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MAY/JUN 2003

UTAH'S CHOICE--Native Plants for Intermountain Landscapes

By Susan Meyer

UNPS is proud to be a co-sponsor of a new program designed to increase the availability of Utah native plants in the local retail nursery trade. It will educate both nursery professionals and gardeners on the merits of many fine native plants as components of beautiful, low water use landscapes.

The program, called Utah's Choice, features a list of the Top Forty Utah native plants for horticultural use. It is the brainchild of Roger Kjelgren of the USU Center for Water Efficient Landscaping (CWEL) and Janett Warner of Wildland Nursery. We had



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Native Plants For High Elevation Western Gardens

Zion What's Up and Blooming

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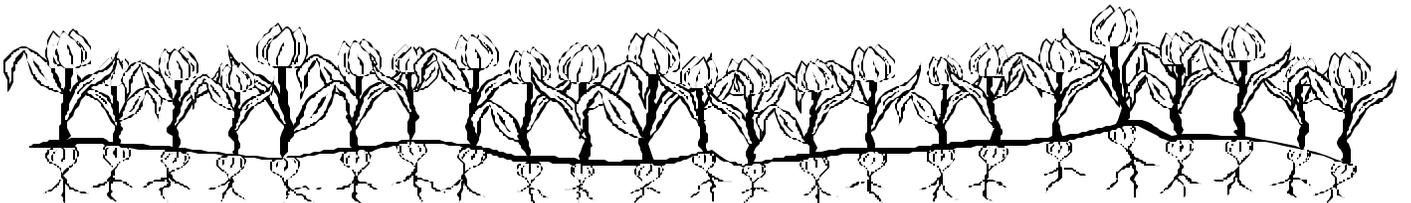
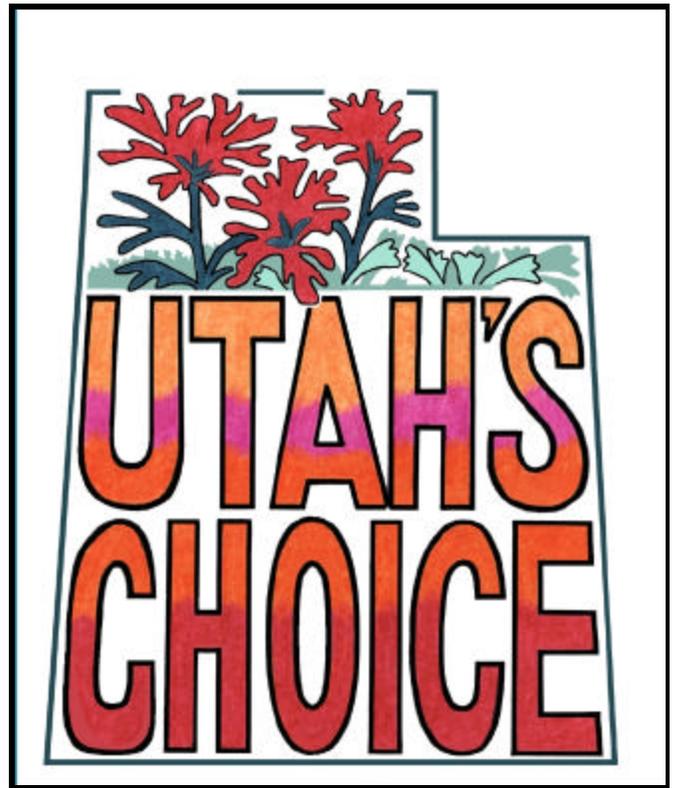
Events and Chapter News

trouble choosing the Top Forty plants--there are dozens more that could just as easily have been included. We mostly chose those that are already at least somewhat available and are easiest for novices to grow successfully.

A new non-profit organization, the Intermountain Native Growers Association (INGA), will administer the program, which will sell information-rich photo plant tags, along with plant signs and other marketing materials, to nurseries interested in carrying Utah's Choice tagged container stock. Returns on tag sales will be used by INGA to purchase the next round of tags, making the program self-sustaining.

UNPS and INGA are partnering with CWEL and the Utah Botanic Garden to jump-start the program this summer. The kick-off event will be the unveiling of the Utah's Choice educational and marketing package at the Third Annual Native Plant Symposium at Utah State University on May 30. Tagged plants should start appearing in some local nurseries in early June.

If you are a nursery professional and are interested in learning more about the Utah's Choice program, as well as how your nursery can participate, please contact Janett Warner at (435) 527-1234. If you are a gardener who would like to be able to purchase a variety of Utah native plants, tagged with pictures and cultural information, let your favorite retail nursery know about this program--ask for Utah's Choice!



UNPS ON-LINE STORE

UNPS now has an on-line store through which current members can renew their memberships (you can still do it the old fashioned way too!) or new members can join. You can also purchase posters or buy Bill Gray's Cyberflora CD, a valuable and informative electronic guide to the flora of the central Wasatch front. UNPS members receive a 10% discount on poster/CD purchases. Donations in support of any of our programs can also be made through the store - just go to www.unps.org and click on Store.

New Native Plants For High Elevation Western Gardens Book

In May 2003, Fulcrum Press will release "Native Plants for High-Elevation Western Gardens" by former Arboretum at Flagstaff horticulturist Janice Busco and Arboretum Executive Director Dr. Nancy Morin. With water conservation and fire management through appropriate landscaping practices high on the list of western regional concerns, this book is an essential resource for landscape planning and gardening in the high-altitude regions of the American West. Landscape architects, restorationists, planners, native plant nurseries and gardeners will all benefit from this collection of information on plants from the Arboretum at Flagstaff's native plant collection.



Photo By Susan Meyer

"Native Plants for High-Elevation Gardens" includes beautiful color photographs of the 150+ featured native perennial species (taken by Dr. Eugene Balzer of Northern Arizona University), as well as plant descriptions for each species that include a discussion of the plant's natural history, outstanding features and cultivation. The book highlights Colorado Plateau and Intermountain West highlands native plants that grow in USDA Zones 1-8 at elevations between 4000 and 12,000' and details how to select and combine them, and how to successfully plant, establish and care for them.

Published by Fulcrum Press in partnership with The Arboretum at Flagstaff, and funded by grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, "Native Plants for High-Elevation Western Gardens" is an authoritative guide that details each plants outstanding features; growth form and shape; flower color and form; season of bloom; pollinators and wildlife; light, water and soil requirements; traditional uses by settlers and Native Americans; landscape uses; care and maintenance, propagation methods and recommendations for eye-catching and functional plant combinations.

For further information, or to order this book, contact Fulcrum Publishing at:

http://www.fulcrum-gardening.com/html/native_plants.html.



ZION WHAT'S UP AND BLOOMING

For the third consecutive year, UNPS is hosting Margaret Malm's "Zion National Park: What's up -- and blooming?" news/articles. These will be published more or less weekly throughout April and May (depending on the length of the spring blooming season). Go to www.unps.org and click on Zion. Photographs of many of the plant species organized by flower color are available on-line.



UNPS Lifetime Member Update

Rachel Romaine of Eden, Utah has become the 11th UNPS lifetime member.

Thank you Rachel!

Members are encouraged to consider joining the growing ranks of lifetime Utah native plant advocates (see the January/February 2003 newsletter for all of the reasons why). To become a lifetime member, you can send a check for \$250 to: Utah Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 520041, Salt Lake City UT 84152-0041 or go to our web site at www.unps.org and click on Store and then Membership (Renewal or New) Application and scroll down to "Lifetime" and click on the Add to Cart button.

EXTENSION



**3rd Annual Native Plant Symposium
and Water Efficient Landscaping Field Day**



Friday, May 30, 2003 from 8:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

****8:30 a.m.– Roger Kjelgren, Horticulture Professor at Utah State University and Director of the Center for Water Efficient Landscaping.** Roger will show you how to convert a traditional landscape into one that uses less water. The use of native and drought adapted plants and more efficient irrigation systems will be discussed.

9:30 a.m. – Susan Meyer, Plant Ecologist at the U.S. Forest Service Federal Shrub Sciences Lab and has been working with native plants since 1970. Susan will introduce the 'Utah's Choice Native Plants' program. This program will highlight the top Utah native plant species selected by native plant producers, researchers, and enthusiasts throughout the state.

10:30 a.m. – David Salman, President of Santa Fe Greenhouses, Inc./ High Country Gardens catalog. David will talk about his favorite, colorful native plants and popular introductions for this year. Also, hear about his years of experience in marketing native plants and how drought tolerant species are being accepted throughout the country.

11:30 a.m. - Bill Varga, Director of the Utah Botanical Center and over 30 years experience with Utah native plants. After hearing from Susan and David about desirable native plant species, Bill will give you ideas for designing your landscape with native plants. He will talk about plant associations and how to use this concept effectively in creating your design.

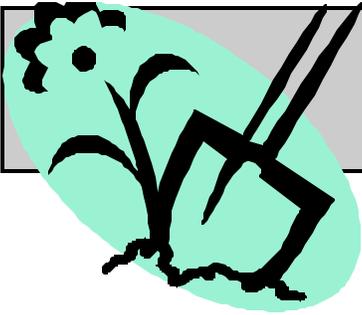
****The four morning presentations will be held in the main auditorium at Utah State University Eccles Conference Center (the building just to the south of the Ag Science Building).**

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – A box lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee at the USU Greenville Research Farm (1800 N. 800 E., Logan, Utah)

1:30 - 4:00 p.m. – Talk with researchers at the USU Greenville Research Farm about current projects on alternative turfgrass species, herbaceous perennial and woody plant water use, and native plant production .

For further information contact Lori Johnson at USU at 435-797-2255.

Registration Form for the Symposium: \$20.00 per person.	
Name _____	Organization _____
Address _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Number to Attend _____	Total Payment Enclosed _____
Send to: Lori Johnson, Utah State University, Plants, Soils, and Biometeorology Dept., 4820 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT. 84322-4820	



Events and Chapter News

Cache Valley

On June 21, we are co-sponsoring a garden tour focusing on water-wise gardening and landscaping. We need gardens/landscapes for the tour. We are looking for both mature and works-in-progress. If you want to share your garden or know of a good candidate in Cache Valley please let Steve Ripple (UNPS) steveripple@attbi.com 435-752-2732 or Tami Coleman (Master Gardener) petetami@hotmail.com (435) 258-0303 know about it.

UNPS-Cache and the Intermountain Herbarium are pleased to announce a 2-session spring course on identifying common mushrooms.



Details: Class has a lab session on Saturday, May 10, from 9 to 10:30am. Michael Piep will be leading the session, which will focus on the basic structures and characteristics of major groups of fungi. A manual with keys will be provided, as well as material for study with microscopes. If the 9am session is filled, another session may be held in the early afternoon. This part of the class will take

place at the Intermountain Herbarium, in the basement of the Junction on the USU campus.

The second session, open ONLY to those who attend the lab session, is a field trip to see and identify fungi in the local area on Saturday, May 17. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Contact the Intermountain Herbarium (Ali) at ali@biology.usu.edu or at 797-0061 to register. The cost is \$6 for UNPS members, \$8 for nonmembers. Michael Piep is also available to answer questions at fungi@biology.usu.edu or the Herbarium phone listed above.

Southern Utah

On Saturday morning, April 27, Jason Alexander (PhD candidate in botany and studying the *Astragalus*), will take our group on a trip on the Chinle Trail in Zion N. P. to see the Shivwits Milkvetch. He is doing a search for this rare plant, and has already increased the size of the known population by many times. Meet at the Chinle trailhead at 9:30 AM.

Jason has also agreed to take our group on a walk to see, enjoy, and learn about the hanging garden plants in Zion. This will be around mid-to-late May, on a Saturday, but the exact date has not yet been decided. Check with us in a few



Utah Valley

At the chapter meeting February 21, election results were: Phil Allen, Chapter President; Susan Garvin, Vice-President; Celeste Kennard, Treasurer; Denise Van Keuren, Secretary.

Announcements were made for a propagation workshop March 8, a field trip looking for Beckwith's Violet in late April, a plant sale at the Provo Farmer's Market in May, a work party for a new Heritage Garden in Salt Lake county May 15, a library xericaping work party in late May, and a field trip focusing on prickly pear bloom in mid-June. Contact Susan Meyer at semeyer@xmission.com for information on garden work-parties or the web seed exchange proposal.

Updates: Twenty people participated in the plant propagation workshop. The violet field trip, led by Robert Fitts, was attended by about ten people, who got to see the rare Beckwith's violet in white and purple bloom in mixed sagebrush and oakbrush near Spanish Fork, along with Utah Ladyfinger *Astragalus*, the bright yellow dogtooth-violet *Erythronium*. and several other species not yet blooming. With luck photos of the trip will be sent to the website. The next chapter meeting will be May 16, at the Federal Building, 88 West 100 North in Provo, with potluck starting at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7.

Paul Ames will be leading a field trip to an area in the Tintic Mountains, focusing on the varied bloom colors of the prickly pear cactus there along with a wide range



Photo By Susan Meyer

other species in a pinyon-juniper community. The trip will be on Saturday May 31, starting at 10 a.m. from the parking lot of the new high school on Highway 6 in Eureka. After a drive, there will be a moderate-level hike of about 45 minutes to reach the site. Bring lunch, water, sun screen and bug repellent. Call Paul at (435) 433-6924 (evenings) for more details.

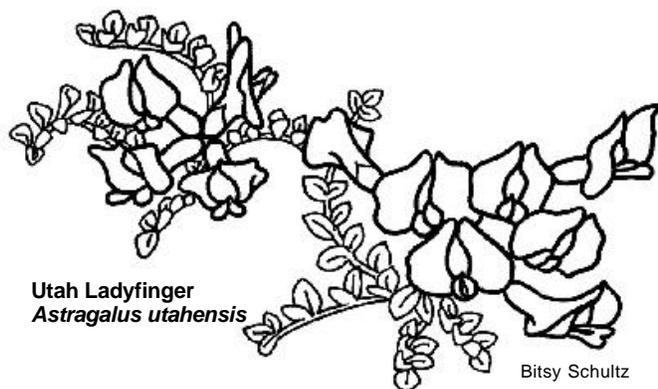
Kim Despain is going to hike to the Bristlecone Pine grove at the Price Canyon Recreation Area -Saturday, June 7, 2003. Any individual in the Utah Native Plant Society, or any one interested for that matter, is welcome to come and participate. The hike will start from the parking lot at the Price Canyon Recreation Area campground about 12:00 noon.

If you come from Provo or Salt Lake City, take Highway 6 as if going to Price. The turn off is 3 - 4 miles south of the top of Price Canyon. There is a sign on the west side of the road that reads: Price Canyon Recreation Area. If you are coming from Price, the turn off is about 12 miles north of Price on Highway 6. The turnoff sign is on the west side of the highway. You can use a car to make the trip. The road from the turnoff to the campground is paved but narrow. Drive carefully. The road inside the campground is a well maintained dirt road.

The trail to the Bristlecone Pine grove is a 3 mile round trip hike. The trail is not steep. The hike is not strenuous but will take 2 - 4 hours. Kim will take it slow because he likes to take photographs. Information will be presented on the pines of Utah.

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

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Utah Ladyfinger
Astragalus utahensis

Bitsy Schultz

Utah Native Plant Society Membership and Information

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Name: _____
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Zip: _____ Phone _____
Email: _____

For more information about the Utah Native Plant Society call:
Bill King: 582-0432
Susan Garvin: 356-5108
Larry Meyer: 272-3275
Or write to: unps@unps.org

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President: Susan Meyer
President Elect: Larry Meyer
Treasurer: Ben Franklin
Secretary: Therese Meyer
Newsletter Editor: Allisun Korth and Paula Mohadjer

Check membership category desired:

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? Please send a complimentary copy of the Se-go Lily to the above individual.

Please enclose a check, payable to Utah Native Plant Society and send it to:

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P.O.Box 520041
Salt Lake City, Utah 84152-0041

**Check out our
website!
www.unps.org**

Many thanks to Xmission for sponsoring the Utah Native Plant Society website.

Please direct all suggestions, articles and events for the newsletter to Paula Mohadjer at paulam@jwcd.org. The deadline for next issue is **June 15**.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS
Cache: Steve Ripple
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Price: Mike Hubbard
Salt Lake: Mindy Wheeler
Southern Utah: Mike Empey
Utah Valley: Phil Allen

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Conservation: Bill King
Education: Mindy Wheeler
Invasive Species: Phil Allen
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