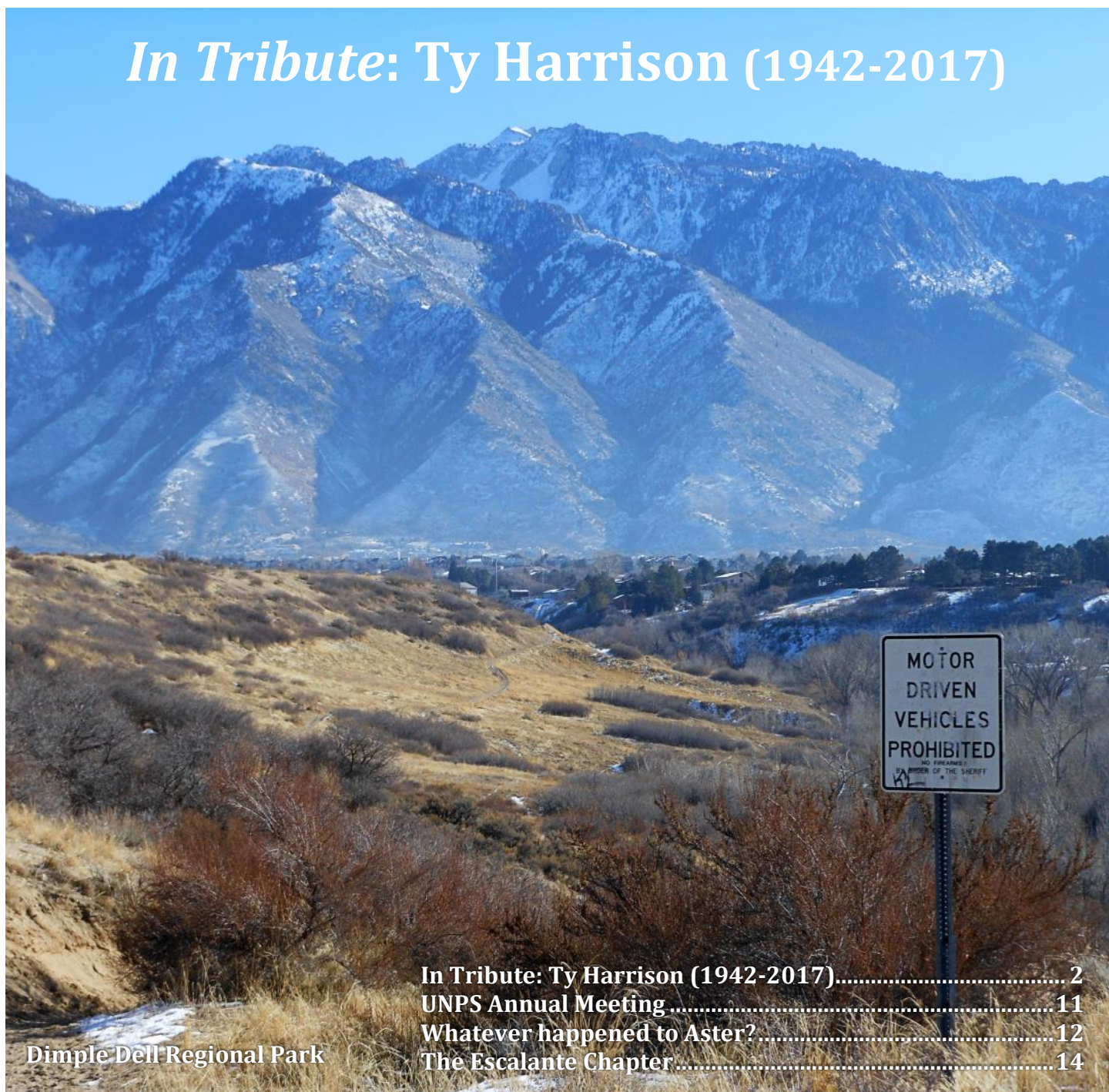




Fall 2017 Volume 40 Number 4

In Tribute: Ty Harrison (1942-2017)



Dimple Dell Regional Park

In Tribute: Ty Harrison (1942-2017).....	2
UNPS Annual Meeting	11
Whatever happened to Aster?.....	12
The Escalante Chapter.....	14

In Tribute: Ty Harrison (1942-2017)

by Tony Frates

Utah rivers, lakes, meadows, and native grasslands lost a passionate ally on June 3 this year.

So did we.

Technically a retired educator for the past ten years, Ty's teaching career never stopped. His vocation simply changed from full-time educator to full-time advocate for the remaining natural fragments of the Salt Lake Valley as well as other areas along the Wasatch Front. And that advocacy, which he was also undertaking in his spare time throughout his teaching career, took a multitude of forms:

- Education of young people (including as a resident scientist for Pacific Heritage Academy) and numerous outdoor (Ty's favorite place to teach) classroom activities
- Native tree planting and restoration
- Weeding
- Wetland delineation and protection
- Water quality and ecosystem health
- Serving on non-profit boards (including UNPS) and as an advisory member and providing gratis consulting for state, city and county agencies and serving on the Technical Advisory Committee of the Jordan River Commission and for Dimple Dell Regional Park.

And throughout, Ty never lost his own childlike curiosity and enthusiasm for the natural world.

Born in Utah in 1942 and raised in the Murray-Sandy-South Jordan area, Alton Tyrone ("Ty") Harrison's interests in plants and nature were at least partly inspired by his grandmother while growing up on the family farm. This led him to pursue a botany degree at the University of Utah (graduated in 1964, with instructors that included Seville Flowers and Kimball Harper), a master's in botany at UCLA (1966), and then a Ph.D. in biology at Stanford (Harrison 1971). He taught at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, then at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, and finally returned to Utah where he taught biology courses at Westminster College in Salt Lake City until he retired in 2007. He also that year received a well-deserved Community Builders Award, one of just four local

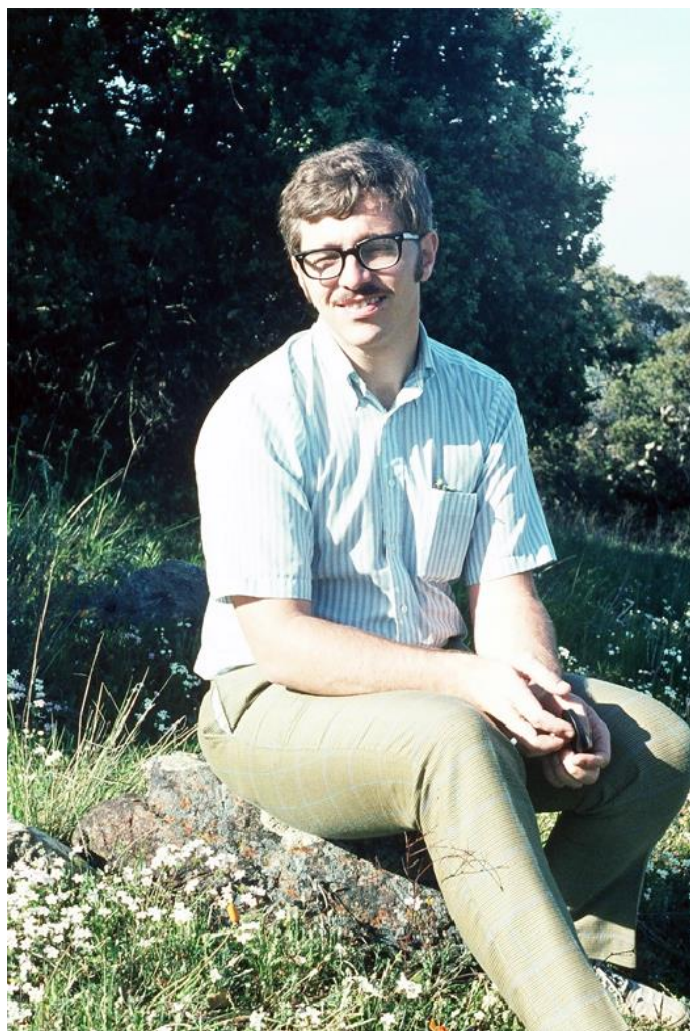


Alton Tyrone Harrison

recipients (Miller 2007).

Equally passionate about Purple Three Awn (a bunchgrass species), Monarch butterflies, Black-Chinned hummingbirds and Western Chorus frogs, Ty considered himself first and foremost to be an ecologist. And his passion focused on trying to save what few representative ecosystems were left in the "Valley of the Jordan," from the shores and wetlands around Utah Lake, the length of the Jordan River to the playas of the Great Salt Lake; and of course also to the surrounding foothills and beyond. And at the same time, educating everyone he could about their importance, and the need for their protection and restoration.

It was in fact his prior teaching and conservation experiences outside of Utah that gave Ty a unique insight into the understanding of related plants and plant communities from the Midwest that also occur in



Ty Harrison, 1969, photographer unknown (picture was sent to me by Ty in 2010)

northern Utah. An example of that was his immediately recognizing *Leersia oryzoides* (Rice Cutgrass), not previously known from Salt Lake County and only obscurely known from Utah, at Woodstock Meadows Park (for which Ty was a fierce advocate) in Murray, growing conspicuously right along the boardwalk when we happened to be there at just the right time of year, and that had previously gone unnoticed on countless prior visits. It was a species that he recalled seeing in Nebraska when he taught there (but had not previously seen in Utah).

Ty also had a deep interest in pioneer history and edible wild plants as witnessed by his Milkweed Pod Pickle recipe, apparently one of his favorites (Harrison 1996), and his wild fruit foraging calendar (Harrison 2012). He also offered cactus fruit smoothies at one UNPS Salt Lake chapter talk.

UNPS, Judy, Mrs. Peterson, Monarchs and me

Ty became active with the Utah Native Plant Society (UNPS) upon his return to Utah, serving as a board member during the mid to late 1980's. In recent years, he again returned to serve on the UNPS board, and he was a member of our board at the time of his death.

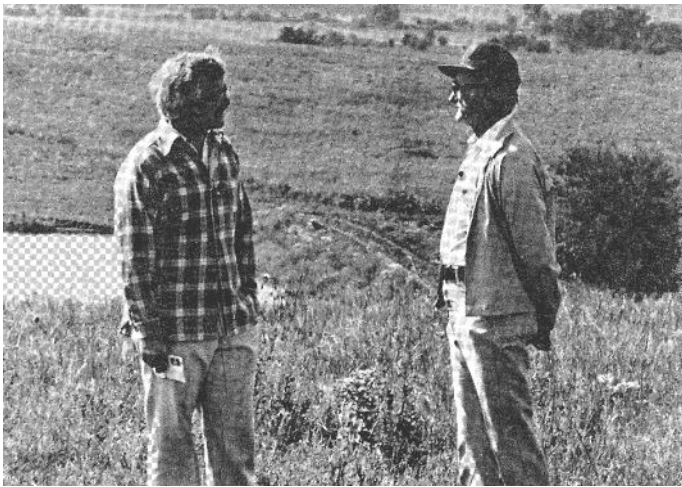
Some of his early involvement with UNPS was referenced in an e-mail Ty sent on January 6, 2012 to Blake Wellard and me:

Gentlemen: This is rather amusing, but my wife just handed me an old copy of a handout used for my first UNPS field trip which I led after returning to Utah after 20 years living out-of-state. I had just joined UNPS. I was just beginning to think about using local examples of ecological models for use in native plant restoration and urban landscaping projects. I had just been involved in tallgrass prairie preservation and restoration in Eastern Nebraska while on the faculty at the University of Nebraska. I naively thought that people here in Utah might be interested in similar ecological restoration projects. Now it is just starting to happen here in Utah. Twenty years too late! The two scanned attachments of the handouts (poor quality copies of copies) are from my old file, now mainly of "historic" interest. I remember that Kim Harper, my old prof. from 20 years earlier, attended the field trip in 1986.

Regards, Ty Harrison

Prior to that spring 1986 field trip to the Dry Creek and Bell's Canyon area (Harrison 1986a), Ty spoke at a UNPS chapter meeting on January 23, 1986 which was later summarized in a newsletter article (Poulson 1986). From that article co-written by Ty, he discusses some of the pioneer and natural history of Dry Creek (then Crescent and now Sandy):

. . . the low elevation native grasslands and streamside trees which the pioneers saw when they settled the valley or traveled through the area are practically gone . . . a few native, undisturbed areas still remain along the small creeks in extreme southeastern Salt Lake County from which we can



Fall 1982, *Prairie Plains Journal*

reconstruct the original native valley vegetation which the pioneers experienced . . .

The small foothill streams and adjacent vegetation of this rapidly growing area of Salt Lake County provide an outstanding opportunity to observe, preserve and learn about our native plants and animals, examples of our "Natural Heritage," a legacy which we need to know and treasure along with our cultural and religious heritage. And critical for achieving a "Sense of Place" for us and our children, here at the foothills of the Wasatch.

If only those words of wisdom had been fully embraced by government leaders and planners.

Ty led other fields trips that year and would continue to lead field trips, and spoke occasionally at UNPS chapter meetings for the remainder of his life.

While I had earlier been a board member in the 1980's, I don't recall meeting Ty until much later. On June 2, 2001, Ty was scheduled to lead a field trip at Dimple Dell Regional Park that was announced in the March/April 2001 *Sego Lily* newsletter. I was luckily the only person to attend that Saturday morning event. It was obvious how deeply Ty cared for this precious remaining open space, and despite all of the problems of invasive weeds and encroachment of all kinds, it was clearly nature space that was still important enough for us to make room for, to take care of, and to hear its stories. And Ty was its premier advocate, historian and storyteller.

Since the year 2001 and especially over the past decade, Ty and I worked on numerous projects together (often



Ty reviewing posted material on a recently constructed kiosk at Dimple Dell Regional Park. Ty developed and supervised interpretive trail signage and played a critical role over the years in maintaining the park as primarily a natural area including serving on the Dimple Dell Advisory Board and also working with Citizens to Preserve Dimple Dell. June 2001. Photo by Tony Frates.

as well with Blake Wellard, who Ty referred to as a "force of nature") that included, most recently, efforts to protect an area we decided to refer to as Spring Run Creek near Murray that we had each started to inventory, and that Ty had started to visit in 2016, because it was close to where he had only recently been forced to place his wife, Judy Gunderson Harrison, into an assisted care facility. In fact, as recently as September 15, 2016, Ty had prepared a proposal entitled "Spring Run Creek Storm Water Filtration Demonstration Project," the purpose of which was to fill a need to demonstrate how to use low-cost, engineered bioswales or "filtration wetlands" to help decrease the organic matter component in urban storm waters entering the Jordan River and its tributaries. And he submitted that proposal to the Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the Jordan River Commission.

Sadly, Judy died on August 25, 2017, less than three months after Ty left us.

About Judy, in a 1996 article Ty stated, "She has an extreme empathy for foundlings, both plant and animal." This comment was made in the context of her protecting *Asclepias speciosa* seedlings that had found their way into their yard, and that weren't previously present. When next observing a lone female Monarch floating its way to the milkweeds that Judy had earlier protected, that sparked a 40-year old memory back to when Ty was a first grade student at Crescent Elementary where his teacher, Mrs. Peterson, taught the class about Monarch butterflies, and his recalling what a powerful experience that was; and he even goes on to



Ty photographing *Opuntia macrorhiza*, highly disjunct along the Wasatch Front that he, Dorde Woodruff and I earlier realized we had been separately observing and studying for many years (decades) until we combined efforts and were surprised to realize that it is somewhat atypical and deserving of taxonomic recognition. Salt Lake County, June 2009.

Photo by Tony Frates



Ty placing a germination ring into place as part of an *Opuntia macrorhiza* experiment. Germination rates here and in a controlled location were low (2%) but in the wild however, we believe that invasive species are outcompeting new recruits and threatening the ability of *O. macrorhiza* to persist and accompanied by significant habitat loss. Salt Lake County, October 2009. Photo by Tony Frates

state that it might have been the reason for his decision to become a biologist (Harrison 1996).

Ty's fascination with Monarch butterflies never stopped. He would write about Monarchs and milkweeds again (Harrison 2014) and quite appropriately he spoke about them at his last UNPS chapter talk on October 5, 2016, which Judy also attended. During the summers of 2015 and 2016 he participated in Monarch workshops and monitored multiple sites for Monarch larvae. He was fascinated about every aspect of their life cycle and amazing journeys, and which routes they might be taking through Utah. We together last year watched a Monarch butterfly laying her eggs (ovipositing), and observed and often discussed some of the many challenges these butterflies face, both natural and unnatural. Over the last several years we have attempted to plant local *Asclepias* genotypes, particularly *A. incarnata* in appropriate wetland/wet meadow habitats (when in city/county parks, with appropriate approval) which has largely been lost in Salt Lake County, and related Russian Olive control which has swallowed up critical wet meadows habitat, supplementing those with other vanishing tall forb and moisture loving natives that flourished here at one time. More open, wet meadow habitat benefits pollinators, birds, plants, and other wildlife, including us.

Whether it was a visit to Olympus Hills Park, areas near the base of Big Cottonwood Canyon where Ty remembered having been taken on field trips by Seville Flowers while a student at the University of Utah, along

the upper Bonneville Shoreline adjoining the Mt. Olympus trail, lower Hughes Canyon, Bell's Canyon, Dimple Dell, Woodstock, or our many visits with respect to weeding and attempted restoration at Big Cottonwood East, I always learned something new. Frequently we (including Blake) shared information as to places we had separately visited, and what we saw there. Ty and Blake together made various forays also into both Utah as well as Davis/Weber counties frequently for the purpose of wetland forb seed collection for use in restoration projects. Ty would often make valuable ecology-oriented plant lists and associated notes starting with the most to least dominant plants in a given area and their various associations/communities.

Some devastating news

It was against this backdrop that in the late morning on December 14, 2016 and completely out of the blue, I received this e-mail from Ty:

Tony: I just wanted you to know that I have recently been diagnosed with pancreatic adeno-carcinoma and will be undergoing surgery at St. Mark's tomorrow morning. Won't have a prognosis until after the surgery. The recovery time is approximately 2 weeks in the hospital if they do major excision surgery. Having plenty of support from my family and confronting my mortality. Luckily my wife and I set



Ty discusses ecological impacts of the prolific, non-native *Secale cereale* (Cereal Rye) impacting *Opuntia fragilis* and other native species and the likely benefits *Heterotheca villosa* in helping to fight off invasions with Western Illinois University's Eric Ribbens. Salt Lake County, June 2010. Photo by Tony Frates.

up an estate plan two years ago just for this contingency.

My wife asked me what I was most proud of in my life and I replied, my family and the environmental conservation projects with which I have been involved in both Nebraska and Utah. Namely, The Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve, the University of Nebraska's tallgrass Ninemile Prairie near Lincoln, and here in Utah the restoration projects at Hidden Hollow, Wasatch Hollow, the Fife Wetland Preserve and the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve in South Jordan.

Keep up your valuable work on behalf of our native plants.

Regards, Ty Harrison

Apparently Ty had been somewhat ill and had missed a recent Dimple Dell advisory meeting, but I had been completely unaware of that, and wasn't aware of any change in his health.

Spending the Christmas holidays at St. Mark's Hospital



Blake Wellard and Ty investigate hybrid oaks. Salt Lake County, October 2010. Photo by Tony Frates

in Salt Lake City, and then enduring a long recovery from that major surgery, and just prior to or about the time of Ty starting chemo treatments, Dimple Dell Regional Park again was under threat. In the early days, a proposed golf course (Deseret News 1989) had been defeated along with other numerous other proposed incursions into the park over the years. So in early March of this year, for one last time, a frail Ty was just barely well enough to assist the community that was resisting an expensive and ill-advised paving project, and managed to make a public appearance on the park's behalf (Stuckey 2017 – see photographs). That effort was ultimately successful thanks to the efforts of the Dimple Dell Preservation Community. (However, there are still plans to once again attempt to build roads directly through Dimple Dell, and that will require future defenders of the park to ensure that does not occur. We have enough roads.)

But the chemo treatments that Ty had to subsequently endure were too much and took their toll, and by early June, Ty was gone.

It was with respect to Dimple Dell that my last phone and e-mail communications with Ty occurred while I was preparing UNPS conservation committee comments on the paving project in February.

Ty the teacher/educator who spoke for the trees

In a 2007 Westminster news article celebrating Ty's years of teaching, reference is made to "The Lorax," i.e. the Dr. Seuss character, who Ty is said to have likened himself to (Hodobo 2017). I never heard Ty reference the Lorax, but, on any number of occasions heard him elegantly speak about our hybrid Fremont's



Ty at the old Garrett Herbarium location on lower campus with Mitchell Power (the herbarium's curator) and the legendary Rudy Drobnick who was a Walter Cottam student in the 1950's. University of Utah, December 2010. Photo by Tony Frates.

Cottonwood trees, Peachleaf Willows, and River Hawthorns that with Coyote Willow and other native trees and shrubs that occupied space pre-settlement now largely consumed by Russian Olive, Tamarisk, Siberian Elm, and the invasive form of Canary Reed, as well as the native tree and shrub species (and their invaders such as the dreaded Mahaleb Cherry) occupying our foothills. So, Ty was naturally a proponent for the protection of Gambel's Oak stands and had long been deeply intrigued by our hybrid oaks (first found by Rudy Drobnick, and several of which Ty later found and documented).

Ty really did speak for the trees.

Whether speaking to a group of students indoors or outdoors or communicating to a county maintenance crew, Ty was always trying to open our eyes to the wonders of nature all around us, and in building that level of awareness and the appreciation that can follow, the pillars of a conservation ethic is formed. And this I think was always his major goal regardless of the age group or forum involved or even if talking to one person. In this regard, he more often than not succeeded.

I cannot possibly do justice to everything that Ty accomplished as a teacher and educator including all of the lives he impacted. His students best tell those stories including articles written about him in Westminster publications. There are telling comments written on his obituary guest book by former students and other postings such as those by Chris Thomas (Thomas 2017) along with publications such as the excellent Hodobo et al article. It is clear that Ty was a great source of inspiration for many of his students and changed their way of thinking about the world. His outdoor teaching approach in particular helped to open the eyes of students, and stirred their senses.

Ty also sat on Ph.D. and similar committees and provided valuable career path counsel to many. He wrote up so many educational materials that I also cannot possibly adequately try to document all of them. For his students he would write up special reference materials geared to specific topics often related to areas they were going to visit on "lab day." For the general public and working with teachers in other schools at all grade levels, he worked on numerous projects such as Sugar House's Hidden Hollow (Olson 2013), and he collaborated with the late Oakridge Elementary teacher Gayen Wharton along with also Vern Fridley to produce a very nice "NatureScaping" booklet for teachers (Wharton 1992).

He frequently wrote well thought-out proposals including one for a visitor center with handicapped access for Dimple Dell Regional Park that would both educate and have a limited footprint. That cost effective proposal which was also part of the long term plan for the park has yet to be approved.

A natural open space advocate without peer

As an advocate for preserving our few remaining open spaces in the expanding suburbia of the Wasatch Front and especially in Salt Lake County, Ty was without peer. Few local scientists have been as outspoken (but always respectfully) as Ty. The Salt Lake Valley was his home and he frequently spoke on behalf of the Jordan River and about places that remind us of our true natural heritage, how precious they are, and how we must speak on their behalf.

Ty debunked the story that we so often hear that the Salt Lake Valley was nothing but a xeric place fit only for undesirable plants, but rather contained springs, wet meadows, and rich wildlife riparian corridors not the least of which was the Jordan River (and the extensive wetlands that used to exist around it and particularly to



At an unusual remnant site that includes *Asclepias incarnata* (Marsh Milkweed) which is quickly disappearing along the Wasatch Front, Ty ponders the past and future of this location and how to best protect it. Salt Lake County, June 2013. Photo by Tony Frates

the west, now completely changed), along with rich grasslands. A quote from Ty in 2016 about the river:

"The central idea of this plan is to think of river as one entity, and to challenge ourselves to find every possible way to enhance its ecological health and biological diversity as well as its recreational, spiritual and economic value for all of us who live near it," says botanist and riparian restoration ecologist Ty Harrison, one of the plan's principal designers. "How creative are we?" (Wheeler 2016)

Grazing and development however has greatly altered these once vibrant ecosystems; nonetheless, Salt Lake County, despite its relatively small size, boasts a high level of biodiversity due to a combination of factors including the "lake effect" leading to extra snowfall received in our mountains, higher historical precipitation generally, the meeting of two geographic provinces, highly diverse geology and a wide array of habitats from valley/foothill to montane/alpine elevations.

The importance of the Great Salt Lake was not lost on Ty and he wrote a number of educational guides relating to the lake and took his students there. The history of Lake Bonneville and its impacts including the footprint it left by way of multiple lake levels, and the changes in climate over roughly the past 12,000 years (i.e. the Holocene) particularly fascinated Ty. But then almost

anything associated with the natural world also piqued Ty's interest.

Of equal concern to Ty was Utah Lake and its increasingly degraded health. Ty was adamant that urgent action needed to be taken with respect to Utah Lake to clean up sewage loads flowing into the lake including the immediate implementation of total maximum daily load (TMDL) standards and taking immediate steps to require Utah County sewage treatment plants to remove nitrogen and phosphorous out of sewage water. So far, however, residents have been unwilling to pay the required "toilet tax" that might be required to remove these harmful wastes that to a large degree are responsible for the increased algal blooms of recent years. These are not simply the byproducts of excessively warm summers. The expected three-fold

population increase over the next 40 to 50 years in Utah County will lead to ecological disaster if proactive action is not taken now (and including similar actions in Salt Lake, Davis and Weber counties).

Ty's interests and conservation/educational activism was not limited to the Wasatch Front. In addition to his extensive conservation work in Nebraska, his articles relating to southern Utah winter annuals (Harrison 2014) and four rare Utah penstemons (Harrison 2016) are other examples. In fact, he became very concerned about disturbances to *Penstemon marcusii*'s habitat in Carbon County in 2016, made some local investigations into land ownership, and was trying to arrange with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and other groups for a possible bio-blitz in the area where he had documented several occurrences. He felt that people of the city of Price should be proud to protect this species, since Price Penstemon is after all one of its common names. He was also very concerned about the rare Penstemons in the Uinta Basin, particularly *Penstemon flowersii*, (named for Seville Flowers, the former professor that Ty had fond memories of) and thought that he may have discovered one new location. At my request, he in fact attended a TNC Uinta Basin Rare Plant Forum meeting (jointly started by TNC and UNPS in 2005) in 2016, and he wanted to make further trips to the area to potentially collect seed and initiate other studies. He was very much looking forward to attending this year's American Penstemon Society meeting in Vernal (co-sponsored by UNPS) but was too ill to attend, and in

fact, he died on a day when that meeting was in progress.

But now who?

In an e-mail sent to me and also to Blake Wellard on about October 14, 2013, Ty noted (following a celebration of life event for the Garrett Herbarium's Ann Kelsey that we attended):

For someone who was camera shy like Ann, someone certainly took a lot of pictures of her. I couldn't come up with a fraction that number of pictures of me. Just shows that people considered her to be someone special enough to photograph and remember.

While Ty may not have realized it, “we” were in fact taking many pictures of him.

(Ty: you too were special. We will indeed remember you!)

And then Ty wrote in that same 2013 e-mail:

Got me to thinking about writing my own personal history for my kids and grand kids. They haven't a clue. Also, after recently driving through what was my old childhood neighborhood, now Sandy's consumerist heaven, South Towne Mall, it made me think that I've lived too long. Witnessing the Californication of where I was raised has been too painful for a "place person" like me. One consolation is that I helped preserve and restore 120 acres of the Jordan River floodplain now called the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve. The wildlife that I remember as a kid there is just now reappearing (Leopard frogs, Garter Snakes, Monarch and Viceroy Butterflies) but I've yet to see a Woodhouse Toad.

Regards, Ty Harrison

It is very hard for those of us who remember a different, less crowded world, with much more natural open space, to now see those same places built over with endless homes, buildings and roads, and feel the pain of that loss. Is this progress? I remember the University of Utah's Research Park almost completely without any buildings, and all open space. *Phlox longifolia* could be seen in bloom along Foothill Blvd. While we are going to continue to lose natural open spaces, we must fight to save what little is left, particularly areas within and adjoining suburbia. Conservation has to start at home. Limits must be placed both on growth and never-ending



Ty particularly enjoyed standing in the presence of the Wasatch Front rare Western Spotted Joe-Pye Healing Plant (my common name variant for this taxon, since it is not a “weed”), *Eutrochium maculatum* var. *bruneri* (syn. *Eupatorium maculatum* var. *bruneri*). While once somewhat more common in northern Utah, the species has suffered very significant habitat losses. Photo by Blake Wellard.

surface disturbances. No more wetlands should be drained and built over. Yet, anything that is even remotely close to being flat is highly vulnerable to development seemingly everywhere.

But, now that Ty is gone, who will speak for the Peachleaf Willows, the River Hawthorns, the Fremont's Cottonwoods, and the Box Elders?

To honor Ty and his legacy, all of us must.

And, the next time you find yourself (carefully) cutting down a Russian Olive, or weeding out a locally non-native plant species (especially if it is any one of our numerous noxious and invasive types) or planting a locally native tree or shrub, know that Ty would be extremely pleased.

Final reflection

It has been said that truly great scientists (and indeed leaders/human beings in general) are humble, or are at least endowed with a significant amount of intellectual humility coupled with a high degree of civility. Scientific, and perhaps all, pursuits must follow the evidence. While ego occasionally gets in the way of even the most humble persona, Ty's humility was to me one of his most appealing attributes. Despite his extensive eco-botanical knowledge and experience, if an idea of his was not producing the desired result or some plant identification proved to be incorrect, he would be

the first person to accept the resulting analysis and adapt his thinking accordingly, and always in a very respectful manner. In this respect, I cannot think of a better role model.

Postscript:

Westminster College is tentatively planning a remembrance for Ty next year on Earth Day (April 22, 2018). The college has also established the Ty Harrison Environmental Fund to help fund projects relating to its Environmental Center. UNPS is also considering establishing some sort of education-based grant in Ty's honor.

Selected references

Baird J. 2006 Oct 22. Urban jungle: when development meets nature. Salt Lake Tribune.

http://archive.sltrib.com/story.php?ref=/ci_4532253

Boggs D, Harrison T, Von Allmen N. 2010. Parleys Historic Nature Park is a city treasure. Salt Lake Tribune editorial.

http://archive.sltrib.com/story.php?ref=/opinion/ci_14946477

Davis Clipper. 2005 May 23. Noted expert thrills kids at GSL's edge.

http://davisclipper.com/view/full_story/145851/article-Noted-expert-thrills-kids-at-GSL-s-edge

Deseret News. 1989 Aug 5. Dimple Dell Park plan is under review.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/58307/DIMPLE-DELL-PARK-PLAN-IS-UNDER-REVIEW.html>

Harrison AT. 1971. Temperature-related effects on photosynthesis in *Heteromeles arbutifolia* M. Roem [PhD thesis]. [Stanford (CA)]: Stanford University.

Harrison A, Small E, Mooney HA. 1971. Drought relationships and distribution of two mediterranean-climate Californian plant communities. *Ecology* 52:869-875.

Abstract: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2307/1936035/full>

Harrison T. 1986a. Wildflowers of Dry Creek and Bell's Canyon.

Handout for June 7, 1986 field trip – the field trip was actually held on May 31, 1986.

Harrison T. 1986b. Field trip report – Dry Creek and Bell's Canyon. *Sego Lily* 9(5):9-10. Based on notes by Andrew Boyack. Includes the Granite Beaver Ponds. A second field trip report follows relating to the area south

of Red Butte Canyon at the highest shoreline level in search of Sego Lilies.

Harrison T. 1996. Milkweeds in Utah: the incest taboo, where they live, and how to eat them. *Sego Lily* 19(2):2-6 (pages not numbered).

<http://www.unps.org/segolily/archives/Vol191996.pdf>

Harrison T. 1997-?. Ty Harrison's home page. [Internet]. Salt Lake City, UT: Westminster College.

<http://people.westminstercollege.edu/faculty/tharrison/index.html>

Harrison T. 2012. Wild fruit foraging calendar for northern Utah. [Internet]. Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Native Plant Society. Accessible from:

<http://www.unps.org/edible natives.html>

Harrison T. 2014. Winter annuals go wild in southern Utah. *Sego Lily* 37(3):8-11.

<http://www.unps.org/segolily/Sego2014MayJul.pdf>

Harrison T. 2014. Utah's monarch butterflies and their plants. *Sego Lily* 37(5):5-7.

<http://www.unps.org/segolily/Sego2014NovJan.pdf>

Harrison T. 2016. A tale of four rare Utah penstemons. *Sego Lily* 39(2):6-9.

<http://www.unps.org/segolily/Sego2016AprJun.pdf>

Hayes E. 2002 Apr 11. Lessons on Great Salt Lake: future teachers hope someday to spur love of science. *Deseret News*.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/907144/Lessons-on-Great-Salt-Lake.html>

Hodobo M, Matthews M. 2007 Apr 24. Longtime biology professor Ty Harrison retires: Harrison's legacy as a professor at Westminster only propels him for community endeavors.

The Forum of Westminster College. Vol. XL:Issue 16.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55aa8118e4b06df5b45e94af/t/55d3f36de4b0ec95c9ec0d4a/1439953773540/16.pdf>

Comment: this is a "must read" article for anyone with an interest in Ty's life.

Miller B. 2007 Sep 29. Community Builders Awards. [Internet]. *Catalyst Magazine*.

<https://catalystmagazine.net/2007-community-builder-awards/>

Olson L. 2013. Sugar House's Hidden Hollow. Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Stories.

<http://utahstories.com/2013/08/hidden-refuge-for-utahs-wildlife/>

Poulson P, Harrison T. 1986. *Sego Lily* 9(1):3.

<http://www.unps.org/segolily/archives/Vol091986.pdf>

Prairie Plains Journal. 1982. Nine mile prairie. No. 4.
http://prairieplains.org/assets/files/prairie_plains_quarterly/Prairie-Plains-Journal-No-4-fall-1982-part-1.pdf

Stettler J. 2010 Nov 18. Dimple Dell says no to off-leash dogs. Salt Lake Tribune.
<http://archive.sltrib.com/story.php?ref=/sltrib/home/50696906-76/dogs-dell-dimple-leash.html.csp>

Stuckey A. 2017 Mar 5. Dimple Dell Regional Park users denounce plan to pave trail. Salt Lake Tribune. Includes two pictures of Ty. <http://archive.sltrib.com/article.php?id=5010506&itype=CMSID>

Thomas C. 2017 Jun 6. Thanks Ty Harrison. [Internet]. <https://tyharrisonarticles.wordpress.com/2017/06/06/thanks-ty-harrison/>

Comments: includes scans of a "Strap on your Skis ... it's lab time"

Westminster Review Winter 1996 article, and an undated newspaper clipping/article by the Salt Lake Tribune's Tom Wharton entitled "Goats and Graffiti: Westminster Class Sees Nature, and Human Effect on It" Utah Watershed Review. 2009. Environmental Group Opposes Jordan River Location for Regional Sports

Complex. 17(5):3.

Ty quote: This is not the place for a soccer complex.
<http://digitallibrary.utah.gov/awweb/awarchive?type=file&item=31817>

Westminster College. 2017. Environmental Center: Ty Harrison Environmental Fund. [Internet]. Salt Lake City, UT: Westminster College.
<https://www.westminstercollege.edu/campus-life/centers-and-institutes/environmental-center>

Wharton G, Harrison T, Fridley V. 1992. A guide to naturescaping in the development of outdoor classrooms. Granite Education Foundation. 27 pp.

Wheeler R. 2016 Oct 12. Nature in the city plan. West View Media Community News.
<http://westviewmedia.org/component/k2/item/169-nature-in-the-city-plan>

Wood B. 2014 Nov 14. New grant aims to connect residents, students with Jordan River restoration: curriculum teaches kids stewardship for the lower reaches of the river. Salt Lake Tribune.
<http://archive.sltrib.com/article.php?id=1825009&itype=CMSID>



Dimple Dell Regional Park with view to Oquirrh Mts.

Utah Native Plant Society Annual Meeting

Hosted by the Salt Lake Chapter

Saturday, **November 18, 2017**

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Red Butte Garden 300 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City

New World Harvest Potluck Dinner, please bring a dish to share. Roast turkey will be provided.

Annual Election for the Board of Directors of the Utah Native Plant Society.

Keynote Speaker Stan Kitchen will present:

***Present Status and Future Risks for Great Basin Bristlecone Pine:
Will Charisma Be Enough?***

More info, contact Cathy King, 801-867-3595



Keynote speaker **Stan Kitchen** whose bio appears on page 15 of this publication

Whatever happened to Aster?

by William Gray

Our Asters are no more! What happened?

Climate change? Wildfires? Overgrazing? No. . .

Where have all our Asters gone?

Long time passing.

Where have all our Asters gone?

Long time ago.

Where have all our Asters gone?

Old men renamed them, ev'ry one!

Oh when will they ever learn?

Oh how can we ever learn?

It's true: for the past 10 years the two dozen species listed in Intermountain Flora and A Utah Flora are "semi-officially" renamed – according to the Flora of North America (2006) in a widely, but not universally, accepted revision. It's quite a long story which I'll develop in more detail in the next issue of Sego Lily, but here's the gist of it. There is now strong evidence that almost all our plants of the general Aster/Daisy type developed here in North America, separately from such plants in Europe and Asia. Because the scientific name Aster is firmly based on a European plant described over 2000 years ago it's our plants that have to find new names.

As it happens many of the "new" names given to our old friends are actually ones they had more than a hundred years ago. It's more a rechristening.

Here's a picture of the genuine article, *Aster amellus* the name Linnaeus (in 1753) gave to a plant known to the Greeks for over 2000 years. It is widely cultivated in Europe as

Michaelmas Daisy and this is the variety 'King George.' The first American asters sent to Europe from New England in the 18th Century are very similar plants and were likewise known as Michaelmas Daisies (*Aster novae-belgii* and *A. novae-angliae* also named by Linnaeus in 1753).



Aster amellus photo used with permission.

<http://www.oldcournurseries.co.uk/>

And following is a selection of photos of plants from in or near Utah that at one time or another have been named *Aster something-or-other*. Believe it or not they are now all in different genera. Larger photos are posted in a PDF on the web (link: [Asters of Yesteryear](#)) so you can challenge yourself to link photos to new genus names: *Almutaster*, *Dieteria*, *Erigeron*, *Eucephalus*, *Eurybia*, *Herrickia*, *Machaeranthera*, *Oreostemma*, *Symphotrichum* & *Xylorhiza*.

The PDF link will also be available on the UNPS home page with the newsletter and on the UNPS "News."



1804*



1814*



1818



1820*



1834



1841a



1841b

Aster has-beens.

Arranged in order of year when they were first published – under *Aster* or some other genus.

*Indicates genus is not *Aster* in Utah Flora or Intermountain Flora. See text for list of genus names.



1841c



1841d



1891*

Escalante Chapter

by Harriet Priska, Past President of the Escalante Native Plant Society

My mother, Winnie Washburn, founded the Escalante NPS chapter in 2004.



She lived in Escalante until 2006 when she moved and founded the Cedar City NPS. In 2009, she moved to a retirement community in Pasadena, CA and was an avid gardener there. Winnie returned to my home in 2014 and lived with me until she passed at the age of 98 ½ on April 23, 2016.

Since 2007, I worked to carry on the ENPS and have done a lot of seed collecting over the intervening years. Eventually the chapter closed for various reasons, however my mother gave me a life time membership to the UNPS so I have enjoyed your publications over time.

One of the results of the interest in natives here in Escalante has been the planting of native cultivars in various gardens and public areas. I have marked many of those plants with metal markers over the years and published a small plant guide in color showing some of the more successful survivors for the information of locals and the traveling public.

The areas I have marked each year have included:

- The native gardens around the entry to Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Visitor Center in Escalante built around 2005. (I marked them until about 5 years ago.)
- The Escalante High School native plant garden at the entry way was planted around 2000. (I marked until a couple of years ago.)
- The Veterans Memorial native plant garden which I

helped to create in 2004. (I still mark and weed and clean it in the fall.) Winnie helped me with this in her last years until the no-seeums got to her!

- The Heritage Center and native plant garden built east of Escalante about 5 years ago celebrates the Hole in the Rock expedition.
- Some private gardens.



- The planter strips along Main Street developed in the early 2000's as part of the Main Street Project.

The City of Escalante, various volunteers, and I have weeded and maintained these planter strips with varying degrees of success and there has been a greater invasion of weeds and grasses in recent years.

In May 2017, the City took major action on some of these planter strips and removed almost all the natives that had been established which had survived nature and mankind! Thankfully they left the catmint which does attract bees!

Those of us from the original Native Plant Society group were stunned and helpless to discover the sudden removal of some .3 of a mile (about 6' wide) of mature native plants! Some had already been removed in smaller strips several years back along with the larger Yuccas.

Since I have collected seeds from many of those plants, I am indeed saddened by this unannounced action. I will continue to collect seeds as I can but not with the variety that was available.

I do have a small seed bank and have recently sold volumes of seeds to land owners in Boulder, Utah who are endeavoring to establish natives.

I sell packets of native plant seeds which go all over the world, much to my amazement! That effort has engaged gardeners in the community and this region in establishing native plant gardens which is very gratifying.

Dr. Stan Kitchen, keynote speaker for the Utah Native Plant Society Annual Meeting

on November 18th, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Red Butte Garden, will speak about--

Present Status and Future Risks for Great Basin Bristlecone Pine: Will Charisma Be Enough?

The presentation will address geographical, elevational and ecological range for the species including variability in stand-level tree composition and structure. He will attempt to assess present and future risk from stressors including global temperature changes, extreme climate, changed fire regimes, bark beetles and white pine blister rust.

Stan did his undergraduate work at Utah State University and received graduate degrees from Brigham Young University. He started his career with Forest Service Research as a botanist in the Intermountain Research Station in 1988 and has been a research botanist since 2002 with his current assignment to the Grassland, Shrubland and Desert Ecosystems Program of the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

He has managed the Desert Experimental Range for 25 years and has been Scientist-in-charge for 14. Stan has over 100 scientific publications and has broad experience unraveling the impacts of invasive species, climate variability and disturbance on natural systems with particular interest in long-term patterns of fire and drought in forested and non-forested systems of the Interior West.

Stan currently serves on the Steering Committee for the Western Aspen Alliance and as a member of the Utah Forest Restoration Working Group and the Monroe Mountain Working Group, diverse collaboratives grappling with the complexities of restoring aspen communities on a landscape scale. For a diverse set of contributions to science and management, Dr. Kitchen received the Forest Service, National Rangeland Research and Development Award in 2012.



Utah Native Plant Society

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

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

Officers

President: Robert Fitts (Utah Co.)
Vice President: Kipp Lee (Salt Lake Co.)
Secretary: Cathy King (Salt Lake Co.)
Treasurer: Bill Stockdale (Salt Lake Co.)

Board Chair: Bill King (Salt Lake Co.)

UNPS Board: David Wallace (Cache Co.),
Tony Frates (Salt Lake Co.), Susan Fitts
(Utah Co.) Wayne Padgett (Salt Lake Co.),
Raven Reitstetter (Tooele Co.), Blake
Wellard (Davis Co.), Celeste Kennard (Utah
Co.), Jonathan Barth (Salt Lake Co.),
Adrienne Pilmanis (Salt Lake Co.),

Committees

Conservation: Tony Frates & Bill King
Education:
Horticulture: Kipp Lee
Invasive Weeds:
David Wallace & Jonathan Barth
Publications: David Wallace
Website/Internet: Tony Frates
Rare Plant List: Robert Fitts
Rare Plant Meeting:
Robert Fitts
Small UNPS Grants: Raven Reitstetter
Communications and Publicity: Cathy King
Membership: Susan Sims

Chapters and Chapter Presidents

Cache: Michael Piep
Canyonlands:
Diane Ackerman & Sarah Topp
Cedar City: Matt Ogburn
Escalante:
Fremont: Marianne Breeze Orton
Manzanita:
Mountain:
Salt Lake: Cathy King
Southwestern/Bearclaw Poppy:
Utah Valley: Steve Hegji

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

Submit articles to
Newsletter Article Coordinator, Cathy
King: cathy.king@gmail.com

Many thanks to [Xmission](#) for sponsoring
our web-site.

Sego Lily Editor: John Stireman
jstireman@outlook.com

Copyright 2017 Utah Native Plant Society.
All Rights Reserved

The *Sego Lily* is a quarterly publication of
the Utah Native Plant Society, a 501(c)(3)
not-for-profit organization dedicated to
conserving and promoting stewardship of
our native plants.

UNPS Chapter Map



At the UNPS website you can access the *Sego Lily* in color, download past issues, read late breaking UNPS news, renew your membership, or buy wildflower posters, CDs, and other stuff at the UNPS store. unps.org



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

Return Service Requested

Utah Native Plant Society Membership

- ☐ New Member
☐ Renewal
☐ Gift Membership
Membership Category
☐ Student \$9.00
☐ Senior \$12.00
☐ Individual \$15.00
☐ Household \$25.00
☐ Sustaining \$40.00
☐ Supporting Organization \$55.00
☐ Corporate \$500.00
☐ Lifetime \$250.00

Mailing

- ☐ US Mail
☐ Electronic

Contribution to UNPS scholarship fund \$_____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Chapter _____

☐ Please send a complimentary copy of the *Sego Lily* to the above individual.

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

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

Or easily pay membership with PayPal at
<http://www.unps.org/index.html>