

THE PENSTEMANIAC

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN PENSTEMON SOCIETY
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American Penstemon Society Annual Meeting 2014 Zion National Park Mikel Stevens, 2014 Meeting Chair, Walt Fertig, Co-Chair



P. utahensis, Utah firecracker or bugler, in 4 states (photo M. Stevens)

Wildflower Adventures Await in Zion National Park and Southwestern Utah —Walt Fertig, 2014 Meeting Co-Chair

The 2014 annual meeting of the American Penstemon Society will be held in southwestern Utah and co-sponsored by the Utah Native Plant Society and its local Southwestern Utah chapter. Field trips are scheduled for Zion National Park, the Beaver Dam Mountains, and the Cedar City-St. George area, where participants will be able to observe at least one dozen rare, unusual, and beautiful Penstemon species. Utah has the highest number of Penstemon species in North America (73 full species and another 23 distinct varieties/subspecies), of which 34 are endemic to the Beehive State. Some of the more notable species we should see include:

Penstemon petiolatus: the crevice or petiolate beardtongue, a fuchsia-flowered dwarf with holly-like leaves found on limestone boulders in the Beaver Dams

Penstemon x jonesii: Jones' beardtongue, a burgundy-flowered natural hybrid between *P. laevis* and *eatonii* found sporadically in Zion National Park.

Penstemon higginsii: Higgins' beardtongue, a bluish-purple flowered species, endemic to the mountains at the north end of Zion National Park and the adjacent Great Basin.

More than Penstemons await the participants on the field trips. With 1075 recorded plant species, Zion National Park has the highest concentration of wildflowers of any

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national park or monument in Utah (and is second only to Grand Canyon National Park in the Colorado Plateau). Zion's high species richness is a result of its location near the junction of four major floristic provinces: Colorado Plateau, Great Basin, Mojave Desert, and Rocky Mountains. About 50 species are only found in the park or in neighboring areas of southern Utah. Mid-May is an optimal time to observe desert wildflowers in the park's canyon bottoms and higher elevation species on slickrock trails and mesa tops. Shady canyons and hanging gardens support their own unusual floras, rich in ferns, orchids, shooting-stars, and other showy species.



M.A. Franklin's (a UT field botanist) pent, rare (photo M. Stevens)

Three field trips are planned for Zion National Park. Local wildflower experts from the park and the Utah Native Plant Society will help guide hikes along the upper and lower portions of the East Rim Trail, where visitors can expect to find *Penstemon x jonesii*, *P. laevis*, *P. eatonii*, *P. palmeri*, and *P. humilis* var. *obtusifolius*, as well as dozens of showy wildflowers. Another field trip led by me will proceed by vehicle up the Kolob Terrace Road to Lava Point in the northern portion of the park to observe *Penstemon higginsii* and *P. leiophyllus*. A longer, all-day caravan tour, led by Mikel Stevens and Robert Johnson of Brigham Young University, will search for beardtongues



P. laevis, smooth pent, Kaibab Plateau (photo M. Stevens)



P. ambiguus photo by M. Stevens.jpg

from Springdale (host town of the meeting at the south entrance to Zion) to Cedar City and St. George. It will include stops to see the rare *Penstemon franklinii*, peculiar *P. ambiguus* with its *Phlox*-like blooms, and stunning *P. petiolatus*, as well as many other *Penstemon* taxa. The same trips are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, so no one needs to worry about missing out.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, the American Penstemon Society and Utah Native Plant Society will be hosting speakers and a dinner banquet. Noel Holmgren will give the keynote address “Penstemons of the Southwest” on Saturday night. Walter Fertig, co-author of the “Flora of Zion National Park”, will provide a slide show on interesting plants of Zion on Friday evening. Both events will be held at the Springdale Community Center next to the Springdale library.

For more information on the 2014 meeting and to register, go to the American Penstemon Society website at <http://apsdev.org/aps/meetings.html>. Registration ends by May 9. Participation is limited to members of APS or the Utah Native Plant Society. You are welcome to join either society as you sign up to attend this spectacular meeting.

Editor’s note: Please re-read the January 2014 newsletter to refresh meeting details, lodging information plus see photos of the the many species that Walt mentions in this article.



P. leonardii v. *higginsii*, for Fred Leonard, SW UT (photo M. Stevens)



Long view, Zion National Park (photo M. Stevens)

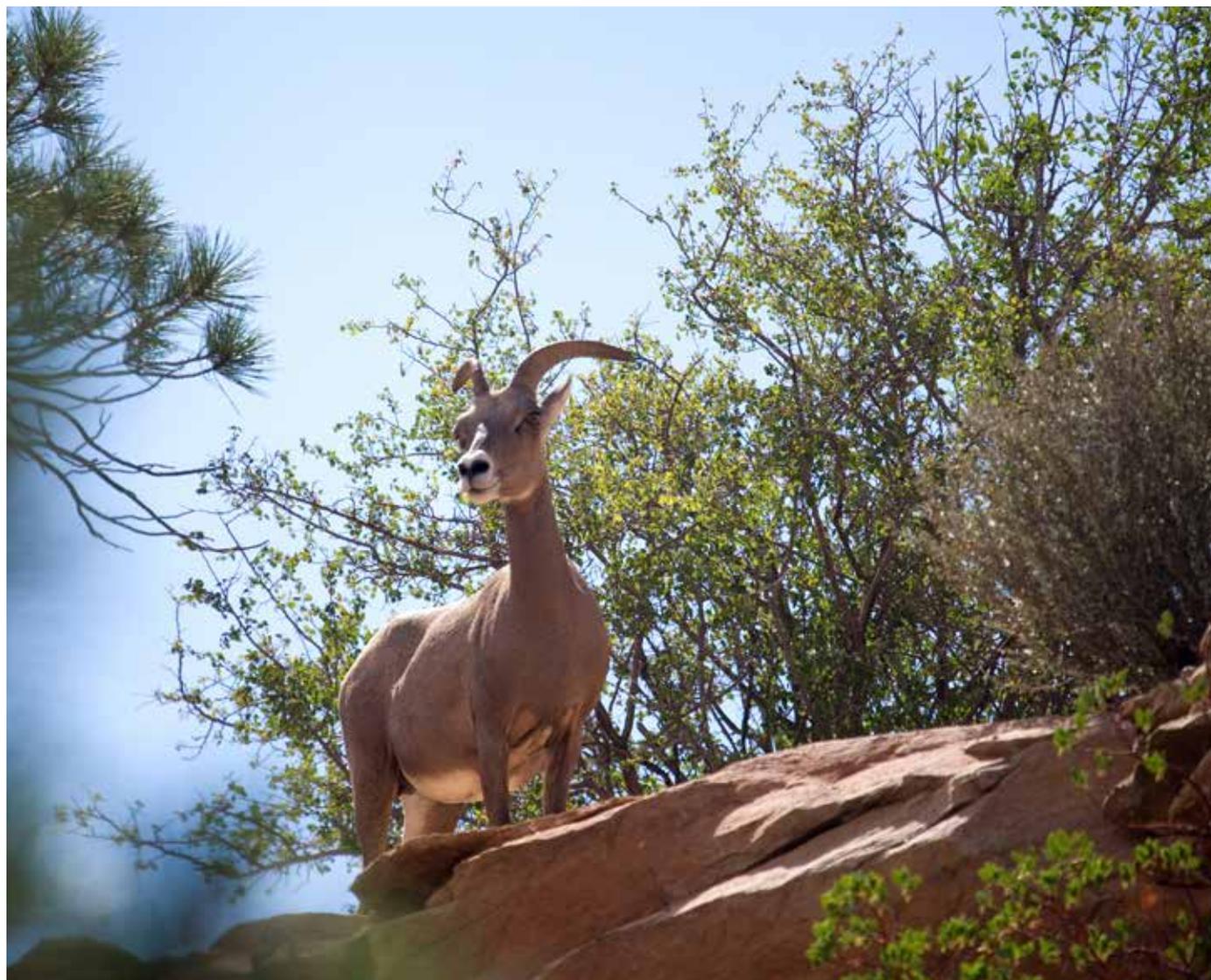
Update on *Penstemon* treatment for Flora of North America

—Craig C. Freeman, University of Kansas

At the 2012 American *Penstemon* Society meeting in Laramie, Wyoming, I had the pleasure of serving as a banquet speaker. My talk focused on work associated with my recently completed draft taxonomic treatment for the genus *Penstemon* north of Mexico, written for Volume 17 of the Flora of North America (FNA). Volume 17 will include 9 families, 94 genera, and more than 940 species, with contributions from 52 authors. However, delays in the delivery of treatments and the need to shuffle editors to assist with other volumes in the production queue prevented that goal from being realized. Fortunately, progress has been made. As of January 2014, 99 of 104 manuscripts covering 85% of the species in the volume have been submitted, and two volumes slated to go to press ahead of Volume 17 are nearing completion. Editors soon again will

be able to focus on Volume 17.

Efforts to refine the *Penstemon* treatment have continued: thousands of new distribution records have been accumulated from herbarium studies, many morphological data missing in the draft have been obtained thanks in part to APS members who provided material for examination, and discussions and keys have been improved. I hope to work through review comments and technical edits for the treatment this coming spring or summer. If we receive the last five treatments and have a little luck, Volume 17 may be on its way to press late this year. After the bulk of the work for FNA has been completed, I hope to explore ways to make some of the ancillary products of my work available through the APS website, such as regional keys, distribution data, descriptions, and other items of interest. I am grateful for the continued support, encouragement, and assistance of APS members, and I look forward to completing the treatment.



Big horn sheep, Zion National Park (photo M. Stevens)

NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Erin Alberty, Salt Lake City UT

Josef Kitz, Grafenstein, Austria

Johnny & Linda Nash, Parker, CO

Candace Miller, Dunsmuir, CA

Dmitry Parikov, Moscow, Russian Federation

Linda Pledger, Hamilton, TX

Kendyl Warren-Robinson, Fallon, NV

Barbara Watrous, Corvallis, OR

Jason Stettler, Ephraim, UT

Richard Jonas, Salt Lake City, UT

Peter Stewart, Seattle, WA

Eileen Mandel, Santa Fe, NM

Bob Lebens, Aurora, OR

John Watrous, Prescott, AZ

Amy Jo Detweiler, Redmond, OR

Barbara Farnsworth, Springdale, UT

John Rawlings, San Carlos, CA

Rose Strickland & Dennis Ghiglieri, Reno, NV

Kelly Ksiazek, Chicago, IL

Sarah Kulpa, Reno, NV

Istvan Megyeri, Pest, Gyál, Hungary



Bryce Canyon National Park (photo M. Stevens)

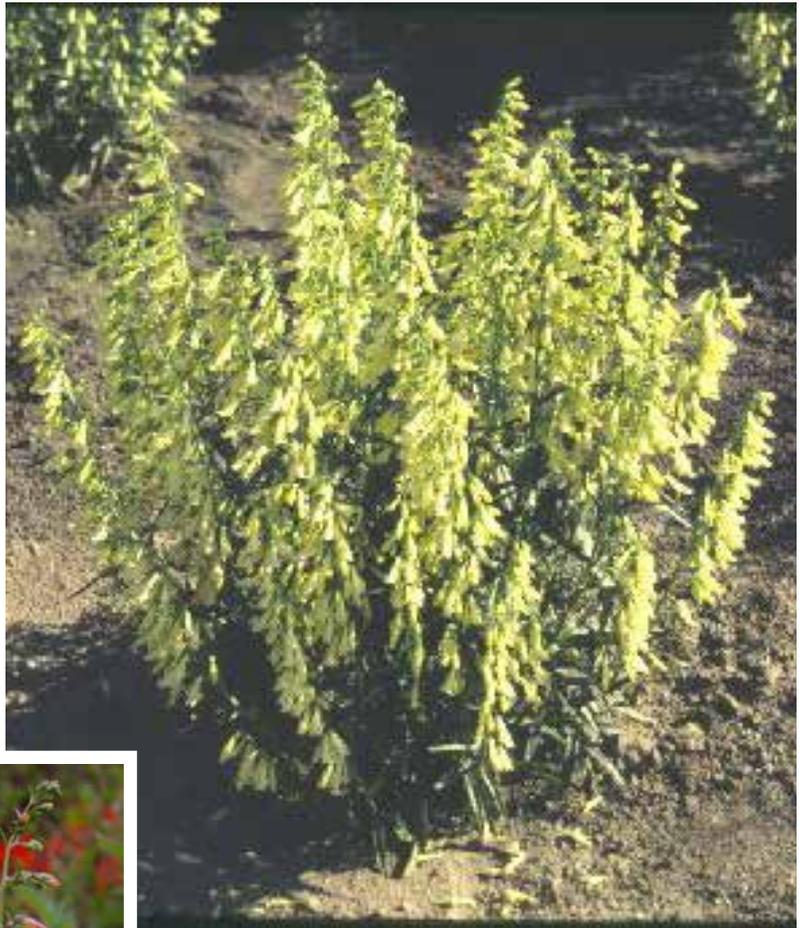
Schooley's Yellow Seekers

—Louise Parsons, APS Seed Exchange

In recent times, penstemon devotees have requested seeds or even cuttings from *P. barbatus* 'Schooley's Yellow' and/or 'Schooley's Coral'. The yellow form of *P. barbatus* is named for Mrs. Schooley, who discovered it in the mountains near Las Vegas, New Mexico. It was introduced into cultivation by Dale Lindgren, then a horticulture professor with the University of Nebraska after being deemed garden-worthy. In appreciation for introducing so many (at least 25!) penstemon cultivars, Dale was awarded the APS Viehmeyer Award in 2005 for outstanding penstemon breeding.

The coral form, a cross between *P. b.* 'Schooley's Yellow' and *P. b.* 'Elfin Pink', was introduced into cultivation by Dave Salman of High Country Gardens, then in Santa Fe, NM.

Please, if anyone has seeds from either of these beauties, please mark them for collection and



P. barbatus 'Schooley's Yellow' (photo APS web photo)



P. 'Schooley's Coral' from JoyCreek.com (photo Maurice Horn)

share them with the APS seed exchange. The seeds will be greatly-appreciated by those who are willing to aid in restoration. If anyone has cuttings to share, please get in touch with me. Let's all do what we can to preserve these wonderful *barbatus* forms.

Editor's Note: While searching online for photos, we found one of the coral cultivar, is for sale at Joy Creek Nursery in Scapoose, Oregon. This cultivar also is for sale on the Joy Creek website, JoyCreek.com. One of their owners, Maurice Horn, is a long-time member of APS, and has attended various annual meetings. He grows many hybrids and a few species at their nursery. The 2004 annual meeting in Oregon visited there on the 3rd day on our way to the penstemons on Mt. St. Helens. Members had to be coaxed back into their cars! *P. barbatus* grows very well in the Willamette Valley with tall stems and good winter survival.

American Penstemon Society

Membership Renewal

The American Penstemon Society involves almost 300 penstemon aficionados world-wide, many of whom will enjoy meeting other APS members and traveling to Utah for our annual meeting during the weekend of May 16-18, 2014. Dues include our newsletter (with a notice sent to our members electronically and posted on our website), annual bulletin and the annual seed exchange. Dues run on a calendar basis, renewed at the first of each year.

You may pay either by check or by PayPal™ on our website at www.apsdev.org. Make checks payable to American Penstemon Society.

Mail to:

Dale Lindgren/Phoebe McFarlane, Membership Secretaries
9202 Maloney Drive
North Platte NE 69101

If you wish to contact Dale Lindgren and/or Phoebe McFarlane, they can be reached at aps.membership@yahoo.com. Please update any current info with new phone numbers or e-mail address.

Thanks for your enthusiastic support of the Society!

US and Canadian annual dues are \$15 US; elsewhere \$20 US. Annual dues for students are \$5. Life Membership is \$150. In addition, members may pay two years in advance and receive the third year free. Please do not send cash.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-Mail _____

We do not sell, share or distribute member data in any manner.

If you have changed your e-mail address lately, please send this information to the Membership Chairmen at aps.membership@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Letter from the Editor:

Two new penstemon identification keys have just been entered on the APS website, apsdev.org by Hugh MacMillan, our esteemed webmaster. One is a key to the penstemons of Oregon. It was written in 1994 by a life-long APS member, Robin Lodewick of Eugene, OR. She and her husband Kenneth (who passed away in 2012) also wrote the only currently printed key to the entire genus, “**Key to the Genus Penstemon and its related Genera in the Tribe Cheloneae**” in 1999 which was self-published. The society has sold all the remaining copies unfortunately, but this smaller one is now available to all. The Oregon key was published by the Native Plant Society of Oregon in its annual magazine “**Kalmiopsis**” which luckily has all been scanned. All of its copies are now available online. Jake Hurlburt, a member from McMinnville, OR was kind enough to send me the url.

The Oregon key is found at <http://www.npsoregon.org/kalmiopsis/kalmiopsis04/lodewick.pdf>. It is amazingly up to date, but refers to Oregon’s 46 species. According to Dr. Noel Holmgren, who is currently reviewing all them for the Oregon State University herbarium, Oregon now has 50 species. Several species such as *P. davidsonii* and *fruticosus* have three varieties. Only two of each of these are listed as the others grow in Washington. You will fall in love with the painstaking drawings of corollas, sepals and anthers that are so important for species identification. There are only 11 pages to print and carry. We owe a debt of gratitude to Robin for this pain-staking piece of work. Thank you, Robin!

The other key to be recently entered on the website is that for Dr. Dee Strickler’s classic book, “**Northwest Penstemons**”. His widow, Claire, graciously agreed to allow

us to use the key found in the beginning. It only has 14 pages, so would be handy also to print and carry on trips. Since any pent that grows in Oregon, Washington or Idaho may also ‘stray’ into adjoining states, this key covers species found in Montana, California, British Columbia, Wyoming and Utah . . . quite a range. Dee’s doctorate was in forestry science and he had a special knack for writing a key that non-botanists could easily follow. Of course, the book has a great glossary and many drawings at the end and well as color photos and 2 full pages for each of the 70 species. New copies from Claire’s stash will be for sale at the Utah meeting in May, along with some of the “Way-side” books he wrote for wildflowers found along Western roadsides. I am willing to mail them also if you email your order (maffitt6540@comcast.net).

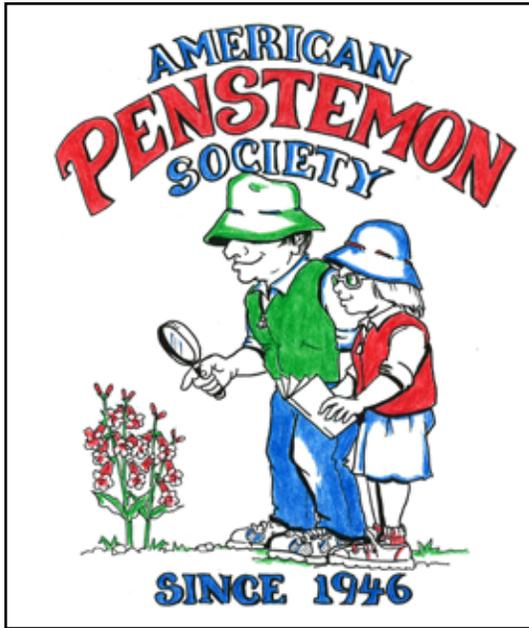
Would you do just one easy thing to help our membership keep growing? Just forward this notice of your newsletter to a friend with an interest or profession in wildflowers, native species, botany, or similar subjects. The colorful newsletter may just entice them into joining and you may have a buddy with whom to attend the annual meeting!

In conclusion, this is my final newsletter for APS. I’ve really loved the challenge of assembling its contents over the last two years and enjoying the colorful results. Many of you have cheerfully contributed all sorts of Robin letters, articles, seed exchange information, and photos which have made it, hopefully, an interesting document for a rather esoteric subject! I also owe a huge debt of gratitude to my friend since age 5, Martha Dibblee, who knows how to make InDesign, the publishing tool, operate like a well-trained puppy . . . no small task.

—Thank you, Ginny Maffitt, Editor



P. ambiguus, the sand pent, salverform flowers (photo M. Stevens)



From the President

Even though it is the end of March, we have had snow flurries and some snow still remains on the protected north sides of the garden. The bulbs were late arriving this year but now our garden is filled with hundreds of crocuses, irises, snowdrops, hellebores, chionodoxa, Puschkinia, scilla and others—no penstemons yet. I know, it is way to early for penstemons but I cannot wait to see them bloom.

The membership continues to grow. It is refreshing to see more people discovering penstemons and wanting learn more about this amazing genus. As you may know, the society funds research and planting projects every year through grants, and this year, we plan to allocate \$4,000 to fund grants.

Marcia and I are looking forward to the annual meeting in May. We haven't been to Zion and the surrounding area in about 15 years. There are about 50 people signed up but there is still room for more penstemaniacs.

Hope to see all of you at the next annual meeting.

Randy Tatroe
President, APS

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