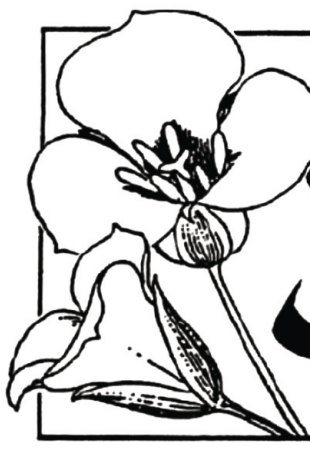




Sego Lily



Newsletter of the Utah Native Plant Society

Summer 2026 Volume 49 Number 3

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Herrickia (Eurybia) kingii photo by Zach Coury

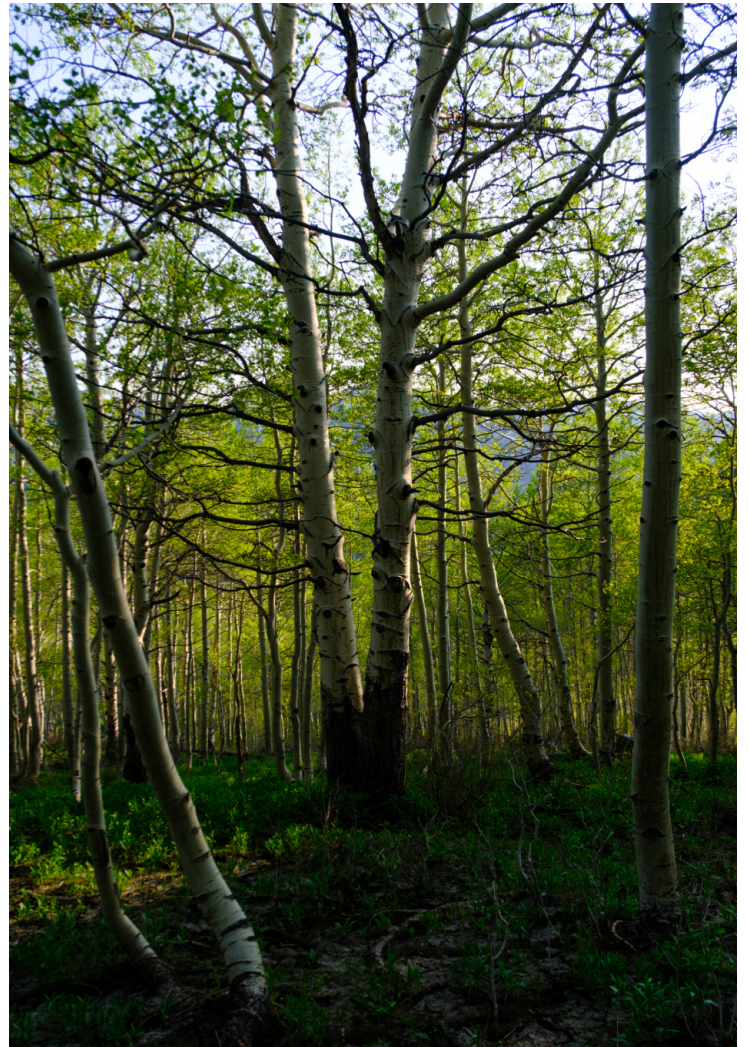
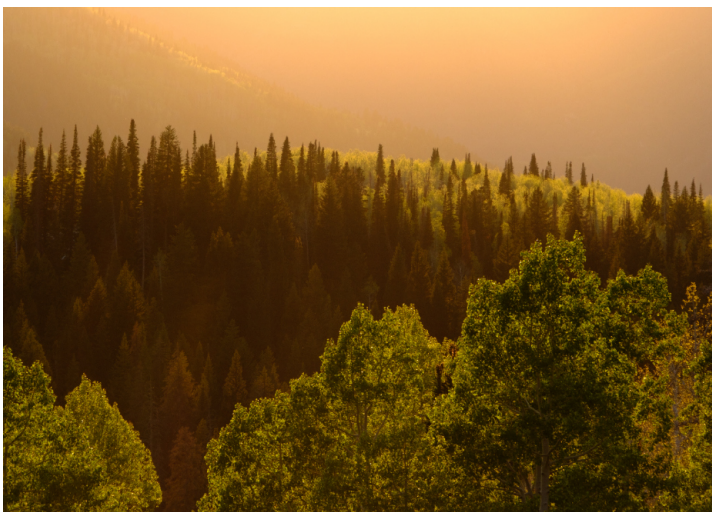
Beyond the Green Blur: Pulling Plants into Focus

Writing and photography: Zach Coury, Botanist at the Utah Rare Plant Program

This revised version of this article is reprinted from Save Our Canyons Spring 2026 Ridgeline Report with permission from SOC Executive Director Jack Stauss and the author.

Save Our Canyons is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated to protecting the beauty and wildness of the Wasatch.

Humans did not evolve to notice everything. Our front facing eyes resemble those of carnivores, and guide us through the world with nearly singular focus on the task at hand. Compare this to the anatomy of a horse, with side-mounted eyes that allow for near 350° vision, scanning for possible predators but without any real detail. Although our focused vision is a key part of our success as a species, it may bring our downfall if we do not overcome our hardwired tendency for ignorance. We must learn to shift where we direct our attention.



Modern humans, even many that consider themselves outdoorsy environmentalists, usually allow plants to fade into the background as ambiguous greenery while our various activities take the spotlight. The disparity between where we place our attention is well known by botanists, and has a name: “plant blindness.” Our inability to parse local flora as unique and worthy of conservation plays a huge role in the continued destruction of biodiversity both around the world and close to home.

If I reflect on the Cottonwood Canyons, through the lens of my younger, untrained eyes, I would not have thought them particularly special. I grew up in these canyons, found them incredibly beautiful, and loved them deeply, but I’m sure I couldn’t tell you what makes them different from any other mountains; they were just normal. In reality, this landscape is unlike anywhere else in the world, and there is no such thing as normal.



Erigeron arenarioides.

On a large scale, the central Wasatch marks the intersection of several major ecoregions. The Rocky Mountain system lays the foundation for our plant communities, with additional influence from the Great Basin, Sagebrush Steppe, and even the Colorado Plateau. This confluence of diversity means that our unique cast of plant species is not replicated anywhere else. Looking closer, the Wasatch hosts many plants that are northern Utah endemics, meaning their worldwide distribution is entirely limited to this region. This includes several obligates of rock-outcrops from the sunflower family, like Garrett's Fleabane (*Erigeron garrettii*), Wasatch Fleabane (*Erigeron arenarioides*), and King's Serpentweed (*Herrickia [Eurybia] kingii* [as pictured on the cover], my personal favorite Wasatch plant). We also have riparian endemics, such as Wasatch Fitweed (*Corydalis caseana* var. *brachycarpa*) and Wasatch Shooting Star (*Primula utahensis*). The latter is the only species (plant, animal, fungi, etc.) found exclusively in the Cottonwood Canyons; its global distribution is limited to the high elevation couloirs and sheltered rocky springs of our backyard.

The Cottonwood Canyons are profoundly unique, but this does not diminish the uniqueness of any other place. Everywhere on Earth there exists a particular biogeographic history and a set of beautiful, locally evolved plants. If this is ever lacking, it is not from some intrinsic deficiency, but the result of our species' systematic destruction of habitat in the name of colonialism and industrialism. The canyons are worthy of preservation because they are unique, and because today, many areas have not yet been desecrated. This is not a given, and is constantly a threat. For example, Solitude Mountain Resort wishes to build a new parking lot, paving over a vibrant and diverse aspen community in the process. This would likely destroy one of two known Utah populations of Heartleaf Springbeauty (*Claytonia cordifolia*), a plant common in the Pacific Northwest, but not found within a 250 mile radius from upper Big Cottonwood Canyon. Outside of the Wasatch, much larger



Primula utahensis.

swaths of public land face existential threats as well, thanks to recent attacks on National Monuments by the Trump administration.

With enough pressure, these attacks on our lands can be prevented, and a botanical perspective may be the first step towards their defence. As you explore the canyons, allow your attention to bring the green background into focus as discrete objects, and from there to the possibility that you may be observing something wholly original. It is not necessary to know the name of every plant for this exercise to work, only that you realize you are witnessing something special.

Rare Plants in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

by Parker Lloyd

Unfortunately, none of these plants are within the new shrunk boundaries of the Monument, and no longer have any particular protections.



Phacelia demissa var. *demissa*.



Penstemon atwoodii.



Aquilegia loriae (*A. micrantha* var. *loriae*).





Oxytropis oreophylla var. *juniperina*



Astragalus hallii.



Gaillardia parryi.



**Keep It Grand:
Restore All 1.87 Million Acres!**

Poodles on the Paria

by Parker Lloyd

Grand-Staircase Escalante National Monument is (or was) home to over 1000 species of native or otherwise naturally occurring species of plants. Many of these, like *Heliomeris soliceps*, are found nowhere else in the world. Because of the Monument's remote nature, compounded by the ever changing landscape influenced by fire, floods, and humans, there are still surprises to be found.

One such surprise is this imposing member of the *Namaceae* family: the Poodle-dog Bush. The Poodle-dog Bush, or *Eriodictyon parryi*, is a large mountain shrub with spikes of purple flowers arising from clusters of massive leaves covered in thick bristles producing a strong, not-entirely-pleasant herbal aroma. This plant is also exclusively found in the California Floristic Province - as best I can tell, this would be the first record of this species growing in Utah, though please email me if I am wrong.

Apparently these shrubs are also capable of producing a severely irritating skin reaction akin to poison oak. As Dr. Jackie Grant said after seeing the pictures of my handling this plant: "WASH YOUR HANDS." Fortunately I was covered in 1/4" of sand, dust, and grime and so this natural armor apparently protected me from an unpleasant reaction. I dare not press my luck by collecting a voucher.

But why is this plant 500 miles away from its home in the mountains above Los Angeles? *Eriodictyon parryi* is a notorious fire-follower, rapidly colonizing the freshly burned California hillsides from dormant seeds awaiting a trigger. It makes sense, then, these plants are growing in the Deer Springs Fire burn scar. We found four plants, and only one of blooming size (and oh boy was it of blooming size!). The others appear to be relatively young plants, which I would postulate are offspring of this parent. Had the parent plant long persisted in this stand of pinyon-juniper, hidden from the world until its cover was violently ripped away? Was it a single seed banked by a passing bird, just waiting for the right moment to grow? I would doubt it being a stowaway in the reseeding efforts, because A) what poor seed tech would be directed to collect this plant and B) the seeds have to burn to germinate; a post fire seeding would miss the critical triggers of this fire adapted plant.



Perhaps this simply represents the natural migration of a species adapting to climate change. On the other hand, it just as likely rode in here on a cow. Interestingly enough, it was being visited by native fairy bees (genus *Perdita*), who are known for their picky and often specialized pollination preferences. Either way, a new species of plant for the eager botanizer to look for on the Grand Staircase.





The Cache Valley Gardeners Market invited Dave Wallace to table for National Pollinators Week (USU students had a nearby table in support of native bees). He gave away native wildflower seeds that he harvested from his garden and sold UNPS Posters.

Utah Native Plant Society

UTAH PLANT FEST

Details
QR code

October 9th
Growing Careers with Native Plants

October 10th
Building Community with Native Plants

Conservation Garden Park
8275 South 1300 West
West Jordan, Utah 84088

Generously supported by
KIMBERLY ENVIRONMENTAL, CONSERVATION GARDEN PARK, GLOVER

UTAH PLANT FEST

Conservation Garden Park
8275 South 1300 West
West Jordan, Utah 84088

Generously supported by
KIMBERLY ENVIRONMENTAL, CONSERVATION GARDEN PARK, GLOVER

October 9th
Growing Careers with Native Plants

- Workshops, panels, and presentations about jobs with native plants by local experts.
- Utah Native Plant Propagation Network In-Person Meeting
- Utah Native Plant Society Members' Meeting
- Native Plant Research Symposium

Details
QR code

October 10th
Building Community with Native Plants

- Keynote by Justin Davies
- Free native seed swap
- Free garden gear swap
- Tabling from local businesses, nonprofits, schools, and other organizations.
- Workshops, presentations, and panels by local experts.

100% Free
Registration opens Sept 1

Utah Native Plant Society
QR code

USU 4th Annual Intermountain Botanical Foray to the Ruby Mountains

July 24-27, 2026

by Cathy King

In what is becoming one of the botanical events of the summer, the Utah State University Herbarium 4th annual Intermountain Botanical Foray (IBF) gathered this year in Lamoille Canyon, in the beautiful Ruby Mountains, located about 35 miles from Elko in the northeast corner of Nevada. The Ruby Mountains are a spectacular glacier-carved range of over 11,000 feet in elevation filled with wide U-shaped canyons and alpine lakes. Of the over three hundred mountain ranges in Nevada, the Rubies are one of the most green and lush mountains I have encountered, filled with flowering plants in the third week of July, not unlike our well-known Albion Basin in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

My husband Bill and I attended the IBF, as we have the past two, missing only the initial IBF at the Desert Experimental Station in 2023. We fit into the senior amateur botanist category and have been to Lamoille Canyon numerous times in the past; we couldn't miss this opportunity to visit it again with a group of like-minded plant nerds.



Photo by Bill King.



Foray participants. Photo by Allison Smith.

The annual Intermountain Botanical Foray is sponsored by the USU Intermountain Herbarium with the goal of collecting herbarium samples from specific areas to supplement its collection. This bioblitz event is organized of volunteer participants, from amateur to professional botanists and led by the enthusiastic and capable Carl Rothfels, director of the Herbarium. A number of botany students from USU assist with the planning and execution of the IBF, as does Kris Valles, the



Classic Andrey Zharkikh. Photo by Carl Rothfels.



Upper left: Connor Wehner. Photo by Andrey Zharkikh. Upper right: A group photo of some of the participants. Photo by Carl Rothfels. Lower right: At the beaver ponds along Lamoille Canyon Road. Photo by Allison Smith.

associate curator of the Intermountain Herbarium. In these days of dwindling support for herbaria, the response to the IBF is surprisingly robust and encouraging.

The first IBF was held in 2023 at the Desert Range Experimental Station, an 87-square-mile cold desert research site in Millard County, Utah. 2024 found the IBF at the Great Basin Research Station in Ephraim Canyon, close to the Skyline Drive. And last year, the 2025 IBF was held on the north slope of the Western Uinta Mountains. If you are interested in participating in the IBF next year, check out more information on the [Intermountain Botanical Foray website](#).

IBF participants photograph and document plants on the citizen scientist site iNaturalist, collecting samples (with collection permits through USU) to be pressed into herbarium samples, following proper protocols. This is an excellent hands-on learning opportunity for anyone who has never had the opportunity to prepare an herbarium sample.

This year's IBF attracted a large group of participants, not only from Utah but also California, New Hampshire and Wisconsin. Base camp was set up at the Terraces Campground, but some people stayed in Elko and made the 40-minute drive to join the group every day.



Identifying the day's collections. Photo by Carl Rothfels.

The group set up camp on Thursday evening. Teams were organized to hike on Friday, heading to areas throughout Lamoille Canyon, including Island Lake, Lamoille Lake and Lamoille Creek. The team that hiked up and over Liberty Pass, a more challenging and vigorous hike, found two Nevada endemics, *Draba sphaeroides* (ball draba) and *Eriogonum kingii* (Ruby Mountains buckwheat). They also collected a sample of *Chamaenerion latifolium* (dwarf fireweed), which, although a circumboreal species, is only known to be found in Nevada in the Ruby Mountains.

One of the plants of particular interest was *Primula capillaris* (Ruby Mountains primrose), a rare and critically endangered endemic primrose located in Thomas Canyon. Unfortunately, efforts to locate it on

Saturday were unsuccessful. However, in the process of the search in Thomas Canyon, Lucas Pearce discovered a patch of *Opuntia fragilis* (brittle prickly pear) <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/385107226>, a surprising find since it has not been documented in the state of Nevada. The process of preparing the herbarium samples of fat, prickly cactus pads was a fascinating sight to see.

Groups moved farther south on Sunday, driving to Harrison Pass which turned out to be much hotter and drier than Lamoille Canyon. Monday, the final day of the IBF, wrapped up with a trip to the beaver ponds along Lamoille Canyon Road looking for sedges. The group was not disappointed, as it found and collected *Carex capillaris* (hair-like sedge) <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/385327715> and *Carex alascana* (northern bog sedge) <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/385792929>, the first time collected since Bassett Maguire documented them in the 1940's. There is a certain poignancy in this discovery given that Bassett Maguire was the founder of the Intermountain Herbarium in 1932.

At this writing, the *Intermountain Botanical Foray: the Rubies* has logged 2868 observations and 576 species on iNaturalist. This number will continue to increase as more species are added to the project database. The IBF is a weekend course in field botany, led by not only Carl Rothfels but other excellent botanists.

The USU team broke down camp and headed back to Logan on Monday, another successful IBF in the books. The organization and effort the IBF requires is amazing, many thanks to Carl and his hard working team.

Also see:

Botanizing the Ruby Mountains: Highlights from the 4th Annual Intermountain Botanical Foray, by Halina North. [Nevada Native Plant Society August 2026 newsletter](#).

iNaturalist, [Intermountain Botanical Foray 2026: The Rubies](#)

[Intermountain Herbarium](#), Utah State University, Logan, Utah

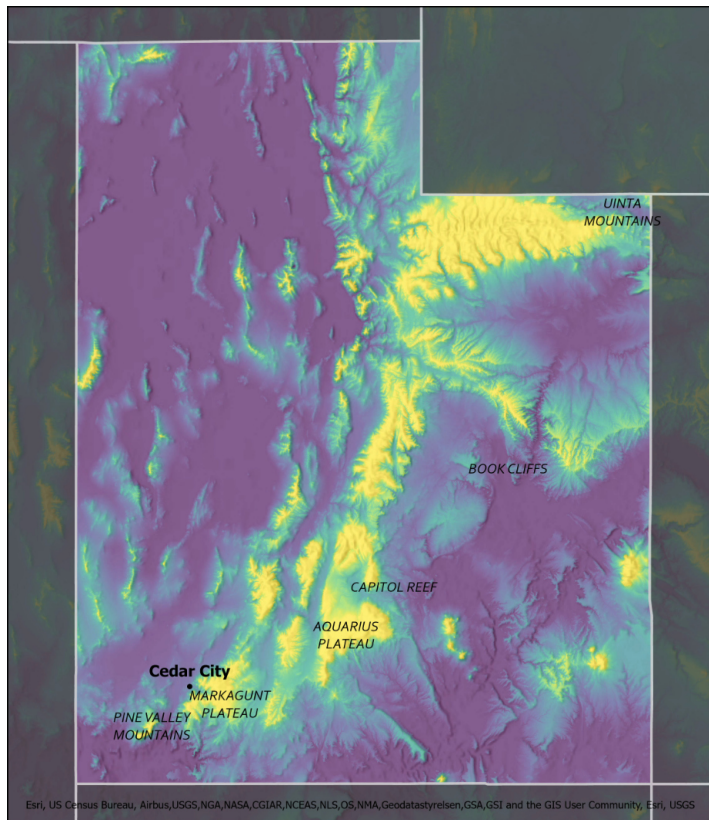


Andrey Zharkikh and Connor Wehner with the foray's pressed specimens. Photo by Carl Rothfels.

Hermes' Foot

by Samuel Wells

Italy is not the only place that looks like a foot, with or without a boot. Consider a relief map of the Southern Rocky Mountains and focus on Utah's ranges. Ours is more authentic and divine. I mean our version is bare-footed and looks somewhat like the god Hermes - with his winged ankles. The Pine Valley Mountains above Saint George represent the big toe. The Aquarius Plateau near Capitol Reef National Park is the heel. And the Book Cliffs along with the Uinta Mountains represent two sets of wings (attached to the upper calf). The Markagunt Plateau (our backyard) makes up the bulk of the foot just forward of the arch. It is right on the spot where Hermes decided to touch down. For those of us in Iron County, his choice was obvious. Our view of Color Country is hard to beat.



Topographic map of Utah. Can you visualize Hermes' foot in the mountains (yellow)? Map by Rachel Bolus.

Thanks to Dr. John Belk, Christa Van Horne, and Janet Borg, Iron County now has its own (revived) chapter of the Utah Native Plant Society based in Cedar City. We have been active for several months but the momentum makes it feel like we have been doing this for years. Activ-



Farmers Market booth with John Belk, Christa Van Horne, and Jackie Grant. Photo by Janet Borg.

ities have been going on almost weekly since early in the year. We started gathering at a potluck social to get acquainted but soon ventured into a lot of other venues. "We've been so thrilled," says Dr. Belk, "we've got 130+ people on our mailing list now and have given out hundreds of native seed packets, planting guides, informational brochures, and native plant starts through our monthly farmers market booth. Additionally, having regular social meetings as well as a couple of planned monthly events like garden tours, nature walks, and educational workshops has really built momentum, and adopting a few local gardens has helped build community through regular work nights."

Our members are knowledgeable and eager to help. Doctors Matt Ogburn and Grant Shimer (SUU botanist and geologist respectively) have recently led tours in Spring Creek Canyon and Cedar Breaks National Monument. In fact many of our members are a wealth of information. The energy and interest has really been surprising. Feel free to attend any of our scheduled events if you happen to be visiting the area. A lot of people know Southwestern Utah best for the Utah Shakespeare Festival and for our national parks and monuments. But our wildflowers have been internationally famous for almost a century now and shouldn't be missed. Contact Sally Bru (Communications Coordinator) at ironcountynps@gmail.com for upcoming events.

Those of us from Southern Utah are convinced that Hermes made his famous visit during July when the high country is blue and gold with *Penstemon* and goldeneye (and so many other species). This year has been hot and

dry, but the colors were striking, notwithstanding. Native pollinators were active and effective, and next year prom-

ises to be another rewarding year for plant lovers from around the world. We would love to have you join us.



Milkvetch, blanketflower, and globemallow photos by Rachel Bolus.

Dear Utah Native Plant Society,

Thank you so very much for the generous grant to support my research on plant anatomical traits and bark water uptake in native and invasive desert plants here in Utah. I've been having fun and learning a ton this summer with field and lab work. I can't wait to share what I've learned with you all later this year. I'm so incredibly grateful for your support of science and community engagement. This work wouldn't be possible without you!

Happy botanizing!

Sincerely,

Vivian Gerstein

The Utah Native Plant Society Grant-in-Aid program awards grants primarily to students at institutions of higher learning. However, faculty and citizen scientists are also welcomed to submit proposals for scientific research projects. Grants will be awarded for research projects or educational programs that focus on Utah's flora with an emphasis on rare and/or endangered plants. Please see the UNPS website for details <http://www.unps.org/PAGES/grantprogram.html>

Grow Native

Pussytoes, *Antennaria* species

by Cathy King, garden photos by John Stireman

Antennaria species, commonly known as pussytoes, are an excellent choice for the low maintenance waterwise garden. A member of the Asteraceae family, one might not immediately recognize it as being in the same family as sunflowers and daisies since the unique inflorescence is a cluster of flower heads that resemble a cat's paw, hence the name.

There are approximately 45-70 species of *Antennaria* located mostly throughout North America, all the way into arctic regions, and preferring habitats with dry, poor soils in full sunlight. They are especially numerous in western North America, found in low valleys to very high elevations. 10-12 species are found in Utah.



Tawny flowers topping erect stems on the creeping mat of *Antennaria parvifolia*.

Antennarias are perennial herbaceous plants, most growing as very low, spreading mats of gray leaves, a 'ground cover' so to speak. Exceptionally cold hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 3, plants also tolerate heat well. As the summers in Utah become hotter and drier and winters bring less moisture, native plants like *Antennaria* are good garden solutions for difficult growing conditions.

The Utah Pussytoes species that I recommend for your garden are *Antennaria rosea*, *Antennaria parvifolia*, and *Antennaria dimorpha*. These species grow in low, dense mats of silvery rosettes, an attractive color in our Western garden landscapes but serving the plant as



Forest of flower stems on *Antennaria parvifolia*.

protection against summer heat and drought. All three species should be available at local Utah nurseries or from online nurseries.

Antennaria parvifolia, commonly called the small-leaf pussytoes, creates a pretty mat of small, stoloniferous, grayish-green rosettes that produce fuzzy, whitish turning tawny, pussytoe flowers on 6" stems, maturing as fluffy seed heads which are easily removed, post-flowering, with garden shears placed flat upon the mat - or allowed to remain a little longer in hope of volunteer seedlings elsewhere in the garden. It is drought tolerant, requiring minimal watering once established.

Antennaria rosea, the rosy pussytoes, grows from silvery green mats that expand through a network of rhizomes



Antennaria rosea lifting newly formed flower stems in spring.



Antennaria dimorpha stems soon become strictly upright.



By July, the seeds of *Antennaria rosea* have ripened and released to the wind. Volunteer plants occasionally occur in the garden.

to about 20" in diameter, it is well behaved. The slim, slightly hairy flower stems can vary from 4-12" tall and its distinctive flowers vary in shades of pink, from pale to deep rose. Nurseries often offer selected forms with deeper coloring. It typically blooms in June and the particular gardener may wish to remove the finished flower stems in late July. It is a host plant for the larva of the [American Lady Butterfly](#), the Painted Lady.

In 2026, Plant Select® introduced *Antennaria dimorpha* 'Granita Pusytoes,' a selection made by *Sego Lily* co-editor John Stireman from a plant growing on the side of Boulder Mountain in southern Utah. It produces a tight mat of silvery green leaves and flower stems so short they don't need deadheading, the remnants of flowering just blow away. Its stoloniferous growth habit allows it to develop a handsome silvery mat that can meander through open spaces and do nicely in the crevices of



Antennaria dimorpha at the edge of a flower border.



Closeup of *Antennaria dimorpha* leaves.



The flowers of *Antennaria rosea* 'Granita Pussytoes' open on the mat of foliage. After maturing completely, they simply tumble away in the wind - a truly self-cleaning plant.

flagstone paths. This species is also very drought and heat tolerant once established. It is another butterfly magnet. This easy to maintain selection will be a fine addition to your garden and can be found at nurseries selling Plant Select® plants.

Gardening with native plants helps restore a balance with nature, reducing excessive water use in our dry climate, creating micro habitats in our urban landscapes for pollinators and birds, and reflecting the natural environments we enjoy.

Finding the right selection of plants for your native garden can be challenging. Some people enjoy spending a lot of time in the garden, others need it to be less time consuming. The Antennarias are a happy solution for either.

The Utah Native Plant Society Wildflower Poster and Threatened and Endangered Species Poster

pictured here are perennial favorites and are available to be shipped from our UNPS store. However, the cost of packing and shipping the poster has gotten expensive and you can save a lot of money on shipping if you live close to one of the retail store locations where the posters are sold locally. These retail store locations do not ship, if you want posters shipped to you, order them from the UNPS store at unps.org. These posters make great gifts for your friends and family and of course, for yourself!

Here is where you can buy the UNPS posters in retail store locations:

Salt Lake City:

Natural History Museum of Utah

The Museum Store
301 Wakara Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
801.581.6927

Red Butte Garden Gift Shop

300 Wakara Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
801.585.0556
Wildflower poster only

REI

3285 East 3300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84109
801.486.2100

Tracy Aviary

Located in Liberty Park
589 E 1300 S
Salt Lake City, UT 84105
801.596.8500
Wildflower poster only

UGS Map and Bookstore

1594 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City Utah 84116
Phone: 801 537-3320

Ogden:

Rainbow Gardens Gift Shop

1851 Valley Drive
Ogden, UT 84401
801.621.1606

Springdale:

Zion National Park Visitor Center

Springdale, UT
435.772.3256
Wildflower poster only

Boulder:

Anasazi State Park Gift Shop

460 N Hwy 12
Boulder, UT 84716
(435) 335-7308
Wildflower poster only



Dr. Albert Dean Stock Obituary

Reprint from Allen Mortuaries, Logan, Utah



There are people who move through life collecting accomplishments. And then there are people who spend their lives asking questions. Dr. Albert Dean Stock was one of those people.

Dean passed away peacefully on July 21, 2026, at the age of 88, leaving behind a legacy defined by relentless curiosity, scientific discovery, deep love for his family, and a lifelong belief that there was always more to learn.

Born on June 8, 1938, in Panguitch, Utah, to John Albert Stock and Glenna Stratton, Dean's fascination with the natural world began early and never left him. He earned his doctorate in biology from the University of Oklahoma before embarking on a remarkable career in human genetics that would span more than five decades.

Dean devoted his professional life to the rapidly evolving field of cytogenetics, studying human chromosomes at a time when scientists were just beginning to unlock the genetic foundations of disease. Throughout his career, including his work at institutions such as MD Anderson and the University of Nevada School of Medicine, he contributed to research that advanced the understanding of chromosome abnormalities, cancer genetics, inherited disorders, and molecular cytogenetics. His work formed

part of the scientific foundation that continues to influence modern medicine today.

He authored and co-authored numerous scientific publications, collaborated with researchers around the world, and remained intellectually curious throughout every stage of his life. To those outside the scientific community, his work may have appeared impossibly complex. To Dean, it was simply another mystery waiting to be understood. He wasn't interested in easy answers. He wanted true ones.

Dean married Alda Kaye Welch, and together they built a family. They welcomed seven children: Michael Dean Stock, John Clayton Stock, Brian Clair Stock, Stephen Durrant Stock, Darrel Theodore Stock, David Anthony Stock, and Julie Ann Stock-Lagasse. Their family grew to include 18 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren, generations who carry pieces of him forward.

Outside the laboratory, Dean found another kind of joy standing in the quiet current of a mountain stream with a fly rod in hand. Fly fishing became one of his greatest passions and one of the ways he shared his love of the natural world with his children, creating memories they would carry for the rest of their lives. True to his nature, he didn't simply enjoy the craft; he wanted to understand it. He taught himself to handcraft beautiful fly rods, combining the patience, precision, and craftsmanship that defined every part of his life. Whether he was tying together scientific discoveries or casting a line across still water, Dean found peace in careful attention, steady hands, and the endless opportunity to keep learning.

Later in life, Dean married Patricia Spallone, his scientific peer and partner in discovery. Their marriage was built not only on love, but on a shared passion for science and exploration.

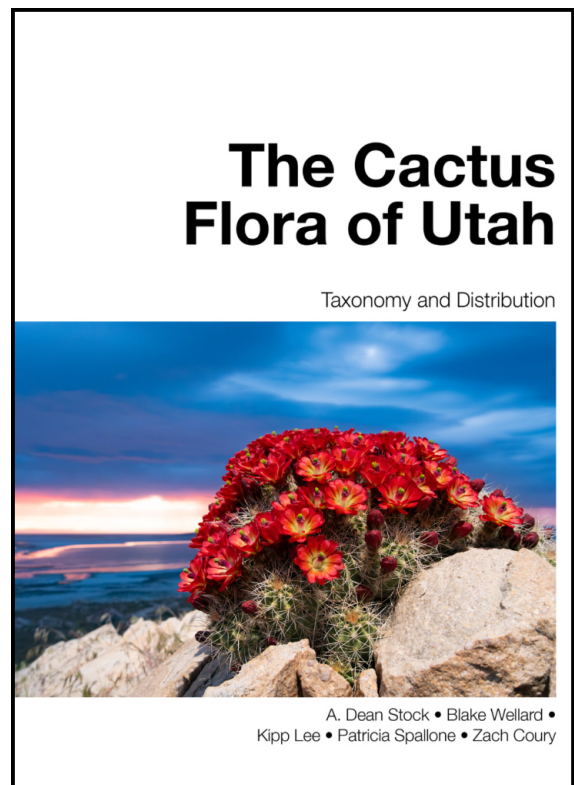
When they weren't in the lab, Dean and Pat traded their lab coats for hiking boots. For more than a decade, they traveled throughout Utah's deserts and canyonlands documenting native cactus species, combining genetics, taxonomy, photography, and thousands of hours of fieldwork into what became *The Cactus Flora of Utah*, the first comprehensive scientific reference dedicated to the state's cacti. The work earned recognition and support from the Utah Native Plant Society and remains an important contribution to botanical science and conservation, fundamentally shaping how native desert species are classified and preserved for generations to come.

Dean was a true Renaissance man, someone who could debate complex cellular genetics one minute and navigate uncharted desert wilderness the next. He wasn't just brilliant; he was patient, precise, and relentless in his pursuit of understanding how things fit together, whether he was studying chromosomes under a microscope or hiking through the Utah desert in search of a cactus hidden among the rocks.

Science was never simply Dean's profession. It was how he experienced the world and how he loved it. He saw beauty in complexity, found meaning in careful observation, and believed that understanding required patience, humility, and the willingness to spend years pursuing a single question if that's what it took. He often

preferred the company of ideas, microscopes, research by papers, or the quiet solitude of the desert over the noise of the world. Those who knew him understood that beneath his reserved nature was a brilliant mind and a man whose life was defined by purpose rather than attention.

He leaves behind not only a loving family, but a legacy measured in discoveries, students and colleagues influenced, scientific contributions that continue to serve others, and countless lives made better through the advancement of medical knowledge. He also leaves behind a way of seeing the world: one rooted in curiosity, integrity, and the belief that there is always more to discover.



Our Sego Lily newsletter depends on its members for content. New plant research, native plant stories, experiences from exploring the flora of our deserts or mountains, conservation activities, or field work on botanical projects... whatever might be informative and interesting to fellow members.

Gillmor Volunteer Days – Fall 2026

by Chelsea Cameron

Join Gillmor Sanctuary staff for a special opportunity to visit National Audubon Society's Gillmor Sanctuary, a 3,597-acre protected property that is typically closed to the public to protect important bird habitat. Located along the southern shoreline of Great Salt Lake, Gillmor Sanctuary provides vital nesting and migratory habitat for vast numbers of shorebirds, waterfowl, and other migratory birds.



Participants will help with hands-on habitat stewardship projects, have the opportunity to go birding with sanctuary staff, and experience a property that visitors typically do not have the chance to explore. It's a unique opportunity to contribute directly to habitat conservation while seeing some of the birds and landscapes that make Gillmor so important!

Sign up for one or more volunteer days. It's free!

Fall 2026 Volunteer Days

- Friday, September 18
- Saturday, September 26
- Friday, October 2
- Saturday, October 10
- Friday, October 16
- Saturday, October 24
- Friday, October 30

Time: 7:45 AM–12:30 PM MDT

Host: Gillmor Sanctuary Staff

Limit: 25 people per volunteer day

Meeting location will be provided with confirmation of registration. Please provide your own transportation; carpooling is encouraged.

What to bring: Water, snacks, warm layers, waterproof boots, gardening gloves, sun protection, and binoculars

Difficulty: MODERATE

Registration required: <https://www.mobilize.us/audubon-rockies/event/1004377/>



Ruby Mountains sunset. Photo by Andrey Zharkikh.

Your Membership

Your membership is vital to the Utah Native Plant Society. It is important that your information is correct and up to date for notifications and the delivery of The Sego Lily newsletter.

Any questions about your membership, Contact Tony Stireman, tstireman@gmail.com.

It is always time to consider the next issue of the Utah Native Plant Society *Sego Lily* which relies almost entirely upon articles from the society's membership. Please submit articles of your native plant stories and photos from hikes and field trips, conservation activities... whatever might be informative and interesting to fellow members.

The *Sego Lily* editors can use most any text format for articles (**PDFs can be troublesome**). Photos are always best submitted in original resolution and as individual files **separate** from text. You can indicate desired positioning within a document. We are looking forward to hearing from you. For submissions and/or questions: newsletter@unps.org or cathy.king@gmail.com



Utah Native Plant Society

Utah Native Plant Society
PO Box 520041
Salt Lake City, UT, 84152-0041.

To contact an officer or committee chair write to: **Webmaster:** unps@unps.org

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Website: For late-breaking news, the UNPS store (posters, etc.), the *Sego Lily* archives, Chapter events, sources of native plants, the digital Utah Rare Plant Field Guide at unps.org. Webmaster inquiries at unps@unps.org

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UNPS Chapter Map

