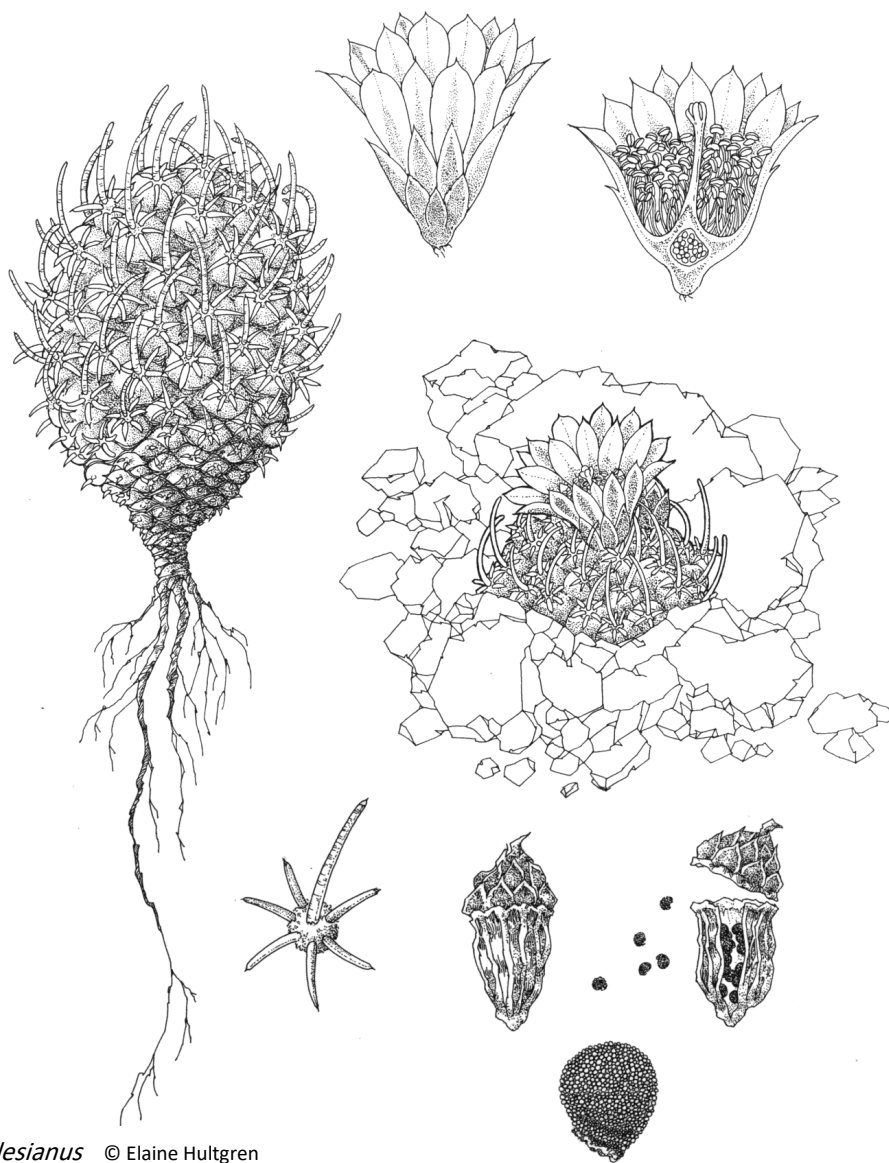


Sego Lily

Newsletter of the Utah Native Plant Society

Summer 2024 Volume 47 Number 3



Pediocactus peeblesianus © Elaine Hultgren

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An Artist Among Us: Elaine Hultgren

by Cathy King

The Utah Native Plant Society draws members from a wide variety of professional backgrounds, education, and training. Among those are a number of artists, and here is an introduction to one of them, UNPS member Elaine Hultgren.

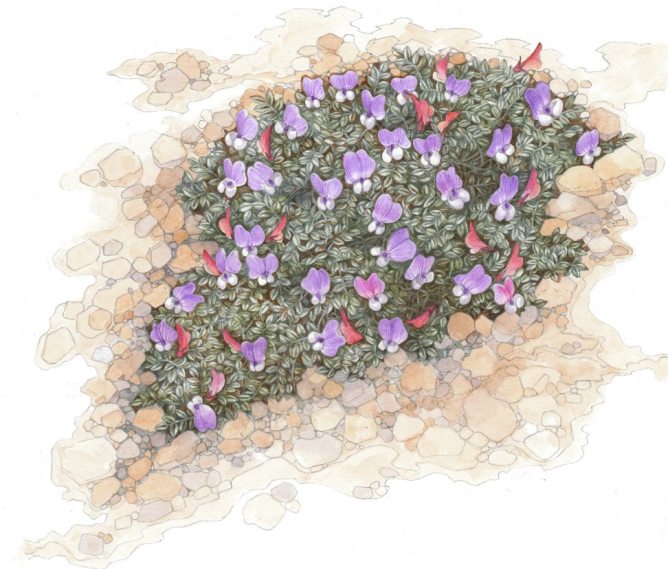
Botanical art plays an important role in the identification of plants and is used to illustrate such useful Utah plant reference books as the comprehensive *Intermountain Flora* series by Arthur Cronquist and Noel and Pat Holmgren, the *Utah Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plant Field Guide* published by the Utah TES Plant Interagency Committee, and the second edition of the *Uinta Flora* by Sherel Goodrich and Alan Huber, to give just a few examples.

One may ask, why use a botanical illustration rather than a photograph? A "[b]otanical illustration ...endeavors to faithfully depict and represent the form, colour, character and detail of a plant, identifiable to a species or cultivar level. The best botanical illustration successfully

combines scientific accuracy with visual appeal. It must portray a plant with the precision and level of detail for it to be recognized and distinguished from another species." (RHS Botanical Art & Photography Show Selection Meeting Factsheet 7/7/2022)

Or, as the late paleontologist Stephan J. Gould put it: "Scholars are trained to analyze words but primates are visual animals and the key to concepts and their history often lies in iconography. Scientific illustrations are not frills or summaries. They are foci for modes of thought."

It would require a series of photographs to capture all of the details of the comprehensively detailed botanical pen and ink drawings drawn by Elaine Hultgren and shown here on the cover and the following pages. These are scientifically based drawings with attention to scale and all the minute details that a trained botanist would need to correctly identify the plants. And it requires a lot of training, skill, and talent to be able to produce such drawings. But note they are also visually appealing, a characteristic of botanical illustrations.

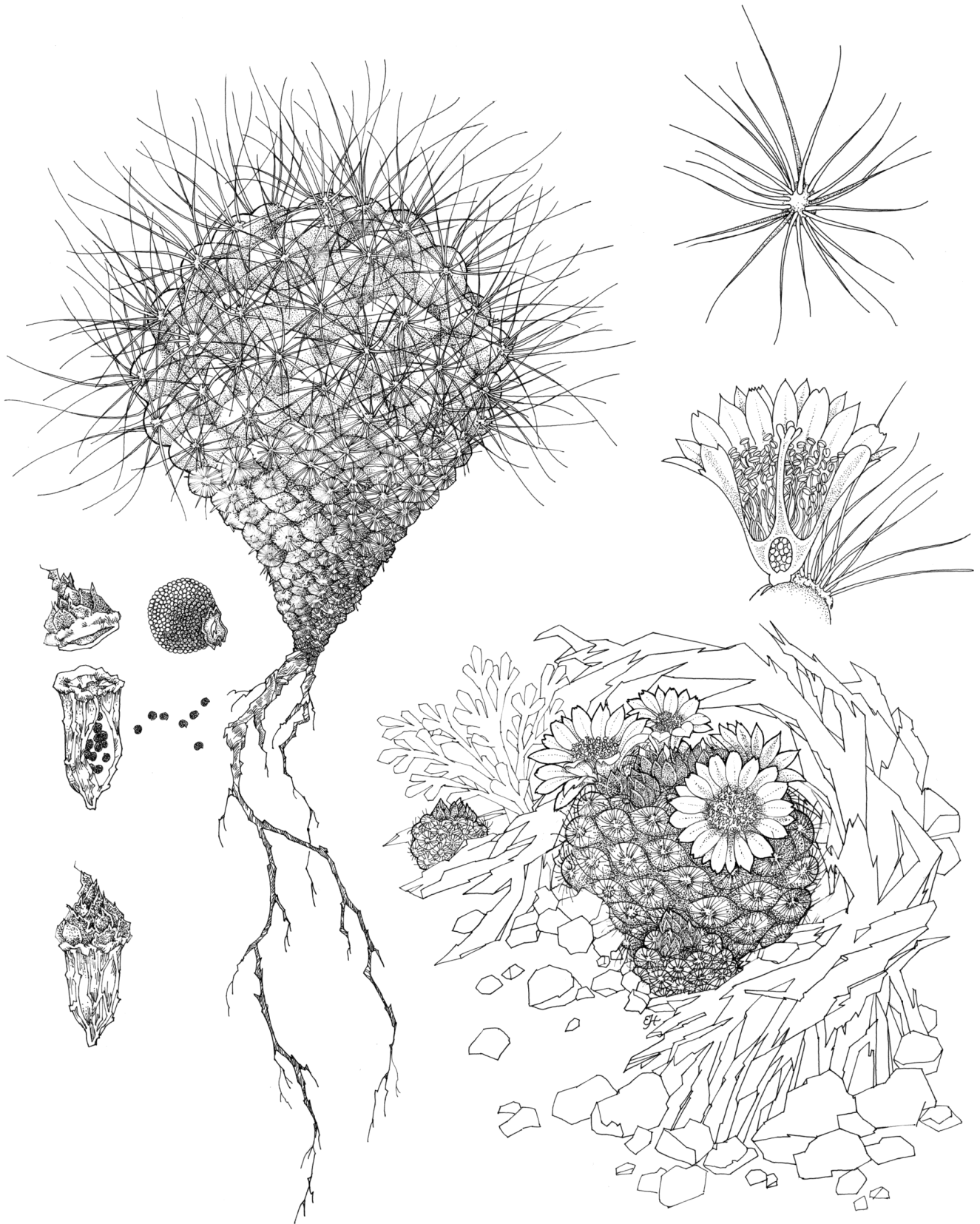


The rare and tiny *Astragalus cremnophylax*, rendered in color by Elaine Hultgren

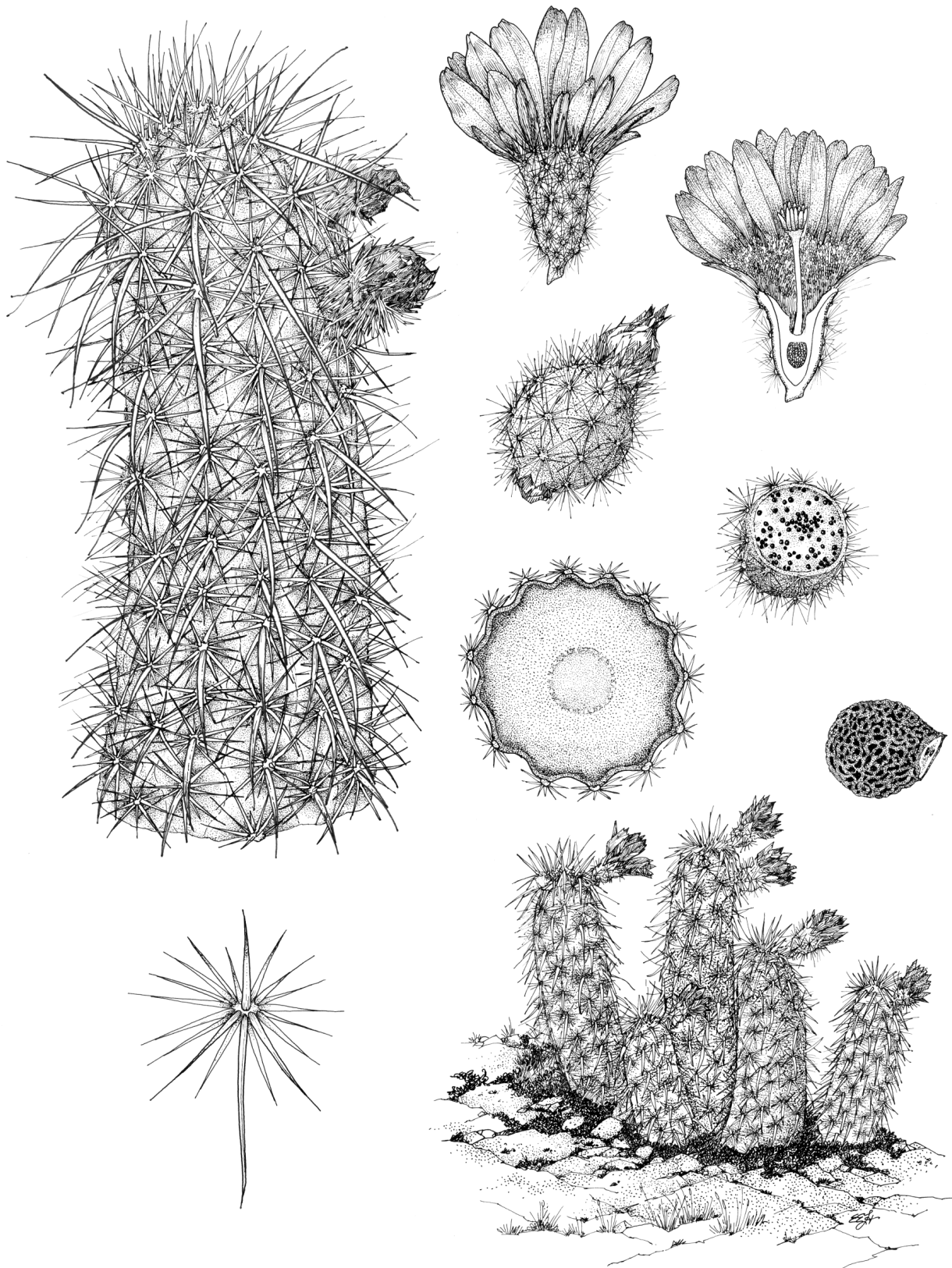


Elaine Hultgren on her knees to photograph an *Astragalus* sp.

Cover illustration: *Pediocactus peeblesianus* by Elaine Hultgren



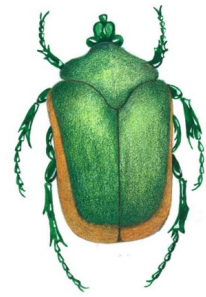
Pediocactus paradinei © Elaine Hultgren



Echinocereus relictus © Elaine Hultgren



Astragalus cremnophylax © Elaine Hultgren



Insect illustrations by Elaine Hultgren: Cercropia silk moth, sphynx moth, and fig eater beetle.

For example, Elaine's pen and ink drawing of *Pediocactus paradinei* illustrates the full body of the cactus with the exposed root system as well as the cactus in situ. The cactus body is a collection of tubercles with aeroles and spines emerging from the tips of each. Among the details of the drawing are a close-up of the aerole with spines, a flower emerging from an aerole with the petals and sepals as well as an interior view of the flower exposing the inner parts, including the stigma, style and ovary, anthers, and filaments. Also depicted is a seed capsule, both a closed and cut-out view with loose seeds and a close-up, enlarged view of a seed. These are the requirements of a botanical drawing.

Botanical artists draw mostly from herbarium plates/sheets or sometimes "in situ" or drawing in the field. Elaine's *pediocactus* drawings were all drawn from various herbarium specimen samples. The artist "usually has access to...a microscope for viewing plant structures, such as branching structures, leaf pubescence, or capsule chambers. The plant is traditionally measured and drawn on a 1:1 scale and placed on a white background." (North Carolina Botanical Garden)

Elaine Hultgren received her four-year certificate from the Cleveland Institute of Art with a major in painting and a minor in printmaking. After graduating, she spent over thirty years working in animation for television and film and in game design for Atari. Her artwork has been exhibited in galleries, museums and art shows and her scientific illustrations have been published. She was nominated for an Emmy award for "Outstanding in Animation" for *The Tick*, worked for Marvel Productions, Disney, Universal Animation Studios, produced storyboards for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and did work for the Utah Jazz. And that doesn't begin to cover her portfolio.

But what she really wanted to do was botanical art and scientific illustration and decided to retire from her previous career to enroll in the Botanical Art and Illustration program at the Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden, a rigorous three-year course. Just one year into her training, she was hired to teach watercolor classes

and after receiving her certificate of completion, she was hired to teach the Botanical Art course at the Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden for four years before moving back to Salt Lake City to teach Botanical Art and Illustration at Red Butte Garden, which ended with the COVID pandemic in 2020.

It was during her time at the Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden that Elaine met Pat and Noel Holmgren who contracted with her to prepare a series of cactus drawings for the *Intermountain Flora* cactus section, Volume 2, Part A. Elaine prepared drawings for the *Pediocactus* section which included *Pediocactus simpsonii*, *P. paradinei*, *P. sileri*, *P. winkleri*, *P. despainii*, *P. bradyi*, and *P. peeblesianus* subsp. *fickeiseniorum*. Many of these are endemic species that are rare, threatened and/or endangered in Utah and Arizona.

Elaine is proposing to the artists of the art and illustration program which came to a halt in January, 2020 to participate in an exhibition in 2025 at Red Butte Garden that will consist of 30+ rare and endangered plants of Utah, all executed in the medium of each artist's choice. The Utah Native Plant society will serve as advisors and will assist in locating all eligible plants and will help provide photos in the future.

When that exhibit is finally on display, we will let you know!

website: www.elainehultgren.com

email: elainehult@gmail.com

References:

Botanical Art & Artists: "What is Botanical Illustration?"

<https://www.botanicalartandartists.com/what-is-botanical-illustration.html>

North Carolina Botanical Garden, *What is Botanical Illustration?* 3/26/2024

<https://ncbg.unc.edu/2018/03/08/what-is-botanical-illustration/#:~:text=The%20illustrator%20usually%20has%20access,placed%20on%20a%20white%20background.>

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PAGE 2

The Addams Family

SC. BG.

ACTION

The Addams Family

SC. BG.

ACTION

The Addams Family

SC. BG.

ACTION

DIAL. FESTER (CONT)
THERE'S NO QUESTION. (SNIFF)

COUSIN ITT HAS GONE OFF TO MEET THAT BIG WIG-MAKER IN THE SKY.

GOMEZ
WE HAVEN'T HAD A FAMILY TRAGEDY LIKE THIS SINCE UNCLE GOMEZ CAUGHT THE PLAGUE!

SUBG

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PAGE 8

The Addams Family

SC. BG.

ACTION

The Addams Family

SC. BG.

ACTION

The Addams Family

SC. BG.

ACTION

DIAL. NORMAN (CONT):
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ME?

NORMAN (CONT)
AFTER ALL, WE ARE NEIGHBORS. I SHOULD BE NEIGHBORLY

NORMAN (CONT)
AND DO SOMETHING - NORMAN
GOOD IDEA DONUT HOLE

SUBG

HANNA BARBERA PRODUCTIONS, INC.
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PAGE 8

The Addams Family

SC. BG.

ACTION

The Addams Family

SC. BG.

ACTION

The Addams Family

SC. BG.

ACTION

DIAL. MORTICIA (CONT)
THIS IS ALL THERE IS.

GOMEZ: IT ALWAYS DID LIKE TO TRAVEL LIGHT

MORTICIA: DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS WAS FOR HIS NECK OR HIS HEAD?

SUBG

Storyboard illustrations by Elaine Hultgren

Backpacking to Kolob Arch

by Braydon Lake, June, 2024

Photos by Braydon Lake

My name is Braydon Lake. I am a novice self-taught botanist and rare plant lover. As a volunteer botanist with Zion National Park and an avid iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations>) observer, my love

for nature runs deep. Growing up in Emery County, my father immersed me and my siblings in nature, quizzing us on the plants, animals, and insects in our surroundings. Whether in the Swell or up on Skyline Drive, we were always racing to answer first. From a young age, the world around me always beckoned. Although school interrupted my passion for a time, it reignited three years ago because of one tiny plant—*Eriogonum palmerianum*, Palmer's Buckwheat. I fell in love with the



Kolob Arch, spanning 287 ft.



The view down into Hop Valley and Kolob Canyons.



Ari, myself, and Tyson at Hop Valley Trailhead at 4:45 am.



Myself looking over La Verkin Creek towards Bear Trap Canyon



Hop Valley, headed back to the Trailhead.

genus *Eriogonum*, which, though challenging to learn, has kept me captivated. Alongside my *Eriogonum* studies, rare and endemic flora fascinate me. I have been fortunate to find and see some rare species, such as Guard Milkvetch (*Astragalus zionis* v. *vigulus*), Chinle Chia (*Salvia columbariae* v. *argillacea*), and now Joanna's Thistle (*Cirsium joannae*).

Imagine hiking through the rugged wilderness of Zion, driven by the hope of encountering a botanical ghost. Last seen 15 years ago, *Cirsium joannae*, or Joanna's Thistle, remains one of the park's most elusive plants. With no known photographs—only photo scans of herbarium vouchers, the quest to find this rare thistle is

nothing short of a thrilling adventure into some of Zion's deep backcountry. As a volunteer botanist with Zion National Park, my recent two-day backpacking trip to Kolob Arch was dedicated to this very mission: to observe and document *Cirsium joannae* in its natural habitat.

Kolob Arch, recognized as the 6th largest natural arch in the world, spans an impressive 287 feet across the remote back canyons of the Kolob section in Zion National Park. Infrequently visited due to its secluded location and challenging trails, the trek to this massive sandstone arch is well worth it. There are two trails to Kolob Arch, Lee's Pass- starting in Kolob (the western



Cirsium joannae, Joanna's Thistle.

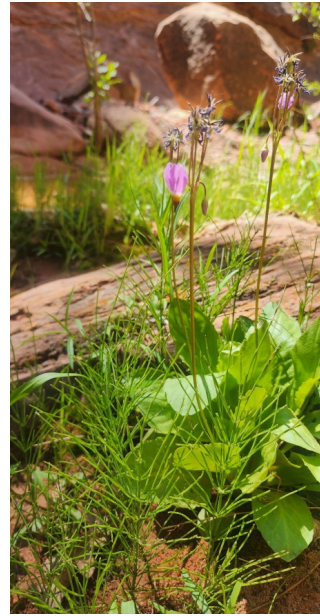


Cirsium joannae, Joanna's Thistle.

side of the park), and Hop Valley- starting from Kolob Terrace Road (the road going through Kolob and Zion Canyons). I selected Hop Valley because it appears to be much less strenuous than Lee's Pass.

Hop Valley is a gradual 800-1000 ft. descent to La Verkin Creek. It starts with about 2 miles of Sagebrush and Gambel's Oak scrubland before you come across a fenced private land. The trail continues through this property for a half mile before it drops into the lush Hop Valley. The 2-mile stretch along the valley floor had a stream that snaked its way through fields of sedges, rushes, and other boggy field flora. Once you reach the Zion boundary fence line, the trail continues past the two Hop Valley campsites. The trail follows a moderate climb to the lookout over La Verkin Creek. After that mile and a half, a quick descent reaches La Verkin Creek Trail. Following left for the next half mile, the trail passes Beatty Spring which has safe drinking water flowing from the side of the mountains, and two of Lee's Pass campsites. The Kolob Arch Trail marker lies shortly after the two campsites. The trail from La Verkin Creek to Kolob Arch is about a half mile.

Cirsium joannae, Joanna's Thistle, is the whole reason for this trip. This plant is easily identifiable by its oblong leaf shape, with both surfaces being smooth (glabrous) and bright green. From a distance, the footlong plus leaves resemble a fern. The edges of the leaves aren't super wavy like other thistles. The spines are closely spaced, but not dense. The main flowering stem grows vertically and is also smooth, fleshy, and openly branched. While flowers were not present, the flowerheads are composed of many individual lavender-pink-colored flowers. This plant is known to



The glabrous green leaves of *Cirsium joannae*, Joanna's Thistle, *Tradescantia occidentalis* var. *occidentalis*, Prairie Spiderwort, the last Zion Shooting Star, *Primula pauciflora* var. *zionensis*, and *Carex curatorum*, Kaibab's Sedge.

inhabit hanging gardens and re-entries along La Verkin Creek. It is commonly seen growing alongside maiden-hair ferns (*Adiantum* spp.) fir trees (*Abies*), Violets (*Viola*), horsetails (*Equisetum*), sedges (*Carex*), and other similar ecotype plants.

Another rare plant found within the same ecology is Kaibab's Sedge (*Carex curatorum*). This hanging garden sedge occurs in canyons in Arizona and southern Utah. This sedge differs from its sister species Bulrush Sedge (*Carex scirpoidea*) by its longer leaves; the upper leaf surfaces have a few soft hairs. The seeds are not tightly covered by the surrounding bracts, and the scales below are light in color and narrower than the bracts. During this time of the year, they were forming fruits, but the location of the plants made it difficult to photograph them. Other rare plants that I observed but were out of season included Clausen's Violet (*Viola clauseniana*), a woody violet with its closest relative residing in Hawai'i. Sparse-flowered Bog Orchid (*Platanthera sparsiflora*) was another neat little orchid uncommon through the west.

After a couple of weeks of research, planning, packing, and coordination with my leader, the trip began:

June 1, 2024

A few days ago, my leader sent me a text asking if I'd been out to see Kolob Arch. I haven't. He then informed me that *Cirsium joannae* may be in bloom and that no

one has photos of it yet. That excited me and sparked the idea of the hike to Kolob Arch.

I have finalized the dates for my trip, June 12-13. I reached out to my leader and informed him of my plan. He informed me he would start the process of getting me an overnight camping permit as well as a Backcountry Travel Plan with the Park to ensure my safety for the trip. After informing my leader, I reached out to my friends Tyson and Ari, who excitedly agreed to join me on my adventure!

June 4, 2024

We have the permit and the Travel Plan. I shared the information with Tyson and Ari and we began final preparations for the trip. We discussed the route, length, target plants, and water source that is provided along the spring.

June 10, 2024

After a few days of gradually acquiring all 50 pounds of my equipment (the 80L pack included): two water bottles, a water bladder, a water filter, food, a tent, a sleeping bag, a notepad, and a pen, as well as other basic camping and hiking accessories, we finalized the details for the next day.

Expecting 108°F at the hottest part of the day, we planned an early start to avoid the heat. Ari would arrive tomorrow night, and Tyson would meet us at my

place in the morning.

June 11, 2024

After an easy day at work, I finalized the contents of my pack, whereafter I headed to the bus to pick up Ari so we could double-check our packs. It was rather late when she got into town, so we pretty much went to bed shortly after we got home. I couldn't fall asleep until midnight though!

June 12, 2024

We woke up at 3:30 am (to be at the trailhead by 5), got dressed, filled our waters and by the time we were ready it was 4 am, and Tyson pulled up to meet us at my car. The drive from home was about 40 minutes to the Hop Valley Trailhead along Kolob Terrace Road. We arrived at the Trailhead parking lot at 4:45; we were early. We took a group photo by the Trailhead for the start of our trip!

Equipped with headlamps and high spirits, we started the 7-mile hike to our campsite. The first hour went by really quickly. 70° cool weather and darkness made it easy, and when the sun did come up, we were fortunate to not have any direct sunlight on us for the next 3 hours! The mountains of Zion combined with the canyon walls of Hop Valley, provided ample shade for the more exposed part of the hike! The sun only started to hit us when we started our covered descent off the valley floor down to La Verkin Creek. Perfect timing!

At the bottom, along La Verkin Creek Trail, there was a natural spring called Beatty Spring that we were able to refresh and acquire drinking water from throughout our trip!

After resting, we made our way the short walk to the campsite. After setting up camp, we ate lunch and chilled for a bit. We had a curious little squirrel visit us too!

We hiked 1 mile from camp to Kolob Arch, and it is massive! We took a moment to admire the arch, and we searched around for a place to string up our hammocks. We kinda made a 'base camp' and we carried on into more remote canyons to find *Cirsium joannae*.

After not much longer walking along the stream, I found them! They looked like ferns at first until I got closer, I realized that it was what I was looking for! I was surprised because I was looking for hanging gardens before I noticed it on the streambank. Even though it

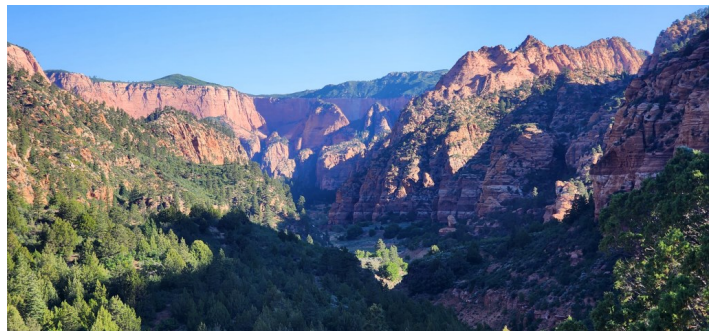
wasn't in bloom, it was still exciting to find! I spent some time surveying and counting the plants in the area before we headed back to camp for the night. We made one more stop at the spring to fill our waters. After dinner and relaxing, we headed to bed around 9:30-10:00 pm because we decided to leave early again.

June 13, 2024

We woke at 3:30 am again, quickly packed our stuff up, and hit the trail. We wanted to make up the majority of the hike back up before the sun rose. It was strenuous! It took us an hour longer than normal. And we only had 2 miles to hike in the sun. But it was warm! The trail was all sand for the last climb And it was tedious. But luckily, with no complications other than sore muscles and our stinky selves, we made it back to the car and finally home!

A trek of a trip, but well worth it. Will I do it again.... maybe. It was quite a challenge, but I would love to see Joanna's Thistle in bloom.

Reflecting on my journey, from a nature-immersed childhood in Emery County to the rugged trails of Zion National Park, I realize how profoundly my passion for botany has shaped my life. My recent expedition to find *Cirsium joannae*, Joanna's Thistle, epitomizes this passion. The blend of meticulous preparation, physical endurance, and the sheer thrill of discovery reaffirmed my commitment to studying and preserving rare flora. Though I didn't find the thistle in bloom, the sight of its neon green, glabrous leaves glowing by the streambank was a victory in itself, fueling my determination for future explorations. This adventure, marked by camaraderie, curiosity, and an unwavering love for plants, is a testament to the wonders that nature holds for those willing to seek them out. As I look ahead, I am eager to continue my botanical pursuits, ever ready for the next rare find that awaits in the wild expanses I cherish.



Our last look at Kolob Canyons before we left.

Alida Platt Lansing (1868 to 1944)

A different kind of botanist.

by William H. King

Alida Platt Lansing's journey to becoming a collector and botanist of Colorado wildflowers was unusual and a fascinating one. Her early education was at the utopian Union Colony later called Greeley, Colorado. She was a high school student of Alice Eastwood in Denver and used John M. Coulter's *Flora of the Rocky Mountains* to further identify plants. Unlike many botanists she was never financially connected with any university or academy but struck out on her own in selling wildflower cards or books. Her very successful business and career ended about as abruptly as it started when she got married.

Alida P. Lansing was born in October 1868 in Goshen, Elkhart, Indiana to Melanethon (Melancthon) Woolsey Lansing (aka M.W. Lansing) and Mary Jane Abbott Lansing. The 1870 Census of Indiana found the family still in Goshen, Indiana including younger brother Charles A. Lansing, age one. Another sister Helen (Nellie) Livingston Lansing was born just after the 1870 census on July 18, 1870.

The family was about to make a big move to the utopian Union Colony of Colorado in late 1870 and was among the first families in the colony. The colony was later named Greeley, Colorado, for one of the colony's big supporters and newspaper editor, Horace Greeley, famous for the saying "Go west young man." The colony, according to Wikipedia, was "based on temperance, religion, agriculture, education and family values."

M.W. Lansing was referenced in a memorial committee of the Good Templars of Greeley on October 17, 1870 in the *Rocky Mountain News*. M.W. Lansing became a rail route agent for the US Postal Service in 1874 and sorted mail at railroad stations and in moving cars enroute until about 1880. The family moved to Denver in 1878 and was recorded living at 633 Larimer St. in the Colorado census of 1880. All three Lansing children are listed as "at school" within the last census year. On July 10, 1883 the *Rocky Mountain News* reported that Alida's parents were granted a divorce by the Superior Court. Her father subsequently moved out of state and died in Washington, DC in 1906.

The special US Census of Colorado, June 1, 1885 reported that Mary J. Lansing had moved to Curtis St. in Denver, was running a boarding house and the three Lansing siblings had attended school in the last census year. In August of 1885, at the age of 17, Alida decided to go to the top of Pikes Peak at over 14,000 feet in elevation, some 11 miles

from Manitou, her starting point, and this was before the cog railway there began running in 1891. Just above the timberline, she became temporarily lost while collecting many fine alpine plant specimens. In all, it took her almost 24 hours to complete the trip (*Rocky Mountain News*, February 18, 1892). This was where Alida earned her reputation as one of the best hikers in Colorado.

On October 10, 1886 the *Rocky Mountain News* reported that there had just been an Exposition of Colorado Manufacturing in Denver. That featured the work of W. H. Lawrence & Co, Denver, booksellers, publishers and stationers and their employee, Miss Alida P. Lansing who had been instrumental in putting together a real dried wildflower display that resembled a Denver and Rio Grande locomotive marked #56 and named for S. K. Hooper who was the General Passenger and Ticket Agent of the rail line. This is when Alida started to develop her proprietary techniques for pressing, gluing and preserving wildflowers that maintained their color and beauty.

The *Corbett Denver City Directory* for 1887 reported that Alida had become a teacher but likely only taught a year or two. The *Rocky Mountain News* of February 4, 1887 listed Alida as a paid clerk on the Engrossment Committee of the Colorado State Legislature at a rate of \$4 per day and the 1889 *Corbett Denver City Directory* listed her as a clerk.

The collecting of wildflowers and turning them into cards, books and other products that were for sale for twenty five cents to \$10.00 had become a big business led by W. H. Lawrence with Alida as the number one collector and wildflower artist. By 1891, 109 people in Colorado were involved in collecting wildflowers as a source of income with the total business grossing \$230,000 a year and producing 12,000 wildflower books a year by 1891 (*Rocky Mountain News*, April 5, 1891). The business must have been lucrative for Alida too, as the *Rocky Mountain News*, April 5, 1892 reported that Alida P. Lansing purchased two lots in the Central Capitol Hill area of Denver for \$4,000 without the aid of a trust deed or mortgage. Today the mass collection of wildflowers and turning them into commercial products would be very much frowned upon by conservationists and many others but the 1890's were different times.

Alida wrote an editorial for the *Rocky Mountain News* of April 5, 1891 entitled "Choosing a Flower," detailing six plant species that might be worthy of being the Colorado State flower but concluded that it must be the blue columbine, "*Aquilegia caerulea*". Alida had her state flower dream fulfilled on April 4, 1899 when the Colorado Legislature made the columbine the state flower. By 1925 the blue columbine had become so popular that the

legislature placed protective restrictions on its collection.

The *Rocky Mountain News* of May 29, 1891 reported that Colorado's Columbian World's Fair Commission headed up by Governor Routt had voted to make Alida P. Lansing a special agent of the fair in order to collect, preserve and mount Colorado wildflowers for the Chicago Fair of 1893 at the rate of \$100 per month plus expenses. Colorado had just become a US state in 1876 and was anxious to show off all of its man-made and natural resources to the world. Alida was expected to collect as many of the 3,000 plant species that were thought to be in Colorado at the time as was possible. She did collect over 1,000 species before the Commission called off further collections on July 1, 1892 (*Rocky Mountain News*, July 31, 1892). The Fair Commission was running out of money and could not afford the metal and glass display boxes to house 500 yet alone 3,000 mounted plant species.



Colorado blue columbine (*Aquilegia coerulea* var. *ochroleuca*), buttercup family (Ranunculaceae). La Sal Mountains, Grand County, Utah. Photo by Andrey Zharkikh.

At the end of the 1893 World's Fair, Alida P. Lansing was awarded a medal for her herbarium, as was Sarah Bennett Walker (1860 -1921) of Castle Rock, Colorado. But Alida's herbarium was declared the finest herbarium of all at the exposition by Mrs. Potter Palmer, president of the lady managers at the fair.

Alice Eastwood, the now renowned botanist from Colorado and California, may well have been chosen to collect the specimens for the world's fair instead of Alida but Alice was in the process of moving her base to San Francisco and assuming duties as co-curator of the California Academy of Science Herbarium in 1892. Instead, Alice gave her support to Alida who had been one of her students (R.C. Barneby, *Atlas of North American Astragalus*, 1964). Just before Alice's now famous trip through southwestern Utah with Al Wetherill, described in *Zoe* Volume 3, page 354, Alice had been collecting in the Grand Junction area of Colorado. She was joined by Miss Lansing, the young lady in charge of the display at the World Fair, on Monday, May 16, 1892. (*Grand Junction News*, May 21, 1892).

Alice had reviewed Alida's Colorado collections and made reference to four of them in *Zoe*, Volume 3, #4, 1892,

including *Astragalus anisus*. Alice gave Alida's astragalus specimen to Marcus Jones for determination, Jones who was an astragalus authority at the time declared it a new species. The location on the specimen sheet said it was found at Pueblo, Colorado but in fact as was determined many years later by William A. Weber that it only grows in the Gunnison Valley of Colorado and nearby: Colorado Native Plant Society, 1997 and *Astragalus anisus* M.E. Jones (Gunnison milkvetch): "A Technical Conservation Assessment" by Karen Decker and David G. Anderson, 2004.

The 1893 *Cobertt Denver City Directory* listed both Alida and her younger sister, Nellie and their business as "wildflower books" at the McPhee Building which had just been built in 1890. The 1894 directory listed both Alida and Nellie as botanists residing at 2308 Marion St. Nellie had been her partner in collecting and in her wildflower business from the very beginning. The directories of 1896 and 1899 listed Alida as a copyist for the US Surveyor-General. As such she would have been expected to make nearly exact copies of real estate documents, mining claims and maps.

On June 29, 1899 Alida was married to William E. Hutton, a



Astragalus anisus. May 2024 photo by Ernie Marx, an observation posted to [iNaturalist](#).

Harvard educated lawyer and the two lived on Marion St. in Denver with her mother, Mary Jane, as reported in the 1900 census. *The Rocky Mountain News* reported on April 14, 1900 that Alida had given birth to triplets but one of the babies had died in the process. Alida and William had another child, Charles Abbott Hutton on March 2, 1902 who died in infancy and was buried September 14, 1902.

Subsequent US census records for 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940 reported that Alida was married and living with husband William in Denver but did not list any occupation for her. The Alida Lansing papers housed at the Special Collections Department of the Denver Library contain items of correspondence, programs, business card, brochure, exposition tickets and three handmade books of pressed wildflowers from the 1888 to 1918 era. It seems likely that Alida had requests for information about her collections from other botanists after she was married but that most of her life after 1900 was devoted to her family. Alida was buried on April 12, 1944 at the Denver Fairmount Cemetery.

Alida's career as a botanist and collector of Colorado wildflowers likely only lasted from about 1885 until 1900 but those years were very intense and she collected many thousands of specimens, many of which were distributed in her commercial business of selling cards and books featuring pressed, mounted and named Colorado wildflowers. Few of her specimens ended up at science academies or universities. There is no known record that Alida collected beyond the Colorado borders but many of the species she collected are found throughout the Intermountain West. Her greatest impact was in making the public in Colorado, the United States and elsewhere aware of the great natural beauty in Colorado wildflowers and in promoting Colorado as a destination to live and visit.

Reprint of an editorial written by Alida Lansing urging the choice of the blue columbine as the state flower of Colorado. As a well recognized and popular botanist, her opinion mattered.

"Choosing a Flower" *Rocky Mountain News* April 5, 1891

Alida P. Lansing

Arbor day is approaching and a great deal of interest has been aroused by Mr. Coy's suggestion that on that day a flower may be selected to represent this state. There are no flowers which grow in profusion confined within the bounds of Colorado, but some seem to reach their greatest perfection nourished by Colorado's soil and bathed in its sunlight. The flora of Colorado is so vast and varied it seems a difficult matter to select the one most appropriate. Three or four varieties deserve especial mention. The evening star (*Mentzelia albicaulis*) has been suggested. It grows in all parts of the state in profusion, opens at dark a rather showy blossom, being creamy white and star shaped, and is delicate and beautiful. As one passes through a bed of them they will adhere to the clothes and it is hard to rid oneself of them. The plant is destitute of grace and would be called a weed but for the flowers. The Mari-posa lily (*Calochortus gunnisonii*) has claims which cannot be overlooked: It is extremely graceful and delicate. The blending of colors at the base of the petal presents an iridescent effect which is indescribable. Spanish bayonet (*Yucca angustifolia*), certainly the most showy flower, growing all over the prairie portion of the state as well as on the mountainsides, in many places so thick that one cannot penetrate of it without being pierced by the stiff, needle-like extremity of the leaves. The fringed gentian (*Gentiana tenella*) grows only at the higher altitudes of this state and is not as familiarly known as many other varieties. The flowers are a deep rich blue and very attractive. Windflower (*Anemone patens*) a perennial flower often found lifting their dainty blue cups above the snow early in the springtime. They are peculiarly fascinating enveloped in their flowing coats as if to protect them from the storms. Above all others the blue columbine (*Aquilegia caerulea*) seems to have the most qualities to recommend it. It is hardy, grows about two feet high and both flowers and plant possess rare grace and beauty. The sepals a blue that vie with the sky contrasting beautifully with the white petals. The ternately compound leaves are delicate in texture and color. When searching for it one is often assisted in determining its locality by the sweet fragrance which is wafted from its honey laden blossoms. The sentiment attributed to the blue columbine is "Resolved to Win." If the columbine be chosen to represent Colorado—may it prove typical of the state as resolved to win in all that is ennobling and beneficial.

The Alice Eastwood to Alida Lansing connection.

Alice Eastwood started her career as a botany teacher in the Denver High School for more than 10 years. Alida Lansing was one of her students and fellow collectors. Alice made many collecting trips near Denver and in Colorado before moving to San Francisco in 1891-92. Here Alice writes about her early years at Denver High School. Just after moving to the coast she published "Popular Flora of Denver, Colorado" (Zoe Publishing Company, May 1893).

We have featured stories about Alice Eastwood before, see: Andrew Gulliford's "Go Ask Alice" *Sego Lily* Spring 2020, Vol. 43/2 and "Noted Woman Botanist at S.L. Meeting" in *Sego Lily* Vol 41/2, 2018.

Botanical Collection in the Denver High School

by Alice Eastwood, July 1st, 1889

At request this account of my work in botany has been prepared for the Board of Education. The impossibility of making an impersonal narrative will have to be my excuse for the egotism which seems to prevail. More than ten years ago I learned the rudiments of botany, in Miss Overton's class, in the Denver High School, and there my enthusiasm was first aroused. Books on the western plants could not be bought; but Miss Overton gave me a copy of the *Flora of Colorado*, published by the Department of the Interior; and so, she not only planted the seed of knowledge, but gave it the chance to grow. With this book as an aid, I began in earnest analyzing and preserving the plants that grew in the vicinity of Denver and in the mountains not far away. Nearly all of my vacation time has been spent in this work which has been to me a pleasure. No mountains have been too rugged, no distance too great, no heat so unbearable as to keep me from going where I thought new species could be found, or where I knew some plant grew which was not in my collection. About six years ago I accidentally met a botanist who was traveling through the State and to whom I was able to be of assistance. He sent my name to the Scientists Directory, and soon I had letters from all over the country asking for exchanges. I discovered that Colorado plants were in great demand and that there was really no supply. Anyone in this region who would be willing and able to devote time and money and who possessed the requisite knowledge and energy, could, without doubt, obtain plants from almost all parts of the globe.

Among the many letters received, was one from a botanical society in Sweden, promising, in return for plants from this section, specimens from all parts of Europe. This seemed to

me a fine chance, and so, the next autumn, I sent quite a large bundle of plants. What I received in exchange surpassed all my expectations; for, instead of one or two hundred there must have been from twelve to fifteen hundred, and of each species there were many duplicates. Since then, I have sent two packages at different times, to repay their generosity. This collection added to what I myself had collected, determined, and preserved (at the present time numbering about 500) seemed to me a good nucleus for a botanical collection for the High School, which the authorities would not be unwilling to accept. To make the collection of Colorado flowering plants complete, now became the object of my ambition; but traveling was too expensive for me to go at will all over the State, and it seemed as if I must either give it up or wait indefinitely. If I could only obtain transportation, the difficulties would almost be overcome and, at last, I determined to make the effort. Mr. Gove came to my help and gave me a letter of introduction to Mr. Kassler, who was formerly a member of the Board of Education, and through him I obtained transportation on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. Mr. Moffat has twice repeated the kindness, and I feel deeply grateful not only for the great assistance, but also for the courtesy which accompanied the favor and which lightened the burden of obligation. There have been, however, some draw-backs to the realization of my hopes which I did not foresee. Among them is the impossibility of being in more than one place at a time, the fear of not being able to get accommodations at unknown and lonely stations, and the fact that the train stays for such a very short time at stations and will not stop at any other places. In the Gunnison Valley and the San Juan Mountains I have found the greatest number of plants new to me, and among them, several that have not been reported from Colorado. So far, I have failed to discover a species entirely new, but I still have hopes to achieve that distinction.

I have explored the Alpine regions quite carefully and I find that Gray's Peak, Pike's Peak, Mt. Ouray, and others, less noted, have almost exactly the same flora; but, I believe that on each of those peaks, I found plants peculiar to itself. Besides the places mentioned above, I have botanized in the Platte Canon, in the neighborhood of Central City, Georgetown, Palmer Lake, Colorado Springs, Manitou, and more especially around Denver and Morrison. I know nothing about the grasses and sedges or about the non-flowering plants, and, consequently, they are but poorly represented in my collection. I intend to devote much of my attention hereafter particularly to them, so that the flora may be completely represented. In conclusion I would like to say that my hobby has given me much satisfaction and, if I can feel that I have benefitted others, I shall be amply repaid for my efforts.

Astragalus zionis var. *vigulus* Guard Milkvetch

by Braydon Lake

Astragalus zionis var. *vigulus*, or Guard Milkvetch, is a rare and elusive mat-forming plant, often overlooked due to its remote and limited habitat on the east side of the Pine Valley Laccolith on BLM land. For many years, this plant managed to stay under the radar, with only a few low-quality photographs digitally documenting its existence—and none capturing its flowers in bloom. During a recent visit, I was fortunate enough to encoun-



ter this remarkable species. Out of the sparse population, only two vivid, deep purple flowers remained in bloom; the rest had already gone to seed. The seed pods, while similar to those of Zion's Milkvetch (*Astragalus zionis* var. *zionis*), were strikingly larger, highlighting the distinctiveness of this variety. Guard milkvetch is rightfully listed on Utah's rare plants list with the base taxon (*Astragalus zionis*) having a global status of G4(?); the variety (var. *vigulus*) being T1, critically imperiled. Its survival is threatened by recreational activities and vehicle traffic, which pose significant risks to the few remaining populations. Fire also seems to play a complex role in its population dynamics, possibly offering some benefits under the right conditions. From my observations, the populations appear to have a somewhat stable range, with a mix of both older and younger plants. However, the fragility of its habitat

underscores the need for ongoing conservation efforts. Protecting this unique species requires not just awareness, but also active measures to minimize human impact and ensure that this rare plant continues to thrive in its natural environment for generations to come.



A few more details...



Save the date for the Tracy Aviary Bird-friendly Communities Festival: What's good for birds is good for people! Saturday, October 5, 2024, 10:00-4:00 at the Jordan River Nature Center, 1125 West 3300 South, SLC.

The goal of the Bird-friendly Communities event is to engage and educate our community about creating a healthy environment for people, birds, and other wildlife. The event is broadly defined to include bird-friendly glass, dark skies, native plants for native birds, bird feeding activities and indoor cats.

The Utah Native Plant Society will staff a table with volunteers to answer questions about gardening with bird-friendly native plants. Stop by and say hi!



Zach Coury Photos

by Zach Coury

Several rare plants I photographed in Duchesne County on July 11, 2024.

Aquilegia scopulorum var. *goodrichii* (Goodrich's columbine) is a very rare plant, endemic to the West Tavaputs Plateau south of Duchesne. It can be distinguished from var. *scopulorum* by its consistently pale flowers, and generally taller habit.



Aquilegia scopulorum var. *goodrichii*

Astragalus lutosus (dragon milkvetch) is one of my very favorite species in its massive and diverse genus. Its deeply folded leaves are very unique for Utah's flora. It has a narrow range in northeast Utah, and can also be found in similar areas in Colorado.

Phacelia argylensis (Argyle Canyon phacelia) could easily make a claim at being Utah's rarest plant. It is currently only known from a couple of small washes in the canyon, in spite of the fact that there are



Astragalus lutosus



Phacelia argylensis



Aquilegia barnebyi

countless areas with similar habitat for them to grow. Both of these washes are made of very loose gravel, and have a tendency to frequently flood and reshape the substrate. This, combined with the plant's biennial life cycle (only living for 2 years) means that its populations are extremely volatile, and it really seems to be on the edge of extinction. This year we were able to locate roughly 10 plants, which is similar to what I've seen the last couple years. Hopefully there is a robust seed bank to keep this species alive. I was really grateful to actually see the plant flowering nicely, which I haven't been around to see before.

Aquilegia barnebyi (oil shale columbine) is another rare plant from the Tavaputs Plateau region, and shares a trait with the previous plants in that it is restricted to substrates of the Green River Shale formation. It is pictured here growing in a lush seep, which was a nice change of pace from the hot and dry creek bed we walked up to get there.



Bloom Gardens Magazine is a "free quarterly digital publication that focuses on sustainability in the landscape and garden. Each issue of this magazine highlights plants that grow well in our Utah climate, such as water-wise and native plants. Our goal is to provide resources on how to be better stewards of our environment." To view visit: <https://bloomgardens.org/>

This is a free, online, digital commercial gardening magazine with articles that address local gardening issues. Regular contributors include Conservation Garden Park, Progressive Plants, USU Extension, Plant Select, the Utah Native Plant Society, Nature's Seed, Trees Are Good, Utah Associated Garden Clubs, and PBS Utah. It also offers feature articles, seasonal gardening tips, hardiness zones and more. UNPS has been a regular contributor, encouraging the use of native plants in local gardens. Check it out!

Grow Native:

Salvia pachyphylla, the Mojave Sage

by Cathy King

In native and dryland gardens, the middle to late summer garden presents challenges to find native plants that will dependably bloom in the heat. Enter *Salvia pachyphylla*, from the family Lamiaceae, commonly known as the Mojave sage, a highly aromatic and handsome plant with flowers that range from a light lavender to a deep purple that start to appear in July and continue until frost. And the bees love it.

Technically not a Utah native plant, it was first introduced into Washington County as a landscape plant and now, as the climate continues to warm, it has migrated into our northern gardens as well. It is a native of California but some sources claim it is also native to Nevada and Arizona, however Dr. Stanley Welsh in *A Utah Flora* states it was introduced into several states from California, where native.



Most of the purple color in *Salvia pachyphylla* is found in the colorful bracts. The flowers themselves are a lighter shade and small by comparison.



Mojave sage growing through wandering, silver-leaved stems of *Artemisia versicolor* 'Seafoam' in the author's garden.

It is very difficult to restrict the selections for a native plant garden to choices only from Utah, so I am allowing myself license to extend those selections to native plants from the Intermountain West. After all, the mission statement of the Utah Native Plant Society is this: *The Utah Native Plant Society is dedicated to the appreciation, preservation, conservation and responsible use of the native plant and plant communities found in the state of Utah and the Intermountain West.*



Mojave sage is a shrub with woody stems.



A well-grown specimen of Mojave sage in a dry garden. Photograph by Panayoti Kelaidis.

And the Mojave sage is a superb plant that would be a wonderful addition to your dryland garden. It doesn't need a lot of water, once it is established. It is important to emphasize the "once it is established" because it is vital to water a new plant regularly until it has the chance to grow roots far enough into the ground to find water sources on its own. But once established, this plant will continue to increase in size every year and flower even more profusely. The warmest time of the day brings out the musky minty fragrance of the plant, if you brush your hand through its leaves, it will come away with a slightly sticky feeling and a potent film of its scent.

The Mojave sage is a good candidate to grow on the dry park strip with other low water plants and combines nicely with *Artemisia versicolor* 'Seafoam,' a Plant Select choice introduced by Lauren Springer Ogden, the well-

known western horticulturist and author of numerous gardening books including *The Undaunted Garden*. This "curlicue sage"* covers the ground quickly and wends its way around plants creating a soft backdrop to the silvery leaves of the Mojave sage. It also smells good and requires very little water. It can be a vigorous grower and might require annual trimming to keep it under control, but it isn't unmanageable and is highly recommended.

Both Mojave sage and curlicue sage should be available at local nurseries and online. It is best to plan now to plant them early in the spring to get them well established in your garden while the conditions are the most amenable.

*This is an example why common names are less useful than scientific names. The name 'sage' is used here for unrelated species: *Salvia pachyphylla* and *Artemisia versicolor*.

Your Membership

Your membership is vital to the Utah Native Plant Society. It is important that your information is correct and up to date for notifications and the delivery of The Sego Lily newsletter.

Any questions about your membership, Contact Tony Stireman, tstireman@gmail.com.

Fall is approaching... It is time to consider the next issue of the Utah Native Plant Society *Sego Lily* which relies almost entirely upon articles from the society's membership. Please submit articles of your native plant stories and photos from hikes and field trips, conservation activities... whatever might be informative and interesting to fellow members.

The *Sego Lily* editors can use most any text format for articles (**PDFs can be troublesome**). Photos are always best submitted in original resolution and as individual files **separate** from text. You can indicate desired positioning within a document. We are looking forward to hearing from you. For submissions and/or questions: newsletter@unps.org or cathy.king@gmail.com.



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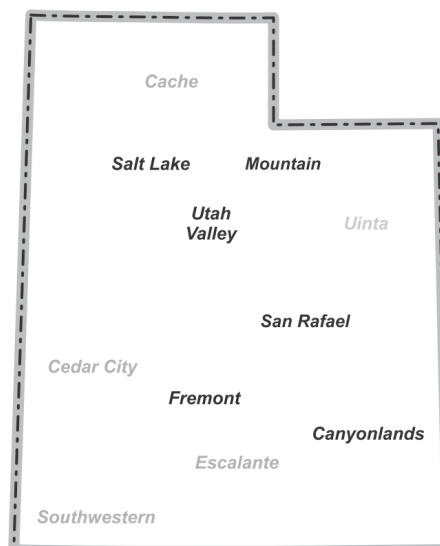
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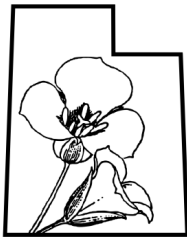
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