



Aquilegia coerulea

# COLORADO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

"DEDICATED TO THE APPRECIATION AND CONSERVATION  
OF THE COLORADO NATIVE FLORA"

## NEWSLETTER

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Life	\$250.00
Supporting	50.00
Society	25.00
Family	12.00
Individual	8.00
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### DYEING WITH THE NATIVES--ARTEMISIA(sagebrush)

During the Middle Ages, people had trouble with insects which inhabited their homes, their garments (often worn in as many as six or more layers in the winter months), their animals, and their own bodies. At that time, such things as chemically synthesized insect repellents were not available, so people had to rely on naturally found repellents to discourage or get rid of insects. One family of aromatic plants seems to have been often used, either hung in animal sheds or houses, or used in cleaning the house. Old herbals often refer to branches of "wormwood" used as a broom to sweep out medieval cottages (and castles!) in the spring after the long "indoor days" of winter.

Wormwood seems to be somewhat of a catch-all term applying to members of the sage or Artemisia family. Whether they received this name because of the plant was used to chase out insects, or because the larger stems/trunks appear to be worm-eaten, remains to be seen. Another possibility for this common name might be related to the practice of chewing leaves or making an infusion/tea of them to relieve indigestion (possibly intestinal worms?).



Artemisia tridentata

Other traditional uses of various species of Artemisia include treatments for colds (place bruised leaves in the nostrils), rheumatism (wrap yourself in bundles of sage and then apply heat--one wonders whether it was the sage or the heat that cured!), and to stop bleeding (chew some leaves and apply as a poultice). Some American Indian tribes favored local varieties of Artemisia above all other medicinal plants. This is not to say that this writer is necessarily advocating the use of Artemisia medicinally.

One excellent use for the local Artemisias, of which Colorado boasts approximately fifteen species, is as a dyestuff. Methods for preparing fibers, mordant baths, and dyebaths are basically the same as for any other plant used to produce dye (see CoNPS NEWSLETTER, Vol. 1, No. 4). For decades, Navajo Indians have used species of Artemisia to color the wool yarn they have spun and which they weave into their rugs and blankets. Excellent shades of gold, yellow, rust, ochre, green and grey may be obtained by using a variety of metal salt mordants on wool. These colors rank as better than average in terms of lightfastness and washfastness.

Artemisia tridentata Nutt. (big sagebrush), which is found in southern and western areas of Colorado, seems to produce the best results. This plant is easily identifiable because of its grey-green colored, three-toothed leaves, strong "sage" aroma, small yellow flowers late in the summer, and woody stems. The plant may grow to eight or more feet in height in areas where there is ample water. Though animals browse the plant, it is often pulled or burned out by ranchers preferring grassland. A good place to see plenty of this sage, smell it, and harvest (prune tender branches with leaves in the fall) some of it is in Middle Park. Get permission if you are going on private property before you cut! While you are at it, get an extra sprig or two to dry and place among stored woollens to keep the moths away!

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1977 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 15, Denver Botanical Gardens

1:30-2:30 PM Conversation Hour

Ballot Pickup  
Membership Renewal and Signup

2:30-3:30 PM Business Hour  
Report of Committees  
Election of New Board  
Presentation of Honorary Life  
Membership

Business Items from the floor

3:30 PM Program  
Social Hour will follow

PROGRAM

Horticultural Use of Native Plant Species

How can we revegetate disturbed areas with natives? How can you fill your yard with native flowers, shrubs and trees? This year's program will acquaint you with practical techniques that work well in collecting and treating seed and growing natives.

Slide illustrated presentations will be given by several people, with each speaker sharing his/her knowledge and experiences in a different specialized field. The speakers include: Barbara Hyde, a Boulder County extension agent who cultivated wildflowers in her own garden for many years; Dean Swift, a professional woody plant seed collector, whose family has been in the commercial seed and nursery business for many years; and members of the CoNPS Horticulture and Revegetation Committee.

In addition to informing you about techniques that do work, we plan to tell you about areas in which experimentation and additional information is still needed.

We hope the program will provide inspiration to beginners who would like to dabble in growing natives, give more experienced members some new ideas, and begin an active exchange of knowledge among all native growers. See you there!

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CoNPS BYLAWS

Copies of the CoNPS Bylaws will be available during the Conversation Hour of the October Annual Meeting. During the Business Hour of this meeting, members may bring forth proposed amendments to the Bylaws before the general membership. Should copies of the Bylaws be desired via mail prior to the Annual Meeting, please call Scott Peterson at 234-2083(days).

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FUNDING FOR ENDANGERED PLANTS

Endangered plants will receive 2.9 million dollars for the listing and identification of critical habitat. These funds will be given to states on a 2/3-1/3 matching basis. It is unknown if or what Colorado will receive. The availability of these funds are based on the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

NORTH PARK RHODODENDRON  
FIELD TRIP REPORT--July 16

This field trip sponsored by the Fort Collins Chapter, was a botanical delight for those attending. The walking field trip began at the Mt. Zirkle Wilderness boundary along Lone Pine Creek west of Walden. The first 1.5 miles passed through a lower elevation coniferous forest composed primarily of lodgepole pine, Douglas Fir and a rich understory of Ribes, Lonicera, Shepherdia and Pachystima. The second and last mile, terminating at Lake Katherine at 9800 ft., traversed a forest of Douglas fir, Colorado and Engelmann spruce and White fir. Although rhododendrons were first encountered near the trailhead, they became more common on the slopes bordering the outlet stream of Lake Katherine and compose the dominant understory shrub beneath Engelmann spruce. Subalpine fir and an occasional limber pine along the shores of Lake Katherine. The following species list, compiled by Gail Evans and Dieter Wilken, represents plants identified on the field trip:

Achillea lanulosa  
Aconitum columbianum  
Agoseris aurantiaca  
Agoseris glauca  
Alnus tenuifolia  
Anaphalis margaritacea  
Antennaria rosea  
Androsace septentrionalis  
Aquilegia caerulea  
Arnica cordifolia  
Arnica latifolia  
Arnica longifolia  
Arnica mollis  
Arnica parryi  
Artemisia dracunculus  
Arenaria fendleri  
Aster foliaceus  
Aster engelmannii  
Betula glandulosa  
Calamagrostis canadensis  
Caltha leptosepala  
Cardamine cordifolia  
Castilleja sulphurea  
Castilleja rhexifolia  
Campanula rotundifolia  
Carex phaeocephalus  
Collomia linearis  
Cystopteris fragilis  
Cryptogramma crista  
Draba albertina  
Delphinium barbeyi  
Deschampsia caespitosa  
Dodecatheon radicans  
Epilobium hornemannii  
Epilobium angustifolium  
Erigeron melanocephalus  
Erigeron elatior  
Erigeron peregrinus  
Eriogonum alpinum  
Eriogonum umbellatum  
Erythronium grandiflorum  
Fragaria ovalis  
Frasera speciosa  
Galium broeale  
Geranium caespitosum  
Geranium richardsonii

Geum rivale  
Habenaria dilatata  
Habenaria saccata  
Helianthella quinquenervis  
Heracleum lanatum  
Heterotheca villosa  
Hieracium albiflorum  
Geum macrophyllum  
Hieracium gracile  
Ipomopsis attenuata  
Juniperus communis  
Juncus mertensianus  
Listera cordata  
Ligusticum porteri  
Lonicera involucrata  
Luzula parviflora  
Luzula spicata  
Mahonia repens  
Mertensia viridis  
Mertensia ciliata  
Mitella pentandra  
Mitella stauropetala  
Mimulus tilingii  
Mimulus guttatus  
Moneses uniflora  
Muhlenbergia richardsonii  
Oryzopsis hymenoides  
Osmorhiza obtusa  
Oxyria digyna  
Pedicularis groenlandica  
Pedicularis bracteosa  
Pedicularis racemosa  
Penstemon whippleanus  
Phleum alpinum  
Potentilla gracilis  
Potentilla fruticosa  
Potentilla pensylvanica  
Phacelia heterophylla  
Pyrola minor  
Pyrola secunda  
Poa interior  
Polemonium delicatum  
Rosa woodsii  
Ribes lacustre  
Ribes cereum  
Ribes coloradensis  
Rubus idaeus  
Rorippa curvipes  
Salix planifolia  
Saxifraga bronchialis  
Saxifraga odontoloma  
Saxifraga hyperborea  
Sambucus racemosa  
Sedum rhodanthum  
Sedum roseum  
Sedum lanceolatum  
Selaginella densa  
Senecio holmii  
Senecio fremontii  
Senecio triangularis  
Sibbaldia procumbens  
Smilacina racemosa  
Smilacina stellata  
Sorbus scopulorum  
Streptopus amplexicaulus  
Thlaspi montanum  
Thalictrum sparsiflorum  
Trifolium dasyphyllum  
Trollius laxus  
Vaccinium myrtillus  
Vaccinium scoparium  
Vaccinium caespitosum  
Veratrum tenuipetalum  
Vicia americana  
Veronica anagallis-aquatica  
Veronica wormskjoldii  
Zigadenus elegans

by Gail Evans

The Fort Collins Chapter held its fourth meeting on Saturday, June 25, at Cathedral Bluffs near Meeker, Colorado. Kim Vories led the group, describing the floral characteristics of the area. Chuck Reichert, a WCO, helped in identifying the wildlife as well as lending a hand with describing the flora.

Only two members attended (one from the Fort Collins area and one from Denver). Three non-members completed the group, making a total of only 7 interested people!! Despite the poor turnout, the trip proved to be very interesting and informative.

We were able to see Astragalus lutosus, a rare and endangered species in its native habitat. We also saw the rare and beautiful yellow Aquilegia barneybi. Without Kim's guidance, these elusive plants would never have been seen.

Along with these less common plants were seen such common and yet beautiful plants such as Gilia aggregata, Linum lewisii, Rosa woodsii, Penstemon caespitosus, Amelanchier utahensis, Symphoricarpos oreophilus, Comandra umbellata, Senecio multilobatus, Cryptantha sericea, Eliogonum umbellatum, Zygadenus venenosus, Sarcobatus vermiculatus, Oxytropis lambertii, Smilacina stellata, Stellaria jamesiana, Geranium richardsonii, Antennaria pulcherrima and much much more.

Abundant wildlife was also seen. Chuck helped with the identification of many bird species which included red tailed hawks, ravens, a golden eagle and turkey vultures. Two herds of wild horses were seen as well as sage grouse, mule deer, marmots and a horny toad. A beaver with kits was seen at Meeker Park on Saturday night.

All in all the field trip was very enjoyable and educational for those who attended. We extend our thanks to both Kim and Chuck for giving us their time and knowledge on this trip.

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#### NEIGHBORING NATIVE PLANT SOCIETIES

In the last issue of the Newsletter, the native plant societies known to exist in the various western states were listed. Due to an error on the part of the editor, the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society was not included. The President of the organization, Margaret Williams, provided many tips to us during the formation of the CoNPS, and I would like to apologize for my error. Those persons wishing to learn more about the NNNPS may contact Margaret at

NNPS  
P.O. Box 1530  
Sparks, NV 89431

by Jim Ratzloff Illustration by Janet Ratzloff

Gentiana barbellata Engelm. is a small attractive plant native to the Rocky Mountains from Wyoming southward. Its species name 'barbellata' refers to the four corolla lobes, which are deeply fringed at their bases. The common names given G. barbellata vary from bearded gentian, fragrant gentian, twisted gentian, and fragrant-fringed gentian. They refer to the flower's delicate fragrance, its fringed corolla lobes, or the floral tube that occasionally twists up toward the lobes.



Gentiana barbellata is just 5 to 15 cm. tall (2 to 6 inches). Most of the leaves are basal, but there always are at least two pairs of stem leaves. The upper pair of leaves are never located more than 2 cm. below the solitary flower. The nearness of these upper leaves (or floral bracts, as they are mistakenly called) to the flower, as well as G. barbellata's small size and perennial habit, distinguish it from the closely related Gentiana thermalis (Rocky Mountain fringed gentian). G. thermalis is a taller annual plant with a deep blue flower, richer in color than G. barbellata's purple flower. G. thermalis' corolla lobes are also fringed (hence, the name fringed gentian), but the deeply fringed barb-like corolla lobe bases of G. barbellata are absent.

When visiting the high mountains, it is a treat to find either of these late-summer blooming gentians. G. barbellata is thought to be somewhat rare throughout its range, and is usually found growing singularly, with wide spaces between individuals. The favored habitat of G. barbellata seems to be subalpine grassy meadows and slopes or edges of spruce-fir forests. The time spent in search of G. barbellata is more than rewarded after finding this fragrant, delicately fringed flower.

THE NEWSLETTER

The Colorado Native Plant Society Newsletter functions as the official publication of the Society and is published bimonthly. The contents of the Newsletter are generally directed to the knowledgeable layperson interested in learning about the Colorado native flora. Any articles directed toward this readership or comments concerning this publication would be greatly appreciated. Copy should be typed and double spaced. All items should be sent to the editor: J. Scott Peterson, P.O. Box 2094, Boulder, CO 80306 (234-2083).

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LIST

To enable CoNPS members to join together for the trek to the Annual Meeting, it was decided to publish our current membership list in the Newsletter. Car pooling is suggested. See you there.

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#### INTERMOUNTAIN FLORA

Volume Six (monocotyledons) of the Intermountain Flora is now available. This is the second volume of a series of six being produced, which will be a systematic treatment of the vascular plants of the Intermountain Region. Each species is illustrated by a line drawing. The authors are: Arthur Cronquist, Arthur H. Holmgren, Noel H. Holmgren, James L. Reveal and Patricia K. Holmgren. This volume is available from Columbia University Press for \$54.00.

#### EDITOR'S NOTICE

You will notice that there is a lack of botanical articles in this issue of the newsletter. This is due to the unavailability of backup articles for those times when most contributors are gone for the summer. In order to avoid this lack of material in the future, we will begin more active solicitation of articles. The articles in the past issues should provide you with an idea of what would be acceptable for publication. If you would be interested in providing an article, please contact the editor. Our success depends upon you.

#### CoNPS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues paid after July 1, 1977, will also serve as dues for the 1978 calendar year. This is being done to encourage new members into our youthful Society, by offering the bonus of receiving the remaining 1977 Newsletters at no extra cost.

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#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chapter Affiliation (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_