



VOLUME 48 NUMBER 4 - AUGUST 2022

NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



*The new ethnobotanical garden at Pyramid Lake Museum on the last day of installation.
Photo credit: Xiaojin Ren.*

THE NEW ETHNOBOTANICAL GARDEN AT PYRAMID LAKE MUSEUM

Story by Israel Orellana & Melika Tabrizi

A seed of thought was planted 7 months ago with the hope the act of rain would germinate. The vision for an ethnobotanical garden was the seed and the act of rain was a collaboration between Billie Jean, Director of Pyramid Lake Museum, and Ripple Project. These efforts came into fruition with the help of Teresa Wright, Native Studies Teacher at Pyramid Lake High School, Dean Tonenna, Botanist at the Bureau of Land

Management, Ed Kleiner, Native Seed Collector, Pat Fox, Native Plant Farm Owner, as well as Israel Orellana, Gabriel Donnenberg, Sheridan Renehan, Xiaojin Ren of Ripple Project Plants Team.

The vision of the collaboration was to create an ethnobotanical garden displaying a sample of the rich flora of Northern Nevada on the grounds of the Pyramid Lake Museum. Ethnobotany studies how peoples of a specific region use their indigenous plants. Understanding the unique bond between plants and humans has led to the discovery of many beneficial uses for humanity such as medicines, shelter, foods, fibers, dyes, soaps, and more.

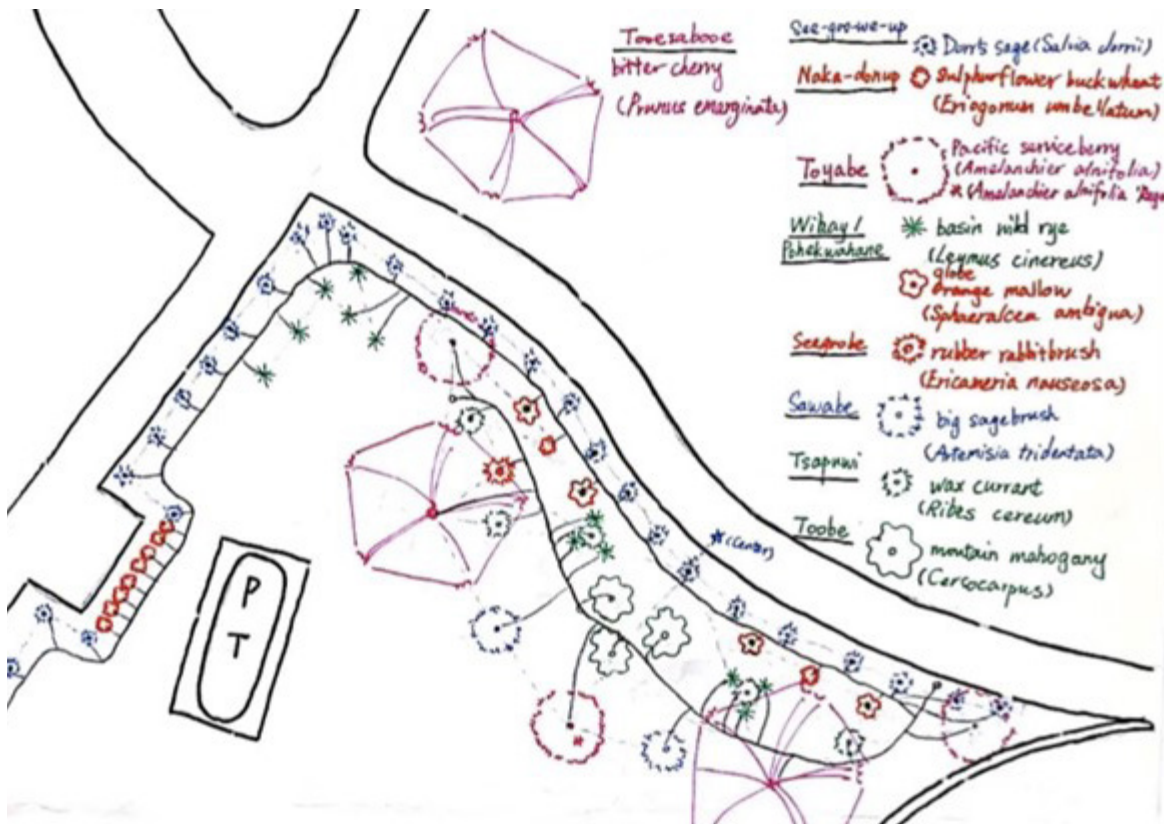


Photo Credit: Xiaojin Ren / Ethnobotanical Landscape Design

A native plant palette list was created and categorized into three Northern Nevada native landscapes: mountain, wetland, and desert. It is essential to display native landscapes to show the public what naturalized native ecology would look like.

Currently, the educational signage for the mountain plants is under development. The signage includes the name of the plant in the Kooyoee Tukadu (Paiute) language at the top, followed by the plant's common name, scientific name, and the methods of

Ripple Project is proud to share that phase one, which encompasses the Mountain Plant collection, of the ethnobotanical garden installation at Pyramid Lake Museum has successfully commenced. The Mountain landscape installation includes Dorr's sage (*Salvia dorrii*), sulfur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), great basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*), wax currant (*Ribes cereum*), antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*) and a drip irrigation system.



Photo Credit: Gabriel Donnenberg / Ethnobotanical Landscape Design



Photo Credit: Pierre-Yves Bertholet / Groundbreaking Day

usage indicated by symbols that were hand-drawn by Teresa Wright. Our goal is to install the signage and finalize the mountain plant collection by the end of summer 2022.

The next focus will be on gathering the plants from the desert collection list and while the projected date for that installation is to be determined, Ripple Project looks forward to continuing our connection with the Pyramid Lake Museum and the community through educational gardens.

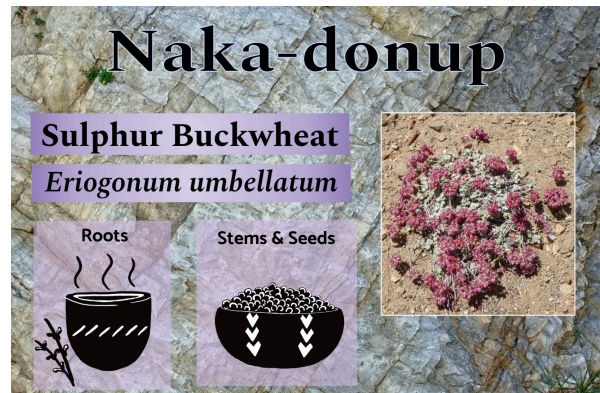


Photo Credit: Melika Tabrizi, Zack Bishop, and Teresa Wright / Educational Signage Sample

If you are interested in becoming involved, please visit Ripple Project's website at flyripple.org/support and Pyramid Lake Museum at pyramidlake.us.



Photo Credit: R. Chris Clark / Pyramid Lake High School, Snake Dance

SOCIETY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nevada Native Plant Society meetings will resume this fall. Please visit our website at nvnps.org or the Nevada Native Plant Society Facebook page for updates.

2023 NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY CALENDAR

We want your photos! Our calendars are filled with photos taken by members of the society. Photos can be flower close-ups, plant portraits or plants in their habitat. Each member may submit up to four photos for consideration. Photos should be taken in Nevada or on NNPS field trips. Photos do not have to be taken in 2022 but we ask that you do not submit photos that were entered in previous years. Photographers will be credited on the calendar.

The 11" x 8.5" calendar will be printed by Mixbook on heavy duty, matte paper. The calendars are estimated to cost \$14, plus postage. You may pre-order calendars on the website, by sending a message on Facebook, or by emailing Emma Wynn emhwynn@gmail.com.

Calendar and submission details:

- August 1st – 21st photo submission.
- Photos may be submitted to the website (<https://nvnps.org>), our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NevadaNativePlantSociety>) or via email to social@nvnps.org
- Beginning of September, 'winners' will

be contacted for their original photos (at least 3300 by 2500 pixels)

- Mid October calendars should be ready for distribution.

MEET THE NEW NNPS FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR!

We have a new Field Trip Co-ordinator; Christopher Mackessy! Thank you to Christopher for reaching out to us and taking on the role, we are excited to have you on the Board. Christopher lives in Reno and loves all things botanical.

Although Christopher Mackessy has a long and beautiful history with native plants, he has definitely gone off the deep end in the last few years. He currently daylights as a school teacher, integrating the sciences and art (STEAM) with students from pre-school to 5th grade. He also contributes time to a number of local farms,



Christopher Mackessy and a young native plant enthusiast. Photo courtesy of Christopher Mackessy.

particularly those utilizing native plants and permaculture gardening methods. He is a fan of all things botany, though has a special appreciation and passion for the interactions of plants with their surrounding ecosystems and ethnobotany!

FIELD TRIP TO SAGEHEN CREEK FIELD STATION

this Saturday August 13th (we apologize for the late notice!). We will be going to Sagehen Creek Field Station to take part in their annual BioBlitz from 9am-12noon. Please contact Christopher for more information at cjmackessy@gmail.com.

NEWSLETTER

Have something to share? We would love to consider your recent trip reports, phenology reports, or Nevada botanical musings for the NNPS newsletter. Contact the editor, Ranae Zauner, for details.

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