

Aquilegia

Newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society
Volume 42 No. 3 2018 Annual Conference

2018 Annual Conference **Fort Collins, Colorado**



Knowledge, Advocacy, and Change

Aquilegia: Newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society

Dedicated to furthering the knowledge, appreciation, and conservation of native plants and habitats of Colorado through education, stewardship, and advocacy

Inside this Issue

Conference Information and Maps	3
15 TH Annual Colorado Rare Plant Symposium	4
42 ND Annual Conference Schedule	5
Speakers and Presentations	6
Field Trips	10
Lodging and Restaurants	12
Registration	13
Photo Contest	14
Silent Auction	15
Plant Sale	15

Conference Planning Committee: Thank you to the following CoNPS members for their diligent efforts to plan the 2018 Annual Conference: Bethanne Bane, Diane Banta, Nan Daniels, Ann Grant, Hugh Mackay, Nancy Hilbrecht, Paul Hilbrecht, Lenore Mitchell, Patrick Murphy, Laurie Paulik, Rich Rhoades, Judith Rice-Jones, Trevor Roberts, and Tom Schweich.

Thank you also to Jill Handwerk for planning the annual Rare Plant Symposium.

FRONT COVER PHOTO CREDIT:

Lost Lake (70 miles west of Ft. Collins). © Laurie Paulik

AQUILEGIA: Newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society

Aquilegia Vol. 42 No. 2 Spring 2018
ISSN 2161-7317 (Online) - ISSN 2162-0865
(Print) Copyright CoNPS © 2018

Aquilegia is the newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society. Members receive four regular issues per year (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) plus a special issue for the Annual Conference held in the Fall. At times, issues may be combined. All contributions are subject to editing for brevity, grammar, and consistency, with final approval of substantive changes by the author. Articles from Aquilegia may be used by other native plant societies or non-profit groups, if fully cited to the author and attributed to Aquilegia. Managing Editor: Mary Menz, mary.t.menz@gmail.com
Associate/Design Editor: Kelly Ambler, akelly4now@yahoo.com
Assistant Editor: Nan Daniels; Cartoonist: Rob Pudim; Botanical names reviewer: Elizabeth Taylor; Proofreaders: Sue Dingwell, and Linda Smith.

OPERATING COMMITTEE (Temporary): Mo Ewing bayardewing@gmail.com, David Julie bldrjardin@live.com, Jessica Smith jpsmith24@gmail.com, Denise Wilson deniseclairewilson@gmail.com, Amy Yarger amy@bigempire.com

CoNPS BOARD OFFICERS: **President:** Vacant, **Vice President:** Vacant, **Secretary:** Amy Yarger amy@bigempire.com, **Treasurer:** Mo Ewing bayardewing@gmail.com

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS: **Boulder:** Erica Cooper boulderconps@gmail.com; **Metro Denver:** Lenore Mitchell zap979sar@icloud.com; **Northern:** Hugh Mackay hughmackay@gmail.com; **Plateau:** Susan Carter susan.carter@mesacounty.us, Jim Pisarowicz jim.pisarowicz@gmail.com, David Varner dvarner3@gmail.com; **Southeast:** Rich Rhoades rr52@q.com; **Southwest:** John Bregar johnbregar09@gmail.com

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Christina Alba christina.alba@botanicgardens.org; Bethanne Bane bethannebane@gmail.com; Preston Cumming wpcumming@gmail.com; Deryn Davidson ddavidson@bouldercounty.org; Ann Grant odygrant@gmail.com; Steve Olson sdolsonoslods@aol.com; Jessica Smith jpsmith24@gmail.com; Amy Yarger amy@bigempire.com; Tom Zeiner tzeiner303@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: **Conservation:** Mo Ewing bayardewing@gmail.com; **Education & Outreach:** David Julie bldrjardin@live.com; **Field Studies:** Steve Olson sdolsonoslods@aol.com, Lara Duran ld.ecowise@gmail.com; **Finance:** Mo Ewing; **Horticulture:** Ann Grant odygrant@gmail.com; **Media:** Deryn Davidson ddavidson@bouldercounty.org, Lenore Mitchell zap979sar@icloud.com, Steve Olson sdolsonoslods@aol.com; **Research Grants:** Stephen Stern stern.r.stephen@gmail.com; **Restoration:** Erica Cooper; **Scholarships:** Cecily Mui chmui@hotmail.com

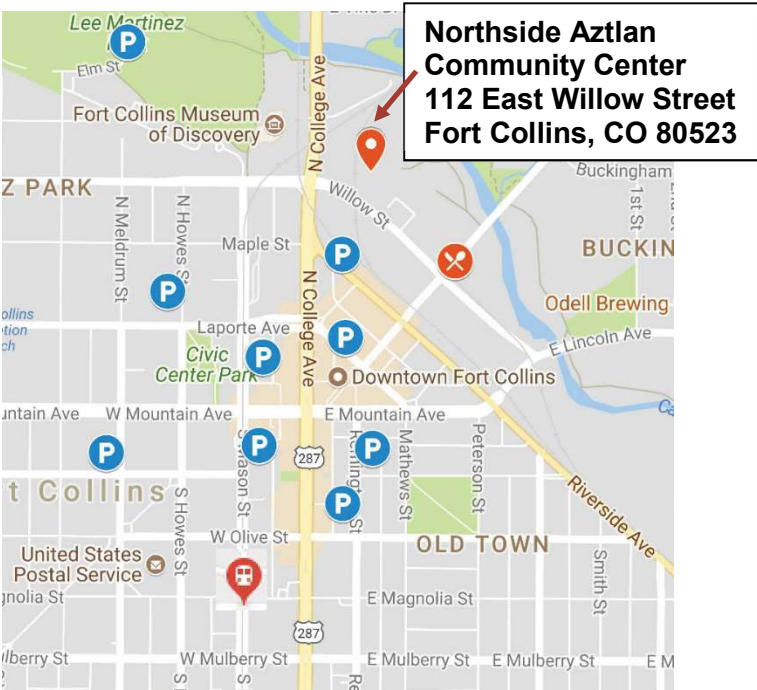
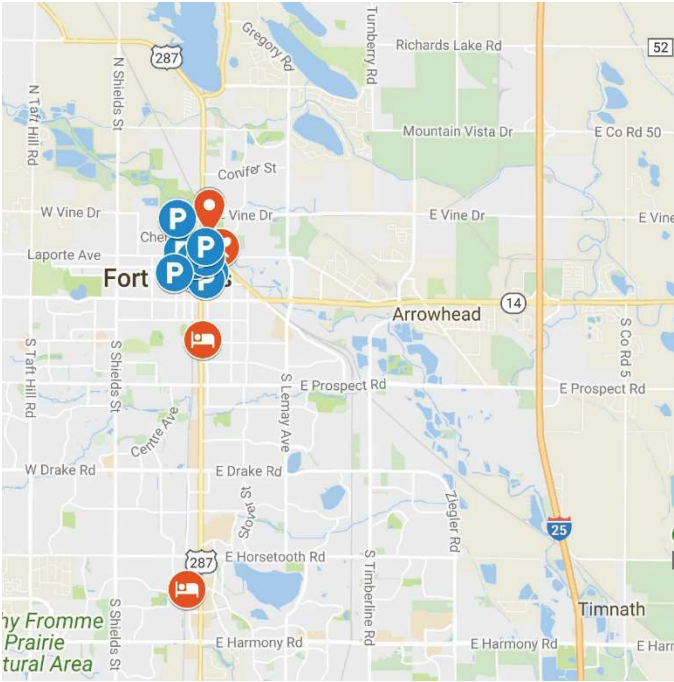
SOCIAL MEDIA: **E-Newsletter Editor:** Linda Smith conpsoffice@gmail.com; **Facebook:** Carol English daleanana@gmail.com and Jen Boussetot conpspromote@gmail.com; **Twitter and Instagram:** Jen Boussetot; **Webmaster:** Mo Ewing bayardewing@gmail.com

CoNPS STAFF: Linda Smith, Administrative Coordinator, conpsoffice@gmail.com, 970-663-4085; Jen Boussetot, Marketing & Events Coordinator, conpspromote@gmail.com; Lauren Kurtz, Workshop Coordinator, lauren.kurtz22@gmail.com

Join Us!

42ND CoNPS Annual Conference and 15TH Annual Colorado Rare Plant Symposium

The Rare Plant Symposium and Annual Conference will be held at the Northside Aztlan Community Center in Fort Collins and is conveniently located near hotels and the Olde Town area. The facility features limited free on-site parking. Please do not park in the United Way parking lot next door or your vehicle may be towed. There are two public parking lots within walking distance as well as limited street parking—pay attention to signage that limits parking hours.








Friday, September 14
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
15TH Annual Colorado Rare Plant Symposium
“Conservation Efforts and Status Review: G2 & G3 Plants of Northeast Colorado”

Friday, September 14
Friday night gathering
6:30 PM to 10:00 PM
El Burrito Restaurant (pay as you go)

Saturday, September 15
42ND CoNPS Annual Conference
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
“Knowledge, Advocacy, and Change”

Sunday, September 16
Field Trips
(morning; time varies)

-  Northside Aztlan Community Center
-  El Burrito Mexican Restaurant, 404 Linden St.
-  Hotels: Best Western University, 914 S. College Ave. & Quality Inn & Suites, 4001 S. Mason St.
-  Parking
-  The MAX bus runs North-South on Mason St.

15TH Annual Colorado Rare Plant Symposium “Conservation Efforts and Status Review: G2 & G3 Plants of Northeast Colorado”

Friday, September 14

8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Registration is \$10 at the door, or register in advance on the CoNPS website www.conps.org, or via mail with the enclosed registration form.

Join fellow botanists and members of the Colorado Rare Plant Technical Committee (RPTC) for the 15TH Annual Colorado Rare Plant Symposium. This symposium is held each fall in conjunction with the Colorado Native Plant Society's (CoNPS) annual meeting. Hosted by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) and Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG), the symposium is an annual meeting to address current status and conservation needs of rare plants in Colorado. The RPTC is an ad-hoc group of agency, academic, and non-governmental organization botanists that has been working for years to advance rare plant conservation efforts in the state.

The symposium will provide a photo presentation of the imperiled (G2) and vulnerable (G3) plant species known from northeast Colorado. This presentation will feature a diverse group of rare species including *Astragalus*, *Draba*, *Physaria*, and *Townsendia* species from alpine, shrublands, and shale barren habitats. Discussion of their relationships to Colorado's

important plant biodiversity areas, current conservation status, and potential threats will be emphasized. CNHP tracks the location and condition of over 500 globally and/or state imperiled plants. Tracking and monitoring efforts guide effective management and protection of those species and thereby prevent extinctions or statewide extirpations of Colorado's native plant species.

This is a great opportunity to exchange knowledge about some of Colorado's rarest plant species with other amateur and professional botanists from throughout the state.

The symposium is open to anyone with an interest in the rare plants of Colorado. For more information, contact Jill Handwerk at (970) 491-5857 or jill.handwerk@colostate.edu.

Annual presentations and species-specific meeting notes are available on the CNHP website for 2004-2017. View or download copies of past presentations at <https://cnhp.colostate.edu/projects/colorado-rare-plant-symposia/>. View the online Rare Plant Guide at <https://cnhp.colostate.edu/rareplants/>.



Front Range milkvetch, Astragalus sparsiflorus
© Pamela Smith



Bell's or Front Range twinpod, Physaria bellii
© Georgia Doyle

42ND CoNPS Annual Conference: “Knowledge, Advocacy, and Change”

Saturday, September 15
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Time	Title	Speaker
8:00 AM	Registration	
9:00 AM	Welcome	Hugh Mackay
9:10 AM	What Affects Species Richness in Colorado's Alpine Tundra? A look at Precipitation Gradients and Substrate pH	Mike Kintgen
9:55 AM	Forensic Botany	Pam Smith & Crystal Strouse
10:40 AM	Morning Break	Attend the bookstore
11:00 AM	State of the Colorado Native Plant Society	Jessica Smith
11:20 AM	Natural and Un-Natural History of Shortgrass Country	Don Hazlett
11:50 AM	Special Presentation	Jessica Smith
12:00 PM	LUNCH*	Bookstore, silent auction
1:15 PM	Strategic Planning	Ann Grant
1:30 PM	Botany and Citizen Science	Jennifer Ackerfield
2:15 PM	Afternoon Break	Bookstore, silent auction
2:30 PM	A Gunnison County Floristic Study (Room 1) OR	Maddie Maher
2:30 PM	Botany and Ecocities: Increasing Ecosystem Services in our Urban Greenspaces (Room 2)	Maggie Gaddis
3:10 PM	The Native Plant Conservation Campaign / CoNPS Certified Native Plant Gardens (Room 1) OR	Denise Wilson / Bethanne Bane
3:10 PM	Pejuta Ki Le: Native Plants Through the Lens of Lakota Culture (Room 2)	Jim Tolstrup
3:50 PM	Break and last chance for silent auction	Bookstore, silent auction
4:05 PM	Panel discussion	Chapter presidents
4:45 PM	Pay for your silent auction and bookstore purchases	Bookstore and silent auction sales

There will be snacks throughout the day, including bagels for breakfast, as well as coffee, tea and cold drinks.

* A box lunch from a local deli is included in the price of Annual Conference registration. Opting out of the box lunch will not reduce the registration fee. Gluten-free, dairy-free and vegetarian options are available. Please see the registration form for lunch options.

Snacks and drinks will be available at the carpool meeting locations for Sunday Field Trips.

Friday Night Dinner

Conference attendees are invited to a patio gathering Friday night at El Burrito Restaurant (404 Linden St, Fort Collins). There is a cash (or credit card) bar for which people will need to go inside and fetch their drinks. People will sit at tables inside in a designated area for dinner and pay individually for their dinners. They can split it any way they want at their own table. This way everyone has total freedom of choice for what they want or can afford to eat and drink.

Speakers and Presentations

(Arranged by Speaker's Last Name)



Jennifer Ackerfield, 1:30 - 2:15 PM
“Botany and Citizen Science”

Science is a collaborative effort. It takes a group of researchers and engaged community members, or “citizen scientists,” to observe, collect, and report findings to make scientific discoveries. With the help of citizen scientists, data can be gathered more quickly and efficiently, information can readily be made available and shared, and our overall knowledge of the natural world around us expanded exponentially. Ackerfield will present several successful citizen science projects that have united community members with scientists to make meaningful discoveries. She will also present a citizen science campaign that she began this summer, wherein she asked community members to get high on alpine thistles to answer some really cool questions about the evolution of mountaintop thistle in Colorado.

Jennifer Ackerfield is the assistant curator of the Colorado State University (CSU) Herbarium and author of the *Flora of Colorado*. She has been studying the flora of Colorado over 20 years and has traveled extensively across the state of Colorado documenting its rich floristic diversity. She also teaches Plant Identification and Grass Taxonomy at CSU and is passionate about educating students. In addition, Jennifer mentors undergraduate and graduate students at CSU, STEM students from local high schools, and manages an internship and volunteer program at the CSU Herbarium. She also leads workshops and field trips for the Colorado Native Plant Society and Crested Butte Wildflower Festival, as well as nature field trips for elementary-age children. Jennifer received her MS degree in botany with a concentration in taxonomy and systematics in 2001 and is currently working on her PhD in Botany, studying the evolution and phylogeny of the genus *Cirsium* (thistles) in North America. She has also worked with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, US Forest Service, Colorado Bureau of Land Management, and Mesa Verde National Park.

Bethanne Bane, 3:10 – 3:50 PM
“CoNPS Certified Native Plant Gardens”

Find out about the program and how a garden can be certified as a Colorado Native Plant Garden! The goals of the program include educating people about the ease of supporting native plants already adapted to the local ecotype that provide important habitat and food for Colorado native animals.

A lifetime novice gardener, Bethanne Bane was elected to the CoNPS board in 2017 and is leading the Colorado Native Plant Society's Certified Native Plant Garden program.



Maggie Gaddis, 2:30 – 3:10 PM
“Botany and Ecocities: Increasing Ecosystem Services in Our Urban Greenspaces”

There are not enough natural scientists in the world to guide our urban spaces into ecosystem functionality. Citizen scientists aid our scientific community in ecological monitoring and restoration. Gaddis will describe her research and use Colorado Springs as an example community in which concerned citizens are protecting natural resources through thoughtful gardening practices and volunteerism to increase native plant communities and ecosystem services in our urban centers. She will conclude with small break-out sessions during which session participants brainstorm citizen science engagements for their

community. The session will be supported by a webpage on which future communications, project planning, and guidance can continue after the meeting.

Maggie earned a BA in Environmental Studies from Mount Holyoke College. She received her MS in Biology from the University of Denver (restoration ecology). She is completing her dissertation research at the University of the Rockies (PhD- Education). Maggie currently teaches biology at the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs and Colorado Mountain College. She is also a member of the Bard College Citizen Science faculty. Her research involves citizen science and two research streams: investigating the relationship between citizen science training and data reliability; and investigating the ecological success of restoration efforts in public lands. Her business, Ecocity Partners, provides landscape education, restoration, gardening, and research services in both wild and home landscapes.

Ann M. Grant, 1:15 – 1:30 PM
“Strategic Planning”

The Colorado Native Plant Society has been developing a strategic plan to guide leaders for the next five years. Ann will share the board’s thoughts with the membership. After a brief presentation, Ann will open a discussion among members. Poster boards for comment will be on display at the east end of the lecture hall. Please take time over the lunch hour and during the afternoon breaks to read them and make comments. The strategic planning committee is comprised of Ann Grant (Northern chapter), Christine Alba (Metro-Denver chapter) and Erica Cooper (Boulder chapter).



Dr. Grant has lived in Colorado for 20 years and has been a native plant enthusiast since a child. From 1998 to 2010 she and her husband, Butch Hartson, ran a propagation nursery, East Vine Farms, where they specialized in growing natives from seed and cuttings. During this time, Ann served on the agricultural advisory board for Larimer County. She and Butch joined Plant Select, where they both served on the propagation committee. Ann was on the board of the Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Growers Association for many years and served on the Progreen advisory committee. She joined the board of the Colorado Native Plant Society in 2018 and is the chair of the horticulture committee. She has an AB in chemistry from Douglass College and a PhD in physical chemistry from Rutgers University. Prior to coming to Colorado, she worked as a senior scientist in the food and pharmaceutical industries, and retired as senior director of technical development from Hoffmann-LaRoche.



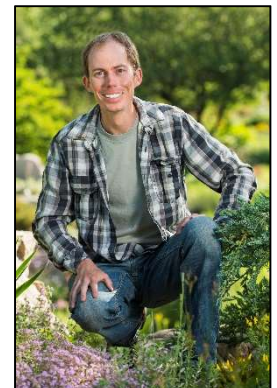
Donald Hazlett, 11:20 to 11:50 AM
“Natural and Un-Natural History of Shortgrass Country”

Don will provide a preview of his upcoming book *Natural and Un-Natural History of Shortgrass Country*. His stories blend fact with folklore, providing educational and entertaining insights in this highly personal selection of essays.

Don has been working on two short grass steppe books for years, while unemployed between contracts as a field biologist. The first is a book of 12 essays titled *Natural and Un-Natural History of Shortgrass Country*. The essays provide recent and long-term residents factual and fun information about the shortgrass country. Readers will gain a better understanding of plants, animals, lore, and the charisma of shortgrass country. The second book, *An Annotated Flora of Shortgrass Country*, is a subset of

the entire list of plant species that are known to occur in Shortgrass Country and focuses on species that have some type of ethnobotanical use.

Dr. Hazlett is an ethnobotanist and has been a member of CoNPS for more than 30 years. He earned his doctorate in tropical forest ecology (Honduras) from the University of Washington, Seattle in 1980. Don lived and worked as a botanist in tropical countries for 10 years and is still actively working on several Honduran floristic projects.



Mike Kintgen, 9:10 – 9:55 AM
**“What Affects Species Richness in Colorado's Alpine Tundra?
A look at Precipitation Gradients and Substrate pH”**

Colorado’s topography creates a large precipitation gradient across its alpine areas. Annual precipitation ranges from just over 19 inches to almost 80 inches in Colorado’s alpine tundra. This precipitation gradient had not been studied much. Through the summer of 2017 field work was compiled at nine sites across Colorado ranging from

Weston Pass in the South to The Mount Zirkle wilderness area. The driest sites were Guanella, Hoosier and Jones Passes, and the wettest sites were the Flattops and the Mount Zirkle wilderness. Soil pH was also explored and site pH varied from a surprising 4.4 to 7. Both precipitation and pH drive species richness. Attend this talk to learn the details.

Mike Kintgen is the curator of alpine collections at the Denver Botanic Gardens, where he oversees the alpine collection and eight gardens including the rock alpine garden, Mount Goliath and the South African plaza. Mike has worked full time at DBG since late 2004 but has volunteered and helped out since the mid 1990s. Since a young age, Mike has been interested in alpine plants and their environments. The drive to see alpinines in their native environments has allowed him to observe alpine environments in Alaska, Hawaii, Argentina, Morocco, Spain, the Alps, and throughout the American West. Recently, he completed an MS degree in environmental science at Regis University, working with Catherine Kleier exploring precipitation gradients and soil pH in Colorado's alpine tundra. Mike hopes to use this information to better connect and direct DBG's alpine collection in conservation of alpine areas. Mike is a popular speaker around Colorado and the US on the topic of rock gardening, and botanic travel. He is a coauthor of several books published by Denver Botanic Gardens.

Maddie Maher, 2:30 – 3:10 PM
“A Gunnison County Floristic Study”

Maddie Maher will discuss her project documenting the flora of 5,000 acres at the northern edge of the San Juan Mountains in western Gunnison County, in the canyon surrounding the Big Blue Creek, the wetlands of the Middle Blue Creek and its West Fork, and the adjacent forests, mesas and meadows. The private land surveyed, covering 3,000 acres of the study area, represents a hole in the body of floristic research on the Western Slope of the Rocky Mountains. Maddie will present how her study came about, the relevance of such projects to the scientific community, her methods, and the floristic composition of the study area (including one or two surprise finds).



Maddie Maher is completing her MS in botany at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Her previous academic background is in computer science and linguistics, and she arrived at the study of botany through the stress-relieving hobby of identifying native Colorado plants. She has lived in Colorado since 2013.



Jessica Smith, 11:00 – 11:20 AM
“The 2018 State of the Colorado Native Plant Society”

Jessica Smith will present a snapshot of the society today, a review of recent accomplishments and program offerings, and highlight changes in grant structure and upcoming projects designed to advance the mission of the society.

Jessica Smith is a botanist with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program and has worked with the Colorado Natural Areas Program for the past six years, surveying and monitoring rare plant populations across the state. She has been on the CoNPS board of directors for the past five years, and leadership team for two. She enjoys teaching grass classes, and leading and attending CoNPS field trips.

Pam Smith and Crystal Strouse, 9:55 -10:40 AM
“Forensic Botany”

Pam and Crystal will discuss NecroSearch International's role in solving cold case murders, what a forensic botanist does, how botanical information can be used to help solve murder cases, and how botanical evidence is collected at a crime scene. Pam has been a forensic botanist with NecroSearch International, a team of forensic scientists and law enforcement professionals that assist law enforcement in solving cold murder cases. Crystal, an eight-year forensic botanist with NecroSearch, will join Pam in the discussion.

Pam Smith is a field botanist and ecologist with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. She has a BS and MS in botany and 30+ years of conducting botanical and ecological research with an emphasis on botanical surveys for rare plants, plant



communities and wetland condition assessments. She has been working with CNHP for 10 years. She has presented workshops and presentations on a wide variety of topics including sagebrush identification, wetland plant identification, grass identification and forensic botany. Pam's volunteer efforts include 10 years as a CSU Extension Native Plant Master instructor, guest instructor for the City of Fort Collins Master Naturalist Program, and served as past President of the Colorado Native Plant Society Northern Chapter.



Crystal Strouse is a forensic botanist with NecroSearch International, where she has worked on multiple cases in the USA and Russia. Strouse has a BS in rangeland ecology with a concentration in restoration ecology from Colorado State University. She has worked for the last 25 years for the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department as a botanist/restoration ecologist. Strouse has served as the president of the Colorado Native Plant Society and is currently a Native Plant Master instructor for Colorado State Extension. During her free time, she enjoys hiking, photography and hanging out with fellow "plant nerds."

Jim Tolstrup, 3:10 – 3:50 PM
"Pejuta Ki Le: Native Plants Through the Lens of Lakota Culture"

Native plants provide a window into a world that existed for thousands of years prior to European colonization of the North American Continent, a world that continues to remain hidden in plain view in the modern age. Drawing on 40 years of experience, Jim Tolstrup will present a view of native plants from an indigenous perspective and share information about the uses of plants for food, ceremony, and medicine, along with the original names and meanings of the plants.

Jim is a founder and past president of Cankatola Ti Ospaye, a nonprofit that provides material assistance to Lakota Elders, and has maintained close relationships on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations in South Dakota since 1977. As the executive director of the High Plains Environmental Center in Loveland—a unique model for preserving native bio-diversity in the midst of development—Jim works to promote the conservation, restoration, and landscape use of native plants.



Denise Wilson, 3:10 – 3:50 PM
"Going Political for What You Believe In – Get Out the Vote, The Botany Bill & The Native Plant Conservation Campaign"

Do you believe in the power of your vote? If you do, then this is the time to participate in a way that is meaningful to you. Voting this November may make enough of a change to shift the balance of power in Washington, and make a positive change in all of our lives. This short talk will familiarize you with some current political issues related to native plants.

The Botany Bill (HR 1054) was introduced in February 2017 by Representative Quigley (D-IL) and has since generated 25 co-sponsors in the House. In July of this year, similar legislation was introduced in the Senate (S.3240). This legislation promotes botanical research and science capacity, generates demand for using native plant materials, and authorizes related federal activities. It has generated bipartisan support for the importance of protecting native plants.



Denise Wilson completed her MS in 2009 from the University of Colorado, Denver in integrated sciences – botany, geology and geography, with a GIS certificate. She started collecting seed in 2006 for Chicago Botanic Garden's programs and has continued to the present, collecting for the Millennium Seed Bank Project, Seeds of Success, and most recently, the Dixon National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank. She was the WRV Seed Collection Coordinator for two years, and spent a year collecting for Wyoming BLM restoration. She has served in many seasonal positions conducting plant inventories and surveys, mapping weeds, monitoring rare plant locations, and assessing plant communities. She is a volunteer for WRV, Nature Conservancy, Colorado Natural Areas, and the Colorado Native Plant Society. Wilson served on the CoNPS board of directors from 2014-2017.

Chapter Presidents, 4:05 to 4:45 PM
“Panel Discussion”

Join Hugh Mackay (Northern Chapter), Erica Cooper (Boulder Chapter), and Lenore Mitchell (Metro-Denver Chapter) for a panel discussion.



Erica Cooper is also chair of the CoNPS restoration committee and member of the strategic planning and mission grants committees. She is the native seeds project coordinator for the Boulder office of Wildlands Restoration Volunteers. She joined CoNPS in 2018 after many years as a staff liaison with partner organizations Boulder County Parks and Open Space and Synergy Ecological Restoration. Her seed collection experience spans all plant life forms and elevations, working with volunteer, staff, corporate groups, and youth crews as collectors. Erica holds a BS in environmental science from the University of Notre Dame, and has worked in central Indiana, coastal Georgia, and Colorado. In her free time, Erica loves to knit, garden, hike, and chase after her two small children.



Hugh Mackay is originally from England and Scotland. He came to the US at the age of seven and grew up in coastal Maine. His interest in plants, particularly in native trees, started as a youngster with his many hikes and explorations in the Maine woods. He financed his college expenses by working as a tree climber for various tree surgery companies. This furthered his interest in plants. After moving to Fort Collins in 1974 with his wife and four children, he worked in academic

science publishing for Harper and Row, Random House, and McGraw-Hill. His interest in plants and native flora increased as he explored the Colorado Mountains. He joined CoNPS 10 years ago to learn more about Colorado’s native flora. He has managed the northern chapter’s summer field trip program since shortly after joining, served as vice president and then became Northern chapter president in 2018.



Lenore Mitchell is a Colorado native and grew up on what was then the west outskirts of Denver. While always interested in plants and gardening, her career was in healthcare as an RN and hospital-based case manager. She and her husband moved to the mountains west of Denver in the late 70s so that she could keep horses raise their two daughters around horses. When each of them turned eleven, they joined Lenore in sixty mile competitive trail rides, several of which were held at Highlands Ranch and many other places now lost to development. She gardened in the mountains, pushing the boundaries of what would grow, and when they moved to Lakewood in 2006, she removed every blade of grass and installed native perennials, veggies and more. Lenore is a Native Plant Master and began teaching NPM courses through CSU Jefferson County Extension. She thinks teaching is a great way to continue learning. She now lives in Roxborough where deer and other wildlife roam freely and her garden features lots of Lamiaceae and as many natives as possible. She’s been president of the Metro-Denver chapter for two years.

Sunday Field Trips

Signing up for a Sunday guided field trip

There are five field trips scheduled for Sunday, September 16. You can sign up only for one field trip, as they all take place at the same time. To sign up for a field trip, select your first and second choices on the Registration Form on page 13. Please read field trip descriptions carefully before making selections.

Please note the specific meet up location and time for each field trip. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and bring sunscreen, bug repellent, a hat, light raingear, lunch (for the full day trip), and botany keys.

Beverages and snacks will be provided by field trip leaders at the meet up locations.

Devil’s Backbone 7:15 AM to 10:30 AM (Limited to 10 participants)

The meet up location for this field trip is the southeast corner of the Loveland K-Mart parking lot on the northwest corner of Hwy 34 and Wilson Ave (Taft Hill in Fort Collins) at 7:15 AM. Sunday. Participants will carpool to this much loved area located about 20 minutes from the meet up location. The early start is

because this is a very heavily used trail. The hike will end at approximately 10:30 AM. Visit an important landmark and cultural resource of Larimer County. Devil’s Backbone Open Space is a varied and rich hogback and valley system located just west of Loveland. Participants will traverse a

native shrubland of mountain mahogany with an understory of New Mexico feathergrass. Bell's, or Front Range, twinpod (*Physaria bellii*), an imperiled state wildflower, grows in some areas of the open space that are dominated by sandstones. Portions of the trail are lined with alyssum, cheat grass, and other invasive species, but participants should be able to see some late summer plants such as spreading buckwheat (*Eriogonum effusum*) and tarragon, or dragonwort, (*Artemisia dracunculus*), as well as other late-flowering Asteraceae species.

The area around the Devil's Backbone was historically frequented by the Arapahoe and Cheyenne until settlements and military outposts were established. Gypsum was mined in Hidden Valley (near the trailhead, north of US 34) from 1915-1965 by the U.S.

Gypsum Corporation and hauled by rail line to the plaster mill. Above the gypsum deposit, a discovery of clay suitable for making brick resulted in the opening of the Peep O' Day Kiln Company. We will see remnants of these operations near the end of the hike, as well as some of the bricks, along the trail.

This hike is moderately difficult and is approximately three-and-a-half miles with occasional elevation gain (the best overlooks of the Backbone are at the ascent to the Hunter's Loop junction). Commonly seen summer birds include towhees, ravens, wrens, blue grosbeaks, black-capped gnatcatchers, Bullock's orioles, swallows, goldfinches and yellow-breasted chats. This field trip is led by Laurie Paulik, recently retired USDA information specialist for the National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins.



Hewlett Gulch 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM (Limited to 15 participants)

The meet up location for this trip is the parking lot of the Northside Aztlan Center at 8:30 AM on Sunday. Participants will carpool the 20.5 miles to the trailhead and start hiking at 9:15 AM.

Hewlett Gulch is located on the north side of the Poudre Canyon about 40 minutes from the Northside Aztlan Center. The area is named after early 1870s settlers in the Poudre Park area. The 2012 High Park Fire devastated the trail; the following year it was scoured by flooding. Yet it began to heal almost immediately. This field trip is an opportunity to see the floral comeback six years after the fire.

Half a mile from the trailhead are the remains of old homesteads and mines. These date from 1911 and 1925. It is interesting to see the unexpected plants that were introduced by these early settlers. The trail is fairly flat and follows an intermittent stream along an old road. However, there will be little or no water in the creek at this time of year. Expect to hike up to four miles or less and be back at the trailhead by around noon or 12:30 PM.

Jennifer Ackerfield leads this trip. Jennifer is the collections manager at the CSU herbarium, teaches at CSU, and is the author of *Flora of Colorado*.



Landscaping with Native Plants 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Visit two native plant gardens as one of the field trip options on Sunday. Both gardens are handicap accessible. The meet up location for this two-site field trip is at the Northside Aztlan Center Parking lot at 8:30 AM Sunday. Participants will caravan to the Nix Native Plant Garden for the first part of the trip and then to the High Plains Environmental Center in Loveland. Participants may leave directly from the Nix site to drive to HPEC in Loveland.

9:00 AM-10:30 AM Nix Native Plant Garden Tour, 1745 Hoffman Mill Rd, Fort Collins

The Nix Native Plant Garden is located at the City of Fort Collins' natural areas department situated on the site of a 1920s farm. Surrounding the original farmhouse and the new administrative building are plantings of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Master Naturalist Ann Grant is a Colorado Native Plant Master® and will lead a tour of the gardens. She

will emphasize planting for fall color and interest, and discuss how plants provide protection and winter forage for pollinators and birds. For more information about the gardens, visit www.fcgov.com/naturalareas/pdf/nix-native-garden-brochure.pdf

11:00 AM-12:30 PM High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr, Loveland
Jim Tolstrup, director of the High Plains Environmental Center, will demonstrate how native plants can be used to landscape different challenging spaces. An accomplished landscape architect who managed the gardens at Kennebunkport Maine for the first President Bush and his wife Barbara, Jim will show how native plants can be used with traditional massed plants and varieties for texture and season-long interest as well as bloom.



Red Mountain 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

The meet up location for this trip is the parking lot of the Northside Aztlan Center at 8:30 AM on Sunday. Participants will carpool 25 miles to the trailhead, start hiking at 9:30 AM, and then return to the trailhead by 12:30 PM. Learn more about RMOS at www.larimer.org/naturalresources/parks/red-mountain

Located 25 miles north of Fort Collins, Larimer County's Red Mountain Open Space extends all the way to the Wyoming border and encompasses 13,500 acres. RMOS is part of the Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains Project and lies along the boundary between the Rocky Mountain Foothills and

the Central Short Grass Prairie. The area provides habitat to plants and wildlife from both life zones. Eight trails allow visitors to explore the beauty of RMOS. Participants will hike the Bent Rock Trail following Boxelder Creek through a stunning canyon and will return over equally stunning sandstone and basalt formations. The trail is flat along the creek and then moderately hilly when leaving the creek area. The hike is approximately three miles.

The trip leader is Ronda Koski, former northern chapter president and a research associate for CSU's department of horticulture and landscape architecture.



Soapstone Prairie Natural Area 7:30 AM to 11:30 PM

The meet up location for this field trip is at the Northside Aztlan Center parking lot at 7:30 AM. Field trip leader Crystal Strouse will provide a city van for transporting attendees to the site. Private vehicles are not allowed in the restricted area of Soapstone Prairie.

Soapstone Prairie Natural Area is located on 22,498 acres along the Colorado and Wyoming State border. This amazing landscape features more than 500

species of plants, 38 rare plants, and nine rare plant communities. Participants will explore a rarely visited canyon at Soapstone Prairie with City of Fort Collins natural areas department botanist Crystal Strouse and wildlife biologist Aran Meyer.

The two-hour hike through Cedar Canyon provides opportunities to see both plants and birds. Don't forget your botanical keys and binoculars!

Lodging and Restaurants

Coming in from out of town? A block of rooms at two local hotels are reserved for conference attendees. Make reservations early: twenty rooms at each hotel are available at the special conference rates. Rates are good the evenings of September 14 and 15. See Map on Page 3.

Quality Inn & Suites

4001 South Mason Street
Fort Collins, 80525.
(970) 282-9047

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/RS84V0>

Discount rates at the Quality Inn vary by type of room (\$104 or \$114). Use the code "CO Native Plant Society" when making reservations to get the discounted room rates. Reservations must be made by August 17 to guarantee the special rate.

Best Western University

914 South College Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80525
(970) 484-1984

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.06040.html?groupId=N16PQ7A6

The Best Western discount rate for conference attendees is \$94. Use the code "The Colorado Native Plant Society" when making reservations to get the discounted room rate. Reservations must be made by August 14 to guarantee the special rate.

Dining in Fort Collins

Restaurants abound in Old Town on and around College Avenue. Fortunately, the Colorado State University Rams have an away game on Saturday, September 15.

Large groups might still consider making reservations for Saturday evening dining in Old Town.

Registration

Registration is available online at <http://conps.org>. Please log in if you are a CoNPS member. If registering by mail, please complete the following registration form for each person attending and submit by September 7. **Attendance is limited; there may be a waiting list.**

Mail registration form and payment to: CoNPS, c/o Linda Smith, 4057 Cottonwood Dr., Loveland, CO 80538

Name (first, last) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mailing address _____

The registration fees include attendance to the Annual Conference on Saturday, September 15, a box lunch from a local deli, and the Sunday field trip of your choice. There is no price reduction when opting out of the box lunch. A separate fee is charged for attending the Rare Plant Symposium.

Member registration*

The 15 TH Annual Rare Plant Symposium @ \$10	\$ _____
The 42 ND Annual Conference @ \$45 (\$55 after August 20)	\$ _____
Field trip of your choice (included in cost)	_____ 0
Total enclosed	\$ _____

Non-member registration* **Consider becoming a member! See page 14**

The 15 TH Annual Rare Plant Symposium @ \$10	\$ _____
The 42 ND Annual Conference @ \$55 (\$65 after August 20)	\$ _____
Field trip of your choice (included in cost)	_____ 0
Total enclosed	\$ _____

* Student discount is \$10 off. A limited number of scholarships are available. See CoNPS.org for details.

Lunch options. Choose one.

- Check here if you need gluten-free bread and dessert!**
- Check here if you need dairy-free option!**
- TURKEY TRAILHEAD:** Roasted Turkey, Jarlsberg cheese, avocado, tomato, red onion, romaine lettuce, honey Dijon mustard - includes pickle spear, chips, and fresh baked desert.
- SUMMIT:** Black Forest Ham, brie cheese, apple smoked bacon, cranberry chutney, romaine lettuce, chipotle mayo - includes pickle spear, chips, and fresh baked desert.
- EXPEDITION:** Roast beef, cheddar cheese, tomato, avocado romaine lettuce, chipotle mayo - includes pickle spear, chips, and fresh baked desert.
- HOT SPRINGS:** Avocado, tomato, red onion, English cucumber, carrots, field greens, chevre cheese, red wine vinaigrette - includes pickle spear, chips, and fresh baked desert.
- SALAD BOXED LUNCH:** Garden Salad - includes French baguette and fresh baked desert.

Field Trip Options

Please indicate first and second choices for Sunday Field Trips (included in registration), assigned on first come, first served basis.

_____ Devil's Backbone _____ Hewlett Gulch _____ Landscaping with Native Plants
_____ Red Mountain _____ Soapstone Prairie

Please check if you would like to be contacted about carpooling to Fort Collins. If checked, your phone/email information will be provided to others interested in carpooling.

CoNPS Membership

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
Chapter (if known) _____

CHAPTERS: Boulder, Metro-Denver, Northern (Ft. Collins-Greeley), Plateau (Grand Junction & West Slope), Southeast (Colorado Springs-Pueblo), Southwest (Durango) or Unaffiliated

If this is a change in address, please write your old address here.

Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check box to receive information on volunteer opportunities

Most members receive the *Aquilegia* newsletter electronically.

Check the box if you would like to receive the black-and-white printed copy of *Aquilegia*.

Membership dues cover a 12-month period.

New Renewal

Student \$17 Senior (65+) \$17 Individual \$25
 Family \$35 Plant Lover \$50 Supporting \$100
 Patron \$250 Benefactor \$500 Life Member \$800

CONTRIBUTIONS to CoNPS are tax deductible:

John Marr fund for research on the biology and natural history of Colorado native plants \$ _____

Myrna P. Steinkamp Memorial fund for research and other activities to benefit the rare plants of Colorado

\$ _____

Total included: \$ _____

Please make check payable to:
Colorado Native Plant Society

Send completed form and full remittance to:
CoNPS Office
PO Box 200
Fort Collins, CO 80522



Annual Photo Contest—Call for Entries

Have you taken some spectacular photos of native plants this summer or in years past? If so, consider entering the CoNPS annual photo contest. Photos may **only be submitted electronically** with a completed entry form, which is different than in years past.

Entries can be made in any of four categories including:

- Colorado Native Plant **Landscapes**
- Colorado Native **Plants**
- **Artistic** (of Colorado Native Plants or Native Plant Landscaping); and
- Colorado Native Plants & **Wildlife** (including insects/pollinators)

Contest rules and agreements are posted on the CoNPS website, <http://CoNPS.org>. The deadline for entries is September 5. Photos will be displayed and judged by conference attendees. Winners will be announced September 15.

Entries must be a single work of original material taken by the contest entrant. No more than one photo per category may be submitted by a photographer. Photos may be from previous years (for example, you may submit a photo that you took in 2013). A \$50 prize will be awarded to the first place winner of each category.

Contest is open to CoNPS members only.

Annual Silent Auction Benefits CoNPS Activities

There will be opportunities to bid on many special items at the Annual Conference. Proceeds support the Colorado Native Plant Society's wide-ranging projects including education, conservation, native plant gardening, botanical and horticultural publications, and activities.

Bethanne Bane and the silent auction committee seek your donations for this event.

Said Bane, "If you see something you love when you are getting something that you need, consider buying it and donating it to the Colorado Native Plant Society's Annual Conference silent auction."

Bane said the items do not need to cost a lot of money, as the silent auction team will group smaller less-pricey donations with other similar items for a nice gift basket.

"You don't have to spend a lot of money," said Bane, "And you can contact me any time to pick up an item."

Bane offers the following suggestions for donations:

- Members who are artists, photographers, or crafters who'd like to donate a sample of their work;
- Framed art work that has outlived your enjoyment;
- Greeting cards, stationary, markers, pens, stickers, and so on;
- Tee shirts, hats, gloves, raingear, gaiters, UPF clothing, technical fabric clothing;
- Water bottles;

- Lightly used backpacks, items to fill a backpack, other outdoor gear;
- An unopened bottle of wine or liquor;
- Garden tools, art, statuary, wind chimes in "like new" condition;
- Gift cards;
- Any unused gift you've received and would like to find a home for; and
- Money that the committee can use to make a great gift basket.

Thanks for keeping CoNPS in mind when you shop. Bane said the committee is grateful for member support and that each donation helps make the silent auction a success.

If you or your business are interested in donating an item for the silent auction, please contact Bethanne Bane at bethannebane@gmail.com.

Special Door Prize!

Bring some dollar bills with you to the Saturday conference. For every one dollar in cash added to the donation box, the attendee donor will receive a door prize ticket. A \$5 donation will receive six door prize tickets. The winner of the door prize will receive half of the total money collected!

All proceeds support CoNPS projects.

CoNPS Fall Native Plant Sale



Purchase your favorite Colorado native plants for pickup this fall on the 2018 CoNPS Fall Plant Sale! Order plants until September 5. Pickup is scheduled for September 16 in Loveland at High Plains Environmental Center. Fall is an exceptionally good time of year to transplant: the soil is warm to encourage root growth and the weather is cool to reduce transpiration. Order plants at <https://conps.org/2018-fall-plant-sale/>



Colorado Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 200
Fort Collins, Colorado 80522
<http://www.CoNPS.org>

WANTED

Reporters and photographers
for the annual conference.
Please contact Kelly Ambler
akelly4now@yahoo.com

**42ND CoNPS Annual Conference
and
15TH Annual Colorado Rare Plant Symposium
We Hope to See You in Fort Collins!**

Thank You, Sponsors!

CoNPS gives special thanks to the following organizations for supporting the annual conference at the Platinum sponsorship level.

