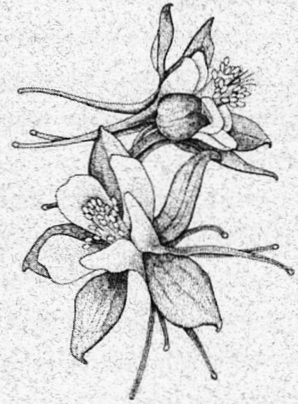


Aquilegia

Newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society



"... dedicated to the appreciation and conservation of the Colorado native flora"

2009 ANNUAL MEETING "Plants without Borders" 11-13 September 2009 Fort Collins, Colorado

The CoNPS Board of Directors invite you to attend the 2009 Colorado Native Plant Society Annual Meeting co-hosted by our Northern Chapter and the Colorado State University Extension. Except for field trips, all scheduled events will be held at The Ranch near Fort Collins, Colorado (<http://www.larimer.org/TheRanch/index.cfm>).

The Rare Plant Symposium will be held on Friday, 11 September, followed by a Friday evening Social that will include registration, silent auction, poster session, and vendor booths. There will be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres, as well. Saturday will be devoted to speakers with posters, booths, and silent auction continuing during breaks. Saturday evening there will be an extraordinary opportunity for you to join our keynote speaker at the Champion Auto Group Executive Club - a beautiful restaurant on the grounds of the Ranch - for a spectacular buffet dinner and breathtaking views of the mountains. Sunday will be devoted to field trips to some of our special natural places.

Plants have no respect for political boundaries. And as the "Plants without Borders" theme for this year's Annual Meeting implies, we will not only learn about plants of Colorado, but from the entire Rocky Mountain region and the world!

We will explore plants that are used for medicine, plants that are toxic, and plants that have helped us unlock human history.

We will travel from Asia to Europe, to the tropics, and from New Mexico to Wyoming. We will learn about discoveries of species new-to-science in and near Colorado, take a journey to the Alps, use forensic botany to re-trace the steps of an ancient human, and share the journey of an extraordinary man who has given almost all of his 90-year life to the flora of Colorado.

We will also learn about different perspectives on weeds, which are the quintessential plants without borders. Several speakers will give us much to think about as we look at issues with weed management, global warming, and even what constitutes a weed. We will also contemplate the benefits of weeds. And continuing with our "without borders" theme, we are welcoming our Wyoming Native Plant Society neighbors to join us this year in making it "plant societies without borders," too!

Being Green Reminder: We feel that the Colorado Native Plant Society should set an example for a green conference and, therefore, we encourage everyone to bring their own mug for coffee or tea and water bottles for water. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee will do everything we can to keep the conference as green as possible.

Colorado
State
University

Extension

"Annual meeting" continues on page 2

Registration

To register, please complete the enclosed registration form, which is also available online at www.conps.org. Your registration should be submitted as soon as possible and **no later than August 30**. After that, you may still register your intent to attend by calling Pam Smith (970) 223-3453 and paying (by check or cash) at the Annual Meeting. Please note that we are offering an opportunity for vendors, both for-profit and non-profit, to have a commercial booth at the conference (see enclosed exhibitor application).

Cancellation policy: If the Annual Meeting Registrar receives your cancellation notification (via phone call, email, or regular mail) before 28 August, 50% of your total payment (which includes the registration fee, food fees, and all other fees) will be returned. There can be no refunds 28 August or after.

Location

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held just east of Loveland and southeast of Fort Collins at "The Ranch," the beautiful Larimer County Fairgrounds and Events Complex that opened in September 2003. The Ranch is located directly adjacent to I-25, just North of Highway 34, in Loveland (see directions below). The meetings, speakers, poster sessions, silent auction, and book sales will all be held in the education hall (McKee Building) at the complex. Special thanks to Larimer County for helping to sponsor this event.

Directions to The Ranch

The Ranch is located directly adjacent to I-25, just North of Highway 34, in Loveland. To reach The Ranch, exit I-25 at Crossroads Blvd., Exit 259. Travel east one mile to Fairgrounds Avenue (County Road 5) and go north to the entrance (see map at http://www.larimer.org/TheRanch/about_location.cfm). Parking at The Ranch is located on the west side of the facility, closest to I-25 (see map at http://www.larimer.org/TheRanch/about_parking.cfm).

The website has details on the speakers and their topics, as well as links to The Ranch and other points of interest!



Linaria vulgaris
(butter and eggs)

USDA-NRCS PLANTS
Database / Britton, N.L.,
and A. Brown. 1913. An
illustrated flora of the
northern United States,
Canada and the British
Possessions. Vol. 3: 177.

Accommodations

Motels located close to The Ranch:

Super 8

Loveland/Fort Collins

1655 E. Eisenhower Blvd

I-25, Exit 257b

Loveland, CO 80537-4228

(970) 663-7000 ~ \$70/night

Embassy Suites of Loveland

4705 Clydesdale Pkwy

Loveland, CO 80538

Located 1 mile from The Ranch

RATES FROM \$135

1-800-551-2409

EmbassySuites.Hilton.com

Hampton Inn - Loveland Colorado

5500 Stone Creek Circle

Loveland, CO 80538

2.5 miles from The Ranch

Call for Rates

1-800-551-2409

www.hamptoninn.com

Best Western Crossroads Inn & Conference Center

5542 US Highway 34

Loveland, CO 80537

1 mile from The Ranch

Rates: \$88/night

1-800-551-2409

www.bestwestern.com

Holiday Inn Express

(970) 663-0057

www.hiexpress.com

Fairfield Inn (Loveland)

(970) 461-1000

www.FairfieldInn.com

Camping

Boyd Lake State Park

970-493-1623 Lory State Park Office

<http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/BoydLake/>

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
2009 Annual Meeting: "Plants without Borders"
McKee Building at The Ranch

Friday, 11 September

- 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM **Rare Plant Symposium**
- 4:30 PM - 6:45 PM **Colorado Native Plant Society Board Meeting**
- 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM **Registration**
- Silent auction
- Poster session (repeated Saturday 7:00 AM 5:30 PM)
- Vendor booths
- Evening social with cash bar and hors d'oeuvres.

Help decide the future of rare plant work in Colorado! Join members of the Colorado Rare Plant Technical Committee (RPTC) for the 6th Annual Colorado Rare Plant Symposium. The RPTC is an *ad hoc* group of agency and other non-government botanists that has been working for years to advance rare plant efforts in the state. Your personal knowledge of Colorado field botany makes your contribution to this effort critical. This one-day workshop will be held in collaboration with the Colorado Native Plant Society's Annual Meeting (11-13 September).

The RPTC will provide a photo review of globally imperiled (G2) species known predominantly from northern Colorado for discussion of their current status and potential threats, as well as present highlights from previous years' symposium. The symposium is open to any one with an interest in the rare plants of Colorado. Contact Jill Handwerk for more information at (970) 491-5857 or jill.handwerk@colostate.edu. There is a nominal fee of \$10 to attend. To register visit the CoNPS website at www.conps.org.

Our special guest speaker at the evening social will be Dr. William Weber (Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado Boulder), who will present "**63 Years with the Colorado Flora: The Last Hurrah.**" This is the story of how the mimeographed *Flora of Boulder County* (1949) grew to become the two-volume *Colorado Flora, Eastern and Western Slopes*. Dr. Weber states, "You can see how my views have changed from an ultra-conservative youngster to that awful splitter."

Exhibitors Invited to Participate in Annual Meeting

For the first time ever, CoNPS is soliciting non-profit organizations, government agencies, and commercial exhibitors to set up informational booths at our annual meeting. The conservation of Colorado's flora is accomplished by a wide variety of organizations (government agencies, consulting firms, non-profit organizations, community groups, and others). By involving these organizations in the Annual Meeting as exhibitors, we help to strengthen the *sense of community* surrounding the conservation of Colorado's native flora and provide greater opportunities for networking.

If your organization, agency, or company is interested in participating in this year's meeting as an exhibitor, please complete and submit the enclosed Exhibitor Registration Form (page 5). Contact John Giordanengo for more details at jhgiord@gmail.com or (970) 420-7346.



Penstemon debilis (Parachute penstemon)
Photo by Creed Claton, FWS

Saturday, 12 September

7:00 AM	Registration Silent auction, poster session, and vendor booths until 5:30 PM
8:00 AM - 8:15 AM	Welcome and announcements
8:15 AM - 9:00 AM	Forensic Botany: Understanding the Mystery of Otzi, the Ice Man of the Alps Keynote speaker Dr. Dennis Woodland, Professor of Botany and Curator, Andrews University, and author of <i>Contemporary Plant Systematics</i>
9:05 AM - 9:45 AM	Overview and Update on the Floristic Inventory of the Southern Rocky Mountains Dr. Ronald L. Hartman and Dr. Larry Schmidt, Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming
9:45 AM - 10:00 AM	Break with beverages
10:00 AM - 10:40 AM	Inventory of the Vermejo Park Ranch Ben Legler, M.S. Candidate, Botany, University of Wyoming,
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	Invasion Biology or Integration Biology? David Theodoropoulos, author of <i>Invasion Biology: Critique of a Pseudoscience</i>
11:45 AM - 1:10 PM	Luncheon with Dr. William Weber Dr. Weber (Professor Emeritus, CU Boulder) will discuss several of his favorite new European books that are pertinent to Colorado Botany, including <i>The Linnean Apostles: Global Science and Adventure</i> , <i>The Illustrated Moss Flora of Sweden</i> , and <i>The Illustrated Flora of Antarctica</i> .
1:10 PM - 1:20 PM	Awards and announcements
1:20 PM - 2:00 PM	Overview of Invasive Plant Issues in the Western United States Tim D'Amato, Land Stewardship Manager, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources
2:05 PM - 2:45 PM	Beautiful but Deadly , a synopsis of plant poisonings in Colorado Dr. Tony Knight, Professor and veterinarian, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University
2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Break: beverages and snacks Final bids on silent auction.
3:00 PM - 3:40 PM	The State of Suburbitat (Suburb + Habitat) , environmental education in urban settings Jim Tolstrup, Executive Director, High Plains Environmental Center
3:45 PM - 4:25 PM	Current Hispanic and Native American Plant Uses Dr. Donald Hazlett, Ethnobotanist, Taxonomist, and Ecologist
4:25 PM - 5:10 PM	My Life with Asiatic Plants in Colorado Dr. William Weber, Professor Emeritus, CU Boulder
5:10 PM - 5:20 PM	Announcements , including final details for Sunday's field trips
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Dinner featuring Dr. Dennis Woodland Will Botanists Become Dinosaurs in the 21st Century? Champion Auto Group Executive Club at The Ranch

Sunday, 13 September

Field Trips (see details on page 7)

7:45 AM - 8:10 AM	Box lunches for field trips will be distributed.
8:15 AM - 3:30 PM	Soapstone Prairie Natural Area.
8:15 AM - 12:00 PM	High Plains Environmental Center.
8:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Lory State Park.

REGISTRATION FORM

2009 CoNPS ANNUAL MEETING: "Plants without Borders"

Please fill out a new registration form for each person attending and **submit by 30 August** (see below). To register after this date, contact Pam Smith at pamelas4824@earthlink.net or (970) 219-1106 to indicate your interest; you will then register and pay at the Annual Meeting.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Put me on a carpool list? Yes / No (You will be contacted several weeks before the meeting to arrange a carpool.)

The Annual Meeting fee is \$30. Attendees must be members of the Colorado Native Plant Society - please join us. If you are not a member, indicate the appropriate level below and include this amount with your registration. If you are a member, but need to renew, complete your registration and renew your membership by emailing Administrative Assistant Linda Smith at Conpsoffice@aol.com.

_____ Senior \$12 _____ Student \$12 _____ Individual \$20 _____ Family \$30

_____ Supporting \$50 _____ Lifetime \$300

If you are joining CoNPS now, indicate your preferred chapter below. You may affiliate with any chapter - part of your dues goes to that chapter - but members may attend any chapter function.

_____ Boulder _____ Metro-Denver _____ Northern _____ Plateau (Western part of Colorado)

_____ San Luis Valley _____ Southeast _____ Southwest

Join botanists from around the state and region for the **6th Annual Rare Plant Symposium** on Friday to share information and learn more about our state's rarest plants. Cost \$10.

We are hosting a **Friday evening social** at The Ranch with speaker Dr. William Weber. There will be appetizers and a cash bar. Cost is \$5.

There will be a **Saturday lunch buffet** at the Ranch, which includes a great selection of food. The cost is \$15.00.

On Saturday evening, we hope you can join us for a spectacular evening at the **Champion Auto Group Executive Club** for dinner (walking distance from The Ranch). Your evening will include breathtaking views of the mountains and a very special dinner with speaker Dr. Dennis Woodland. The cost is \$25.00.

Sunday field trips. To preserve the areas we visit and to improve the quality of the trips, group size may be limited to 15-20.

Please number each box below with your 1st, 2nd, or 3rd choices.

_____ Soapstone Prairie Natural Area 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM (see field trip options on page 7)

_____ High Plains Environmental Center Tour 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

_____ Lory State Park - field grass ID workshop 8:30 AM -12:00 PM

Please enter each fee from above:

\$ 30 Annual Meeting Registration Fee per person \$ _____ Membership Fee for New Member

\$ _____ 6th Annual Rare Plant Symposium \$10.00 \$ _____ Friday evening social \$5.00

\$ _____ Saturday Buffet Lunch \$15.00 \$ _____ Saturday Dinner with speaker \$25.00

\$ _____ Box lunch for field trip \$15.00 \$ _____ Donation to Help Defray Meeting Costs

\$ _____ Total

Please include your check made out to **Colorado Native Plant Society** and mail to:

Carol-Jacobs Carre, P.O. Box 20276, Boulder, CO 80308.

Please contact Pam Smith at pamelas4824@earthlink.net or (970) 219-1106 with questions.

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION FORM

COLORADO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 2009 ANNUAL MEETING: "Plants without Borders"

Registration form must be submitted **NO LATER THAN AUGUST 30** for consideration.

Company Name _____

Contact: First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

EXHIBITOR FEE (see membership and sponsor levels below for additional support options and sponsorship recognition)

Commercial: \$100 Non-profit organization: \$30 Table dress fee (optional): \$20

- Exhibitor Fee includes meeting attendance and a 6-foot by 5-foot space (evening of 11 September and all day 12 September).

MEMBERSHIP AND SPONSORSHIP

Attendees need to be members of the Colorado Native Plant Society. To join, please indicate level below.

_____ Senior \$12 _____ Student \$12 _____ Individual \$20 _____ Family \$30

_____ Supporting \$50 _____ Lifetime Member \$300

One free exhibitor space is included with the following member and sponsorship levels:

_____ **Blue Grama Sponsor** \$500 (Includes logo placement in newsletter, verbal recognition at meeting, and 30-word text description in event marketing materials.)

_____ **Columbine Sponsor** \$1,000 (Includes same recognition of Blue Grama level PLUS prominent logo placement on website, company brochures included in all participant packets, 15 square foot marketing banner, and 75-word accompanying logo on website and in newsletter.)

If you are joining CoNPS now, indicate your preferred chapter below. You may affiliate with any chapter - part of your dues goes to that chapter - but members may attend any chapter function.

_____ Boulder _____ Metro-Denver _____ Northern _____ Plateau (Western part of Colorado)

_____ San Luis Valley _____ Southeast _____ Southwest

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Join botanists from around the state and region for the **6th Annual Rare Plant Symposium** on Friday to share information and learn more about our state's rarest plants. Cost \$10.

Friday evening social at The Ranch with speaker Dr. William Weber. Appetizers and cash bar. Cost is \$5.

Saturday lunch buffet at the Ranch, which includes a great selection of food. Cost is \$15.00.

Saturday evening with Dr. Dennis Woodland at the **Champion Auto Group Executive Club** for dinner (walking distance from The Ranch). Breathtaking views of the mountains, a very special dinner with our speaker, and presentation. Cost is \$25.00.

Sunday field trips. To preserve the areas we visit and to improve the quality of the trips, group size may be limited to 15-20.

Please number each box below with your 1st, 2nd, or 3rd choices. **FREE**

_____ Soapstone Prairie Natural Area 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM (see field trip options on page 7)

_____ High Plains Environmental Center Tour 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

_____ Lory State Park - field grass ID workshop 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

PLEASE ENTER EACH FEE FROM ABOVE

\$ _____ Exhibitor Fee \$ _____ Membership Fee for New Member

\$ _____ 6th Annual Rare Plant Symposium \$10.00 \$ _____ Friday evening social \$5.00

\$ _____ Saturday Buffet Lunch \$15.00 \$ _____ Saturday Dinner with speaker \$25.00

\$ _____ Box lunch for Sunday field trip \$15.00 \$ _____ Donation to Help Defray Meeting Costs

\$ _____ Total

Please include your check made out to **Colorado Native Plant Society** and mail to:

Exhibitor Registration, Colorado Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 200, Fort Collins, CO 80522.

Please contact John Giordanengo at jhgiord@gmail.com or (970) 420-7346 with questions.

FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

Trip Option 1: Soapstone Prairie

If you have already registered for the Soapstone Prairie field trip, you may choose two of the following options - a morning and an afternoon session - by contacting Pam Smith at (970) 219-1106 after submitting your Annual Meeting registration form.

*Transportation to Soapstone Prairie will be the responsibility of each registrant - please carpool. Guides will meet their tours at the North Parking Lot or as indicated on the day of departure for the tours. **If you have not registered, but would like to attend this trip, please contact Pam Smith at (970) 219-1106.***

Morning Trips

8:15 AM - 12:00 PM Hike Soapstone Prairie

Want some fresh air and exercise while learning about Soapstone Prairie? Explore the trails with a trained Fort Collins Naturalist guide at Soapstone Prairie. Walking distance: 3-5 miles.

8:15 AM - 12:00 PM What's so special about Soapstone Prairie?

This trip will introduce you to the ecology, botany, geology, and archaeology of this large, new, City of Fort Collins Natural Area. Walking distance: ~1/2 mile.

8:15 AM - 12:00 PM The botany of Soapstone Prairie

Join City of Fort Collins Botanist, Crystal Strouse and take a tour focusing on the botany of Soapstone Prairie. This area is one of the last remaining large expanses of short grass prairie and is home to some of the most rare plants in Colorado. Walking distance: 1- 2 miles.

Afternoon Trips:

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Archaeology of Soapstone Prairie

Explore the Archaeology of Soapstone Prairie - home to the Lindenmeier Site - one of only three pre-historic sites in Colorado listed as a National Historic Landmark. **Handicapped accessible.** Distance on paved trail ~1/4 mile.

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM What's so special about Soapstone Prairie?

This trip will introduce you to the ecology, botany, geology, and archaeology of this large, new, City of Fort Collins Natural Area. Walking distance: ~1/2 mile.

Trip Option 2: High Plains Environmental Center

8:15 AM - 12:00 PM Jim Tolstrup will lead this leisurely trip. Participants will have an opportunity to see many aspects of Jim's Saturday talk. HPEC is a non-profit organization designed to facilitate the creation of a permanent, independent environmental center that is currently protecting wetlands and uplands for nearby reservoirs, while offering programs to the northern Colorado community. In addition, the Center supports local developers, planners, and other consultants with information on sustainable design. ***If you have not registered, but would like to attend this trip, please contact Pam Smith at (970) 219-1106.***

Trip Option 3: Lory State Park

8:15 AM - 12:00 PM Rick Shory will lead a trip emphasizing grass identification. Each participant will learn intimate details about one grass. "Most people," says Rick, "come away from a grass workshop with a grand muddle of information overload, and the word "glumes" floating around in their head. On this field trip, we will try something a little different. Each participant will select one grass. Next we will work as a group to decide which grasses are the same and which are different. Then Rick will help each person learn more about their grass. ***If you have not registered, but would like to attend this trip, please contact Pam Smith at (970) 219-1106.***



Colorado Native Plant Society

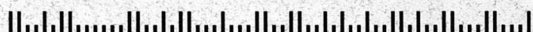
P.O. Box 200
Fort Collins, Colorado 80522
<http://www.conps.org>

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LITTLETON CO 80127-1354



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS

2009 CoNPS Annual Meeting: "Plants without Borders"

11-13 September 2009

McKee Building at The Ranch

- * Posters accepted from students and professionals
- * All topics related to southern Rocky Mountain native plants are welcome
- * Prizes for outstanding posters
- * Deadline for submission is 21 August 2009

Submit: Author(s) name(s), affiliation address, e-mail address, title, and abstract text to Dr. Catherine Kleier at ckleier@regis.edu.

Notification of acceptance will be 4 September 2009.

For more information see www.conps.org

SILENT AUCTION: REQUEST FOR ITEMS

This year's Annual Meeting will once again feature a silent auction. We would like nice items such as live plants, posters, note cards, ecological/biological/botanical books, etc.

Some items already on the auction block include:

Three dissecting microscopes. While old and well-used by members, all microscopes work and include a separate light source. If you don't have a microscope to help with identifications of those difficult species, one of these might need to go home with you!

Do you collect Colorado plant books? There will be a gem on auction - the 1905 *Flora of Colorado* by P.A. Rydberg. It is in excellent condition!

For more information or to make a donation, please contact Tom Grant at metag3@gmail.com or Pam Smith at (970) 219-1106.

2009 Colorado Native Plant Society Election for the Board of Directors

The CoNPS board of Directors is made up of four officers, seven chapter presidents, and ten At-Large members. This year four At-Large Board positions are open. The ballot was assembled by the Vice-President of CoNPS, Al Schneider. Each candidate was requested to address the following:

- 1) Give a general statement about yourself.
- 2) How many years have you been a Society member?
- 3) What chapter are you affiliated with?
- 4) What have you done in the Society?
- 5) What key issues do you think the Board should be concerned with in the future?
- 6) What other relevant plant related information would you like folks to know about you?

Please vote. You may submit your vote via email: webmaster@conps.org, or bring your ballot to the Annual Meeting, or mail your ballot by September 30 to: Al Schneider, Vice-President CoNPS, 19049 Road V, Lewis, Colorado 81327

The newly elected Board members will begin serving at the November, 2009 Board Meeting.

Only the following two people expressed interest in serving on the Board.



Jan Turner [Incumbent, At-Large Board Member]

Jan received a MS in Biological Sciences from Arizona State University and a MLS from DU. As an instructor and trainer teaching field botany classes for the CSU Native Plant Master Program, she has been involved in educating naturalists, volunteers, and college students about native plants since 1998. In addition, Jan has done presentations on native plants and noxious weeds and led field trips for a variety of organizations (including CoNPS), participated in the Grasslands Biodiversity Blitz, and volunteered at the Denver Botanic Gardens Herbarium. Jan works at Regis University where she is an Associate Professor (Libraries) and a consultant for the Biology Department. She has held jobs at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix and ASU and has co-authored 3 books (*Wildflowers of Canyon de Chelly*, *Wildflowers of Mesa Verde*, and *Wildflowers of Red Rocks Park*) with her husband, Charlie.

Jan has been a member of the CoNPS Board since 2004 and serves as chair of the CoNPS Research Grants Committee, regularly contributes book reviews to *Aquilegia*, and served as co-president of CoNPS with Charlie Turner from September 2008 to September 2009. She believes that an important role of CoNPS is to educate people about the value of native plants to the environment and to encourage people to incorporate native plants in their yards. Jan is a member of the Denver Chapter and hopes to continue serving on the CoNPS Board.



Carol English

I have been a member (Denver-Metro Chapter) of the Colorado Native Plant Society since 2005. Native plants have been an integral part of my life since 1994 when I took an ethnobotany course with Kat Anderson while living in Yosemite National Park. In 2006, at the suggestion of the CoNPS Research Team and Dr. Leo Bruederle, I began research on *Penstemon degeneri* Crosswhite while completing a master's degree. Results include determining effective pollinators, the breeding system, and comparative reproductive assessments for *P. degeneri* which I presented to CoNPS in 2008. I will also present a poster at the CoNPS 2009 annual meeting. Genetics studies are in progress to determine if *P. degeneri* and *P. griffinii* are separate species. Additionally, I located thirteen new populations for *P. degeneri*, including a new county occurrence.

Future key issues for CoNPS include continuing to work hard toward educating the general public about the importance of native plant species. I have been an instructor with the Native Plant Master Program for eight years and with the Colorado Mountain Club for five years. I have witnessed an increasing public interest to learn about Colorado native plants, from gardening with native species to simply identifying natives. I believe CoNPS could play a more extensive role in education by potentially including outreach toward public education institutions from elementary to college age. Additionally I think CoNPS could be more involved with native plant and rare plant research projects in coordination with local high schools and colleges.