



The Wasatch Wildflower

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

Utah Ladyfinger
Astragalus utahensis

April 2007 News

Our meeting location is at **REI on 3285 East 3300 South** in the Wasatch Conference Room. This location is readily accessible from I-80 and I-215. One nice thing is that we will be able to have light refreshments and socialize more easily. REI also does a great job of publicizing their events, so look for new people just dropping in. Meetings will usually be the first Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 pm.

Our March meeting featured a Wildflower Photography Workshop. Mr Neal Eschenfelder, manager of Pixel's Foto and Frame Shop in Sandy presented a program on the fundamentals of digital photography and the applications of digital in wildflower photography. His slide presentation was very informative and was a scaled down version of the workshops that he teaches through the University of Utah Lifelong Learning program. Dr. Paul Zuckerman, who arranged this wonderful event, gave a brief presentation on the use of alternate lighting and his methods of doing wildflower photography. We had 98 people in attendance at this meeting. Thanks to Paul for such a successful event!

On Sunday March 18th, The Salt Lake Chapter held a wildflower hike with the Wasatch Rock Garden Society at Stansbury Island. The weather was sunny and about 75 degrees. Around 50 people (many not members of either societies) met at the Stansbury Island bike trail and then proceeded up to a ridge several hundred feet above the parking lot. The first blooming flowers to be seen were *Astragalus utahensis* and *Astragalus cibarius*. Next, we located 2 members of the parsley family, *Cymopterus purpurascens* and *Lomatium grayi* in bloom. Further up the trail, the pink and white flowers of *Ranunculus andersonii* could be seen in abundance on the north facing slopes of the washes and hills. A white flowered *Phlox longifolia* plant was discovered blooming right alongside the trail. On the way back to the parking lot, Bill King took several of us to an area filled with *Fritillaria pudica*. The delicate yellow flowers were a delightful treat to see. Bill and Cathy King did a wonderful job at organizing the event.

Wednesday April 4th, 7:00 pm: Amber Richman, USDA-APHIS-PPQ Biological Control will discuss various biocontrols used on several invasive species in the state of Utah. She will talk about how biocontrols are tested before being released and the impacts that they have on the environment. For those of you concerned about invasives and the methods used to control them, this should be a very informative event.

Saturday May 12th, 9:00am-4:00pm: Native Plant Sale Fundraiser at REI. We desperately need volunteers to work 2 hour shifts. Great Basin Natives is bringing a truck of flowers, shrubs, and trees and 10% of all proceeds will be donated to the Salt Lake Chapter. If you can help set up and/or close the event, please contact Kipp at 759-6204 or kipp_lee@comcast.net. You don't have to be a plant expert to volunteer.

We will begin informal wildflower hikes along the foothills of the Wasatch front. These will be held on Saturday mornings, weather permitting, usually around 9:00am. Please look for hike announcements on the UNPS website under chapter news.

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