

ERIOGONUM SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Eriogonum diatomaceum, "Churchill Narrows Buckwheat". Photo copy. 2010 Gary A. Monroe

Update for our First Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada on June 10-13, 2010

Plans are now complete for our first annual meeting in Reno from June 10-13, 2010. We have 14 members registered, Dr. Reveal is ready to lead the practicum and Steve Caicco and John Weiser are set to lead us on field trips to test our newly learned skills.

The seminar will be held on the campus of the University of Nevada in Reno at 910 Valley Road just a few blocks north of the main downtown hotel strip. Accommodations should be very easy to obtain. We're not sure of the exact room number, we think it is 173, but we will meet outside in the parking lot to the right of the false courtyard. The door we will enter faces the parking lot. We will meet there around 4pm on Thursday June 10 for a quick social gathering to get acquainted, hand out badges and other registration items. There will be refreshments. There is a map on the website with the venue 'pinned'.
http://erigonum.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52:details-erigonum-review&catid=42:2010meeting&Itemid=118

Dinner Thursday evening will be early and on your own as we will start our first session with Dr. Reveal at 7pm in the classroom. This session will be an introduction to Eriogonum including history of its discovery, locations, ecological settings, habit, duration and morphological characteristics. It is scheduled to last about one hour. We are also considering arrangements for a quick get-together beforehand.

Friday morning we will meet again at 8am in our classroom to begin the first session of our practicum. Plant ID keys will be handed out to the participants. Joint keying out and identifying of select species of Eriogonum will be undertaken as this session is designed to introduce structures and terminology used in keys and descriptions. Lunch is included in your registration and will be provided.

The Friday afternoon session will begin at 1pm and focus on the identification of fresh Eriogonum specimens by the participants. We will provide a large number of different species for which distribution will be provided but not names. The point of this exercise is to allow participants to become familiar with keys and descriptions, and to introduce several different species, some of potential horticultural importance. Don't forget to bring your freshly collected specimens to class.

Dinner is included with your registration and we will meet at a restaurant around 6:30pm for a group meal (restaurant tbd). We may take this opportunity to discuss electing officers and whether we want to schedule annual or semi-annual meetings in the future.

There will be two field trips, one on Saturday morning and the other on Sunday morning. One will be led by John Weiser and the other by Steve Caicco, both Reno based members of the society. Times will be announced at our dinner Friday evening and we can arrange car pooling before we leave. Don't forget to take a lunch, water, sunscreen, your hand lens, plant keys, etc. Our trip leaders discuss the field trips below.

FIELD TRIP NO. 1 (John Weiser, leader - his notes)



Andesite hills north of Reno. Photo by John Weiser

Just a few miles north of Reno are several prominent hills, of a golden hue. This will be the starting point for one of our scheduled field trips. The golden color is the result of altered andisite deposits. The igneous andisite was altered by hydrothermal activity. The vegetation is scattered and sparse on these weathered slopes, but there exists a diverse community of high desert endemics.

The northern exposures are in stable terraces bound together with steppe vegetation. Desert peach, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush and bunch grasses are dominate, interspersed with herbaceous perennials. The Southern exposures are mix of loose clay and stone screes with *Eriogonums* as the dominate species.

Growing in close proximity, on slopes of the transitional zone between exposures, is a unique collection of *Eriogonums*. Six in all growing and intermingling within a few hundred feet of each other, all garden worthy candidates.

We have several silvery cushions, represented by *E. ovalifolium*, *E. caespitosum* and *E. ochrocephalum*.

The two shrubby representatives in this sextet are *E. sphaerocephalum* and *E. umbellatum*.

Last but not least is the uncommon silvery *E. robustum*. Restricted to altered andisite deposits scattered along the eastern foothills of the Sierras. It is a silver clumper, with large felted leaves and the only one in the group of six with white flowers. The others show off with various shades of yellow.

The second site we will visit for this trip will be Dog Valley, California. We will travel west toward the Sierra escarpment, ten miles on Interstate 80, to the little town of Verdi. Skirting the village we will cross the border into California. Shortly thereafter we will come upon one of the entrances to the Toiyabe National Forest. Following a unpaved but maintained forest road we will travel about two miles gaining about a thousand to

fifteen hundred feet in elevation. The lower portion through an old burn area in the process of recovery the upper portion through a forest dominated by *Pinus jeffreyi* and *Abies concolor*. The understory shrubs predominated by *Arostaphylos patula*, *Ceanothus prostratus*, *Cercocarpus ledifolius* and *Purshia tridentata*. As we reach the crest a view of our destination will spread out before us. A valley of riparian meadows bordering, a gently sloping rock strewn desert steppe, all surrounded on three sides by pine forest. This sight has *E. douglasii* along with two rather rare, non *Eriogonum* species *Penstemon neotericus*, and *Ivesia aperta* var. *canina*. The list of other endemic species is, in my opinion quite extensive given the varied habitat. All in all a sight well worth exploration.



Eriogonum robustum near Reno. Photo by John Weiser

FIELD TRIP NO. 2 (Steve Caicco. leader - his notes)



Eriogonum rosense in the Reno area. Photo by Steve Caicco.

First thing in the morning, we will make a brief stop at the south end of Reno to see the only known location of the Steamboat buckwheat, *Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *williamsiae*, an endangered species named in honor of Margaret Williams. Margaret was a botanist, founder of the Nevada Native Plant Society and an avid rock gardener. Most plants are on a private industrial site with restricted access but we will be able to see some plants and view its primary habitat from across the highway.

From there we will drive south and east about 70 miles to the only known location of the Churchill Narrows buckwheat (*Eriogonum diatomaceum*), a federal candidate species for listing as an endangered species due to the commercial value of its diatomaceous earth habitat.

After exploring this area, we will drive up into the Pine Nut Mountains, which lie southeast of Carson City. Nearly two dozen species of *Eriogonum* have been reported from the Pine Nut Range of which more than half are annuals. Of particular interest, of course, are the mat or cushion-forming ones, or in more technical terms, the caespitose perennials. They include the widespread and well-known, *E. caespitosum* and *E. ovalifolium* var. *purpureum*, and less well-known species such as *E. rosense* var. *beatleyae*, *E. alexandrae* (syn. = *E. ochrocephalum* var. *alexandrae*), and *E. wrightii* var. *subscaposum*.

If conditions are right, we may also see the higher elevation *E. rosense* var. *rosense*. Subshrubs we are likely to encounter include *E. heermannii*, *E. microthecum*, and *E. umbellatum* var. *nevadense*. Of the perennial herbaceous forms, we may see *E. elatum*, *E. nudum*, and what may be the northernmost outpost for *E. inflatum*. Annuals we may find include *E. baileyi*, *E. brachyantherum*, *E. brachypodium*, *E. collinum*, *E. deflexum*, *E. lemmonii*, *E. maculatum*, *E. nidularium*, *E. pusillum*, *E. rubricaulis*, and *E. spergulinum*.

As this trip will take all day, we will pick up lunches in Reno before we leave town. Depending on our timing, we will likely have lunch in the shade of the pinyon-juniper woodland which blankets the montane slopes of the Pine Nut

FINAL THOUGHTS

We hope that more of you will be able to join us at the biggest little gathering in Reno. Our first meeting promises to be a very good one and we look forward to seeing you there. Those signed up so far include, Bob and Jeni Pennington, John Weiser, Hugh MacMillan, Bob and Phoebe McFarlane, Steve Caicco, Ann DeBolt, Cecile Shohet, Randy Tatroe, Jack Muzatko, Ted Kipping, Gary Monroe, and Gary Reese.

If you can make it and are driving don't forget to stop long the way and collect plant material. Please collect fresh specimens of *Eriogonum* as you travel to Reno; gather enough for up to 25 people. Please bring any unidentified, mounted specimens or images of the genus you wish to have identified. It is recommended that you bring camera equipment to take pictures. If you wish to take close-ups of the flowers, a 105 mm macros lens is strongly recommended. Those who use laptops may wish to bring them to the Saturday session as numerous images of *Eriogonum* are available on the web.

RANDOM NOTES

Bob McFarlane

Membership Roster

A list of our current members is shown at the end of this newsletter. We now have 80 members and are receiving applications almost every week.

Organization Positions

With the level of our current membership and prospects for further growth we will soon be in need of some of you to share the burden of administration. As of now, Hugh is creating and maintaining our website and in charge of registration for our annual meeting. Ginny Maffitt has been handling our Seed Exchange and I have been handling membership and the newsletter.

For the next year Hugh has agreed to handle the website and I will handle membership but we need volunteers to handle the newsletter and seed exchange. In addition we need to discuss how often we should have meetings i.e. every year or every other year and where we should hold them. If we decide on annual meetings then we need an additional person to plan the locations and recruit leaders.

Future Meeting Locations

We would appreciate your input on good locations and timings for future meetings. Please think about this and post your thoughts on our blog and/or send them to either Hugh or I.

Gary Monroe's Eriogonum Photo Website

Gary Monroe, one of our newer members, is a fine photographer and has his *Eriogonum* photos on the Cal Photo website at,

http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?query_src=photos_index&where-lifeform=any&rel-taxon=contains&where-taxon=Eriogonum&rel-namesoup=matchphrase&where-namesoup=&rel-location=matchphrase&where-location=&rel-county=eq&where-county=any&rel-state=eq&where-state=any&rel-country=eq&where-country=any&where-collectn=any&rel-photographer=contains&where-photographer=Monroe&rel-kwid=equals&where-kwid=&max_rows=24

It's a long address, but well worth going to. Many of the species that we will see during our field trips are shown on this site.

Information on Seed Germination and Plant Cultivation

Please record and save your Eriogonum seed germination and cultivation data and we'll start to summarize our members results by mid-summer. Information on seed stratification times, germination times, quantity of seed germination, age of seed, how germinated and how cultivated, ease or difficulty of germinating and cultivating different species, etc.

I don't think that there is too much of this type of information available and if we gather enough we can start to develop a section of website devoted to germination and cultivation by species. Please send what you collect to me and I'll try to sort it out and publish the results in the newsletter. Next year, perhaps, we can develop a data collection sheet to make available to our members for collecting this information.

Revised and Redesigned Website

Check out our newly revised and redesigned website by Hugh. It is a good improvement over our initial design. www.eriogonum.org.

Please Help Identify this Eriogonum

I wonder if you can help guide me toward the name of the mystery Eriogonum growing in my garden. The label disappeared and my memory is not what it was!

This is one of the earliest bloomers, and also the most prostrate. The plant color in full light appears toward the green side of gray-green, but up close more to the gray side; the leaves are no larger than 1 cm, oblanceolate, and pubescent on both sides, perhaps slightly more on the back.

I am almost certain that the seed came either from Ron Ratko or Alplains, but I have searched all my old catalogs without positive result.

Thanks in advance for your time.

Jim Swayne, jaswayne@charter.net



Jim Swayne's Mystery Eriogonum. Photo by Jim Swayne

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone _____

Please send annual dues (January 1 thru December 31) of \$10. to Bob McFarlane at 5609 S. Locust St., Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

Membership Roster

April 11, 2010

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>
Adams	William	Pueblo	CO

Alexander	Patrick	Las Cruces	NM
Anderton	Angelie	Logan	UT
Bergstrom	Elizabeth	Markleeville	CA
Blanc	Stephanie	Pacific Palisades	CA
Bourey	Lisa	Durango	CO
Burke	Janelle	Ithaca	NY
Caicco	Steve	Reno	NV
Cleaver	Karen	Agoura	CA
Coleman	Howard	Seattle	WA
Currans	Rebecca	Milton-Freewater	OR
Day-Skowran	Rebecca	Franktown	CO
DeBolt	Ann	Boise	ID
Delphey	Craig	Woodinville	WA
Deutsch	Ray	Redwood City	CA
Dion	George D.	Iowa City	IA
Doda	Jackie	Mountain View	CA
Enright	Fran	Evergreen	CO
Fletcher	Raymond	Reno	NV
Flores	Milissa	Madison	WI
Geer	Susan	LaGrande	OR
Godleski	Ed	Cleveland Heights	OH
Gouda	Erich		Neth.
Grady	Ben	Madison	WI
Gustafson	Phyllis	Central Point	OR
Hatchett	Jim	Eagle	ID
Heyduk	Karolina	Madison	WI
Hitt	Sam	Santa Fe	NM
Holmgren	Noel and Pat	Logan	UT
Hoyer	William	Cloverdale	CA
Hunter	Graham	Logan	UT
Hutchings	Roger	Medford	OR
Johnson	Merrill		
Kempton	Elizabeth	Claremont	CA
Kintgen	Mike	Denver	CO
Kippling	Ted	San Francisco	CA
Kramer	Neal	El Granada	CA
Lance	Rebecca	Sonora	CA
Lewis	Barbara	Littleton	CO
Love	Stephen	Aberdeen	ID
MacMillan	Hugh	Sedalia	CO
Maffitt	Virginia	Sherwood	OR
Mahoney	Don	Richmond	CA
McFarlane	Bob	Greenwood Village	CO
Miller	Nathan	Newberg	OR
Monroe	Gary	Reno	NV

Mrowka	Rob	North Las Vegas	NV
Musengo	Carol	Bend	OR
Muzatko	Jack	Pinole	CA
Myrick	Valerie	Sonora	CA
Nelson	Allen	Las Vegas	NV
Neubauer	Dylan	Santa Cruz	CA
Nicholls	Graham		UK
Orton	Lamar and Rosalie	Twin Falls	ID
Pederson	Diana	Lansing	MI
Pennington	Bob and Jeni	Santa Fe	NM
Porteous	Barrie	Richmond Hill	ON
Rawlings	John	San Carlos	CA
Reese	Gary	Las Vegas	NV
Reveal	James	Ithaca	NY
Rosentreter	Roger	Boise	ID
Sagar	Tarja	Thousand Oaks	CA
Seim	Hunter	Craig	CO
Sevastopulo	George	Dublin, Dublin 13	Ireland
Sewell	David	Crozet	VA
Stetson	David	Bend	OR
Stutzman	Diane	Spokane	WA
Swayne	Jim	Walla Walla	WA
Sytsma	Ken	Madison	WI
Tatroe	Marcia and Randy	Centennial	CO
Thurston-Moench	Emily	Bellvue	CO
Unzner	Theodora	Schoneiche	Germ.
van Buiten	Gerard		Neth.
Veilleux	Pete	Oakland	CA
Warwick	Jessica	Madison	WI
Weintraub	Barbara	Santa Fe	NM
Weiser	John	Sparks	NV
Widdowson	Dr. Margaret J.	Redding	CA
Yeatts	Loraine and Dick	Golden	CO
Young	Michael	Missoula	MT