Sego Lily
Newsletter of the Utah Native Plant Society

VOLUME 28 , ISSUE 2

March/April 2005

Native Plant Propagation Workshops 2005

UNPS has partnered with USU extension once again to bring you these native plant propagation workshops which are taking place throughout Utah during March and April. Learn to plant and grow Utah native plants. Participants will plant a selection of Utah native seeds to take home. Space is limited so register now!

Box Elder County

April 16th, 10 am to 1 pm and Tour on May 28th, 9 am to 2 pm
Cost $25. Pre-register at USU Extension, 195 W 1100 S, Brigham City, UT (435) 734-9945 or 1-800-738-0210

Cache County

Mar 3rd, 6 to 8 pm or Mar. 5th, 9 to 11 am or 1 to 3 pm
Cost $20. Pre-register by calling (435) 752-6263 USU Teaching Greenhouse, 1389 North 800 East, Logan, UT

Davis County

Mar 12th, 9 am to 12 pm, 1pm to 4 pm
Cost $20. Pre-register by calling (801) 451-3403 Utah Botanical Center Greenhouse, 750 South 50 West, Kaysville, UT

Salt Lake County

March 12th, 19th and 26th. 9 am to 12 pm
March 16th , 23rd, 30th 6pm to 9 pm
Cost $20. Pre-register by calling (801)468-3171. Salt Lake County Government Building, 2100 S State St, Room S-1007/8 Salt Lake City.

Utah County

March 30th beginning at 10am
Cost $20 for non-members $15 for UNPS members and Master Gardeners
Pre-register by calling 851-8460. County Building, 51 S. University Avenue, Provo, Room L600

Please note that Southern Utah have already completed their Propagation Workshops by the time of going to print.

March / April 2005

Calendar of Events

Please note that some of the February events listed *may have already taken place*. For the most up-to-date events lists go to our website www.unps.org and click on the "calendar" link.

February

- Feb 17th : UNPS board meeting, open to all members please e-mail us for the location unps@unps.org . The meeting will be held from 6pm to 8pm.
- Feb 18th : Utah Valley Chapter Meeting to be held at Federal Building, 100 N 100 W in Provo. The speaker will be Terri Williams, landscape designer and chapter member, her topic will be "landscaping solutions with native plants" Potluck dinner at 6pm meeting starts at 7pm.
- Feb 26th : Cache Chapter Winter Botany Field trip in Logan Canyon, starts at 10am Cost $20 non-members, $15 for members (for van rental and lunch) Must sign up by Feb 22, contact Steve Ripple at 435-752-2732 or limax-maxumus@comcast.net or call the Herbarium on 435 797 0061.
- Also Feb 26th : "Waterwise Gardening, Landscaping with Natives. This talk will be held at Orem Library (58 N State). at 10am. The speaker, Celeste Kennard, President of Utah Valley Chapter will be giving a powerpoint presentation geared towards beginners, but all are welcome. Orem library will also be displaying their collection of gardening books.

March

- Mar 2nd : 4th Annual Red-Butte, UNPS sponsored Utah Rare Plant Conference. For more information and to sign up, contact Jennifer Lewinsohn of Red Butte Gardens ***as soon as possible*** Jennifer.Lewinsohn@redbutte.utah.edu. Please note that the meeting is *not* being held at RBG this year.
- Mar 3rd : W Richard Hildreth, co-founder of UNPS and founding director of Red Butte Garden will lecture on some of the nuances of gardening in the west. Non-members $7, members $5. 7pm to 9pm at Red Butte Gardens.
- Mar 24th : UNPS board meeting, open to all members please e-mail us for the location unps@unps.org. The meeting will be held from 6pm to 8pm

April / May

- April 2nd. 2 PM. Tour of Water Wise Gardens, a native plant nursery, and hear a presentation on native bulbs. Location: 45 North Main Street, Lewiston, Utah 84320. We may also inspect a nearby infestation of Saltcedar/Tamarisk For more info and car-pooling options contact Steve Ripple at 435-752-2732 limax-maxumus@comcast.net or join the email list at http://lists.usu.edu/mailman/listinfo/cacheunps and post a question
- Also April 2nd. 9 AM, Join members of the Utah Valley Chapter on a field trip to look at Viola beckwithii. Meet at the parking area across from the gravel pit at Moark Junction. All are welcome. It is an easy hike across the old gravel pit to see Viola. Those wishing to stay and look for more Viola plants on State Land should bring your outdoor gear, cameras, a packed lunch and water. Moark Junction is the intersection of Hwy 89 (The main road south through Springville), and Hwy 6 (the road through Spanish Fork Canyon to Price). Landmarks are the red buildings of the explosives plant east of the junction, and the power substation in the old gravel pits just to the north of the junction. Those coming from the north can take the I-15 Price exit go east through Spanish Fork, and turn left toward Mapleton and Springville. Contact Robert Fitts on 796-8631
- April 7th Biological Soil Crust Ecology and Management will be taught in Moab UT. For more details go to http://oslearn.ntc.blm.gov/itdc.nsf/
- To be announced: Visit to the Logan Canyon Primula Maguirii populations - April or May (depending on phenology). contact Steve Ripple at 435-752-2732 limax-maxumus@comcast.net, or the Herbarium at (435)797-0061 fungi@biology.usu.edu for updates or post to email list.

June

- June 16-22. A "Measuring and Monitoring of Plant Populations" BLM training center course to be taught in Lander WY. For more details go to http://oslearn.ntc.blm.gov/itdc.nsf/

We are looking at the idea of an electronic events notification system for UNPS members. If you would like up-to-the-minute information on new events delivered straight to your desktop please send an e-mail to plonghur@xmission.com **stating that you want to be notified electronically and giving the e-mail address you want us to use.**

If enough people are interested we will set the system up. There will be a notice in the next Sego Lily to let members know if this is going ahead

TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE MAR/APRIL 2005

Reproduction and Demography of *Townsendia aprica* (Asteraceae), a Rare Endemic of the Southern Utah Plateau. Vincent J. Tepedino, Sedonia D. Sipes, and Terry L. Griswold in Western North American Naturalist, Volume 64, no. 4, October 2004, pages 465-470.

Excerpts from the concluding portion of the technical abstract:

Outcrossing is the primary means of reproduction and native solitary bees are most important pollinators. Paramount are several species in the genus *Osmia*, and the ground-nesting species *Synhalonia fulvitarsis*, which nests among the *T. aprica* plants. *S. fulvitarsis* also visits a contemporaneous blooming phlox (*P. austromontana*), which may facilitate pollination of the rare townsendia. The *Townsendia-Phlox-Synhalonia* interaction may represent another example of why we must consider communities rather than individual species in our conservation efforts.

Editor's note: Last Chance Townsendia (*Townsendia aprica)* was federally listed as threatened in August of 1985. For a technical description and pictures, see the Utah Rare Plants Guide site sponsored by the Utah Native Plant Society at www.utahrareplants.org.

Chapter News

Results of the "Name the Chapter" Contest

At our January meeting, the assembled crowd voted to select the name and mascot for the Kane County Chapter. Among a pool of 16 entries, the choice was narrowed down to *Artemisia* and Manzanita. After a tense round of balloting (including one confused vote for Pat Buchanon), Manzanita was selected.

Due to a desire to keep some mention of Kane County in the name, the group settled on "Manzanita Native Plant Society of Kane County" for our title. Those wishing for an acronym may use "MANAPSOKACO", which loosely translates from the Latin as "Manzanita Native Plant Society of Kane County".

Anne Mejia submitted the winning name and thus won the door prize, a copy of *Plants of the Rocky Mountains* by Kershaw, MacKinnon, and Pojar. - *Excerpt reproduced from the Manzanita Chapter Newsletter Feb 05*

Save the Flow - Conserving Rain Water in Utah

Words and Photos by Paula Longhurst

It's official – the State of Utah has just entered the sixth straight year of drought. We are all being urged to use as little water as possible. Yes, yes I know that Southern Utah just had the worst flood in living memory and the Northern ranges are currently being loaded up with fresh powder. The problem is that if the weather turns too hot too quickly – as happened in March 2004 - the snow will simply evaporate off and the Southern flood waters ended up in Lake Powell!

Xeriscaping the yard and therefore getting rid of those water guzzling sprinkler systems is a good place to start but what about utilizing rain water? According to the NOAA website the average rainfall in this state per year is 16.5". So where does that go? While a mere fraction of it soaks into the ground the majority goes right down the drain. Gallons of water just going to waste.

Unless you have a rain barrel that is, then the rainwater gets funneled down the guttering and straight into your water collection system. A prolonged downpour such as ones we had in Northern Utah in 2004 can fill a fifty gallon barrel overnight. When the barrel is full simply divert the water out onto the grass.

Right - Rainbarrel and downspout kit - *note* the large tap you can see is actually the overflow tap - the main tap is right at the bottom of the barrel

There are now kits available on the internet, or you can order the parts separately. The barrel will probably be a reconditioned food barrel with a tap, a plastic overflow pipe and then you need a downspout kit for the gutter which is easy to install.

A couple of words of caution – *make sure* the opening has a piece of mesh or netting tightly secured over the top to keep out leaves, dirt and most importantly mosquitoes. Also raise the barrel up to at least 3 bricks high so that you can get your watering can underneath the tap.

Anyone interested in a fact sheet detailing how to buy and install a rain barrel e-mail me at plonghur@xmission.com

What's in a Name - *Besseya*

By Walter Fertig

The genus *Besseya* in the Scrophulariaceae (figwort family) contains 7-9 species restricted to North America. Commonly called kittentails, members of this genus are recognized by their heart-shaped basal leaves and dense spike-like inflorescences of white, pinkish, or purple flowers with 2-4 calyx lobes and two exserted stamens.

Two species of *Besseya* occur in Utah, both of which are only infrequently observed. Wyoming kittentails (*B. wyomingensis*) is the more widespread species, occurring along the Rocky Mountain cordillera from southern British Columbia and Alberta to northern Colorado, the South Dakota Black Hills, and northern Utah in the Raft River and Uinta mountains. This species produced showy pinkish-purple inflorescences without the benefit of petals (the flower color comes from the slender filaments of the stamens). But once the stamens wilt Wyoming kittentails assumes a drab grayish-green color and can be difficult to locate.

Above: Alpine kittentails by W. Fertig

Alpine kittentails (*B. alpina*) differs in having purple petals and inconspicuously colored filaments. In Utah, Alpine kittentails is known only from high montane meadows in the La Sal Mountains and in San Juan County. Otherwise, it ranges in the southern Rocky Mountains from southeast Wyoming to northern New Mexico.

Per Axel Rydberg named the genus *Besseya* in honor of his colleague, Charles E. Bessey (1845-1915) of the University of Nebraska. Professor Bessey was an outstanding teacher and influenced a generation of talented students, including Frederick Clements, one of the most influential (or notorious, depending on one's point of view) plant ecologists of the early 20th Century. Bessey, however, may be best remembered for his contributions to the development of a phylogenetic system of plant classification.

Bessey contended that the order Ranales (including the Ranunculaceae, Paeoniaceae, Magnoliaceae, and other similar families) was the most primitive of the flowering plants due to its possession of a number of morphological features considered close to gymnosperms. Orders that differed from this basal group in one or more features were considered more advanced and thus more recently derived.

Bessey illustrated his concept of angiosperm relationships in a famous chart that became known as "Bessey's cactus" (or *Opuntia besseyi*?) due to its loose resemblance to a beavertail cactus. Although many of Bessey's conclusions are no longer accepted, his basic concepts have become a cornerstone of systematic methodology and his cactus-like charts live on in the works of many contemporary taxonomists.

The Phragmitization of the Great Salt Lake

By Brian Nicholson - reproduced courtesy of Friends of Great Salt Lake

Just as animal species profit from our presence on the landscape many plants aggressively spread after deliberate or inadvertent introduction. The potential for cattails (*Typha spp.*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundincea*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*), among others, to alter biotic community structure, reduce wetland function, and impede restoration is significant in the Great Salt Lake ecosystem. What makes these plants especially invasive is there tendency to be more vigorous and productive than in their native distribution.

Hypotheses that explain increased competitiveness include: 1) chemical or physical conditions at the new site that facilitate growth, 2) an absence of herbivores allowing allocation of resources away from defense to reproduction, and 3) hybridization. In the case of *Typha spp*., *Phalaris arundincea,* and *Phragmites australis* hybridization is a likely explanation as all are historically found in the Great Salt Lake Basin but did not dominate plant communities until more recently.

Phragmites australis - photo courtesy of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

It is suggested that *Typha latifolia*, a freshwater cattail species, has crossed with *T. angustifolia*, a more salt tolerant species first recorded in Utah in the 1920's. *Phalaris arundincea* has been an important cultivated forage grass in temperate areas for over two hundred years. Most likely, varieties bred for different soil conditions and increased yield have propagated with wild strains.

Phragmites australis possesses many characteristic traits of hybridized plants that include perenniality, asexual reproduction and rapid colonization of disturbed habitats. Propagules are found in ballast water from the Old World and it is possible that these plants contributed new genetic material to indigenous populations. However, additional research is needed to determine if the more invasive genotype we see in Utah developed after colonization or prior to introduction.

Limiting the expansion of invasives to new sites is paramount if we hope to keep healthy and diverse wetland plant communities. Management strategies such as fire, flooding, and drawdowns are unlikely to control them as all rapidly colonize wetlands subject to human or natural disturbance. As stewards, any observations we can contribute regarding the spread and distribution of these three species may provide useful information for managing and protecting

The following is an excerpt from an article in W Richard Hildreth's "Naturally Native" series which were published in the Sego Lily in the early 80's. Dick was a co-founder of UNPS, the first director of Red Butte Garden and the driving force behind UNPS for two decades As Dick is giving a lecture at Red Butte in March we thought we'd give you a taste of what you can expect.

Naturally Native – Creeping Oregon Grape Mahonia repens by W Richard Hildreth

First published January 1982

Versatility. This may be the best term to describe the landscape uses of the Creeping Oregon Grape. Over the wide range of its natural distribution from British Columbia, south to California and east to Colorado and New Mexico, individual clumps or broad expanses of this rhizomatous suckering low shrub will be encountered from foothill areas to higher elevation exposed ridges.

In Utah, Creeping Oregon Grape may often be seen growing beneath Gambel Oak (Quercus gambelii) and Bigtooth Maple (Acer grandidentatum) along the Wasatch Front. Homes developed in this area may have natural stands of all three plants, unless they were bulldozed away in the construction phase. Hikers become familiar with Creeping Oregon Grape at the mountain tops with Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), White Fir (Abies concolor), Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta v latifolia), Engelman Spruce (Picea engelmanni)

Creeping Oregon Grape is characterized by its dull pinnately compound leaves, reminiscent of Holly. The leaves have 2-3 pairs of ovate leaflets which are typically rounded at the apex, wavy margined with 5-9 spiny teeth. Some forms are not undulate and scarcely toothed. The underside of the leaf is a paler green and densely pappilose. Grape-like clusters of rounded black fruit (6-7mm) covered by a waxy blue bloom juicily ripen in mid to late summer. The fruit is edible out of hand, but rather tart. It makes a fine jelly or dries as raisins.

Desirable landscape features include it's tolerance to dense shade, where it grows to three feet tall with a loose open habit

It does equally well in full sun where its habit is more compact and dense. The handsome purplish-red fall color develops better in sunnier than shaded sites. Bright yellow upright clusters of many small flowers contrast nicely with the dark green foliage in spring. I have seen clumps of large yellow trumpet daffodils effectively interspersed in a ground covering bed of Creeping Oregon Grape.

Tolerant not only of sun or shade, Mahonia repens seems to adapt to a variety of soil conditions, although good drainage may be most important. Plants are readily available from local nurseries in tubes or gallon sizes. Smaller plants tend to spend the first year producing a root system, followed by vigorous top growth in subsequent years. Planting at 18" on center will ensure filling in of the ground cover in three years. After establishment little or no summer irrigation is required. Over-vigorous plants may have to be pinched back occasionally. All in all a tough, versatile, handsome plant deserving greater landscape use. Ideal as a groundcover in sun or shade, in large planter boxes, rock gardens, or on steep banks or erosion control

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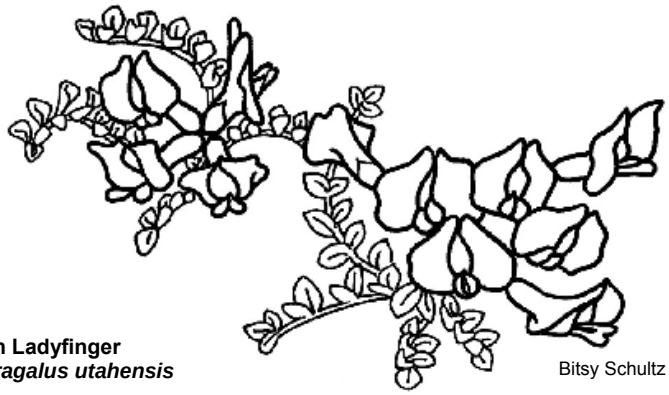

Utah Ladyfinger
Astragalus utahensis

Bitsy Schultz

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www.unps.org
and click on News

Utah Native Plant Society Membership and Information

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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 April, 2005**

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