1603 Capitol Av., #325
Cheyenne, WY 82001
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WYOMING NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWS LETTER, Vol 1 #2

Highlights of the Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Report: We have taken in $196.00 from membership fees. We've spent $39.80 on newsletter costs, incorporation fees, and miscellaneous. Our present balance is $156.20. We discussed getting society stationary and the idea was approved.

The following committees were established with these chairhumans:

Nominations: Ron Hartman
Memberships: Phyllis Roseberry
Goals: Bob Lichvar

We voted to sponsor (with other groups) the Third Rocky Mountain Regional Plant Conference. Topics will include federal rare plant policies, information sources, field methods, and recovery. It will be held at the Denver Botanical Garden, Nov. 5 & 6, 1981. The registration fee is $10 for non-members, and $5 for members of a native plant society. Contact: Colorado Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Conference, P.O. Box 200, Fort Collins, CO 80522.

We spent a lot of time discussing our goals for the society. Everybody saw the society as a way to keep in touch with others and facilitate their own work, rather than a instrument for political action. There was a shared concern about conservation and maintaining Wyoming's good qualities, but as a society we have neither the time nor money to do that. We agreed the best we could do was to route requests for information about plants and potential disturbances to the appropriate member(s). Our society will be, for the present, an informal network of concerned botanists and ecologists.

Where do you want the second annual meeting to be held? The choices nominated are: North Fork of Shoshone, Black Hills, Laramie Peak, South Pass, and Flaming Gorge. If you have a preference, send us your vote soon!

Promotional Letter-Goals: At the first annual meeting Phyllis Roseberry was nominated to draft a letter reflecting the goals of our society. Phyllis has drafted a letter based on interest expressed at the meeting. This promotional letter will be used to answer general inquiries about our society, for general promotion and advertisement, and the basis for a press release on our recent formation. We would like members to make any comments or suggestions on the following letter.

Join the Wyoming Native Plant Society!

Interest in the native Wyoming plants has prompted formation of the Wyoming Native Plant Society. This non-profit organization is open to anyone who shares this interest, so we invite you to become a member.

Our main goal is to create an information network among members of the society. Other aims are to become more familiar with the native Wyoming flora; its endangered, threatened, and rare, plant species; the ecology of Wyoming plant species and communities; and the magnificent Wyoming landscape. We wish to share our knowledge and thereby increase the awareness of others. The Society holds an annual meeting, and distributes a quarterly newsletter. The 1981 meeting was held in June in Castle Garden, Wyoming.

Initiation fee is $4, and annual dues are $3. These are tax deductible. If you wish to join, contact- Phyllis Roseberry, 11119 Powderhouse Rd., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

Rare Plant Status: A recent letter to Dr. R. N. Denny (Executive Director, The Wildlife Society) from G. R. Arnett (Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Ranks, Department of Interior) may forecast the future of federal listing for plants. The main emphasis for the Endangered Species Program in the coming months will deal with recovery activities (Great, but Wyoming doesn't have any plant species listed to recover.)

The emphasis on recovery activity alone leaves Wyoming out of the picture, but as if that's not bad enough they will have a priority listing system from vertebrates down to lower life forms. This priority list Mr. Arnett was discussing goes as follows: Mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, vascular plants, insects, molluscs, other plants, other invertebrates. As goes the list, so goes the money allocated for field work. This is a prime example of "Do trees have standing?"! This blind approach to the environment reflects obvious void spots in the education of certain members of the Department of Interior. If any of these administrative life forms ever observed nature they overlooked the basic web of life; ie, all life forms are connected. The matters of money are not at stake here, it is the idea that certain members of Homo sapien can place themselves on a pedestal and dictate the evolution of other species.

We hope that this type of thought is not the trend of the 80's to come. Knowing that it probably will be, we must find alternative methods to protect our flora.

Comings and Goings:

Secretary-Treasurer Don Shute has accepted a job with Woodward-Clyde Consultants in San Diego, and will be leaving at the end of August. The executive committee will select another secretary-treasurer from our membership, and announce it in the next newsletter.

Editorial Staff:

With the leaving of Don Shute our newsletter editorial staff will be broadened. Phyllis Roseberry and Ann Aldrich will help put together portions (if not all) of the newsletter. This is a volunteer position, so any member may help if they want. Robert Lichvar will continue to also help, mostly with the Botanical sections.

New Members:

Since our last newsletter (Vol 1 #1), six more people have joined our society as members. This brings our total membership to 29. The new members are: Don Despain, Bob and Jane Dorn, Keith Dueholm, Scott Finholt, Hugh House, and A. L. Mickelson. Welcome!!

Summaries of recent fieldwork:

In our first annual meeting at Castle Gardens, everyone expressed the desire that the Wyoming Native Plant Society keep them informed of what other botanists and ecologists are doing in the state. Please send us a brief summary (70 words or less) of your activities and findings from this summer that would be of interest to other members. This need not be just field work, but also lab or herbarium work, and other areas. Projects planned for the near future would also be of interest.

Botanical Novalties:

Who was the first botanical plant collector in Wyoming? Who collected the type of Oxytropis podocarpa? Who lost all their plant collections in a raft in the Platte River? These and many other questions and biographies will be discussed in this section of the newsletter to come.

The first plants collected in Wyoming for botanical studies was by Nathanial Wyeth. Wyeth was a enterprising young man who was trying to establish a series of commerical activities in the pacific northwest. He never did become a financial success in this adventure due to a number of mishaps such as bad timing, missing rendezvous, and then the fur trade declining. He based his operation out of the east and knew Thomas Nuttall. During his wanderings to the pacific northwest in 1832 he collected some plants and gave them to Nuttall who described them in the Journal Academy of Philadelphia 7:1-60, 1834. For this generous gift of plants this businessman and adventurer will be forever remembered because of Nuttall's new genus Wyethia. Before Mr. Nuttall's article appeared in print Wyeth and Nuttall had headed west to cross the Rockies. In our next series we will find out what J. K. Townsends thought that T. Nuttall (Mr. N.) dreamed about!

Bob Lichvar, Don Shute, Phyllis Roseberry

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