



NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Celebrating 50 Years of NNPS this April!

This April is both the Nevada Native Plant Society's 50th anniversary month and it is National Native Plant Month. Thanks to our 50th Anniversary Committee, we have a number of fun ways to celebrate!

Special April BioBlitz

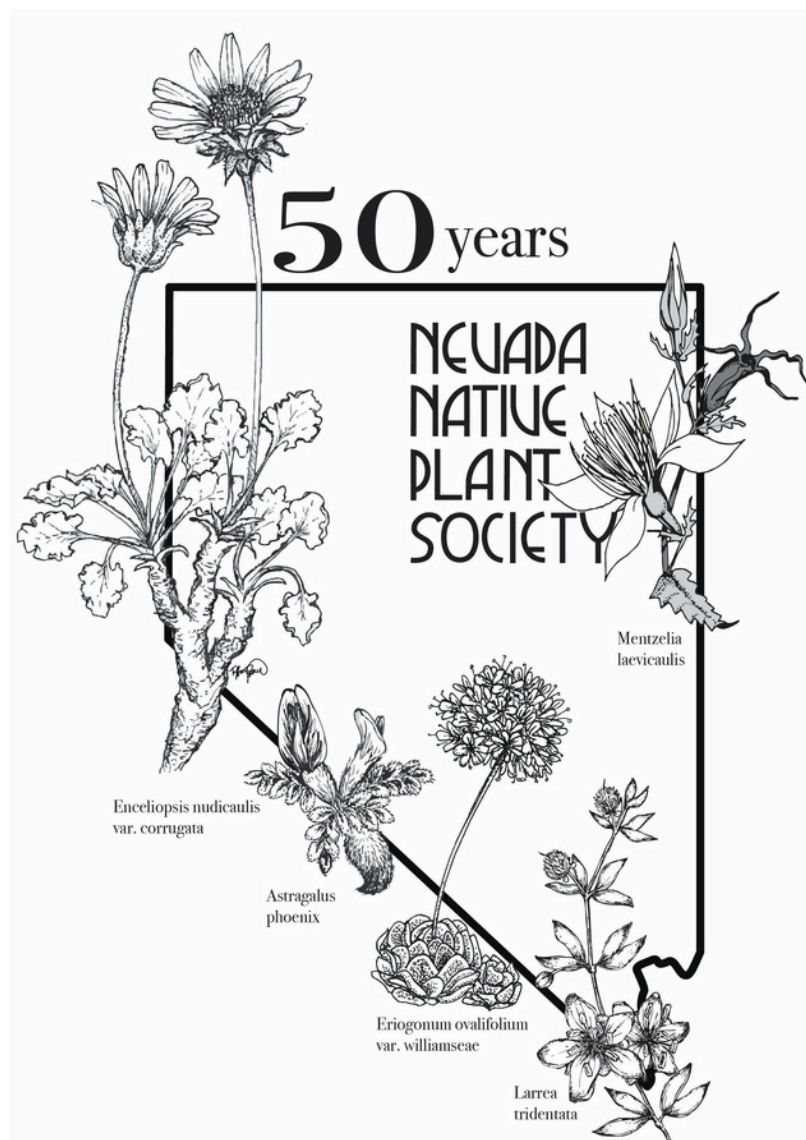
We invite you to join our *Plants of Nevada Bioblitz* on iNaturalist to help document as many plants as possible throughout the month of April. Nevada boasts over 2,800 native flowering plant species, making it the 10th most botanically diverse state in the nation! Sign up here: inaturalist.org/projects/plants-of-nevada-bioblitz

NNPS Member Survey – We Want to Hear from You

We are looking forward to our next 50 years and need your help to shape the future of our programs, events, and conservation efforts. Your feedback will guide us as we grow! [Take the short survey here.](#)

New Merchandise Available

We have exclusive merchandise available through Bonfire. We have designs featuring gorgeous commemorative artwork by Tiffany Pereira. [Visit bonfire store here.](#) Note: items will be batch printed every 15 days as orders come in.



A chat with Jerry Tiehm: A case study on diligent perseverance

by Lily Rice

Once again, I returned to the UNR herbarium to speak with a founding member of the Nevada Native Plant Society. Arnold (Jerry) Tiehm- the curator of the Herbarium of over 12 years- agreed to meet with me at 8 am, and I found him cleaning the hallway as I rounded the stairs. After a brief discussion on staying in shape to hike into the backside of nowhere, we sat down to start our two-hour conversation.

There is a lot of backstory to Jerry; he's a Reno native, he attended the first NNPS meeting in April 1975, his mid-life crisis was spent as a limo driver and bellhop for casinos, he generally stays apolitical, he has seven species named after him, and on it goes. For reference, the seven species which share the 'Tiehm' name are: *Astragalus tiehmii*, *Boechera tiehmii*, *Eriogonum tiehmii*, *Juncus tiehmii*, *Lepidium tiehmii*, *Mentzelia tiehmii*, and *Penstemon tiehmii*, of which he does have a favorite: *L. tiehmii*, the first to be named after him. Like many other interviewers, I asked him to speak about the famous *Eriogonum tiehmii* and the population's recent decline in size.

Jerry: "It's certainly in the public spotlight and certainly has had a lot of attention, but you have to understand. I have nothing to do with it... I pulled in there and collected it and now.."

And now there has been massive media attention surrounding it, with many outlets trying to get Jerry's opinion on the situation. So much so, I first heard about Jerry when I was still living in Ohio. To summarize Jerry's stance: if you want to know more, talk to the experts (e.g., McClinton et al. 2022). This reveals a lot about Jerry. A man spurred by curiosity and a desire to know all of the flora of Nevada rather than the political debacles that follow the discoveries.

Continuing our discussion on native plants, I asked Jerry if he had a favorite Nevada plant. You may expect one of his eponymic species, but instead he pulled out a species from the herbarium, *Canbya aurea* (yellow pygmy-poppy), which he wishes was named after him. It is a tiny member of the poppy family located north of the western portion of the Black Rock Desert and then up into southern Oregon. I asked why this species was so enigmatic to him, to which he said, among other things, "...it's just so damn cute."

Unsurprisingly, the answer to which region of Nevada is Jerry's favorite is also where his favorite plant is endemic: the tabletop lava flows that comprise much of the area surrounding the Black Rock Desert. His passion for Nevada's plant diversity is palpable, especially considering he and Jan Nachlinger (another prominent member of the NNPS) are in the process of publishing an annotated checklist of Nevada, which should be out later this year. The checklist is 220 pages long and contains 3,647 taxa. Keep an



Jerry Tiehm on a trip to Dayton, NV. ©Matt Lavin

eye out in your NNPS emails for news on the checklist, published by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. I finally had to depart from asking species-related questions and we switched to a retrospective of NNPS and his involvement.

Lily: “When did you first start getting involved with the Nevada Native Plant Society and what was your inspiration to join?”

Jerry: “I never gave it a second thought... I met Margaret Williams in 1974 and spent the summer out botanizing with her... and I think I was one of the reasons that Margaret got it going... She said you'll do field trips.”



Canbya aurea. ©Jan Nachlinger

Margaret Williams is our founder, who passed away in 2000. Jerry wrote a tribute to her in the NNPS Newsletter 26, No. 7. The first field trip was to Sun Valley, and the second to Fallon, where the group rediscovered *Oryctes nevadensis*, which hadn't been seen since the late 1800s (see the Blast from the Past for more of this story). Additionally, Jerry talked about the differences in the Reno landscape in 1976 compared to now, which served as a nice segue.

Lily: “How have you seen the landscape of Nevada change over the past 50 years?” Note: This question coaxed a bit of wildfire politics out of the infamously apolitical Jerry, much of which is too long for this article...

Jerry: “Two things, [first] all of the urban areas have certainly grown up. I mean, there was nothing on the edges of Peavine here in the old days... and the other thing I think that we noticed [were] the fires.”

Lily: “Fire intensity and frequencies have grown?”

Jerry: “Yeah, and frequencies... you'll hit areas where the big burns [happened] and sort of a result of that, too, is we're seeing a lot of areas that have been chained.”

Chaining refers to a land maintenance practice where a large chain is dragged by machinery to clear large shrubs/trees, like the opportunistic and somewhat weedy native tree, *Juniperus*. Fire suppression practices for nearly a century of American history has allowed vegetation to proliferate and increase fuel load. Recent in our memory was the Davis Fire, which burned part of Slide Mountain outside of Reno last summer; Jerry and other NNPS members are watching to see the effects of that fire on the plants growing there this year. I wrapped up the retrospective section of our conversation with a question about the public.

Lily: “How has public interest in native plants changed since NNPS began?”

Jerry: “I think the media is more aware, but I find that the media also, though... want

spectacular things, you know, they want to talk about Tiehm's Buckwheat, or something like that. They don't just want to say, oh, go out and look at this marvelous area to look at plants."

A sentiment I share; it can be difficult to get others interested in the broader context of plant ecology.

Jerry: "[For the general public] I think, honestly, since I grew up, there's a disconnect from nature on the average."

From here, Jerry and I got into a discussion on the addictive nature of modern phones. Smartphones have both the possibility to be a blessing and a curse; for instance, iNaturalist is a wonderful tool for burgeoning naturalists if you are outside often enough to use it.

In this final section, we looked towards the future. First, I asked Jerry about what he hopes the NNPS leaves for future generations of young botanists.

Jerry: "Well, I think the publications that we have if you go back and look at the old newsletters. For instance, there's articles written about a plethora of plants. Over the years, when those are all up online where you can view them, I think that's going to be definitely a legacy. There is an index to it if you want to see if we've written anything about any species."

"I think my, like, personal legacy though, will be the collections I've made... [which] just got over 20,000."

One NNPS publication was the 1992, number 6 part 2 edition of *Mentzelia*, NNPS's journal, where Margaret Williams, John Howell, Gordan True Jr., and Arnold Tiehm, published their catalogue of Peavine Mountain's vascular flora. This publication also happens to be his most cherished memory during his time with NNPS. Jerry graciously gave me a copy for my own records after I expressed an appreciation of the mountain's flora, a reflection of what he said to me before I left



Jerry on the job. ©Jan Nachlinger

the interview, "I try to help anyone who walks through the door." This was the perception I had the first time I visited Jerry in the Herbarium, where he gave myself and my family an impromptu tour, filled with the exuberance of a man satisfied in his lifetime of work. It was intoxicating.

Lastly, I picked Jerry's mind and years of experience on advice for future botanists.

Lily: "Do you have any advice for someone who also comes from a non-traditional pathway into botany?"

Jerry: "Advice that I always tell students is not necessarily botany. I would say find something you can be passionate about. I don't care if it's botany... but... if your job is what you love, then it's not really a job, and that's what's always helped me."

Jerry offered other tidbits peppered throughout our conversation that could be useful for young botanists:

- Practice diligent perseverance. There are many times performing field work where you may want to call it quits, but you never know what you may find in the next habitat.
- Look for habitats rather than specific species as you get comfortable with identification. By recognizing the habitat type, you can know what species might be found there, e.g., limestone endemics.

- Stay curious, ask questions, and let that drive you.

This transition could be something like "I leave you with this final aside, which comes from a question I like to ask any botanist: where they fall on the lumpers vs. splitter debate. We discussed his blasé attitude towards the situation, the new taxa which he refuses to update, and how technology has changed the perception of species when Jerry gave me the following quip. I think it gives you a great idea on the kind of botanist he is.

Jerry: "Bruce Baldwin at the University of California, Berkeley, told me one time... it's basically going to get to where you have a portable DNA analyzer with you. You drop a leaf into it, and it tells you what the plant is, and I told him if he gets to that point, shoot me. No fun in that whatsoever."

- McClinton, J. D., Shriver, R. K., & Leger, E. A. (2022). Ecology of *Eriogonum tiehmii*, a rare soil specialist: Arthropod diversity, soil preferences, and demography. Ecosphere. doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.4187

Congratulations to our 2025 grant winners!

by Jim Morefield

Two new graduate students have joined the long line of distinguished recipients of the NNPS Margaret Williams Research Grants (see nnps.org/grants for the full list). This year, grants of \$1,000 each were awarded to Chloe Novak, M.S. candidate at Claremont Graduate University and California Botanic Garden, to support their research on "A Flora of the Amargosa River Headwaters, Nye County, Nevada," and Samantha Ingram, Ph.D. candidate at Claremont Graduate University and California Botanic Garden, to support her research on "Unraveling the Taxonomic and Phylogenetic Complexity of *Ericameria parryi*

in the Western United States".

The NNPS Grants Program started in 2000, and is one of the many lasting legacies of our co-founder and long-time President, Margaret Williams. Thank you to the six applicants who submitted proposals this year, and to the eight reviewers who evaluated those proposals and made difficult decisions about which ones to fund. Proposals are due on February 1st for each year's grant cycle, and the Grants Committee looks forward to another robust pool of applicants for 2026.



Ericameria parryi in the White Mountains and *Cleomella parviflora* in the Amargosa Valley ©Jim Morefield

Featured Plants:

Pteridium aquilinum (L.) Kuhn var. *pubescens* Underw. / Western Bracken Fern / Megi-geš (meh-gee-gesh)

by Christopher Mackessy

If you happen to spot a fern while wandering through the forests of the Sierra Nevada - or any other continent around the globe besides Antarctica - odds are you're looking at this little guy! In fact, this species is considered one of the five most common plants worldwide.

This herbaceous perennial emerges in the spring, with their dark-brown tomentose fiddleheads pushing up through the duff from an underground rhizome. These single stems eventually unfurl to reveal a widely triangular, leathery leaf frond that can range from 10 to 150cm wide. The fronds are generally three-pinnate, with the lower pinnae generally being the longest (Jepson 2025). The pinnae are rounded at the tips, with a dense covering of

clear hairs on the underside (abaxially).

As previously mentioned, this species has a circumglobal distribution in temperate regions. This phenomenon is largely attributed to its extremely light weight spores. These ferns often form dense colonies that can cover entire acres, with some groups estimated to be almost 700 years old with individual rhizomes living into their 70s!

An interesting aspect of these ferns is that their sori (spore producing structures) are found at the very edges of the pinnae, obscured by the rolled margins. This explains why it took us until this year to finally locate them!

This fern has a long history of human use, including here in the Sierra Nevada. Perhaps



Examples of western bracken fern's rolled margins (left) and young unfurled leaf fronds (right) . ©Christopher Mackessy



Adult bracken fern (left) and example leaf structure (right). ©Christopher Mackessy

it's most widely known culinary application is in Korean cuisine, where it is called Gosari/ 고사리 and commonly used in Bibimbap / 비빔밥. This consumption is not without controversy. Many individuals and scientific entities consider the plant toxic. Like many wild foods, this fern comes with a caveat—but one that traditional knowledge has long accounted for. Across cultures, people have safely eaten its young fronds for centuries by carefully preparing them. Harvested before they unfurl, the fronds are boiled, often with an alkaline agent like wood ash or baking soda, to break down potentially harmful compounds. These phytochemicals include ptaquiloside (a

terpenoid), thiaminase (an enzyme), and prunasin (a cyanogenic glycoside) — all of which are sensitive to heat and degrade to varying degrees. Cooking, especially with an alkaline solution, is believed to neutralize these compounds, making the fern a safe and flavorful addition to meals (information from a facebook post by Blue Wind School of Botanical Studies in 2014).

Literature cited:

- Game, J.C., Smith, A.R., & Lemieux, T. 2012, *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pubescens*, in Jepson Flora Project (eds.) Jepson eFlora.

Letharia vulpina (L.) Hue / Wolf Lichen (Parmeliaceae)

Often one of the first “plants” folks recognize in the Sierra Nevada, Wolf Lichen easily rivals *Sarcodes sanguinea* (snow plant) as one of the most noticeable creatures on the eastern slopes. Its neon-green, intricately branched form, spanning 5-15 cm in diameter, clings to the bark of living and dead conifers - impossible to mistake for anything else in the

forest.

Lichens are fascinating hybrids of algae living with fungi (and sometimes other organisms), and like fungi, lichens are among the most undervalued heroes of the forest. While fungi tend to prefer breaking down organic matter, some lichen can literally erode rocks by separating the minerals within. They are

excellent at fixing nitrogen, trapping dust, and absorbing many pollutants in our air, making them valuable bioindicators of environmental health.

Letharia vulpina is particularly fascinating given its historical relationship with humans. Throughout history, people have used this species to poison predators such as wolves and foxes. Hunters would stuff carcasses or fat with powdered lichen - sometimes with the addition of powdered glass to enhance the lethality. This deadly application predicated the scientific name - *Letharia* derived from the Greek word léthargos (λήθαργος), meaning "lethal" or "deadly" and *vulpina* comes from the Latin word vulpes, meaning "fox."

Its toxicity comes from vulpinic acid, a compound lethal to mammals at doses of roughly 20-30mg/kg. However, this same chemical is also the source for a more benign traditional use. It produces a beautiful, rich yellow pigment historically used in dyes and paints. Presently, wolf lichen is commonly used in floral arrangements and are a

mainstay in elementary school dioramas, though this popularity comes at an ecological cost.

Amazingly, lichens are among the longest-lived organisms on the planet. Some species, such as *Rhizocarpon geographicum* / Map Lichen, can grow to nearly 9,000 years old! Despite their longevity, lichens are particularly vulnerable to air pollution. These lichen are essentially non-existent along major highways and ecologists often use lichens as a test for air quality and overall ecosystem health. They grow particularly slowly, sometimes only millimeters per year, which makes over-harvesting a threat to their populations.

Both beautiful and ecologically vital in our forests, this small, but ancient lichen serves as a great reminder of the importance to steward our wild lands to ensure the well-being of all.

Websites used for reference:

- Eflora.info: [Letharia vulpina - Wolf lichen](#)
- 10,000 Things of the PNW Blog: [Letharia vulpina complex \(Wolf Lichens\)](#)



Tree dripping with wolf lichen. ©csand, iNaturalist



Vibrant wolf lichen example. ©Christopher Mackessy

Blast from the past: How it all started in 1975

by Jerry Tiehm

The Nevada Native Plant Society (NNPS) started as most natural history societies start, on a shoestring. The first meeting of a “steering committee” took place in April 1975 in the conference room of the Biology Department at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). At the time, department was on the first floor of Fleischmann Agriculture. Seventeen people attended the meeting, which was led by Margaret Williams with help from Hugh Mozingo, a botany professor at UNR. At 23, I was the youngest attendee. The meeting focused primarily on procedural matters, including discussions on bylaws, newsletters, a journal, field trips, meetings, and the delegation of duties. I was appointed the first Field Trip Chairman which gave me a place on the Board of Directors.

During its first year, NNPS produced seven newsletters, using the Biology Department’s mimeograph machine. After printing, several of us would collate the pages, staple them,

fold the newsletter, staple again, then attach a mailing label. By the second year, we had enough money to have our newsletters printed by a commercial printer. We were still thrifty and ordered the newsletters non-collated as NNPS could not yet afford the collation and stapling charges. As the membership grew, we eventually received fully printed, folded, and stapled newsletters ready for mailing.

The second field trip for NNPS commenced on the 18th of May, 1975. Destination was Fallon and, amazingly, 37 plant enthusiasts attended the trip. The trip was written up in the June newsletter. The write-up included a section on our stops and points of interest seen, as well as a list of all plants seen in flower. One notable plant documented under the Nightshade Family (Solanaceae) was *Oryctes nevadensis*. The newsletter described it as “The most interesting find at this stop was a member of the Nightshade Family called



Led by Pat Kipping
Margaret Williams
Matt Lavin
Jerry Tiehm
Lillian Mott

Aug. 31, '82
Sweetwater Mtns,
Silverado Canyon

1982 Field trip to the Sweetwater Mountains. ©Lillian Mott

Oryctes nevadensis with very small unusual colored flowers.”

Don't feel bad if this inconspicuous annual plant is unknown to you. It grows on sand and only appears in years with adequate precipitation. It is nearly endemic to Nevada occurring in Churchill, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, and Washoe counties, as well as in adjacent Inyo County, California.

This reference caught the attention of an early member of NNPS, Rupert Barneby. A rock garden expert and pea family

(Fabaceae) expert, Rupert had explored Nevada extensively in the early 1940s. By 1975, he was based at the New York Botanical Garden, which was also the base of operation for three of the authors of *Intermountain Flora*, Art Cronquist, Noel Holmgren, and Pat Holmgren. Earlier that year, C.L. Hitchcock had been at the garden and drafted a treatment of Solanaceae for *Intermountain Flora*. He mentioned to Rupert and the authors that



Jerry Tiehm visiting New York Botanical Garden 1983. ©Linda Marshner

Oryctes was only known from the type collection by Watson in 1868 and several collections by Shockley in the 1880s.

Upon reading NNPS newsletter #2, Rupert immediately brought the *Oryctes* report to Pat Holmgren's attention. She then contacted Margaret asking for specimens and joined the society. This was the start of a long and fruitful association that continues to this day.

Volunteer Opportunities

Aspen Leaf Collection for Climate Adaptation Study

Help wanted collecting quaking aspen leaves for USDA/DOE-funded genetics / climate adaptation study - If you are able to access aspen populations in central Nevada (e.g., mountain ranges near Ely, Austin, Tonopah, Pioche) during spring/early summer, the University of California Berkeley is interested in receiving leaf samples for DNA sequencing. Please contact benjamin.blonder@berkeley.edu for more details. Collection materials and reimbursements provided.

TMCC Earth Day on April 17th and Reno's Earth Day on April 19th

Sign up to volunteer here: [NNPS 2025 Event Volunteer spreadsheet](#)

Naturalists needed in Smith Valley on May 15th

Walker Basin Conservancy is hosting Yerington Elementary's entire 3rd grade for an event from 10:30am-1:30pm focused on native plants at their Native Seed and Plant Nursery (Sutter Ranch) located in Smith Valley. Students will have the opportunity to learn about topics like pollinator importance, seed collections, plant life cycle, germination methods, and native plant importance. If you are interested in volunteering, reach out to taiar.purciel@walkerbasin.org by April 28th.

Conservation news:

Updates on Nevada plant conservation issues

by Rose Strickland

Tiehm's buckwheat and the Rhyolite Ridge Lithium-Boron Mine:

Late last month, the construction of this mine, recently approved by the Bureau of Land Management, was thrown into disarray as one of its biggest investors, announced that it was pulling out of the project. South African precious metals mining company Sibanye-Stillwater said the project did not meet their pricing needs, after reviewing the updated project and technical information provided by Ioneer in October 2024.

Another news account further explained that the decision was driven by a sharp decline in lithium prices, which have fallen by more than 80% since their peak in November 2022 due to oversupply in the market, according to Reuters. The company was set to invest \$490m at 50% interest in the Joint Venture, but does still hold a 6% share in Ioneer following a strategic investment of \$70m in 2021.

An even larger investor has not pulled out of the project yet, however. On January 17, 2025, the U.S. Department of Energy announced the closing of a \$996m loan guarantee to Ioneer's Rhyolite Ridge project to finance the on-site processing of lithium carbonate. See: energy.gov/lpo/articles/doe-announces-996-million-loan-guarantee-ioneer-rhyolite-ridge-advance-domestic. But with the changing policies of the new administration, especially on reversing former administration support for fighting climate change, this funding could disappear. Stay tuned for future news.

BLM mining withdrawal for Amargosa Valley and Ash Meadows

While there was a tremendous amount of support at the local, state, and federal government levels as well as by tribes, citizens and conservation groups for BLM's decision for a 2-year mining withdrawal to protect the critically important biological, hydrological, cultural and economic values of this Mojave desert oasis, the new administration has announced (March 5, 2025) that it is preparing an Executive Order to boost rare earths and minerals production in the U.S. The new Secretary of Interior, Doug Burgum, has already issued a Secretarial Order to promote the development of domestic energy resources by requiring federal agencies to "suspend, revise, or rescind" a series of conservation policies, including oil, mining, and gas bans in sensitive locations. 12 Executive Orders to protect the environment and address climate change have already been revoked. The Interior agencies were directed to review all agency actions and submit an action plan by February 18th on how they would comply with his new Secretarial Order and steps to suspend, revise, or rescind documents in a list of 27 federal policies - from Migratory Bird permits to critical habitat for Threatened & Endangered species, mining regulations, public health, and the use of science. See: doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3418-unleashing-american-energy.

In the meantime, Senate and House Committee members are questioning why the administration has not disclosed the agency action plans implementing the Executive and Secretarial orders to Congress and the public, weeks after this deadline, including the ones funded by the Congress.

Announcing the Mojave Desert Seed & Seedling Guide!

Tiffany Pereira from the Desert Research Institute has recently announced the availability of the *Mojave Desert Seed & Seedling Guide*. This is a brand-new resource created in collaboration with the California Bureau of Land Management to support conservation efforts across the Mojave Desert.

Featuring 86 priority restoration species, this guide focuses on seeds and young seedlings, making it one of the first of its kind. It will assist land managers, researchers, and restoration specialists in identifying natural regeneration, analyzing soil seed banks, and guiding restoration projects. With detailed botanical illustrations and high-resolution focus-stacked photography—a technique that combines multiple images taken at different depths of field into a single, fully focused image—it captures the fine details needed for accurate species identification.

Link to guide: bit.ly/mojavedesertseedlingguide



An Ode to Belly Botany by Alison Agneray

Oh, desert floor, so hot and wide,
Why must your treasures always hide?
Not up in trees, nor standing tall,
But crouched down low, where the critters crawl.

To spot the blooms, small and shy,
We drop with grace—well, we *try*.
Face to the dirt, elbows in sand,
A nose-full of dust was not what I planned.
But there! A speck! A petal so small,
I almost mistook it for nothing at all.
My knees protest, my back shouts “no”,
Yet for your sake, belly down I go.

For beauty hides in humble things—
And in the joy a small plant brings.



Peeking at *Neoholmgrenia andina* ©Jan Nachlinger



James and Jason appreciating cactus in Tonopah
©Sarah Kulpa

Featured book review:

Wildflowers of the Foothill Regions of northeastern Nevada by Mary Winter

by Lily Rice

I am from the easternmost midwest & southernmost-minded northern state, otherwise known as Ohio. Unlike the Intermountain West - which is privileged with dichotomous keys like the multi-book tome Intermountain Flora - the plucky Ohio Botanist must rely on less precise field guides for their field identification needs. I trained myself on Newcomb's Guide to Wildflowers, a book filled with out-of-date taxa and only forbs, shrubs, and vines. When asked if anyone wanted to review Mary Winter's book, *Wildflowers of the Foothill Regions of northeastern Nevada*, I knew that an Ohioan was the right type of botanist for the job. In the foreword, a friend of Mary's, Dr. Gary N. Back, wrote about an experience in Mary's formative years as a botanist where she was told there was no future to be in botany. This book is a testament to her tenacity in the face of advice we so often face.

This work of love for Nevada flora sits at an impressive 439 pages. As the title suggests, it specializes in the NE foothills (below 7000') of Nevada, although much of the flora encapsulated works for the northern and central basin and range ecoregions as well. The field guide is separated into sections based on families, which is a helpful classification for burgeoning botany students to learn plant ID. Each plant family is helpfully separated by a uniquely colored banner, which makes quick access easier. My only grievance is that the families are listed alphabetically by common name and not the scientific name, although that is alleviated by familiarity with the book.

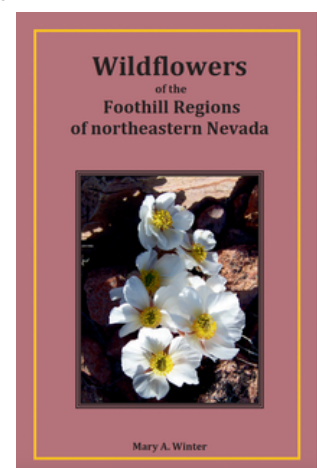
In total, 61 families of plants are represented. Each species' entry consists of a single page with 1-3 quality photographs, mostly by Mary, a description of the species, its habitat & flowering season, personal comments, and a

synopsis from the referenced dichotomous keys. As is to be expected with the original publication date, some of the scientific names and families are now out-of-date. At the time of publishing, the known outdated names were kept to preserve Mary's original work, with the corrected name in adjacent parentheses. Finally, the end of the book contains a glossary of botanical terms along with a field ruler, both of which are accoutrements I wish more field guides would include.

Unfortunately I did not get the chance to know Mary Winter before she passed away, but as the foreword suggests, this book is a portal to learn a piece of her story. Her book is available to purchase on the NNPS [website](https://nvnps.org/store) (nvnps.org/store). While not as informative as a scientific flora with a dichotomous key, this spiral-bound book contains enough information to be a great field reference. From beginners, journeymen, professionals, to experts wanting to know northeastern Nevada better, there is something here for everyone.

"To call a thing by name
To know the read of the wind
And the bend of the river beyond
Is to be on home ground."

-Mary Winter



Society updates

First meetings of the year were successful!

We had our first meeting of this milestone year February 6, 2025, featuring a talk by Lesley DeFalco, USGS Research Plant Ecologist. Lesley has been instrumental in keeping NNPS programs and meetings active in Southern Nevada. This talk expanded on her ongoing research into three-corner milkvetch (*Astragalus geyeri* var. *triquetrus*), which was also presented at the Rare Plant Workshop. Second, we met on March 6, where we heard from Michael Simpson at San Diego State University to discuss the “*Cryptantha* of Nevada and Classification of the Popcorn Flowers.” I encourage you to check out his website here: plants.sdsu.edu/amsinckiinae/

Special meeting in April

Our next meeting on April 3 is our special 50th anniversary meeting where we will share birthday cake and hear from a few of our longest standing members. We are planning to start this meeting at 6:30pm to allow for extra time to eat cake! As always, this meeting will be hybrid, with two in-person options along with an online offering.

- Northern Nevada: we meet on the 3rd floor of the Fleischmann Agriculture building on the University of Nevada, Reno campus in room FA 300G.
- Southern Nevada: we meet in Building C, Room C230 on the College of Southern Nevada campus in Henderson. Parking is available at the College Drive lot.
- Zoom: Members will receive an email to register for the online meeting closer to the date. Note: I recommend registering for Zoom meeting to receive a copy of the recording afterwards, so you can watch it later if you can't attend.

Upcoming Field Trips and Events

Sunday, April 13 @ 9 AM – Peavine Mtn - Hoge Road Field Trip near Reno, led by Connie Douglas.

Saturday, April 19 – NNPS will be tabling at Reno Earth Day in Idlewild Park. Stop by and say hello!

Welcome new members!

A special thank you to our 12 new members who joined in the last two months:

- John Watt, Ely
- Wendy Boes, Nevada City CA
- David McGue, Henderson
- Tara Tran, Reno
- Sara Sciulla, Las Vegas
- Brianna Kramer, Las Vegas
- Vivian Sam, Las Vegas
- Doyle Warman, Las Vegas
- Laurel Tashjian, Reno
- Susi Algrim, Winnemucca
- Laurel Tashjian, Reno
- Laura Haak, Reno

Final notes

If you are interested in having your work featured in the newsletter or if you have any comments, please reach out to Alison Agneray, Newsletter Editor. Newsletters are published six times per year in even-numbered months and distributed only to active NNPS members.

As always, thank you for your dedication to the Nevada Native Plant Society! Your continued support makes it possible for us to fund research grants, publish our newsletter, and organize field trips to explore Nevada's native flora. Thank you for being part of our community!

Board of Directors

Officers

- President: Emma Wynn, emhwynn@gmail.com or president@nvmps.org
- President Emeritus: Arnold Tiehm
- Vice President: Alison Agneray, aagneray@gmail.com
- Recording Secretary: Esther Hwang, secretary@nvmps.org
- Treasurer: Patrick Cassady, treasurer@nvmps.org

Members-at-Large

- Cory King
- Sarah Harrelson
- Hermi Hiatt
- Cody Ernst-Brock
- Janette Perry
- Laurel Tashjian

Committee Chairpersons

- Archivist: Connie Douglas
- Conservation: Rose Strickland, rosenreno@sbcglobal.net
- Events, Northern Nevada: Shannon Swim, events@nvmps.org
- 50th Anniversary: Sarah Kulpa
- Field Trips, N. Nevada: Christopher Mackessy
- Grants: Jim Morefield, grants@nvmps.org
- Horticulture: John Weiser
- Membership Coordinator: Vacant
- Newsletter Editor: Alison Agneray, aagneray@gmail.com
- Photography: Larry Lodwick
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