



VOLUME 28 , ISSUE 1

January/February 2005

The Defeat of Initiative 1

By Bill Gray

The Down Side That was a real roller-coaster! After early polling showed a very positive outlook, anti-initiative ads in the late stages took their toll, building on concerns about higher taxes, shutting up land, etc. Significant negative impact came from opposition by Governor Walker, Deseret News, the Farm Bureau, Jim Hansen, and the Taxpayer's Association.

The Positive Side Despite the defeat, it is good to look at the tremendous effort that went in, and what was achieved:

Getting the measure on the ballot was a triumph in itself, because of the need for real support in every county. Prior to this, only 17 other initiatives had made it to the ballot in the whole history of Utah politics, and only 4 of them passed.

Thousands of volunteers worked at educating the public about the issues, delivered campaign literature, made phone calls, put up signs.

Thousands of people contributed a total of more than a million dollars to fund the literature and radio and TV ads. We don't know how much was spent by the opposition.

Best of all, 370,000 voters said that the issue of quality environment was so important to them that they wanted their taxes raised a little to improve it. No Ifs or Buts, it would have cost them money, and they were willing to pay.

What Next? The whole experience was unprecedented in the history of Utah's environmental movement, particularly the breadth of participation. The organizers see it as a beginning of something that can grow into an effective long-term advocacy for issues concerning quality management and development of our resources. They have created an ongoing "Conservation Action Team" which can use people in many different capacities. If you would like to learn more about this, please contact kferguson@utahlands2004.org.

A fuller discussion of the issues raised here can be found in an article sent to all the volunteers who worked for the campaign, a copy of which is on the UNPS website (www.unps.org).

JVWCD's Demo Gardens :A Place To Cultivate Your Imagination

Words and Photos By Kelly McNulty

Sometimes, you have to see it before you can, well, see it. And for native plant enthusiasts with green thumbs, but maybe not so green imaginations, The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD) Demonstration Garden offers a real-world look at incorporating native Utah plants into the landscape. Which is why, to help raise awareness of UNPS, the Society chose to host a booth at two of the JVWCD's Garden Fairs this past summer.

"Planting" a booth dedicated to native plants in the middle of a native plant landscape where people have come to learn about adding natives to their own landscapes was a great way to teach attendees not only about the society, but about native plants as well. What's more, attendees could see a plant, learn about it and go buy it from one of the nurseries also at the events.

Many people stopping by the Society's booth, located in the garden's High Desert Mountain landscape were eager to learn about gardening with natives. The High Desert Mountain landscape is one of the six that make up the Demonstration Garden's Neighborhood Garden area. And all six landscapes—Traditional, Perennial, Modified, Woodland, Harvest and High Desert Mountain—include Utah native plants with the most natives in the High Desert Mountain and Woodland landscapes.



Below, Utah Valley President, Celeste Kennard with Joy Bossi



Above and center, views of JVWCD Demo Gardens

Set against a beautiful backdrop of tan and rose gravel next to an authentic-looking dry river bed made up of huge rounded stones, the High Desert Mountain landscape is based on a desert theme and incorporates many plants indigenous to Utah. Many are from southern Utah, but easily adapt to more northerly Utah areas. Among the numerous native trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials found in the landscape are Utah Pussy-toes (*Antennaria parviflora*), Fringed Sage (*Artemisia frigida*), Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), Utah Ladyfinger (*Astragalus utahensis*), Four-Wing Saltbrush (*Atriplex canescens*), Desert Marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), Blue Grama Grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*) and Pinyon Pine (*Pinus edulis*). Also showcased are a few specimens of Desert Four O'Clock (*Mirabilis multiflora*), well on their way to reaching this plant's possible eight-foot diameter.

Established plants in this landscape are thriving with no irrigation and new plants receive only occasional hand watering for the one to two years required for establishment. Says JVWCD's Paula Mohadjer, "This garden hasn't been watered, at all, for two years."

People stopping by the Society's booth were often shocked to learn not only of the lack of water required by natives - once established, but also that many of the beautiful and colorful plants growing in this area are native to their very own state!

The Woodland landscape incorporates natives in an informal **terrain** that will eventually grow into a dry shade garden. This landscape requires water only once a month. Featured plants include Rocky Mountain Maple (*Acer glabrum*), Curleaf Mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*), Squawbush (*Rhus trilobata*) and numerous native perennials.

To cull ideas for their own gardens or just to enjoy the grounds, native plant and gardening enthusiasts can visit the Demonstration Gardens year-round at 8215 South 1300 West in West Jordan.

Summer hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily from May 1 to September 30. Winter hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday from October 1 to April 30.

To see more photos and for more information on the gardens, Garden Fairs, classes and other programs, visit the JWWCD's website at www.slowtheflow.org.



Learning more about Natives at JWWCD

Announcements

UNPS LIFETIME MEMBER UPDATE

Larry and Therese Meyer have become, EACH, the latest Utah Native Plant Society lifetime members. UNPS now has 18 lifetime memberships. Larry and Therese have also worked tirelessly to support UNPS including a very, very long stint as newsletter editor, as chairs or co-chairs of committees and serving on our board (and are currently board members) and in many other capacities. Thanks Therese! Thanks Larry!

Ben Franklin

President of UNPS, Susan Garvin and the board of directors would like to give their heartfelt thanks to Ben Franklin for his many years of service as UNPS treasurer and look forward to his serving as an honorary board member in 2005.



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UNPS Responds to Proposed Castle Peak and Eightmile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project

by Tony Frates

In late November of 2004, UNPS submitted comments in response to a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) in connection with proposed oil and gas expansion which would involve a disturbance to over 3500 acres of native shrublands. Over a 12-year period over 900 additional wells are proposed to be drilled on 40-acre spacing patterns to pump oil and gas from the Green River Formation.

The disturbance impact includes some 80 miles of new and upgraded roads; considerable water resources will be consumed.

We believe that the DEIS improperly evaluates the impact to the federally listed *Sclerocactus brevispinus* and in general *S. brevispinus* habitat is not being properly managed. Much of the total habitat for this species is in the project area with some 680 acres of known habitat under the BLM recommended alternative proposed to be disturbed. Some 3,000 acres of potential habitat for this species could be disturbed. *S. brevispinus* plants would be removed. Since 1995 as many as 100 endangered *Sclerocacti* have already been removed. With reference to *S. brevispinus* the DEIS states: **The project area includes over 50 percent of this species' known population** (Draft Environmental Impact Statement Castle Peak and Eightmile Flat Oil and Gas Expansion Project Inland Resources Inc., September 2004, table 3.7-1, page 3.7-2, on page 150 of the 359 page PDF document).



Sclerocactus brevispinus
photo courtesy of Ben Franklin

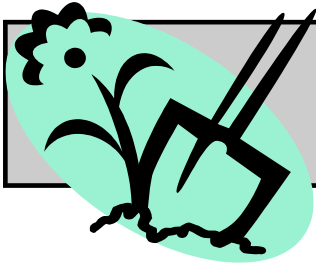
Yet it then proceeds to conclude that the overall impact will be acceptable because it lumps *S. brevispinus* under the listed *Sclerocactus glaucus* (which has a broader albeit very limited distribution) for purposes of impact analysis.

It will take some 50 years for vegetation to recover; 250 years for cryptobiotic crusts to recover as acknowledged in the DEIS. The applicant is Inland Resources, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. The entire project area will literally be dotted with oil wells.

There is no excuse for the taking of any endangered cacti in connection with this project.. All habitat for *Sclerocactus brevispinus* should be protected. Multiple use values have not been properly considered.

Other groups that responded to the DEIS included the Center for Native Ecosystems, The Nature Conservancy and Western Resource Advocates.

The UNPS response letter can be viewed at <http://www.unps.org/miscpdf/UNPSCPDEISResponse.pdf> (or go to our News page at www.unps.org and click on the link provided there). The Vernal BLM NEPA web site is at <http://www.blm.gov/utah/vernal/nepa.html>.



Events and Chapter News

NEW CHAPTER!

Welcome Kane Chapter!

As we reported in the last Segoe Lily (Nov/Dec 04) Walt Fertig and company have been trying to set up a new chapter in Kane County. Those efforts have paid off and we would like to offer a warm welcome to our newest chapter which currently has 20 members and is still growing.

For more information on Kane chapter and upcoming events contact Walt on 435-644-8129 or walt@xpressweb.com.

Cache Chapter

Announcing the Annual UNPS-Cache Chapter Meeting, Dinner and Social

When: January 13, 2005, **At** 6 PM if eating there, 7 PM if not.

Where: El Toro Viejo

1079 North Main

LOGAN, UT 84341-2215

(435) 753-4084

<http://mapsonus.switchboard.com/bin/maps-maonly/usr=~41b8bd1e.408cd.abc.8/c=1/refsrc=SB.home/isredir=1/>

Ask for UNPS or Steve Ripple - we will be in the back, but may eat first in the regular restaurant.

Speakers: Lee Bjerregaard and Mark Ellis, will speak on the genetics of populations of Maguire Primrose in Logan Canyon

We will also discuss future events and activities for the year, our goals as a UNPS Chapter and for the State UNPS, and talk about the potential of new officer positions for our chapter.

Contact Steve Ripple 435.752.2732 limax-maxumus@comcast.net

Utah Valley Chapter News

For 2005, the Utah Valley Chapter plans to meet on the following Friday evenings February 18, May 20, August 19 and November 18. These chapter meetings are held at the Provo Federal Building, 100 North and 100 West in Provo. Meetings start at 7 p.m. preceded by a potluck dinner at 6.

The speaker at the February meeting will be landscape designer and chapter member Terri Williams, whose topic will be "landscaping solutions with native plants".

Our last meeting in November 2004 featured Dr. Phil Allen, who gave a powerpoint presentation updating us on the ecosystem restoration efforts at Provo's Rock Canyon, and also brought huge posters presenting other research and restoration projects he and his BYU students have been working on. The next day chapter members went out to Rock Canyon to do supplemental plantings of native grasses and wildflowers throughout the restoration area.

Chapter officers going into 2005 are Celeste Kennard as President, Randall Nish as Treasurer, and Denise Van Keuren as Secretary.

Congratulations to these chapter members joining the State Board - Terri Williams as State-level Secretary and Celeste Kennard as State-level Treasurer (in addition to being the chapter representative to the Board). They join Susan Garvin, Phil Allen and Susan Meyer in serving the whole UNPS on committees or the Board from Utah Valley!

Lecture at Red Butte Gardens

When? Thursday January 20

Where? The Orangerie, at Red Butte Gardens

Time? 7pm

Guest Lecturer Kathleen Dean Moore, Professor of Philosophy at Oregon State University

“TOWARD AN ECOLOGICAL ETHIC OF CARE”

For more information go to Red Butte's website www.redbuttegarden.org/

This lecture is cosponsored with the U's new environmental humanities program, the Stegner center and the Utah Arts Council

Now Available

TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

Dynamics of a Dwarf Bear-Poppy (*Arctomecon humilis*) Population Over a Sixteen-Year Period. K.T. Harper and Renee Van Buren in *Western North American Naturalist*, Volume 64, No. 4, October 2004, pages 482-491.

Do Alien Plants Reduce Insect Biomass? Douglas W. Tallamy in *Conservation Biology*, Volume 18, No. 6, December 2004, pages 1689-1692.

Restoring Western Ranges and Wildlands

This book, edited and largely authored by Steve Monsen from the Shrub Sciences Lab in Provo, is available online in .pdf format at the following link, with instructions on downloading or ordering a printed copy.

http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr136.html.

This work, in three volumes, provides background on philosophy, processes, plant materials selection, site preparation, and seed and seeding equipment for re-vegetating disturbed rangelands, emphasizing use of native species. The 29 chapters include guidelines for planning, conducting, and managing, and contain a compilation of rangeland re-vegetation research conducted over the last several decades to aid practitioners in reestablishing healthy communities and curbing the spread of invasive species.

Volume 1 contains the first 17 chapters plus the index. Volume 2 contains chapters 18-23 plus the index. Volume 3 contains chapters 24-29 plus appendices and index.

Utah at Home: Landscaping with Native Plants booklet available

We are pleased to be able to offer this 20-page, full-color, how-to booklet published by the Intermountain Native Plant Grower Association. It was created to give gardeners easy-to-follow guidelines for using native plants in home landscapes and is highly recommended. The booklet can be purchased via our Store page at www.unps.org. Cost of the booklet is \$1.50 for members (plus 75 cents postage) and \$2.00 for non-members (plus postage).

How to Help Us Make a Difference in 2005

Make a donation! Donations can be made painlessly via our Store page (www.unps.org and then click on Store) or you can simply mail us a check. Donations in any amount are greatly appreciated and 100% are applied to mission critical projects.

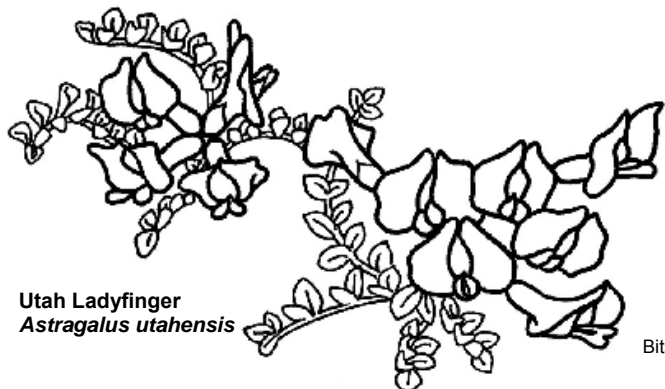
Go native! By planting Utah natives in your Utah landscape, you are helping to stem the tide of the alien invasion as well as raise awareness of the vital need to use those plants best suited for our environment. For more information about planting Utah natives and where they can be obtained, see our Plant sources page at www.unps.org/PAGES/cohortlist.html or go to www.unps.org and click on Plant sources.

Volunteer! Help is always needed in every aspect of the organization including administration/ membership, newsletter, horticulture, field trips, invasive species, web site, conservation and many more. Tell us what you are interested in doing by sending an e-mail to unps@unps.org. We need help from every corner of the state.

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Utah Native Plant Society
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Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0041

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For latest UNPS and
Utah native plant
news go to:
www.unps.org
and click on News

Utah Native Plant Society Membership and Information

New Member Renewal Gift

Name: _____
Street: _____
City/State: _____
Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____
Chapter: _____

Check membership category desired:

- Student \$9.00
- Senior \$12.00
- Individual \$15.00
- Household \$25.00
- Sustaining \$40.00
- Supporting Org. \$55.00
- Corporate \$500.00
- Lifetime \$250.00
- Please send a complimentary copy of the Segoe Lily to the above individual.

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

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

For more information about the
Utah Native Plant Society call:

Bill King: 582-0432
Susan Garvin: 356-5108
Or write to: unps@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 Longhurst
at
plonghur@xmission.com.
**The deadline for next issue
is 8th February**

UTAH NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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