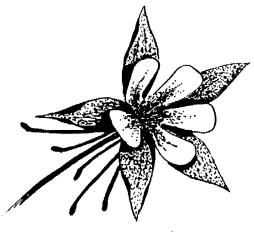
Aquilegia



Newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society

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

Volume 12, Number 4

Monograph Fundraising

You all should have received the letter asking for a donation to help with the publication of the Monograph. This campaign has already brought in about \$2300. Many of you have already contributed, but we still need \$15,000 before the Monograph can be printed - by August 1!

This publication is now the full responsibility of the Colorado Native Plant Society. This means raising funds for its publication and coordinating the production. As ported in the May/June 1988 Aquilegia, we have raised

Anything you can do to help in this effort will be greatly appreciated. If you know of a friend who might be interested in donating, give her or him a call. If you know of an organization or foundation that may be willing to help fund the Monograph, call Eleanor Von Bargen (756-1400). She will send them a copy of our grant proposal for their consideration. If you would like to hold a rummage sale or bake sale or other fundraising event, please contact Eleanor. Let us know any ideas you may have to get us closer to our goal of \$15,000 by August 1. And if you have not yet contributed, please do so if you can.

The Monograph will not only be a beautiful book full of fullcolor drawings and photographs and line drawings of your favorite rare plants, it will also be an essential tool for federal, state and local land managers and policy makers. We need to get this into the hands of those people who may decide whether a plant species lives or becomes extinct. And we need to do this soon!

Thanks to all the people who helped out with the mailing party we held May 23: Dorothy Borland, Eleanor Von Bargen, Myrna Steinkamp, Sue Martin, Bill Jennings, tty Bush, Ginny Crosby, Connie Redak, Nan Lederer and Karen Trout. Special thanks to Bill Jennings who arranged with the Foothills Nature Center for us to use their space for the party, and to Betty Bush who helped write

July/August 1988

Calendar Overview

Additional information about calendar items will be found throughout this issue.

July 23-24

Hoosier Ridge Trip

Leader: Tamara Naumann

Edible/Medicinal Plants

Leader: Tina Jones

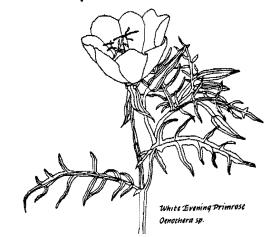
Sept. 10

Sept. 24 Aquatic Plants Workshop Leader: Dr. Richard G. Walter

Oct. 1 Annual CONPS Meeting Boulder, CO **Ecology of Colorado Plateau**

Nov. 5 Penstemon Workshop Leader: Gwen Kelaidis

Dec. 10 Leader: Dr. David Cooper Carex Workshop



Elizabeth Otto

the letter and called volunteers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Certificates of Appreciation

At the September 1987 Board of Directors meeting, it was agreed that there was a need for an award that could be presented to individuals who are not Society members but who have made a significant contribution to the preservation and understanding of Colorado native plants. The *Certificate of Appreciation* was established for that purpose.

Claire Button and Jim Ferguson, both of whom work for the Bureau of Land Management, were presented this award at the Spring Meeting. We were pleased that Jim Ferguson, who works in the Uncompany Basin Resource Area, was able to attend the meeting and receive his award in person. Claire Button's award was sent to him in Arizona where he is currently working.

Special Merit Awards

The Special Merit Award was established by the Board of Directors in 1984 to honor those who have given exceptional service to the Society on behalf of the Colorado native flora. Two of these awards were presented at the Spring Meeting in Fort Collins.

The first recipient was **Sue Galatowitsch**. She was the Boulder Chapter President (1984-1986) and as such played an important role when the Boulder Chapter hosted the Annual Meeting in 1985. She has graciously led field trips and conducted workshops for the Society. **Sue** was instrumental in involving the Society in the production of the "Rare Plant Monograph" and has given unselfishly of her time, talenas and vitality in working toward the completion of this publication.

Sue $h_{c,s}$ now departed for Ames, Iowa, where she has been accepted in a doctoral program at Iowa State University. We wish her well in this endeavor and thank her for her contributions to the Colorado Native Plant Society.

Bill Jennings also received the *Special Merit Award* at the Spring Meeting. **Bill** served on the Board of Directors (1984-1986), and has conducted field trips and workshops for the Society and written extensively for the newsletter. **Bill** has been the Workshop Coordinator since 1985 and has planned outstanding workshops for the benefit of the membership. **Bill** is currently serving on the Rare Plant Monograph Committee, where he has done research, provided slides of rare plant species, and is writing the species descriptions for the Monograph. We are grateful for the work he has done to promote the appreciation and conservation of the Colorado native flora.

Eleanor Von Bargen

Honorary Life Memberships Eleanor Von Bargen

The highest award that the Society can present is that of Honorary Life Membership. Two Life Memberships were presented at the Spring Meeting. These were given to **Myrna Steinkamp** and **Sue Martin** for their dedication to the work of the Society in developing appreciation for and conservation of the native flora of Colorado.

Myrna has served as the Membership Committee Chairperson since 1979 and has been instrumental in the formation of Chapters of the Society. She served as a Director (1980-1985) and has been the Treasurer since 1980. As a member of the Rare Plant Monograph Committee, she has given many hours of her time to work for its completion. Thank you, **Myrna**, for your dedication to the Colorado Native Plant Society.

Sue has served the Society in many capacities since its beginning. She has been Membership Chairperson (1977-1979), a Director (1979-1984), Secretary (1979-1981), Vice President (1981-1982), President (1982-1985), and Conservation Chair since 1985. She has also written extensively for the newsletter and presently serves on the Rare Plant Monograph Committee. Thank you, Sue, for all you have given to promote the goals of the Society.

CONPS Annual Meeting

The Society will hold its Annual Meeting on October 1, 1988 in Boulder. The theme of the meeting will be the ecology of the Colorado Plateau. A special malling with details and registration form will be sent in September. This meeting promises to be interesting and informative, so plan now to attend. See you there!



Winter Workshops

For the winter (1988-1989), we have already received tentative commitments from instructors for workshops on the following topics: Pre-settlement/Post-settlement Vegetation in the Arkansas Valley; Grasses; Alpine Plants; Pollination Ecology. Watch for announcements starting in September.

Forest Management Benefits a Rare Plant

Many people consider forest management and the protection or perpetuation of rare plants to be incompatible objectives. Recent experience on the northern Rampart Range about 25 miles southwest of Denver shows that silviculture is not only compatible with a rare plant, but has actually contributed to increases in its population.

Wood lilies (*Lilium philadelphicum*) are tall plants with large, orange, goblet-shaped blossoms. Although they used to be common across much of the United States, this lily's attractive, brightly-colored flowers invite indiscriminate picking, leading to its current rarity. But wood lilies are still found on cool, moist sites at moderate elevations along the Rampart Range, especially under the light shade of an aspen canopy. Those sites, which often support aspen stands with lush undergrowths containing many different wildflowers and low shrubs, are examples of the aspen/dwarf blueberry (Populus tremuloides/Vaccinium caespitosum) community type. [For more information on aspen forests of the southern Front Range, see Aspen Community Types of the Pike and San Isabel National Forests in South-Central Colorado Publication R2-ECOL-88-01, USDA Forest Service, Lakewood, Colorado. April 1988. 248 pages.]

ly observations indicate that wood lilles and aspen are virtually inseparable; as the percentage of conifers in a mixed stand increases, the vigor and abundance of both aspen and wood lilles decrease. By the time conifers (Douglas-fir on the northern Rampart Range) have shaded out most of the aspen trees in a stand, the wood lilles will disappear too.

In the early 1980s, the U. S. Forest Service (specifically the South Platte Ranger District of the Pike and San Isabel National Forests) began clearcutting some of its aspen/dwarf blueberry stands to accomplish the following objectives:

 Regenerate mature aspen before it has been replaced by conifers. On the coarse-textured, granitic soils found in the northern Rampart Range, aspen quickly succeeds to shadetolerant Douglas-firs.

- Maintain aspen stands in an area (Rampart Range) where conifers comprise most of the forest vegetation. In locations where aspen stands are scarce, their retention is important for visual quality, wildlife habitat and other important resource values.
- Provide some non-coniferous fuelwood for residents of the Denver metropolitan area.

Those objectives have generally been achieved by applying two management practices:

- allowing fuelwood cutters to harvest the overstory trees, and
- completing a light prescribed burn to promote aspen sprouting and kill immature Douglas-firs remaining in the understory.

Fire has been effective for intentionally destroying conifers in the understory of aspen stands whenever their removal is a management objective. Prescribed fires with light or moderate intensities can also maximize aspen sprouting, but high-intensity fires may result in less sprouting than would have occurred without fire. Since wood lilies arise from a bulb located several inches beneath the ground, prescribed fires have no apparent effect on them. In fact, many plants in the lily family (Liliaceae) are particularly fire resistant because their submerged bulbs offer protection from surface temperatures of 800 degrees Fahrenheit or more.

In addition to meeting the management objectives, the silvicultural treatments described above have provided an unexpected bonus — rejuvenation of wood lily populations. When using silvicultural practices to regenerate aspen stands, land managers are simultaneously providing optimum habitat for wood lilies. Although forest management certainly can't take all of the credit, it's probable that the northern Rampart Range now has Colorado's largest concentration of these rare and attractive plants!



Pawnee Grasslands Field Trip **Diana Mullineaux**

Our newsletter announcement of this field trip said "visit some of Colorado's northeastern prairies in all their spring beauty". This a group of fifteen wind, cold and water resistant people did on May 21-22. Beauty started with a colorful sunset on Friday evening, when several campers, including leader Rick Brune, arrived at the Crow Valley campground for an early start the next morning. Mornings and evenings provided good bird- watching, with what seemed like a "fallout" of Swainson's thrushes in migration.

The winds of the night helped to dry the 2-track road travelled Saturday morning on the ranch of Jack Wells, where sand-prairie stretched south toward the Platte River. Colorful Lupinus pusillus (low lupine) and Lithospermum incisum (fringed puccoon) were offset by the gray-green of Artemisia filifolia (sand sage) and new leafy growth of Eriogonum effusum (baby's breath) with its airy brown flower stalks of last year. Heavy rains had preceded our trip, but there hadn't been time for the response from vegetation, so presumably a week or two later would have been a time of greatest flowering on the prairie.

Grant Godbolt, Forest Service ranger on the Grasslands, joined us for the afternoon tour of a ridgelike fossil stream channel, then on to a high viewpoint looking NE to the Pawnee Buttes, and last to a streamgullied area with Pinus flexilis (limber pine), juniper and numerous shrubs typical of the Foothills. This protected area gave some relief from the steady north wind that blew throughout the weekend.

Sunday's tour started with a visit to some ephemeral ponds to see the semi-aquatic fern Marsilea vestita. It was easy to locate by its "4-leafed clover" leaves float. g on the water surface near the edges of the ponds. A sporocarp was found at the base of one plant. The next stop was to see an area that had not been grazed for 50 years; an exclosure that included some permanent ponds in a stream valley.

Everywhere on this trip were the remains of abandoned human habitations from the early part of this century, when hope was high for irrigating the grasslands and settlers had dreams of an abundant life. These dreams were finally abandoned in the 1930s when droughts brought the realization that not enough water was available, and that much of the land should be managed as grasslands.

When you are going through Glen-wood Canyon on I-70...

plan to take a break and visit the reclaimed area along the bike path. Two miles along the path between the highway and the river have been revegetated with native plants, both container stock and seeded. Get off I-70 at theh "No Name" exit and cross over the interstate to the south frontage road and the blke path. Proceeding eastward as far as Grisley Creek you will have a chance to see one of the more interesting highway revegetation projects and examples of designing around existing vegetation.

Some features of special note:

- live crib walls where plants were introduced into the walls at the time of construction:
- fish rocks to provide habitat in the form of scour pools, eddies and resting places;
- willow cuttings along the river bank to mitigate the effects of high water scour;
- various erosion control products depending on the degree of slope and the amount of water flow:
- sculpturing and staining of rock cuts to help fresh cuts blend with weathered rock forms.

If you would like a copy of the self-guided tour of the Glenwood Canyon Recreation Trail, write to:

Dorothy Udail

4300 West County Road 50 Fort Collins, CO 80521

Design Barbara Bash,

Horticulture & Rehabilitation Committee Chair



"Adopt" a Rare Plant this Summer

Petsy Neely

The Colorado Nature Conservancy is developing the volunteer-based Adopt a Rare Plant Program to update information on rare plant species and to help with the Conservancy's project selection process. Much needed site-specific information on many of Colorado's rare and threatened species is lacking. The primary objective of the program is to assess the current status of selected rare species, and to determine which population sites should become Conservancy's projects through a statewide network of volunteers.

Volunteers "adopt" individual species from the Colorado Species of Special Concern List (developed by the Colorado Natural Areas Program – March 1988) that have been selected by staff as candidates for Conservancy protection. Equipped with information and maps, volunteers visit all sites where the plants are known to exist, and search for new sites in similar habitat. They then evaluate each of these sites in terms of set criteria such as population size and vigor, degree of disturbance, land use and threats.

Survey forms completed by volunteers in the field are used by staff to evaluate all sites. The best sites are selected for Conservancy protection efforts. The field data allow us to

A Plant Guide for Beginners

Peter Root

Many people just becoming interested in plants have a fear of keys and complex botanical terms. In time most of them can be cured, but in the meantime there is a book they will find useful. *Meet the Natives* by **M. Walter Pesman**, first published in 1942, is now available in a much revised eighth edition.

This book arranges plants by the life zones where they grow and also by flower color. Most of the commonly seen plants of the Front Range area can be quickly identified using this system. Many of the plants are shown in small but adequate line drawings and all are described clearly. This book should fill a need of many non-technical Colorado residents and visitors. It is available at the Denver Botanic Gardens gift shop and other bookstores.

Meet the Natives: A Beginner's Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers, Trees and Shrubs. 1988. M. Walter Pesman. Pruett Publishing, Boulder, blorado. 237 pages. Includes an explanation of botanical terms and scientific names, introduction to plant families, and references. make clear distinctions between pristine, undisturbed sites and marginal sites, thereby enabling the Conservancy to focus time and money on only the most outstanding sites.

You can help The Nature Conservancy by participating in the program through offering to "adopt" one of the plants on our high-priority list. We will then provide you with information and maps. Your role would be to:

- Field check all of the old sites to verify the presence or absence of the plant.
- Field check areas of similar habitat and geology for new populations.
- Fill out field survey and evaluation forms provided.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting cooperative effort, or would like further information on this program, please call or write to: **Betsy Neely**, The Nature Conservancy, 1244 Pine St., Boulder, CO 80302 (444-2950 or 224-4193).



Spring Meeting Report Eleanor Von Bargen

The theme of the Spring Meeting held in Fort Collins on May 14, 1988, was "Colorado's Forests: Past, Present and Future". The Fort Collins Chapter hosted the meeting and deserves special thanks for an outstanding program.

Saturday's activities were preceded by a field trip Friday evening to Owl Canyon Piñon Grove where the Fort Collins Chapter is conducting a botanical inventory. Three field trips were conducted on Saturday morning. There was a "Tree Walk" in Fort Collins' City Park, conducted by City Forester **Tim Buchanan**; a "Xeriscape Tour" to the demonstration garden at City Hall, and a "Plant Communities of Colorado" workshop/field trip led by **Sue Galatowitsch** (of the Natural Areas Program) in Poudre Canyon.

During the morning a series of speakers were also heard at the University Park Holiday Inn. Judith Von Ahlefleldt, Dept. of Biology, Colorado State University, gave the opening presentation on "Colorado's Black Forest." "The Ecology and Stand conditions of Aspen in the Rocky Mountains" was the theme of Wayne Shepperd's presentation. He is with the USDA/Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Fort Collins. **Richard Laven**, Department of Forest and Wood Science, Colorado State University, then concluded the morning session with comments concerning "Effects of Disturbance on High Elevation Forest Dynamics."

After a delicious lunch, the afternoon session resumed with remarks from **Derek Marchi**, President, Fort Collins Chapter and **Eleanor Von Bargen**, President, CONPS. **Brian Geils**, Spring Meeting Program Chair, introduced the speakers for the afternoon. **Garland Upchurch**, University of Colorado Museum, Boulder, spoke on "History of Colorado's Forest: The Past 100 Million Years" and **Tom Swetnam**, University of Arizona Tree Ring Laboratory, gave a presentation on the "Western Spruce Budworm in the Southern Rocky Mountain Forests."

After a short break for refreshments, **Donna Hepp**, District Ranger, Red Feather District, USDA/Forest Service, Fort Collins, spoke about "Managing Today's Forests." The concluding presentation was made by **Douglas Fox** and **Claudia Regan**, USDA/Forest Service, RMFRES, Fort Collins. Their talk was on "Predicting Future Impacts of Climate Change on Wilderness Ecosystems."



The Search for Orchids

3ill Jennings

Included below are the latest developments in the search for the elusive wild orchids of Colorado. There are 23 species known for Colorado. None is common as wildflowers go and many are very rare and seldom seen by the wildflower-loving public.

The western bog-orchid, Platanthera sparsiflora (Habenaria sparsiflora, Limnorchis sparsiflora), is apparently much more widespread in western Colorado than previously thought, as evidenced by new specimens, reconsidered specimens, and literature reports. A recently acquired specimen at CSU (Baker 8574) was taken in Ouray County, along the Uncompangre River on June 25, 1985. A specimen at University of Wyoming was collected by Payson in 1910 and labeled "Montrose." In a 1901 article by Rydberg (Bull. Torrey Club 28:630-631.) a specimen is cited (as Limnorchis laxiflora) that was collected by William Flint in 1878 along the Uncompangre at the Los Piñnos Indian Agency, which was 11 miles south of Montrose. Thus, all three specimens are from the same area. Oakes Ames, in The Genus Habenaria in North America (Orchidaceae, fascicle IV, 1910) cites a specimen from Piedra, Archuleta County, taken in 1899. Further, a Harrington specimen from Conejos County, taken in fruit, with some desiccated flowers remaining, appears to be P. sparsiflora, but fresh material needs to be obtained before identification is definite. Other known localities are in Routt, Eagle, Pitkin, Mesa, San Miguel and Saguache Counties.

Malaxis brachypoda (Malaxis monophyllos var. brachypoda) is known in Colorado from only three locations, and is the rarest orchid in the state. Only one plant was seen in both 1986 and 1987. On July 13, 1895, over 90 years ago, Malaxis was seen in Colorado for the first time. Coljected by E. A. Bessey, the specimen is labeled simply 'Green Mountain Falls.' The site has never been rediscovered. Colorado Springs area CONPS members should look for the orchid at about 7500 feet on cool springs with a reliable, year-round water supply. Two other Malaxis orchids may be found eventually in Colorado. Malaxis ehrenbergli and Malaxis macrostachya (M. soulei) are to be sought in the Trinidad vicinity, since they have both been found in New Mexico a few miles south of the state line.

CONPS member Scott Ellis of Fort Collins reports seeing Spiranthes diluvialis in Unaweep Canyon, southwest of Grand Junction, several years ago. Additionally, the orchid is to be sought in Dinosaur National Monument, since it has been collected along the Green River, at the western edge of Browns Park, just across the line in Utah. In Rydberg's 1906 Flora of Colorado, he cites Spiranthes porrifolia for "Camp Harding, near Pikes Peak." Although the specimen he cited has never been found, it is likely that this was a misidentification of S. diluvialis. According to old Colorado Springs City Directories, Camp Harding was a dude ranch, run by Annie Harding, in the general vicinity of the Broadmoor. It is suggested that if S. diluvialis is still present in the Colorado Springs vicinity, it is to be sought along Fountain Creek or one of its tributaries. Spiranthes diluvialis is found in moist meadows that are ideal for grazing or having and among willows and cottonwoods along abandoned stream meanders. The Boulder populations are being actively monitored by the City.

Corallorhiza striata was seen in four localities on and adjacent to the Air Force Academy grounds by Lt. Col. Douglas Ripley. This orchid is known from small population in 12 counties widely scattered over the mountainous portion of the state. In New Mexico, the orchid is much more common than in Colorado, and can be found in rather dry, mixed scrub oak/ponderosa pine woods. South of Denver, look for it at about 5000 to 6000 feet.

Yellow ladies slipper, Cypripedium calceolus is known in Colorado from 11 counties, but oddly enough is not found anywhere in Wyoming except in the extreme northern part. Betsy Neely reports that the Las Animas County site I discovered in 1985 appears to have been destroyed during cabin construction. Brownell and Catling (Lindleyana 2:53-57) report that the population of Cypripedium fasciculatum in extreme northern Colorado, extreme southern Wyoming, and in the adjacent Uinta Mountains of Utah is disjunct from the rest of the range of the orchid by 400 miles. Next nearest stations are in northern Idaho and western Montana. Our plants have evolved a few characters that are slightly different from the more northwestern plants. Aven Nelson recognized the differences and called our plants C. knightae. However, Brownell and Catling conclude that, although there are differences present, they are not enough to warrant any taxonomic distinction. New locations for the orchid in 1987 are near Fraser, Grand County and from northwestern Routt County. We have reliable reports of the orchid from the Vail Pass area and from Conejos County, far to the south of the rest of the Colorado range.

In Rydberg's 1906 Flora of Colorado, he cites Glenwood Springs as the only Colorado locality for Epipactis gigantea. We have been unable to find any specimens from this locality and this may be an error on Rydberg's part. There is an 1894 specimen at CSU from Poncha Springs, to which Rydberg certainly had access. On the other hand, E. gigantea is often found in hot springs, so its existence at or near Glenwood is reasonable. In an old letter from the late Lucian Long, he indicated that E. gigantea was reported from the Dolores River canyon near Uravan. A previously overlooked specimen at University of Wyoming was collected June 24, 1912, growing on "wet ditch banks" at Paradox. The orchid is now known or suspected from seven sites in six counties. To be sought in the Arkansas, Huerfano, Cucharas, and Purgatoire River valleys on the eastern slope. Most likely localities are between Salida and Cañon City along the Arkansas, in the Purgatoire canyon east of Trinidad, and in springs on the Mesa de Maya.

T. D. A. Cockerell, writing in West America Scientist (6:134-136, 1889) reported Listera convallarioides from the Sangre de Cristo Range at the margin of the Wet Mountain Valley, in what is now custer County. He may have collected L. borealis instead, since it wasn't described until 1893. Britton and Vail (Plants collected by Eugene Penard, Bull. Herb. Boisser Vol. 3 No. 5, 1985) indicate that Penard collected Listera convallarioides at Caribou, Boulder County, in 1892. The genus Listera was poorly understood until 1899 when it was revised by L. M. Weigand, so these citations could be any of the three Listera species found in Colorado. Pat Pachuta of DBG found Listera borealis in Grand County on July 5, 1987.

Goodyear repens has been found for the third time in La Plata County, based on a new specimen seen at CSU. Also on the western slope is a collection from the west side of Wolf Creek Pass. On the eastern slope, Betsy Neely collected the plant twice in Las Animas County. The orchid was first seen there in 1984. Lt. Col. Douglas Ripley has found G. repens in Pike National Forest just off the Air Force Academy grounds. Goodyera repens is now known from nine sites in seven counties (Clear Creek, Jefferson, El Paso, Custer, Las Animas, Mineral, and La Plata).

Piperia unalaschensis has apparently been discovered in New Mexico, as I had predicted. Dr. Larry Magrath of University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (Chickasha) reports that Dr. Thomas Todsen of NMSU made the discovery.

Persons interested in rare plants are advised to obtain a copy of the Native Plant Society's guidelines for collection of plant specimens, the Colorado Natural Areas Program's list of plant species of special concern, and to thoroughly know the rare plants before attempting to make herbarium specimens. Any collections cited above have been placed or were seen at the Colorado College, Denver Botanic Gardens, University of Colorado, Colorado State University, or University of Wyoming (Rocky Mountain) herbaria. Articles cited were seen at the University of Colorado or Denver Botanic Gardens libraries or were obtained through interlibrary loan.

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RETURN AND MAILING ADDRESS

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

Time Value Material - Mailed on or about July 20

Schedule of Membership Fees

Life	\$250.00	Family or Dual	\$12.00
Supporting	50.00	Individual	8.00
Organization	25.00	Student or Senior	4.00
	Newsletter	Contributions	,

Please direct all contributions to the newsletter to:

Peter Root 4915 West 31st Avenue Denver, CO 80212

Deadlines for newsletter materials are February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15 and December 15.

There is a special need for short items such as unusual information about a plant, a little known botanical term, etc. Please include author's name and address, although items will be printed anonymously if requested.

Membership Renewals and Information

Please direct all membership applications, renewals and address changes to the MEMBERSHIP chairperson, in care of the Society's mailing address.

Please direct all other inquiries regarding the Society to the SECRETARY in care of the Society's mailing address.

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