

Loasa - *The Newsletter*

May 2006 – Celebrating Wildflowers



Dicentra uniflora – Cotterel Mountains April, 2006

Seven intrepid botanists braved temperatures in the 70's and glorious sunshine to view the wonders of the Cotterels. Incredible desert-mountain views, intimate mountain mahogany groves and amazing plants like *Dicentra uniflora* – the steer's head. You still have the opportunity to enjoy spectacular high desert botany, incredible views, *Pediocactus*, and so much more on the May 20th trip. We will explore the easily accessed center of the range from which

we can explore low sage, big sage, juniper, mountain mahogany, and other communities. The trips will start from CSR World HQ in Kimberly where we will arrange car pools and then proceed to the Cotterels. The trip will consist of botanizing on foot the areas near where we park and enjoying our brown bag lunches. After our luncheon, the group will split into those who wish to continue botanizing and enjoying the mountains on foot (or go home) and those who wish to mountain bike into much less accessible areas to do some extreme botany! Please contact Kent (420 4914 or kent@csr-inc.com) to RSVP.

Calendar

- May 18th, 2006 Monthly Meeting – Native Plants and Mountain Bluebirds – Jim Klott, Jarbidge BLM
Room 258 of the Taylor Building at CSI 7-9 pm
- May 19th, 2006 Native Plant Work Day – Twin Falls 11:30a – 3:30p
See inside for info
- May 20th, 2006 Field Trip – Cotterel Mountains – all day
- June 8th, 2006 Board meeting – contact Kelvin for time and place
886-7051 jones@kelvin.myrf.net
- June 15th, Monthly meeting at Layne Halls, north of Jerome contact Kelvin
- Jun 23-25, 2006 INPS Annual meeting – Farragut state park
- Jun 28th, 2006 Field Trip – Mt Harrison – after work

Opportunities to Enjoy Native Plants

Throughout this summer, the Sawtooth NF will be holding a variety of celebrating wildflowers events including a few botanical tours, a flower fair, and releasing a wonderful DVD of the wildflowers of the Sawtooth N.F. Watch for more details!! To kick off the National Celebrating Wildflowers Week (May 14-20), we will be hosting a native plant workday. This event will be sponsored by the Sawtooth National Forest, Twin Falls Parks and Recreation, Twin Falls County Weed Control, the Mid-Snake RC&D, and Conservation Seeding and Restoration, Inc.

When: Friday May 19th, 2006 from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm

Where: The Centennial Trail at Shoshone Falls Park in Twin Falls (entry fees will be waived for those willing to work)

What: Planting native plant materials, removing non-native plants, augmenting the site with native plant seed and materials

Why: In 2005 - the Sawtooth National Forest, the USDA Forest Service, and the City of Twin Falls all celebrated their Centennial Anniversaries. In celebration the Twin Falls Parks and Rec. department established the Centennial Trail. This spectacular trail is just over a mile long and provides amazing views of Shoshone Falls and the Snake River Canyon. The Sawtooth NF has joined with Twin Falls Parks and Rec in providing interpretive signs (installation anticipated in July). Come help us celebrate these Centennials together along with the celebration of the wonderful world of wildflowers.

Bring: a lunch, gloves, sunscreen, rakes, gardening tools, and proper working attire!!

Light snacks and beverages will be provided by the Forest Botanist.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Kim Pierson 208-737-3212!!

Elections

The ballots have been counted and the following is your Loasa board:

President – Kelvin Jones

Vice-president – Lamar Orton

Secretary – Lois Rohay

Treasurer – Steven Paulsen

Newsletter – Kent Fothergill

Members at large – Shane Claborn
and Julie Randell

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A letter from the President

Dear Loasa,

For the past week I've been out wandering around in the desert north of our home. On any given day have seen from ten to twenty different wild flowers, or native plants that are in bloom. I'd be happy to show this part of my world to anyone that would be interested, plus as an added bonus, you get to see a spectacular section of the Big Wood River with water, which seems to happen about once every ten years. If anyone is interested, give me a call at 886-7051, and I'll tell you how to get here and when I'm available.

The next item of interest is our July meeting. We thought that a canoe trip to Pillar Falls might be fun, plus seeing plants that are affiliated with that section of the Snake River. This is the proposed scenario, we would meet at Centennial Park and pair up an experienced paddler with one has little or no experience. We would then proceed to Pillar Falls- either eating a potluck dinner there or back at the docks. Since this would take some planning, I would have to hear from those that are interested by the June meeting. Believe me, this is a unique way to see a river. If there are those who would not be comfortable with this mode of travel, but would like to participate, please let me know and I'll try to arrange transportation in a different form for them.

Please try to participate in our meetings and field trips, and remember to bring a friend or better yet sign up a new member.

As always,

Kelvin.

Systematic Botany Workshops (Sys-bot Lite)

Systematic botany is the process through which by understanding plant structure botanists are able to place plants within families, genera, species, and varieties or subspecies. It is nothing mystical, given the correct information most people will find themselves able to utilize this process to identify the majority of the plants they encounter. This is not the memorization of individual species; it is learning how to utilize observation skills and plant keys to arrive at species identification. A rose may smell as sweet regardless of name, but knowing whether the rose is *Rosa nutkana* or *woodsii* may prove useful. These workshops will be highly participatory. Maximum benefit will be achieved by coupling the workshops with the upcoming field trips (see our calendar). Workshop participants will be encouraged to make collections (these can be physical, photographic, written or ??) and engage in projects that will further the participants knowledge of botany and also help further Idaho's knowledge of native plants. The first class is August 1st! The class will go for 10+ weeks, offer college credit, and be BIG FUN with instructors from the US Forest Service, ID Fish and Game and Conservation Seeding and Restoration, Inc. Please contact kent@csr-inc.com for more info.

Interesting Community Ed Courses at CSI:

SPRING/SUMMER

- Landscaping with Native Plants: Choosing What to Plant, Where, and Why
T/TH May 16-18, 7-9 pm,
Shields 108 \$35 Instructor: M. Austin
- Wildflowers of Idaho
T/TH May 30-Jun 1, 7-9 pm,
Shields 108 \$35 Instructor: M. Austin
- Backyard Birds
T/TH June 6-8, 7-9 pm, Shields
108 \$25 Instructor: M. Austin
- Butterflies for Beginners
T/TH June 20-22, 7-9 pm,
Shields 108, \$25 Instructor: M. Austin

INTERESTED??? CALL CSI
Community Ed Office to sign up at 732-6290 or 732-6288.
Questions about course content? E-mail Instructor at
red_willow@mindspring.com

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