



NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Letter from the President by Emma Wynn

2025 was a very special year as we celebrated our 50th Birthday and started planning for the next 50 years. We are an all-volunteer organization; our members are at the heart of our purpose - to stimulate an interest in and appreciation of native plants and their preservation. Our 2025 newsletters highlighted some of our longstanding members, their contributions to the Society and native plants. If you missed them, you can find them online in the publications section of the website. We welcomed dozens of new participants and members during the year, our field trips were well attended, and more people came to our in-person meetings in Reno and Henderson - maybe the snacks helped! Thanks to Zoom, all of our meetings are hybrid and people anywhere in the state can attend the meetings remotely. Thank you to everyone on the 'Team Plant' Board who worked so hard in 2025. Special thanks to Sarah Kulpa for heading up our 50th Anniversary Committee, and to James Morefield and Alison Agneray for leading the Bylaw Revision Committee. The Revised Bylaws were approved by the membership and will take effect 31st January 2026. The following people left the Board during the year; Rose Strickland, Shannon Swim, Jeanette Perry and Sarah Harrelson, we thank them for their contributions and look forward to seeing them at future meetings or events. We welcome Brianna Kramer and Lara Derasary as new Members at Large and Melissa Sinka as our new

newsletter editor. Rose Strickland has been a member of NVNPS since 1975, she has a passion for the environment and has advocated for it tirelessly. As our Conservation Chair she educated us on many issues of concern, through both her newsletter articles and her letters submitted to lawmakers during periods of public comment. We live in difficult times, and it is easy to become discouraged about the future of our wildlands and even our country. In her interview in the June issue of the newsletter, Rose gave the following advice to NVNPS members; "Keep getting outside, keep finding plants, and remember to find joy in what you are seeing." Don't lose sight of what we do and why we do it!

Our native plants provide the foundation for healthy and diverse ecosystems, spreading the word and engendering love for plants and their preservation is a core part of our mission. All our field trips and meeting are open to nonmembers, so invite your friends and neighbors to join you and share the newsletters so we can get the word to more people.

If you would like to join our team let me know, we can always use committee members, field trip leaders, volunteers for outreach events, articles for the newsletter and more. Email me at president@nvnps.org to offer your help or suggest ideas.

Happy Botanizing!
Emma

NVNPS 2025 Highlights

- Celebrated our 50th birthday with a party in April
- Held 7 monthly meetings
- Published 6 newsletters featuring interviews with some of our long-standing members and much more
- Conducted 14 field trips
- Awarded two Margaret Williams Research Grants for botanical research.
- Participated in several outreach events
- Added over 50 new members
- Conducted an online, iNaturalist, bioblitz in April that captured over 1000 species of Plants in Nevada
- Created 52 Plant of the Week posts on social media featuring plants from the 11 genera with the greatest number of taxa in the Nevada Flora and the genus *Mentzelia*.
- Sold shirts featuring our special 50th anniversary logo created by Tiffany Pereira
- Celebrated the publication of the Nevada Plants: An Annotated Checklist of the State's Botanical Diversity by Arnold Tiehm & Jan Nachlinger
- Filmed a segment for PBS's Wild Nevada program with NVNPS past President Janel Johnson and Chris Orr
- President Emma Wynn recorded a podcast with Dave Santina for Wild Nevadacast

NVNPS 50th Anniversary Cake ©Emma Wynn

Interview with Arnold (Jerry) Tiehm ©Emma Wynn



May Arboretum Plant Sale ©Emma Wynn



Tamarack Lake Field Trip ©Emma Wynn

Featured plant: *Penstemon palmeri*, Palmer's Penstemon

by Alison Agneray

Penstemon palmeri A. Gray, commonly known as Palmer's penstemon, balloon flower, or scented beardtongue, is one of our most striking native wildflowers. It was named after Edward Palmer, an ethnobotanist and plant collector who participated in the 1861 California State Geological Survey and is one of roughly 280 species in the *Penstemon* genus. It has opposite, stalkless leaves that partially clasp the stem. Their flower stalks grow quite tall, ranging from 1.5 to 5 feet in height and flowering from May to July. When in flower, *P. palmeri* is immediately recognizable by its pleasant, sweet fragrance, which is unusual among penstemons.

The flowers are pale pink to nearly white, with prominent red-violet guidelines on the lower lip and inside the strongly inflated throat. It has four fertile stamens that hug the upper surface of the corolla, allowing pollen to get deposited on the backs of visiting insects, primarily large bumble bees, digger bees, and carpenter bees. It also has a protruding fifth sterile stamen (staminode) that is modified into a dense cluster of fine yellow hairs, forming the conspicuous "beard" within the throat of the flower (gives rise to the common name beardtongue). These five stamens inspired the generic name *Penstemon* which comes from Greek, literally meaning "five stamens."

Three varieties are currently recognized. The typical variety, *P. palmeri* var. *palmeri*, accounts for most occurrences throughout the species' range. *P. palmeri* var. *macranthus* is endemic to the Great Basin Desert of Nevada, and *P. palmeri* var. *eglandulosus* is found primarily in Utah and Arizona.

The northwestern Nevada endemic variety, *P. palmeri* var. *macranthus* is threatened by hybridization due to widespread use of *P. palmeri* var. *palmeri* in seed mixes outside its native range, which is southern and eastern Nevada and farther south and east (Morefield, 2007). In recent years, *P. palmeri* has become increasingly valued for stabilizing soils in mining reclamation, native-scaping, and roadside plantings throughout our region. It's a remarkably easy native plant to grow, performing well in native gardens with full sun and excellent drainage. It tolerates slightly acidic to slightly alkaline, coarse-textured soils in areas receiving 8–16 inches of annual precipitation and has excellent cold and drought tolerance (Ogle et al., 2012).



Penstemon palmeri var. *macranthus* ©Jim Morefield

When grown from seed, flowering should not be expected until the second growing season, and individual plants typically live only four to five years. However, populations are typically self-perpetuating due to abundant seed production and have been known to spread in people's gardens. *P. palmeri* is not toxic to domestic or wild animals and is considered excellent forage for animals in the spring and summer (Ogle et al., 2013).

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Morefield, J. 2007. Observation 55125789. iNaturalist. Accessed January 28, 2026. Morefield, J., "Observation 55125789," iNaturalist, accessed January 28, 2026, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/55125789>

Ogle, D., Peterson, S., St. John, L. 2013. Plant Guide for Palmer's penstemon (*Penstemon palmeri*). USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Penstemon palmeri var. *palmeri* roadside ©Matt Reala



Penstemon palmeri var. *macranthus* ©Jim Morefield



Penstemon palmeri var. *palmeri* ©Matt Reala

Carex cusickii in Nevada – A New Find

by Arnold Tiehm

A couple of newsletters ago I told everyone about the rediscovery of *Kyhosia bolanderi* in Nevada (Tiehm, 2025). The location where Tessa Bartz found *Kyhosia* is a sopping wet meadow classified as a fen. I found this designation interesting and wanted to see *Kyhosia* in Nevada as well as to botanize the general area and see if I could turn up something else of interest. My first trip to the meadow was on the 13th of June. In flower and fruit were *Ranunculus uncinatus*, *Pedicularis groenlandica*, and in flower was *Cardamine cordifolia*. There were lots of grasses and sedges not yet in flower and basal leaves that did not always foretell their identity.

I next visited the site on the 2nd of July with Jan Nachlinger and Mike Hagebusch. A three week span in the middle of summer sure makes a floristic difference in meadows. We saw several species of *Carex* including *pellita*, *nebrascensis*, *utriculata*, and an interesting looking one that we tentatively identified as *C. simulata*. *Cardamine breweri* formed large patches and *Micranthes oregana* was very evident. In the nearby conifer forest we found large patches of *Rosa bridgesii*. The first record of *Rosa bridgesii* in Nevada came from a nearby area and was found in 2024 (Tiehm, 2024).

Jan and I returned to the meadow on the 22nd of August to find *Kyhosia* in full flower. Other plants in flower and fruit were *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis gigantea*, *Juncus confusus*, and *Cuscuta occidentalis*. No big surprises there.

After field season I spend considerable time working on my summer's gatherings. When the *Carex* we had tentatively called *simulata* came to the top I took another look at it under a dissecting scope. I was



Carex cusickii ©David Greenberger

again struck by the spongy or corky perigynia that were broad at the base and had achenes that greatly bulged the back of the perigynia. The closest thing I could find was still *C. simulata*. Vegetatively, *C. simulata* and the unknown are quite different. *Carex simulata* has long creeping rhizomes, narrow leaves, and a congested inflorescence. The unknown formed stout clumps, had broader leaves, and a more open inflorescence. I was still stuck on *C. simulata* despite the obvious vegetative differences. I had a couple more *Carex* collections that I needed help with so I sent a set of specimens to Glenn Rink and Max Licher at Northern Arizona University. They had previously published a treatment of *Carex* for Arizona (Rink & Licher, 2015), contributed the Cyperaceae treatment for Vascular Plants of New Mexico (Licher & Rink, 2025), and are interested in *Carex* throughout western North America.

They notified me that my unknown *Carex* was *C. cusickii*, which I had never heard of. Flora of North America lists its distribution as British Columbia, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming (Cochrane, 2002). A check of the specimens mapped on SEINet showed that it occurs on the north side of Lake Tahoe, California only two miles west of the Nevada state line and slightly less than six miles WSW from my Nevada collection.

A close comparison of the perigynia of *Carex cusickii* and *C. simulata* show consistent differences. The perigynia of *C. cusickii* are longer because of the longer beaks, and the beaks are serrulate, having small, lateral projections. *Carex simulata* has perigynia that are shorter with shorter smooth beaks and at best very few lateral projections. When placed side by side the perigynia are evidently different. The thickened or spongy perigynia bases of both species are what lead me to think I had collected *C. simulata*. Live and learn.

In retrospect I should have put more emphasis on the vegetative aspects of *Carex cusickii* since it forms “tussocks” or large clumps. Jan Nachlinger and I just published a checklist for the Nevada Flora and *Carex cusickii* will be added to future editions (Tiehm & Nachlinger, 2025). With this addition, *Carex* is still the third largest genus in the state and is now represented by 78 species and 81 taxa.

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Tiehm, A. 2025. *Kyhosia bolanderi* in Nevada. Nevada Native Plant Society Newsletter 51(5): 4-6.

Tiehm, A. & J. Nachlinger. 2025. Nevada Vascular Plants: An annotated checklist of the State's Botanical Diversity. Sida, Bot. Misc. 67: 1-276.



Carex cusickii habitat with *Kyhoisia bolanderi* ©Jan Nachlinger



Carex cusickii perigynia ©Jan Nachlinger

Conservation News:

30x30's Evolution from the Federal Government to States and Local Communities

by Rose Strickland

Among all the current gloomy environmental news, some days good news arrives, even in the Reno Gazette Journal.

Originally conceived to curb increasing biodiversity losses in the U.S. and worldwide, the 30x30 plan goals were to protect 30% of our planet's lands and waters by 2030. The Biden Administration's charge to multiple federal agencies to carry out this pledge with billions of dollars appropriated by Congress came to an abrupt halt by Presidential Executive Order in January, 2025. Federal 30x30 funding commitments were erased except for \$10 billion in the Farm Bill for agricultural conservation programs.

Despite the recent political setback, 30x30 was extremely popular. According to the League of Conservation Voters, 450 state and local elected officials gave support for 30x30 to Congress when it was first rolled out in the early 2020's. In a 2019 survey of over 1,000 registered voters, 89% of all voters in the U.S., including 77% of Westerners with strong bi-partisan majorities, supported the 30x30 goals. The National Caucus of Environmental Legislators reported that 9 states have established statewide 30x30 goals and are currently in the process of implementing them, including California, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Vermont and Nevada.

Vermont is continuing its efforts to reverse the predicted loss of 300,000 acres of its trees, famous for their vibrant fall foliage, by mid-century and, it's now aiming to conserve 50% of

the state's lands by 2050 - a 50x50 pledge. Oregon's governor has a strategic goal to protect 10% of its most "climate resilient" lands and water in the next decade. The California legislature passed a resolution supporting ending any oil imports from the Amazon. Massachusetts has almost reached the 30x30 goal and an August plan raises the bar to instead preserve 40% of land by 2040. In June, the governor also introduced a nearly \$3 billion resilient infrastructure bill that would speed up restoring waterways and salt marshes - going beyond conservation to boost restoration.

At the next level of government, the Trust for Public Lands tracked 23 ballot measures in 2024, all approved by voters creating over \$16 billion for parks and conservation. Voters in 4 counties in Florida overwhelmingly passed conservation measures that will secure nearly \$350 million over the next 20 years to protect safe drinking water, preserve wildlife habitat, expand outdoor recreation and support other actions that conserve local lands and waters. In November 2025, voters approved over \$1.9 billion for parks, climate, and open space in communities in Colorado, Idaho, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington.

Despite federal support for 30x30 disappearing, state and local governments along with voters continue to support projects to conserve and protect biodiversity from adverse climate change impacts - reviving hope for the future.



Book Review:

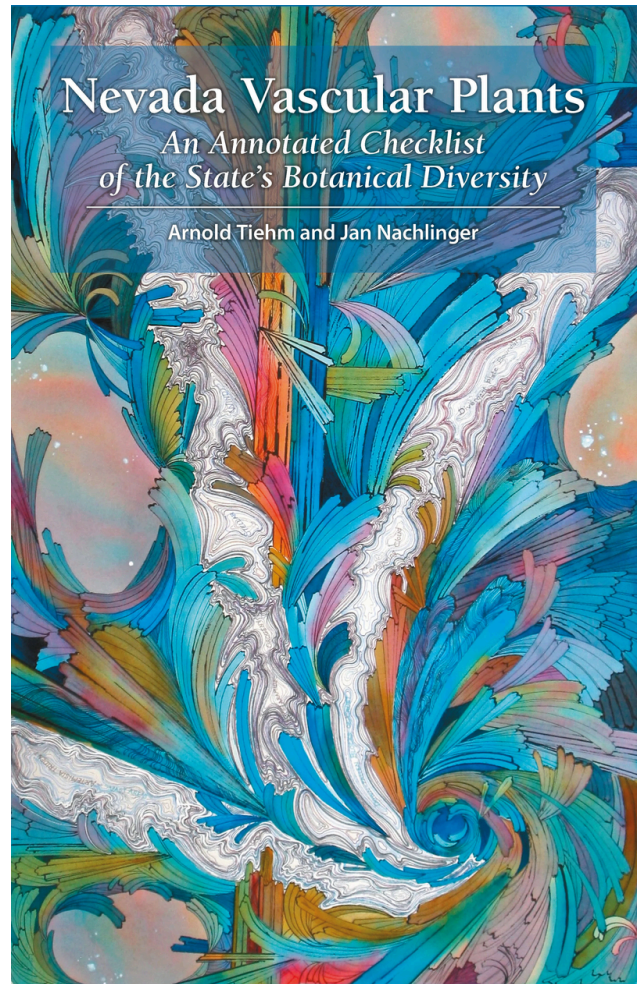
Nevada Vascular Plants: An Annotated Checklist of the State's Botanical Diversity

by Joshua Lovera

This year marked the long-awaited publication of *Nevada Vascular Plants: An Annotated Checklist of the States Botanical Diversity* by Arnold (Jerry) Tiehm and Janet (Jan) Nachlinger. Drawing on more than 50 years of combined botanical experience in Nevada, the authors have produced the first comprehensive, specimen-cited compilation of Nevada's vascular plants. This landmark publication represents decades of meticulous work, during which Tiehm and Nachlinger cross-referenced regional floras, navigated the often ambiguous world of historical specimen labels, and conducted extensive fieldwork, cataloging the flora of Nevada's vast and remote landscape.

Undertaking such a project in Nevada is no small feat. As the seventh largest state, with 83% of its land classified by the US Geological Survey as being mountainous, Nevada presents both logistical and scientific challenges. Its rugged topography not only defines the state's striking appearance but also underpins its remarkable botanical diversity. Although Nevada may be the driest state in the U.S., its numerous mountain ranges provide refuge for plants adapted to cooler climates than those of the Mojave Desert or the surrounding valleys of the Great Basin. Geological processes have further created a mosaic of isolated habitats -including hot springs, vernal pools, dunes, and cliffs- each supporting its own distinctive flora. The authors thoughtfully describe these habitats in detail, and the endemic plant species adapted to them.

Tiehm and Nachlinger offer readers an efficient and effective way to explore all 3,647 native and non-native plant species



and associated varieties documented within Nevada. Inclusion in the checklist is vetted; as the authors note, "the ultimate decision to include a taxon on the list is the existence of a verified herbarium specimen deposited in a recognized herbarium." Each entry provides the scientific name, the most widely recognized common name, growth habit, county-level distribution, and a citation for a representative voucher specimen. References to volume and page numbers in *The Flora of North America* and *Intermountain Flora* allow readers to easily access detailed taxonomic descriptions.

The book also includes concise descriptions of Nevada's 133 endemic taxa, 32 near-endemic taxa, and several disjunct taxa whose nearest known populations occur 90 miles or more beyond Nevada's borders. Complementing the text are more than 50 pages of high-quality photo plates by Jan Nachlinger, showcasing a broad spectrum of Nevada's botanical diversity.

Although the book is organized by family, all 3,647 taxa are fully indexed by both their scientific and common names, generally enhancing usability. A reader puzzling over a challenging *Boechnera* encountered during a recent hike, for example, can quickly locate the genus, narrow down the species based on the county distribution, and then consult detailed species descriptions through the *Flora of North America* online portal for free. This is especially valuable for plant groups that are underrepresented in field guides or difficult to identify using citizen-science platforms such as iNaturalist.

The authors emphasize that botanical knowledge in Nevada is continually evolving. Although this checklist is impressively thorough, ongoing discoveries—such as the recent findings in the Silver Peak Range—demonstrate that much remains to be learned, particularly in under-sampled regions like Esmeralda County. These discoveries underscore the dynamic nature of Nevada's flora and the importance of continued research.

Beyond its academic value, this book serves as a critical resource for conservation. By providing precise, specimen-verified distribution data and clear identification of endemic and rare taxa, the checklist supports informed decision-making in habitat protection and restoration. Detailed descriptions of habitats and unique species help illuminate ecological relationships and vulnerabilities,

information that is increasingly vital as environmental conditions continue to change.

In addition to its scientific importance, the checklist was designed to be accessible to a broad audience, including educators, students, conservation practitioners, and amateur botanists. Comprehensive indices, photo plates, and references to major floras make it an effective tool for both field identification and for educational use. This accessibility reflects the authors' commitment to fostering botanical literacy and environmental awareness throughout Nevada.

In summary, *Nevada Vascular Plants: An Annotated Checklist of the State's Botanical Diversity* is a groundbreaking contribution that not only catalogs the Nevada's rich and complex flora but also encourages ongoing research, education, and conservation. This work fills a long-standing gap in the regional botanical literature and provides a robust foundation for future scientific studies and stewardship efforts in the state.



A. Tiehm (Left), J. Nachlinger (Right). Authors of *Nevada Vascular Plants: An Annotated Checklist of the State's Botanical Diversity* ©A. Tiehm and J. Nachlinger

Experiences from a Fieldworker in the Mojave Desert

by Brianna Kramer

It's not easy to find a line of work that you enjoy and are endlessly fascinated by. Three years ago, I was a tired medical laboratory worker processing biological samples all day. Although I appreciated the importance of my job, I also longed to move outside the lab and engage with the world in a meaningful and thoughtful way. I moved to Las Vegas in 2024, and decided to make a big career change.

My first break happened in 2025 when I applied for the position of Botany Technician at Desert Research Institute (DRI). At DRI, I worked on several different projects, which kept the job fresh and interesting. Some projects I contributed to included surveying for the rare three-corner milkvetch (*Astragalus geyeri* var. *triquetrus*), studying ideal growing conditions for Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), establishing an experimental plot for reintroducing Las Vegas bearpoppy (*Arctomecon californica*) in disturbed habitats, and researching best practices for desert vegetable gardening—where efficient irrigation and proper levels of sun exposure is key!

Currently, I am working with the National Park Service (NPS) as a Nursery Technician at Lake Mead National Recreational Area. I've spent time tending to plants at the Song Dog Nursery, Lake Mead's dedicated nursery that specializes in growing natives for restoration efforts and preserving the genetic integrity of flora in the region. As part of the seed program, I will be guiding crews throughout Lake Mead to collect seeds for future use in projects.

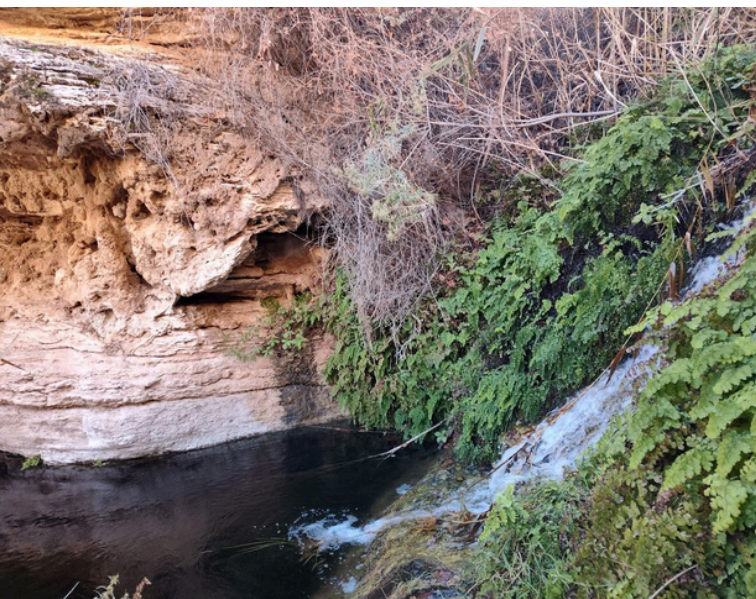


Brianna's first big botanical find at Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument: two healthy and robust Las Vegas Bearpoppy (*Arctomecon californica*) individuals during peak flowering in April 2025. ©Brianna Kramer

To prepare for the seed collection season, I've explored a great expanse of the area, and I encourage plant and nature lovers to visit—especially with a proper off-road vehicle! In addition to the quintessential creosote-dominant Mojave habitat, Lake Mead encompasses plant communities from Arizona and even Utah as well. I have learned that there is no single published field guide that covers all the plant life present. It is a wonderfully diverse place that is brimming with exciting botanical finds and a rich cultural history as well. The silverleaf sunray (*Enceliopsis argophylla*) is an especially unique find, as it is endemic to only Lake Mead and surrounding areas.

For my purposes, I have been using a *Falcon Guide for Eastern Mojave Desert Wildflowers* and find it is helpful for a majority of the region. There is also an internal NPS checklist of all the plants in the park that is more encompassing: *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Lake Mead National Recreation Area*. Lake Mead's staff continually document and photograph plants in the area to further improve botanical knowledge, and the checklist is updated with new information frequently.

If you need help preparing for your botanical journey at Lake Mead and surrounding areas, or have questions about my work, you can reach me at bkramer@nps.gov. Go outside and enjoy plants!



A stunning waterfall framed by maidenhair ferns (*Adiantum* sp.) at Grapevine Spring. The area's riparian plant composition is vastly different from the majority of Lake Mead due to increased moisture availability and being tucked away in a canyon.

©Brianna Kramer



Bloom of Parish's poppy ©Brianna Kramer

Plants I Commonly See in Lake Mead:

Creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), Bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*), Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp.), Sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*), Cheesebush (*Ambrosia salsola*), Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), Desert Holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*), Catclaw Acacia (*Senegalia gregii*), Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.), Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), Pygmy Cedar (*Peucephyllum scottii*), Jointfir (*Ephedra* spp.), Coyote Melon (*Cucurbita palmata*), Sacred Datura (*Datura wrightii*), California Barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*), Beavertail Cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), Cottontop Cactus (*Echinocactus polycephalus*), Cholla (*Cylindropuntia* spp.), Desert Trumpet (*Eriogonum inflatum*), Mojave Yucca (*Yucca schidigera*).

Other Fun Finds:

Desert Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Alkali Goldenbush (*Isocoma acradenia*), Chia (*Salvia columbariae*), Parish's Poppy (*Eschscholzia parishii*), Mojave Suncup (*Camissonia campestris*), Lobed Ground-Cherry (*Quincula lobata*), *Phacelia* spp., *Lupinus* spp., Rock Daisy (*Perityle emoryi*).

In Riparian Areas:

Arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*), Mojave Thistle (*Cirsium mohavense*), Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum* spp.), Cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*).

Under One Sky Basketry Gallery

by Emma Wynn

Last fall, I toured the Nevada State Museum in Carson City to explore the new Basket Gallery—part of the Under One Sky exhibit. Although the gallery is small, it is very informative and filled with beautiful baskets. It was developed closely with the Washoe Tribe and honors their basket-making heritage and artistry. Insights from Washoe voices helped shape the exhibit, ensuring it reflects their traditions, values, and lifestyle. The gallery features iconic baskets crafted by Louisa Keyser (Datsolalee) alongside pieces from other gifted Washoe artists, as well as displays of materials used for weaving, such as willow the most used plant in local basketry, employed both with its bark and after 'sunburning,' when the bark is removed. Additional plants contribute decorative touches and structural integrity.

Basket weaving has a history stretching back 8,000 to 10,000 years across North and South America and remains a living tradition in the Great Basin. Both men and women participated in manufacturing the essential tools and goods needed for survival amid seasonal migrations. Heavy pottery and bulky wood items did not suit this environment or the nomadic Indigenous way of life, leading people to rely on willow, sagebrush, tules, reeds, ferns, and other fibrous plants for basket making. Techniques included coiling, twining, and plaiting, with each weaver showcasing their own distinctive patterns, designs, and tightness of weave. Originally, baskets served countless functions: seed “bottles,” burden baskets, trays for winnowing and parching, cooking containers, bowls, water vessels, cradleboards, gambling trays, hats, bird and fish traps, and more.



"Queen of the Basketmakers". Studio portrait of Louisa Keyser (Datsolalee) commissioned by Amy Cohn. The photo, taken in a Carson City photographer's studio, shows her surrounded by some of her earliest coiled baskets for sale. ©Emma Wynn

The practical craft of weaving underwent considerable change between 1885 and 1935 as public interest in traditional Native arts surged, fueled by the Arts and Crafts movement. Baskets became highly valued for their artistic merit and appeal. Popular tourist spots like Lake Tahoe offered weavers opportunities to sell their work, and artists such as Louisa Keyser (Datsolalee) attained widespread acclaim and support. During the "fancy basketry" era, the most notable type was the degikup—a round, decorative basket made by coiling. Willow (*Salix* spp.) formed the main structure, providing both rods (warp) and threads (weft), while bracken fern (*Pteris aquilinum*) and red bud (*Cercis orbiculata*) supplied the red and black accents; these were crafted into threads and woven into patterns atop the pale willow background.



The Under One Sky Basketry Gallery also contains some contemporary pieces. This one by Everett Pikyavit was woven in 2003. It is a twined basket jug of willow with a sunburned willow design. ©Emma Wynn



"Hunting Game of Air in the Sunshine" Louisa Keyser, 1904. A coiled willow degi-kip basket with bracken fern root providing the black color and redbud providing the red color. Louisa was known for her floating designs like this. ©Emma Wynn

Upcoming Events - February & March 2026

NVNPS Programs

In 2026 NVNPS will host seven in-person programs, held at 7:00 PM on February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, September 3, October 1, and November 5. Programs are open to everyone and available via Zoom, with in-person meetings in Reno and Henderson. Social time begins at 6:30 PM for informal connection and refreshments.

Program details are emailed to members one to two weeks in advance from programs@nvmps.org (please be sure to add this address to your email and check your spam folder) and are also posted to our website calendar and Facebook page at least one week prior.

February Program | Wednesday, February 5 | 7:00 PM

Native Pollinators in Our Region: Change Through Time, Threats, and Resilience

Presented by Clare Dittmore (University of Nevada, Reno), an entomologist studying butterfly and moth migration in the American West.

Attend in person in Reno (FA 300G, Fleischmann Agriculture, UNR) or Henderson (A109, CSN-Henderson).

Social time begins at 6:30 PM. Parking is limited in Reno; free and abundant in Henderson.

Virtual option: Zoom opens at 6:45 PM

Register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_QGCo6BDXQBqacs9ld-yhSQ

Classes/Workshops

Basic Identification of Grasses

March 24–25 & 26–27, 2026 | 8:00 AM–5:00 PM | UNR

This two-day course covers grass taxonomy, terminology, dissection, and use of identification keys, along with techniques for collecting and pressing grasses. Participants will examine ~50 grass genera, plus sedges and rushes. Suitable for beginner to intermediate agrostologists.

Instructor: Arnold (Jerry) Tiehm, M.S., Great Basin Flora Specialist, UNR

Location: FA 300G, Fleischmann Agriculture Building, UNR

Cost: \$170 non-students | \$90 students (optional 1 unit credit available; fees paid separately)

Registration: Email atiehm@unr.edu

Payment by check (payable to Board of Regents); credit card options available through UNR Cashier.

Questions: atiehm@unr.edu | 775-742-9180

Native Plant Sales/Seed Swaps

Washoe County Extension Master Gardeners Seed Swap

Sunday, February 1, 2026 | 10:15 AM–12:15 PM

Swap seeds with Master Gardeners and fellow community members. Bring saved or extra seeds—or just come browse and talk gardening. All are welcome.

Location: Spanish Springs Community Library

Mojave Bloom Nursery Annual Seed Swap

Saturday, February 7, 2026 | 12:00–3:00 PM

Connect with your community and celebrate seed sharing. Free seeds available—bring seeds, seedlings, or cuttings to swap.

Location: 1401 Searles Ave, Las Vegas

Spring Preserve Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

(Members-only early entry at 7:00 AM)

Springs Preserve garden experts will be on hand as you shop a wide selection of desert-adapted plants (2"–5 gal). Admission is free. Bring a wagon or cart for easy transport.

Location: Springs Preserve (park in the South dirt lot)

Volunteer Opportunities

Walker River State Recreation Area Volunteer Day

Saturday, February 7 | 9:30 a.m. start time

Support habitat restoration efforts at Walker River State Recreation Area. Volunteers will assist with habitat restoration, fence building, wood chipping, and possible trail work. The day includes lunch at the historic Flying M Ranch and a private tour of the property.

Location and transportation details will be provided to registered volunteers.

Register: parks.nv.gov/events

Valley of Fire State Park Graffiti Removal Volunteer Day

Saturday, February 21 | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Help preserve Valley of Fire's iconic red sandstone formations by assisting park staff with removing graffiti from rocks and park structures.

Meeting location will be provided to registered volunteers.

Register: parks.nv.gov/events

Valley of Fire State Park Camp Area Revitalization Volunteer Day

Wednesday, February 25 | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Volunteers will participate in a group camp area revitalization project, including painting, trash cleanup, and other maintenance activities to improve park facilities.

Meeting location will be provided to registered volunteers

Register: parks.nv.gov/events



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Editor's Note

A huge thank-you to Alison Agneray for her incredible work as newsletter editor in 2024 and 2025. Through her dedication, our members stayed connected to the many events, stories, and happenings in the world of native plants—an impact we truly appreciate. We are also grateful that Alison will be continuing her service to NVNPS as Vice President, and we look forward to her continued support.

If you're interested in having your work or event featured in the newsletter or have ideas or feedback to share, please reach out to Melissa Sinka at newsletter@nvnps.org. The NVNPS newsletter is published six times per year (even-numbered months) and is distributed to active NVNPS members.

-Melissa Sinka, Newsletter Editor

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The following cartoon appeared in Native Plant Society of Texas News, XIII (6): 3. 1995.



Society updates

Bylaw revisions

Members should have received an email in the New Year asking for approval to update our Society bylaws. Our Bylaws, originally adopted in 1975 and last amended in 2006, are being updated to reflect how the Society operates today, including membership expiration after online payments (Article III, Section 3).

The revised Bylaws also introduce term lengths and limits for officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer): two-year terms, maximum of two consecutive terms, with a one-term break required before serving the same position again (Article IV, Section 2).

Other changes are minor wording updates for clarity and consistency. The Board reviewed the revisions in October and recommends member approval.

Voting: Submit your vote by January 31.

Questions? Email president@nvnps.org

NVNPS Member Survey Highlights

Thank you to everyone who participated in the NVNPS member survey. Responses reflected a wide range of experience levels, from beginners to professional botanists, with most respondents having been members for one to ten years.

Members cited a shared interest in gardening with native plants, learning about native plant conservation and advocacy, plant taxonomy and educational opportunities as their primary reasons for involvement. Field trips were the most frequently mentioned activity, both as a valued benefit and as a main way members engage with NVNPS, along with meetings, the newsletter, and social media.

Overall satisfaction with NVNPS programs and events was very high. When asked what they would like to see more of, members most often requested additional field trips, advocacy initiatives and interest in more social gatherings and virtual or hybrid events. Evenings were the most commonly preferred meeting time, and many respondents favored hybrid meeting formats.

Conservation, research, and advocacy efforts were consistently rated as important, particularly work related to rare plants, invasive species, pollinators, habitat restoration, and promoting the use of native plants.

NVNPS appreciates this feedback and will use it to help guide future programs and priorities.

Notice to add NVNPS Emails

We've heard from NVNPS Board members that some of our emails are ending up in spam folders or bouncing back. To make sure you don't miss important updates, please add NVNPS email addresses to your contacts or address book. You can find a list of current NVNPS email addresses on the Board of Directors page. Thanks for helping us stay connected!

Welcome new members!

A special thank you to our new members who joined since December 1st, 2025

- Lindsey Ellington, Reno
- Kathleen DeStasio, Irving CA
- Emily Brewer, Reno
- John Mark Simmons, Henderson
- Kelly Ogilvie, Reno

Board of Directors

Officers

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

Members-at-Large

- Laurel Tashjian
- Cory King
- Lara Derasary
- Hermi Hiatt
- Cody Ernst-Brock
- Brianna Kramer

Committee Chairpersons

- Archivist: Connie Douglas
- Conservation: **Vacant**
- Events: **Vacant**, events@nvnp.org
- Field Trips, N. Nevada: Christopher Mackessy, S. Nevada: **Vacant**
- Grants: Jim Morefield, grants@nvnp.org
- Horticulture: John Weiser and Charlie Duncan
- Membership Coordinator: **Vacant**
- Newsletter Editor: Melissa Sinka, newsletter@nvnp.org
- Outreach: **Vacant**
- Photography: Larry Lodwick
- UNR Herbarium Curator: Arnold Tiehm
- UNLV Curator: Marcus Hooker
- Programs: Sarah Kulpa (North) & Marcus Hooker (South)
programs@nvnp.org & Marcus.Hooker@csn.edu
- Publications: Arnold Tiehm
- Rare Plants: Joshua Lovera, rareplants@nvnp.org
- Social media: Emma Wynn & Sarah Kulpa, social@nvnp.org
- Webmaster: Patrick Silbey, psilbey@gmail.com

