners will do a better job than in counties along the Wasatch Front.

UTAH RARE PLANT STATS

Currently federally listed	24
Federal candidates	6
Emergency listing requested	2
Globally rare*	300+
Globally rare/native taxa**	10%
Species delisted	3
Year first species listed	1978
Year last species listed	2001
Primary threats	Habitat destruction, invasive species, pollinator fragmentation
Most important pollinator	Native bees (over 1000 Utah native bee species)
Rare bees listed	None
Counties with most rare plants	(1) Kane (2) Garfield (3) Washington
Genus with most rare plants	(1) <i>Astragalus</i> (2) <i>Penstemon</i>

*266 of these are currently identified at www.utahrareplants.org

**Rough estimate, the percent of our flowering plants which are globally rare

UNPS MOBILIZES TO DEFEND RARE PLANT ECOSYSTEMS IN SOUTHERN UTAH

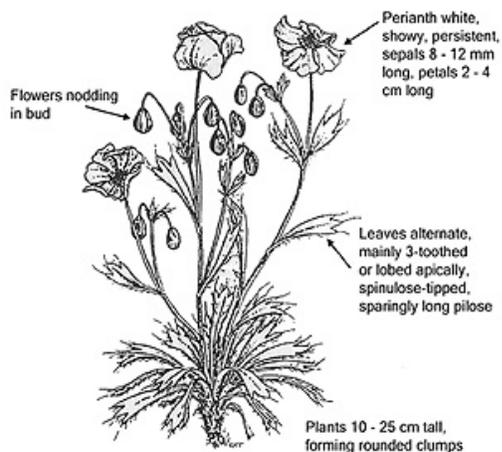
By Susan Garvin

Rare plants in Utah have been under threat on several fronts and at varying levels of intensity ever since the pioneers settled in Utah more than 150 years ago. The threats to native plant systems have included agriculture, homebuilding, cattle grazing, importation of exotic species for landscaping and other purposes, and increasing use of pesticides, among many others. In modern days, the biggest threats to rare plants and the ecosystems that support them come from disturbance and eradication by development, both public and private, increasing invasion by noxious and other exotic weeds, and indiscriminant off-road recreation vehicles, in that order in many places, and in Utah as well.

For the first time in many years, UNPS is getting geared up to begin a big public education campaign in Washington County. Growth rates in that region of Utah exceed most if not all other parts of the state. In the same area, many unusual conditions exist for the development of rare plants due primarily to the rather abrupt transition from Colorado Plateau and Great Basin ecosystems to Mojave Desert climatic and geophysical conditions.

Our Conservation Committee has been quietly engaged in efforts to protect native species and rare plants in particular for well over 20 years without a break. But much of this work occurs outside public notice, without much political or press notice, and often our own membership is unaware of the effort being made to hang on to native plant ecosystems. In the last few years, public awareness of native plants has increased dramatically in Utah, due in large part to the efforts of UNPS to promote the use of native plants for horticultural purposes. We have had 8 chapters born at least partly out of this effort, and we want to congratulate Dr. Susan Meyer, our former board chairperson for initiating and nurturing the remarkable success both within UNPS and in communities and newspapers around the state.

Now we feel that we have an emergency in Washington County worthy of a similar effort in the area of conservation of rare plants and ecosystems. So the Board of Directors has approved a new (volunteer) position on our Conservation Committee and filled it with Tony Frates, Webmaster Extraordinaire for UNPS and primary instigator, author and maintainer of the online guide Utah Rare Plant Guide, available free of charge at <http://www.utahrareplants.org/rpg.html>. Tony has been keeping track of rare plants in Southern Utah since at least 1983, when he was also one of the primary forces - along with Duane



ARCTOMECON HUMILIS

Atwood and several other concerned conservationists - behind the federal listing of the first rare plant in Utah, the beautiful dwarf bearclaw poppy, *Arctomecon humilis*. Tony's new position is called Washington County Conservation Coordinator, which only begins to describe the efforts he has been making to preserve at least a small viable percentage of rare plant habitat in the St. George area.

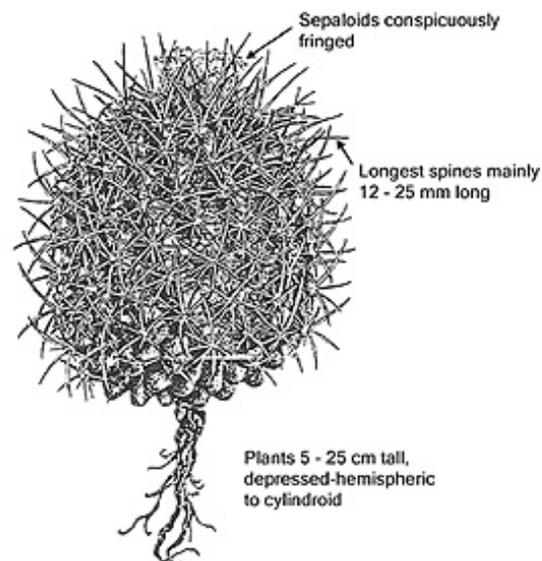
Tony has been keeping track of development issues in connection with a new federally funded highway proposal to build a highway from west of Hurricane, with three possible routes proposed in the Hurricane area, between Washington and Punchbowl Domes, extending south to run west of the new airport property, then heading south through the outskirts of White Dome to intersect with I-15 south of Bloomington.

See <http://www.udot.utah.gov/sc/> for more details on the highway proposal. A bill has recently been introduced in Congress asking for funding for this highway, even though the Final Environmental Impact Statement has not yet been released for public scrutiny. UNPS wrote letters to protest the premature funding proposal at that time, but no answer has been received by the Conservation Committee at this date.

No alternate routes have been proposed by UDOT to avoid any of the several rare plant concentrations known in the Washington City area, surrounding the new airport site, on the outskirts of White Dome, and in the area of the Atkinville exchange south of Bloomington. UNPS submitted a 12 page response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in May of 2003, along with Center for Biological Diversity and Grand Canyon Trust. The response letter detailed many areas of concern for the survival of the 6 or more species of rare plants and some of their pollinators known to be in or near the proposed highway route and asked for considerably more study by biologists and other expert scientists to determine the impacts of construction on rare plant habitat and species survival. It asked for Critical Habitat Designation by the Fish and Wildlife Services for two critically threatened *Astragalus* species as well as the poppy, all at risk from the highway and from other proposed development nearby. The Critical Habitat Designation has been agreed to by FWS but not yet accomplished. It also asked for plant inventories to be conducted for at least 12 other species of relatively rare plants, not federally listed but either listed by the State of Utah's Heritage Program or known by botanists to be rare, which could reasonably occur and be critically impacted by highway construction related to the Southern Corridor proposal.

The letter also asked for specific mitigation activity including more scientific study should the proposed highway be built as planned. To this date, the only known response to these requests has been increased inventory work on the two threatened *Astragalus* species and no response has been directed to UNPS at all. This letter can be studied in its entirety on our website at <http://www.unps.org/miscpdf/UNPSSCDEISResponse.pdf>. The Final EIS is due out this summer; no announcement of the date of the FEIS has been made public at this time, but it is expected in May or early this summer. Most of the recommendations of conservation organizations have not been responded to either in public or in private, to our knowledge.

In addition to the Southern Corridor highway proposal other road proposals have been rumored. And private developers have been proceeding to buy private land and possibly arrange purchases of land owned by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). These lands were originally designated to be used for the education of Utah school children and are still designated for that purpose. SITLA has begun to sell many of these parcels to high end developers to get maximum financial gain from the lands, but UNPS believes that at least some of these lands are valuable intrinsically to be designated as conservation parks or children's learning centers and onsite museums, teaching the children of Utah more about their natural heritage and about ecosystems. We believe that perhaps White Dome in particular might be an ideal site to turn into such a place, if appropriate buffer zones are also set aside around the park to avoid weed invasion and impacts of



PEDIOCACTUS SILERI

pesticide use. The transactions of SITLA are not subject to environmental impact statements unless federal dollars are being used for their development and are seldom aired in public.

UNPS is also in the process of mounting an educational campaign to let citizens of all ages in Washington County become more aware not only of the natural treasures surrounding their communities, but also more about the probable effects of development on the native plant ecosystems near their homes. Most people in St. George are barely aware, if at all, that the Southern Corridor Highway is proposed to be routed between and near rare plant communities, and if they know some of the issues, they likely do not know about the more subtle effects of population fragmentation on the eventual fate of rare plant populations that are already recognized as being endangered. Many have never even seen a dwarf bearclaw poppy or a *Pediocactus sileri* but they would appreciate them if they did, and perhaps even appreciate the effects of endangering the populations of insects which pollinate them.

We will need lots of help from UNPS members who believe as we do that Utah's natives are unique and that their ability to continue to evolve in their natural habitats are very important to life on earth. These ecosystems have evolved over thousands of years to be able to survive and reproduce in spite of the harsh climate of a desert area, and the loss of them may at some point make the difference between life and death for humans and all species subjected to similar harsh environments. Much study of these communities remains to be done by scientific experts, and management decisions should allow for that possibility according to the latest scientific information available and go further and seek more information in many cases.

Please see our website for more information on this evolving campaign. We will be adding materials to the conservation page on a frequent basis as we find time to write them and search out illustrations, informative maps, water conservation information, and many other aspects of these rare ecosystems that are little known by the general public. Some of us will be going to St. George on May 1 to meet with conservation partners and local conservationists who would like to help us teach the folks of the area about the issues involved and slow down the planning process to allow for appropriate studies to be done. See announcement on the front page of this issue. And some of us will be staying for the public workshop on May 5 to see what the St. George City Planners have in mind for the South Block property described in the article on pages 2 and 3 of this issue. Please contact us at unps@unps.org if you have time and energy and talent to devote to this educational campaign or any other aspect of the situation we are describing, including legal help, PR skills, organizational skills, highway engineering expertise, or many other skills relevant to protecting rare plant ecosystems in situ. We can also use help in collecting petitions, distributing educational materials to citizens and students, telling community leaders the whole story, designing plans for children's parks and on site museums, and a hundred other things you might have interest and talent for doing that would help this effort.

This will be a long term project and will of necessity develop slowly since UNPS is a volunteer organization, so if you can't help this summer or this year, get in touch with us anyway to discuss what you might be able to do next year. We will be using this campaign also to attract more members to UNPS, so if you have friends that believe in the value of native plants, show them this Sege Lily edition and encourage them to become members of UNPS as well.

Wish us luck in our various efforts; Utah sometimes seems oblivious to the value of native plants, but we believe that there are many people living here who believe or will come to believe as we do, that these plants and their habitats are an important part of our heritage and should be preserved for our grandchildren and great grandchildren to enjoy as well. And Utah will be a nicer place to live and play because of the native ecosystems than it would if all of Utah were planted in bluegrass and Norway maples!

Rock Canyon Heritage Garden Is Threatened by Gas Pipeline Replacement

Questar Gas is replacing an existing pipeline that runs through Rock Canyon in Provo. The existing 18" pipeline is located 6 feet deep and approximately 15-20 feet inside the UNPS Restoration Garden in the area. Unfortunately both net hackberry trees will have to be removed before the work starts in order to save them. And almost the entire garden is located within the proposed 60 foot right-of-way which is used to allow equipment access to the existing pipeline and for storing excavated dirt.

Questar has been very willing to work with the Utah Valley Chapter of UNPS within the confines of the project. They notified the UNPS of the project so that we could move any plants out of the area. The nature of the rocky soil makes it very hard to move plants effectively or to use light weight small equipment to replace the pipeline with a 24" pipe. In addition they are planning on running their equipment out of the parking lot to minimize soil compaction in the area. They are also planning on using only one side of the right-of-way for soil storage to minimize harm to the Restoration Garden. The UNPS has offered to provide them with a suggested seed mix for their nearby restoration work after the pipeline is replaced, and Questar seemed eager to have the valuable input from our plant experts.

Our hope is that good cooperation and more public visibility may benefit both parties in this situation, and though the garden will be temporarily withdrawn from public access and many years of work will sadly be lost in parts of the garden, The Rock Canyon Heritage Garden will emerge in better shape than previously expected.

Our thanks go to Tamara Bahr and Celeste Kennard for putting energy into this negotiation effort, and to the whole Utah Valley Chapter for all the work they have put into this garden over the years and the work they will undoubtedly be doing in future years to restore and maintain it.



Chapter News

NEW CHAPTER!

Escalante Chapter

We would like to Welcome the Escalante Chapter of UNPS! Winnie Washburn - Chapter President has turned the three year Main Street Beautification Project into our newest chapter. As we went to press they already had 22 members.

As you will see in the Calendar section Escalante are wasting no time in organizing their first event. Any UNPS members are welcome we hope you will support their efforts.

SOUTHERN UTAH CHAPTER

May 1 There will be a small group down in Southern Utah from the board of directors, and also from several other conservation-oriented organizations. The purpose of the visit will be two endangered plant species; the bearclaw poppy and *Astragalus holmgrenorium*, both of which are being threatened by the Southern Corridor (as well as ATV'ers). There will be several experts on hand to take the group out to see the sites, and discuss plans for trying to protect these rare and threatened species. If you are interested, and particularly if you are interested in becoming active in this effort, we invite you to come. **Please see the article on the main page if you are interested in participating in this field trip.**

Want to know what's currently blooming in Zion? Then go to http://www.unps.org/zion/zion_index.html for a fascinating look at what you can currently see.

SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER

At the March meeting of the UNPS board Bill Gray agreed to act as interim president of the Salt Lake City chapter. Bill's priority will be to reestablish programs where local members can take part in meetings, flower hikes, plant propagation workshops etc., and also get opportunities to assist in conservation efforts. Stay tuned.

PRICE CHAPTER

The Price Chapter of the UNPS will be hosting a field trip, to be led by Bob Thompson, within the Manti-La Sal National Forest (MLNF) on a Saturday in mid or late July (depending on flowering condition). The group will meet in the morning at the Tucker Rest Stop on highway 6 and proceed up Clear Creek Road to Bear Ridge to investigate a larkspur tall forb community. The group will continue down Skyline Drive stopping at several different community types. The field trip will end at the Mont E. Lewis Botanical Area. The botanical area is a montane, cold-calcic spring site containing many species not normally found outside of arctic and alpine habitats. For those who wish to stay overnight on the MLNF, there is a campground nearby our final destination.

Anyone wishing to attend should contact Mike Hubbard (at (435) 637-4834 or mhubbard@sisna.com) by July 1st.

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER

Meetings :- May 14 (please note the changed date) - Wayne Padgett, Wasatch-Cache National Forest Ecologist, will give a power-point presentation on the tall forb communities of the Wasatch Mountains.

August 20, the speaker will be Beth Corbin, Forest Service Fire Ecologist, whose topic is ecological responses to fire.

The chapter's native plant sale will be held Saturday May 22, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Rock Canyon trailhead park heritage garden in Provo. Lots of liners of a variety of perennials and grasses, and some gallon sized plants. Contact Susan Garvin for details.

The chapter will be holding a native plant garden tour on June 5th, viewing how four families have based or integrated into their landscapes a wide variety of native species. Contact Lyle Jenkins (ljenkins265@msn.com) or Denise Van Keuren (dvk@xmission.com for details).

Contact Celeste Kennard (celeste@byu.edu) for details on the Heber Creeper railroad-based field trip (see last month's Segoe Lily for details) The deadline has been extended to May 3rd.

CACHE CHAPTER

Most Saturdays, starting May 8 Cache Chapter will be represented at the Logan Farmers' Market, usually with plants to sell

UNPS LIFETIME MEMBER UPDATE!

By Tony Frates

Noel and Pat Holmgren have become the latest Utah Native Plant Society lifetime members. UNPS now has 16 lifetime memberships.

Thanks to Noel and Pat for their support.

FYI

Grant in aid program

At their last meeting, the board agreed that the Capitol Reef project would receive \$500 for a technician and Nathan Phillip's *Allium* project another \$500; each applicant was awarded 50% of the requested amount due to budget constraints.

3rd Annual Rare Plant Conference – Co-sponsored by UNPS and Red Butte Gardens

This conference took place at Red Butte Gardens on March 1st 2004. The meeting was a huge success with an extremely diverse group of over 40 attendees. We would like to thank Bill King (UNPS) and Jena Lewinsohn (Red Butte Gardens) for putting together such an interesting set of presentations.

Shake Hands with a Tree: Get to Know the Natives

By Harriet Wallis

Try something different. Take a walk in the woods and get to know the native trees by shaking hands with them.

For several years, my husband and I volunteered as skiing good will ambassadors for the U.S. Forest Service at Alta in Little Cottonwood Canyon and at Brighton and Solitude in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Our mission was to take skiers and snowboarders on a tour along a gentle trail and help them understand and appreciate the winter world.

Locals and out-of-staters usually looked at the towering evergreens that bordered the trails and assumed they were "pine trees." They were delighted to discover they could identify trees by taking off their gloves and literally shaking hands with a branch.

Here's the native tree memory guide.

A handshake with a spruce tree is uncomfortable. It pokes at your hand and you let go quickly. It's spikey and sharp. A close look at the needles show they are square, and because of that you can roll them back and forth between your thumb and index finger. So, just remember: Spikey, sharp, square spruce. It rhymes.

Fir trees provide a different handshake. They are soft, gentle and friendly. The needles are flat and cannot be rolled. So the rhyme is: Friendly, flat fir.

As to pine trees, they have needles that are bundled together in groups of two, three, or more depending on the species. Pine trees have needles that come in packets. So it's: Pines have packets.

Engelmann spruce and sub-alpine fir are dominant natives in the canyons, and some Douglas fir can be found also. Enjoy your

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**Calendar of Events****Saturday May 1st KAYENTA COMMUNITY GARDEN TOUR FUNDRAISER**

The Kayenta Community is hosting its first annual **Desert Garden Tour**. The theme this year is "The Healing Garden" . Special guest speakers, Paula Askeroth Philips and Gary Paulson

Time: 10am to 2pm Guest Lectures: 12 noon Tickets: \$10 each and available at Coyote Gulch Art Village shops or the Kayenta Sales Office 435-628-7234

The unusual and exquisite private gardens of local Kayenta residents will be open to the public for this special one-day only event. The tour will feature seven gardens, each with a different emphasis. Another special treat will be the much-anticipated tour of the soon to be completed Rose Labyrinth.

The Intermountain Herbarium, Bridgerland Mushroom Society, and Cache Chapter of the Utah Native Plant Society are proud to present the 2nd annual Spring Mushroom Identification Workshop.

Friday May 14 from 6-8(9) pm at the Intermountain Herbarium on the USU campus in Logan, Utah.

Saturday May 15 from 9 am – to whenever we get tired of looking at these marvelous organisms in Logan Canyon. There will be car pooling so the meeting place will be announced on Friday evening.

Topics to be covered include: Ecological roles, What do I call this structure? Major groupings, and a hands on look at the structures and mushrooms themselves. On the fieldtrip you can see mushroom in their native habitat and discuss on site their roles and how to identify some of the more common and a few of our wild edibles (if our luck holds we may even find enough to sample).

Cost: \$20 (\$15 if you are a member of BMS or UNPS) There are a limited number of places available, and last year the spots filled early. Contact Michael Piep (funqi@biology.usu.edu or 435-797-0061) to register.

Tuesday May 18th (7:30 pm in the Sugarhouse Garden Center, SLC) Bill Gray will be giving a talk to the Great Salt Lake Audubon Chapter on his Cyberflora CDs, and his current projects. Meetings are open to all interested people.

May 22; Water Smart Landscapes. Held at the Tonaquint Nature Center, 1581 Dixie Drive. Southern Utah. Cost \$5, space limited so reservations required. Call 673-3617 to reserve, or for more information.

Saturday, June 5th Zion Canyon Field Institute is presenting "Edible Plants of Utah" It is limited to 15 participants and there is a 20% discount for UNPS members (send SASE to Margaret Malm, PO Box 460926, Leeds, Ut 84746-0926 to obtain discount certificate.) Fee: \$60 (includes dinner) Instructor: Ron Kay Meets: 1 pm at the Zion Human History Museum Call to register: 435-772-3264

Saturday June 5, The newly formed Escalante chapter of UNPS has extended an open invitation to all members to visit their Main Street Beautification Project and attend their monthly meeting. At the moment the plan is to have a walk-through Main Street around 4pm where you will see all the chapter have accomplished in the beautification of Escalante's Main Street with native plant gardens and other amenities, then enjoy a picnic pot-luck supper at the Garden Gate Sanctuary.

This project is already in it's third year, and Winnie Washburn has turned the existing effort into a brand new Escalante chapter of UNPS. The project has attracted a lot of tourist attention and they have recruited members from outside Utah and even outside the U.S. as part of their chapter! Hooray for the Escalante Chapter! Please RSVP to Winnie Washburn or Kathy Munthe by May 18th if you would like to attend. If you are planning on an overnight stay please let us know as Escalante will have to make the arrangements.

Saturday June 5 Hike to the Bristlecone Pine Grove. The hike - led by Kim Despain - will start from the parking lot at the Price Canyon Recreation Area campground at about 10:00 AM. The trail to the bristlecone pine grove is about a 3 mile round trip hike. The trail goes through a spectacular grove of mountain mahogany and there are very good examples of limber pine along the way, along with an abundance of native forbs and grasses. Hopefully the leopard lily will also be blooming again. The trail is not steep. The hike isn't strenuous but will take 2-4 hours. Kim takes it slow because he likes to take photographs.

Anyone in the Utah Native Plant Society , or any one interested for that matter is welcome to come along.

June 19 Field trip – all day, with option of staying over, to western Box Elder County. The lower areas adjacent to the road are beautiful around this time of year. Contact Michael Piep (435-797-0061) or Mary Barkworth (435-797-1584) to register. For many other Cache chapter events see news page at www.unps.org

UNPS SEEKING WEBMASTER, STORE MANAGER FOR OUR WEBSITE

Our Website designer, Webmaster, and Store Founder and Manager has done such a good job of improving Information Technology for UNPS that we are now in need of at least two dedicated volunteers to maintain the flow of information to our members and other interested internet viewers. Please see the following ads if you have talents and time that might help us fill these positions.

WEBMASTER FOR UNPS WEBSITE

Utah Native Plant Society is seeking a dedicated member to volunteer to maintain and update our website, in cooperation with our present webmaster and other large contributors to our website. This position requires a fairly long-term commitment to the organization and a desire to understand the philosophy and operation of UNPS so the website reflects our organization in the way the board desires. It also requires good and timely communication skills with our board and committee chairs and program coordinators. Hours can be extremely flexible within these parameters. UNPS will pay for expenses incurred, at the discretion of the board. Please see our goals and mission statement on our home page at www.unps.org, and take a look at our Articles of Incorporation and ByLaws by searching for "Bylaws" at the same site.

If you are interested in this position, please communicate with us at unps@unps.org and introduce yourself, with qualifications, to our present webmaster and designer of our website, Tony Frates.

WEBSITE STORE MANAGER

Utah Native Plant Society is seeking a dedicated member to take over the management of our website store. This will be a long-term volunteer position under the direction of our current webmaster and Store Manager. UNPS will pay for expenses incurred to carry out the job on the volunteer's personal computer, as approved by the Board of Directors. The job would involve communicating effectively and in a timely manner with our current Store Manager, our Treasurer, and with present and potential suppliers of books, CD's and posters. In some cases, the Store also mails these items to customers. These items for sale on our website are related to our goals and mission and to programs UNPS is running or promoting, at the discretion of the Board. The Store Manager would also be re-sponsible for responding to members who pay dues electronically and forwarding information about those transactions to our Membership Chairperson promptly. Hours are very flexible within those parameters but probably will require at least 5 hours per week. Please visit our website at www.unps.org to learn more about our goals and mission and also search for "Bylaws" to see our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The Store is located at this address as well.

Interested volunteers can get more information by citing qualifications for the position. Correspond with our Webmaster, and Store Manager and Founder, Tony Frates, at unps@unps.org.

